

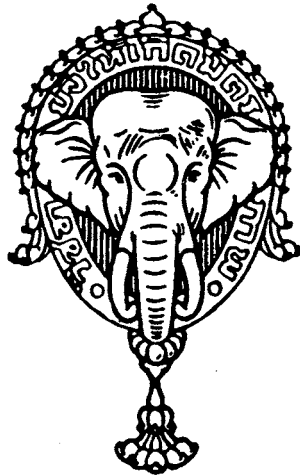
พระบาทสมเด็จพระเจ้าอยู่หัว  
ทรงพระกรุณาโปรดเกล้าฯ ให้  
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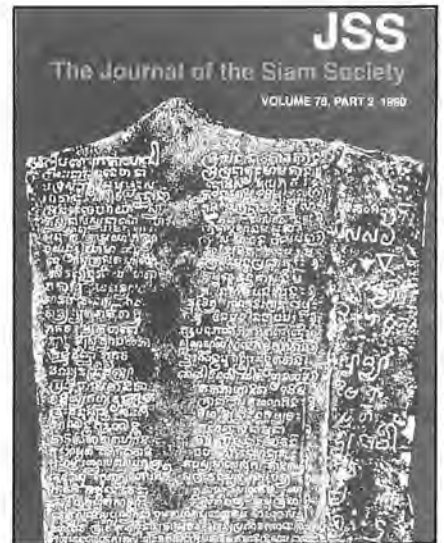
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## Editor's Note

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# In This Issue

On behalf of the President, Council and Members of The Siam Society under Royal Patronage, BONNIE DAVIS expresses the warm sentiments of all living in Thailand as she wishes a Happy Birthday to Her Royal Highness the beloved Princess Mother on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Evidence of various kinds, including the survival of what appear to be ancient practices, indicates the early presence in what is now Thailand of Vajrayana or Tantric Buddhism. With his annotated translation of the Sab Bāk Inscription, found near Nakhon Ratchasima, CHIRAPAT PRAPANDVIDYA makes available the first clear inscriptional indication that Tantric Buddhism was practiced in 1066 A.D. in the area now belonging to this country. The inscription is written on a stone slab in Old Khmer script; the first part is in Sanskrit and the second in Khmer. It was made in the reign of King Udayādityavarman, who can safely be identified with the monarch who ruled Kambuja between 1050 and 1066 A.D., and contains a number of terms demonstrating the existence of Tantric worship.

Inconsistencies and uncertainties have made the relationship of Chaliang, Sri Satchanalai and Sawankhalok a puzzle for historians, and have beclouded the actual location or locations of the places known by these names. Following up the clues provided by Prince Vajiravudh from his trip to "the land of Phra Ruang" in 1907, MICHAEL VICKERY retraced Prince Vajiravudh's steps with on-the-spot guidance from Don Hein, the Australian archaeologist and ceramicist. Analyzing the evidence from all relevant scholarly disciplines as well as from personal observation, Dr. Vickery concludes that Chaliang and Sri Satchanalai were separate locations, that the original Chaliang-Sawankhalok comprised the entire plain bounded by the Yom River on the north and northeast and by hills in the other directions, plus the major kiln area extending northward along the river, and that the old Sri Satchanalai was in the area 20 km to the south where extensive architectural remains were first described by Prince Vajiravudh.

MICHEL JACQ-HERGOUALC'H discusses a sheet of sketches in the Louvre from the hand of Charles Le Brun, official painter to Louis XIV. These show the outermost "box" of those containing King Narai's letter to Louis XIV; a Siamese wearing a Malay kris, which itself is drawn in detail; a Siamese cap decorated with small flowers; and Persian slippers worn by the Siamese envoys. The sketches show the popularity of Persian court dress with King Narai, and reflect the keen interest of Le Brun in the Siamese ambassadors, who greatly admired him in their turn.

DACRE F.A. RAIKES reviews a special series of performances which the Siam Society presented on its premises to demonstrate the skills of performing artists who have been designated Thai "National Living Treasures." The Muang Thai Life Assurance Co., Ltd., was co-sponsor and Studio 10 videotaped the performances. Five groups of performers appeared, each led by an artist officially recognized as a National Living Treasure. These showed the art of the Nang Yai (Giant Shadow Puppets), traditional Northeastern music, Hun Krabok (bamboo puppets), the Manohra (Swan Maiden) dance legend, and Lam Dat folk music, whose main ingredient is witty repartee.

R.A.F. PAUL WEBB analyzes the programs of rural development among the Hill Tribes espoused by various Prot-

estant missionary organizations, with special attention to the American Presbyterian Mission, now part of the Church of Christ in Thailand, and the American Baptist Mission. Problems, successes and lessons learned are described and are compared with similar development efforts in other areas, particularly Indonesia. The best results come from bearing in mind that "small is beautiful," progress must be attained step by step, local traditions must be respected, and those on the receiving end of development must fully understand the part they have to play.

KAZUO YAMASAKI and his colleagues, who in their investigation of the Tak finds have already studied chemically the ceramics discovered there and have reported the results in the *JSS* (Vol. 77, part 2, 1989), now turn to metallographic and lead isotope studies of bronze relics found in the Tak area. Detailed tables, charts and composition images illustrate their findings. Three kinds of lead ores were used; it is highly probable that one of these is of Burmese origin.

Why do foreigners trying to get around in Bangkok discover that if they rely only on a street map it is frustratingly difficult to "find" this huge city? RICHARD A. O'CONNOR points out that this is because there is no map of Bangkok—there is only a map of Bangkok's streets. But the ordinary people of Bangkok never use street maps. They use the streets, of course, but they see their city rather as a patchwork of named places defined by communities, activities and historic events. This pluralistic popular image formerly competed with a single-centered royal image, and now must cope with a bureaucratic official image generated by the demands of modern urbanization. Dr. O'Connor maintains that the prominence of place in Bangkok's popular image is at the core of not just Thai, but of Siamese and even Tai culture. Will it endure?

Physicist S.J. TÖRÖK applies multi-criteria decision making and transactional analysis to an examination of the social psychology of religion in Chinese, Thai and Japanese thought. His purpose is to try to arrive at a new ecumenism in which enlightenment, rationality and compassion may replace a shouting match between authoritarian "fathers." Progress in mutual understanding, he holds, can be attained through an awareness of the "parent," the "adult" and the "child" in each of us, tempered by wisdom.

The role of the once-great riverine port of Banbhore, situated on a branch of the Indus in what is now Pakistan, is scrutinized by VIRGINIA M. DI CROCCO as a link between the Mediterranean, Middle East, India, Southeast Asia and China. Comparing artifacts excavated at Banbhore with ceramic and glass objects from Thailand and Burma, she points out not only that Mediterranean ceramic and Middle Eastern ceramic and glass designs had an impact on local design in Southeast Asia, but also that this transit point for art styles was an early recipient of goods from China.

Finally, LARRY STERNSTEIN rounds out his study of Captain James Low's description of Siam and its possessions set forth in our previous issue (*JSS* Vol. 78, part 1, 1990, p. 9) with notes on Low's 1830 map of Siam and surrounding territories and its accompanying list of place names keyed by number to locations on the 1830 map.