

## **SECOND ANNUAL REPORT THE SIAM SOCIETY RESEARCH CENTER**

1st. October 1960  
Year: 30th. September 1961

### **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 13th October 1958.

### **3. Budget. U.S. \$ 25,000.— for 3 years.**

The Research Center operates under a grant of the Ford Foundation of U.S. \$ 25,000.—payable in 3 annual instalments.

The first Annual Report dated 13th. October 1960 together with the Statement of Accounts were published in the Journal of the Siam Society Vol. XLVIII Part 2, November 1960.

The first instalment was received in November 1959 and the second instalment in November 1960. Application for the third and last instalment of U.S. \$ 8,000—was submitted with this second annual report. Also for the second year of operations the administration of funds received was the responsibility of the Hon. Treasurer of the Siam Society, who obtained authorization of spending from the Committee of the Siam Society Research Center.

Also for the second financial year of the Research Center, the Hon. Treasurer has prepared a Financial Statement, duly audited, for consideration by the Ford Foundation. From the statement it appears that the funds of the second instalment have almost been spent entirely.

The breakdown of the approved Budget for one year is:

Salaries:	U.S. \$
Director	3,000.—
Librarian/office manager	1,200.—
Research fellowship—Research	2,200.—
Library acquisitions	1,000.—
General Operating Expenses	<u>1,000.—</u>
Second instalment received	U.S. \$ 8,500.—

For comparison with the actual figures spent, reference is made to the attached financial statement of the Hon. Treasurer of the Siam Society and which audited statement is sent to the Ford Foundation.

#### 4. Standing Committee.

The Research Center is governed by a standing Committee of which the members have been elected by the Council of the Siam Society and which Committee per 30th September 1961 was composed of the following members:

##### Committee :

H.H. Prince Prem Purachatra	Chairman
H.S.H. Prince Ajavadis Diskul	Deputy Chairman
H.E. Monsieur Ebbe Munck	Member
Mr. Kenneth Joseph MacCormac	Member
Mr. V.F. Hemmingsen	Member/Hon. Treasurer
Dr. Lauriston Sharp ( Cornell )	Member in absence
Mr. J.J. Boeles, Director	Secretary, non-member

The Committee also during the second year of operations has held meetings regularly and at least once a month. In total during that period, 11 meetings were held and proper minutes, approved by the Committee, are being kept in the minute book of the Research Center. Moreover the Chairman of the Research Center Committee 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.

There were no mutations in the staff of the Research Center and which per 30. 9. 1961 was composed as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Engaged per:</u>	<u>Function:</u>
Mr. J.J. Boeles	Netherlands	30. 9. 1959	Director
Mrs. Chucheep Thiarabongs Boyle	Thai	1. 5. 1960	Librarian Office Manager

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

### 6. Facilities Research Center and Library.

It is most fortunate that as a result of the grant it has been possible also during the second year to keep the following business hours during weekdays:

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

The librarian requires much of her time bringing the library in good shape. Most of the books have now index cards. Also in the past year a considerable amount of binding and rebinding of books and periodicals was to be done. This rebinding is paid from the Society's own funds. As a result of the greater activities of the Center and of the Society the Librarian has become more and more busy with the sale of the Society's publications, as a result of which selling program more than Baht 50,000.—was collected, apart from sales by agents abroad. Moreover the number of visitors to the Center increased considerably.

As it was again considered that the librarian's work including the handling of sales should have priority, the Director continued to take care of all office correspondence and billing of sales abroad.

### 7. Rehabilitation of the Library.

The Center's main task continued to be the rehabilitation of the Siam Society's library. It is a slow process to try to purchase

the many essential books which were not in the Library or had disappeared. Last year's statement is once more emphasised here 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 in Thailand will be possible for those scholars and students who will use the Research Center.

In accordance with established procedure the total budget allocation of US \$ 1,000.— was spent on library acquisitions.

The new acquisitions are published in the Journal of the Siam Society : the latest list appears in J.S.S. Vol. XLIX Part 1. (July 1961).

