



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Regional Committee for
Asia-Pacific (MOWCAP)
Memory of the World

Memory of the World

Asia-Pacific Programme





Stone stela records of Royal Examinations of the Le and Mac Dynasties (1442–1779), Viet Nam (MoW Regional and International Registers)

© Center for Scientific and Cultural Activities Van Mieu–Quoc Tu Giam/ Nguyen Van Tun

What is the Memory of the World (MoW)?

Papyrus, parchment, palm leaves, wooden and stone tablets as well as paper are among the traditional forms of document. In the 20th century we added sound recordings, television and film productions and the digital media to the canvas of modern life. All are at risk of disappearing and as a response to this trend, UNESCO established the Memory of the World programme in 1992.

The programme aims to increase awareness worldwide of the existence and significance of documentary heritage, to facilitate its preservation by the most appropriate techniques, and to promote universal access.

Documentary heritage, including *textual items* (books, manuscripts, etc.), *non-textual items* (maps, films, etc.) and *electronic files* (web pages, databases, etc.), is characterised as items that are:

- Moveable
- Made up of signs/codes, sounds and/or images
- Able to be preserved (the carriers are non-living)
- Able to be reproduced and migrated
- The product of a deliberate documenting process

Much of the Memory of the World resides in libraries, archives, museums and storage places across the globe.

It is highly prone to loss due to:

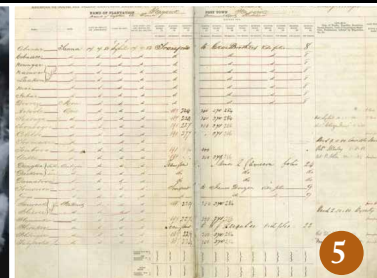
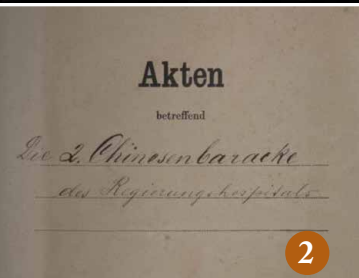
- Disasters caused by humans: through ignorance, neglect, accident, looting, war...
- Natural calamities: fire, flood, storms...
- Chemical reactions: vinegar syndrome, acidic paper...
- Technical issues: obsolescence...



- MoW helps preserve the legacy of the past for the world community of the present and the future.
- MoW is about documentary heritage: the recorded, collective memory of the peoples of the world.
- MoW provides wider access to heritage that had a great influence – whether positive or negative – on the course of history.
- MoW charts the evolution of thought, discovery and achievement of human society.

Vision

The world's documentary heritage belongs to all, should be fully preserved and protected for all and, with due recognition of cultural mores and practicalities, should be permanently accessible to all without hindrance.



1. Ben Cao Gang Mu (Compendium of Material Medica), China (MoW Regional and International Registers) © *Library of the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences*
2. Archives of German-Samoa Colonial Administration, Samoa (MoW Regional Register) © *Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, Samoa*
3. Al-Masaalik Wa Al-Mamaalik, Islamic Republic of Iran (MoW Regional Register) © *Iran National Museum*
4. Still from the Neo Lao Hak Xath Film Collection, Lao PDR (MoW Regional Register) © *Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR*
5. Register of South Sea Island Labourers Employed on Plantation, from the Queensland South Sea Islander Indentured Labour Records 1863-1908, Australia (MOWCAP Regional Register) © *Queensland State Archives*

Mission

- *To identify heritage*

The international, regional and national Memory of the World registers list documentary heritage items which have been nominated, assessed and judged to satisfy the programme's criteria for world significance. Acting as a shop window, the registers serve to bring the value and significance of the wider documentary heritage to public notice, and draw attention to the work of its custodians – the world's archives, libraries, museums and other keeping places.

- *To facilitate preservation, by the most appropriate techniques, of the world's documentary heritage*

This may be done by direct practical assistance, by the dissemination of advice and information and the facilitation of training, or by linking sponsors with timely and appropriate projects.

