



SOUTHEAST
ASIA
PROGRAM

BURMESE RESEARCH DAYS

OR, A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NEARLY EXTINCT LIFE-FORM: A FOREIGN RESEARCHER IN BURMA

Mary Callahan



By a great stroke of luck and some strange twists of fate, in November 1991 I was able to obtain a six-month visa to conduct research for my Ph.D. dissertation on the history of the Burma army (1948–1962). My visa was sponsored by then–Lt. Gen. Chit Swe, also then–Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and a member of the ruling junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). In 1993, Gen. Chit Swe (whose portfolio had been narrowed to Forestry) again permitted me entry to conduct research for the month of February. During these visits, I spent about two-thirds of my time conducting research in the libraries and archives of the Universities of Rangoon and Mandalay, and the rest of my time in the Defence Services Historical Research Institute, or the army archives. What follows is an account of a typical day in the environs of Rangoon University.

6 A.M. Morning greeted me with smoke pouring into my bedroom window, as soldiers burned their trash in the courtyard below. Soldiers next to the Foreign Students' Hostel? This was no ROTC contingent, but instead a unit of the 22nd Light Infantry Brigade—famous for the key role it played in suppressing the 1988 pro-democracy uprising in Rangoon. Shortly after that uprising, this unit set up makeshift barracks in vacant Institute of Education buildings to keep an eye on the campus and on the dozen or so dangerous young foreigners living in the men's and women's hostels.

The unit used our driveway to park their trucks and some of the officers would cruise in on their noisy motorcycles at all hours, regardless of the 11 p.m. curfew. In front

of our hostel, they stationed a guard who looked like he was fifteen years old and hadn't eaten since he was ten. Nonetheless, he also looked like he meant business—his face was stern and he made eye contact with no one; his rifle was poised to fire; his green fatigues and combat helmet suggested he was marching into battle right in front of the hostel. The guard was oblivious when his mates stepped out of line, as when soldiers stole gourds and tomatoes from our hostel garden or yelled rude things at the six foreign women students (an all-time high number). My room was closest to their makeshift barracks and I quickly learned to yell in Burmese, "Don't be rude. Go away and die."

By 7:30 sharp, the unit lined up for reveille. Roll call began and the soldiers closed

out the daily session by barking back the question-answer-style oath of loyalty.

8 A.M. The best breakfast spot was at the nearby Institute of Education canteen, located behind the hostel and adjacent to the main buildings of the Institute. The canteen gate next to the Foreign Students' Hostel was locked up tight after student demonstrations in December, 1991, put the university area back into a state of siege. That December, when dissident leader Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, 500 unarmed students held two days of demonstrations in front of the Rangoon University Recreation Center. They called for the release of political prisoners and the right to form a student union. Thousands of troops, a few armored personnel carriers, and one of the junta's up-and-coming young generals swarmed the campus, shutting down the universities for another nine months and establishing a wide range of security controls, including the new gate policy at our canteen. Foreigners on campus were blamed (unjustifiably) for inciting those December

demonstrations, and since we were the only foreigners living in the university area, everything we did was suspect. Even eating breakfast.

After the December crackdown, we had to walk around three sides of the large square canteen area, sign in at a gate guarded by another boyish soldier with a decrepit old rifle, and show our passports. If Burmese friends accompanied us, they also had to sign in and show their national identity cards. The main point was to track which Burmese were dining with which foreigners. The new system scared off most of my government-service friends, including all university staff, because public servants are required to obtain permission from their superiors to meet socially or professionally with foreigners. There is a form they must fill out afterward to report what was discussed in such meetings; "revolution" and "democracy" are not acceptable answers.

9 A.M. My liaison officers from the Ministry of Agriculture usually arrived to drive me the quarter-mile to the campus



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main gate. Before the December demonstrations, I was allowed to walk that quarter-mile path, weaving my way among the teashops and tennis courts that service the Institute of Education area. Within a couple of days of my arrival, everyone along that path knew my Burmese name, and I received two marriage proposals from boys who greeted me with, "I love to you." I had been told by my liaison officers not to speak to the Burmese students on or around the campus because of the dangerous political ideas in their heads. Aside from marriage proposals, the main idea I encountered was repeated requests for the items foreigners are thought not to leave home without: "Whiskey? Cigarettes?" the students would ask, hoping to build up their coffers of Burma's alternative currency.

After the demonstrations, even though the students had been sent away from the university area, my hosts at Agriculture decided it would be safer for me to be chauffeured back and forth to the university. For the most part, the Agriculture people were

a wonderfully hospitable, relaxed group, though hard pressed to understand why an Irish Catholic woman from rural America had arrived on their doorstep to study the forbidden topic—the army. My liaison officers were bona fide entomologists and were terrified of the army contacts they were forced to make in order to help me. They were even more terrified that I would stumble into trouble. Hence, the quarter-mile escort to the campus, the constant note-taking about everywhere I went and everyone I saw, and the weekend phone calls checking that I was not riding buses anywhere. My liaison officers were practicing their trade: pest control.

At the main gate of the university we met more rifle-bearing soldiers in combat helmets. Whenever I arrived at the gate during the first few days after the December 1991 demonstrations, the soldiers tensed up, waving their rifles ominously to make me go away. Severe looks formed on the soldiers' faces and I realized that they might think I was the foreigner credited with starting those demonstrations. Nonetheless, we repeated over and over the name of the Minister of Agriculture, and pretty soon they let me proceed to the library.

Doing research at the university's Central Library gets mixed reviews. It's somewhat depressing, since the highly skilled and efficient library staff are underpaid, overworked, and don't get much glory—the preservation and, especially, the circulation of books is hardly a priority for the junta. Foreigners also disrupt the library enormously, and the librarians quickly tired of the daily reports they had to submit to the Department of Higher Education about my behavior and progress. Soon I chipped in some suggestions, and now there must be a file of reports that say, day after day, "Mary is well-behaved and a kind person."

