

# SOUTHEAST ASIA PROGRAM



FALL

1994

BULLETIN

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UNIVERSITY





*Dear Friends,*

This has been a year of many changes in the Southeast Asia Program, some of them sad and others happy. First, the news that is both sad and happy. Randolph Barker's term as director came to an end, and I was elected to take his place as director. At the same time that Randy stepped down, Helen Swank retired. Many of us think of her affectionately as an institution coterminous with the Southeast Asia Program, and after thirty-three years it is hard to conceive of the office without her. Her place was taken by Nancy Stage. Nancy brings back home to Ithaca a range of experience in fund-raising and development from her previous work in Colorado. Helen is a hard act to follow, but Nancy's intelligence and sparkle keep the office an exciting and pleasant place to work or visit.

We also had some losses among our faculty. We are sad to announce the passing of two of our most beloved colleagues, Lauriston Sharp and Milton Barnett. Both Lauri and Milt were active in the Southeast Asia Program until a short time before their deaths. Their careers and contributions to SEAP are outlined in the following pages. To honor Lauri, in 1975 we established the Lauriston Sharp Prize for the most outstanding thesis in Southeast Asian studies at Cornell. Winners of this prize have become top scholars in their fields and are active in universities throughout the country. To honor Milt, and thanks to the generosity of Siew Nim Chee, we have established the Milton L. Barnett Scholarship Endowment for the promotion of Southeast Asian and particularly Malaysian studies. Most of this endowment will be used to support undergraduate or graduate Malaysians enrolled in Southeast Asian studies or other students focusing on Malaysia. Additional funds in the gift will be used to enhance the Echols Collection through the Southeast Asia Program development fund.

The faculty members of the Southeast Asia Program continue to be active intellectually and reap honors. Professor Benedict Anderson was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His influential and widely quoted book *Imagined Communities* is now translated into most of the world's major languages. This year saw the publication of a Turkish and a Swedish version. Professor David Wyatt finished his term as president of the Association for Asian Studies and is currently translating and editing the *Chronicles of Chiang Mai* with Dr. Aroonrut Wichienkeo, who is in residence at Cornell from the Chiang Mai Rajabhat Institute.

Cornellians can be proud of the achievements of the SEAP faculty and students, but the struggle to live up to the founders is far from over. Much remains to be done. Many faculty members are nearing retirement. Their strength has been in the basic disciplines that form the core of any solid area education, and they must be replaced. Also, the world is changing, and there is a need for development of teaching and research activities in new fields. All of this means that we must lay the groundwork now for the recruitment of new faculty members if we are to be successful in maintaining the Southeast Asia Program as a national resource and as a source of pride to Cornell University. In these efforts, we look forward to the support and contributions of all current and former members of SEAP.

*John U.*

John U. Wolff  
Director of the Southeast Asia Program  
Professor of Linguistics and of Asian Studies

Cover: *Highland Woman with Child*,  
by Vietnamese painter Mai Long;  
watercolor on paper, 1963  
(painting courtesy of Nora Taylor)

# Lauriston Sharp (1907–93)

GEORGE McT. KAHIN

**L**auriston Sharp, the founder of Cornell's Southeast Asia Program, died at his home in Ithaca on December 31, 1994, at the age of eighty-six.

It was he who realized the need to develop the study of Southeast Asia in the United States and acted on that conviction, providing the leadership for the establishment of a program dedicated to that goal at Cornell and directing it during the first critical decade of its growth. Without him there would have been no Southeast Asia Program at Cornell, nor would the study of Southeast Asia have advanced nearly so far in this country as it has.

Although by the time that he graduated in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin in 1929 Lauri had begun to develop an interest in Southeast Asia, there was no road immediately open for him to pursue it. Funds for field research or graduate study by an aspiring anthropologist were rare in those days, and he was initially happy to be given positions for summer fieldwork on several Indian reservations and then for five months with an archaeological expedition to the Berber area of upland Algeria. But his interest in Southeast Asia prevailed.

It was difficult then in the United States to study Southeast Asia, apart from the Philippines. And so Lauri, after a year of intensive study in German at the University of Freiburg, enrolled at the University of Vienna to study under Professor Robert Heine-Geldern, one of the very few scholars of eminence who dealt with the early history and culture of Southeast Asia as a whole. That experience deepened Lauri's interest in the area, but soon after he began his program of doctoral studies in anthropology at Harvard in 1932, he discovered that no funds were available for field research in Southeast Asia. The best he could do was get funding to study the aborigines of Australia. His three years (1933–36) of research with that people, specifically the remote Yir Yoront of the Cape York peninsula, was more arduous and dangerous than most anthropologists experience. It won him high acclaim, and not only his dissertation but also a number of important monographs issued from it. These included several that became classics in the literature of cultural anthropology, espe-

cially his "Steel Axes for Stone Age Australians," a piece that has been reprinted in nineteen different works.

In the fall of 1936 Lauri received the first faculty appointment made by Cornell in anthropology, and from 1942 to 1945 he was chair of the newly established combined sociology/anthropology department. Toward the end of World War II he was asked to serve as assistant division chief in the State Department's newly established Southeast Asia division. There he shared responsibility for Indochina and Thailand and worked harmoniously with the division's head, the redoubtable Abbot Low Moffat, who, he discovered, shared his own anticolonial views. They were joined by a few like-minded scholars seconded from academia: John Cady, Cora DuBois, and Rupert Emerson. Because of the relatively greater power of the entrenched European desks in the State Department, the members of this small group were largely frustrated in their efforts to move American policy into a more sympathetic posture toward the anticolonial struggles in South-

