



The Center
for Research
Libraries

FOCUS

Fall 2005 • Volume 25 • Number 1

Critical Resources for Research and Teaching in the Humanities, Sciences, and Social Sciences

SOUTHEAST ASIA *studies*

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President's Message

Ensuring Access to Southeast Asia Resources

This issue of Focus highlights efforts under the organizational umbrella of the Center for Research Libraries to preserve and make available critical historical evidence and cultural production from Southeast Asia. These efforts rely upon the talent and energy of Southeast Asia historians and specialists at several North American universities, in particular the University of Washington, Cornell University, and Yale University. Working with the Southeast Asia Microform Project (SEAM) based at the Center, these specialists, identify the at-risk archives and critical documents of the turbulent recent histories of Cambodia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Java, the Philippines, and other nations in the region. They then lead efforts to preserve those materials. The Khmer Rouge Archives and

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continued on next page

On page 1: One of the estimated 1.7 million persons imprisoned under the Khmer Rouge regime, a communist organization that ruled Cambodia from 1975–1979. From the Santebal Archive of the Khmer Rouge collection at the Center for Research Libraries. See page 8.

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thousands of Viet Nameese newspapers from the late colonial and revolutionary periods are being preserved in this way.

The Center also acquires important archives of documentary materials that shed light on the region. Recently the Center acquired microfilm of the Viet Nam-era files of Great Britain's Foreign Office. These disclose the U.S. political and diplomatic activities that had such a great impact on the course of Viet Nam's history during the 1960s and 70s.

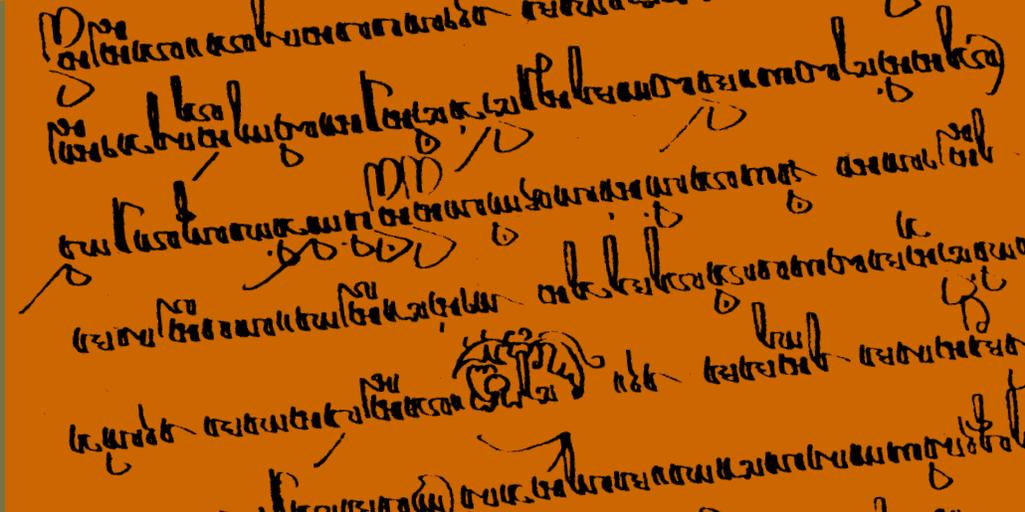
The Center ensures the broad availability of the archived materials to an international constituency of scholars. With the impending trials of the leaders of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge, we are reminded that there are often many communities that have a stake in the survival of these kinds of historical evidence. They are indebted to individuals like Judith Henchy at the University of Washington and Richard Richie at Yale, and to the university members of the Center for Research Libraries and Area Microform Projects for ensuring the long-term availability of valuable evidence.

—Bernard F. Reilly, Jr., President

Southeast Asia Microform Project: 35 Years of International Collaboration

James Simon

International Resources



Detail: modern Javanese macapat verse from *Ramayana Kakawin*, a poem written (ca. 930 AD) in the ancient Kawi language of Java. The original author is believed to be Yogiswara. This version was published in Yogyakarta (present-day Jogja, Indonesia) in 1847. From SEAM collections.

Throughout the 1960s the challenges to acquiring scholarly materials from Southeast Asia were acute. Unstable political climates, inflation, and conflict in the region all made identifying and preserving historical materials and records from nations like Viet Nam, Cambodia, Malaysia, and others difficult. Government documents proved exceedingly difficult to acquire, as most agencies refused to allow their publications to be sent out of country.¹

During this period, the strongest representation of material collected was from the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Indonesia. The advent of the Public Law 480 program for Indonesia in 1964 subsidized the acquisition of monographs, serials, and newspapers by North American institutions. A similar program for Burma, however, met with less success. Materials from Cambodia, Laos, and Viet Nam (then in the midst of military conflict) remained virtually inaccessible.

