



---

2014

## Selected Poems: Folklore & legend: Kaundinya & Soma; The Mekong to Mundus Novus; The Tonle Sap; Touching Water; Water the Goddess

Peuladd Huy

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/jsaaea>

---

### Recommended Citation

Huy, Peuladd (2014) "Selected Poems: Folklore & legend: Kaundinya & Soma; The Mekong to Mundus Novus; The Tonle Sap; Touching Water; Water the Goddess," *Journal of Southeast Asian American Education and Advancement*. Vol. 9 : Iss. 1 , Article 4.

DOI: 10.7771/2153-8999.1079

Available at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/jsaaea/vol9/iss1/4>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact [epubs@purdue.edu](mailto:epubs@purdue.edu) for additional information.

This is an Open Access journal. This means that it uses a funding model that does not charge readers or their institutions for access. Readers may freely read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of articles. This journal is covered under the [CC BY-NC-ND license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).



**Selected Poems**

*by*  
**Peauladd Huy**

**Folklore & legend: Kaundinya & Soma**

When sacred wandered into the serpent's nest  
a race emerged & a nation forged—a lifetime's bound by nectar  
& poison in increments—amongst the half-blood  
offspring: the half upright & half slither  
inching from Khorat highlands to the lowlands of the Mekong.

No sooner than step did shadow  
burn white as a midday  
glinted sabers and mercenary paths.

Hundreds of years, foreign doubts divided & denied  
truth merged  
molding the golden peninsula  
shifting water & land  
Chenla villages into a stone metropolis,  
visible from NASA above. Legacy & some

proven legends. Stone etched conquests & kingly  
gratifications in foundation of a bygone empire.  
Transcribed & more to be  
completely deciphered. Enthusiasts & make-believe  
playing gods and secular,  
imagining hypotheses (*only if we were there*)  
to mechanize each cold-stone character into events  
could or not have taken place. Could they have  
help mobilizing beyond their earthly  
strength & body weight into celestial realm,

rendering this race to outdo  
its greatness amongst jealous gods and opportune neighbors?



Readers are free to copy, display, and distribute this article, as long as the work is attributed to the author(s) and the **Journal of Southeast Asian American Education & Advancement**, it is distributed for non-commercial purposes only, and no alteration or transformation is made in the work. More details of this Creative Commons license are available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>. All other uses must be approved by the author(s) or JSAAEA.



**Touching Water**

1

Here, where the moon touches the water  
 & the current  
 rapids like malleable  
 flooding cervixes  
 of shore roots & eroded stone images  
 & ancient inscriptions proclaiming royal deeds & offspring  
 pushing from shadow & harems  
 onto the open vista. Image the sky after bondage  
 opens up for the disinherited siblings.

2

Here, where once through the old fig, the sun penetrated  
 deep to the precious  
 luminance at the bottom of clear Kulen falls.  
 Deflected & projected angle: in shallow creek  
 water, dotting shadows & honored locus  
 erected from hips of god & creation. Imagine standing  
 images on the horizontal plane.

3

Here, where once Khmer ancients stationed  
 awaiting dragon stars & sunset  
 glow languished over heavy canopy  
 has since upturned foundation  
 stones & kingdom reshuffling  
 between the permanent & illegitimated  
 usurps of half-blood kings.

4

Here, where the water is like a mirror  
 opening up to new air & light is gradual  
 where residual settles after each entry.

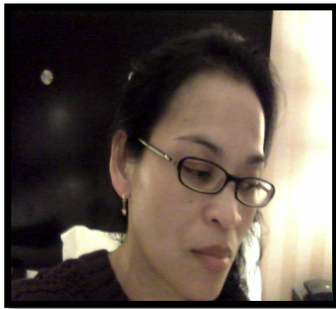
5

Here, you can still see at the bottom of the falls  
 where all the waters pool  
 & the pool is a holding mirror  
 where the others see through dull light &  
 in the light the original tribes  
 wheel the sun to harvest  
 hour then capture the old king  
 of rains to feed the million rice fields.

### **Water the Goddess**

If you are from here, you know. Each year  
From June to October, the Mekong rises & the Tonle Sap  
Buckles like a goddess teased. Warm. Accepting.  
Willing. Dispense. Rush. Meniscus  
Curvature. Edge. Cylinder. Molecular Tension. Droplets. Solid.  
Solvent legs. Incremental wonder. Gauging. Engage. Let.  
Possibilities. Meander. Leisure of a backstroke. Floaty. Sky.  
Leafy. Light. Random shades. Sweet & salted.  
Ocean-cradled. South China Sea.

### **About the Author**



Peauladd Huy was born in Phnom Penh. Her latest work, published by Connotation Press—*An Online Artifact*—was nominated for the Sundress "Best of the Net," the Dzanc "Best of the Net," and the Pushcart Prize. And with deep gratitude to Connotation Press she'll have a book, forthcoming sometime in April.



