

In Focus

The Center for Khmer Studies

No.12, 2014-2015



IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to CKS

LOIS DE MENIL, PRESIDENT

3

Director's Note

KRISNA UK

4-5

Members & Benefactors

OLIVIER BERNIER, VICE-PRESIDENT

6-7

The CKS Library and The Children's Library project

JACQUES HENNESSY

8-9

Activities & Projects

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP FOR CAMBODIAN RESEARCHERS

CKS HOSTS INTERNATIONAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

THE GIANT PUPPET PROJECT

TRAVEL WITH CKS

A JOINT INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE GIS/LIDAR TRAINING TO THE APSARA AUTHORITY

10-19

ARTISTS AT WORK

BEYOND BORDERS: A CKS PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

WORK IN PROGRESS: THE CKS-NMC COLLECTION DATABASE

CKS Programs

SUMMER JUNIOR RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

THE KHMER LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDY PROGRAM

BUDDHISM AND SERVICE LEARNING IN CAMBODIA

20-23

Feature Article

THE ROYAL PALACE WORKSHOP OF ANGKOR

24-25

Publishing & Translation

SIKSĀCAKR ON COLONIALISM, VOLUME II

26

Senior Fellows

SEA TRAVEL GRANT FOR CAMBODIAN SCHOLARS

VOICES

27-31



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 and Cambodian fellowships from the US Government. Its programs are privately funded.

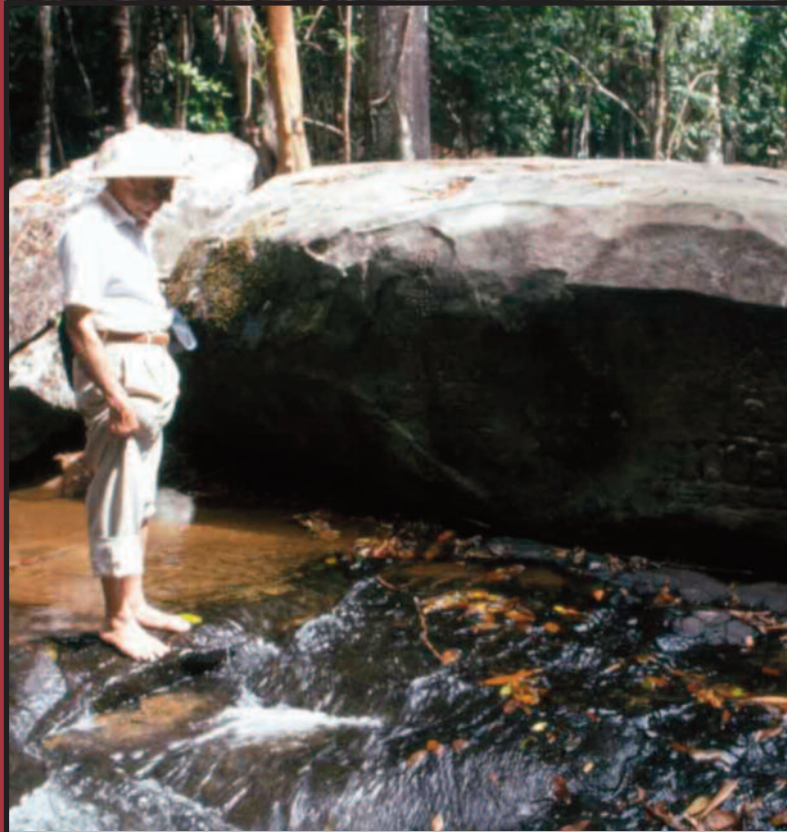
CKS is the sole member institution of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) in mainland Southeast Asia.

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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Kamaleswar Bhattacharya at Kbal Spean

In Memoriam

CKS mourns the loss of its long-time Board member, Dr. Kamaleswar Bhattacharya, distinguished Sanskrit scholar and epigraphist.

Prof. Bhattacharya caringly mentored a next generation of scholars. He was a willing companion in visits to Khmer temples, where he delighted in sharing his vast knowledge of Sanskrit by deciphering inscriptions on the spot, and often by then singing the ancient sutras.

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Tan Teuy	Day Guard, Siem Reap
So Sopheap	Night Guard, Siem Reap
Sieng Saroeum	Night Guard, Siem Reap

WELCOME TO CKS!



Lois de Menil, President

Welcome to CKS, the American Overseas Research Center in Cambodia. In the spirit of all American Centers abroad, CKS' doors have been open to all since its founding in 1999, when Cambodia was still a provincial world. But we have always had a wider vision for CKS. After 15 years of sustained work, our Cambodian and American students and

scholars now work side by side with researchers of many other nationalities. Students of all grade levels, Ph.D. thesis research students, prominent research scholars and Buddhist monks all fill our library reading room. Last year, we opened a section of the reading room to local children. Our Board now consists of representatives of American partner institutions and committed donors, but also scholars from Cambodia, France, Australia and Thailand.

Over the years, the focus of our activities has evolved with the exponential growth of interest in Cambodia and Southeast Asia. Most exciting for us is the coming of age of a new generation of Cambodian students eager for higher education. Ten years ago, we ran seminars to introduce these students to basic research methods and techniques for the analysis of texts. Now, with the emergence of an expanded community of Cambodian scholars supported by CKS, we offer a wide range of public lectures and workshops that run the gamut from ancient and recent history to urban planning, regional economic integration and other subjects of interest to our research scholars. We invite young Ph.D. candidates, who benefit from our fellowship program, to give lectures on their research topics. Even our Trustees join in. We had an audience of over 700 for a recent lecture on *Cambodian Economic Development in a Southeast Asian Context* by Trustee Ambassador Benny Widyono. Part of that audience includes our ever-growing alumni network of CKS Fellows. The spirit of open debate is catching—once young scholars come to CKS, they become part of the family and want to continue those discussions.

Today CKS looks both inward and outward. Although we focus on Cambodia, the country's international profile has expanded to encompass Southeast Asia and beyond. We see our role increasingly as opening doors of opportunity. We open them for Cambodian students seeking to pursue research activities and new fields of scholarship beyond their national borders. We also facilitate the work of foreign scholars embarking on research in the region. We now also offer a full-fledged in-country summer program for those seeking to master the Khmer language.

This year we reached a milestone in our efforts to support Cambodian higher education. In March, our Executive

Director organized a panel of young Cambodian scholars at the annual meetings of the Association for Asian Studies in Philadelphia. This meeting is a huge, multi-day event, with panels on topics covering all fields of Asia. Exchanges are in English, and they are quick and pointed. The Cambodian participants got right into the full swing of things. I crossed paths with them participating in many different programs, chatting to colleagues in the halls and lounges. It was a long way from the isolation of earlier years. This CKS panel was so impressively successful that it encouraged our Director to do it again for the first AAS-sponsored conference in Asia, in Singapore, this summer. The young scholars sponsored by CKS are there, as I write. They are now, for the first time, active participants in the global world of scholarly exchange on Asia, and full partners with their colleagues abroad.

At the same time, Southeast Asian Study Centers at major U.S. universities are drawing more students than ever



CKS-sponsored panel at the inaugural conference of the Association for Asian Studies, in Singapore

before. Partly, this is a reflection of the globalization of the world. But it is also the result of the first generation of the children of Cambodian communities inside the United States reaching the level of university and graduate studies. These students are increasingly applying to CKS programs, too. We at CKS are pleased to be at the crossroads of these new directions, accomplishments and developments in our field.

Your support makes our programs possible. Those described in these pages give a small sample of all that is going on. Welcome to CKS!

Lois de Menil, Ph.D.
President

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



This year, the Center for Khmer Studies reaches 15 years of age. This happy anniversary offers a suitable vantage point both to reflect on the partnerships and innovations that have underpinned its accomplishments to date; and to look ahead towards CKS' ever broadening horizons.

One such example of a successful partnership is our project with the National Museum of Cambodia, which has been made possible by the generous and long-standing support of the Leon Levy Foundation. This ambitious project was set out to train the Museum staff in catalogue and inventory training, data gathering and recording, measurement and work location. After nine years of intense endeavor, the Museum's collection is now available online. This both facilitates high quality archaeological research, and enables the Royal Government of Cambodia to identify and retrieve major works of art which have been lost or stolen.

Building on such successes, the last twelve months were spent strengthening the Center's profile as a privileged place where scholars, students, professionals, diplomats, Buddhist monks, artists, children and many others can come together in their individual pursuit of knowledge.

With our signature programs growing more and more popular, our senior and junior fellowships are drawing students and scholars with broader and more innovative subjects of interest that include the anthropology of food, children's traditional games and the rights to the city of Phnom Penh.

Our lecture series, meanwhile has showcased a wide range of presentations from history topics such as "Murder, Museums and Memory Holes: Comparing Cold War Public History in Jakarta and Ho Chi Minh City" to geo-political ones including "U.S. rebalancing in Asia" by the U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Jeff Daigle.

Alongside our lecture series, our latest initiative: the CKS film series has attracted an enthusiastic audience. As a result, our conference hall in Siem Reap now screens movies by Cambodian directors thus creating an academic and cultural platform to interact with the people involved in the film making and engage in discussions with scholars.

This latest initiative came to life thanks to a new spring program on "Buddhism and Service Learning in Cambodia" launched in partnership with the University of Wisconsin, Madison and led by UW Professor of History and Religious Studies and CKS board member Anne Hansen. The main objective was to expose the students to creative ways of learning and Buddhist ethics of care. These four weeks filled with coursework, film screenings, service learning placements, fieldtrips and social activities have crafted their personal experience in the most inspiring way, which prompted some of them to want to return and learn with us again.

In anticipation of the 2015 ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), which will entail the free movement of goods, services, investment and labor, the Center is placing a new





emphasis on regional dynamics that will affect the whole of mainland Southeast Asia. With the support of the Ford Foundation we are establishing a program to enable scholars, professionals and civil servants from Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Burma and Vietnam to learn, research and cooperate on issues relating to conflict in the region. This will include an explicit focus on major border disputes, environmental transformations and informal economy.

