



La Conservation d'Angkor Conservation, statues and history

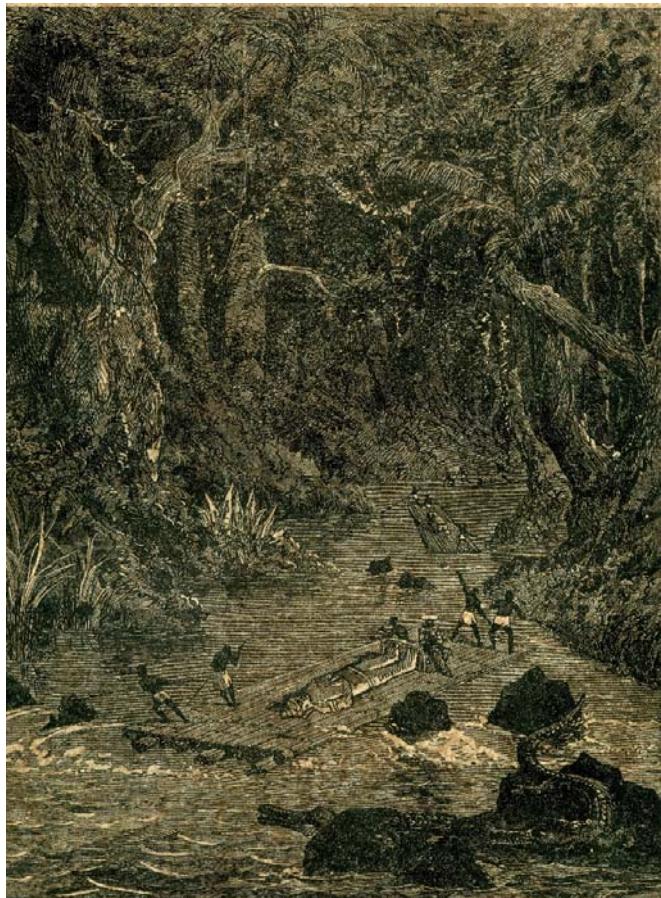
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CKS fellow 2016-2017

Introduction: Angkor and Frenchs at the end of 18th century



Engraving in Delaporte, 1880, p. 239

1863 – Cambodia becomes a French protectorate

1866 – Exploration on the Mekong River by Doudard de Lagrée (with Louis Delaporte, painter, Emile Gsell, photographer...)

1873-9 – Louis Delaporte missions to Angkor



Napoléon III (emperor 1852-1870)
Portrait by Franz Xaver Winterhalter



Norodom The 1st (1860-1904)



La salle des Gardes, Compiègne Palace

The Preah Khan Balustrade at
1978 International exhibition in
Paris, 1878
Engraving by M. Woodward in
« Le Monde illustré »,
November, 2, 1878



LES ANTIQUITÉS CAMBODGIENNES A L'EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE DE 1878

I/ The Prestige of Khmer culture and the French Empire: 1908-1949

A) Institution settlement

1°/ In Angkor: to discover, to store and to restore



1878 – Creation of the « Mission archéologique de l'Indochine »

1900 – Renamed Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient

1907 – Siam retrocedes Provinces of Battambang and Siemreap to Cambodia

1908 – Creation of the Conservation d'Angkor

Left: Jean Commaille 2nd house
in Angkor Thom, used as a
storage, 1924 (EFEO Paris
MARCH_01749)



Works at the Victory Gate of Angkor Thom by
Henri Marchal in June 1925
NMC archives, K_21



The 2nd storage of Angkor built in 1918 near the Bayon
(May 1949, EFEO Paris CA_17033)

2°/ In Phnom Penh: to rule and to exhibit

March, 9, 1900 – « Arrêté relatif à la conservation en Indochine des monuments et objets ayant un intérêt historique ou artistique »

1905 – Openning of the musée Khmer near Wat Phnom

1921 – Inauguration of Albert Sarraut museum

1923 – « Arrêté autorisant la vente au Cambodge d'objets anciens provenant de monuments historiques »

1925 – « Arrêté relatif au classement, à la conservation et à la protection des monuments historiques des pays de protectorat »



