ICAS 7 supplement to the Newsletter no. 56 | Spring 2011

KITLV PRESS HAS A TRADITION of publishing several series, some old and trusted, some brand new. It is KITLV’s two newest series that merit some elaboration. KITLV’s best-known series is Verhandelingen, commonly abbreviated as VKO (Verhandelingen van het Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde), which has existed since 1938. In 2010 we published its 267th volume. Verhandelingen is a heterogeneous series, for the word ‘Verhandelingen’ indicates any serious, scholarly monograph. Despite the range of books that could appear in a series of that name, there is one common, geographical, factor binding the diverse titles: all are about Indonesia. Moreover, a glance through the catalogue soon reveals certain tendencies within this series, books with related subjects that might be grouped into families: books on linguistics, books about the arts (theatre, literature), books about religion, books with a colonial bent and books concerned with the post-colonial. These themes cut across economics and others with an anthropological concentration.

Southeast Asia Mediated

The two new series have a much sharper profile, as the names indicate: Southeast Asia Mediated and Power and Place in Southeast Asia. The focus of Southeast Asia Mediated, edited by Bart Barendregt (University of Texas, Austin), is on the explosion of media and media-related phenomena. Questions regarding the circulation of media images, sounds, forms, and technologies, the economic success and conditions thereof, and the ideological understandings of diverse media forms and processes of mediation that turn media into one thing in one place and something different in another, are all relevant to the series. Southeast Asia Mediated considers media forms and practices, processes of mediation, and the complex evolving and intersecting media ecologies that characterize Southeast Asia, whether in a contemporary or a historical context. The editors are interested in the ways in which media construct perception and experience, are part and parcel of social movements and political and cultural practice, how they refract within and co-construct understandings of mind, meaning, and power, or are integral parts of social and ideological transformation. Of interest, too, are the publics called forth by diverse mediations, as well as the constraints—ideological, cultural, political, economic, financial, governmental, technological—that contour the possibilities and effects of diverse media in particular places and times.

IN THE PAST CENTURY, there have been numerous admirable works on the history of Chinese thought by acclaimed scholars. Especially in recent decades, with the appearance, publication and circulation of several series of broadly-authored books, including the Hanxin manuscripts of Maowangdi, Bamboo slips of the Guodian tomb of the Warring States period and the bamboo slips of the Shanghai Museum, the study of Chinese thought, in terms of textual investigation, analytical methodology and interpretive perspective, has assumed multiple dimensions and embarked on new directions.

Bilingual series

The book series, published by The National Taiwan University Press, and co-edited by Dennis Chia-Hsung Cheng (National Taiwan University) and On-cho Ng (Pennsylvania State University), solicits original, innovative and high-quality scholarship on metaphysics across the whole of Chinese thought, including the following: Works on the classical canon and excavated texts; on Chinese intellectual history as a synthetic whole, and on specific periods and/or specialized topics; on comparative and cross-cultural interpretation of the history of Chinese thought; and translations of primary sources or other texts that advance understanding of and facilitate research on the history of Chinese thought. The series welcomes submissions of manuscripts of technical monographs written in either Chinese or English, although it does not consider works in other languages. Although many all submissions are subject to anonymous peer review that will be rigorous, constructive, fair and prompt. The book series, with a professional editorial staff and production infrastructure, aims to provide an open and efficient publication outlet for scholars working in both the Chinese- and English-language worlds of academia.

Mirror as Mind

So far, three monographs have been included in our series in all in 2010. The first is The Mirror Festival and Extra-Textual Interpretations of Classics in Chinese Intellectual History by Lo Yuet Keung. Divided into four sections, it traces, in long-range and case studies, the ever-evolving meaning and significance of Chinese classics from the Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist traditions, and unravels the interplay among philosophy, textual exegesis, ethics, and politics in the cultural interstices of intellectual history.

The third book is A Study of Wang Yang-ming’s Philosophical Theory by Dong Ke-ming. It contains five chapters of which the last analyzes the mirror-as-mind metaphor first found in Laozi, Zhuangzi and Buddhist texts. Although many Song Ming Confucian scholars adopted it to express the peace of mind, it was Wang Yang-ming who fully engaged with it, imbuing the metaphor with two connotations: that substance and function are of the same origin, and that substance and practice are united in harmony.

