

BORNEO RESEARCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER REPORTING THE ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR 2010-2011

October 2011

DEAR FELLOWS AND MEMBERS:

It is the season to renew your Fellowships or Membership status. We have enclosed your invoice and a list of new books published by the BRC.

I apologize for the delay in this but the past two months have been unusually busy with projects that demanded my attention.

THE FUTURE IS TRULY EXCITING:

The Borneo Research Bulletin prospers under the great editorship of Cliff Sather, for which we are most thankful. And it has contained many significant and important papers. We are getting more and more requests for copies of its articles.

We have a very sound book list with our Monographs Series, Proceedings Series, Occasional Papers, and Reference Series. The scholarly contribution of our publications is manifested in the increasing income from permissions and royalties.

Our International Biennial Conference series continues with great interest and participation. It has been extremely well attended by scholars and researchers from Europe, The Americas, and the various regions of Borneo. Very interesting and insightful papers have been delivered that broke new ground and expanded our knowledge of Borneo. The next conference to be held at the Univesiti Brunei Daralussam is already promising to be extremely important and in making significant contributions. Some outstanding scholars have already agreed to give major addresses.

We need more reviews of the status of research in those disciplines and sciences that are critical to a full understanding of Borneo, past and present, physically, socially, historically, medically, biologically, and botanically. Let me encourage all of you to ask your colleagues in related disciplines to undertake such reviews.

In the coming year we will start editing the published and unpublished papers of early and present researchers to bring together, in one or two volumes for each, the results of their research, as we are doing for Rob Barrett.

The BRC continues to be a viable, active, important scholarly institution that is making major contributions to Bornean knowledge.

We want to express our deep thanks to all our Fellows and Members that have made this possible.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Kershaw, Eva Maria, and Roger Kershaw

2011 Writing an Identity. Content and Conceptions of a Brunei-Dusun "Constitution" of 1981. Volume 12 in Borneo Research Council Monograph Series. \$40

FORTHCOMING

Chur-Hansen, Anna, and George N. Appell, Eds.

2011 Psychiatric Research Among the Iban: Collected Papers of Robert J. Barrett, M.B.B.S. Ph.D. With an Introduction by Clifford Sather, Ph.D. Volume 13, Borneo Research Council Monograph Series. \$55

PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

Sutlive, Vinson, and Joanne Sutlive

n.d. The Memoirs of Janang Ensiring.

Appell, G. N., and Laura W. R. Appell

n.d. The Oral Literature of the Rungus Momogun: The Translation of Three Myths and Legends.

Heppell, Michael

n.d. Bidayuh Ethnography of West Kalimantan (1981)

n.d. Iban Social Control: The Infant and the Adult. Unpublished ms, Ph.D. dissertation for the Australian National University.

These last two are particularly important manuscripts as Michael Heppell was ahead of his time by several decades in his study of child rearing and child behavior.

We are also hoping sometime in the coming year to bring to press the very important collected articles and papers of Dr. Clifford Sather.

NEWS

Jacqueline Pugh-Kittingan's article, entitled "An Ethnomusicological Discussion of Bì Té, the Chanted Tales of the Huli" has appeared in *Sung Tales from the Papua New Guinea Highlands*, edited by Alan Rumsey and Don Niles. It is now available free online from ANU e-Press. The work is featured on the e-Press home page, as well as having the unique URL: http://epress.anu.edu.au/sung_tales_citation.html.

Jacque writes that this has taken almost 10 years to come to completion. This book is significant not only for PNG research, but for studies of similar genres in other cultures (eg. Borneo and Philippines cultures as well). Hope you all have a chance to enjoy this!

Vinson Sutlive reports that the two volume translations of Iban Sabak dirges that he and Joanne have been working on for several years are just about complete. Joanne has just returned home from rehab after difficult surgery to relieve pressure on her spinal cord and is progressing well.

Mathew Amster has contacted **Carol Rubinstein** to have her extensive tape recordings of oral literature and songs in Sarawak digitalized. They are now archived at the Carl A. Koch Library of Cornell University. The material consists of 60 cassette tapes that constitute Carol's original field recordings, and another 10 cassette tapes that have other material, including an assortment of songs from various groups in Borneo and readings she did in the 1980s. All of the material is thoroughly documented, including notes on translation, etc. This material could easily be scanned and linked to the recordings. The main body of this material was published in a special two volume edition of the Sarawak Museum Journal. We are working to have this digitalization of tape recordings done to preserve them.

