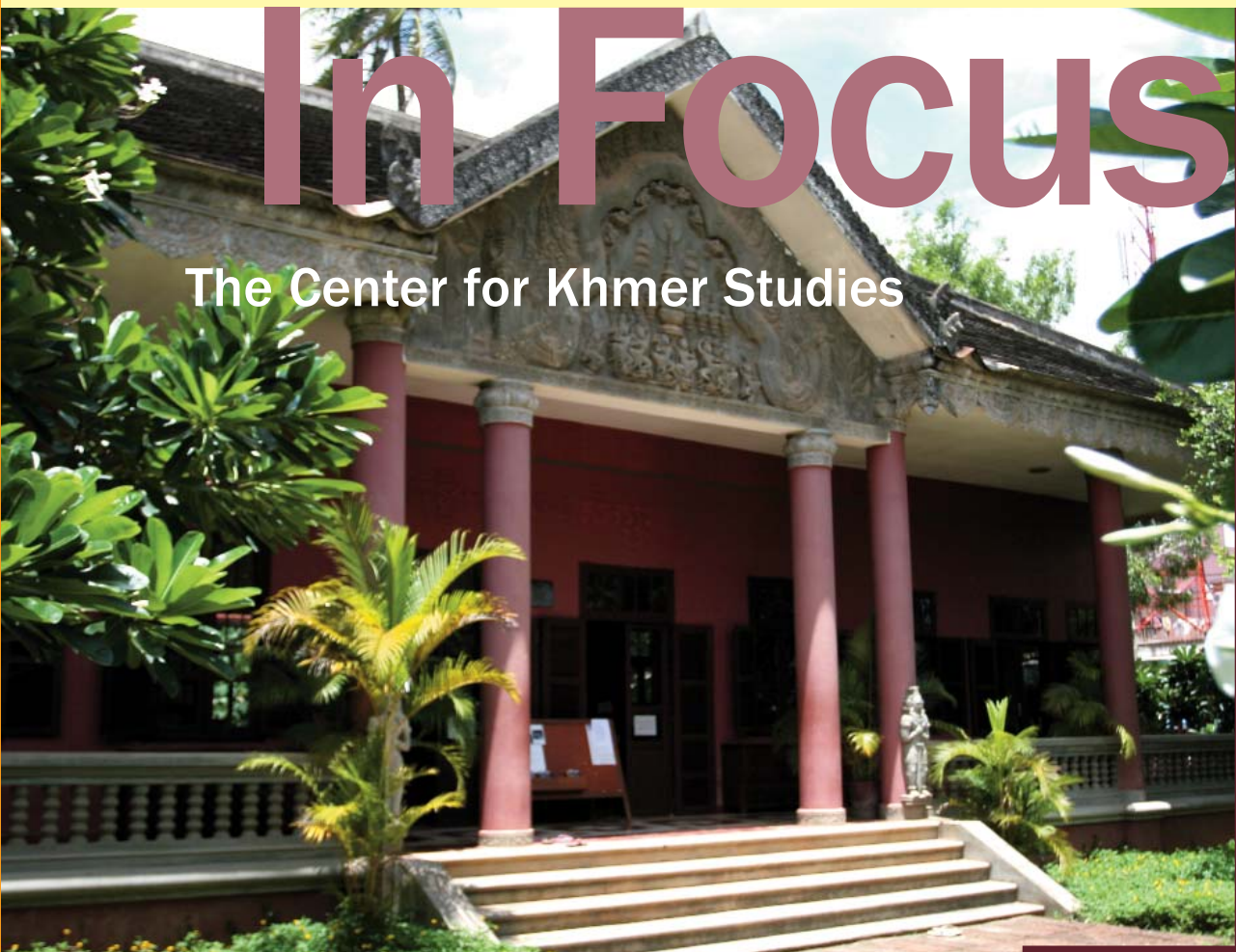


In Focus

The Center for Khmer Studies

No.5, 2007-2008



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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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His Majesty King
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of the
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Cover photo: The CKS Library, Siem Reap

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Opening Doors

YOU CAN NEVER TELL WHERE THE FIRST lines of a story will lead you. My own passion for history eventually led me to Cambodia, a distant horizon I had so often heard about as a young student in Paris back in the 1960's – the romance of *l'Indochine*. Civil war and revolution intervening, I didn't get there until some 25 years later, in 1991, when Siem Reap was a devastated ghost town, without electricity or telephones, with unspeakable roads, young Khmer Rouge still visible here and there, and thin paths to a few major Angkor temples that had to be de-mined every morning. Alongside visible destruction of the colonial physical infrastructure, the plight of the Cambodian people stood in stunning contrast to the taunting reminders of the grandeur of their past. Personal tragedy at every turn. No schools, no teachers, no doctors. Libraries and Buddhist pagodas burned, no civil society, universities in shamble, former leaders killed or long since in exile. Where even to begin?

Ten years later, the Center for Khmer Studies opened its doors to international scholars and enlisted their professional skills in training young Cambodians for positions as future leaders. First, a library—rebuilt out of the shambles of the monks' library in a ruined Buddhist pagoda, Wat Damnak. It was an oasis of calm in the dusty chaos of the poor, filthy, plastic-strewn town. The simplest decision was the one to open our doors to all. Soon enough, our reading room was filled with eager young students alongside international research scholars. They began tentatively by looking at picture books—art books with photos of their country and sometimes comic books. Now, they are reading books in English and exploring beyond their physical borders on our public computers. We followed with a translation/publishing program to make key texts available in the Khmer language. Our library's success now leads us to begin constructing a new building that in itself poses challenges—how do you preserve books and papers in a hot tropical climate, where there are frequent power cuts and mold is a big problem?

Perhaps invisible from the posh hotels that have sprung up, the subtle violence of poverty is still evident all around us, even as fortunes are amassed. Corruption flourishes, as it does in most of the developing world. The next chapter in Cambodia's history will doubtless be written around the transforming power of the huge oil reserves discovered offshore near Sihanoukville, with pumping scheduled to begin in 2008. Will these riches be distributed widely or grabbed



Lois de Menil, President of the Center for Khmer Studies

up by the few? Will education and culture, that cement of society, prosper? Will democratic challenge to political leadership be allowed to assert its voice?

At CKS, our first students have now earned M.A.s abroad, and returned. Through our efforts, young professors at the universities are being trained in research skills and sent to overseas universities for advanced training. Through our international fellowship programs and conferences, we open the doors to international exchange and regional awareness. Our staff is mainly young Cambodians professionally trained by CKS— librarians, a publishing coordinator and administrators in finance and project oversight. They are led by our dedicated French Director and American Deputy Director, whose determination and skill carry forward the bold vision that CKS can make a difference. Our board of trustees meets in Cambodia every January, and is composed of senior scholars and philanthropic leaders from Cambodia and around the world.

None of this could have happened without the support of major foundations and the great generosity of so many individuals, whose gifts large and small have made it possible for CKS to carry out its program. Our doors are always open in Siem Reap. We hope you will drop by Wat Damnak if you are nearby and join in whatever is happening that day. This spirit of open welcome has animated CKS from the first—the small venture with the big ambition and hands extended to help. Welcome to CKS.

Lois de Menil, Ph.D.
President

Director's Note



From top: the CKS Library, the Junior Fellowship Program 2007, Shelby White visits the Bronze Conservation Lab in the National Museum, Phnom Penh.

CAMBODIA, LIKE MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, is home to numerous international and national organizations focusing on a host of pertinent issues, such as education, health, human rights and economic development. As founding Director of CKS, my objective over seven years has been both to promote international scholarly research in Cambodia and the long-term rebuilding of infrastructure in Cambodian higher education. The CKS activities that give shape to this dual mission are a major contribution to Khmer and Southeast Asian Studies.

