

Beautiful, factual books

Peranakan Chinese Porcelain by Kee Ming-Yuet 250 pages/Tuttle Publishing

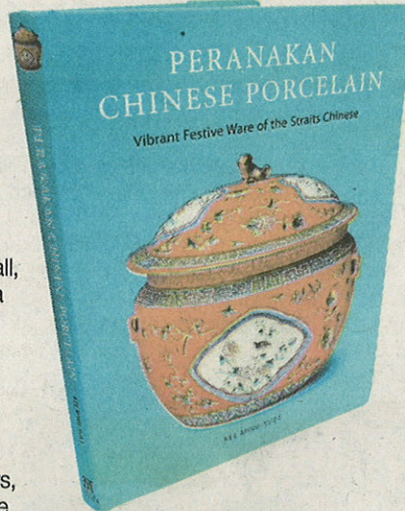
As the author stated, the book is the result of four decades of research and of being a collector.

Her first book was on Straits Chinese porcelain and this one took around two years before seeing the light of day. All in all, it had taken she said, "Slightly more than a year to finally put this book together."

Aptly, the book describes these delicate pieces as ornate, vibrant and exuberant. And they are basically "a type of overglaze polychrome enamelled porcelain in a variety of functional forms".

Serving as a reference book for collectors, the book details the ornate paintings on the porcelain, markings on the bottom of the pieces, its height and width and also the era from which it came from.

The author's biggest satisfaction of completing the book was, "Being able to put on record for all to enjoy. The beautiful Peranakan porcelain amassed by the far-sighted matriarchs of years gone by for use during their celebration of important festive occasions — such as milestone birthdays and weddings.



"Sets which were understandably more subdued and in blue, the mourning color of the Peranakan Chinese, were also ordered for use during funerals."

The eye-catching turquoise hardcover book is available in all good bookstores and retails at RM236.

■ An interview with the author Kee Ming-Yuet is in tomorrow's *Sunday People* of *The New Sunday Times*.

Whether you choose to read or gaze at insightful postcards or new superpower, **SU AZIZ** record an inspiration to finally get that

Bali Home by Kim Inglis and photographs by Luca I. Tettoni 143 pages/Tuttle Publishing

ON the cover of the book it states: *Inspirational Design Ideas*. Bali has always been termed paradise and its homes totally reflect that. Well, at least the ones in this book do!

The book is not a record of different homes per se but aspects of a Bali home — its open plan style, verandah, dining area style, allures of the mosquito net and gorgeous tropical bathrooms.

Acting on suggestions from this book will, I assure you, result in a home to die for (seriously, I couldn't come up with a better expression!).

My favourite part's the "Textured Treatments". The play of drapes, painted raw walls and carved wood (which is so ubiquitous and typical of Bali) are all additions to already gorgeous aesthetics.

A close second when it comes to favourites is the page after the one above on "Rustic and Recycled".

Here's where rough, recycled wood form divine slumber areas and lush green box planters.

Believe me, by allowing your eyes to stroll

When China Rules The World by Martin Jacques 550 pages/Penguin Group

THE bibliography, notes and index sections alone in this book, takes up 120 pages.

Yes, it's a serious book on a serious subject. It's all about "*The Rise of The Middle Kingdom and The End of The Western World*". Aren't we all (kind of) waiting for that to fully materialise?

Although I attempted to read the book from cover to cover, my summary of it will not do it justice since I won't pretend to be intellectual enough!

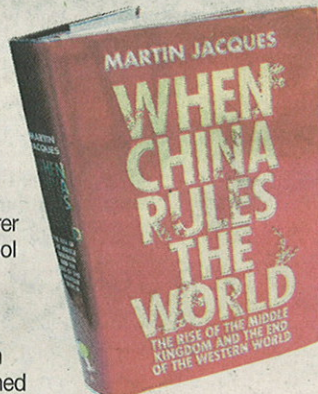
So, let me repeat what's written on the book's jacket — "For over two hundred years we've lived in a Western-made world, one where the very notion of being Western. This book argues that the 21st century will be different: with the rise of increasingly powerful non-Western countries, the West will no longer be dominant and there'll be many ways

of being modern. In this new era of contested modernity the central player will be China".

The author, is not only a lecturer at London School of Economics' Asia Research Center, but also a columnist with several established publications such as the *Guardian* and *The Times*.

Though not an easy read, it's a vital one. The least we can do is furnish our ignorance with things to come through readily available facts, no?

The book's easily available in good bookstores closest to you.



Perak, 300 Early Postcards by Cheah Jin Seng 189 pages/Editions Didier Millet

THIS book's a charmingly interesting way to tell of our second largest state's history through a collection of over 300 rare, old picture postcards which belong to the author.

He himself is an avid philatelist (collector of stamps and other postal matter as a hobby or investment) and deltillogist (collector of postcards).

An interesting trip down memory lane with this book is inevitable and perfect to start off dinner conversations too!

However, I can't help but wish our school's

Reading for a good cause

Mutiara Minda, a section within MPH Bookstores dedicated customers "Kad Mutiara Minda" at RM10 with proceeds are also entitled to 10 per cent discount off all books ones up to 25 per cent discount. This promotions end at mphonline.com.

Bestsellers

Non-fiction

1. *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne

by Steve Harvey

6. *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell

4. *Sidney Sheldon's Mistress of the Game* by Tilly Bagshawe

Asas Fiqah Wanita by Siti Bahwah Mahmood