

ANNUAL REPORT

1957

The Annual General Meeting terminating the year 1956 was held at the Society's Home, 60 Asoka Road, Bangkapi, on Wednesday the 20th March 1957, at 8.30 p.m., with His Highness Prince Dhani Nivat, Kromamun Bidyalabh, President, in the chair.

The Meeting passed a unanimous resolution re-electing the old Council "en bloc" and also asked the Honorary Auditor, Phra Baniya Sara Vides, to serve for another year.

The Annual General Meeting was then followed by a lecture by Professor Kai Gram of the Royal Danish Agricultural and Veterinary University, Copenhagen, who took as the subject of his lecture:— "Danish-Thai Botanical Co-operation and some Common Botanical Problems."

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

1. Finance The Senior Vice-President (H.H. Prince Prem Purachattra); Chairman.
The Honorary Secretary.
The Honorary Treasurer.
2. Exchange H.S.H. Prince Subhadradis Diskul; Chairman.
The Honorary Librarian.
3. Natural History Lt. General Phya Salwidhan Nidhes; Chairman.
H.S.H. Prince Piyarangsit Rangsit.
H.E. Mr. Sukich Niminanhaeminda.
H.E. Monsieur G. Seidenfaden.
Dr. Robert Pendleton.
4. Travel Mr. Sanya Dharmasakti; Chairman.
The Honorary Secretary.
H.S.H. Prince Ajavadi Diskul.
Mom Rajawongse Sumonajati Swasdikul.

5. Editorial

The Honorary Editor of The Journal;
Chairman.

H.H. Prince Dhani Nivat, Kromamun Bidyalabh.

H.H. Prince Prem Purachatra.

Dr. J.S. Gould.

Mr. Cecil L. Sanford.

Mr. R. Swann.

Miss P. Liangpibal.

The whole Society heard with profound regret of the death of Dr. Robert Pendleton on June 22nd. Dr. Pendleton served on the Council for many years and was for a long time the energetic leader of the Society's Natural History Section. He was a regular contributor to the Society's Natural History Bulletin, and in this field the Society feels his loss most keenly.

At the beginning of the year Dr. Spinks, Editor of the Journal left Bangkok, and Dr. Frank Williston, Director of the Fulbright Foundation, assumed the editorship. He also left for the United States, and his place on the Council and the editorship of the Journal were taken over by Mr. Cecil Sanford, United State Cultural Attaché. Recently Mr. Sanford proceeded on home leave and Mr. William Wheaton has been acting as Editor until he returns. The Society is indeed fortunate to have enjoyed the services of these gentlemen, and it is to their credit that they have brought out three issues of the Journal during the period under review. The difficulties of gathering material, checking of proofs and seeing an issue through the printers, who have given us loyal services again, are sometimes underestimated. One issue of the Natural History Bulletin has also been published.

The Council has given much thought to the issue of publications and plans have now reached advanced stages for the issue of a work on "Siamese Hill Tribes" by Major Erik Seidenfaden, a former President of the Society. It is hoped also to produce a third Commemorative Publication consisting of historical articles of past numbers of the Journal.

The cost of paper has risen considerably during the past twelve months, and our publications take up a considerable amount of our income. Nevertheless, the Council feels that Members are interested in these publications, and that they are most definitely valued amongst learned societies and institutions abroad.

The Council acknowledges with very much gratitude a recent gift of Baht 20,000 from the Asia Foundation in Bangkok which will be utilized for paying for the printing of additional publications. This grant has been made possible largely because of the interest taken by the Asia Foundation's present Representative in Bangkok, Mr. Noel Busch.

During the year, the Council met for eleven business meetings; eight of these meetings were held at the President's House and the other three at the Society's home. To assist in the ever increasing secretarial duties of the Society, H.S.H. Princess Maryatra Diskul was appointed Assistant Honorary Secretary.

On the occasion of the seventy-second birthday of the President, all the members of the Council and their wives gave a dinner party for him at the Erawan Hotel and presented him with a gift. This happy event took place in mid-November last.

The Society's Membership to date is as follows:—

Royal Patron and Vice Patrons.	3
Honorary Members.	11
Corresponding Members.	14
Free Members.	3
Life Members.	66
Ordinary Members.	<u>521</u>
Total	<u><u>618</u></u>

This figure is higher than it has ever been before, and it is a source of gratification to the Council, especially as it covers so many nationalities.

The financial position of the Society is as satisfactory as it has been in previous years. Members have already been circulated with the Society's Accounts and therefore will be able

to see from these the sources of income and the main items of expenditure. Credit is again due our Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Jorgen Holm, who has been working tirelessly over the financial affairs of the Society, as well as trying to sell as many of our publications as possible.

The Council feels that further disposal of our stocks of publications is vital, so that more funds may be realized for the purpose of publishing additional and more interesting publications.