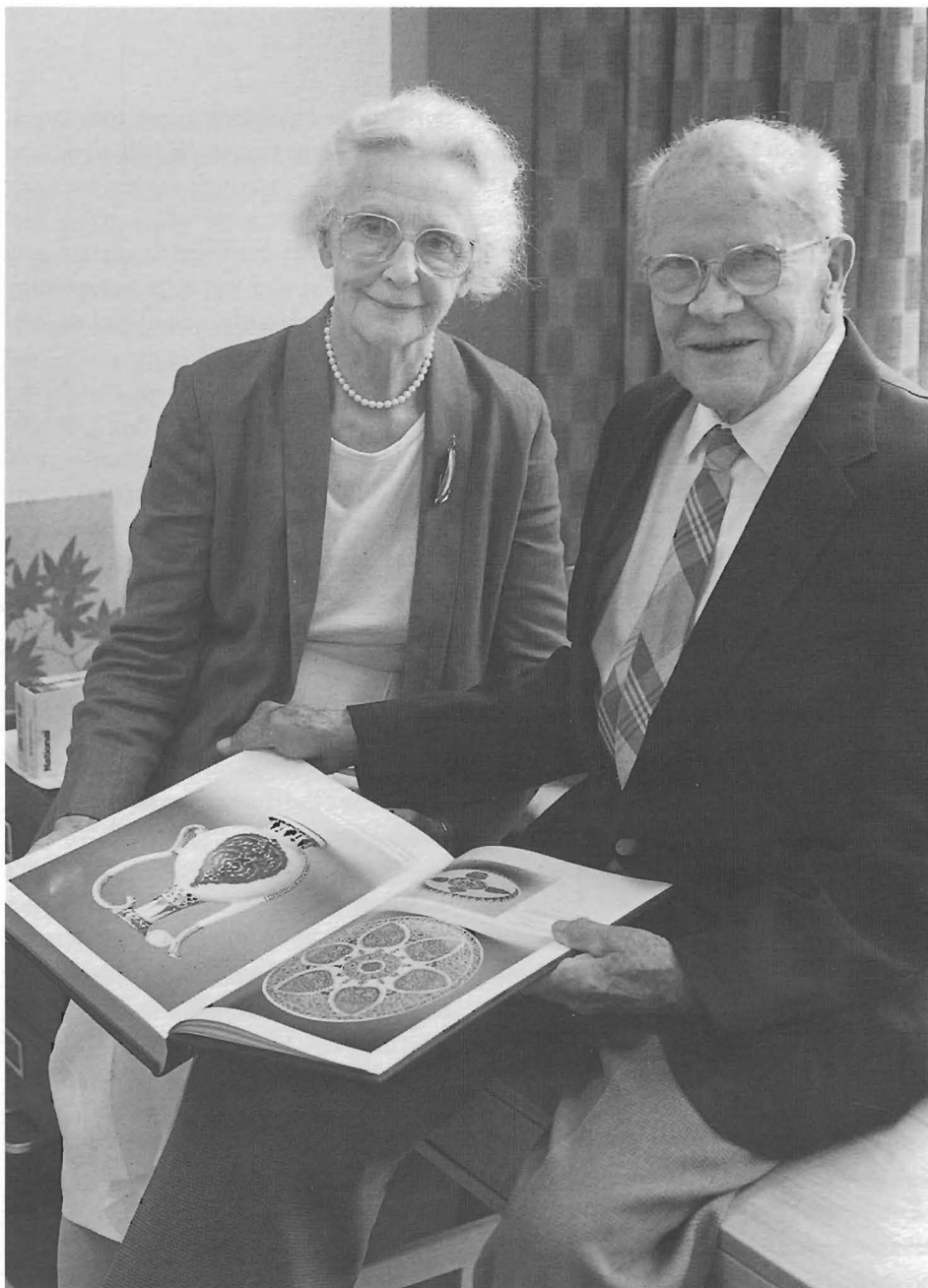
*Without him there*

*would have been*

*no Southeast Asia*

*Program*

*at Cornell*



east Asia. Toward the one Southeast Asian country that was not a colony, however, they did make a difference, and it is clear that Lauri's efforts counted heavily with respect to Siam. American policy toward that country was not constrained by the Eurocentric priorities that during the initial postwar years precluded support to the independence movements in Indonesia and Vietnam. And so Lauri, together with Moffat, was able to argue successfully that the Siamese people and their interests had to be distinguished from Marshall Phibun, their unloved dictator, who had dragged the country into a wartime alliance with

Japan, and that consequently the United States should resist British pressure to exact heavy punitive reparations against Siam.

The appalling ignorance about Southeast Asia that Lauri encountered in Washington shocked and deeply concerned him. The area was no longer simply a fascinating, neglected place that commanded his personal scholarly interest; it also was one about which it was important that Americans—outside government as well as in—be made knowledgeable. From that conviction grew his dedication to the development of Southeast Asian studies in the United States, which culminated in the

establishment of Cornell's Southeast Asia Program. His resolve to pursue that goal was strengthened by a year's research in rural Thailand, in 1948–49, where his wife, Ruth, complemented his work through her interest in Thai ceramics. From that year's work, and subsequent visits, issued the remarkable series of studies first centered on the Chao Phraya delta village of Bang Chan and later—in collaboration with Jane and Lucien Hanks—on the area north of the Mae Kok River in Chiang Rai province.

Lauri's goal of establishing a program in Southeast Asian studies was finally reached a little over a year after his return to Ithaca, when he convinced Burton Fahs, head of the Rockefeller Foundation's Division of Humanities, of the need for such a program. In this effort and in enlisting the support of the Cornell administration, Lauri had the strong and enthusiastic backing of his close friend Knight Biggerstaff, professor of Chinese history and then chairman of the Department of Far Eastern (now Asian) Studies—support that Lauri always generously acknowledged to have been crucial. And so, in December 1950, the Rockefeller Foundation provided a five-year grant of \$325,000 to launch the project. At about the same time, it also provided a grant for Southeast Asian studies at Yale—officially to promote a healthy competition but also to preempt any charge of partiality.

Yale's program had very bad luck—on two counts. Its first director of Southeast Asian studies, the sociologist and Indonesian specialist Raymond Kennedy, was shot and killed in West Java (probably by the renegade ex-Dutch army officer "Turk" Westerling or one of his men), and soon afterwards, Yale's gifted anthropologist—and Lauri's close friend—John Embree was killed on a sidewalk in New Haven by a drunken driver. Second, Yale made the mistake, soon repeated by UC, Berkeley, of establishing its program of Southeast Asian studies as a discrete, fundamentally autonomous unit that granted its own degrees and had no institutionalized ties with the discipline departments. Yale, though not Ber-



#### LAURISTON SHARP PRIZE WINNERS

- 1975 Barbara Harrisson, art history  
1976 Anthony Diller, linguistics  
1977 Tsuyoshi Kato, sociology  
William O'Malley, history  
1978 Richard O'Connor, anthropology  
1979 John Miksic, anthropology  
1980 Martin Hatch, music  
1981 Christine White, government  
1982 D. George Sherman, anthropology  
1983 Robert S. Wicks, art history  
1984 Edmund Edwards-McKinnon, art history  
Roger Downey, economics  
Vicente Rafael, history  
1985 No award made  
1986 Marina Roseman, anthropology  
Takashi Shiraishi, Southeast Asian history  
1987 U Myo Myint, Southeast Asian history  
1988 Nancy Peluso, rural sociology  
1989 John Pemberton IV, anthropology  
1990 Nancy K. Florida, Southeast Asian history  
Judy Ledgerwood, anthropology  
1991 Daniel Dhakidae, government  
Gerard Finin, city and regional planning  
Astri Wright, art history  
1992 Filomeno V. Aguilar, Jr., rural sociology  
1993 Kamala Tiyavanich, Southeast Asian history

keley, soon limited its Southeast Asia studies degree to an M.A. The recipient of this M.A. degree could work toward a Ph.D. degree at Yale only under the aegis of a discipline department.