Junior Faculty Training Program

The backbone of our strategy to bolster Cambodian universities is our junior faculty training program, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation. Over the past three years, the program has directly trained over 70 young Cambodians committed to an academic career. A number of international scholars taught and mentored these aspiring young Cambodian faculty members, and, as a collateral benefit, provided the opportunity to engage in inter-cultural dialogue with the goal of developing new curricula adapted to Cambodian needs and interests, but reflecting international standards. With the end of the initial three-year program and the prospect of a final grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, CKS has engaged in numerous discussions with four of our most active Cambodian institutional partners – the Royal University of Phnom Penh, the Royal University of Fine Arts, the Royal Academy of Cambodia, and Pannasastra University – to prepare a new multi-year collaboration. The aim is to improve teaching, not just in individuals, but in selected departments within the universities. For example, a full semester will be devoted to Cambodian and regional history. Both faculty and institutions benefit from the CKS training model, which includes expanding partnerships with overseas institutions.

Fellowship Opportunities

CKS has entered into collaboration with the Harvard-Yenching Institute, in Cambridge, Massachusetts which, upon application and acceptance, will provide a Ph.D. fellowship for a few of our CKS-trained Cambodian scholars at a world-class university of their choice. The prospect of one or two Ph.D. fellowships in the humanities every year will provide incalculable benefits for the country's future educational landscape.

CKS is grateful to the Cogut Foundation, which will provide one annual M.A. fellowship at a regional university. The Foundation also supports Cambodian participation in the CKS Summer Junior Fellowship program in Siem Reap. In 2007, the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), a consortium of American universities organizing study-abroad, credit-bearing courses, became a partner in the CKS summer program. Two courses were offered: the History of Cambodia, taught by Dr. Jeremy Jammes, a CKS Senior Fellow, and Post-conflict Cambodia, taught by Prof. Khatharya Um, University of California- Berkeley. In addition to attending courses alongside CIEE students in Siem Reap, CKS Junior Fellows from the US, France and Cambodia are also responsible for an individual research project and daily Khmer language classes.

CKS initiatives that contribute to our two-pronged goal of promoting international academic interest in the region while benefiting Cambodian education include CKS



CKS Trustee H.E. Prof. Son Soubert visits the Sre Ampil site.

Senior Fellowships for American and French scholars, supported by the U.S. Department of State and the Florence Gould Foundation. These fellowships bring a diverse cohort of scholars to Cambodia. Our American fellows increasingly submit research projects reflecting a comparative approach on Southeast Asian and Asian subjects, that reveal a trend connecting Cambodia and the field of Khmer Studies to other areas of study. This will, in the future, contribute new sources of knowledge and further enrich the body of knowledge we have.

CKS Library

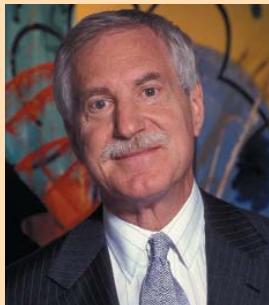
Our other core initiative is the CKS library. There has been a major expansion of our collection this year, thanks to a donation of art history books (the Dorothy Fickle collection), and soon, in archaeology (the Ian Glover collection) and political history (the Kachin Center Archive, Cornell University). What is most remarkable about our library is the sense of collective commitment to its growth of all the Center's members, institutions and individuals alike. Special thanks to Jacques Hennessy and Nancy Lassalle for their continuing support. With over 5,000 titles, CKS's library is an essential destination for scholars, and one of the main educational resources for the Cambodian public.

Since its inception, CKS has benefited from the dedication of all its members – staff and trustees, partner universities and private foundations. This commitment remains intact, reinforced by the recognition of what has been achieved and a vision for the future. CKS is a diverse and democratic institution where decisions result from long and sometimes animated debates. CKS's board, under the inspirational leadership of its President, offers the best a board can bring: dedication and active participation of all its members. Our staff morale is strong in both professional commitment and collective responsibility, especially our Cambodian staff – the best evidence of CKS's success.

Philippe Peycam, Ph.D.
Director

Members and Benefactors

How *They* Made a Difference: Nancy Lassalle



Once again, as it enters another year, the Center has reason to be grateful: not only because we have achieved so much through our many programs, but because we have been met with such a generous response to our financial needs. Without your contributions, we could not go on; with them we

are able to make significant differences in helping Cambodia regain its intellectual and cultural capacity. It seems right, therefore, to focus on a most significant contributor.

The Library has always been one of our major projects. It has grown over the years to the point where, soon, it will need a second building. Today, its shelves are full, and its tables crowded with readers of all kinds - students, Buddhist monks, guides learning about Angkor, residents of Siem Reap. Of course, to keep it functioning - and it is open six days a week - has required funding, as well as the purchase of new books, and that is where one person has made a huge difference.

Nancy Lassalle has been the major contributor to the CKS Library for the past three years. "It is important to be clear

about what you're interested in," she says, "and then people come along." She is absolutely right. As the Library has flourished and expanded, it has received a record number of books from a variety of donors. Still, the question remains: why the CKS Library?

"The future of Cambodia devolves on young people," Ms. Lassalle points out. "The elimination of anything intellectual has resulted in a damaged life for all Cambodians. I felt that focus on the Library was most important, and it moved me because it gives the young people a chance to help themselves."

It would be hard to think of a better definition of what we do. The Center's other programs, from conferences to education, research and publishing also matter greatly. They, too, are helping to create a group of aware, competent young Cambodians who will transform the future of their country. Still, as we look back, and forward, the Library shines forth as one of our most prominent successes.

We are deeply grateful to Nancy Lassalle. Please allow us to be grateful to all of you as well.

Olivier Bernier, Vice President

Support CKS's Mission

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 Southeast 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 largest 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.

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Thank You for Your Support!



The CKS Library in Wat Damnak: The Place to Visit

CKS'S LIBRARY HAS GROWN OVER THE YEARS into an established institution in ways unimagined when it opened just six years ago. Every day now, when the doors open at 8 a.m., the library fills with Cambodian high school students. Throughout the day, young Cambodians can be seen studying alongside international scholars, with users spilling over into plastic chairs on the back terrace. Cambodian students, dressed in the pressed white shirts and neat blue trousers and skirts of their school uniform cluster

around the computers, often four or five deep. As is the custom in Cambodia, one takes off shoes when entering buildings, and the rows and rows of shoes on the steps leading up to the library vividly illustrate the number of people who visit the library throughout the day.

Average daily usage is now up to 40 people. Part of the magic is our library's location in Wat Damnak, a popular monastery and public space fringed with frangipani trees which provides a welcoming space for all Cambodians. Another part of the magic is the CKS library itself. Open six days a week to the public, in addition to the use of computers, we make our growing collection of books, theses, journals, dictionaries, maps and guidebooks, monographs and newspapers on Cambodia and Southeast Asia available free of charge to a public eager to learn.

The CKS Library is not only well known in Siem Reap town, its reputation is growing among scholars and researchers worldwide for the specialized collection on Southeast Asian social sciences, humanities, religion, arts and culture. Many of these materials are hard to find both in Cambodia and overseas, making the journey to the CKS library an important step in Southeast Asian scholarly research. We will soon offer access to JSTOR on our public computers, the premier academic electronic journal portal, made possible through partnership with CAORC.

We would like to extend a sincere thanks to Mr. Lee Fickle and his daughter Kate, who donated the personal library of Dr. Dorothy Fickle, an Asian art historian, to the library. Mr. Fickle, accompanied by Kate, came to Siem Reap to dedicate the donation of Dr. Dorothy Fickle's library in January 2007.