Collaborative Networks

It was in this climate that research libraries sought collective solutions to the challenges of acquiring and cataloging Southeast Asian material. Early cooperation among universities (particularly Cornell and Yale) gave rise to microfilm projects producing copies of newspapers, theses, and out-of-print materials. With the growing availability of these resources, institutions began to express interest in an inter-institutional repository for Southeast Asian microfilms, where management and distribution of these resources could be undertaken centrally.²

January 1969 proved an auspicious month for Southeast Asia librarianship. At a conference on Southeast Asia documentation in Chicago, librarians met to discuss a proposal to establish a “Southeast Asia Microforms” (SEAM) partnership. Organized by Professor Fred Riggs (University of Hawaii), the conference was attended by scholars, librarians, government officials, and other interested individuals.³ At the meeting, the basic principles for establishing a cooperative arrangement were put in place and a subcommittee was established to craft a statement of need and a development plan.

SEAM’s Foundation and Development

From the outset the SEAM committee envisioned the project as an international collaborative network. Preceding models, such as the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP) and South Asia Microform Project (SAMP), were geared primarily towards North American participation. Instead, SEAM aimed to create a project that featured participation and ownership from institutions within Southeast Asia, North America, and other regions. Ultimately, the concerns of the overseas partners and the practicality of sharing a collection across such distances weighed against a true global partnership, and an alternate strategy—to constitute SEAM as a partnership of institutions

external to Southeast Asia—was put in place.⁴

A prospectus for the organization of the Southeast Asian Microform Project was forwarded to interested institutions in February 1970, and by the first organizational meeting on April 5, 1970 in San Francisco, 21 North American members had joined the project.⁵

From the beginning, the Center for Research Libraries would play a paramount role in the success of the project, not only due to its experience in administering similar projects but

¹ Johnson, Donald Clay. “Southeast Asian Resources in American Libraries,” (reprinted from “Asian Resources in American Libraries,” ed. by Winston L.Y. Yang and Theresa S. Yang). Occasional Publication No. 9; Foreign Area Materials Center; University of the State of New York. 1968.

² CORMOSEA Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 2. 1967. (Accessed 8/25/05).

³ CORMOSEA Bulletin, Vol. 2, No. 4. 1969. (Accessed 8/25/05). The meeting also formalized the existence of the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA), formed as a successor to two previous committees.

⁴ The proposal to establish SEAM was made at the International Conference on Research Materials of Southeast Asia held at Puntjak Pass in Indonesia, April 21-24, 1969 (sponsored by CORMOSEA and the East-West Center). At the meeting, those libraries from Southeast Asia in attendance expressed preference to start their own local microfilming organization that would work in cooperation with SEAM.

⁵ CORMOSEA Bulletin, Vol. 3, No. 4. 1970. (Accessed 8/25/05).

also for its ability to lend materials to a wide array of participating libraries and to sell copies of materials for which it owned the negatives. Hence the Center was established as the legal entity under which SEAM would operate, though the project was constituted as a joint project with the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMO-SEA), which would hold continuing and supportive interest in the project. Representatives of both CRL and CORMO-SEA serve *ex officio* on the executive committee of SEAM. Gordon Williams, the first director of the Center, played a leading and decisive role in establishing SEAM and in the activities of the first several years.

The SEAM partnership was created out of the same concerns and held the same shared principles as the CAMP and SAMP programs:

- The need for preservation of scarce, rare, or otherwise endangered materials.
- The opportunity for better distribution of research materials.
- An interest in developing capacity in the region of study.

SEAM also saw value in providing wider access to previously filmed material, and a distinction was made between original filming projects and materials to be purchased from other sources. The SEAM/North American Pool (SEAM/NAP) was initiated to separately “pool” the funds of participating institutions to acquire extant microfilm—an admirable cooperative effort in its own right, as well as an economical way to quickly stock SEAM’s shelves with available material. SEAM/NAP activities got underway prior to those of SEAM itself, with its formal launch in April 1970.

Acquisition Activities

Under the chairmanship of Peter Ananda (University of California, Berkeley) SEAM/NAP acquired its first materials from the British Public Record Office (PRO). These included India Office Re-

SEAM’s Important Early Acquisitions

Jose P. Laurel Papers

Dr. Laurel was the president of the Philippines during the Japanese occupation, though his long and distinguished career spanned many decades before and after this period. SEAM acquired several sections of his papers, including extensive correspondence and materials concerning the administration of the Second Philippine Republic, Collaboration Issue papers (following independence in 1945, concerning the issue of collaboration during the Japanese occupation), Laurel-Langley Papers relating to the Philippine Economic Mission to the United States, Davao and cases, and other material. [Online Guide](#).

