

U DSE

**Artificial Collection of
South-East Asian Manuscripts**

18th cent.-1967

Historical Background:

The South East Asian collection in the Brynmor Jones Library began alongside the foundation at Hull University of a Centre for South East Asian Studies in the early 1960s. The Centre was administered by a Board of South East Asian Studies chaired by Professor J Wilson of the Economics Department and the acquisition of South-East Asian research materials was vastly helped by the involvement of the librarian, Philip Larkin.

In 1968 Mervyn Jaspan was appointed to the chair of South East Asian Sociology at Hull University. He became director of the Centre for South East Asian Studies and there was rapid expansion in the 1960s with the library spending several years acquiring material through purchase and active pursuit of donations, many of which came from Professor Jaspan himself. In the 1970s the main holdings were boosted by the deposit of around 1000 of Professor Jaspan's books and pamphlets about the sociology and anthropology of South East Asia as well as many original texts, especially from Sumatra. Archival papers began to be acquired, including those of Dr David Bassett, F W Dalley, Dr Harry Parkin and Dr Roy Bruton.

The library also purchased in 1971 the valuable collection of Professor C Hooykaas including books and periodicals and Indonesian novels. Concentration on Indonesian material has led to it comprising about 30% of the total South East Asian holdings of the library and includes a microfilm copy of the Sumatra factory records for 1685-1825. At Professor Jaspan's urging these materials were given separate cataloguing and physical space in the main library and archives and upon his death in 1975 his research materials and original manuscripts were also donated by Helen Jaspan. Many manuscripts from Jaspan's personal collection lie at the heart of this collection at DSE and his own interest in collecting examples of South East Asian scripts is reflected in the organization of the collection.

Description:

This is an artificial collection of items arranged by date of receipt. A large number arrived in the Brynmor Jones Library as part of the donated collections of Professor Mervyn Aubrey Jaspan, though others have been purchased from and donated by other sources.

The collection is rich in rare and unique examples of the South East Asian manuscripts in the archives. There are four Ka-Ga-Nga texts - a folk tale and a poem on bamboo tiles, a legal digest on rattan and a letter on a bamboo cylinder. There are three extremely rare examples of tagbanua script on a bamboo cylinder and two bamboo strip texts (from Palawan Island in the Philippines). There are examples of Cham script (from Cambodia) in the form of a divination on paper and a Cham translation of a Malay mystical text on paper. There is one Toba Batak bark book of magical spells from North Sumatra. All the above were collected by Professor Jaspan during his researches into the languages particularly of Indonesia.

This artificial collection contains other examples of South East Asian scripts acquired by separate donation and purchase. One is a traditional script from Pasemah, South Sumatra, another is a Sinhalese manuscript in wooden boards with palm leaf pages and another is a Javanese folk tale in romanised script. Other manuscripts of this kind include a bill in Khmer, a bill in Chinese, two Cambodian lontar tessera printed on bamboo, a single palm leaf, gilded and lacquered with Burmese square script, a single complete manuscript on palm leaves in Pali script of 128 folios, a Burmese astrological calendar on palm leaf, a Burmese grammar

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with pali script and a braided manuscript binder from Rangoon with Pali script. The latter was presented by Dr Geoffrey Marrison, former keeper in the Department of Oriental Books and Manuscripts at the British Library, who compiled catalogues of many of the South East Asian collections now held by Hull University Archives. A donation by Miss Helen Stephens is a palm leaf manuscript of 88 folios of astrological texts in Balinese.

The papers described above fall into a particular category of manuscript - they are all rare examples of several South East Asian scripts. The remainder of the manuscripts in DSE are rather more miscellaneous. There are three albums of photographs largely of Malaya in the first part of the twentieth century, there is a letter from the 1920s about conditions on a rubber estate, some printed addresses from the first part of the century about visits from various dignitaries and a grant dated 1823 signed by Thomas Stamford Raffles. There is a diary of a civil servant in Penang, a folk tale from Rejang and a history of the Rejang kingdom of southern Sumatra, an anthology of Malaya, some education material for the Dutch Indies and a register of the Borneo Rubber Estate Owners.

Note: A high proportion of the manuscripts written in South East Asian scripts are undated or impossible to date without specialist knowledge, and have therefore been dated to between the 18th and 20th centuries, which is the rough timespan covered by the collection.