As we diversify our subject areas, we are currently building a new major collection for our library. With 10,000 library users over the past twelve months, our research library will soon boast a significant corpus of maps, books and dictionaries on Austroasiatic languages. The CKS library aspires to become a repository of some of the 160 Austroasiatic languages spoken by 100 to 120 million people living in parts of India, south China, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, Laos, Vietnam and Malaysia with many being in danger of extinction. For Professor Gérard Diffloth, a member of the École Française d'Extrême Orient, and our distinguished collaborator in this project "when a language disappears, it is as if a cathedral collapsed or a library was burnt to the ground". This new collection that will be of interest to linguists, anthropologists, historians and archaeologists amongst others will ultimately enable our Center to train ethnic minority researchers from Cambodia and Southeast Asia in the documentation and preservation of their language, oral histories, rituals, kinship systems, agricultural practices and arts.

Our partnerships with American, Cambodian, Australian and French scholars as well as others from the region have been and will continue to be instrumental in making these academic endeavors successful. To this end, Cambodian doctoral students and scholars will be able to apply to the CKS Senior Fellowship at the end of this year to conduct their research in the social sciences and humanities. As the Center's present Executive Director and a former CKS Senior Fellow, I am hoping that over the course of the next fifteen years, the Center will continue to fulfill the intellectual needs of scholars from Cambodia and abroad, old and young, from one generation to the next.



Krisna Uk, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Pictures from left to right:

Flower Hmong ethnic minority in northern Vietnam

Buddhism and Service Learning program with UW, Madison

Children's game at the Siem Reap giant puppet project

CKS Lecture in collaboration with Paññāsāstra University, Phnom Penh



MEMBERS AND BENEFACTORS

As CKS celebrates its fifteenth anniversary, the time has come to look at its many achievements. In 1999, there were few books, few programs, few connections. Today, all that is just a memory. The connections are many: we are a major partner of the network of American Overseas Research Centers; and within that association, we are unique among new Centers to have found private financing and a Board of Directors composed of scholars, who maintain our high academic standards, and generous donors from whom we receive much of our income. We are linked to many U.S. universities; we collaborate with other institutions in Cambodia, from the renowned French research center, the École Française d'Extrême Orient, to several of the best Khmer universities.

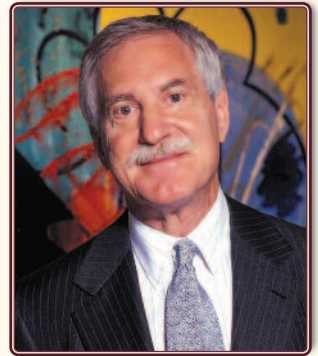
Our Library was once more a hope than a reality. Today, in its handsome new building, it houses close to twenty thousand books and rare copies of pre-1975 Cambodian newspapers; and it also includes a very popular and active new Children's Library, open to all Siem Reap schoolchildren. Then there are our many programs – lectures, research projects, community projects that involve the population of Siem Reap, teaching and language projects, research projects, publications. Fifteen years ago, if you mentioned CKS, people would ask what it was. Mention it today, and the reaction is one of interest and respect.

None of that would have been possible without the constant efforts of the CKS staff. In 1999, no Cambodians could be hired until we had trained them—the genocide and the long civil war were still too close. Today, our entire staff, from the Executive Director to the night watchman, is of

Khmer origin, and we are very proud of every one of them. Their competence, their hard work deserve much praise.

This is where all of you come in. From the beginning, CKS has depended on generous donors—its Board members, but also all of you whose contributions, over the years, have enabled us to set, and achieve, high standards and constant progress. Of course, we are grateful, and we have demonstrated our gratitude by doing it all at the most modest cost. We are fiercely penny-pinching when it comes to administrative expenses; we watch carefully over every dollar we spend. Your gifts go a very long way because of this, but also because costs in Cambodia are still low so that more can be achieved with any given sum.

Now we look forward to the next fifteen years. They will not happen without you, and we count on you to keep helping us. We are grateful; and so are the many Cambodian, American and French students, who have benefited from our programs. Please keep helping us; please keep helping them.



**Olivier Bernier,
Vice-President**

Join CKS!

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.

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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** 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 summer Khmer Language and Culture Study Program: (\$3,500 each).

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

Support the Southeast Asia Travel Grant for Cambodian scholars to attend regional trainings and conferences: (\$10,000)

Sponsor a Cambodian, U.S. or French Doctoral Students' Research (\$5,000 each)

U.S. contributions to CKS are tax deductible.

THE CKS LIBRARY AND THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY PRO

This year has seen several activities of the CKS Library develop and even flourish. The most visible, and maybe the noisiest, if that is appropriate, has been the Children's Library.

Subsequent to the success that followed its opening, or by popular demand as ageing actors would say, the Children's Library is now open four days a week with the occasional Saturday matinee performance kindly provided by passing scholars and friendly visitors, whom we would like to thank.

Fiction writer Sue Guiney who volunteers at Anjali House every year and Melissa Mora and her daughter, both from Puerto Rico and friends of CKS Board Member Benny Widyono, read short stories in English and Spanish. Whether it is a selfish crocodile who does not want to share 'his' river or a little ant who does not want to be squished by a boy, Daraneth, our Head Librarian, helps provide Khmer translations to convey the message to our young readers. After the story telling, the children discuss the themes of the books. To finish the session, everyone is invited to illustrate the stories and turn his drawings into a bookmark or to try musical instruments from Puerto Rico.

Rebecca Wanta, a student of Prof. Anne Hansen volunteered at the Children's Library for several weeks, organizing reading sessions and helping set up an art workshop on the subject of endangered bird species. This was done with the help of local craftsmen from the Siem Reap Giant Puppet Project and environmentalists but without live models.

All this obviously requires some extra staff and funding, but not as much as one would expect: the children on the whole behave well and treat the premises and books with care and consideration. Therefore Chealiny, our front Desk Librarian, who watches over the reading room can also supervise the children's room.

In the meantime, training programs for our librarians and their colleagues continue. Last year, a workshop on the preservation and conservation of archival material led by Y Dari, Deputy Director at the National Archives, was attended by most librarians from the Siem Reap area.

This year, we are preparing a three day program in Phnom Penh where twenty librarians from institutions for higher education and governmental bodies will be trained in library management and e-libraries.





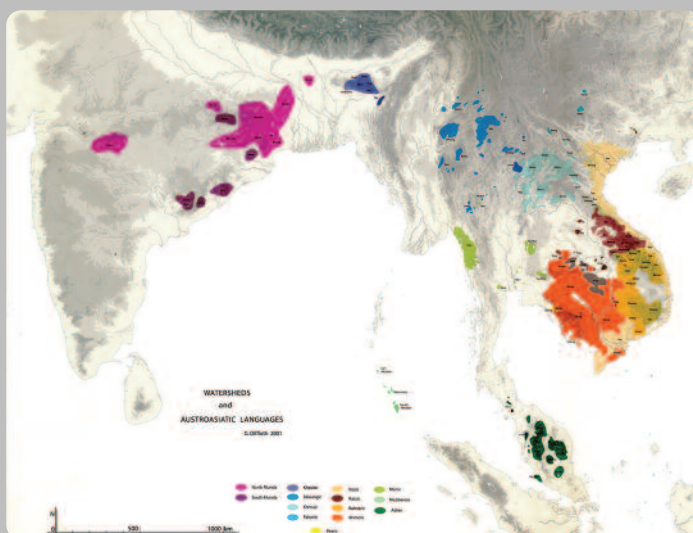
In addition, the cataloguing of our collection is progressing. Daraneth and our research librarian, Sivleng, are working on Darryl Collins' gift, which includes more than 300 items. This means that the CKS electronic catalogue has now more than 6600 references. Our collection has grown this year to 18,500 books and 2530 magazines/journal and newspapers.

As part of a major development in our collection, our Executive Director is working closely with Professor Gérard Diffloth to build a new collection on ethnic minorities. A renowned scholar specializing in linguistics, Prof. Diffloth specializes in Austroasiatic languages spoken in Cambodia and large parts of Southeast Asia. For more than forty years he has been documenting different types of language branches and recording languages threatened by extinction. As a result, his notebooks, most of which have never been published, are a unique set of linguistic and ethnographic documentation.

Should CKS become the repository of such an archive, it would become an important source of knowledge on the subject, and another reason for scholars to stop by or come on purpose to our Library.

This seems somehow to be happening. With the success of the Children's Library and the help of occasional press such as a piece in "Kromma" magazine published by a large Japanese travel agent, we had ten thousand visitors last year. This puts us on a par with the temple of Banteay Chhmar. Not quite the numbers of the more accessible Angkor temples, but we must start somewhere.

Jacques Hennessy,
Chairman, CKS Library Committee



Pictures from top left to bottom right:
Special reading session with Sue Guiney
Question & Answer at the Children's Library
Entrance of the CKS Library, Wat Damnak
Local schools visiting the Library and the photographic exhibition.
Photo by Stéphane De Greef
Workshop on the Conservation and Preservation of archival material
Map of Austroasiatic languages by Prof. Gérard Diffloth



Activities & Projects

Conferences and Workshops

WORKSHOP FOR CAMBODIAN RESEARCHERS

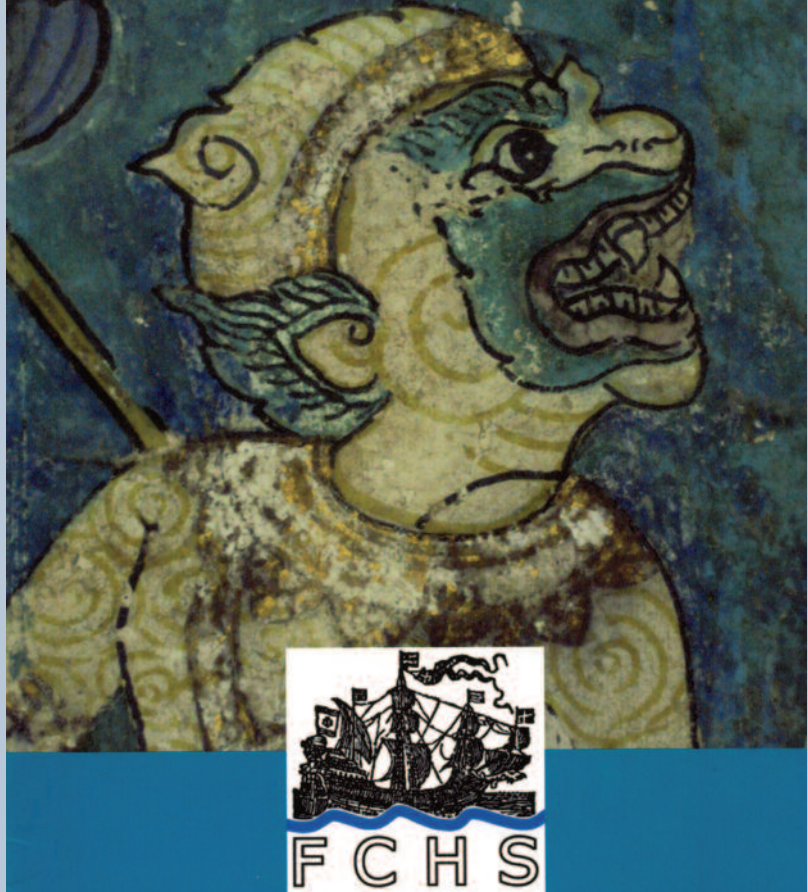
The Center for Khmer Studies is launching a “Workshop for Cambodian Researchers” in order to encourage national scholars and professionals to pursue their research interest and provide them with an academic platform to share and discuss research findings, methodology and gaps in current data.

