

ABSTRACTS***The History of Cambodia's Prehistory: From the Lakeside Site of Samrong Sen to Laang Spean Cave***

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Cambodia's prehistory remains little-known, as if overshadowed by the prestige of grand history, that of Angkor and the earlier episodes of Funan and Zhenla. While prehistoric archaeology is a discreet discipline that is still little practiced today, its beginnings are paradoxically ancient in Cambodia. Early discoveries date back to the end of the 19th century and great names in French prehistory such as Émile Cartailhac were very early interested in distant Indochina through the large Neolithic/Bronze Age lake site of Samrong Sen. This article aims to understand Cambodian prehistory from a historical perspective according to the main chrono-cultural milestones from the Early Paleolithic to the Neolithic through three major sites: the Quaternary terraces of the Mekong, the Laang Spean cave (Battambang province) and the shell middens of Samrong Sen (Kampong Chhnang province).

The Bồng Miêu Gold Mine: A Diachronic Look at Gold Mining in Quảng Nam Province, Vietnam

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Located on the eastern coast of what is now Vietnam, the Bồng Miêu gold mine occupies a strategic position in continental Southeast Asia. Relaunched unsuccessfully in the early 2000s and then abandoned in 2014, it was recently devastated by intense illegal mining, leading to the disappearance of all material traces of previous occupations. Despite this archaeological gap, textual sources and geological data now make it possible to reconstruct an ancient mining history, from gold panning in the first centuries AD—probably even older—to major colonial projects. This site thus offers a unique example

of the evolution of gold mining in Southeast Asia over a long period of time and its role in regional gold supply.

Rediscovering the Wat Ho Phra Kaeo in Vientiane

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It is a hagiographic chronicle written in Pali in the kingdom of Lan Xang in the mid-16th century – the *Amarakaṭabuddharūpanidāna* – that first mentions the arrival in Lao country of the statue of Phra Kaeo, as well as the construction of a temple-palace in Vientiane to house it. The traditional historiographical data for this period can be largely verified, but unfortunately prove insufficient for the periods that followed. It is mainly from a few epigraphic sources that a chronological history of the great temples of Vientiane can then be established. One of these inscriptions, already late but in the continuity of older documents now lost, provides very detailed data on embellishment works at Vat Ho Phra Kaeo at the beginning of the 19th century, including for destroyed developments, but for which archaeologists have found some bases. The architectural analysis also shows the very close similarity of a large number of structures between the old Phra Kaeo palace and Vat Sisaket, as well as the clear influence of Siamese models from the end of the 18th century.

A Delicate Connection: A Note on Diplomatic Correspondence Between Khmer Royalty and the Danish East India Company (1699)

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This article presents, translates, and comments on an exchange of letters between Khmer royalty and the Danish East India Company, recently unearthed from Danish archives. Two letters from Khmer royalty, written in 1699, one in Portuguese and the other in Khmer, shed light on Cambodian diplomatic practices during the Middle Period (14th-18th centuries) (I). The Khmer version of this diplomatic exchange also constitutes the oldest handwritten text in this language to date preserved in the archives, and thus gives exceptional documentary value to this correspondence (II). The whole provides a series of previously unpublished historical information on the last years of the reign of the legislator king Chey Chettha III (r. 1677-1695, 1696-1700, 1701-1706), and particularly on the dignitaries in charge of his diplomacy, from the minister to the *mestizos* in his service (III).