Because of recent events in Singapore, I felt like advertising the following: "Overseas Position Available. No degree needed, hard buttocks an asset, spray painting experience preferred although not required, salary contingent on media madness, presidential intervention, and greed of publishers (and other similar market forces). Fee required, but can be submitted after proceeds garnered from above business contracts. Applicants should send resumes directly to Penal Employment and Ninja Institute of Singapore.”

But I decided not to, since it is really quite a serious issue when heads of state and the full force of the mass media get involved in a minor case of crime and punishment because the perpetrator happens to be American. If someone from Southeast Asia broke the law in DeKalb, the efficient DeKalb and NIU cops would whisk that person off to jail without anyone in Southeast Asia (or perhaps even DeKalb) hearing anything about it, unless the “police beat” column in the university’s Northern Star were one’s daily dose of required reading. Certainly heads of state from Southeast Asia would not be informed, and even if informed they would not be likely to comment on it.

What does all this tell me? Well, it tells me that we feel we are above the law, not necessarily in the US (although that occurs as well) but in another country, especially if that country is not “Western.” Would we raise a fuss if an American were punished in Canada, England, or Australia, regardless of the form of punishment? I think citing caning as barbaric—the reason for raising objections—is a smokescreen for what are really cultural-centric sentiments. Why is caning intrinsically more or less barbaric than, say, incarceration? No, I think the reason is not the punishment per se but the fact that a member of the greatest power on earth is being publicly humiliated by a “lesser” nation, something we cannot accept.

How is this related to a Center newsletter? We, in the field of Southeast Asian studies, are supposed to be at the forefront of educating Americans about Southeast Asia, raising their consciousness about our area of expertise and helping to address problems of cultural-centricity not only in academia but out there in the “real world.” Regardless of where we stand on this particular case, or on corporal punishment in general, how many of us have written letters to major newspapers, or informed the public in other ways, about the issue of cultural-centricism underneath all the rhetoric in this particular affair? The issue is not whether the US should or should not adopt caning as a punishment (as some lawmakers are now suggesting) but why was there such a fuss? And most important, how much of this cultural-centricism finds its way into our academic work unconsciously?

The Thirty-Year Celebration of Our Center

On October 23, 1993, the Center celebrated its 30th anniversary, reminding ourselves of how it all began: as a language training center for Peace Corps workers. At the time, there were only three faculty with expertise on Southeast Asia: Dan Wit, Ladd Thomas, and Norm Parmer; now there are twenty-two. Although Norm left NIU a while ago, Ladd is still with us in political science, while Dan retired recently. To these “founding fathers” of the Center, appropriate tribute was paid. Also remembered was the late Donn Hart, Center director between 1970-1980—whose spirit was present that evening—for whom the Southeast Asia Collection is named.

Professor James Scott of Yale gave the keynote address, a stimulating talk on “State Simplifications—Local Knowledge.” Because the Council on Thai Studies was held during the same weekend, friends and colleagues from nearby mandala were present at the celebrations. The dinner featured Thai delights (by Khun Opat Sri-Sai) and a Filipino dessert.

As we reflect on this (local) milestone in the development of Southeast Asian Studies, one cannot help being concerned about the field as a whole for the next thirty years in the United States. The question, however, is how best we can address these concerns: as independent organizations, as we have been doing, competing for what is bound to be more funds for international education as a whole? Or should we attempt some sort of consolidation, in the model of SEASSI, which has been so very successful and beneficial to the next generation of students focusing on Southeast Asia? Should we let the “chips fall where they may,” allowing market and other forces to dictate the growth in some centers and the decline in others; or is it part of our collective responsibility to insure that each center remains strong during the next thirty years?
I don’t have the answers, but the past has given us a glimpse of what the future might be. It has to do with larger forces (such as the economy, demography, politics, so on) beyond our control. It has to do with luck. It has to do with timing. But it also has to do with being aware of when and where to make the most effort in the context of those larger forces generally “beyond our control.” In other words, they are not totally beyond our control; the question is whether we want to make that effort individually or as a group.

