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The Center for Khmer Studies

No. 11, 2013-2014

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Mission Statement

The Center for Khmer Studies supports research, teaching and public service in the social sciences, arts and humanities in Cambodia and the Mekong region.

CKS seeks to:

- Promote research and international scholarly exchange by programs that increase understanding of Cambodia and its region,
- Strengthen Cambodia's cultural and educational structures, and integrate Cambodian scholars into regional and international exchange,
- Promote a vigorous civil society.

CKS is an American Overseas Research Center supported by a consortium of educational institutions, scholars and individuals. It is incorporated in the state of Delaware, USA. It receives partial support for overhead and American fellowships from the US Government. Its programs are privately funded.

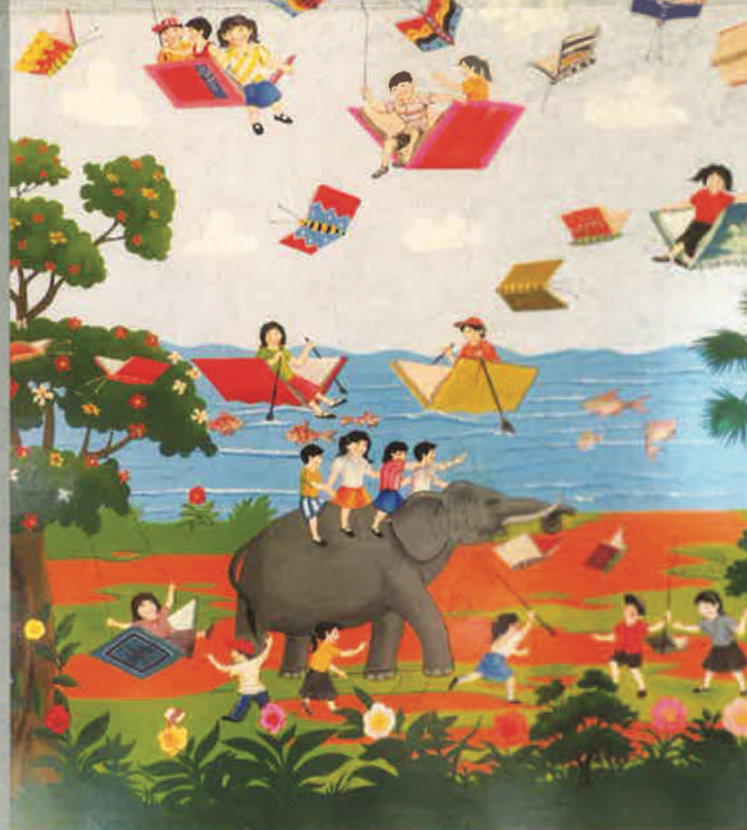
CKS is the sole member institution of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) in mainland Southeast Asia.

CKS's programs are administered from its headquarters in Siem Reap and from Phnom Penh. It maintains a small administrative office in New York and a support office in Paris, Les Amis du Centre d'Etudes Khmeres.

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CKS children's library mural painting by Cambodian artist Hang Thai

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WELCOME TO CKS!



Lois de Menil, President

Spring 2013: At the annual meeting of the Association of Asian Scholars in San Diego, there is much talk of President Obama's new Asian "pivot" – the rebalancing of US foreign policy towards Asia after long years in which other regions have been the focus. This new interest is welcome. Whether driven by China's new stake in regional leadership or by the dynamism of Asia's

remarkable economic development and regional trade, Washington is freshly aware of the importance of Asia to its diplomatic vision. Of course, one thing is to state a vision. Other events may derail a policy objective. So may failure to understand the diverse cultures of Asia— history, habits, language have their context.

How then to square this new diplomatic interest with the stark reduction in US federal funding of CKS's constituent institutions that form domestic experts on the region? Knowledge of the history, the politics, the literature, the language of nations must inform outreach to this part of the world, which lies, for the most part, beyond the purview of traditional US education.

At CKS, once important support by the Department of Education, mandated by the Higher Education Act Title 6, has been cut to zero. It is uncertain whether a reticent ECA (Department of State Education and Cultural Agency) will re-fund the fellowship program that enables CKS, along with other American Overseas Research Centers, to offer in-country research fellowships to US scholars on Cambodia and mainland SE Asia. Domestic focus has shifted instead to elementary education and community colleges that educate domestic minorities.

Leadership requires elites, if by that one means well-trained experts. Cambodian universities are actually much like US community colleges, in that their curriculum is organized to lead directly to jobs. Their faculty mostly hold weak domestic BA degrees and are untrained in research skills. Students, therefore, receive no training in research. They learn to repeat, but not to question. What Cambodia needs desperately is education for leadership in all areas, of the sort an excellent university can provide. Would that its government would provide adequate resources to its own universities to develop future leaders. While President Obama meets with Premier Hun Sen and emphasizes human rights, who will provide the infrastructure to understand the importance of the rule of law, which would enable human rights to become a reality in civil society, and not a high-minded abstract concept imposed from abroad?

CKS programs open doors to future leaders, raising awareness, developing skills, creating opportunities for

exchange. As the US government has retreated, we have been heartened to see generous private donors step in to underwrite our in-country programs.

Our dynamic new Director, Dr. Krisna UK, is leading CKS forward, setting forth ambitious new programs to make CKS even more of a crossroads of international exchange, at the challenging edge of scholarship. Under her leadership, CKS will develop projects focused on minorities, on building skills, on regional outreach. You will read in these pages of our Library's ambitions, of our lively French/Cambodian/American undergraduate summer program structured around mutual discovery of the Khmer language and an introduction to SE Asia. We are building a travel fund to enable Cambodian scholars to participate in regional conferences. Our journal *Siksācākṛ* has just published a groundbreaking double issue on the continued impact of colonialism in SE Asia.



CKS delegation, led by CKS President Lois de Menil, visits King Norodom Sihamoni at the Royal Palace, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Extending its activities beyond Cambodia's borders, on April 21st, CKS joined with its constituent member Cornell University in co-sponsoring a day-long symposium, at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, *Contemporary Art in Cambodia: A Historical Inquiry*, in the context of Season of Cambodia, a month-long arts festival initiated by a Cambodian NGO. We hope to continue these outreach initiatives and exchanges, both in Cambodia and its region and beyond. In all these ways and more, CKS hopes to continue its pioneering role in Cambodia as a crossroads for international scholarship and exchange.

Welcome to CKS!

Lois de Menil, Ph.D.
President

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As I am writing these lines our two summer programs are coming to an end and a few of our Fellows are leaving with the intent to return to Cambodia and deepen their knowledge of the country and its region. Seeing our students with their face lit with inspiration means a lot to us. It means that this time the Center has fulfilled our students' expectations and that we have, by the same token, accomplished our work in ensuring that CKS acts as a resource for all its local and foreign recipients.

The past few months kept our team quite busy in trying to achieve this. On one hand, my colleagues and I were strengthening CKS relationships with existing partners through a series of collaborations that have proven a great stimulus in attracting people from academia to the NGO world. In practical terms, workshops, trainings and seminars were organized with our local and international partners whilst at the same time, we increased the frequency of our public lecture series and diversified the subjects that were presented.

On the other hand, we have been working hard to consolidate CKS signature programs. Our translation and publication team produced three academic publications as well as new PR materials to reach out to a wider group of supporters. Concurrently, our librarians were trained in the preservation and conservation of archival materials and in a new cataloguing system. All these to make our library in

Siem Reap, the founding stone of the Center for Khmer Studies, a privilege place of intellectual and cultural ecumene.

As a result, this lively influx of visitors both national and international, from Southeast Asia and beyond has been most productive in creating a vibrant academic atmosphere. CKS Board Members, Research Fellows and Friends have travelled from various horizons to visit our Center. Meanwhile, our in-country supporters: His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni and US Ambassador William Todd most kindly renewed their commitment in support of our work. This has deeply enriched our social life and resulted in stimulating exchanges that will in turn generate new and exciting programs for the future.

The vibrancy of this year has been enhanced by the active participation of the children of the Wat Damnak School, who helped us create a new space dedicated to the children of the local community. Like Antoine de Saint Exupéry's Little Prince, they asked us to "draw them a library". In truth, we were the ones asking them to imagine their "dream library". Our role was only to help their dreams take tangible shapes by giving them contours, painting them with bright colors and filling them with the books they had chosen. At the opening of our Children's Library, small faces this time were lit with wonder, pride and enchantment. Reflecting on the work that our three



Librarians, Finance Coordinator, IT & Publishing Coordinator, Outreach and Communications Officer, Administrative Officers, Senior Editor, Assistant to the Director, Summer Instructors, Housekeeper and Guards have all put into these, we can hear Fox saying to the Little Prince: "It is the time you have lost for your rose that makes your rose so important".

**Krisna Uk, Ph.D.
Director**



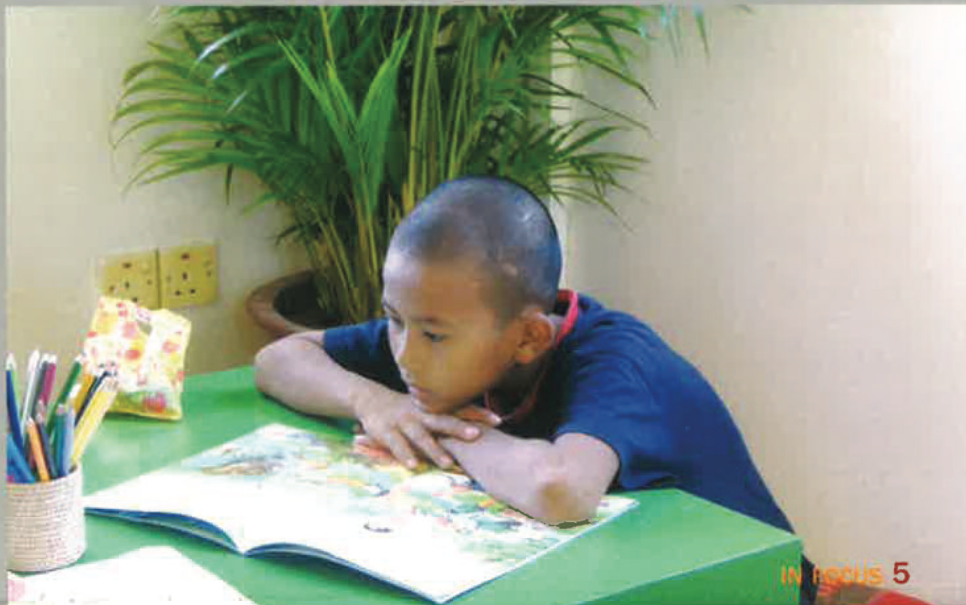
Pictures from left to right:

2013 CKS Summer Junior Resident Fellows from the US, France and Cambodia

CKS workshop on "Citizenship and History" in collaboration with the Department of History at the Royal University of Phnom Penh

CKS training Siem Reap librarians in the Conservation and Preservation of archival materials in partnership with the National Archives of Cambodia (NAC)

Young reader at the children's library



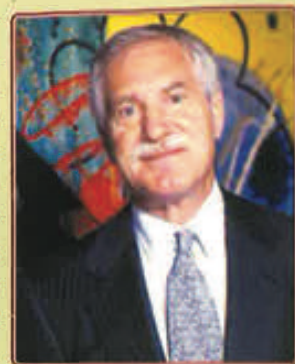
MEMBERS AND BENEFACTORS

As time passes, institutions grow and change: this is particularly true of CKS. As we reach our teen age years — we were born in 1999 — we have good reason to look both forward and back. Back because we can take legitimate pride in all we have already accomplished: our programs have made a real difference to substantial numbers of students and Khmer professors; our Library has grown from a few dozen books to nearly twenty thousand volumes in a new building which is both handsome and efficient; the inventory of the National Museum's collections has been a complete success; our connections to Khmer universities and cultural institutions have multiplied so that we are now an important part of the scholarly and cultural landscape. And we look forward because there is still so much to do.

