

> Projects and events

**ICAS Book Prize  
ICAS Lifetime Asian  
Studies Award**

The secretariat of ICAS, the International Convention of Asia Scholars, is pleased to announce the ICAS book prize. Through this global competition we aim to create an international focus for publications on Asia while increasing their worldwide visibility.

All scientific books published in 2003 and 2004 on Asian topics are eligible. Three prizes will be awarded: (1) best study in the humanities; (2) best study in the social sciences; and (3) best PhD dissertation. The prize consists of ff 2500 for each of the books while the best PhD dissertation will be published. Winners will be announced during ICAS 4 (20-24 August 2005) in Shanghai.

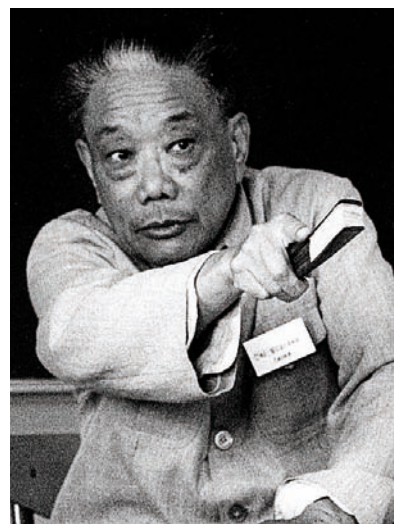
Five copies of the book must be sent to the ICAS secretariat (for guidelines please see [www.icassecretariat.org](http://www.icassecretariat.org)). The deadline for submissions is 31 December 2004. The ICAS website will update lists of received books, by author, publisher and field of study. Reading committees are in the process of being formed and will consist of at least three renowned Asia scholars. The short list of competing books will be made public during the AAS Annual Meeting (31 March-03 April 2005) in Chicago.

ICAS is also pleased to announce the ICAS Lifetime Asian Studies Award. Nominations should consist of a letter outlining the importance of the candidate to Asian Studies and should be sent to the ICAS Secretariat no later than 31 December 2004. The winner will be announced during ICAS 4.

For more information: ICAS Secretariat, P.O. Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands, Tel: +31-71-5272227, Fax: +31-71-5274162, [icas@let.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:icas@let.leidenuniv.nl), [www.icassecretariat.org](http://www.icassecretariat.org)

**Chinese Storytelling  
on-line  
[www.shuoshu.org](http://www.shuoshu.org)**

The website of Chinese storytelling (shuoshu), has expanded into a web-publication. Since February 2004 the site presents information in English, Chinese and



The late Yangzhou storyteller Dai Buzhang (1925-2003) performing from *Journey to the West* of the Dai School, NIAS, Copenhagen 1996  
by Jette Ross

Danish, with illustrations, photos, audio and video clips from live performances. Special focus is on the rich tradition of Yangzhou storytelling (*Yangzhou pinghua*). The following areas are treated in detail:

- Oral and written literature: storytelling as performance and text
- Professional storytelling: performed narrative arts
- History and milieu: origins of storytelling, places and audiences
- Masters and disciples: transmission and training
- Elements of performance: linguistic and performing techniques
- Sagas of storytelling: schools and repertoires

The website contains information about projects on Chinese storytelling at the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) and elsewhere. It contains a bibliography of studies on Chinese performance arts (*shuochang*) – storytelling and other prosimetric genres involving chant and/or narration and information on publications, conference information, and the Yangzhou Club.

The Norwegian Research Council, Cultural Program 2004-2007, supports the ongoing development of a research database on Chinese storytelling, which will soon be accessible on [www.shuoshu.org](http://www.shuoshu.org). This is part of the research project: *Traditional Oral Culture in the Modern Media World of Asia – The Case of Chinese Storytelling*.

For further information contact Vibeke Børdahl at [vibeke@nias.ku.dk](mailto:vibeke@nias.ku.dk)

**Endangered  
Languages Public  
Event**

28 August 2004, The Hague, the Netherlands

The Endangered Languages event, organised by the NWO Research Council for the Humanities, is aimed at a non-specialised public interested in the preservation and recording of endangered languages and cultures. The results of research on endangered languages will be presented in workshops and demonstrations.

Interactive workshops will allow visitors to explore endangered languages including the West Papuan language, Mpur and the click language Sandawe, spoken in central Tanzania. Researchers will present their projects using posters, films, videos or audio fragments at the information and demonstration market.