Strengthening higher education can take many forms. One of them is by encouraging research and the dissemination of information on current research and on opportunities to collaborate and publish. While research capacity among Cambodian scholars has improved in both quantity and

quality over the past ten years, there remains limited scope for both scholars and professionals to interact. To this end, CKS “Workshop for Cambodian Researchers” is scheduled twice a year and welcomes researchers from the social sciences, humanities and the arts who are interested in furthering their work and contributing to the broad field of Cambodian studies.



CKS workshop for Cambodian researchers



Pictures from top left to right:

CKS Lecture series on Environmental Change and Management. Photo by Stéphane De Greef

CKS Lecture on Archaeology: "From Ta Prohm to the Bayon" by Dr. Olivier Cunin
French Colonial Historical Society conference June 25-28, 2014

CKS Hosts INTERNATIONAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

By Prof. Kenneth J. Orosz, Department of History and Social Studies, Buffalo State University.
President of the French Colonial Historical Society (FCHS)

The Center for Khmer Studies (CKS) joined forces with Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia (PUC) in Siem Reap to host the 40th annual meeting of the French Colonial Historical Society (FCHS) on June 25-28. The FCHS is an international scholarly organization devoted to the study of French colonizing activity and the history of all French colonies. June's meeting was the society's first in Asia and was deliberately selected so as to enable members to interact with scholars in the region who normally can not attend the annual conference due to distance and expenses.

The Siem Reap meeting exceeded those expectations by bringing more than 70 scholars from the United States, Canada, France, Britain, Israel, Australia, Singapore, Vietnam and Cambodia to present their research findings on the history of the former French colonies. In all there were 68 papers spread throughout 25 sessions ranging across the entire geographic spectrum of the French colonial empire, from 18th century Louisiana to west Africa and

the Middle East in the 20th century. Given the conference location, the bulk of the presentations naturally focused on French Indochina.

The conference began at CKS with brief welcoming remarks by Ken Orosz, FCHS President, Dr. Krisna Uk, CKS Executive Director, and Phan Keara, Rector at PUC, before shifting into a plenary session celebrating Charles Keith's book *Catholic Vietnam: A Church from Empire to Nation* as winner of the 2013 Alf Andrew Heggoy Prize. The society awards the Heggoy Prize annually to the best book published in the preceding year devoted to the history of the French colonial experience from 1848 to the present. While smaller sessions covering diverse topics such as colonial medicine, gender and empire, education, religion, art, architecture and food were held in classrooms at the PUC, the Center for Khmer Studies hosted a screening of the documentary *Cambodia's Other Lost City: French Colonial Phnom Penh* followed by a question and answer session with the film's directors and CKS former senior Fellows, Michael Vann and Jeffrey Dym from California State University, Sacramento.

THE GIANT PUPPET PROJECT

By Bina Hanley, Marketing and Communications Director, The Siem Reap Giant Puppet Project

A firmly established event on the annual Siem Reap calendar, Siem Reap's 2014 Giant Puppet Project was an outstanding success due to the dedication and hard work invested by a small group of artists, volunteers and local sponsors.

Project workshops commenced on the 8th of February; Artistic and Project Directors, Jig Cochrane and Stuart Cochlin, along with their team of twelve Artists from Phare Ponleu Selpak Visual Arts School in Battambang set up project-based camp in the beautiful gardens of Wat Damnak, a space generously donated every year by the Center for Khmer Studies (CKS). CKS has supported the Giant Puppet Project since 2009 by offering invaluable teaching, storage and workshop space to the artists and children in a safe and peaceful environment.

The Giant Puppet Project has incorporated the skills of the students from Phare Ponleu Selpak since 2009, and each year we are astounded by the talents of these gifted young adults. This year was particularly poignant as Jig stepped down from his role as Artistic Director to allow the students free reign to design all the puppets. The result was not disappointing.

On the evening of the parade, the children are applauded and cheered by an enormous and annually growing crowd of onlookers from the local communities and a host of international tourists. This year, the Giant Puppet Street Parade drew 15,000 spectators. In addition to the incredible experience and recognition this initiative provides the children with, it is also a meaningful, entertaining and popular evening for the local residents and visitors of Siem Reap.

One of the main objectives of the Giant Puppet Project is to educate the next Cambodian generation on the importance of their delicate environment. The Giant Puppet Project highlights the plight of critically endangered indigenous species and also helps promote cultural awareness, road safety and personal hygiene.

Local wildlife conservation agencies such as the Sam Veasna Centre, Angkor Center for Conservation and Biodiversity (ACCB) and Free the Bears Fund provide experts to come to the workshops to speak to the children about the particular wildlife puppets they are building and the importance of their presence in Cambodia. Previous endangered indigenous species covered by the project included the Asian Elephant, the Sun Bear, the Clouded Leopard, the Kouprey, the Irrawaddy Dolphin, the Indochinese Tiger, the Giant Catfish and the Giant Ibis.

As part of their focus on local cultural appreciation, the 2014 team was inspired by an old folklore tale called "The Long Eel and Long Cooking Pot Story." Folktales grew from the imagination of local people and have been graciously passed on from one generation to another. Although the stories have slightly altered during the re-telling process, the messages remain the same.



Young artist at work.
Image courtesy of the Siem Reap Giant Puppet Project



Giant Puppet Street Parade in Siem Reap.
Image courtesy of the Siem Reap Giant Puppet Project

TRAVEL WITH CKS



By Olivier Bernier, Vice-President

Indonesia and France, in 2015, will be the two destinations of Travel with CKS. In April, Burgundy and the Franche-Comté will offer us great architecture, from the Romanesque and Gothic all the way to Le Corbusier's chapel at Ronchamp, interesting small museums and some of the best and most spectacular cuisines in France. This is a repeat of last year's trip which sold out twice.

In August, the best time of the year in that area, we will return to Asia as we spend a week in Borobudur and explore the great stupa, that unique 9th century Buddhist monument, as well as the many temples, Buddhist and Hindu, that adorn that lush tropical valley. The trip will begin in Jakarta with a visit to the National Museum and

its dazzling gold collection and end in Bali.

In September, finally, Alsace and Lorraine will be our focus, from Strasbourg, with its great cathedral and interesting museums, to Colmar and the Grunewald polyptich, that 16th century expressionistic masterpiece to Nancy, its dazzling 18th century architecture and Art Nouveau museum.

I will conduct all three trips, and hope you will join me.

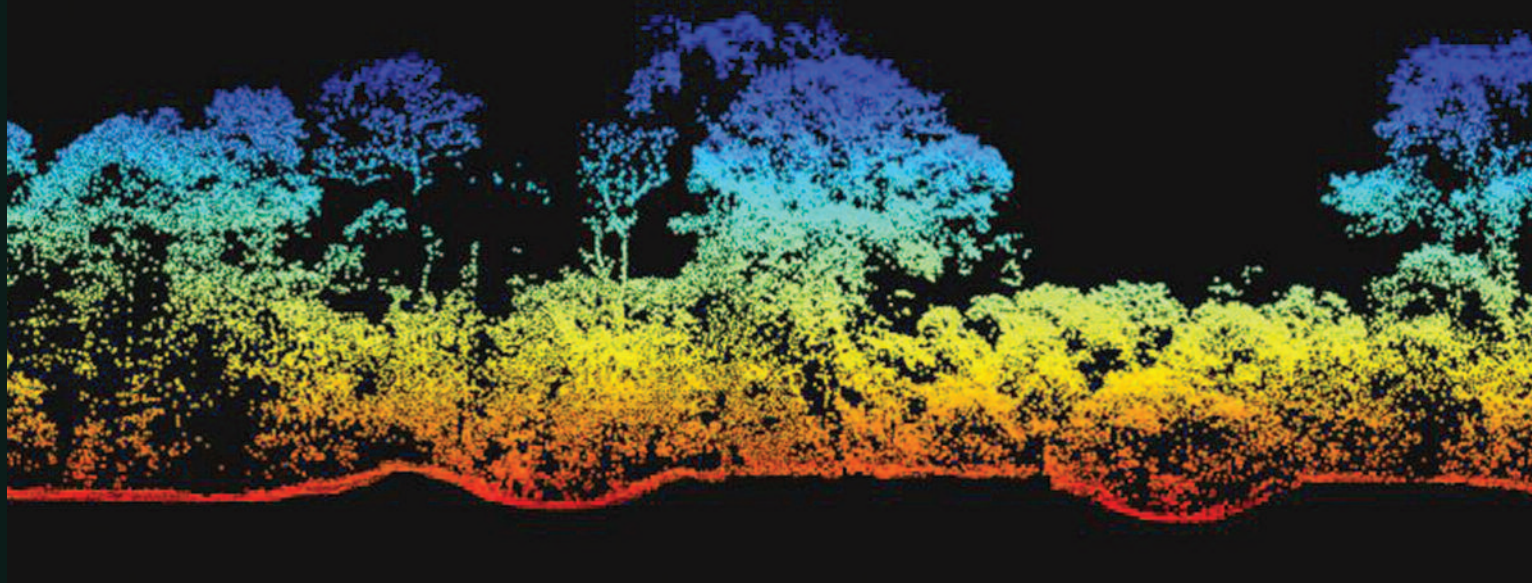
Pictures from top left to right:

Strasbourg cathedral
Le Corbusier's chapel at Ronchamp

Detail of a Borobudur carving
Photo by Prof. John Miksic

Borobudur Buddhist temple
Photo by Prof. John Miksic





A JOINT INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE GIS/LIDAR TRAINING TO THE APSARA AUTHORITY

By Dr. Damian Evans, University of Sydney, Postdoctoral Fellow. Robert Christie Research Centre Director, Siem Reap.

