

# In Focus

No.9, 2011-2012



The Center for Khmer Studies

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## Mission Statement

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

### CKS seeks to:

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

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

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

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

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Children reading outside the new research center

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CKS is a member of CAORC  
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# WELCOME TO CKS!



Lois de Menil, President

CKS was a challenge from its inception. Founded in 2000, CKS's mission is to promote the study of Southeast Asia at U.S. universities, and simultaneously, to contribute to the formidable task of rebuilding Cambodia's higher education sector, which was deliberately destroyed during the Khmer Rouge genocide. There can be no

progress, no relief from poverty without the capacity higher education institutions provide to train intelligent, well-educated future leaders.

We began by establishing research fellowships for U.S. scholars, using their opportune presence in Cambodia to engage these senior scholars in leading training programs in several key areas for Cambodian university students and junior faculty. Major foundations welcomed this initiative with seed funding. Eleven years later, we have a substantial alumni group—the CKS Society of Fellows, including Cambodian, American and international scholars. Over time, we also built from scratch a modern research library, a place of free and open inquiry. Located on the grounds of Wat Damnak, a Buddhist pagoda in central Siem Reap, it is the only such library in the region and the second largest in Cambodia. Its facilities are remarkable, its atmosphere quiet and welcoming, amidst the dusty bustle of downtown Siem Reap. It is a place open to all, to think and to search, a favorite place for local young people.

A challenge from the outset was for CKS to become part of the network of prestigious international research institutions whose missions parallel our own, and which are joined together in the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), with headquarters in Washington. CAORC institutions promote scholarship that ensures that there are U.S. experts who speak the languages and understand intimately the cultures of countries and regions around the world. They put U.S. scholars into contact with their international colleagues and with scholars from the country in which they are located. This global effort is essential in modern society, to government as well as to businesses, and to the quality of education and culture, as those of us who lived through the grim period of the Vietnam War, with its dearth of American experts on Southeast Asia, well remember.

As an American Overseas Research Center, CKS receives support for fellowships from the State Department's Education and Cultural Affairs division, and has received partial support of overhead from the Department of Education under the Higher Education Act. Congress recognizes the essential contribution of AORCs. Over time, major foundations slowly phased out support after their

enthusiastic initial seed funding, and some switched focus to other regions and goals. CKS has been able to grow and prosper with the assurance of CAORC's access to core funding. Private contributions extended our reach to French scholars, whose traditional expertise in the area has long made Paris a capital of Southeast Asian scholarship. We now collaborate closely with the major French institution in Cambodia, the renowned French School of the Far East (EFEO) on projects and workshops, and with the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales—'Langues- O'. A French scholar from Langues- O founded and edits our annual trilingual journal, *Siksacakr*. Other private contributions from the U.S. and France made possible a remarkable undergraduate summer program in Southeast Asian history and Khmer language for Cambodians, Americans and French undergraduates, and a fellowship program for French scholars, paralleling the one for U.S. scholars. American and international scholars meet each other under the umbrella of CKS. Young Cambodian scholars learn how to work as research scholars and connect with colleagues. They join enthusiastically in our seminar and lecture programs.

The impact of the financial crisis has unfortunately resulted in steep cutbacks in U.S. government funding. CKS relies increasingly on private contributions to sustain its mission. The Department of Education responded to Congress's request for cutbacks, in spring 2011, by simply canceling all grants up for renewal in 2011, including the Higher Education Act. This affected all U.S. international education programs, without distinction, including overseas research centers and U.S. university centers.

CKS's dedicated Board of Directors stepped up once again to the challenge, and voted both to increase their own personal contributions and to double the target for this year's annual giving and the programs it will sustain. These include, among others, an intensive Khmer language program and a Southeast Asian Studies training program that prepares Cambodian junior faculty to develop a curriculum for new courses on the region at their universities. The corrosive effects of regional nationalism are visible in the press daily, as border disputes escalate to army face-downs along Cambodia's borders with neighboring Thailand and Vietnam. Never has it been more important to sensitize educated young people of the region to their common history and culture.

Please join our Board and our young Cambodian staff in their commitment to CKS's cross-border initiatives in international education. We are a place of welcome, of free inquiry and of hope for the future.

Lois de Menil, Ph.D.

President

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

After the fanfare and excitement of H.M. Sihamoni, King of Cambodia's visit in 2010, we quickly settled down to begin the job of implementing the next phase of the Center's development. Based on the previous year's evaluation, we took the lessons learned and sharpened the focus of our programming and activities. We created a renewed vision of how best to meet the challenges of our threefold mission: to promote scholarly exchange, increase understanding of Cambodia and its region and help strengthen Cambodia's cultural and educational structures. A central aspect of this vision has been the development of new ways in which we could integrate Cambodian scholars into regional and international exchange.

One new direction has been the establishment of a Southeast Asia Curricula Development Program for young Cambodian university lecturers.



Michael Sullivan, Ph.D., Director



Giant puppets created by local children on the CKS lawn

Research has shown that there are very few, if any, coherent Southeast Asian Studies programs currently available at Cambodian universities. Our program is designed to help fill that gap by giving young Cambodian university lecturers the opportunity to learn how to design curricula that situates Cambodia in the broader field of Southeast Asian Studies. The long-term goal is to facilitate the introduction of coherent Southeast Asian Studies curricula into Cambodian universities, which will lead to a greater understanding of the importance of regional and international educational exchange. The program was successfully piloted in August 2010 and will run again this year in September.

Another practical and new direction we have taken is the implementation of our Khmer Language and Culture Study Program, in collaboration with the Advanced Study in Khmer (ASK) program run by the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa. Building upon last year's experience, a group of U.S. graduate students underwent a successful and intensive eight-week language skills acquisition course, including a cultural immersion component, that enabled them to put into practice their newly found language skills alongside the more advanced students from ASK. The program demonstrates our commitment to promoting educational exchange by helping equip individuals with the necessary

Khmer language skills and cultural understanding for study and research purposes.

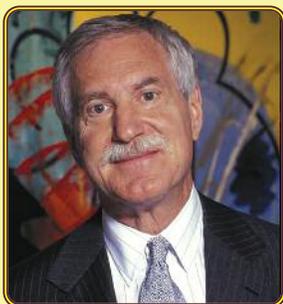
As well as consolidating new practical directions with our programming, we have also been reflecting further on the implications that the dramatic societal changes occurring in Cambodia have had for the field of Cambodian Studies. In July, CKS brought together senior and junior Cambodian and foreign scholars for an international conference entitled *Transforming Cambodia Studies: Social Change and Cultural Transitions Since 1979*. The conference proceedings represented a small but important step in re-framing questions and understandings of contemporary Cambodian Studies. This has important implications not just for lofty intellectual pursuits, but also for understanding the very real, practical world in which the Center is operating. Listening to the presentations and the sometimes exuberant and lively debates, one felt a sense of optimism and belief that the Center for Khmer Studies is moving in the right direction.

**Michael Sullivan, Ph.D.**  
Director



CKS director and teachers with participants of the 2011 CKS Khmer Language and Culture Study Program

# MEMBERS AND BENEFACTORS



**N**ever has CKS done better: this is the good news. Our programs have proved their worth, our students are going on to successful careers. Indeed, last January, at a gathering of former participants in the Junior Faculty Training Program, it was heartening to listen to these young men and women speak with enthusiasm about the jobs they do now. And just as their hard work has been rewarded, so we might expect our success to bring us, financially, to a new, more secure place.

That is just what would have happened if it had not been for the budget crisis in the United States and the consequent cuts made in many programs. Even if these cuts had been made rationally, we still would have done well, but they were not. The U.S. Department of Education, from whom we had been receiving funding, decided at the last moment not to follow the other departments, who cut a percentage right across the board. Instead, in a startling decision, the Department of Education simply cut out the entirety of those programs, which were dependent on a competition that had not yet been, but was about to be, decided. This competition determined the allocation of funds to American Overseas Research Centers - CKS is one of the most successful of these. There is very little doubt that our three-year grant would have been renewed. Instead all grants were canceled. They would not have been if the results of the competition had been announced a few days earlier.