H.M. King Norodom Sihamoni Becomes Patron of CKS Library

In recognition of the contributions of CKS to Cambodia, His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni invited CKS President, Lois de Menil, to a royal audience in February 2007. Dr. de Menil was accompanied by Board members H.E. Son Soubert and Jacques Hennessy, Director Philippe Peycam and Program Directors Ayryne Uk and Chean Men. H.M. King Sihamoni graciously welcomed them for over an hour, and learned of the CKS programs and of the library which is at the heart of the mission. They described the expanding popularity of the open-shelved library for both scholars and residents of Siem Reap. Khmer students are often 4-deep around the computers, learning to explore a world beyond their borders, or reading about Cambodian literature and history. As Jacques Hennessy described our plans to build a library annex to accommodate both our expanding collection and the increasing number of visitors, His Majesty told us he would honor CKS with his high patronage. This royal honor inspires both pride and a renewed dedication to our mission.

Performing Arts Media Station Debuts in CKS Library

In partnership with World Education/ Cambodia Living Arts (CLA), CKS is highlighting the compelling and fragile world of Cambodian performing arts with the addition of a new Performing Arts Media Station. Using software custom-designed by Beau Sievers, a recent graduate from the Berklee School of Music, the Media Station is an interactive and easy way to discover the performing arts of Cambodia.

The Performing Arts Media Station features a collection of rare Cambodian traditional music from the archives of CLA. The traditional music is classified, and fully searchable, by genre and instrument, with descriptions of such genres as *areak*, *bas-sac*, *chapei*, *smot* and *pin peat* and full descriptions and photos of traditional instruments classified into percussion, stringed instruments and wind instruments, such as the *krapeu*, *bei pok* and *ske thom*. The CKS Librarians were trained to teach people to use the media station, as well as to add new content, allowing CKS to continually update the media station with new material. Video will soon be available, enabling CKS to offer clips of traditional Cambodian dance performances, *Sbek Thom* (shadow puppet theater) and musical performances. The interface is in English and will soon be available in Khmer.



Our Neighbors: Life and Hope Association

Based in Wat Damnak a living Buddhist monastery, CKS shares its campus with an organization founded in 2005. The Life and Hope Association (LHA) was established by the monks and friends of Wat Damnak with the goal of improving the lives of orphans, vulnerable children and disadvantaged people. Life and Hope operates in Wat Damnak and in local communities, encouraging a true sense of volunteerism and community involvement, where pagodas and communities support the poor and vulnerable populations.

The Venerable Hoeurn Somnieng and the Venerable Chhun Chhoeurn direct the following organizational activities:

- The *Sewing Training Center* provides a 6-month training



A moment inside Wat Damnak

course and room and board for girls and women and has so far enrolled 56 people.

- The *Children's Development Village* located about 40 km from Siem Reap has provided 31 orphans and vulnerable children with housing, food and healthcare and has opened a school for these children and an additional 15 village children. In the upcoming year, they will be opening a secondary school in this village as well.

- *Community Activities* include English and Japanese classes and computer training courses which have served 449 students to date, all provided free of charge at Wat Damnak. LHA outreach in local communities also provides food, school uniforms and incentives for children from poor families to attend school rather than working. Children cannot attend school without a school uniform and shoes.

CKS congratulates Life and Hope on the phenomenal work they've done in just two short years!

Sre Ampil: Cambodian-led Archaeology and Conservation Project

Sre Ampil, a village about 30 km southeast of Phnom Penh in Kandal Province, is the site of a CKS-supported project combining elements of heritage preservation, archaeological conservation and training, under the supervision of His Excellency, CKS Board Member Professor Son Soubert. Project Director Phon Kaseka has successfully completed the first phase, in which a museum was constructed to store and showcase the cultural heritage of the threatened site, in 2006.



The second phase began in March 2007. Archaeological excavations were conducted at four main sites in Sre Ampil and, in keeping with the CKS objective of building capacity, involved a training component for students from the Royal University of Fine Arts (RUFA), Department of Archaeology and staff from the Institute of Culture and Fine Arts of the Royal Academy of Cambodia. Sixteen students from RUFA added practical and applied knowledge to their theoretical training in archaeology, as the

four sites were surveyed and dated, and sites in danger of immediate destruction were salvaged. The archaeological teams also tested for archaeological remains at several other sites for research purposes, but also to inform future directions for preservation in the area.



The final component of this phase of the project included a public education component geared to the local authorities, villagers, monks and students in the area. Prof. Kum Sorith, vice dean of the Faculty of Archaeology, RUFA, journeyed to Sre Ampil on the Cultural Dissemination day to speak to the local vil-

lagers and the archaeological teams. This crucial component aims at communicating with local inhabitants about the activities of the researchers in order to inform them about the importance of the site and the need for preservation.

CKS Conference Hall, detail

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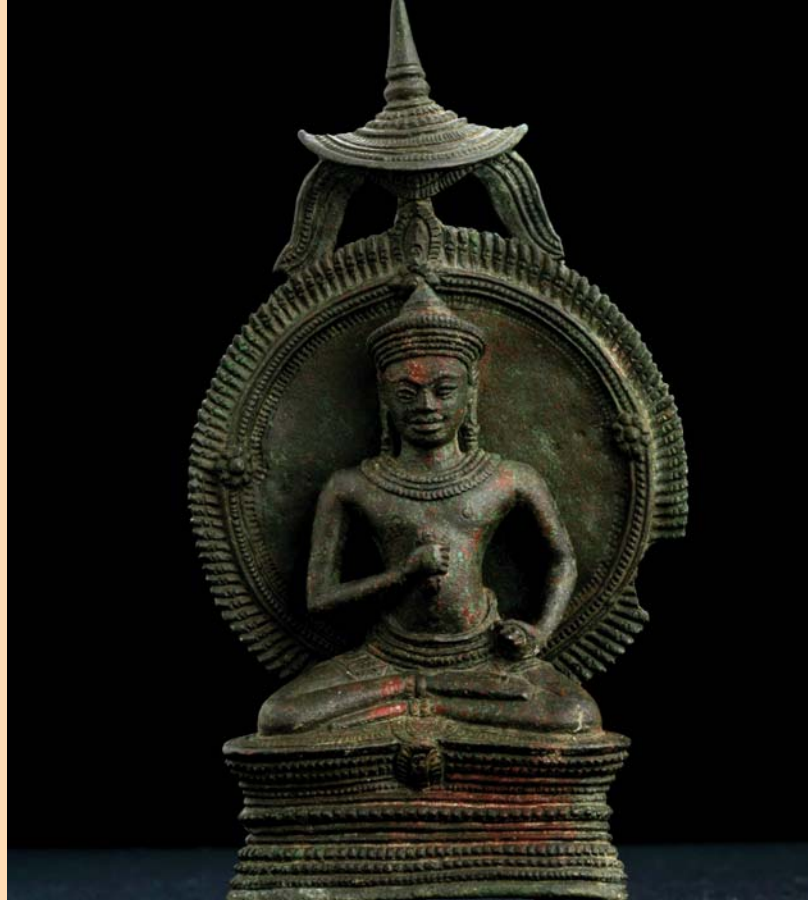
The National Museum of Cambodia Inventory Project

When Shelby White first visited the National Museum in Phnom Penh, she was shocked to discover there was no current or complete inventory of the museum's holdings, and no plans, personnel or funding to rectify the situation. She recognized the need and was personally responsible for initiating the Leon Levy - CKS Inventory Project.

This major inventory project for the National Museum of Cambodia, funded by the Leon Levy Foundation in 2004, is making a huge contribution toward protecting Cambodia's past by providing sufficient funds to hire and train knowledgeable staff and purchase necessary equipment. Shelby continues to be personally involved with the project, having spent several days in Phnom Penh at the Museum during September 2006.