Providing me the ultimate in Burmese "VIP treatment," the library staff set me up in the Manuscript Room, which aside from smelling like centuries of knowledge and possessing a breathtaking centuries-old gilded Buddha shrine, also had an air conditioner and an outlet for my portable computer. Someone ran out and bought me fried rice or fried noodles every day for lunch, sweet tea and cakes for an afternoon break. I never saw the stacks, but three librarians combed them looking for anything and everything relevant to my topic. The flip side of this VIP treatment was that I was under "library arrest," so to speak—I was confined to one room, not permitted to go to the canteen (where I might meet dangerous students) and could be located whenever the powers-that-be needed to know where I was. During those December demonstrations, the librarians were told to confine me in that Manuscript Room and turn up the air conditioner, so that I couldn't hear the assembled students shout-

ing their political slogans less than thirty yards away.

This Manuscript Room was where my friend The Shadow materialized. At the end of the second day of the demonstrations, one gate of the sealed university wall was opened up to let the staff go home. As I marched out with them, some very dark-skinned, almost foreign-looking soldiers surrounded me. They were agitated and confused about my presence, and finally their commanding officer, Gen. Tin Hla (now an area commander), yelled at me, "Get out, get out." But first my photo was taken, and soon thereafter, my "shadow" appeared at the library. He was well-dressed, well-connected (he brought with him uncensored copies of *Far Eastern Economic Review*), and nosy (my notes were always in disarray if I left them behind during a lunch or bathroom break). He was the only other human being continuously in this room and sat four chairs away from me at the large conference table. He apparently spoke no English, and my librarian friends began speaking only Burmese to me, presumably so that he would not be suspicious of our conversations. If I smiled at him, he looked away or scribbled in his Daily Planner. A few weeks later, after dodging all eye contact and small talk with me, he disappeared.

4 P.M. The librarians started packing up their lunch tins and work ground to a halt. I walked back down Adipadi Road to the main gate where my liaisons waited in the Agriculture car. Occasionally university staff, wearing identity cards on their breastpockets, matched my strides, and talked to me through their smiles without letting their lips move. The assumption was always that we were being watched. Whether we were or not is unclear and perhaps irrelevant. What is significant is that everyone believed we were.

After the long, gruelling day in the air-conditioned Manuscript Room, my liaisons sometimes took me to the Hi! Teashop

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across from the university, where we'd squat on tiny wooden stools and sip sweet tea, surrounded by students and staff. On weekends, I often met people in other parts of Rangoon who told me they knew me from my teashop appearances. They didn't talk to me at the Hi! because everyone "knows" teashops are crawling with the notorious "M.I." (military intelligence).

Then the entomologists usually took me shopping for food at the Hledan market, near the university. Thanks to the recent "marketization" and the burgeoning black market, one can buy just about anything in Rangoon now, even in these small local markets. Kleenex tissues, Raid ant killer, Quaker Oats, Colgate toothpaste, Skippy peanut butter, all types of antibiotics, and lots of other luxury consumer items now fill shopkeepers' shelves. Necessities, on the other hand, were often scarce. The long queues for rice and cooking oil (distributed by cooperatives and occasionally by the government directly) could sometimes be days long.

Even before the curfew was abolished, the hostel tutor begged me to stay in after 5 or 6 p.m., for fear that I'd miss the last bus back to the university area before the 11 p.m. curfew. After the curfew order was rescinded in late 1992, the tutor still wanted me safe in my room before dark because she was convinced criminals would attack me if I took buses around Rangoon at night. In fact, most people were so startled to see a Western woman on a bus at any time of the day that they generally cleared the space around me and watched me so carefully that there was little chance violence could be done to my person without 100 witnesses to protect me. But evenings on the town still seemed to be a man's sport, and instead of drawing the curious "What's this tall white woman doing here?" looks I was accustomed to daily at teashops and restaurants, at night I drew stares that registered clear disapproval.

Usually, however, I was a good girl and either spent the evening with the tutor's family or with another friend's family that

lived nearby. Our evenings were spent watching propagandistic films and news on the one and only television station. Every movie had the same plot: boy meets girl; girl rejects boy's marriage proposal; rejected boy joins army, fights against vague evil enemies, and becomes hero; girl nearly kisses, then marries, returning hero.

The unpredictable plot swings were found on the TV news that year. During my stay in 1991-92, the leader of the junta, Senior General Saw Maung, underwent what was probably a nervous breakdown, and so the Burmese population—which normally ignored the evening "news," there usually being nothing newsworthy on it—was glued to the television to see film clips of the leader flipping out all around the country. At the height of his instability, he went on a nationwide pagoda tour, offering money and gifts to all the most respected monks in front of the TV news cameras. All along the way he pasted a vacant toothy smile across a face that otherwise cried out in distress. He stumbled everywhere, leaning more and more heavily on his wife in the early months of 1992. My fellow viewers hooted and howled at the spectacle as they watched this tragicomedy unfold. Finally, several days after the Water Festival greeted the Buddhist new year in April by washing away the cares and problems of the old year, Senior General Saw Maung had disappeared, replaced by the vice chairman of the junta and never seen again. Nor was the evening "news."

11 P.M. After a censored episode of *Hotel* (James Brolin never did kiss Connie Selleca in Burma), I retired to my room, lit up a mosquito coil, charged up my laptop computer (if the electricity happened to be flowing), and wondered just what the soldiers were thinking next door as they blasted disco music into the night.

Mary Callahan is a doctoral candidate in the department of government.

VISITING FELLOWS AND FACULTY MEMBERS

VISITING FELLOWS, 1993-94

Catherine [Rineke] Coumans, post-doctoral fellow in anthropology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada. Research on Basic Christian Communities and changing local-level power relations in the Philippines.

Doris Jedamski, tutor in the Department of History at the Universities of Hamburg and Bremen, Germany. Research on conflict between literary genres in Indonesia: a comparative study of the educational novel and the crime story.

Takashi Kudo, assistant director, Economic Cooperation Department, Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations), Tokyo, Japan. Research on Japan-Southeast Asia relations.