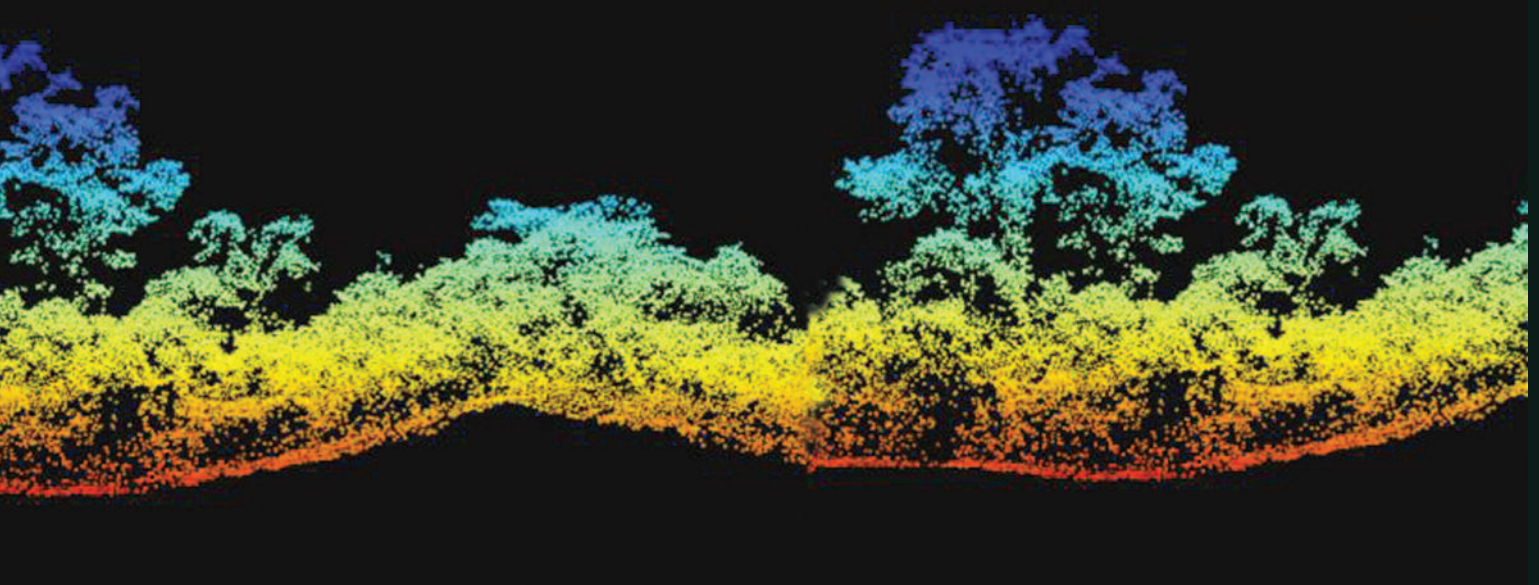
The acquisition of airborne laser scanning (“lidar”) data over Angkor, Phnom Kulen and Koh Ker in 2012 transformed our view of the archaeological landscapes of northwestern Cambodia and has delivered results of great research significance. It has become clear from the lidar data that the extent and the density of archaeological remains surrounding the great monuments has been dramatically underestimated until now. At the same time, however, this has created a series of urgent management and heritage conservation issues for the APSARA Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap. In late 2013, APSARA reached out to the University of Sydney and the Center for Khmer Studies for assistance in developing the technical capacity to apply lidar data to urgent, ‘real-world’ management problems.

Since the nineteenth century, programs of archaeological mapping in Cambodia have focussed largely on the monuments or the largest and most durable of the infrastructural remains. In recent years, however, there has been an increasing awareness that the traces of the cities that once surrounded the temples are clearly visible in ‘archaeological topography.’ This consists of subtle patterns of mounds and depressions in the landscape that often make little sense from a given perspective on the ground. However, once mapped over a large scale – and in particular, once seen from above using aerial or satellite imagery – the spatial patterning clearly reveals the traces of ancient urban areas. Since the 1990s various programs of archaeological

mapping have been undertaken around Angkor and these have radically changed our perception of Angkor as a ‘lived-in’ space, revealing zones of great archaeological significance stretching between and far beyond the great monuments. In 2012 eight international teams including the APSARA National Authority joined to form the broadest international research collaboration ever achieved at Angkor: the Khmer Archaeology LiDAR Consortium (KALC). KALC deployed an airborne lidar instrument and acquired data coverage over 370 km² of northwestern Cambodia –the first archaeological lidar mission in Asia, and at the time the largest ever completed anywhere in the world.



Lidar pod being installed on the helicopter at the hangar at the Phnom Penh International Airport



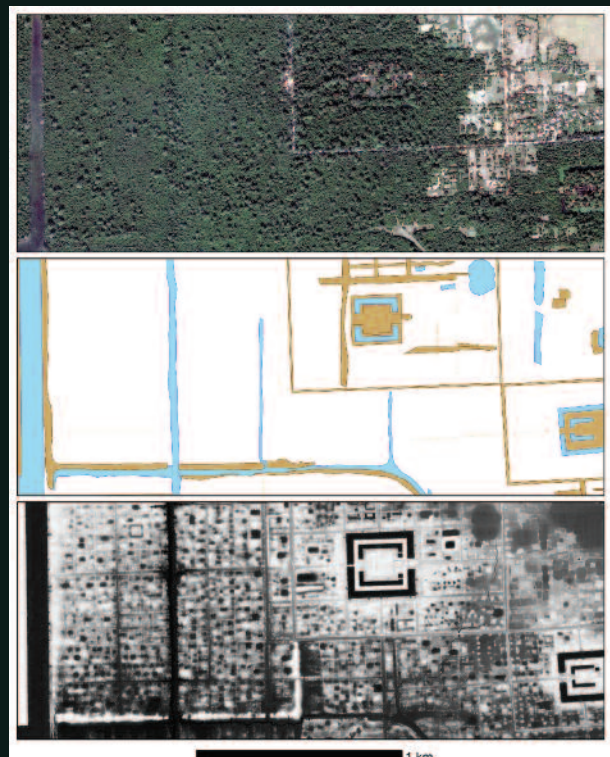
Apsara Authority staff in GIS/ Lidar training

From a research point of view, the results of the lidar acquisition were extraordinary. Many of the newly-discovered features have been the subject of excavations since 2012, and are yielding exceptional new insights into the everyday life of the people of Angkor. In this way, the lidar is helping to broaden our understanding of Angkor beyond traditional architectural, art historical and epigraphic approaches, and is adding substantially to the cultural heritage value of the Angkor Archaeological Park, Phnom Kulen and Koh Ker.

The use of GIS is now commonplace in archaeology and heritage management contexts, and provides a crucially useful tool for understanding and protecting heritage landscapes. Following several months of discussions between CKS, Sydney and APSARA, a strategy has been developed to address these issues with the approval of the Director-General of APSARA. Our solution revolves around the provision of a three week training course for select APSARA staff, to take place at CKS Siem Reap from 11 to 29 August, 2014. There will be twelve attendees representing each of the departments within APSARA that require a capability for in-house spatial decision-making.

On completion of the course, each of the attendees will return to their departments and become the key point of reference for GIS and lidar-related issues, and will also have the competency to train other members of their respective departments in basic GIS skills.

This capability becomes ever more important as lidar continues to revolutionise landscape archaeology, and it is worth noting that a number of further lidar missions in Cambodia (i.e. at places like Banteay Chhmar) are currently in the planning stages. Specialised training in GIS and lidar will keep Cambodian archaeologists and heritage managers at the forefront of those developments.



The area between the southeast corner of the moat of Angkor Thom and Banteay Kdei Temple. Top: Conventional imagery & forest cover. Centre: Archaeological topography mapped prior to the KALC lidar mission. Bottom: KALC lidar data from 2012.



ARTISTS AT WORK

CKS' project "Artists at Work" provides local artists with a space to work, exhibit and interact with the public. Sareth Svay, our first Cambodian artist at residence, used the CKS conference hall to put together his colossal work of art "The Churning of the Ocean of Milk."

Born in Battambang province in 1972, Sareth Svay lives and works in Siem Reap as Artisans D'Angkor Artistic Director. A member of the small and historic group of children who studied art in Site 2 refugee camp, Sareth went on to co-found Phare Ponleu Selpak, an art and circus school in Battambang where he was a teacher.

In preparation for the Singapore Biennale Contemporary Arts Festival, his 15 meter long and 3m height sculpture imbued this classic Hindu tale with a new perspective as it was entirely made of cotton (kapok), sewn and dressed in military camouflage fabric and erected with metal poles.

With the help of half a dozen persons working around the clock for two weeks, a great mix of visitors had the opportunity to talk to the artist and observe the sculpture slowly coming into life. As a result, scholars, arts students, journalists, tourists, monks and children came in to get an insight into this work of art as it provided them with reflections of contemporary political, social and economic dynamics in Cambodia.



Artist Svay Sareth holding one of his demons



A special helper preparing each piece



Sewing all the pieces together



BEYOND BORDERS: A CKS PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Taking advantage of the attractive indoor and outdoor spaces afforded by CKS' location in the Wat Damnak monastery, the Center launched a photographic exhibition to enable Khmer and foreign photographers, both amateurs and professionals, to present their work and interact with the wider public.

CKS started the New Year with a display of pictures entitled "Beyond Borders" by five photographers coming from five different countries.