The Museum was left with no consistent inventory system in the wake of the Khmer Rouge. Four different inventory systems existed previously, but untold numbers of precious artifacts were left unrecorded and therefore vulnerable to theft. Today, the museum is developing a computerized and digitized catalogue of its collections, maintained by Cambodian staff who have been trained for 3 years by Darryl Collins. If this inventory had existed, the torso of an important late tenth century Shiva from Phum Bovel would not have been displayed openly in a Bangkok shop in the 1980s. The inventory has already allowed the staff to reassemble bronzes with multiple elements, such as a twelfth century Vajrasattva image that has a separately cast halo and base, seen above right.

To date, over 8,000 metal artifacts, 519 wood objects and paintings, 221 manuscripts, and more than 3,863 ceramics have been recorded with all of the old hand-written French



records carefully integrated. The second phase of the inventory, focusing on the many stone sculptures in the museum, is now underway. These inventories will not only help protect the artifacts but also make them easily available to scholars studying Khmer culture.

Digitization of the “Cambodian” Collections

A collaborative project between CKS and the National Library of Cambodia

In 2006, CKS received a grant from the Digital Library for International Research, as part of the new Local Libraries and Archives Project initiative, a program supported by the United States Department of Education and administered by CAORC, to identify rare endangered documents. Managed by former CKS Trustee, Dr. Thonevath Pou and Dr. Pascal Bourdeaux, the project first conducted an inventory of pre-1975 printed Khmer language materials housed at the National Library of Cambodia (NLC), and then scanned a selected number of these titles. The NLC holds a unique collection of printed materials focusing on Cambodia, from the periods of the colonial French Protectorate (1863-1953) to independent Cambodia (1953-1975). Despite the massive destruction they inflicted on Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge regime did not in fact destroy

the NLC's collections; instead the collection suffered years of benign neglect with some found in piles on the floor and in boxes.

These documents represent the once vibrant publishing sector in Cambodia: six complete 'modern' novels and short stories, specialized religious and secular periodicals (aimed at women, farmers and school teachers), and a range of textbooks and essays in literature, poetry and philosophy.

This project is just a first step for what CKS envisions as a larger-scale initiative to digitize essential "lost" materials in Cambodia that remain in a handful of overseas collections. One is *Kambujasorya*, the country's first modern academic journal, published from 1927 until 1975. Through this project, one of CKS's young researchers, Phy Sopheada, surveyed the main collections of this periodical held in Cambodia and identified missing issues that need to be recovered abroad.

Urban Culture in Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh is one of the world's most rapidly changing cities - physically, culturally and economically. Government, educational institutions, community groups, NGOs and multi lateral and bilateral institutions all focus on these changes rapidly affecting this city. However, the processes of these transformations remain largely understudied. Existing capacity building and training activities in Cambodia face difficult challenges in studying the processes which come into play as these miniscule and significant changes manifest themselves. Without a deeper understanding of Cambodia's largest city, it is difficult to put together a comprehensive policy framework and an institutional structure able to effectively govern it.

For this purpose, a collaborative research and capacity-building project was initiated by the New School University's Graduate Program in International Affairs through the Institute of Cultural Entrepreneurship and CKS. This project provides opportunities for Cambodian graduate students to initiate small pilot ethnographic studies on different dimensions of emerging urban cultural phenomena in Phnom Penh. These studies focus on various cultural themes such as urban youth culture, existing and emerging collective identities and the interaction between various communities in the city. Each of these themes addresses issues that are salient for future urban development strategies, but for which the research base is insufficient. These projects require innovative research methodology and contribute to foster a network of potential Cambodian researchers specializing in urban culture.

The overarching objective of this project is to provide opportu-

nities for innovative cultural studies of the contemporary urban landscape while building the capacity of Cambodian researchers in this field, consistent with CKS's core objective of capacity building and training. It is hoped that the outcomes will be able to contribute to the field of urban studies internationally.

Conference: Religion in Southeast Asia

The third semester session of the Rockefeller Foundation-funded Junior Faculty Training program addressed the topic, Religion in Mainland Southeast Asia. This two day conference provided a forum in which young Cambodian academics presented their research alongside international scholars with related interests. With an emphasis on developing comparisons between Cambodia and other countries in Southeast Asia, individual presentations and panel discussions provided opportunities for the presentation of research, trends and analyses covering the importance of religion in Southeast Asia in the past, present and future.



In Southeast Asia, as in the rest of the world, religion has become a more and more salient issue as transnational processes break down traditional assumptions about the modern secular nation state. In this conference, scholars took a fresh look at religion in the new social context. How well 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? How many young persons pursue a religious vocation, even for a short time? What do young people in urban areas believe, and what effect, if any, does religious teaching have on their behavior? What historical roots do current transnational patterns have? How is religious "tradition" remembered and reconstructed in the new social context? And finally, what comparisons can be made between what is happening in Cambodia and in neighboring countries (Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, and Burma)? These are only a few of the questions that were addressed during this event held in the CKS Conference Hall in Siem Reap on February 23-24, 2007.

Upcoming Activities

Cambodia at its Margins: Minority Groups and Borders

March 13-14, 2008

This two-day conference will explore issues raised in the fifth session of CKS's Rockefeller Foundation-funded Junior Faculty Training program and provides a forum for early career Cambodian academics to present their research alongside international scholars with related interests. Cambodia is undergoing dramatic political, economic and social changes, placing new pressures on minority groups and vulnerable people. Some changes are driven by Cambodia's uniquely troubled history. Other forces are global, affecting Cambodia and all other nations in the region. The conference invites innovative interpretations of "margins," "borders" and "minority groups." Transnational and cross-border influences are creating new challenges and opportunities for ethnic minorities. The Cham and other Muslim communities are reconnecting to international Islam. Labor markets cross national boundaries. Vietnamese migrant workers travel to Cambodia, as Cambodian workers travel to Thailand. International loans, agencies and programs targeting "development," itself an often disruptive cross-border force, are transforming many Cambodian institutions and redefining traditional social margins in the process.

Higher Education in Southeast Asia: Global Challenges for Intellectual Capital Building

January 10-11, 2008

Building human resources is essential to economic development and growth. Whatever the stage of their development, each Southeast Asian country has tried to address this fundamental issue by improving their higher education system. Holding on to skilled human resources is yet another challenge in the context of global competition for highly qualified human resources. This conference aims at providing a platform for experts from Southeast Asian institutions of higher education to explore three major themes. The first covers faculty development, which is the key human resource for any educational institution that wishes to provide students with the best learning environment. The second theme includes the analysis and evaluation of the role of information technology in the enhancement of teaching and learning. Finally, the issue of transnational higher education will be addressed in order to explore how a foreign educational model can enhance exist-

ing higher education institutions. Discussion around these three themes, in a comparative context, may shed light on challenges posed by the intensification of the global economy and the fast pace of science and technology development that are both opportunity and threats to the current model of higher education in Southeast Asia.

Khmer Dance Project

Dance is at the best of times an ephemeral art form. Without an easily understood system of notation, it is handed down physically from generation to generation, from body to body. Khmer dance has suffered more than most dance traditions. In its determination to purge all remnants of the old Cambodian society, the regime of the Khmer Rouge officially forbade traditional dance and executed both dancers and teachers in its genocidal sweep.

In collaboration with the Jerome Robbins Dance Division of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, CKS is undertaking a project to document, preserve and eventually make accessible this important dance heritage. The Khmer Dance Project, sponsored by CKS Trustee Anne Bass, has the broad aim of documenting Khmer dance as it is practiced and remembered by Khmer dancers today, and preserving it for future generations. It will begin with a focus on Cambodian classical dance, a style in which children were traditionally trained in the royal palace to eventually join the internationally renowned Royal Cambodian Ballet. The project will be directed by Dr. Toni Shapiro-Phim, an internationally recognized scholar of Khmer dance.