From the outset Lauri perceived that making Cornell's Southeast Asia Program an autonomous unit would be disastrous: first, for the students, who would soon find that most jobs—and practically all teaching positions—were available only through the disciplines; and second, that following the Yale/Berkeley route would make it impossible to secure adequate cooperation from the university's own discipline departments. Especially because he was convinced that an interdisciplinary program would best advance area knowledge, Lauri wanted to ensure the maximum possible cooperation from the departments—an objective that he and Knight Biggerstaff knew would be impossible to attain unless the Southeast Asia Program was integrated with the departments. And so—in contrast to the situation at Berkeley and Yale—graduate students at Cornell who were interested in Southeast Asia were from the beginning required to major in one of the disciplines and take only one of their minors in Southeast Asian studies. Even so, there did, of course, remain a fair measure of Eurocentric and America-centric parochialism in most Cornell departments toward all area programs, but the high quality of graduate students attracted by the Southeast Asia Program gradually and substantially eroded this prejudice. There is also no doubt that this acknowledgment of the paramountcy of the disciplines made it easier to get the departments to accept SEAP initiatives in hiring faculty members who, while meeting departmental standards in the discipline, were also well-qualified area specialists.

Recognizing the perdurable nature of departmental skepticism about the area specialists' discipline competence, Lauri introduced another feature of great importance to SEAP's early success. He convinced the Rockefeller Foundation that—in addition to graduate student and library sup-

port—there be a third major component in its grant, one that would help overcome the disciplines' parochialism: namely, funding the first three years' salary of new faculty members who were Southeast Asia specialists but also had to be accepted by one of the university's discipline departments. In essence these funds provided a sort of probationary period wherein the department could decide whether a Southeast Asia scholar was sufficiently well grounded in the discipline to meet departmental standards and also make a significant contribution to departmental needs in more-traditional areas of teaching, in addition to offering courses that focused on or subsumed substantial treatment of Southeast Asia. These foundation-funded three-year novitiates were usually sufficient to enable a department to decide whether to take over the costs of the position on its own budget.

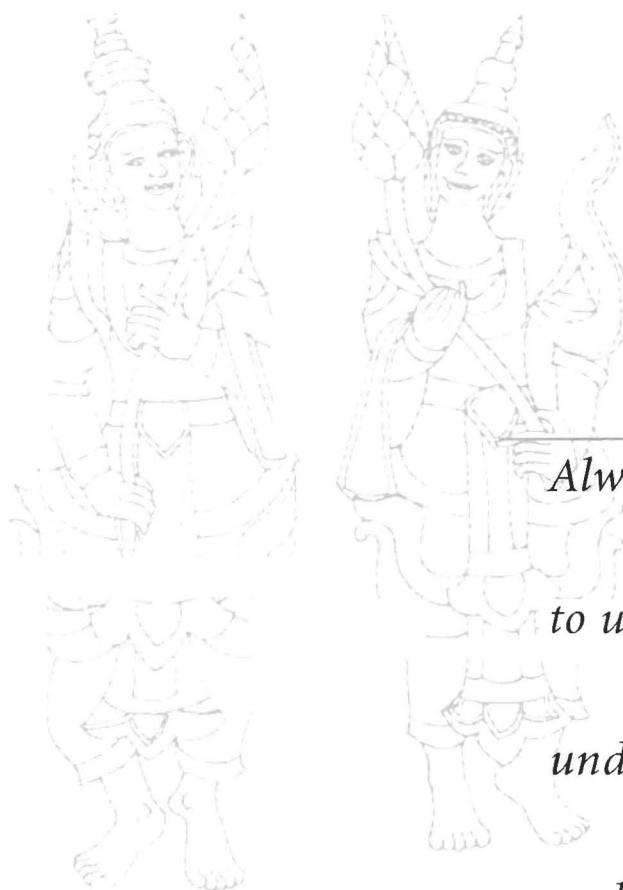
There is another aspect of Lauri Sharp's direction of the Southeast Asia Program that should be emphasized. This was his insistence that all doctoral dissertations by graduate students enrolled in SEAP, especially in the social sciences, be grounded in a significant period of original fieldwork in Southeast Asia. Fresh field research, he believed, was crucial if there were to be any significant gains in knowledge of the area beyond the legacy of scholars of the colonial era—especially because the area's peoples had been so heavily affected by the Japanese occupation, World War II, and the postwar struggles for independence. To help ensure that this field research would be fruitful, he laid heavy emphasis on graduate students' studying the Southeast Asian languages that would be relevant to their fieldwork. To make this possible he devoted much effort to building the university's capacity for teaching Southeast Asian languages, which at the time was non-existent.

And so Cornell's Southeast Asia Program as we know it today still bears the beneficial imprint of Lauriston Sharp. By 1960, SEAP was well established, and Lauri stepped down as director. But he remained

active in its affairs, and he continued to devote himself to teaching, maintaining the high quality that was in part recognized by his appointment to the Goldwin Smith chair in anthropology, a position he held until his official retirement, in 1973; by the two *Festschrift* volumes published by his former students; and by the establishment of the Department of Anthropology's Holmberg-Sharp Seminar Room, in 1993. He continued until 1973 to direct Cornell's Thailand Research Project, which, with a Carnegie Foundation grant, he had launched thirty years before and through which he continued to issue much of his ongoing research on Bang Chan and northern Thailand.

Remarkably, while devoting so much of his time to building the Southeast Asia Program and to his teaching, he managed to sustain an impressive level of research and writing. That his scholarly qualities were widely recognized is attested to by the numerous research grants and awards he received. Beginning with the University of Wisconsin's Laird Memorial Prize in Greek in 1929, his awards included research grants from the Carnegie, Ford, Guggenheim, National Science, and Wenner Gren foundations; the Social Science Research Council; the Australian National Research Council; and the National Endowment for the Humanities; and culminated in 1989 with the prestigious Bronislaw Malinowski Award of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

Recognition of his teaching and scholarship was also reflected in his activities outside Cornell. He held visiting teaching positions at numerous American and foreign universities, including the University of California, Berkeley; Haverford College; the University of Houston; Yale University; Australian National University; Kasetsart University, in Thailand; London University; and the University of Sydney. He was one of the founders of the Society for Applied Anthropology, and served on the governing boards of the American Anthropological Association, the Asia Society, and the Association for Asian



Studies (of which he became president in 1961), and on the Pacific Science Board of the National Research Council.

