

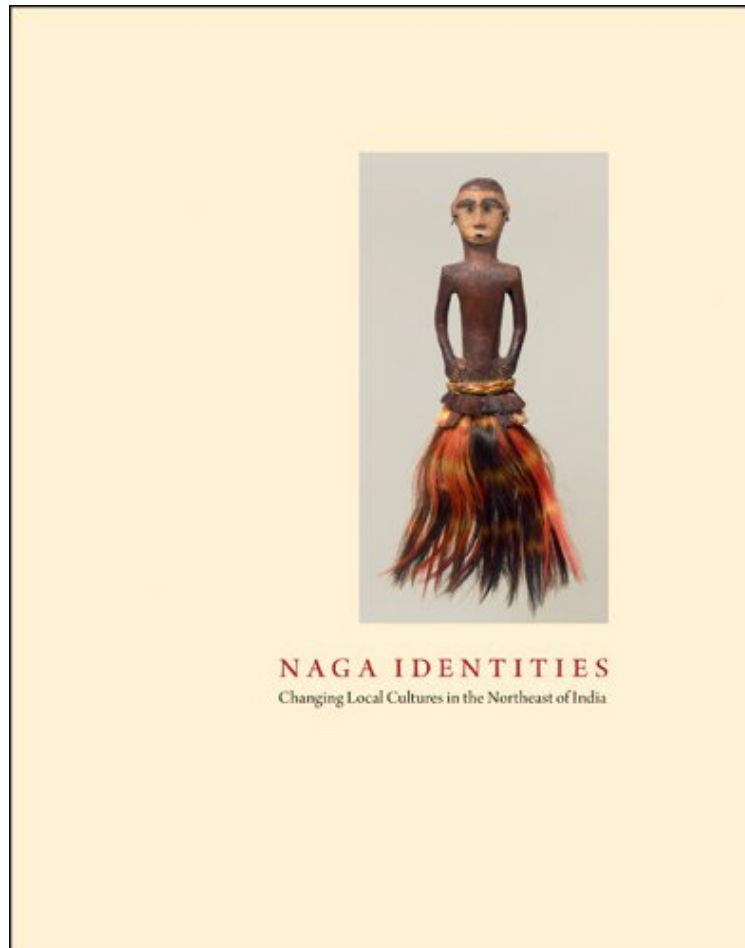
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Naga Identities: Changing Local Cultures in the Northeast of India

Michael Oppitz, Thomas Kaiser, Alban von Stockhausen, Marion Wettstein : Naga Identities: Changing Local Cultures in the Northeast of India before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Naga Identities: Changing Local Cultures in the Northeast of India:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Superb Presentation, but Rather Ordinary BookBy James I. ColeHardback, cloth boards with pictorial DJ, 11" v 9", 464 pages, many photographs and figures in color and black white, comprehensive index and bibliography, 6 maps. By Michael Oppitz, Thomas Kaiser, Alban Von Stockhausen, Marion Wettstein. Published by Ethnographic Museum Of Zurich University, in cooperation with the Museum Fur Volkerkunde/KHM, and Uitgeverij Snoeck editions/publishers, 2008I'm having a hard time reviewing this book - I really appreciate Naga art and culture, and I really wanted to love this superbly presented publication....but as lavishly produced as it is, the photographs are of a wildly inconsistent quality, with many of them proving very ordinary or just plain disappointing. Not helping the cause is the fact that the (voluminous) text is pedantic and tedious, so the book definitely starts to lose its charm. There is a real feeling of a missed opportunity here, and IMHO the project could really have used an experienced editor. (Whose idea were the 21 poor photographs of a modern "Naga" fashion show ?

And there are at least a further 50 photographs which add nothing of interest to the book). Despite my significant reservations, I would say that at the right price, the wonderful Naga art and culture are fascinating enough to warrant interest in this book, but you may want to consider a couple of superior publications which are available: *The Nagas: Hill Peoples of Northeast India* (Second Edition) and "Naga - A Forgotten Mountain Region Rediscovered" by Ruichard Kunz, Vibha Joshi. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A 'must' for any serious library catering to advanced students of Asian history and culture. By Midwest Book Review. *NAGA IDENTITIES* is both a work of anthropology and a work of art, and thus is a recommended pick for college-level libraries strong in either subject. The history, culture and mythology of the Nagas of Burma is explored in a powerful and weighty depiction of scenes of social life and history presented in both black and white and color, and accompanied by extensive anthropological and social history and analysis. A 'must' for any serious library catering to advanced students of Asian history and culture, as well as for arts collections.

The Naga peoples inhabit the southeastern foothills of the Himalayas between India and Burma. Living in virtual isolation from the outside world until about 150 years ago, they developed a highly particular material culture and oral tradition. With period maps dating from the 1500s to present day together with more than 270 color plates, this extensive study explores the culture of a people known for their architecture, sculpture, wood carving, bodily ornaments, drums, and textiles. Objects and artifacts shown come from the extensive collections of the Pitt Rivers Museum at the University of Oxford, Museum für Volkerkunde (Museum of Ethnology) in Vienna, and Museum der Kulturen (Cultural Museum) in Basel.