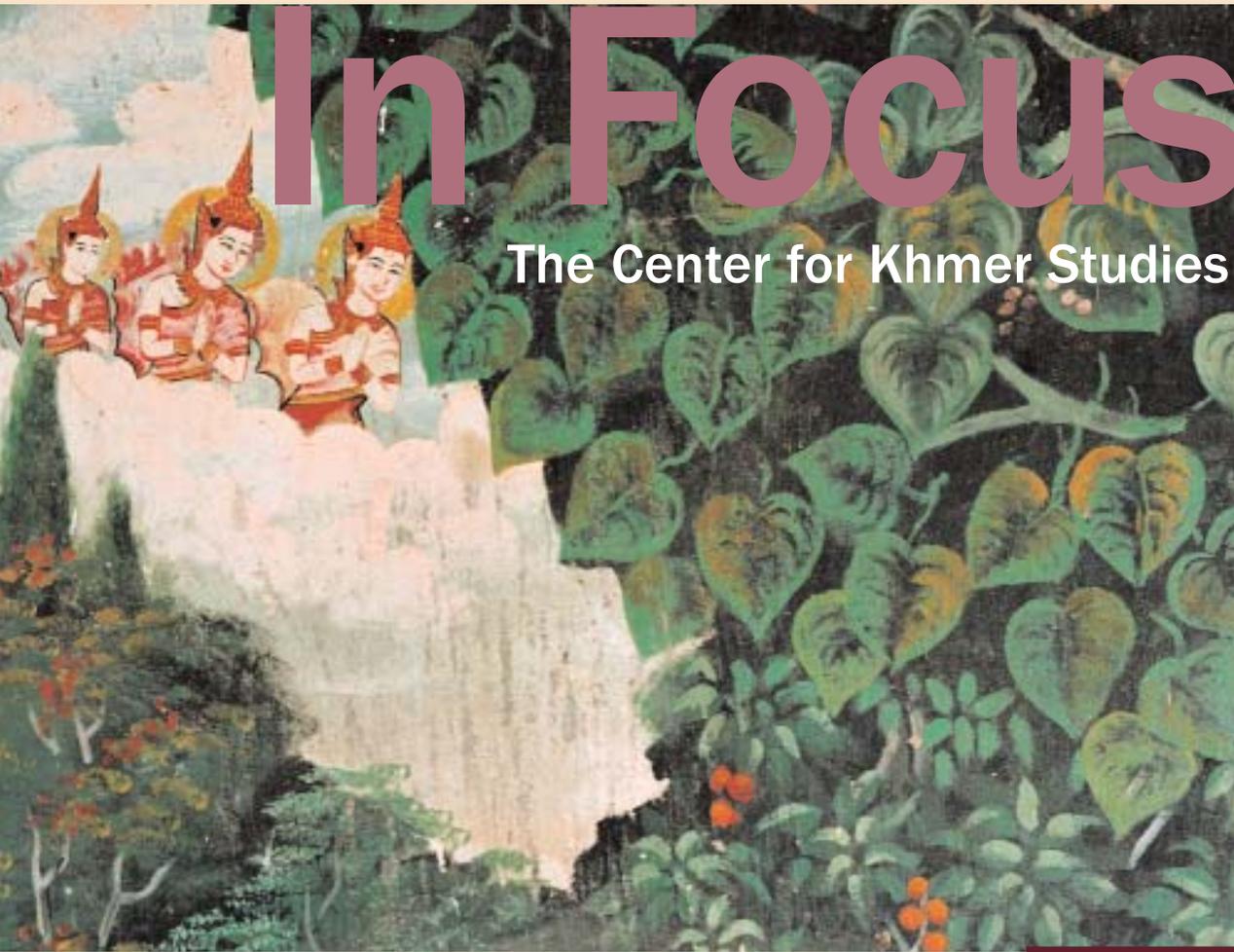


# In Focus

The Center for Khmer Studies

No. 2, 2004 - 2005



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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 registered in Cambodia, and incorporated in the U.S.

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'Etudes Khmères*.

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Cover photo:

Scene from the original fresco on CKS's Library wall

# Welcome to the Center for Khmer Studies

A FEW WEEKS AGO, AT A FRENCH UNIVERSITY, I attended a talk on Post-Colonial Cambodia by a prominent international historian. In the question period, he was asked by an earnest young Franco-Cambodian student what he considered the major issues in Cambodian civil society to be now? He lost no time in replying that the two major issues were poverty and education, and that those two problems interwoven were the root of all the others. Education is indeed the key both to overcoming the many dead-ends of poverty and to the building of a strong and democratic civil society.

At the Center for Khmer Studies, we have been addressing the weakness of Cambodian higher education as a cornerstone of our core mission to serve as a crossroads and place of welcome to scholars. Our goal is to contribute over time to rebuilding Cambodian higher education. From our small campus inside a historical Buddhist pagoda in the center of Siem Reap-Angkor, we administer a program that, in the last four years, has welcomed over 600 young Cambodian students, training them in the techniques and methodology of scholarship in areas as diverse as archeology, anthropology, and vernacular architecture, as well as cultural resource management.

The Khmer Rouge regime deliberately destroyed both universities and libraries, and killed teachers who had not already escaped across the border. That void, of course, continues to filter down into all levels of the educational system. Poignantly, very few Cambodian teachers know their own country's history or culture—there are no history books, no textbooks. Even until now, there has been no formal education possible beyond a weak B.A. degree, which does not qualify graduates for further professional training in neighboring countries. CKS's training programs put young Cambodian students and recent graduates into projects administered by international scholars, who act as mentors. Participants learn first-hand how to do field research, to write up their findings and to present their papers at our workshop/conferences of international scholars. The next step is to place them in graduate programs nearby, honing their English skills, helping them with the application process and finding the funding. Our first students will begin M.A. studies in Thailand in Fall 2004.

Emboldened by our success over the last 4 years, CKS is now preparing an ambitious new program, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, in which our target is to strengthen the skills of Junior Faculty at the Phnom Penh universities, through weekly training seminars. It is our deep hope that we will then find the resources to offer a brief first-hand experience of an

international university to these young teachers, to give them a taste of the classroom and the interaction between teachers and students in other places.

In the summer of 2004, we welcomed our first group of Junior Fellows at the Center. With support from the Henry Luce, the Florence Gould and the Toyota Foundations, we gather for 12 weeks 15 undergraduates from France, Cambodia and the US in a residential program of initiation to Khmer Studies. Students study the Khmer language, pursue a research project on their own, and attend daily Cambodian language (Khmer) courses as well as seminars on a variety of topics. But above all, they interface with one another. We hope in this way both to reinvigorate the field of Khmer Studies and to establish contacts between the Cambodian students and their young French and American counterparts.



This is only a small taste of what we do at CKS, other examples of which you will find in these pages. CKS is growing. We are now members of both the prestigious Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), and of the UNESCO-sponsored International Coordinating Committee for Angkor, the governing body for the site of Angkor. At the same time, our program grows in diversity.

The opportunities for CKS to be of service in Cambodia are enormous. Our small staff works terribly hard administering a remarkable and steadily expanding program. We are so busy that we scarcely ever have the time to look back and to take pleasure in our accomplishments, because there is always more to challenge us ahead. We cannot support our program without your help, large and small. We are immensely grateful to the many travelers and friends, who have contributed to the life of the Center. Our gates are always open—both to those who come for a purpose and to those who wander in. You are welcome to come and be with us—and to catch a bit of the spirit of dedication that animates our ambitious mission. Welcome to CKS!