It was fitting that in recognition of the high and exemplary character of Lauriston Sharp's scholarship, his colleagues in the Southeast Asia Program established in his name a prize to be awarded annually for the best Cornell dissertation on Southeast Asia. The honor of being so associated with the name of Lauriston Sharp clearly testifies to the scholarly ability of the recipient.

Even after his formal retirement, in 1973, Lauri remained actively involved in the Southeast Asia Program, up to the year before his death. He often attended the meetings of the SEAP executive committee, and during his last years, he continued to provide not only an essential institutional memory but also the calm wisdom and breadth of view of an elder statesman. Always he brought to us warmth, understanding, and a kind geniality that we already greatly miss. His death has left a void of which we are all poignantly aware, and which no one can fill.

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# Milton L. Barnett, 1916–94

RANDOLPH BARKER

**O**n a pleasant summer afternoon in mid August, close to a hundred people gathered near the Old Mill in upper Robert Treman State Park, to celebrate in words and music the many facets of the life of Milton L. Barnett. This occasion and an oral history (an interview with Milt) videotaped in the fall of 1993, together with the numerous letters written by friends, colleagues, and former students on the occasion of his retirement, in May 1987, leave us with a rich record of the man as he saw himself and as others saw him.

Born in New York City in 1916, Milt described his grade school and high school education as “standard American.” When very young he was introduced by his mother to a variety of books on Asia, and by the time he was a teenager, he knew that he was going to study the Chinese language. However, his entry into Asian studies took a very circuitous route. Early in his undergraduate life, uncertain of the merits of further academic training, he dropped out of college and later joined the army. He volunteered for language training in Chinese, and in 1943 the Army Specialized Training Program sent him to Cornell. Here he first met Knight Biggerstaff and Lauriston Sharp, two Cornell faculty members who would become lifelong friends and colleagues and would have a marked influence on Milt’s professional career.

After a year’s language training at Cornell, Milt was sent to Ft. Riley, Kansas, to be trained in horsemanship and small weapons use for his China service. But the war ended before he could put his language skills and training into practice. With Lauri Sharp’s encouragement, he returned to Cornell to complete his undergraduate and graduate studies in anthropology (A.B. 1947, Ph.D. 1952). While at Cornell he did fieldwork on the resettlement of the Hopi Indians among the Mohave Indians in the Southwest. His thesis research was on the pattern of alcoholism among the Chinese in Boston, New York City, Atlanta, and Phoenix.

Even before completing his Ph.D. program, Milt was hired in 1950 as an instructor in anthropology at the University of Wisconsin. His years on the Wisconsin faculty in the 1950s established his reputation early on as an outstanding teacher and advisor of students. A former Cornell student, Tong Chee Kiong (University of Singapore), in a letter commemorating Milt’s retirement, quotes from a Chinese writing in describing him as a Confucian teacher:

Therefore in his teachings the teacher guides his students

but does not pull them along;

he urges them to go forward and does not suppress them;

he opens the way, but does not take them to the place.

Guiding without pulling makes the process of learning gentle;

urging without suppressing makes the process of learning easy;

and opening the way without leading the students to the place makes them think for themselves.

Now if the process of learning is made gentle and easy

and the students are encouraged to think for themselves,

we may call the man a good teacher.

Milt felt that theory and practical work in anthropology went hand in hand. But for him fieldwork provided the excitement. His first overseas assignment was in 1953, as a member of an interdisciplinary team working on the solution of community-



development problems in Venezuela. Closer to home, he maintained his contact with the Hopi and Mohave, and he and his students studied the Ojibway and Chippewa in Wisconsin. His interest in Native American issues continued during his later years at Cornell.

It was not until 1960 that Milt made his first trip to Asia. He went to Indonesia for six months to investigate the feasibility of establishing a training center for community development. Although he recommended against such a center, in his own words he “fell in love with Java.” This was not, of course, his first love (China was), but it was nonetheless deep and abiding. As John Duewel (Jakarta) observed in his commemoration letter:

If you were to take a mystical view of life and causality from the perspective of the mountains, your early 1960s sojourn in the mountains of Java was not an isolated event. Fifteen years later I climbed one of these mountains, and five years later commenced dissertation research there. I recall driving up the southern flanks of Mount Lawu—Java’s sacred mountain—with you as my passenger, exploring back roads, and then later walking around my favorite mountain lake. We passed a sacred rock at the edge of the forest where 20 years earlier you had accompanied a senior Indonesian professor, singing Gregorian chants to ward off tigers. I recall standing on the northern slopes of the same

mountain on a sacred hillock as we heard the muffled sound of mountain streams in the valley below, and the gamelan music wafting up in the air, just prior to your first trip to China—the mountain was the send off point.

Not long after this trip, Milt accepted the offer of Arthur Mosher, president of the Agricultural Development Council (ADC), to join the field staff in Asia. The ADC, in which Milt served for over a decade, was created in 1953 as a counter-balance to the “hard science” reflected in the Rockefeller Foundation’s overseas programs. Milt’s first assignment was in the Philippines, from 1962 to 1966, as advisor on community development to the Philippine government. At the same time, he taught at the University of the Philippines. He then moved to Malaysia, where he served as advisor on rural development to the prime minister, Tun Razak, and was involved in teaching and research at the University of Malaya. In recognition of his services, he received the government’s Panglima Setia Makhota award, which normally is reserved for Malaysian citizens. He is known to all Malaysians as Tan Sri Barnett.

Characteristically, however, Milt had serious reservations concerning his role as an expatriate advisor. On the one hand, he felt that anthropologists had an obligation to interpret change and help buffer the impact of change on peoples who had not had much contact with the industrial West. On the other hand, he was concerned that the interpretations might be misguided and the advice inappropriate. Afifuddin B. Hj. Omar (Kuala Lumpur) recalled this concern:

Your commitment to the development of the Third World has taken much of your time researching, teaching, and advising persons and governments. It was with the last function that you felt very uneasy. You once told me that it would be very satisfying for you to see the then Prime Minister of Malaysia turning to a Malaysian for expert advice on development instead of to you.

Thanks to your efforts in equipping Malaysians with this expertise, the present and future Prime Ministers have scores of Malaysians to turn to when the needs arise.