Beatrice Clayre writes that she will be returning to Sarawak later this year or early next year to finalize her Sa'ban dictionary. She has been working on two dictionaries: a simple illustrated one with every object illustrated and a larger one with fewer illustrations. At the moment, Beatrice writes, very few realize just how endangered their language is.

ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE BORNEO RESEARCH COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARALUSSAM

Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, is pleased to confirm that BRC 2012, the 11th biennial Conference of the Borneo Research Council, will take place between June 25-27, 2012, at Universiti Brunei Darussalam. The Theme of the conference is : "Identities, Cultures, Environments."

Conference website: <http://www.ubd.edu.bn/conference/BRC2012>

Organizing Committee, BRC 2012 email address: secretariat.brc2012@ubd.edu.bn
Contact people: Adrian Clynes, Siti Badriyah Hj Mohd Yusof

HELP NEEDED TO REPLY TO INQUIRIES

The BRC office here is constantly getting requests for information, almost all of which are beyond my competence. I would like to form a committee of scholars and others to be of help when this occurs so that I can forward on to them the request.

Recent inquires:

Subject : Research on carnivorous pitcher plants of Borneo

Date: Tue, 25 Oct 2011 14:01:25 -0400

From: Leonora Bittleston <lbittles@fas.harvard.edu>

To: <brc@borneoresearchcouncil.org>

Hello,

I am a graduate student in Anne Pringle's lab at Harvard, and I study insect-plant-fungi associations. One of my study systems is carnivorous pitcher plants, and the microbes and insects that live inside them. I would like to study Nepenthes pitcher plants in Borneo, and compare them with the native Massachusetts Sarracenia pitcher plants. Do you know of anyone who works with Nepenthes or have suggestions for how to reach out to the community?

Thank you for your help,
Leonora

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Subject : Qualitative research firm in Borneo?

Date: Tue, 18 Oct 2011 12:05:59 -0400

From: Laura Seckel <lseckel@fhi360.org>

To: brc@borneoresearchcouncil.org

Hello

I came across your council website, and am hoping you can provide some guidance on researchers/research firms with experience in Borneo. I am currently working on a project, Prevent, looking at the transmission of zoonotic disease in several countries in South Asia. One of our study locations will be Borneo. We are preparing to release an RFP for a piece of qualitative/formative research, and are actively seeking researchers and/or researchers with qualitative experience in both Borneo and peninsular Malaysia.

Have you worked with any researchers or firms that you recommend? Are there any you have heard of?

Thanks very much.

Best,
Laura

Laura R. Seckel | Global Leadership Program Officer, The A2Z Project

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: August/Sept visit to Borneo from the UK

From: Robert Barratt <R.Barratt@bathspa.ac.uk>;

Date: Wed, June 01, 2011 3:43 am

To: "brc@borneoresearchcouncil.org" <brc@borneoresearchcouncil.org>

Dear colleagues,

I am planning a short trip to Borneo this coming August/September. I have a 6 month sabbatical from my university and so I am travelling looking at community based environmental projects. I never visited Borneo before. Would it be possible to meet with with one of your researchers in Borneo? I am an environmental educator, concerned with children's understandings of the environment.

Kind regards,
Professor Robert Barratt

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Please let us know if you would be willing to help on these inquires by sending us your email address.

STATUS OF THE BORNEO RESEARCH BULLETIN

Volume Forty-one (2010) of the *Borneo Research Bulletin* was published earlier this year.

REVIEWS OF RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY LITERATURE IN VARIOUS DISCIPLINES

The BRC was founded on the principle that in Borneo the various scientific and scholarly disciplines are closely intertwined. The success of the queries of any discipline is interdependent on the findings of many other disciplines. Consequently, when the BRC was formed, it was on the basis of advancing research in the social, biological, and medical sciences in Borneo.

However, since that time, the various disciplines have grown immensely so that it is impossible for a scholar to keep up with developments in related disciplines that may have relevance to one's own research. Therefore it was decided to establish a new series of publications to review the status of research and scholarly publications in various fields.

If these reviews are lengthy they will be published as Occasional Papers; if shorter in length, they will appear in the BRB.

