

Couple Visits Ruins of Angkor Wat

This is the ninth in a series of dispatches to The Eccentric from Donald Dennis and his wife, Margaret, as they make a seven-month trip around the world. Dennis teaches art at Bloomfield Hills High School; his wife is a visiting teacher in the same school system. The following letter was written after their visit to the ruins at Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

DEEP IN the interior of Cambodia lies one of the greatest tourist attractions in the world; this is the physical remains of the peak of the Khmer civilization at Angkor Wat. The jungle has claimed much of the Angkor prefecture, but man's insatiable curiosity is beginning to clear the area and reconstruct basic elements of the ruins for those curious enough to venture to this little-known corner of the world.

TO DATE we have not been in an area less open to tourism nor more interesting than tiny Cambodia. The capital city of Phnom Penh, where people speak either French or Cambodian, is a real gem for anyone interested in seeing the Orient in an unburied, relaxed manner.

Originally our plans had called for a half hour stop on the way to Siem Reap and Angkor Wat, but we were captivated by its quiet beauty and stayed four days. Here the people are hospitable, friendly and courteous. They live with few worldly possessions and desires, and they seem to enjoy everyday activity with limited aspirations.

EIGHTY YEARS under the French protectorate have left their mark in providing the city with wide boulevards and numerous park areas. Traffic moves at a slower pace than in the other capital cities of the Orient with few of the 600,000 people who make up the population possessing automotive transportation.



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Attention to Detail



Jungle Overgrowth

We were particularly fascinated by the splendid palace and palace grounds of Phnom Penh, along with the many temples and wats with the saffron-clad monks that added color to the city. Everywhere we went we were treated with respect for showing an interest in their city and their culture.

It was obvious from the beginning that few Americans ever visited Phnom Penh as tourists, and the residents were out to help us see their city instead of pick up a few tourist dollars.

FIRST and foremost in our minds, however, was to make the trip upriver to the ruins of Angkor Wat—and what a problem this turned out to be!

For about one-and-a-half years, Cambodia and Thailand have been several diplomatic relations over a border dispute, making our original plan to fly from Angkor to Bangkok impossible. Thai Airways and Royal Cambodia were the flight services in, and neither one could fly across their respective borders.

OUR ONLY recourse was to charter a plane or hire a private car for the trip. Financially speaking, the plane was out of the question, so we inquired about a car and were fortunate enough to find a driver who was willing to take us at a reasonable cost.

For about five hours we drove along the Mekong River before reaching Angkor; this gave us an interesting view of the rice farms and villages of Cambodia. Most houses are on stilts, thatched-roof and very picturesque.

OUR FIRST GLIMPSE of Angkor Wat was from across the moat, and we were immediately impressed by its size and immense devotion to detail...

Here, in the middle of the jungle, stand the remains of buildings of the ancient Khmer civilization which were constructed in the 12th Century by two of its kings.

The great religious and burial temple of Angkor Wat was built by Suryavarman II in the first half of the century as a sign of his devotion to Buddha; the cultural and administrative center of Angkor Thom was built by the organizer of the kingdom, Jayavarman VII, in the second half of the century.

ANGKOR WAT possesses many shrines and worship areas, and its size can really be appreciated by climbing the various stairs leading to the top shrine which stand 200 feet high.

From here you can catch glimpses of various remains of some of

the 600 buildings that were constructed in the 50 square miles of the prefecture. To us it seemed unbelievable that such extensive building remained undetected for almost 500 years.

AFTER SEVERAL hours of photographing and exploring the temple, we moved on to Angkor Thom.

It is here that the sculptors show much imagination, and the ambitious friezes on the library walls gave us a glimpse into the daily life of the Khmer people.

One section portrayed many battle scenes, another showed them at work, while still another depicted the pleasures and religious seal of the people.

THE DEVOTION to detail never ceases to amaze you as you walk from room to room and building to building. Even though the government has decided to leave a large portion of the ruins to the jungle as dramatic evidence of nature's victory over a great civilization, the stone carver's artistic sense still dominates the scene.

AS THE SUN began to disappear behind the trees, we were reluctant to leave this high point of our travels.

In spite of the difficulty involved in reaching this area of the world, it was more than enough reward for the effort—and an experience we will always remember.

Local Teacher Helps Prepare New Textbook

John Paul Campbell, teacher of history at Detroit Country Day School, will spend several weeks during the summer at Amherst College, Amherst, Mass., as one of several young American history experts creating a new history textbook more adaptable to present-day needs of secondary school students.

The invitation to participate came from the secondary school history committee at Amherst which is functioning under a grant

Ten chapters of the textbook have already been completed and are in use with another anticipated ten to be completed this summer for publication by D. C. Heath and Company.

THE PUBLICATION is planned to serve as a course in history providing in its detailed units excerpts for the student to read as well as an accompanying commentary after which the student is left to draw his own conclusions.

"Each chapter is planned as a unit to be presented over a period of about two weeks," Campbell noted.

"For my text, I plan to take

Tests of radiant baseboards in research work at the University of Illinois have disclosed that the floor-to-ceiling temperature differences are the smallest ever achieved by the university in tests of any type of heating unit. Even in sub-zero weather, the floor to ceiling temperature differential was found to be less than 3 degrees.

America's entrance into the first World War and question the right and the wrong of it," he said.

Campbell is a graduate of Bates College, Lewiston, Me. He holds a master's degree in history from the University of Louisville, Ky. He is married and has two children.

Local Best Sellers

Fiction
RAISE HIGH THE ROOF BEAM, CARPENTERS and SEYMOUR, an Introduction—J. D. Salinger, THE MOONSPINNERS—Mary Stewart.
SAND PEBBLES—Richard McKenna.

Nonfiction
HAPPINESS IS A WARM PUPPY—Charles Schulz.
TRAVELS WITH CHARLEY—John Steinbeck.
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Parenteen Committee
Birmingham P.T.A. Council

MOVIE	Green Sheet	National Legion of Decency
Son of Flubber	F	A1
Days of Wine and Roses	A, MY	A2
Term of Trial	—	A3
Satellite in the Sky	F	A1

CODE:
GREEN SHEET
These audience symbols are intended as broad guides to selection, and do not indicate either recommendation or non-recommendation of the films to which they are applied.

- A Adults
- MY Mature Young People
- Y Young People (12 years to 16 years)
- C Children (unaccompanied by adults)
- F Family

NATIONAL LEGION OF DECENCY
A1 Morally Unobjectionable for General Patronage
A2 Morally Unobjectionable for Adults and Adolescents
A3 Morally Unobjectionable for Adults
B Morally Objectable in Part for All
C Condemned
SC A separate classification is given to certain films which, while not morally offensive in themselves, require some analysis and explanation as a protection to the uninformed against wrong interpretations and false conclusions.

Playhouse Seeks Summer Stagehands

Northland Playhouse, which will begin its eighth season on June 4 with Raymond Burr in "Anniversary Waltz" is again seeking apprentices interested in learning stagecraft and behind-the-scenes operations of a theatre, announced general manager Kenneth Schwartz.

While no maximum age limitations have been set, it was stressed

that applicants, both male and female, must be at least 16 years old. They should submit a recent photograph and brief biography, preferably typewritten. Applications, including address and phone number, should be mailed to: Apprentice, Northland Playhouse, Northland Center, Southfield, Michigan.



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