In 1973 Milt returned to Cornell for the third and final time, as a professor in the Department of Rural Sociology. He found on his return to academia that in too many seminars, professors simply lectured to the students. Among other things this habit excluded the possibility of the professors’ learning from the students. Milt felt that in the earlier post-World War II period at Cornell and the University of Wisconsin, there was more give and take between faculty members and students.

Milt soon attracted a steady stream of graduate students—some would say far too many students. But for Milt, students were of the first priority, and there was always time for advice or counsel on professional or personal matters. In fact, students frequently shared in family events well beyond the confines of Warren Hall or Cornell University. As Charlie Mehl (Bangkok) recalled:

And then there were the nights of smelting, the evenings of collecting maple sap, and the good conversation and companionship Oh and I and many others have shared with you and Helen. You have given us hours of pleasure as well as much-needed breaks from the drudgery of studies and thesis writing. You have shown that your concern for your students goes far beyond the campus and beyond Ithaca. For that too, Oh and I, and I know many others, thank you.

Astri Wright (University of Victoria), in the acknowledgments for her new book, *Soul, Spirit, and Mountain: Preoccupations of Contemporary Indonesian Painters*, reflects on the breadth of Milt’s intellect:

Professor Milton L. Barnett, whose many years in anthropology and international development enabled him to ceaselessly insist that there were ways to bridge the academic world with the “real.”

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*He was genuinely  
concerned about  
people in all walks  
of life*





Another former student, Kate Showers, remembers Milt as . . .

a man with an acute intellectual curiosity: "Tell me where have you been? What did you see? How do you know? Have you read . . . ?"

We all received our reading assignments, students and faculty alike. For me it ranged from the writings of the Filipino hero Jose Rizal to *A River Runs Through It* (well before it became a popular movie).

Another long-term friend and colleague, Clif Wharton (New York City), former vice president of the Agricultural Development Council, captures the essence of the man:

I first met Milt in 1953, when he visited Venezuela as part of an interdisciplinary team from the University of Wisconsin supported by Nelson Rockefeller, for whom I was working. From the beginning I had a lasting impression of Milt as a caring scholar. He was genuinely concerned about people in all walks of life. Whether he was working with Native Americans, selecting ADC fellows to study in the United States, or advising prime ministers and presidents, he was always himself—Milt Barnett, the scholar, the advisor, the colleague, and the friend. He was there to be helpful.

One need only add that despite the assurance and comfort he gave to others, Milt often saw himself in a different light. As a person whose mind (and office) was not always organized, he wondered why others sought his advice and trusted his judgment. He was sometimes uncertain whether he was indeed being helpful; he hoped that at the very least he was doing no harm. He had a deep sense of humility about his role and accomplishments in life. Nancy Peluso (Yale University) speaks for us all:

I will remember with affection:  
the smile,  
the twinkle,  
the raised eyebrow,  
the adjustment of the pipe;  
the warmth,  
the concern,  
the moral support,  
the man.

#### **THE MILTON L. BARNETT SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT**

This endowment in honor of Milton L. Barnett was initiated by the generous gift of Siew Nim Chee (Cornell M.I.L.R. 1953). Designed to promote Malaysian studies at Cornell, the endowment will be used primarily for the support of Cornell students, either Malaysians enrolled in Southeast Asian studies or other students focusing on Malaysia. A portion of the funds will be used to purchase books related to Malaysia. On any material acquired through this endowment, the Echols Collection will place a plate with the following inscription: *This book is a gift in honor of Professor Milton L. Barnett from his friend Siew Nim Chee, M.I.L.R. 1953.*

Those wishing to contribute to this endowment may do so by sending a check made out to the Milton L. Barnett Scholarship Endowment, care of the Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University.



# Seeing Vietnam through the Eyes of Vietnamese Painters—Meetings with Mai Van Hien, Nguyen Quan, and Others

NORA TAYLOR

**T**he seventy-two-year-old painter Mai Van Hien lives in Hanoi, in an apartment in the rear section of a large French-style villa on Nguyen Thai Hoc street, near the railroad station. The three-story house, once the residence of a wealthy colonial family, is now occupied by ten families, each living in one or two rooms. Hien has lived here for forty years, and still sets up his easel every day in the narrow space between his bed and make-shift table, and contemplates the world from his canvas.

Hien's house to everyone else may look like any ordinary crowded house in the capital, but to me it is an "art historical landmark," a gold mine for my research on the history of Vietnamese painting since 1925, when the French established the "Ecole des Beaux-Arts d'Indochine." Hien was a student at that school, as were his neighbors in the house on Nguyen Thai Hoc. Nine out of the ten families who live there are families of painters, including such illustrious artists as Duong Bich Lien, Van Giao, Nguyen Tu Nghiem, and Nguyen Sang. The latter two are considered the fathers of contemporary Vietnamese painting.

Hien didn't tell me who else lived in this house until several months after we met and after I had been coming to his house to talk to him about being a painter during the revolution. To him, his life is anything but extraordinary. He only casually, and after some prompting, shows me pictures of him guiding Uncle Ho through an art exhibit, or tells me about the first



Mai Van Hien in front of his house in Hanoi, beside his painting *Ba Vi Mountain*, 1972

dong bill that he designed in 1954, after independence, and that now is in the Museum of the Revolution, or recounts trips that he took to Moscow and Cuba as the head of the Vietnamese cultural delegation. Nothing in his house tells of these achievements. He owns only a bed and a fan, and shows off with great vanity the sweater that I gave him for the New Year.

In May 1994, he received some recognition. It was the anniversary of the victory at Dien Bien Phu, and several newspaper reporters came to interview him, since he was one of the few artists on the front line on that glorious May 7, 1954. These stories he told proudly, of carrying ammunition up the mountain trails wearing rubber sandals and with a piece of paper and a pencil stuck in his pocket to sketch the landscape, soldiers at rest, and minority people encountered along the way. He let me write about him for the English-language *Viet-*

*nam Investment Review*, but when a younger art critic, Nguyen Quan, came to his house to interview him for an article, he snapped, "I am not dead yet."

Quan, who is forty-six years old, is also a painter and one of Hanoi's best-known authorities on Vietnamese art. He has great respect for Hien. Quan succeeded him in presiding over the Vietnamese Arts Association, but unlike Hien, Quan is concerned with change and with helping to create a new generation of artists who will bring Vietnamese art to the forefront of the international art scene. Quan likes to discuss surrealism, abstraction, and performance art, and has put what he calls the "propagandist tendencies of socialist-realist art" behind him.

