Luce Grant

The Center received a second Henry Luce Foundation grant this year to enhance Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University, focusing on four major categories: a) the Donn V. Hart Collection, b) a Beginning Burmese Text project, c) continuation of the computer-aided instruction project for Thai, Indonesian, and Burmese, and d) fellowships for graduate students concentrating in Southeast Asian Studies.

The acquisitions cum preservation project (largely microfilm) is geared to build up the Burma Collection to the level of the Thai, Indonesian, and Malaysian holdings here. The major emphasis is the acquisition of primary, indigenous, preferably vernacular sources of the pre-colonial period; while the secondary goal seeks to obtain primary colonial and missionary sources on Burma. The project is a joint endeavor among three universities: NIU, Cornell, and Rangoon. It is already well on its way, with filming in Rangoon to begin sometime this month. In the meantime, we have visited the most important Baptist archives to place orders for copies of their microfilm holdings on Burma. The third part of the Burma acquisitions project includes compiling an inventory of all personal collections of Burma specialists in the U.S., sifting, and then microfilming those Burma sources that fit our focus. The Burma holdings are meant to serve serious research scholars who wish mid-west access to Burmese vernacular sources. Subsequently, we plan to seek other funding to build its (secondary) collection of published works.

The Thai acquisitions project is selective, dealing with two kinds of sources: microfilming of the Thai Dam manuscripts held in Paris, and contemporary government publications of the Thai government. For this, our curator, Carol Mitchell, in consultation with center associates, will be going to Southeast Asia in the summer.

The Southeast Asia Children's Books project is another area earmarked for support under the current Luce grant. Our Southeast Asia Librarian, Lee Dutton, will handle this project.

Then there is the selective “gap filler” part of the project whereby the most important gaps pertaining to other areas of Southeast Asia in the Donn V. Hart Collection will be addressed. The regular library budget for the Southeast Asian collection will, of course, continue to update the Collection as a whole.

In addition to the acquisitions project, the Luce Foundation supported a Beginning Burmese text project. John Okell of SOAS, University of London, will be granted a leave by his university to write what we hope becomes the definitive Beginning Burmese text. John will be at NIU in October for several weeks. We anticipate the project’s completion in approximately two years, with the final product being published by the Center here. Essentially, the text will be a combination of two of John’s courses that he has taught at SOAS for the past twenty years or more.

The Foreign Language Instruction Station (FLIS) was given some support to continue developing software, which is partially complete. In the meantime, the project directors have applied elsewhere for funds to allow FLIS’s completion.

Finally, the Luce Foundation granted NIU with several more graduate fellowships. We awarded several outstanding students with these.

FLAS Grants

For the academic year 1989-90, the Center received from the U.S. Department of Education the equivalent of six full fellowships that cover tuition, fees, and living stipend. Although two of those fellowships had been allotted for Burmese, we have to date, no courageous souls who applied for that language.
Student News

The enrollment in our Southeast Asia Survey course this term was more than fifty students. We continue to draw all kinds of students: mainstream, Chicago suburb types; Southeast Asians; and children of Southeast Asian parents who wonder about their cultural heritage. There are a few undergraduate minors but quite a large number of graduate students (twenty-three) concentrating on Southeast Asian studies. Several of them will be new in the fall, hailing from California, Hawaii, and Washington, D.C., majoring in history, anthropology, and political science.

Our new faculty member, U Saw Tun, chair of the Department of Burmese at the Institute for Foreign Languages in Rangoon, will be arriving in summer. His passport request has been approved, and we are awaiting his H-visa from U.S. Immigration. He will be teaching FLBU I and II (Beginning and Intermediate Burmese). He is coming with a twelve-year-old daughter who will enroll in DeKalb schools. Those faculty and students wishing to broaden their language background, please feel free to take the courses.

