



Ambassadors from
around the world.





Perhaps, the most fascinating experience of travelling to a foreign land is that it can come back home with you.

T-shirts. Wall-hangings. Book-ends. Key-chains. Figurines. Paper-weights. No matter what souvenirs you pick up on your travels, you can be sure they represent a people, culture, tradition, history or lifestyle. And in doing so, they teach you about a world outside your own.

Thomas Cook is the world's longest-standing travel company. We've been collecting experiences and memories from every part of the globe for over 150 years.

It has helped us develop a better understanding of foreign lands and people. And that, in turn, has made us a better travel company.



The Laughing Buddha from China

In China, the Maitreya or Laughing Buddha is worshipped as a god of good luck and prosperity.

The ultimate symbol of happiness, he carries an unlimited supply of gold. And an elixir of infinite health. He is believed to bring good news, good health, good tidings, happy events.

You can find palm-sized figurines of the Laughing Buddha in China. They are perfect for your desk or even the dashboard of your car. Good luck aside, you can count on them to always remind you to smile.



Clogs from Holland

Wooden shoes or clogs are as much a symbol of Holland as tulips and windmills.

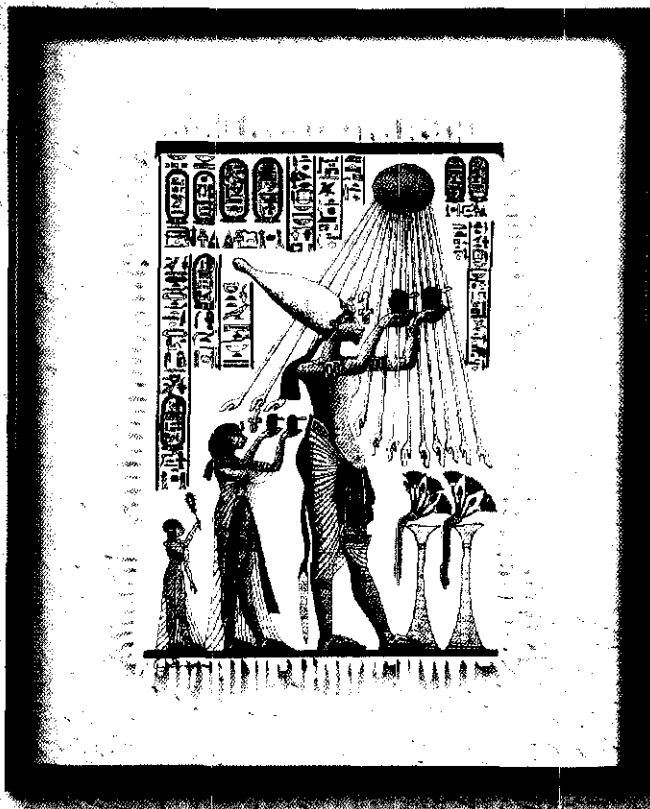
Since the middle ages, they've been used for wading about in the soggy soil of the Netherlands.

You can use them to impress business associates and to please friends. In fact, these days, most of the clogs purchased are used as gifts and souvenirs.

They are crafted by hand and sometimes by modern machines. Finishing touches are in the form of pretty paintings and carvings.

Clogs are designed to be strong and durable. So you can rest assured you've picked a gift that will last a lifetime.

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Papyrus from Egypt

The papyrus, a kind of parchment paper, is perhaps one of the most ancient writing materials. Over 5000 years ago, Egyptians used it to record events in their daily lives. It was made from the stem of an aquatic plant, *Cyperus Papyrus*, found in the delta of the Nile.

While travelling through Egypt today, you'll find a variety of hand-painted art on genuine papyri. They are available in hundreds of designs, colours and sizes. All suitable for framing.

Every piece is hand-painted in the purest tradition by Egyptian fine artists. Which means, you can have an accurate copy of the ancient art found in the pyramids of Egypt, in your home.

Masks from Indonesia

In Indonesia, masks are a vital part of the culture. They are expressions of religion, ethics and morals. And can transform the ordinary into the magical.

Indonesian masks are either for dance or decoration. Most are painted wood. With slits for the eyes and openings for the nose. Sometimes, the jaw may even be hinged for movement.

Dances that depict the Ramayana use elaborate masks made of gilded buffalo hide and embellished with mirrors. While masks that have a cap of horse hair are used in the Calonarong dance dramas. This is performed to remedy the ills of black magic.

You, however, can use these masks to remedy a dull living room:





Koala bears from Australia

Koala bears have round faces, saucer-sized ears and black noses. They are covered all over with thick, soft, grey-brown fur. And they grow up to two feet in length.

The young ones usually perch themselves on their mother's back. And if frightened, scurry into her pouch, crying like babies.

Their favourite food is eucalyptus leaves. They find plenty of it in the forests of Australia. In fact, koalas are found naturally only in Australian forests. But most of the local zoos house a few at least.

These animals are so cute and cuddly, you'll want to take them back home. However, koalas were once on the list of endangered species. And are now protected by the Australian government. So you'll have to settle for koala soft toys and souvenirs. These are available all over Australia. And are as cute as the real thing.