Among our achievements perhaps the most encouraging is the change in the staff at CKS. In 1999, we could only find untrained candidates to whom everything had to be taught. Indeed Cambodia, then, was just emerging from the many dark years which followed the Khmer Rouge take over. Today, we rejoice in having a highly efficient staff, all of whose members are Khmer. This, in itself, is a huge progress. We are also proud to have a new Director, Dr. Krisna Uk, whose post graduate degrees, quick intelligence and work experience make her the perfect choice; she, too, is Khmer, so that we are perfectly integrated into the local culture.

We are now entering the third phase of our existence. First, we had to define who we are and what we do; this was followed by a period of consolidation and rationalization. With the arrival of Dr. Uk, we enter a new creative phase. As our links with other institutions in Cambodia multiply, as new relationships are created and nurtured, we will reach a new understanding of the opportunities that

are open to us. Cambodia today is a complex environment. A great deal remains to be done if a large group of educated people is to come into being, and without that group, the future would look very bleak. Cambodia is unique in having lost the almost entirety of its educated class along with the infrastructure which supported it. Today, progress depends on the rebirth of an educated population able to hold creative, administrative and business positions. And that is where we can help.



As we seek ever better ways to educate and improve the ability to learn, as we cooperate with universities and other institutions, we are helping Cambodia to reach a better future. We are doing so, however, under especially difficult circumstances. The U.S. Government programs which helped to sustain us in the past no longer exist: we are now funded privately, and we can achieve so much in part because CKS is run with the strictest economy. Still, economy is not enough. More urgently than ever, we need help, and so we turn to our friends.

You have helped us before, and we are grateful. Now we need you even more. When you contribute, you know that you are directly helping people for whom education is an ardently desired goal. You know also that even small sums go a great deal farther in Cambodia than they would in the U.S. So, please, think about all those young people so eager to learn. No satisfaction could be more legitimate than knowing that you have helped those who try hard to help themselves.

Olivier Bernier,
Vice President

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Participate in CKS's growth by becoming a member. Your Annual Fund contributions are essential to support our mission:

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Support CKS's Public Outreach Program.

Free lectures, workshops and conferences, publications on contemporary and historical topics, and translation of essential educational texts into Khmer. (\$30,000 per year)

Contribute to CKS Cambodian Junior Faculty Training

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The Center for Khmer Studies wishes to thank H.M. King Norodom Sihamoni for his generous contribution and continued support.

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We are grateful for your support!

Support CKS Library Fund.

CKS's library is the largest free public library outside Phnom Penh. It offers unparalleled educational facilities to Cambodian students, children and public, as well as to visiting scholars.

- **Basic Overhead** (\$30,000 a year)
- **Acquisition of books**, and the ongoing training of our Cambodian librarians. (\$15,000 per year)
- **Donate a new computer** for our library reading room-- regular updating (\$1,500)
- **Connect CKS's** Library to the World Wide Web, with open Wi-Fi access. (\$2,000 per year)
- **Help to Digitize our library** collection-- an unending process. (\$5,000 contributions)

Sponsor the Translation of Key Books into Khmer.

In the absence of books in the Cambodia's native language, CKS

translates and publishes key texts. A donation of \$10,000 will defray costs for an average 300 page book and will be acknowledged in the publication. (\$10,000 contributions)

Sponsor a Cambodian-American to participate in the resident summer Khmer Language and Cultural Studies Program: (\$3,500 each).

Sponsor a Cambodian-American undergraduate to attend our in-country summer Jr. Fellows Program (\$3,500 each).

Support the Travel Fund for Cambodian scholars to attend regional conferences: (\$10,000)

Sponsor a French or US Doctoral Students' Research (\$5,000 each)

THE CKS LIBRARY AND THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY PROJECT

Over the years, the CKS library has done its best to broaden its scope and appeal. Thanks to a systematic buying program, we are well up to date in the latest Khmer potboiler that should appeal to the passing Siem Reap resident who wants a read. Thanks to generous donors, we have a deep resource in all things artistic, historical and economic relating to Cambodia and Indo-China that can help the students and researchers who are the mainstay of the library. Thanks to a few exceptional gifts, we also have some important documents that are not available anywhere else, which make the CKS library a 'passage obligé' on several subjects. On the whole, the board was patting itself on the back for a job well done.

And yet, there was a whole segment of the population we did not quite reach. Those were of course invisible and inaudible, particularly considering there is a primary school on the grounds of Wat Damnak, about 50 yards from the CKS buildings. I am of course talking of a library specifically dedicated to children. This is an idea that had been bobbing up and down since the new building allowed for an empty space in the original library. It has been variously suggested and supported by board members and by Daraneth, our Head Librarian. However, it took the arrival of our new Director, Krisna Uk, for the scheme actually to happen. Maybe her having a small family of her own helped...

Anyway, once the project launched, no efforts were spared: The latest marketing research techniques were used: a questionnaire was devised, a large sample of 8 to 12 year olds was collected, they were asked how they imagined the library, what they hoped to find there, what they were interested in. They were also asked what it should look like, and so to draw, in color, their imagined and dream library. You can see some of the results. A jury was gathered to choose the best ideas, a design was created and executed: what used to be a storage space for both the librarians and guards is now a gaily painted room, full of adapted furniture, murals, and books. It is open every Wednesdays and Saturdays afternoons. This new library was inaugurated by Lois de Menil and many children in June, and, if it goes well, it will be open more days every week, to offer readings and special activities to children such as storytelling, arts and crafts, puppet and shadow theatre, etc.

At the same time, the work on the new catalogue continues. The NewGenlib program has been installed, following which a long phase of transferring the old catalogue into the new Library of Congress system is taking place. Once



that is done, we will be able to add our catalogue to the Worldcat catalogue of catalogues, which will make the contents of the CKS library visible to any scholar around the world using this system to search for a specific document. This will make the Center an even stronger part of the community of Khmer scholars.

Finally, following a visit in January to the National Archives of Cambodia (NAC), Krisna asked Y Dari, the Deputy Director, to come to Siem Reap and lead a two day workshop on the Conservation and Preservation of Archival Materials. This happened in May, not only with the staff of the CKS library, but with librarians from other libraries in Siem Reap. It was a great success.

Overall, the library this year has reached out to children, the community of scholars across the world, and the other libraries in the Siem Reap area. So, owing to the hard work of Krisna, Daraneth, the rest of the CKS library staff and the guards whom I would like to thank, the Board can pat itself on the back far more than it was at the top of the page.

**Jacques Hennessy, Chairman
CKS Library Committee**



Pictures from top left to right:

Miss Nat Puthisavoka age 5, CKS library young assiduous reader

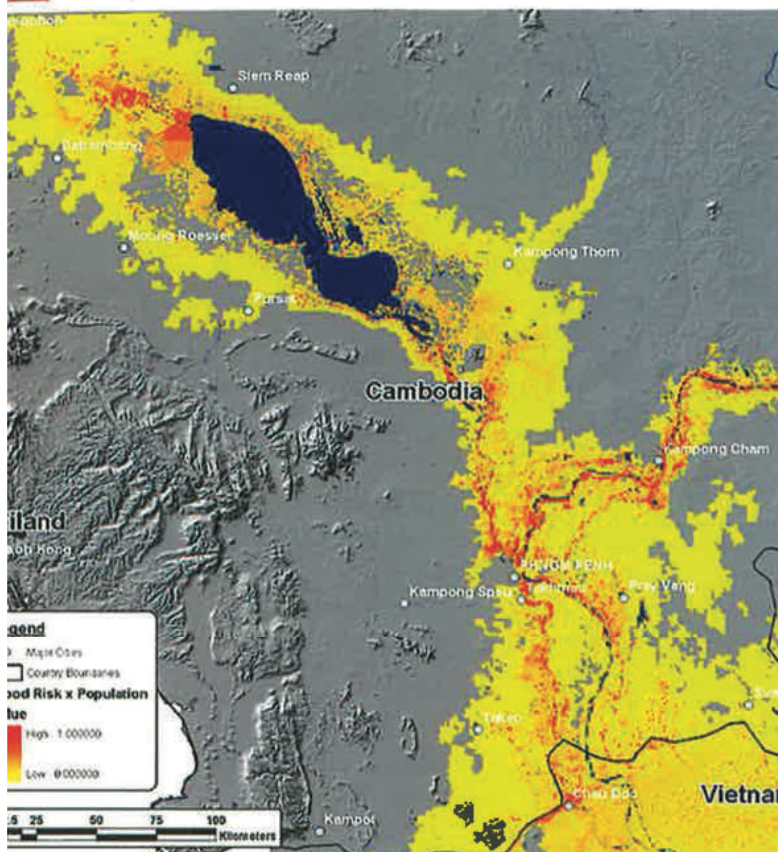
Children's dream library imagined by Nat Puthisavoka

Mr. Hang Thai An painting the mural

Mr. Tan Teuy, CKS day Guard, preparing one of the children's tables

Inauguration of the children's library, with CKS President Lois de Menil and Head Librarian Oum Daraneth reading to the children of the Wat Damnak school

Mr. Jacques Hennessy, Chairman CKS Library Committee, Mrs. Y Dari Deputy Director at the National Archives of Cambodia and Krisna Uk, CKS Director



Activities & Projects

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Water systems and Ecosystem Services In the Lower Mekong Basin

by Dr. John Felkner, CKS Affiliate, Assistant Professor,
Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Florida State
University

In partnership with the University of Chicago, CKS organized a workshop gathering a cross-disciplinary team of people from a variety of expertise: biodiversity conservation, fisheries, engineering, anthropology in the sub-Mekong River region (Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam) to discuss and collaborate on a project that develops integrative ecological-economic models to assess the consequences of changes in water sustainability and their adverse impacts on human well-being.

While ecosystem services provide a useful and innovative way of understanding the linkages and feedback of natural systems and human populations, measuring and quantifying the value of these services is challenging.

