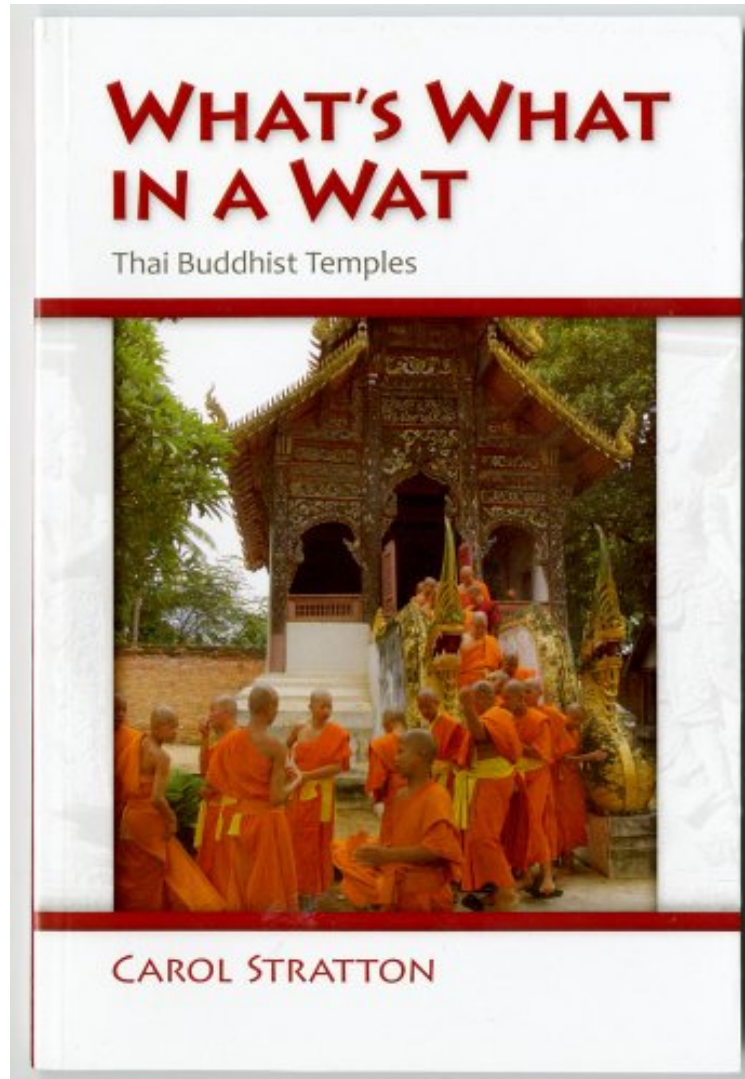


[Free download] What's What in a Wat: Thai Buddhist Temples

What's What in a Wat: Thai Buddhist Temples

Carol Stratton

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Carol Stratton : What's What in a Wat: Thai Buddhist Temples before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What's What in a Wat: Thai Buddhist Temples:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Informative and enjoyable By D. Golden I had the great good fortune to visit Chiang Mai, Thailand last March. I honestly didn't know what to expect, but whatever it was, Chiang Mai was more. My wife and I spent much of the trip in slack jawed amazement, and we're both pretty well traveled, but the overwhelming kindness of the Thai people and visual beauty was mind boggling. Visiting the Wats was the best part of the trip for me and our schedule let us spend a good deal of time in one particular location that was relatively quiet, and with the exception of ourselves, tourist free. The details aren't important, but it turned out to be a remarkable four

hours, and several months later, when we returned home, I wanted to learn more about what I had seen. "What's What in a Wat: Thai Buddhist Temples" is exactly what I needed. The book provides an uncluttered, straightforward description of the layout of the grounds of the prototypical Wat, with clear explanations as to the identity and use of the structures and statuary therein. Of course no two Wats are identical, but the basic themes are the same. No prior knowledge of Buddhism is required to gain full advantage for the insights that this book offers. The author, Carol Stratton, is an expert on Buddhist sculpture in Northern Thailand, so she is eminently qualified to offer her insights on this topic. Her prose is good humored, informal and inviting making "What's What in a Wat: Thai Buddhist Temples" a truly enjoyable learning experience, and I hope an inspiration for others to visit this wonderful part of the world.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a great little book to read before a trip

By Joseph Grey Grimison This is a great little book to read before a trip, and/or have with you at wats. I use it as a cheat sheet to give tours when people visit us in Bangkok.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Check the size, it's a tiny book

By celinedion And therefore a bit overpriced. If I were rating this at an \$8-10 price, I'd give it five stars. Still, to get the wat facts in a hurry and served up with verve and expertise, this book delivers. Fine line drawings of wat layouts perhaps explain the price. So many people are in and out of even fabulous wats in 2 minutes. This book will make you linger.

As you walk through a Thai temple, a host of unfamiliar objects, shapes and patterns tug at you from every direction. This handy and lucid guidebook will help you distinguish what is what. It takes you through a representative Thai Buddhist temple, guiding you from structure to structure and element to element, explaining the function and purpose of each, and the symbolism behind the forms. A Thai wat can be a place of bewildering beauty, but this illustrated companion will help you focus your eyes and identify what you see. Tourists and residents, novices and scholars will gain a clearer sense of what a wat is and the role it plays today in the lives of Thai people.

"With illustrations to accompany her straightforward explanations of well, what's what, Stratton does a good job of unpacking the complex function and symbolism found in the various structures of a wat. If you're planning a trip to Thailand, or to a Thai temple elsewhere, pick up a copy of What's What in a Wat. You'll want to have a guide with you and Stratton, having researched and written on Thai Buddhist art for over forty years, is a trustworthy one."

Tricycle About the Author Carol Stratton has been researching and writing on Thai Buddhist art history for over forty years. She is the author of The Buddhist Sculpture of Northern Thailand.