Of course, we still receive funds from a variety of sources, including notably, private donors. Thus the new library was built thanks to gifts from members of our Board, and its functioning is ensured by a generous yearly gift from one of our private supporters. Other private and institutional donors make a number of our other activities possible. Our fellowship programs continue, and the list of past recipients is an inspiring one: of those students who came to CKS, many have become, or are becoming, specialists in the field of Southeast Asian and Khmer Studies. As for the reputation of CKS among experts, it has not ceased to soar.

Still, we now find ourselves faced with the urgent need to make up for those funds denied us and other research institutions, by the Department of Education's arbitrary cuts. Never has the support of individual donors been more important to us. We practice the most thoroughgoing frugality; our budget is a model of leanness, but we need help. Money goes further in Cambodia than in the United States, so that every dollar you give us does a great deal of good. You have supported us in the past. Now we need you more than ever. Thanks to you, in a mere eleven years we have built a great institution. Please help us to project our success into the coming year; by supporting us now, in this difficult moment, you will help us immeasurably: even a small effort will do a great deal of good.

May we hear from you?

**Olivier Bernier,**  
Vice President

## Join CKS!

**Participate in CKS's growth by becoming a member. Your contribution is essential to support our mission:**

- **Support CKS's Library Fund:** acquisition of books, equipment and computers, and the ongoing training of our Cambodian librarians.
- **Support important CKS public outreach:** free lectures, workshops and conferences, publications on contemporary and historical topics, and translation of essential educational texts into Khmer.
- **Help CKS train junior faculty at the universities:** to rebuild higher education after its deliberate destruction in the Khmer Rouge genocide.

**Annual Fund Membership categories:**

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The Van Waveren Foundation

## We Need You!

### Support Our Library (\$10,000)

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

### Sponsor the Translation of Educational Texts \$5-10,000

In the absence of books in the Cambodian language, Khmer, CKS translates and publishes key texts. A donation of \$10,000 will defray costs for an average 300 page book and will be acknowledged in the publication.

**Donate** a new computer for our library reading room (\$1,500)

**Connect** CKS's library to the World Wide Web for 1 Year (\$2,000)

**Help to Digitize** our library's collection (\$5,000)

**Place your Name on a Bookcase** containing approximately 400 titles (\$5,000)

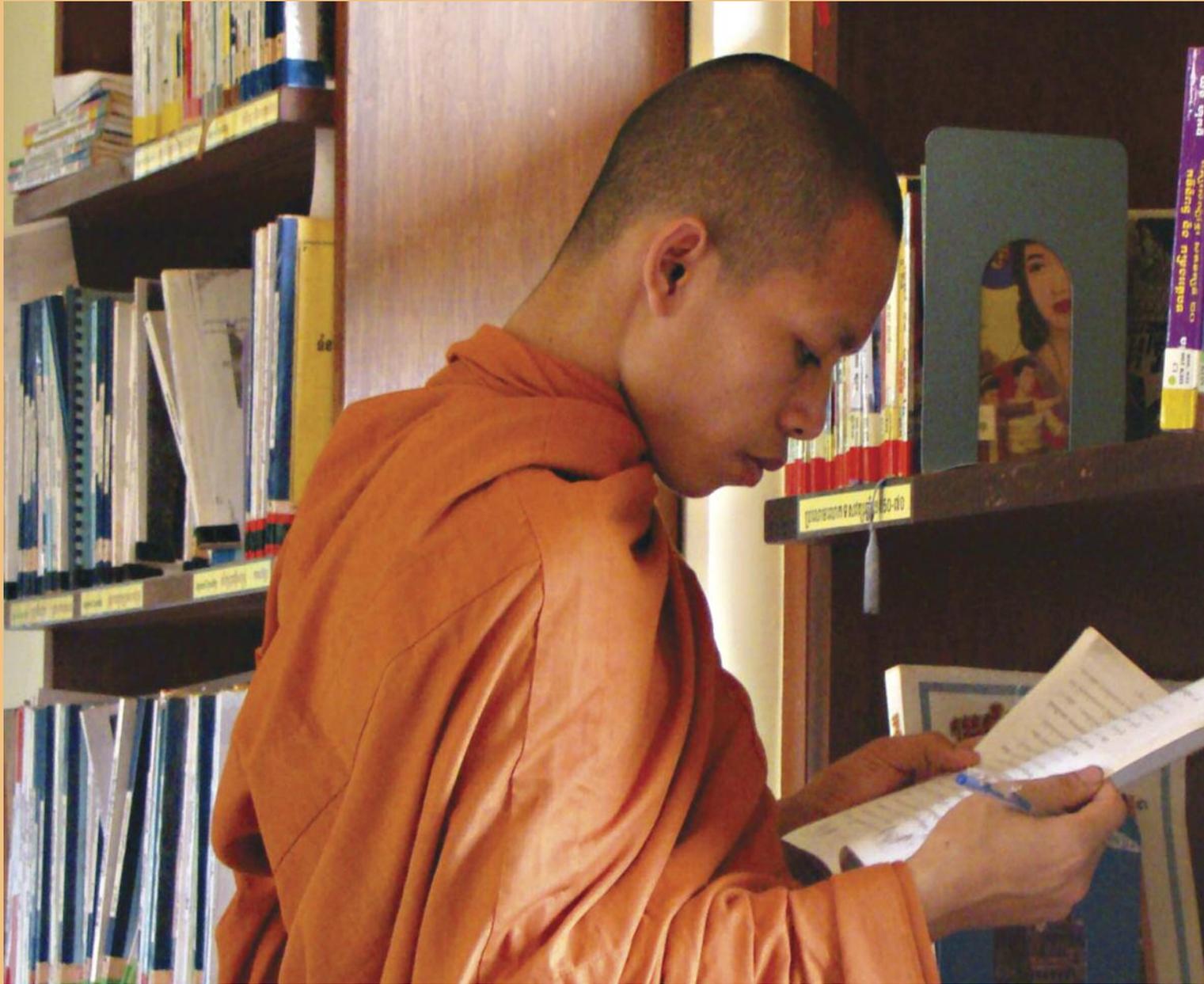
**Join the Director's Circle** and place your name on a plaque in the new library (\$35,000)

**Send a Cambodian Scholar to the 2012 Meeting of the Association of Asian Scholars in Toronto (\$3,500)**

**Sponsor an overseas Cambodian student for the CKS/ University of Hawai'i summer in-country program (\$3,500).**

We are grateful for your support!

# THE CKS LIBRARY: REACHING GLOBAL FRONTIERS



A monk browsing the bookshelves in the CKS library

**F**or the past four years, the CKS Board and Library Committee have been concentrating their attention on our new building: choosing and discarding plans, selecting builders and materials, picking woods, colors, designs, and generally trying to make the space as useful and pleasant as possible. A year after its opening, the building can be considered a resounding success - more readers have filled the increased number of seats. We now have both an official and unofficial reading room; while the official one has almost doubled in size, the terrace of the new building is often just as crowded. Its popularity has much to do with the availability of WiFi and the serene views of greenery and frangipani trees that enhance the

peaceful atmosphere. Scholars have also begun to use our new, spacious carrel room for their research, whilst seminars and meetings take place in a bright and airy seminar room.

## Into The Digital Age

Thanks to the generosity of Board members and friends of the library, as well as the energy and competence of our librarians, and the hard work of the CKS staff and director, operations on the ground are going well. With the new building completed, we can now turn our attention from bricks to bytes, as we plan to extend the reach of the library



easily accessible to more people wherever they are around the globe. It will also allow us to discover what is unique in our inventory, and thus to design an intelligent digitizing program to make it more widely available.

