

**JSS**

**JOURNAL  
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SIAM SOCIETY**



**JULY 1972  
volume 60 part 2**

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## Editorial

It was in the middle of 1969 that the former Honorary Editor, Mr. Michael Smithies, began discussions on the publication of a School of Oriental and African Studies number of the Journal with Professor E.H.S. Simmonds, Head of the Department of Southeast Asia and the Islands at S.O.A.S., who was on one of his fleeting visits to Bangkok. Substantive plans for the number were later made with the aid of a frequent correspondence between the two parties and during Professor Simmonds' subsequent visits to this country.

It was agreed that articles should come only from present members of S.O.A.S., in order to give the number a distinct identity but that at the same time they should come from as many fields of study as possible in order to maintain a balance between the various disciplines represented at S.O.A.S. Contributors in London were contacted by Professor Simmonds and those then working in Thailand by Dr. Jane Bunnag. It was further agreed that, although Professor Simmonds would be the general organiser of the number, the over-all editorial control would remain in the hands of the Honorary Editor of the Journal who would also be responsible for such support material as reviews or for any other matter that usually appears in the Journal. The deadline was set for the number to appear in the middle of 1972.

This special number of the Journal has thus appeared as planned. This is a delight to all who have been involved in its publication, for such projects have a notorious reputation for failing to appear in time or indeed to materialise at all. The completion of this joint endeavour between the Siam Society and the School of Oriental and African Studies expresses that close bond which exists on both the personal and purely academic levels between British and Thai institutions of learning. And by a happy coincidence, completely unforeseen by the organisers, this S.O.A.S. number of the J.S.S. has also appeared in the year of Queen Elizabeth the Second's return State Visit, which event had served so well to reaffirm the close ties of friendship existing between Great Britain and Thailand.