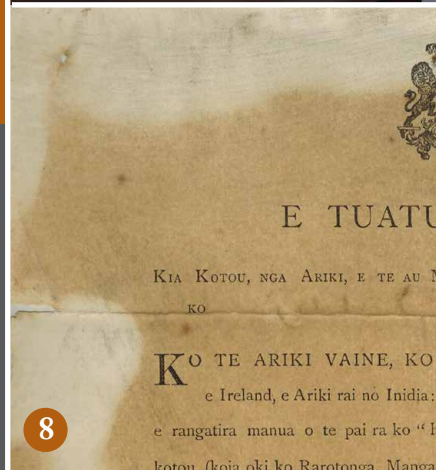
- *To promote universal access to documentary heritage*

This includes encouragement to make digitized copies and catalogues available on the internet, as well as the publication and distribution of books, CDs, DVDs and other products, as widely and equitably as possible.

- *To increase awareness worldwide of the existence and significance of documentary heritage*

Means include developing the MoW Registers, disseminating information through the media, and producing promotional and information materials.

6. Tokyo War Crimes Trials 1946–1948, New Zealand (MoW Regional Register)
© *Macmillan Brown Library, University of Canterbury*
7. Microfilm of the Huang Di Nei Jing (Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon), China (MoW Regional and International Registers) © *The National Library of China*
8. The Proclamation 'E Tuatua Akakite' 1891, Cook Islands (MoW Regional Register) © *Cook Islands Library & Museum Society Inc*
9. Epigraphic Archives of Wat Pho, Thailand (MoW Regional and International Registers)
© *UNESCO/R. Manowalailao*
10. Film poster for Mabok Kepayang, from the Asian Film Archive Collection: Cathay-Keris Malay Classics, Singapore (MoW Regional Register) © *Wong Han Min*






UA AKAKITE.
MATAIAPU, E TE UI RANGATIRA O TE ENUA RA
VICTORIA, e Ariki no Beretane, e Ekotia,
Kua akakite aia ia kia Captain E. G. Bourke,
Hyacinth," te ra 27 o Okatopa, 1888, e oatu kia
ia. Atiu, Mitiaro, Mauke, e Manuai) te tangata

Memory of the World Committee for Asia-Pacific (MOWCAP)

Established in 1998 as a Regional Committee, MOWCAP serves UNESCO's Asia-Pacific region of 43 countries and maintains the Asia-Pacific MoW register.

The members of MOWCAP are the autonomous national MoW committees (or equivalent bodies) within the region. It is a co-operative structure which encourages information exchange, the mentoring of new national committees, and preservation, access and awareness raising issues specific to the region.

At present, there are 18 countries in which national MoW committees and equivalent bodies operate. They are Australia, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

MOWCAP maintains the Asia-Pacific Regional Register of the MoW documentary heritage. It approves inscriptions and assesses nominations from members through its Asia-Pacific Register Subcommittee against established selection criteria.

To be eligible for inscription on the Asia-Pacific MoW Regional Register, the nominated documentary heritage should be:

- **Authentic:** Has identity and origin been clearly established?
- **Unique and irreplaceable:** Would its disappearance or deterioration constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? What has been its impact and influence?