## A Center for Global Acquisitions

While CKS does its best to reach out, sometimes it is nice to be reached for: The Library of Congress has a worldwide acquisition policy, and we are at present discussing the prospect of becoming the Library of Congress's official agent for the area of Indochina. This has come about through our membership in CAORC, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, and being considered for this role is a tribute to CKS and our librarians.

## Retaining A Local Edge

In its wisdom, the CKS Board decided that our next acquisitions should concentrate with particular energy on maps and documents that concern local history. Siem Reap is where we are headquartered. It has changed enormously since CKS was founded in 2000, and will surely change further. It is therefore an obvious subject for us to document, using all forms of media available. Some acquisitions have already been made; besides often being objects of beauty, maps are particularly relevant here, where, for instance, discussions between the Kingdom of Siam and the French Quai d'Orsay to establish the borders of Cambodia went on for more than fifty years - borders that are still challenged by Thailand today.

With so much to look forward to, we are ready to embrace the challenge of the digital age that lies before us.

**Jacques Hennessy, Chairman  
CKS Library Committee**

into the ether. Our catalogue is already available online, but it stands alone, and must be consulted specifically by a researcher. Our next step would be to integrate it into a comprehensive research tool such as Webcat. This is a catalogue of catalogues, which can tell the user where the book he or she is searching for is available. For example, a scholar might discover that the only existing copy of the National Bank of Cambodia's report for 1960, or twenty years of records of water levels in the Tonle Sap, both of which are absolutely necessary to finish their research, are on our shelves. Thanks to Webcat, we can expect a visit in person, or possibly a remote request for a particular item. In short, such an integration of our catalogue will make it



Research Librarian, Mam Vannary in the CKS reading room

# Program & Activities

## SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES CURRICULA DEVELOPMENT & ACADEMIC STUDY SKILLS PROGRAM (A PILOT PROJECT)

It has been widely recognized that no distinct Southeast Asian Studies courses are taught at Cambodian universities. This lacuna in the curriculum prompted CKS to develop a course on Southeast Asian Studies, drawing on the successful model of the Junior Faculty Training Program (JFTP), supported by the Rockefeller Foundation. This new initiative incorporates academic materials developed over the five years of the JFTP, together with resources produced by the young scholars participating in that program.

This year, the course served as a pilot project with a two-pronged approach: to develop curricula for Southeast Asian Studies courses, and to foster the skill sets required to teach young Cambodian students at the undergraduate level. The first objective focused on equipping lecturers with knowledge and skills to teach Southeast Asian Studies courses in the Khmer language to fourth-year undergraduates at Cambodian universities. The second objective concurrently addressed the underdeveloped academic skills that exist among university students, by incorporating specific study skills lessons throughout the course. These include facilitating student-centered learning, developing analytical questioning, using reference systems, learning about the perils of plagiarism, and recognizing primary and secondary data sources and how to use them.

### Training the Lecturers

The project was organized in two different phases; first, the training of trainers, and second, undergraduate student training. The first phase of the project was thus tailored to provide further training, with a specific focus on Southeast Asian Studies, to a small number of lecturers who had already gone through the Junior Faculty Training Program. Out of twenty applicants, fifteen were selected to participate in the course, based on the merit of their applications and commitment to teaching undergraduate students. Between August and October 2010, these participants met three times a week at the CKS Phnom Penh center to complete a total of thirty-six training sessions.

Dr. Kate Frieson, a Visiting Scholar specializing in

Southeast Asian Studies, provided the training for this pioneering course. Dr. Frieson's fluency in Khmer, extensive experience in teaching Southeast Asian Studies, and previous involvement in the Junior Faculty Training Program made her a natural choice. The course was organized around four main themes with a practicum component, each composed of nine sessions:

1. *Conceptualizing Southeast Asia*
2. *The History of Southeast Asia*
3. *Contemporary Southeast Asia*
4. *Curricula Development on Southeast Asian Studies*

Academic study skills were incorporated into each of the themes to address the challenges of critical thinking, logic and reasoning, presentation of ideas, and forming habits of academic reading, writing and interactive presentations.

The course sessions were enriched by the attendance of guest lecturers. These included Prof. Lindsay French, who gave a lecture on the concept of borders and their meaning for the study and mapping of Southeast Asia. Prof. Judy Ledgerwood addressed the issue of rice and the concept of space in Southeast Asia, as well as gender concepts in



Dr. Kate Frieson instructing the trainee lecturers during a seminar

Southeast Asia. A lecture on colonial power in Southeast Asia was given by Prof. Eve Zucker, while Mr. Chean Men spoke about the religious complexity of mainland Southeast Asia.

At the end of these sessions, participants were required to create an academic curriculum for Southeast Asian Studies as a model to be used for a fourth-year university course in the Khmer language. Each individual participant was thus required to develop a topic chosen within a thematic framework and using a wide range of materials, before presenting it to their peers and to the instructor for constructive comment and feedback.

Given that many university students do not have sufficient knowledge of English to access advanced texts, it was important to select topics that were supported by reading materials in the Khmer language. Participants were encouraged to use as much as possible materials translated into Khmer, such as those produced by CKS. These include published anthologies of articles from the JFTP, *A History of Cambodia* by David Chandler, *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History* by Milton Osborne (the main textbook for the course), articles from *Siksacakr*, as well as other related materials available in Khmer.

## Training the Fourth-Year Undergraduate Students

The second phase of the training was for those lecturers who successfully completed the first stage of the course, to train fourth-year undergraduate students using the curricula they had developed. To this end, students either completing their fourth year of study or recently graduated in the social sciences, were recruited from various universities based on their academic achievement. This part of the course was structured similarly to the first phase, with the



Participants developing new Southeast Asian Studies curricula during a training session

twenty-seven selected students meeting for a series of twenty-five sessions. Between November 2010 and February 2011, students therefore received an impressive fifty hours of instruction.

The program solicited rigorous performance from both lecturers and students. In order to achieve their teaching goals, each lecturer prepared reading materials based on their assigned topics and distributed them to students prior to the lecture. They were also required to prepare their lecture notes and presentation in Khmer, and to deliver the lecture by applying interactive pedagogical methods, alternating between lecture presentation, Q & A sessions, and open discussion.

The student-centered design of the course was geared to stretching students' learning approaches as well as academic knowledge. Students were often asked to form groups to discuss selected reading materials, debate important theories and concepts, and make presentations based on critical readings of the various topics they had covered during the course. Such techniques proved to be a new and rewarding experience for Cambodian university students.

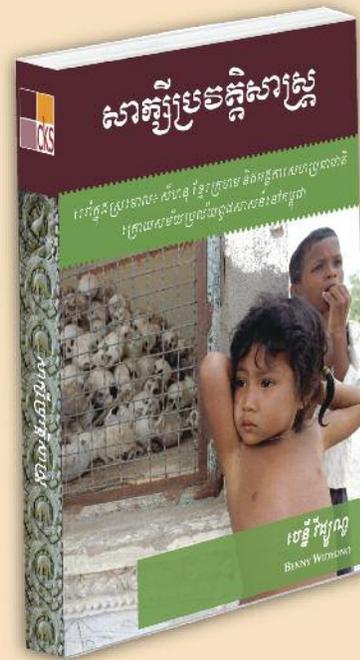
Student performance was measured based on a number of criteria, including class attendance and participation, assignments and quizzes, a midterm exam and a final term paper. For this, students were required to propose a topic related to Southeast Asian Studies, and present their completed paper to the class for feedback at the conclusion of the course. A team of lecturers then evaluated the papers according to set standards. All students passed with flying colors, and were rewarded with a certificate of completion by CKS.