UNESCO's decision to declare the oral and graphic expressions of the Wajapi Indians as a 'Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity' will also be spotlighted. A member of the Wajapi group and an external expert on Wajapi culture have been invited to attend. They will explain the cultural, mythological and social significance of the Wajapi painting tradition, which includes body painting.

Researchers are invited to participate in this event on endangered languages by presenting their research at the demonstration market. Further ideas for the programme are welcome. Researchers are



Courtesy of Cecilia Odé

also invited to submit narratives, tales, myths or sagas that originate from an endangered language. NWO will publish a selection of these stories.

For information and enquiries contact Marloes Telle (Communications Officer at NWO Research Council for the Humanities) at [telle@nwo.nl](mailto:telle@nwo.nl)

Website: [www.nwo.nl/bedreigdetalen/publieksevenement](http://www.nwo.nl/bedreigdetalen/publieksevenement)

**The Violins of  
Genghis Khan**

September 16 2004, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Composer and president of the Mongolian Composers Union, Altankhuyag Gaadan, will visit the Netherlands from August 22 to September 17 2004. Invited by IIAS, the Dutch association for contemporary composed music *Gaudeamus*

and the North Asia Institute *Tengri*, Altankhuyag in a series of lectures and concerts will introduce current Mongolian composition art to music specialists, academics and the interested public.

Altankhuyag has written a new composition for the occasion, to be performed in a series of concerts in the Netherlands by the New Ensemble and the Mongolian overtone ensemble *Altai KhairKhan*. The internationally distinguished New Ensemble specializes in contemporary music by composers from many cultural backgrounds and musical affinities. The *Altai KhairKhan* folk ensemble specializes in overtone singing, horse fiddling and the West Mongolian repertoire. Together they will form a unique orchestra of 'Western' and 'Mongolian' instruments combining European fiddles, Mongolian horse fiddles and overtone singing.



courtesy of Maya-Matthea van Staden

Mongolian composers' understandings of their musical heritage – their way of listening, their national and international aims, the relationship between Mongolian 'traditional' folk music performances and new compositions – will be central to the lectures and performances. *The Violins of Genghis Khan* will be staged

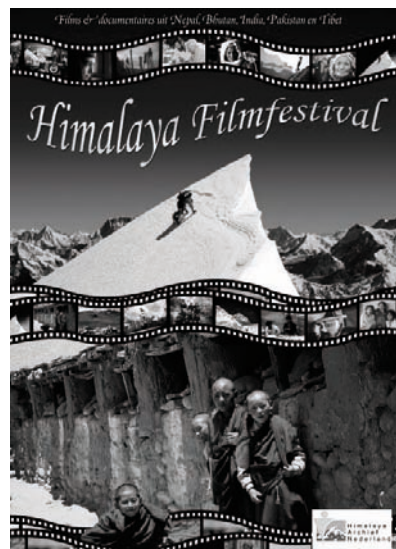
in the main theatre of the Tropical Institute in Amsterdam on September 16. Other dates and locations will be announced.

For the complete programme of concerts and lectures please contact: Maya-Matthea van Staden of the North Asia Institute Tengri vanstaden@tengri.nl

## Himalaya Film Festival

6-7 November 2004, Cultural Centre of the Free University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Organized by the Himalayan Archive Foundation in Alkmaar, the Netherlands, the second Himalayan Film Festival at will feature documentary cinema, films and videos on the Himalayan region. The festival will screen approximately 46 films in two parallel programmes, grouped by subject and cinematographic approach. More information can be found at [www.himalayafilmfestival.nl](http://www.himalayafilmfestival.nl)



Courtesy of Himalaya Film Festival

## Islamic humour from Indonesia

In the Western world, violent acts carried out by radical Islamic groups since September 11, 2001, have resulted in a wave of public concern on anything 'Islamic'. It is often forgotten that Islamic civilization is one of the world's largest communities, with more than 1.4 billion followers on all continents, and that Islamic traditions are an important part of the world's cultural heritage.

Islamic humour from Indonesia is the focus of a classroom project at the Asia-Africa-Institute of the University of Hamburg, Germany. Jokes have been selected from many genres including *Tawa-Show di Pesantren* ('Laughter-Show in the Islamic Boarding School') and collections of Islamic clerics' utterances, prominently those of Abdurrahman Wahid, spiritual leader of the world's largest Muslim organization, the *Nahdlatul Ulama* and former President of the Republic of Indonesia.