The Center continued to supervise the steady flow of Exchange publications with some 84 learned institutions.

### **8. International distribution of the Society's publications.**

In the past financial year special efforts have been made to increase the sale of the Society's publications outside Thailand. It was therefore particularly gratifying to see that our agent in the Hague remitted US \$ 500.—for sales of reprint publications during the first half of 1961. As these reprint volumes have been presented to us by courtesy U.S.I.S. Manila, the proceeds can be used to finance further publications. Further interest from abroad—mainly from America—was evidenced by 16 institutions taking out subscriptions to our publications.

### **9. Research Projects.**

During the second year the following research project were further developed :

#### **a. Thai-Danish Prehistoric Expedition.**

During the period under review a field expedition operated in the Kweh Noi and Kweh Yaay area of the province of Kanchanaburi as per plans outlined in our previous report. The first phase of this prehistoric expedition proved a great success. A preliminary report was published by the leader of the expedition Dr. E. Nielsen in J.S.S. Vol. XLIX Part 1. July 1961. A larger group of Thai and

Danish and Dutch scientists has now started since 1st. November the second phase of the expedition and substantial excavations are on the way. This time it will be possible to give training into field methods at the sites to a scheduled number of 50 students and undergraduates from the Fine Arts University. It is hoped that after this second season it will be possible to establish a complete chronology of the prehistory of Thailand. The value of such conclusions also for neighbouring countries in South East Asia will be great. For this scientific effort funds for an equivalent of U.S. \$ 60,000.— have been raised almost entirely in Denmark with U.S. \$ 4,000.— from the funds received from the Ford Foundation. This expedition was organised within the first year of operation of the Research Center, as mentioned in the first annual report (J.S.S. Vol. XLVIII Part 2 p. 97).

**b. Training in Chiangmai of students in Northern Thai Epigraphy.**

This program was carried out successfully during one year and in which period 3 students were trained in Northern Thai epigraphy by our member Nai Kraisi Nimmanhaemin in Chiangmai.

**c. Library project.**

In the report on our activities over the first year it was mentioned that plans were made to build a new library and Research Center on the premises but that finance was lacking. It is therefore gratifying now to be able to report that building has been constructed in the meantime. The building offers a floorspace of 400 m<sup>2</sup> and is constructed to house a library of 15,000 books and periodicals. The total cost when ready will be Baht 880,000.— or some US \$ 44,000.—. This effort has been made possible by substantial contributions from the Society's own funds, from the Siam Cement Co. in kind, by generous donations of Danish commercial concerns in Bangkok, from the Asia Foundation as well as by individual donations by members of the Society headed by our Patron H.M. The King. The ceremonial inauguration of the new building will be held in the middle of January 1962 in the presence of Their Majesties The King and Queen and The King and Queen of Denmark.

On the occasion of the opening of the new library the Siam Society will present an exhibition of modern Thai paintings and sculptures by young Thai artists in order to stimulate this creative work.

The new Research Center has adequate facilities for scholars and students to study.

There is also a display area for showing tribal dresses and other artefacts from the hill tribes of Northern Thailand.

It should be noted that no money from the Ford Foundation funds was used for this building, neither for the inventory.

#### **d. Research into the Western cartography on Thailand.**

During the year under review several 17th and 18th century European maps on Siam have been purchased through the good efforts in Europe by our corresponding member Mr. John Black. Moreover photocopies of older maps including one from Ptolomaeus have also been received. It is the intention of the Center to arrive ultimately at an inventory of all sources on European maps on Siam.

