Previous work

• Until recently genealogical, narrowly political, narrative
• Acceptance of 19th Century ideas of classical, feudal or absolutist Europe as paradigms for early SE Asia
• Cambodian civilisation generated by imposition of Indian culture. Indic elements in Cambodian culture interpreted as having same meaning as in India
• Soviet scholars first to attempt to explain old Khmer society through late 19th C society. Marxists focused on the economic role of Angkor temples in order to place Cambodia in relation to AMP – but neglected changes in society seen in inscriptions
What do the inscriptions say?
A. Sanskrit

- Praise to god
- Praise for king
- Purpose of foundation
- Name of principal donor, or king’s subordinate if king is named
- date
What do the inscriptions say?  
B. Khmer

- Date and name of king
- Title/names of donors
- Name of god
- Names of people from whom donor obtained land to offer to foundation, history of land, disputes
- Details of prices paid
- Extent, location and capacity of rice fields
- Names and duties of donated temple personnel

- Subsistence given to personnel and gods
- Other lands given
- Precious objects given to foundation
- Statement that revenues to be combined with those of another foundation
- Warning of punishment of anyone abusing belongings of foundation
Khmer inscriptions: issues

- elite talking about themselves
- frequently very obscure
- units of measurement very variable
- values don’t always add up
- difficult to see correspondence between inscriptions and field data
- the lists of temple “junk” and personnel offer no social commentary - **but** do tell us about wealth
Age distribution of inscriptions

- Dated Coedes inscriptions (639)
- Inscriptions with exchanges (54)
Key results: exchanges

- Changes in nature of exchanges suggest corresponding changes in society between Pre-Angkorean and Angkorean periods.
  - Few items exchanged in Pre-Angkorean to great variety of items in Angkorean period
  - Exchange items in Pre-Angkorean period sometimes valued in silver (and fabric). Not so in Angkorean period.
- Material of most metal objects not stated
- No constant standard for units of measurement. Different methods used to calculate size/capacity of rice fields.
- Relative values in exchanges seem to make little sense.
- Weights of precious objects exchanged are recorded but rarely so in temple inventories
- Lower classes are frequently exchanged like other commodities
References to exchanges: Pre-Angkorean

- Fabric
- Paddy
- Utensils
- Veterinary
- Metals
- Unidentified

References to exchanges: Angkorean

- Fabric
- Body ornament
- Animals
- Knum
- Ornaments
- Functional objects
- Comestibles
- Utensils
- Hulled rice
- Paddy
- Unidentified
Temples with exchanges of metals
550-749 caka - out of 8 temples

- Ag: 3
- Paddy valued in Ag: 4

Temples with exchanges of metals
850-1049 caka - out of 39 temples

- Ag: 13
- Au: 14
- Cu: 3
- Pb: 1
850-1049 caka - Temples exchanging metal utensils:
39 temples

- Unstated: 30
- Bronze: 1
- Sn: 3
- Ag: 15
- Au: 2
- Pb: 1
- Virapura: 1
- Hanira: 1
- Ag/hanira: 1
- Terracotta?: 1

Diagram: Pie chart showing the distribution of metal utensils exchanged by temples.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 Khlon, Sten, 2 Ten</th>
<th>land</th>
<th>100 measures (w forest &amp; hills)</th>
<th>Exchanges K258 (AD 1067)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 gold rings (1 pada, 2 slin), 5 silver bowls (1 jyan) 10 dlah (2 tula 2 jyan 10 lin), 3 tin utensils (10 jyan 10 lin), 2 fast oxen, 15 yo new fabric (10 cubits), 2 goats</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marking boundaries</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ring (1 jyan), 1 silver bowl (4 lin), 3 dlah (15 jyan), 8 kuntika (1 tula, 10 jyan, 10 lin), 1 tin utensil (3 jyan), 11 yau new fabric (10 cubits), 3 goats, 5 thlvan hulled rice, 3 lih pepper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foundation of village, erecting image, digging pond, buying knum</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 male horse,..........</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Khlon</td>
<td>land</td>
<td>10 thlvan</td>
<td>2 gold rings (1 pada), 1 silver bowl (3 lin), silver... (6 lin), silver gum (1 jyan 1 lin), 1 dlah (7 jyan), 5 kuntika (1 tula, 1 jyan 10 lin), 1 vardhani, 2 water vases, 5 plates (total last 3 1 jyan), 3 tin utensils (10 jyan 8 lin), 1 popil (5 jyan), 1... (3 jyan), 1 fine fabric amcuka (20 cubits long), 1... (10 cubits long), 2 fast oxen, 2 yau new fabric (10 cubits), 3 goats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Khlon</td>
<td>ricefield</td>
<td>10 thlvan</td>
<td>1 tray (1 lin), 2 vodi, 1 spittoon: (6 jyan), 1 kuntika (6 jyan), 2 yau new fabric (10 cubits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Exchanges K255/6 ( AD 968)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 fields</td>
<td>2 vaudi (5 jyan), 7 yau garments, 73 measures paddy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 fields</td>
<td>2 vaudi, 2 spittoons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 fields</td>
<td>2 lin 1 pada gold chaguna, 1 vaudi (6 jyan) 1 cauldron (4 jyan), 20 garments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X gho 2 tai w child</td>
<td>1 basin, 5 yau garments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Len</td>
<td>X yau garments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tai, dalmak</td>
<td>...2 and 1 pada gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tai with child</td>
<td>A child at the breast, 20 units of paddy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tai</td>
<td>1 vaudi (6 jyan 10 li)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tai</td>
<td>Exchange for another knum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tai</td>
<td>15 yau garments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tai w child</td>
<td>1 spittoon (4 jyan), 1 copper utensil (5 jyan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Si</td>
<td>1 belt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
K41 (AD 628)

