

June 2010

Editorial

As is well known, the demonstrations against the Thai government that began in March of this year have resulted in violence. The first phase of the demonstrations—in March and April—took place on Ratchadamnoen Avenue, which was continuously occupied all the way to Pinklao Bridge leading to Thonburi (the location of the EFEO's Bangkok Center). This meant that access from the center of the city to our offices and back again became very difficult for quite some time. The situation led every day to terrible traffic jams in a city already notorious for its constant traffic problems.

After the street fighting on April 10, the demonstrators set themselves up in the more central district of Rajprasong, which was quickly encircled by military and police forces and closed to all traffic. Instantly all public transportation systems stopped operations, the government ordered the closing of all public buildings, and a furlough was decreed for all city employees. Central Bangkok was completely paralyzed. As a result, the Sirindhorn Center and the EFEO were closed from May 13 to 24.

After the attack launched by the forces of law and order on May 19, which was followed by a wave of fires in more than thirty public buildings, a tenuous calm has returned, but the curfew is still in effect. The inconveniences to the EFEO's personnel in Bangkok are nothing, however, compared to the deep concern felt by the whole population as the deep social rifts that have manifested themselves continue, sadly, to be very serious.

François Lagirarde

In Memoriam

It is with great sorrow that we have learnt of the death, on April 24, of Savang Phinith. He was 72 years old. From 1972 to 1992 he was a member of the EFEO. With his deep knowledge of Laotian culture, he participated in the team put together by P. B. Lafont to carry out multidisciplinary research in continental southeast Asia. His principal field of study concerned both the ancient and modern history of Laos, but he was also interested in popular literature (tales and legends) and traditional music. After spending some thirty years in France, where he had come for his university education, Savang Phinith—who had retained his Laotian citizenship—returned to live in Vientiane. Beginning in 1993 he worked for a further twelve years at the former EFEO center there. All those who knew him will treasure the memory of a deeply generous and attentive man who had the talent of instantly communicating his good humor. Saveng Phinith, in his own way, manifested the charms of that Lao soul so seductive to those who know it. On April 28 the EFEO honored his memory at his funeral at the great Pagoda in Choisy-le-Roy.

Michel Lorrillard

Paris

Colloquia, visits, and meetings

Franciscus Verellen, Director, has delayed his work at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies (scheduled for May) until June 6 to 20. On June 2, accompanied by Sophie Alexandra, the secretary of the European Consortium for Asian Fieldwork, he will go to Heidelberg for a meeting with the directors of the Institute for South Asian Studies, a member of the ECAF group, and the Heidelberg Europe-Asia development center

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On June 14, François Lachaud will publish *Le Vieil Homme qui vendait du thé: excentricité et retrait du monde dans le Japon du XVIII^e siècle* [The Old Tea Seller: eccentricity and withdrawal from the world in the Japan of the 17th century], Paris: Les Éditions du Cerf, in the series “Conférences de l’École pratique des Hautes Études [Lectures at the EPHE],” 2010. From June 28 to 29 he will be in Lisbon to present the work he has co-edited with Dejanirah Couto: *Empires éloignés: l’Europe et le Japon XVI^e-XIX^e siècle* [Distant empires: Europe and Japan in the 16th to 19th centuries], Paris: EFEO, 2010, in the series “Études thématiques,” 24. He will also give a talk entitled “Femmes fatales et crimes étranges dans la littérature et les arts du Japon (1853-1945) [Femmes fatales and strange crimes in Japanese literature and art (1853-1945)]” on the occasion of the colloquium of the Société Asiatique to be held at the Collège de France on June 21 and 22.

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

The Administrative and Scholarly Councils of the EFEO will meet on Thursday, June 24, at the EFEO headquarters

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On June 12, Kuo Liying will take part in the jury handing the candidacy of Françoise Wang-Toutain (CNRS) for her HDR (qualification to direct research) under the direction of Jean-Pierre Drège. Her thesis is on the subject “Particularités du bouddhisme chinois et bouddhisme tibétain en Chine” [Special features of Chinese Buddhism and Tibetan Buddhism in China],” at the École pratique des hautes études (EPHE IV^e)

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Accounting Division

From May 31 to June 4 Emmanuelle Maury, accountant, and Monique Corradi will be carrying out an audit of the accounts of the EFEO Center in Peking.