Students

Our congratulations to the following students who received FLAS and LUCE awards for 1994-95.

FLAS
- Timothy Bray (Thai), history
- Rob Dayley (Thai), political science
- George Fisher (Burmese), history
- Bryan Hunsaker (Thai), political science
- Ted Mayer (Thai), anthropology

Luce
- Aung Zaw Lyn — art history
- Glen Szczypka — anthropology

Of these, Glen Szczypka and Bryan Hunsaker will be conducting research in Southeast Asia (Indonesia and Thailand, respectively); our best wishes for successful research trips. Aung Zaw Lyn is a newcomer; he hails originally from Burma, with a BA from Simon’s Rock College of Bard in Massachusetts. Welcome to NIU. Also welcome back to George Fisher who spent a year roaming the world to return to PhD work in Burmese history at NIU, and Tammy Duckworth, who has returned to finish her PhD in political science. Farewell, however, to Sun Laichen and Maitrii Aung-Thwin who are both headed to Michigan for their PhDs in Burmese history under the direction of Victor Lieberman. Sun received an international student fellowship and Maitrii a FLAS award for Thai. Supa Angkurawaranon is teaching Thai at SEASSI. Jo Jo Fornier, history, was given a Dissertation Completion Award. Will Leggett will move to the University of Illinois to pursue a PhD in anthropology. Than Than Win published an article in Asiaweek entitled, “Going to America: I Always Wear My Longyi” (Dec. 22-29, 1993).

NIU students headed for intensive summer language programs, either with FLAS fellowships or some other form of support, include:

- Anthony Altucher (Thai), Adv Thai Abroad at Chiangmai University
- Sun Laichen (Burmese), SEASSI at Madison
- Jeffrey Lattimer (Javanese), SEASSI at Madison
- William Leggett (Indonesian), SEASSI at Madison
- Julie Tumbarello (Indonesian), Adv Indonesian Abroad
- Robert Vore (Burmese), SEASSI at Madison
- Firdaus bin Haji Abdullah, University of Malaya, was a visiting scholar at NIU from December 1993 to June 1994 under the sponsorship of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). His research activities focused on the interest articulation of selected socio-political issues among certain groups in the United States.

Osamu Akagi, Osaka University of Foreign Studies, will be using the library at NIU for one month beginning in August. He will be conducting research on the relationship between economic development and political democratization in Thailand.

Publications

We are extremely pleased to announce that John Okell’s long-awaited beginning Burmese text in four volumes with tapes, funded in part by the Henry Luce Foundation, is now available. It is the first in our new Southeast Asian Language Text Series. It was published just in time for use at the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) in Madison, Wisconsin. See the list of publications below for price information.

We are also pleased to announce a forthcoming language text entitled Spoken Vietnamese for Beginners by Nguyen Long, Marybeth Clark, and Nguyen Bich Thuan.

Crossroads, the only journal exclusively on Southeast Asia in the United States, continues to serve the field. The next issue will be devoted to a major article by Terry Miller, entitled “A History of Siamese Music Reconstructed from Western Documents, 1505-1932”; and after this we anticipate a Burma issue on a wide variety of subjects including linguistics, history, literature, and religion.

Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection

Our collection continues to grow. Probably because of the continued participation in the NPAC program, the Indonesia collection has now surpassed the Thai, with over 18,000 titles in the former and over 12,000 in the latter. The Burma collection is now near 8000 titles. This means that, with Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines each with approximately 8000 titles, parity among the collection’s national language holdings appears to have been achieved. Our major gap remains Indochina, our target for the future.
Announcing the Society for the Study of Early Southeast Asia

The Society for the Study of Early Southeast Asia (SSESEA), recently approved as a committee under the Association for Asian Studies with affiliate status, has been formed by Michael Aung-Thwin and Robert Wicks. The Society invites scholars of Southeast Asia in any discipline genuinely interested in early Southeast Asia to become members. Although we may share some guarded enthusiasm for those focusing on GNP in Myanmar between July 1st and August 16th, 1994, our hearts are really in the period before the Portuguese came to Southeast Asia. So we encourage those in archaeology, architectural history, art history, economic history, epigraphy, historical linguistics, history of religions, numismatics, and so on to join us.