Lois de Menil, Ph.D.  
President and Chairman of the Board



The CKS Conference Hall  
in Siem Reap  
© Christophe Loviny

## Director's Note

AS A PART OF OUR MISSION, CKS initiates activities aimed at promoting the study of Cambodia by Cambodians. These programs take several forms—fellowships, services (library, publishing, conferences), and directed research and training projects. This year, we initiated a new program, in closer partnership with Cambodian universities, with support from the Rockefeller Foundation. We are also helping facilitate the development of a large-scale interdisciplinary research project on the Tonle Sap, by the University of Chicago.

In 2003-04, CKS launched four fellowship programs, ranging from French and American undergraduate students, to Cambodian college grads hoping to pursue international-standard graduate studies abroad, to doctoral and post-doctoral researchers from the United States and France. In our first year, twenty international fellows, undergrads and 'senior' scholars, equally representing the two countries, will have received direct support from CKS, while another 10 scholars from other countries chose the Center as their 'host institution'. Among Cambodian fellows, 70 completed their in-country training. Two will be fully supported to take a Master degree program in Bangkok.

### **Fellowships for Cambodians: 'bridging the gap'**

We felt a great sense of accomplishment when, on April 22nd, Dr. Sunait Chutintaranond, Director of the Southeast Asian Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, confirmed that the applicants for two MA positions CKS was able to support under a grant from the Sainsbury Charitable Trust had been accepted. This selection followed Chulalongkorn University's tough admission requirements, including a TOEFL English test, to the same standards applied to candidates from other countries. This process was by no means automatic, and we did not expect to find two Cambodians able to qualify at this stage.

Both Tan Sodany (24) and Seng Sary (26) benefited from our in-country training programs. They will start their MA in October. In addition to their courses, CKS has asked the host university to provide them with personalized English and methodology support throughout the whole 18-month period. We consider this outcome as a real breakthrough. One of our fundraising goals for next year is to be able to award two additional MA fellowships.

This achievement represents the ultimate stage of a multi-faceted in-country training effort developed by CKS in the last three years. In January 2004, the Cultural Resources Management course, supported by the Sainsbury Charitable Trust, came to a conclusion. Parallel to it, CKS ran its first Junior Fellowship Program (JFP), with support by the Toyota Foundation. The JFP included a preliminary course in research methodology, followed by a 6-month individual grant to conduct a research under the supervision of a professional scholar. Five young promising students benefited from the program.

Buoyed by our success, we are now embarking on a next generation of in-country capacity building activities. Under a new grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, CKS will aim to associate the Cambodian universities in this effort. With an emphasis on research ability and exposure to critical academic discussion, the program proposes to target young university faculty—to expose them to international standards in research and teaching skills. It will operate on the basis of selected topics and will seek the active involvement of the partner institutions.

### **Fellowships for US and French scholars**

In 2003, CKS obtained major grants from the US Department of State and the Henry Luce Foundation, to set up fellowship programs for US senior and junior scholars, with matching fellowships for French fellows supported by the Florence Gould Foundation. The Selection process for these programs began in the spring 2004

under the supervision of Prof. Thak Chaloemtiarana, Director of the Southeast Asia Program at Cornell University for the US scholars, and of Dr. Michel Rethy Antelme from INALCO in Paris, for the French scholars.

Doctoral and post-doctoral subjects submitted in both countries pointed to the existence of a larger-than-expected pool of scholars seeking to undertake research in Cambodia. Comparative studies were on the increase, with, for instance, a project focusing on the Islamic culture of the Cham community in Cambodia to be compared with recent studies on the same topic in Indonesia. Another study focuses on practices of religious millenarianism in Cambodia and southern Vietnam. Communities 'on the margin'—the disappearing Phnom people in the Mundolkiri Province on the border with Vietnam; the villagers living within the perimeter of the Angkor Park or the population affected by the HIV-AIDS disease—seem another recurrent object of interest.

These research topics are, in their diversity, a sure sign of the intellectual dynamism prevailing in the field. This is particularly true in the United States, where Cambodia as a subject of study occupies an almost non-existent place, when compared with countries like Thailand and Indonesia. The opportunity for CKS to run simultaneously fellowship programs for French and US scholars has also contributed to a closer sense of community between scholars from these countries. While the nature of these programs restricts our financial support to French and American scholars, CKS acts as a facilitator for scholars from other countries as well. I am myself planning to visit India and Japan in the fall for that purpose.

### Summer Fellowship Program

The first year Summer Fellowship program has just ended as this newsletter goes to press. I can already see, however, that it is proving to be one of the most exciting of all CKS fellowship endeavors. The idea was to bring to Siem Reap for three months in residence 5 American undergrads to study alongside 5 French and 3 Cambodians counterparts. The objective of the program was to introduce Cambodia and Cambodian life to these undergraduates (the 'Junior Fellows'), while exposing Cambodians about to go to study overseas to the kind of international communal environment universities nowadays offer. Two 'Senior Fellows' were selected to conduct their research while providing the Junior Fellows with lectures and academic support. Khmer language classes were



provided 4 days a week. Field-trips, including a week-long visit to Phnom Penh were also included. After some adjustments at the outset, the program has taken its own pace, soon turning the fellows into a group of friends learning from each other and sharing with their Cambodian hosts the unique experience of literally 'living' Cambodian culture. For CKS, the program opens the prospect of possibly running our own 'Study-Abroad' program in the future.

### CKS's Library

I would like to close with a few words on our Library and its importance in serving all our Fellows, and scholars in general. A generous grant from Mr. Howard Solomon gave CKS the opportunity to move the Library to a new stage in its development. This started last January with discussion among the Center's Board members. With the increasing variety of research projects initiated by our fellows, affiliated scholars, and institutions, CKS is refining the scope of its Library collection to reflect an up-to-date appraisal of Cambodia and its society: a long continuum of its history, itself the result of a unique interaction of people with the natural environment and its integration within the world of nations. This means that we will need to extend the variety of our documentary resources. To address this challenge, with our still limited capacities, we have decided to strengthen our library's integration within the network of research libraries, especially those attached to universities in the United States and other countries. This will enable the Center to put into place new methods of cataloguing, as well as research-driven acquisition policies. But we seek also to play our role as partner in Cambodia. By learning from more specialized research libraries, we hope to be able to establish new standards that will also benefit our Cambodian counterparts. The Library will remain however open to all, a hospitable reading space which demonstrates every day that Cambodians are ready for a more accessible book-based culture of learning.

Philippe Peycam, Ph.D.

# Members & Benefactors

A year has passed since the last issue of **In Focus**, and it has been a good year. Our programs have grown and multiplied while remaining safely within the limits of effective management. Our Library has flourished, with both collections and attendance rising; our institutional ties have become stronger and more widespread: within this short period, in fact, the Center has passed from extreme youth to stable early maturity.

As a result, a visit to the campus of Wat Damnak, our home in Siem Reap, is a heartening experience. The offices -all two of them- have moved out of the Library building, thus leaving more room for the books and their readers; activities are multiplying; the Conference Hall is busier than ever; and the blend of Khmer students and academics, visiting Europeans and Americans, and people from the town, itself gives a clear indication of our vitality.

The academic committees of the Board have been busy as well, selecting, according to transparent and rigorous criteria, the expanding number of Junior Fellows: what started out only four years ago as a good idea sustained by a dream has now become a solid institution. We are making a difference; and in fulfilling our mission, we are helping to revive culture in Cambodia.

That, of course, is why we need your help more than ever. One thing has not changed: small sums still go a long way, but now we need more of those small sums, and we still depend on you to cover our running expenses. Now that it is more crucial than ever to prove that we Americans are capable of open-minded generosity, the Center shows American philanthropy at its best. By giving to the Center, you can make a disproportionate difference, so, please, remember us; and then, come to Siem Reap and see for yourselves just how much you matter.