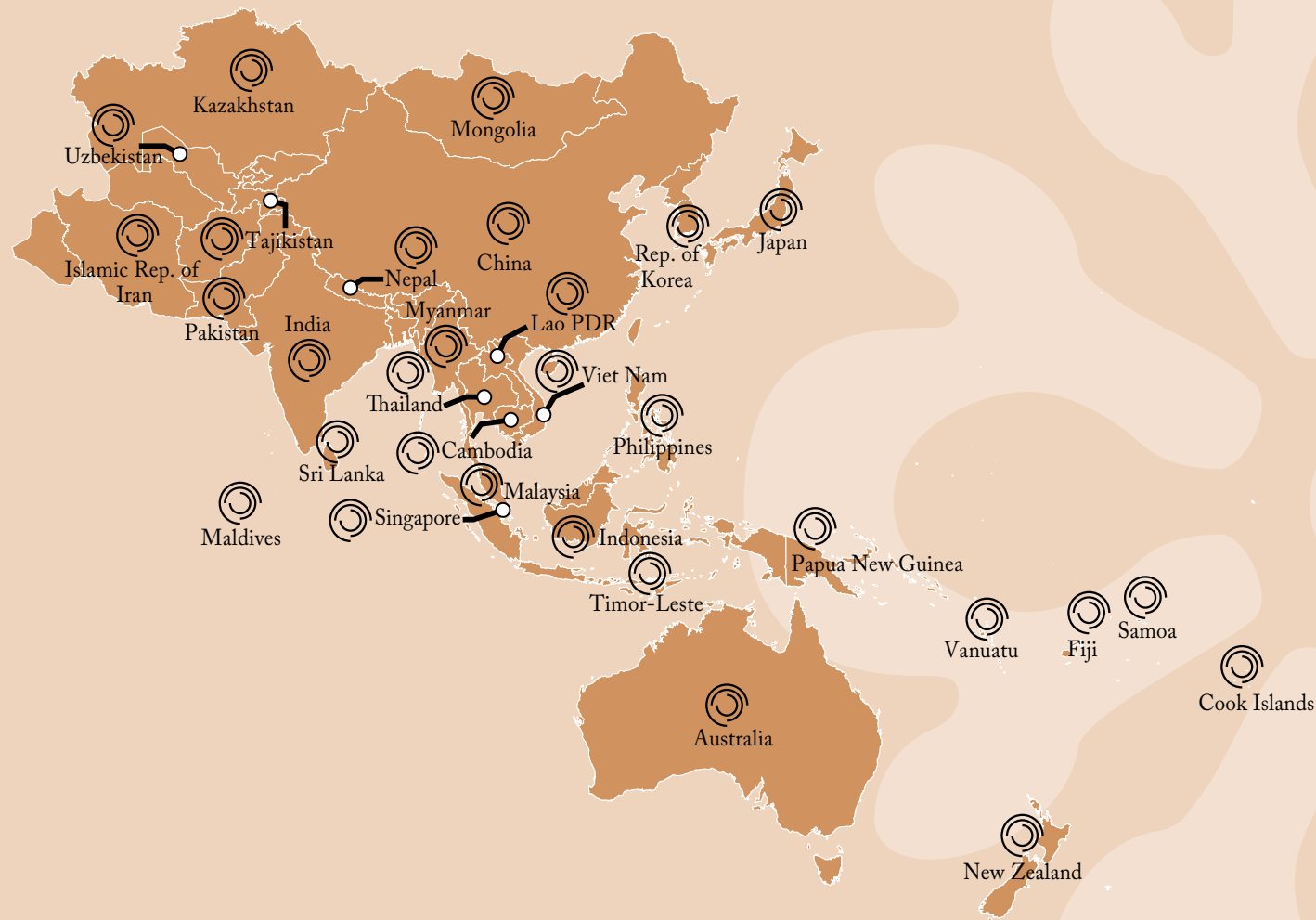
In addition, it needs to satisfy other measures of world significance, such as those relating to time, place, people, subject and theme.

Nominations for the Asia-Pacific MoW Regional Register may be submitted by any person or organization, including governments, NGOs and custodial institutions. The Register operates on a two year cycle with an announced closing date. Nominations should be submitted to the MOWCAP secretariat using the proforma on the MOWCAP website. There is no limit to the number of nominations which may be submitted during any cycle. Where a national MoW committee operates in the country concerned, nominators are strongly encouraged to collaborate with the committee to prepare their submission.

Two or more countries may put forward joint nominations where collections are divided among several owners or custodians. There is no limit on the number of partners involved. Joint nominations are strongly encouraged.