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Library

Cristina Cramerotti, chief librarian, will be visiting the Chiang Mai Center from June 15 to 19. She will be organizing the internal management of the new library

now being constructed there. She will also be preparing the moving of collections and their installation in the new facility. This should be happening during the autumn.

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EFEO Paris Seminar

The next EFEO-Paris seminar will be on Monday, June 28 (12:30-2:00 p.m.). Philippe Papin (École pratique des hautes études) will speak on the topic “Piété populaire et dons d’argent dans les villages vietnamiens aux XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles [Popular piety and gifts of money in Vietnamese villages in the 17th and 18th centuries],” at the Maison de l’Asie (2nd floor lecture room, 22 avenue du Président Wilson, 75116 Paris).

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

Iéna Lectures (EFEO – Guimet Museum)

Thursday, June 3 (12:15 to 1:30 p.m.), “Décrire, interroger, convaincre: les figures de la vie ordinaire dans l’imagerie vietnamienne” [Describe, interrogate, convince: scenes from daily life in Vietnamese imagery], a lecture by Philippe Papin (École pratique des hautes études) in the auditorium of the Guimet Museum, 6 place d’Iéna, Paris 75116.

Thursday, June 24 (12:15 to 1:30 p.m.), “Colonial Resistance as seen by Vietnamese Graphic Artists from the 1950s,” lecture by Nora Taylor (School of the Art Institute of Chicago) at the EFEO, first floor meeting room, Maison de l’Asie, 22 avenue du Président Wilson, 75116.

<http://www.efeo.fr/ConfIéna/index.html>

Instruction at the Maison de l’Asie

Seminar on *Études Gujarati et sindhi: sociétés, langues et cultures* [Gujarati and Sindhi studies: societies, languages, and cultures], directed by Pierre Lachaiet: presentation by Finbarr Barry Flood (William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Humanities in the Institute of Fine Arts and Department of Art History at New York University) on the topic “Conflit et cosmopolitisme, dans le Sindh arabe [Conflict and comopolitism in Arab Sindh].” Tuesday, June 29, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

<http://www.efeo.fr/actualites/cours.shtml> et http://www.efeo.fr/actualites/cours_ma.shtml

Of Special Note

The PCRD project No. 7 "IDEAS" (*Integrating and Developing European Asian Studies*), coordinated by the EFEO, has launched its internet site: www.ideasconsortium.eu.

The fight against the illegal traffic in cultural goods in Cambodia: on Tuesday, June 15, at 9:30 a.m., the EFEO will welcome the International Council of

Museums (ICOM) for the presentation of the Red List of Threatened Cambodian Antiquities, as well as a round table on “Trafic illicite de biens culturels – Protéger le site d’Angkor [Illegal traffic in cultural goods; protection of the Angkor site].”

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La vie des centres

Pondicherry

At the *Tamil World* Conference to be held at Coimbatore June 23 to 25, Thomas Lehmann will give address on “Typology of the *Ullurai* and *Iraicci* in Classical Tamil Poetry” and Eva Wilden will talk on “Text Constitution and Manuscripts: the Cases of Kuruntokai, Narrinai, and Akananuru.”

R. Sathyanarayanan will take part in the 45th *All India Oriental Conference* at Tirupati. He will give a lecture entitled “Nirmalya in Saiva and Vaisnava Scriptures.”

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Bangkok

On June 8, Peter Skilling will lecture on the topic “Buddhist scriptures in 2010: an overview” in the course *Histoire et doctrines du bouddhisme* [History and doctrines of Buddhism] organized by Jean-Noël Robert, Matthew Kapstein, and Sylvie Hureau (6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Delamarre Room).

On June 12, Peter Skilling will take part in the jury handing the candidacy of Françoise Wang-Toutain (CNRS) for her HDR (qualification to direct research) under the direction of Jean-Pierre Drège. Her thesis is on the subject “Particularités du bouddhisme chinois et bouddhisme tibétain en Chine” [Special features of Chinese Buddhism and Tibetan Buddhism in China],” at the École pratique des hautes études (EPHE IV^e).

On June 15 and 17, as part of the colloquium on *Lecteurs et copistes* [Readers and copyists] (UMR 7528), Peter Skilling will consider the topic “Merits and materialities of manuscript culture: Random notes on Buddhist North India” (Sorbonne nouvelle - Paris 3, the Las Vergnas Room).

