

Cambodian history expert Vickery dies

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Well known scholar, author and Cambodia expert Michael Vickery passed away on Thursday at his home in Battambang. He was 86.

Mr Vickery was an historian, a lecturer and an author known for his many works about the history of Southeast Asia, and particularly Cambodia.

Born in the United States in 1931, Mr Vickery had a long academic life, much of it involving Cambodia and other countries in Southeast Asia. He became a Doctor of Philosophy in history at Yale University and carried out research in Cambodia and Thailand from 1970 to 1972.

In 1973 he became a lecturer in Southeast Asian history at the Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang, Malaysia, where he worked until 1979. In 1977 he published his research, naming it “Cambodia After Angkor: The Chronicular Evidence for the Fourteenth to Sixteenth Centuries”.

He then worked as a research fellow in Southeast Asian history at the Australian National University from 1979 to 1982 before moving to become a research fellow in Southeast Asian history at the University of Adelaide from 1982 to 1988.

He also taught the history of Cambodia at the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh from 1998 to 2002.

From 2002 to 2008 Mr Vickery worked as an independent scholar based in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The following year he became a visiting professor at the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry at the University of Sydney, where he worked until about 2011.

He was probably best known in Cambodia for his book “Cambodia, 1975-1982”, which was published in 1984. He is survived by his Khmer-American wife.