Claude Guillot, Centre national de la Recherche scientifique & Ludvik Kalus, Université Paris IV, Sorbonne, Paris

Note sur le sultanat de Pidir. Début du XVIe s. [Épigraphie islamique d’Aceh. 3]

Continuing the publication of Islamic inscriptions from North Sumatra, the authors present here the only two ancient tombs of the short-lived sultanate of Pidie. The first is the only known epitaph of a sovereign of this petty state who died in 1511, and the second that of a daughter of a mu’allim (probably a Muslim religious teacher), who died in 1562. Historical conclusions will be drawn only after completion of the analysis of all the tombstones of the western part of North Sumatra since the transitional period between the decay of the kingdom of Lamuri and the founding of the potent sultanate of Aceh still remains largely in the dark.

Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Department of History, UCLA

Pulverized in Aceh: On Luís Monteiro Coutinho and his ‘Martyrdom’

Cet essai traite essentiellement d’un texte mineur sur le martyr d’un certain Luís Monteiro Coutinho écrit par le célèbre auteur eurasien Manuel Godinho de Erédia. Coutinho, issu d’une famille noble de Lamego, au nord du Portugal, était en Asie à partir de 1570 environ. Après avoir été capturé lors un combat naval dans le détroit de Malaca, il fut apparemment tué à Aceh, dans les années 1580, ayant été éjecté par la bouche d’un canon. Erédia, à la demande du frère du défunt, rédigea ce texte pourvu d’illustrations en 1615. L’essai décrit et analyse étroitement ledit texte et sa vérité, puis présente les divers contextes de sa production, y compris le fait qu’il appartient à une série d’écrits sur le martyre séculaire s’inscrivant dans le cadre de la rivalité entre le christianisme de la contre-réforme et l’islam en Asie maritime.

Pavel Durdik

Cinq années à Sumatra. Récits d’un médecin militaire, 1877-1883 (Extraits)

Traduction du tchèque et adaptation en français par Ludvik Kalus, Université Paris IV, Sorbonne & Claude Guillot, Centre national de la Recherche scientifique, Paris

Pavel Durdik spent 5 years in Aceh as a military surgeon for the Dutch troops during the war between 1878 and 1883. After returning to his native Bohemia, he wrote an account of his Sumatran experience in Czech, Pet let na Sumatra. Výpravění vojenského lékare, 1877-1883 (Five years in Sumatra. Accounts of a military surgeon, 1877-1883), published in 1893. The book has never been translated. Here we present long extracts in French. The testimony of this witness to the conquest of Aceh by the Dutch is all the more worthy of interest as it depicts the horrific realities of the clashes. Its author was free from prejudice, as he was unacquainted with the dispute. The fact that he was himself a subject of a nation still under foreign (Austrian) hegemony doubtless helped him become an admirer of the Acehnese’s courageous endeavours in their struggle for independence.

Pierre Labrousse, INALCO, Paris

Auguste de Molins. Un artiste à Java dans Le Tour du monde (1864)

The Swiss artist Auguste de Molins is known for his travelogue in the Dutch Indies first published in Le Tour du monde (1864) and translated into Dutch two years later. The circumstances of his stay in Java (1858-1861) are unclear. His unconventional personality and his traveling habits allowed him to observe closely the daily life of the common people of Java; consequently he reacted against the colonial oppression and all manifestations of violence. Along with Auguste Borget he represents a new generation of artist-travelers.
Luis Filipe Thomaz, Université nouvelle, Lisbonne

La découverte de Madagascar par les Portugais au XVIe s.

As Madagascar was known in the West at least since the 12th century, the Portuguese were presumably aware of its existence. At any rate the first Portuguese ship to sight it was apparently one of the fleet of Pedro Álvares Cabral – probably on 10th August 1500, whence the name of Isle of Saint Lawrence as the island is referred to in Portuguese sources. Madagascar was met with a second time by Afonso de Albuquerque, who in February 1504 navigated the coast of the island from Cape Amber to Cape Saint Andrew. Knowledge of Madagascar improved during the year 1506: in February Fernão Soares sailed along the whole East shore; and in October two ships of the fleet of Afonso de Albuquerque sighted again the island. Albuquerque and Tristão da Cunha explored the coast between Capes St Andrew and Amber; one of their ships was able to explore the East coast up to Matatana, where it was well received – a fact that gave the Portuguese King the idea of using it as a port of call. The news that reached the Portuguese court exaggerated the riches of the island, and accredited the belief that the source of cloves and nutmeg lay nearby. This led King Emmanuel to report the good news to the Pope. In 1508, he sent an expedition to explore Madagascar, which caused the myth of the “New India” or “Taprobana Major” to collapse.

Claudine Salmon, Centre national de la Recherche scientifique, Paris

Malay (and Javanese) Loan-words in Chinese as a Mirror of Cultural Exchanges

Le but de cet article est de réfléchir sur les emprunts malais (et javanais) en chinois afin de voir ce qu’ils nous apprennent sur les échanges culturels entre les deux mondes dans le temps long. Nous avons retenu trois types de sources : les récits de voyage et sommes sur les contrées d’Asie du Sud-Est, les relations de missions diplomatiques, et les écrits émanant de Chinois établis en Insulinde. On peut distinguer deux phases : la première, la plus longue, durant laquelle les emprunts se sont faits de l’intérieur du monde chinois, après avoir été introduits par des marchands, voyageurs ou émissaires, les plus anciens remontant au début de notre ère, tel le terme pinang ou « noix d’arec ». La deuxième, durant laquelle les populations insulindiennes étaient en étroit contact avec les gens du Fujian, ce qui entraîna la formation de communautés mixtes et l’incorporation d’un plus grand nombre de termes malais dans le dialecte du Minnan et aussi la création d’expressions hybrides.

Monique Zaini-Lajoubert, Centre national de la Recherche scientifique, Paris

La « bonne gouvernance » selon l’écrivain indonésien Abdullah bin Muhammad al-Misri (fin XVIIIe s.-début XIXe s.)

The as yet unrecognized Indonesian writer of Arab descent born in Palembang, Abdullah bin Muhammad al-Misri, was the author of at least five works: three mirrors for princes and two semi-historical texts (about Siam and Bali). These works belong to the revival movement of Malay literature of which he was one of its precursors. The mirrors for princes (Bayan al-Asma’, Hikayat Mareskalek and ‘Arsy al-Muluk), discussed here, reflect the author’s concern with the social and political situation of his time, marked by the end of the VOC and the succession of Western dominations. The works were generally written in the form of quotations interspersed with anecdotes, sometimes rather long, about personalities of the Arab and Persian world but also of the Malay world where he lived. One of the latter was Marshal Herman Willem Daendels (Mareskalek), Governor-General of East Indies during the “French period” (1808-1811), who had the greatest impact on him. Abdullah’s mirrors for princes were apparently meant to inspire in the local rulers appreciation of good governance and to make them aware that they were subjects of White rulers.