## Workshop on Southeast Asian Studies Course and Curriculum Development

On December 17, 2010, CKS organized a workshop to present this pioneering pilot project to officials from the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Cambodian Accreditation Committee, and lecturers from different universities. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain feedback and recommendations from relevant participants, in order to further a common curriculum on Southeast Asian Studies for all universities, and also to establish collaboration with partner universities to expand the program in the future. The outcome of the workshop was especially positive, with all partner universities finding this initiative to be of utmost importance and relevance for the future of university teaching in Cambodia. It is CKS's vision that this course help to fill the curriculum gap, and be incorporated widely at Cambodian institutions of higher learning in the near future.

# PUBLISHING & TRANSLATION

A big part of the Center's commitment to strengthening Cambodia's cultural and educational structures has been, and continues to be its Publishing and Translation Program. Steadily over the last few years the Center has built a reputation for publishing high quality translations and other reading materials that make important contributions to replenishing stocks destroyed during the Khmer Rouge period. CKS Khmer-language versions of David Chandler's *History of Cambodia*, and Milton Osborne's *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History* are still available in bookstores in most major Cambodian towns and cities. Our series of seven readers, containing contemporary Khmer translations of academic articles used during our training programs, are widely applied in Cambodian universities and other institutions of learning. We also publish materials in English and French as well as Khmer, including proceedings from conferences, monographs, original research and our very own trilingual, peer-reviewed academic journal *Siksacakr*, *Journal of Cambodian Studies*.



Khmer-language translation of Benny Widyono's *Dancing in Shadows: Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge and the United Nations in Cambodia*

## Voices: Ith Channa CKS Junior Fellow, 2011



My name is Ith Channa, a graduate of The Royal University of Phnom Penh. Since graduating in June 2010, I still take time to further my studies as much as possible. Therefore I was very happy when, in November 2010, I got the chance to take a course at the Center for Khmer Studies alongside another twenty-six students,

whilst also completing a TESOL course in English teaching methodology.

Before I began my studies at CKS, I received a copy of the academic program, which informed me about what classes I could look forward to. I was so surprised after I realized that we would receive instruction on an impressive fourteen topics, taught by twelve different lecturers, even though the course would only run for three months.

By participating in this program, I noticed some dramatic differences from my experiences at university. In particular, the teaching methods at CKS inspired students to feel motivated to study. I not only came to listen and take notes, but I was also encouraged to use my thinking skills and share ideas. We were assigned with a variety of activities, such as group discussions,

assignments, presentations, and above all, successful completion and defense of a research paper. This gave me a lot of scope to express my own ideas. Thus, both in response to the class requirements, and in order to succeed, I had to be active, committed, and challenge myself.

If I compare my time before coming to CKS, I feel I have gained so much from participating in the Southeast Asian Studies Program. CKS didn't just improve my knowledge; it also built up my confidence, dedication and thinking skills. It especially guided me in how to successfully write a research paper. Although only a relatively small task, I feel that writing a research paper, something I had never done before, was one of my biggest achievements.

Now I work as a translator and reporter for DAP News Center. Having had the opportunity to be a part of this program, I would like to say a big thank you to CKS for giving me the chance to broaden my knowledge and research skills. In addition, I would like to thank the CKS lecturers and facilitators for their immense help, which inspired me to become a successful student.

## Recent Projects

In keeping with our commitment to publishing materials in the Khmer language, in May 2011 we launched our latest book translation project, *Dancing in Shadows: Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge and the United Nations in Cambodia* (originally published by Rowman & Littlefield). With permission from the author and the original publishers of the English language version, CKS began the project in March 2010. A specialized team was assembled, including two translators, Mr. Touch Soputhy and Thol Dina, editors Mr. Vong Sotheara and Ms. Chea Bunnary, the project supervisor Mr. Chean Rithy Men and publishing coordinator Mr. Yem Yoeun.

The book, written by Prof. Benny Widyono, is a personal memoir of his experiences as a senior member of the United Nations Transitional Authority (UNTAC) - responsible for organizing multiparty democratic elections in Cambodia between 1992-3 - and his later role as the United Nations Special Representative for Political Affairs in Cambodia between 1994-7. As a memoir, the book was written in a very accessible style, allowing the translation team to complete the project in a little over twelve months. The book generated a great deal of interest among

Cambodians, who have limited access to books in the Khmer language that deal with this recent period of Cambodian history.

CKS chose the Royal University of Phnom Penh as the venue for the book launch. It was encouraging to see so many young Cambodian students eager to get their hands on a copy. Many young Cambodians have very faint recollections, or no personal memories of UNTAC at all. For these students, the book provides a particular viewpoint that allows them to think critically about a momentous and highly contentious period of their country's history.

Interest in the book was not only confined to Cambodian students. A couple of days after the official book launch, the author, accompanied by the CKS director, was invited to present copies of the book to the Cambodian Prime Minister, Hun Sen. The P.M. was very appreciative, and thanked CKS for the good work it is doing in the field of translations. New and exciting translation projects are already in the pipeline, and will begin shortly.

## Voices: Touch Sokha CKS Junior Fellow, 2011



Early in the fourth year of my Bachelor of History degree, I had the chance to join a three-month training program run by CKS in Southeast Asian Studies. This very interesting course greatly enriched my university studies, which were also focused on the theme of Southeast Asia at the time. The course provided me with the valuable opportunity to acquire new ideas from professional lecturers. Moreover, CKS supplied many kinds of study materials to students before the start of the course, making me well prepared, and equipping me with many ideas to discuss in class.

During the program, students were encouraged to work in groups and hold discussions on academic topics that I had never encountered before. This technique allowed me to take part in valuable debates where I could express my ideas. As a result, I grew as a confident individual, who dared to share ideas in a group setting - something I had never done before. Furthermore, the course taught me how to properly carry out research, and gave me the task of completing a small research topic. Even though it was small, it was an academic one. Professional lecturers evaluated my research paper, commenting on it carefully. Consequently, the program afforded me the opportunity to gain

new experiences, as well as earn priceless feedback and advice from qualified professionals, thus improving my future research endeavors greatly. As a result of this experience, I was able to earn runner up position for a research paper writing competition.

Attending the Southeast Asian Studies Program has been one of the best opportunities and experiences I've encountered. Nowadays I work for an NGO as a writer. As such, conducting research and interviews are essential elements to fulfilling my writing goals. It is true that I learnt such skills from my lecturers at university, but it is also greatly thanks to the CKS Southeast Asian Studies Program. It broadened my ideas and encouraged me to become more deeply involved in social affairs. Furthermore, CKS not only expanded my knowledge, it also guided me in a new way of thinking. Before I attended the course, I had only wished to pursue my Master's degree. However, now I feel it essential that I pursue it, as what I encountered was a plethora of knowledgeable people who I have come to regard as my role models. My future success can undoubtedly be attributed in part to CKS, after all, the center has guided me in the right direction.

# CONFERENCE

## TRANSFORMING CAMBODIA STUDIES:

### SOCIAL CHANGE AND CULTURAL TRANSITIONS SINCE 1979

Center for Khmer Studies in collaboration with:

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY AND LOS ANGELES, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON, AND NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY.

On the morning of July 7, 2011 over one hundred people gathered together in the CKS conference hall eagerly awaiting the first day of the CKS conference to begin: *Transforming Cambodia Studies: Social Change and Cultural Transitions since 1979*. The conference was organized by CKS in collaboration with senior scholars from the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, the Consortium of Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin,

Gender, Transforming Community through Technology and Migrations and Transformations.

Each of the panels and topics generated a good deal of interest from the audience; the question and answer sessions and subsequent discussions were lively and engaging. The discussions were guided by questions related to the impact these transitions are having in Cambodia, especially in terms of power relations, communal organization, identity formation and rural, urban and transnational migrations.



