Part 395 for Cathy's bBog

Thursday 8th, October

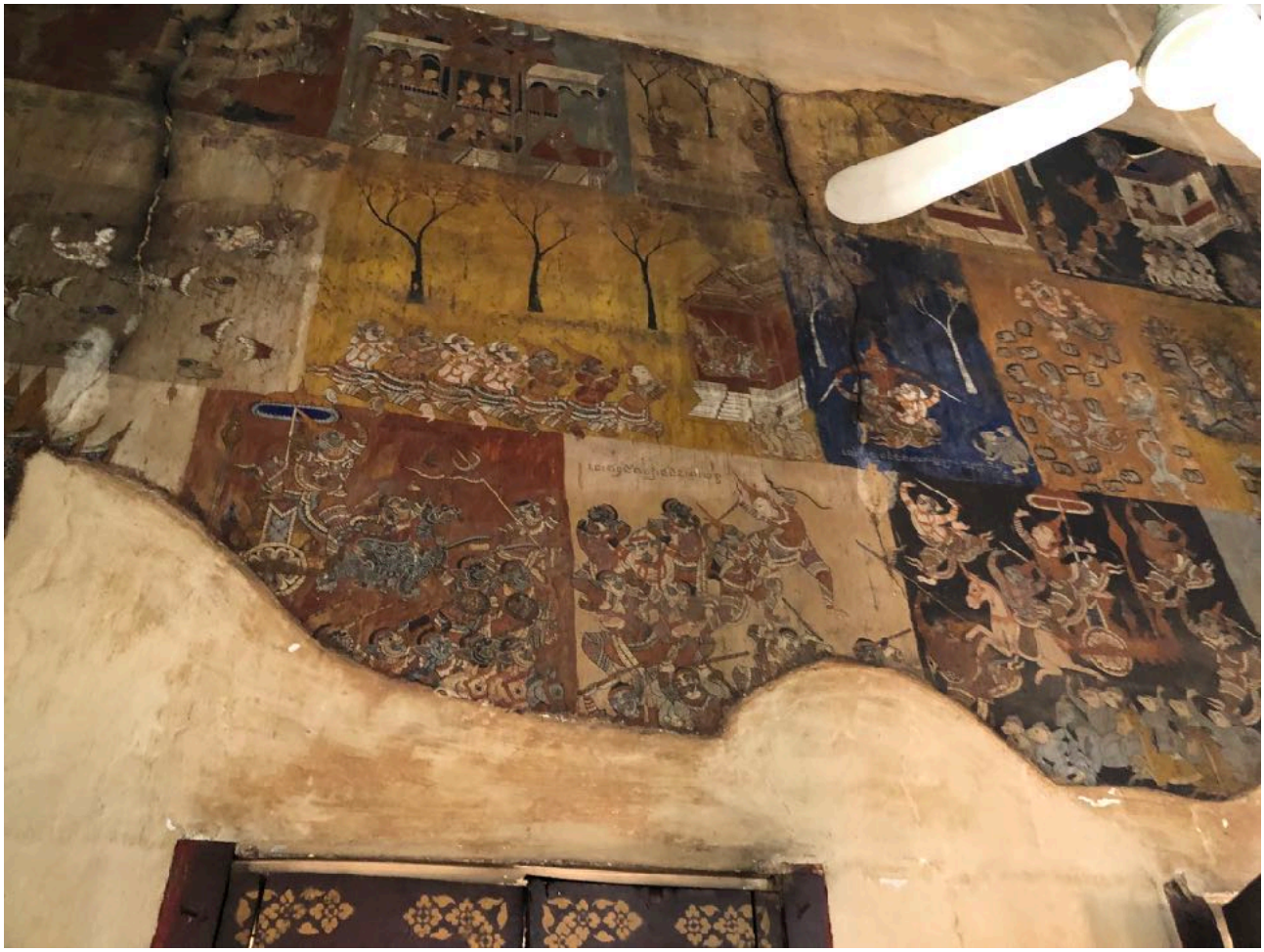
A special outing today. We went to Wat Bo, to see some of the Pchum Ben celebrations.

David bought a new white shirt for the occasion.





