

The book affirms that a fresh look at classic topics can be highly rewarding, especially when a regional focus is kept. The contributors employ perspectives on the relationship between (neo)colonizers and colonized, on precolonial state formations, on poststructuralist narrative theory, on gendered discourse, on subject positioning, on subaltern resistance, on fetishism, and on the historical imagination — all commonly enough represented in university bookshop anthropology sections. But this is not a book on faddy theory. The strength of the volume is its demonstration that the durable value of theoretical development in anthropology lies less in how it helps its practitioners to understand themselves than in how it improves their understanding of others.

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**Textual Empires. A Reading of Early British Histories of Southeast Asia.** By MARY CATHERINE QUILTY. Clayton: Monash Asia Institute, Monash University, 1998. Pp. xviii, 125. Bibliography.

Mary Quilty's *Textual Empires* illustrates the ways in which five significant British writers of history conceptualized different parts of Southeast Asia. William Marsden's *History of Sumatra* (1783), Michael Symes' *Journal of an Embassy to the Kingdom of Ava* (1795), Thomas Stamford Raffles' *History of Java* (1817), John Crawfurd's *History of the Indian Archipelago* (1820), and John Anderson's *Mission to the East Coast of Sumatra* (1826) form in Quilty's view a literary genre, which reveals many British and Western assumptions about the "other" cultures of Southeast Asia.

Despite the fact that these texts are themselves divergent, Quilty shows that their assumptions about "natural history", conjectural history (schemes of historical development and direction), and "sex, race and the contract" means that these figures share a set of common concerns. Taken together, the works of Marsden, Symes, Raffles, Crawfurd and Anderson underscore the "self-proclaimed shift in British imperialist thought away from economic rapacity to disinterested science" (p. i).

Building an argument taken from the study of Michel Foucault, Quilty argues that this genre of British historical writing fit into several patterns of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century European discourse. These books, Quilty tells us, were written for the purposes of both educating the public and broadening knowledge in Europe. More important, the work of Marsden was part of a tendency to make Southeast Asia the subject of scientific study. In writing *History of Sumatra* Marsden adopted an authorial strategy that was consistent with Enlightenment discourse; he observed and classified in order to make generalizations.

Raffles was also representative of eighteenth-century European thought. For example, Quilty writes interestingly that he removed "exotic" images from his chief engraver William Daniell's plates. In particular, since Raffles wanted the British to identify with the Javanese (by appearing "unexotic"), he had Daniell remove the moustaches from the pictures of the Javanese because the moustache was associated with bandits or even

# Textual Empires

**Minjie Lin**



## **Textual Empires:**

**Textual Empires** Mary Quilty, 1998 *Textual Empires* explores the tension that existed between the ideals of freedom and realities of colonialism in 19th century Southeast Asia. In doing so it challenges long established notions of the history that British empire builders wrote about in the early 19th century. Mary Quilty unpacks five early British histories that even today are still regarded as the foundation stones of so much Southeast Asian studies anthropology sociology linguistics and history. Quilty argues that not only did these objective texts serve specific commercial and political agendas but they employed their own poetics and rhetorical devices. In a sweeping analysis that ranges from racial theory to the sexual biases of the anti slavery movement from cannibalism to the contract this book teases out the assumptions and influences that constituted Western perceptions of Southeast Asia.

**The Danielic Discourse on Empire in Second Temple Literature** Alexandria Frisch, 2016-09-19 In *The Danielic Discourse on Empire in Second Temple Literature* Alexandria Frisch asks how did Jews in the Second Temple period understand the phenomenon of foreign empire. In answering this question a remarkable trend reveals itself the book of Daniel which situates its narrative in an imperial context and apocalyptically envisions empires was overwhelmingly used by Jewish writers when they wanted to say something about empires. This study examines Daniel as well as antecedents to and interpretations of Daniel in order to identify the diachronic changes in perceptions of empire during this period. Oftentimes this Danielic discourse directly reacted to imperial ideologies either copying subverting or adapting those ideologies. Throughout this study postcolonial criticism therefore provides a hermeneutical lens through which to ask a second question in an imperial context is the Jewish conception of empire actually Jewish.

