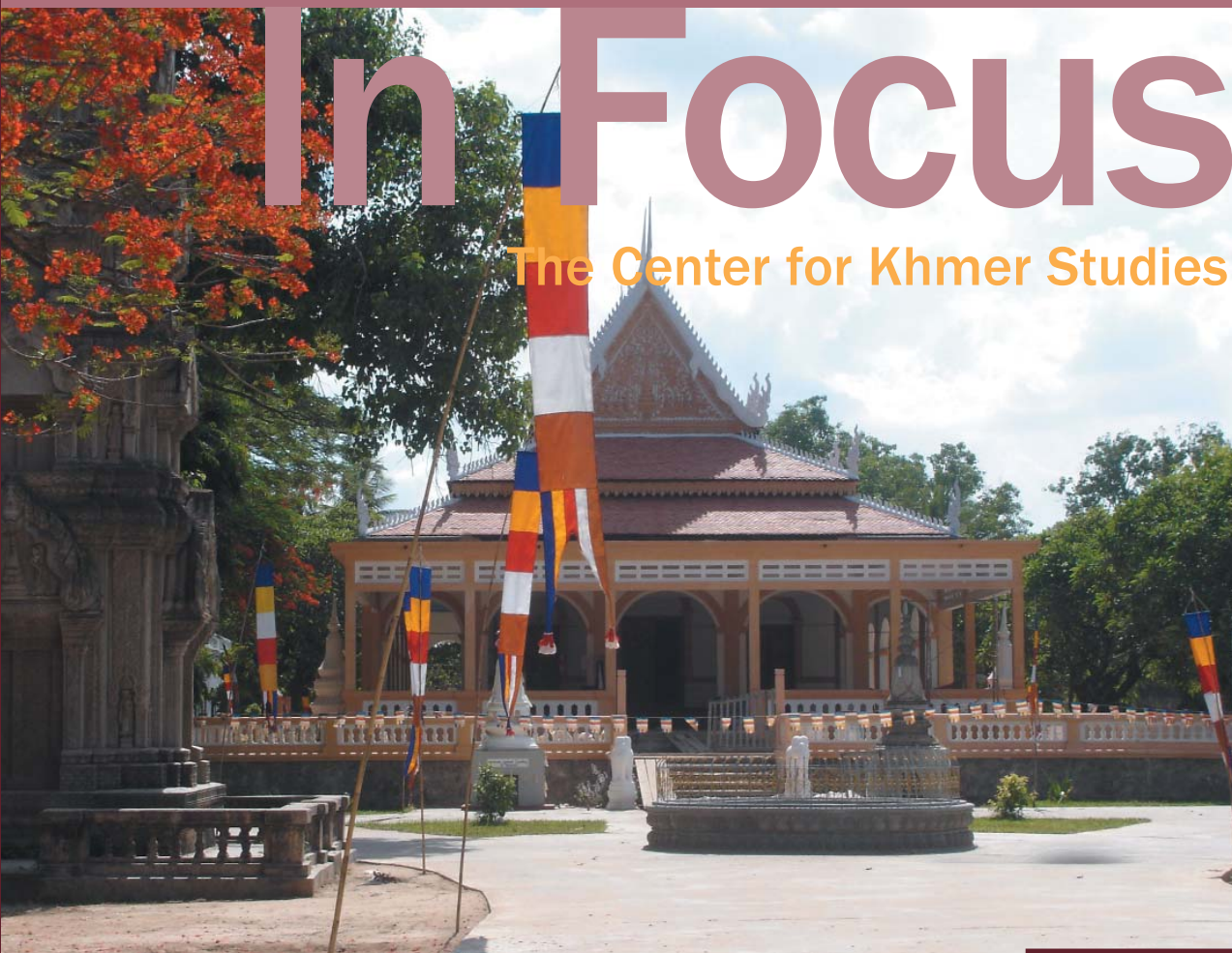


In Focus

The Center for Khmer Studies

No.4, 2006-2007



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Mission Statement

The Center for Khmer Studies' mission is to promote research, teaching and public service in the social sciences, arts and humanities, as they relate to Cambodia.

Specific goals of CKS are:

- to facilitate research and international scholarly exchange through programs that increase understanding of Cambodia and its region
- to help strengthen Cambodia's cultural and academic structures and to integrate Cambodian scholars in their regional and international community
- to promote a vigorous Cambodian civil society

CKS is a non-governmental organization supported by a consortium of international institutions, foundations, scholars and individuals.

CKS is incorporated in the state of Delaware (USA) and registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia.

CKS is the sole member institution of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) in Southeast Asia. Its programs are administered from its headquarters in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh. It also maintains an administrative office in New York City and a support office in Paris, *Les Amis du Centre d'Études Khmères*.

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A young Cambodian scholar reading at the CKS Library.

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Cover photo: The renovated Prayer Hall (*vihear*)

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Welcome to the Center for Khmer Studies

CKS WAS HONORED TO HOST the Council of American Overseas Research Centers' biennial International Directors Conference in June 2006. Seventy-five Americans from around the world descended upon our campus in Siem Reap, and told us repeatedly how astonished they were by what we had accomplished in a short 6 years. They admired our restored historic facilities in Wat Damnak, our co-habitation with the Buddhist monks and the local schools, but still more, what they learned of our array of outreach programs in the Cambodian community. American institutions like CKS do a remarkable job of creating good will, while providing private-sector support for culture at every level. Like most CAORC Centers, we open our doors and our services to scholars from around the world, while also serving the needs of our host country.

Our beautiful public research library is the visible symbol of what we at CKS stand for. Building a culture of reading was one of our first objectives in our relationship to the surrounding community, whose schools and libraries had been decimated by the Khmers Rouges. There are still very few books in Cambodia, a dramatic loss especially in the classroom. Library books in the Khmer language are accessible to local readers. Increasingly, they are also exploring texts in English. We are especially heartened by the number of young people who find their way daily to the calm haven of our library, sit alongside the scholars, and enjoy a good read. Thanks to a generous gift, we now have computer stations inside the main reading room that can be used by all visitors. We have also expanded our library's resources this year through collaboration with an NGO involved in ethno-musicology. We now have a computer listening station that gives access to an archive of traditional Cambodian music and dance.

Our American colleagues were also impressed by how we manage to involve the scholars whose research we support in our outreach programs for Cambodians. We use resources at hand in our mission of strengthening weak Cambodian higher education. One particular focus has been the junior faculty at Cambodian universities. In our second year of a Rockefeller Foundation-funded core program intended to sharpen their skills in the classroom and in research, we have succeeded, with the support of CKS contributors, in integrating these young faculty members in international and regional conferences, where they can interface with colleagues from around the world. It is diffi-



Lois de Menil (right) with CAORC's Executive Director Mary Ellen Lane

cult to convey what a hurdle this is for them, and with what joy they respond to this release from the isolation of poverty. Back in their university classrooms, this training has a multiplier effect and has infused new energy and substance into their teaching. It has been an exemplary capacity building program, one we hope to find the means to continue for many years. Building on this experience, we are launching a new project to translate and publish the program's texts for use in the classroom, using the junior faculty participants as translators. We are sowing the first seeds of a much-needed publishing sector that does not yet exist in Cambodia, but is the backbone of a democratic civil society.

