

Abstracts of Articles

“An Enclosure in the Garden of Love” by ROBERT WESSING

This paper discusses the nature of the *kandang* in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, a structure dating back to the 17th century or earlier. The popular beliefs concerning the structure as well as its past symbolic associations and the decorative motifs found on it are considered in the light of its description in the *Bustanu's-Salatin* and the meaning of these symbols in a wider South and Southeast Asian context.

“Culture and Capitalism in the Pottery Enterprises of Biên Hòa, South Vietnam (1878–1975)” by HY VAN LUONG AND DIỆP ĐÌNH HOA

The paper analyzes the relations of production in the 1878–1975 period in a major centre of ceramics production in South Vietnam. Although enterprise paternalism played a major role in structuring the small-scale capitalist firms of this centre, its impact declined as local production became strongly incorporated into the world system in the 1957–75 period. Field research data suggest that local relations of production were shaped by both culture and the political economy of capitalism in their dynamic interaction.

“Vietnamese Cinema: First Views” by JOHN CHARLOT

Vietnamese cinema is beginning to be appreciated for its aesthetic qualities and for the picture it provides of Vietnam and its history. The late 1980s were a crucial period for the art form and for the nation as a whole. Film makers were on the cutting edge of *glasnost* and sought the foundation for a truly humane way of living. Film makers also expressed the themes of mourning and reconciliation as well as the perennial Vietnamese feeling for the sacredness of their land. In doing this, the film makers have adapted their indigenous art traditions to their new medium. The content and form of Vietnamese films are an original contribution to world cinema and a valuable means for cultural understanding.

“Continuity and Change in the Itinerary of the Malay Novelist, Shahnnon Ahmad” by LAURENT METZGER

Shahnnon Ahmad is considered as one of the most famous Malay writers of our time. This paper intends to show how this writer has changed from his first novel, *Rentong*, published in 1965, to his latest, *Sutan Baginda*, published in 1989. As the author has written 14 novels over a twenty-five year period, a few changes are noticeable in several areas, but continuity remains in spite of the changes. Several features are considered to prove this point.

“Cries Over Spilled Holy Water: ‘Complex’ Responses to a Traditional Thai Religious Practice” by GRANT A. OLSON

There had been much discussion about the “complexity” of Thai Buddhism and its animistic, Brahmanistic, and Buddhist elements. Using the ritual of pouring

holy water as a point of inquiry, some prominent Buddhists are asked for their reactions to what has often been viewed as marginally Buddhist practice. This paper juxtaposes some arguments related to the complexity of Thai Buddhism and reveals the difficulty of drawing neat lines between the dimensions of evolving Thai Buddhist praxis.

“Perspectives on the Electoral Behaviour of Baguio City (Philippines) Voters in a Transition Era” by STEVEN ROOD

This paper attempts to trace the electoral behaviour of Baguio City voters during two years, beginning with the 1986 Presidential election contest between Ferdinand Marcos and Corazon Aquino. A major theme of the analysis is the importance of specifically political variables, as opposed to socio-economic ones, in understanding the electorate. The discussion concludes that the Filipino voter is capable of responding to policy issues. The electorate seems ready for a transition to new forms of politics. However, this will be impossible until a new kind of political leadership is willing to exploit this readiness.