

# SIAM SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT

1947

The Annual General Meeting terminating the year 1946 was held on February 16th, 1947 at the Society's Home, No. 60, Asoka Road, Bangkok, with the President, H.R.H. Prince Wanwaithayakon, in the chair. As he was going to take up the position of Siamese Ambassador in Washington he withdrew his candidature for the next election. Two members on the Council also resigned, namely Phya Srisdhikar Banchong, Honorary Secretary and Mr. B. Halbi, Honorary Treasurer.

The Council for 1947 was then elected as follows :

H.H. Prince Dhani Nivat      President,

Phya Sarasastra Sirilakshna      Vice-President & Leader of  
Travel Section,

The Rev. Father L. Chorin      Vice-President,

H.H. Prince Prem Purachattra      Vice-President and Honorary  
Editor,

Mom Chao Ajavadis Diskul      Honorary Secretary,

Mr. M. MacD. Holmden      Honorary Treasurer,

Mr. Ariyant Manjikul      Honorary Librarian & Leader of  
Natural History Section,

Phra Saroj Ratananimman      Honorary Architect,

Luang Chakrapani,

Luang Raksa Naves,

Mom Rajawongse Sumonajat Swasdikul,

Dr. Rudolf Hofbauer,

Mr. W.A.M. Doll,

Mr. D.C. Rivett-Carnac,

Miss Dorothy Ward,  
 Mom Luang Pin Malakul,  
 Mr. Sanya Dharmasakdi.

The new Council upon taking office appointed the following standing committees :

FINANCE	Phya Sarasastra Sirilakshna, Chairman, The Honorary Treasurer, The Honorary Secretary,
EXCHANGE	The Honorary Librarian, Chairman, The Honorary Editor of the Journal, Miss Dorothy Ward,
EDITORIAL	The Honorary Editor of the Journal, Chairman. H.H. Prince Dhani Nivat, The Leader of Natural History Section, Mom Rajawongse Sumonajat Swasdikul.

The Membership Committee was abolished as it was deemed unnecessary.

The following changes had to be made on the Council during year: Mr. M. MacD. Holmden, the Honorary Treasurer, having to take up service elsewhere, resigned and two members, namely Mr. B. Halbi and Mr. C.F. Grave, carried on the works of the Honorary Treasurer consecutively. Miss Dorothy Ward took over the Honorary Librarianship of the Siam Society during the year. H.H. Prince Prem Purachatra, the Honorary Editor, owing to the severe pressure of work in connection with his official duty in the Chulalongkorn University, had to relinquish his position in the Society as the Honorary Editor. Mr. J.J. Boeles was co-opted to fill the vacant post. His Highness still remains on the Council as the Vice-President.

The Council held eleven business meetings during the year. Five meetings were held at the Society's Home in Asoka Road and six meetings at the President's house in Pechaburi Road, which was considered more convenient as a meeting centre.

At the close of 1947 the Society's membership was as follows :

Honorary	19
Corresponding	12
Free	4
Life	15
Ordinary	206
Associate	36

making a total of 292 as compared with 207 in 1946, 160 in 1945, 157 in 1944 and 233 in 1940. The year 1947 should therefore be considered as a record year insofar as membership is concerned.

During the year the Society arranged 16 meetings, namely :

Ordinary Meetings :

- on March 16th, 1947 Dr. Chalocm Buranananda, M.B., Director of the Saovabha Institute lectured on *Useful Microbes*;
- on May 18th, 1947 Mr. D.C. Rivett-Carnae read a paper written by Professor C. Feroci of the Department of Fine Arts on *The Artistic Value of a Buddha Image*;
- on July 18th, 1947 Colonel William Law of the American Embassy lectured on *Experiences in India*;
- on November 8th, 1947 H.H. Prince Dhani Nivat lectured on *The Shadow Play (Nang) and the possibility of its development into the Masked Play (Khon)* illustrated by performances of both the Nang and the Khon; for convenience this lecture was given at the Silapakorn Theatre.

Natural History Section's Meetings :

- on June 27th, 1947 Mr. Rudolf Schaller lectured on *Siamese Medicinal Plants and their Evaluation*;
- on November 28th, 1947 Dr. Boonsong Lekhakul lectured on *Ko Prey. an unknown and unclassified species of the wild ox*;

## Travel Section's Meetings :

- on January 12th, 1947 Visit to the Royal Palace and Chapel Royal of the Emerald Buddha;
- on February 9th, 1947 Visit to Wat Phra Jetubon (Wat Po);
- on March 9th, 1947 Visit to the Wangna Palace and the Museum;
- on March 30th, 1947 Visit to the Museum;
- on October 5th, 1947 Visit to the Museum;
- on October 19th, 1947 „ „ „ „ ;
- on November 2nd, 1947 „ „ „ „ ;
- on November 30th, 1947 Visit to the Galleries of the Temple of the Emerald Buddha;
- on December 14th, 1947 „ „ „ „ „
- on December 23rd, 1947 Professor Dr. Hans Klein lectured on *Some Siamese Beauty-Spots. Travel Notes and Holiday Suggestions.*

On December 7th, 1947 the Honorary Secretary represented the Siam Society at the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Saovabha Institute where a reception was held.

During the year under review the Society completed two publications, namely the Natural History Bulletin, Volume XIV, No. 2 and the Journal of the Siam Society, Volume XXXVI, Part 2.

