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COVER: The Kṛṣṇa pilaster fragment from Prasat Phanom Rung, formerly on display at the Art Institute of Chicago, H.: 92.7 cm, W.: 30.4 cm, acc. no. 2017.88 © AIC

*For a discussion of this object, see Nicolas Revire's contribution in this Special Edition

Editorial

It is a particular pleasure to introduce this issue of the *Journal of the Siam Society*, which brings together an unusually broad range of scholarship, from manuscripts and archeology to cultural heritage, translation, printing history, and contemporary art. The issue begins with an *Obituary* for former member of The Siam Society Jacques Lemoine (1936–2026), written by Bernard Formoso. At the heart of the issue is a *Special Edition* devoted to "Cultural Heritage, Provenance, and Repatriation", guest edited by Melody Rod-Ari, to whom we are also grateful for her generous support, which has enabled us to publish the full issue in color. Such financial assistance is invaluable at a time of rising publishing costs and a welcome reminder of the generosity on which the continued quality and accessibility of the journal depend.

Melody Rod-Ari's introduction, "Shared Stewardship", provides an appropriate framework for considering the issues explored in this *Special Edition*. Rather than treating repatriation simply as the conclusion of a dispute over ownership, the articles explore possibilities for collaboration, shared research, and continuing relationships between institutions and the countries and communities whose heritage they hold. Joyce C. White et al. first examine archeological damage resulting from illicit excavation of Prehistoric sites in Thailand; Alison Kyra Carter & Chhay Visoth then draw attention to the often-overlooked histories and significance of small, utilitarian objects recently returned to Cambodia; Beth Edelstein & Alyssa Morasco discuss institutional collaboration between the Cleveland Museum of Art and the National Museum of Cambodia; my own contribution examines the dispersal and tentative reunification of Khmer architectural fragments from Prasat Phanom Rung in northeast Thailand; Brice Vincent et al. reassess the history of the Angkorian bronze known as the so-called Golden Boy, found in Buriram; while Bronwyn Campbell traces the collaborative research and repatriation of three Cham bronzes recovered in Cambodia. Together, these studies highlight the importance of provenance and provenience research and the complexities of interpreting archeological findspots located along modern national borders. Rebecca S. Hall, finally, considers the Cambodian diaspora in the United States and the ethics of return through the art of Phung Huynh. These contributions demonstrate how much can be learned when provenance is treated not simply as an administrative or legal exercise, but as a field of historical and ethical inquiry.

The other contributions outside this *Special Edition* continue the wide geographical and disciplinary scope of JSS. Xu Siwen et al. examine, in *Archeology in Progress*, changing glass-exchange networks at Phromthin Tai, Lopburi, within the Mekong Interaction Sphere during the Late Iron Age and Early Historic periods, while Trent Walker, in *Manuscript Study*, introduces and indexes the Peter Koret Collection of Tai Narrative Manuscripts kept at the University of California, Berkeley, supplemented by online appendices. The two concluding *Research Notes*

turn to Siamese intellectual and publishing history, with Doug Liao revisiting Samuel Milton's early Bible translations in Siam and Chris Baker & Pasuk Phongpaichit adding a note on Nai Mot's printing of the *Three Seals Laws* in 1849/50. We also feature in *Events & Exhibitions* two reviews by Vipash Purichanont on (*In*)*visible Presence* at Dib Bangkok and Sébastien Tayac on *The Bouquet and the Wreath* at MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum in Chiang Mai.

Finally, a wide range of recensions in *Book Reviews* covers subjects ranging from paleoanthropology and Portuguese–Siamese relations to Chiang Mai, Protestant missions, Cambodia, Angkor, the Cold War, tourism, and Burmese cinema, reflecting the geographical and disciplinary breadth that remains a strength of the journal. We hope that readers will find in this issue not only new research, but also opportunities to reconsider some familiar questions—and perhaps to ask new ones.

Nicolas Revire
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