Reviews which have already appeared in the Borneo Research Bulletin:

Volume 36 (2005):

- Menno Schilthuis, "After the Sarawak Law: Evolutional Biology in Borneo Since 1855."
- Nicolas Tarling, "Further Notes on the Historiography of British Borneo."

Volume 40 (2009):

- Francis Q. Brearley, "Forest Ecology Research in Borneo, 2003-2008."

We want to express our thanks to these authors for their excellent work!

We hope that these publications will stimulate new research and communication between the various disciplines as well as produce additional comments in the BRB.

Please send any offers to prepare a review, or suggestions and nominations to the: brc@borneoresearchcouncil.org.

THE REED WADLEY MEMORIAL FUND

At the request of Reed's wife, Oona Paredes, Ph.D., the BRC has established The Reed Wadley Memorial Fund to honor the life and work of Dr. Reed Wadley (1962-2008). Those of you who wish to honor the memory of Reed are encouraged to send contributions to the Fund. When fully endowed, the fund will provide supplemental grants to graduate students in cultural anthropology planning to do research in Borneo. Dr. Oona Paredes has been asked to be one of the advisors to the fund. Gifts to honor Dr. Wadley's memory should be sent to the Borneo Research Council, P.O. Box A, Phillips, Maine, 04966, USA. Further inquiries about the fund should be sent to the same address.

As of this writing, the Fund now contains \$9,777.91 through the generosity of: Dr. Geoffrey A. Clark, Dr. George L. Cowgill, Dr. Amity A. Doolittle, Prof. Ian Douglas, Dr. Michael Dove, Dr. and Mrs. Allen Drake, Dr. Richard Fidler, Dr. A. V. M. Horton, Mr. Leonard Linggi Anak Jugah, Mrs. Charity Appell McNabb, Mr. John D. Pearson, Dr. Robert Pringle, Dr. Robert Reece, Professor F. Andrew Smith, Ms. Sondra Wentzell, Dr. Robert L. and Judith Winzeler, and George and Laura Appell.

FELLOWSHIPS FOR THE COLLECTION OF ORAL LITERATURE AND TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

The BRC has been in contact with a foundation that is willing to award fellowships to support the collection of oral literature and traditional ecological knowledge. If this is of any interest to anyone please contact the: brc@borneoresearchcouncil.org.

BRC WEBSITE

The website now includes a list of Members and Fellows, all our publications with table of contents of each, President's Reports, announcements, history of the BRC, application for membership, information on the BRC Medals and Biennial Conferences, list of Officers, etc.

www.borneoresearchcouncil.org

CONTRIBUTIONS

We wish to thank the following individuals for their contributions to the BRC:

Contributions to the BRC Endowment Fund

Mr. Steven G. Alpert, Dr. George N. Appell, Dr. Clare Boulanger, Dr. Jay B. Crain, Dr. Michael R. Dove, Dr. Michael Heppell, Mrs. Charity Appell McNabb, Professor H. Arlo Nimmo, Mr. John D. Pearson, Prof. Robert Reece, Dr. and Mrs. Otto Steinmayer, Dr. Herbert L. and Dr. Patricia Whittier, Dr. W. D. Wilder, and Dr. Patricia Yamaguichi.

Contributions to the BRC Operating Fund

Dr. Adela Baer, Dr. Martin Baier, Dr. Clare Boulanger, Dr. Jay B. Crain, Dr. and Mrs. Allen Drake, Ms. Katherine Edwards, Ms. Judith Heimann, Dr. A. H. Klokke, Dr. Michael B. Leigh, Dr. Valerie Mashman, Mr. Gerry Masteller, Mr. John W. McCarthy, Dr. Azam Othman, Ms. Vicki Pearson-Rounds, Mr. Quentin Phillips, Dato Seri John Pike, Dr. Robert Pringle, Dr. Clifford Sather, Dr. Anne Schiller, Dr. Bernard Sellato, Dr. and Mrs. Otto Steinmayer, Dr. Jack Stuster, FR Brian Taylor, Dr. Phillip Thomas, Dr. and Dr. H. L. Whittier, Dr. W. D. Wilder, Mr. William Wilkinson, Dr. Robert Winzeler, Dr. Leigh Wright, and Dr. Patricia Yamaguichi.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The operating statement is attached.

G.N. Appell, Ph.D.
October 2011