Manuscript Cultures and Epigraphy in the Tai World
(Volker Grabowsky, editor, 2022)


During the past four decades an impressive corpus of manuscripts and epigraphical material in Thailand, Laos, and adjacent Tai-speaking areas has been surveyed, documented, and digitized. Scholarly interest in this material has not been restricted to philological and historical studies of the texts contained in manuscripts and inscriptions but has extended to its material aspects, which encompass manuscripts written on palm-leaf, various forms of paper, cloth, bamboo, and other organic material, and inscriptions on stone, metal, and wood.

In Manuscript Cultures and Epigraphy of the Tai World, Volker Grabowsky seeks to explore the production, use, and transmission of manuscripts both as containers of traditional knowledge and as objects used in daily life, rituals, and ceremonies. Particular emphasis is given to the relationship between manuscripts and inscriptions, as both have influenced each other to no small degree. Through a comprehensive look at the Tai-language literature’s chronological and synchronic development, readers will learn the social importance of these literary productions.

For more information and book reservation, please contact: volker.grabowsky@uni-hamburg.de.

Conference on Book History and Thai Literary Studies at Kasetsart University
(Bangkok, Thailand)

The National Research Council of Thailand, along with the Faculty of Humanities, Kasetsart University and the Asien-Afrika-Institut, Universität Hamburg, organised a national conference on book history and Thai literary studies at Kasetsart University in Bangkok on 25 February 2023 to discuss the study of book history in Thai context, as well as its application to Thai literary studies. Six papers in different topics ranging from manuscript and print cultures to modern readership were presented and discussed in this whole-day conference. Prof. Dr. Volker Grabowsky from Universität Hamburg attended the conference as a co-host, while Peera Panarut, a postdoctoral researcher from Universität Hamburg, presented his paper on colophons and book history of Phra Malai illustrated manuscripts.

“THIS IS OUR WAY OF HAVING FUN”

Counter-public spheres as spaces of (self)empowerment of a feminist subcultural-movement in Indonesian DIY Punk

Date & Time
Friday, 14 April 2023
16.00 - 18.00
ESA O 121

Speaker:
Melanie Rennert
Ph.D. Candidate Austronesian Studies at Asia-Africa-Institute, University of Hamburg

Photo: @kolektifbetina

Photo credit: Faculty of Humanities, Kasetsart University
Austronesian Studies
The Philippines

“*You are listening to Tinig Pinay Radio Program, handog ng philippinische Frauengruppe, Hamburg.*”

It is with those words - in English, Filipino and German - that the radio program organized by the Filipino community in Hamburg starts. Junior Professor of Austronesian Studies Elsa Clavé and her students have become regular hosts for this Tinig Pinay Radio Program which takes place every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 8–10 pm and can be listened to on 93.0 FM, 101.4 MHz cable, or through a direct link at [www.fsk-hh.org/livestream](http://www.fsk-hh.org/livestream). It is hosted by FSK (Freies Sender Kombinat), which is supported by the City of Hamburg to foster cultural diversity among communities living in the city.

The program uses three languages, namely German, Tagalog (Tagdeutsch) and English, but plays only songs in Tagalog or other vernacular languages of the Philippines, with a wide range of genres speaking to different generations. Started 20 years ago, as a way for the first generation of the Filipino diaspora to answer a certain nostalgia from home, the program will now be periodically handled in cooperation with graduate students from the Austronesian program, together with Jun-Prof. Dr. Elsa Clavé (every 3rd Thursday of the month). They will bring the “voice of the Filipina” on air, with topics including diaspora, migration, Asian-German, gender inequality, and popular culture. Among the future guests are Filipino nurses, academicians, second generation Filipino-Germans, but also a chaplain, sailors, and women activists. For song requests, greetings, and topic suggestions, you may contact: 04043250046 or [tinigpinay@gmx.de](mailto:tinigpinay@gmx.de).

In October 2022 I remembered how excited I was when I met my professors, lecturers, and new friends at the main building of the University of Hamburg for the first time. We got to know each other and shared how the Southeast Asian Studies program would take us on board. The Southeast Asian Studies program is a small group compared to other programs but gives students a privilege to know one another better, also with the professors and lecturers. This enables me to have a discussion outside their classes. More interestingly, in this first semester, I participated in subjects with recent issues that I have never thought of before. Most of the subjects are related to one another, such as manuscripts, societies, modern texts, and media. I found them practical and relevant to be discussed. Since the first semester is ending soon, I am ready to take off for another interesting journey next semester!

D Wira Atmaja
Master’s student of Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia

As part of my Vietnamese studies at the Asien-Afrika-Institut, Universität Hamburg, I spent the winter semester of 2022–2023 at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, a member university of the Vietnam National University, in Hanoi. Besides intensive Vietnamese language courses, I also attended different classes focusing on Vietnamese linguistics and Sino-Vietnamese texts written in several languages of ethnic minorities. I also had an opportunity to attend an Indonesian language course. As part of a seminar on “Linguistic Field Methods,” I took part in a field trip investigating the language and culture of the Thái people inhabiting Thanh Hoá province.

During the past six months not only could I improve my Vietnamese language skills and deepen my knowledge in linguistics and Vietnamese culture, but also make new friends, travel, and experience the Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebration. To sum up, I really enjoyed my entire stay in Vietnam.

Jiří Kaftan
Master’s student of Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia

Welcome on board in Southeast Asian Studies!

Experience Report:
Semester in Hanoi

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