Extent:

6 boxes (1 linear metre)

Custodial History:

U DSE/43-46 were purchased by Rev. Dr. Harry Parkin, when working as a missionary in Batak regions of North Sumatra during the 1960s and 1970s. Purchased from his widow in 1991, with the aid of the V&A Purchase Grant Fund

Related material:

Papers of Professor Mervyn A Jaspan [U DJA]

Access conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader.

Language:

This collection comprises documents in English and Dutch as well as several South East Asian languages and scripts.

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| U DSE/1 | Bamboo tile. The spell of Suting Nursani to disarm malevolent spirits in virgin jungle about to be cleared for planting. Redjang, South Sumatra 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/2 | A lover's grief: a lyrical poem of the Panton genre in Ka-Ga-Nga script on a bamboo tile. Redjang, South Sumatra. 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/3 | Simbur Tjahaya legal digest of the Redjang of South Sumatra inscribed in Ka-Ga-Nga syllabic script on rattan 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/4 | Filipino bamboo cylinder text from Tagbanua, Palawan Island, the Philippines 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/5 | Bamboo strip text with Tagbanua syllabic script from Palawan Island, SW Philippines 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/6 | Bamboo strip text with Tagbanua syllabic script from Palawan Island, SW Philippines 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/7 | Letter of a suitor; a text in Ka-Ga-Nga script on a bamboo cylinder. Pedjang, South Sumatra 1 item | late 18th cent. |
| U DSE/8 | Illustrated manuscript, on paper, probably a text on divination, in Cham script, from Cambodia 1 item | 18th-19th cent. |
| U DSE/9 | North Sumatran Karo Batak book (pustaka) of magical ordeals, in root ink on bark 1 item | early 19th cent. |
| U DSE/10 | Copper plate manuscript with tradiitonal script from Pasemah, South Sumatra 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/11 | Sinhalese manuscript in Pali on palm leaf with painted wooden boards. Ceylon 1 item | 19th cent. |
| U DSE/12 | Serat Menak (The Nobleman): a Javanese adaptation of the Malay Amir Hamzah. Romanised script 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |

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| U DSE/13 | Notebook (17ff). Beschrijving van het District Salem, en in het bithonder van het gefricht Goenoeng-negera door Raden Srio Rjondro Negaro, auch ein proefschrift van KT Holle. 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/14 | Bill, in Khmer, made on the Middle Mekong, Cambodia 1 item | Jan 1967 |
| U DSE/15 | Bill, in Chinese, made on the Middle Mekong, Cambodia 1 item | Jan 1967 |
| U DSE/16 | Preah reah samphear: a Cambodian lontar tessera, printed on bamboo 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/17 | Cambodian proverbs: a Cambodian lontar tessera, printed on bamboo 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/18 | Batak pustaka. Given in memory of George and Lena Home of Padang Tjermin and Padang Brahrang, Deli, Sumatra O.K. and East lothian, Scotland 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/19 | Single leaf (Ko = f.9) from a Kammavaca. Palm leaf, gilded and lacquered, with text in Burmese square or 'tamarind' script. Pali language 1 item | 18th-early 19th cent. |
| U DSE/20 | Braided manuscript binder from Rangoon with Pali script 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/21 | Burmese astrological calendar. Palm leaf. Burma 1 item | 18th-early 19th cent. |
| U DSE/22 | Samasa. Part of Kaccayana's grammar dealing with Pali word compounds. Palm leaf. Burmese script. Pali. Burma. 1 item | 19th cent. |
| U DSE/23 | Karaka. Part of Kaccayana's grammar dealing with Pali verbs. Palm leaf. Burmese script. Pali. Burma 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/24 | Photograph album 'taken by EB Maundrell in Malaya and sent to S.E.M. for Xmas 1909' 1 vol | c.1909 |

