

Lifestyle

New step for classic book on dance

Craig Miles

THE first English-language edition of George Groslier's rare book about Cambodian dance will be launched at a ceremony at the National Museum of Cambodia in Phnom Penh this Friday, on the 124th anniversary of Groslier's birth.

The ceremony will be hosted by French Ambassador Christian Connan, as well as Princess Bopha Devi, guardian of Cambodia's ancient royal dance tradition.

Also in attendance will be Ravyann Karet-Coxen, who acted as cultural advisor in republishing the book, and American publisher and Groslier biographer Kent Davis of DatAsia Press.

The book, titled *Cambodian Dancers – Ancient and Modern*, has been translated into English from the original French masterpiece *Danseuses Cambodgiennes – Anciennes et Modernes*.

Only 30 copies of the original were ever produced.

Published in 1913, the book explored Cambodian dance under the guidance of King Sisowath, and most major works exploring Khmer art and culture cite Groslier's rare work.

Publisher Kent Davis said he worked with Groslier's daughter Nicole over the past three years to prepare the book, which represented numerous milestones.

"This is the first reprinting of *Danseuses Cambodgiennes* in any language since 1913, and also the first translation of any of Groslier's works into English," he said. "But most profound of all, this is the first work by Groslier in a century actually printed in Cambodia by Cambodians."

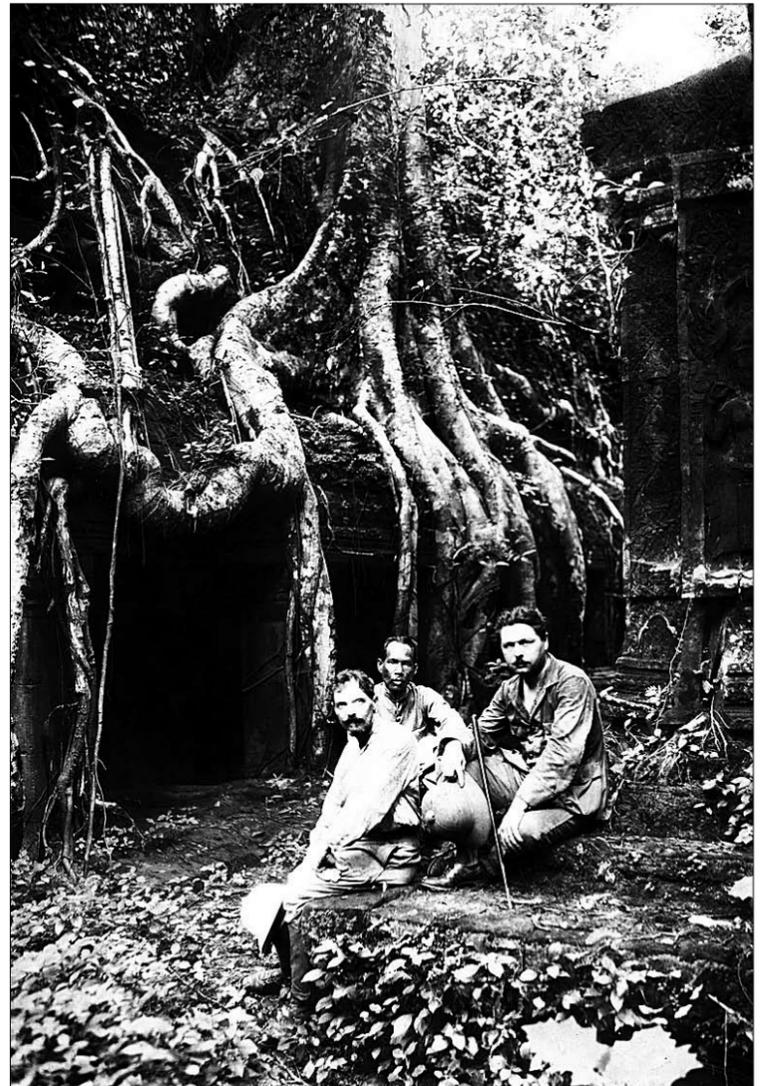
The new hardcover edition contains 380 pages and more than 200 illustrations, including all of Groslier's original artwork from 1913.

George Groslier was the first French child born in Cambodia. He established the National Museum and School of Cambodian Arts and wrote more than 100 works about Khmer art and history.

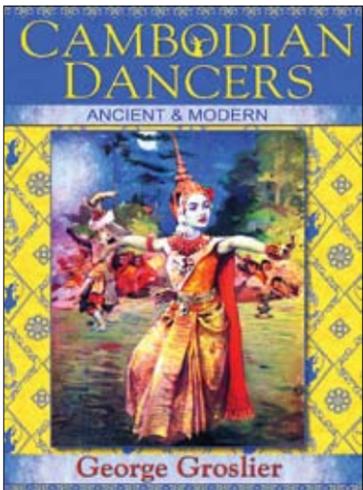
A public introduction for the book will be celebrated at Monument Books in Phnom Penh on Saturday from 11am to 12:30pm.



Author George Groslier pictured in his museum office in 1928.



Angkor curator Henri Marchal and George Groslier at Ta Prohm in 1910.



What titles do same-sex parents take?

Julie Bindel

IT'S official. The baby son of Elton John and David Furnish will refer to his parents as "Daddy" and "Papa" respectively once he gurgles his first words. It's certainly less confusing than the choice of lesbian couple Nic and Jules in the film *The Kids are All Right*: they are both "Mom".

What kids call gay parents is a relatively new question. And although lesbians are far more likely to have children either from previous (heterosexual) relationships or together (using a sperm donor),

gay dads are still quite rare. I ask Barrie Drewitt-Barlow, Britain's most famous gay dad, who with his partner Tony has five children ranging in age from 1 to 11, how they approached the issue.

"We couldn't make our minds up what they should call us and we decided before the first twins were born that we would be many different things," says Drewitt-Barlow. "But the moment they were born, we became Dad and Daddy." Another gay couple I speak to say they go by "Mommy and Mommy2".

Some names are a bit cutesy for my liking, but then same-sex couples do not have the thousands of years of precedent to follow, as straight couples do. One lesbian I know has her daughter call her by her first name, because she cannot abide the sugary labels others chose.

"We know other same-sex parents that started off as one thing, but ended up as something else as they grow older," says Drewitt-Barlow. "What sounded cute when the children were young can end up sounding silly as they grow." THE GUARDIAN ■



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