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Earth in Flower: The Divine Mystery of the Cambodian Dance Drama

by Paul Cravath, Edited by Kent Davis

(2008, 544 pp., sewn case-binding, 188 b&w photos, paintings, and engravings, index, bibliography, appendices; publ. DatASIA Inc, Holmes Beach Fla., ISBN 978-1-934431-28-3)

This is a comprehensive account of Southeast Asia's most esoteric female performing art, the ancient Cambodian ballet. Nurtured by the Khmer royalty since its beginning, the art form is frequently attributed to Siam and Thailand, but the Siamese acquired it only after capturing the dancers and their secrets in the 15th century.

Kent discovered this book, which had been commissioned by the government, on microfilm while conducting his research on Angkor Wat. Its author spent ten years immersed in the previously hidden world of Cambodian dance.

This may sound like an obscure subject, but it would be hard for you not to find at least one or two topics of interest in the book when presented with a menu of Asian history, performing arts, religion, spirituality, Jungian analysis, art, war, royalty, French colonialism, U.S. foreign relations, international diplomacy and women's issues.

www.EarthInFlower.com

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Mensa was founded in England in 1946 by Roland Berrill, a barrister, and Dr. Lance Ware, a scientist and lawyer. They had the idea of forming a society for bright people, the only qualification for membership of which was a high IQ. The original aims were, as they are today, to create a society that is non-political and free from all racial or religious distinctions. The society welcomes people from every walk of life whose IQ is in the top 2% of the population, with the objective of enjoying each other's company and participating in a wide range of social and cultural activities.