Other faculty associates of the Center have been involved in a variety of research and publications projects and this summer are off to different places. Dr. Than Tun, our visiting Fulbright scholar, will be leaving very shortly for Michigan. He completed four volumes of The Royal Orders of Burma while at NIU, as well as a translation of Jambudipa Okhsaung Kyan, to be published by the Center. In October of 1988 he received an honorary Ph.D. from London University for his work on The Royal Orders of Burma. We wish him and his wife, Daw Khin Yi, all the best while at Michigan and hope the Michigan mandala takes care of them as well as the NIU mandala has done. After several months at Michigan, they plan to return to Burma, and be involved in our Burma acquisitions program.

Publications

Our interim editor for summer 1988, Lina Ong, completed the latest Crossroads, a special issue on Burma. It features articles written by Burma specialists on a variety of subjects and can be ordered from the Center (see "Publication News" below for details). Our regular editor, Grant Olson, will have completed a final draft of his Ph.D. dissertation this month on a biography, or rather a "person-centered ethnography" as he prefers to call it, of a Thai Buddhist monk, Phra Rajavaramuni (Prayudh Payutto). Despite this busy schedule, several manuscripts have been completed since the last Mandala was published. David Mullikin continues to be our part-time copy editor for our publications series while he completes his Ph.D. in English literature.

Brown Bag Lunch Series

This year’s bag lunch series has been very successful. Attendance averaged between twenty-five and thirty-five, sometimes reaching a high of over forty people. The number of outstanding speakers representing virtually all areas of Southeast Asia certainly attracted the large audiences, although the catered Malaysian or Filipino food served at these lectures also played its part. We will continue this series next year with an equally impressive list of external and internal speakers, now that the series is being partially funded by the graduate school.

We wish everyone a good summer!

Michael Aung-Thwin, Director
Center for Southeast Asian Studies
In January, Michael Aung-Thwin gave a lecture at the University of Toronto/York University’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies on “The Series of Events Leading up to the Recent Burma Demonstrations,” and at the University of Wisconsin on “A Historian’s Perspective on the Recent Upheaval in Burma.”

Han Kuo-Huang, Music, lectured on different styles of Gamelan music at the University of Arizona in October 1988. In January of 1989 he delivered a paper at the Second International Conference of Oriental Music Society in Shanghai on “West Javanese Angklung Music and Trance.”

Harriet Hart has completed an article on “Gayspeak,” the language of the gay community in the Philippines. Her next project involves finishing another article on “Cinderella tales” in the Bisayas. She also plans to collaborate with Enya Flores-Meiser, an anthropologist at Ball State University, on a study of Philippine newspapers in the United States.

John Hartmann, Foreign Languages and Literatures, was invited to give a paper and presentation with Jim Henry, Computer Science, on “Computer Assisted Instruction of Southeast Asian Languages,” at the Twentieth Annual Conference on African Linguistics at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, April 19-22, 1989. Hartmann has also co-edited the Selected Papers on Comparative Tai Studies of William J. Gedney, published by Michigan Papers on South and Southeast Asia (no. 29), Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Michigan—Ann Arbor.

This summer Patricia Henry, Foreign Languages and Literatures, is the on-site coordinator for the Advanced Indonesian Abroad program in Malang, Indonesia, sponsored by the Consortium of Teachers of Indonesian (COTI). Along with shepherding American students studying with the program, she hopes to upgrade her own language skills and buy lots of books.

Dwight King, Political Science, was a visiting scholar at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from January to March of 1989. King worked with students and faculty at the university’s Center for Social Science Research. The assignment, entitled the “Indonesian Second University Development Project,” included assisting in the development of graduate curriculum and management.


Grant A. Olson, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, had an article published in the Journal of the Siam Society entitled “An Aesthetics of Rice” (vol. 79). He also participated in a panel at the Association for Asian Studies meetings in Washington, D.C., on new Thai religious movements and gave a paper on “Viewing Thai Buddhism through the Dimensions of the Three Trainings.”

Ron Provencher, Anthropology, was in Malaysia conducting research on Malay humor magazines, the people who produce them, and the people who read them. His research, entitled “Malay Humor Magazines as Cultural Commentary” is funded by a grant from the Joint Committee on Southeast Asia of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. His field research from December 1988 to March 1989 was the final phase of a project begun in 1987 under a Fulbright grant. An article that will provide an overview of the research will appear in vol. 6 of SARI, the journal of the Institute for Malay Language, Literature, and Culture of the National University of Malaysia. A broader, book-length manuscript on the social and cultural history of the magazines is underway.