Through another generous contribution this year, CKS is supporting the first ever Cambodian-led archeological field project, undertaken by a team of archeologists and their students at the important pre-Angkorean site, Sre Ampil. This training project includes the construction of a storage/museum facility for objects uncovered during the dig. It will be managed by the local villagers and maintained by the Ministry of Culture, in the hope of building pride and understanding within the local population.

You will see in these pages a sampling of what we at CKS have been doing this year. We are sustained in both our outreach work and commitment by your generous support and belief in our mission. Our doors are always open at CKS, and we welcome you to come and share in the embracing spirit of our mission.

*Lois de Menil, Ph.D.
President*

Director's Note



From top:
CKS fellow Chhum Kunthea in India,
where she completed a Master degree
in epigraphy; CAORC members visit-
ing the CKS library; Stone inscription
discovered at Sre Ampil.

IN THIS IMPORTANT YEAR FOR CKS, as we re-apply for our core grants and seek further to institutionalize CKS to make it eligible for U.S. Federal funding, I pause to reflect on the rapid development of the Center, and where we stand now at the end of 6 years.

In early 2005, with support from the Rockefeller Foundation, we launched a pivotal program, *Building Institutional Capacity in Cambodian Higher Education*, aimed at the young scholars who serve as junior faculty at Cambodian universities. The momentum generated in the program's successful first 18 months of operation is a remarkable justification of CKS's commitment to accompanying young Cambodian scholars to integration into the international scholarly community. With scholars poorly prepared and isolated, Cambodian educational institutions remain weak. This is our program to address those issues.

A second commitment is to a pro-active initiative in publishing, above all translation into Khmer of essential reference materials for use in the classroom. Despite disappointing response from funding institutions, the Center determined to stay its course. With smaller capacity than previously envisaged, relying now on the combined support of individual donors, we are set to begin translation of one key text, *An Introduction to Southeast Asia*, by Prof. Milton Osborn, as well as the compendium of English-language articles used in the Rockefeller program seminars. In another vein, we have just received the excellent news that the world-esteemed association of professional writers, PEN International, has entrusted CKS with the task of helping to establish Cambodia's first PEN Chapter. And we are also collaborating with private American philanthropists to develop a writing project in creative fiction.

While these in-country projects alone will engage our small staff amply this year, there is always more on our plate. Among them are the Sre Ampil archaeological project and the ongoing projects of documenting the National Museum's inventory and digitization of materials at the National Library in Phnom Penh. Our major efforts will be focused now on *consolidation* of activities essential to our mission, and *institutionalization* of the Center.

Consolidation of the Center's library at Wat Damnak is a first priority. A major repository of academic resources and the only public collection in Siem Reap, the library requires additional storage to house its growing collection. Donations of important collections have highlighted the problem of space. Pending agreement with the monastery on the term of our lease, we will construct a storage annex adjacent to the library. The building will be in architectural harmony with the monastery—a commitment symbolized in our restoration last year of Wat Damnak's central *Vihear* (prayer hall) and its surrounding landscape, a generous undertaking of CKS's Board. Our librarians, Daraneth and Vanary, will continue professional training at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies' library in Singapore. With no library training available in Cambodia, we have hired and trained our own librarians, with the invaluable assistance of our German-educated Trustee, Dr. Thonewat Pou, who returned to assist the National Library in Phnom Penh. In a country without libraries and where Internet access still disappears for hours at a time, you can imagine the challenge of digitizing our library to international standards.



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Left: CKS director Philippe Peycam introducing the library to CAORC members; Right: director of operations Ayrine Uk (left) with the representative of the American Center in Egypt.

2006 is the year of renewal of all the major grants that support the CKS Fellowship Programs that currently welcome over 30 U.S., French and Cambodian students and scholars each year. CKS has generated significant momentum in promoting a new generation of scholars working on Cambodia and Southeast Asia. The U.S. Department of State/ Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has encouraged our efforts by expanding its funding for U.S. Senior Fellows; renewals have come from the Florence Gould Foundation, which funds French Junior and Senior Fellows; the Asian Cultural Council and the Cogut Family Foundation, which fund Cambodian Fellows. We await news from the Henry Luce Foundation, which funds Junior Fellowships for American undergraduates.

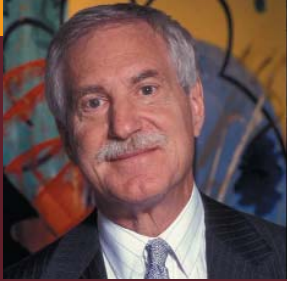
This good news of renewal and expansion, reaffirming the Center's ability to carry out its mission, slowly contributes to its institutionalization. We are now settling down, confident in our agenda. Our CAORC colleagues, who visited the Center in June, praised our success in creating 'bridging' initiatives-- bringing together people, institutions and cultures. We are proud members of this prestigious community of CAORC centers, their most dynamic and creative addition, with a unique model that combines support for scholars with outreach to our host community's deep needs.

Our institutional partnerships also continue to grow. I made many new contacts this spring at West Coast universities, in an important region that is home to large Cambodian-American and Asian-American communities. At the same time, we are building Southeast Asian regional partnerships. Adding to our partnerships in Thailand with Chulalongkorn and Chiang Mai Universities, CKS has just signed important agreements with institutions in neighboring Vietnam--the Southern Institute of Social Science, and the Association of Hochiminh City's Anthropologists--extending our commitment to collaboration among scholars in the region and bridging ancient enmities.

Finally, we are now preparing CKS's application for the Title VI Program of the Department of Education that provides partial Federal support for overhead and operations. As the only American Overseas Research Center in Cambodia and Mainland Southeast Asia, we hope we will succeed in communicating our vision of the vital role CKS plays. This year is our year of hope.

Philippe Peycam, Ph.D.

Members & Benefactors



IN THE LIFE OF EVERY SUCCESSFUL INSTITUTION, there comes a turning point when the early struggles give way to the assurance of survival. As the Center for Khmer Studies celebrates its seventh year, that point has now been reached. We are firmly integrated into a network of universities and other research centers -this past June, it was at our Siem Reap and Phnom Penh facilities that the meeting of CAORC, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, took place. Academics, who are leaders in their fields, have joined our Board of Trustees. Great grant-giving foundations -Rockefeller and others- have renewed their commitments to us. We have, in a word, become an essential part of the scholarly landscape.

Just as important, our impact in Cambodia has grown visibly. Our teaching programs flourish; applications to our fellowships come in even greater numbers; our staff, with the exception of the Director and Assistant Director, is now all Cambodian. We can also take pride in our publishing program: the translation into Khmer of David Chandler's *History of Cambodia* has been so successful as to demand an immediate reprinting; and we are now undertaking the translation and publication of an essential treatise on the history, economics and sociology of Southeast Asia.

