The second year at the NIU Mandala has been just as hectic as the first. As most of you know, the second round of Luce Foundation competition requests were due in early October, and the Mandala celebrated its Silver Jubilee in mid-October, to which over 140 people came. Ben Anderson gave us a very stimulating keynote address, and Norman Parme provided us with some history of the Mandala’s early years, when it was only an incipient nagara. The Council on Thai Studies (COTS) and the Burma Studies Group held their annual and biennial conferences, respectively, during the same weekend. We will be mailing out the 25th Anniversary booklet to all centers and others very soon.

One of the highlights of the new academic year is the group of new faculty members that has joined the Mandala. Michael Rhum from Harvard, one of Tambiah’s students, is our cultural anthropologist specializing in the religions of Southeast Asia; his expertise is Thailand. Carol Mitchell joined us in summer actually, as curator of the Donn Hart Collection. She received her MLS from Michigan and is an ABD in Library Science at Wisconsin. U Saw Tun, our faculty member in Burmese Language and Literature, teaches at the Institute for Foreign Languages in Rangoon, and should be with us by summer. (Beginning and Intermediate Burmese, later advanced, will be taught in the fall of 1989 as FLBU I and FLBU II.) Advanced Burmese might interest some of you who have a good foundation of Burmese already, for we will be offering classes in inscriptional Burmese, chronicle Burmese, sittan Burmese, pyo and egyin Burmese. We hope too that the Burmese Text Project will be funded, which will enable John Okell from SOAS to write what will become the standard text for beginning Burmese. If the project is approved, a beginning Burmese text will be published by our Mandala by 1991. Our new editor is Grant Olson, a Thai specialist in cultural anthropology from Cornell. The work you see in this issue is (and future issues will be) his. We have yet to get Pagemaker software, which means better things are still to come. We anticipate our manuscript backlog to be cleared up very soon, as Grant has already begun. Paul Durrenberger’s work on Lisu Religion is virtually ready for printing and should be out next semester. Crossroads, Volume 4, #1, edited by our interim editor Lina Ong, will be published by next semester as well. It contains ten essays on Burma. The next issue will be a general issue, but heavy on the Thai side. Our future publications include Andy Sutton’s manuscript “Variation in Central Gamelan Music: Dynamics of a Steady State” and Bob Bickner’s entitled “An Introduction to the Thai Poem ‘Lilit Phra Law’ (The Story of King Law).” Konrad Kingshill’s work on Ku Daeng is also scheduled to appear some time in the future. You will notice that the publications program will be using the “Ava Font” (by John Okell) for our Burmese works, along with Thai (by Grant Olson), Khmer, and Lao fonts (the former by Gerard Diffloth and the latter by David Wyatt)—all are made for the Macintosh. Recently, the Center purchased two Mac SEs along with a laser printer.

Note that we have approximately four Luce fellowships available for next fall, and (pending funding from USDE) between six and eight FLAS fellowships, including two in Burmese. We hope to have a new assistant in Thai, Chalermsee Olson, to help John Hartmann with his crowded Thai classes. The Burmese classes will have Than Than Win as a graduate assistant. She is to arrive next semester and enroll in the English Department, specializing in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). On her way to the passport office in Rangoon, the demonstrations began, which closed everything down; otherwise, she would be
here with us for the first semester. Our graduate assistant in the Southeast Asia course, “Crossroads,” is Pum Wattanayagorn. He comes to us from Cincinnati and is taking his Ph.D. in political science.

For those of you wishing to purchase the FLIS (Foreign Language Instruction Station) developed by Henry, Henry, and Hartmann, it will be available very soon. They are now in Phase II and have requested funds for further development. The program has been ported over to an IBM-PC environment so that it is more accessible to most of you. Its color graphics are excellent, and the program is outstanding. We wish we had the travel funds to have them demonstrate the program for you, as they did at one of our “brown bag” lunch series. Perhaps a conference on “Southeast Asian studies and the computer” hosted by one of the Mandalas is overdue (SEASSI 1990?).

Our “Distinguished Lecture Series” hosted Jim Warren from Murdoch University last winter, Joyce White from the University of Pennsylvania and Nayan Chanda, Washington correspondent for the Far Eastern Economic Review, last summer, and Robert Taylor from SOAS in October. Jim Scott will be speaking to us some time in the spring. If you are close enough or are in the area, please drop in for these and other activities. We also have our “brown bag” lunch series every Friday noon—with Malaysian curry packets or Filipino pance and adobo, for $2 and coffee provided free—to which all are welcome. The latter is largely for internal purposes, but for those who come here on short notice and have something to contribute, we will gladly accommodate you with a ready forum and enthusiastic audience.