CKS Lecture Series


In January 2007, CKS initiated a new monthly lecture series at the CKS Conference Hall in Siem Reap. Board member Prof. John Miksic (National University of Singapore) kicked off the series with a lecture entitled "Current Trends in Cambodian Archaeology" covering archaeological programs in progress all over Cambodia. The lectures, by Fellows, researchers, community members and others are open to the public and held in the evening. Lectures to date have included: Prof. Vasudha Narayanan (University of Florida), "Alternative Interpretations of the Churning of the Ocean of Milk" and Dr. Kim Irvine (SUNY, Buffalo), "The Role of Phnom Penh's Wetlands in Sustainably Treating Sewage Discharges to the Mekong/Bassac/Tonle Sap River System." Please check our website for upcoming lectures.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Cultural and Agricultural Change in the Highlands of Cambodia:

Anthropological Research Among the Jarai

JONATHAN PADWE



Jonathan Padwe is completing a Ph.D. in Anthropology and Environmental Studies at Yale University.

PIENG'S *JIAO*, THE ENTRY-HALL OF HIS LONGHOUSE, is full of men drinking and engaging in *di sal*, a kind of informal chatting about the events of the day. It is one of the favorite pastimes of members of the Jarai highland minority in Northeast Cambodia. In the center of the *jiao* two tall ceramic jars are tied to a post, and four men sit drinking home-made rice beer through the long bamboo drinking tubes that emerge from the depths of each jar. Across from the drinkers, a younger man sits by a bronze urn full of water, monitoring their progress and insuring that each man drinks his full portion, one that will consist of three or more cupfuls from each jar. I have already run this gauntlet—each of us must drink from both jars in succession, and any mishap is punished with extra cups. Slightly plastered, I am sitting against the back wall of the longhouse, one of 12 men who are playing gongs to accompany the celebration. In the standard Jarai gong ensemble, only one gong is simple enough for me, the anthropologist. I only have to pound out a quick, steady rhythm on the gong—I have no obligation to hit notes to produce the complex melody that the other members of the group perform so effortlessly. Even so, I am a little off, and after the beat and melody drift irretrievably apart we give up and take a break.

My fellow musicians now look around conspiratorially and ask each other, 'Is it time? Now?' Finally they decide, 'Yes, it is time.' They tell me to get up, and my friend, Me, puts a *geio*, a woven basket, on his back and grabs the drum that hangs from a rafter. He beats it and dances around, looking fierce. The rest of our group assembles on the ground, beating tentatively on our gongs to find the next tune. 'What's happening?' I ask. 'Just play,' they tell me. Even as we are preparing, Pieng and his family, who are hosting the feast, run down to the sacrificial posts where they killed a water buffalo this morning. The charred head of the buffalo rests on the posts, and, after praying and tossing husked rice at it, they knock it to the ground with a stick. The direction in which it lands, facing east, augurs well for the coming year, and they are happy when they bring the head to the porch, where they slice some meat from the buffalo's cheek. The sliced meat is mixed with finely chopped hot peppers, MSG and salt in a small dish. It is a lethal mix, perhaps two-thirds hot pepper to one-third meat. As it turns out, our group of musicians is the 'raiding party'

who makes an assault on the hosts. In return, they 'fine' us, by forcing us to eat this hot pepper mix. As each player ascends the stairs, Pieng takes the top of his head with one hand and shoves some of the mixture into his mouth with the other. Even my Jarai friends cannot take the heat and spit it out. The test passed, however, we parade up and down the longhouse, beating on the drum and gongs and extorting a 'gift' from each family: cigarettes, tobacco, buffalo meat, a bottle of distilled rice-whiskey. The raid complete, we take our booty off down the hallway to consume it.

My days conducting research in the village where I live in Ratanakiri Province are filled with events such as this—feasts, funerals, days spent drinking and talking in someone's *jiao*, days spent recovering. While my research focuses on agriculture and the processes of environmental change in this area, the challenge to me as an ethnographer is to understand these phenomena within their historical and cultural context. During today's feast—a celebration of a good harvest—many of the principles which govern the practice of agriculture, and indeed all Jarai social life, have been on display. The importance of reciprocity, for instance, is evident in the 'raid' on the bounty which the hosts have enjoyed this year, and in the fine they levy on the bandits for their transgression. The prayers we say before drinking and the sacrifice of the buffalo attest to the significance which the Jarai attach to the *yang*, the spirits who live unseen in all places and determine peoples' fortune, their health, and the success or failure of the harvest, among other things.

Environmental and historical changes are evident, too, in today's celebration. 'When I was a young man,' says Mang, one of our hosts, 'a celebration like this would have been a much grander affair.' But today it is difficult to find the long bamboo poles that would have adorned the village back then—the forest is not as rich as it once was. Similarly, people are reluctant to sacrifice buffalos for ceremonies such as this. Buffalos are scarcer now, Mang reports, and people seem to believe in the *yang* a bit less than they used to. Whether Mang's memories of a bygone era of abundance are accurate (and colonial records speak of rice shortfalls more than they do of surpluses), it is clear that Jarai understanding of the world is changing as

rapidly as the landscape and the economy they live in.

My field research, conducted since 2005, has sought to understand some of these changes and document how the Jarai here have adapted their farming practices and environmental management techniques to new circumstances. Perhaps one of the most daunting challenges they have faced occurred over 30 years ago, in 1973, when, after enduring the terrors of the US bombing of their village, villagers were forcibly relocated to the Sesan River valley and settled into cooperatives by the Khmer Rouge. For six years they mostly practiced inundated pond-field agriculture, or 'wet' rice farming, and were scarcely allowed to grow their traditional upland 'dry' rice. When the revolution came to an end, many of their two-dozen or so rice varieties had been lost, as had much of the seed stock for the swidden agriculture system they have practiced for centuries. Yet within three or four years they managed to recover all those varieties, journeying to the villages of friends and relatives to whom they are linked by kinship and an alliance that extends beyond the confines of the village and ethnic group (most of the rice stock in the village was contributed by the Tampuen ethnic minority living nearby). By the mid-1990s they had incorporated cashew plantations into their agricultural system and were experimenting with other market crops.

The resilience of the agricultural system and the way changes to that system have mirrored changes in economic and political realities is the main subject of my research, which has been supported by a generous grant from the Center for Khmer Studies. To understand the changes in this system, I have visited peoples' farms and interviewed them about the history of the plants they grow there, especially their rice varieties. With local assistants, I documented all of the activity taking place on four sample farms in the village, and I mapped all of the land under production in the village, using a GPS and GIS software. I've analyzed aerial photographs and satellite images to study changes in the landscape over time. My goal in writing the dissertation will be to combine this environmental and biological data with the historical and cultural data I've collected to produce an account of social change that incorporates environmental and agricultural factors.

The story of how, in 2007, the people of this village came to be celebrating their rice harvest with a buffalo sacrifice and the enactment of the bandits' raid, after all the difficulties that they have endured in the past half-century, is one of the fascinating stories of Cambodia's recent history. Because agricultural and environmental management practices are so deeply embedded in the practice of social life among the Jarai, they are a good medium through which to investigate history and processes of social change, from the Khmer Rouge period to the present day.



Publishing

TRAINING IN TRANSLATION & PUBLISHING

TRAINING THE FUTURE, READING ABOUT THE PAST. With our first experience and the resounding success of translating and publishing David Chandler's *The History of Cambodia* in 2005, CKS began to realize its objective of contributing to the Cambodian publishing sector with high quality academic materials in the Khmer language. A long journey began with this step. While struggling with this text, we were confronted with the lack of qualified English-to-Khmer translators and decided to do something about it.

With funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Open Society Institute and generous private donors, CKS began a project to develop a core team of young Cambodian translators, consisting primarily of participants from the CKS Junior Faculty Training program. Three translator-trainees are chosen from each Junior Faculty Training session to translate a selection of materials from their semester's readings, in a supervised and peer-reviewed circular feedback loop. A central component of this process is a lively discussion session where project staff, translators and guest lecturers discuss the material in depth, covering English concepts, words and expressions to establish a clear and common understanding for each piece. Translations of these materials will be available for use at the universities.