Conference attendees enjoying refreshments in the CKS gardens

Madison. Within the field of Cambodia Studies, a conference that attempted to examine the multiple and dramatic social, political, economic and cultural transitions that Cambodian society has undergone since 1979, from multidisciplinary points of view, was long overdue. The purpose was to bring together both younger and senior Cambodian and overseas scholars to begin a process of dialogue and exchange of views, in an effort to gauge the ways and extent to which Cambodia Studies has been, and is being transformed.

To that end, the conference was organized into several distinct panels over three days. Altogether, nineteen papers were presented by an international host of junior and senior scholars from Cambodia, Thailand, Japan, and South Korea, as well as Australia, United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany and the United States. A variety of new perspectives were offered on topics that included: Aesthetics and Politics of Memory, Transforming Meanings and Media in Religion, Rights and Laws, Transitions in



Board member Prof. Anne Hansen addressing the conference participants

Overall, this conference succeeded in reviving dialogue among a broad, multinational and multidisciplinary community of scholars, and will help to further stimulate debate and scholarly research in this field.



Participants attending a presentation in the CKS conference hall

# ARCHEOMETALLURGY WORKSHOP



Mr. It Sopheap's bronze workshop near Vat Thmei, Siem Reap, courtesy of Brice Vincent

In March 2011, the Center was delighted to be able to collaborate with the École Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), and the Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap (APSARA), with support from the Friends of Khmer Culture (FOKC), in organizing the first ever archeometallurgy workshop in Cambodia. Recent developments in the overseas laboratory analyses of ancient metal artifacts from Cambodia have coincided with the broader undertaking of field archeometallurgy and metal conservation within Cambodia. This has resulted in a significant number of Cambodian and foreign scholars working concurrently in the field of Cambodian archeometallurgy. Up until now however, these scholars had not joined forces as a unified sub-discipline, thereby limiting communication between them. The workshop organizers recognized that the combined potential of such studies to new generations of Cambodian archaeologists and cultural heritage managers could thus be lost.

In an effort to remedy this, the workshop aimed to bring together experts, colleagues and students who share a common interest in Cambodian metallurgy, from prehistory to the historical period. Over a packed few days, pre-

senters talked about all aspects of archeometallurgy in Cambodia, including survey and excavation of metal production sites, material science analyses, metal conservation, and ethno-archaeological fieldwork. The purpose of such presentations was to highlight recent studies in the field of Cambodian archeometallurgy and stimulate future research and collaborations, with a view to enhance and propagate this new, emerging discipline.



Archeometallurgy workshop, CKS conference hall

# NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CAMBODIA DATABASE PROJECT

**W**ith the completion, in 2010, of the first CKS/Leon Levy Foundation project to develop a thorough digital inventory of the National Museum of Cambodia's collections, the next step was to complement this with a searchable database that could provide interactive digital access. Not long after the completion of the inventory project, National Museum Director, Madame Oun Phalline and former director H.E. Hab Touch (now Director General for Cultural Heritage in charge of the General Department of Heritage), began discussing the possibility of creating a database with CKS Board members Emmy Bunker and Darryl Collins. Those discussions resulted in a CKS grant proposal to the Leon Levy Foundation, which had previously funded the Collection Inventory Project, and which again generously agreed to support the database project.

Preparatory work began in January 2011. Darryl Collins took on the responsibility of organizing and coordinating the project. The first phase involved replacing old computers, updating necessary hardware and identifying software capable of meeting the needs of the museum. This entailed ensuring that requirements such as Khmer fonts, Unicode compliance and open-source software for trilingual entries were met. Recruiting staff with the required levels of computer skills to operate and manage the database was also essential.

Sourcing suitable software was far from straightforward, given the special requirements of the museum's collection. After a lengthy search, involving numerous meetings and discussions with museum staff, local software designers, Harvard University Art Museum and the Freer Sackler Museum at the Smithsonian, a 'Collective Access' software system was settled upon. The next difficult step was to find in-country software engineers capable of adapting the Collective Access system to the needs of the museum.

Hiring a company from outside Cambodia would have been far from ideal, given the amount of work that needed to be done. Hence, after another lengthy search, and much to everyone's relief, in May, a local company Khmer-Dev Inc., headed by software engineer Matthieu Lagier, was contracted to do the job. By June, all elements were in place: there were new terminals and hardware, an appropriate software system installed, and a dedicated database team composed of museum staff. This concluded the first preparatory phase.

Work on the database is expected to take another two years before it can be tried, tested and become fully operational. This lengthy but necessary process will be time well spent. An accessible database is essential to maximize the use of the excellent work of the inventory project. Improving access to the entire museum collection will benefit many aspects of the museum's daily work. Preparation of exhibitions, conservation of artifacts, photography and research of works for publication, as well as public enquiries will all reap the rewards of this groundbreaking project.



Bronze 13th century Ganesha, National Museum of Cambodia

Thanks to the Museum Collection Inventory initiative, the Ganesha featured above was displayed together with other Angkorian bronze sculptures at the internationally acclaimed exhibition, *Gods of Angkor: Bronzes from the National Museum of Cambodia*. After its debut at the Freer and Sackler Galleries, the exhibition recently concluded its tour in August 2011 at the Getty Museum.

# KHMER LANGUAGE & CULTURE STUDY PROGRAM

The 2011 CKS Khmer Language and Culture Study Program, organized in collaboration with the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa's Advanced Study in Khmer program (ASK) got underway in June. This was the second year the Center ran its intensive eight-week-long beginners program. This year, eight participants, mainly graduate students from a variety of universities across the United States, engaged in Khmer language skills acquisition during morning sessions, followed by cultural activities in the afternoon, where they put their newfound skills to the test. In addition to field visits to local organizations, markets and museums, participants spent one week in homestays in Kampong Chhnang province. Staying with host families gave them invaluable insights into what life is really like in a typical, rural Cambodian setting. Such a combination of challenging classroom language study, coupled with engagement and interaction with local Cambodians stands the participants in good stead, as they prepare to conduct in-country academic research.

Collaboration with the University of Hawai'i benefited the CKS participants by enabling them to apply for summer study abroad course credits. Part of the course requirements for receiving credit involves the completion of a small research project related to the participant's broader research interests. At the end of the program, participants sit an exam where their knowledge is tested in a rigorous



Khmer Language Program participants visiting Angkor Wat

but balanced manner.

Based on participant feedback, the program structure is judged to be effective in maximizing overall learning experience and skills acquisition. All participants stressed the importance of using what they had been taught in regular exchanges with native speakers. They also described how the activities outside of the classroom, especially the homestays, deepened their knowledge of the country and its people. They further pointed out that the Cambodians they engaged with also benefited from these exchanges, as they gained some insights into the lives and interests of people from outside Cambodia. In this way, the program fulfills its broader purpose in promoting and facilitating educational exchange, as well as equipping participants with the tools necessary to conduct their research. We look forward to running the program for a third time in 2012.



CKS and ASK 2011 Khmer Language Program participants

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Siem Reap Giant Puppet Project

As part of our effort to reach beyond established academic programs and into the local community, the Center played host to the annual Siem Reap Giant Puppet Project. The Giant Puppet Project is a local community children's arts initiative that provides a creative outlet for disadvantaged children. As well as helping to develop a variety of skills, the project aims to foster independence and confidence in the children, while at the same time building a sense of community spirit and cohesion. The children create giant puppets from scratch; each puppet creation represents and symbolizes a variety of unique educational, cultural or environmental themes, such as road safety, endangered species, hygiene, local cultural appreciation and environmental awareness. The children are guided and taught by student artists from Phare Ponleu Selpak Art School in Battambang province, the pro-



Festive Khmer dance and music accompanied the Giant Puppet Parade through Siem Reap



Cambodia's endangered birds was one of the themes for this year's puppet project.

ject's Artistic Director, Jig Cochrane and Project Director and co-founder Stuart Cochlin.

