

BORNEO RESEARCH COUNCIL

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Annual Report from the President For the Year 2021

February 2022

Dear Members of the Borneo Research Council,

Our year of rebuilding has been time-consuming and rewarding. We accomplished the fully redone website and it is up and running and can be viewed at: <http://www.borneoresearchcouncil.org/>. We can now process memberships, book orders, and donations electronically through our online platform. If you would prefer to pay by check, please use the mailing address at the top of this letter. Any other questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to Cheryl Keith, Member Services Manager, at Cheryl@marudu.org.

Membership

We continue our outreach to new members and to reclaim lapsed members! If you know of anyone whose work is relevant to the BRC please encourage them to become a member and to visit our website. We have welcomed 2 new members last year and hope to welcome even more in the coming year.

Listserv

We continue to build our Listserv and look forward to a time when it is the vibrant forums we imagine where ideas are exchanged, questions answered, research challenges workshopped, conferences and gatherings discussed, lost friends and acquaintances found, and connections made. If anyone would be interested in being the moderator of the listserv, please let me know!

Archives

The construction of the archive building, mentioned in the 2019 President's report, has been completed and the Firebird Foundation had a successful summer working with the UCLA/Getty Interdepartmental Program in the Conservation of Archeological and Ethnographic materials to conserve and access the Appell collections as well as other collections gifted to the Borneo Research Council. In due course, an online catalog will be accessible to members of The Council.

New BRB Editor

After 27 years as Editor of the BRB Clifford Sather has decided to step down after the 2021 volume. The BRC wants to thank Cliff for his dedication and for his excellent work over the years. I want to add a very personal thank you for all the help and support that Cliff has given to me as I step into the role of President of the BRC.

Happily, J.H. (John) Walker has agreed to become the next editor of the BRC!

J. H. (John) Walker was awarded his PhD in Politics from the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Canberra, in 1995 for a thesis entitled "Power and Conflict in Sarawak, 1835-1868". He taught International and Political Studies at the UNSW, Canberra, for 25 years, focusing on southeast Asian history and politics. From 2016 to 2021 he was an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia.

Dr. Walker is the author of *Power and Prowess: The Origins of Brooke Kingship in Sarawak* (2002, 2020), a co-editor (with Minako Sakai and Glenn Banks) of *The Politics of the Periphery in Indonesia: Social and Geographical Perspectives* (2009), and a contributing editor to *The Encyclopedia of Iban Studies* (2002), edited by Vinson Sutlive and Joanne Sutlive.

His articles on political culture and Sarawak history have appeared in such journals as *Theory and Society*, *Modern Asian Studies*, *Review of Indonesian and Malaysian Affairs*, *Australian Journal of Political Science*, *Borneo Research Bulletin*, *Journal of Borneo-Kalimantan*, *Jebat: Malaysian Journal of History, Politics and Strategic Studies*, *Sarawak Museum Journal*, *Island* and *Australian Religion Studies Review*.

Transitions

We have recently learned of the loss of the following greats in Borneo studies:

Herbert Whittier died on June 6, 2021. A full obituary will be forthcoming.

Also of note is the fact that the Field Museum has taken on the archiving and care of Whittier's papers and material culture collection.

Professor Andrew "Pete" Vayda passed away on January 15, 2022. Professor Vayda was a member of the BRC editorial board. A full obituary will be forthcoming.

Lucas Chin, former Director of the Sarawak Museum and prolific writer on the cultural heritage of Sarawak has died. A full obituary will be forthcoming.

Biennial Conference

Work on the Biennial Conference, tentatively scheduled for August, continues. Updates will be posted to the listserv as they come in.

Honors

The Borneo Research Council Board voted unanimously to honor two long-serving Board Members whose lifelong work in Borneo and on Borneo studies has been impactful. Therefore, at the Biennial Conference, The Borneo Medal will be awarded to Clifford Sather, Joanne and Vinson Sutlive. Full encomiums will appear on the website after the virtual presentation at the Conference.

Manuscripts published

Brunei Malay Traditional Medicine by Virginie Roseberg
Description available on website

Manuscripts in Preparation

Memorial volume in Honor of George N. Appell

Contributions

We wish to acknowledge and thank Suk Bae Rhee for his generous donation to the Borneo Research Council in 2021. His gift will have a significant positive impact on our operations and ability to serve our BRC community.

I look forward to continuing my work with all of you and encourage you to renew your membership and join the listserv!

With all best wishes,



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