

From now on, the Audiovisual Resource Center will be known as Bophana. Hanuman remains the name of the database exclusively.

Bophana was chosen in remembrance of the courage and resistance of the young girl aged 25 imprisoned in the S21 detention Center. The Audiovisual Resource Center seeks to relay this message to young generations. Of Cambodian origin, this name is easily pronounced in French, English and Khmer. It also evokes the national and international angles of the project: re-constituting a Cambodian audiovisual heritage aimed at a broad Cambodian audience; developing an international network in order to share skills and facilitate the exchange of proficiencies and experience.

The Bophana Audiovisual Resource Center also has its own website, available on line as of October 15th, on: www.bophana.org

The Center will officially open its doors to the public on December 4th, 2006. Following the inauguration, a seminar on the building of an audiovisual heritage will be held, gathering professionals from the region.

Where do we stand?

The database created specifically for the Center's needs by Opsomaï, has just been transferred to Phnom Penh. A copy remains based in France for back up.

In coordination with the East/West Management organization, a workshop was held with Cambodian NGOs (Equal access, Women Media Center of Cambodia, Community Forestry International, Cambodian Center for Human Rights). These organizations all work on human rights. The documents they produce are testimonies of life in Cambodia today. The Center wishes to include a selection of these accounts in its archive and provide access to them. This first workshop established fields of possible collaboration. The Center's objective was also to make these organizations aware of the necessity of preserving their own archives.

The Center has welcomed the Ina (Institut national de l'audiovisuel – Audiovisual National Institute) President General Director, Mr Emmanuel Hoog and the French Ambassador, his Excellency Mr Yvon Roe d'Albert.

Regarding communication, a webmaster has joined the Center thanks to the French and Spanish tandem of inter-government cooperation. This resulted in the realization of an operative website for the Center. In the course of a two month internship, a Suisse filmmaker has made a short documentary presentation of the Audiovisual Resource Center.

The Phnom Penh team has also been reinforced with the arrival of an archive supervisor. She will be primarily responsible for running the archive collection and guiding the team of researchers. An audiovisual supervisor has also been hired. He first came for a three week mission during which he audited the needs of the Center; he will return in early November for a period of 5 months. We are in the process of hiring a translator from French to Khmer, and a Khmer administrator; the latter will be trained by the current French administrator. We are currently looking for a person to head our data processing project.

The equipment of the Center continues with the installation of a screening room and a studio.

FIAT (International Federation of Television Archives) has given us three U-Matic players enabling the Center to view and digitize part of the archives found in Cambodia.



FOCUS: Overview of the collected archives

The Hanuman database is available in three languages: French, Khmer and English. Today, it includes close to 900 archives coming from important archives (*INA in France, Gaumont Pathé Archives, etc.*), institutions (*French Foreign Ministry, French Cultural Ministry, Association Frères Lumière, Red Cross International Comity, etc.*) and private collections. Among remarkable material, the Center just received six Lumière films dating back to 1899, shot in Phnom Penh and Angkor.

Furthermore, while collecting photographic archives—a project initiated over a year ago—we were granted permission to use many partners' material: *archives from the Foreign Ministry (Gsell collection); the Defense Ministry (Defense's Historical Department, HSD); Ecole française d'Extrême Orient EFEO - French school of Far-Eastern studies (the Boulbet collection and the history of the EFEO in Cambodia); photographs by James Burnet; Musée Rodin (reproduction of drawings and photograph collections related to Rodin's work); the Adhémar Leclère collection from the Alençon Musée des Beaux Arts et de la Dentelle; photographer Micheline Dullin's collection, developed by her daughter Nausicaa Favart; the Agence Roger-Viollet collection; the Atelier parisien d'urbanisme (APUR) collection; the architects and historians René Dumont and Guy Nafilyan collection.*

In terms of perspectives for collecting archives, we will search for funds serving the following objectives: the progressive translation and dubbing into French of Khmer documents which we hold, in order to render them widely accessible; the extension of the collecting of material on an international scale, in countries other than France.

If you wish to support our efforts, please contact our teams in Phnom Penh or in Paris. Also, if you own or know of documents (films or photographs) which could be of interest to the Cambodian public, please let us know.

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