

represents a thorough and reliable introduction to the European literature.

Anthony Reid

2. Modern

Cambridge History

N. Tarling (ed.) *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992 (2 Vols.). Pp.655 and 706, tables, graphs, maps, index, ISBN 0-521-35505-2 and 0-521-35506-0. A\$60.- each volume.

Two major contributions to the second volume of this impressive textbook are especially relevant to the students of the modern economic history of Southeast Asia. Bob Elson and Norman Owen discuss social and economic change in the region during respectively 1820-1940 and 1940-1990, each in about 60 pages.

In the preface Tarling notes: 'The publishers sought a history that stimulated rather than presented the last word.' Authors 'were ready to take risks, knowing that, whatever care they took, they might be faulted by the experts'. Can a *Cambridge History* be regarded as a punchbag for the experts? Isn't it more likely to be consulted by non-experts looking for a concise introduction into the historiography of Southeast Asia? Hence, isn't it more likely that the contributions will be regarded as state-of-the-art inventories of knowledge and methodology?

If, as far as economic history is concerned, the contributions of Elson and Owen are meant to be such inventories, they seem to be open invitations to try and bring out the relevance of Southeast Asia to the wider debates in the disciplines of economic history and development economics. Unfortunately the *Cambridge History* suggests that the economic historiography of Southeast Asia has until now failed to respond to such wider debates.

Elson denies that there was anything like economic progress in the Southeast Asian 'periphery', mainly because all fruits of indigenous labour and resources were sapped by the capitalist-colonialist 'core' (especially pp.184-186). Most Southeast Asian countries experienced unprecedentedly rapid economic advance after World War II. Rather than providing some fundamental explanations for this historically remarkable feat, Owen seems to prefer downplaying it. Amongst others by

claiming that it was based on rent-seeking rather than productive investment (pp.493-495) and that the poor only get poorer and the rich richer (pp.499 and 503).

These contributions to the *Cambridge History* are, in my opinion, invitations to the participants in the EchoSea project to discuss how and to what end the economic history of Southeast Asia can be written. The EchoSea project will make a major contribution to the study of Southeast Asia. It can lift the historical experience of the region straight into the wider current debates in the discipline of economic history and the study of economic growth, where it has until now been as good as absent. To do that, the participants in the project should feel encouraged to take account of these current debates, and take up Tarling's challenge.

Indonesia

J.Th Lindblad (ed.) *New Challenges in the Modern Economic History of Indonesia: Proceedings of the First Conference on Indonesia's Modern Economic History, Jakarta, October 1-4, 1991*. Leiden: Programme of Indonesian Studies, 1993. pp.298, tables. 90-9006126-6. ±Dfl.30.- Order from: Bureau Indonesische Studiën, Rapenburg 16, 2311 GJ Leiden, The Netherlands.

This book contains most of the papers presented at the first conference on Indonesian economic history almost two years ago. The contributions of Indonesian, Australian and Dutch historians cover a wide variety of subjects. The editor, Thomas Lindblad, has done a very valuable job by providing an introductory overview of four major themes in the contemporary study of economic change in colonial Indonesia. The overview puts the contributions to the volume in perspective and lays out the research agenda for the 1990s. Only a limited number of copies of this edition is available, but there are plans to publish an Indonesian translation soon.

Labour History

H. Schulte Nordholt and P. Keppy (eds.) 'Arbeid in Laat en Postkoloniaal Indonesië. Een Inventarisatie van Nederlandse Bronnen.' *CASA Werkdocument Nr.26*. Amsterdam: Centrum voor Azië Studies, 1993. Pp.228, tables, mainly in Dutch, ISSN 0923 4659. Dfl.19.50. Order from: Centre for Asian Studies, Oude Hoogstraat 24, 1012 CE Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The Centre for Asian Studies Amsterdam published an elaborate report on source materials for research on labour in Indonesia. The report mainly consists of a detailed survey of archival sources in Dutch archives, in particular the National Archives in The Hague (Ministry of Colonial Affairs, Algemene Secretarie 1942-50, private companies, personal collections), International Institute for Social History, Institute for Documentation of World War II and Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam, and the KITLV in Leiden. It also contains a survey of journals at the National Library in Jakarta and very useful major contributions on labour legislation 1835-1992, technical education and the supply of small credits in colonial Indonesia. These contributions give an overview of the available source materials and discuss the kind of questions which can be answered with the available material.

Monetary History

J. Schneider et al. (eds.) *Währungen der Welt IV. Asiatische und australische Devisenkurse im 19. Jahrhundert*. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1992. Pp.380, tables, maps, ISBN 3-515-06063-4 and *Währungen der Welt V. Asiatische und australische Devisenkurse im 20. Jahrhundert*. 1993. Pp.400, tables, maps. ISBN 3-515-06064-2. Both are in German, prices not known.