Le musée Khmer,
1909

Le musée Albert Sarraut,
1921



B) 1925-1949: apogee and fall of French Protectorate in Cambodia

1°/ Diffusion of Khmer Art



Guimet
museum,
Paris,
1934
(EFEO
Paris)



Blanchard de la
Brosse museum,
Saigon,
no date
(EFEO VIE08746)

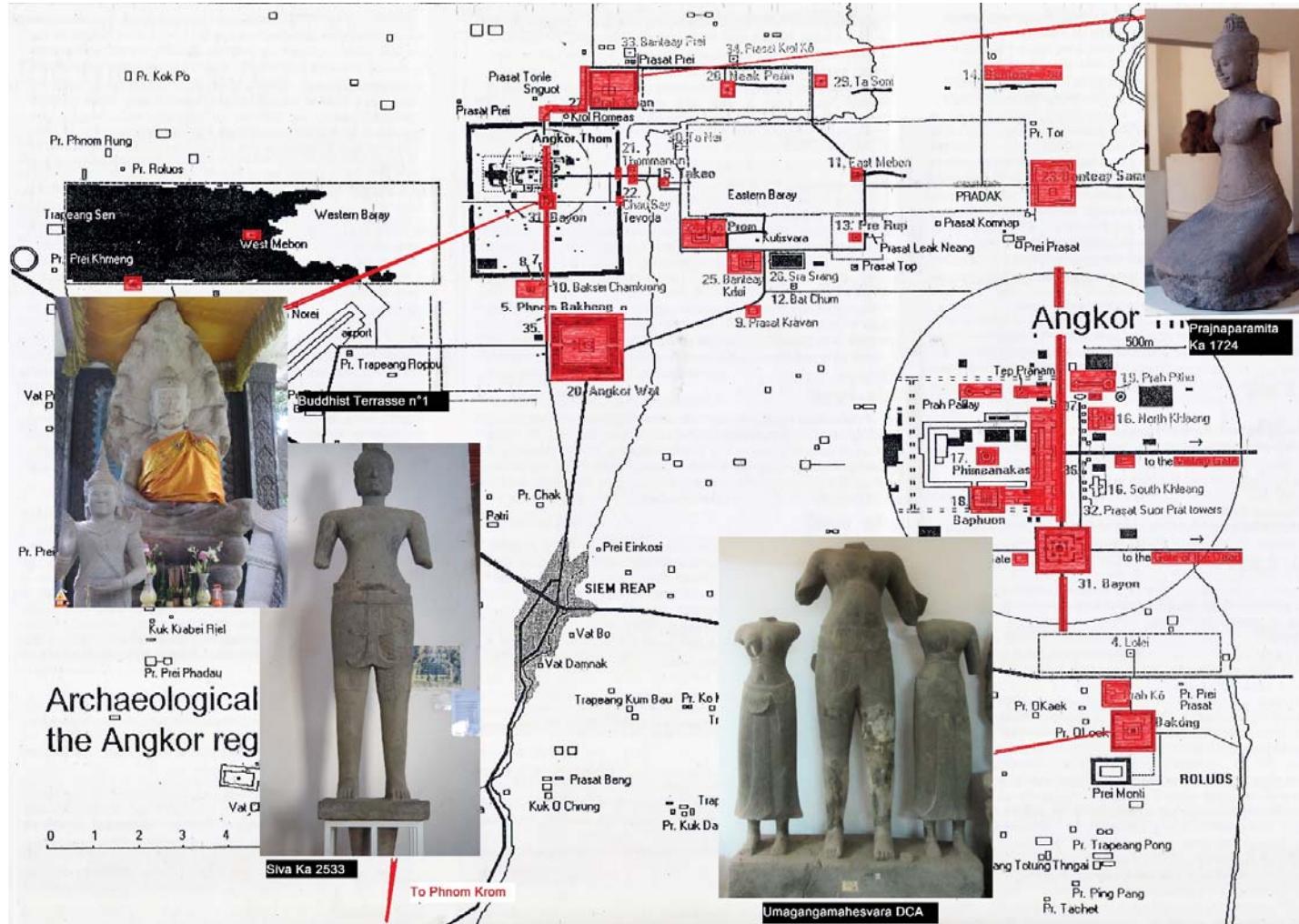


Louis Finot
museum,
Hanoi, 1951
(EFEO Paris)

