



l'Agenda de l'EFEO

Lettre d'information mensuelle de l'École française d'Extrême-Orient
Monthly Newsletter of the French School of Asian Studies

January 2007

Editorial

May I wish a happy and profitable new year to all the members of the EFEO, along with other readers of our Newsletter!

In the Editorial page of the *Newsletter* for the beginning of this new year we are reproducing a review, by my distinguished predecessor as Director of the EFEO, Léon Vandermeersch, of the recent ceremonies honoring Jao Tsung-I. A pre-eminent Chinese man of letters and great friend of our School, a member from 1974 to 1976, Jao Tsung-I contributed greatly to the development of several fields of Sinological study in France, including that of the manuscripts and paintings from Dunhuang. The EFEO also owes to his efforts the establishment of the Hong Kong Center. All the researchers who have worked at the Center have benefited from his advice and friendship. On this occasion the EFEO showed their appreciation for his work by republishing his *Poèmes du Lac noir* (see below), a collection of the poems composed and calligraphed by Jao during his time in France and Switzerland, in the translation by Paul Demiéville.

Franciscus Verellen

On this New Year's Eve, the ninetieth birthday of my old master, Jao Tsung-I, is being celebrated with great festivities both in Hong Kong and in his native village Chaozhou. He was born on August 9, 1917, but in worldwide Chinese fashion it is on January 1, 2007, that he is regarded as entering into his ninetieth year. From December 13 to 18 participants from five continents gathered to congratulate the man who today is probably the most famous Chinese man of letters. My role in the events, in addition to my personal attachment to this master over almost fifty years, was to represent the EFEO.

The first evening was dedicated to the opening of an exhibition of more than two hundred of the master's calligraphic, pictorial, and literary works, along with philological studies, set up in the Central Library of the Government of Hong Kong. This was followed by a grand banquet at the Wanchai Convention Center. Prominent among the celebrities present were Tsang Yam-kuen (Zeng Yinquan) (Chief Executive of Hong Kong), Gao Siren (the co-director of the Peking government's Delegation to Hong Kong), the linguist Xi Lialu (Leader of the Association for the Advancement of Democracy, one of the eight small non-Communist political parties authorized since 1949) whose contributions impressed me by their high quality, the billionaire Li Ka-shin (Li Jiacheng), and a veritable host of top academics. Over the next two days a grand scholarly colloquium was held at Hong Kong University (HKU) to which 250 registrants had sent in contributions, of which 180 were presented on the spot by their authors and then discussed in eight separate sections: oracle inscriptions and paleography, inscriptions on bamboo and silk and archaic literature, archaeology and ancient history, history of cultural flow and exchanges to and from China, Dunhuang studies, history and traditions of Chaozhou, religious studies and fine arts. I was honored to be the keynote speaker and so presented my paper (on the scapulomantic roots of the Chinese conception of history) on the first morning of the meeting, in the plenary session, right after those of the Chair, Xu Jialu, and

Liu Cunren, former vice-president of the Australian National University. This honor went far beyond me personally; it was a tribute to the tradition of French Sinology, from Chavannes to Demiéville, which Jao Tsung-I, repeatedly praised in highest terms. This impressive scholarly display, whose breadth reflects Jao Tsung-I's wide ranging contributions across all Sinological fields and whose proceedings will be published shortly, was followed by yet another celebration. On the evening of the third day the twentieth anniversary of the founding of HKU's Chinese Studies Institute was recognized, once again followed by a great banquet, this time in a restaurant serving the traditional foods of Chaozhou.

On the fourth day, Saturday the 16th, we were taken early in the day by bus to Lantau Island, to Ngon Ping (Angping). There, not far from the Great Buddha, in the freezing cold and buffeted by powerful winds, we went to see the Forest of the Arrows of the Heart Sutra, a grouping, set up in 2002, of 38 concrete columns, each about ten meters high and each engraved with one of the verses of the text of the sutra, in 260 characters calligraphed by Jao Tsung-I in 2001. From there, the buses took us to Shenzhen, where we lunched before going on to Chaozhou, arriving after six hours on the road.