Nguyen Tai Can, professor of minority languages, Institute of Linguistics, Hanoi, Vietnam. Collaborative research under a Luce Foundation grant with Cornell professors Gerard Diffloth and Keith Taylor on the history of Mon-Khmer and Chinese elements in the Vietnamese language.

Mavis Rose, lecturer in theology, Brisbane College, Australia. Research on environmental programs in Indonesia.

Nonna Vladimirova Stankevitch, lecturer, University of Hanoi. Research on Vietnamese grammar and the development of *nôm*.

Thongpeth Kingsada, researcher at the Lao Committee for Social Sciences, Institute of Research on the Arts, Literature, and Linguistics. Collaborative research under a Luce Foundation grant with

Cornell professor Gerard Diffolth on the history of Mon-Khmer and Chinese elements in the Vietnamese language.

Tong Chee-Kiong, director of the Centre for the Arts, National University of Singapore. Research on ethnicity and ethnic relations in Southeast Asia.

VISITING FACULTY MEMBERS

Saya Shiraishi, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Asian Studies. As a SEAP alumna in anthropology, Professor Shiraishi is well acquainted with the Southeast Asia Program, its courses and requirements. She has specialized on the socialization of children under various school systems, particularly those of Indonesia and Japan. Her doctoral thesis, "Young Heroes: The Family and School in New Order Indonesia," is a close-up study of the socialization of children in the state's primary school system, especially their relations with teachers, textbooks, parents, and each other. Her recent publications include "Pengantar or, Introduction to New Order Indonesia," "Silakan Masuk. Silakan Duduk: Reflections in a Sitting Room in Java," "Eyeglasses: Some Remarks on Acehnese School Books," and the forthcoming "Children's Stories and the State in Indonesia." Professor Shiraishi is teaching "Ethnology of Island Southeast Asia" in the fall term and will again offer her popular course, "Children, Literature, and Society," in the spring. Jointly listed in Asian studies and anthropology, her courses are open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Laurence D. Stifel, Visiting Professor of International Agriculture and Asian Studies. Professor Stifel is a former director general of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Nigeria, and vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation. He lived in the Philippines (1959–

(continued on page 6)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This has been another eventful year for the Southeast Asia Program.

The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Keith Taylor (Asian studies) to the tenured position in Vietnamese Cultural Studies. Keith, in his second year in Hanoi, continues his research on the origins of Vietnamese language while serving as the local representative for the Council for International Educational Exchange (CIEE).

David Wyatt, serving as president of the Association for Asian Studies, sandwiches travel and meetings between his teaching and research duties, finding time also to work on his presidential address for the AAS meetings in Boston next March.

Filomeno (Jun) Aguilar, Jr., was awarded the 1992 Lauriston Sharp Prize for his thesis, "Phantoms of Capitalism and Sugar Production Relations in a Colonial Philippine Island." He is now in the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore, joining a host of other SEAP alumni teaching there.

Three SEAP faculty members were on different assignments in Indonesia in November. Oliver Wolters served as keynote speaker at the International Conference on the "Promotion of Southeast Asian Studies in Southeast Asia," jointly organized by Lembaga Ilmu dan Pengetahuan Indonesia (LIPI) and the Toyota Foundation. Erik Thorbecke was one of the organizers of a conference on "Alternative Models, Measurement, and Data for Sustainable Development," held at the University of Indonesia. Randy Barker gave a paper at the workshop on "Upland Development in Indonesia," held in Mataram, Lombok.

With graduate students still lined up in front of his door in Warren Hall, "retired" professor Milt Barnett moves to New Mexico in January to continue his research and writing in a warmer climate.

John Badgley is now in phased retirement and has undertaken assignments to travel through Southeast Asia to build more active linkages with SEAP alumni.

Charles Hirschman and Alexander Woodside came from their respective universities on the West Coast to conduct a formal review of the Southeast Asia Program in late September. They reported their findings to a joint meeting of our faculty and SEAP Advisory Council in early October. While recognizing the many achievements of the program, the reviewers and Advisory Council have encouraged us, in the face of rapid changes both at home and abroad, to reexamine our mission and goals as we plan for the future.

As I write this letter, the temperature outside hovers around zero (20 degrees Fahrenheit). I send you warm greetings for the new year from a very cold Ithaca, New York.*

Randolph Barker
Director

**As this edition went to press, we learned the sad news that our first director, Lauriston Sharp, died on December 31. An obituary will appear in our next issue.*

60) as a Fulbright research fellow; in Burma (1962–63) as a USAID economist; and in Thailand (1964–75) as an economic adviser to the Thailand Economic Development Board and as a Rockefeller Foundation staff member and visiting professor at Thammasat University. His scholarly publications cover a wide range of topics related to Southeast Asia and include *Social Sciences and Public Policy in the Development Areas*, 1982; "ASEAN Cooperation and Economic Growth in Southeast Asia," 1979; "Technocrats and Modernization in Thailand," 1976; "Burmese Socialism: Economic Problems of the First Decade," 1972; and the SEAP Data Paper, *The Textile Industry—A Case Study of Industrial Development in the Philippines*, 1963. Professor Stifel is join-



Jomo Kwame Sundaram

ing with Professor Thak Chaloehtiarana in teaching the undergraduate course, "Introduction to Southeast Asia," in spring term 1994.

JAN-PAUL DIRKSE, VISITING FELLOW 1992–93

Jan-Paul Dirkse, former head of the Indonesia and East Asia Division of the Development Corporation of the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spent the 1992–1993 academic year as a visiting fellow at the Southeast Asia Program.

Mr. Dirkse's mother was born in Indonesia, but he was not at all certain about pursuing his early interest in the country. He describes the 1970s, when he completed his *doktorandus* while teaching high school history, as the nadir of Indonesian studies in the Netherlands. When he finished his degree in history, writing on Netherlands East Indies economic policy in the 1930s, Mr. Dirkse joined the Foreign Service and was fortuitously assigned to Jakarta.