Local Factory Records

A “factory” was a trading post under the British East India Company where a number of merchants, or *factors*, resided. When company ships arrived at the factories, ships’ merchants were thus enabled to exchange goods for trading immediately instead of having to wait to make deals with local merchants. The records include correspondence and reports sent between the factories and their Directors in London (ca. 1685–1825). SEAM has acquired records for the factories in Borneo, Celebes, Java, and [Sumatra](#).

De Locomotief (Semarang, Indonesia), 1864–Mar. 1956.

This influential Dutch colonial newspaper helped shape the social and political issues relating to rights of the domestic population in Indonesia. 383 reels.

Memories van Overgave

Starting in 1849, the government of the Netherlands ordered its civil service personnel leaving office to write a memorandum of conveyance (*Memorie van Overgave*) for their successor. The memorandum was to contain a review of political developments in the district concerned and also to provide information on places, persons, and issues relevant to the proper exercise of the successor’s position. The memoranda, collected by the Ministry of Colonies (*Ministerie van Kolonien*) in The Hague and the Royal Tropical Institute (*Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen*) in Amsterdam, include reports from the highest levels of administration (departing Governors and Residents) as well as those from lower-level officials such as Assistant-Residents and Controllers. The collection also contains a virtually complete series of *Memories* from the corps “*Binnenlands Bestuur*” of Netherlands New Guinea (*Irin Jaya*) for the 1945–1962 period.

Straits Settlements Records, 1800–1872

The Straits Settlements (Singapore, Penang, and Malacca) fell administratively under the British East India Company and were unified in 1826. The extensive material in this set document the consultations (minutes), correspondence, proceedings, and other material from the settlements, covering the period through the establishment of the Straits as a crown colony in 1867. Two reels of indexes also available.

ords for Burma (administrative reports, Legislative Council debates, proceedings) and Straits Settlement reports (records, Legislative Council proceedings).

SEAM/NAP also devoted portions of its budget to acquiring newspapers such as the *Straits Times* (1936–1942).

After a rather slow start, the activities of SEAM proper (that is, the portion of SEAM devoted to original micro-filming) started generating results in 1973 with the acquisition of the *Deli Courant* (1885–1940), an important early colonial newspaper (filmed from the holdings at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in the Netherlands). SEAM also commissioned original filming from the PRO to preserve various *Sessional Papers* (Borneo, Brunei, Kelantan, Malay States, Malacca, Singapore, and Trengganu) from the Colonial Office records. A third item was the *Burma Gazette* (1875–1927), the official publication of colonial Burma. This major undertaking took several years to accomplish and filled more than 300 reels of film.

Program Consolidation

Because of the challenges of locating available material for filming and of securing the acquisition of negatives for reproduction purposes—many institutions, particularly in Europe, insisted on the retention of negatives due to archival or depository policies—SEAM continued to face difficulties in completing projects on a timely basis. Added to the challenges were the rising costs of producing original film and the complex administrative challenge of running what were essentially two separate programs under the same banner. As a result, in March 1978 the activities of SEAM and SEAM/NAP were merged in the belief that integration would allow more flexible and effective acquisition of Southeast Asian materials. The merger was sealed with the issuance of a revised Prospectus in July 1978.

Expansion and Diversification

In 1980, a decade into the project, SEAM listed more than 90 individual titles or collections in its catalog, consisting of nearly 2,200 reels of film and several thousand microfiche. As the project moved forward, the committee turned its attention to expanding its breadth of



Mao Zedong (center) flanked by Tibet's Dalai Lama (left) and Panchen Lama. This 1958 photograph was published in an April 16, 1959 issue of the *Chinese Commercial News*. Publication on this date was prompted by the Dalai Lama's flight from Tibet into exile in India. The *Chinese Commercial News* was an influential daily published in Manila, Philippines. From SEAM collections.

offerings. Early decisions were weighted heavily towards Burma, Indonesia, and the Straits area. Efforts were made to acquire materials from the Philippines (including, for example, *Rosenstock's Manila City Directory*, the influential Chinese-language daily *Chinese Commercial News*, 1948–1972, and an extensive set of 19th century Philippines lexicons and dictionaries); Viet Nam

(newspapers and serials such as *Bulletin des Amis du Vieux Hue*, *Phu-Nu Tan Van*, and *la Tribune Indochinoise*); Thailand (*Statistical Yearbook, Thailand* and extremely rare serials and monographs from the Gedney collection at the University of Michigan); and Cambodia (the newspaper *Kambuja Suriya* and the *Bulletin Officiel du Cambodge*, 1965–1973).

The 1980s were particularly productive years for the project, especially in locating and filming important materials in archives in Southeast Asia. In 1983, Alan Feinstein, a doctoral student at the University of Michigan, proposed microfilming of early Javanese newspapers and periodicals held in the Museum Pusat in Jakarta. The museum was considered a “rich and virtually untouched treasure trove for Javanese court literature,” and the proposed materials, including the newspapers *Bramartani* and *Jurumartani*, represented the first vernacular newspapers in Indonesia. In cooperation with the National Library, SEAM successfully arranged for filming of dozens of titles with on-site assistance by Feinstein.

