

EDITORIAL: THE MELAKA PAPERS, VOLUME 4

Peter Bellwood

The 16th Congress of IPPA was co-organised with the Department of Museums and Antiquities (Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Malaysia), the Malaysian Archaeologists Association (Ikatan Ahli Arkeologi Malaysia) and the Melaka Museum Corporation. It was held in the Century Mahkota Hotel, Melaka, from 1st to 7th July 1998. Funding to support the attendance of delegates from developing countries was received from the Malaysian Ministry of Culture Arts and Tourism, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, the Japan Foundation (Kuala Lumpur) and Unesco (Asia Pacific Region). The within-Malaysia organisation was headed by IPPA Vice-President Adi Taha, assisted by his many colleagues in the above-mentioned co-organising Malaysian institutions.

Approximately 225 papers were presented at the conference, in 24 separate sessions, running concurrently three at a time in separate lecture rooms. The speakers represented 35 countries.

The major session titles, with their original convenors, were as follows:

1. Current Research in Malaysian Archaeology (Zuraina Majid)
2. Pleistocene Archaeology in East Asia (Susan Keates)
3. The Hoabinhian and its Contemporaries (Adi Taha)
4. Environmental Change and Early Agriculture in Southeast Asia (Charles Higham and Bernard Maloney)
5. Early Farming Cultures of South Asia (Vasant Shinde)
6. Recent Advances in the Archaeology of Southern China (Magnus Fiskesjö)
7. Recent Advances in Taiwan Prehistory (Peter Bellwood)
8. Foragers and Farmers in the Japanese Islands (Mark Hudson)
9. Pottery in Archaeological Contexts: Origins and Distributions, Interpretation and Classification (Brian Vincent)
10. The Emergence of the Early Historic States of SE Asia (Ian Glover)
11. Later Prehistoric Cultures of Island and Mainland Southeast Asia (David Bulbeck)
12. Current Approaches to Sociopolitical Complexity in Asia (Lis Bacus)
13. Ethnoarchaeology in Theory and Practice in the Interpretation of Indo-Pacific Prehistory (Richard Engelhardt and Pamela Rogers)
14. Gender in Asian/Pacific Archaeology (Sarah Nelson)
15. Geoarchaeological Studies of Landscape Change and Human Settlement During the Past 2500 years (Jane Allen)
16. Ceramics and Obsidian in Island Southeast Asia and Oceania (Richard Shutler)
17. Settlement, Oral History and Archaeology in Micronesia (Felicia Beardsley and David Welch)
18. Biological Anthropology in Southeast Asia and Oceania (Kazumichi Katayama and Nancy Tayles)
19. Landscapes and Human Interaction in Oceania (Thegn Ladefoged)
20. Linguistic Correlations with Archaeological Units in the Indo-Pacific Region (Roger Green and Matthew Spriggs)
21. Cultural Resource Management and Historical Archaeology in Southeast Asia (Douglas Comer)
22. Recent Advances in Bornean Archaeology (Ipoi Datan and John Krigbaum)
23. The Biocultural History of the Orang Asli (Dee Baer)
24. Archeological Site Management and Heritage Conservation in the Context of the Rapid Urbanization of Southeast Asia (Richard Engelhardt)

Papers from Sessions 4, 6 and 20 have been published already in BIPPA volume 18, 1999; and from sessions 5, 11, 16 and 23 in BIPPA volume 19, 2000.

SESSIONS PUBLISHED IN THIS ISSUE

Current Approaches to Sociopolitical Complexity in Asia

This session (number 12, chaired by Lis Bacus) contains five papers on themes relating to social complexity, agriculture and trade in China and Southeast Asia.

Geoarchaeological Studies of Landscape Change and Human Settlement During the Past 2500 Years

This session (number 15, chaired by Jane Allen) contains two papers on historical landscape management and change in the Malay Peninsula and Bali.

Ceramics and Obsidian in Island Southeast Asia and Oceania

This session (number 16, chaired by Richard Shutler) was prepared with editorial assistance from Glenn Summerhayes and contains four papers on Pacific and Indonesian archaeology, three having already been published in BIPPA 19, 2000.

Recent Advances in Bornean Archaeology

This session (number 22, chaired by Ipoi Datan and John Krigbaum) contains two papers, on primates and rice remains respectively.

Recent Advances in Taiwan Prehistory

The final session (number 7, chaired by Peter Bellwood) contains three papers, with possibly two more (by Chen Chung-yu and Lien Chao-mei) to follow in a future issue.

FUTURE ISSUES OF MELAKA PAPERS

It is necessary to keep BIPPA weights under 500 grammes to ensure maximum efficiency in postage rates and packing. Two more issues of Melaka papers are planned, to be published into 2001. IPPA has also received a grant from Unesco in Bangkok to publish the two sessions on Heritage Management chaired by Douglas Comer (Session 21) and Richard Engelhardt (Session 24). These will be put together in a volume separate from the other Melaka papers, to be marketed by Unesco in Bangkok. In addition to these heritage sessions we have a large number of papers in hand from Sessions 2 (Pleistocene), 3 (Hoabinhian), 8 (Japan), 10 (Early Historic States) and 18 (Biological Anthropology). A few papers are also in hand or expected from the other sessions not listed or previously published.

All of this amounts to a large publication task and it is necessary to thank Doreen Bowdery who has given much of her time to the editorial task, and the remainder of the editorial team for this issue. It remains to thank again all those who were involved in the organisation of the Melaka Congress, plus of course all the funding agencies listed earlier. It is also necessary to thank the Business Manager's Section of the Faculties Administration at ANU and staff of the National Museum of Malaysia for handling the financial affairs of IPPA and the Melaka Congress.

Our next conference will be held with the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, during 2002 (probably September). Planning for this conference will begin in 2001 and members will be kept informed of developments.

WITH REGRET

Two scholars well-known to those of us who work in Southeast and East Asia have recently passed away. One is Bernard Maloney, who will be remembered by many for

his enthusiasm in organising sessions at our Chiang Mai and Melaka conferences. The other is Chang Kwang-chih, never a formal member of IPPA, but a scholar whose writings will be known to most IPPA members. I will take the liberty of printing here a few notes about each of them.

Dr Bernard Maloney of the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast died suddenly at home on 11th October 2000. Dr Maloney had worked in Queen's since 1980. His passing is deeply regretted by his friends and colleagues within the department and more widely throughout the University community.

Bernard's knowledge and scholarship in his subject area was immense. He was a true academic with a limitless enthusiasm for his subject area. A single question relating to his research could prompt a lengthy and detailed answer, that, for those of us outside the palynological field, was more detailed and intricate than needed but served to show his profound knowledge of his subject area. He enjoyed his research in SE Asia and spoke highly of those he worked with there. In his personal life his passions were stamp collecting and Chelsea football club. He used his research trips to increase his vast collection of SE Asian stamps and often made a sidetrip to Stamford Bridge after meetings in London! Bernard's passing is a great loss.

Kwang-chih Chang, Professor Emeritus at Harvard University, passed away the morning of 3 January 2001, following a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease and related complications. In spite of his determination and optimism throughout his illness, his weakened systems were unable to recover fully from a final mild infection and he succumbed, in the end, to respiratory failure.

KC's remarkable scholarship in the archaeology and early history of East Asia is well known to his colleagues in the field, and his unswerving guidance and friendship are treasured by the many, many students he taught over the past forty years at Yale, Harvard, and in Beijing, Taipei, and Hong Kong. He will be sorely missed and fondly remembered.