In February, over five hundred children participated in workshops designed to stimulate the children's imagination and creativity. The workshops focused on traditions and skills that were almost completely lost to a young generation of Cambodians. Through the Phare Ponleu Selpak Art School, along with the many NGOs that work with them in Siem Reap, the project aims to bring these crafts back to the forefront of society. Given the huge size of the puppets, the CKS lawn and conference hall provided ideal spaces for the workshops. Each morning for two weeks, the children would energetically gather together their materials and begin to create their puppets; the results were big, bold and spectacularly colorful.

This year, the United States Ambassador to Cambodia, Carol Rodley, happened to be visiting the Center when these workshops were underway. She was surprised and delighted by the children's energy and creativity, not to mention the puppets themselves. At the end of the project, the children paraded the puppets around Siem Reap in a fun-packed, light-filled and highly exciting evening of celebration, bringing the center of Siem Reap to a virtual standstill. Hundreds of spectators lined the route to cheer them. The event is becoming so popular that international tour groups now mark the event in their tour calendars. CKS is proud and privileged to contribute to such a worthy and unique project.

## Summer Junior Resident Fellowship Program 2012

Since 2004, CKS has been proud to support over ninety undergraduate Junior Fellows from Cambodia, France and the United States, with the generous backing of the Henry Luce and Florence Gould Foundations. Next year, with our own annual fund support, CKS will continue to host American, Cambodian and French Junior Fellows for six weeks during the summer months. Based in Siem Reap, participants will attend daily lectures, volunteer in local service programs, and take a field trip to Phnom Penh. The Cambodian authorities will also make available free passes to the Angkor monuments. While living and studying together, Jr. Fellows will also conduct a short individual research project focusing on a topic ranging from Angkorian history and politics, to art, culture or religion.

## CKS-Sri Lanka Workshop, January 2012

In an effort to extend CKS's outreach in Southeast Asian Studies, the Center submitted a joint proposal with the American Institute for Sri Lanka Studies (AISLS) to CAORC, requesting support for a collaborative workshop in January 2012, entitled *Colonial Legacies and Contemporary Scholarship in Sri Lanka and Cambodia*. Its aim is to juxtapose and contextualize the two countries' shared experiences of colonial rule and their lingering effects on society. The Center is also considering a proposal to hold a further workshop, in May 2012, entitled, *Gender Issues in Southeast Asia*, with the University of Cambodia. The CKS website will be updated with further details. [www.khmerstudies.org](http://www.khmerstudies.org).

## CKS Lecture and Seminar Series

Following our successful lecture and seminar series in Phnom Penh, CKS plans to expand this program to its Siem Reap headquarters in 2012, where CKS Fellows, invited scholars, as well as a broader network of Cambodian and international researchers from the fields of Cambodian and Southeast Asian Studies will present their work and lecture on their field of expertise. These lectures will be open to the general public.

# FEATURE ARTICLE:

## CKS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CAMBODIA INVENTORY BONUS

Emmy Bunker



**Emmy is a Research Consultant in the Asian Art Department, Denver Art Museum and a CKS board member. She is also co-author of a recent book with Douglas Latchford on Khmer Bronzes.**

The Center for Khmer Studies Collection Inventory Project of the National Museum of Cambodia (NMC), initiated by Shelby White and funded through the Leon Levy Foundation, has become an essential tool for the study of Khmer metallurgy. Its success, largely thanks to the careful oversight of CKS Board member Darryl Collins, enabled some 8454 metal artifacts to be identified and recorded in digitalized form; each piece is accompanied by comments from resident French scholars of the past, and more recent visiting scholars, providing valuable information related to provenance and date.

Until recently, Khmer sacred bronzes have had limited scholarly attention compared to architecture and stone sculpture. Although many bronze NMC artifacts have not been scientifically excavated, they can still serve as cultural documents if we can only learn to read and interpret the visual information they provide, especially foundry earmarks. Particular casting characteristics displayed by some bronzes reveal technical features that may suggest a more precise provenance, production date and often an image's original appearance before its various clothing appendages had been lost.

For example, one impressive piece that came to light during the inventory project is the late Baphuon-style bronze male image from Phnom Bayang, Takeo Province (fig.1). This bronze displays unusual casting features that suggest a production site located in the Korat region, accepted for several other technically related Baphuon-style figures (Bunker and Latchford 2011: figs 7.22a,b).

The Phnom Bayang figure was first published by Boisselier in 1955 in a rather poor frontal photograph (pl. 107 A. Ga 2993). Martin Lerner noted the similarity of style between the Bayang figure and a Baphuon kneeling female image in the Asia Society collection that was found in the Korat region, suggesting that the Bayang figure may have originally been cast in the Korat region, possibly even the same foundry (Felton and Lerner 1988: 226, no. 10).<sup>1</sup> The Phnom Bayang figure has recently been published with better illustrations in the *Gods of Angkor* (Cort and Jett 2010: 103-5, fig. 51) and *Khmer Bronzes: New Interpretations of the Past* (Bunker and Latchford 2011: figs. 7.22a, b), making the style and technical features more easily understood.

It has been suggested that the Bayang image was intended to represent Shiva, but the lack of a third eye makes the identification questionable (Cort and Jett 2010: 50, fig. 20;

p.103). Instead, its regal appearance and hand positions could indicate the embodiment of a significant royal personage, such as has been suggested for the enigmatic gilded male figure in The Metropolitan Museum, tentatively described as a "deified king" by Lerner (Bunker and Latchford 2011: 238-239, figs. 7.14 a, b).



Fig.1. Standing male image, gilded bronze, h. 57 cm., National Museum of Cambodia, Ga 2993.



Fig. 2. Reverse of figure 1.

The Phnom Bayang figure has also been tentatively associated with the Mahidharapura family from the upper Mun Valley. Such an association would explain the late Baphuon style, if the image had been commissioned after 1080, when Jayavarman VI, the first Mahidharapura ruler, gained the Khmer throne (Cort and Jett 2010: 50). The Bayang region had been Shaivite since its foundation in the seventh century and, according to a stele inscription dated 1107, the name of the village where this image was discovered was Shivapura, confirming a local Shaivite association (Bruguier et al 2009: 155-56).

The Phnom Bayang figure is clothed in a characteristic Baphuon-style dress: a low-riding *sampot chang kben*, consisting of a cloth *sampot* wrapped around the waist with one end twisted, pulled (*chang*) through the legs (*kben*), and tucked in at the back, where an elaborate butterfly-shaped bow completes the appearance. A careful examination reveals that the bow, the chignon-cover, and the diadem were all cast separately and attached mechanically. At some point in time, the bow was removed and reattached upside down, an error that has been corrected here in an enhanced photograph (fig. 2) (Bunker and Latchford 2011: fig. 7.22 b). The arms are also separately cast, and slotted into the shoulders where they are secured by pins, all production methods that evolved during the later eleventh century and continued in the twelfth.

The figure also displays a wide mouth, enhanced by a moustache with prominent turned up tips. The whole figure is cast integrally with its base that has a pendant tang that fits into a larger base. The addition of pendants hanging from the back of the pectoral necklace as well as in front is a late eleventh post-Baphuon-style characteristic, indicating that the Baphuon style extended beyond 1080 into the beginning of the Angkor Wat period, as already sug-



Fig. 3. X-ray of the head of figure 1, taken from the back, courtesy of Paul Jett



Fig. 4. Standing Dvarapala, h. 50.2 cm. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, L 1994.48 (after Bunker and Latchford 2011, fig. 7.4 a, b)

gested by Lerner (Felton and Lerner 1988: 226, no.9).