This project establishes a framework necessary for understanding the interactions, connectivity and interdependence of humans and a changing water system in the lower Mekong River Basin of Southeast Asia. The cross-disciplinary team of experts creates future scenarios of change, develops an innovative and integrative modeling framework, and defines the data collection efforts needed to evaluate how sustainability of the water system affects human welfare. The question is how to promote human well-being in a region dependent on a changing water system?

The Mekong River and Tonle Sap Lake of Cambodia are connected through a flood-pulse hydrology and river-floodplain connectivity upon which humans are dependent for rice farming, fish production, and social lifestyles. Current rapid changes in land use, hydropower development, human activity, and climate will all have significant impacts on the predictability of the flood-pulse system and the availability of water in the future. This research project connects the natural and human system through the study of the ecosystem services provided by the water system,



which in turn support and sustain human life. Through an assembled cross-disciplinary team, the project focuses on all dimensions of the region's ecosystem services including the provision, adaptation, valuation, and response mechanisms. The results will set the stage to measure and explain critical interactions and impacts of a social-ecological system on the brink of profound transformation driven by demographic shifts, rapid economic growth, hydropower installations and climate change.

Citizenship and History in Cambodia

In collaboration with the Department of History at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, CKS held a three day workshop focused on "Citizenship and History in Cambodia" with two American scholars Dr. Kenneth Hall, History Professor at Ball State University and Dr. Ilicia Sprey from St. Joseph's University. The guest speakers discussed the following topics: i) Nationalism and Citizenship in Modern Cambodia, ii) A Revisionist History

of Angkor, iii) Teaching Democratic Kampuchea, iv) Globalization and Cambodia: Teaching Asean-Centered World History. A total of 69 people, mostly faculty and students, from Cambodian universities participated in group discussions focused on nation building.

Pictures from left to right:

Geographic Information System (GIS) simulation map showing the populations exposed to Flood Risk in the Lower Mekong River Basin, courtesy of the Pacific Disaster Center

CKS-Royal University of Phnom Penh joint workshop on "History and Citizenship"

Norodom Sihanouk ' Sangkum Reastr Niyum, both courtesy of the National Archives of Cambodia

THE GIANT PUPPET PROJECT

by Robina Hanley, Marketing and Communications Director, Siem Reap Giant Puppet Project

The annual Giant Puppet Project, Siem Reap was once again a tremendous success in 2013 due to the dedication and hard work invested by our wonderful team of artists, volunteers and sponsors. Once again Wat Damnak Pagoda became the essential basecamp for the project for the duration of the workshops; the space was very generously donated by the onsite NGO, the Center for Khmer Studies. The Giant Puppet Project is a local educational arts project that incorporates important messages into its artistic programme such as local cultural appreciation, endangered species indigenous to Cambodia, environmental awareness, road safety and personal hygiene.

With over 600 local children participating in this year's event, spectators were awed by a stream of brightly lit giant puppets dancing through the streets of Siem Reap in front of a host of thousands of applauding onlookers ranging from the local community to international guests. This year's parade included puppets such as the critically endangered Slow Loris, Sovann Macha and Hanuman from local Cambodian folklore, the endangered Malayan Porcupine, and a Giant Stingray, partly crafted by the Life and Hope Association Sewing School from Wat Damnak Pagoda to name just a few.



Young artists putting together a giant snake on CKS lawn in Wat Damnak



A giant Malayan porcupine

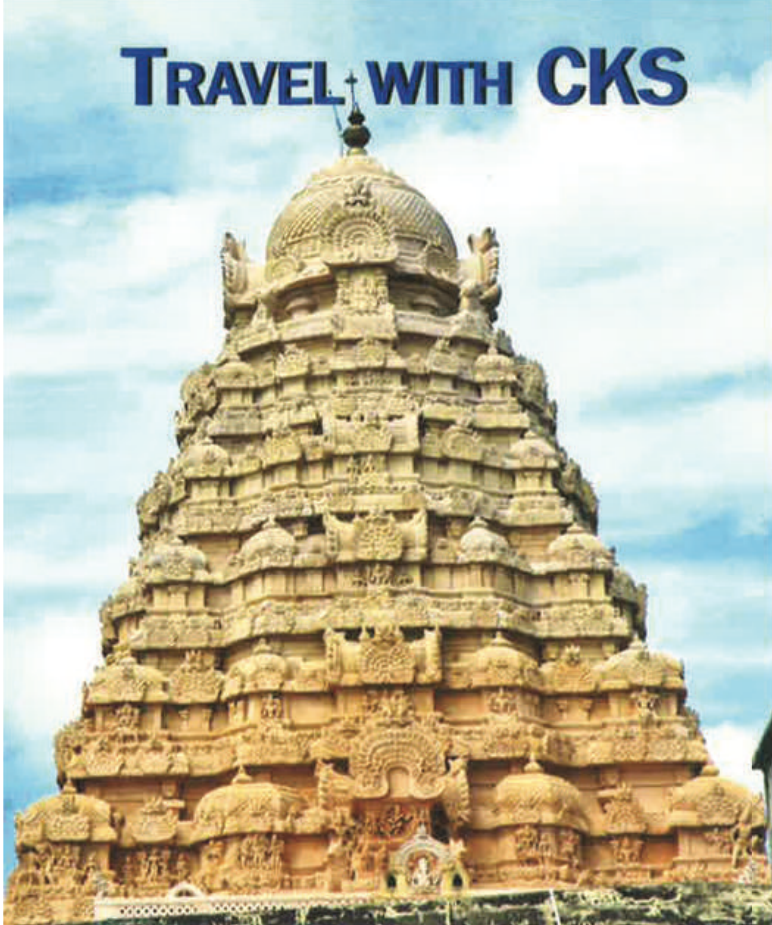


Children inside the body of a giant snake puppet at CKS



Sovann Macha, the mermaid, brightens with the flame of love in front of her lover, Hanuman, the white monkey

TRAVEL WITH CKS



Our next CKS sponsored-trip led by CKS Vice-President art historian Olivier Bernier, is to South India. There are two good reasons for that choice: the temples and sculpture of South India are as beautiful as they are fascinating; and the roots of all early Khmer art are to be found there.

The trip will start on January 11th 2014 and end on the 20th of that month. We will begin in Chennai (Madras), with the amazing 11th century Chola dynasty bronzes, and also sample the many attractions of that bustling city; from there, staying in the same luxury hotel, we will drive to Mahabalipuram, and see 7th century stone reliefs of extraordinary quality, as well as the famous Rathas, those early stone models of temples. We will also go to Kanchipuram to see three spectacular temples, each belonging to a different period, each unique and beautiful.

After that, a short flight will take us to Trichy, and its Srirangam temple, one of the most spectacular temple-

cities in the region; we will drive on to Thanjavur, for a three night stay and for visits to more dazzling bronzes and the largest and most beautiful temples in South India.

Another drive will take us to Madurai, the city of the Goddess, where we will witness a temple ceremony which has been carried out daily for more than a thousand years. Finally, we will fly to Mumbai (Bombay) and end our trip with a visit to the amazing 9th century carvings at Elephanta.

All that will happen in the deliciously mild South Indian January climate. We will see lush and pleasing landscapes, a great variety of birds and animals, while we sample the charms - and the excellent cuisine - of a three thousand year old culture.

Pictures from left to right:

Vimana of the Brihadeshwara Temple, Thanjavur, 11th century

Narasimha, Kailasanatha Temple, Thanjavur, 9th C.

Mahabalipuram, detail of Arjuna's Penance, granite relief, 8th C.

Shiva Nataraja, Chennai Museum, 11th C.

Durga fighting the Buffalo Demon, Mahabalipuram, 8th C.



CKS Programs

SUMMER JUNIOR RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

by Dr. Alberto Pérez-Pereiro, Socio-Cultural Anthropologist, 2013 CKS Summer Resident Fellowship Senior Instructor

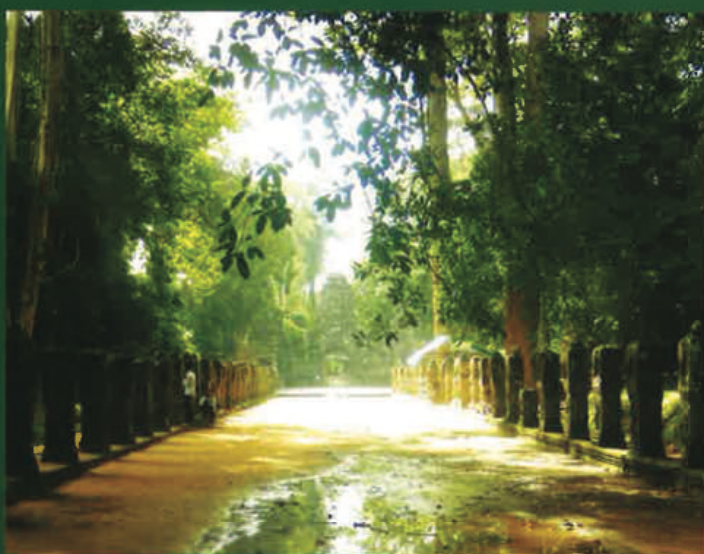
The 2013 Summer Junior Resident Fellowship Program at CKS Siem Reap campus hosted students from The United States, France and Cambodia. Together they followed a series of lectures in Contemporary Cambodian Studies, covering topics in political culture, the arts, the economy and its relation to social problems, the ecological context of the country and its vulnerability to climate change, among other topics. The students created a truly collegial atmosphere, and pooled their considerable talents and previous experiences to help each other understand the readings and situate them in the Cambodian landscape, while at the same time engaging each other's ideas by being active participants in the lectures.

In addition to this required class, foreign students had the opportunity to take a Khmer language course, while Cambodian students were afforded the opportunity to attend a class that would polish their already considerable skills in English. Additional lectures such as those by Austro-Asiatic Linguist Gerald Diffloth and Southeast Asian Historian Michael G. Vann were also much appreciated as a way of expanding the regional focus and including different disciplines.

By the end of the program, the students put together presentations for small supervised research projects in their fields of interest. This gave them hands-on experience in the techniques, methodologies, ethical considerations and challenges that attend the conduct of fieldwork in a country such as this. We may be heartened by the fact that many foreign students have expressed an interest in returning to Cambodia either making it part of their professional or graduate school plans. Hopefully, we will find our Junior Fellows again, advancing scholarship in their respective fields through their studies in Cambodia and the wider region.



CKS Summer Junior Resident Fellows on a fieldtrip on the Tonle Sap



Entering one of Angkor Thom gates after the monsoon rain.
Photograph by Bryan Martin

THE KHMER LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDY PROGRAM

The Khmer language and culture program, which is jointly run with the University of Hawai'i/ Manoa Language Program enables American students to embark on an intensive program of Khmer language study. In the mornings, participants go on fieldtrips, undertake site visits to local, national and international organizations and take a variety of classes that immerse them in the Cambodian culture: dancing, cooking, etc. In the afternoons, students focus on Khmer script and discussions, either in group sessions or private tutorials.