Olivier Bernier  
Vice-Chairman

## How to Help CKS

### General Support

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

### Support Cambodian Junior Fellows

CKS hopes to expand its support programs for recent graduates of Cambodian universities in Phnom Penh. Our current Junior Fellowship Training Program consists of in-country courses in research methodology, writing skills, academic English (TOEFL exam) and orientation courses that prepare and sponsor Cambodian students for graduate studies overseas. CKS will name each Junior Fellowship for its donor/sponsor.

### Sponsor Translation of Essential Literature into Khmer

In the absence of fundamental academic materials in the Cambodian language, Khmer, CKS is actively involved in translation projects. We welcome sponsorship to translate books selected by our Academic Committee as essential to education in Cambodia. We also seek support for our tri-lingual (Khmer-English-French) bulletin, *Siksacackr*, which publishes useful academic papers.

### Support our Facility in Phnom Penh

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

## Become a CKS Member

We hope you will participate in our growth and development by becoming a member. Membership categories include Members (\$1,000 to \$4,999 per year); Patrons (\$5,000 to \$9,999 per year), and Sponsors (\$10,000 or more per year).

## Thank You for Your Support!

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

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## The CKS Library

CKS' Library is the only public library in Cambodia outside Phnom Penh. It provides the essential service of ensuring access to materials on Cambodian history and culture. In order to encourage reading in the Cambodian community, our Library is open to everyone, free of charge, from Monday through Saturday. Visitors include high school teachers, students, Buddhist monks and professional tour guides. Young Cambodians drop by daily to read alongside senior scholars.

The Library's collection contains over 3000 titles, including more than 20 journals, as well as out-of-print publications and research papers. Its focus is Cambodia and the Southeast Asia region in the fields of history, archaeology, arts, linguistics, religion, literature, and politics.

It includes dictionaries, encyclopedias, bibliographies, directories, maps and guidebooks. An extensive online catalogue, the only one of its kind in Cambodia, is accessible on CKS's website.

The Library is a member of the Consortium on Research Material on Southeast Asia and is the first member in Southeast Asia of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

### Important Personal Collection

More than 20 cases of books were generously donated from the personal library of the distinguished Indologist, Prof. Jean Filliozat, a member of the French Academy and former Director of the Ecole Française d'Extreme Orient. The collection contains publications by EFEO, core sources on the history and arts of South Asia, with a strong representation of materials in Sanskrit, as well as an important archive of journals of the Société Asiatique in Paris. This exceptional donation has strengthened our Library considerably in source materials on Cambodian classical studies and on Southeast and South Asia. We are extremely grateful to the Filliozat family for this unique gift.

### Generous Benefactor

Mr. Howard Solomon, of New York City, has generously underwritten the Library's operating expenses in 2004. His patronage has made possible, along with book acquisition, the creation of a separate reference room and new office space with essential equipment outside the central reading room, as well as professional training for our librarian. Howard Solomon's extremely generous patronage makes it possible for us to consolidate our Library as an essential part of our mission.

## Bio-archaeology in Southeast Asia: A milestone

Siem Reap, January 6-7, 2004

The rapid development of bio-archaeology as a field and the work of many teams in Southeast Asia called for a forum to share this vast experience. Those of us who work in this path-breaking new field have long been solitary scholars. Siem Reap-Angkor was selected as the venue for a conference because of its location at the heart of Southeast Asia, and also because of the exceptional role of Angkor in the region's history. The Center for Khmer Studies helped us to achieve this dream in January 2004, by offering both funding and its Conference Center.

The Conference was organized by CKS in collaboration with Dr. Christophe Pottier, Director of the Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient in Siem Reap. Drs. Nancy Tayles and Fabrice Demeter established the scientific program. A workshop on the fundamentals of physical anthropology and the techniques for the excavation, recording, preservation and storage of skeletal remains was conducted by Dr. Nancy Tayles with the collaboration of Dr. Kate Domett, Dr. Nancy Beavan and Sia Hallcrow. The scientific session included a review of bio-archaeology in Southeast Asia—the biological evidence for human origins, population migrations and relationships, as well as of the quality of life and the record of disease. A panel on the future of bio-archaeological research in Southeast Asia was organized at the end of the two-day conference.

Fifty participants—students, lecturers and experts from eight countries—attended the conference, among them anatomists, anthropologists, paleoanthropologists, archaeologists, molecular biologists, paleoradiologists. It was indeed a wonderful two days of learning and exchange, as well as a great opportunity for experts in bio-archaeology to build a strong net-



A small group teaching session

work among their peers. The workshop also owed its success to the generosity of the Head Monk of Wat Bo, who lent us his collection of prehistorical skeletal remains for teaching purposes.

Two major outcomes of the conference were the election of a Protem Committee in charge of creating the Southeast Asian Society for Bio-archaeology, and the launch of a Newsletter to keep all participants informed of progress and events related to bio-archaeology in Southeast Asia. The Newsletter has already become an essential link between participants, who live all over the globe, but yet share the same passion, all driven by the same quest for knowledge of the human past in Southeast Asia.

This Conference will remain an important milestone in the history of bio-archaeology in Southeast Asia. Further work and determination are still needed to bring this young discipline to its full development, with the contribution of both international and regional scholars.

*Prof. Kieth Rethy Chhem, M.D.,  
CKS Board member  
Paleoradiology Research Unit  
University of Western Ontario, Canada*

## New Trends in Khmer Studies

Siem Reap, January 8-9, 2004

*The conference on New Trends in Kmer Studies gathered 25 speakers and over 100 participants to hear CKS-sponsored research teams and individual fellows present and discuss their work.*

CKS's team projects, a three-year research and training program funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, aimed to link young Cambodian with international counterparts in co-directed research activities in three fields: pre-Angkorean archaeology, vernacular architecture and social anthropology.

Topics of the *Senior Fellows Program*, supported by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, ranged from art history, village anthropology, history, medical anthropology, religious studies and socio-economic anthropology. Chean Men, Ph.D. candidate from the University of Hawaii and Tyrone Siren from the University of Madison-Wisconsin, presented their preliminary findings. They first offered a fascinating account of pharmaceutical use among Cambodians today. Tyrone's research on the border economy of Cambodia, especially its casino industry, offered a glimpse of the potential new topics Khmer studies might include.

Under a unifying theme of ethnographic study at the village level, young Cambodian researchers in the *Junior Fellowship Program for Cambodians*, funded by the Toyota Foundation, undertook their own individual field research project. Subjects covered ranged from minority communities in the highlands, refugee returnees, female garment workers and collective memories in two different villages. The conference attendees were surprised both by the quality of the research presented and by the method set forth by the program directors to combine research and methodology training through the individual mentoring of research students.

The conference also afforded an opportunity for independent researchers affiliated to CKS to present their work; from Dr. Tim Winter in cultural studies, to the Cambodian researchers whom CKS encouraged to present papers at the National University of Singapore/CKS-sponsored Convention of Academic Scholars held in Singapore in August 2003. Again, the diversity of topics covered was an indication of the vibrancy of the field. The success of this one and a half day conference encouraged us in our mission of opening the field of Khmer Studies to new areas of investigation, while supporting Cambodian researchers.