Bust of Hevajra, found at
the Gate of the Dead,
36.96.4



2° Works in Angkor: the glorious 30's



Georges Trouvé
1902-1935



Maurice Glaize
1886-1964

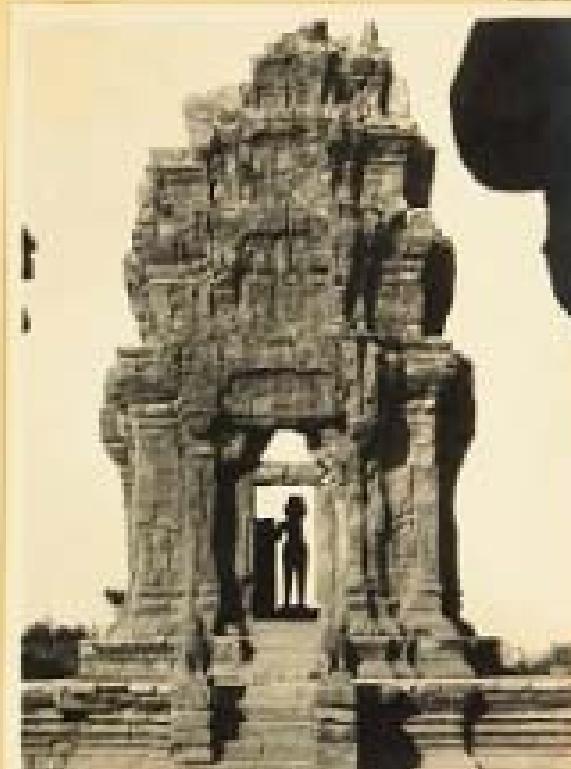
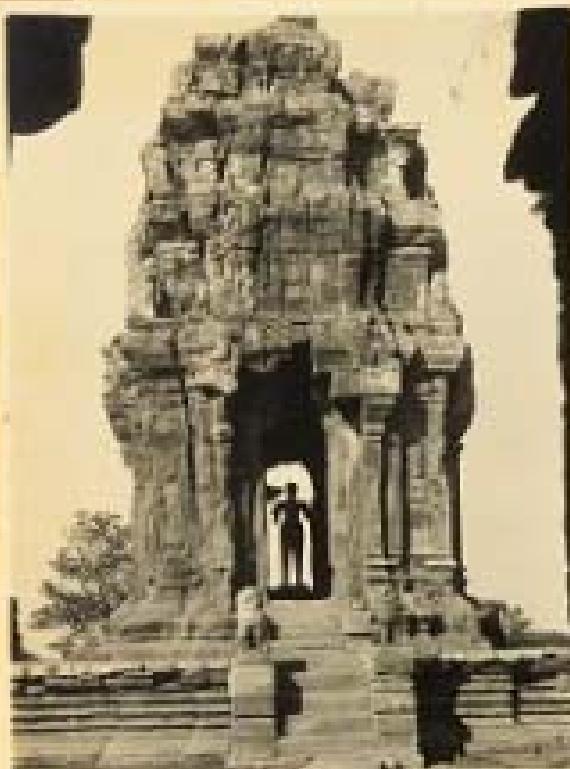
Phnom Krom.

Tour de Phnom Krom. Face Est.
Tour de Phnom Krom. Face Est.