Susan Russell, Anthropology, is among twelve scholars selected from 109 candidates for a Florida summer institute on research methods in cultural anthropology. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the institute will disseminate state-of-the-art techniques in research methods and encourage their application for problem-solving.

Constance M. Wilson, History, gave a paper on “Economic Change and Revenue Administration in Nineteenth Century Thailand” at the Council for Thai Studies meeting at NIU on October 16, 1988. In March 1989 she presented “Sources for the Study of the Historical Demography of Thailand” at a conference on the Historical Demography of Southeast Asia, Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies. She will be in Bangkok from June through July.
The Donn Hart Library Endowment

The Donn V. Hart Endowment was established in 1983 with the dedication of the Southeast Asian Collection as the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asian Collection. The Endowment fund is to be used for the benefit of the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asian Library Collection. It will be used to supplement expenditures not ordinarily possible within usual budgetary means.

This year the Endowment fund reached $5,000 and was officially endowed. Each year the investment income of six percent of the principal balance will be made available to the collection. Any income in excess of six percent or any income not used will be returned and added to the principal.

The Donn V. Hart Southeast Asian Collection and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies are planning a major fundraising drive for the fall. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like to contribute to the Endowment, please contact the Curator of the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asian Collection, Founders Memorial Library, NIU, DeKalb, IL, 60115.

An Acquisition of Palm Leaf Manuscripts

The Donn V. Hart Southeast Asian Collection has acquired two palm leaf manuscripts written in old Lao. Both are written in the literary form known as lam. The first is a manuscript of 130 leaves entitled Lam thao khun theung khun thiang. The second consists of 200 leaves and is entitled Lam nang tang-on. Both are anonymous classics. They are kept in the Rare Books Collection of the Founders Memorial Library. Plans call for having them cleaned and microfilmed for easier access and study by scholars and members of the Lao community in the United States and elsewhere.

A Gift to the Hart Collection

The Donn V. Hart Southeast Asian Collection received a gift of $750 from Morton and Petra Netzog in memory of Donn Hart. This generous donation will be used to purchase materials on the Philippines.

Promotions for Center Associates

In August of 1988, Constance Wilson was promoted to full professor. John Hartmann was promoted to full professor. Barbara Posadas was promoted from assistant to associate professor. Michael Aung-Thwin has received tenure in the History Department.

Visitors to the Center

Achan Noree Bisuddhanarak, a senior Thai language instructor, now retired, visited NIU and the Center on Friday, May 21. She taught Thai in the first Peace Corps program at NIU and, at other stages in her career, taught and supervised Thai instruction at FSI in Washington, D.C., and the Peace Corps in Thailand.

On April 13th, Santikaro Bhikkhu, an American Buddhist monk who resides in Thailand with Buddhadasa Bhikkhu, Chaiya, Suratthani, southern Thailand, visited the Center and the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asian Collection in the library. Santikaro is actively engaged in translating some of the works of Buddhadasa and leads meditation sessions for foreigners in Thailand. He was temporarily residing at the Thai temple, Wat Buddha-dhamma, in Hinsdale, suburban Chicago.

On May 4th and 5th, Ms. Valapa Burusapatana, Director of the International Affairs Division (Division II), the National Security Council, Bangkok, Thailand, visited the Center and various departments at NIU.

Interview about Thai New Year

On April 13th, WNIU-FM broadcast an interview with Professor John Hartmann and Panitan Wattanayagorn, graduate student in political science, on the meaning and importance of the Thai Songkran New Year Celebration. The interview focused on the celebration's seasonal and ecological foundations, its religious rituals, and social activities during this transition from the sub-tropical hot season to the monsoons.

Gamelan Performances

On April 30th, the NIU Gamelan Ensemble performed. This was the first formal concert directed by Santosa, a master of Javanese gamelan, since he arrived at NIU last fall on a Luce Foundation fellowship. In accordance with Indonesian custom, the ensemble was also given the name “Kyai Sekar Gahdung,” meaning “venerable flowers.” Dr. Roger Vetter, Grinnell College, assisted with the performance. Valerie Vetter, a Javan dancer, performed a dance piece accompanied by the gamelan.