You, the reader of *In Focus*, are an essential part of this success. You have made it possible by your generosity: institutions, no matter how thrifty, live by contributions. Your help in the past has made us what we are today, and that help is as crucial as ever. As the years pass, there is always the temptation to feel that we have done enough; but that would be like leaving a new house without a roof. Now is the time to consolidate and extend what has already been done. And, remember, in Cambodia, small sums have major effects. May we, once again, count on you?

Olivier Bernier, Vice-President

Support CKS's Mission

General Support

While our major grants provide support for running specific projects, your annual contributions provide the only source of income for our daily operations and overhead.

Sponsor a Cambodian Fellow to study overseas (\$15,000)

Through our Capacity Building Program, CKS trains and selects promising young Cambodian university faculty to further their academic training at major universities in South East Asia. Sponsor a junior faculty member and help them to continue their education. Fellowships will be named for donors.

Sponsor the Translation of Essential Literature (\$5,000)

In the absence of essential books in the Cambodian language (Khmer), CKS is actively involved in translation projects. A donation of \$5,000 or more will defray costs for an average 300-page book and will be acknowledged in the publication.

Bookshelf naming at the CKS Library (\$8,000)

CKS's Library is the only public library in all of Cambodia outside Phnom Penh. Students, monks and others in the community use it daily. CKS welcomes gifts to expand and maintain its collection. Place your name on a bookshelf containing approximately 400 titles.

Support our Facility in Phnom Penh

CKS maintains a facility in Phnom Penh, which serves as a gathering place for meetings and a temporary residence for our Cambodian and overseas Fellows. It also houses our publishing and university training programs.

Become a CKS Member

Participate in our growth and development by becoming a member. Membership categories include Members (\$100 to \$2,499 per year); Gold Members (\$2,500 to \$4,999 per year); Patrons (\$5,000 to \$9,999 per year), and Sponsors (\$10,000 or more per year).

Thank You for Your Support!

Checks should be made out to the Center for Khmer Studies and sent to:

Membership Office, Center for Khmer Studies

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Email: nyoffice@khmerstudies.org or phpey@khmerstudies.org

Provision can also be made for the transfer of stock shares. The Center for Khmer Studies is recognized in the U.S. as a tax-exempt institution under article 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible.

How *they* made a difference

Selma Ertegun's contribution over the last two years allowed CKS to commission the creation of highly-needed sets of Khmer fonts now used with its academic publishing activities. The Khmer alphabet has a distinct stylishness that no computer-designed fonts did justice to. More importantly, rare signs that are used to write sanskrit-roots words and obsolescent signs used in ancient manuscripts -- still needed in academic articles -- were simply discarded in the process and this very fact contributed in itself to the slow desintegration of the Cambodian cultural heritage. Moreover, Khmer script is used not only for Khmer, Sanskrit or Pali, but was also used in Thailand for Central and Peninsular Thai dialects alongside Thai script, hence the addition of more letters to fit the phonetics of Thai languages. Although this tradition of writing down Thai in Khmer script (called Khom script in Thailand) faded away in the first half of the twentieth century, it is still taught as a credit at university level, and Khom is still widely used for magic diagrams. The cooperation of the Cambodian-French linguist Michel Rethy Antelme has been instrumental in bringing this initiative to fruition.

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CKS Conference Hall, detail
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Book Launch: Proceedings of the Workshop on Public Interpretation of Phnom Bakheng

Siem Reap, June 5th, 2006

Phnom Bakheng, the tenth-century temple-mount, has been designated by the UNESCO-administered International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC) as an urgent priority - the "most threatened temple in Angkor." In collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh and the World Monuments Fund, CKS hosted a book launch for its new publication, the proceedings of the Workshop on Public Interpretation of Phnom Bakheng, held at CKS in December 2005.



During the book launch.

The workshop brought together international experts from a range of disciplines to discuss current research on Phnom Pakheng, focusing not only on issues of conservation and historical context, but also addressing issues raised by tourism and the needs of the local population. The publication of the proceedings includes sections on the site's history, ecology, art and architecture, tourism, and heritage planning.

The book launch at CKS headquarters was scheduled in the evening following the annual ICC Technical Meeting. CKS's Director, Philippe Peycam; Deputy Chief of Mission Mark Storella from the U.S. Embassy; John Stubbs, Vice-President of the World Monuments Fund; Khoun Khun-ney from APSARA and WMF consultant Jane Clark Chermayeff addressed the gathering.

APSARA Authority, World Monuments Fund. Phnom Bakeng Workshop on Public Interpretation. Angkor Park, Siem Reap, Cambodia. December 4-6, 2005. Conference Proceedings. Phnom Penh, Center for Khmer Studies, 2006.

Sre Ampil Archaeological Project: Cambodians training Cambodians

Under the supervision of His Excellency, CKS Board Member Professor Son Soubert, Sre Ampil, a village about 30 km southeast of Phnom Penh in Kandal Province, is host to an exciting new project supported by CKS. Sre Ampil is an archaeological site with remains of Khmer temple foundations and other architectural elements, as well as important evidence of everyday life and ceremonial objects. Two young graduates from the Department of Archaeology of the



Royal University of Fine Arts, Phlong Piseth and Phon Cheakosal, wrote the research proposal, making the case for further excavation of this site, as well as the construction of a museum/storage facility.

Project Director, Phon Kaseka, broke ground on the museum/storage building in May, 2006. This first phase is intended to store and showcase the cultural heritage of the site, and to preserve the archaeo-

logical findings from looting. The second phase, involving the excavation itself and Cultural Resource Management training for the university students, will be initiated in February 2007.

The Sre Ampil Archaeology Project is distinctive not only in its aim of generating new scholarly knowledge of pre-Angkor Cambodia, but as the very first archaeological project in Cambodia conceived, supervised, managed and implemented entirely by Cambodians. This has been a high priority goal of CKS's, and we are particularly proud to support this project.



Cambodian Scholars Attend Major Angkor Conferences

In July 2006, Phlong Phisit and Phon Kaseka, co-project directors of the Sre Ampil Archaeological Project, traveled to Sydney, Australia, to participate in the conference entitled *Angkor - Landscape, City and Temple*, organized by the University of Sydney. This event is one of the first multi-

disciplinary international conferences devoted to the World Heritage site of historic Angkor. As in the 2005 CKS-WMF workshop on interpretation of the Phnom Bakheng temple, this conference attempted to appraise the site using an historical and anthropological approach combined with more 'applied' dimensions such as the development of tourism and protection of the environment.

The need for a combined scholarly/applied approach to Southeast Asian cultural heritage was also the subject of a week-long workshop organized by the National University of Singapore, under the supervision of CKS Trustee, Prof. John Miksic. Both Kaseka and Phisit attended the workshop on Cultural Resource Management immediately following their trip to Australia. CKS sponsored their participation in both events.

CAORC International Directors' Conference held in Siem Reap



CKS hosted the Council of American Overseas Research Centers' (CAORC) 2006 Biennial Overseas Directors Meeting, from June 22nd to 28th. Presided by Dr. Mary Ellen Lane, Executive Director of CAORC, who has been instrumental in support of CKS, the meeting began in Phnom Penh, where the group visited the National Museum, guided by CKS Trustee, Emma Bunker, followed by the Royal Palace. The day in Phnom Penh culminated in a reception at U.S. Ambassador Joseph Mussomeli's residence, where CKS board members and staff, Fellows and Cambodian students from CKS programs met the conference participants.

