

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1951

The Annual General Meeting terminating the year 1950 was held on Sunday, 1st April 1951 at the Society's Home, 60 Asoka Road, Bangkok, with the President, His Highness Prince Dhani Nivat, in the Chair.

The Council for 1951 was elected as follows:

H.H. Prince Dhani Nivat,	
Kromamun Bidyalabh	President,
Phya Sarasastra Sirilakshna	Senior Vice-President and Leader of the Travel Section,
H.H. Prince Prem Purachatra	Vice-President,
H.E. Chao Phya Sri Dharmadhibes	Vice-President,
Mom Chao Ajavadis Diskul	Honorary Secretary,
H.G. Frandsen	Honorary Treasurer,
Miss Mary Anglemyer	Honorary Librarian,
Rolland H. Bushner	Honorary Editor of the Journal,
Dr. Robert L. Pendleton	Leader of the Natural History Section,

Mom Rajawongs Sumonajati Swasdikul,

Ariyant Manjikul,

Mom Luang Pin Malakul, M.A.

Dr. Chaloem Purananada, M.D.

Phya Anuwat Wanaraks,

Phya Arthakariya Nibond,

H.E. Mr. Bhagwat Dayan,

Luang Jamni Kolakarn,

J.J. Boeles,

Phya Anuman Rajadhon,

H.E. Mr. Edwin F. Stanton,

Dr. Joseph S. Gould,

Luang Chakrapani.

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

- FINANCE:** H.H. Prince Prem Purachatra, Vice-President,
Chairman,
The Honorary Secretary,
The Honorary Treasurer,
- EXCHANGE:** The Honorary Librarian (Miss Mary Anglemyer)
Chairman,
The Honorary Editor of the Journal,
Mom Rajawongs Sumonajati Swasdikul,
H.E. Mr. Bhagwat Dayal,
A.C. Braine-Hartnell,
J. Bousquet,
Nicolai Geelmuyden,
H.E. Mr. Sukich Nimmanhaeminda.
- EDITORIAL:** The Honorary Editor of the Journal (Mr. Rolland
H. Bushner), Chairman,
The Leader of the Natural History Section,
H.H. Prince Dhani Nivat, Kromamun Bidyalabh,
H.H. Prince Prem Purachatra,
J.J. Boeles.

The Siam Society suffered two great losses during the year: one by the death of its senior vice-president, Phya Sarasastra Sirilakshna, who passed away on 30th May 1951 after a long illness, and the other by the death of its Foundation and Honorary Member, Phya Indra Montri (Dr. F.H. Giles), who died on 31st October 1951 at his residence in Bangkok. The late Phya Sarasastra Sirilakshna had served the Siam Society strenuously for many years: he was active as leader of the Travel Section and rose in the Council to the office of a Senior Vice-President, being re-elected for several years in succession to that office, which he held up to the day of his death. The late Phya Indra Montri (Dr. F. H. Giles) was the Society's foundation member since the year 1904 and had served the Society as President for a number of years. Several valuable contributions of research to the Siam Society Journal were from his pen.

To fill the vacancy caused by Phiya Sarasastra Sirilakshna's death Mr. Nicolai Geelmuyden was co-opted as member on the Council on 18th June 1951. Mom Rajawongs Sumonajati Swasdikul was appointed leader of the Travel Section in Phya Sarasastra Sirilakshna's place.

During the Honorary Treasurer's absence on home leave at the end of the year Phra Bhanijarn Vithes, ordinary member of the Society, was asked to attend to the Society's accounts in the capacity of Acting Honorary Treasurer, and whilst the Honorary Librarian was absent on furlough Mr. Nicolai Geelmuyden was appointed Acting Honorary Librarian, a position which he occupied for over four months, he was subsequently elected ex-officio chairman of the Exchange Committee.

The Council held twelve business meetings during the year: six meetings were held at the Society's Home in Bangkapi and six meetings at the President's house in Pechaburi Road.