The gamelan also performed at the University of Chicago on April 1st and Beloit College on April 21st.
Grant Olson  
Center for Southeast Asian Studies, NIU  
"Recollecting Memory—The Biography of a Thai Buddhist Monk"  
January 27, 1989

Sidek Baba  
Graduate Student, NIU  
"The Muslim Youth Movement in Malaysia"  
February 3, 1989

Harriet Hart  
Center for Southeast Asian Studies, NIU  
"Visayan Swardspeak—Language of the Gay Community in the Philippines"  
February 10, 1989

Phillip Albano  
Graduate Student, NIU  
"Thailand’s Refugee Policy"  
February 17, 1989

Michael Cullinane  
Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Michigan  
"Bringing in the Brigands: The Politics of Pacification in the Colonial Philippines, 1900-1907"  
February 24, 1989

Michael Bodden  
Graduate Student, University of Wisconsin—Madison  
"Indonesian Theater Today"  
March 3, 1989

Michael Rhum  
Anthropology, NIU  
"Northern Thai Religious Vernacular Literature"  
March 10, 1989

James Scott  
Political Science, Yale University  
"Hegemony: False Consciousness or Laying it on Thick?"  
March 24, 1989

Webb Keane  
Graduate Student, University of Chicago  
"Sumbanese Views of History and Religious Change"  
March 31, 1989

Constance Wilson  
History, NIU  
"Bangkok in 1883"  
April 7, 1989

Vu Duy Min  
Visiting Professor, University of Chicago  
"Vietnam—A Recent Socio-economic Profile"  
April 14, 1989

Theodora Bofman  
Northeastern Illinois University  
"Translating Thai Poetry"  
April 21, 1989

Resil Mojares  
Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, University of Wisconsin—Madison  
"Talking Politics: Political Commentaries on Philippine Radio"  
April 28, 1989

U Khin Win  
Visiting Scientist of the International Rice Research Institute, Manila  
"A Century of Rice Improvement in Burma"  
May 5, 1989
Center Announces
Student Fellowships

FLAS Fellowships

Six FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) Fellowships were awarded for the academic year 1989-90. Four of the students are FLAS recipients for a second consecutive year. The students chosen to receive the fellowships are:

Thai Language:

Phillip Albano
Political Science Major, Second-year recipient

Michael Breen
Political Science Major

David Conner
Adult Continuing Educ. Major, Second-year recipient

Barbara Griffiths
History Major

Elizabeth Prescott
Anthropology Major, Second-year recipient

Indonesian Language:

Andrew Gallagher
Adult Educ./TESOL Major, Second-year recipient

Luce Fellowships

Four full and two one-half Henry Luce Fellowships were awarded for the 1989-90 academic year.

Joselito Fornier
History Major

Jay Hubbard
Political Science Major

Achala Mohanty
Anthropology Major, Spring semester award

Michael Rhodes
Political Science Major

Santosa
Music Major, Second-year Luce recipient

Holly Smith
Anthropology Major, Fall semester award

The Center has recently published E. Paul Durrenberger’s Livu Religion as Occasional Paper no. 13. The monograph primarily describes details of Livu healing rituals, clearly spelling out a “disease causality theory.”

The 14th volume in the Occasional Paper Series will be Ritual, Power, and Economy: Upland-Lowland Contrasts in Mainland Southeast Asia, edited by Susan D. Russell.

Konrad Kingshill’s Ku Daeng—Thirty Years Later will become the Center’s next Special Report. In this monograph, Kingshill goes back to the village in which he did his original ethnography to update his old findings. This Special Report should be ready by late fall of 1989.

The “Special Burma Studies Issue” of Crossroads is available. Included is a set of papers delivered at the inauguration of the Burma Studies Center in July of 1986. This special issue is available for $8 to non-subscribers. Current subscriptions to Crossroads are $10. A check written to the “Center for Southeast Asian Studies” will begin your subscription with the “Special Burma Studies Issue.”