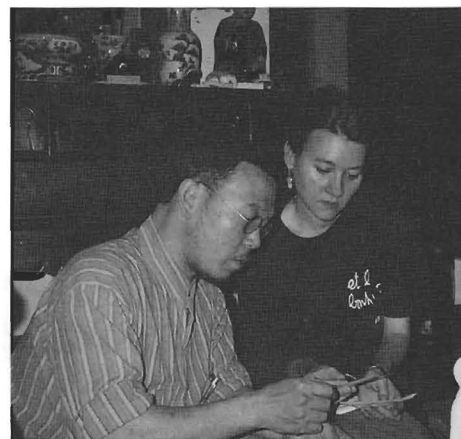
In any other country, these two vastly differing views on art would not find any point in common, but in Vietnam the old





Hanoi art critic and painter Nguyen Quan in his studio

Nora Taylor is a Ph.D. candidate in art history and a member of SEAP. She spent eighteen months in Hanoi researching Vietnamese art. The photographs used in this article were provided by her.



Artist Thanh Chuong and Nora Taylor looking at photographs of his work

and the new, the traditional and the modern, are often blurred categories and therefore live happily together. Hien paints soldiers and Quan paints nudes, but they are great friends, and to me representative of the significant changes that are taking place in that country. Hien's memories of studying with his French teachers during the colonial period, and later participating in the movement to bring art to the service of the people, are as instrumental in my understanding of the development of Vietnamese art as are Quan's great intellect and recollections of "being criticized" in the early eighties for trying to incorporate "foreign" ideas such as abstract art and "art for art's sake" into the vocabulary of Vietnamese painting.

Hien and Quan are not alone. Many other artists continue to contribute to the increasingly varied social and cultural world of Vietnam; to me they have opened up a whole new side of Vietnamese studies that I had not known existed. Through my dissertation, I hope finally to bring added recognition to them all.

## SEAP Bids Farewell to Helen Swank

*The Southeast Asia Program's spring reception honored Helen Swank on her retirement after thirty-three years of working in SEAP, in recent years as its administrative manager. Helen's contribution will not be forgotten by former or current SEAP faculty and staff members and students, nor by the many visitors from other parts of the world whom she has helped to feel at home at Cornell.*

*The following are extracts from the short speech she gave after being presented with an engraved silver platter.*

Where has the time gone? It seems that just last year Professor Kahin was interviewing me at the Cornell Club for a job I interpreted to be somewhere in the farm country of upstate New York, at an old university that had something to do with Southeast Asia. What a surprise to find this beautiful campus, with many people energetically interested in a part of the world

where I had just spent two years. This enthusiastic group continued to grow under the guidance of subsequent directors—Golay, Wyatt, O'Connor, Anderson, and Barker—who spent enormous time and energy building the strong foundation on

which SEAP flourishes today. I am very proud of my partnership in this enterprise.

In retrospect, it seems to me that life is like moving through a large mansion with many rooms, looking for interesting things to see and do. I found a room marked "SEAP" so fascinating that I stayed not for the originally intended one or two years but for thirty-three.

Now I'm moving to another room I'll call "Sunset Enterprises." I don't know yet what all I'll find there, but it will continue to include my volunteer interests in the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, the Grace LeGendre Endowment Fund, and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women. Through the latter's NGO Committee on the Status of Women, I'll participate in the UN Forum '95, which meets in Beijing, China, next summer. As I tell our visitors: never say "no," say "not yet"—you don't know what surprises life will bring.



### ... and Hello to Nancy Stage

The Southeast Asia Program welcomes Nancy Stage as its new administrative manager. A native of the Ithaca area, she returned to Ithaca and Cornell from Colorado, where she lived and worked for more than twenty years. A graduate of the Hotel School at SUNY Delphi, she most recently held the position of director of foundations and corporate relations for the Archdiocese of Denver. One of the most challenging of her many responsibilities there was making the arrangements for Pope John Paul II's visit to Denver. Prior to that, Nancy was the director of development for the Colorado Chamber of

Commerce in Boulder. Nancy speaks enthusiastically about her involvement in the creation and implementation of a leadership training program for the chamber. This program was designed to familiarize future business executives and leaders with important business- and education-related issues that faced the state. She brings with her an energetic and enthusiastic presence to carry out SEAP's new initiatives under the direction of John Wolff.

## Outreach Activities

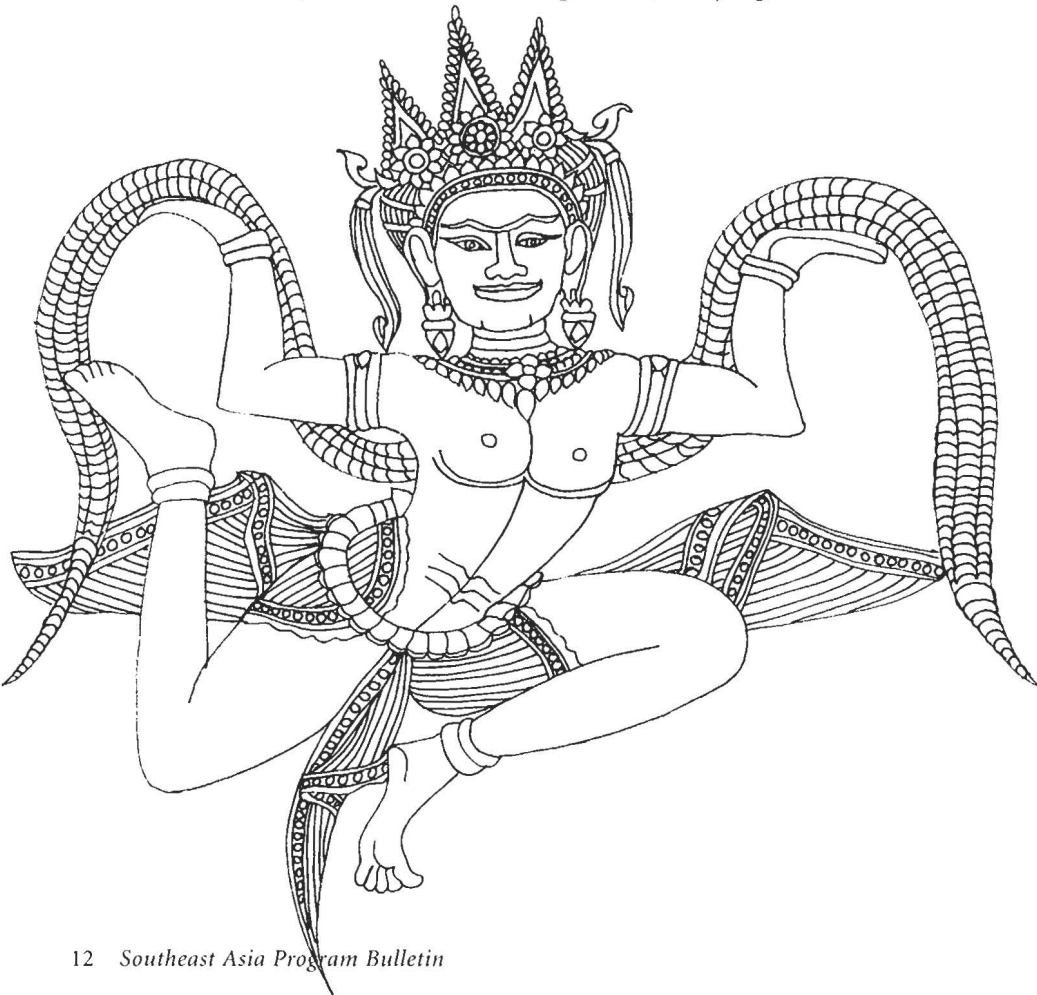
Southeast Asia Program Outreach presented a variety of events for the public this past year. The outreach office's location, in the Kahin Center, has proved to be convenient for meeting with students, faculty members, teachers, and other members of the local community. This past summer, SEAP Outreach participated in the implementation of two collaborative area-studies teacher-training programs. "Making Connections: Society and Change around the Globe"—a week-long program for ninth-grade global-studies teachers offered in conjunction with the Cornell East Asia, South Asia, Latin American Studies, and European Studies programs—was held at Uris Hall in June. Southeast Asia