1938 | 1072
N° 1072

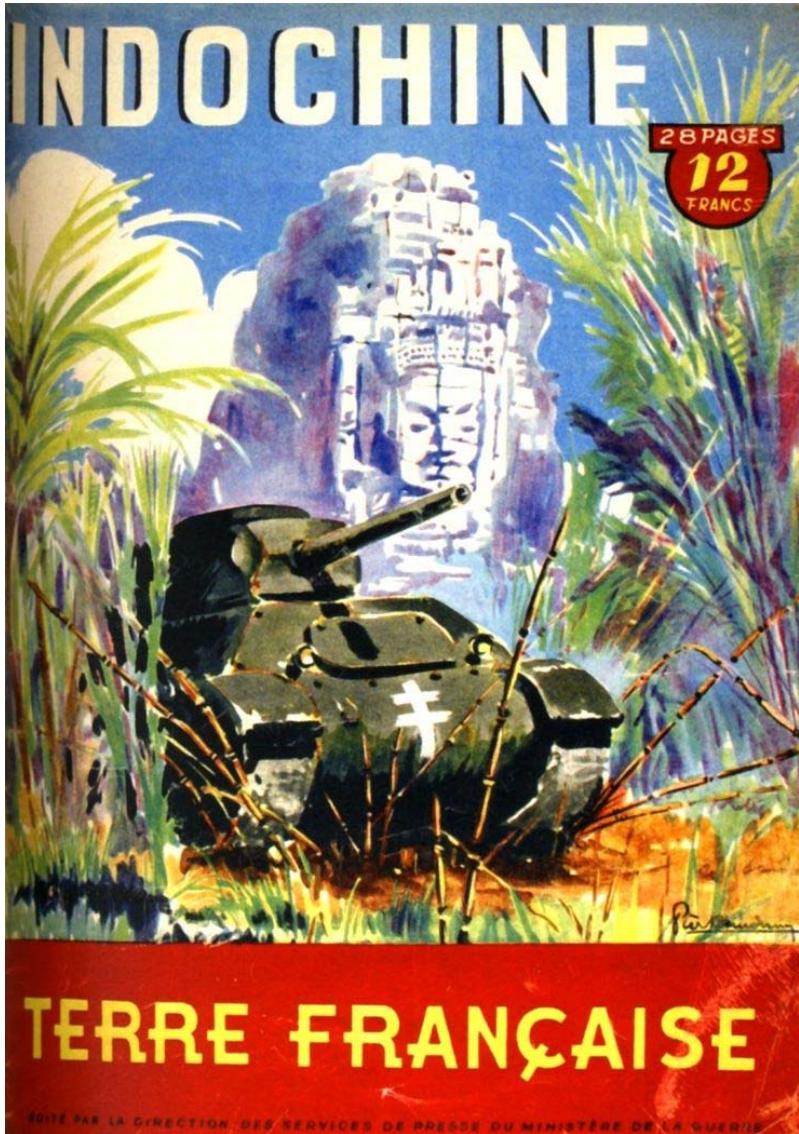
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Novembre 1938



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3°) World War II

1941 – Thaïland bombs Siemreap

March 1941 – Thaïland gets Battambang-Sisophon Province, but Japan intervenes so Angkor remains cambodian

1944 – Sculptures from Conservation d'Angkor are sent to Japan. Japan also gives a collection of artworks to Blanchard de la Brosse museum

March, 2, 1945 – Norodom Sihanouk declares Independance for the first time

March, 9, 1945 – Japanese Coup against French administrators of Indochina

August, 10, 1946 – the Conservation is burned

Cover of a French propaganda journal in 1945

II/ Independence and Sangkum (1949-1970)

A) Reorganization time: the decolonization

1948 – quadripartism regime

1950 – Albert Sarraut museum and Conservation d'Angkor property is transferred to Cambodia. EFEO still has its scientific monitoring.

1953 – Independance of Cambodia

1954 – Ratification of La Haye convention for protection of heritage in case of war

1955 – the Indochina war causes the return of 15 angkorian artifacts from Louis Finot museum in Hanoi to Albert Sarraut museum in Phnom Penh



CAM23166-3 – Ceremony for the tranfer of power on conservation of historic monuments and Albert Sarraut museum and signature of a billateral treaty, 1950

