



The Emblem of the Siam Society.

For some time past the Council of the Society has been trying to find an appropriate emblem, with a motto, to be printed on the cover of the Journal and other publications, as well as on the stationery of the Society.

In 1924, Mr. W. A. Graham, the then President, first took the matter in hand, but it was only on the eve of his departure in April 1926, that he received from H. R. H. Prince Narisaranuvattivong sketches of two designs which he immediately handed over to his successor, Prof. G. Cœdès.

After careful examination, the Council selected the design reproduced at the top on this page, and decided on the various sizes to be used for the cover of the Journal and for the stationery.

The emblem represents the head of an elephant holding with his trunk a garland of flowers.

The elephant, as an emblem, has a close connection with Siam. The white elephant on a red field was considered by Europeans, during the second half of the last century, as the national flag of Siam. It was, in fact, the flag flown by trading ships, and can still be seen in the centre of the Royal Navy Flag. Moreover, the three-headed elephant of Indra is represented on the

showing a steady increase, thanks to the unhindered and free intercourse which has been possible in Siam during these last 50 years. There exists between the two countries a healthy exchange of commodities, Siam paying her imports of manufactured goods, sugar, molasses, benzine, kerosine, etc, with large quantities of rice, and, in a smaller degree, with wood. There are frequent direct sailings between the Dutch East Indies and Bangkok, and kerosine and benzine are carried from Sumatra and Borneo by numerous Dutch vessels.

King Chulalongkorn visited Holland during his European tour and paid twice a visit to Java, where a bronze elephant, erected in front of the museum in Batavia and presented by His late Majesty, keeps the souvenir of his visits awake.

A Siamese Legation, opened at the Hague since a few years, has brought the two nations, officially, still closer together.

reverse of the silver coins of the last Reign. Modern artists often represent "Siam" as a Devatā riding on an elephant.

The Siam Society, which is a learned Society founded "for the investigation and encouragement of Arts, Science and Literature in relation to Siam," could therefore hardly find a better emblem.

The motto in Siamese reads: วิชา ย่อม ให้ เกิด มิตร ภาพ which may be translated: "Knowledge produces Friendship." The idea underlying this motto was originally suggested by the Vice-Patron of the Society, H.R.H. Prince Damrong Rajanubhab. It was first thought possible to find in the Buddhist Scriptures a verse or a sentence conveying that meaning, and at the request of Prof. G. Cœdès, two of the most eminent Pāli scholars in the Kingdom, Phra Sāsanasobhon, Lord Abbot of Wat Debsirindr, and Phra Dharmatrailokāchār, Lord-Abbot of Wat Mahādhāt, were kind enough to send a number of extracts from the Tripitaka.

After some discussion, it was found that a motto in Pāli would be intelligible only to a very small minority, whilst most members of the Society have some knowledge of Siamese. The Council finally adopted the Siamese text proposed by H. H. Prince Dhāni Nivat, Minister of Public Instruction. This motto tries to convey the idea that the search for knowledge is the bond which unites the Siamese and foreign members of the Society in a friendly spirit of collaboration.

The Council of the Society beg to express their sincere thanks to all those who have helped to produce such an appropriate emblem, which, it is hoped, will be appreciated by all members.