The Merlion from Singapore

Ancient Singapore was once known as Temask or Sea Town. Legend has it that Temask was, a long time ago, hit by a violent storm.

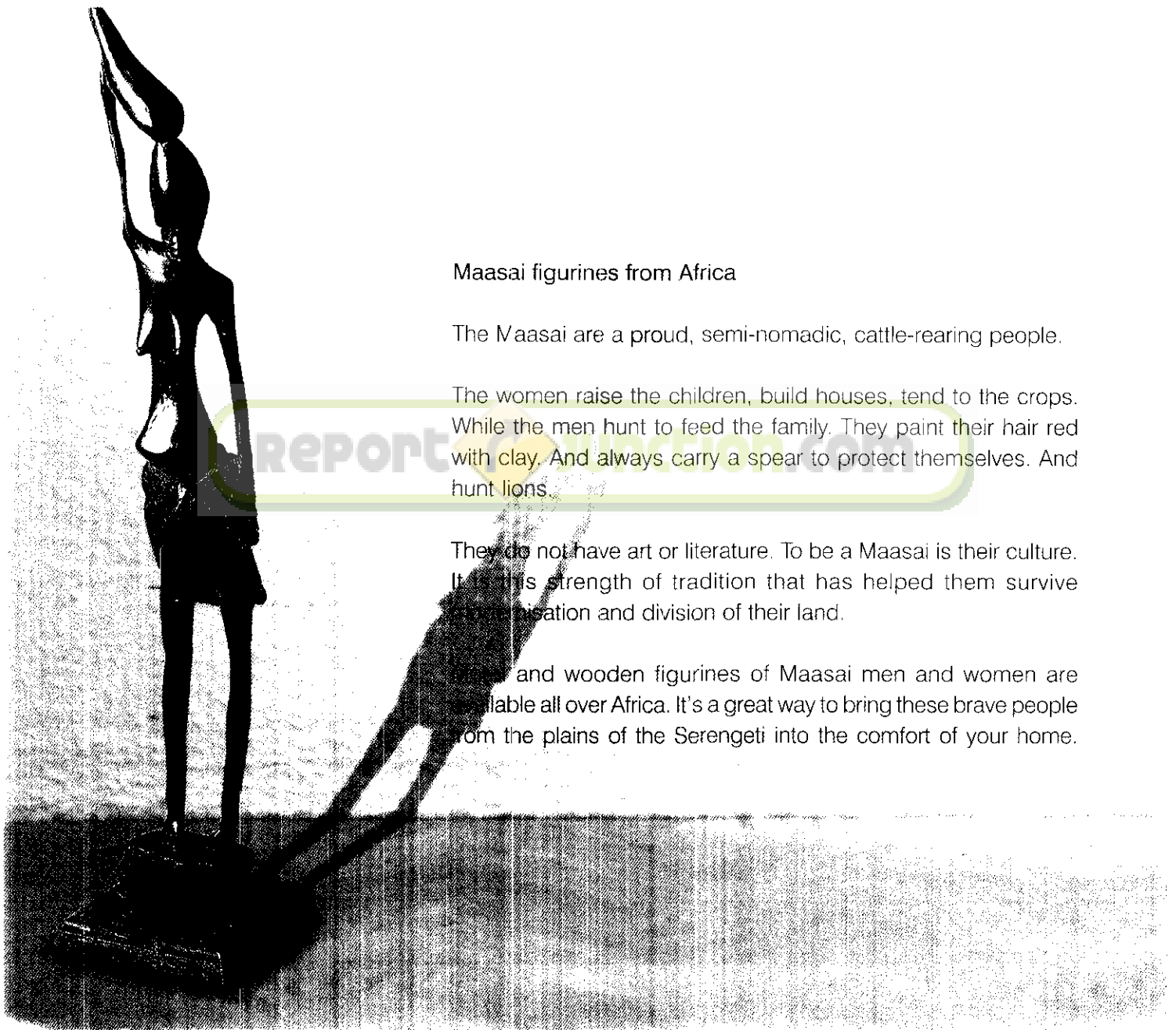
The people of Temask huddled fearfully together, praying for a miracle to save them. In answer to their prayers, a huge beast, half-lion, half-fish, rose from the sea. Roaring majestically, the Merlion battled the storm and silenced it. Then with a flick of his tail, returned to the sea.

But the people of Singapore are still grateful. Today, the Merlion is the national symbol here. An 8-metre high statue stands at the Merlion Park in Marina Bay. He overlooks the Singapore River. Still guarding the entrance.

You can shop for a variety of Merlion memorabilia in Singapore. From statuettes and tie-pins, to T-shirts and key-chains. Besides being excellent gifts for your friends back home, each is a rich tribute to the mystical sea-beast.



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Maasai figurines from Africa

The Maasai are a proud, semi-nomadic, cattle-rearing people.

The women raise the children, build houses, tend to the crops. While the men hunt to feed the family. They paint their hair red with clay. And always carry a spear to protect themselves. And hunt lions.

They do not have art or literature. To be a Maasai is their culture. It is this strength of tradition that has helped them survive colonisation and division of their land.

Maasai and wooden figurines of Maasai men and women are available all over Africa. It's a great way to bring these brave people from the plains of the Serengeti into the comfort of your home.