While undertaking this work, Feinstein was able to develop contacts with other institutions that led to a number of large-scale projects. Undertaken by several Australian universities with the support of the Ford Foundation, a project was established to film the extensive manuscript collection held in the *kraton* (palace) libraries of the Sultan of Yogyakarta. The approximately 450 manuscripts from the Widaya Budaya collection include court annals as well as works of general interest such as literature, history, genealogy, religion, and arts. With a few exceptions, most notably a Koran from 1797, these manuscripts were copied in the 19th and early 20th century. The estimated 250 Krida Mardawa manuscripts are on dance, music, and wayang (wong and gedhog). SEAM was designated the U.S. depository of all filmed material.

Expanding the Partnership

Encouraged in part by these activities and fueled by the desire to undertake larger projects that member fees could not support, SEAM engaged in strategic planning to identify potential activities and to seek funding support for more extensive efforts. Several foundations had developed interest in Southeast Asian studies and regional preservation programs, and SEAM built fruitful

relationships with these, most notably the Henry Luce and Ford Foundations. Alan Feinstein, by now serving as program officer in the Ford Foundation’s Southeast Asia regional office, had identified several undertakings for preservation work and was seeking participant support to launch them. For this effort and for several subsequent projects in Indonesia, SEAM would contribute raw film stock to the institutions preserving their material in exchange for a positive copy of the materials produced. Over the next several years, SEAM contributed to Ford projects and received film for such valuable collections as:

- Sonobudoyo Museum Project—1,350 manuscripts from the Museum Negeri Sonobudoyo in Yogyakarta. This valuable collection covered all ranges of subject matter, from historical chronicles (*babad*) to texts on genealogy, law, Javanese ethics and customary law, Islam, almanacs, language, wayang, literature, music, and dance.
- Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Indonesia (FSUI) Manuscript Collection—More than 2,300 Javanese manuscripts at the University of Indonesia (Faculty of Letters).
- Perpustakaan Nasional Republik Indonesia (PNRI) Manuscript Collection—Nearly 5,000 manuscripts in a variety of languages held at the National Library, by far the most extensive collection in the country.
- Proyek Pelestarian Naskah Universitas Hasanuddin, Yayasan Ford (South Sulawesi Manuscripts)—A collection gathered from a variety of institutions in regional languages such as Buginese, Makasarese, and Mandarese.
- Surakarta Manuscript Project—Nearly 2,300 Javanese language manuscripts of Surakarta, Central Java, including dynastic histories, genealogies of Surakarta kings, history of Islamic prophets, studies of Javanese language and literature, accounts of royal travel, court ceremonies,

Wayang plays, correspondence and diaries, and more.

Special mention should be given to the Library of Congress field office in Jakarta for its assistance in facilitating these projects. The field office provided logistical support, professional expertise, technical equipment, training, camera time, shipping assistance, and many other critical functions—most importantly, perhaps, maintaining good relations and frequent communication with the regional partners. The Library of Congress also played a strong role in organizing another project with the National Library entitled the “Colloquial Malay” serial project, first proposed by Dr. Ellen Rafferty. The project objective was to preserve the most important newspapers and journals in *Bahasa Melayu*, the regional dialect of the archipelago and *lingua franca* to transact business among diverse cultures.

The Henry Luce Foundation was another institution that strongly supported SEAM efforts in Southeast Asia. Beginning in 1989, Luce included a provision in its Southeast Asia grant guidelines that any preservation project funded should provide a positive copy of microfilm produced for SEAM. Because of this action by Luce, SEAM was the beneficiary of hundreds of reels from large preservation projects, establishing a tremendous corpus of scholarly material at SEAM. This material included:

- Copies of manuscripts filmed at the Cambodia National Library and Cambodia National Museum (Cornell University)
- 4,000 volumes of important and historic monographs preserved at Cornell as part of its “Great Collections Microfilming Project”
- Pre-war Dutch serials and Burmese documents (Yale University)
- Various contemporary Southeast Asia newspapers (University of Hawaii)
- Documents and committee reports of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Ohio University).

Select Recent Acquisitions of SEAM

Cambodian Election Materials, 1992–1993

Material collected by Dr. Stephen Heder, who served as deputy director of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Information Educational Division. The material covers UNTAC operations, including its operational files, province level documents, and newspaper files or press clippings related to UNTAC activities.

