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## Obituaries

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## OBITUARIES

### **Richard Ming Lai 1920-2011**

Richard Ming Lai of Arlington, Virginia, died on Thursday, February 3, 2011. Until his retirement in the mid-1980s, he was Director of the Chinese University Press in Hong Kong. Prior to that, he was Director of the Hong Kong Government Information Services, and the first Chinese ever appointed to head a government agency in Hong Kong under British colonial rule. He was appointed as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1978.

Richard Lai was born in Port St. Louis, Mauritius, in 1920, the ninth of fourteen siblings. He attended St. John's College in China and later received his M.A. in Education from Columbia University in New York. For fifty-four years he was married to Lin Taiyi who was an author and until her retirement, the Editor of the Chinese edition of the *Reader's Digest*. She preceded him in death. He is survived by his children Jill and Larry, and three grandchildren, Lindsay, Mark and Anna.

(From an Eastlib posting by Frank Joseph Shulman, excerpting the obituary in the *Washington Post*, February 9, 2011)

### **Prof. Paul Willem Johan van der Veur (August 28, 1921 – January 20, 2011)**

Paul W. J. van der Veur died in Canton, Ohio, on January 20, 2011, at the age of 89. Professor van der Veur was one of the key figures in the establishment and expansion of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Ohio University and the Southeast Asia Collection in the Ohio University Libraries. He also played an important role in the development of the Center as an important node in academic publishing on Southeast Asia.

Paul van der Veur's early life was closely intertwined with the colonial history of Indonesia and the Second World War in Southeast Asia. One of the first cohorts in the famous Southeast Asia program in Cornell University, his teaching and research career took him across the world, from the United States, to Europe, and Australia, in addition to Southeast Asia. His work spanned political and social science and history. A biographical sketch written by his colleagues Kent Mulliner, Lian The-Mulliner, Prof. Norman Parmer, Prof. Drew McDaniel, Prof. Ronald Burr, and Keng We Koh follows.

Born in Medan, Sumatra, in the then Dutch East Indies, Prof. van der Veur moved with his family to Surabaya, Java, at a very young age. He grew up there and retained fond memories of the city. He received his early education in the Indies and the Netherlands, returning to the Indies just before the Second World War. He was transported to Japan and did forced labor in factories there during the War. After the War, he came to study in the United States. He received his bachelor's degree from Swarthmore, his master's from Minnesota, and his PhD in Political Science and Southeast Asia Studies from Cornell. His dissertation was on the

Indonesian Eurasians. He taught at Yale, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Northern Illinois University, and finally, Ohio University, from which he retired. In-between, he took up a research fellowship with the Australian National University, where he researched and published on Irian Jaya and Papua-New Guinea, including an edited volume (with David G. Bettison and Colin A. Hughes) on the 1964 Papua-New Guinea elections. His research on Soetomo, a prominent Indonesian nationalist, also took him to Airlangga University in Surabaya, Indonesia, in 1980 on a Fulbright fellowship. His research and teaching career spanned the United States, Europe, Australasia, and Southeast Asia.

Prof. Paul van der Veur was the founder and first director of the Southeast Asian Studies program, in 1967. He served as Director of Southeast Asian Studies over several periods: 1967-1973, 1976-77, 1983-4, and 1988-90 and directed the growth of the Center into a major resource center for Southeast Asian Studies in the United States by the mid-1970s (See Iletto 2003).

Together with Prof. J. Norman Parmer, the first Director of International Studies at Ohio University, Prof. John F. Cady and other faculty, Prof. van der Veur played an important role in building the Southeast Asian Studies and International Studies programs. They were crucial in expanding the masters program in the formative years of the Center. Many of these students later went on to establish academic careers in different parts of the world. They also increased the number of faculty in the different University departments working on Southeast Asia. No less importantly, Prof. van der Veur inaugurated and promoted the research monograph/paper series by the Center of International Studies/Southeast Asian Studies in the late 1960s, which significantly raised the profile of the Center within the United States, and internationally, laid the foundations for the Center's development as a major publishing center in Southeast Asian Studies.

Prof. van der Veur and Lian The-Mulliner, the first Southeast Asian Studies Librarian in the Ohio University Libraries and later the first Curator of International Collections, were instrumental in building the Southeast Asia collection, almost from scratch. He remembered, how, when they started work in the University, an inventory check revealed that there were very few books on Southeast Asia in the library, and perhaps only six reputable journals on Asia, most of which were incomplete. As the first Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, he made the expansion of the collection an important component of the Center's own development, and worked to raise funds for the expansion of the collection.