Later this summer, a special Crossroads issue (4:2) will appear with a focus on Thailand. The articles essentially come from research based at NIU or presented on campus by others. The papers include a discussion of the development of Thailand’s eastern seaboard, brothels in Chiang Mai, ghosts in the Nan chronicles, the Thai rice trade in 1885-90, a discussion of “Tai” sacred space, and the “rebirth” and new use of a Buddhist concept by Buddhadasa Bhikkhu.

Call for Papers and Manuscripts

The Center is interested in receiving original scholarship and creative articles for future issues of Crossroads: A Journal of Southeast Asian Studies. The Center is especially seeking articles for its next general issue on Malaysia and the Philippines. Articles on any region will, however, be considered.

The Center is constantly in search of high-quality manuscripts for its Special Report and Occasional Paper Series. For more information on style and format, write the Editor, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115 USA.
Luce Foundation Supports Scholarly Exchange between Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and the United States

Nearly fourteen years after the United States left Vietnam from the roof of its embassy in Saigon, scholars from what is now called Ho Chi Minh City, as well as Hanoi and other parts of Vietnam, will help to establish academic ties between the two nations through the Indochina Scholarly Exchange Program. The Henry Luce Foundation has provided a $250,000 grant of support for this initiative to its sponsor, the New York-based Social Science Research Council.

The award from the Luce Foundation will enable American scholars to travel to Indochina for periods of study, and similarly, scholars from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos to come to the United States. The program will extend over a three-year period, beginning in 1989.

Among the several components of the Indochina Scholarly Exchange Program are research grants to Americans for dissertation and post-doctoral study in and on the three countries of Indochina; support for visiting scholars from the U.S. to Indochina, or from Indochina to the U.S. for periods up to six months; exchange of educational materials; and short-term delegations in both directions.

Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program

The United States Information Agency has announced details of the 1990-91 Fulbright Exchange Program. The teacher exchange program involves a one-on-one exchange for teachers at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels with suitable teachers overseas. For Southeast Asia, this program includes the Philippines. The number of exchanges available and the eligibility requirements vary by country. All programs are announced on a tentative basis and are subject to the availability of funds. Applications will be available this summer. The deadline for receipt of completed applications is October 15, 1989. For further information, write: Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program, E/ASX, United States Information Agency, 301 Fourth St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547 or Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program (202) 485-2555.

International Conference on Thai Studies to be held in China

It was decided at the Third International Conference on Thai Studies held in July 1987 in Canberra, Australia, that the Fourth ICTS is to be held in the middle of May 1990 in the city of Kunming, Yunnan, the People's Republic of China. The aim of the Fourth Conference is to review the achievements in world-wide Thai studies since the Third Conference, to strengthen academic exchanges between Chinese scholars of Thai studies and those of Thailand and other countries, and to promote the further development of Thai studies. The Fourth Conference will be sponsored by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences.

COTS to Meet, Puts out Call for Papers

The Council on Thai Studies (COTS) will have its annual national meeting on October 13th and 14th at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. The Council has issued a call for papers. Submit abstracts or write for information to: COTS Program Committee, c/o Compton, 225 N. Mills St., 276b TEB, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.

Chulalongkorn University's Course "Perspectives on Thailand"

The best orientation tour of Bangkok is not run by any tourist agency but is claimed to be run by one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Thailand. In December of 1988, fifteen foreigners from different countries were taken on an extensive tour of Bangkok guided by top academics and staff members of Chulalongkorn University. The fifteen, however, were no ordinary tourists but candidates registered in a six-week course at the university, entitled "Perspectives on Thailand." The course being offered for the first time is aimed at giving interested foreigners an insight into Thai history, culture, politics, and economy.

Last year, the fee for the course was $1000 plus another $800 for food and lodging on the Chulalongkorn University campus, where most of the lectures are held. Candidates must also pay their own airfares.

The course is comprised of about 120 hours of instruction divided into three broad subjects. Fifty hours are spent on Thai art and culture, forty hours on politics and the economy, and thirty hours on the Thai language. For more information, write to Continuing Education Centre, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok 10500, THAILAND.