Mr. Dirkse later became private secretary to Minister for Development Cooperation Pronk, who was chair of the Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI). This position gave Mr. Dirkse the impetus to reflect on the course of Dutch-Indonesian relations since Indonesian independence. On the Dutch side, he says, from 1940 to 1970, knowledge of Indonesia in such areas as language, culture, and tropical agricultural died out and was not replaced. For one generation, the leaders of Indonesia were still Dutch-trained and thus had insight into Dutch thoughts and actions. But the two sides had little in common in outlook, and the younger generation of Indonesian leaders have little knowledge of the Dutch. Here the IGGI was beneficial to both sides. According to Dirkse, the Netherlands viewed its chairmanship of the IGGI as an aspect of international relations, not as a business opportunity, a stance which was to Indonesia's benefit. And if Indonesia did well economically, this was felt to reflect well on the Dutch.

Mr. Dirkse spent his time at Cornell researching the Dutch-Indonesian relationship from the resumption of diplomatic relations in 1960. He has since returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he is serving in Berlin as deputy to the ambassador.

Kamala Tiyavanich, Visiting Mellon Fellow, Society for the Humanities.

Dr. Tiyavanich is a SEAP alumna who received her doctorate in history in 1993. Her dissertation, "The Wandering Forest Monks in Thailand, 1990–92: Ajan Mun's Lineage," is being augmented by her current research project, "Magician Monks in Thailand during the Forest-Community Period." She is also teaching two courses in the Department of Asian Studies this year: "Buddhism Exemplified: Remarkable Religious Teachers in Asia," an introduction to the Buddhist way of life as exemplified in the lives of meditation teachers in Burma, Thailand, and other parts of Asia, offered in fall term 1993; and "The Western Quest for Enlightenment: The Search for Asian Meditation Teachers," which examines various Asian schools of meditation through the writings of Western practitioners, offered in spring term 1994.

Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Visiting Professor of Management and Asian Studies.

The Southeast Asia Program and the Johnson Graduate School of Management are pleased to have Professor Jomo here during fall term 1993 under the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program. His specialization is in economic development and its political and social contexts in Southeast Asia. He is professor in the Faculty of Economics and Administration at the University of Malaya and was previously professor of human development in that university's Institute of Advanced Studies. From 1983 to 1986 he was consultant to the International Labor Organization. His training includes an M.P.A. degree from the Kennedy School of Government and a Ph.D. degree from Harvard. Among his books are: *A Question of Class: Capital, the State and Uneven Development in Malaya*, 1986; *Growth and Structural Change in the Malaysian Economy*, 1990; and *Industrialising Malaysia: Policy, Performance, Prospects*, 1993. Forthcoming titles include *U-Turn? Malaysian Economic Development Policy after 1990*

and an edited volume, *Privatizing Malaysia*. His next project will compare foreign investment, late industrialization, and ethnic relations in Malaysia, South Africa, and Brazil.

Professor Jomo is offering two graduate-level courses. In the Department of Asian Studies, his "Seminar on Modern Malaysia" covers modern Malaysian history, the course of the country's economic, political, and cultural development, and an assessment of its current socioeconomic problems. In the Johnson Graduate School of Management, Professor Jomo is teaching "The Business Environment in Southeast Asia," a survey of business conditions and the investment environment in the high-growth economies of Southeast Asia, with particular attention to resource endowments and the region's economic, political, and social history.



VIDEO ARCHIVE

The Kahin Center's Video Archive currently holds about 250 titles from Southeast Asia. The collection grows when students and faculty bring films back with them from their travels. The bulk of the collection consists of documentaries, but feature films (especially from the Philippines and Indonesia) are also represented. Topics covered in the arts include dance, drama, and shadow-puppet theater. Political documentaries address such topics as revolutions and rebellions, deforestation, prostitution, and the drug trade. These videos are shown in the weekly film series, are used in outreach to the Cornell and Ithaca communities, and are available to students, faculty, and fellows for their research.

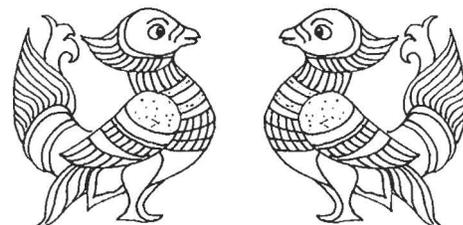
PENNY DIETRICH IS NEW SEAP OUTREACH COORDINATOR



The Southeast Asia Program has added a new member, Penny Dietrich, as part-time outreach coordinator. On a day-to-day basis, Ms. Dietrich coordinates the expertise and interests of SEAP graduate students and faculty with requests from area schools, colleges, refugee assistance programs, and BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services). For example, SEAP graduate students John Sidel and Peter Zinoman will present lectures at the Finger Lakes Community College this year on the American legacy to political life in the Philippines and on students and politics in Vietnam. Visiting Mellon fellow and SEAP alumna Kamala Tiyavanich spoke at Hartwick College on the cultural history of Thailand, and Echols Collection curator John Badgley spoke to educators and community members at the Beverly J. Martin Elementary School in Ithaca on development and justice in Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asia Program members' interest in the performing arts is most valued by area primary and secondary schools. This fall, graduate student Toni Shapiro and Cambodian dancer Thavro Phim, visiting from the School of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh, presented a three-part workshop at the Ithaca and Johnson City high schools on the revitalization of Cambodian dance and gave a modified version of the program at the Beverly J. Martin Elementary School in Ithaca. Their first visit featured a film, *Samsara*, about the rebuilding of Cambodia after the Pol Pot regime; the film was followed by a question-and-answer period. In the second session, mythology was the focus. "Moni Mekhala," the story of thunder and lightning, showed how mythological stories become the basis for dance performances, which, in turn, keep mythology vital in contemporary Cambodian culture. Finally, dance techniques were demonstrated, using the costume and mask of the classical "monkey" character.

Ms. Dietrich, who has an office at the Kahin Center, is also involved in long-term planning of curriculum development for local schools. Specifically, she is producing resource packets, including films, narratives, maps, slides, and lesson plans, for secondary-school teachers, focusing on single countries of Southeast Asia. In collaboration with other area-studies programs at Cornell, she will also develop a social-studies curriculum for the 3rd grade level. Both levels will focus on Asian peoples and cultures, putting the visual and performing arts into sociopolitical context. The goal is to create greater public awareness of Southeast Asia, while contributing to the development of meaningful multicultural education.