Chau Ban: Dynastic Records of the Nguyen Dynasty

Chau ban are alternately known as “vermillion records” because of the ink used by the emperor in issuing decrees. These records, covering the Gia Long (1802–1820) and Minh Mang (1820–1841) reigns of the Nguyen Dynasty, were at one point completely restricted from foreign scholars. They contain extensive correspondence, memorials from various offices of court, reports from remote provinces, and even materials relating to medicinal practices of court doctors.

Indonesian Political Tabloids Microfilm Collection

The explosion of the newly free press following Suharto’s downfall in 1998 is captured in this representative collection of newspaper tabloids, broadsides, and journals. The material chronicles the events leading to the June 1999 elections and beyond.

Republic of the Philippines Commission on Elections, Manila

SEAM has acquired election return data from the Republic of the Philippines Commission on Elections, collected by Professor Carl Lande. The material covers all levels of Philippine elections from 1907 to 1971, including provincial office records, assembly elections, and congressional, senatorial, and presidential election material.

Viet Nam Press (Saigon, Viet Nam)

This daily record of events in Viet Nam from the 1950s–1970s was issued in English, French, and Viet Name. SEAM is filming material held at Cornell University to fill in gaps of existing film as well as preserving the Viet Name edition, *Viet Nam Thong Tan Xa*.

Activities in Indonesia and the Luce-sponsored projects occupied much of SEAM’s time and resources, into the mid-1990s. SEAM also developed a major collaborative project sponsored by the Luce Foundation and the Harvard-Yenching Institute to preserve materials held in the National Library of Viet Nam (see related article on page 11).

Preserving the Past, Investing in the Future

From the late 1990s to the present, SEAM has continued its course of identifying materials in need, both within

collections in the U.S. as well as in the region. SEAM has provided substantial funding to Cornell University to support preservation of their extensive newspaper collections (to date, SEAM has supported the filming of nearly 175 titles in long or short runs for the period 1950–1990, including a long run of the *Vietnam Press*). SEAM has also collaborated to support preservation of major archives such as the Documentation Center of Cambodia’s collection of Khmer Rouge documents (see related article on page 8). SEAM has increasingly focused more on contemporary

materials, such as human rights documentation, election returns, and political ephemera. The project has also begun to focus attention on the creation of digital resources, particularly for materials that prove easier to use in electronic format (SEAM has, for example, sponsored the encoding of Philippine election returns at the Institute for Public Policy in Manila).

Preservation of critical resources in Southeast Asia is again becoming an international cooperative effort. In 2000, a full 30 years after the first proposal discussion of SEAM at Puntjak Pass, a group of preservationists, academicians, and government officials from the various countries in Southeast Asia met in Chiang Mai to form a consortium to improve the infrastructure for preservation efforts within the Southeast Asian region. The [Southeast Asian Consortium for Access and Preservation \(SEACAP\)](#) issued a declaration on its mission statement, objectives, and short-, medium-, and long-term action agenda,⁶ and one of the first efforts undertaken was to establish an online Masterlist of Southeast Asia Microfilms,⁷ featuring more than 15,000 records from 37 institutions.

Over the past 35 years, the Southeast Asia Microform Project has played a critical role in preserving important research material from Southeast Asia. As institutions in Southeast Asia continue to develop capabilities to ensure the survival of their cultural property, SEAM will be presented with new opportunities to collaborate with colleagues to identify, preserve, and provide access to these resources. For more information, please visit the [SEAM web site](#). ❖

⁶ The “Chiang Mai Declaration,” Proceedings of the International meeting on Microform Preservation and Conservation Practices in Southeast Asia: Assessing Current Needs and Evaluating Past Projects, February 21–24, 2000. Accessed 8/31/2005.

⁷ The [database](#) is available to subscribers.

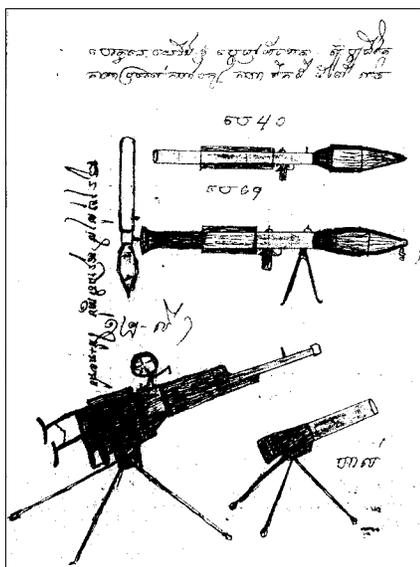
Preserving Khmer Rouge Archives

Richard Richie

Yale University Library



A sketch of Khmer Rouge weapons. From the Santebal Archive of the Khmer Rouge collection at the Center for Research Libraries.