During the year, two members of the Council, the Honorary Secretary and the Chairman of the Exchange Committee, visited several countries abroad. The Honorary Secretary was able to talk about the work of the Society in Australia, the United States and England. He was given a warm welcome by the American Siam Society in Los Angeles. More recently the Chairman of the Exchange Committee has been a guest of the American Siam Society, whose programme and membership appears to be expanding on sound lines. The Council has been in close contact with that Society has been and has offered suggestions whenever called upon to do so.

After many years service on the Council, Dr. J.S. Gould left Siam to return to America, and because of all his hard work he has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Society.

Meetings and Excursions by the Society during the year were as follows:—

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

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| On 23rd June 1957 | Shri D. Vallisinha lectured on "Buddhism in India." |
| On 27th June 1957 | Dr. Somsak Pansamboon, M.D., lectured on "The Bioserological Consideration of the Migration of the Thai Race." |
| On 7th August 1957 | Showing of the Film "Gautama The Buddha," through the courtesy of H.E. Monsieur A.M. Sahay, the Ambassador for India. |
| On 18th September 1957 | Dr. Van Glassenapp lectured on "Buddhist Studies in Germany." |
| On 1st December 1957 | Dr. B. Groslier lectured on "Indian Expansion in South East Asia." |

- On 4th December 1957 Dr. F. Loetsch lectured on "An Inventory of the Teak Forests in Northern Siam." This lecture was held at the request of the Royal Forest Dept. and was illustrated with slides.
- On 6th December 1957 Dr. G.P. Murdock lectured on "Ancient Trade Routes in South-East Asia."
- On 30th January 1958 Mr. T.H. Harrison lectured on "Relationships as evidenced by pottery specimens of Siam-Borneo," with an exhibition of these specimens.
- On 12th February 1958 Mr. F.L. O'Rourke lectured on "Coffee culture in Siam and Similar World Areas." This lecture was illustrated with coloured slides.
- On 19th February 1958 H.R.H. Prince Chula Chakrabongse lectured on "How I talk about my country and people in England."

Excursions Visits were made to see the murals in the galleries of the Chapel Royal of the Emerald Buddha in the Grand Palace on 9th July 1957, 16th July 1957, and 23rd July 1957. On all three visits, the President explained the outstanding features and the story of these murals.

On February 16th 1958, an excursion was made to Ayudhya to see some of the treasures found recently at this ancient capital. The Society is grateful to the Department of Fine Arts for arranging for members to see slides of these treasures before they made the visit. Particular thanks are due to Luang Boribal Buriphand for explaining these new treasures to members of the excursion and also for his general willingness to help the Society in various ways during the year.

Very recently, it has been possible to open the library from Mondays to Fridays inclusive, from 5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m., and it is hoped that more Members will be able to refer to its collection of books. So far it has not been possible to open the library on week-ends.

This report could not be complete without reference to the future showing of the Royal Films of His Majesty the King's ordination. This is not the first time that His Majesty has graciously lent his pictures for showing at the Society's Home, and it is your Council's wish that His Highness The President will personally thank His Majesty The King for his kindness and general interest in the affairs of the Society.

The Council also welcomed with pleasure H.R.H. The Princess Mother, one of our Royal Vice-Patrons, who attended the ordinary general meeting on the 12th February.

The Council was also called upon to act as Co-sponsor of the Anthropological and Pre-historic Section's meetings of the Ninth Pacific Science Congress, which were held in December last year at Chulalongkorn University.

The Society also helped at the Southeast Asian Round Table Conference at the end of January. At reception for this and for the Ninth Pacific Science Congress, the President led the Council as the host to the participants.

The President, the Honorary Secretary and other Members of your council have given interviews to various persons interested in Cultural and Historical topics throughout the year.

The Council sincerely hopes that its efforts during the past year have met with the pleasure of Members, and that their work of investigation and encouragement of art, science and literature in relation to Siam and her neighbouring countries has progressed in the right direction.

THE SIAM SOCIETY

Under Royal Patronage
60 Asoka Road, Bangkok, Bangkok (P.O. Box 65)

OBJECTIVES

"The objects of the Siam Society shall be the investigation and encouragement of art, science and literature in relation to Thailand and the neighbouring countries." (From Rules of the Siam Society).

SUBSCRIPTION

The annual subscription is Baht 100.00 (Baht One hundred only), payable in advance. There is no entrance fee. Persons wishing to become members should communicate with the Honorary Secretary, MR. ROBIN PENMAN.

APPLICATIONS FOR COPIES OF JOURNAL

Applications for copies of the Journal should be made to the Honorary Secretary.

LIBRARY

The Library is at the Society's Home, 60 Asoka Road, Bangkok. It is open every day from 17.00 hours to 19.00 hours except Saturday and Sunday, and also at any other time by arrangement with the Honorary Secretary or with the Society's caretaker living on the premises.

Books may be consulted at any time, but may not be borrowed except at times when the Honorary Librarian or his assistant is present. Books borrowed from the Library *must be returned within one month.*