# Journal of Southeast Asian American Education & Advancement

A peer-reviewed  
scholarly journal  
published by the  
National Association  
for the Education &  
Advancement of  
Cambodian, Laotian,  
and Vietnamese  
Americans (NAFEA)

Volume 9 (2014)

[www.JSAAEA.org](http://www.JSAAEA.org)

## Editor

**Dr. Wayne E. Wright**

*University of Texas at San Antonio*

## Associate Editors

**Dr. Chhany Sak-Humphry**

*University of Hawaii at Manoa*

**Dr. Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy**

*University of Massachusetts, Lowell*

## Book Review Editor

**Dr. Vichet Chhuon**

*University of Minnesota*

## Creative Works Editor

**Bryan Thao Worra**

*Lao Assistance Center*

## Special Advisor

**Gregory Green**

*Curator, Echols Collection on Southeast Asia, Cornell University Library*

## Journal Manager

**Yeng Yang**

*University of Texas at San Antonio*

## Editorial Assistant

**Matthew Kraft**

*University of Texas at San Antonio*

*Comments and questions for the editorial staff may be directed to [jsaaea@lists.sis.utsa.edu](mailto:jsaaea@lists.sis.utsa.edu)*

## Editorial Review Board

**Dr. Steve Arounsack**

*California State University, Stanislaus*

**Dr. Phala Chea**

*Lowell Public Schools*

**Dr. Loan Dao**

*University of Massachusetts, Boston*

**Dr. Changming Duan**

*University of Missouri, Kansas City*

**Dr. Carl L. Bankston III**

*Tulane University*

**Dr. George Chigas**

*University of Massachusetts, Lowell*

**Dr. Hien Duc Do**

*San Jose State University*

**Dr. Sophal Ear**

*U.S. Naval Postgraduate School*

*Journal of Southeast Asian American Education & Advancement, Vol. 9 (2014)*

**Dr. Sothy Eng**

*Lehigh University*

**Dr. Vincent K. Her**

*University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire*

**Dr. Samlong Inthaly**

*Minneapolis Public Schools*

**Dr. Ketmani Kouanchao**

*Mt. San Jacinto College*

**Dr. Ha Lam**

*Arizona State University*

**Dr. Stacey Lee**

*University of Wisconsin, Madison*

**Dr. Sue Needham**

*California State University, Dominguez Hills*

**Dr. Max Niedzwiecki**

*Daylight Consulting Group*

**Dr. Clara Park**

*California State University, Northridge*

**Dr. Mark Pfeifer**

*SUNY Institute of Technology*

**Dr. Loan T. Phan**

*University of New Hampshire*

**Dr. Karen Quintiliani**

*California State University, Long Beach*

**Dr. Angela Reyes**

*Hunter College, The City University of New York*

**Dr. Fay Shin**

*California State University, Long Beach*

**Dr. Cathy J. Schlund-Vials**

*University of Connecticut, Storrs*

**Dr. Yer J. Thao**

*Portland State University*

**Dr. Myluong Tran**

*San Diego State University*

**Dr. Khatharya Um**

*University of California, Berkeley*

**Dr. Linda Trinh Vo**

*University of California, Irvine*

**Dr. Yang Sao Xiong**

*University of Wisconsin-Madison*

**Dr. Jeremy Hein**

*University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire*

**Dr. Nancy H. Hornberger**

*University of Pennsylvania*

**Dr. Peter Nien-Chu Kiang**

*University of Massachusetts, Boston*

**Dr. Kevin K. Kumashiro**

*University of Illinois, Chicago*

**Dr. Jonathan H. X. Lee**

*San Francisco State University*

**Dr. Monirith Ly**

*Texas State University-San Marcos*

**Dr. Bic Ngo**

*University of Minnesota*

**Dr. Leakhena Nou**

*California State University, Long Beach*

**Dr. Isabelle Thuy Pelaud**

*San Francisco State University*

**Dr. Giang Pham**

*University of Massachusetts*

**Dr. Bounlieng Phommasouvanh**

*Minnesota Department of Education*

**Dr. Kalyani Rai**

*University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee*

**Dr. Soveacha Ros**

*Royal University of Phnom Penh*

**Dr. Nancy J. Smith-Hefner**

*Boston University*

**Dr. Christine Su**

*Ohio University*

**Dr. Loan Tran**

*University of California, Riverside*

**Dr. Tinou Tran**

*Alief Independent School District*

**Dr. Silvy Un**

*Frost Lake Elementary School*

**Dr. Terrence G. Wiley**

*Center for Applied Linguistics*

**Dr. Zha Blong Xiong**

*University of Minnesota*

**Dr. Kou Yang**

*California State University, Stanislaus*

## Doctoral Student Editorial Review Board

**Sovicheth Boun**

*University of Texas at San Antonio*

**Keo Chea-Young**

*University of Pennsylvania*

**Dung Mao**

*University of Minnesota*

**Virak Chan**

*University of Texas at San Antonio*

**Annie BichLoan Duong**

*San Joaquin County Office of Education*

**Peter Tan Keo**

*Columbia University*

**Ravy Lao**

*University of California, Santa Barbara*

**Thien-Huong Ninh**

*University of Southern California*

**Malaphone Phommasa**

*University of California, Santa Barbara*

**Alisia Tran**

*University of Minnesota*

**Anna H. Yang**

*University of Georgia*

**Minh Mai**

*University of Wisconsin-Madison*

**Hoa Nha Nguyen**

*Boston College*

**Vanna Som**

*Harvard University*

**Krissyvan Truong**

*Claremont Graduate University*

**Lesley Yang**

*University of Minnesota*