

Abstracts of Articles

“Pembaron: An East Javanese Rite of Priestly Rebirth” by N.J. SMITH-HEFNER

The residents of the Tengger mountains in East Java are the only ethnic Javanese population to have preserved a Hindu liturgical tradition from Majapahit times. Among the ritual texts of the Tengger priests, the prayers which accompany the *pembaron* rite of priestly rebirth are not only among the most beautiful, but also the most revealing of important aspects of popular Hindu-Javanese religion. The prayers describe a social and cosmological hierarchy of which few indices survive today in Tengger religion and society. However, the close integration of this religious text with other aspects of ritual, the priesthood, and beliefs concerning the afterlife suggests that the prayers were once tied to numerous aspects of popular culture and, to a significant degree, informed popular religion.

“The Commutation of *Suai* from Northeast Siam in the Middle of the Nineteenth Century” by JUNKO KOIZUMI

By examining the *suai* (head tax in kind) payment sent from northeast Siam to Bangkok in the mid-nineteenth century, this article attempts to reconsider the question of the development of commercial economy in Siam. The process of the commutation is illustrated with some quantitative data, and the various factors that affected the process are discussed.

“The Chinese Resistance Movement in the Philippines During the Japanese Occupation” by LI YUK-WAI

The Chinese in the Philippines organized several guerrilla outfits against the Japanese during the occupation. The resistance forces on the leftist side were led by the leaders coming from the pre-war Philippine Chinese United Workers' Union. Meanwhile there were several separated forces on the rightist side, originating from the pre-war Guomintang organizations in the Philippines.

“Banana Money: Consequences of the Demonetization of Wartime Japanese Currency in British Malaya” by PAUL H. KRATOSKA

At the end of the Japanese occupation of Malaya, the British Military Administration demonetized the wartime Japanese currency. This measure called into question a wide range of wartime transactions, and British authorities imposed a moratorium on debts until these matters could be resolved, a process which required nearly four years to complete, and brought to light a wide range of details concerning wartime conditions as well as post-war financial arrangements in Malaya and Singapore.

“Student Politics in University of Malaya, 1949–1951” by YEO KIM WAH

This paper discusses student politics from 1949 when the University of Malaya was established to January 1951 when leftwing students were detained by the

police. It focuses on student political activities as well as their perceptions of the Malayan independence movement. The paper concludes that the undergraduates were essentially performing a function of the Malayan intelligentsia.

“The Datuk Kong Spirit Cult Movement in Penang: Being and Belonging in Multi-Ethnic Malaysia” by CHEU HOCK TONG

This study analyses the significance of the Datuk Kong based on the premise that religion, being the product of social interaction, is manifested in the institutions peculiar to a multi-ethnic society. It shows how and why, through this interaction, a new spirit cult is voluntarily developed and integrated into the Chinese belief system.