In terms of casting, the Phnom Bayang figure is lost wax cast with a core, supported by an iron armature. An x-ray of the head reveals extensions of the armature that secure the separate conical hair cover on top (fig. 3). Another extension of the iron armature supports the diadem at the back of the head, and appears as a small iron protuberance on the heads of several Baphuon images, that are recorded as having been found in the Korat region, such as the Shiva image in the National Museum of Australia; the *dvarapala* in The Metropolitan Museum of Art (fig. 4); and the “deified king” in The Metropolitan Museum of Art (Bunker and Latchford 2011: figs. 7.3, 7.4 and 7.15 a & b respectively). The presence of an iron protuberance on the back of any Baphuon-style head indicates that the image originally wore a diadem that would have changed their appearance significantly from the way they look today minus the diadem. The fact that these images were also found in the Korat region suggests that they may represent a local Korat foundry tradition rather than one that was practiced in temple foundries in the Angkor region.<sup>2</sup>

These new ideas have been made possible by the rediscovery of the Phnom Bayang male figure through the CKS Collection Inventory Project, the identification of the figure’s complex armature system through an X-ray by Paul Jett of the Freer and Sackler Galleries, and confirmation of an iron protuberance on images in their respective collections by Donna Strahan of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Sarah McHugh of the National Museum of Australia in Canberra. It is such scholarly cooperation that allows this kind of reinterpretation of the past today.

*Special thanks to John Stevenson for editing this article.*

#### Endnotes

1 For illustrations of the Rockefeller kneeling female, see Emma Bunker and Douglas Latchford, *Adoration and Glory: The Golden Age of Khmer Art*, Bangkok, 2004, pp. 238-240, no. 82.

2 For a discussion of temple foundries and Khmer casting traditions, see Bunker and Latchford 2011, pp. 117-121, and 234, 240.

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2. Boisselier, J. *L’art khmère et son évolution*, Saigon, 1955
3. Felton, Wolfgang and Martin Lerner, *Thai and Cambodian Sculpture from the 6th to the 14th centuries*, Stuttgart, 1988.
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# CKS SENIOR FELLOWS 2011-2012

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

**Matthew Jagel** is conducting Ph.D. research in the Department of History at Northern Illinois University. His project, entitled *Son Ngoc Thanh, The United States, and the Transformation of Cambodia*, seeks to address the comparatively less explored period leading up to Democratic Kampuchea, and the key players of that era. In particular, Matthew is researching U.S. – Khmer relations with one of Cambodia’s modern heroes, Son Ngoc Thanh, as the centerpiece. The research will attempt to answer how Son Ngoc Thanh influenced the creation of an independent Cambodian state, and what his role was in the years leading up to the Communist Revolution. By analyzing this man, this period in time, and America’s role with respect to this newly autonomous nation, a better understanding of the geopolitical considerations that influenced American foreign policy can be sought. To achieve this, both extensive archival research and interviews will be employed.

**Kosal Path** is a lecturer in the Department of International Relations and Political Science at the University of Southern California. His research project is entitled *Survival after Genocide in Cambodia: A study of Social Adaptation in a Fragmented Society*. This research aims to provide insights into how the identity orientations of former Khmer Rouge cadres and survivors reflect and impact reconciliation efforts currently pursued alongside the ongoing trials of five surviving Khmer Rouge leaders in Cambodia. Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be employed, including in-depth interviews with former Khmer Rouge personnel as well as survivors, to contribute to a better understanding in the field of transitional justice in a post-genocidal society. In addition, it will expose the social adaptation of survivors and perpetrators who coexist in conditions of social alienation. Ultimately, this research will also provide the basis for policy recommendations as to how to put a broken society back together after genocide.

**Celia Rosta** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Riverside. Her project is entitled, *Survival of an Art: The Revitalization of Classical Dance in Cambodia*. This research examines how and why the interaction between tourism and globalization, preservation and development has led to this particular form of classical dance becoming the symbol of Cambodian culture. Furthermore, it illuminates how clas-



Classical dance at a Phnom Penh restaurant

sical dance helps Cambodians cope with the painful experience of the Khmer Rouge. Celia uses a variety of research methods, including ethnographic fieldwork, long-term participant observation, interviews and archival research across multiple sites in Cambodia. She explores the importance of classical dance for Cambodian cultural reconciliation, as well as economic growth through embodied experience. This research also addresses the importance of international support for Cambodian dance, the realities of life for dancers, and how the transmission of this cultural knowledge creates embodied memories that allow for certain kinds of reconciliation.

**Pamela Corey** is conducting doctoral research in the Department of History of Art, Archaeology and Visual Studies at Cornell University. Her research project title is *The Art of Place: Visuality and Urbanism in Contemporary Vietnam and Cambodia*. Her research will investigate how south Vietnamese and Cambodian contemporary artists perceive and represent their rapidly changing cityscape. It will also investigate how they resource spaces of the city, and in turn play a role in communal discourses and understandings of locational identity. Using a comparative framework, Pamela will draw on the contemporary effects of key events and cultural turning points in the histories of Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and Phnom Penh in

Cambodia. In particular, she is focusing on how accelerated processes of urbanization and globalization have catalyzed contemporary art development in late- and post-Socialist societies, producing new urban artistic subjectivities. On-site interviews with artists, curators and cultural organizations will inform a large part of this research.

**Neal Keating** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at The College at Brockport, State University of New York. His research project, entitled *An Ethnographic Study of Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Implementation in Cambodia* is a comparative ethnographic study of two indigenous groups in Cambodia. Neal's research team is engaged in extensive interviews, participant observation, co-design and conduct of a human rights survey in a Kui commune in southern Preah Vihear province, and a Bunong commune in southern Monduliri province. This research aims to empirically determine what the variable factors are that impact local understandings and conditions of human rights in indigenous communities and territories. The research specifically focuses on the human rights of these communities to self-determination, and rights to traditional lands, territories and resources. The research team, drawn from the Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association and the Organization to Promote Kui Culture, will spend three months residing with these communities.

**Christina Firpo**, Assistant Professor in the Department of History at California Polytechnic State University, is conducting research spanning Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, in her project entitled *"Abandoned" Children: The Crises in Racial Patriarchy and Eurasian Children in Colonial Indochina 1890-1956*. This project, forming part of Christina's research for her book, will explore the social, political and



Eurasian charges of the Federation des ouvres pour les enfants Franco-Indochinois (FOEFI) 1946-1954

cultural reasons behind the French colonial, government-led searches of the remote countryside for fatherless, biracial children. Christina investigates why the colonial government removed, often forcibly, these children from their Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian mothers. She argues that the removals of abandoned Eurasian children were a colonial attempt at managing both the racial and gender order, by integrating them into the colony's white-French population. This research will use primary source documents from Cambodian, Lao and Vietnamese national archives to provide a broader understanding of the Eurasian protection movement of abandoned Eurasian children in colonial Indochina.

**Karen Greene** is Visiting Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Science at Pannasastra University, Phnom Penh. Her research, entitled *The Gift of Abandonment, Good Governance and the Ethical Architecture of Child Rights in Cambodia*, forms part of an ethnographic book project about care in urban and rural Cambodia. Founded on three years of intensive fieldwork, it follows the teaching and implementation of child rights by expatriate members of the international community and by Khmer involved in the democratization process in the 1990s. It examines the ongoing productivity of that intervention as seen from a current perspective. Karen is exploring the Cambodian notion of personhood and the ethics of the 'gift', especially that of a child in multi-ethical Cambodia. This research will expand the anthropological literature of daily life in rural and urban Cambodia, whilst also expanding the anthropological understanding of the effects of both humanitarian intervention and the creativity of Khmer in the process.

