



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

May 2007

Editorial

We were sad to learn of the death on April 1 of our colleague T. V. Gopal Iyer (born April 20, 1926), a Tamil researcher known both nationally and internationally, who died after a long illness in a hospital in Srirangam. Mr. Iyer, a pandit in Classical Tamil, worked for the EFEO for almost thirty years. During this time he published a large number of books and articles on a wide range of subjects but mostly in the fields of *bhakti* (devotional literature) and *ilakkanam* (grammar and poetics). Despite his advanced age, Mr. Iyer continued to teach with great enthusiasm, working with both Indian and western students. He took great pleasure in participating in the annual meetings of the Classical Tamil Winter School. A gathering in his honor was held at the EFEO Center (19 rue Dumas) on April 4. His brother T. S. Gangadharan (EFEO) and his sister T. V. Kamalambal (IFP) took part in the event. This memorial ceremony brought together more than a hundred people, among them members of the two French institutions, but also many researchers, students, and admirers from Tamil research circles. The loss of Mr. Iyer has been a terrible shock not only for the EFEO but for the entire field of Tamil Studies.

Eva Wilden

Paris

Colloquia, missions, and meetings

Franciscus Verellen, director, will go to Vienna on May 11 at the invitation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (AIEA) to make a presentation on the conservation work being done by the EFEO in Asia, with a view to cooperation between the two organizations in the application of new technologies for analysis and dating in archaeology.

From May 28 to June 3 Franciscus Verellen will be in Moscow, participating in the congress of the Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative (ECAI, University of California, Berkeley). He will be laying the ground for a cooperative project between the EFEO and the ECAI in the field of information and communications technology and geographical information systems.

franciscus.verellen@efeo.net

Yves Goudineau, director of studies, will attend the conference on *Les identités corporelles au Vietnam d'hier à aujourd'hui : métamorphoses et diversités* [Corporal identities in Vietnam past and today: metamorphoses and diversity], organized with the participation of the EFEO by the East Asia Institute and the École normale supérieure at Lyon on May 14 and 15. He will also take part in the international colloquium on *Les nouveaux essentialismes* [The new existentialisms] to be held in Paris from May 22 to 25 at the Ministry for Higher Education and Research.

yves.goudineau@efeo.net

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

The Recruitment Committee of the EFEO will meet on May 7. On May 30 the election will take place of representatives of the School's academic and administrative staff to the Board of Administrators and the Academic Council.

valerie.liger-belair@efeo.net

Library

Exchanges of publications with The Institute of Oriental Culture, the Nichibunken Research Center, Tokyo University, The University of Maryland, the Monumenta Serica Institute, the Institut français de Pondichéry, Yale University, Lund University, the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), and the ICABS.

antony.boussemart@efeo.net

<http://www.efeo.fr/documentation/actudocu.shtml>

Publications

Richard Pottier, *Yu Di Mi Heng "Être bien, avoir de la Force": Essai sur les pratiques thérapeutiques lao* ["Being well and being strong": Essay on Lao therapeutic practices], monograph No. 192, Paris: EFEO, 2007, 548 pp.

astrid.aschehoug@efeo.net

Dominic Goodall and André Padoux (ed.), *Mélanges tantriques à la mémoire d'Hélène Brunner* [Tantric Studies in Memory of Hélène Brunner], Collection Indologie, n° 106. Paris: IFP/EFEO, 2007, 582 pp.

France Bhattacharya, *La victoire de Manasa. Traduction française du Manasavijaya, poème bengali de Vipradasa (XV^e)* [The Victory of Manasa. French translation of the *Manasavijaya*, a Bengali poem by Vipradasa (15th century)]. Collection Indologie, No. 105. Paris IFP/EFEO, 2007, XXXI + 468 pp.

Bénédicte Brac de la Perrière and Marie Louise Reiniche (compilers), *Les Apparences du Monde: Royautés hindoues et bouddhiques de l'Asie du Sud et du Sud-Est*, [Worldly appearances: Hindu and Buddhist royalties in South and Southeast Asia]. Paris: EFEO, Études thématiques 15, 2007.

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

Award

The Franco-Korean Cultural Prize for 2006 has just been awarded to Élisabeth Chabanol for the catalog she produced for the exhibitions entitled *Souvenirs de Séoul, France-Corée 1886-1905* [Memories of Seoul: France and Korea, 1886-1905]. The award will be made on May 9 by the Korean Ambassador to France at the Cercle de l'Union Interalliée in Paris.