#### **e. Research into the Hill Tribes of Northern Thailand.**

This project was started in the second year of operations. The object is, in the first place, to try to obtain dresses and clothing and other artefacts of the material culture of the fast changing hill tribes in Northern Thailand. We have started 20 years too late. The Research Center has been fortunate to find Mr. Kraistri Nimanhaemin in Chiangmai prepared to organize purchase of this material and to put his invaluable personal knowledge at the disposal of the Center. As a result the Research Center has now received in total 9 shipments of artefacts comprising of complete suits of clothing of man, wife and child of some 8 different tribes of Northern Thailand. Also household and other utensils have been acquired and even hard to get weaving looms. The acute importance of the study of the hill tribes has become very clear most recently. For acquisitions for this project the Center paid Baht 30,000.— of which Baht 15,000.— was contributed by the Asia Foundation. Mr. Gordon Young, socio-economist on hill tribes for USOM gave a

most valuable lecture for the Siam Society with slides, for a capacity audience. At the same time the Center gave an exhibition for members of the acquired hill tribes dresses which was well arranged and was kept on display for 2 weeks.

Mr. Gordon Young's treatise on the Hill Tribes of Northern Thailand with pictures is now being printed for publication by the Siam Society, also through U.S.I.S. Manila and by courtesy of USOM. This project will be continued in the third year if funds permit.

**f. Research Project re: A critical Pāli Dictionary.**

As a result of the recent visit of Prof. L.L. Hammerich from Copenhagen a new research project for the Center has been approved by the Committee.

Coordination of Philological Research work in Pāli studies in Thailand, specifically in contribution to:

**A Critical Pāli Dictionary** (Appeared: Vol. I and Vol. II fasc. I).

A long term publication by the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters in Copenhagen and compiled and edited by an International body of Pāli scholars. The main sponsor of this project is UNESCO.

The official assistance has been secured in principle by Pāli scholars from both Buddhist universities in Bangkok, who have displayed great interest in this dictionary and which publication is considered by the learned monks of importance for the understanding also of present-day Buddhism.

It has been agreed to coordinate the scientific work in Siam through the Director General of the Religious Affairs Department. It is fortunate that the Department already has set up a committee of Pāli scholars for this very purpose.

For translation of Thai communications to Copenhagen into English, the cooperation has been obtained of Dr. Klaus Wenk, Thai scholar and presently residing in Thailand. It is hoped that the financing of Dr. Wenk's work could be arranged from abroad, as the funds of the Research Center for that specific purpose are not available.

For the work of this project a budget allocation is proposed of Baht 6,150.- (ca US\$ 300.-) to be spent in Thailand. It is proposed that the Siam Society Research Center offers to become one of the sponsors for the second volume at US\$ 300.- (allocated above) to be spent in Thailand.

For research in Thailand two specific Buddhist texts have been selected. Buddhist countries like Burma and Ceylon have received different texts.

#### **10. Other activities.**

More contacts were established with the Universities as a result of the participation as observer of the Director in the Seminar on Cultural Anthropology in Bangkok organised by the Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning, in October 1960. At the request of the Dean of Faculty of the Faculty of Political Science of the Chulalongkorn University, the Director gave a lecture for under-graduates on the subject of: Anthropological Village Studies in Thailand. The lecture with bibliography will be printed by the University together with the papers of the other lecturers in this training course which were held in February and March 1961.

It should be mentioned here that the Research Center was visited in October 1960 by Mr. John Scott Everton and Mr. Doak Barnett of the Ford Foundation, New York. The work of the Research Center after one year of operations was discussed thoroughly. Both gentlemen were received also by His Highness Prince Dhani Nivat, President of the Siam Society. In March this year the Center mailed two complete leatherbound sets of the Siam Society's publications (18 in total) as presentation to the Ford Foundation in New York.

At the end of the second period and after almost 2 years of continuous service a leave of 6 weeks with salary was granted to the Director who availed himself of a special opportunity to go to Europe as inaugural guest of S.A.S. in connection with the work of the Center. In Europe a number of learned institutions and musea of Oriental art were visited. A report was submitted to the Committee after the Director's return to Bangkok on October 1st.