Michael Aung-Thwin, Director

Number of Northern Students Abroad High: Northern Ranks Sixth in U.S.

NIU was sixth in the nation in numbers of students sent abroad in 1985-86. According to a report by the Institute of International Education, NIU was only two students behind the University of Massachusetts. The top ten institutions in rank order were: Beaver College, Syracuse University, University of Arizona, University of Minnesota, University of Massachusetts, NIU, Stanford, Temple, University of Wisconsin—Platteville, and Miami University.

Burmese and Thai Scholars Celebrate Center’s 25th Anniversary Jubilee

From October 14-16, NIU hosted the biennial conference of the national Burma Studies Group and the Council on Thai Studies, with about 150 scholars attending. The conference was held in the Swen Parson Gallery surrounded by “The Splendor of Burma Textiles,” a special exhibit composed for the occasion.

Conference participants also celebrated the 25th jubilee of NIU’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies, which was established in 1963. The keynote address was given by Professor Benedict Anderson, Cornell University, while Professors Norman Parmer, Trinity University, Texas, Ladd Thomas and Dean Daniel Wit, NIU, provided a glimpse of the early years at the Center. NIU’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies is one of the largest and most active in the nation, with a regular publications program and formal exchange relationships with universities in Thailand and Malaysia.
Three new faculty have joined our ranks under the good graces of the Luce Foundation:

**Michael R. Rhum** has recently joined NIU as assistant professor in anthropology; his research interests relate to religion in Southeast Asia.

**Carol Mitchell** is now curator of the Donn V. Hart Collection. She has done research on language planning in Malaysia and has collected a bibliography of Filipino fiction in English.

**Grant A. Olson** joined the Center as research associate and full-time editor of publications. He is completing a dissertation in anthropology at Cornell University on the biography of a contemporary Thai Buddhist monk.

We are also hoping to have a teacher of Burmese arriving from Burma who will start teaching beginning and intermediate Burmese in the Fall of 1989.

**Center Associates’ Activities and Publications**

Last winter, **Brantly Womack**, Department of Political Science, visited Vietnam on a trip sponsored by the Luce Foundation. On January 26, 1988, he spoke before a meeting of Rotary International at their Rotary One Center in Evanston on the topic of “America and Vietnam: Beyond the War.” More recently, Womack was invited to join a select group of international China scholars. Womack was the 21st individual named to the Research Center for Social Development of Contemporary China, which includes academics from 14 countries. The Center is based in Beijing and is the first research center of its kind. From October 20-24 Womack spent four days at Harvard where he lectured on “Celestial Democracy: The Traditional Roots of Chinese Democratic Theory.”

Beginning November 12th, **Clark Neher**, professor of political science, spent a week as scholar-in-residence at the University of Bonn in West Germany. He also spoke to scholars at the Universities of Hamburg and Munich on the subject of “U. S. Foreign Policy in Asia.”

**Michael Aung-Thwin**, director of our Center for Southeast Asian Studies, has received accolades for his book *The Origins of Modern Burma*. F. K. Lehman, University of Illinois—Urbana, stated, “Aung-Thwin’s book is a milestone in Burmese historiography and, indeed, in the socio-economic analysis of Burmese institutions. It is the first sustained work on the earliest period of Burmese history that brings to bear in any serious way real historical and social theory.” *Asia Week* editors said, “Aung-Thwin makes a number of penetrating and provocative observations that should stimulate anyone interested in Buddhist societies.”

**Constance Wilson** continues to compile Southeast Asia bibliography for the American Historical Association’s *Recently Published Articles* and serves as editor for CORMOSEA Bulletin. She has also been elected chair of CORMOSEA: Committee on Research Materials for Southeast Asia (Association for Asian Studies). Recently, Professor Wilson has been invited by the Joint Committee on Southeast Asia of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies to participate in a workshop on the historical demography of Southeast Asia. She will be attending the workshop in Washington, D. C., in March 1989.

**George Spencer** continues to serve as assistant chair of the History Department and director of the graduate program. New Era publications has just published his edited work *Temples, Kings and Peasants: Perceptions of South India’s Past* (Madras, 1987).