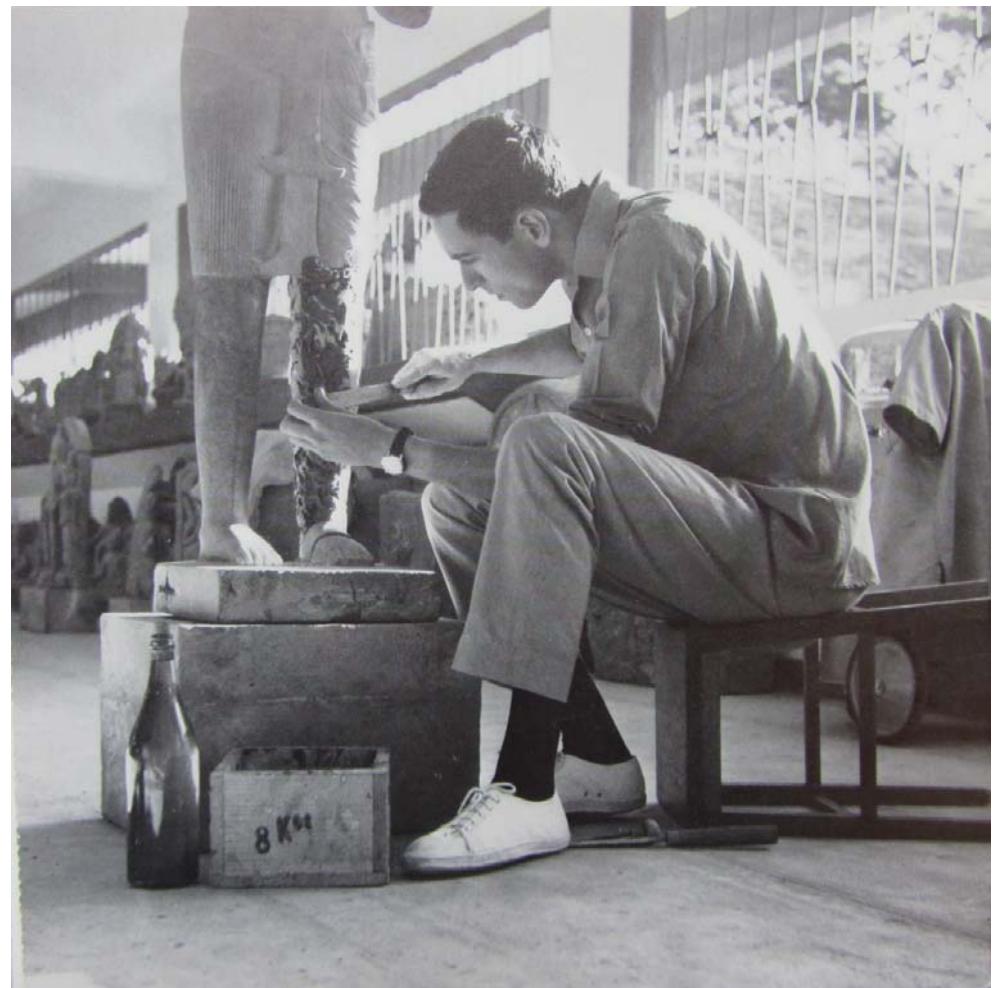
B) The progress of science in Angkor during the Sangkum

1931- Athen charter for restoration recommends petrographic analysis for the restoration of architecture

1954, 1963- Petrographic synthesis about Angkor sandstones and its decay by Edmond Saurin, then Jean Delvert

1965 – creation of the Royal University of Fine Arts to train Cambodian specialists of archaeology and heritage monitoring

1964-1965- Jean-Michel André, the head of a prestigious restoration workshop in France, comes to Angkor and trains two staff of the Conservation, Mak Sau and Si Heng



The missing leg of Visnu Ka 112 is sculpted from polyester resin by Jean-Michel André, 1964. Picture published in J.-M. André, « Restauration des sculptures », 1977



The same Naga (Angkor Wat, East perron of West Pathway), restoration in the 30's and in the 60's
Pictures from Bernard-Philippe Groslier annual report of Angkor Conservation works, 1960



C) DCA (dépôt de la Conservation d'Angkor): an armory built before the great disaster