## Training a new generation of Sanskritists in Cambodia

Siem Reap, January 14-15, 2004

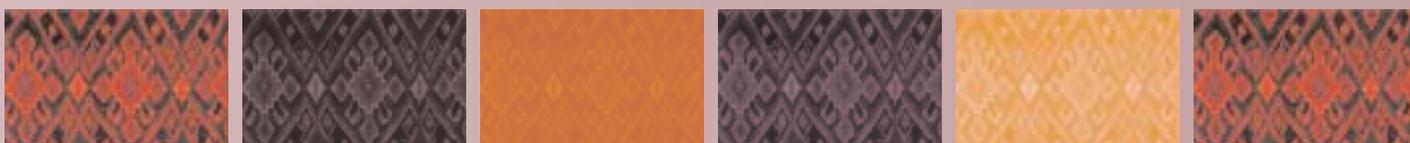
*Devoted mainly, though not exclusively, to the topic of training young Khmer scholars in the field of Sanskrit, this workshop was conducted by Prof. Kamaleswar Bhattacharya, CKS Board member, and Prof. Ang Choulean, director of Research at APSARA. Among numerous participants were Prof. T. S. Maxwell (Bonn, Germany), Prof. Chirapat Prapandvidya (Bangkok, Thailand), Prof. Michael Vickery, Prof. Long Seam, Dr. Sylvain Vogel (Phnom Penh), and the Ambassador of India in Cambodia.*



Prof. Kamaleswar  
Bhattacharya and  
Prof. Ang Choulean

The collapse of the Cambodian higher education under the Khmer Rouge regime has left Cambodian universities with important missing areas of study, including the field of Sanskrit studies. Prof. Bhattacharya stressed the importance of Sanskrit as the main cultural language in ancient Cambodia, and that of the numerous Sanskrit inscriptions, which constitute the only 'literature' in the strict sense that has come down to us from that period. He also emphasized the necessity of accurately revising the voluminous work done in that field by prominent French scholars of the older generations, such as Barth, Bergaigne, Finot, and Coedès, and, in that connection, the necessity of acquiring a fuller knowledge of Sanskrit and of the culture (literature, philosophy, linguistic usage) that finds expression in that language—a knowledge that scholars in the field of Khmer Studies have lacked up to now.

Ways of training Cambodian students were explored, including the possibility of sending them to Bangkok and then to India, where they might follow the curriculum of Indian universities. Prof. Prapandvidya, of Silpakorn University, offered the University of Bangkok's cooperation, and the Indian Ambassador offered his assistance in obtaining help from India. A final Memorandum on capacity building in Sanskrit Studies in Cambodia was drafted by the participants.



## “Hol”, the art of Cambodian resist-dyed textiles Seminar and Exhibition

*Organized by The Institute for Khmer Traditional Textiles (IKTT) and CKS, the Silk Exhibition, displayed in CKS' conference hall, introduced the general public to the techniques of the ancient Cambodian silk weaving and resist-dyeing tradition of 'Hol'—or Cambodian Ikat—and its place in Cambodian history and culture.*

In Cambodia and abroad, traditional textile weaving is not always recognized as a 'noble' art, when compared to the ancient Cambodian monuments or to traditional dance, but 'Hol' tradition expresses an equally remarkable aesthetic and a spiritual symbolism that are integral to Cambodian cultural identity. IKTT has collected and preserved more than 200 antique fabric samples, and is now working on re-issuing these textiles by organizing workshops to promote traditional weaving techniques.

The CKS seminar/conference set forth the history and importance of Cambodia's weaving tradition, and displayed the technical and visual aspects of traditional Khmer ikat weaving

in the form of demonstrations, costumed dance performances and interviews with master weavers.

H.E. Son Soubert, Cambodia's leading art historian; Prof. Michael Vickery, historian; and H.E. Pich Tum Kravel, under-secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture, opened the seminar by presenting an artistic and historical overview of the relations between the Khmers and their neighbors, the Cham, and their influence on each other on a cultural and artistic level.

Textiles during the Angkor period, featuring antique Buddhist Pidan (uniquely Cambodian textiles illustrated with narrative themes, traditionally used as a hanging or canopy) and the Naga motifs (the serpent motif found throughout Angkor's architecture), were a highlight of the discussion, as was the fascinating discussion of the relationship of textile traditions to the natural environment.

## Study trips of Foreign Universities

CKS hosted a study trip to Cambodia for 21 professors and students from Central Washington University (Washington, USA), in March 2004. The trip began in Siem Reap with lectures by Prof. Michael Vickery on Pre-Angkorean History and the Angkor period, which was followed by a chronological visit of the temples led by Prof. Vickery. Other scholars participated in the lecture program on topics ranging from preservation of the temples to tourism and development.

The bus trip from Siem Reap to Phnom Penh afforded participants a view of the countryside and of the Angkorean bridges along National Route 6. During the bus trip, Prof. Vickery lectured on modern Cambodian history. In Phnom Penh, the young Toyota Junior Fellows presented the results of their research work in the CKS training program, during a visit to the Royal University of Fine Arts. The time in Phnom Penh was also devoted to visiting the Museums, the Royal Palace, and the dis-

covery of popular streets and markets. At a dinner organized at CKS's house in Phnom Penh, the group spent a congenial evening with Cambodian students and scholars from the Royal University of Fine Arts and the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

CKS also organized the academic part of Chulalongkorn University's (Bangkok, Thailand) annual M.A. study trip in April 2004. A lecture on modern Cambodia by Prof. Michael Vickery, and another on the evolution of Khmer art by Prof. Son Soubert, were organized in Phnom Penh. In Siem Reap, Prof. Vickery conducted several seminars on Pre-Angkorean and Angkor period history for MA students at Chulalongkorn, and also led the group through the temples at Angkor.

CKS is grateful to Professor Vickery and His Excellency Son Soubert for their generous assistance with these visits.

## Khmer studies online

The field of Khmer studies now has a new dedicated website: [www.khmerstudies.org](http://www.khmerstudies.org). CKS's website has been completely redesigned this year to encompass the most complete information on Khmer studies around the world.

The website displays a comprehensive roster of CKS's activities and research resources—fellowship announcements and applications, program descriptions, conference and workshop abstracts, *Siksacakr* articles, upcoming events, and a complete catalogue of our library's holdings.

The online library catalogue, the only one of its kind in Cambodia, enables students and scholars to access the entire library collection in a few seconds, with short and long views of the references. The link to our tri-lingual journal, *Siksacakr*, displays a useful selection of academic articles to be downloaded, free of charge, in Acrobat (pdf) format. It includes papers by young Cambodians and by international scholars. While *Siksacakr* is intended for a limited distribution inside Cambodia—where computers are rarely available to students and scholars—its inclusion on our website ensures worldwide availability of its articles. It also fills in the terrible gap in knowledge caused by the weak libraries and absence of academic book publishing in Cambodia.

A prime new feature of our website is a comprehensive International Directory of Institutions and Individuals in the Field of Khmer Studies, a new and invaluable tool for students and scholars wishing to communicate and exchange with their peers.

## CKS is growing: new office in Phnom Penh

Because of the increasing number of our Phnom Penh-based activities, CKS has secured a spacious new location near the campus of the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

The new office will allow scholars and CKS overseas visitors to work in ample space, with computer facilities and a meeting room. Temporary accommodations are also available for students and scholars briefly in residence in Cambodia or having just arrived. The new space also makes it possible for us to host short seminars and workshops closer to the universities, where students and faculty can come together without traveling to Siem Reap.

Our publishing and communications departments, as well as our Phnom Penh-based programs, such as the new University Training Program, will be hosted in the new office. Visiting study groups from overseas universities will be invited to participate in scheduled meetings and seminars while visiting the capital, or to hold meetings of their own.



