This newsletter will be an essential tool for the Center. It aims to present the activities of the Center, in particular the research conducted by its fellows – published in the form of articles and summaries. However, publication of original research articles will only represent a minor part, as research journals of high scientific quality already exist or are currently being launched in Cambodia and abroad. The main objective is to act as a forum linking Cambodian students and scholars with individuals and institutions abroad working on Khmer studies. It will inform Cambodian students about teaching and research programmes conducted abroad, and will likewise highlight to foreign scholars the various activities currently taking place in Cambodia.

In the field, the Center will use buildings located in the compound of a Buddhist monastery, a traditional place of teaching and transmission of knowledge in Theravāda Buddhist countries throughout the Peninsula. CKS fellow François Tainturier, an architect-urbanist, reports on the renovation of two schools located in the precinct of Wat Damnak near the center of Siem Reap. We thank him for the stylized image on the newsletter cover, which he patiently drew on his laptop computer. This image represents the pediment-lintel of Wat Damnak Buddhist primary school – one of the buildings chosen to house the Center library – which has been disused since the Khmer Rouge period. His assistant, Cheam Phally, architect, provides a brief historical survey of the monastery, and in particular of the buildings now under renovation.

CKS fellow William Southworth, a specialist on the archaeology of Campā, gives an appraisal for future archaeological research in Cambodia, and to finish we give a brief account of some cultural events in Cambodia these past few months.

Let us wish that Siksācakr may find its place among publications on Khmer studies and that it will be useful to all scholars specialized of Khmer studies and in particular to the Khmers dedicated to the revival of their own culture.