BORNEO RESEARCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER REPORTING THE ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR 2017-18

October 2018

DEAR FELLOWS AND MEMBERS:

It is the season to renew your Fellowship or Membership status. We have enclosed your invoice and a flyer on our recent publications. It has been an extremely busy year!

NEW POSITIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD FOR THE BRC

<u>Call for New Co-Editorial Position</u>: The BRC is looking for a co-editor for the <u>Borneo</u> <u>Research Bulletin</u>. The co-editor will work in concert with the current editor with the expectation that the co-editor would become future editor.

The position of co-editor offers a unique opportunity to help shape the future of the Borneo Research Bulletin and thereby contribute significantly to this area of study. The co-editor will sit on the Board of Directors and will be able to bring new memberships to the board.

Please send inquires to: brc@borneoresearchcouncil.org

<u>Nominations are requested for expanding the Board of Directors</u>: The Council is seeking new members for our Board of Directors, particularly a representative from the biological or environmental community. This is an opportunity to work with the current board of the BRC to help shape the future of the organization and research in Borneo.

Please send letters of interest to: brc@borneoresearchcouncil.org

<u>Call for a Manager of Biennial Conferences</u>: The Borneo Research Council is looking for an individual to manage its Biennial Conferences in Borneo. The next Biennial Conference is to be held in 2020. This will be a time for a major celebration. It is the anniversary of the first Biennial Conference, which was held in 1990 in Sarawak. The goals of the Biennial International Conferences of the Borneo Research Council are: to promote scientific research in all fields; to enable the research community, government departments, and others to stay informed of ongoing research; to encourage further research in Borneo; to engage the local community in research in Borneo.

Please send letters of interest to: brc@borneoresearchcouncil.org

Wanted Those Working in the Fields of Biology and the Environment To Contribute and Advise Our Publishing Program:

The BRB needs a representative or two working in the fields of biology and/or the environment to cover what is being done in those fields and integrate that work with the activities and publishing programs of the BRC. The editor of the BRB writes that it would be useful to have someone covering the biology/environmental literature. Are there any volunteers?

14th BORNEO RESEARCH COUNCIL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2018 HELD IN SARAWAK

The 14th International Borneo Research Council Conference was held in Sarawak in August with the theme "Translating the Past and Envisioning the Future". We are indebted to Prof Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim bin Suaidi, Vice Chancellor, UNIMAS, Associate Prof Dr Shahren Ahmad Zaidi Adruce, Chairman of the organising committee, Director, Institute of Borneo Studies (UNIMAS) in The Faculty of Cognitive Sciences and Human Development and the Faculty of Social Sciences for hosting this conference and their gracious welcoming of the participants.

It was delightful to return again to Sarawak where our first Biennial Conference was convened in 1990. Here in Sarawak there has been a long history of foundational research and stimulating inquiry including the publication of results. Therefore, it was of special importance that we meet here again. It is hard to envision the degree to which these Biennial Conferences have enlarged our knowledge and understanding. We are indebted to the work of the local institutions and interested Fellows and Members who been able to host these conferences.

This Conference was the culmination of months of work by the Organizing Committee. We want to express our deep appreciation to all the members of the Committee for the time, energy, and effort they have put into the work of the Conference. We are indebted particularly to the work of Jayl Langub, holder of Borneo Research Council Medal of Excellence for his extraordinary contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the social, medical, and biological sciences in Borneo, and to Louise Macul, FoSM, who have been invaluable in bringing this Conference to fruition and facilitating the exchange of ideas and results of research.

A keynote speaker was Dr. Liana Chua, an interesting choice since she has never been a member of the BRC nor received any of the newsletters about our activities. Her speech will be published in the next edition of the BRB, and we would be interested in comments on it.

BRC Biennial Conference 2020 will be sponsored by UMS in Kota Kinabalu. Jacquie Pugh-Kittingan (Jacqueline Pugh-Kitingan, jacquie4j@gmail.com).

Fellows/Members: Please Note – Free PDF copies of BRC publications:

All publications are now available in PDF format with the exception of *Psychiatric Research Among the Iban* and the *Iban Diaries of Monica Freeman* and the publications listed in the flyer of recently published works. This makes them available for searches.