The Cornell Malaysian Association (CMA) invited Malaysian artist Mohamed Najib bin Ahmad Dawa to Cornell in spring term 1993. Cosponsored by the CMA, the Southeast Asia Program, the Department of Textiles and Apparel, and other campus groups, the artist mounted an eleven-day exhibition of his hand-drawn contemporary batiks in Martha Van Rensselaer Hall. Twenty-two pieces were shown, including wall-sized silk panels depicting intricate abstract patterns based on natural forms.

Mohamed Najib was born in the state of Pahang in Peninsular Malaysia and studied fine arts at Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang. He has taught graphic design at that university, conducted many courses in batik, and designed sets for stage productions. His work has been exhibited in Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Before leaving Cornell, the artist donated this batik to the Southeast Asia Program as a representation of Malaysian art. It now hangs in the main stairwell at the Kahin Center.

GIFTS OF ART AT THE KAHIN CENTER

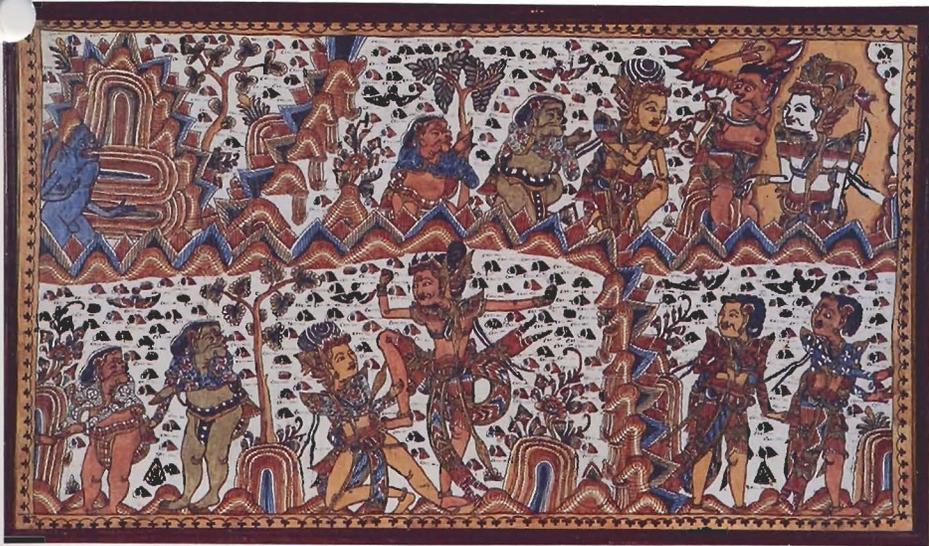
The Southeast Asia Program

gratefully acknowledges

the gifts shown, which

are displayed on the walls

of the Kahin Center.



This Balinese painting was donated by SEAP alumna Barbara Harvey (Ph.D. 1974). She is currently deputy chief of mission to the U.S. Embassy, Jakarta.



While collecting and translating oral literature in Sarawak, East Malaysia, Carol Rubenstein acquired this Dayak painting made in 1973. The painter was Jok Bato, a Kayan-Kenyah Dayak artist who occasionally worked for the Sarawak Museum. The "Tree of Life" motif of the painting, often found in Dayak art, represents the continual intermingling of all forms of life. As a scholar at the Kahin Center in 1992-93, recalling her culture shock each time in the past twenty years that she has returned to the U.S., Ms. Rubenstein considered how desolate Ithaca winters must feel to Southeast Asian visitors. Therefore, she offered this small window on jungle luxuriance, that we may all be reminded and feel more "at home."



This temple rubbing of a Cambodian dancer was given to the Southeast Asia program by Martha Bliss Safford, Class of 1955, and John Bliss Alden, the Kahin Center renovation architect.



SOUTHEAST
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PUBLICATIONS

A number of new books were published recently in the three series put out by SEAP, as well as the first of a four-volume catalog of manuscript collections in Surakarta. All SEAP books, as well as the *Indonesia* journal, are available from our distribution office: Southeast Asia Program Publications, East Hill Plaza, Ithaca, NY 14850-2805.

INDONESIA

Issue 55, focusing on the East Indies and the Dutch, was published in April 1993. This issue featured:

- "The Gendered Rhetoric of Colonialism and Anti-colonialism in Twentieth-Century Indonesia," by Frances Gouda
- "Unpacking a National Heroine: Two Kartinis and Their People," by Danilyn Rutherford
- "Noto Soeroto: His Ideas and the Late Colonial Intellectual Climate," by Madelon Djajadiningrat-Nieuwenhuis
- "Discord and Solidarity among the Arabs in the Netherlands East Indies, 1900-1942," by Huub de Jonge
- "Nationalism and Regionalism in Colonial Indonesia: The Case of Minahasa," by David Henley
- "Mission Impossible: The Intermediary Role of the Dutch Politician and Journalist Frans Goedhart in the Dutch-Indonesian Conflict, 1945-1947," by Madelon de Keizer
- "The Loveday Exchange, Australia, 1942: The Japanese Naval Spies Return to Java," by Greg Poulgrain
- A review of P. M. H. Groen's *Marsroutes en Dwaalsporen*, by J. A. de Moor

The issue also included a translation, reviews, and current information on the Indonesian cabinet and military elite.

Issue 56, October 1993, featured the following articles:

- "Islam, State, and Civil Society: ICMI and the Struggle for the Indonesian Middle Class," by Robert W. Hefner
- "From Heteroglossia to Polyglossia: The Creation of Malay and Dutch in the Indies," by H. M. J. Maier
- "A Short Review of Doctoral Theses on the Netherlands-Indies Accepted at the Faculty of Law of Leiden University in the Period 1850-1940," by S. Pompe

- "Sitor Situmorang: Poet of Lake Toba," by Sitor Situmorang, translated by A. L. Reber
- A review article, "Two 'images of Asia': A Comparison," by Jonathan Perry

The issue also included current data on the Indonesian military elite and memorials to Mohammad Natsir and Buddy Prasadja.