In 1991 the first of a series of volume on 'Currencies of the World' was published as *Beiträge zur Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte*. The volumes aim to provide an inventory of exchange rates at money markets throughout the world. The recently published volumes 4 and 5 contain data on Asia and Australia during respectively the 19th and 20th centuries. Volume 4 contains descriptions of the money markets in London and Asia 1800-1914 (Kanton, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Yokohama, Singapore, Calcutta, Bombay, Mauritius and Jakarta) and international financial traffic. There is a brief analysis of the available data and useful parity tables of the major currencies in Asia, Europe and North America. The main part of the publications consists of monthly exchange rates and annual averages of Asian currencies at various money markets. Unfortunately there is no information about the smaller money markets and the exchange rates in Bangkok, Saigon and Manila.

Pierre van der Eng

Briefly noted:

A. Clemens et al. (eds.) *Changing Economy in Indonesia. Volume 12B: Regional Patterns in Foreign Trade 1911-1940*. Amsterdam: Royal Tropical Institute, 1992. Pp.104, tables, map, bibliography, abbreviations, ISBN 90-6832-659-7. Dfl.40.00.

N. Dros (ed.) *Changing Economy in Indonesia. Volume 13: Wages 1820-1940*. Amsterdam: Royal Tropical Institute, 1992. Pp.151, tables, charts, bibliography, abbreviations, ISBN 90-6832-657-0. Dfl.40.00.

L. Hicks (ed.) *Overseas Chinese Remittances from Southeast Asia: 1910-1940*. pp.550. Order from Singapore Select Books, 19 Tanglin Road #03-15 Singapore 1024. S\$79.90

J.A. Larkin, *Sugar and the Origins of Modern Philippine Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993. US\$48.-.

Research School of Pacific Studies, Economics Division Working Papers on Southeast Asia ISSN 1038-412X, A\$8 each. Order from: FreePost 440, Bibliotech, ANUTech Pty Ltd, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia. Fax: +61 6 257 5088. No. 93/1 P. van der Eng, 'Food Consumption and Standard of Living in Indonesia, 1880-1990.' Pp.57, tables, charts, bibliography. No.93/2 P. van der Eng, 'The 'Colonial Drain' from Indonesia, 1823-1990.' Pp.48, tables, charts, bibliography. No. 93/4 H. Hill, 'Southeast Asian Economic Development: an Analytical Survey.' Pp.97, bibliography.

CONFERENCES

How free are the Southeast Asian markets?, Nordic Association of Southeast Asian Studies conference, Turku (Finland), 10-12 September 1993. Topics to be discussed include: Political Freedom and Economic Growth, Free markets and Economic Growth: Myth or Reality, How Free Were the Markets in Colonial Southeast Asia? Contact: Prof. Nils H. Winter, Department of Economic Geography and International Marketing, Åbo Akademi University, Henriksgatan 7, SF-20500 Åbo, Finland. Fax +358 21 654 806.

Women in Asia, Melbourne, 1-3 October 1993. Panels on e.g. Asian Businesswomen and Women and Work. Contact: Fourth Women in Asia Conference Committee, Asian Business Centre, University of Melbourne, 153 Barry Street, Carlton VIC 3053, Australia. Fax +61 3 344 4546.

International Association of Historians of Asia, Tokyo, 5-9 September 1994. Panels on e.g. Settlements and Networks in Early Southeast Asia,

ECHOSEA

NEWSLETTER



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NEWS FROM THE PROJECT

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We welcome Mrs Linda Poskitt, who took over the position of Secretary of the Project in April. For her this is a return to the ANU after 4 years at the University of New England in Armidale.

We farewelled Dr David Bulbeck at the end of June. David has been the Research Assistant of the project since its earliest days. He is taking up a lectureship in Archeology at the University of Western Australia, and we wish him well in this new position. A replacement will soon be appointed.

Dr Lesley Potter arrived on 5 July to work with the Project in Canberra for a year, on secondment from the Geography Department at the University of Adelaide. Her book will be the history of land use and the environment in Southeast Asia.

Dr Peter Xenos of the East-west Population Institute in Honolulu will be with us in Canberra from 1 July until 30 September, though with two weeks in the middle on a research trip to Vietnam. He will be working on the Population history of the region.

Professor Yoneo Ishii (Sophia University) will be here from 6 September until 5 October hoping to complete his translation of the *Kai-Hentai* documents on the Chinese junk trade from Southeast Asia to Nagasaki in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Michael Montesano, currently researching in Thailand for his Cornell doctorate on provincial business leaders, will visit the Project 31 August - 12 September.

Teruko Saito of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, who will be writing the *EchoSea* history of Burma, will be in Canberra to discuss her book from 25 July until 7 August.

Anthony Reid

PROJECT WORKSHOP "THE END OF THE PEASANTRY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA"

The first draft of Dr Bob Elson's book for the Project, on the history of village agriculture and the peasant economy, will be the subject of a Workshop in Canberra in the (Australian) Summer. Various specialists will be invited to critique the book and suggest options.