Two translators from this core team, Pong Boramy and Cheat Sreang, were chosen as translators for CKS's next major translation undertaking: the Khmer language version of Milton Osborne's *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History*. In describing both the challenges they encounter and what drives them, one translator says, "Our translation work is full of complexity, difficulties and headaches, but the translation work is fun...we imagine that a lot of people will gain useful knowledge from our materials. So how can we give up?"

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHING IN CAMBODIA

Revised and updated by Helen Jarvis, Christiane Lalonde and Nhean Lakhena

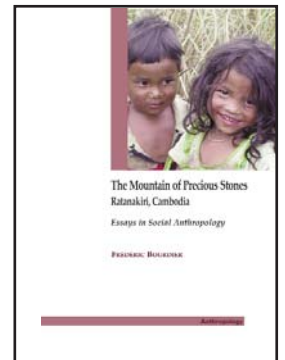
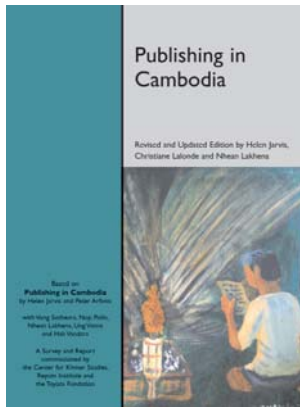
In May 2002, a team of Cambodian and international researchers began a comprehensive survey, through interviews with writers, publishers and printers in eleven selected provinces, to take stock of the state of the publishing sector in Cambodia as a whole, and to detail the areas of Writers and Writing, Book Production, Marketing and Distribution, and Readers and Reading. In February 2003, a workshop at CKS's Conference Hall gathered representatives of all sectors to finalize a set of recommendations. The project was conducted by CKS and Reyum Institute and funded by the Toyota Foundation.

THE MOUNTAIN OF PRECIOUS STONES - RATANAKIRI, CAMBODIA ESSAYS IN SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

by Frédéric Bourdier

This work brings together scientific articles written by the author, including those published in international reviews or books, as well as unpublished documents, not all of which are easily accessible either in Cambodia or overseas. The decision to publish them in one volume came about because of the lack of accessible material published about the cultural heritage of Cambodia's indigenous populations.

Based on participant observation collected between 1994 and 1996, the description and analysis that results reflects part of what can be termed the "cultural memory" of the indigenous populations, specifically the Tampuan of Ratanakiri, a way of life which is now severely threatened. As with indigenous populations around the world, drastic changes have occurred quickly and the life of the indigenous people depicted in this book belongs to the past. Therefore, this book documents a crucial part of their history and disappearing culture.



UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS 07/08

Siksacakr #8/9: The Journal of the Center for Khmer Studies, special double issue on religion

A Selection of Sanskrit Inscriptions, by Kamaleswar Bhattacharya and Heinz Golzio

Khmer Language Translations

Southeast Asia: An Introductory History by Milton Osborne

Southeast Asian Studies Series:

- No. 1: Contemporary Southeast Asia
- No. 2: Cultures and Identities of Mainland Southeast Asia
- No. 3: Religions in Mainland Southeast Asia

JUNIOR RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, SUMMER 2007

Now in its fourth year, the CKS Junior Resident Fellowship program promotes the next generation of scholars in Khmer and Southeast Studies by giving 15 American, Cambodian and French undergraduates the opportunity to broaden their understanding about Cambodia and its culture, while living in Cambodia for two months each summer. Renewed commitment from the Henry Luce Foundation and the Florence Gould Foundation, and continuing support from the U.S. Dept. of State/Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through CAORC and the Cogut Family Foundation, enable CKS to continue to offer this unique and stimulating opportunity for students to learn alongside their international peers, acquiring knowledge while creating friendships that cross boundaries of time and country, challenging their minds, assumptions and beliefs and opening up their world. Past Junior Fellows write:

[I was] privileged to have met an amazing group of interesting, intelligent and fun people, I... came home feeling truly enriched and genuinely sad to say good-bye to the beautiful people and country I encountered.

A lot of us were placed outside our comfort zone far from the monotony of our American landscape and were forced to really address a different lifestyle.

Fellows arrive at CKS in early summer for the program orientation, a little jetlagged and a little overwhelmed, but mostly very excited about the upcoming two months.

Some are shy and quiet, others are extroverted and confident. They come in as strangers, but quickly become friends. In addition to daily Khmer language classes for the French and

American students and English classes for the Cambodian students, the 2007 Summer Program, in partnership with the Council for International Educational Exchange, is offering two college-level courses taught by Southeast Asian scholars. Dr. Khatharya Um from University of California, Berkeley teaches Nation-Building in Cambodia after the Khmer Rouge Genocide and Dr. Jérémy Jammes from Paris X Nanterre teaches Cambodian History and Culture.

Students attend courses, go on field trips around Siem Reap and to Phnom Penh and conduct an individual field-based research project. During the two months, students from Cambodia, France and the United States learn from each other as they work with each other. Throughout the summer, one hears simple conversations in Khmer, heated debates about political issues, discussions about cultural



© Chris Jefferson

Voices: Erin Lin

CKS Junior Fellow, Yale University '07



"It seems to me that Cambodia 'made' you." My faculty advisor used these words to greet me back from Cambodia in September 2006.

I didn't know what he meant at the time. My trip to Cambodia only lasted three months. For three weeks, I joined a CKS

research project, working with Penny Edwards and Cambodian researchers in the Tonle Bassac slum for

Initiating Urban Studies in Cambodia. Then in July, I went to Siem Reap to join the CKS Resident Summer Junior Fellowship Program for two months.

The program emphasized individual thinking, and our class mantra became, "figure it out for yourself." Scrutinize the information you accept, generate questions, and find ways to answer them, but do so with respect for your subject.

Freshly inspired, I returned to school ready to take on the world. While I immersed myself in schoolwork, my mind

issues and personal reflections about issues of identity and nationality. This interaction is a cornerstone of the CKS Junior Fellowship program and that which sets it apart from other fellowship and study abroad programs.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO RESEARCH PROJECT: ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENT AND INEQUALITY

The University of Chicago research project, entitled Economic Growth, Social Inequality and Environmental Change in Thailand and Cambodia, conducted two intensive surveys in the Tonle Sap Region of Cambodia in its first two years. This multi-year project, based 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. Comparable datasets collected in both Cambodia and Thailand will allow a comprehensive analysis.



Project Director Ayrine Uk

More than 3000 households have been interviewed providing a complex dataset on contemporary Cambodian village life. Household level data are complemented by soil samples to inform the ecological component of the project. In fall 2007, Ms. Yayoi Fujita joins the team to coordinate and

initiate a more in depth ethnographic component. Involving University of Chicago graduate students and Cambodian researchers, these “binomial teams” provide a more culturally comprehensive approach to accurate data collection.

The June 2006 Memorandum of Understanding with APSARA Authority for long term collaboration addressing poverty alleviation resulted in a comprehensive proposal submitted by principal investigator Prof. Alan Kolata, Prof. Charles Ortloff and Project Manager, Ms. Ayrine Uk. This proposal focuses on the declining ground water resources in the region, that threaten to undermine economic growth and increase social inequality and the number of Cambodians living in extreme poverty. A joint two-year project will fill the critical technical and resource management gap using environmental field studies and intensive computer models.



kept returning to Cambodia. Two days after I took my last final, I returned to Phnom Penh. I surveyed households near the Boeung Kak slum to see if environmental conditions specific to Boeung Kak—polluted lake water, dust from the nearby cement plant, constantly burning trash—promoted certain types of diseases. This research launched one of my two senior theses.

