

## OBITUARIES

### **Major-General H.S.H. Prince Prididebyabongs Devakula**

With the passing away of Major-General H.S.H. Prince Prididebyabongs Devakula (born 1893), the Siam Society has lost a member who is held in high esteem. He represented the traditional type of a Thai gentleman, worthy of his illustrious father, His late Royal Highness Prince Devawongse Varopakar, the renowned Foreign Minister of Thailand.

I met him for the first time in Berlin in 1912 when he was undergoing his military training. With his strict sense of discipline, he did well in his military career, rising to a high position in the Department of the General Staff of the Army (1928).

His training, however, had been diplomatic too, for he had been Military Attaché in Paris and London (1920), and so he was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and appointed Minister at Berlin (1930) and Minister at Tokyo (1931).

He retired from the service after the change of regime in 1932 but he remained a respected figure and in 1948 he was called upon to become Minister of Foreign Affairs for a year. In 1952 I became Foreign Minister and had to recommend the appointment of a Thai member of UNCURK (United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea). I had no hesitation in recommending Prince Prididebya, who served in that position well until 1956.

His Majesty the King has graciously recognized his position as head of the Devakula family by conferring upon him the Grand Cross of the Order of Chula Chomklao.

I shall miss Prince Prididebya as a friend and, from the point of view of the Siam Society, as one well versed in the custom and tradition of the Court.

*Naradhip*