The objectives of the Society include keeping those interested informed of significant developments in the field and to provide a forum for scholars throughout the world interested in Southeast Asia prior to the period of European domination. We are uncompromisingly interdisciplinary; we will seek to provide a mechanism for organizing panels and colloquia; and we may decide to publish a newsletter — depending on who volunteers.

If you wish to become a member of the SSESEA, please write to Michael Aung-Thwin at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University (FAX: 815-753-1651) or Robert Wicks, associate dean for program and resource development, School of Fine Arts, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056 (FAX: 513-529-3841).

Council on Thai Studies (COTS) Meeting and Call for Papers

COTS will be holding its annual meetings this year at the University of Wisconsin — Madison from October 28-29. Papers on the humanities and social sciences are welcome. This year the new presidents, Katherine Bowie and Thongchai Winichakul, would also like to extend a special invitation to people with papers dealing with science, technology, medicine, and development in Thailand as well as the Thai business and economy. Please send one-page abstracts to one of the presidents by the end of August: Katherine Bowie, Department of Anthropology (Phone: 608-238-8150) or Thongchai Winichakul, Department of History, University of Wisconsin—Madison, WI 53706 (Phone: 608-263-8931). Accommodations are available by request.

Announcing the Burma Studies Biennial Colloquium

The Burma Studies Group will be holding its biennial colloquium on the campus of Northern Illinois University from October 7-9. The registration deadline is September 16. The colloquium is being hosted by the Center for Burma Studies and is being supported by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

The colloquium will tentatively feature the following people in order of appearance:

- Michael Aung-Thwin, Northern Illinois University
- Myo Myint, Mandalay University
- Sun Latchen, University of Michigan
- Sunait Chutintaranond, Chulalongkorn University
- Christina Fink, U of C—Berkeley
- Bruce Matthews, Acadia University
- Hugh MacDougal, Burma Studies Group
- L. E. Bagshawe, Burma Studies Group
- Richard Cooler, Northern Illinois University
- Elizabeth Moore, SOAS, University of London
- Virginia de Crocco, St. Som Society
- April Tin Aye, Simon's Rock College
- Miriam Kapp, Austria
- Nai Pan Hla, Meio University
- Charlotte Reith, Alexandria, Virginia
- Anne Allott, SOAS, University of London
- Tin Htwe, Heidelberg University
- Patricia Herbert, India Office and British Libraries
- U Win Pe, visiting fellow, International Writing Program
- U Saw Tun, Northern Illinois University
- Andrew Huxley, SOAS, University of London
- Ruji Okudaira, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
- Maureen Aung-Thwin, Open Society Institute
- Mary Callahan, Cornell University
- Kei Nemoto, Tokyo University/ SOAS
- U Khin Maung Kyi, National University of Singapore
- Chaichoke Chulsiriwongse, Chulalongkorn University
- Jan Becka, Oriental Institute, Czech Republic
- Kyi May Kyaw, University of Pennsylvania
- Susanne Prager, University of Heidelberg
- F. K. Lehman, University of Illinois
- John Okell, SOAS, University of London
- Lloyd C. Anderson, Ecological Linguistics
- U Tun Aung Gyaw, University of Minnesota
- Kei Grieg, University of Norway

For more information contact the Center for Burma Studies at 410 Adams Hall, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115 (Phone: 815-753-0512; FAX: 815-753-1651).