More information: www.unesco.mowcap.org/nominations.htm

Asia-Pacific Countries with Entries in MoW International and Regional Registers



The Asia-Pacific MoW Regional Register (as of September 2014)

Australia

Queensland South Sea Islander Indentured Labour Records 1863–1908 | Year of inscription: 2014

These records, which include passenger and laborer lists, registers of agreements and exemption from deportation, provide valuable information on the administration of the South Sea Islander immigration and employment programme from 1863 to 1908. The records are significant in the context of Australian history – the abolition of the South Sea Islander labour trade was a critical factor in the process of Australian Federation and in the development of the ‘White Australia’ policy.

Landmark Constitutional Documents of the Commonwealth of Australia | Year of inscription: 2008

This set of 17 documents is recognized as one that charted the evolution of Australia as one of the world’s most stable and long lived democracies.

Cambodia

The Reamker by Takrut | Year of inscription: 2014

The recordings of the Reamker epic, as told by renowned Cambodian storyteller, Takrut, are the only known audio materials that capture the country’s long oral tradition in its full integrity. The materials consist of 12 hours of studio recordings, over 6 hours of recordings from a live performance and 2 CDs of restored and digitized files.

Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives* | Year of inscription: 2008

The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archive is a testimony of the atrocities committed by the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia, 1975 to 1979, during which over 2 million people lost their lives. The Archive contains about 12,000 negatives and photos of the staff and 5,000 of the 15,000 prisoners held captive in the Tuol Sleng Prison and interrogation centre, as well as prison documents.

China

Double Stellar Hemisphere | Year of inscription: 2014

The Double Stellar Hemisphere is a star map created by renowned Ming Chinese scholar Xu Guangqi, and assisted by the famous German missionary, Johann Adam Schall von Bell. Believed to be the earliest, largest and most spectacular oriental cosmological map ever discovered, the map combined both Western and Eastern concepts of astronomy and served as an important precedent for modern Chinese maps.

Qiaopi and Yinxin: Correspondence and Remittance Documents from Overseas Chinese* | Year of inscription: 2012

Letters, reports, account books and remittance receipts resulting from communications between Chinese emigrants overseas and their families in China. They record first hand the contemporary livelihood and activities of Overseas Chinese in Asia, North America and the Oceania, as well as the historical and cultural development of their residing countries in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Ben Cao Gang Mu (Compendium of Material Medica)* | Year of inscription: 2010

Ben Cao Gang Mu is an encyclopaedic work on traditional Chinese materia medica compiled and written by Li Shizhen (1518–1593), a medical expert of the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644). The compendium is the most complete and comprehensive medical book ever written in the history of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). It lists, analyses and describes all the plants, animals, minerals, and other objects that were believed to have medicinal properties.

Huang Di Nei Jing (Yellow Emperor’s Inner Canon)* | Year of inscription: 2010

The Yellow Emperor’s Inner Canon is the earliest and most important written work of traditional Chinese medicine. It was compiled over 2,200 years ago during the Warring States period (475–221 BC) and is regarded as the fundamental and most representative medical text.

Archives and Materials of the Macao Diocese 1550–1800 | Year of inscription: 2010

Archives and Materials of the Macao Diocese 1550–1800 record correspondence, training materials and books documenting the development of Catholicism in the Far East, and influences on culture, economics and education in China and Europe.

Official Records of Tibet from the Yuan dynasty 1304–1367 (Tibet, China)* | Year of inscription: 2012

A collection of 22 invaluable original documents including imperial edicts issued by the Yuan Emperors, religious edicts issued by the Imperial Preceptors and orders from Tibetan political rulers written in the Tibetan language and the rare Phags-pa script.

Cook Islands

The Proclamation ‘E Tuatua Akakite’ 1891 | Year of inscription: 2014

The Proclamation is a rare document written in Maori and signed in 1891 by the Earl of Onslow, on behalf of the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, that placed a protectorate over the Cook Islands. It marked the start of a change from a church-based system of governance to one of a secular Westminster style, and the beginning of a relationship between Great Britain and the Cook Islands that continues to this day.

