

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1965

The Annual General Meeting of the Siam Society terminating the year 1964 was held at the Society's Home, 131 Asoka Road (Lane 21), Bangkok, on Monday, 5th April 1965 at 8.15 p.m. with His Highness Prince Dhaninivat, Kromamun Bidyalabh, President, in the Chair. The Meeting was attended by nearly 200 members and guests.

At the outset His Highness the President expressed to the Meeting his wish to remove himself from the nominations for President of the Society in view of his advancing years. However, he emphasized his pleasure in continuing to serve the Society whenever it would be possible for him to do so. He asked the Council to always feel free to call on him. The President nominated as his successor, the Senior Vice-President, H.H. Prince Prem Purachattra. While expressing their regret at His Highness' desire not to be re-elected, the meeting rejoiced in the nomination of H.H. Prince Prem Purachattra, and, respecting His Highness the President's wish, the meeting unanimously elected His Highness Prince Prem as President of the Society.

In accepting this position, the new President paid a moving tribute to his predecessor for all that he had done for the Society in his capacity as President over a period of 20 years. Evidence of his work is the building of the Research Centre, the new Library, his numerous lectures before members and his scholarly contributions to the Journal of the Siam Society. In recognition of this outstanding performance the new President proposed that H.H. Prince Dhaninivat, Kromamun Bidyalabh be elected Honorary President of the Society. This proposal was unanimously adopted with much applause. The following new officers were then elected: H.S.H. Prince Ajavadis Diskul as Senior Vice-President and Luang Thavil Sethpanijkarn as Honorary Secretary. The other members of the Council were then re-elected *en bloc*. It was also noted with regret that Vice-President Chao Phya Sri Dharmadhibes had resigned from the Council for reasons of advanced age and health. The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 24th March 1964 as well as the Annual Report and Financial Statement

for 1964 were adopted and Mr. Yukta na Thalang was re-elected Honorary Auditor for 1965. The meeting was followed by a showing, with His Majesty's Gracious Permission, of the royal films of His Majesty's Three Cycle Birthday. A running commentary was given by H.H. Prince Dhaninivat, Kromamun Bidyalabh.

The Council upon taking office co-opted the following Council Members as Vice-Presidents of the Society:

H.E. Monsieur Ebbe Munck
Lt. General Phya Salwidhan Nidhes

The Council also re-elected the following standing committees for carrying out the activities of the Society:

1. **Finance Committee**

The Senior Vice-President (H.S.H. Prince Ajavadis Diskul),
Chairman

The Honorary Secretary (Luang Thavil Sethpanijkarn)

The Honorary Treasurer (Mr. V.F. Hemmingsen)

2. **Editorial Committee**

The Honorary Editor of the Journal (Mr. Kenneth J. Mac
Cormac), Chairman

H.H. Prince Dhaninivat, Kromamun Bidyalabh

H.E. Monsieur Ebbe Munck

Mr. J.J. Boeles, Director Research Centre

3. **Natural History Committee**

Lt. General Phya Salwidhan Nidhes, Chairman

H.E. Monsieur Ebbe Munck

Mr. Ariyant Manjkul

H.S.H. Prince Piyarangsit Rangsit

4. **Exchange Committee**

H.S.H. Prince Subhadradis Diskul, Chairman

Phya Anuman Rajadhon

H.H. Prince Sukhuma Paribatra

Mr. J.J. Boeles

5. **Travel Committee**

Mr. Sanya Dharmasakti, Chairman

H.S.H. Prince Ajavadis Diskul

H.S.H. Prince Subhadradis Diskul

6. **Research Committee**

H.H. Prince Prem Purachatra, Chairman

H.S.H. Prince Ajavadis Diskul, Deputy-Chairman

Mr. Kenneth J. MacCormac

Mr. V.F. Hemmingsen

H.E. Monsieur Ebbe Munck

Luang Thavil Sethpanijkarn

Mr. Kraisri Nimmanahaeminda

Mr. J.J. Boeles

The Council re-appointed Mr. Kenneth J. MacCormac and H.E. Monsieur Ebbe Munck as Honorary Editor of the Journal and Honorary Editor of the Natural History Bulletin respectively. Both gentlemen are to be congratulated for having produced the following highly commendable publications for the Society :

The Journal of the Siam Society, Volume 53, Parts 1 and 2 (1965).

The Natural History Bulletin, Volume 21, Nos. 1 and 2 (January 1966).

It was with regret that, later in the year, the Council was forced to accept the resignation of Mr. MacCormac from the Editorship of the Journal of the Siam Society and from office as member of the Council. The resignation was necessitated by his transfer to Washington D.C. in July 1965. In recognition of his devoted service to the Society, Mr. MacCormac was elected a Corresponding Member.

To fill the vacancies, the following three members have been co-opted to sit on the Council :

Professor Dr. Prasert na Nagara, Professor Ouay Ketusingh M.D. and Dr. L. Sternstein as Honorary Editor of the Journal. The Society is fortunate in securing the services of these gentlemen.

The year 1965 was publication by the Society of a number of important monographs :

1. Gunnar Seidenfaden and Tem Smitinand :

The Orchids of Thailand, a preliminary list Part IV, 2 (1965).

With this last section, this monumental work in 6 parts is now completed.

2. Charles Nelson Spinks, Ph. D.;

The Ceramic Wares of Siam, Bangkok 1965.

An authoritative monograph on the subject, by Council Member, Dr. Spinks who has now returned to the United States.

3. Felicitation Volumes of Southeast-Asian Studies. Vol. I and II, 1965.

Presented to His Highness Prince Dhaninivat, Kromamun Bidyalabh Bridhyakorn.