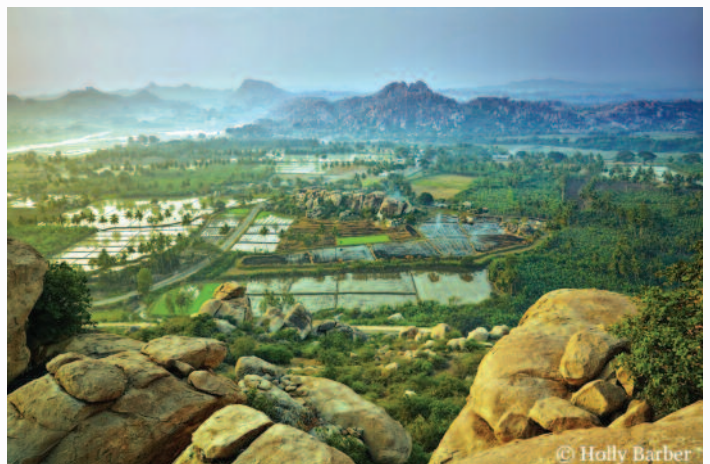
Fifty pictures took the viewers on a journey across borders from the flooded rice fields of Cambodia, above sacred peaks of the subcontinent, touching ground in central Europe and all the way to the barren extremes of Western Sahara.



"Hands" Karnataka, India, by Valentina Chiodi



"Life on water" Tonle Sap, Cambodia, by Kimleng Sang



"Hampi" India, by Holly Barber

WORK IN PROGRESS: THE CKS-NMC COLLECTION DATABASE

By Darryl Collins, former CKS Project Manager

For nine years, trained national museum staff worked under sometimes difficult conditions towards the completion of the Leon Levy Foundation-funded collection and database projects (2004-2013). The Center for Khmer Studies oversaw the project from its inception, with the official launch occurring in Phnom Penh at the National Museum of Cambodia during the evening of 5 February 2014.

Six-months on, as former Manager of the projects, I have spent two working visits over the last few months to upgrade entries and assist staff in managing the database. Initially, we focused on the ceramics collection, but in due course all the areas of the collection divisions require oversight.

With new accessions to the museum collection, recent repatriation of important works of art that caught the attention of the world press, and general house-keeping, it is a never-ending process to ensure records are kept up-to-date and necessary corrections to the system made by curatorial staff. The initial museum information input team has now been disbanded with individuals placed in positions of responsibility for house-keeping-for example, monitoring curatorial updates and IT maintenance.



The collection is now open to on-line search through the 'Search the Collection' link on the museum website at www.cambodiamuseum.info to the general public, students, overseas Cambodian communities, international museum staff, visitors, scholars & researchers. Constructive comments, suggesting increased access have flowed from these users to the museum director who is currently considering ways to improve search results.

The system operates on several levels, with the collections divided in original media categories that can be searched by inventory numbers (where known), media division, keyword title, geographic find location, or a combination of these categories in advanced search mode.

Current cataloguing of the collection, as of late July 2014, within eleven categories stands at:

1. Stone	3,299
2. Ceramics	4,316
3. Metal	7,431

4. Textiles	229
5. Paintings	49
6. Wood	496
7. Manuscripts	481
8. Plastic	30
9. Glass	29
10. Skin	11
11. Horn	112

In December 2013, the Museum collection stood at 16,438 works of art; at the end of July 2014, there are a total number of 16,493 items in the collection.

Future visions

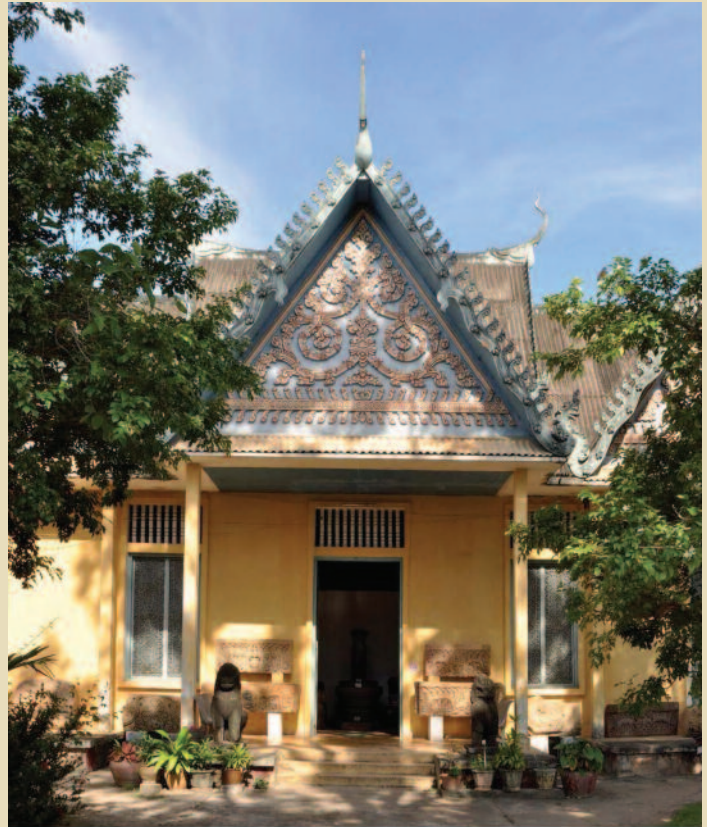
A proposed project as an extension of the Collection Database Project is the Collection Records Retrieval of 'lost works of art'. This project could be paired with proposed training and extension of the Collection Database Project (CDP) to Cambodian Provincial Museums.

Target collection areas will include: archives, documents, official dress, photographs; arms, furniture, utensils; ceramics; metal; precious objects, numismatics, stone, textiles and wood.

This proposed project-a Collection Records Retrieval (CRR), can effectively link the past CIP & CDP projects mentioned above with museum staff servicing both the in-house records of missing works of art and extending this expertise to select provincial collections. A publication with UNESCO detailing missing works at Battambang museums highlights the ministry's desire to re-open Wat Po Veal (collection greatly depleted), together with recovery of works from the Battambang Provincial Museum. Using existing catalogue cards and registers, old catalogue records for missing works of art and coupled with pre-digital photographic scanned images a 'missing work of art record' can be posted on the National Museum of Cambodia collection database.

Effectively, this would recreate the museum collection as it once was (from pre-1920), covering periods of transfer, civil war, neglect, closure and theft. It may well prove to be extremely useful in possible restitution of items-providing positive identification and complete the collection records in a fitting tribute to the visionary founding curator, George Groslier (1887-1945).

Pictures clockwise from the top left:
 Duryodhana. Image courtesy and copyright NMC/ EFEF
 Entrance of the Battambang Museum. Photo by Chan Vitharong
 Wat Po Veal neglected collection. Photo by Dr. Krisna Uk
 Re-uniting Balarama with his pedestal. Image courtesy and copyright The National Museum of Cambodia (NMC)



CKS Programs

SUMMER JUNIOR RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

by Dr. Alberto Pérez-Pereiro, Socio-Cultural Anthropologist, 2014 CKS Summer Resident Fellowship Senior Instructor

This year, the Center for Khmer Studies hosted thirteen young scholars attending the Summer Junior Resident Fellowship Program. This group of American, French and Cambodian students has participated in a six-week seminar in Cambodian and Southeast Asian Studies, during which they became acquainted with the cultural, political and economic landscape of the country as it becomes increasingly integrated into the ASEAN region. Student interests were very diverse and research projects included analysis of Cambodian electoral dynamics, the synergies between modern and traditional medicines, the impact of tourism on the local economy, and the growing participation of women in commune level politics to name just a few.

Students have cooperated and assisted each other with their fieldwork and in doing so, have gained an appreciation for the contribution that different academic disciplines make to our understanding of this rapidly changing country. Rigorous academic readings and lectures, presented in a collegial and supportive atmosphere give each student the chance not only to learn but to teach others.

Alongside lectures, American and French students had the opportunity for daily Khmer classes with Frieda Kreth, a Khmer-American teacher in Siem Reap, who helped the fellows acquire a basic grasp of the language they would need for everyday affairs. Cambodian students received additional tutoring in English from Benjamin Gooding, a local history teacher, who made scholarly writing accessible to the students – improving their reading, writing and presentation skills. Additional lectures by visiting scholars such as Prof. John Marston speaking about the activities of Cambodian Buddhist Monks in Sri Lanka and India, and Dr. Alison Carter explaining the process by which archaeologists define ancient trade routes exposed the fellows to the state of the art in Cambodian studies.

Many students rounded out their activities by volunteering to teach at the Life and Hope Association located on the grounds of Wat Damnak. Whether to develop their own teaching skills, or to take the opportunity to interact meaningfully with young Khmer people, fellows enjoyed this opportunity to return something to the local community.

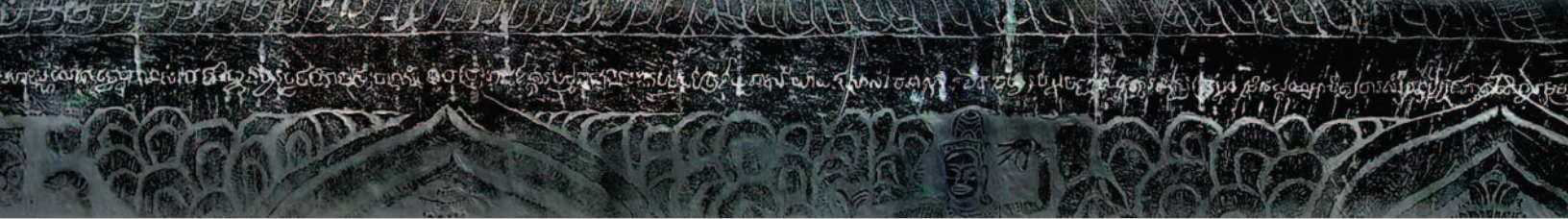
We can look forward to further contributions to the Cambodian scholarly community from these fellows as they continue to pursue their academic and personal interests in the country.



Researching local markets and traditional medicines.
Photo by Alex Hardin



Dr. Alberto Pérez-Pereiro with the 2014 cohort in front of the national museum of Cambodia



THE KHMER LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDY PROGRAM



Detail of an underwater carving, Phnom Kulen, Siem Reap

The 2014 Khmer Language and Culture program has just come to an end following six weeks of language course, fieldwork and visits. In partnership with the Advanced Study of Khmer, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, this year's program gathered M.A and Ph.D. students as well as scholars from different U.S. universities including Ohio University, Columbia University, University of Illinois, Chicago and Rutgers University.