Participants at the 'New Trends in Khmer Studies' Conference gathering for a coffee-break near the Conference Hall



## FEATURE ARTICLE

*Exploring the historical human landscape*

# Human-Ecology of the Tonle Sap Lake

**Prof. Alan L. Kolata**  
**Dr. Anne F. Cunningham**

*Alan L. Kolata is the Neukom Family Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago. He has directed long-term research on historical ecology, human-environment interactions and agricultural systems in the Andean regions of Bolivia and Peru, as well as ethnographic and socio-economic research in Thailand.*

*Anne F. Cunningham, a recent Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago, worked extensively in India in both prehistoric (Indus) and historic archaeology.*

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WORKING IN ANGKOR often debates in terms of opposed questions, whether the issue at hand is aesthetic, logistical, theoretical, developmental or a combination of all of these. Do we remove a tree, or let it fall? Can we develop Siem Reap, and still preserve Angkor? Does Siem Reap advance, at Phnom Penh's expense? Is something foreign, or Khmer? Questions posed in this fashion help a large, sometimes discordant community retain its grasp on fluid, seemingly contradictory ideas: the seductive danger of trees, the costs of prosperity, the globalizing dimensions of an ancient, local culture. Ten years of such questioning have served the community well, resulting in a healthier Angkor—one no longer on the World Heritage endangered list and humming with a revitalized and growing tourism industry.

Sometimes, however, this line of questioning pushes individuals, projects, and institutions into research dead-ends, into purposeless contests of relative merits—art history or natural science? Pre-Angkor or Angkor? The French way of doing things, or the American one? Questions that divide researchers and inhibit debate only serve to obscure the landscape beyond the temple complex, the landscape of everyday Cambodian life—the rivers, lakes, forests, factories, farms, temples, towns, cities, and villages of the past, present, and future.

To gain a perspective on this landscape, the University of Chicago organized a multidisciplinary research project on the human ecology of the Tonle Sap region, including the Angkor temple complex. The project involves the collaborative efforts of an expanding research consortium that currently includes scientists from the University of Chicago, the University of



Florida, and the University of California in coordination with Cambodian institutions and authorities. We plan to integrate paleoecological, hydrological, and socio-economic research in ways that will allow us to study land-use changes that altered local ecosystems in the past. In particular, we focus on how renewable resource production—particularly wet-rice agriculture and fisheries—was sustained by Khmer kingdoms for nearly a millennium. It will then be possible to consider how human populations responded to environmental variations and how, in turn, ecological processes were altered by human-environment interactions. The coordination of our findings with the growing body of architectural, art historical, and archaeological data will amplify considerably our understanding of ancient and historical human landscapes. This information will be of further significance to current issues of land use, tourism development, and the needs of a growing population.

### **Paleolimnology**

Paleolimnology, the study of the past lives of lakes, ponds, and similar bodies of standing water, is one of the methods we use to reconstruct our landscape. Just as archaeological excavations



The boat on the Tonle Sap that was used for the coring

© David Hodell

uncover artifacts that enable inferences about past cultural development, paleolimnology uses physical, chemical, and biological information buried in lake sediments to gain insights into paleoenvironmental conditions.

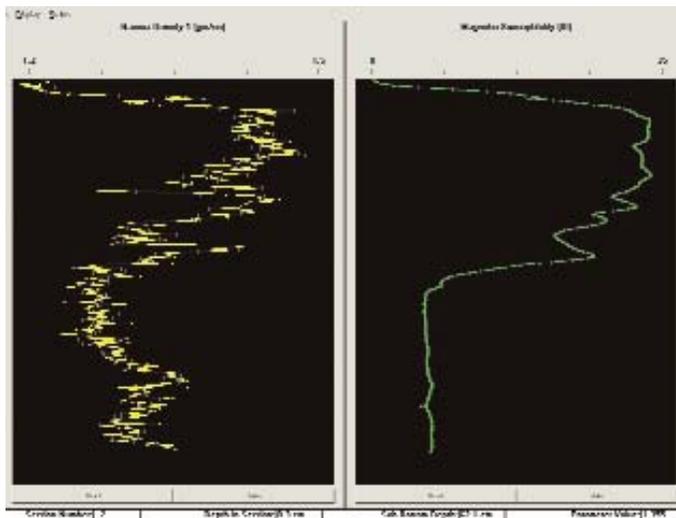
Cores from the beds of bodies of water provide a range of information concerning paleoenvironmental conditions. For example, stratigraphic study of pollen grains in a sediment sequence can reveal details about past changes in terrestrial plant communities. These changes may reflect climatic or human effects on the regional vegetation. Diatoms are algae that leave identifiable siliceous remains in the sediments and can be used to infer past lake nutritional resources, lakewater salinity, and pH levels. Sediment geochemistry is employed to infer historical nutrient input into aquatic ecosystems, past dissolved-salt concentrations in lakewater, and patterns of soil erosion from surrounding drainage basins. Stable isotope analysis of aquatic shell material buried in lake deposits can often provide insights into past climate conditions. When long lake sediment sequences are dated reliably using radiocarbon, the timing of past environmental changes can be estimated.

Continuous, long-term, high-resolution records of environmental change can, therefore, be derived from lake-sediment cores. And, since sediments accumulate rapidly and in an ordered manner on lake bottoms, the information they contain about past conditions within lakes and in their surrounding watersheds allows us to draw further inferences about regional historical ecologies.

This past winter, researchers from the University of Florida undertook preliminary investigation of the Tonle Sap and the Angkor barays and moats through extraction and analysis of sediment cores, and began formal hydrological analysis and computer modeling of regional water flows. Using results of previous work by Japanese and Finnish teams working on Angkor-area water systems in recent years, the team determined that sedimentation rates would be highest in the southern end of the Tonle Sap basin. The December 2003 coring efforts therefore concentrated in that area, in particular on the large open section to the east of the main basin, the Tonle Chhma.

The team extracted and analyzed a 6.25 meter core from the Tonle Chhma, and a 5.85 meter core from the south basin of the Tonle Sap. Two preliminary analyses have been completed on these cores. *Sediment density* is measured by sending a gamma beam through the core to a receiver measuring gamma activity. The density is a function of the gamma ray attenuation—the denser the sediment, the more attenuated the signal. *Magnetic susceptibility* expresses the "magnetizability" of the material in the sediment. Cores from both the Tonle Chhma and the Tonle Sap (see figure p.14) show shifts in density and susceptibility in the upper portions of the cores. These changes may reflect the initial connection of the Tonle Sap with the Mekong River some 5000 years ago. In light of the distinctive reversal of water flow that characterizes the Tonle Sap/Mekong system, the cultural significance of this event, and the historic importance of fish protein in the Khmer diet, this is a very promising investigation.

Cores were also removed from the Western Baray of the Angkor complex. The 2 meters of sediment removed in these cores give a very high-resolution record of deposition over the last millennium. Changes in vegetation revealed through pollen analysis will answer questions about deforestation and forest recovery, and provide details about the construction of the Baray itself. Preliminary analysis indicates major environmental changes around Angkor during the 15th century, including reforestation of the temple complex, most likely reflecting the abandonment of the ancient city.



*Cores from the Tonle Sap*

### Ground water

We are also analyzing ground water in the Angkor/Siem Reap region based on fieldwork begun during this first phase of our research. The baray system has proved essential to understanding the ecological history and future health of the region's water supply. We surmise that the baray system functioned to maintain constant water levels in moats, city water supply systems, and agricultural fields despite large seasonal fluctuations in rainfall levels. Multiple cropping relies on rainfall and water table considerations, and regulation of water supplies is essential to sustaining a large urban population. A subsurface groundwater model incorporating all known baray, canal, and moat structures in Angkor will soon be completed. The model contains expected water levels in barays in monsoon periods and then computes the groundwater arrival to moats and agricultural field systems through sand-clay subsoil during dry season periods. Future work to refine this model will focus on characterizations of soils, chronological sorting of barays and their uses, baray water level histories, and computational groundwater studies. The subsurface groundwater model will help us to understand the Angkor water systems, as well as provide important insights into the changes in the present-day water table and ongoing effects on Siem Reap and the Angkor complex.