In Siem Reap, there was ample opportunity to exchange ideas and to network, to create and discuss joint initiatives. The group visited CKS, where the senior staff presented CKS's programs and projects. During the conference, CKS was put forward as a model for other small centers, especially in the vitality of CKS's activities and programs in just six years.



Renovation of the Prayer Hall

© Jerry Gorman

Since its founding, the Center for Khmer Studies has been privileged to share the wonderful site of the royal Buddhist Pagoda in Siem Reap, Wat Damnak. The mother of King Sihanouk, Queen Norodom Kosamak Neareaa Roth, donated the first Pali schools for the education of the monks and the people. The central prayer hall, or *vihear*, of Wat Damnak is a historical vernacular building of mixed French Colonial/Khmer architecture dating back to 1918. The Khmer Rouge regime closed down the monastery, which was abandoned for many years, during which no maintenance was done. Step by step, as the monastery came back to life, the monks began to resume care for its maintenance. But the *vihear* roof and its supporting timber structure had been severely damaged by the climate, feasting termites and other insects. The concrete ceiling of the east porch was damaged, creating cracks that allowed the infiltration of torrential rain water into the building and extensive fungus damage on the walls and floors. The beautiful carved wooden

shutters decorated in red and gold were filled with dust and insect nests. The wooden gates of the platform were damaged, and the exterior paint had chipped off. It was a sad scene of decay.

When the monks called on CKS to assist in preserving this important work of vernacular heritage and the heart of the Buddhist community, CKS's Trustees responded with great generosity. They personally funded a 6-month project, overseen by CKS architect Mr. Phet, to renovate and preserve the *vihear*, using original materials alongside modern techniques of restoration to assure the long-term conservation of the Vihear. The area around the Vihear has now also been landscaped to keep down the dust and to integrate the landscaping that CKS had undertaken around our Library and Conference Hall into the general landscape of the Wat. Wat Damnak is now once again a thriving Buddhist Pagoda, and we at CKS are happy to have contributed to the life of its community in this way.

Upcoming Conferences

Living Capital: Sustaining Diversity in Southeast Asian Cities. Co-sponsored by the Centre for Khmer Studies and New School University (NY) - Phnom Penh, 10-11 January, 2007

Rural urban migrations are changing the profile of urban populations across Asia. Globalization and commercialisation can be potent agents for change, but can also homogenize and disguise the local specificities of cities. Economic growth is essential to the vitality of cities, but without concomitant investment in educational facilities, is unlikely to generate the diverse skill-base needed to give urban societies a viable future. Accelerated transnational flows of people and investor capital are bringing about the transformation of Asian cities. In parts of Asia, the colourful informal economy of micro-vendors comprises a major part of city streets and canals, and lends diversity to city life. The mixture of old and new buildings— as colonial past, consumer malls and the monumental architecture of Independence mingle in city spaces— can also add value to city vistas.

Creativity is a common twin of diversity: efforts to manage and contain artistic and cultural expression in designated cultural zones can risk erasing the very randomness that stimulates creativity. Unplanned real estate development can erase the past diversity of building uses, while beautification schemes do not always succeed in creating the atmosphere and magnetism associ-

ated with longstanding leisure spaces. The zoning of business and leisure districts can push residential areas to city peripheries, diluting the potent mix of human diversity central to the dynamism and energy long associated with the pull of cities.

In addressing such issues, this conference aims to stimulate debate on strategies for sustaining human and cultural capital in the city.

Local Practice and Trans-national dynamic in the Religions of Mainland Southeast Asia: Historical and Contemporary Patterns. A Centre for Khmer Studies Conference supported by the Rockefeller Foundation - Siem Reap, 23-24 February, 2007

This conference will address issues raised in CKS's Capacity-Building in Higher Education program's 3rd session on Comparative Religions of Mainland Southeast Asia, and will provide a forum in which young Cambodian academics will present the results of their research to national and international colleagues. How have Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity weathered the Communist and post-Communist eras? How are they affected by religious and secular influences from abroad? What has been the impact of evangelical Christianity, and how have Cambodians and other Southeast Asians reacted to it? Do current transnational patterns have historical roots? These are some of the questions that will be addressed by this conference.



The CKS Library: Growing

© Jerry Gorman

APPROPRIATELY AT THE HEART of our campus in Wat Damnak, CKS's library is the largest public library in Cambodia outside of Phnom Penh. Our collection numbers almost 5,000 books, journals and monographs in English, French and Khmer that serve as an invaluable resource to scholars in Khmer and Southeast Asian studies.

The collection focuses on Cambodia and Southeast Asia in the fields of history, archaeology, arts, linguistics, religion, literature and politics. Dictionaries, encyclopedias, bibliographies, directories, maps and guidebooks, as well as 3 national newspapers (in English, French and Khmer) are also available. The collection also contains unique out-of-print publications from local and overseas libraries, a wide selection of hard-to-find M.A. and Ph.D. dissertations from overseas universities, and research papers by Cambodian students from Phnom Penh universities. Scholars, students and monks, tour groups and the general public come through our doors every day to make use of our resources and public computers. With the public schools located just behind CKS, we have a regular stream of young visitors as well.

Our Library catalogue can be reached from anywhere in the world via our website (www.khmerstudies.org), along with the Library's Wish List – a list of the books we cur-

rently wish to add to our collection. Suggestions for the Wish List— and donations— are always welcome!

There has been active development in the Library over the past year:

- Continued acquisition of important materials, including a set of DVDs of King Father Norodom Sihanouk's films from the 1960s;
- The provision of two public computers with internet access in the main reading room - the only free public computers in Siem Reap;
- A performing arts (ethno-musicology) computer station, in collaboration with Cambodian Living Arts, to showcase Cambodian music, dance and other audio and visual media;
- A two-week training program for Oum Daraneth, our head librarian, at the Institute of South East Asian Studies Library in Singapore;
- The generous donation of the personal library of the late Dr. Dorothy Fickle— over 650 volumes on Southeast Asian Art— by her husband, Lee Fickle, of Colorado;
- Additional book shelves and seating space.

In 2006-07, CKS hopes to break ground for a much-anticipated new storage annex adjacent to the library, including dedicated space for archived and fragile materials, maps and journals.



© Penny Edwards (left), Eva Sutton (right)

FEATURE ARTICLE

New Hope for Whom?

PENNY EDWARDS

Penny Edwards is Director of the project *Initiating Urban Studies in Cambodia*. She is an Assistant Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

LATE SUNDAY MORNING ON A TILED ROOFTOP in Tonle Bassac district, Phnom Penh. A dapper man with a trim moustache hedges today's bet on the weather, scanning the horizon for signs of rain. A silver-haired women in a faded cotton sarong checks on her rattan trays of rice-crust, drying in the sun. Two children in blue and white school uniforms peruse their lessons in a shady doorway. At the far end of the long, rectangular roof, on a disused water tank, a make-shift weight fashioned from concrete and an iron bar, reveals another side of this city space. As the surrounding leisure areas have contracted with new construction, the youth of this multi-story block have adapted this rooftop to an open-air gym. Later today, as the sun sets, they'll gather to pump muscles, trade tales and catch the breeze. Below, on a former garden now converted to a public road, young children play, at constant risk of through traffic.