Han Kuo-Huang, NIU School of Music, presented two papers at two conferences at Hong Kong University in June 1988. One of the papers is entitled “The Polyphonic Stratification in Southeast Asian Small Gong Ensembles.” After the Hong Kong meetings, he traveled to Shanghai and Xian, China, in July to give lectures at the Shanghai and Xian Conservatories. The trips were sponsored by Hong Kong University, the two Chinese conservatories, the NIU Graduate School, and the NIU School of Music.


In October, John Hartmann read a paper, entitled “Lexical Puzzles in an Ancient Thai Text,” at the Twenty-first International Sino-Tibetan Conference at the University of Lund (Sweden). The paper is based on a concordance of the Thai literary classic Phra Lo (c. 14th century) compiled jointly in 1987 with Wibha Kongananda, NIU Fulbright scholar-in-residence, from Silapakorn University, Thailand. Copies of the concordance and index (750 pages) are available at cost in xerox form. This past summer, Professor Hartmann designed a new Thai font to be used in the updated interactive CAI Thai lessons, which are now being run on an IBM-AT color graphics Foreign Language Instruction Station (FLIS).

At the San Francisco AAS meeting last March, Patricia Henry gave a paper entitled “Contextualizing Authority: ‘Arjuna’s Marriage’ in 11th Century Java and Modern Indonesia.”


On November 11th, Grant A. Olson, Center research associate, gave a presentation entitled “The Life and Middle Path of Phra Rajavaramuni, a Contemporary Thai Buddhist Monk,” at Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin—Madison.

Dwight King, associate professor of political science, will be visiting scholar at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from January through March of 1989. King will be working with students and faculty at the university’s Center for Social Science Research. The assignment, entitled the “Indonesian Second University Development Project,” is funded by the World Bank and administered by Midwest University Consortium for International Affairs.

U Nu leaves lasting impression on NIU

U Nu, former prime minister of Burma, and one of several opposition figures in Burma’s current internal struggle, spent three months at NIU last year team-teaching with Richard Cooler, Director of the Center for Burma Studies. The course was entitled “Burmese Buddhism: Theory, Practice and Visual Expression.”

“U Nu is a man of extraordinary patience and is particularly unassuming. He exudes a feeling of contentment,” says Cooler. “He is very traditional in some matters and very forward-looking in others. He is a wonderfully composed individual, though that doesn’t mean he’s boring or tiringly proper. He has a wonderfully mischievous sense of humor which makes him a very fine teacher. I think students really enjoyed the class.”
Autumn Sowing Celebration

After the "Luce" soil for our future harvest was carefully turned and selectively sown, we now must await the consequences of our collective karma. In the meantime, the aspects were right and the time auspicious for conducting the proper rituals for this occasion. On the 7th day of the waning moon in the month of October, offerings of food—sweet and savory, bitter and sour—were brought to the new abode of our wheel-turning director. The festivities began when the clepsydra became full and the bahọ drum was struck at six. No one can be sure when it ended.

Friday "Brown Bag" Speakers Series

Fall 1988

September 2—Michael Aung-Thwin, Director of the NIU Center for Southeast Asian Studies, opened the Fall series by speaking on the current situation in Burma.

September 30—John Hartmann and Patricia Henry, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, and Jim Henry and Bob Zerwekh, Department of Computer Science, gave a demonstration of their computer-aided language instruction hardware and software. Demonstrations included lessons in Thai and Indonesian.

October 14—Robert Taylor, Department of Economic and Political Studies, University of London, gave a talk entitled "The Modern State in Burma."

October 28—Ronald Provencher, Department of Anthropology, gave a presentation and showed slides on "Malay Humor Magazines: Perspectives on Malaysian Society."

November 4—Raquel R. Sancho, International Relations Representative in North America of GABRIELA, the Philippines National Women's Coalition, spoke on "Women and the Current Situation in the Philippines."

November 18—Harry V. Barnard, University of Kentucky, and Kathy R. Thonburg, University of Missouri—Columbia, presented "The Psychosocial Development of Indonesian University Students."

December 2—Clark Neher, Department of Political Science, NIU, will speak on "American Foreign Policy in Asia."

December 9—Abdullah Hassan, Abdul Razak Professor, Ohio University, will share his ideas on "Language Policy in Malaysia."
Peace Corps Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

This November marks the 25th anniversary of the death of President John F. Kennedy, founder of the Peace Corps. Center faculty and staff who were former Peace Corps volunteers include: Clark and Arlene Neher (Thailand), Patricia and Jim Henry (Malaysia), John Hartmann (Thailand), Grant Olson (Thailand), and Carol Mitchell (Malaysia).