Early in 1998, the Southeast Asia Collection of Yale University Library was invited by Professor Ben Kiernan, Director of the [Cambodian Genocide Program](#) at Yale University's Center for International and Area Studies, and Mr. Youk Chhang, Director of the [Documentation Center of Cambodia](#) in Phnom Penh, to collaborate on an urgent project to preserve and copy the records of the Khmer Rouge state police archives, or *Santebal*. Discovered in the Ministry of the Interior of the Royal Cambodia Government in 1996, the *Santebal* materials were being held temporarily at the Documentation Center. An original plan to digitize the documents was abandoned early on due to slow progress caused by an undependable power supply at the Documentation Center and outdated scanners and computers.

Preserving Secret Police Files

With the documents turning brittle and their future uncertain, project planners searched for alternative solutions. They also feared that ex-Khmer Rouge cadres might discover the secret Documentation Center location and attempt to destroy the archives to prevent future criminal investigations. Given the circumstances, they narrowed the immediate objectives to the bare essentials: to make use copies for the Documentation Center and to make preservation copies

for safe keeping outside of Cambodia.

Paul Conway, head of the Preservation Department of the Yale University Library, recommended establishing a microfilm production facility at the Documentation Center as a tested and familiar preservation method. The project was presented for cooperative funding to the Southeast Asia Microform Project at CRL's annual meeting in the spring of 1998 and received support from CRL and the Echols Collection at Cornell University Library. The decision was then made to preserve the resulting microfilms at Yale University, and to make a microfilm copy of the archive available to scholars and researchers at North American universities by interlibrary loan through the Center for Research Libraries.

As Curator for the Southeast Asia Collection, I was trained to operate the World War II vintage Recordak Portable Micro-File Machine with Model E camera and the special lighting to be used at the Documentation Center. In May 1998 I traveled to Phnom Penh to set up a filming lab and train one person from the Documentation Center. The project went awry almost immediately due to overheating equipment, which was intensified by tropical temperatures and the need for a closed room. However, the combination of a portable back-up generator and an air conditioning unit resolved the big challenges and permitted microfilmmers to shoot the first batch

and send it to Connecticut for testing and processing.

Preserving Additional Documentation

With the Santebal Collection successfully microfilmed in 1999, other collections held by the Documentation Center that dealt with Khmer Rouge atrocities and governance were approved for filming with additional support from the SEAM membership and Cornell University. Final filming for the project was completed in January, 2005. The many collections preserved through this initiative are described below. The entire microfilm archive is now available for loan from the Center for Research Libraries. See [Requesting Materials](#).

Santebal Collection BBKK (I Collection) and BBKKH (J Collection). Reels 1–115.

Includes biographies of members of the Khmer Rouge organization who held positions of authority from the district (*srok*) level upwards, including regional (*damban*), zone (*phumipeak*) and center (*mocchim*) officials, and all officers of

the Khmer Rouge armed forces from company (*kong anousena thom*) level and above. Many of these biographies of demoted authorities were forced confessions written under torture in the Tuol Sleng Prison. The collection also includes confessions of Khmer Rouge victims and communications between members of the Khmer Rouge leadership.

D Collection. Reels 116–156, 214–410.

General Khmer Rouge documents including secondary literature on the Khmer Rouge regime and surviving primary documents containing records of the Khmer Rouge prison at Krang Ta Chan in Takeo Province. The collection also includes the Anlong Veng collection of post-Khmer Rouge materials as well as textbooks from the third and fourth class levels for Democratic Kampuchea primary schools.

Lon Nol Dossiers (L Collection). Reels 157–213

Intelligence documents from the Lon Nol regime relating to military events and issues dealing with Khmer Rouge

prisoners of war. These communications contain lists and titles of Lon Nol's military police officers and soldiers, confessions by Khmer Rouge prisoners of war, individual communications between Lon Nol officers, reports by these officers, assignment reports, and personal files of secret agents of the Lon Nol government.

Khmer Rouge Notebooks (K Collection). Reels 1–39 (New Series)

Biographies of Khmer Rouge cadres and prisoners contained in the personal notebooks of Khmer Rouge prison guards. Collected from Tuol Sleng Prison, the notebooks include information on political training; medical training; military training; revolutionary songs, poems, and slogans; as well as personal accounts and meeting minutes from the prison.

Renakse Collection (R Collection). Reels 40–72 (New Series)

Contains petitions by Cambodians to the Peoples' Republic of Kampuchea to oust the Khmer Rouge from Cambodia's seat at the United Nations. ❖

Southeast Asia Acquisitions for 2005

Elizabeth Darocha-Berenz

International Resources

British Foreign Office Files: United States of America, Series Two: Viet Nam, 1959–1975

Adam Matthew Publications

The Center for Research Libraries has acquired the first five parts of this British microfilm series from Adam Matthew Publications. The series contains information, documents, and reports from Britain's Foreign Office that were gathered by that agency while monitoring the US role in the Viet Nam War. The acquired titles, documented below, were nominated and selected for purchase by members through the [Purchase Proposal Program](#) and are now available on 170 reels through interlibrary loan.