The program focuses on Khmer, an Austroasiatic language, aiming to equip students with skills in writing, reading, listening and speaking. The program features fieldtrips to non-governmental organizations and sites of both cultural and historical interests. In addition,



Cyclo tour of the capital city

cultural classes exposed the students to traditional cuisine and dances enabling them to explore the country's rich tradition.

As part of the fulfillment of the program, each student is asked to work on a short project and present his findings in Khmer. For many participants, the completion of this program is a perfect stepping stone for the CKS senior fellowship, which will enable them to continue their fieldwork, this time, with a solid baggage of language and cultural knowledge.



Cooking class: a student prepares some "cuong" and a Khmer soup

BUDDHISM AND SERVICE LEARNING IN CAMBODIA

By Professor Anne Hansen, University of Wisconsin, Madison



Receiving Buddhist blessings from the monks, Wat Po Lanka, Siem Reap

CKS collaborated with University of Wisconsin's Department of Religious Studies, Center for Southeast Asian Studies and International Academic Programs office this past summer to offer a new course for college students called "Buddhism and Service Learning in Cambodia." Based in Siem Reap, the course offered UW undergraduates an opportunity to closely examine the intersections of religion, ethics, contemporary social problems, and social work, and especially Buddhist understandings and approaches to care. The course was led by UW Professor and CKS Board Member Anne Hansen, a scholar of Southeast Asian Buddhism.

The centerpiece of the course was global service learning, which is quite different in theme, approach and learning outcome from traditional "study abroad" courses. Students applied and were interviewed for placements in six different NGO sites depending on their skills, interests and career goals; besides sharing an interest in Religious Studies, many of the students had majors in Education, Non-Profit Development, or Social Welfare. During their four weeks in Siem Reap, the nine students enrolled in the course worked in their placements every morning and

studied Cambodian history, social issues and Buddhist ethics in the afternoons. Student placement jobs varied but most centered around teaching either ESL or arts and creativity skills to children or young adults.

One of the most profound needs articulated by many Siem Reap organizations is for students to learn English from native speakers. Skills in English are one of the important keys to educational advancement and employment in Cambodia today, and this is a meaningful job that non-Khmer-speaking American students can provide. Students in the course also participated in weekly service learning reflection and analysis sessions facilitated by Michael Horton, Director of the Siem Reap-based NGO ConCERT, a group that works to promote responsible tourism. Both Horton and Hansen worked with students on developing the ability to understand their service experiences through critical analysis and reflection, and to carefully consider the impact of their volunteerism on their placement sites.

The more traditional academic aspects of the course were designed to enhance students' understanding of their experiential learning at their placement sites and the popula-

tions they were serving by focusing on recent history and contemporary social issues in Cambodian society. All course materials including readings, films, videos, archived interviews, and guest speakers featured Khmer voices; for example, students read memoirs and oral histories to complement the Khmer perspectives they were hearing from speakers and in Khmer films. Each of the four weeks of the course were organized around four main academic themes: the Cambodian history of genocide and its legacies; Buddhism, peace and reconciliation; contemporary social challenges in Cambodia including land mines, disability, rural land issues, and migration; women, gender roles and human trafficking.

Highlights of the course for students included a trip to Angkor led by APSARA Archeologist Dr. Ea Darith, a screening of Chhay Bora's evocative locally-produced film about the Khmer Rouge period "Lost Loves," an arts pedagogy workshop that paired UW students with local middle school children led by Siem Reap artist and art therapist Oun Savann, and bi-weekly meditation classes with Venerable Y Nol at Wat Damnak. Students also visited a variety of local non-profit organizations to study different styles of social service and non-profit management, including Life and Hope Association, "social enterprise" restaurants such as Haven and Green Star, and Cambodian Buddhist Association for Vulnerable Children.

The Buddhism and Service Learning experience by UW student, Rebecca Wanta

Travelling to Cambodia for one month, experiencing and participating in Buddhist rituals and social work was an incredible, life changing learning experience. I enrolled in the Buddhism First Year Interest Group semester on a whim, thinking that I would at least enjoy what I was learning. Through UW Madison, though, I've found my passion for learning about Religious Studies and am thankful for the opportunities given to me to let my interests



Rebecca Wanta volunteering at the CKS Children's Library



Service learning: teaching English at local schools

grow. Although I miss Cambodia, I will hopefully be traveling back to Siem Reap in the summer of 2016 to complete a Junior Fellowship at the Center for Khmer Studies. While there, I plan to study Khmer language and do research on filial piety and elderly care in Buddhism for my senior thesis in Religious Studies.



Working with local organizations in support of the community



Art pedagogy workshop with middle school children

Feature Article:

THE ROYAL PALACE WORKSHOP OF ANGKOR

By Dr. Martin Polkinghorne, Fellow of the Department of Asian Studies, The University of Sydney, former Director of The Robert Christie Research Centre, the permanent research base of The University of Sydney in Cambodia.

Angkorian sculpture is universally recognised for its simplicity of form, harmony of composition, attention to detail and mastery of technical execution. The recent repatriation of sculptures from the United States originating in Koh Ker is testament to the enormous cultural value that the masterpieces retain. The Sculpture Workshops of Angkor Project is dedicated to researching the methods of sculpture manufacture, the locations of production, and the individuals who created objects and idols in sandstone and bronze.

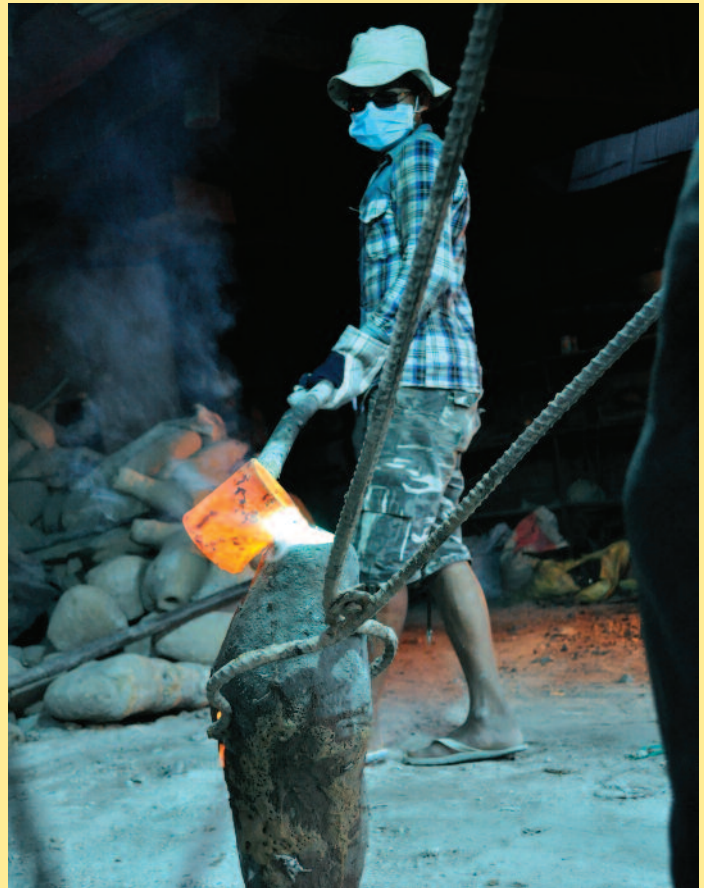
Between 2011 and 2013 the multi-disciplinary team identified 'studios' where both statues and objects were crafted and united this discovery with characterization studies of manufacturing debris and finished products. The 2011 campaign excavated a workshop that likely supplied stone and sculpture for the Bakong temple. The 2012 and 2013 campaigns focused on a site of stone and bronze manufacture in Angkor Thom. This is the first known classic period bronze workshop discovered at Angkor and in Southeast Asia.

Located just north of the Royal Palace the total extent of the workshop is not yet known. The close proximity to the Palace complex suggests that the atelier was of great importance to the kings of Angkor who devoted considerable resources and religious investment in bronze. Research originally identified this location as a sandstone sculpture workshop from numerous examples of unfinished sandstone sculpture and scatters of sandstone debitage that litter the site. Excavation confirmed this hypothesis and numerous unfinished sandstone sculptures were found abandoned in-situ. In addition a number of chip dumps are the left over waste of stone carving.

Soon after excavation began, our team recognized a class of artefacts related to copper alloy casting. In addition to a site where sandstone sculptures were hewn, it was also identified as a site of metal work. Artefacts include bronze and iron objects, casting and hammering waste, clay molds, clay



Unfinished bronze torso of Buddha excavated from the Royal Palace, The National Museum of Cambodia (ga4047). Image courtesy and copyright NMC.



Making a bronze sculpture in a contemporary workshop. Pouring molten metal into a clay mold. Photo by Dr. Martin Polkinghorne

crucibles, copper alloy slags, iron slags, refractory clays, semi-precious stones and gems, and furnaces. This should not have surprised us, as a number of miscast bronze sculptures were originally found inside the Royal Palace. Also, during the restoration of the Royal Terraces the location where lead roof tiles were manufactured was discovered, confirming the report of Chinese emissary Zhou Ta Kuan, that the buildings of the Palace were adorned with such roofing materials.

To date we have not uncovered any bronze sculptures, but we excavated a number of fragments of copper alloy objects. One artefact is the rim of a vase; another a fragment of a mirror demonstrated by its high tin contents. In all stratigraphic levels we see small pieces of copper alloy foundry waste, the remains of molten alloy spilt during the casting process. We have evidence of sprues, runners and pins, which are removed from finished sculptures and

were necessary, to distribute the molten alloy throughout the mold.

The most abundant artefacts are the remains of clay molds. Very large fragments demonstrate that large sculptures were created at this site. Numerous crucibles were excavated. These provide indication about the size of casting conducted and the technologies used. One extremely large crucible would have held over 4.5 litres of molten alloy. Some crucibles show signs of repair suggesting that they could be used numerous times. There are dumps of many pieces of smaller crucibles, some of them still imbedded with copper alloy. Vitrification on the outside surfaces of the crucibles suggests that the Angkorian artisans used 'crucible' furnaces. There is additional evidence for alternative furnace technologies including the first excavated 'basin' furnaces of the Angkorian artists.

