Talk

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The archeological evidence for Buddhist medicine under King Jayavarman VII

In Khmer and English by Prof. CHHEM Rethy

Friday, 28 August 2015, 17h30 at RUFA (behind the National Museum)

with contribution from

- Individuals
- Members of Yosothor
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The archeological evidence for Buddhist medicine under King Jayavarman VII

By Prof. CHHEM Rethy

As a medical doctor, scientist and historian of medicine I was drawn to learning more about the theories and practices of medicine in the Angkor period. After numerous trips to Angkor I decided to transform my dilettante quest into a formal research project. Through my visits and to Angkor, readings and research, I was exposed to more primary and secondary sources than expected; primarily epigraphic texts (translated by G. Cœdès, and others), the Khmer version of the Tripitaka, medical manuscripts, and secondary sources from Indian, Chinese or Tibetan texts. To complement the written sources that are necessarily scarce and fragmentary, I made use of modern anthropological data, works of art from Angkor and various museums.

In this presentation, I will focus on the interpretation of archeological data, either through an inspection of the sites (Arogyasala, Neak Pean, Prah Khan and Ta Prohm) or from the excavation of Prasat Tromoung, a hospital located at the west gate of Angkor Thom.