

**FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
THE SIAM SOCIETY RESEARCH CENTER**

Year : 1st October 1959

30th September 1960

1. Establishment of The Siam Society Research Center.

The Research Center became established upon notification of the President of the Siam Society to the Treasurer of the Ford Foundation in New York City, N.Y. by letter dated September 30, 1959.

2. Program of activities of the Research Center.

A program of proposed activities of the Research Center as basis of operation is contained in the memorandum attached to the letter of the President of The Siam Society to the Director International Training and Research Program dated 13 October, 1958.

3. Budget. US \$ 25,000 – for 3 years.

The Research Center operates on a grant of the Ford Foundation of U.S. \$ 25,000. - payable in 3 annual instalments of each US \$ 8,500. - .

The first instalment was received in November 1959.

The administration of the funds thus received is the responsibility of the Hon. Treasurer of the Siam Society, who obtains authorization of spending from the Committee of The Siam Society Research Center.

For the first financial year of the Research Center, the Hon. Treasurer has prepared a statement of account for consideration by the Ford Foundation. From the statement it appears that the funds of the first instalment have been fully utilized and spent.

The breakdown of the approved Budget for one year is:

	US \$
Salaries :	
Director	4,200.-
Librarian/office manager	}
Research Fellowships	2,200.-
Library Acquisitions	1,000.-
General Operating Expenses	1,100.-
First instalment received	US \$ 8,500.-

For comparison with the actual figures spent, reference is made to the financial statement of the Hon. Treasurer of The Siam Society, submitted separately.

4. Committee.

The Research Center is governed by a Committee of which the members have been elected by the Council of the Siam Society and which Committee per 30th. September 1960 was composed of the following members:

Committee

H.H. Prince Prem Purachattra,	Chairman
H.S.H. Prince Ajavadis Diskul,	Deputy Chairman
H.E. Monsieur Ebbe Munck,	Member
Mr. Jorgen Holm,	Member
Mr. Kenneth Mac Cormac,	Member
Dr. Lauriston Sharp (Cornell),	Member in absence
Mr. J.J. Boeles, Director	Secretary, non-member.

The committee held its first official meeting on February 9th. 1960 and has since been meeting regularly at least once a month. In total, nine meetings were held and proper minutes, approved by the committee, are being kept in the minute book of the Research Center. The Chairman of the Research Center reports once a month to the Council of the Siam Society on the activities of the Center. All Committee members residing in Thailand and the Director of the Center, are also members of the Council of the Siam Society.

5. Personnel.

The staff paid by the Research Center existed per 30. 9. 1960 of :

Name	Nat.	Engaged on:	Function
Mr. J.J. Boeles	Dutch	30. 9. 59	Director
Mrs. Chucheep	Thai	1. 5. 60	Librarian
Thiarabongs Boyle			Office Manager

Personal income tax is paid monthly by the Center and deducted from staff's salary in accordance with the requirements of the Revenue Code.

6. Facilities Research Center and Library.

Formerly the Library of The Siam Society was open to members in the evening only during weekdays from 5.30-7.00 p.m.

Now the Research Center and the Library are open on weekdays :

9.00	—	12.00	including	Saturday
14.00	—	16.30	except	Saturday
17.30	—	19.00	except	Saturday

A telephone was installed. No. 57401. The Center's P.O. Box is 960. One additional typewriter (Underwood) was bought.

The librarian requires most of her time to bring the library in tip-top shape. A great number of books had no index cards at all. A considerable amount of binding and rebinding of books and periodicals has to be done. For this specific purpose The Siam Society has allocated from her own funds Baht 10,000.— for 12 months.

As it is considered that the librarian's work should proceed as speedily as possible, the Director takes care of all office correspondence and billing of sales.

7. Rehabilitation of the Library.

The Center's main task is the rehabilitation of the Siam Society's library. Many essential books dealing with this country have disappeared from the library and it is in many cases most difficult to fill these gaps.

The Center is of the opinion that it is essential to aim at a library containing the basic material with reference to Thailand and neighbouring countries. The books of which this material consists, are the tools without which no proper scientific research on Thailand will be possible for scholars and students who will use the Research Center.

For this purpose want lists are prepared from catalogues received from many international sources of supply. At the same time lists are made for those new books for the Library to be purchased locally and abroad. These lists are submitted for approval by the committee once a month. In this way the total allotment of US \$ 1,000.— has been spent on library acquisitions. The new acquisition are circularized to members for their information.

The Center also supervises the steady flow of Exchange publications with some 84 institutions.

