



## South and Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology Index (ABIA)

Professor Khunying Maenmas Chavalit, SPAFA Library and Documentation Officer, and Miss Wilasinee Thabeungkarn, Documentalist, participated in the Third Workshop of the ABIA South and Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology Index, 16-17 December, 1998, at the International Institute for Asian Studies, (IIAS) University of Leiden, the Netherlands.

In 1997, SEAMEO SPAFA began co-operating with the IIAS in an international project to compile an annotated bibliographic database. IIAS, who initiated the project, is working with SEAMEO SPAFA, Bangkok, the Post-Graduate Institute of Archaeology of the University of Kelaniya (PGIAR) and the Central Cultural Fund (CCF) in Colombo in the production of the Annual Bibliography of Indian Archaeology (ABIA) South and Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology Index. SEAMEO SPAFA Library and Documentation Services have since been collecting, processing and preparing annotated bibliographies and other information materials for publication on archaeology and art history in Southeast Asian countries.

The Third Workshop consists of two main activities: discussions on technical matters and practical exercises for the editors, and the meeting of the Advisory Board members on policy and future plans after the first five year 1997-2001. Miss Wilasinee Thabeungkarn, the editor of ABIA Index attended the technical workshop during 21 November to 22 December 1998. Prof. Khunying Maenmas Chavalit participated in the meeting of the Advisory Board members from 16-18 December 1998.

The meeting focused attention on the quality of the annotation of the bibliography, problems concerning time-consuming editorial processes. The future of ABIA Index was also deliberated on. Two resolutions were agreed upon: 1) The ABIA Index Project be continued after the completion of the first five years; 2) Explore possibilities on rotating the chairmanship of the project among the various partners.

The Workshop concluded with public lectures on 'The Medieval Indian Arts', 'The Hindu Bronzes from Polonnaruwa', 'Dating of Javanese Temples: the Stylistic Method Reappraisal', and the launching of the ABIA Index Volume One

### Book Review

Kooij, Karel R. van Kooij (ed) ABIA South and Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology Index. Volume One. London and New York: Kegan Paul International in Association with the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden and Amsterdam, 1999, 597 pages. ISBN 0-7103-0625-3

The other editors are: Ellen M. Raven (Co-ordinating Editor for South Asia), Marijke J. Klokke (Co-ordinating Editor for Southeast Asia), S. Settar and Doris Yapa (Editors for South Asia), Hasan Djafar and Wilasinee Thabuengkarn (Editors for Southeast Asia).

The ABIA South and Southeast Asia Art and Archaeology Index is the product of a joint project of the International Institute for Asia Studies, Leiden and Amsterdam; the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology, Colombo, and the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts, Bangkok. The main purpose of the project is to compile and maintain an annotated bibliographic database that documents publications on South and Southeast Asian art and archaeology. The selected publications include monographs, articles in periodicals, reviews and Ph.D. dissertation and research reports in Asian and European languages which were published during 1996 and 1997. The first volume contains 1306 records on the following board subjects: Pre and protohistory, historical archaeology, ancient art history (up to 1900), modern art history (from 1900), epigraphy, paleography, numismatics and sigillography. The performing art and ancient history are not included.

The contents of the first part of the ABIA Index are general information about the project, the materials covered, the technical aspects, the structure of the records, classification codes which consist of geographical codes and codes indicating form or subject matters. There are two articles: 'Research by Indonesian Archaeologists 1977-1997', (written by Edi Sedyawate, Department of Culture, Indonesia), and 'No Sign of the Buddha: Recent viewpoints on Meaning in Early Buddhist Art' (by Professor Karel R. van Kooij).

The bibliographical entry is organized by region and by the countries found within. For South Asia, there are 8 countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives. Southeast Asia countries are: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Materials from other parts of Asia related to South and Southeast Asia are also included.

