

New
Publications

BRC Monograph Series

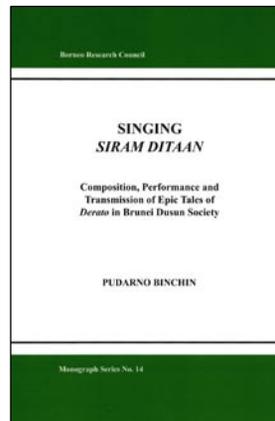
New
Publications

*Singing Siram Ditaan:
Composition, Performance and
Transmission of Epic Tales of Derato
in Brunei Dusun Society*

Pudarno Binchin

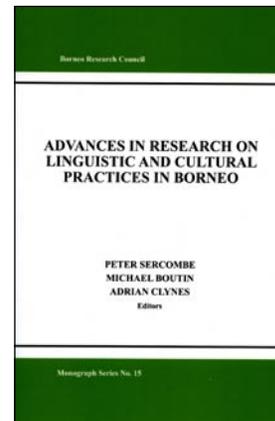
ISBN 1-929900-17-1 \$45

No.14



Singing Siram Ditaan celebrates not just a tradition of oral literature nearly lost today, but also its practitioners, many of whom survive now only in legend. Pudarno Binchin assembled this irreplaceable record and tribute over 25 years of research. His work blends insight only achieved by one raised in Dusun culture with scholarship, placing *Siram Ditaan* in its context of oral tradition and drawing on previous work by Muhammad Hadi Abdullah, Eva Kershaw, Sileh bin Yutong, Magil bin Lasak, Mohamad Hatta, Nur Anita Awanis and others. This volume is enriched by illustrations, samples of *Siram Ditaan* text and photographs of performances. As Victor King notes in his foreword, the research chronicled here has served an added benefit of restoring the dwindled status of the few remaining singers and exciting new interest in the language and traditions of *Siram Ditaan*.

No.15

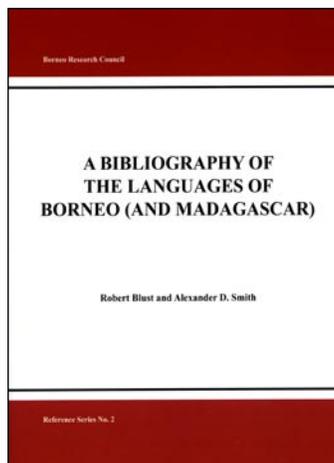


*Advances in Research on Linguistic
and Cultural Practices in Borneo*

Peter Sercombe, Michael Boutin
and Adrian Clynes, eds.

ISBN 1-929900-18-X \$45

After linguist and educator Peter Martin's sudden death in 2009, his colleagues assembled this memorial collection of current research in his honor. Following a eulogy and bibliography of Martin's work, chapters featured in the first part, on **Language and Society**, include papers by Valerie Mashman, Noor Azam Haji-Othman, James T. Collins and James McLellen. Monica Janowski and Jayl Langub each contributed chapters to a second section on **Cultural Practices**. A final section, on **Language Description**, features works by Beatrice Clayre, Adrian Clynes, Paul Kroeger, Michael Boutin, Antonia Soriente, Khin Khin Aye and Peter Sercombe. While this monograph investigates a wide range of subjects and disciplines, from songs and language education to rice cultivation and the play of spirits in hunting pigs, all are united in the people, culture and languages of Borneo.



*A Bibliography of the
Languages of Borneo
(and Madagascar)*

Robert Blust
Alexander D. Smith

ISBN 1-929900-15-5

(Includes PDF of text on
CD-ROM) \$35.00

BRC Reference Series

This volume grew out from a 2013 graduate seminar in linguistics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and represents the first comprehensive bibliography of Bornean languages published in 55 years. References on Malagasy are included, as the languages of Madagascar and Borneo form one linguistic family. The bibliography is divided into sections on languages and on literature concerning those languages. Each section is preceded by a helpful overview, and citations scattered throughout feature additional annotations. The CD-ROM provided with the text offers the reader a searchable PDF copy of the entire volume, valuable to any serious researcher in the field.

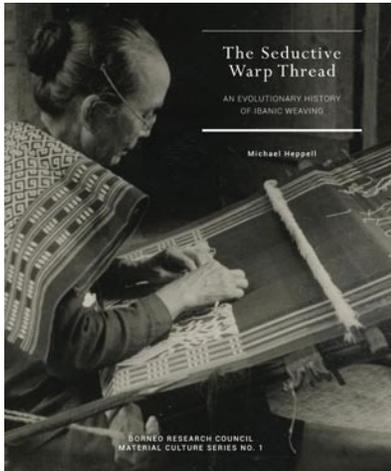
Borneo Research Council, P.O. Box A, Phillips ME 04966, USA

To order, write: brc@borneoresearchcouncil.org

New
Publications

BRC Material Culture Series

New
Publications



The Seductive Warp Thread: An Evolutionary History of Ibanic Weaving

Michael Heppell

ISBN 1-929900-16-3 \$50

This large format, heavily illustrated volume fills a gap in the library of Iban weaving. While many previous books sought only to showcase the finest, most beautiful of textiles, this work also analyzes examples that are worn and more pragmatic in their execution, but which represent more closely the evolution of Ibanic weaving. In particular, the author honors weaving as a record of stories, and likewise consults oral histories to reconstruct the tradition of weaving among the Iban. Abundant color illustrations drawn from institutional collections, dealers' records and private holdings catalogue both traditional and unusual examples of the art, supplemented with photos showing processes and techniques as well as weavers and their cultural setting. The author seeks to examine the preservation of cultural memory and the transmission of evolving styles and messages through fabrics woven and traded in their river systems, even as the weavers themselves migrated nearly as much as their textiles moved in trade. The rich and complicated result of fluid movements of ideas and fabric is effectively untangled by this beautiful book.

Communing with the Dark Side: Borneo's Masks and Masquerades

Michael Heppell

ISBN 1-929900-19-8 \$50

An earlier exhibition catalogue, *The Masks of Kalimantan*, written by Michael Heppell in 1991, ignited this extended investigation of Dayak masks and their role in masquerades in Borneo. By necessity, much of his exposition draws on historical accounts of lost traditions and ceremonies, and the author speculates that the history of the earlier arts will likely always remain incomplete, but masks and masquerades are much alive in the present as well, as seen in this volume. Plentiful color illustrations of wild and wonderful masks and their ceremonial contexts accompany investigations of religious and secular uses and the regional variations of traditions in multiple regions of Borneo.

The rich presentation is as attractive to the artist as the anthropologist, and it is likely that haunting, eccentric, and humorous samples pictured will inspire mask makers well beyond Borneo in their craft.