Buying value of yugala

Diagram showing rice yield in ma units, with labeled axes.
Exchanges K726 (AD 650)

ricefields: paddy (valued at 10 tamlin silver)
ricefields: (only produce) 5 tamlin silver, 1 yau yugala
ricefields: labour of sampol women exchanged for paddy (valued at 5 tamlin silver)
ricefields paddy (valued at 4 tamlin silver)
ricefields 10 tamlin silver, x yau yugala
ricefields 4 tamlin silver
ricefields paddy (equal to 4 tamlin silver, 1 yau yugala)
ricefields 100 measures 7 tlon paddy, 1 yau yugala, 1 yau amval, 2 baskets sandak
lowland 3 yau amval
Database structure

---

**Temple/Site**
- Site_ID
- Temple/Site
- Province
- Longitude
- Latitude
- Degree_of_accuracy
- Temple/site_comment
- Founder/Principal Donor
- Founder/Donor Title
- Other Donors
- Founder/donor_comment

**Inscription_Reference**
- Inscription_ID
- Reference_Key
- Start_Date
- End_Date
- Dating_System
- Date_Certainty
- Inscription_Comment

**Objects**
- Object_ID
- Inscription_Face
- Object
- Number
- Material
- Context
- Frequency
- Recipient
- Recipient
- Objects_Comments

**Role_of_ruler**
- ID
- Role_of_ruler

**Object_Categories**
- Object
- Category

**Measurement**
- ID
- Size
- Unit

---

Relationships:
- Temple/Site contains Inscription_Reference
- Inscription_Reference lists Objects
- Inscription_Reference provides Role_of_ruler
- Role_of_ruler has Object_Categories
- Object_Categories has Measurement

---
Trends sought from database of: temple inventories; donations; offerings

- Increasing/decreasing concentrations of wealth over time/space (in stored treasure, number of new foundations, number and status of donors)
- Changes in taxation of the population
- Increasing/decreasing diversity in economy
- Evidence of trade
- Changing status of temple workers
Time range for some fabrics (264 inscriptions)
Occurrence of objects made of hanira

Approximate distance from Angkor (km)

Date (saka)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inscr.</th>
<th>Role of ruler</th>
<th>Date Ç</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K0953</td>
<td>named</td>
<td>963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0353</td>
<td>knum donation</td>
<td>968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0353</td>
<td>ricefield donation</td>
<td>968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0353</td>
<td>land donation</td>
<td>968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0913</td>
<td>ordinance re tax</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0991</td>
<td>request to king (incomplete)</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0991</td>
<td>ashram donation</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0991</td>
<td>knum donation</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0760</td>
<td>named</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0150</td>
<td>order re supplies, management of sanctuary</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0690</td>
<td>order to measure land</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0690</td>
<td>order for land to be attributed to god</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0650</td>
<td>joining foundations</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0566</td>
<td>order enquiry re land; boundary marking</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0150</td>
<td>request to king for incorporation of temple</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0566</td>
<td>informed of result of ordeal</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Also tie in with other studies

- Records of Khmer links with other states (diplomacy, trade)

- Studies of other pre-industrial economies

- Explore relationships between the inscription data and spatial data for Angkor, becoming available through remote sensing and mapping
  
  eg, distance from seats of power, distances between temples, sizes of temples and trapeang, geography (natural and artificial): mounds, embankments, watercourses and roads