We're standing on the north end of an apartment block known simply as Bulding, or Bulding *Sa* (White Building): a landmark of a new form of socially engaged architecture designed to make a space for low-income civil servants in the city. Created in the 1960s as part of a riverfront complex conceived by Vann Molyvann, Bulding adapted traditional features of Cambodian housing, such as an outdoor kitchen, to an urban multi-story context. Today, Bulding has greyed with age, and has gained a reputation as a 'sam-nang-athopedey', literally, an anarchic or disorderly building, commonly translated in English as 'slum'.

Scaffolding skewers the horizon: buildings, and fortunes, are on the rise. The nearby streets are lined with a mixture of old villas converted to offices and restaurants, new luxury homes, elegant new government buildings, and the gilded spires of established pagodas. On cluttered balconies, shrines to household spirits jostle with washing lines; satellite dishes and TV aerials strike odd angles. A monk crosses the road having sought alms at Bulding, motor-taxis vie for business, and the guard at the aptly named Come On guest-house scans the street for clients. To the East, the pristine white façade of an apartment complex designed by Molyvann and renovated into office space in the early 1990s, the Phnom Penh centre boasts logos from Build Bright University, the ILO, and ICAN kindergarten. Behind it lies the charred carapace of the National Theatre, also designed by Molyvann. On the fringes of the Tonle Bassac, to the East, are the tattered remnants of the Sambok Chap (Sparrow's Nest) community, which recently faced forced eviction to the outskirts of Phnom Penh. To the west, the graceful symmetry of the Independence Monument spears the sky: here is the symbolic fulcrum of a postcolonial capital. To the northwest is the glistening blue cupola of the Sorya Shopping Centre, an exotic monument to contemporary urban living. Somewhere between these past landmarks and new icons lies a vision for the capital's future.

Even from the rooftop, our vista is restricted. What we see are the surfaces of a capital in transformation. Concealed from sight, countless stories and memories give the city meaning to its old and new residents. The way in which the capital will harness these narratives and the potent human resources of Phnom Penh, remains to be seen.

A sedate, elegant capital dubbed the pearl of Asia and once viewed as a model by Singapore, Phnom Penh was plunged into war following the ousting of Prince Sihanouk in 1970. By 1975, refugee flight from the civil war and bombings had pushed the capital's population from six hundred thousand to over two million, and put city spaces to new uses. Riverside schools were converted to internment camps for ethnic Vietnamese. The hotel Cambodiana became a refugee centre, and the Olympic Stadium, a field hospital. After Pol Pot took power in 1975, Phnom Penh

residents were given 48 hours to evacuate the capital. In the ensuing murderous mayhem, families were dispersed, countless supporters of Lon Nol's republic were instantly dispatched to their death, and Cambodia's entire population divided into 'new' and 'old'. The new people were associated with the city and its ills, a modernity celebrated in the romantic repertoire of singer Sin Sisamouth, who was executed alongside many former artists and intellectuals. Private property was abolished, along with money and markets. Once again, old buildings were put to new uses. Most notoriously, a former high school at Tuol Sleng became a secret prison, S-21, that despatched an estimated 16,000 to their deaths.

New cultural scripts emerged. The National Theatre staged dramatizations of rice farming, railway construction, and the storming of the US embassy by a new, revolutionary arts corps. A nearby block designed in the 1960s by the French architect Henri Chatel for employees of the national bank and today accommodating the Russian Embassy, reportedly became Pol Pot's residence. The area encompassing Molyvann's waterfront complex was renamed K-1 (the Khmer equivalent of A-1), its alpha status probably reflecting both Pol Pot's location and its strategic position at the confluence of four waterways. The serene gardens, once the backdrop for a popular Sihanouk movie, were planted with coconut palms and banana trees.

After the fall of Democratic Kampuchea in 1979, the area was again reinvented. The People's Republic of Kampuchea launched a campaign to regroup all surviving artists in Phnom Penh, and began to house performers' families in what is now the Phnom Penh Centre (known locally as the Grey Building), and to start training in the National Theatre, in 1979. Although the theatre was in quite good condition, surrounding buildings were derelict, littered with rubbish and human waste. Looting during or immediately after the Pol Pot period had stripped many apartments of doors and basic furnishings. As in other parts of the country, the task of rebuilding the country and culture joined artists and civil servants together, creating a sense of community. Until 1984, their repertoire was as tightly controlled as their mobility. Traditional art forms were conscripted to political uses: staged reenactments of Khmer Rouge massacres and anti-royalist plays. The songs of Sin Sisamuth and other pre-war icons were banned until 1989. The material rewards were meager – *robop*, or rations – but many performing artists recall thriving on both their newfound sense of community, the opportunity to share their memories, and on the sense of dignity and importance the state then attached to their role as artists. This contemporary nostalgia for past cultural solidarity may in part be coloured by the current climate of anxiety about the changing place of artists in a free market economy.



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In the early 1990s, the resettlement of close to four hundred thousand returnees from the border camps once again changed the demography of this area, as thousands left their designated rural land allocations for the lure of the city, spawning new communities on open swathes of land such as those around the Bulding. Since 1994, three major fires have scourged the area. First the National Theatre (1994), then a squatter settlement to the west of the Bulding (2001) and then a fire at the Dey Krohom (Red Earth) squatter settlement to the East, spread to the northern end of the Bulding. Charred brickface forms the interior of a number of homes at the Bulding, their repair beyond individual means. The theatre now features urban vegetation, floodlit by the sun. Under the open sky, its orchestra pit has been converted into a cooking, ironing and washing area. But more than natural forces are threatening the dissolution of this iconic 1960's site. Private sector plans for shopping malls, hotels, expensive apartment complexes and luxury leisure sites, and government designs for ministerial buildings and a foreign embassy complex, produce an uneasy sense of split vision, compounded by a spate of recent evictions and rumors of imminent relocations. Here is diversity, but a diversity that leaves little space in the city for the residents who helped to remake these places, or the arts, in the aftermath of war.

How do we mine these cultural spaces for knowledge that can inform creative solutions to those problems now unfolding as the city expands? And what new methodologies are emerging in tandem with the recognition of the increased importance of the city in Cambodian life?

These are questions currently being addressed by Initiating Urban Studies in Cambodia, a joint venture between CKS and the New School University. In November 2005, project designers Professor Abdou Maliq Simone of Goldsmith's College, University of London, and Emiko Stock, a PhD candidate at INALCO in Paris, chose the Tonle Bassac, centering on the 'Bulding' as the locale for the Cambodian

chapter of a series of global research projects spanning Argentina, Malaysia, Thailand and Cameroon. In March 2006, a team of six Cambodian researchers began a six-month ethnography of the site under the direction of cultural historian Penny Edwards. After a preliminary observation and interviewing phase, and a series of meetings to hone research design, the IUCS team developed five focus areas: the economics and politics of space; community spirit; the changing place of performing arts in the city; youth culture, and the informal economy.