At the close of 1951 the Society's membership was as follows:

Honorary	14
Corresponding	10
Free	3
Life	30
Ordinary	418

making a total of 475 as compared with 443 in 1950, 364 in 1949, 343 in 1948, 292 in 1947, 207 in 1946 and 160 in 1945. Since the close of the year the number of ordinary members has increased considerably and 1952 may prove to be another record year.

The Society arranged the following meetings during the year:

Ordinary General Meetings :

On 15th January 1951: Professor George B. Creasey, Head of the Department of Geography, Syracuse University, New York and President of the International Geographical Union, lectured on *The Geographical Significance of World Affairs*.

- On 12th August 1951: Senator Dr. Luang Suriyabongs M.D. read a paper on "*A History of The Thai in Yunnan*" by C.W. Clark, as written by Dr. C Carthew M.D. and condensed by the speaker.
- On 26th August 1951: Dr. Raghu Vira Ph.D. (London), D. Litt., Director of the International Academy of Indian Culture, Nagpur, India, lectured on "*The Preservation of The Ancient Literature of The East.*"
- On 12th September 1951: Mr. E.T.D. Lambert, O.B.E. of the British Embassy, Bangkok, lectured on "*The Thai Ahoms (Thai Yai).*"
- On 12th December 1951: Phya Anuman Rajadhon, former Director-General of the Fine Arts Department, lectured on "*The History of The Masked Play (Khon)*" at the Silpakorn Theatre, followed by a Khon performance.

Travel Section's Meetings :

- On 31th November 1951: Loy Krathong and Water Fire-works Display on board the E.A.C. tender "DHANI".
- On 18th November 1951: Excursion to Lopburi by train.
- On 30th December 1951: Excursion to Nakhon Pathom by bus
- On 31st January 1952: Excursion to Chiangmai by train.
- On 1st March 1952: Excursion to Angkor by aeroplane.

The financial position of the Society continues to be satisfactory, showing an excess of receipts over expenditure by Baht 21, 576. 51 at the close of the year 1951. However, in view of the continued rise in prices for several years past, the Council finds it more and more difficult to extend the activities of the Society to its full legitimate scope. It has purposely kept down the annual subscriptions of members in the hope of securing as many of the

younger generation of the Siamese intelligentsia as possible, although almost every club and institution has had to increase its subscriptions. After weighing all aspects of the situation, the Council has come to the opinion that it is now time that the annual subscriptions, as well as the fee for life-membership should be increased, and at the Special General Meeting on 21st November 1951 a resolution was passed increasing the fee for ordinary membership from Baht 50 to Baht 100 per annum and for life membership from Baht 500 to Baht 1,000, and at the same time revising a few of the Society's rules.

The Society was represented both at the Science Congress arranged by the Science Society of Thailand and at the UNESCO Conference held in Bangkok during the year.

Three publications were issued by the Society in 1951: namely *Journal of the Siam Society*, Volume XXXVIII, Part 2 (January 1951), *Journal of the Siam Society*, Volume XXXIX, Part 1 (June 1951) and *Craib's Florae Siamensis Enumeratio*, Part 3 (August 1951),

During the year under review the Society has gained a wider recognition and support as evidenced by its sales of publications such as the *Journal*, *Natural History Bulletin* and *Coinage of Siam*, so much so that several numbers of the *Journal* are now out of print. The Council, however, is trying to find ways and means to republish those publications and with the prospect of increased revenue from subscriptions the scheme may come to a successful conclusion.

ERRATA

List of Errata to Major E. Seidenfaden's paper: The Kui people of Cambodia and Siam (JSS. Volume XXXIX, Part 2, January, 1952).

Page 149, 6th line from bottom: for 4th century A.D. read 6th century A.D.

Page 157, bottom line, page 173, 26th line, and page 174, 5th line: for Phakhaphumphisai, read Phayakhaphumphisai.

Page 162, 6th line: for 1917-19 read 1911-19.

Page 167, 10th line: Sixth word in the line should read Phu-mi-bun.

Page 168 first line: for Vieng' chand, read Viengchand.

Page 168 19th line: for (Ta) kaxila, read Ta (Ka) xila.

On Map facing page 180: The name of the westernmost ampho (south of Mun River) is Surapinikom not Supapinikom.

Ed.