Needless to say, all monographs published in these KITLV series are Open Access via the Oapen library (www.oapen.com), thus increasing their readership worldwide.

The Association for Asian Studies (AAS) series

The Association for Asian Studies (AAS) founded 70 year ago is not only a membership organization. Its journal of Asian Studies (JAS) has long been recognized as the most authoritative and prestigious publication of its kind. It is self-published but is now produced by Cambridge University Press on behalf of the Association. The AAS practical and innovative teaching journal Education About Asia (EAA) recently completed fifteen years of publication. Also unique is the AAS Bibliography of Asian Studies, widely recognized as the standard bibliographical tool in the field of Asian studies. Originally a print product, the BAS has been converted to an electronic database, incorporating all entries from the print volumes for the years 1971 to 1991 and entering all new citations from 1991 forward in electronic form. As of the autumn of 2010, the BAS Online contains more than 777,000 references. A dedicated editorial team led by Anna Leon Shulman is at work compiling current citations and retrospectively in-filling citations, particularly from general and comparative sources not catalogued as Asia-related. AAS also publishes Asian book series of which two are highlighted below.

Asia Past & Present: New research from AAS

Asia Past & Present is a scholarly book series encompassing all areas and disciplines of Asian Studies. This series was launched as a successor to the AAS Monographs and Occasional Papers Series which published 59 titles between 1951 and 2000. The series is overseen by the editor, Martha Ann Selby (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga) and AAS Publications Manager, Jonathan Wilson, and the AAS Editorial Board which comprises of specialists in all areas of AAS. AAS expects to publish 2-4 Asia Past & Present books a year, each of them fully refereed and selected on the basis of exemplary, original, and enduring scholarship.

AAS particularly hopes to support work in emerging or under-represented fields, such as South Asia, pre-modern Asia, language and literature, art, history, and literary criticism. In addition to monographs, other forms of scholarly research—such as essay collections and translations—will be considered. Authors must be current AAS members at the time of submitting their initial manuscript excerpts for evaluation.

The series was launched in 2009 with the publication of Professor Teri Yamada’s book, Modern Short Fiction of Southeast Asia, which surveys the historical and cultural significance of modern short fiction in nine Southeast Asian countries, the first book of a planned 12 volume series as an Outstading Academic Title by the popular library journal Choice. To date five other titles have been published ranging from Collecting Asia: East Asian Libraries in North America, 1864–2008 (2010) which offers a fascinating look at the development of 25 of the major East Asia libraries in North America to To Die and Not Dying: Ge Hong, Anthropology, and the Pursuit of Immortality in Medieval China (2010) which is the only book-length study to date on early Chinese autobiographical writing and the cultural significance and historical development of the particular genre. For further information about Asia Past & Present, contact Martha Ann Selby at ms@uts.cc.utexas.edu.

Key Issues in Asian Studies

As part of its commitment to teaching and classroom materials, AAS recently launched Key Issues in Asian Studies. Key issues booklets are designed for use in undergraduate humanities and social science courses, as well as by advanced high-school students and teachers, and anyone with an interest in Asia. Booklets tackle broad subjects or major cultural and historical themes in an introductory but compelling, jargon-free style appropriate for introductory courses, written to encourage critical thinking and extending the particular genre of evaluation. For further information about Key Issues in Asian Studies, contact Jonathan Wilson, at jwilson@ias.edu.

For further information about AAS publications generally, visit www.asian-studies.org/publications.

Jonathan Wilson
Associate Editor, Asian Studies, USA
jwilson@iasian-studies.org

Tom van den Berge
KITLV, the Netherlands
berge@kitlv.nl

Roosemarijn Hoefste
KITLV Press, the Netherlands
hoefste@kitlv.nl

Dennis C. H. Cheng
National Taiwan University & IAS, Leiden, The Netherlands
dch@ntu.edu.tw

Jonathan Wilson
Associate Editor, Asian Studies, USA
jwilson@iasian-studies.org

Ann Selby
ms@uts.cc.utexas.edu

Jonathan Wilson
Associate Editor, Asian Studies, USA
jwilson@iasian-studies.org