Iron is a critical part of sculpture making and among the first activities is the creation of an internal iron armature to support the structural integrity of the sculpture. Armatures and a range of iron slags suggest that iron was worked on site. The artists also employed stone and re-used ceramic tools, presumably for polishing and finishing. Finishing of sculptures was often completed when they were gilded. One bronze artefact gilded in gold also contains traces of mercury, a testament to the use of the technique of amalgam gilding at the Royal Palace Workshop. To bring a bronze sculpture to completion it was often inlaid with jewels and semi-precious stones. We have evidence for both these materials and also a possible adhesion method with tree resin.

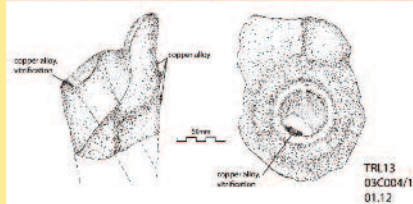
A critical unanswered question is the nature and provenance of the raw materials used. This issue has been only

partially acknowledged and must be addressed to understand the craft economy of Angkor. There are no major copper deposits in Cambodia, and one suggestion is that metals such as copper were sourced from present-day southern Laos. Perhaps a copper ingot found during our excavations was traded along the ancient road between Angkor and Wat Phu? A new collaboration with The Center for Khmer Studies has been awarded seed funding from the Asian

Cultural Council to initiate regional cooperation between Lao and Cambodian scholars to identify the Angkorian period copper mines and smelting sites.

Recent carbon dating of the site indicates the bronze workshop was active during the 11th and early 12th centuries. One wonders if the workshop was responsible for manufacturing elements of the largest known bronze sculpture, the West Mebon Vishnu? Moving forward, the project team is continuing complementary technical investigations of molds, crucibles and bronze slag to consider the lost-wax casting process privileged by Angkorian bronze craftsmen and anticipates a renewed series of excavations at the Royal Palace Workshop in the coming years.

The Sculpture Workshops of Angkor Project is a collaboration of numerous institutions and individuals working in Cambodia and across Southeast Asia. In addition to The University of Sydney the principal contributors are the APSARA National Authority, l'École Française d'Extrême-Orient, the Freer / Sackler Galleries of Asian Art, Smithsonian Institution, and le Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France. Between 2011 and 2013 the project was funded by an Australian Research Council Grant (DP110101968).



Furnace wall fragments with tuyère, Royal Palace Sculpture Workshop, Angkor. Photo by Dr. Brice Vincent, Drawing by Tho Thon



Copper half ingot, Royal Palace Sculpture Workshop, Angkor. Photo by Dr. Brice Vincent



Remains of crucibles with vitrification, Royal Palace Sculpture Workshop, Angkor. Photo by Chunn Sambor

PUBLISHING & TRANSLATION

Siksācākṛ on colonialism, Volume II

Our latest *Siksācākṛ* on Colonialism with all its articles translated into Khmer will provide Cambodian scholars and students with a unique opportunity to explore the country under ninety years of French Protectorate. For Prof. Jean-Francois Klein: “The goal of this special edition on the “colonial encounters” between the Khmer and the French—as with all other participants of this complex game, notably the Chinese and the Vietnamese—is to highlight the renewal of epistemology that has encouraged recent approaches to the “colonial moment.”

Indeed, with articles ranging from political and administrative control to the economic and social “*mise en valeur*” by the French and all the artistic aspects that this cultural intersections generated, this double issue is a significant contribution to the scholarship of Cambodian colonial history. However the translation of our journal from English to Khmer has not been without obstacles. According to our senior Editor Prof. Michel Antelme:

“Khmer Unicode is quite suitable to type modern Khmer texts. Nevertheless, for a scientific journal such as *Siksācākṛ*, *Journal of Cambodia Research*, it needs to be supplemented. Although Khmer Unicode can faithfully note Sanskrit and Old Khmer (Pre-Angkorian and Angkorian) inscriptions with the modern shape of the letters, and with the exception of the subscript of *ta*, it proves to be much more dissatisfactory for texts running from the Middle Period, i.e. from the 15th century to the first half of the twentieth century, i.e. before the first spelling reform.

Actually, during the Pre-Angkorian and Angkorian periods, the script could accurately note Sanskrit words but was very inaccurate for the Khmer phonological system. However, apart from some innovations, the Khmers did not do much to improve it. After the Angkorian period, Khmer language underwent a great consonant shift with the devoicing of voiced consonants leading to a dramatic increase in vowels, which in turn impacted an increase in written signs. This process was gradually put into place and some diacritic combinations are not clear for a modern reader. It seems as if the scribes were experiencing new ways of writing and as if they had difficulties in finding a common standard, or as if standards were fads and were shifting with time, especially in the 19th century, when diacritics used in Siam were borrowed.

An inventory of all these signs for the Khmer script yet to be included in Khmer Unicode has been undertaken lately and CKS would be worthy of its role in Khmer Studies in supporting this supplementation of Khmer Unicode.



Siksācākṛ Volume II in Khmer

Meanwhile the encoding of legacy Khmer fonts used in *Siksācākṛ*—which are the most complete legacy fonts to the present day—is currently under way thanks to the help of Danh Hong, one of the first creators of Khmer Unicode fonts.”

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Khmer unicode keyboard by Danh Hong

CKS SENIOR FELLOWS 2014-2015

French Fellows receive support through grants from 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.



Cambodian children's traditional game: the dinette. Photo by CKS Senior Fellow 2013-2014 Dr. Steven Prigent

1 **Lina Chhun** is a doctoral student at The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She is doing research focusing on questions of memory, mediation, narrative, and the production of history in the afterlife of violence, with an attunement to registers and registerings of historical trauma relating to the Cambodian genocide of 1975-1979.

Prior to coming to UCLA, Lina received a Master's in Social Psychology from UC Santa Cruz. In her master's thesis, Lina utilized a cultural memory model to de-pathologize the persistence of silence in Cambodian and Cambodian American narratives. In the upcoming academic year, she hopes to continue this previous work by extending research regarding historical memory and commemoration in Southeast Asia through a study of narrative silences surrounding the Cambodian genocide and its conditions of emergence. Using Khmer Rouge propaganda

and recruitment materials as well as survivor oral histories collected by the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam), Lina will be examining non-U.S. based representations of U.S. bombing and foreign intervention in Southeast Asia, prior to the period of Democratic Kampuchea. In doing so, Lina aims to answer the following questions: How might events in individual accounts (in retrospect) relate to various archival and official accounts of those same events (as they happen)? What is the relationship between what becomes salient and what becomes latent (silenced) in the construction of various forms of historical narrative and memory? How did the Khmer Rouge use the events of the Cold War's escalation in Southeast Asia and the U.S. involvement in Vietnam as a recruiting technique? This study—as one study of violence and trauma and its various representations and registerings—contributes to both our understanding of history and memory-making after collective violence as well as the possible role

such knowledge production may play in processes of historical reconciliation.

2 Meriem M'Zoughi is a Ph.D. student in Social and Cultural Anthropology at The Université Lumière Lyon 2 in France. Her research project entitled, *"Experiences and knowledge of cancer in Cambodia-an anthropological approach of therapeutic processes,"* aims to understand the lives of Cambodian cancer patients. It studies the impacts of treatments and cares-whether they are biomedical, non-conventional, religious-therapeutic, or of others various forms-on the everyday life, the biographical paths and any social issues inherent to oncological illnesses. The research is also about the study of the processes of co-production and co-construction of "knowledge" between the patient and the different actors at play in his/her therapeutic and pathological "world."

Meriem M'zoughi's project aims to comprehend the logic that underlies patient's choices regarding their medical and paramedical care. The patient responds to a situation of vulnerability by drawing from a complex and syncretic stock of both trans- and geo-cultural representations in relation to the socio-economic background. To successfully complete the research an ethnographic investigation was carried out in collaboration with the Oncology Department of Calmette Hospital in Phnom Penh, and with two non-governmental organizations allowing the researcher to meet patients in their homes. This qualitative and inductive study is intent on producing an ethnological analysis incorporating various existing points of view, so as to demonstrate the social and cultural processes at stake in the experience of cancer.

3 Cheryl Yin is a Ph.D. candidate in Linguistic Anthropology at The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Her dissertation, *"Lingering Effects of the Khmer Rouge in Khmer Today,"* examines compulsory linguistic egalitarianism in Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge regime in the late 1970s and the impact that these radical changes may have had on the everyday use of language, specifically honorifics, after the fall of the regime in 1979. Since the regime's fall three decades ago, Cambodia has undergone several significant transformations. These transformations include reconstruction, reconciliation, and economic growth in the global market. All of which, she infers, play a role in how Cambodians interact and speak with one another. Cheryl will study the status of the present Khmer language as she seeks to understand how Cambodians relate and interact with one another, paying close attention to honorific and language use in relation to: context, setting, age, gender, and rank. By looking at the Khmer language in its present form, she hopes to gain a better understanding of how it may have been altered or affected by the Khmer Rouge regime and the events of its aftermath.

4 Anthony Pamart is a Ph.D. candidate at The Faculté

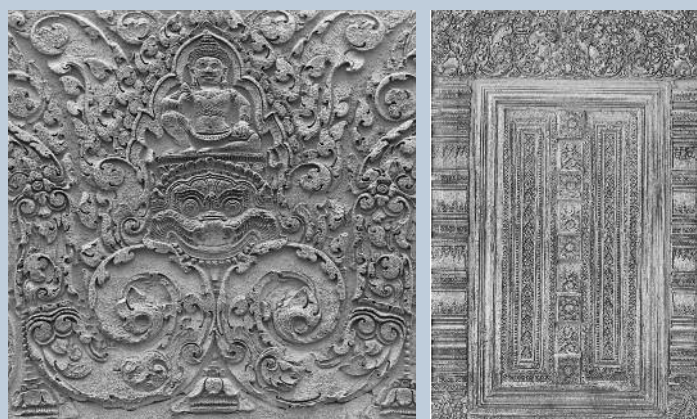
d'Architecture La Cambre-Horta, Université Libre de Bruxelles. His doctoral project focuses on "Exploring 3D digitization tools: new paths for cognition of architectural Khmer heritage." Image-based modelling tools are arising as new paths to enrich our knowledge of monumental heritage. Many tools and methods have been developed for 3D digitizing of historical artefacts. Close range photogrammetry uses digital photographs to reconstruct the geometric complexity of any object. Indeed with this technique, each pixel is turned into a point located in 3D space, finally forming a point cloud.