Translating the colloquialisms and witty allusions into German was a good exercise for undergraduate students. Understanding humour from another culture is one of the most difficult tasks in intercultural communication. To aid readers' understanding, students in the project have provided notes on Islamic humorous traditions, Islam in Indonesia, and regional diversity.

The translated jokes are being reviewed for correct rendition by a scholar from the Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah in Jakarta, currently at the Asia-Africa-Institute, University of Hamburg, made possible by cooperation between the University of Hamburg and the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. The translated joke collection will be published in Indonesia and will be made available to German-language tourists in Indonesia.

The collection will be distributed by bookshops and street vendors. It is hoped that the final project will have an official introduction or preface by a known Islamic scholar from Indonesia, in both German and Indonesian.

As there are comparatively few German-language tourists in Indonesia, the partners of this project would like to invite other groups in, for instance, the English, French or Dutch-speaking worlds to participate in similar projects.

For further information please contact Arndt Graf. [arndtgraf@yahoo.de](mailto:arndtgraf@yahoo.de)

## Stichting Chinese Radio Amsterdam

Postbus 15809  
1001 NH Amsterdam

Monday to Friday, 9 pm to 10 pm  
Frequency: FM 99.4, or Cable: FM 104.6 (can be received only in Amsterdam area)  
Monday and Tuesday in Mandarin, Wednesday to Friday in Cantonese

Hotline: 020 6208866 (call during the program)  
e-mail: [chineseradioamsterdam@msn.com](mailto:chineseradioamsterdam@msn.com)

FM 99.4 ether (FM 104.6 kabel)

城市之声  
CHINESE RADIO AMSTERDAM

## Southeast Asia: A Historical Encyclopedia from Ankor Wat to East Timor

Book launch: 11 November 2004, Amsterdam

*Southeast Asia: A Historical Encyclopedia* covers the historical development of Southeast Asia from the prehistoric period to the early years of the 21st century, and caters to users of high school, public and university libraries. The three-volume work covers historical topics, including archaeology and prehistory, major historical periods and eras, cultural heritage, ethno-history, wars and conflicts, notable personalities, religions and popular beliefs. Themes focus on political developments, economic and social transformation, constitutional develop-

ments and legislation, historical geography and the environment.

*Southeast Asia: A Historical Encyclopedia* will be launched in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on 11 November 2004 by Professor Wim Stokhof, director of IIAS. In conjunction with the official launch in Amsterdam, a round-table seminar on the theme *Southeast Asian Studies in Europe: Reflections and New Directions* will be held on 12-13 November 2004. Drawing upon both academia and the corporate sector from Europe and Southeast Asia, short and long-term priorities will be mapped out for Southeast Asian studies in the next decades.

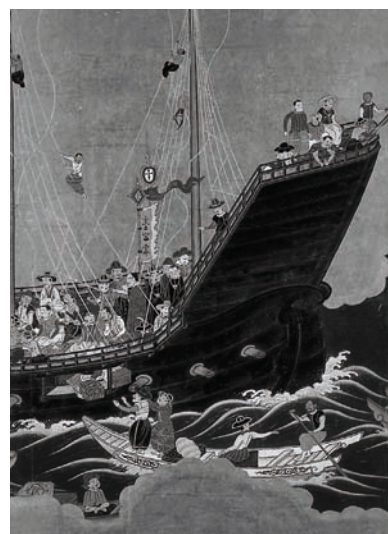
*Southeast Asia: A Historical Encyclopedia, from Ankor Wat to East Timor*  
3 Vols., Ooi Keat Gin, Editor  
Publisher: ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara, California; Denver, Colorado; Oxford, England. Date of publication: September 2004

## Encounters: The Meeting of Asia and Europe 1500-1800

23 September-5 December 2004, London, UK

The V&A's autumn exhibition *Encounters: The Meeting of Asia and Europe* will feature objects from the period 1500-1800 after Europeans first discovered the sea route to the Indies. When Europeans arrived in Asia they were overwhelmed by the magnificence of the courts they visited, the wealth of the cities and the sophisticated goods for sale. The human dimension of the story as Asians and Europeans experienced their first encounters forms a central section of the exhibition.