### Future research

The National Science Foundation recently awarded \$650,000 to the University of Chicago to extend into the Tonle Sap watershed its large-scale, long-term socio-economic survey of Thai communities. So, as paleolimnological analysis continues and ground water modeling is tested and refined, we are widening our landscape perspective in terms of methods, geography, and time periods to encompass human aspects of the ecology of the Tonle Sap. How is the regional economy affected by environ-

mental circumstances and social and historical variation? What affects economic and cultural decisions of local populations—to immigrate, to invest in agriculture or finance expenses, to marry and have children?

Cambodia's natural resources, agricultural capacities, manufacturing capabilities, and tourism industries have shifted constantly in the "globalized" recent past and present. Land has been cleared of mines, but also of forests; foreign investment and tourism have introduced many benefits, and also multiple liabilities; factories have employed the poor, but draw from an overstressed rural population soon to be burdened further with the end of textile quotas. Understanding the variable effects of change and human decision-making across the spectrum of rural, suburban, and urban settlements will have broad policy implications for structuring economic development programs, enhancing economic growth, and minimizing environmental, and human, degradation.

The planned survey is an extension of ongoing work begun by the University of Chicago Department of Economics in 1997 in four provinces of Thailand. Expanding this socio-economic survey into Cambodia will advance our understanding of differences in regional economic growth and social inequality. Since it will be undertaken in concert with environmental, historical, and archaeological research, the Cambodian survey will yield unique insights into the culture, economy, and ecology of regional populations of the past and present, with significant implications for future planning.

The Thai survey (University of Chicago, Thailand Database Research Archive: <http://cier.uchicago.edu/intro.htm>) has relied on extensive field research consisting of periodic measurements across villages coupled with repeated monthly measurements of a subset of individual villagers. Cambodian students will be engaged in all phases of the expansion of this survey in the Tonle Sap region, teaming with ethnographers and economists to understand the structure and reasoning underlying the research, as well as to learn the methodologies employed in gathering data.

Our expanding research consortium looks forward to collaborating with the Center for Khmer Studies and Cambodian national institutions to enhance the research capacity and resources of Cambodian students and scholars. The integrated, multidisciplinary analysis of human-environment interactions is at the forefront of contemporary scientific research. This global research priority is one that Cambodian scholars are ideally situated to advance, since intensive looks at Cambodia's long and complex ecology and history will orient perspectives of its economic and environmental future.

## Translation in Cambodia: re-starting from scratch?

Dr. Michel Rethy Antelme, INALCO (Paris)

One aspect of CKS' mission is to make scholarship available to students and scholars interested in Cambodia-especially to the new generation of Cambodian students. One can only note with regret that most publications on Cambodia are not in their native language, Khmer, but mainly in English and French. Basic reference material essential to higher education (especially in the humanities and social sciences) is practically non-existent in the Khmer language. And, although most Cambodian students do study foreign languages, their competence is low even at university level.

Before 1975, many scholarly studies were published in Khmer, mainly by the Phnom Penh Buddhist Institute, which undertook the compilation of religious texts, classical and oral literatures, customs and traditions. Translations of academic material also existed in the past. For instance, Ly Theam Teng translated Zhou Daguan's famous journal of his trip to Cambodia in the thirteenth century into Khmer, from both the original Chinese source and from Pelliot's French translation.

There are two directions that need to be developed urgently, and that CKS could address. The first is to collaborate with Cambodian institutions in the publication of texts written directly in Khmer. CKS has already played an active preliminary role in this regard in collaborating with the Toyota Foundation and the Reyum Institute on a survey of the publishing sector in Cambodia today. A second urgent priority is to engage in translation into Khmer of both works on Cambodia and basic reference materials for the university students. Some key studies in French and in English—recent ones as well as others more than a century old—are not available in Khmer. But a program in translation presents its own obstacles.

Recent translations of academic texts from English into Khmer are revealing of the issues at stake. Words and whole sentences are often not sufficiently understood by the translator. And the basic general knowledge expected of an educated individual is also lacking. These lead to a distorted and even an incorrect translation. (For the most part, this can be attributed to the weakness of the current educational system.) In addition, the Khmer idiom itself is often awkward—e.g., heaviness in style, e.g. the profusion of the passive voice (rare in Khmer); usage of grammatical forms unheard of a few years ago. This contributes to making a translated book—or any other document—practically unreadable. It is also a direct consequence of the Khmer language being deeply affected by English usage, to the extent of undergoing paramount and brutal changes that are shifting both its style and structure.

What is urgently needed, therefore, is, first of all, personnel properly trained in publishing itself—including management, Khmer typographic rules (often ignored or unknown), and the creation of a complete set of Khmer fonts (most current ones are incomplete for scientific purposes, and many texts written in the late 19th century or early 20th century cannot be quoted exactly because of the lack of rare or now obsolete diacritics. The break between the age of the printing press and the age of the computer—and between two human generations—seems nearly total.)

Cambodia also needs trained individuals with genuine bilingual mastery of two languages (above all Khmer and English, or Khmer and French) as a minimum necessity, although this prerequisite is not alone sufficient to achieve quality translation. Technical skills of translation must be mastered, meaning training—an academic curriculum in the techniques of translation. Also needed is the standardization of Khmer “scientific” language regarding the translation of neologisms. In the 1950s-60s, a “Cultural Committee” created loads of neologisms based on Sanskrit and Pāli roots. In the late 1960s and until 1975, a “Khmerization Committee” took a different path, preferring the creation of words via the derivative Khmer system, or simply phonetically adapting French words. Unfortunately, genuine Khmer words, compounds or paraphrased expressions were discarded in the process.

As we can see, all these issues are deeply interrelated and intertwined—lack of general knowledge and adequate language skills leading to poor and inadequate translations, and bad translations, in turn, resulting in distorted knowledge and incorrect mastery of Khmer. Furthermore, what is often pointed to as the absence of a culture of reading can also be interpreted as one consequence of this basic imbroglio. In combination, these structural problems also contribute to a notably weak book market in Cambodia.

There are, to be sure, some outstanding exceptions—for instance *Angkor, Past, Present, and Future*, published a few years ago by the Apsara Authority, under the auspices of UNESCO, whose translation into Khmer by a Cambodian scholar is remarkable. Other recent translations of literary works from French into Khmer, such as *Le Petit Prince* or *Le Horla*, which had a strong success among Cambodian students, pay tribute to a promising academic program unfortunately very recently discontinued. Let us hope that these examples of high-quality translations will soon become the norm, and contribute to raising both the level of scholarship and of general culture among university graduates.

# JUNIOR FELLOWSHIPS 2004-2005

## CKS/TOYOTA JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM A Research Training Program for Young Cambodians

*The CKS Research Methodology and Writing Training Program, entitled 'Ethnography and Memory at the Village Level' engaged five young Cambodian students of anthropology in field research under the supervision of senior Cambodian and international scholars, including Son Soubert and Michael Vickery. Below are two abstracts written by junior participants.*

### Changing Lifestyles of Female Garment Factory Workers

*By Prak Bonamy*

Garment factories have opened on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, providing job opportunities in the capital city to women from many rural provinces. The factories prefer hiring young single women. Many young women with no job opportunities in their villages left for Phnom Penh to work in these factories.

The objective of my study was to investigate the conditions of female factory workers and to draw a comparison between their lives and working conditions at the factory, and their previous living conditions in their villages. The study examined wages, security, work pressure, status in the factories, changes in the workers' lifestyles, and the complex relationships between workers and the workers' unions.

My findings show that while the women who work in garment factories do earn more money than in their villages, problems arise, such as stress due to overtime working hours. From the village to the factory, the young women's lifestyles changed markedly as they lived outside their families, in contact with other workers and others outside the factories, including men.

