

## AN APOLOGY AND WORD OF THANKS.

Both an apology and sincere expression of the Siam Society's gratitude are due to Mrs. Clari Schmidt of Bangkok, a member of the Society.

It was Mrs. Schmidt's excellent photographs that illustrated the article on the Nam Giao ceremony by His Excellency Nguyen Khoa Toan, Minister for Vietnam in Bangkok, in the last number of the Journal, and the Society's apology is due to her because inadvertently her name was not mentioned with the article.

The error is the more regrettable as the photographs are almost unique of their kind. The Nam Giao ceremony was last performed in 1942, and may never be performed again. The grounds and terraces, the ceremonial forest and the installations have been almost entirely destroyed by the deprivations of the Viet Minh, and the effort of reconstruction may be too great to permit the revival of the ceremony.

The ceremony itself has, as far as is known, never been witnessed by a European, as foreigners were not admitted; and it has never been photographed as it takes place at night, and, apart from the fact that night photography had not reached the height of development it has now, indiscriminate flashes would surely have destroyed the tenseness of the atmosphere. Even the dress rehearsal which took place during the day was rarely witnessed by outsiders and Mrs. Schmidt is one of a very few women, foreign or native, who have had the opportunity to be present on the ceremonial terraces during a rehearsal and to take photographs.

The Siam Society Journal is grateful to have had the opportunity of publishing these photographs, and hopes in future to be able to bring more samples of Mrs. Schmidt's work to its readers.