Sunday the 17th began with a great meeting in the Amphitheater of Honor at Chaozhou University, where a series of speeches in praise of Jao Tsung-I were given before the assembled students. In the afternoon we visited several of the important sites in this historic city with its still imposing city walls: the Museum of the Forest of Steles preserving facsimiles of 350 famous inscriptions from Yin times to our own; the Kaiyuan si, founded during the Tang and today embellished with a remarkable set of gilded bronze statues offered to the temple by natives of the town who had emigrated to Thailand; and the museum of local porcelain manufactures, considered as rivaling those of Jindezhen. In the evening yet another great banquet was thrown by the provincial authorities of Chaozhou, Shantou, and Canton.

On the last day – Monday, the 18th – at 10 a.m. we attended the inauguration of the Little Jao Tsung-I School in Chaozhou to the musical accompaniment of several bands made up of school children and folk musicians, lion dances, and strings of fire crackers. This school is a branch of the one at HKU, but on a much bigger scale, housed in an elegant group of Ming style buildings erected near the south gate. The buildings surround a square courtyard and house, in about ten rooms, paintings, samples of calligraphy, and various editions of the works of Jao Tsung-I along with a collection of biographic memorabilia including a large picture of Jao with Demiéville in front of the château of Chillon, near Lausanne, and another large photo of Jao at Bures-sur-Yvette, at the home of Bottéro, discussing cuneiform script and Chinese characters. The afternoon was time for everyone to return home. To avoid any chance of missed connections, the organizers were kind enough to provide a limousine for three of us, including me, who had to catch evening flights in Hong Kong. We got to Shenzhen in three and half hours, and from there we were provided taxis to our hotel (the Ramada) or directly to the airport. By midnight I was on the Cathay Airlines flight to Paris.

The six days in Hong Kong and Chaozhou were covered by dozens of Chinese journalists. All the newspapers in Hong Kong had extensive front page coverage, including photos. It's a pity that no foreign journalists – French, English, American – and no representative of the French consulate was interested in participating in such an unusual event honoring an extraordinarily Francophile Chinese intellectual, a man holding an honorary doctorate at the EPHE, an officer of the French Order of Arts and Letters. But maybe we should rather be pleased that genuine culture, even if temporarily gripped by unlikely media attention, can escape the froth of the daily press. Jao Tsung-I, whom I have at other times seen the recipient of hatred for his bourgeois birth, and scorned for his old-style literary education outside the university system, values his lifetime of dedicated classical studies more than

the passing glory of a celebration, no matter how extravagant. His admiration of Chavannes, Pelliot, Granet, Maspero, and Demiéville arises from the fact that he realizes that they understood very well the original nature of the humanism of the most ancient of the living cultures in today's world without confusing it with the droning noises – heard only by pedestrian specialists – of the surface agitation of the Sinological world. This world has not yet entirely recovered from the great swing away from Occidental domination even though such domination has reached its end.
Léon Vandermeersch

Paris

Colloquia, missions, and meetings

On January 22 Franciscus Verellen, Director, will take part in the conference in Brussels on *Science et société: recherches en sciences sociales et humaines* [Science and society: research in the social and humane sciences] organized on the occasion of the launching of the 7th FPRD [Framework Programme for Research and Development] (2007-2013).

franciscus.verellen@efeo.net

From January 13 to 21 Yves Goudineau, Director of Studies, will be visiting Bangkok to take part in the work of the EFEO Buddhist studies team, especially the *Dhamma et prédication* [Dhamma and preaching] workshop (see below).

yves.goudineau@efeo.net

On January 18 and 19 Frédéric Girard will be in Bangkok for the same EFEO Buddhist studies workshop.

frédéric.girard@efeo.net

<http://www.efeo.fr/actualites/asie.shtml#thaib>

Personnel

Éric Bourdonneau, post-doctoral researcher recruited by the EFEO on an eight-month contract, will be attached to the Phnom Penh Center from January 1 to August 31, 2007.

