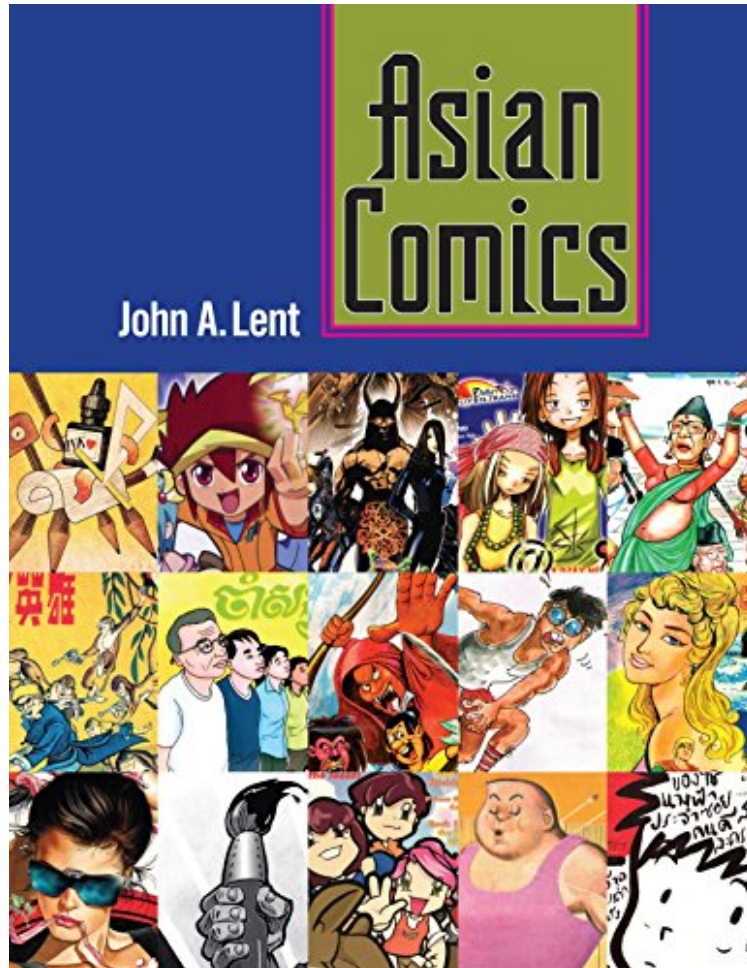


Asian Comics

John A. Lent

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Grand in its scope, Asian Comics dispels the myth that, outside of Japan, the continent is nearly devoid of comic strips and comic books. Relying on his fifty years of Asian mass communication and comic art research, during which he traveled to Asia at least seventy-eight times and visited many studios and workplaces, John A. Lent shows that nearly every country had a golden age of cartooning and has experienced a recent rejuvenation of the art form.As only Japanese comics output has received close and by now voluminous scrutiny, Asian Comics tells the story of the major

comics creators outside of Japan. Lent covers the nations and regions of Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. Organized by regions of East, Southeast, and South Asia, Asian Comics provides 178 black-and-white illustrations and detailed information on comics of sixteen countries and regions—their histories, key creators, characters, contemporary status, problems, trends, and issues. One chapter harkens back to predecessors of comics in Asia, describing scrolls, paintings, books, and puppetry with humorous tinges, primarily in China, India, Indonesia, and Japan. The first overview of Asian comic books and magazines (both mainstream and alternative), graphic novels, newspaper comic strips and gag panels, plus cartoon/humor magazines, Asian Comics brims with facts, fascinating anecdotes, and interview quotes from many pioneering masters, as well as younger artists.

Lent has brought comics studies into the mainstream and gone worldwide. This is an amazing feat, covering so many different cultural contexts on various continents. A particularly valuable contribution has been his journal, *International Journal of Comic Art*, a doughty biannual which he founded in 1999, which has scoured the world, and which he puts together more or less solo. His knowledge of Asian comics, much of it gathered during tireless travel to China and elsewhere, is unparalleled. David Kunzle, author of numerous books on comics history, including *Rodolphe Töpffer: The Complete Comic Strips*, *Father of the Comic Strip: Rodolphe Töpffer*, and *Gustave Doré: Twelve Comic Strips* (all published by University Press of Mississippi) About the Author John A. Lent, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, taught at the university level from 1960 to 2011, with stints in the Philippines, Malaysia, Canada, China, and the United States. He has authored or edited eighty books, including *Comics Art in China*, coauthored with Xu Ying and published by University Press of Mississippi. He founded and serves as the publisher and editor-in-chief of *International Journal of Comic Art*.