By the time of his retirement from the University, and with the contribution of other faculty and librarians, the Southeast Asia Collection in Ohio University Library had become one of major collections in the country. Prof. van der Veur remained an important supporter of the library after his retirement, donating his collection of books and materials on Southeast Asia, which cover a wide range of topics on the region, over the years since his tenure at Ohio University. In 2008, he donated his papers and research materials to the Ohio University Library, and these are now housed in the University Library Archives. Nationally, he participated in the formation of the Southeast Asian Council (SEAC) and its predecessors within the Association for Asian Studies. Reflecting his commitment to increasing awareness

of research and writings in languages beyond English, he was instrumental in establishing the Translations Project Group of the Southeast Asia Council and arranged for the publication of the early fruits of its sponsorship.

Prof. van der Veur published on a wide range of topics from Eurasians in Indonesia, the Freemasons in the Dutch East Indies, issues surrounding Irian Jaya and Papua-New Guinea in the 1960s, Dutch colonialism, Indonesian nationalism, Education and Social Change, Race and Ethnic Studies, among others. He was also rather unique in his many publications of research and bibliographical guides, in collaboration with Lian The-Mulliner. These included a pioneering bibliography of dissertations on Southeast Asia submitted in the United States through mid-1968 (*Treasures and Trivia*) and an annotated inventory of the articles in the *Verhandelingen van het Bataviaasch Genootschap (VBG) 1779-1950*, the earliest Dutch journal on the Netherlands East Indies. He was co-author of the *Area Handbook on Indonesia*. He gave special attention to translating primary materials (such as the autobiography of early nationalist, Dr. Soetomo) and significant scholarship from Dutch into English.

Prof. van der Veur continued to publish after his retirement, completing a biography of E. F. E. Douwes Dekker, a prominent Eurasian and Indonesian nationalist from the Dutch East Indies, in 2006. In 2007, he published "Van den Berg's Essay on Muslim Clergy and Ecclesiastical Goods in Java and Madura: A Translation" (*Indonesia* 84:127-159). He continued to visit Ohio University Library in search of materials and references for these later publications, demonstrating how the partnerships and collections he had built during his academic career continued to inspire and support his research and writing after his retirement. At the time of his death, he was working with Lian The-Mulliner on a translation of L.W.C. van den Berg's *De Inlandsche Rang en Titels op Java en Madoera*.

Prof. van der Veur's career epitomized the symbiotic relationships between librarians and faculty and between research, collection development, and library services that have been instrumental in the development of Southeast Asian Studies in the United States. He also played an important role in bridging different language traditions of scholarship on Southeast Asia between Indonesian, Dutch, and English, just as his own research transcended disciplinary boundaries. In many ways, his work and approach embodied the cross-cultural, inter-disciplinary, and inter-professional enterprise that is Southeast Asian Studies. His life and career also reflected the experiences of the first generation of students and scholars in Southeast Asian Studies, and the struggles in the early development of the field in the United States.

(From an H-Asia posting submitted to JEAL by Frank Joseph Shulman)

### **Raoul Kulberg (1930-2011)**

Raoul Kulberg, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, a graduate of Pomona College in Claremont, California (B.A., 1953?) and George Washington University (M.A., 1970), and a doctoral candidate (A.B.D.) in American cultural studies at Bowling Green State University (Ohio), passed away on January 2, 2011 in Silver Spring, Maryland. He was eighty years old. Early in

his career, he worked on the Far East desk at the U.S. State Department; subsequently he served for many years as a reference librarian at what is now known as the University of the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.).

A longstanding member of the Mid-Atlantic Region/Association for Asian Studies (MAR/AAS) and the national Association for Asian Studies, he presented papers at a number of MAR/AAS annual meetings on such topics as the history of the New China News Agency (NCNA) and the portrayals of missionaries in films about China. He also was a member—in some cases, a life member—of the American Historical Association, the American Oriental Society, the Association of Moving Image Archivists, the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) of the AAS, the Friends Meeting of Washington, D.C., the Smithsonian Associates, the Traditional China Colloquium of Washington D.C., and the Washington Film Society; actively participated in regional, national and international meetings including many that dealt in various ways with Asia; and visited more than one hundred countries in the course of his travels around the world.

China, which he visited on five occasions between the early 1990s and Spring 2001 (most often on study tours led by Professor Yu Li-hua), was particularly high on his list. He and his wife Eve studied Chinese at the Xi'an Foreign Languages Institute, and one of his "informal quests" during many of his travels outside of China was to search for Chinese restaurants in out-of-the-way places. In addition, he was an avid collector of ephemera from China as well as of newsletter-type publications and books dealing with East Asia, film studies, and the American Civil War.

Kulberg became a pacifist after serving in ROTC during college and campaigned against the Vietnam War in the 1960s. During that same period, he wrote a thesis entitled "NCNA, a History and Description of Chinese Communist Press Agency Operations, 1920-1965" for his M.A. degree in Political Science at George Washington University (M.A., 1970. 241p.).

Survivors include his wife Eve Anne Johnson Kulberg, three children and two stepchildren. A memorial service is planned for May 2011.

(From an Eastlib posting by Frank Joseph Shulman)