valerie.liger-belair@efeo.net

<http://www.efeo.fr/actualites/personnel.shtml>

Florida Chance is the new curator of the South Asia collection in our library beginning January 1. She is replacing Christine Raphaël.

valerie.liger-belair@efeo.net

<http://www.efeo.fr/actualites/personnel.shtml>

Publications

Claire-Akiko Brisset, Pascal Griolet, Christophe Marquet, Marianne Simon-Oikawa (editors in chief), *Du pinceau à la typographie. Regards japonais sur l'écriture et le livre* [From paintbrush to typography. Japanese views of script and books]. EFEO, Études Thématiques No. 20, 2006, 417 pp. Joint publication with the Maison franco-japonaise and the Centre d'études japonaises of the INALCO.

Jao Tsung-Yi, *Poèmes du Lac noir* [Poems from the Black Lake] (translated by Paul Demiéville), published by the EFEO with the support of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research l'Enseignement supérieur et à la recherche, Nancy, November 2006, 30 pp.

François Lagirarde, "Notes on Field Digitization and Cataloging of Palm Leaf Manuscripts in the Northern-Thai Context," in *Enriching the Past: Preservation, Conservation and Study of Myanmar Manuscripts*, Teruko Saito and U Thaw Kaung (editors), Center for Documentation and Area-Transcultural Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, 2006, pp. 152-162.

Jacques Gaucher, *De la maison à la ville en pays tamoul* [From house to town in Tamil country]. EFEO "Mémoires archéologiques" collection no. 23, Paris, 2006, 520 pp.

Claude Jacques, *Manuel d'épigraphie du Cambodge* [Manual of epigraphy in Cambodia]. Joint publication by the EFEO and UNESCO, Paris, 2006, 300 pp.

Arts Asiatiques, 60 (2005), Paris, 197 pp., ill.

astrid.aschehoug@efeo.net

<http://www.efeo.fr/publications/aa.shtml> - <http://www.efeo.fr/publications/vdp.shtml>

EFEO-Paris Seminar

The next EFEO-Paris seminar will be held on Monday, January 22 (12:30-2 p.m.) at the Maison de l'Asie: a presentation by Tai Li-chuan, researcher at the History and Philology Institute of the Academia Sinica on the topic "Theillard de Chardin: un conseiller français dans les campagnes de fouille à Zhoukoudian" [Theillard de Chardin, a French adviser at the excavations at Zhoukoudian].

elisabeth.lacroix@efeo.net

<http://www.efeo.fr/index.shtml>

Instruction at the Maison de l'Asie

Wednesday, January 10: Michel Boivin (Research director at the CNRS) will present a talk on "Les Sindhis du Gujarat, état de la recherche" [The Sindhis of Gujarat: current research status] as part of Pierre Lachauer's seminar *Études gujarati, société, langue et culture* [Gujarati studies: society, language, and culture] (6 to 8 p.m, second floor meeting room).

elisabeth.lacroix@efeo.net

http://www.efeo.fr/actualites/cours_ma.shtml

Of Special Note

The Academy Channel <http://www.canalacademie.com/article1226.html> (the radio station of the Académie française): the welcome speech pronounced by Jean Leclant, Permanent Secretary, at the 24 November 2006 annual commencement ceremony in honor of the King of Cambodia, Norodom Sihamoni, in which he evoked the close ties between the EFEO and Cambodia.

The visit to the EFEO of His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni of Cambodia is part of a photo essay about his state visit to France during November, published on his Majesty's personal website: http://www.norodomsihamoni.org/news_f.php?lan=F&year=2006&month=11&day=23&seq1

The Office of Higher Education has asked the EFEO, like all public organizations, to set up a plan for communication in case of an avian flu pandemic. The EFEO's plan will be available on our website early in January. For further information on precautions in France, you may also consult www.santé.gouv.fr and www.grippeaviaire.gouv.fr
valerie.liger-belair@efeo.net

Life in the Centers

Pondicherry

From 2 to 13 January the Pondicherry center is organizing a workshop on early Shivaism: the testimony of the *Nisvasatattvasamhita*. This two week workshop will bring together international specialists in Shivaite literature with the intention of establishing a preliminary critical edition.