In the year 1947 the Siam Society's library was almost completely re-organized and catalogued. Plans have been made to add to the collection and to increase the use of the library by expanding its facilities.

The Exchange Committee of the Society made contacts with over fifty institutions and organizations abroad for the purpose of renewing exchanges of publications. At present we are exchanging the "Journal of the Siam Society" and "Natural History Bulletin"

with twenty-one foreign institutions representing eleven countries, the Straits Settlement and Hawaii.

Taking all into consideration there seems to be every reason to hope for a successful future. Expenditure is naturally very considerable in view of the prevailing high prices of paper, stationery and publication. The annual subscriptions from members are, frankly speaking, not sufficient to pay for these expenses as evidenced by the deficit, luckily slightly shown in our financial statement. The adverse balance has been met by an unusually large increase in the number of new members, which in itself has been regarded by the Council as a source of gratification.

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# THE SIAM FINANCIAL RESUMÉ OF

## Receipts

### Subscriptions :

Ordinary Members, Current Year	...	...	7,267.50
Ordinary Members, Overdue Accounts		...	525.00
Associate Members	...	...	140.00
Life Members	...	...	2,100.00
			Baht 10,032.50

### Sale of Publications:

Journal of the Society	...	...	492.25
The Bulletin (Natural History Supplement)		...	812.00
Le May: Coinage of Siam	...	...	1,513.12
Catalogue of the Stamps of Siam	...	...	56.25
Craib's Florae	...	...	50.00
			2,923.62

### Sundry Receipts:

Bank Interest	...	...	275.37
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER RECEIPTS		...	20.42

Baht 13,251.91

Examined and found to agree with the books and vouchers.

L. F. SEQUEIRA

*Honorary Auditor*

Bangkok, 28th January 1948

# SOCIETY

## THE YEAR 1947

### Expenditure

#### Home's Maintenance:

Wage to Caretaker	...	...	...	...	610.00	
Fire Insurance (Baht 300,000)	...	...	...	...	942.38	
Electric Current	...	...	...	...	111.00	
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	58.80	
White ants Control	...	...	...	...	150.00	
Sundry Repairs	...	...	...	...	<u>12.00</u>	Baht 1,884.18

#### Library and Stock of Publications:

Salaries to Clerks	...	...	...	...	650.00	
Insurance of Library and Furniture (Baht 10,000)	...	...	...	...	38.33	
Misc. Expenses, and Delivery Charges	...	...	...	...	<u>336.50</u>	1,024.83

#### Secretarial and Editorial:

Postage and Revenue Stamps, Hon. Treasurer	...	...	...	...	177.05	
Misc. Expenses, Postage and Revenue Stamps, Hon. Secretary	...	...	...	...	599.25	
Clerical Service, Hon. Treasurer	...	...	...	...	270.00	
Hire of P.O. Box	...	...	...	...	40.00	
Printing of Publications	...	...	...	...	6,943.00	
Printing of Notices and Stationery Supplies	...	...	...	...	2,213.50	
Donation to Wat Po	...	...	...	...	<u>100.00</u>	10,342.80
						<u>Baht 13,251.98</u>

C. F. GROVE

*Honorary Treasurer*

## OBITUARY NOTICE

We regret to record the death of Luang Raksa Naves (Roy Goonetilleke) The Khun Luang has been a member of the Siam Society for a number of years and since the early part of World War II served the council of the Society as a member.

Luang Raksa whose tragic death has shocked his wide circle of friends and left a gap in the Society of Bangkok which will indeed be hard to fill, was a prince of good fellows.

It was a fact recognized by all his colleagues on the Council that the cooperation of the late Khun Luang was efficient and business like.

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## ERRATA ET CORRIGENDA

VOL. XXXVI PT. 2

Major Seidenfaden's review of Dr. Nguyen van Huyen's  
"La Civilisation Annamite" :

- P. 151 Line 6 from top : Docteur à lettres, read Docteur ès  
lettres
- 152 „ 9 „ „ : Mansuing--Palte, Sacerin, read Mansui,  
Patte, Saurin.
- „ 7 from bottom : andesasidic, read austro-asiatic  
bottom line : Mu' engs, read Mu' ongs.
- 153 „ 13 from top : Touranh, read Tourane
- 154 „ 12 from bottom: reconnaissance, read renaissance
- 155 „ 9 from top : destruction, read Destructive
- „ 10 from bottom: Tsinh, read Trinh
- „ 3 „ „ : d'Adron, read d'Adran
- 157 „ 15 from top : indirectly, read distinctly
- 159 „ 11 „ „ : constitute, read contribute
- „ 5 „ bottom : expending, read expanding
- 161 „ 17 „ top : insert *of the* between the words  
possibility and evil eye
- 162 „ 17 „ „ : peacefully, read powerfully
- „ 9 „ bottom : becoming, read become
- „ 5 „ „ : phenomenous, read phenomena
- 163 „ 11 „ top : Fund Society, read French Society
- „ 2 „ bottom : Iusa Ngu, read quoc Ngu
- 164 „ 2 „ top : Gusa ngu, read Quoc-ngu
- „ 12 „ end of the review : admissible, read admirable

In the review of Victor Goloubew's "Religieux et pèlerins en terre  
d'Asie" :

following corrigenda to be made :

- P. 166 Line 2 from bottom: insert *a* between the words under and  
certain
- 169 „ 2 „ top : insert *is* between the words and and  
no longer