The 2013 summer program gathered a pool of particularly motivated students from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds. As our joint program Director, Dr. Chhany Sak Humphry, Assistant Professor of Khmer Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures at the University of Hawaii/ Manoa puts it: "This year our students are like sponges!"

The unquenchable thirst for knowledge of this year's students and their enthusiasm at learning new vocabulary, discovering new tastes and visiting new places have indeed make it an enjoyable group to work with. It is with great pleasure that some of them will continue working with us as part of our Senior Fellowship Program.



Khmer Language and Culture students with Instructor Oeur Sisotha (far right) learning how to dance "roam vong"



Chinese pagoda nestled in the middle of the urban architecture of Phnom Penh. Photograph by Bryan Martin



A New York City Symposium on Contemporary Art in Cambodia

The symposium *Contemporary Art in Cambodia: A Historical Inquiry* gathered a few international scholars and artists from Cambodia, Europe and the US in a successful one-day program focused on contemporary art practices in Cambodia. Curators Leeza Ahmady and Erin Gleeson from the visual arts program of the Season of Cambodia festival collaborated with the International Program of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. To make this happen, major funding was provided by the Center for Khmer Studies; Cornell University's College of Architecture, Art, and Planning/Minority, Indigenous, and Third World Studies Research Group; Department of Art; Department of the History of Art, and Southeast Asia Program.

The symposium was divided into three panels. The first panel: "Situating Cambodia in a Regional/Global Art History" explored the notion of Cambodian Art History. Dr. Ashley Thompson read a paper written by the late Ingrid Muan (1964-2005) who significantly contributed to arts education at the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh. The second panel, "Modernism, Memorialization, and Artistic Formation" focused on artistic trends and on the audience's ambivalent perceptions of contemporary artworks. The last panel was led by Leeza Ahmady, who engaged artists Vandy Rattana and Svay Sareth in stimulating discussion based on their photographic artwork.

The symposium gave an original insight into recent development in Cambodia's visual arts and was a major accomplishment in giving both scholars and contemporary Cambodian artists a voice in this exploration of emerging arts styles, techniques and sources of inspiration.





The 4th Annual International Siem Reap Conference on Special Topics In Khmer Studies

by Dr. Martin Polkinghorne, Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow, Director, Robert Christie Research Center, Siem Reap, Cambodia.

The well-known Khmer Proverb ផ្លូវបៀតបៀនបង្អែក ផ្លូវត្រង់ក៏មោឃ (Plovveach kom borss borng, Plovtrong kom joulus) "Don't abandon the twisty road" encourages us not to forget the indirect road in lieu of the straight route. Accordingly, Plovveachkomborssborng: Divergent approaches to Cambodian Visual Cultures, was chosen as the theme of the 4th Siem Reap Conference on Special Topics in Khmer Studies that seeks to promote scholarship, which, until now, has been positioned outside the traditional conventions of Khmer Art History.

The contribution of Art History as a discipline to understanding the Cambodian past has been enormous. Conventionally beginning in the first decades of the 20th

century, the basic chronological framework of Khmer art was established by the remarkable and pioneering work of Philippe Stern. Scholars who followed popularized Stern's "method" of stylistics and in concert with religious and epigraphic specialists assigned meanings to the sculptures and architecture of the Khmer world. Issues of style and chronology are fundamental to comprehending Khmer art, but they are not the focus of this conference, which seeks to promote innovative and unconventional approaches to the study of Cambodian visual culture.

Participants in this international dialogue will explore theories, methodologies, eras and subject matter that have avoided the gaze of traditional art historical studies. The conference will gather scholars from a wide range of disciplines including Anthropology, Archaeology, Art History, Cultural Studies, History, Philosophy and Religious Studies as well as Cambodian artists who have approached their chosen material in novel and challenging ways. There are many paths to appraising the Cambodian past, and by recognizing the indirect routes this conference will cultivate a more exuberant and nuanced perspective that is consistent with the diversity of Cambodian visual cultures.

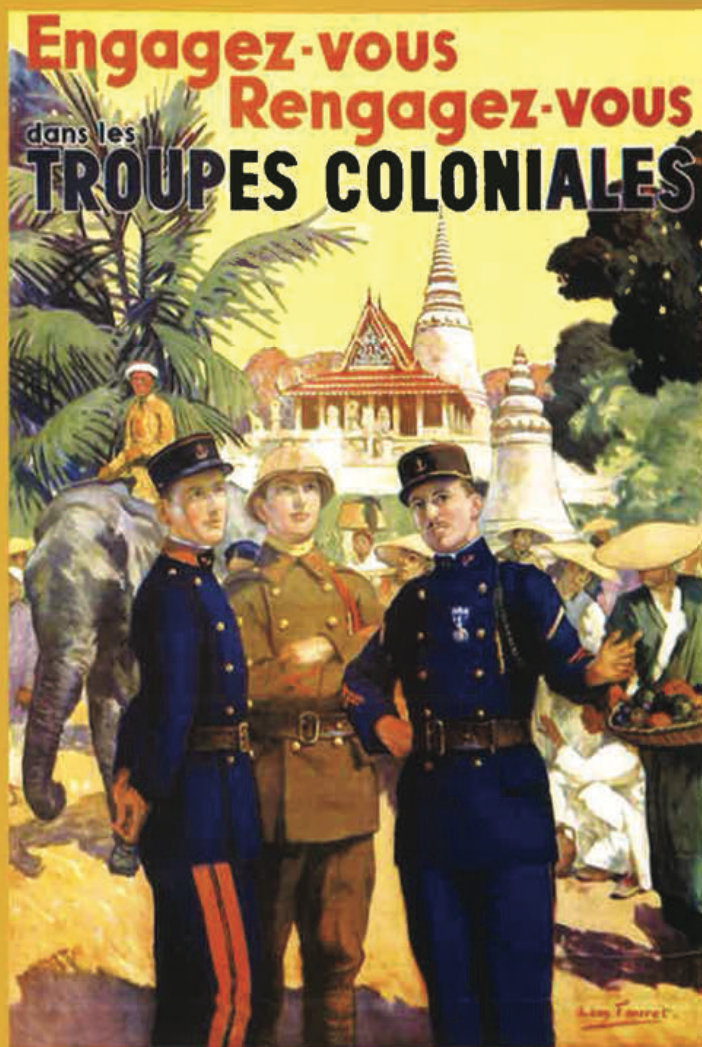
Photographs of street art, Tuol Kork district, Phnom Penh by Krisna Uk



Siksācākṛ on colonialism

The publication of our double English/ French volume of *Siksācākṛ*, *Journal of Cambodia Research* focusing on Colonialism marks the 150th anniversary of the creation of the French Protectorate in Cambodia, which made the country a part of French Indochina. It also commemorates the 60th anniversary of the signature of the Geneva Accords, which sealed Cambodia's independence.

This publication is a journey into colonial Cambodia. Its purpose is to introduce the reader to various aspects of life at the time of the French Protectorate and to explore the country's role in wider Indochina. To this end, the first part looks into education, medicine, religion, rubber plantations. It also looks into the effects – at times violent – of the French political apparatus and the various cultural, political and economic influences at play within this region of the Mekong Delta. The second part examines the economic domain of colonial Cambodia in greater detail. To illustrate this, a few articles analyze the significance of tourism, the influences of some businesses in regional trade, the strategic position of gem mines and the ways in which they exacerbated competing colonial forces, in this case the British and the French. The final part explores the world of the arts through the varied yet complementary lenses of literature, museums and cinema.



Recruitment poster inciting people to join the French marines in Indochina



Looking ahead, this special issue also sets the stage for the 40th Conference of the French Colonial Historical Society (FCHS) that will be hosted by the Center for Khmer Studies in Siem Reap in June 2014. This conference will be a great opportunity to gather historians of the French colonies from around the world and engage them in creative exchanges with their Khmer counterparts.

Vietnamese coolie tapping a rubber tree to harvest the latex, ca. 1940. Photograph from the HCA Elmiger collection at the National Archives of Cambodia, courtesy of Maurice Elmiger.

Inscriptions of Angkor Wat: Ancient, Middle and Modern Periods

by Prof. Ang Choulean, Professor of Anthropology at the Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh

The program for making in situ rubbings of inscriptions launched by the APSARA Authority's former Department of Culture and Research covered the whole of the prestigious monument of Angkor Wat. The aim was to make available to researchers, students and Angkorian specialists a publication containing facsimiles of all the varieties of inscriptions, except graffiti, that are found there. The work was completed earlier but circumstances resulted in its publication being long delayed.

With the support of the Center for Khmer Studies the APSARA Authority was able to bring this project to fruition by ensuring its publication and distribution. Every effort has been made to help scholars find in the vast space of Angkor Wat the exact location of each inscription and to indicate their corresponding bibliography. However, it may be useful here to make just a few comments and supply a little extra detail and information.

The engraved inscriptions have been supplemented by ink inscriptions made on stone, particularly those in Chinese and Japanese. The collapse in 1947 of the South Gallery, the east wing of the "Galleries of Bas-Reliefs," caused in several places irreparable loss of sculptured reliefs, including several sections of short inscriptions relating to the scenes set in hell. What we see today is consequently incomplete compared to the situation prior to that date.

In the west wing of the same gallery, some sections - fortunately only very small ones - disappeared or suffered serious damage (probably in an act of intentioned vandalism e.g. one of the two inscriptions relating to the Syām Kukarmy), or unfortunate, if thoughtless, behavior by visitors (for example, the indication of the Vrah Vlen or Sacred Fire). Providentially, scholars had already read and completely translated all sections concerned. It should be added that parts of the existing translations have been regularly amended and improved.

In 1968, the year when George Coedès published the eighth and final volume of his *Inscriptions du Cambodge*, study of a large portion of the texts of the "Middle Period" of Angkor Wat known as the IMA (Inscriptions Modernes d'Angkor), which date from the 16th to 18th century, had still not attracted the full rigor of epigraphic scholarship. Generally, scholars referred back to the work of that great pioneer of Khmer epigraphy, Etienne Aymonier. However, for all its great merit, that work was published at the turn



Rubbing taken in the Angkor Wat gallery of bas-reliefs, southern face, showing ancient Khmer scripts and heads. Photograph courtesy of the APSARA Authority

of the 20th century. It was only in the 1970s that Professor Saveros Pou published her meticulous studies of almost all the IMAs. Moreover, it was also Saveros Pou who completed the picture by publishing a study of the several Khmer inscriptions from Angkor Wat that still remained to be edited, this time at the turn of the 21st century.

As a result, epigraphic studies of Angkor Wat have seen, at least from the standpoint of the Khmer inscriptions, a whole century pass. It is time, therefore, that this work be published and all interested specialists should have access to the primary resource itself.