1963-1970 DCA construction

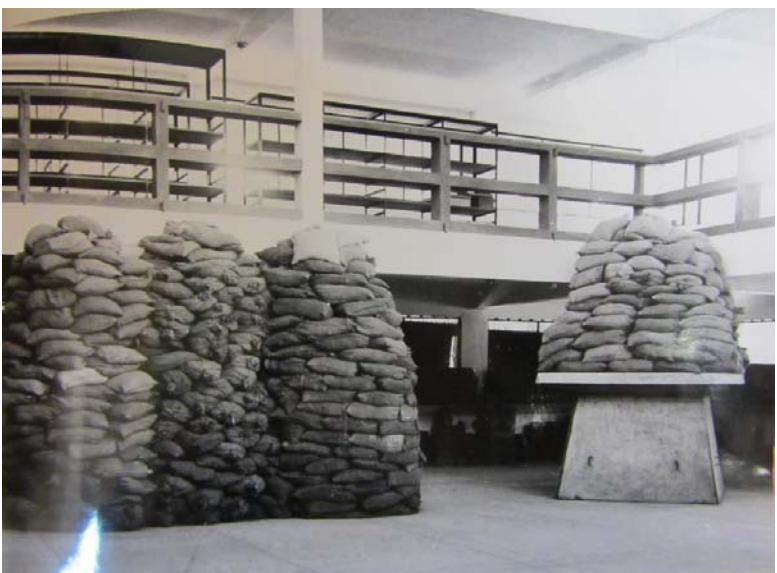
1968- Violence and stealing increase in Angkor.
All the statues are brought back to DCA.

June, 7, 1970- First bombings on Siemreap

1970, August- evacuation of sculptures and archives to NMC

1973- Evacuation of the French staff of the Conservation d'Angkor. Pich Keo is in charge of the Conservation

1975- deportation of the staff of the Conservation



Pictures:

Up: the last building achieved in 1970

Down: the storage armored with sandbags, 1970

From B.-P. Groslier « Rapports d'activités », 1970

III/ After the war (1979-nowadays)

A) Reconstruction of the institutions

1°) The Conservation d'Angkor

1979- Under PRK, vietnamese call Pich Keo back from deportation and re-open Conservation d'Angkor



Mr. Pich Keo

1991-1992- waves of looting in Conservation d'Angkor

1993 – evacuation of 167 boxes of sculptures from DCA to the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh

1991-1996 – Bruno Dagens (EFEO) project for an inventory based on the 60's inventory of DCA. It leads to the publication of « 100 Missing objects – Looting in Angkor » with ICOM

Mr. Uong Vong with the Oriental Mebon stela, 1997
Picture is a courtesy of M. Tranet



2°) The National Museum

1995-1996 – Creation of a stone restoration workshop (EFEO-Ministry of Culture) to prepare the exhibition « Angkor- A millennium of Glory » (Paris, Tokyo, Washington DC)

2001 – boxes sent from CA to Royal Palace are opened and integrate the National Museum collection

Since 1992 : 12 international exhibitions of Khmer Art in 8 countries (Australia, USA, Japan, Korea, Swiss, Germany, France, China)



Restoration of the fighting Valin and Sugriva group from Koh Ker at NMC, 2008
Picture is a courtesy from NMC-EFEO workshop for stone restoration

B) New tools for a new start

1°) Angkor under the UNESCO patronage

1991 - Signature of the Paris agreement re-open the country.

1992 – Angkor site is listed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO

1995 – APSARA authority creation

1995 – Ratification of UNIDROIT convention for the return of stolen artifacts

25th January 1996 – Royal Kram about heritage protection





Left: reinstalling Ta
Reach head, GACP –
NMC restoration
project, february 2004
NMC/EFEO workshop
archives



Under: the return of Hanuman, looted in Prasat
Thom, from Cleveland museum of Art to NMC,
11/05/2015

2°) Two new museums in Siemreap : 2007-2008



Angkor National Museum
The collection is a loan from DCA



Preah Norodom Sihanouk museum
Exhibits the 274 Buddha statues found during the excavations of Sophia University (Tokyo, Japan) in Banteay Kdei.

Thanks you !!

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Archives collections:

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- National Museum of Cambodia
- National Archives of Cambodia
- APSARA authority