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| U DSE/25 | Printed addresses from the Mohammedan Advisory Board, Penang, to Hon. Walter Cecil Mitchell, Resident Councillor, Penang, celebrating the successful conclusion of World War I 1 bundle | 19 Jul 1919 |
| U DSE/26 | Printed address from representatives of the national communities in Ipoh and the District of Kinta to Sir Thomas Shenton Whitelegge Thomas, Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner for the Malay States, on his visit to Ipoh 1 item | 16 Jan 1935 |
| U DSE/27 | Photocopy. Letter. Charles Seager Brett, Langkon Estates, Kudat, to his brother Bert Conditions on a rubber estate 1 item | 9 Jan 1928 |
| U DSE/28 | Ts. 'Education in the Netherlands Indies' by BHM Vlekke Found inside 'From illiteracy to university', by L Djajadiningrat, purchased from Professor C Hooykaas, 1971 1 item | c.1944 |
| U DSE/29 | 'The school system of the Netherlands Indies', being a continuation of U DSE/28 1 item | c.1944 |
| U DSE/30 | History of the Redjang Kingdom, compiled and arranged by Mohammas Hoessein, District Chief of the Redjang-Lebong Residency Translated from the original Redjang (?) into Indonesian by Professor MA Jaskan (1963) (25pp.) 1 item | 1932 |
| U DSE/31 | Folktale from Redjang. 'Tjerito tun mengetalang' Collected by Professor MA Jaskan (1962) 1 item | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/32 | Grant. William Farquhar, Resident of Singapore to Ram Sammy Signed by Thomas Stamford Raffles. 1 item | 3 Feb 1823 |
| U DSE/33 | Ts. 'Anthology of Malaya', compiled and edited by HR Cheeseman, CMG 409 pp. + index 1 item | 1953 |
| U DSE/34 | Diary of an officer in the Public Works Department, Penang 1 vol | 1890-1891 |

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| U DSE/35 | Album of photographs: Vancouver; Hong Kong; Penang; Taipin; Pundit; Ipoh; Sitiawan; Gopeng; Kuala Lumpur 1 vol | c.1920 |
| U DSE/36 | Album of photographs: a visit by HMS Malaya, and unveiling a statue of Sir Frank A Swettenham (at Kuala Lumpur?) 1 vol | c.1920 |
| U DSE/37 | Register of Directors and Secretary of the Borneo Rubber Estate Owners Co. Ltd 1 volume | c.1948 |
| U DSE/38 | Ts. carbon copy. Translation by CW Watson of 'Bukan Pasar Malam' ('It's not an All-night Fair'), by Pramoedya Ananta Tor With introduction and biographical note (i - x1, 89pp.) 1 item | 1951 |
| U DSE/39 | Paper ms. Cham translation of a Malay Sufi magical/mystical text 1 bundle | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/40 | Palm leaf manuscript A collection of 13 astrological texts, some with incised illustrations. Originally consisted of 94 folios 1 bundle | 19th cent. |
| U DSE/41 | Manuscript on palm leaves. 'Abhidhammatthasangaga', by Anuruddha In Burmese script, with a detailed commentary in Burmese by an unknown scholar. (128 folios, incomplete) 1 bundle | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/42 | Cham manuscript fragments (a) 2 ff. (17 x 11 cm.), damaged along edges. f.1a includes a drawing of a dragon in black outline, coloured yellow and orange with 5 lines of encircling text; f.1b has a small miniature of a demon in black, brown and blue, with caption and 7 lines of Cham text in the Cham script of Cambodia. f.2a has 16 lines of Cham text; f.2b contains another dragon outline in black, with yellow and orange colouring, plus captions. (b) 2ff. (17 x 11 cm.), damaged along edges. f.3a contains some pencilled notes in Cham; f.3b is blank. f.4a has 15 lines of Cham text, some rubricated; f.4b also contains 15 lines of Cham text, some rubricated. 1 bundle | 18th-20th cent. |