FEATURE ARTICLES:

PAST ENCOUNTERS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CAMBODIA

Today's aesthetic landscape of Phnom Penh is characterized by an urban sprawl with modern edifices heralding a new era of economic development. In the middle of these, stand a few colonial buildings, which were once the beacons of the French Protectorate. The post-office and the Hotel Royal are fine examples of the colonial architecture of French Indochina, which are confined in the immediate area surrounding the Wat Phnom, a landmark in the city. A few paces away from the imposing building of the Hotel Royal, one can find the National Library and behind it the National Archives. With its discreet yellow building, the National Archives of Cambodia stands firmly despite the superficial erosion brought by the weather and the more substantial eroding effects brought by trying historical times. Established by the French nearly ninety years ago, the National Archives has ever since its foundation acted as a repository for 1800 meters of governmental records with documents dating back to the first months of the colonial period. For the ordinary visitor weary of the hustle and bustle of the city, this governmental institution is a less known treasure trove with its three floors filled with a unique collection of papers, maps, posters, photographs and films recording key historical events that have considerably shaped the country.

From the inception of its Protectorate in Cambodia in 1863, the French administration produced a large quantity of documents. Until the arrival of French archivist Paul Boudet in 1917, all archival materials and books were kept on the third floor of the house of the Résident Supérieur du Cambodge. Following Boudet's recommendations, two decrees were passed in November 1917 and December 1918 establishing the rules for the classification and administration of the archives as well as for the recruitment and training of archivists in Indochina. Subsequent to the implementation of the decrees, five depositories in Hanoi, Saigon, Huè, Phnom Penh and Vientiane were established across Indochina.

The French began the construction of *An Archive and Library* building in 1921 and on the 24th of December 1924, the National Library opened its doors to the public. In 1926 the Archives building was in turn completed. Both the National Archives and the Library formed one single department then called: "Archives et Bibliothèques du Cambodge" and were placed under the direct supervision of a specific Keeper recruited from France. It was not until the 1st of January 1951 that the first Khmer Archivist in Cambodia, Mr. Pach Chhoeun, was officially appointed

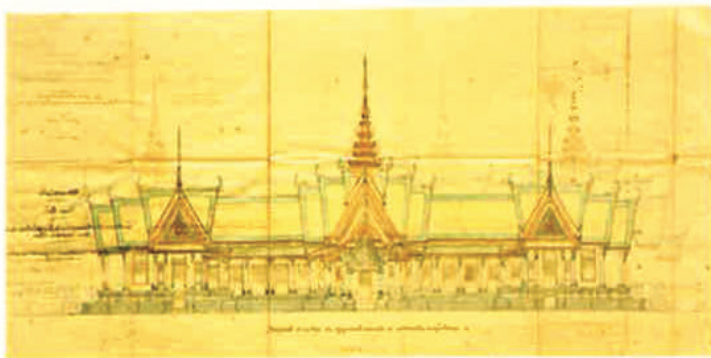


Library and Archives Services of Cambodia, reading room, ca.1940s. Courtesy of the NAC

Keeper of Archives and Librarian of Cambodia.

The Second World War in Indochina led to the replacement of the treaty of Protectorate existing between Cambodia and France, which meant that all Cambodian administrative services were officially placed under the management of the national government. However, in practice, both the National Archives of Cambodia and the National Library were jointly administered by the office of the Résident Supérieur who reported to the Gouverneur Général d'Indochine in Hanoi until 1953. Ever since Independence, the National Archives has been placed under the control of the Cabinet of the Council of Ministers.

The period of the Khmer Rouge regime between 1975 and 1979 was to take a toll on both the staff and the documents housed by the National Archives. As intellectuals were one of the prime targets of the revolutionary regime, it appears that none of the archives staff survived. Moreover the building collections suffered from abandonment and mistreatment. Many records were damaged and all the government documents from the 1960s and the early 1970s were lost and the catalogue records destroyed. Records were thrust aside and replaced by cooking utensils and food. Documents were strewn all around the building and some of them used to light fires. As the building provided a home for Khmer Rouge soldiers, the grounds of the National Archives were used to raise pigs. In spite of all these, the holdings of the Archives survived to a large extent and following the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge



Original plan for the construction of a royal residency, main entrance and ballrooms, not dated. Drawing courtesy of the NAC

in 1979 the National Archives re-opened its doors in 1980.

Today the building of the National Archives is nested in a sea of green plants and flowers. To make ends meet at the end of the month, some members of the staff decided to use the external ground of the building to grow a plant nursery. Despite the difficulty to find sufficient funding to preserve their unique collections, the personnel of the National Archives is amiable, diligent and dedicated. They are the guardians of exceptional samples of historical records, which would necessitate a few days to fully discover. Amongst them: rare posters of French Indochina, original hand drawings of town planners, private correspondences from French administrators, invitations sent by the Kings of Cambodia, pictures of the Sangkum Reastr Niyum donated by the royal family as well as an entire room dedicated to films. Mrs. Chhem Neng (Advisor to the Council of Ministers), Mrs. Lim Ky (Director), Mrs. Y Dari (Deputy Director) and Mrs. Chea Savon (Deputy Director) are some of the most knowledgeable archivists in the country and most excellent guides for the one who wishes to travel back in time.

With a view to preserving and expanding its library collection, the Center for Khmer Studies works closely with the National Archives. In the past months, we organized a workshop in the conservation of old maps, pictures and other printed materials. The workshop gathered eleven colleague participants from partner institutions in Siem Reap: APSARA Authority, Pannasastra University, Angkor University, École Française d'Extrême Orient, King Father High School and Angkor College. Mrs. Y Dari carefully took all the participants through the key phases of the renovation and preservation process using special products, pieces of equipment and techniques. With the success of this workshop, CKS will be partnering with the Department of Higher Education to organize further trainings for librarians and archivists in the future.

While much media attention is given to traditional places that may gather tourists and visitors, the National Archives is a quiet space where anyone can indulge his five senses in the re-discovery of Cambodia's past. Every lay visitor who has not been trained in the archival or library arcane can fathom the depth of an entire shelf filled with handwritten

and printed materials that may have laid dormant for the past 150 years. The visitor may then gaze at black and white pictures, smell the distinctive fragrance of yellow papers, feel the papyrus like texture of old maps and hear the rustles of historical records being unfolded. This exclusive moment in time will give him the taste of the archaeologist unearthing some hidden secrets that are only waiting to be brought back to life.

One fine example of such discoveries is the Elmiger collection, which counts more than 1,000 pictures of Cambodia taken by Hubert C.A Elmiger who spent thirty years work-



Samand, one of King Sisowath first royal ballet dancers. Photograph courtesy of the National Archives of Cambodia

ing in Cambodia. As Director of the Chup rubber plantation, which was well known for its high-quality management, Mr. Elmiger was nominated in Mai 1931 at the head of the Mimot plantation. Mr. Elmiger's nomination came in replacement of Mr. Ursel then threatened of expulsion from the colony following an inspection by the Administration Coloniale Française, which unveiled appalling working conditions since the 1920s. His wife, Ines Elmiger, lived in Mimot during the 1930s and 1940s. The first years were spent all together with their three sons: Maurice, Jean and Jorst.

The following is an extract of Mrs. Elmiger's memoir It is a nice addition to the articles included in our *Siksācāk* on Colonialism as it sheds an interesting light as to the daily life on the rubber plantation under the French protectorate.

A JOURNEY BACK INTO COLONIAL TIME WITH INES ELMIGER

Most of the staff working in our house and the *coolies* employed on the plantation came from Tonkin (North Vietnam). At home only the drivers were Cambodians.

In our house, there was the *bahkhai*, the first boy. A second boy and a third one helped him. At Chun Phu, the first *assam* (the nanny) was Chinese. She was soon seconded by another *assam*, a Catholic, to help her look after our three children. Three out of our four drivers took it in turn to drive us. We were quite dependent on the car as we were travelling a lot.

The laundry man was also an important member of our staff. We had to do the laundry everyday because it was necessary to change clothes twice a day, sometimes even more, due to the red soil that stained a lot. Early in the morning our dogs, who were too impatient to greet us, would leave their imprints like large stripes all over our white shorts and shirts.

The six thousand hectares of the plantation were divided into smaller parcels of several hundred hectares managed by young French assistant managers. They had their home built on these pieces of land, which were sometime located half an hour away from our house.

Further, one would find the village of Mimot where the Délégué and his wife had their residence. It was a typical Cambodian village with pigs strolling around the streets made of red soil. Our relationships with this couple were excellent. The Résident, who was in charge of the province, lived in Kampong Cham sub-district where all administrative matters were taken care of. For this province, the plantation was of key importance as it was a useful source of taxes.

I had few contacts with the indigenous population. Most of them did not speak a word of French and I couldn't speak Khmer. The *coolies*, as I mentioned above, came from North Vietnam. Being hard workers they were happy to earn their living on French plantations contrary to the Cambodians who, although very friendly, were indolent and lazy. "It is too hot today, we will not go to work" one often heard. In North Vietnam, the climate is rougher, it is colder and the inhabitants work harder. Conversely the South, and Saigon in particular, is hot and humid.

I strongly contest the reputation that some people have spread describing the *coolies* as slaves. They wanted the job and my husband, managed their account like a "banker"; he helped them save money. As soon as they managed to set aside a few thousand piastres, they would withdraw the money and have it sent to Tonkin to purchase a piece of



Ines Elmiger and Hubert C.A Elmiger in their house in Mimot ca.1930s. Photograph courtesy of Maurice Elmiger

rice field. People willingly came to work on our plantation and we have employed up to three generations of workers.

The only job that the Cambodians were attracted to was car driving. Apart from two Sino-Cambodian drivers all the house personnel was Vietnamese.

When new *coolies* arrived looking for a job, my husband would often ask me: "Do you need a boy?" One day, one of them was missing because he was gone or sick, I can't quite remember. I consequently hired an attractive lad. He was a handsome young man, very pleasant but who naturally couldn't speak a word of French. He was delighted to work at home instead of having to wake up at five in the morning to go into the forest. He happened to be a very good and very clean boy.

Our friend, Jérôme Berthier, Vicomte Berthier de Wagram, one of Maréchal Berthier's descendants, a collaborator of Napoléon, was very handsome. One day, I heard a boy telling another boy: "We ask to local Berthier". Puzzled I asked him: "What have you just said?" – "I ask to local Berthier". I then insisted: "Who is it?" – "It's Nam, the boy, I call him like this because he handsome very much like Mr. Berthier". We then had two *Berthier*: our local *Berthier* and the French one.