While they attempted to replicate their social environment at home, groups tended to divide according to whether they were relatives or neighbors at home, with less contact even with roommates who came from different provinces.

Overall, my study shows how these women workers arrive in the factories bringing with them a little bit of their village. When they return home, however, they bring the impact of modern city influences back to the life of the village.

### Rehabilitation & Reintegration of Khmer Refugees Returning to Cambodia

*By Seng Sary*

Cambodia went through a long period of civil turmoil, which led some people to emigrate, while others stayed behind. Some subsequently went from the refugee camps near the Thai border to Canada, the U.S., France, and Australia. Others eventually returned to Cambodia and resettled.

This study follows the lives of returnees from the beginning of the turmoil in Cambodia to the present day. It examines their life experience, and at the same time it attempts to understand their reintegration into Khmer society. Focusing on 20 returnees from Keo Mony village, I begin by studying the village background and continue by analyzing the returnees' reintegration into their native village.

Keo Mony village was founded in 1968 by the committee of Keo Vichey Pagoda, following a dream by the head monk. My research discusses the origin of the village name and subsequent events in the life of the village. In my study, I first examine living conditions under the Lon Nol and Pol Pot (Khmers Rouge) regimes. As living conditions deteriorated, people left Cambodia in hope of a better life by crossing the Thai border to reach refugee camps. I considered living conditions in the refugee camps of the 20 returnees, which were dependent on their prior social status, place of birth, and where they were in at crucial moments during the war.

Lastly, I examine their resettlement in Keo Mony village, their hopes and difficulties, and their new circumstances, including housing, food, clothes, work, education and health. The lives of the returnees are also compared to those of the local population who never left the village.

## JUNIOR FELLOWSHIPS 2004-2005

### SUMMER 2004 JUNIOR RESIDENT FELLOWSHIPS

CKS's first summer Junior Resident Fellows program, sponsored by the Florence Gould and Luce Foundations, brought 10 undergraduate students from France and the US to Siem Reap for three months in residence at CKS as an introduction to Cambodia. They were joined by 3 Cambodian students from our Toyota training program.

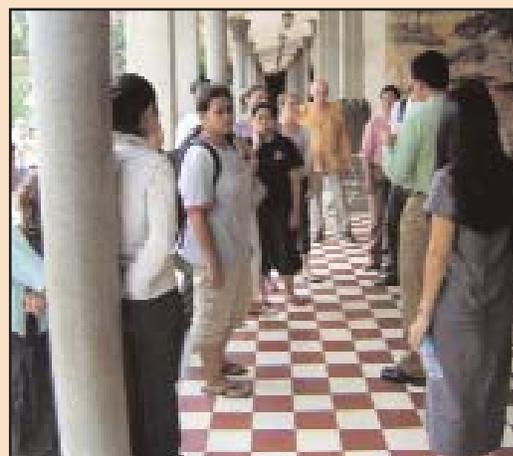
They followed daily intensive Khmer language classes and participated in seminars conducted by Senior Resident Fellows, Michael Vickery and Leakthina Ollier, and other scholars. In addition to a short personal research project, Fellows also had 3-month passes to Angkor, and participated in field trips to discover other sites of interest.

#### US students funded by the Henry Luce Foundation:

Justine Cheng, Architecture Department, Cornell University  
Elizabeth Eastman, East Asian Languages & Cultures, Smith College  
Hart Feuer, Economics & Business, Lafayette College  
Sana Sim, Religion Studies, Yale College  
Jessie Testut, Art History, Ithaca College

#### French students funded by the Florence Gould Foundation:

Aurélie Boisselet, Licence de géographie, Paris IV-Sorbonne  
Bertrand Carron, Diplôme de l'IUT de transport et logistique, Paris  
Arnaud-Jaya Henriquez, Ecole Privée d'Audio-Visuel  
Meryem Ouertani, DESS en ethno-méthodologie, Paris VII-Jussieu  
Angélie Thiounn, langue et civilisation japonaises, INALCO



The junior fellows at the Silver Pagoda, Phnom Penh

#### Cambodian students funded by the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trust:

AN Rasmey, Faculty of Archaeology  
SENG Sary, Faculty of Sociology, RUPP, recipient of fellowship for MA program at Chulalongkorn University  
TAN Sodany, Computer Science, RUPP, recipient of fellowship for MA program at Chulalongkorn University

### Graduate Study Orientation Workshop



CKS's Graduate School Orientation Workshop (March 8-19, 2004) provided recent graduates with comprehensive information on scholarships available for Khmer

Students who wish to study further abroad. Fourteen students were selected from CKS's training programs for the workshop at which international scholars, Embassies representatives, and CKS Fellows presented graduate programs, living conditions abroad, and appropriate ways to apply. A TOEFL test was given at the end to evaluate participants proficiency in English.

Following the Workshop, all participants were helped in applying for a competitive English language MA program in Southeast Asian Studies at Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok). Two positions funded by the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trust were available. The selection interviews, conducted by the Chulalongkorn team, took place at CKS's office in Phnom Penh on April 21, 2004. Two graduates of the Royal University of Phnom Penh were awarded a CKS three-semester scholarship to begin their MA's in August 2004. Congratulations to Tan Sodany and Seng Sary !

# SENIOR FELLOWSHIPS 2004-2005

## CKS SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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

In 2001, with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, CKS initiated the first fellowship program for U.S. scholars to pursue research on Cambodian history, culture and society. The Florence Gould Foundation and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC/ECA) have now joined the Luce Foundation in supporting 13 CKS senior fellows for 2004-2005. A presentation of the research fellowships follows.

#### **Sophal Ear. *Capacity Building and Governance: Livestock Policy and Poverty Reduction* (CAORC)**

A Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the University of California at Berkeley, Mr. Ear, a Khmer-American, will explore livestock policy development and poverty reduction. The research will identify the roles of key organizations and players, factors and forces in livestock sector policy-making in Cambodia, and will analyze the political and institutional processes that lie at the basis of such policy-making. This will result in a case study that is part of a doctoral dissertation that examines aid, governance, and capacity development.

#### **Anna Gade. *Muslim Society in Cambodia* (CAORC)**

Dr. Gade is an Assistant Professor of Religion at Oberlin College in Ohio. She specializes in Islamic religious systems and Southeast Asia. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1999. Her book, *Perfection Makes Practice: Learning, Emotion and the Recited Qur'an in Indonesia* (University of Hawaii Press, 2004), explores a widespread movement of religious revitalization in Indonesia. Her work in Cambodia will investigate similar contemporary religious developments among the country's Muslim-minority communities. Before carrying out her proposed project, Dr. Gade will work intensively to learn the Khmer language, both in the United States and in Cambodia.

#### **Jonathan Padwe. *Social and Environment Change in the Aftermath of War: the Phnong of Northeast Cambodia* (CAORC)**

This project investigates the ways that members of the Phnong ethnic minority group in Northeast Cambodia negotiated the Khmer Rouge genocide and the period of instability and conflict that followed. The research methodology pays special attention to agricultural and environmental management practices, using discussion of these topics as a starting point from which to investigate the changes to Phnong culture and society

occasioned by the conflict. Specifically, the research explores how the Phnong reconstituted their agricultural system after leaving Khmer Rouge collectives, asks how Phnong villages have accommodated the presence of new immigrants displaced by the conflict, and looks at the ways that the Phnong have adapted their subsistence strategies following the war's impact on wildlife in the region.