8. International distribution of the Society's publications.

International distribution of the Journal of the Siam Society and of the Natural History Bulletin is mainly effected through exchange arrangements. Apart from these periodicals the Society possesses 8 volumes of photo mechanical reprints of articles which have appeared in the Journals of the previous 50 years.

These reprint volumes were produced and presented to the Society by courtesy of the U. S. I. S. in Bangkok through her printing establishment in Manila. The sale of these volumes has now become an important source of income to the Society. Furthermore in order to arrive at a systematic distribution and sale of these reprint volumes on an international scale, the Center has arranged for such an international distribution through the house of Nijhoff, the Hague. These publishers for their own account have printed some 10,000 special leaflets to publicize these publications through their international organisation. Moreover, they will have now received on consignment 1,500 publications of the Society, mainly reprint volumes. More interest for the Society's

Journal and Natural History Bulletin is now shown abroad through sales of subscriptions on these periodicals.

9. Research Projects.

Under approved policies formulated through the Committee, the Research Center, during the first year has developed the following Projects:

a. *Thai-Danish Prehistoric Expedition.*

At the request of the Danish Ambassador and Council member Monsieur Ebbe Munck, the Research Center has prepared a proposal for a Thai-Danish Prehistoric Expedition in Thailand.

As field of operations the Research Center had recommended the area of the valley of the river Kweh Nôi: well known abroad from the film "The Bridge Over the River Kwai". The proposal is contained in an "OUTLINE" prepared by the Director of the Research Center dated 25 February 1960. The area is the scene of one of the most important prehistoric migration routes in South-East Asia and therefore far exceeds local importance.

The Danish Ambassador, with this accepted proposal, has been able in a short time to raise in Denmark well over Baht 1 million or ca US \$ 50,000.—, through the Danish Expedition Fund of which His Excellency is a member. In order to enable the expedition to avail itself of the participation of a Dutch prehistorian, Mr. H. R. Van Heekeren, discoverer of this area, the Research Center decided to contribute £1,000.— or ca US \$ 2,800.— to the Expedition Fund.

This moreover demonstrates that this is a real two-way venture; this contribution was warmly welcomed in Denmark.

Full cooperation was received also in Thailand and official permission was obtained.

The Thai participants are officials of the Fine Arts Department, Pre-History Division. The expedition emphasizes the unique opportunity of training Thai students of the University of Fine Arts in the science of pre-history in the field, by international scholars.

The object of the first stage of the expedition is a field investigation of the area and selection of those sites which are to be excavated during the dry season one year later. The team of scientists is constituted as follows:

Leader: Dr. Eigil Nielsen Mineralogical Museum, Copenhagen;
Palaeontologist
Per Sorensen M.A. National Museum, Copenhagen;
Prehistorian
H.R. Van Heekeren State Museum for Ethnology, Leiden;
Prehistorian
Nai Chin You-di Fine Arts Department, Bangkok;
Chief of Pre-History Division

The participants from Denmark will arrive in Bangkok on October 25th, 1960. The Thai-Danish Prehistoric Expedition operates under the auspices of the Siam Society Research Center.

It is encouraging to be able to record that this international and major scientific research project in Thailand—mainly financed from outside sources—has materialized within the first year of operations of the Research Center.

b. Library Project.

With the increased activities of the Research Center it is felt that the present facility in the Society's home is no longer to be considered adequate. There is no space to hold the new acquisitions of the library, neither is there proper room for the Research Center; there is no storage place for the Society's own publications. In actual fact the Society's home is mainly suitable as a lecture hall.

For this reason the Center has made plans for a separate library building, to contain also proper facilities for the Research Center. By courtesy of Messrs. Christiani & Nielsen, Bangkok, initial drawing have been prepared; it is fortunate that the Society's premises provide ample space for such a new building—ground level—of which the cost is estimated at US \$ 25,000.—. As the Society has no funds to finance such a building, plans are in preparation to solicit contributions from abroad.

c. *Field research into the iconography of Khmer sanctuaries in Thailand.*

This research is conducted by the Director in the interior; usually with a research team. In total, 9 research trips were made to Khmer antiquities in the following provinces (changvat):

November	1959	Changvat	Prachinburi	
December	1959	„	Surindr	
January	1960	„	Srisakes	
January	1960	„	Buriram	
February	1960	„	Phimai	
March	1960	„	Sukhothai)
April	1960	„	KambaengPet) 9 days
		„	Utaradit) Seminar
		„	Pitsanuloke)
		(rainy season)		
August	1960	„	Phimai	
September	1960	„	Ayudhia	

These trips were made in close cooperation with the Fine Arts Department and from which Department all-out assistance was received.