In October, 2007, I will be returning to Phnom Penh as a Fulbright Fellow to study Health Equity Funds, part of Cambodia’s current health plan. International organizations and NGOs provide cost-reduced healthcare to the

poor, but to what extent, if any, does this health scheme improve medical services and quality of life?

I had the freedom in Cambodia to test my theory-laden undergraduate ideas against reality. My hands-on research experiences in Cambodia motivate me to pursue a career in development academia. And that, I believe, is how Cambodia “made” me.

JUNIOR FACULTY TRAINING PROGRAM: ACHIEVEMENT AND BEYOND

Now in its third year, the CKS Junior Faculty Training program, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, has successfully met many of its objectives in strengthening the junior faculty at Phnom Penh universities. Upwards of 70 Cambodian participants have taken part in the first five semesters of this program, which seeks to reinforce their scholarship, to introduce them to research, and to build

their professional confidence along with their skills.

Cambodian junior faculty participants come to CKS twice weekly for the classroom component of the program. They are mentored by distinguished visiting professors specialized in Cambodia and Southeast Asia, who model interactive teaching approaches, guide classroom discussion and advise participants on individual research projects. The program continues with a study tour to a neighboring country, where participants are able to interact with their regional counterparts face to face. They also conduct their research projects, collect documentation and interview people outside Cambodia, many leaving the country for the first time. For some participants, the program culminates in presentation of their research at an international conference alongside international scholars and colleagues.

The diverse and interconnecting components of the program provide a valuable training experience. The study tour and field research in neighboring countries enrich their academic reach and transform



Study tour group discussion in Vietnam

Voices: Sok Leang

Junior Faculty Training Program, 2006 and 2007



From the time I was very young, I saw the value that my parents placed on education. With their support and encouragement, I got my bachelor's in Khmer Literature at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) through a state scholarship and continued my education at the Institute of Foreign Languages (IFL). The challenging academic environment at IFL gave me the confidence to apply to RUPP's masters pro-

gram in sociology and anthropology.

It was at CKS, however, that I met the person who most inspired me academically. Dr. Penny Edwards, who taught the Junior Faculty Training program session entitled, *Cultures and Identities in Mainland Southeast Asia*, in 2005 exposed me to renowned regional and international scholars and researchers. Dr. Edwards hired me as a researcher for the CKS-New School University project *Initiating Urban Studies in Cambodia* where she provided research guidance, encouragement and mentorship as our Cambodian team conducted research on the Tonle Bassac. I was selected,



Program participant doing research in CKS's library



Program Advisory Council meeting

their preconceived notions of neighboring countries. Participants conduct individual field research often for the first time with only minimal supervision outside the country. Following the program, many remain involved in other CKS activities, including research projects, the Summer Junior Resident Fellowship Program, and the Translation Training Program. Through these activities, CKS provides ongoing support and mentoring to the next generation of Cambodian university faculty.

The CKS program has had a strong impact on participants beyond the simple written statement of completion in a diploma or certificate. It is a learning process, in which they broaden their knowledge through exposure to critical thinking and research, learn to set personal goals and continue to do so. Participants deem the pro-

gram important for their teaching and research. Several participants from the first session of the program have now been promoted to higher levels of teaching and curriculum development at their universities.

With continuing support by the Rockefeller Foundation, the CKS Junior Faculty Training program in its second phase will build upon these accomplishments. It will focus on promoting exchange between departments at partner universities in an effort to strengthen disciplines as a part of a long-term effort to build a more professional and dynamic higher education sector in Cambodia.

with two other researchers, to present on our research at a conference, *Southeast Asia and Sustainable Development*, in Singapore in 2006.

Due to my deepening interest in urban studies, I participated in another Junior Faculty Training program session, *Rural-Urban Studies: Local History in Regional Perspectives* under Professor Kate Frieson, where I was able to expand my research.

My academic experience coupled with the hands-on research and professional experience at CKS have led me to pursue my next goal: obtaining a master's and a doctor-

ate at an overseas university, so I can contribute to the establishment of a research community in Cambodia.

As I pursued my education, I also helped to found an NGO in 2006 called Youth Service Cambodia (YSC), aiming at mobilizing youth and university students to volunteer in poor communities. I remain a volunteer vice-president of YSC.

Sok Leang is a lecturer at the Cambodian University of Specialty (CUS) and the Singapore International School (SIS) and a freelance translator/interpreter of English and Khmer.

SENIOR FELLOWS 2007-2008

CKS SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

Supported by the Florence Gould Foundation and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers/U.S. Dept. of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Peter Bell is an Associate Professor of Economics at the State University of New York, Purchase. In June 2006, he received his first CAORC/ECA grant from CKS which partially funded his research project, *Gendered supply chains in the textile industry and poverty reduction in Cambodia*. His current research documents the examination of the role of gender in the Cambodian textile industry and its contribution to gender equality and poverty reduction. Utilizing data collection, on-site interviews and field trips to factories and rural areas, the project will explore the economic importance of the textile industry, and its linkages to other sectors of the economy. (CAORC/ECA)

Alison Carter is a Ph.D. candidate in the Anthropology department, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her dissertation research explores trade and its impact on socio-political development in pre-Angkorian Cambodia through the examination of stone and glass beads. Beads are often the first indicator of contact with South Asia, and as a prestige good, may have played an important part in the political economy. Examining beads from both previously excavated and current sites, across time periods and throughout Cambodia will shed light on the diverse interaction networks during the Iron Age and Early Historic periods. (CAORC/ECA)

Olivier Cunin holds a Ph.D. in Architecture from the Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine (France). His current research focuses on the spatial and chronological sequencing of the inscription, or “dedication”, engraved on the doorjamb of the Bayon style monuments. It is a continuation of his thesis research that provided an updated chronology of the main monuments of the twelfth-century architectural program of Jayavarman VII. Using methodology of building architecture and archaeology, his research established the local and global chronology of these temples, expanded in 2005, with Florence Gould Support, to include the chronologies of Ta Prohm, Preah Khan, Banteay Kdei and the Bayon through examination of their internal and external wooden structures. (Florence Gould)

Peter Hammer is a Professor of Law at Wayne State University and is conducting post-doctoral research on Cambodian health reform through archival work, interviews and discussions. Since the late 1990s, the provision of public health services in many Operational Districts has been “contracted out” to private groups. This policy experiment, with “control” Districts under continued public management, has been undertaken against a backdrop of changes in national health financing and rival experiments testing alternative models. These experiments can broaden into national and international debates about the roles of: the market and the state; empirical investigations in policy formation; politics in interpreting empirical

evidence; and money and donor demands in shaping national health policy. Prof. Hammer, in piecing together the many parts of this story, is constructing a narrative relevant to those interested in Cambodian politics and international health policy. (CAORC/ECA)

Kim Irvine is a professor and department chair in the Department of Geography/Planning at the State University of New York, Buffalo. His research focuses on potential for sustainable sanitation through Phnom Penh’s wetlands. Phnom Penh’s system of natural wetlands treat much of its sewage before it reaches the Mekong/Bassac/Tonle Sap river system, but to accommodate the city’s rapid growth, infilling of the wetlands has begun. As the city’s population increases its ability to treat waste is coming under increasing pressure. This ongoing study characterizes the levels of pollutants entering and leaving the largest treatment wetland, Boeng Cheung Ek, in order to assess the efficiency of the wetland in treating waste and examine possible health implications for the communities living on and using the wetlands and includes an education program to minimize health risks. (CAORC/ECA)