Vietnam: 20 Years Later, A TraveLearn Experience

In April 1975, Steven Johnson was among the last Americans to leave Saigon. Twenty years ago, Clark Neher was teaching about the Vietnam-American conflict on the NIU campus. Travel with these two knowledgeable NIU leaders to Vietnam for 10 days in January of 1995. From Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) to Hanoi, you will examine firsthand the political, cultural, and economic realities of the new Vietnam. Neher (chair of political science and an associate of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies) has led a number of study groups to Southeast Asia. Both he and Johnson (director of external programs, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) have traveled to Vietnam several times since 1990 and both speak Southeast Asian languages (Neher, Thai; Johnson, Vietnamese). For information and pricing please contact: External Programs, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115 (Phone: 815-753-5200).
Southeast Asia Lecture Series

The Lecture Series continues to enrich our program. The Spring semester brought the following speakers:

Joe Davy, ethnographic photographer, Chicago

Hennawan Sulistyo, Fulbright scholar-in-residence

Jocelyn Armstrong, Institute for Research on Human Development, University of Illinois
“Culture and Disability in Malaysia,” February 18, 1994

Open Discussion: “The Opening of Vietnam: Politics, Profit, or Pain?” February 25, 1994

John M. Baker, graduate student, political science, NIU
“Timing is Everything: An Account of Some Recent Excursions to Thailand’s Borderlands, Wat Khao Phra Wiharn, Three Pagodas Pass, Victoria Point,” March 4, 1994

Craig Lockard, social change and development, University of Wisconsin—Green Bay
“Popular Culture and Political Expression in Contemporary Southeast Asia,” March 11, 1994

Nancy Eberhardt, sociology/anthropology, Knox College
“Domesticating the Self: Images of Spirits, Souls, and Children in Shan Discourse,” April 1, 1994

U Saw Tun, foreign languages and literatures, NIU
“The President and I,” April 8, 1994

Firdaus Haji Abdullah, visiting scholar, University of Malaya

Michael Bishop, rural development consultant
“Policy Makers and End Users in Indonesia: A View from the Local Level,” April 22, 1994

Lawrence Heaney, Field Museum of Natural History

William Leggett, graduate student, anthropology, NIU

For the coming Fall semester we have invited:

Michael Cullinane, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin—Madison

Siew-Ben Chin, Richard J. Daley College

John Bowen, anthropology, Washington University
“The Forms Culture Takes: A View from Southeast Asia,” October 14, 1994

Steven Collins, south Asian languages and civilizations, University of Chicago
“Buddhism, Language, and Empire: A Socio-Political History of Pali,” October 21, 1994

Frank Proschan, Research Center for Language and Semiotic Studies, Indiana University

Core Southeast Asia Courses Offered Fall 1994

Anthropology
Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia

Art
Indian and Southeast Asian Art

Foreign Languages and Literatures
Beginning Burmese
Intermediate Burmese
Beginning Indonesian
Intermediate Indonesian
Beginning Thai
Intermediate Thai
Ind Study in a Foreign Lang (Burmese, Indonesian or Thai)
Special Studies in Language (Burmese, Indonesian or Thai)
Special Topics in Literature (Burmese, Indonesian or Thai)

Interdisciplinary
Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World

Music
Introduction: World Music I
World Music: Gamelan

Political Science
Third World Politics
Contemp Topics in Political Science: Intelligence Agencies
Contemp Topics in Political Science: Democracy and Dev
Seminar in Current Problems: Vietnam
Seminar in Political Economy Developing Areas
Foreign Area Politics: Thailand
Center Associates' Activities

Michael Aung-Thwin, director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, has contributed the entry on Burma (as "Myanmar") for this year's new edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. His "Principles of the Precolonial Burmese State" is to be published by Humboldt Universitat, Germany, along with numerous other essays presented at the International Conference on "Tradition and Modernity in Myanmar" held in Berlin during May 7th-9th, 1993. He has also been invited, with twenty-six other Southeast Asianists, to contribute to the forthcoming special issue of the Journal of Southeast Asian Studies, which will commemorate the journal's 30th anniversary. He will write on "The Classical Period in SEA."

Richard Cooler, director, Center for Burma Studies, will have his long-awaited book on the "frog drums" of the Karens published in the Fall by E. J. Brill. It provides unique information on drums in general, and it is the only work on the Karen drums.