The exhibition will address how East and West perceived and represented each other during a period of intense cultural, commercial and technological exchange. It examines how each saw the other as 'exotic' and how this shaped both cultures. On display will be more than 200 objects including rare porcelain and jewel-



Courtesy of Encounters, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

encrusted caskets made for European princes and collectors, miniature paintings, lacquer, silks, wallpapers and cashmere. It will include objects from the V&A's collections and those of individuals and museums worldwide - the Royal Collection, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Louvre, the Forbidden City and the Japanese Imperial Collection. Many of these objects have never before been exhibited in Britain.

For enquiries contact +44 20 7942 2000 or visit the website [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

## The Living Memory Project

Finance is sought for *The Living Memory Project* to create a video archive of testimony from East Timor's former political prisoners. An estimated 10,000 people living in East Timor today were imprisoned under the Indonesian military occupation, many suffering torture. The project will collect, preserve and catalogue testimony as part of East Timor's national heritage. Interviews will build a database on the effect of imprisonment on ex-prisoners' health.

In 2003 UNESCO officials praised the idea and encouraged its expansion to a two-year, US\$300,000 project, training and employing over a dozen ex-prisoners. Early this year UNESCO unexpectedly

withdrew, citing lack of funds. \$30,000USD is now sought to film, edit and present a pilot sample of interviews, working over three months with a five-person staff. If fifteen institutions could provide \$2000 each, work could begin. Budget and staff details are available on request from [theagedili@yahoo.com](mailto:theagedili@yahoo.com) or Living Memory Project, P.O. Box 3952, Darwin, NT, 0801 Australia.

The end product would be an archival sample of interviews with background material, available to libraries, human rights organisations, schools, universities and the media in various formats, presentable as a small exhibition.

The author is journalist and writer Jill Jolliffe, supported by the Association of Ex-Political Prisoners of East Timor (*Associação dos ex-Prisioneiros Políticos do Timor-Leste*, ASEPPOL).

## > Conferences and workshops

### European Association of Southeast Asian Studies (EUROSEAS)

1-4 September 2004, Paris, France

The European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EUROSEAS) is an association of European scholars who wish to integrate their work with that of other European Southeast Asia specialists. Members of EUROSEAS meet regularly to share expertise, publications and source materials.

The fourth EUROSEAS conference will take place 1-4 September 2004 in Paris. To view the complete list of 36 panel topics and/or register for the conference, please see the website [www.afrase.org/euroseas2004/indexe.php](http://www.afrase.org/euroseas2004/indexe.php). This website can also be reached through the EUROSEAS website [www.kitlv.nl/euroseas](http://www.kitlv.nl/euroseas).

Information: Manon Osseweijer  
E-mail: [euroseas@kitlv.nl](mailto:euroseas@kitlv.nl)

[ advertisement ]

Established 1927

## Pacific Affairs

We offer up-to-date and in-depth analyses of the most important current affairs in the Asia and Pacific Region? Each issue carries new articles and ~ 50 book reviews. For more information and our 77 year index please view our website.

### Some recent titles:

- Helping to Keep the Peace (Albeit Reluctantly): China's Recent Stance on Sovereignty and Multilateral Intervention. Allen Carlson
- Environmental NGOs in China: Roles and Limits. Jonathan Schwartz
- Sustainable Development and the Social and Cultural Impact of a Dam-Induced Development Strategy - The Bakun Experience. Yee Keong Choy
- The New Community Movement: Park Chung Hee and the Making of State Popularism in South Korea. Seung-Mi Han
- China and Southeast Asia: Asymmetry, Leadership and Normalcy. Brantly Womack
- From a special Relationship to a Normal Partnership: Interpreting the Garlic Battle in Sino-South Korean Relations. Jae Ho Chung
- The Anatomy of the Welfare-Zoku: The Institutional Complementarity of the Party Commission and the National Reform Councils in LDP Decision Making. Benoit Rousseau Leduc
- Legacies of the Authoritarian Past: Religious Violence in Indonesia's Moluccan Islands. Jacques Bertrand
- Japan's National/Asian Women's Fund for "Comfort Women". C. Sarah Soh

Pacific Affairs  
University of British Columbia  
Ste. 164 - 1855 West Mall,  
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z2

Published Quarterly:  
Annual Subscription Rates:  
Individuals \$50; Institutions \$85  
Postage outside Canada add \$13

Website: [www.pacificaffairs.ubc.ca](http://www.pacificaffairs.ubc.ca)  
Telephone: 604-822-6508/4534 Fax: 604-822-9452