Jérémy Jammes holds a Ph.D. from Paris X/Nanterre in Ethnology and is conducting research on Caodaism in Cambodia. Fifteen days after the celebration of the Chinese New Year, Chinese “guest” spirits are invited to the two most famous pagodas in Phnom Penh and Takmao. A procession of Sino-Khmer and Vietnamese-Khmer mediums possessed by these “guest” spirits parade for four days in the Chinese O’Russey district. After putting a burning incense stick in her tongue, the medium writes symbolic talismans on yellow paper, which are distributed to bystanders or sold to merchants, conferring prosperity and fortune for the upcoming year. This ethnographic fieldwork reveals the presence of many Sino-Khmer and Vietnamese among the worshippers. (Florence Gould)

Ian Lowman is a Ph.D. candidate in the South and Southeast Asian Studies department at University of California, Berkeley. His research is concerned with political integration and identity in the Angkor period as it is expressed in the changing epigraphy and art. Mr. Lowman intends to concentrate on evidence from Banteay Chhmar, both in its “historical” bas-reliefs and in the exceptional narrative of K.227. (CAORC/ECA)

SENIOR FELLOWS 2006-2007



Vasudha Narayanan and Boreth Ly (University of Florida, Gainesville and University of Utah, respectively) are focusing their research on the multiple meanings of the churning of the ocean of milk story. This significant Khmer narrative is carved and reproduced on lintels, bas reliefs and, in recent years, in popular art throughout Southeast Asia. This project looks at this story in a strictly Cambodian context, examining the visual and verbal articulations as uniquely Khmer, interacting with the social and political contexts of the times. The project will feed into a volume of essays edited by Professors Narayanan and Ly, exploring possible interpretations that contributed to the prominence of this narrative through the study of temple inscriptions and sculptures and the contexts (where possible) in which they may have been located. **(CAORC/ECA)**

Jonathan Padwe is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology and Environmental Studies at Yale University. His research focuses on agriculture and the processes of environmental change among the Jarai in northeastern Cambodia within the historical and cultural contexts. He chose to focus on the agricultural and environmental management practices because they are deeply embedded in the practice of social life among the Jarai and are a good medium through which to investigate history and the processes of social change. Since 2005, he has spent significant amounts of time living with the Jarai exploring and documenting some of these changes and examining the way in which the Jarai have adapted their farming practices and environmental management techniques to new economic and political realities. **(CAORC/ECA)**

Celine Pierdet is a Ph.D. candidate at Paris I/Sorbonne whose research focuses on water issues. Water, a fundamental element for Southeast Asian rice-growing societies, has been studied extensively. However, Ms. Pierdet will analyze this issue differently by examining the difficulties resulting from lack of water resources as the intense urbanization of Phnom Penh continues. The hydraulic infrastructure of the capital faces two major challenges: the implementation of a coherent urban project on the dikes, both at their convergence and in the suburbs; and the lack of a sewage system in the peripheral zones. Ms. Pierdet's research will update the data on the current situation and anticipate the risks for the future. **(Florence Gould)**

Emiko Stock is a Ph.D. candidate at Paris X/Nanterre in Comparative Ethnology and Sociology. She uses in-depth observation and detailed ethnographic descriptions to study the systems of social organization among the Chams in Cambodia and the criteria of "belonging" to one group or another. The fieldwork has two components that analyze complementary aspects of the subject: long term participatory observation in a Cham village (Chrok Romirt in Kompong Chhnang province) to inform understanding of the group structure on a daily basis; and a comparative study of a sample of communities to understand how the notion of community can extend beyond its borders to an entire region. **(Florence Gould)**

Joseph Deth Thach (Department of Linguistics at INALCO, Paris) is conducting post doctoral study examining the translation of the passive voice in English or French into Khmer. The first step of this comparative study

focuses on the analysis of the word *trew*, « must, to have to, to be correct, to conform to », a word commonly used to translate the passive voice from these two languages into Khmer. Once the 'semantic identity' of *trew* has been established, it clarifies why this word at times could be chosen to translate the passive voice, whereas at other times this appears impossible. In those cases when the passive voice is not translatable by *trew*, he will try to identify and explain alternative translations. **(Florence Gould)**

Brice Vincent is a Ph.D. candidate at Paris III/Sorbonne Nouvelle specializing in ancient history. He will explore bronze production and exchange modalities during King Jayavarman VII's reign (1181-1218?), the era of the greatest Khmer expansion. Field research in Cambodia will complete his preliminary work undertaken in the EFEO library in Paris and includes the important collections of Bayon style bronzes in the National Museum in Phnom Penh and some bronze artifacts unearthed during recent archaeological excavations at Angkorian sites from the same period. Once this general corpus of Bayon style bronzes is delineated, both technical and stylistic comparative analysis can be used to differentiate local or regional production workshops. **(Florence Gould)**

Kheang Un is the assistant director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University. Dr. Un's current research project investigates the extent to which Cambodian civil society organizations, i.e., non-governmental organizations, trade unions, business associations and chambers of commerce can serve as a catalyst for democratic deepening through its efforts to push for horizontal and vertical accountability. One of the pillars of horizontal accountability is the rule of law, for it ensures a level playing field in both the political and economic realms. Ideally, these social forces have interests in a fair and non-corrupt legal system for the enforcement of contracts and to provide a stable economic environment. In actuality, they could be co-opted by state and non-state actors into maintaining a undemocratic system from which they themselves also benefit. **(CAORC/ECA)**

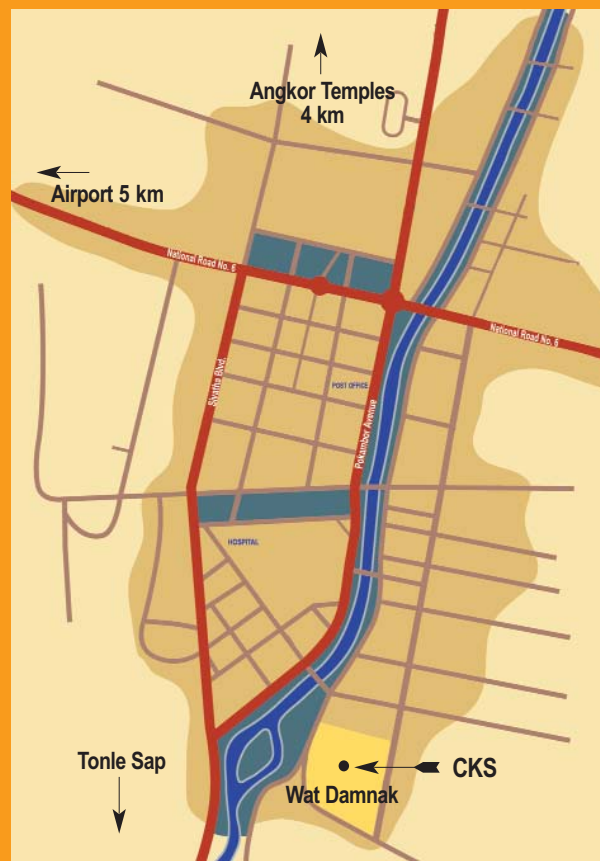
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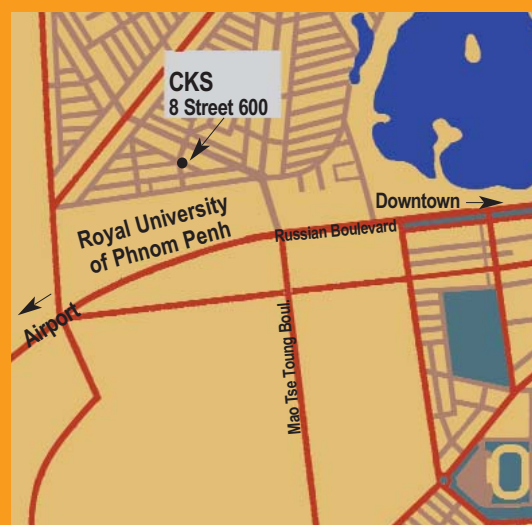
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