dominic.goodall@efeo.net

<http://www.efeo.fr/actualites/asia.shtml#inde>

Bangkok

The Bangkok center will be welcoming the EFEO Buddhist Studies team at the Sirindhorn Center on 18 and 19 January for a workshop on “Dhamma et prédication” [Dhamma and preaching].

françois.lagiarde@efeo.net

<http://www.efeo.fr/actualites/asia.shtml#thaib>

Vientiane

At the invitation of the Academia Sinica (as part of its exchange program with the EFEO) Michel Lorrillard will be in Taiwan from 22 January to 8 February. He will be presenting his current work and will also carry out documentary research in the Academia's rich collections.

michel.lorrillard@efeo.net

Phnom Penh

In mid-January Bertrand Porte will be visiting the Vietnam History Museum in Ho Chi Minh City to work on the organization of their reserve collections.

bertrand.porte@efeo.net

Siem Reap

From 14 January to 19 April the Siem Reap Center will welcome the architects Adeline Couëron and Anthony Hamon, recipients of scholarships from the EDF foundation, under this year's theme of “water architectures.”

As part of the archaeological mission in the Angkor area, Armand Desbat (research director at the CNRS, Maison de l'Orient Méditerranéen) will be in residence in Siem Reap for a month beginning in January to study, with an assistant, ceramic material excavated at Roluos since 2004.

During December, 2006, Christophe Pottier gave former President Bill Clinton a tour of the main temples of Angkor.

christophe.pottier@efeo.net

Taipei

Frédéric Obringer, research director at the CNRS, will visit Taipei from 15 to 20 January on the occasion of the lecture series organized by the EFEO and the Institut français de Taipei. On 17 January he will give a lecture entitled “The Curiosity, the King, the Emperor, and the Missionaries” at the Academia Sinica.

fabiennedjagou@efeo.net

<http://www.efeo.fr/actualites/asia.shtml#tai>

Tokyo

Workshop on research on the history of the book during the Edo period, Tuesday, 23 January (Tôyô bunko, 13 p.m.). Kobayashi Fumiko (Université Hôsei University) will talk about “Les livrets de

kyôka illustrés conservés à la Bibliothèque nationale de France” [Illustrated *kyôka* booklets preserved in the French National Library].

Doctoral methodology seminar, co-organized by the Maison franco-japonaise and the EFEO (6 p.m., MFJ, Tokyo, room 601) :

- Friday, 12 January, Elsa Legittimo (International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies, EFEO scholarship holder) will talk on “L'étude des traductions chinoises des textes bouddhiques : l'exemple du *Pusa chutai jing*” [The study of Chinese translations of Buddhist texts: the example of the *Pusa chutai jing*].

- Wednesday, 31 January, Eddy Dufourmont (INALCO, Tokyo University): “Le confucianisme et le Japon du XX^e siècle: autour de Yasuoka Masahiro (1898-1983)” [Confucianism and twentieth-century Japan: concerning Yasuoka Masahiro (1898-1983)].

christophe.marquet@efeo.net

<http://www.efeo.fr/actualites/asie.shtml#tokyo>

Seoul

As part of the *Souvenirs de Séoul, France-Corée 1886-1905* [Memories of Seoul, France-Korea 1886-1905] project, on 15 January Élisabeth Chabanol will give a lecture entitled “Victor Collin de Plancy et les relations franco-coréennes de 1886 à 1905” [Victor Collin de Plancy and Franco-Korean relations between 1886 and 1905] at the inauguration of the exhibition at the Médiathèque de l'agglomération troyenne [Media Library of the Troyes District].

elisabeth.chabanol@efeo.net

<http://www.efeo.fr/actualites/europe.shtml>

Consult back issues of the Newsletter at http://www.efeo.fr/archives/agenda_arch.shtml

If you encounter difficulties displaying or printing this Newsletter, or no longer wish to receive it, please inform Isabelle Pujol. isabelle.pujol@efeo.net