### 11. Policy for the third year.

In the new premises of the Research Center there will be more opportunity to develop activities because more facilities have now become available to scholars and students in the form of books and ethnographic materials. It may be said that the work of the Center developed successfully along the lines of policy which were set for the second year and which should also be pursued further for the third and last year of the present grant i.e. :

1. Further rehabilitation of the Library.
2. Further improvement of the international distribution of sales of the Society's publications, including the Journal S.S. and the Natural History Bulletin.
3. Broadening of contacts with learned institutions and with scholars in the same field abroad.
4. Development of Research Projects.

### 12. Conclusion.

During the second year of operations the Research Center has made great efforts to strengthen the organisation not only of the Center but also of the internal routine matters of the Society itself. This kind of work fails to show spectacular results, but it may be an indication of the greater activities by the fact that in this period under review more than 100 new members joined the Society; the total now exceeding 700. Also the financial position of the Society has never been as strong as it is now and this is one of the main reasons why it has been found justified to build this new library through its own efforts.

In this respect it may be observed that the impetus which the Ford Foundation has given us in the form of a grant of U.S. \$ 25,000.- for 3 years, has shown results after the second year of operation and which can be expressed in money. With this encouragement of the Ford Foundation it has been found justified in Denmark to invest in Siam through the Research Center a sum of U.S. \$ 60,000.- for the archaeological Expedition. Furthermore as a result of the same encouragement of the Ford Foundation it has become possible to

raise outside that Foundation a sum of U.S. 44,000.— as investment in building a new library and Research Center. This makes a total of U.S. \$ 104,000.—, raised from private sources within 2 years. Or in other words for every dollar which the Ford Foundation has invested in the Siam Society, four dollars have been received from other sources.

This is only what the figures show in terms of money. It is hard to describe the delight of the scholars from abroad who more and more come to use the Research Center as a place where they can work and where books are available as well as information regarding the sources of research material, often so difficult to ascertain. It is also apparent in the increasing number of requests for information the Center receives from abroad. As a result of these increased and manifold activities the position of the Director has now become that of a full time job.

It is hoped that the Ford Foundation after consideration of these conclusions may be found prepared to negotiate for a new grant after the termination of the third period ending ultimo September 1962.

It would show that the Ford Foundation has confidence in the Siam Society Research Center as a GROWING INSTITUTION.

Bangkok, 9th. November 1961

J.J. Boeles

Director

The Siam Society

Research Center.

Encl. 1 Financial Statement

## THE SIAM SOCIETY RESEARCH CENTER

Financial Statement for the period 1st October 1960—30th September 1961

### INCOME

Grant from Ford Foundation US\$ 8,500.00 . . . . .	Bht	178,075.00
Interest received . . . . .	„	413.41
Surplus brought forward from previous year . . . . .	„	4,170.93
	<u>Bht</u>	<u>182,659.34</u>

### EXPENDITURE

**Salaries :**

Director (incl. tax) . . . . .	60,000.00		
Librarian (incl. tax) . . . . .	<u>30,000.00</u>	90,000.00	
Clerk's assistance . . . . .	<u>7,800.00</u>	Bht	97,800.00

**Research :**

Epigraphy studies, Chiangmai . . . . .	7,000.00		
Hill tribe studies, Northern Thailand	31,260.00		
less contribution from Asia Foundation	<u>15,000.00</u>	16,260.00	
Archaeological Expedition . . . . .	<u>26,012.69</u>	„	49,272.69

**Administrative Expenses :**

Stationery etc. . . . .	977.00		
Postage and delivery . . . . .	1,267.21		
Misc. expenses . . . . .	<u>590.00</u>	„	2,834.81
Purchase of books for library . . . . .		„	22,533.25
Cash on hand . . . . .	3,300.00		
Bank deposit . . . . .	<u>6,919.19</u>	„	10,219.19
		<u>Bht</u>	<u>182,659.34</u>

The Siam Society Research Center

*V. F. Hemmingsen*

Hon. Treasurer

*Bangkok, October 10th, 1961*

Examined and found to agree with the books and vouchers.

*Bangkok, November 12, 1961.*

*Phra Banijya Sara Vides*

Honorary Auditor.