A key theme that has emerged from this research is the nature and value of diversity in the city. The random matrix of intersections and conversations characteristic of city life in itself comprises a form of intangible, urban capital. The Bulding boasts one of the capital's leading chess cafés, several skilled tattooists, one of whose creations range from 5000 riel to \$300, Cambodia's leading kick-boxer, the country's most venerated chbey-player, a number of small home businesses and micro-vendors, several associations training new generations of artists. These diverse communities sometimes coalesce, as at ceremonies to honour two local *neak-ta*. But increasingly, as the surrounding gardens give way to new development, the residents mingle less outside of their immediate networks.

The German poet Friedrich von Schelling once described architecture as 'frozen music'. Phnom Penh's mixed architecture offers freeze-frames of particular times, from which we can glean possible templates for the city's future. By bringing one small slice of the city to life through an independent ethnography that is driven by the daily preoccupations of residents, the IUCS project hopes to stimulate new modalities of urban research and analysis. From 10 to 11 January 2007, CKS and the New School University's Institute of Cultural Enterprise are once again joining forces to focus attention on the urban question, through a conference entitled *Living Capital: Sustaining Diversity in Southeast Asian Cities*.

The Future of Publishing in Cambodia

SEVERELY AFFECTED by 25 years of turmoil, the sacking of libraries and the genocide of intellectuals, the Cambodian publishing sector was in a parlous state when CKS first took up the challenge to tackle publishing.

CKS has since committed itself to leadership in this critical area—collaborating in 2002 with the Toyoya Foundation and the Reyum Institute on an in-depth survey of the publishing sector in Cambodia. Lacking crucial funding, this comprehensive report was not published until the French Embassy in Phnom Penh granted funds, in 2005, for updating, translating and printing the report in English, French and Khmer. The release of this much awaited document is slated for Fall 2006.

The French Embassy also mandated CKS, along with SIPAR (a French NGO) to conduct a training workshop on publishing for young Cambodian professionals. This 2-week workshop



The February workshop: Nhean Lakhena from SIPAR (left) and French trainer Jacqueline Kergueno (standing) with participants.

met with tremendous success, paving the way for the development of a curriculum in publishing that could be integrated at the university level.

CKS is now collaborating with PEN International to open a Cambodian chapter of this prestigious professional writers' organisation, to encourage and support Cambodian writers.

With the success of our publication of a Khmer language edition of David Chandler's *A History of Cambodia* last year, CKS now hopes to undertake the translation and publication of the seminal introductory text, *An Introduction*

to Southeast Asia by Milton Osborne.

Every step along the way is difficult, in the absence both of qualified professionals and available funding, but the importance of publishing books essential to higher education reinforces our determination to persevere.

University of Chicago Research Project: a busy year

In 2005, CKS facilitated the implementation of a University of Chicago research project entitled Economic Growth, Social Inequality and Environmental Change in Thailand and Cambodia, led by Prof. Alan Kolata and principal investigators Profs. Robert Townsend and Michael Binford.

THIS MULTI-YEAR PROJECT, housed at CKS headquarters in Siem Reap, aims at integrating natural and social science analyses to answer the question of how and to what extent environmental and cultural variability affect economic behavior and decision making.

After a month of training in Thailand, the Cambodian supervisor and his team of researchers collected extensive data on social, cultural, historical and environmental factors at the household level in 64 villages in the provinces of Siem Reap, Battambang, Kompong Thom and Oddar Meanchey. The initial survey, partially completed by the end of 2005, has resulted in more than 1000 questionnaires, sifted through by the team and entered into a comprehensive data base developed by their Thai counterparts. The second phase of the survey began in May

2006, with a 4-day refresher training course on interview techniques in Siem Reap before going into the field. The mobile team will travel and sleep in situ for 51 days.

In the meantime, the environmental component of the project, overseen by Prof. Michael Binford of the University of Florida, is being implemented, with soil samples collected in each targeted village, to be analysed later in Thailand.

In June, a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Chicago and the Cambodian Government APSARA Authority was signed at the Council of Ministers—a collaboration focused on long-term capacity building and poverty alleviation in the north-west of Cambodia. The creation of a joint-venture research cluster will benefit both parties.



The team of researchers in Siem Reap

BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY IN CAMBODIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

This 3 year-program, composed of six half-year long sessions, builds and strengthens the capacity of junior Cambodian faculty through weekly seminars on selected topics, workshops on research methodology, a study tour to neighboring countries and individual research projects in the humanities and social sciences. Its implementation was made possible through core funding by the Rockefeller Foundation.

THIS CKS PROGRAM IS NOW IN ITS SECOND YEAR, with a total of 39 participants over three sessions. Cambodian participants represent several institutions in Phnom Penh— the Royal University of Phnom Penh, the Royal Academy of Cambodia, the National Institute of Education, Norton University, the Buddhist Institute, Open University, the Teacher Training Center in Takeo and Pannasastra University of Cambodia. In each session, participants engage in weekly seminars, featuring lectures by the Visiting Scholar and guest speakers, discussion of the readings, student presentations and extensive team-work. Following the course work, field trips to neighboring countries, such as Vietnam, Thailand and Burma, are organized jointly with academic institutions of those countries, and participants are paired with students in those countries, with whom they share rooms as a way to build relations between these junior faculty members. Following the study trip, participants work on their own research projects in either Vietnam or Thailand.

Outside the course work, the study tour, and the research— gathering data and conducting interviews in Cambodia and neighboring countries— the program also organizes public



Participants of the three sessions gathered together in January 2006 for a presentation by Prof. David Chandler (right, third row), invited by visiting scholar Dr. Penny Edwards (left).

lectures, workshops and international conferences as a way to give participants broader professional exposure. For example, a workshop was organized in October 2005, in collaboration with Pannasatra University, to prepare participants for an international conference in Siem Reap in February 2006, where selected participants presented their papers alongside international scholars. For many of them, it was their first opportunity to have such a professional experience, an ordinary part of academic life. The program stretches the horizons of a group of very bright young Cambodian academics. While the intellectual and imaginative leap of academic work on the topics selected for each session is still a great challenge for many of them, the program has stimulated thought and lively discussion, and the readings and training have given participants tools to use when they return to their classroom teaching and to their future research. Another successful result of the program has been the opportunity for 13 participants to travel abroad for short periods to attend conferences, do research and even pursue graduate studies.

IN CLOSE FOCUS: HUN PEN



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HUN PEN'S FIRST INSPIRATION WAS HER FATHER. He encouraged her to read. Through the years, as she studied Cambodian classical dance and performed both in Cambodia and abroad, others played crucial roles in inspiring and guiding Pen as she first

became a successful Cambodian classical dancer— and now an aspiring academic. Supported by CKS and the Asian Cultural Council (with special funding provided by the Rockefeller Foundation), Hun Pen is now pursuing a Master's degree in Southeast Asian Studies at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. She is studying Thai and Cambodian performing arts so she can return to Cambodia both to teach dance and academic courses on the performing arts.