*Empire of Texts in Motion* Karen Laura Thornber, 2020-10-26 By the turn of the twentieth century Japan's military and economic successes made it the dominant power in East Asia drawing hundreds of thousands of Chinese Korean and Taiwanese students to the metropole and sending thousands of Japanese to other parts of East Asia. The constant movement of peoples ideas and texts in the Japanese empire created numerous literary contact nebulae fluid spaces of diminished hierarchies where writers grapple with and transculture one another's creative output. Drawing extensively on vernacular sources in Japanese Chinese and Korean this book analyzes the most active of these contact nebulae semicolonial Chinese occupied Manchurian and colonial Korean and Taiwanese transculturations of Japanese literature. It explores how colonial and semicolonial writers discussed adapted translated and recast thousands of Japanese creative works both affirming and challenging Japan's cultural authority. Such efforts not only blurred distinctions among resistance acquiescence and collaboration but also shattered cultural and national barriers central to the discourse of empire. In this context twentieth century East Asian literatures can no longer be understood in isolation from one another linked only by their encounters with the West but instead must be seen in constant interaction throughout the Japanese empire and beyond.

[Asian Empire and British Knowledge](#) U. Hillemann, 2009-10-15 British knowledge about China changed fundamentally in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Rather than treating these

changes in British understanding as if Anglo Sino relations were purely bilateral this study looks at how British imperial networks in India and Southeast Asia were critical mediators in the British encounter of China Empires Susan E. Alcock,2001-08-09 Empires the largest political systems of the ancient and early modern world powerfully transformed the lives of people within and even beyond their frontiers in ways quite different from other non imperial societies Appearing in all parts of the globe and in many different epochs empires invite comparative analysis yet few attempts have been made to place imperial systems within such a framework This book brings together studies by distinguished scholars from diverse academic traditions including anthropology archaeology history and classics The empires discussed include case studies from Central and South America the Mediterranean Europe the Near East South East Asia and China and range in time from the first millennium BC to the early modern era The book organises these detailed studies into five thematic sections sources approaches and definitions empires in a wider world imperial integration and imperial subjects imperial ideologies and the afterlife of empires Empire of Letters S. A. Frampton,2019 Uniting close readings of major authors of the late Republic and early Empire with the careful analysis of the material forms that Roman writing took papyrus scrolls waxed tablets and monumental inscriptions in stone and bronze Empire of Letters provides new ways of imagining the history of the book in the pre modern world showing how writing was essential to ancient Roman beliefs and practice **Latin Literature of the Empire** Alfred Gudeman,1898 **The First of Empires** William St. Chad Boscawen,1906 **Selection from the Latin Literature of the Early Empire** A. C. B. Brown,1910 **Textual Empires** Mary Catherine Quilty,1992 Latin Literature of the Empire: Poetry Alfred Gudeman,1899 **The Cambridge Ancient History: The Egyptian and Hittite empires to c. 1000 B.C** ,1924 *The Fate of Empires* Arthur John Hubbard,1913 The Fate of Empires Being an Inquiry into the Stability of Civilisation by Arthur John Hubbard first published in 1913 is a rare manuscript the original residing in one of the great libraries of the world This book is a reproduction of that original which has been scanned and cleaned by state of the art publishing tools for better readability and enhanced appreciation Restoration Editors mission is to bring long out of print manuscripts back to life Some smudges annotations or unclear text may still exist due to permanent damage to the original work We believe the literary significance of the text justifies offering this reproduction allowing a new generation to appreciate it *The Ancient Empires of the East* Herodotus,Archibald Henry Sayce,1883 The Cambridge Ancient History: The Egyptian and Hittite Empires to c. 1000 B.C. 2 v John Bagnell Bury, Frank E. Adcock, Martin Percival Charlesworth, Norman Hepburn Baynes,1924 *Bibliography of the Japanese Empire;: Comprising the literature from 1894 to the middle of 1906 (XXVII-LXLth year of Meiji) with additions and corrections to the first volume and a Supplement to Léon Pagès' Bibliographie japonnaise, comp. by Fr. von Wenckstern. Added is a list of the Swedish literature on Japan, by Miss Valfrid Palmgren* Friedrich Wenckstern,1907 **The City of Emar Among the Late Bronze Age Empires** Lorenzo D'Alfonso, Yoram Cohen, Dietrich Sürenhagen,2008 This volume presents a collection of articles which were given as lectures

at the occasion of a conference in Konstanz They deal with the archive of Emar which kept texts from the Mid Fourteenth century through 1175 BC The Church in the Roman Empire Before A.D. 170 Sir William Mitchell Ramsay, 1893

*Yearbook of the Universities of the Empire*, 1926 **The Historians' History of the World: The early Roman empire** Henry Smith Williams, 1904

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