Fellows/Members may request free of charge any five items in our publication list. If Fellows/Members want additional items, we will charge US \$10 for each additional set of five. Please send requests to brc@borneoresearchcouncil.org.

These PDF-formatted items are not available to non-Fellows/Members.

TUN JUGAH FOUNDATION TO PUBLISH RESULTS OF THE IBAN SHAMAN CONFERENCE

The Tun Jugah Foundation announced plans to publish the record of a convocation of Iban shaman (*Aum Bala Manang*), held in 1995, in Kapit, Sarawak, Malaysia. The convocation brought together the largest number of *manang* ever to gather in one site. It extended over two and a half days, in which Iban *manang* and other community leaders examined all aspects of local "shamanic" practices. Vinson Sutlive is to write the introduction.

NEW BRC MONOGRAPH SERIES: MEMOIRS OF RESEARCH IN BORNEO

Vinson Sutlive has suggested that we should start a monograph series of autobiographic accounts of those who have conducted ethnographic fieldwork in the societies of Borneo. He writes:

The potential of such memoirs is enormous, as we face what one author has called "a crisis of episteme," with wanton disregard for accurate reporting and truth, and the misuse of theoretical derivatives instead. It is our conviction that ethnography is basic to our discipline, and honest reporting is the foundation for our future..... Some articles may be shorter, others, longer, but the principal focus should be on the experiences and influences that led them to do research, the theoretical propositions that gave focus to their work, a summary of their conclusions, and new directions into which new researchers might move.

Vinson has suggested the following outline as a start for colleagues writing up their memoirs:

- Date and place of birth
- Early childhood memories, and significant relationships within and outside the family
- Middle childhood experiences, as a formative period for personal rituals and behaviors
- The teen years
- Early adulthood, with special attention to influences that directed one to consider anthropology as a career
- Theoretical "trends" or orientation that sensitized the author to particular beliefs and behaviors
- Significant changes in one's personal and professional life
- Evaluation of one's contributions, and their importance in Borneo ethnography

As series editor I would like to encourage in addition:

- Memoirs from scholars and researchers from any discipline working in Borneo
- Most importantly, accounts from local individuals who have worked with such scholars or who were the subject of their research.

FRIENDS OF SARAWAK MUSEUM ACTIVITIES 2018

from Louise Macul, Advisor, FoSM

16 January 2018 TALK

"Tukud Rini: Cosmic Traveller," By Dr Monica Janowski, Research Fellow, Sarawak Museum Campus Project and Research Associate at School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Tuked Rini is one of a number of heroes, both male and female, about whom oral stories were told until recently in the Kelabit Highlands and neighbouring highland areas.

3 March 2018 TALK

"Tuloi Kebing, the Great Kejaman Chief of Upper Rejang," By Jayl Langub, Assoc. Research Fellow at the Institute of Borneo Studies, UNIMAS

Tuloi Kebing, a Kejaman aristocrat, was according to Kejaman oral narratives, the single most famous chief the Kajang peoples --comprising the Sekapan, Lahanan, Punan Bah and Kejamanever had. Granted a special audience at the Brunei palace, Tuloi was made the Sultan's representative in the upper Rejang, and given symbolic items of bandera (flag), meriam (canon), mahkota (crown) and dacin (a scales). One of his responsibilities was to promote trade and ensure the safety of Brunei traders going up the upper Rejang. The appointment came at the time when the Kajang influence in ethnic affairs in the upper Rejang was fading. During the "Great Kayan Expedition" to the upper Rejang in 1863, Tuloi's name was hardly mentioned, but appeared quite frequently in the Sarawak Gazette after the expedition. In April 1882, Resident Hugh Brooke Low introduced him to the people of Belaga as penyuroh (agent or representative) of the Brooke administration. This talk will look at ethnic composition and social relation around the life and time of Tuloi and beyond with reference to the work of Jérôme Rousseau, Ida Nicolaisen, Brian de Martinoir, Simon Strickland, Peter Mecalf, and Ian Clayre. Tuloi's legacy to Sarawak is the Taman Tipong Tuloi kliering that stands magnificently at the Sarawak Museum compound.