Fiji

Polynesian Immigrants Records 1896–1914 | Year of inscription: 2014

These extensive records provide an insight into the personal plight of the tens of thousands of indentured Pacific Island labourers who arrived in Fiji between 1896 and 1914. The records are an important source of information for descendants of the labourers, and for researchers concerned with the humanities and development issues.

Records of the Indian Indentured Labourers* | Year of inscription: 2010

The Indian indentured immigration was first accounted for in the 1830s and 1,194,957 Indians were relocated to 19 colonies over a period of roughly 100 years. These records are the only documents for ancestral and lineage research for the numerous descendants of those Indian labourers.

Indonesia

Nāgarakrētāgama or Description of the Country (1365 AD)*

Year of inscription: 2008

Nāgarakrētāgama is a palm leaf manuscript from 1365 AD written in the Old Javanese language and characters. It is an account of government and society in the Majapahit kingdom. The memory of this kingdom inspired the founders of Indonesia in their struggle against colonial rule.

Islamic Republic of Iran

Al-Masaalik Wa Al-Mamaalik | Year of inscription: 2014

Written by Istakhri, one of the founders of geography in the Muslim world, the *Al-Masaalik Wa Al-Mamaalik* is one of the most significant sources on history and historical geography of the 10th century. It presents an accurate description of the then socio-economic, cultural and political conditions of the Islamic lands, and has been translated into various languages across the world.

The Soul of the Reef | Year of inscription: 2014

This multiple award-winning documentary film is the first film in Iran on coral reefs and marine life. As an educational tool, the film raised public awareness of the importance of protecting coral reefs, and led to the enactment of the 2003 Prohibition of Coral Destruction law.

Vendidad | Year of inscription: 2014

Vendidad is one of the five most important sections of Avesta, the oldest and most important book compiled in ancient Iran that sheds light on the thought, religion, myths and science of the period. The 292-page Vendidad manuscript, which dates from 1607 AD, covers the origins of Iranians and the cities they first chose to inhabit.

Islamic Republic of Iran/Iraq

Collections of Documents and Images of Karbala | Year of inscription: 2014

Spanning the period between 1191–1992 AD, the collections of Karbala, an important and influential historical city in Mesopotamia, consist of official reports and diverse documents and images obtained from the Qajar Dynasty (Iran), the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) and the eras of monarchical and republic regimes in Iraq.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Neo Lao Hak Xath Film Collection | Year of inscription: 2014

This collection of 450 newsreel and documentary films was shot in Lao PDR by the Neo Lao Hak Xath (or Lao Patriot Front) Film Division during the Indochina War from 1955–1980. Covering a range of social, cultural, educational, political and military events, the films have had and will continue to have a significant and enduring influence on Lao society.

Maldives

Loamaafaanu | Year of inscription: 2014

Loamaafaanus are the official records of land grants given to mosques built by Sultans after the Maldives converted to Islam. Written on copperplates in two different scripts that are no longer spoken by inhabitants of the Maldives, only 4 such plates remain today. The plates contained details of the social and cultural context of the country at that point in time, and are an essential part of Maldivians' history.

Mongolia

Sutra of Great Deity Tara | Year of inscription: 2014

Created by the Buddhist lama Shagj Sangajav in 1914, this miniature book contains 79 handwritten lines of religious text often used by Mongolians for prayers. Measuring just 4.9 cm by 5.4 cm, this rare work is considered as one of the smallest manuscripts in Mongolian history, and showcases the country's sociocultural changes over the years.

Lu. "Altan Tobchi": Golden History written in 1651* | Year of inscription: 2010

This is the only surviving handwritten original manuscript in Mongolian vertical script. It presents the history of Mongolia and neighbouring countries from Chinggis Khan to Ligden Khan (13th to 17th century) and is the oldest surviving example of the primary Mongolian source editions of the "Secret History".

New Zealand

Western Pacific Archives | Year of inscription: 2014

The Western Pacific Archives consist of the records of the Western Pacific High Commission, which oversaw the Pacific Southwest Islands, between 1875 and 1978. They provide an invaluable record, not only of the colonial administration, but also of the Pasifika peoples in these areas.