In 2005 the Center acquired microform sets through the Purchase Proposal Program with a total list value of \$202,155. Member libraries interested in acquiring additional parts of this series through the Purchase Proposal Program should contact [Mary Wilke](#) for more information.

Part 1: Viet Nam, 1959–1963 (29 reels) includes:

- Viet Nam's political and commercial relations with other countries
- US military assistance to South Viet Nam
- The Geneva Conference
- Weekly reports on the operations against the Viet Cong

Part 2: Laos, 1959–1963 (58 reels) includes:

- Notes on the internal political situation in Laos and Cambodia

A secret June 2, 1959 telegram from the British Foreign Office to the British delegation at a meeting of foreign ministers in Geneva with advice on how to respond to concerns expressed by Andrei Gromyko of the Soviet Union about Pathet Lao activities in Laos. From the newly acquired Foreign Office Files collection.

- Files on political relations with China, France, Thailand, the US, Soviet Union, India, Viet Nam, and other countries
- Papers of the International Supervisory Commission in Cambodia
- Notes on Anglo-US-Soviet talks in Laos

Part 3: Cambodia, 1959–1963 (14 reels) includes:

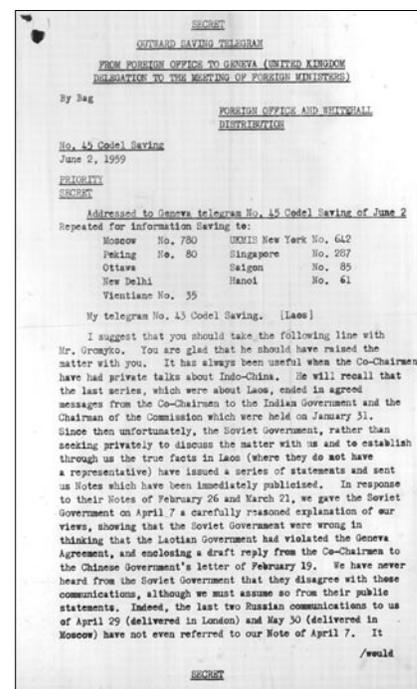
- Notes on the internal political situation in Cambodia
- British assessments of US policy towards Cambodia
- Documents on UN policy in the region
- Papers on the London talks

Part 4: South East Asia Treaty Organisation, SE Asia General and Thailand, 1959–1963: Complete Files on the Viet Nam Conflict (25 reels) includes:

- Material on communist infiltration and insurgency
- Briefs and discussion papers for the UK delegation
- The perspectives of Australian and New Zealand representatives
- Documents of SEATO forces in Thailand, military planning, and SEATO amphibious exercises

Part 5: Viet Nam, 1964–1966 (44 reels) includes:

- Weekly reports, intelligence assessments, and critical analysis focus on



the build up of American forces in Viet Nam, the scale of human tragedy and the efforts at mediation

- Documents on the role of the British Advisory Mission
- US military strategy, including attrition, search and destroy operations, and massive bombing campaigns
- Reports on political asylum, prisoners of war, refugees, Red Cross activities, and medical aid. ❖

SEAM Preservation Microfilming Project in Viet Nam

Judith Henchy

University of Washington

The Southeast Asia Microform Project received grant funding of \$180,000 in late 1993 from the Henry Luce Foundation to establish preservation microfilming facilities at the National Library of Viet Nam. The objective of the proposal was to film early newspapers published in the Romanized vernacular *quoc ngu* script, with a focus on those titles not held in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

The project also aspired to film materials generated by the revolutionary authorities in the Resistance Zones outside of French-controlled areas during the Indochina War of 1946–54, and some manuscripts held in small museums and private collections. Additional grant funds of \$35,000 from the Harvard-Yenching Institute were used to purchase the Zeutschel 35 mm planetary camera.

The Luce Foundation funds supported extensive training programs in 1995 which were taught by the micrographics consultant Robert Mottice, of Mottice Micrographics and UMI, and by John Dean, then Director of Conservation and Preservation at Cornell University. The Foundation has generously allowed its funds to be expended long beyond the initial period of the grant, enabling the project to overcome its initial logistical and political difficulties, and to continue to use those funds for the purchase of filming supplies and new processing equipment. The project, which was the first international effort of its kind since the end of the American War in Viet Nam, has filmed a range of

newspapers and serials dating from the early 20th century.