Lee Dutton, Founders Memorial Library, has been selected general editor of An International Guide to Anthropological Resources, which will list a good number of SEA resources. The book will be published by Garland Publishing in 1995.

K. H. Han, music, spent the 1992-93 academic year on sabbatical and did research in China and Taiwan. He was also visiting professor at the Department of Music, National Institute of the Arts, Taipei, Taiwan. From 1993-94, he served as temporary director of the newly established Graduate School of Traditional Arts at the National Institute.

Jim Henry, computer science, and Pat Henry, and John Hartmann, foreign languages and literatures, will be directing a US Department of Education grant on "Computer-based Learning for Thai and Indonesian: System Development and Dissemination of a Multimedia Dictionary and CALL Software." The purpose of the project is to extend the scope and capabilities of two previously funded projects that produced computer-based learning materials for Thai and Indonesian: the first is an electronic dictionary system with built-in sound, graphics, and, in the case of Thai, full support for Thai orthography; the second is a reimplementation of a computer-aided language learning system for the two languages, again featuring sound, graphics, and full Thai script support, as well as a lesson-authoring system. The new grant will allow the directors of the project to extend the corpus of dictionary entries and to develop innovative question-answer feedback methods for the computerized lessons. The grant will run from August 1994 until August 1995 and is funded in the amount of approximately $84,000.


Dwight King, political science, was on sabbatical last term, and his activities included: updating the Indonesian Data Bank, a computerized file of social indicator on districts/municipalities, which he has been working on since the early 1970s; revision and submission of a conference paper entitled "Bureaucracy and Implementation of Complex Tasks in the Developmental State: Evidence from Indonesia"; and he has also been working on a book under the provisional title of "Quantitative Studies of Indonesian Politics and Policy." His translation of and introduction to the "White Book" on the 1992 General Election in Indonesia was published by the Cornell Indonesia Project, no. 73 (1994).

Clark Neher, political science, has been productive this summer and has just had an article entitled "Myanmar’s Thwarted Transition to Democracy," accepted for publication by Contemporary Southeast Asia.

Michael Rhum, anthropology, has finished a book entitled The Ancestral Lords: Gender, Descent, and Spirits in a Northern Thai Village. It will be published by our Center very soon.

U Saw Tun, foreign languages and literatures, was recently awarded a national prize for research in the field of Burmese literature by the Ministry of Education, Burma. Five national awards were given in the following categories dealing with literature: lifetime achievement, short stories, treatises, poetry, and research. Professor Saw Tun’s manuscript, the first of an anticipated five volumes on the history of Burmese literature in Burmese, deals with Burmese literature of the Pagan period. His work will be published by the Ministry.

Harold Smith, sociology, and May Kyi Win, Founders Memorial Library, have completed a manuscript entitled "Historical Dictionary of Thailand." It is now in the galley stage of production by Scarecrow Press. In addition, May Kyi Win has published, "Bibliography on Burma (4)" in the Bulletin of Burma Studies Group 52 (February 1994), 8-15. Further congratulations to May Kyi Win, whose position as of July 1 will now be tenure track, with the rank of assistant professor.

Constance Wilson, history, will be on sabbatical for a year during 1994-95 working on a manuscript dealing with the 19th-century Thai revenue administration, a topic on which she has been conducting research for many years.
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Northern Illinois University

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Subscriptions to Crossroads, a journal of Southeast Asian studies, are available at $20/volume (2 issues/vol.). For air mail, add $10. Send checks to the Center payable to “Center for Southeast Asian Studies.”

Crossroads:
An Interdisciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies

In recent years our Crossroads journal has undergone a metamorphosis. We invite you to subscribe and try our journal. We are the only journal covering pan-Southeast Asian topics in the United States. At $20.00 a volume year, the valuable information we provide is a bargain.