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Phnom Penh

On June 8 Eric Bourdonneau will go to Siem Reap to take part in the 19th technical session of the international committee coordinating the protection and development of the Angkor site. He will present the results of the archaeological investigation carried on during March and April of this year at Koh Ker, on the hill called the “Tomb of the White Elephant” (the Prasat Thom ritual complex).

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Peking

The EFEO's Peking Center is beginning a new series of lectures on representations of the afterlife as seen through archaeology and art history. The first lecture will be given by Marc Etienne (chief curator of Egyptian antiquities at the Louvre) on the topic "Pyramides, sarcophages et Livres des Morts: l'au-delà modélisé [Pyramids, sarcophagi, and Books of the Dead: models of the afterlife]" on Tuesday, June 8, at 2:30 p.m. (Palace Museum of Peking, lecture hall 2). Contacts: Marianne Bujard (EFEO), Alain Thote (EFEO) Tel.: 64 00 69 99 (office). E-mail: efeo2002@yahoo.com.cn
<http://www.efeo.fr/actualites/asie.shtml#pekin>

Jakarta

From June 1 to 17 Arlo Griffiths will be visiting Vietnam as part of the program *Corpus des inscriptions du Campa* [Corpus of Champa Inscriptions]. He will be taking impressions of inscription in the provinces of Ninh Thuan and Khanh Hoa and then will be studying the epigraphy collection at the National Vietnamese Historical Museum in Hanoi.

Hong Kong

As part of a program of exchanges of students and researchers between the EFEO and Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Zhu Yiwen, doctoral candidate in the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, will be visiting France from May 13 to June 10, to collect materials pertaining to a thesis on "Textes du rituel du salut par raffinement dans le taoïsme des Song [Texts of the ritual of health through refining in Song Taoism]."

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

Taipei

From June 20 to 26, Pierre Monnet (Director of Studies at the EHESS, and President of the Franco-German University) will be in Taipei to take part in the lecture series *Nouvelles perspectives sur l'histoire politique et culturelle de l'Europe médiévale* [New perspectives on the political and cultural history of medieval Europe] organized jointly by the Taiwanese National University, the EHESS, the EPHE, and the EFEO Center in Taipei. He will give two lectures in the History Department of the Taiwanese National University – on Tuesday, June 22, and Friday, June 25 (2:30 to 5:00 p.m.) on the following topics:

1. L'histoire du fait politique médiéval à l'aune des historiographies française (sur un royaume) et allemande (sur un Empire) [The history of medieval politics as seen in French historiography (royal) and German (imperial)].
2. Les villes dans l'Empire et les royaumes d'Occident au Moyen-Âge: constructions et structures territoriales, politiques et juridiques [Towns in the

Empire and kingdoms of the West in the middle ages: territorial, political, and juridical constructs and structures].

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Tokyo

On June 12, Frédéric Girard will give a plenary lecture at Waseda University on the topic “Le *Compendium Catholicae Veritatis* de P. Gomez dans sa version japonaise (1595) et les religions japonaises [Fr. Gomez’s *Compendium Catholicae Veritatis* in its Japanese version (1595) and Japanese religions]” as part of the 27th *Symposium of the Oriental Philosophy Society* of Waseda University, organized by Professor Kobayashi Masami (Toyama campus, building 33-2, 3rd floor, Lecture Room 1, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.).

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The Buddhism seminar of the EFEO’s Tokyo Center, led by Iyanaga Nobumi, will be held on Monday, June 7 and 21 (6:00 to 8:00 p.m.), in the lecture room of the Tôyô bunko: reading of the *Ôjōyōshū* de Genshin 31 and 32.

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Seoul

Élisabeth Chabanol (EFEO), Valérie Gelézeau (EHESS), and Koen de Ceuster (Leiden University) will give a lecture on the topic “Interfaces, Interstices, and Enclaves: a decade of Korean debordering (1998-2008),” on June 21 at the Asiatic Research Institute of Koryo University.

Ms. Yuwen Weng (Assistant Curator at the Taipei National Palace Museum) will be in Korea from June 21 to 30 as part of the agreement linking the EFEO with the Museum. She will be doing research on Korean celadon ware.

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

Consult back issues of the Newsletter at

http://www.efeo.fr/archives/agenda_arch.shtml

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