DISCOVERING THE LOST CITY OF MAHENDRAPARVATA ON PHNOM KULEN

How a New Technology Revolutionized Our Vision of Angkor

by Stéphane De Greef

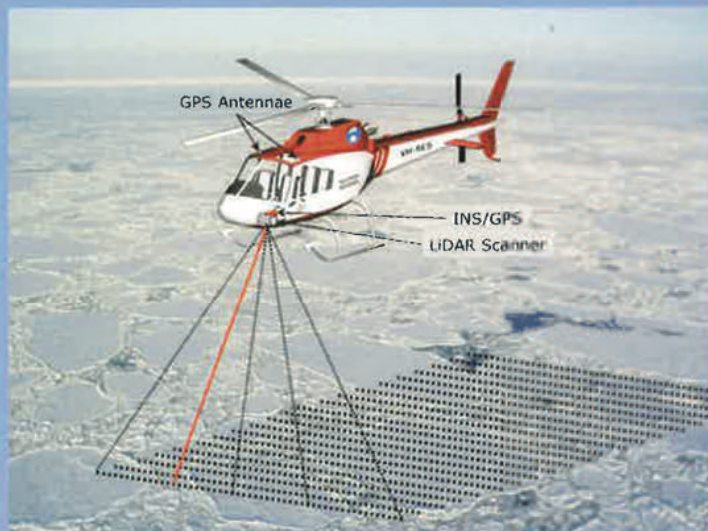
Often I wonder: what do we really know about the world that surrounds us? Our entire life, we explore our environment through our five senses. We constantly observe, listen, smell, taste and touch everything within our reach. We share our sensory perceptions with fellow human beings and we learn from them in return. Over time, we also developed a wide range of technologies allowing us to enhance our senses. We all know about X-rays, infrared captors, ultrasounds, radar, sonar... Even the highly controversial full-body scanners, now a common sight in many airports, allow us to see what is invisible to the naked eye.

Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS), or LiDAR ('Light Radar'), is another of these imagery techniques. Initially developed in the 1960s, laser scanning has been used for a wide range of projects, from forest inventories to space exploration. Due to its cost (averaging USD 1,000/Km²), its use for archaeology has been limited so far.

The principle is simple: a laser source mounted on an aircraft, accurately located by a professional GPS, emits a harmless laser beam towards the ground below and captures the returning signal, measuring the distance from the source to the target. It is, in a way, a very sophisticated laser range-finder scanning the landscape in a sweeping movement and collecting millions of altitude measurements wherever the laser beam hits a building, a tree or the ground below it.

Over tropical forests, the vegetation intercepts most of the beams. Some laser dots, however, pass through the canopy and the undergrowth, like rays of light under a tree. Though only a small percentage makes it to the ground, these are the ones that will bring the revelation and profoundly transform our vision of Angkor.

In 2011, in a formidable demonstration of international cooperation with the APSARA National Authority, a consortium of institutions working on archaeology in Cambodia was initiated to plan, finance and commission an aerial survey using lidar. The Khmer Archaeology Lidar Consortium (KALC), created at the initiative of the



Laser scanning principle. Image by L Lieser & Adam Steer (ACE CRC)

University of Sydney under the supervision of Dr. Damian Evans, comprised eight institutions from seven countries, all united for a simple but ambitious goal: conduct the largest lidar archaeological survey ever.

In April 2012, the Canadian company PT Mc Elhanney conducted the aerial survey over Angkor, Phnom Kulen and Koh Ker. With a lidar pod attached to the side of a small helicopter, Phil Butterworth, pilot for Helistar Cambodia, flew for twenty hours over countryside and forests, following strict back-and-forth flight paths. All the while, the pod was emitting laser pulses towards the ground and receiving return signals, collecting billions of measurement over 300 square kilometers. The raw laser data was then processed for several months and sent to the consortium in June 2012.

For the next weeks, mapping experts, including Dr. Damian Evans, Kasper Hanus and myself, exchanged experiences, tutorials, tools and tips, converting lidar data points into coherent 3D models of the ground surface under the vegetation. These models were progressively enhanced, colored, compared to former maps. The resulting maps were then shared with a wider audience of archaeologists. And left everyone speechless...

The airborne laser had finally delivered its secrets, showing a world that was all but hidden until then: complete cityscapes extending over dozens of square kilometers, footprints of large-scale intensive agriculture and vast man-made modifications to the landscape. Faced with

undeniable evidence, we realized that, for decades, we had dramatically underestimated the intensity of land use and the extent of urban and agricultural space around Angkor. Whole chapters of the history of the Khmer empire would have to be re-written. The preliminary findings of the lidar survey have been published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA*,

but the next months

and years

will

deliver

many

more

articles on

this sur-

vey.

One of the areas where a completely undocumented cityscape has been uncovered is

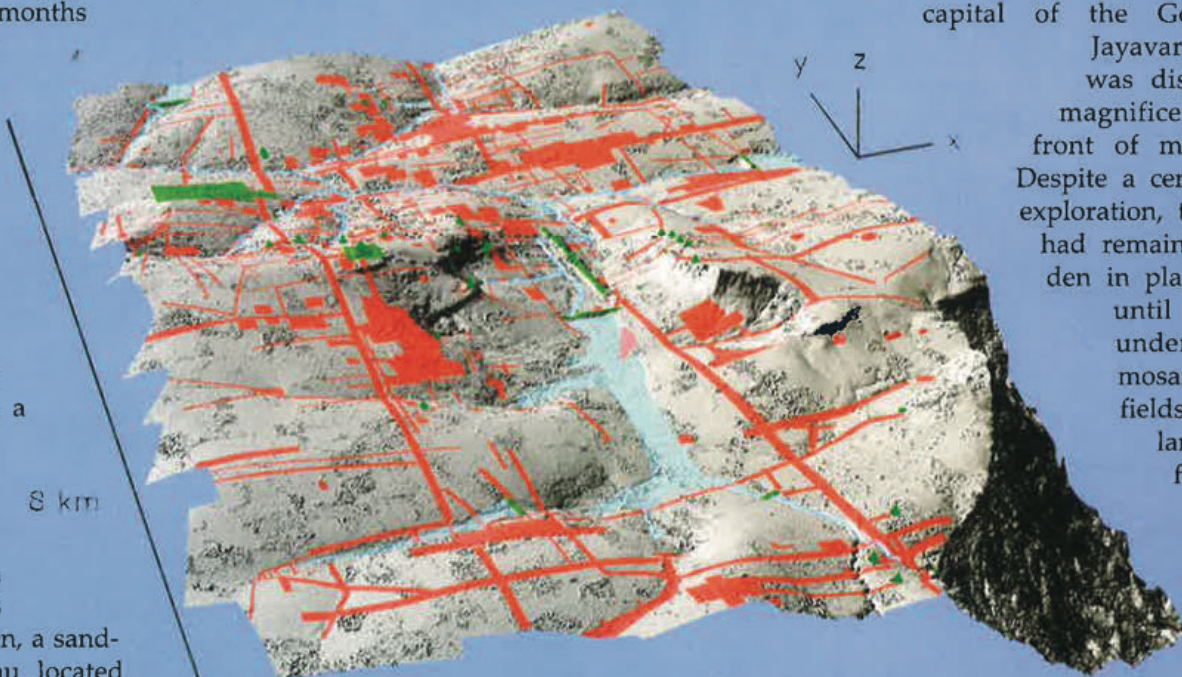
Phnom Kulen, a sandstone plateau located thirty kilometers north-east of Angkor. For a century, experts considered it to be the birthplace of the Khmer Empire. It also is a popular pilgrimage site for Cambodians. Ancient inscriptions of the 10th Century indicated that this mountain was where Jayavarman II established his capital, a hypothesis supported by thirty temples, several dikes and water reservoirs.

The British-registered Archaeology and Development Foundation (ADF) is the KALC-affiliated institution that majority-funded the lidar survey on Phnom Kulen and provided the administrative and logistical framework for ground verification. As a cartographer volunteering for ADF since 2010, I was in charge of the analysis of lidar data for Phnom Kulen. This work was in direct continuation with the archaeological and environmental maps I had developed over three years to assist the French archaeologist Jean-Baptiste Chevance in his work.

Over a year of lidar data analysis and ground exploration, I progressively identified a vast network of roads linking religious sites, dikes and reservoirs. Along these ancient roads, dozens of new temples, countless ponds, human settlements and other mysterious structures were discovered. Hundreds of pieces slowly assembled themselves as in a jigsaw puzzle. The temples and dikes we already knew

about were but a small component of a much larger ensemble, a vast city with a preplanned spatial organization, sprawling over dozens of square kilometers. Eventually, thanks to this technological breakthrough, I could finally see her...

Mahendraparvata, the royal capital of the God-King Jayavarman II, was displayed, magnificent, in front of my eyes. Despite a century of exploration, this city had remained hidden in plain sight until now, under a mosaic of rice fields, grasslands and forests. Khmer people



3D map of Phnom Kulen with 4x exaggeration of the elevation. The green areas are archaeological sites documented prior to lidar survey, while the areas in red are new sites indicative of an extensive urban layout. (Data and image: ADF/KALC/Stéphane De Greef)

had been building rural villages over it, fishing in its channels and cultivating rice around and over its ruins for decades. Unknowingly, they were living and farming in a rural setting at the exact same place where their ancestors, more than a thousand years ago, were living in a large urban environment...

So let us wonder once again: what do we really know about the world that surrounds us?

Maybe not that much, actually...

Stéphane de Greef is a Belgian bio-engineer, cartographer, photographer and CKS affiliate living in Siem Reap. After graduating in 2000, he conducted a wide range of data management and mapping projects in more than ten different countries. His expertise focuses on humanitarian mine action, environment and archaeology. His technical skills are at the heart of this ground-breaking archaeological discovery on Phnom Kulen.



Stéphane posing next to a large pedestal found in one of the new locations he discovered with the Lidar

CKS SENIOR FELLOWS 2013-2014

French Fellows receive support through grants from the Florence Gould Foundation and the Scaler Foundation. U.S. Fellows are supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Economic and Cultural Affairs, through the Council of American Overseas Research Centers



Detail of a ship with a paddler in the bas-reliefs outside the northern enclosure of the Phimeanakas and the Royal Palace. Photograph by Veronica Walker

1 **Veronica Walker Vadillo** is a D.Phil research student at the Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology (OCMA) at the University of Oxford. Her thesis project, entitled "*Nautical Angkor: the social life of boats in the Khmer empire*", addresses the issue of water-borne transport in the Angkor era from an interdisciplinary perspective. The main features in Cambodian landscape are the Mekong River and the Tonle Sap; every year during the rainy season the country is submerged in water, and yet our knowledge concerning nautical technology and uses of water transport is poor. The first stage of this research project—conducted in May 2012—was to survey Angkorian temples to record nautical scenes in bas-reliefs. Since there is a lack of physical archaeological remains of ships from Angkor, this material is being used as primary data. However, information interpreted from this material is limited and needs supporting information. Apart from historical sources, preliminary research conducted since 2008

suggests that shipbuilding traditions have been kept alive in the country. Therefore, in 2013 Veronica will be conducting ethnographic fieldwork in Cambodia to document nautical activities in different environments (i.e. lake, river, and sea) in order to draw a comparative analysis with iconographic and historical data.