STUDIES ON SOUTHEAST ASIA

Fields from the Sea: Chinese Junk Trade with Siam during the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries, by Jennifer Cushman. 1993. 216 pages. \$16.

Fair Land Sarawak: Some Recollections of an Expatriate Officer, by Alastair Morrison. 1993. 196 pages. \$16.

SOUTHEAST ASIA PROGRAM SERIES

The American War in Vietnam, edited by Jayne Werner and David Hunt. 1993. 132 pages. \$13.

TRANSLATION SERIES

The Japanese in Colonial Southeast Asia, edited by Saya Shiraishi and Takashi Shiraishi. 1993. 172 pages. \$14.

ACCESSIONS LIST OF THE ECHOLS COLLECTION

The monthly *Accessions List* contains information on newly added books and serials in the Echols Collections. The list is currently prepared by Ben Abel, together with the staff of the John M. Echols Collection on Southeast Asia and its curator, John Badgley. Subscriptions are \$20 per year.

CORNELL MODERN INDONESIA PROJECT

Cornell Modern Indonesia Project published one new monograph in 1993. CMIP publications are available from the Cornell Modern Indonesia Project, 640 Stewart Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14850.

A Japanese Memoir of Sumatra 1945–1946: Love and Hatred in the Liberation War, by Takao Fusayama. 1993. 151 pages. \$12.

PUBLICATIONS STAFF

The editorial staff of the Southeast Asia Program consists of Audrey Kahin, managing editor, with associate editors Dolina Millar and Donna Amoroso. Roberta Ludgate does most of the manuscript preparation. The distribution office is headed by Hazel Prentice, who is assisted by Lena Garvin.



MAJOR CATALOGUE PUBLISHED

Javanese Literature in Surakarta Manuscripts, by Nancy K. Florida
Volume 1: Introduction and Manuscripts of the Karaton Surakarta
This is the first volume of a projected four-volume descriptive catalogue of the contents of the three major manuscript repositories in Surakarta.

Volume 1 describes the indigenous Javanese historical and literary materials housed in the manuscript collection of the Sasana Pustaka. This Surakarta court archive contains a large number of historical chronicles and documents, including political correspondence and extensive court diaries detailing life in and around the Karaton well into the twentieth century. It also includes a large body of texts dealing with Islamic issues and such subjects as music, dance, court lore, mysticism, and literature.

Nancy Florida has provided descriptive notes, discussions of provenance, authorship, and so forth, as well as basic information and cross-references for all the manuscript titles.

This and future volumes—which will describe the manuscript collections in the Mangkunagaran's Reksa Pustaka library, the Museum Radyapustaka, and the library of K. R. T. Hardjonagoro—are intended to provide a deeper understanding of Javanese culture, history, and literature, and to constitute a unique resource for specialists on Javanese text.

Cornell Southeast Asia Program, 1993. 410 pages. Frontispiece and five illustrations. Paperback, \$30. Hardcover, \$45.





SEAP BROWN-BAG SERIES

The Southeast Asia Program hosted the following speakers in 1993 as part of its ongoing Thursday series:

Jan Aart Scholte, visiting fellow, SEAP; lecturer in international relations, University of Sussex. Topic: The Indonesian revolution: neither revolutionary nor Indonesian?

Ann Maxwell-Hill, professor of anthropology, Dickson College. Topic: Dragons at the Wat: Chinese engagements with Buddhism in northern Thailand.

Sommaï Premchit, visiting Fulbright professor, department of history, Swarthmore College. Topic: A Buddhist way of life.

John U. Wolff, professor of modern languages and linguistics and of Asian studies. Topic: Historical linguistics and its contribution to area studies: an example from Austronesian languages.

Micheline Lessard, SEAP graduate student in history. Topic: Striking back at the schools: Vietnamese student strikes from 1881 to 1931.

Geoffrey Benjamin, SEAP visiting fellow; professor of sociology, National University of Singapore. Topic: The Austric marchland: linguistic archaeology in the Malay Peninsula.

J. A. de Moor, research fellow, Institute for History of European Expansion, Leiden University. Topic: Colonial warfare revisited: the Dutch military experience in the Indonesian revolution.

Peter Zinoman, SEAP graduate student in history. Topic: Nguyen Huy Thiep and the politics of literature in contemporary Vietnam.

John Sidel, SEAP graduate student in government. Topic: Lotteries and land deals: a tale of two Philippine towns.

Taufik Abdullah, visiting professor of history, McGill University. Topic: Islamic discourse and other unfashionable matters in contemporary Indonesia.

Thaveeporn Vasavakul, SEAP graduate student in government. Topic: Schooling, policy, and practice in North and South Vietnam (1945–1965): a comparative study of state apparatus, state policy, and state power.

Ann Stoler, department of anthropology, University of Michigan. Topic: The racial politics of sentiment and bourgeois civility: European pauperism and the subversion of the Dutch colonial state.

David Wurfel, department of political science, University of Windsor, Canada. Topic: Patterns of change in Southeast Asian international relations since the end of the cold war.

Caverlee Cary, SEAP graduate student in art history. Topic: The King and who? More Annagrams.

Randolph Barker, SEAP director; professor of agricultural economics and Asian studies. Topic: Environmental changes in Southeast Asia.

John H. Badgley, curator, John M. Echols Collection on Southeast Asia. Topic: The military in Burma.

Vincent Boudreau, assistant professor of political science, City College, CUNY. Topic: The political economy of development in the southern Philippines.

Jomo K. Sundaram, visiting professor of management and Asian studies. Topic: Mahathir and Malaysia's modernization.

Gerard Diffloth, professor of modern languages and linguistics and of Asian studies. Topic: Recent fieldwork in the mountains of the Hue Province, Vietnam.

Saya Shiraishi, visiting assistant professor of anthropology and Asian studies. Topic: Japanese cartoons on Indonesian TV.

Thaveeporn Vasavakul, SEAP graduate student in government. Topic: The state of Southeast Asian studies in Vietnam.

