



Smithsonian Institution

Archives Center - NMAH

Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 39, 1925

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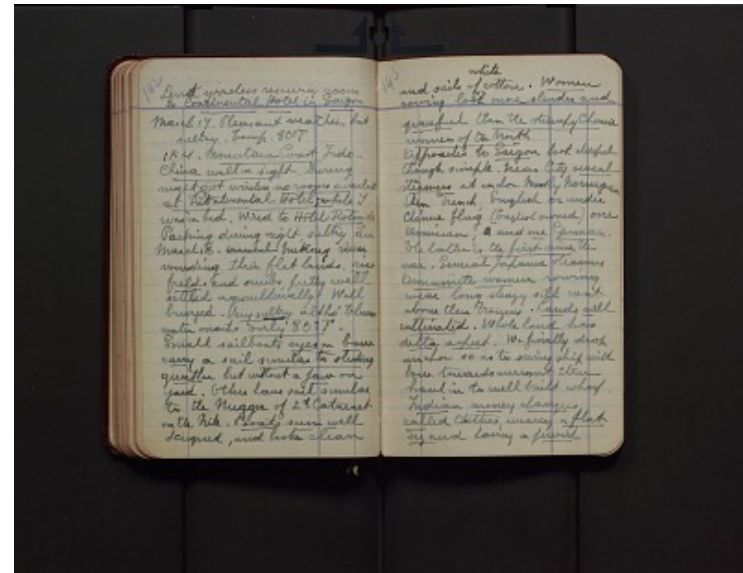
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Sent wireless reserving room to Continental Hotel in Saigon.
 March 17. Pleasant weather, but sultry. Temp. 80F
 1 P.M. Mountain Coast Indo-china well in sight.
During night got wireless no rooms available at
Continental Hotel; while I was in bed. Wired to Hotel
Rotonde Packing during night, sultry air
 March 18. ~~Arrived~~ Mekong river
winding thru flat lands, rice fields and scrubs,
pretty well settled agriculturally Well buoyed. Very sultry
altho' Thermometer marks only 80F.
Small sailboats eyes on bow carry a sail
similar to sliding gunther but without a
jaw on yard. Others have sail similar to the
 Nigger of 2d Cataract on the Nile. Boats seem well
designed, and look clean
 [end page]
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and sails of ^{white} cotton. Women rowing
look more slender and graceful than the stumpy Chinese
women of the North
Approaches to Saigon look cheerful though
 simple. Near City several steamers at anchor.
 Mostly Norwegian then French, English or under Chinese flag (English
 owned) one American, and one German. The
latter is the first since the war. Several
 Japanese steamers. Annamite women rowing
wear long sleazy silk coat above their trousers. Lands well
cultivated. Whole land has delta aspect.
We finally drop anchor so as to swing ship with bow
towards current then haul in to well built wharf. Indian
money changers called Cletties, wearing a flat
Fez and having a Jewish



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