Nowadays, information extracted from these digital surveys becomes very useful in many areas of the scientific community. As the recent findings revealed by the scanning of the Angkor area by the LiDAR, the potential applications of these technologies have to be further explored. This research proposes to apply these new technological tools in order to help cognition and recognition of the richness and diversity of Khmer architecture. To conduct this study, a methodology needs to be developed focusing on the capacity of the digital footprint to provide a new type of documentation that is more accurate, more complete and less time consuming.

5 Julie Blot is a post-doctoral Researcher at The Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales



Aerial view of Phnom Penh. Photo by Vong Sotheara



Banteay Srey carved lintel depth map and false door depth map both extracted from orthophotograph. Images by Anthony Pamart

(INALCO), Paris. Her research will examine the “Emerging claim for the right to the city of Phnom Penh.” A category of activists defending their “right to the city” is gaining momentum among people living in informal settlements. At risk of land eviction, these activists were trained by non-governmental organizations working on human and housing rights for the past few years making claims for on-site resettlement instead of remote re-locations. Using new forms of protest and voicing their complaints at an international level, housing rights activists have become more effective in spreading their messages.

This research explores the concept of the “right to the city” and the production of social space developed by Henri Lefebvre. Using the capital city of Phnom Penh as a case study, Dr. Blot uses the tools of urban anthropology to investigate the ways in which social claims and collective interest are at play in a context of rapid economic growth and urban development.

6 Matthew Reeder is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of History, Cornell University. He is conducting research on “Politicizing Ethnic Difference in Early Modern Siam, Cambodia and Chiang Mai,” as part of his dissertation. This doctoral research specifically looks at the eighteenth and early nineteenth century emergence of eth-

nicity as an important factor in Thai, Khmer and Northern Thai politics. The transition toward invoking ethnic differences in political discourse was neither naturally pre-existing nor inspired by Western colonialism. Instead, it was contingent on the decline of personalized tributary relationships in favor of the annexation or destruction of distant ethnically different cities, which compelled local elites to draw ethnic distinctions with their enemies.

The juxtaposing of different views on ethnic identification held by both political and literati elites in the three political cities provides a more comprehensive historical account of the socio-political relations in Mainland Southeast Asia. The political fortunes of the smaller vassal kingdoms of Cambodia and Chiang Mai prompted their literati elites to understand and identify ethnic groups in ways that contrasted—sometimes starkly—with the political understandings of writers and officials in Bangkok. The “peripheries” have as much or more to offer to the historian of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as the “center.” Reeder’s work will offer new insights into the eighteenth and early nineteenth emergence of ethnicity as a major conceptual category in the political discourse of Bangkok and its peripheral kingdoms.



1780 Raynal and Bonne map of Southeast Asia and the Philippines

SEA TRAVEL GRANT FOR CAMBODIAN SCHOLARS

In the course of the past twelve months, the Center for Khmer Studies (CKS) sponsored seven Cambodian students and scholars to participate in ecology field training and international conferences. Five senior scholars participated in the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) conferences as part of CKS' academic panels. Three scholars funded by the Ford Foundation and the Institute of International Education gave presentations focusing on Cambodian archaeology at the AAS in Philadelphia and two scholars examined land and community-based networks in Cambodia at the AAS inaugural conference in Singapore. The following is the list of the CKS Southeast Asia Travel Grant recipients:

1 Ms. Thaung Ret, MSc. Student at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), Center for Biodiversity Center, attended an advanced ecology and conservation field training at the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), in China's Yunnan Province.

2 Dr. Ly Vanna, Prehistorian, Director of the Preah Norodom Sihanouk Museum in Siem Reap, presented a paper at the AAS in Philadelphia. Dr. Vanna discussed the use of modern techniques of excavation and analysis to reveal more data about the technology and environmental adaptation in prehistoric Cambodia, which led to the formation of the renowned civilization of Angkor.

3 Dr. Ea Darith, Archaeologist at the APSARA Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the region of Siem Reap, did a presentation at the AAS in Philadelphia. Dr. Darith examined the recent groundbreaking technical (infra-red light or lidar) and archaeological discoveries on Phnom Kulen known as the purported site of the ceremony, which founded the Angkor kingdom in 802 CE.

4 Mr. Phon Kaseka, Director of the Department of Archaeology at the Royal Academy of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, presented his research findings at the AAS in Philadelphia. Mr. Kaseka's excavations undertaken in Cheung Ek site generated new significant information thanks to inscriptions, statuary, and other artifacts such as pottery from the pre-Angkor period found densely scattered over the lower valley of the Mekong southeast of Phnom Penh.

5 Ms. Chak Sopheap, Executive Director, Cambodian Center for Human Rights, presented a paper as part of a CKS sponsored panel at the AAS conference in Singapore

on urban forced eviction in Cambodia, examining their root causes and discussing the possible solutions.

6 Dr. Ngin Chanrith, Dean of the Faculty of Development Studies at RUPP, presented at the AAS in Singapore on the Prey Lang Network (PLN). A community-based network, the PLN aims to protect a large forested area spanning four provinces in Cambodia. Dr. Ngin discussed the extent to which social networks can strengthen local interests in safeguarding land and other natural resources.

7 Ms. Thi Sothearen, MSc. at the Center for Biodiversity Conservation, Royal University of Phnom Penh, attended an advanced training on "The Ecology of Climate Change in the Tropics and Subtropics," at the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences in China's Yunnan Province.



The Ecology of Climate Change in the Tropics and Subtropics in China's Yunnan Province. Photo by Thi Sothearen

VOICES:

Sao Sereysothea, 2013 CKS Junior Fellow, Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia



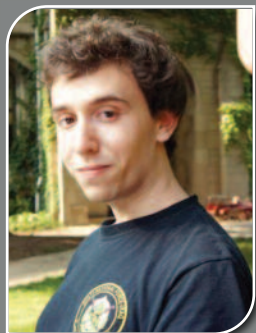
The CKS 2013 Summer Junior Resident Fellowship program had such an amazing atmosphere, which helped me gain greater confidence to communicate with other people, instructors and foreign fellows in particular. This program also brought together fantastic instructors and great friends who through their diverse experience and knowledge were a great source of inspiration. As a fresh graduate from Cambodia's Royal University of Agriculture, I was fortunate to be selected for the program.

I just wanted to say that I loved this fellowship program so much that it widely enriched my understanding of political economy, climate issues, arts, ethnic minority groups, social development and problems in the context of Cambodia and Southeast Asia. Moreover, my research skills have been enhanced through learning research methods in class and applying them in the field. In addition, I was able to improve my English writing and reading skills, which contributed a great deal to my academic research paper and understanding of contemporary Cambodia.

This experience has greatly contributed to my academic major and my current career as an Oral History Research Project Assistant. For this reason, I would like to say a big thank you to the Center for Khmer Studies for setting up such a great program, especially to Krisna, Alberto and Nikki (our instructors) as well as other fellows who have always encouraged me to develop my abilities, skills and confidence.

This CKS fellowship experience has since inspired me to learn new things more eagerly. Although I have completed the program, I still go to public lecture series at the CKS office in Phnom Penh. Hopefully, CKS will continue this Fellowship Program to benefit other Cambodian students who will further their understanding of Cambodian society and other countries.

Philip Chertoff, 2013 CKS Junior Fellow, University of Chicago



To begin with, the chance to conceive, develop and implement a fieldwork-supported research project is an opportunity rarely available to undergraduate students, and one I am truly grateful for. The Center for Khmer Studies Junior Resident Fellowship Program not only let me conduct real social science fieldwork, but also taught me research techniques and offered advice that proved indispensable during interviews and archival studies. This research education has remained relevant back in the college classroom and has already been a great help while I have been starting my senior thesis.

The research portion of the Fellowship was supported by a great foundational education in the history and culture of Cambodia and Southeast Asia. We were incredibly fortunate to have Alberto Pérez-Pereiro as our instructor, who provided both a broad and nuanced introduction to the politics and culture of Cambodia—ancient, colonial, and modern. These lessons were then supplemented with site visits and guest lectures. The instruction in the Khmer language was critical for our daily interactions and research. But more than that, I think it helped me form closer relationships with the Cambodian fellows, as we talked in varying mixtures of Khmer and English. In addition, Krisna and CKS were able to introduce me to a number of people that were critical for my research project.

My time in Cambodia, and with CKS, has had an unmistakable effect on the course of my academic and professional direction. At the University of Chicago, I major in Political Science and minor in Middle Eastern History but, since my time at CKS, my geographic focus has swung strongly towards Southeast Asia. Thematically, my academic work continues to focus on rule of law and democratic studies, encouraged by my time and work at the Center.

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The people of Cambodia are kind and generous, and while our cultures may be different, they made me feel at home for the brief time I was in their beautiful country.

CKS Institutional Consortium Members, Partners and Affiliates

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Norton University (Phnom Penh)
The National Museum of Cambodia, Phnom Penh
The National Library of Cambodia, Phnom Penh
Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia (Phnom Penh)
Royal University of Phnom Penh
Royal University of Fine Arts (Phnom Penh)
Royal Academy of Cambodia (Phnom Penh)
University of Cambodia (Phnom Penh)

U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL

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California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Sacramento
Chiang Mai University
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia
Cornell University, Ithaca
Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), Paris, Siem Reap
Florida State University, Tallahassee
French Colonial Historical Society
IPRAUS, Ecole d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville, Paris
Graduate Institute of Development Studies, Geneva
Humboldt University, Berlin
International Institute of Asian Studies, Leiden
Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO), Paris
Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po)
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore
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National University of Singapore
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Northern Illinois University, De Kalb
Pacific Rim Council on Urban Development, Los Angeles
Research Institute of Contemporary Southeast Asia, (RICSEA), Bangkok
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London
Siam Society, Bangkok
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP), Manila
Southern Institute of Social Sciences, Ho Chi Minh City
State University of New York, Stony Brook University
University of Bonn
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University of California at Riverside
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University of Cologne
University of Florida, Gainesville
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University of Ohio, Athens
University of the Philippines, Manila
University of Southern California, Los Angeles
World Monuments Fund, New York



Balarama. Image courtesy and copyright The National Museum of Cambodia (NMC)/ EFEO

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