Issues are often focused on special topics, while others are of a more general nature. Recent issues worth noting include the following:

A special issue on Burma (4:1) sold out in a short time;

4:2 and 5:1 are Special Thai Issues. They are still available as back issues (4:2 is a collection of recent research on Thailand; and 5:1 is comprised of a panel commenting on the work of Condominas in Northern Thailand);

5:2 is a general issue containing articles on Malay political cartoons, the language of a gay community in the Philippines, and Japanese aid to Burma;

6:1 is devoted to a major article by Craig Lockard on modern Malay pop music;

6:2 contains articles on writers and activists in Southeast Asia, featuring an article by Donald Swearer on the life and works of social critic Sulak Sivaraksa;

7:1 summarizes the contribution of Lucien and Jane Hanks to Southeast Asian studies (including a definitive bibliography of this couple’s works);

7:2 contains a major set of papers on Vietnamese poetry and history by Keith Taylor, Tran Quoc Vuong, John Whitmore, and Neil Jamieson.

8:1 is a general issue containing articles on youth values among the Shan and in Singapore, Thai “godfathers,” and a history of the Thai social security system. This issue also contains obituaries for the late Buddhadasa Bhikkhu.

For more information on how to order back issues and current subscriptions, please see the enclosed publications order form.
An Introduction to the Thai Poem
"Lilit Phra Law"
(The Story of King Law)

Robert J. Bickner

The ancient Thai poem entitled *Lilit Phra Law* holds a position of great importance in the literary heritage of Thailand. Countless Thai students have read it, and many can cite parts of it from memory. Despite the enduring popularity of the story, those who composed the poem are frequently criticized for seeming flaws in their poetic forms. There is a curious dichotomy of opinion among modern scholars who have studied the classics: the ancient poets are appreciated for their skill and storytelling, but they are also criticized for the imagined limits of that skill. This study addresses the curious dichotomy in modern treatments of this ancient work by examining the text *Lilit Phra Law* and the verse forms used to create it, as well as the criticism made of it by contemporary scholars, especially from the point of view of linguistic analysis.

$17.00 (shipping included)
Please place all orders directly with the Center.

Ku Đặng—Thirty Years Later
A Village Study in Northern Thailand 1954-1984

Konrad Kingshill

Konrad Kingshill has updated his classic ethnography of the village of Ku Đặng. This volume contains indispensable information on Thai village life, rituals, and beliefs. Over three hundred pages, including charts, maps, glossary, and index.

$22.00 (shipping included)
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The significance of this book is twofold. First, it makes a contribution to our understanding of a language that has become important to many Westerners since the end of the Vietnam war in 1975 and the subsequent arrival of tens of thousands of Hmong refugees to the United States. Prior to this time, only two dictionaries and one grammar by missionary linguists existed for White Hmong. Since the arrival of the Hmong refugees, linguists have started to take the task of describing the language seriously. The publication of this major study of Hmong language will bring multiple benefits: to students of Hmong, students of the Southeast Asian linguistic area and language history, and to students of the nature of human language. Second, it corrects the mistaken notion that Aïan tone languages do not use tone for grammatical purposes as do African tone languages.

$24.00 (shipping included)
Please place all orders directly with the Center.
Special Report no. 28, 1993

Variation in Central Javanese Gamelan Music: Dynamics of a Steady State

R. Anderson Sutton

Moving beyond a simple and occidental sense of “a variation on a theme,” Variation in Central Javanese Gamelan Music: Dynamics of a Steady State, is a comprehensive, analytical study of Javanese gamelan music by the noted ethnomusicologist R. Anderson Sutton.

Sutton defines gamelan as “a generic term for instrumental ensembles consisting predominantly of percussion instruments (knobbed gongs, metal-keyed instruments, and drums).” It is also a music that is thoroughly and indigenously Javanese and, as Sutton eloquently demonstrates, the music that best captures, if not actually mirrors, the Javanese psyche and the Javanese notion of variation within a steady state.