Pen first began dancing when she was 5 years old. The great dance master, Chea Samy, one of the stars of the Cambodian Royal Ballet, who survived the Khmer Rouge period, noticed her and cultivated her talent. Chea encouraged her to attend the Royal University of Fine Arts (RUFA) to study at the Faculty of Choreographic Arts. She started there at 9, practicing dance

SUMMER 2006 JUNIOR RESIDENT FELLOWSHIPS

Sponsored by the Florence Gould Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council and the Cogut Family Fund, the 2006 summer Junior Fellowship Program brought together undergraduate students from Cambodia, France and the United States in residence at CKS Headquarters in Siem Reap.

IF A VISITOR HAPPENS TO WALK by the CKS conference hall during the months of July and August, she would hear students repeating in unison words in Khmer at the prompting of their teacher, their voices often echoing the voices of children reciting the Khmer alphabet in nearby classrooms inside Wat Damnak. In the afternoon, the CKS library is brimming with Junior Fellows sitting side by side with local students, tour guides, and visiting researchers. The inhabitants of Siem Reap find themselves willing interviewees as the junior fellows roam the town conducting their fieldwork. On the grounds of Wat Damnak, around the food stalls in the Old Market, in cafés, these same students are seen looking over their cue cards filled with Cambodian words, reading books about Cambodia, talking to each other, their laughter intermingled with serious discussions following lectures and field trips.

This is the spirit of the CKS summer Junior Resident Fellowship Program! This year, as in the previous two years, 15 highly motivated college students arrived from France, the United States and Phnom Penh, grateful for the opportunity to participate in a study program which provides an introduction to Cambodia. Structured around daily Khmer language classes for the French and the Americans, and English class for the Cambodians; weekly lectures, seminars and discussion sessions on the history and culture of Cambodia led by the program director, Dr. Leakthina Ollier, this year's Senior Resident scholar, Dr. David



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Lempert, and other guest scholars, and complemented by field trips in and around Siem Reap and a week-long trip to Phnom Penh, the program also allows time for the students to conduct their own research, to explore the surrounding area on their own, and to do volunteer work. Many students gave their time to teach English classes through the Life and Hope Association at Wat Damnak, while others volunteered with the Angkor Children's Hospital and the Sam Veasna Center for Wildlife Conservation.

In the words of last year's Senior Resident Fellow, Professor Peter Hammer, the Summer Fellowship Program possesses the attributes of an effective liberal arts education, providing the students with a productive and serious academic environment and mentoring, while still maintaining a sense of adventure and creative exploration. And the great result is that many students plan to come back to Cambodia to conduct further research, and to focus on Cambodia and Southeast Asia in their other studies. On return to their own campuses,, they are ambassadors of Cambodia with their friends and teachers. The international character of the junior program contributes to the sense of adventure and spirited discovery, both of Cambodia and of one another.

each morning and studying general academic subjects in the afternoon. After graduating from high school, she completed her bachelors in choreography at RUFA. She has performed extensively in Cambodia, at government events, the Royal Palace, embassies and also abroad.

Pen also credits Cecily Cook of the Asian Cultural Council, whose tireless dedication to Cambodian arts and artists and unconditional support of education, gave Pen the confidence to challenge herself academically. Cecily recommended the Master's program at Chulalongkorn University, a place where she believed Pen could thrive.

Pen first joined CKS for the summer 2005 Junior Fellowship program, also with the support of the Asian Cultural Council, which funds Cambodian participants. Since then, she has also participated in a semester of the Rockefeller-funded Building

Capacity in Higher Education program, and again in the summer 2006 Junior Fellowship program, in order to hone her academic and research skills for graduate school.

Here at CKS, Pen has found both inspiration and encouragement. Philippe Peycam, Director, and Dr. Leakthina Ollier, Director of our summer Junior Fellowship Program, as well as the undergraduate students from the U.S. and France, all inspired her. Learning from the students' experiences and sharing her own experiences, she became "proud of being a Cambodian woman," and her next goal coalesced: she wanted to continue to study. Encouraged by Philippe and Thina to read and do her research, she became aware of the lack of resources on Cambodian performing arts. That realization motivated yet another goal-- to write a book on Cambodian performing arts, a book from which countless others might find their inspiration.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIPS 2006-2007

CKS SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Supported by the Henry Luce Foundation, the Florence Gould Foundation and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers

David Lempert. Senior Resident Scholar (Henry Luce Found.)

David Lempert is a social anthropologist, lawyer, MBA, political economist, experiential educator, and head of an NGO for field approaches to education that he founded in 1985. He has spent several years in Southeast Asia, including eight years in Viet Nam. His summer work at CKS examines parallels and differences in Khmer and Vietnamese history and culture to offer material for two books that he is completing on Vietnamese identity, past and present. He has explored hundreds of forgotten citadels, tombs and cultural sites in the region via bicycle and is completing a multi-volume work of accessible history and cultural tours and curricula for students and visitors to offer a rich introduction to the issues and cultures of Cambodia and neighboring countries.

Peter F. Bell. Gendered Supply Chains in the Textile Industry and Poverty Reduction in Cambodia (CAORC/ECA)

Peter Bell holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin and teaches political economy at the State University of New York at Purchase. After working for many years on gender and development in Thailand, his current research focuses on assessing the highly gendered pattern of recent Cambodian economic development. The textile industry is the leading edge of recent industrialization providing eighty percent of total export value. More than a million people living in rural areas are dependent on remittances from garment workers. The growth of this industry, and of tourism, are critical to Cambodia and to the UN Millennium goals aimed at both poverty alleviation and reducing gender inequality. Dr. Bell's research also explores the overall contribution of women to Cambodian economic development in industry, agriculture, domestic work, the tourist sector and the informal economy.

Michael Binford. Landscape Dynamics and Socio-ecological Systems of Cambodia (CAORC/ECA)

Dr. Binford holds a Ph.D. in Zoology and Geology from the University of Indiana and is currently Professor of Geography at the University of Florida-Gainesville. He is interested in human-environment interactions, especially how environmental variability influences economic conditions; and, in turn, how economic activities affect local environments. His fellowship research specifically focuses on land-use and land-cover change in Cambodia over the past 25 years, using satellite remote sensing methodology. He will travel to Cambodia several times during the fellowship period to visit lacustrine, forested, and agricultural landscapes to measure ecological variables that change with seasons, e.g. Tonle Sap level and water quality, leaf-area index of forest and agricultural vegetation, and land-cover characteris-

tics. The results will be used to interpret long-term land-cover changes such as deforestation, agricultural intensification, urbanization, and response to lake-level variation.

Erik Davis. Funerals and Ethnic Display in Cambodia (CAORC/ECA)

Erik Davis is a Ph.D. candidate in the History of Religion at the University of Chicago. He is in Cambodia conducting research for his dissertation on contemporary Cambodian mortuary rituals, as practices of death and memory. In connection with this research, he is conducting a preliminary examination of funerals and funeral practices, and the inclusion or exclusion of elements of ethnic display in their execution. Emphasizing the fluid reality of ethnic interchange, especially between the Khmer and Chinese, he examines why some funerals are more concerned with ethnic display than others.