Initial problems faced by the project were the cause of great excitement for our first on-site Project Managers: Michele Thompson, a graduate student of the University of Washington at the time, and Bergit Hussfeld. First, the Zeutschel camera was damaged in transit and delayed in its arrival; we were then unable to import processing chemicals for the ProStar desktop processor, and were thus obliged to use powdered chemicals left over from a Soviet-sponsored filming initiative in the 1960s; we mixed the chemicals in a bucket and ran the film through the liquid by hand. Despite these early obstacles, the project has been generating some 80 reels of film a year over the past few years, greatly contributing to the resources available to researchers at SEAM member libraries (Microfilms of these materials are available on interlibrary loan to scholars in North America through the Center for Research Libraries. See [Requesting Materials](#).)

Our current Project Manager, Gerard Sasges, a graduate student at UC Berkeley, presided over the move of the preservation facilities to an impressive new National Library building, which opened in central Hanoi in 2000. With this move, together with various administrative changes and the rising number of library professional returning to Viet Nam from overseas training, has come revised attitudes towards collaborative projects, and profound changes in library services and preservation

practices. The project purchased film scanning/printing equipment in the past year, allowing researchers to be much more comfortable with microfilm as a preservation and research medium.

After many years of discussion and negotiation, the new Director of the National Library of Viet Nam, Mr. Pham The Khang, feels confident the project can now proceed with the filming of some of the unique Resistance Zone materials, generated by the Viet Minh authorities, 1945–1954.

Highlights from the materials filmed to date by the project include: the women's journal from Hanoi *Đàn bà*, and *Đàn bà moi* from Saigon; early issues of the influential journal *Đông Duong tạp chí*, and its interesting successor, published in 1937; and the Viet Nameese language version of the pro-French *L'Impartial*, *Trung Tap Báo*, including its last two years of publication, during which time editorial control was taken over by revolutionary nationalists Nguyen An Ninh and Nguyen Van Tao.

In addition to the priority lists of vernacular language materials supplied to the National Library, the early years of the project included some extremely valuable French language serials, including city-level budget reports, and proceedings of the Cochinchina legislative body, the Conseil Colonial, reflecting a period of increasingly broad popular suffrage and participation by candidates representing a range of religious, social, and labor groupings and revolutionary ideologies. ❖

A Digital Southeast Asia Library

Gregory Green

Northern Illinois University

The US Department of Education's Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICFIA) program recently awarded a four-year, \$780,000 grant to a consortium of institutions from around the world to create a wonderful new online resource in Southeast Asian Studies called the Southeast Asia Digital Library. The grant will be administered by Northern Illinois University (NIU) Libraries, which also will house and maintain the digital library. A consortium of institutions represented by librarians from the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA www.cormosea.org) and faculty from participating institutions will act as an advisory committee to guide the digital library from its inception. Work on the library will commence at NIU Libraries and around the world in October 2005 to provide free access to archives of textual, still image, sound, and video resources, covering both historical and current information from the region.

Over the four years of the grant, the Southeast Asia Digital Library will fund eight constituent content projects at partner institutions in the US and Southeast Asia. The projects include:

- Supporting upgrades to an online bibliographic index at Thammasat

University in Thailand, while creating an interface to access the index and providing a full-text article delivery service;

- Supporting a project at Khon Kaen University to preserve and digitize fragile palm leaf manuscripts from northeastern Thailand;
- Creating an archive of historical photographs covering a century of life in Cambodia;
- Training seminars for librarians in the Philippines at the University of San Carlos, Cebuano Studies Center, covering the latest techniques in preservation, conservation, and digitization that will result in the creation of an online archive of unique images and textual materials;
- Creating a video archive of a currently influential television program from Indonesia;
- Digitizing rare early printed works in the vernacular languages of the region;
- Supporting the Living Memory Project to create a video archive of interviews of former political prisoners in East Timor; and
- Funding a project at Ohio University to create a free, online access interface for the Berita Database of journal articles and other resources

from Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region.

In addition, the Southeast Asia Digital Library will work with many US institutions and international partners to link with already completed digital projects in Southeast Asian Studies to create a network of resources available to students, teachers, scholars, government officials, and many others with interest in the region. Collaboration on future projects will also enable these institutions to use available resources more efficiently by continuing to build the cooperative digital library.

In order to maintain consistency across regional digital libraries, the Southeast Asia Digital Library will use the standards, including compatible software and hardware systems, established by the [Digital South Asia Library \(DSAL\)](#), another TICFIA funded regional digital library, thus building on the foundation created by earlier projects. At the same time, the Southeast Asia Digital Library will expand and enhance the functionality of the DSAL model by digitizing and providing access to materials in formats not previously used in Digital South Asia Library. ❖

MISSION STATEMENT

The Center supports advanced research and teaching in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences by ensuring the survival and availability of the knowledge resources vital to those activities.

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FOCUS was compiled by the Center's Communications Department and is published quarterly. Darmon Lewis and Elizabeth Darocha-Berenz provided research expertise to this issue. Don Dyer, Editor. Graphic design services provided by Molly O'Halloran, Ltd.

ISSN #: 0275-4924