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| U DSE/43 | <p>Batak bark book in Simalungun Batak script</p> <p>Side A. F.1 has a leaf design, filling the page. A.2-13: text 6-11 lines per side. Begins: Poda ni pormesa na sampulu duwa ma inon dohot panggorda na wuwaluh. i.e. Instruction about the twelve signs of the zodiac, and the eight panggorda (symbolic animals, from garuda (the mount of Vishnu)). A.15-16 has a divination table in the form of a circle divided into eight segments with small figures of men looking in and out. This is called ketika Johor in Malay, and is connected with the prediction of success in war. A.17 has 5 x 5 compartments, with small animals and no text. A.18: Poda ni pangarumai ma inon ale datu guru ale, a list of ominous spots in some kind of divination, followed by the diagram poramis na lima (= Malay ketika lima), the five times of the day, with the names of the Hindu gods, followed by three lines of explanation. A.20-46 have 8-10 lines of text a side, some divided by lines across, concerning instruction about fortunes in war.</p> <p>Side B. Ff.1-6 have 8-10 lines per side, beginning with tabas ni ari na pitu, incantations of the seven days of the week. B.7-8: 9 + 9 lines text on the left); an heraldic design and wind-rose (d sa na ualu) on the right. B.9-24: 8-10 lines text per side, with on the left, wind-roses and small animals on the right. B.25-40: 8-10 lines of text per side, some divided by lines across the page. B.41: 5 lines text, lower part blank. The text is concerned with going to the river for ritual purification. B.42-46: blank, except for the scrolled border (Details from Dr. P. Voorhoeve)</p> <p>1 vol</p> | 18th-20th cent. |
| U DSE/44 | <p>Batak bark book</p> <p>Begins: Disi ma di ma ondoskon bani puwangmu garam na piso ... Dr. Voorhoeve says: 'In this somewhat obscure formula, a hunter speaks to a man called Tuwan di Ujung Karlei. He offers him salt, vinegar and betel, and asks him: "Would you first slaughter the deer, that we may slaughter it after you?" Then the hunter gives part of the venison to the spirit who has pastured the animal. The language is almost pure Simalungun.'</p> <p>1 vol</p> | 18th-20th cent. |

- U DSE/45 Batak bark book 18th-20th cent.
Side A. Ff. 1-34 has 4-8 lines in Simalungun Batak script on each folio, beginning: Parang dasang pada rangku. At the head of f.2 is an animal diagram parallel to the text. (Side 1 is blank).
Side B. Ff. 1-3; blank. F. B.4 has a fish diagram. B.4-31 have simple wind-roses, d sa na ualu, with some letters at the ends of the radial lines, but no independent text. B.32 has a complex magic pattern, B.33 another wind-rose; B.34 is blank.
1 vol
- U DSE/46 Large Batak bark book 18th-20th cent.
Side A. ff. 1-10 have 19-20 lines per side. A.10 is divided by a number of lines across the page, and some verticals, enclosing short formulas in boxes, of which three end with small, roughly drawn wind-roses. The final section begins with a large diamond-shaped vignette, beginning with the words Poda ni aji payung, which introduces a text on divination from the surface of the cut-off neck of a pig or a dog. (P. Voorhoeve).
Side B. f. B.1 has the first line illegible due to blackening by smoke; there are 21 lines of text. B.2 has 7 lines text + a line across + a further 17 lines of text. B.3 has 23 lines of text, of which two formulas are enclosed on the left within rectangular lines. On the right, above, are four faces within a roundel, and three insects outside. In a section below these are two grubs and a cow. B.4 has 17 lines of text, and in a square marked off on the right, seven cattle in a panel. Below, across the page, there is a procession of fishes and grubs. There is some blue ink-staining at the bottom. B.5 has 25 lines of text, the first six divided off by an irregular line. To the right, in a square, there is a curling dragon. B.6 has 22 lines, with several short formulas enclosed in boxes across the middle of the page, with small outlines of magic animals. B.7-12 have 21-24 lines per side, the text of B.12 being rubbed away at the bottom.
1 vol

- U DSE/47 Memoirs of John Beville Archer (1893 - 1948), of the Sarawak Administrative Service 1946-1948
- Comprising:
- 1) Photocopied ts. 'Sarawak: being some notes on thirty - five years spent in that delectable land, which has been lately so much in the limelight, and about which some misleading statements have been made both in the past and recently', by John Beville Archer (circa 292pp.)
 - 2) Published version of U DSE/47(a): 'Glimpses of Sarawak between 1912 & 1946: autobiographical extracts and articles of an officer of the Rajahs', compiled, edited and introduced by Vernon L Porritt (Hull: University of Hull Department of South -East Asian Studies, 1997)
 - 3) File containing:
 - (a) Photographs from U DSE/47(b), with captions. (13)
 - (b) Maps, with overlays (2)
 - (c) Correspondence relative to the publication, 1997 - 1998. (9)
- 1 item