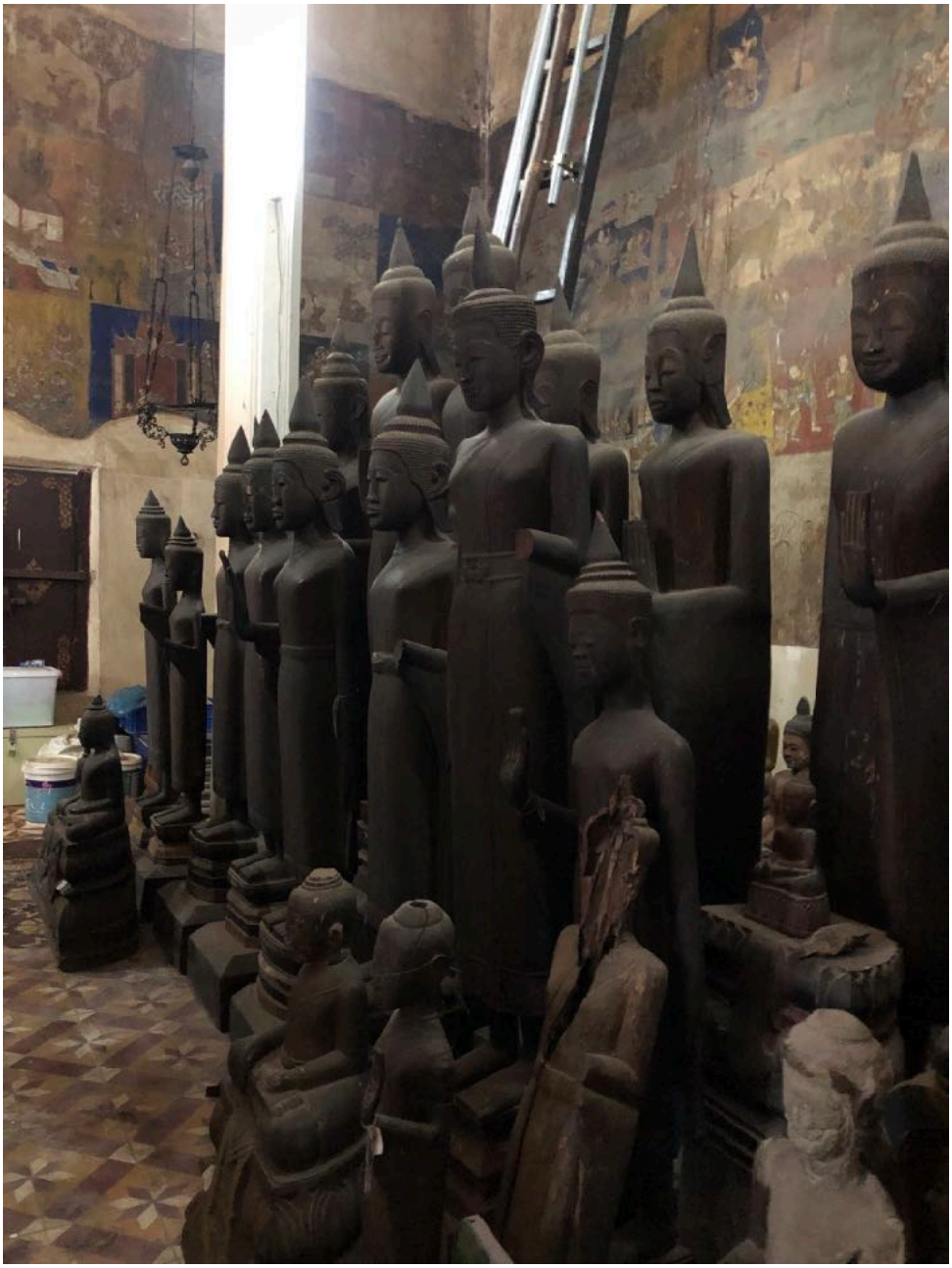
Our first stop was the pagoda the monks use for prayers. The shutters (no glass) were beautifully carved.



Here are some of the paintings on the walls inside the building.



Behind the main statue is a fluorescent flashing circle of lights.



And around the back, there are these beautiful wooden Buddha statues.



Outside, above the shutters, there are carved “stories”.



This is the new university building (it opens soon, for the start of the new school year).



Another building inside the grounds at Wat Bo is the museum. The collection is interesting, but not catalogued or labelled.







Perhaps the monks have more important work to do.



The museum has a Buddha statue. Take note : the “doorway” to the statue’s left is a false doorway, as found in the Angkorian temples.



Another building was holding a blessing ceremony. The monks were chanting and the people were sitting and liepstening. Families or individuals would come to the table in the foreground and take cooked rice from the big bowls and put it in the smaller bowls (one for each monk).



On the steps outside the building, you could put money in white envelopes for the monks, or for the Pagoda.



The monk (referred to as Dai Gon = master), who was showing us around, rang this bell (using a “log” on a swing… behind the bell).



This is the eastern entrance to the Pagoda. Wat Bo has been an active Pagoda since the 1300's.

An interesting morning, organised through the language school.
(Note : you can do a tour of the pagoda for $10 a person. We were asked for a donation, even a few thousand Riel… we gave 50 000R = $12:50).

We learned that there is a lot to learn about Buddhism.

We have begun going to an evening social / talking group, to practise our Khmer language. The person who runs the group means well and is trying, but there is very little language practise. We will give it a few more weeks, to see if it settles down.