These two volumes were presented by the Council to H.H. The Honorary President on the occasion of His Highness' 80 birthday on 7th November 1965. The Council is particularly proud of these two volumes because they contain original scholarly contributions presented to His Highness by 37 scholars from 12 countries. The publication is a product of the Research Centre with its Director as Editor.

The Council is pleased to report that our publications have proved of greater interest than ever before.

The Council held 11 business meetings during the year. The Society's membership at to the end of 1965 was 1,132 as compared with 1,026 at the close of 1964. This is the highest on record.

The classification of membership is as follows :

Royal Patron and Vice Patrons	4
Honorary Presidents	2
Honorary Members	3
Free Members	5
Corresponding Members	15
Life Members	209
Ordinary Members	894
Total :	<u>1,132</u>

The Society also has 28 subscribers to its *Journal* and *Natural History Bulletin*.

The Society elected 184 new members and recorded 98 resignations and deaths. The number of visitors to the Library and Research Centre increased to 1,702 for the year.

The financial position of the Society under the direction of our Honorary Treasurer, is satisfactory. Notwithstanding the higher income obtained from the increase in the membership fee for ordinary members to Baht 150.00, the balance sheet shows a small deficit of Baht 5,701.22 for this year. The deficit was caused by the greater number of publications paid for by the Society and the expansion and improvement of the Kamthieng House.

At the end of September the second and final grant of the Ford Foundation of US \$ 43,000.00 was terminated and from that date the operation of the Research Centre has been financed by the Society itself. Since it is the wish of the Society that the operation of the Research Centre be continued and since this could not be financed from the regular income of the Society, the Council decided to establish an Endowment Fund with an ultimate goal of Baht 3 million from the interest of which it would be possible to finance the Research Centre's operations on a permanent basis.

An initial appeal to the business community resulted in donations totalling Baht 181,000.00. An appeal to members has thus far yielded Baht 14,000.00. The list was opened with a donation by His Highness Prince Dhaninivat of Baht 1,000.00 on the occasion of His Highness' 80th birthday. The Council is most grateful for this generous support.

At the end of the year the Society received two additional grants in support of the operations of the Research Centre and of the Library:

The Danish Expedition Fund	Baht 60,000.00
The Asia Foundation	Baht 25,000.00
	<u>Baht 85,000.00</u>

For this generous support of the work of the Society, the Council is particularly grateful to H.E. Monsieur Ebbe Munck, Ambassador of Denmark, and to Mr. Graham Lucas, Representative of the Asia Foundation. The operations of the Research Centre and of the Library are thus secure for another year.

Further notable grants are :

The East Asiatic Co., Ltd. for the purpose of purchasing a rice granary in Chiangmai	Baht 15,000.00
The Asia Foundation, in support of publishing the Felicitation Volumes in honour of H.H. Prince Dhaninivat	Baht 35,000.00
	<u>Baht 50,000.00</u>

Thus in 1965 the Society has been the beneficiary of support from many sources. This is most encouraging.

As was announced in the previous Annual Report, the Siam Society became recipient of a grant of US \$ 25,000.00 from the John D. Rockefeller the 3rd Fund which is to be used over a period of 3 years in acquiring and installing artifacts in the Kamthieng House, continuing development of the library, and creating an archive of the visual and performing arts of Thailand not already maintained by other cultural institutions in this country. In 1965 US \$ 20,000.00 was received. From these funds a substantial collection of old teakwood carvings, mainly panels, was acquired from North Thailand as well as a number of farm implements. This aid will also allow completion of the Kamthieng House and the installation of modern lighting fixtures. Since considerable work will be necessary in preparing the Kamthieng House as the nucleus of an ethnological collection, it was decided to postpone the inaugural exhibition until November 1966. In order to establish an archive of photographs, and to obtain suitable pictures for the first exhibition in the Kamthieng House, the Society has launched a Nationwide Photographic Competition which will terminate on the 15th April 1966. An exhibition of photographs will be held in May.

The first prize, a ticket to Japan, is awarded by courtesy of Thai Airways International Limited. A cash prize of Baht 1,000.00 is also offered by the Society. The competition is being conducted with the cooperation of the Photographic Society of Thailand under Royal Patronage.

Meetings and excursions arranged by the Society during the year were as follows :

20th January	Lecture by H.H. Prince Dhaninivat, Kromamun Bidyalabh, on "Figures of the Shadow-Play from the Leder Museum of Offenbach." The lecture was accompanied by a showing of slides.
5th April	Annual General Meeting and Showing of royal films of His Majesty's Coronation and Celebrations of His Majesty's Three Cycle Birthday.
13th--14th April	Excursion to Chiangmai for Songkran Festival.
9th June	Lecture by Mr. Michael Lau on Chinese Art.
6th July	Lecture by H.H. Prince Prem Purachatra on "Sunthorn Phu as a Universal Poet".
27th July	Showing of colour film on the main Khmer monuments of the Angkor group by Mr. Kurt Mueller.
17th August	Lecture by Dr. W.F. Beeser on "Introduction into Geology with Special Reference to Thailand".
31st August	Repeat showing of colour film on the main Khmer monuments of the Angkor group by Mr. Kurt Mueller.
28th September	Lecture by Mr. B. St. Rainsborough on "Introduction to Chinese Porcelain".
25th October	Excursion to Rose Garden at Sampran and Nakorn Pathom for Kathin ceremony.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 8th November | Loi Kratong excursion to the Rose Garden at Sampran. |
| 24th November | Lecture by Mr. Kachorn Sukhabanij on "The Introduction of Modern Printing in Thailand". |

It is gratifying to observe that these lectures and excursions were much appreciated by members.

11th March 1966.