Karin Eberhardt, SEAP graduate student in natural resources. Topic: Forestry policy in Burma: facing the challenge of modernization and military rule.

Nguyen Tai Can, SEAP visiting fellow and member, Luce Linguistics Project; professor of minority languages, Institute of Linguistics, Hanoi. Topic: The importance of old Vietnamese demotic (nôm) script.

Francis Loh, professor, School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia. Topic: The Malaysian press in the 1990s: Central control, corporatization and the middle class.

John Hartmann, professor of Thai, Northern Illinois University. Topic: Text-based on-line computerized dictionary of Thai and Indonesia.

Donna Amoroso, SEAP graduate student in history. Topic: The balcony scene, 1946: The birth of modern politics in Malaya.

Hal Hill, senior fellow in economics, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University; visiting professor, Columbia University. Topic: Where is the Indonesian economy headed?

OTHER SPEAKERS HOSTED BY SEAP

Anne Schiller, assistant professor of anthropology, Ithaca College. Topic: Bad death and bad press: Hindu Kahiringan and religious controversy in central Kalimantan.

Edna Manlapaz, professor of English, Ateneo de Manila University. Topic: Reclaiming the language of her blood: Filipino poets in English.

Carolyn Cartier, department of geography, Vassar College. Topic: Historic preservation in Melaka and Singapore: re-creating history for the tourist economy.

Nancy Peluso, assistant professor, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Topic: Changes in intergenerational property rights in agroforestry and unnatural old-growth tropical forest systems.

Rebecca Doan, international demographer. Topic: Balancing productive and reproductive roles: women's work and household structure in the Philippines.

James Boon, professor of anthropology, Princeton University. Topic: Anthropology and the ritual arts of re-reading.

Brantly Womack, professor of government and foreign affairs, University of Virginia. Topic: Chinese-Vietnamese border trade: the edge of normalization.

Erik Thorbecke, H. E. Babcock Professor of Economics and Food Economics. Topic: Nutrition and health trends in the Third World and their economic implications.

John Badgley, curator, John M. Echols Collection on Southeast Asia. Topic: Southeast Asia: development vs. justice.

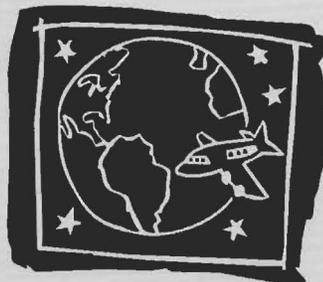
Affendi Anwar, department of agricultural economics, Agricultural University at Bogor (IPB). Topic: Sustainable upland farming systems in Kalimantan, Indonesia: Combining computers and surveys in the field.

Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Malaysian ambassador to the United Nations and chair of the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development. Topic: Implementing UNCED Agenda 21: global challenges.

Sos Kem, special assistant to the U.S. Embassy, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Topic: Cambodia after the U.N.-sponsored election.

GLOBAL STUDIES

From June 28 through July 2, 1993, the Southeast Asia Program cosponsored a workshop entitled "Making Connections in Global Studies," designed for junior and senior high school teachers at nearby secondary schools. The five-day workshop, held at the Kahin Center, featured lectures on Africa, Eastern and Western Europe, East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Latin America. Presentations by SEAP faculty and graduate students included: Laurence Stifel on economic development, Randolph Barker on environmental degradation, Martin Hatch on the performing arts, Toni Shapiro on politics and dance in Cambodia, and Takashi Shiraishi on democratization in Southeast Asia.



GRADUATE STUDENTS ENGAGED IN FIELD RESEARCH 1993-94

Thamora Fishel (anthropology) in Thailand

Carol Hoffman (music) in Indonesia

Hjorleifur Jonsson (anthropology) in Thailand

Douglas Kammen (government) in Indonesia

Michael Montesano (history) in Thailand

Martin Rouse (government) in Thailand

Danilyn Rutherford (anthropology) in Indonesia

Rachel Safman (rural sociology) in Thailand and Laos

Hendro Sangkoyo (city and regional planning) in Indonesia

Kazuya Shiraishi (anthropology) in Portugal

Sabine Tattersall (history) in The Netherlands

Nora Taylor (art history) in Vietnam

Nobuto Yamamoto (government) in The Netherlands and Indonesia

DISSERTATIONS AND THESES

RECENT DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS BY SEAP STUDENTS

George Junus Aditjondro (education). "The Media as Development 'Textbook': A Case Study on Information Distortion in the Debate about the Social Impact of an Indonesian Dam" (1993).

Filomeno V. Aguilar, Jr. (development sociology). "Phantoms of Capitalism and Sugar Production Relations in a Colonial Philippine Island" (1992).

Kausar Ali (city and regional planning). "Hierarchy, Interactions, and Transportation Linkages: A Study of the Urban Centers in the Northern Region of Peninsular Malaysia" (1993).

Vincent Gordon Boudreau (government). "At the Margins of the Movement: Grassroots Associations in the Philippine Socialist Network" (1993).

Zahid Emby (anthropology). "Malay Laborers: Work and the Moral Economy in a Post-Peasant Community" (1992).

Sarah Heminway Maxim (history). "The Resemblance in External Appearance: The Colonial Project in Kuala Lumpur and Rangoon" (1992).

Thanh Thi Nguyen (government). "The French Conquest of Cochinchina, 1858-1862" (1992).

James Soren Ockey (government). "Business Leaders, Gangsters and the Middle Class: Societal Groups and Civilian Rule in Thailand" (1992).

Patricia Pelley (history). "Writing Revolution: The New History in Post-Colonial Vietnam" (1993).

Leslie Anne Porterfield (linguistics). "Habituals" (1993).

Der-Hwa Victoria Rau (linguistics). "A Grammar of Atayal" (1992).

Geoffrey Basil Robinson (government). "The Politics of Violence in Modern Bali, 1882-1966" (1992).

Saya Shiraishi (anthropology). "Young Heroes: The Family and School in New Order Indonesia" (1992).

Sumarsam (music). "Historical Contexts and Theories of Javanese Music" (1992).