Tokyo War Crimes Trials 1946–1948 | Year of inscription: 2010

This collection contains documents of the International Military Tribunal Far East, including the history of Japanese ambitions in the Pacific prior to World War II.

Papua New Guinea/Australia

F E Williams Collection of Photographs 1922–1943 | Year of inscription: 2012

The collection is of outstanding significance for its depiction of Australia's administering role in Papua in the 1920s and 1930s, and of first contact with a culture scarcely known to the Western world.

Philippines

Presidential Papers of Manuel Luis Quezon*

Year of inscription: 2010

The Philippines was a colony of the United States from 1898 to 1946. The Quezon papers document the events and political scenarios that marked the Philippines independence movement and the relations between the Philippines and the United States.

Samoa

Archives of German-Samoa Colonial Administration | Year of inscription: 2014

The archives, which total more than 200 boxes of documents in various languages, bear witness to the administrative procedures and life in general between 1900 and 1914, the period of German colonization in Samoa, as well as an era of significant political and cultural changes.

Singapore

Asian Film Archive Collection: Cathay-Keris Malay Classics

Year of inscription: 2014

The 91 surviving titles of this collection depict stories indigenous to the Malay peoples of Singapore and Malaysia, display disappearing traditions and music, and reflect the social attitudes of the time. The collection is historically, culturally and artistically important to the region's Malay communities, but also embodies the heritage of Singapore.

*Note: * Also inscribed on the MoW International Register*

Thailand

Epigraphic Archives of Wat Pho* | Year of inscription: 2008

The Epigraphic Archives of Wat Pho (Temple of the Bodhi Tree) in Bangkok is a unique collection of 1,431 stone inscriptions in the Thai language and scripts made in 1831–1841 on both religious and secular subjects.

Viet Nam

Imperial Records of Nguyen Dynasty | Year of inscription: 2014

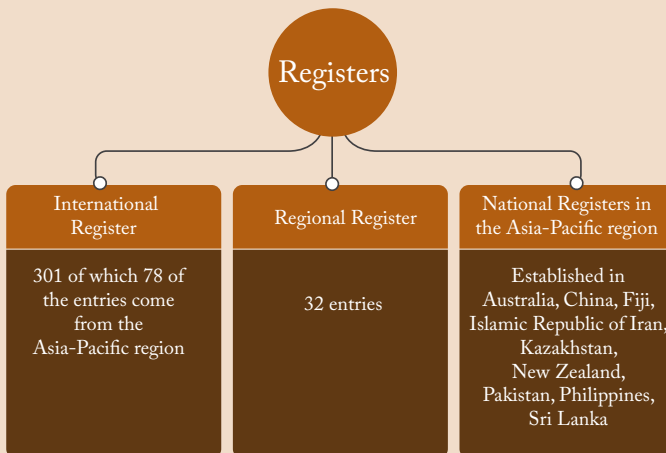
This handwritten set of administrative records from the Nguyen Dynasty (1802–1945), Viet Nam's last feudal dynasty, contains 773 volumes and spans the reigns of 11 emperors. The records are one of the most complete collections preserved from a feudal dynasty, and include documents submitted to and reviewed by the emperor, diplomatic notes, as well as literary works composed by the royal family.

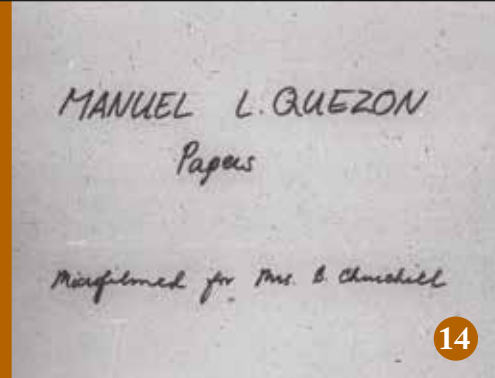
Woodblocks at Vinh Nghiem Pagoda, Bac Giang Province | Year of inscription: 2012

The content of this collection is based on the original Truc Lam Zen woodblocks used in the mass printing of Buddhist texts in the 13th century that were destroyed or lost to war and weather. These are the only set of woodblocks that survived the First and Second Indochina Wars.