One of the immediate results of these field trips was a report from the Research Center to the President of the Council of Ministers, submitted through the Director-General of the Fine Arts Department with his approval. The report, supported by photographic evidence, drew attention to the fact that many of these Khmer sanctuaries, usually 800–900 years old, are being desecrated by an increasing number of Thai tourists, who scratch their names on the walls of these National Monuments. Moreover heads from relief sculptures are being chopped off by vandals. The Fine Arts Department has insufficient funds to properly guard the great many monuments under their care.

The report was very well received and the Prime Minister acted almost at once by press and radio to prevent further desecration, whilst also the children at school are now being educated to help to preserve the national treasures.

Another direct result of these field trips is contained in the first Siam Society Research Center Study published in the Journal of the Siam Society Vol. XLVIII, pt. 1 (June 1960) under the title: "Two aspects of Buddhist iconography in Thailand" by J. J. Boeles.

The cost to the Center for these field trips was Baht 4,270.63 or about US \$ 200.— in total.

d. Training in Chiangmai of students in Northern Thai Epigraphy.

The Center is assisting in financing a project of training young Thai students in the epigraphy of Northern Thai inscriptions, on stone and on palm-leaves. The training is done intensively under the supervision of Nai Kraisi Nimmanhaemin, banker, historian and epigraphist in Chiangmai. Presently, three students are trained at Baht 1,000.— in total per one month.

e. Research into the Western cartography on Siam.

The object of this research project is: To collect existing material of Western cartography on Siam as from Ptolomaeus and with special emphasis on the Ayudhian period.

To collect sources of such material, make photo copies of existing maps; purchase of original maps on a very modest scale; prepare an inventory.

The project is run by Mr. John Black, corresponding member of the Society in England. Several original maps of the 18th. and 19th. Century have now been purchased, as well as literature on the same subject. Original maps are being bought on a large scale by private collectors in the West; therefore it is a matter of urgency to obtain at least photo copies of these maps, before they disappear.

This completes the activities of the Center in the field of Research. Pending the arrival of the funds of the second instalment of the grant, no new projects have been submitted to the Committee for consideration.

Policy for the second year of operations.

In continuation of the adopted policy of operation for the first year it is the aim of the Research Center for the second year to concentrate efforts specially on:

1. Rehabilitation of the Library.
2. Improvement of the international distributions of sales of the Society's publications, including the Journal and the Natural History Bulletin.
3. Foundation of contacts with scholarly institutions and scholars in the same field abroad.
4. Development of Research projects.

Conclusion.

When evaluating the report of the activities of the Research Center for the first year it should be considered that spectacular results could not be expected to materialize within the initial 12 months of operations.

These operations of the Center had to be started almost from scratch. This effort has required much more than the agreed minimum of one third of the time of the Director.

The result of the first year's work is showing definitely. The new activities resulted in a considerable increase of the international sales of the Society's publications.

For this reason the financial position of the Siam Society as a whole has much improved.

In Bangkok, members of the Siam Society have expressed their satisfaction that the library is now accessible to them almost all day. This has resulted also in much closer contact with the libraries of Universities in Bangkok.

Financial statement for the first year.

A copy of the Honorary Treasurer's financial statement for the period 1 October 1959-30th September 1960, is attached to this report.

Bangkok, 13th. October 1960.

J. J. Boeles
Director

SIAM SOCIETY RESEARCH CENTER

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 1959 - 30 SEPTEMBER 1960.

Income		Expenditure	
Grant from Ford Foundation \$8,500	178,925.00	Salaries :	
Interest received	821.31	Director (incl. tax)	} 71,500.00
		Librarian (incl. tax)	
		Clerk's assistance	1,800.00
			73,300.00
		Research :	
		Director's research	4,270.63
		Epigraphy studies, Chiangmai	5,000.00
		Misc. research work incl.	
		contribution of Tcs. 59,550.00	
		to Thai-Danish archaeological	
		expedition	62,120.00
			71,390.63
		Administrative expenses :	
		Stationery, typewriter etc.	5,748.50
		Postage and delivery	1,618.70
		Cleaning	600.00
		Misc. expenses	1,195.30
			9,162.50
		Purchase of books for library	21,722.25
		Debtors, advances for expenses	2,394.35
		Bank deposit	1,776.58
			179,746.31
	179,746.31		179,746.31

Bangkok, October 10th, 1960

Jorgen Holm

Honorary Treasurer