Program graduate students Tami Loos and Patricio Abinales spoke to participants about gender and identity, and democratization, respectively. Kamala Tiyanich, a Mellon fellow at the Cornell Society for the Humanities, discussed religion and change. In July, "Global Perspectives"—part of the annual Arts-in-Education Institute coordinated by the Central New York Arts Council—was conducted at the SUNY Institute of Technology at Utica/Rome. There SEAP graduate Jon Perry, assisted by outreach coordinator Penny Dietrich, presented the workshop demonstration "Through Shadow and Sound: The Arts of Southeast Asia." The workshop used the gamelan, wayang, stories from the

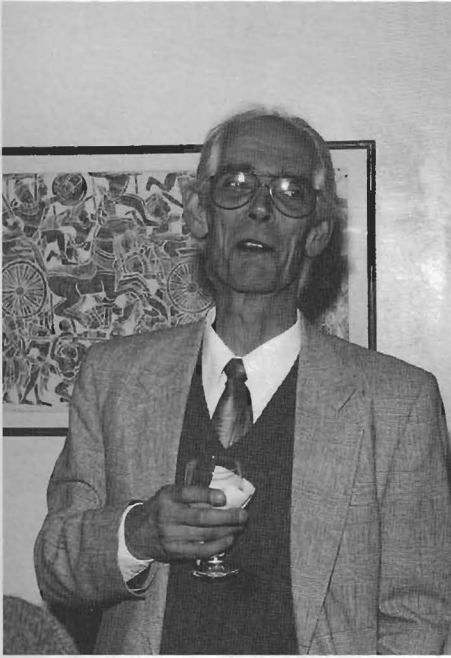
Ramayana, and dance to augment the teachers' understanding of Southeast Asian cultures through various art forms. Jon's daughter Juliana performed a number of traditional Balinese dances.

During the 1993–94 school year, SEAP Outreach focused on the topic of the revitalization of Khmer dance traditions in Cambodia. Graduate student Toni Shapiro and visiting artist-dancer Thavro Phim delivered presentations to more than a thousand schoolchildren in Ithaca and Johnson City. Entitled "The Monkey and the Mermaid," this program combined storytelling about the mythical Hanuman and Sovan Macha, dance demonstrations, and discussions on Cambodia and its efforts to rebuild itself after the Pol Pot regime. Toni and Thavro also presented the program to teachers in the June teacher-training workshop. Efforts are under way to compile written and audiovisual information related to this program's theme, to allow it to be repeated by teachers—in a modified form—after Toni and Thavro's departure from the Ithaca area.

An important SEAP Outreach initiative in the upcoming year is to create a selection of thematic packages for teachers that give information on various Southeast Asian countries. SEAP's audiovisual archive is a vital resource from which to draw titles relevant to a broad range of curricula. SEAP Outreach will fortify its relationship with other local organizations by offering the public a more comprehensive Speakers' Bureau listing that features Cornell faculty members and students and specifies their area of expertise. SEAP Outreach is trying to anticipate the interests and needs of community organizations, businesses, and other institutions regarding the region of Southeast Asia.







## David Wyatt, 1993–94 President of the Association for Asian Studies

David Wyatt served as president of the Association for Asian Studies from April 1993 through March 1994. As president, he was preoccupied with trying to rescue

the *AAS Bibliography*. Supposedly published annually, the bibliography had fallen far behind in its efforts to cope with the mountain of scholarly publications on Asia appearing every year. As a result of his efforts, the volumes for 1987, 1988, and 1989 will be published within the next few months.

During his tenure David Wyatt traveled widely, attending and giving the keynote address at regional meetings of the AAS in such places as Oshkosh, Wisconsin; Mahwah, New Jersey; Harrisonburg, Virginia; and Mexico City, Mexico. These meetings help build regional scholarly com-

munities while affirming the national community of Asian scholars.

David used his presidential address, which will be published in the November 1994 issue of the *Journal of Asian Studies*, to try to nudge historical studies of Asia back to a consideration of premodern times. His speech, titled "Five Voices from Southeast Asia's Past," was given at the April 1994 annual meeting of the association, which was held in Boston and drew a total of 3,500 participants—half of the total membership of the AAS.

## Southeast Asia Program Publications

During the first half of 1994 the following new publications appeared in our various series. All SEAP books, as well as issues of the journal *Indonesia*, are available from the Southeast Asia Program's Publications Office, 640 Stewart Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14850-2805; CMIP books should be ordered from the Cornell Modern Indonesia Project at the same address.

### Studies on Southeast Asia

*Sjahir: Politics and Exile in Indonesia*, by Rudolf Mrázek. 1994. 536 pages. \$20.

*Selective Judicial Competence: The Cirebon-Priangan Legal Administration, 1680–1792*, by Mason Hoadley. 1994. 185 pages. \$16.

### SEAP Series

*Being Kammu: My Village, My Life*, by Damrong Tayanin. 1994. 138 pages. \$14.

### CMIP (Cornell Modern Indonesia Project)

*Popular Indonesian Literature of the Qur'an*, by Howard Federspiel. 1994. 172 pages. \$14.