July 2018 Rainforest Fringe Festival TALKS

A series of talks, including: Janet Rata Noel's, "Beyond Pua Kumbu: other woven Iban textiles"

July 2018 Rainforest World Music Festival *Cultural Snippets:* A series of talks

8 August 2018 Talk & Film

"The Incredible Mariane North," Introduced by: Dr John Walker & Dr Katherine Pierce

A short introduction to Marianne North and the film given by 2 FoSM and MNS (Malaysian Nature Society) members who contributed greatly to the shooting of the documentary, namely Datin Katharine Pierce and Dr. John H. Walker.

Datin Katharine Pierce is a British botanist with a focus on ethno-botanical studies, who spent most of her working life in Sarawak. She acted as an advisor for the production of the documentary, identifying the flowers and plants which Marianne North painted in Sarawak as well as the locations where to find them for the shooting.

28 August 2018 Exhibition Opening

"Ranee: Margaret of Sarawak," Created by the Brooke Heritage Trust At the Old Courthouse, Kuching

This exhibition explores the extraordinary life, legend, and legacy of of Margaret de Windt who, aged 19, married the second Rajah of Sarawak and embraced a new life as queen of this remarkable kingdom, a role she fulfilled for almost half a century.

(Friends of Sarawak Museum was launched as a registered nongovernment society in 2012. Its mission is to "promote an appreciation of Sarawak's heritage through its museums.")

KALIMANTAN DATA BASE

The Center for Pacific and Asian Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Radboud Universiteit, Nijmegen has maintained a Kalimantan Data Base including these files:

- Kalimantan Database and Overviews
- Kalimantan Literature Database
- Kalimantan People Overview
- Kalimantan Research Overview
- Kalimantan Project Overview

Updating the Kalimantan Database and Overviews has stopped in June 2012.

http://cpasru.nl/databases/kalimantan_database_and_overviews

DEDICATED FUNDS of the BRC

<u>The Reed Wadley Memorial Fund</u>: established by the Borneo Research Council to honor the life and work of Dr. Reed Wadley (1962-2008). The fund will provide supplemental grants to graduate students in cultural anthropology planning to do research in Borneo. Applicants should apply to the BRC. The fund now is at \$20,404.

<u>Laura W. R. Appell Memorial Fund</u>: In recognition of Laura W. R. Appell's commitment to the preservation of Borneo oral traditions and her contributions to Borneo ethnography, a fund was established in her honor with the initial contribution made by Cliff and Louise Sather. Laura was a Fellow of the Borneo Research Council and one of the founding members. This Fund will support the activities and publications of the Borneo Research Council. The fund now is at \$143,172. Contributions to the Laura W.R. Appell Fund of the Borneo Research Council may be sent to: Borneo Research Council, Box A, Phillips, ME 04966.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

I want to thank all those who have made contributions to the BRC over the past year. It is because of these contributions we can keep the cost of publications low so that they can be enjoyed by everyone.

ENDOWMENT FUND:

Dr. Michael Dove, Dr. Michael B. Leigh, Professor H. Arlo Nimmo, Mr. John D. Pearson, Ms. Vicki Pearson-Rounds, Dr. & Mrs. Otto Steinmayer, Dr. Phillip Thomas. and Dr. W.D. Wilder.

GENERAL FUND:

Dr. Donald Brown, Dr. Jay Crain, Dr. & Mrs. Allen Drake, Ms. Judith Heimann, Dr. A.V.M. Horton, Dr & Mrs. Alfred Hudson, Ms. Valerie Mashman, Mr. James McLellan, Dr. Robert Pringle, Dr. Anne Schiller, Professor F. Andrew Smith, Dr. & Mrs. Otto Steinmayer, Dr. Jack Stuster, FR Brian Taylor, Dr. Phillip Thomas, Dr. W.D. Wilder and Mr. William Wilkinson.

We thank each of these individuals for their generous support.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The operating statements are attached.

G.N. Appell, Ph.D. October 2018