

## ABSTRACTS

***Crossed perspectives on the historiography and epigraphy of Lān Xāng: the case of royal edicts relating to religious practice in the sixteenth century.***

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The purpose of the present contribution is to highlight the existence of important textual correspondences between the chronicles and inscriptions of the ancient kingdom of Lān Xāng. We have taken as a case study some events that took place in Luang Prabang, Vientiane and their immediate surroundings during the first two thirds of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is then possible, through the comparative analysis of manuscript and epigraphic sources, to proceed to valuable cross-references and to lay the foundations of a true methodological approach. Textual criticism already allows – and this is of fundamental importance for the direction to be taken by future studies – a profound immersion into the Lao historiographical tradition, whose different strata are revealed and clarified, as soon as one becomes aware of the logic that governs them.

***Valerius Rist: A German Missionary in Cambodia (1724-1730). Analysis of a travel relation.***

*Patrick ZIEMKE, master student, Modern Studies on Southeast Asia, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin.*

From 1724 to 1730, the Bavarian Franciscan priest Valerius Rist worked as a missionary in Cambodia. In the book *Die Kurtze Reiß-Beschreibung R.P. Valerii Rist*, written by one of his contemporaries, the Franciscan archivist Benerandus Zeidlmair, and based on the travel accounts by Valerius Rist – a primary source that has disappeared today – several chapters describe the details of the Catholic's missionary work as well as some new information about khmer kingship. Of particular scholarly value is the royal decree reproduced in the travel report granting rights to the missionaries. This article critically examines the Cambodia-related sections of the document.

***George Cœdès and Cambodia through his correspondence with his family (1912-1917)***

*Bernard CROS, Chief Engineer of the French Navy, member of the Academy of Var, historian of the French Arsenals and George's Cœdès' grandson.*

Epigraphist George Cœdès' long scientific production spanned 65 years (1904-1969). Cambodia and the Khmer civilisation held a special place in the works and in the heart of the Orientalist scholar. George Cœdès arrived in Asia as a resident of the EFEO in December 1911 and set out on a mission to Cambodia in March 1912. After a one-month trip to the Angkor region, he moved to Phnom Penh, where he soon started a Franco-Cambodian family. His wife, who was related to the Cambodian aristocracy and well introduced among the monks, facilitated his integration into Khmer society. During the five years he spent mainly in Cambodia, Cœdès undertook a real quest for religious manuscripts, which he confronted with inscriptions and other bas-reliefs of Khmer temples. His understanding of civilisation and language soon enabled him to play an important role in the knowledge, preservation and perpetuation of an ancestral culture. George Cœdès' correspondence, preserved by his family and the EFEO archives, allows us to trace his journey and actions in Cambodia from 1912 to 1917.

***Angkor's masks [Masques d'Angkor]. Between India and Us. Art and Politics in Southeast Asia. Chapter IV. The Churning of the Sea of Milk.***

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The present edition is based on the typescript prepared on January 1994 by the Société des Amis de Paul Mus (SAPM), from a manuscript that occupied the scholar during the last years of his life. It constitutes the fourth chapter of Mus's unpublished book on the Khmer temple of Bayon, entitled *Masques d'Angkor* (c. 1961-1969). It is preceded by an introduction that traces the author's thinking on this twelfth-century Buddhist site and also attempts to describe his orientalist approach in a more general way.