William Dana Sunderlin (development sociology). "Environment, Equity, and the State: A Perspective through the Java Social Forestry Program" (1993).

Kasian Tejapira (government). "Commodifying Marxism: The Formation of Modern Thai Radical Culture, 1927-1958" (1992).

Jiraporn Witayasakpan (theatre arts). "Nationalism and the Transformation of Aesthetic Concepts: Theatre in Thailand during the Phibun Period" (1992).

RECENT MASTER'S THESES BY SEAP STUDENTS

Bin Y. Lau (Asian studies). "The 1967 Sabah State Election: Reflections on the Electioneering and Results" (1993).

Yasuyuki Matsumoto (Asian studies). "Japanese Banks in Southeast Asia: The Political Economy of Banking in Indonesia and Thailand" (1992).

Masaki Matsumura (development sociology). "Demographic Effects upon Agricultural Land Expansion: Macro-Level Evidence from Thailand, 1960-1980" (1992).

Michael John Montesano III (agricultural economics). "Local Knowledge of Another Sort: Relationships Among Land Transfer, Mortgage, and Rental in Three Sub-Districts (Tambol) of Sukhothai, Phrae, and Chainat Provinces, Thailand" (1992).

James Christian Pollman (Asian studies). "Soldier as Policeman in Southeast Asia, 1945-46" (1992).

Steven Lee Rundle (Asian studies). "The Vietnamese Army in Cambodia, 1978-1990" (1992).

Virginia Jing-yi Shih (Asian studies). "Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA): Past, Present and Future" (1993).

Xiang Taui (Asian studies). "The Development and Evolution of Sino-Burman Relations from the Late 1940s to the Mid-1950s" (1993).

Christopher Jason Teteak (Asian studies). "Khmer Buddhist Temples in North America: Survival in a Different Society" (1992).

Benito Manalo Vergara, Jr. (Asian studies). "Displaying Filipinos: Photography and Colonialism in the Philippines in the Early Twentieth Century" (1993).

FACULTY



***Benedict R. Anderson**, Aaron L. Binenkorb Professor of International Studies, director of the Cornell Modern Indonesia Project

***John H. Badgley**, adjunct associate professor of Asian studies and curator of the John M. Echols Collection on Southeast Asia, Kroch Library

***Randolph Barker**, professor of agricultural economics and Asian studies, director of the Southeast Asia Program

***Thak Chaloentiarana**, adjunct associate professor of Asian studies

***Abigail C. Cohn**, assistant professor of modern languages and linguistics

***Gerard Diffloth**, professor of modern languages and linguistics and of Asian studies

***Martin F. Hatch**, associate professor of music and Asian studies

***A. Thomas Kirsch**, professor of anthropology and Asian studies

***Stanley J. O'Connor**, professor of art history and Asian studies

Saya Shiraishi, visiting assistant professor of anthropology and Asian studies

***Takashi Shiraishi**, associate professor of Southeast Asian history, associate director of the Southeast Asia Program and of the Cornell Modern Indonesia Project

***James T. Siegel**, professor of anthropology and Asian studies

***Laurence D. Stifel**, visiting professor of international agriculture (CIIFAD) and Asian studies

Jomo Kwame Sundaram, visiting professor of management and Asian studies

***Keith W. Taylor**, associate professor of Asian studies

Kamala Tiyanich, visiting Mellon Fellow, Society for the Humanities

***Erik Thorbecke**, H. E. Babcock Professor of Economics and Food Economics, director of Cornell's Program on Comparative Economic Development

***Julian Wheatley**, senior lecturer in modern languages and linguistics

***John U. Wolff**, professor of modern languages and linguistics and of Asian studies, associate director of the Southeast Asia Program

***David K. Wyatt**, professor of Southeast Asian history

FACULTY MEMBERS EMERITI

Milton L. Barnett, professor of rural sociology

Robert B. Jones, professor of modern languages and linguistics

George McT. Kahin, Aaron L. Binenkorb Professor of International Studies

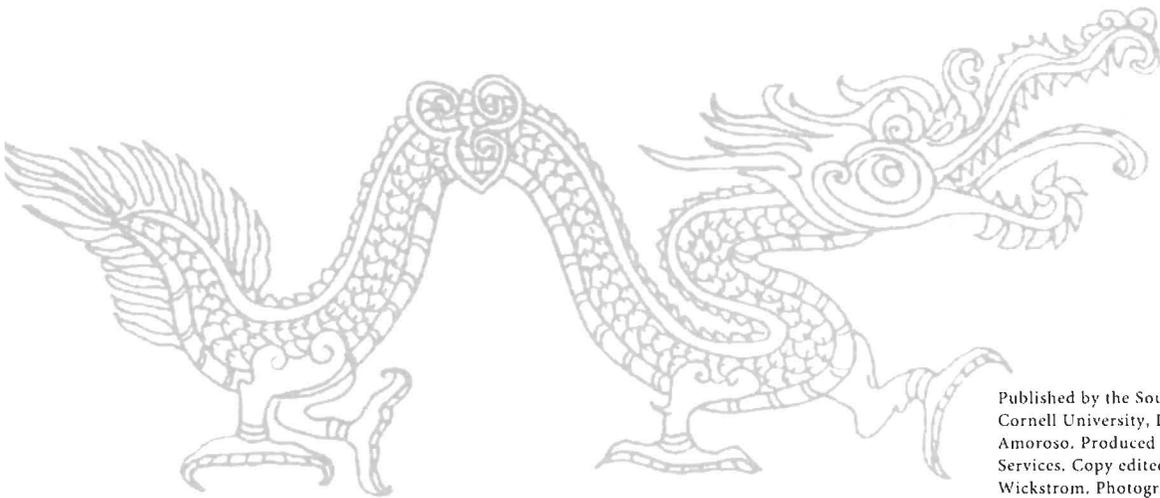
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Lauriston Sharp, Goldwin Smith Professor of Anthropology

Oliver W. Wolters, Goldwin Smith Professor of Southeast Asian History

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(* denotes core faculty)



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