#### **Soizick CROCHET. *Anthropological factors influencing HIV positive mothers' choice of infant feeding* (Florence Gould)**

Dr. Crochet holds a Ph.D. degree in Anthropology from the University of Nanterre (France) and a M.Sc. degree in Mother and Child Health in Tropical Countries from the University of London. She has been involved in aid work with Khmer refugees in Thailand and research on Khmer popular medicine since the early 1980s. She has published a book about Cambodia for the general public and several articles in French and English mainly on medical anthropology issues. Her research is one part of a larger project involving four interdisciplinary teams studying breast feeding for HIV positive women in African and Asian settings. The first part, based on interviews with 50 mothers, will lead to several publications this year. The second part will investigate the ethnography of breast-feeding in Cambodia from the point of view of lay people, traditional healers and birth attendants, achars and health professionals.

#### **Fabienne Luco. *The practices and representations of space and time of populations living on an archeological site: Angkor.* (Florence Gould)**

Ms. Luco is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris. She has been involved with Khmer studies and worked as consultant with various international organizations in Cambodia since 1993. Her current research aims to understand how local populations living on the archeological site of 'Angkor', symbol of

national identity, construct their own identity. It will explore : 1 - the cultural representations of the landscape and the management of natural resources; 2 - The perception of time through the traces left in the landscape (temples, dikes, ponds, toponyms); 3 - the social and spatial organisation of the local villages.

**Pascal Bourdeaux.** *The Contribution of Cambodian colonial period Sources in the Writing of a Socio-religious History of the Mekong Delta (mid 19th - mid 20th)* (Florence Gould)

Pascal Bourdeaux received a Ph.D. in History from the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (Paris Sorbonne) under Professor Nguyễn Thê Anh. He studied the Emergence and the formation of the Hoa Hao Buddhist Community, a Vietnamese 'New Religious Movement' that appeared in the 1930's in the western part of Cochinchina. He is currently exploring the social history of the Mekong delta (mid 19th - mid 20th c.). His four-month research project in Cambodia aims at constituting a corpus of colonial sources—essentially from the Cambodian National Archives and National Library—which would contribute to the writing of a social history of the Mekong delta; and also an essay in comparative history on popular beliefs in Eastern Cambodia and Western Cochinchina and on the Buddhist renewal in Cambodia and Cochinchina in the 1920's and 1930's.

**Eric Bourdonneau.** *Cambodia: The construction of the State, 1st - 8th centuries* (Florence Gould)

Mr. Bourdonneau wishes to contribute to a better understanding of this period by focusing his research on the study of a particular social category, the *pon*. To achieve his goal, he will deepen his knowledge of old and modern Khmer and undertake collaborative work with Cambodia-based linguists in order to build up a repertory of historical semantics of old Khmer that will enrich work on social practices of this period.

**Joseph Thach.** *Deixis in modern Khmer: a Linguistic Study* (Florence Gould)

Mr. Thach, a Franco-Khmer, is a Ph.D. candidate in Khmer linguistics at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) in Paris. His study seeks to demonstrate how the Khmer language refers to space and time and to show that the conception of tenses in the Khmer grammar today is imported from the classical grammar in Europe. As this classical model of grammar is not rooted in the conceptual world of the Khmer language, it is virtually useless and is unable to

explain any of its particularities. His research is mainly based on the every-day spoken language. The different vernaculars take up a very important part of his analysis, requiring that considerable time be spent with people in different regions of the country in order to survey their ways of speaking.

**Leakthina Chau-Pech Ollier, U.S. Senior Resident Fellow:** *Expressions of Cambodia: The Politics of Tradition, Identity and Change* (Henry Luce Foundation)

Dr. Ollier was born in Cambodia. She received her Ph.D. in French literature from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1995. Her research has focused on 20th century postcolonial literature, Asian women writers of the diaspora, particularly from Southeast Asia. A volume she coedited, *Of Vietnam: Identities in Dialogue* was published by St. Martin's Press in 2001. Her current project, a collection entitled *Expressions of Cambodia: The Politics of Tradition, Identity and Change*, will introduce readers to issues of contemporary Cambodian cultural studies. For this collection, she will work closely not only with Cambodian studies scholars but also with filmmakers, writers, and visual and performing artists.

**Michael Vickery, U.S. Senior Resident Fellow:** *History of the Angkor Period according to Khmer inscriptions* (Henry Luce Foundation)

Dr. Vickery, a distinguished historian of Cambodia, will continue what has been the main focus of his study for several years—the society and economy of Ancient Cambodia as reflected in Khmer inscriptions. His previous work on the Pre-Angkor period resulted in his famous study, *Society, Economics and Politics in Pre-Angkor Cambodia: The 7th-8th Centuries*. (Tokyo, 1998). The study of Khmer inscriptions has suffered from a narrow focus on royalty and religion, and has been neglected in favor of Sanskrit inscriptions. Prof. Vickery proposes to examine these Old Khmer inscriptions from the 9th-14th centuries. Particular attention will be given to what is generally considered the beginning of the Angkor period—the year 802 A.D. associated with the reign of Jayavarman II. Close examination of inscriptions referring to it might lead to a new interpretation of the period. Dr. Vickery's research will also include a new critical study of work on Champa, in order to develop a clearer view of what happened between Champa and Cambodia from the 1160's to the 1190's, a period crucial to the reign of Jayavarman VII.

## CKS Institutional Consortium Members and Affiliates

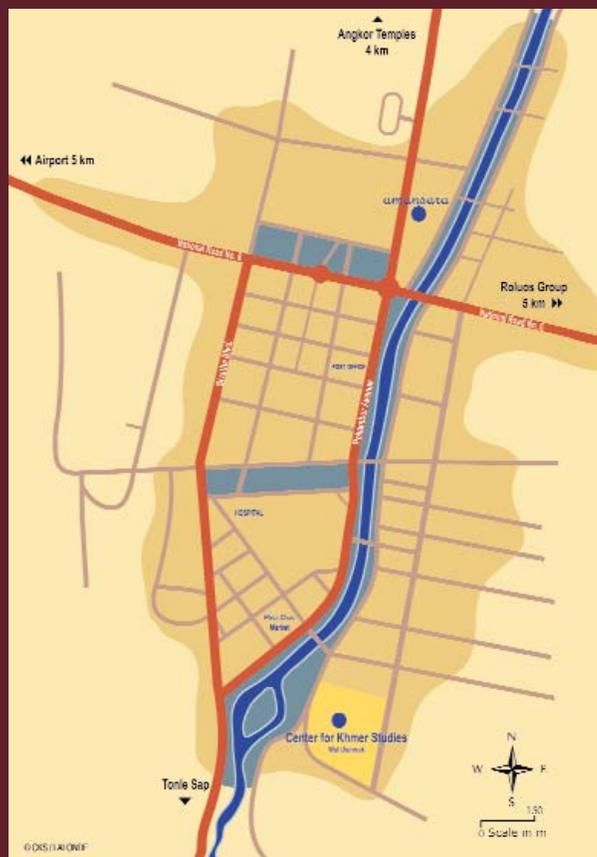
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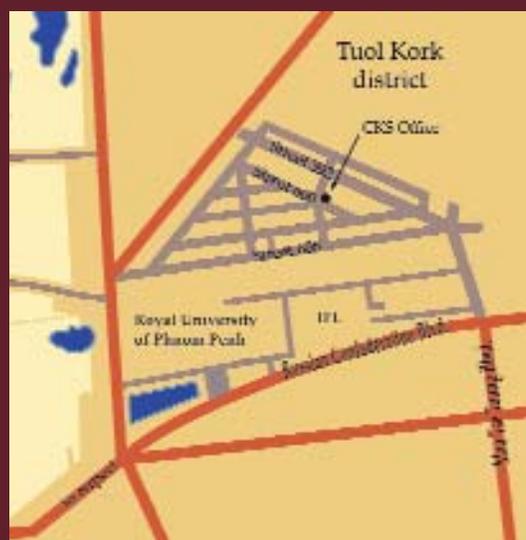
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