Occasional Paper no. 15, 1990

Irrigation in the Heartland of Burma: Foundations of the Pre-Colonial Burmese State

Michael Aung-Thwin

Since the last two centuries of the first millennium BC, except for a short span of sixty years, the pre-colonial state in Burma has been centered in the dry zone of Upper Burma. The basis of this state was agrarian, yet little has been written on its economic wherewithal. Instead, scholars have tended to focus their attention on the state’s political, legal, religious, cultural, and administrative structures and institutions. This study attempts to fill this crucial gap. In part, it highlights a major theme in pre-colonial Burmese history—“dry-zone paramountcy”—which was the result of state-run irrigation works constructed in six critical regions of central Burma, most of them existing before the 15th century AD.

This volume contains a unique and valuable set of maps to illustrate the areas discussed above.

$11.00 (shipping included)
Please place all orders directly with the Center.

Occasional Paper no. 16, 1992

Papers on Tai Languages, Linguistics, and Literatures

In Honor of William J. Gedney

Carol J. Compton
John F. Hartmann, Editors

Twenty-one scholars from Australia, Canada, China, Thailand, and the United States have contributed to this unique collection of articles on Tai languages, linguistics, and literature. The book is organized into four major sections: Tai Linguistics, Phonology, Syntax and Semantics, Linguistics and Literature. The research produced is a reflection of the profound influence Emeritus Professor William J. Gedney has had on the field of Tai and Sino-Tibetan linguistics.

$28.00 (shipping included)
Please place all orders directly with the Center.
BEGINNING BURMESE

Northern Illinois University's Center for Southeast Asian Studies is proud to announce the publication of John Okell's new, state-of-the-art, four-volume textbook for the study of the Burmese language.

There are four parallel volumes in this series of Burmese language texts: two for learning the spoken language, one for learning the script, and a fourth for learning the literary style. Each is accompanied by audio tapes and is designed to be used either with a teacher or for self-study. The series was developed over a period of several years, and it has been tested, modified, and expanded after use in the classroom.

BURMESE: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SPOKEN LANGUAGE, BOOK 1 and
BURMESE: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SPOKEN LANGUAGE, BOOK 2 focus on early encounters with Burmese speakers in Burma or abroad. They cover survival needs (asking the way, taking taxis, going to shops and cafés, and so on) and first conversations (Where are you from? How long have you been here? What's your job? and so on). In particular, they offer: — solid grounding in the grammar and sound system of modern colloquial Burmese — short lessons to enable flexible pacing and extensive practice — copious speaking exercises and practice dialogues on the tapes — review lessons at frequent intervals — Burmese material presented in both Burmese script and a roman transcription throughout — notes on etiquette and social behaviour in Burma — cumulated vocabularies, both Burmese-English and English-Burmese — additional vocabularies arranged by topic: such as, names of clothes, foods, conversing with Buddhist monks

BURMESE: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SCRIPT enables students with no previous knowledge of Burmese to become competent in reading and writing Burmese script. In particular, it offers: — use of tapes to make the link between the symbols you read and the words you hear and say — readings from original Burmese materials — appendices on handwriting and cursive forms, ornate lettering, the Burmese names of the characters, Burmese alphabetical order, and common abbreviations

BURMESE: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LITERARY STYLE is based on passages selected from children's school books used in Burma. Parts 1 and 2 contain passages relating to life at home and at school, while the texts selected for Part 3 deal with themes of Burmese nationalism and independence. Each passage is accompanied by a full vocabulary and translation and is followed by a set of exercises designed to familiarize the student with new vocabulary and structures.

JOHN OKELL, a graduate of The Queen's College, Oxford, is Lecturer in Burmese at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The author of numerous articles on Burmese grammar, linguistics, and lexicography, Okell has also written FIRST STEPS IN BURMESE (1989) and A REFERENCE GRAMMAR OF COLLOQUIAL BURMESE (1969).

The author and the Center would like to stress that for pedagogical reasons the books and accompanying tapes are being sold as an integral package. The accompanying tapes provide important additional information, reinforcement, and practice.

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