Bion Griffin. The Ethnography of Elephant Husbandry in Cambodia (CAORC/ECA)

P. Bion Griffin, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, is undertaking an eight-month anthropological survey studying domestic elephant use in Cambodia. Dr. Griffin visited several elephant owners among the Phnong tribesmen of eastern Cambodia and observed the use of elephants as domestic beasts of burden. This stimulated his interest and curiosity. He returns to the Phnong to inventory the elephant population and further explore their use of elephants. In addition, current data on domestic elephant use in Cambodia will provide information on other human-elephant systems of interaction. By the end of the project he will have documented each existing elephant and described its use and condition, as well as documenting the language the elephant keepers use with their elephants. The research involves anthropological participant-observation, including working with elephants and their owners. Griffin's personal experience as an elephant mahout (driver) enables him to interact more effectively in the field.

John Marston. Memory and Ideology in the Re-construction of Cambodian Religion (CAORC/ECA)

John Marston's research concerns developments in Cambodian religion that have taken place in conjunction with political and economic change since 1989. He has been especially interested in religious movements involved in building projects, and is currently focusing in particular on historical roots and current practice surrounding the Sakyamuni chedi recently constructed at Oudong. He is also pursuing research on the ideological roots of current religious developments, in the socialism of the 1980s

and the Buddhist institutions of the border refugee camps operating at the same time. He has a special interest in the careers, philosophies, and building projects of two key religious leaders of the 1990s— Ven Sam Buntheoun and Buth Savong.

Jonathan Padwe. Garden Variety Histories: Agricultural and Social Change Among the Jarai of Cambodia (CAORC/ECA)

Jonathan Padwe is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology and Environmental Studies at Yale University. His research investigates the ways that remembrance of the past plays an active role in the politics surrounding development initiatives among the Jarai highland ethnic minority in northeast Cambodia. Central to the project is the notion that the agricultural landscape is a reservoir of social memory, and cultivated crops in the diverse highland agricultural system are historical documents of sorts. Tracing how varieties were obtained and how they traveled to the current location through historical narratives of the Jarai, it is possible to glean how the Jarai have addressed challenges in the recent past and in the present. These historical narratives become a means through which the Jarai can explain their understanding of the present.

Andrew S. Roberts. Fields in Transition: Agrodiversity and Incremental Change in Small Holder-managed Landscapes in Cambodia (CAORC/ECA)

Andrew Roberts is a Ph.D. candidate in Biology at the City University of New York. Integrating fine-grained landscape histories with ethnography and ecological inventory, his project takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of multi-scalar social and ecological processes underlying agricultural change on the Tonle Sap floodplain. In particular, the project will focus on recent trends toward the adoption of intensive, dry-season rice production technologies instead of deepwater rice production in Kampong Thom Province. By analyzing livelihoods and production systems, he will explore how poor farmers evaluate opportunities offered by new technologies, the degree to which they integrate them into their production systems, and how these changes affect both ecosystem and livelihood resilience.

Grégory Kourilsky. Khmer Influence on Lao Buddhism through the Buddhist Institute (Florence Gould Found.)

Grégory Kourilsky is a Master's candidate in History, Philology and Religion at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (EPHE), Paris, France. His research focuses on the modernization of Buddhism in Indochina during the twentieth century, especially during the period of French colonization. The Buddhist Institute was established in 1930 in Phnom Penh under the patronage of French administrators and scientists, and exerted a much weaker influence in Laos than Cambodia. However, this influence manifested itself in the modernization of Lao Buddhism with Pāli courses, reorganization of the Sangha and

particularly new links between Khmer and Lao monks. The aim of Mr. Kourilsky's research is to measure what changes in Lao Buddhism is attributable to "modern" Khmer Buddhism.

Séverine Morange. Cambodians and Voice: A Linguistic Study of the Cognitive Representations of the Voice in Khmer Culture (Florence Gould Found.)

Séverine Morange holds a Ph.D. in French Linguistics from the Université de Paris III-Sorbonne Nouvelle (France). Expanding upon her doctoral dissertation on the subjective representation of voice, Dr. Morange's research analyzes the representation of voice in Khmer society from a psycho-linguistic and anthropological perspective. While exploring how the speaking or singing voice is viewed, special attention will be given to French- or Khmer-speaking Cambodians' spontaneous speech, especially those whose voice plays a crucial role in their professional or artistic practice such as shamans, monks, traditional singers, storytellers and actors. This study also analyzes the symbolic function of the voice in traditional literature, rituals, festivals and in the performing arts.

Stéphanie Khoury. Khmer Lkhon Khol: An Ethnomusicological Approach to Ritual Theater (Florence Gould Found.)

Ms. Khoury is a Ph.D. candidate in Ethnomusicology at the Université de Paris X (Nanterre), and belongs to the Laboratoire d'Ethnomusicologie, Musée de l'homme. Her work focuses on the nature and the symbolism of the interactions between Pinpeat music, the dramatization of the Reamker and Khmer religious syncretism. This research is undertaken through a case study of vernacular Lkhon Khol, as performed in a local village, replaced in its cultural background and linked to other practices of ritual performance and possession ceremonies in Cambodia. In this way, Pinpeat music is seen as symbolically significant. This research determines its components, and provides ways of understanding its use in the Lkhon Khol context.

Stéphanie Nann. Forgiveness among Cambodians (Florence Gould Found.)

Stéphanie Nann received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology at Jules Verne University in Amiens (Picardie). This present study examines possible representations of "forgiveness" among Cambodians after the Khmer Rouge regime. After so many suffered, are they able to forgive? And, whether or not there is forgiveness, how can they overcome this past? The research employs a questionnaire on forgiveness (Mullet 2003) that evaluates the propensity to pardon, which will be translated and modified taking into account Cambodian social and cultural variables. Dr. Nann's research explores how Cambodians can deal with their past and present, their anger and their compassion, in the Buddhist vision.

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Pannasastra University (Phnom Penh)
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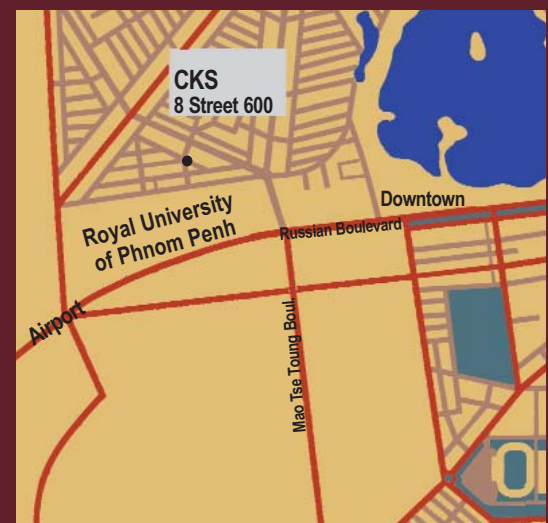
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