**James Kirby** is conducting postdoctoral research in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Chicago. Unlike languages such as Vietnamese or Thai, Khmer is not a tonal language. However, since the 1960s, linguists have described some changes in speech patterns in certain Khmer dialects. This project, *Sound change in Khmer: An acoustic, auditory, and aerodynamic study* explores the suggested emergence of a pitch-based contrast between certain words in the colloquial speech of a number of Khmer dialects, including some spoken in neighboring Vietnam. The manner by which this change is taking place – as a result of changes in the pronunciation of /r/ - has not been reported for any other language. In this project, James is gathering audio recordings and collecting perceptual response data from native speakers of particular dialects of the Khmer language in both Cambodia and Vietnam, to better document and understand this unique process.

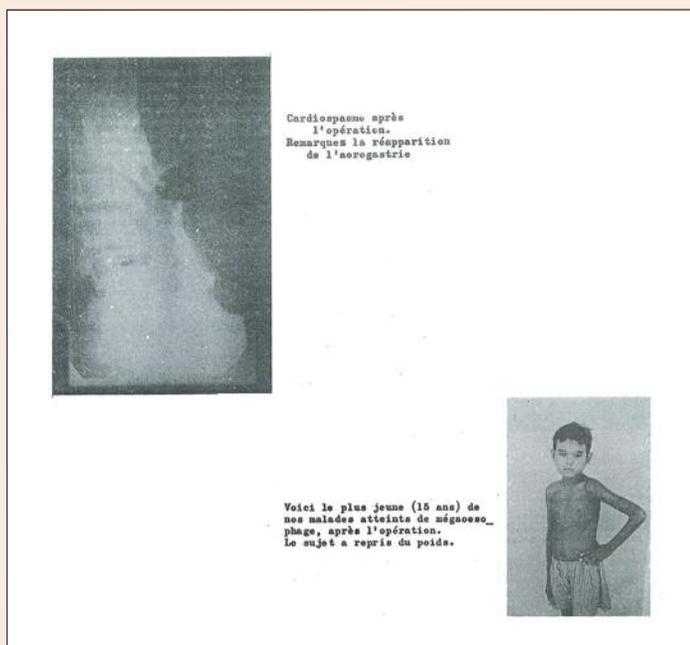
**Julia Estève** is a postdoctoral researcher from the University of Sydney conducting fieldwork for her project *Towards a Religious Geography of Angkorian Cambodia: A Study of the History of Buddhism in the Area of Kompong Cham*

and its Surroundings. This project aims to study the history and religious geography of the province of Kompong Cham and the surrounding areas, which contain Buddhist representations from the pre-Angkorian to post-Angkorian period. The study of these representations will be combined with research of known Buddhist temples, and the study of inscriptions from the seventh to fourteenth centuries. The purpose of this research is to improve our knowledge of the religious currents at work in Cambodia, and the identification of the Indian models they drew upon. The fieldwork will aid in assembling an exhaustive documentary corpus of Buddhist monuments, statuary and inscriptions, resulting in the establishment of a Buddhist religious cartography for the region.

**Jenna Grant** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Iowa. Her project, *Picturing Medicine: Images and Geopolitics in Cambodia's First Medical Journal*, explores visions of contemporary and future medical science in the first Cambodian medical journal, the *Annales Médico-Chirurgicales de l'Hôpital de l'Amitié Khméro-Soviétique*. This journal, published between 1961 and 1971 by the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital in Phnom Penh, contains case studies, reports, discussions and a range of medical images that provide an insight into what Cambodian scientific medicine is and should be. The state-of-the-art hospital embodied one of the priorities of the post-independence Sangkum Reastr Niyum government, to promote national development through the improvement of public health and the medical system. Jenna will engage in a close reading of the journal texts, as well as conduct interviews and archival research in order to trace the convergence of expertise, bodies, capital and technologies that made the journal possible.

**Olivier Brito** is a Ph.D. student undertaking a joint doctoral program at the Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, The International Institute for Population Science, India and Burapha University, Thailand. His project is entitled *Tourism and Begging, the Ambivalences of a Vital and Strategic Relationship: The Case of Children Begging from Tourists in Bombay, Bangkok and Angkor*. Olivier aims to investigate the complex relationship between international tourism and begging children in a comparative study of India, Thailand and Cambodia. His research focuses on the extent to which tourism encourages begging, while being an undeniable resource. Education, cognition and demography will be focal points as the project first explores begging as a staged activity, a characteristic found in both tourism and begging. Comparisons across countries will result from an in-depth and detailed contextualization of begging and tourism within each locale. The broader issues of urbanization and migration will also be addressed in this global study.

**Ing Phouséra** is a Ph.D. candidate at Université de Paris 1. His project is called, *In the Aftermath of the Ashes: Essay on Necessity and Limits of the Undrawable in Comic Strips and Paintings in Cambodia's Recent Tragic History*. The representation of the extreme violence of the Cambodian genocide is dealt with in the medium of paint and comic strips, which allow Séra to give a vision of what could have been the stories of the ghosts of his own people, and those linked to the history of his birthplace - Cambodia. This project first looks at art as a form that can reactivate memories and preserve them. The second layer of this research explores how, by his own artistic work, Séra can record events from photographs and maps preserved in places such as the Documentation Center of Cambodia and the National Library. The third stratum draws on testimony



*Cardiopasme* by Mokchniouk et al in the 1962 issue of medical journal, *Revue Médico-Chirurgicale de l'Hôpital de l'Amitié Khméro-Soviétique*



Cover of the 1968 edition of the medical journal, *Annales Médico-Chirurgicales de l'Hôpital de l'Amitié Khméro-Soviétique*

from the Cambodian War, and then the exile period from May 1975.

**Ludivine Roche** is a postdoctoral researcher at Université de la Sorbonne. Her research is entitled *Art and History at the End of the Angkorian Period in Cambodia*. Following on from her Ph.D. thesis, this project deals with the history of Cambodia between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries. It further examines the art from the end of the Angkorian period by enlarging the field of research to more monuments. Specifically, Ludivine is studying the figurative ornamentation of temples at sites such as Ta Prohm and Preah Khan, as well as temples further afield at Banteay Chmar. The ultimate objective of this study is to first lead to a better understanding of the art from the fall of the Angkorian period, and then to make use of historical and religious data found among the figurative ornamentation of monuments. This will help to clarify the cultural context in which Cambodia existed during that transition period.

**Caroline Herbelin** is a researcher from Université Paris IV Sorbonne. She is conducting postdoctoral research for her project, *Art and Handicrafts in Cambodia in the Twentieth Century: Doctrine and Discourse*. Caroline is focusing on the colonial period, which will form part of a larger project that critically examines handicrafts across the twentieth century, up to current organization and perceptions of production. The research objectives will first address why handicrafts have been at the heart of Cambodian society

and politics - to a greater extent than in other Southeast Asian countries - from the French colonial conquest to the present, possibly even inhibiting the development of an artistic scene. Secondly, Caroline will examine how a repertoire of handicrafts considered "authentic" was constructed during the colonial period. How these repertoires influenced the practices of artists and artisans in the short and long run will also be analyzed.

**Luc Benaïche** is a doctoral student from Université de Provence. His project, entitled *Justice and Prisons Under the French Protectorate in Cambodia* addresses French colonial intervention into Cambodia's affairs, from which Cambodia's legal and prison system resulted after its independence in 1953. This research will draw on documentation from the National Archives of Cambodia to gain a better understanding of the evolution of the legal system during the Protectorate period, its functioning or malfunctioning, and the reasons for, and consequences of, changes imposed by the French. It will focus on the functioning of prisons and detention centers, the daily life of detainees, the types of sentences handed out, and who this colonial repression was directed at, and why. Finally, Luc will look at the place of political repression in Cambodia in terms of whether it was a function of that particular period, and whether it was a more general policy employed in Indochina, or specific to Cambodia.



Kompong Chhnang prison

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Community Outreach: Siem Reap Giant Puppet Project

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*Cover photo: Unique ancient bronze Garuda boat-prow ornament, recently donated to the National Museum of Cambodia, also depicted in stone reliefs at the Bayon temple*