*"White Book" on the 1992 General Election in Indonesia*, translated with an introduction by Dwight Y. King. 1994. 72 pages. \$10.

### Indonesia

At Jim Siegel's suggestion and with his assistance, the April 1994 issue of the journal *Indonesia* (Number 57) was devoted to a selection of translations from *Archipel*, the semi-annual journal founded in Paris in

1971 by a small group of French Indonesianists. Denys Lombard's introduction to the present volume sees a family resemblance among the texts he and his fellow editors chose for translation—a shared recognition that "everything is a source" and that "the present cannot be explained without the past." Among the issue's ten articles are "Islam and Chineseness" (by Denys Lombard and Claudine Salmon), "Banten in 1678" (by Claude Guillot), "The Second Life of Bung Karno: Analysis of the Myth (1978–1981)" (by Pierre Labrousse), and "The New Order and Islam, or the Imbroglia of Faith and Politics" (by Francois Raillon).

# Talks Hosted by SEAP



*The following talks were given in SEAP's weekly Thursday brown bag series in the spring of 1994:*

**Peter Zinoman**, SEAP graduate student in history. Topic: Indigenous Surveillance in the Prisons of Colonial Vietnam: A Not Quite Total Institution.

**Abigail Cohn**, assistant professor of linguistics. Topic: Languages of Indonesia and Cross-Linguistic Sound Patterns.

**David Chandler**, professor of history, Monash University, Australia; resident fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center, Washington, D.C. Topic: Voices from S-21: The Pathology of Terror in Pol Pot's Cambodia.

**Catherine Coumans**, SEAP visiting fellow. Topic: Basic Christian Communities in the Philippines: National-Level Intellectual and Cultural Bricolage and Local-Level Responses.

**Ron Renard**, professor, Payap University, Thailand. Topic: Thailand: The Changing Image of Chiang Mai in the Twentieth Century.

**Paul Hutchcroft**, professor of political science, University of Wisconsin at Madison. Topic: Booty Capitalism: The Philippine Political Economy in Regional Perspective.

**Takashi Kudo**, SEAP visiting fellow. Topic: Initiatives of Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations) in Southeast Asia.

**Pattaratorn Chirapravati**, SEAP graduate student in art history. Topic: Votive Tablets in Southern Thailand: What We Can Learn from Them.

**Eva-Lotta Hedman**, graduate student in government. Topic: Civil Society: Lessons from the Philippines.

**John V. Dennis**, SEAP alumnus, and director, Sustainable Development Associates. Topic: Protected Area Initiatives and Eco-Tourism in Mainland Southeast Asia: Friend or Foe to the Cultural Survival of Ethnic Minorities.

**Mark Hobart**, professor, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University. Topic: The Persuasiveness of Reality: The Apologetic Ancestor, the Electronic Enemy, The Perplexed Peasant, and the Balinese Healer.

*SEAP also hosted the following talks on Southeast Asia:*

**Ron Renard**, professor, Payap University, Thailand. Topic: Northern Thailand Ethnic Minority Hill Tribe Groups: National Resources and Development Issues.

**Dato' Abdul Majid Mohammed**, Malaysian ambassador to the United States. Topic: Malaysia: The Next Newly Industrialized Country (NIC)? Current Economic Boom and Vision 2020.

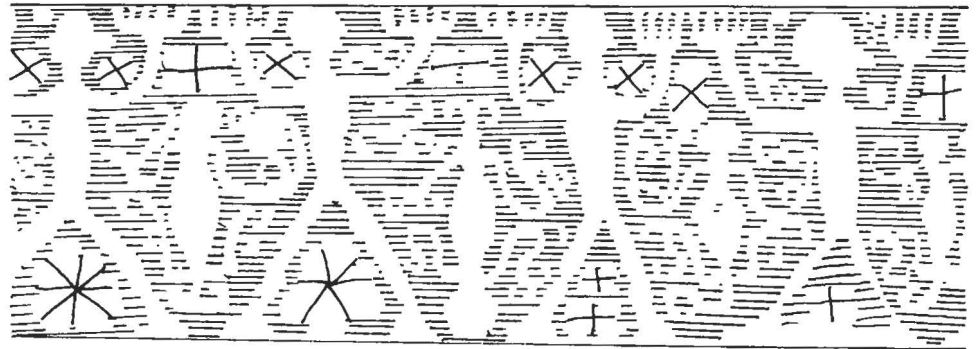
**Doris Jedamski**, SEAP visiting fellow, and lecturer in Indonesian education policy, University of Hamburg. Topic: Western Women Travelers in the Malay Archipelago: Image, Self-Image, and the Perception of the Other.

## News of SEAP Alumni

Dr. Charnvit Kasetsiri (Ph.D. Southeast Asian history, 1972) was installed in spring 1994 as the new president of Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand.

# Faculty

- \***Benedict R. Anderson**, Aaron L. Binenkorb Professor of International Studies, and 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 of Asian studies, and director of the Southeast Asia Program (spring 1994)
- \***Thak Chaloemtiarana**, 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
- Hendrik M. J. Maier**, visiting professor of Asian studies (fall 1994)
- \***Martin F. Hatch**, associate professor of music and of Asian studies
- \***A. Thomas Kirsch**, professor of anthropology and of Asian studies
- \***Stanley J. O'Connor**, professor of art history and of Asian studies
- Saya Shiraishi**, visiting assistant professor of anthropology and of Asian studies
- \***Takashi Shiraishi**, associate professor of Southeast Asian history, and associate director of the Southeast Asia Program and of the Cornell Modern Indonesia Project



- \***James T. Siegel**, professor of anthropology and of Asian studies
- \***Laurence D. Stifel**, visiting professor of international agriculture (CIIFAD) and of Asian studies
- \***Keith W. Taylor**, associate professor of Asian studies
- \***Erik Thorbecke**, H. E. Babcock Professor of Economics and Food Economics, and director of Cornell's Program on Comparative Economic Development
- Kamala Tiyanich**, visiting Mellon fellow, Society for the Humanities (spring 1994)
- \***Julian Wheatley**, senior lecturer in modern languages and linguistics
- \***John U. Wolff**, professor of modern languages and linguistics and of Asian studies, and director of the Southeast Asia Program (fall 1994)

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

## FACULTY MEMBERS EMERITI

- Robert B. Jones**, professor of modern languages and linguistics
- George McT. Kahin**, Aaron L. Binenkorb Professor of International Studies
- Robert A. Polson**, professor of rural sociology
- Oliver W. Wolters**, Goldwin Smith Professor of Southeast Asian History

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\* SEAP core faculty member





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