**Prof. Khunying Maenmas Chavalit**



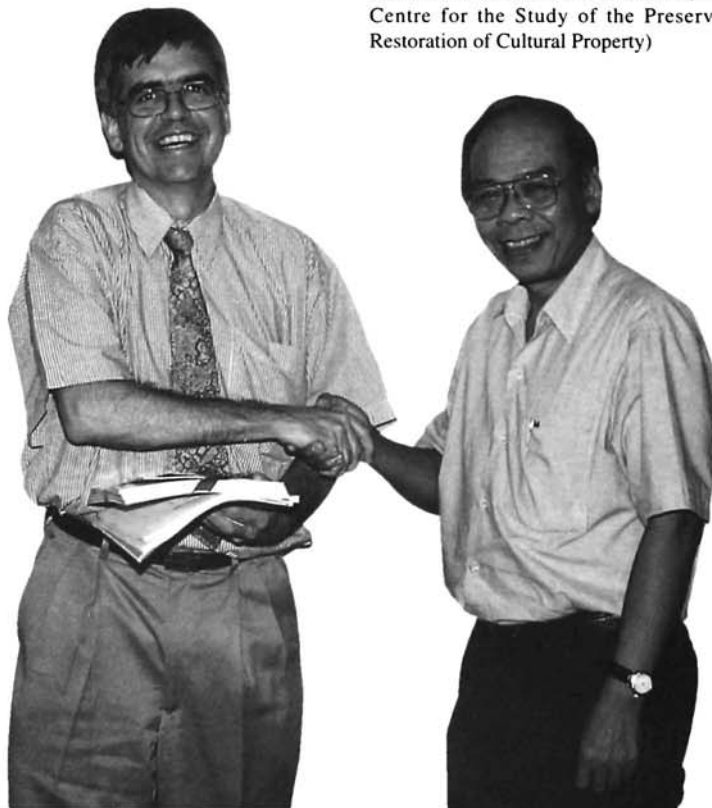
H.E. Pehin Orangkaya Laila  
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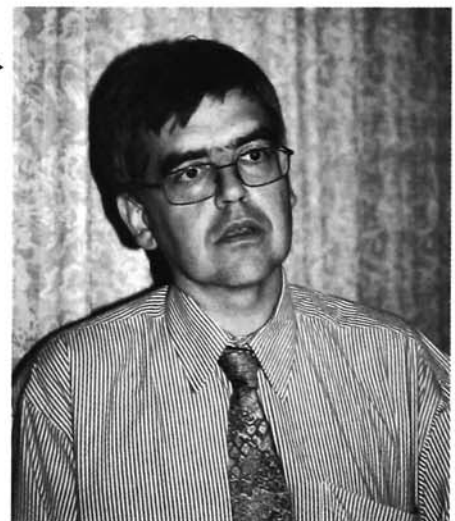
SEAMEO Council President, visiting  
SPAFA Centre on 20 Oct 1998



...with Mr. Pisit Charoenwongsa (SPAFA officer-in-charge)



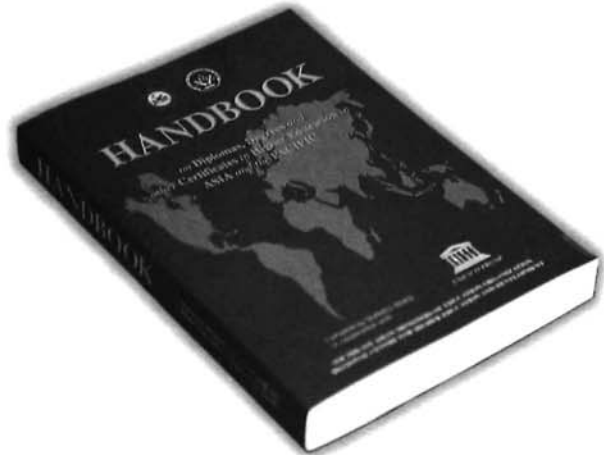
Mark Laenen, President of ICCROM (International  
Centre for the Study of the Preservation and  
Restoration of Cultural Property) ▶



◀ Mark Laenen, with Mr. Pisit Charoenwongsa  
during a visit to SPAFA Centre on 24 Nov 1998

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