Stone Stele Records of Royal Examinations of the Le and Mac Dynasties (1442–1779)* | Year of inscription: 2010

The 82 stone steles preserved at Van Mieu-Quoc Tu Giam historical site record names of the laureates of royal examinations of the Le and Mac Dynasties. These were erected between 1484–1780 to commemorate the royal examinations held between 1442 and 1779.





11. Film poster for *Dang Anom*, from the Asian Film Archive Collection: Cathay-Keris Malay Classics, Singapore (MoW Regional Register) © *Wong Han Min*
12. *Loamaafaanu*, Maldives (MoW Regional Register) © *Department of Heritage, Maldives*
13. Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives, Cambodia (MoW Regional and International Registers) © *UNESCO/R. M. Gonzalez*
14. Presidential Papers of Manuel L. Quezon, Philippines (MoW Regional and International Registers) © *Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan and the National Library of the Philippines*
15. Papua – Ukandi – Boys wearing bark pigtails called aia, from the F E Williams Collection of Photographs 1922-1943, Papua New Guinea / Australia (MoW Regional Register) © *National Archives of Australia*
16. *Nāgarakrētāgama* or *Description of the Country* (1365 AD), Indonesia (MoW Regional and International Registers) © *National Library of Indonesia*



17

COLONIAL EMIGRATION FORM No. 44.
**WOMAN'S
 EMIGRATION PASS.** RESERVE CLASS.

Serial No. 1122 For Ship: 1122
 No. 1122 Passports to Port: 1122

Government Emigration Agent,
 St. George Road,
 CALCUTTA, 10/11/1914

Place of Birth: Calcutta
 Date of Birth: 21/11/1888
 Name: Smt. S. S. S. S.
 Father's Name: Smt. S. S. S. S.
 Age: 26
 Caste: Hindu
 Name of Next of Kin: Smt. S. S. S. S.
 Married, name of Husband: Smt. S. S. S. S.

18



20



19

*...and it is in this way that the whole community
 should not equally so in proportion to the
 men have who are ignorant of the science of
 the highest order of intellect. It is a matter of
 course that you have been the victims of it
 the people of Samoa. The people of Samoa
 who were the first to be taught to read
 and write. They were the first to be
 taught to read and write.*

James Glenavy Johnson

21



22

17. Lu. "Altan Tobchi": Golden History written in 1651, Mongolia (MoW Regional and International Registers) © National Library of Mongolia
 18. Records of the Indian Indentured Laborers, Fiji (MoW Regional and International Registers) © National Archives Trinidad & Tobago
 19. Ben Cao Gang Mu (Compendium of Material Medica), China (MoW Regional and International Registers)
 © Library of the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences
 20. Tokyo War Crimes Trials 1946–1948, New Zealand (MoW Regional Register) © Macmillan Brown Library, University of Canterbury
 21. Archives of German-Samoa Colonial Administration, Samoa (MoW Regional Register) © Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, Samoa
 22. Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives, Cambodia (MoW Regional and International Registers) © UNESCO/R. M. Gonzalez



 MOWCAP members visit the National Archives of Thailand. © UNESCO/R. Manowalailao

MOWCAP and UNESCO Bangkok welcome partnerships and collaboration from multilateral agencies, development banks, donors, the private sector and individual experts, as well as interns and volunteers who wish to enhance their academic experience and knowledge.

MOWCAP

Secretary General

G.P. O. Box 8374, Hong Kong SAR, China

Email: helen.swinnerton@gmail.com

www.unesco.mowcap.org

UNESCO Bangkok

Communication and Information Unit

920 Sukhumvit Road, Prakanong, Klongtoey,

Bangkok 10110, Thailand

Tel: +662 391 0577 Fax: +662 391 0866

Email: bangkok@unesco.org

www.unescobkk.org/communication-and-information/information-society/mow



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