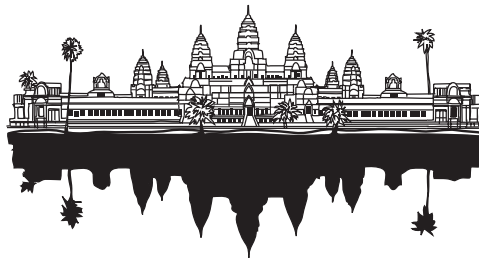


ANGKOR THE MAGNIFICENT

Wonder City Of Ancient Cambodia

HELEN CHURCHILL CANDEE



Featuring:

LIFE'S DÉCOR:

A Biography of Helen Churchill Candee

RANDY BRYAN BIGHAM



DatASIA, Inc.

MMVIII



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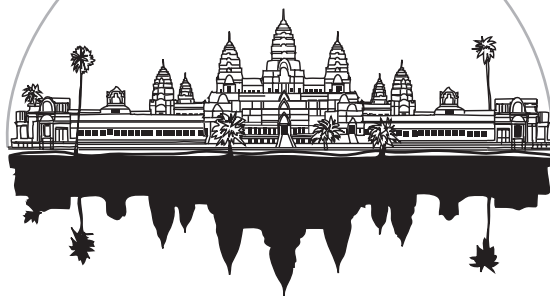
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PUBLISHER'S
INTRODUCTION



It is with hesitation that I mention the larger ladies of the carvings, the Tevadas or sacred dancers. I am made shy in their presence, while they remain unperturbed. They are so many to know all at once, and their character is to me unfathomable.

Helen Candee
Angkor Wat, 1922

Helen Churchill Candee was a modern woman who the *devata*, the Daughters of Angkor Wat in all their glory, would have certainly welcomed as one of their own.

She was remarkable for so many reasons that it is truly difficult to articulate her life in a few statements. Although best known for surviving history's most infamous maritime disaster, the sinking of the *RMS Titanic*, that event was a mere coincidence in the context of Helen's self-determined destiny.

This independent woman not only walked with kings, presidents, the wealthy and the powerful...she entertained, charmed and *influenced* them. She supported herself and her family, out of necessity, in an era when women were expected to depend on men. She championed feminine equality and fought tirelessly for women's rights. And as a single woman she traveled the world with a keen eye for detail, an inquisitive mind and a sensitivity for local culture.

Angkor the Magnificent, Helen Candee's most acclaimed work, is far more than a tale of early 20th century travel to an exotic Asian destination. Helen's insights never disappoint as she relates the history, culture and context of ancient Khmer monuments in an elegant style that is both enlightening and quite readable. By her hand, we have one of the first significant works on Cambodia in the English language.

This modern edition supplements her original 1924 book with a reprint of her personal report of the sinking of the *Titanic* and, for the first time in print, a biography of Helen Churchill Candee herself by journalist Randy Bryan Bigham.

As editor, I couldn't imagine changing a word of her prose, so it is presented here, intact, as Helen Candee wanted it. She employs British spellings and these are unchanged (colour, defence, honour, storeys, etc.). Foreign words in Khmer, Latin and French are italicized. Definitions are added for a few particularly obscure words.

Original archaic terms are left to maintain the flavor of her text: *Civa* (*Shiva*), *Civaism* (*Shivaism*) *Tevada* (*devata*), etc. I confess to changing *Tcheou-Ta-Kouan* to the modern transliteration *Zhou Daghan* to help readers find the brilliant book Peter Harris issued in 2007, giving Anglophones the first direct Chinese to English translation of this important 13th century work.

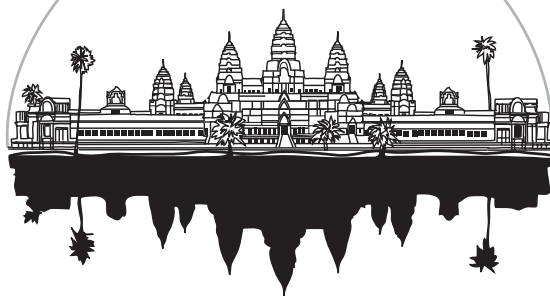
Our graphic designer Kristen Tuttle has augmented our book design with original graphics, photo retouching and generous font sizes to make this edition friendly for "English as a Second Language" readers. Not to mention aging readers, like me, who now reluctantly enjoy thick tomes packed with 10pt type.

Helen Candee's work earned her an award from the King of Cambodia in 1929 and much other richly deserved praise. To modern scholars who find errors in some assertions and dates within, please recall that this book was researched at a time when sources on this topic were quite limited.

Next to living great adventures, reading well-written personal accounts of those who have lived them is the next best thing. I wish all readers an enjoyable journey with this most admirable woman, Helen Churchill Candee. May she look favorably upon my humble effort to share her tale with new generations.

Kent Davis
Anna Maria Island, Florida
April 14, 2008

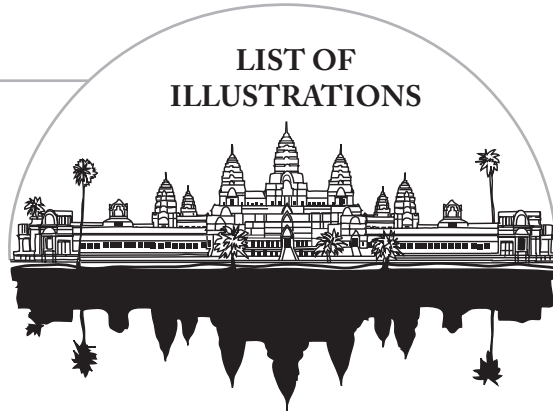
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