2 **William B. Noseworthy** is a Ph.D. candidate in History at the University of Wisconsin Madison. His research project is currently entitled "*A Southeast Asian Palimpsest: Cham Scholars, Akhar Thrah and 'Remembering the Boundaries,' 1651-1969.*" The dissertation seeks to illuminate several of the nebulous patches of the history of the Cham community in Southeast Asia by drawing on borderlands history approaches and historicization of narratives produced within the Cham communities of both Vietnam and Cambodia. Through a reliance upon texts produced in the Cham script: Akhar Thrah,

European missionary accounts, Vietnamese chronicles and gazetteers, and French colonial era publications this research has already suggested that there are many 'historical myths' that prevail in the existing scholarly literature on the Cham in the field of Southeast Asian studies. However, as much of this examination to date has only been completed in Vietnam and the United States, the term in Cambodia aims to complete extensive archival inquiries in consultation with leading scholars from the Cham community. In the end this project aims to contribute on a scholarly level to facilitate the discussion of Cham history in Southeast Asia by bridging the gaps of historical, archeological and epigraphic research that is being completed in Vietnam with the post-genocide, historical memory and reconstruction research that is being completed in Cambodia.

3 Hedwige Miltzer O'Naghten is a postdoctoral researcher from the Sorbonne in Paris, now attached to the team "Iranian and Indian worlds", UMR 7528 of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). Following on her Ph. D. thesis dedicated to a comprehensive synthesis of Jayavarman VII's reign, her new project is entitled *Jayavarman's Buddhism from the angle of iconography. Comparative study between temples and statuary*. The project aims to highlight the artistic contacts and interactions within the Buddhist world in order to trace the possible textual sources and try to identify more precisely the doctrinal school (s) which have influenced Buddhism of this time.

4 Steven Prigent will conduct post-doctoral research in the framework of the INALCO and CKS fellowship program. The beginnings of this project lie in his doctoral research, a monograph, which focused on socializing experiences in childhood in the village of Cheung Kok (province of K.Cham). The project will look more closely at childhood "playing" practices in Khmer society with particular interest being paid to "singing-clapping games". The work is based on the interpretative hypothesis of diachronic continuity of games, from tender maternal moments to those played by young unmarried people.

New research will therefore be carried out in Cheung Kok which will be an interaction approach to "playing", from a linguistic point of view as well as from pragmatic and phenomenological stances. A first comparative study will be done in three regions (K.Cham, K.Thom and Kratié). By the end, a widening of this comparative perspective will allow the production of documents likely to trace back certain historic influences and therefore the definition of *the existence of territories* with specific practices.

This ethnology of "playing" offers a stimulating entry into the study of the way local *social organization* functions and will contribute to the documentation of an anthropological field which examines the *socialization process* of

children. Moreover, this approach will contribute to the study of *transmission processes* of intangible cultural heritage, in this case concerning children, which is preserved as it is all the while being transformed.

5 Brice Vincent is researching Angkorian bronze (11th-13th c.). Khmer bronze metallurgy is surely the most important metallurgical tradition of medieval Southeast Asia, which is evidenced by both its remarkable



Khmer bronze head. Photograph by Brice Vincent

continuity over almost a millennium and its high degree of technical sophistication. Since it has been largely understudied in terms of archaeometallurgical potential, however, Brice Vincent focused his Ph.D. research on technical investigations, examining for the first time a large range of statues and objects in bronze, or *samrit* in Old Khmer, all crafted in the kingdom of Angkor from the late 11th to the early 13th century.

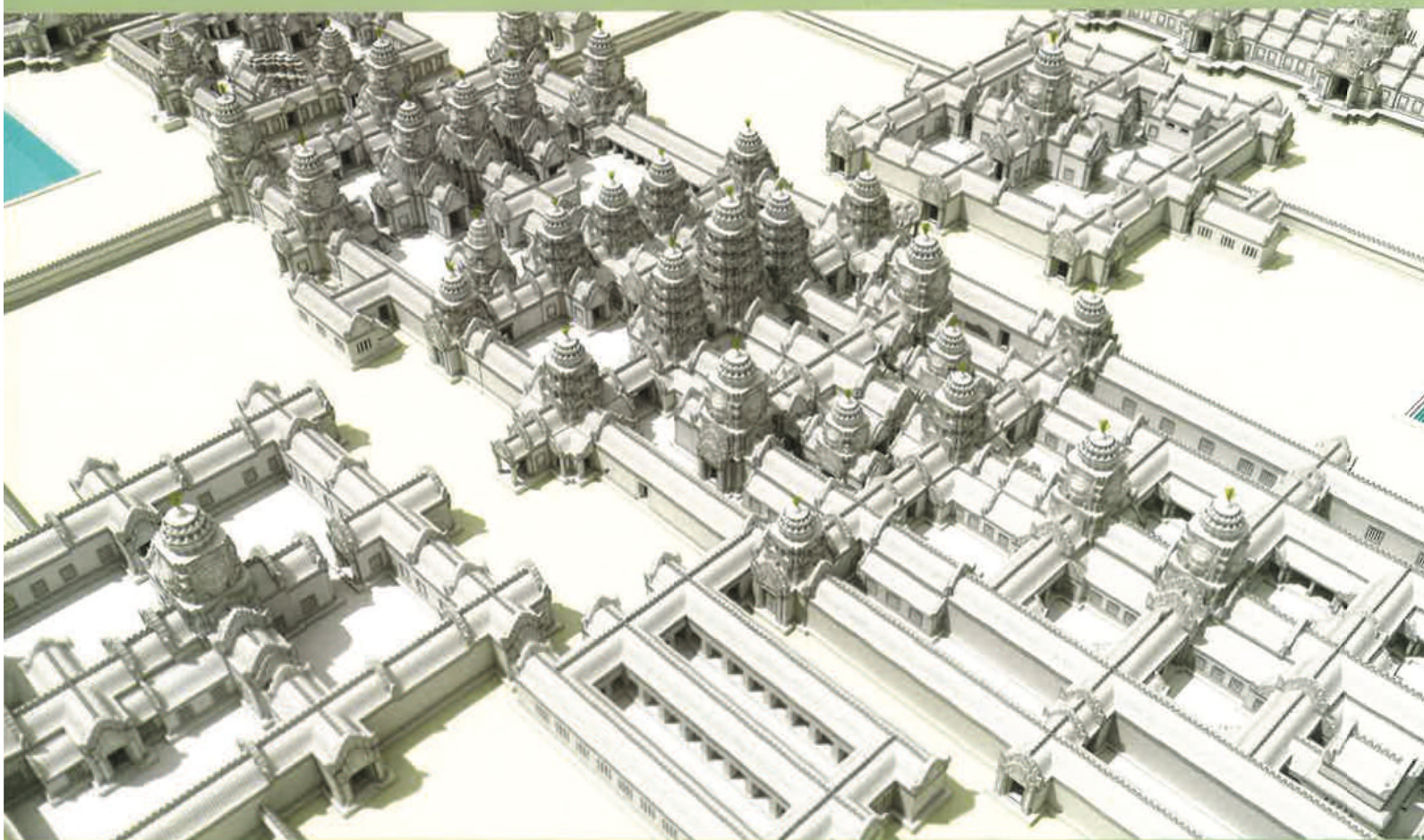
To strategically advance this study, his CKS postdoctoral fellowship will pursue the characterization of the main metallurgical practices mastered by Khmer bronze craftsmen. On one hand, comparative analysis with other periods of production will help to cover the entire 11th-13th centuries. It will then be possible to distinguish different workshop traditions defined by period or location, and so, to offer a clearer picture of the spatial organization of bronze production in Angkorian Cambodia. On the other

hand, with no equivalent in Southeast Asia, a bronze workshop recently excavated near the Royal Palace in Angkor Thom (University of Sydney & APSARA), and especially the metallic and ceramic material associated with, will help rebuild the workflows of the *chaîne opératoire* governing the manufacture of a bronze, from raw materials to finished products.

6 **Olivier Cunin** is an Associate Researcher of MAP-Crai - UMR 3495 CNRS/MCC, National Architecture School of Nancy and CASE (Centre Asie du Sud-Est) - UMR 8170, CNRS/EHES. His project, entitled *Building archaeology and archaeological reconstruction of the Bayon style monuments*, is the continuity of his studies of the Bayon style monuments undertaken between 2000 and 2004 for his Ph.D. dissertation in architecture and completed in 2005 and 2007 with the financial support of INALCO-CKS fellowship program. Since 2009, he began the three-dimensional archaeological reconstruction of the main monuments of Jayavarman VII built at the end of the 12th century and the beginning of the 13th century to validate his past results and prepare a new tool of reflexion to increase the understanding of the temporal evolution of these large complexes in term of their spaces and rituals practices. 3D reconstructions of Preah Khan of Angkor, Banteay Chhmar and the Bayon have already been completed. He now plans

to replicate this work on Ta Prohm, Banteay Kdei and other smaller Bayon style monuments at Angkor. The development of these archaeological reconstructions will be a valorization of the past results and an opportunity to complete them for a future monograph on the Bayon style monuments.

7 **Hart Nadav Feuer** Senior Researcher with the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn, Germany, Hart is studying the modernization of Cambodian traditional food and medicinal products. He first became interested in the effects of globalization and urbanization on traditional Khmer cuisine and botanical medicine as a participant in the first CKS Junior Fellowship program in 2004. The current research being carried out with the CKS goes beyond Hart's doctoral work to look at the way in which society renegotiates the social and technical obligations regarding the conservation of indigenous products. For food, this research asks: "How is quality and diversity of food maintained as people move away from the countryside, take up 'modern' expectations about hygiene and packaging, and change their tastes and preferences?" In healthcare: "How are Cambodian healers integrating and hybridizing various indigenous health and lifestyle practices to make them relevant in light of the dominant Western medical system and other international



3D representation of Banteay Chhmar - Sample. Photograph by Olivier Cunin



Collecting palm sap to be converted into modern palm beer, juice and vinegar. Photograph by Hart Feuer



Bottling and labeling traditional palm vinegar to be sold in urban markets. Photograph by Hart Feuer

systems of naturopathic medicine?" To provide an example, in addition to botanical medicine, Hart is studying the evolution of symbolically important traditional foods like sugar palm products, traditional rice varieties, fish pastes and regional pepper. The lessons of this research are intended not only to be useful for chefs and healers, but also for tourism, biodiversity conservation, medical research, and historical account.

8 Kheang Un Assistant Professor, Northern Illinois University, is undertaking twin research projects aimed at gathering data for his manuscript entitled *Accepting Electoral Authoritarianism: Donors, State, and Society in Contemporary Cambodia* and his ongoing collaborative research with Dr. So Sokbunthoeun entitled *The Politics of Natural Resources Use: Changes and Challenges in Neopatrimonial Cambodia*. Cambodia generally has been left out of any comparative studies on political economy and democratization across Southeast Asia and beyond. However, Cambodia's recent economic transformation—which is driven by (1) Cambodia's integration into regional and global markets; (2) the dynamic relationship forged between the ruling party, the bureaucracy, and the military, on the one hand, and individuals and businesses on the other, who facilitate such integration; and (3) multi-lateral and bilateral financial assistance and engagement—has transformed Cambodia from being a unique case to a case suitable for comparative analysis. The study of Cambodian democratization adds to the debate on the causes of durability of electoral authoritarian regimes.