Courses on and related to Southeast Asia offered Fall of 1988

| Anthropology          | 101  | Human Origins                        |
|                      | 102  | Rise of Civilization                 |
|                      | 120H | Introduction to Anthropology         |
|                      | 210  | General Prehistoric Archeology       |
|                      | 320  | Folklore                             |
|                      | 338  | Anthropology of Religion             |
|                      | 329  | Culture and Personality              |
|                      | 427  | Economic Anthropology                |
|                      | 441  | Fossil Humans                        |
|                      | 451  | History and Theory of Anthropology   |
|                      | 490A-J | Research Training                   |
|                      | 528  | Religion and Cosmology in Southeast Asia |
|                      | 590A-J | Independent Study                   |
| Art                  | 378  | Indian and Southeast Asian Art       |
|                      | 598A | Studies in Oriental Art              |
| Economics            | 330  | International Economics              |
|                      | 532  | International Monetary Thought       |
| Foreign Languages and Literature | 103  | Beginning Indonesian                 |
|                      | 103  | Beginning Thai                        |
|                      | 203  | Intermediate Indonesian              |
|                      | 203  | Intermediate Thai                     |
|                      | 381-1 | Special Studies in Language (Indonesian) |
|                      | 381-2 | Special Studies in Language (Thai)  |
|                      | 421  | Introduction to Indonesian Literature |
|                      | 481-1 | Special Topics in Literature (Thai)  |
| Geography            | 439  | Geography of Developing Areas        |
|                      | 491  | Undergraduate Research in Geography  |
|                      | 558  | Readings in Geography                |
| History              | 141  | Asia since 1500                       |
|                      | 449  | History: Malaysia and Indonesia      |
|                      | 636J | Readings in Geography                |
| Interdisciplinary    | 225  | Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World |
| Music                | 324  | Introduction to World Music          |
|                      | 369A | World Music: Gamelan                 |
|                      | 431  | Music of Southeast Asia              |
|                      | 598A | World Music: Gamelan                 |
| Political Science    | 260  | Foreign and Comparative Politics      |
|                      | 371  | Government Systems: Southeast Asia   |
|                      | 573R | Foreign Area Politics: Indonesia     |
|                      | 587  | Southeast Asia and International Politics |
|                      | 596  | Independent Study in Politics        |
| Sociology            | 493  | Sociology of Selected Developing Societies |
Courses on or related to Southeast Asia offered Spring of 1989

### Anthropology
- 101 Human Origins
- 102 Rise of Civilization
- 120-1 Introduction to Anthropology
- 210 General Prehistoric Archeology
- 240 General Physical Anthropology
- 401 People and Cultures of Southeast Asia
- 525 Symbolic Anthropology
- 527 Southeast Asian Peasant Economy
- 590A Independent Study

### Art
- 487 Southeast Asian Art

### Economics
- 530 International Economics
- 530 International Economic Theory I

### Foreign Languages and Literatures
- 104 Beginning Indonesian II
- 104 Beginning Thai II
- 204 Intermediate Thai II
- 382-1 Special Studies in Language II (Indonesian)
- 382-2 Special Studies in Language II (Thai)
- 481 Independent Study in a Foreign Language (Indonesian)
- 482 Special Topics in Literature (Indonesian)

### Geography
- 390-3 Topics in Geography
- 491 Undergraduate Research in Geography
- 558 Readings in Geography
- 571-C Independent Research

### History
- 343 History of Southeast Asia since ca. 1800
- 446 History of Thailand
- 696J Independent Study (Asian History)

### Interdisciplinary
- 225 Southeast Asia: Crossroads on the World

### Music
- 325 Introduction to World Music II
- 398A World Music: Gamelan
- 421 Topic Studies in Ethnomusicology (Southeast Asia)
- 431 Music of Southeast Asia
- 598A World Music Ensemble: Gamelan

### Political Science
- 260 Foreign and Comparative Politics
- 362 Third World Politics
- 376 Political Violence
- 570 Reading Seminar in Southeast Asian Politics
- 573B Foreign Area Politics

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The Foreign Language Instruction Station (FLIS) at NIU

Typically, computer-aided instruction for foreign languages is completely mute, but not the new interactive system at NIU. The FLIS system—developed under grants from the National Security Agency, the Department of Education, and the Luce Foundation—integrates random access audio, graphics and second language fonts. Prerecorded speeches may be played in any order with no delay under software control; graphics capabilities enhance lessons with attractive and relevant color pictures that serve to reinforce learning; the system also supports the display and typing of second language fonts. Professors John Hartmann and Jim Henry project that the system will be available by the summer of 1989. For further details on the FLIS, contact the NIU Mandala.
1987 SEASSI Videos

Two video cassettes of the 1987 SEASSI program are now available for purchase. Both are in VHS format, and the playing time of each is 60 minutes.

