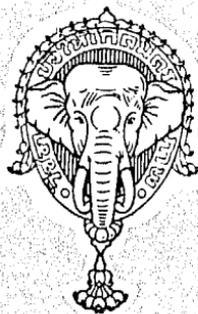


# JOURNAL OF THE SIAM SOCIETY



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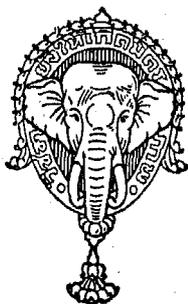
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## Editorial and Dedication

In November 1974, Dr. Suriya Ratanakul, Director of the Asian Languages Program, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Mahidol University, informed the Honorary Editor that Mahidol University was organizing an international workshop on "Linguistic Problems of Minority/Majority Group Relations in Southeast Asian Countries" under the sponsorship of the Southeast Asian Section of the Ford Foundation. Considering that the theme of the workshop is one of the vital issues of contemporary Southeast Asian societies, she felt that the proceedings should be published in an internationally known Southeast Asian journal such as the *Journal of the Siam Society*. She added that the Ford Foundation would pay for the costs of the publication and of a number of additional copies for distribution to various universities and learned institutions in Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

The Publications Committee of the Council of the Siam Society felt honoured by Dr. Suriya's proposal. The theme of the international workshop accords with the Society's stated objective, namely, "the investigation and encouragement of the Arts and Sciences in relations to Thailand and neighbouring countries". It was therefore the Honorary Editor's pleasure to reserve a section of the *JSS*, volume 63 part 2 July 1975, for Dr. Suriya and to invite her to be Honorary Guest Editor for the proceedings of the workshop.

The Workshop was held at Chong Chin Hall, Mahidol University, Bangkok, from the 13th to the 17th January, 1975. Prof. Dr. Natth Bhamarapavati, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Vice Rector for Development and Planning, Mahidol University, was Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Dr. Suriya was Organizing Secretary.

The meeting was attended by linguists from all the countries in the Southeast Asian region, except Burma. Some participants came from Europe and the U.S.A., namely, Prof. André G. Haudricourt, Prof. Denise Bernot, Miss Marie A. Martin, and Dr. Nguyen Dang Liem. As there was no Burmese linguist, Prof. Denise Bernot, of the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris, kindly accepted to read a paper concerning the linguistic situation in Burma.

Most of the papers read at the Workshop are present in the Journal. Dr. Nguyen Dang Liem felt that the present situation in South Vietnam might affect the accuracy of the linguistic situation described in his paper which was completed in December, 1974, and asked that it be withdrawn. Dr. Suriya also refrained from publishing her own paper as she thought it would have made her section of the present Journal too long.

The Siam Society is pleased to be associated with Mahidol University in the presentation to the international academic community of this important collection of papers. It is grateful to the Ford Foundation for the financial assistance which has made this joint undertaking possible. Dr. Suriya Ratanakul has been a most obliging and efficient Honorary Guest Editor.

Finally, this issue of the *JSS* is dedicated to our Honorary President, H.R.H. Prince Wan Waithayakorn, Kromamun Naradhip Bongsprabandh, whose Seventh Cycle birthday anniversary falls on the 25th of August 1975.