The project on the politics of natural resource use aims to offer an in-depth inquiry into the politics of natural resources that link the patterns of natural resource governance and distribution to a broader theoretical discussion of the "paradox of plenty" caused by a country's structural contingency of neo-patrimonialism. Its central premise is that although past collectivization and weak governmental

institutions have contributed to land rights issues, it is neo-patrimonialism—a mechanism that dictates political interaction among the elites and between the elites and the electorate with regards to resource governance and distribution—that perpetuates land rights problems and limits land policy reform.

9 Téphanie Sieng a Ph.D. student in Geography at the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO), Paris, is conducting her research topic on *Mutations in Ratanakiri province (Cambodia): Contemporary socio-spatial transformations in Tampuan villages*, to study the impact of human processes on Cambodian highlands. Since the re-opening of Cambodia in 1991 (after three decades of war and political unrest), although it is located far away from Phnom Penh, the political and economic capital city, Ratanakiri is a region of fast socio-spatial mutations within the context of globalization. Considered rich in natural resources, it has become the new "eldorado" for ethnic Khmers and foreign firms, hence many projects to integrate this region — located in the Northeast of Cambodia, bordered by Vietnam, Laos, and predominantly made up of ethnic minority groups — into the national territory. This research focuses on the Tampuans who, in 2008, represented a quarter of its population. Téphanie will analyze regional transformations and new development policies to understand Ratanakiri's integration modalities into Cambodian territory. For instance, the evolution of the agricultural system suggests a transition from swidden agriculture to cash crop, but could also reveal a re-appropriation process of land by indigenous people at different levels. Thus, a typology of Tampuan and Tampuan/Khmer villages' organization will allow a better understanding of local people's perception of space, landscape and lifestyle.

SEA TRAVEL GRANT FOR CAMBODIAN SCHOLARS

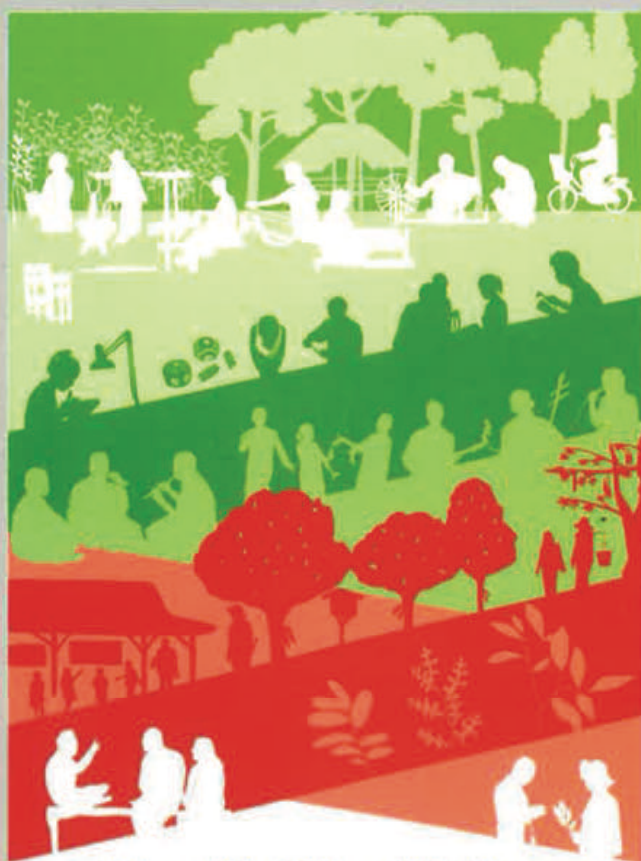
CKS awarded travel grants to four Khmer academics to promote Cambodian studies in the region and further enhance their skills.

Mr. Sor Sokny, Senior Researcher at the Buddhist Institute, received a travel grant to attend a workshop on "Intangible Cultural Heritage and Museums: Mapping Intangible Culture in Surin Province" in Thailand.

Mr. Ea Darith, Archaeologist at the AFSARA Authority, received a travel grant to present a paper at the international conference on "Kilns and Ceramic Production Technology in Ancient China and Its Influences on Foreign Countries" at the Zhejiang provincial museum, Hangzhou, China.

Mr. Dath Sok Udom, Lecturer at Zaman University in Phnom Penh, received a registration fees grant to present a paper on "Cambodia Twenty Years On: A Political Dynasty in the Making?" at the Fifth International Conference on Southeast Asia (ICONSEA 2013) organized at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur.

Ms. Pich Charadine student at Zaman University received a registration fees grant to present a paper on "The Role of Cambodia's Monarchy in the 20th and 21st century: The Shift to an End?" at the ICONSEA 2013 in Kuala Lumpur.



**Intangible Cultural Heritage and
Museums Field School 2013:
Mapping Intangible Culture**

30 IN FOCUS

**in
Surin Province**

From left to right:
Program for the
Intangible Cultural
Heritage and Museums
Field School 2013

Torp Chey kiln no.2
measuring 3.2m wide
x 21m long. The
longest ancient kiln
found in Southeast
Asia



VOICES:

Chea Sopheap, 2008 CKS Junior Fellow

CKS pathway to a career in the arts



My name is **Chea Sopheap** and I am the Archival Manager at the Bophana Audiovisual Resource Centre based in Phnom Penh. I was first introduced to the Center for Khmer Studies back in 2008 by some fellow students from the History Department at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. They had just participated in CKS's program on Southeast Asia Studies and enjoyed it very much.

Southeast Asia Studies was then new to me, and before talking to them I had never thought about studying the subject. In 2008, the course was led by the eminent Thai historian, Professor Charnvit Kasetsiri. The more I attended the course, the more I found the subject interesting and useful because the lectures made me think about Southeast Asia in a different way and encouraged me to learn more about neighboring cultures and political economies. I felt it was filling a gap because I learned very little from university at that time. I now regularly check the CKS website in order to find other opportunities

to increase my knowledge.

Since then I was lucky to attend another course with American and French students, which prompted me to become involved in the arts and cinema in Southeast Asia in particular. I now feel confident enough to travel in Southeast Asia, Europe and the United States and work in the field of Cambodian visual arts. My most recent trip to New York, on the occasion of the Season of Cambodia, the biggest Cambodian Arts Festival to have ever taken place in the US, enabled me to experience, explore and learn about the arts in New York and this has inspired me to further develop the arts sector in Cambodia.

Bryan Martin, 2013 CKS Junior Fellow, Macalester College

"Goodbye Cambodia" from <http://bryancks.wordpress.com/>



I didn't know how to approach this post, and I'm still not sure I really do. I wanted to write a bit reflecting on my time here, in part to summarize to my readers at least part of what I took away from this trip, and in part to help myself collect my thoughts and make sense of everything that has happened here.

First I should just say that I loved this program. I am definitely going to encourage more Macalester students to go in the future. My only wish is that it was longer. The Contemporary Cambodia class was amazing. I've learned so much about Cambodia, as you can probably tell if you've been following my blog at all. I like to rehash a lot of the lessons from class there because I want to remember them and I think they are important.

Still, some of my most valuable lessons have come from outside of class. Part of the reason I love this program so much is because of the people it brings together. Between Alberto, Krisna, and the other fellows from all across three different countries, I've been lucky to be surrounded by some of the best. I'm optimistic that I'll be able to meet and work with some of them again if and when I pursue Cambodian and Southeast Asian studies.

Cambodia has some sort of charm. It's hard to describe, but it makes it far too easy to fall in love with, for me and many other people. I struggle with my desire to do something for this country. On the one hand, how can you see all the poverty and corruption and not want to do something about it. It would be wrong for me to try to create opportunities for me to "help", because then it becomes about me. I need to prevent that.

Alberto has been a fantastic mentor to me throughout the course of the program. One thing he taught me that it took me a while to come to terms with is that this fellowship was about me, and that's okay. In fact, that's more than okay. That's exactly how it should be. It hasn't been about me in the voluntourist sense where I can go home and show everyone pictures of the orphans I helped and receive pats on the back and personal recognition. It has been about me developing my skills as someone who hopes to be a future researcher and scholar. This sort of personal development is exactly what I need if I ever hope to contribute to Cambodia in any meaningful way.

I want to say a few thanks on what may or may not be the final post on my blog. Thank you to my readers for making me feel like updating this blog with my thoughts was worth it. Thank you to my family and friends back home for supporting me before and during my time in Cambodia. Thank you to my mentors and professors who helped me get here and have played an enormous role in my development and work here. Thank you to Alberto, Krisna, and everyone else who makes CKS run so well and provided me with such a memorable experience. Thank you to the junior fellows for making this experience a fun one full of so many great people.

Thank you, Cambodia

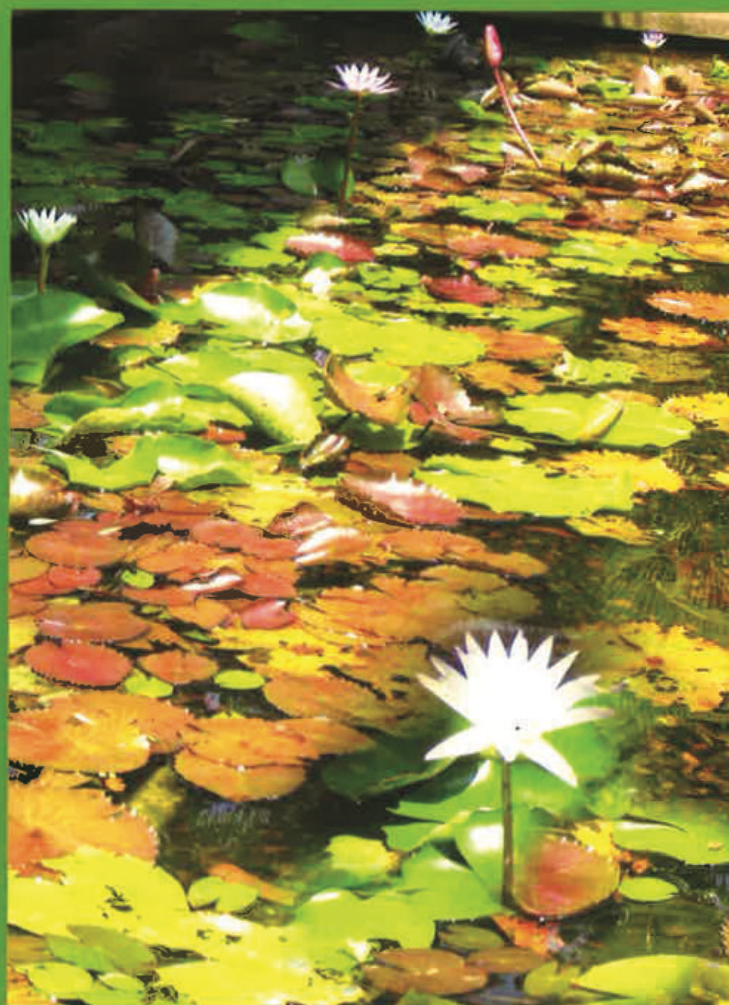
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University of Hawaii at Manoa
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World Monuments Fund, New York



Lilies in full bloom by the CKS building

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