Cassette I: “In and Out of the SEASSI Classroom”
The focus of the film is to show students actively using a SEA language. A range of teaching techniques used in teaching Khmer, Burmese, Thai, Lao, Indonesian, and Hmong is seen in the short dynamic segments. Role-playing and student skits are just a few of the the student-centered activities designed to promote competency in everyday use of the language. Cultural activities include the dance and music of Laos, Thailand, and Indonesia, and a visit to the Lao Buddhist temple in Rockford, Illinois, on the day of khao phansa (the beginning of “Buddhist Lent”). The cassette has a narrative soundtrack and titles.

Cassette II: “The Blossoming of the Lao Culture in Illinois”
Three dimensions of Lao culture and traditions in the Lao communities of Elgin and Rockford, Illinois, are captured in this hour-long video. Made during 1987 SEASSI, most of the film deals with the participation of SEASSI student in the day-long ceremonies marking the beginning of the Buddhist Lenten season at the Lao temple in Rockford. Two other traditions of Laos—classical dance and mo lam (courtship songs)—complete the catalog of culture brought to Illinois by recent refugees from Laos.

To order any video cassette, send a check for $25 payable to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (Northern Illinois University). Please direct inquiries to Professor John Hartmann.

Word from other Centers in the larger Maṇḍala

Ohio University’s director of libraries, Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, announced that the University has been designated as “the United States Depository for Malaysian Materials” by the Malaysian Government. Notification of the decision came in a letter from the Tan Sri Sallehuddin bin Mohamed, Chief Secretary to the Malaysian Government, to the President of Ohio University. The designation follows the joint establishment of the Malaysian Resource Center by Ohio University and the Malaysian Government in the library’s Southeast Asia Collection in 1985.

The College Year in Thailand Program at the University of Wisconsin—Madison is now in its fifth year. To date, over thirty-seven students have completed the program. Each passing year has brought more improvements, and Wisconsin has been encouraged by the continued high quality of applicants and the support it has received from other institutions. If anyone is interested in the program, please contact Robert J. Bickner, Director, College Year in Thailand, University of Wisconsin—Madison, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, 4113 Helen C. White, 600 North Park Street, Madison, WI 53706.

Position Opening: The Department of History of the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor has received preliminary authorization to hire a second historian of Southeast Asia and is seeking attractive candidates. The initial appointment is a tenure-track position at the assistant professor level, but the country and — 8 —
period of specialization is not restricted. Doctoral candidates must have dissertation chapters available for reading and degree in hand by September 1, 1989. The appointment is scheduled to begin at that date, but this, as well as salary levels, are negotiable. Candidates wishing to apply should send a CV and three references (but no chapters or publications at this stage) to Dr. Thomas R. Trautmann, Chairman, or Dr. Lieberman, chair of the search committee, Department of History, University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1045.

New Burmese Font

An “Ava” Burmese Font (© The School of Oriental and African Studies 1987) has been designed by John Okell. The Ava Burmese font is for use on the Apple Macintosh range of microcomputers. The Center at NIU will soon be using this font to produce a manuscript by Professor Than Tun entitled “Jambudipa.”

Laser fonts are available in a variety of sizes, and dot matrix fonts are available in 10-36 point sizes. Some sample fonts are as follows:

AvaLaser 12 pt

AvaLaser 14 pt

AvaLaser 16 pt

Requests for copies should be accompanied by payment of £40 (reduced rate for students and teachers: £20) and addressed to:

Martin Daly, Publications Officer, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HP, England

Photo Exhibit on Khmer Culture in America Available

Leah Melnick, a student of photojournalism and history at Hampshire College, has assembled a set of photographs in an attempt to create “a historical and educational record of the experiences of a community of holocaust survivors from the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia in their attempts to rebuild their lives in the United States.” She has been mainly interested in the process of adaptation, in their “becoming American,” while preserving traditional culture in two diverse environments, such as the Bronx and Amherst areas. She would like to make these photos available to organizations and individuals interested and involved with Cambodians. If anyone would like to arrange an exhibit of this information, please contact her at Box 766, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA 01002.