EFEO-Paris Seminar

The next EFEO-Paris Seminar will be held on Monday, May 21 (12:30 – 2 p.m.) at the Maison de l'Asie. Alain Arrault and Michela Bussotti will make a presentation on the subject of "Des statues vivantes et loquaces. La statuaire religieuse de la province du Hunan en Chine moderne et contemporaine" [Living, speaking statues: religious sculpture from Hunan province in modern, contemporary China].

elisabeth.lacroix@efeo.net

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

Maison de l'Asie

The Maison de l'Asie will be closed on Whit Monday (May 28).

maisondelasie@efeo.net

Of Special Interest

As part of the seminar on the History of Indian Buddhism directed by Cristina Scherrer-Schaub (EPHE, Religious Sciences Division):

- Lectures by Vincent Eltschinger on “La philosophie religieuse des théoriciens bouddhistes de la connaissance, les maîtres indiens de Nalanda et Vikramashila (6^e - 13^e s.)” [The religious philosophy of Buddhist theoreticians on awareness, the Indian masters of Nalanda and Vikramashila (6th to 13th centuries)], at the Sorbonne, on May 14 and 21 (5 to 7 p.m., Dumézil Room), and May 15 and 22 (from 9 to 11 a.m., Mauss Room).
- Lectures by Déborah Klimburg-Salter “L’art bouddhique tardif d’Afghanistan. Nouvelles directions de la recherche” [Late Buddhist art in Afghanistan – new research prospects], all at 5 p.m., at 52 rue du Cardinal Lemoine (Mendès-France Room), on the following dates: May 16, “The Kabul Museum: The rediscovery of the Hindu Kush collections: Bamiyan, Kakrak, Fondukistan”; May 23, “New Research on the Chronology of the monumental complex in the Bamiyan Valley, phase I”; May 30, “New Research on the Chronology of the mural painting of Bamiyan, Kakrak, Fonduskistan, phase II.”

cristina.Scherrer-Schaub@unil.ch

Life in the Centers

Pondicherry

S. L. P. Anjenaya Sarma will take part in the Brahma Sabha on the Advaita Vedanta theme from May 29 to June 1, in Pudukottai and conducted by Sankara Bhaktasabha, in Secunderabad from May 2 to 4.

During May the EFEO Center will be closed for vacation.

dominic.goodall@efeo.net

Phnom Penh

From May 10 to 31 Bertrand Porte will be visiting Taipei at the invitation of the Institute for History and Philology of the Academia Sinica. He will give the following lectures, organized by the EFEO Center in Taipei:

- “The History of the Phnom Penh Museum,” at the Palace Museum, on May 14;
- “Conservation and restoration works on pre-angkhorian sculptures,” at the Institute for History and Philology, on May 15;
- “A pre-angkhorian statue of Krsna Govardhana du Phnom Da,” and the Huafan University Center for Research on the National Heritage and the Commission for Taiwanese Cultural Affairs.

Bertrand.porte@efeo.net , fabienne.jagou@efeo.net

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

Hanoi

Andrew Hardy will be in Paris from May 7 to 11. Then, on May 21 and 22, he will be in Hanoi for the colloquium entitled *Rescuing the Past: Challenges and*

Opportunities in Cultural Heritage Conservation and Development, organized at the Vietnamese Historical Museum by the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture and Information, the Lerici Foundation (Milan), and the Italian Embassy in Vietnam. He will present a lecture on “The Political Economy of Eaglewood in Champa and Vietnam.”

andrew.hardy@efeo.net

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

Jakarta

Daniel Perret will be making an archaeological field visit to Padang Lawas (North Sumatra) from May 24 to July 7.

daniel.perret@efeo.net

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Peking

The Peking Center is continuing its series of study days dedicated to a consideration of certain distinguishing traits of the politico-religious cultures of the Han dynasty and the Roman world. These meetings bring together French specialists on Rome and their Chinese colleagues working on ancient China. The aim is to determine the current state of research in the two fields, to give rise to new ways of looking at the subjects, and to promote continuing deepened exchanges among historians of the Chinese and Roman worlds.

The May meeting will deal with the relationship between fate and divination in the writings of Cicero (106-43 BCE) and Wang Chong (270-100 CE). Emphasis will be placed on the ways they articulate their refutations of fortune-telling practices and superstition on a philosophical level, with a questioning of predetermination in human events and the possibility of predicting the future.

Presentations by Mrs. José Kany-Turpin (Université Paris XII-Val de Marne) on the “Analyse critique de la divination romaine. Hasard et destin dans le *De divinatione* de Cicéron” [Critical analysis of Roman divination. Chance and fate in Cicero’s *De divinatione*] and by Mr. Zhou Guidian (Peking Normal University) on “La conception du destin chez Wang Chong” [The concept of fate in the works of Wang Chong], both in the Department of History at Tsinghua University, on May 21.

marianne.bujard@efeo.net

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

Paola Calanca will take part in the fourth colloquium on Danshui studies being organized by Danshui University May 25 and 26. Her presentation will be on “Le dispositif défensif de Danshui analysé au travers de l'activité du pirate Cai Qian (début 19^e siècle)” [Defensive measures in Danshui at the time of the activities of the pirate Cai Qian (early 19th century)].

paola.calanca@efeo.net

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

Hong Kong

From April 29 to May 10 David Palmer will be visiting the Huanghua community, in Yingde prefecture, northern Guangdong province, to carry out a religious mapping of the area and interview specialists in ritual as part of the “Whirling Taoists” project.

david.palmer@efeo.net

Tokyo

Doctoral methodology seminar, co-organized by the Maison Franco-Japonaise and the EFEO (6 p.m., MFJ, Tokyo, room 601): Omata Hitomi (Tokyo University): “Le Christianisme chinois en tant qu'hérésie : les exécutions des dominicains dans le Fujian en 1746” [Chinese Christianity seen as heresy: the 1746 executions of Dominicans in Fujian] .

christophe.marquet@efeo.net

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isabelle.poujol@efeo.net