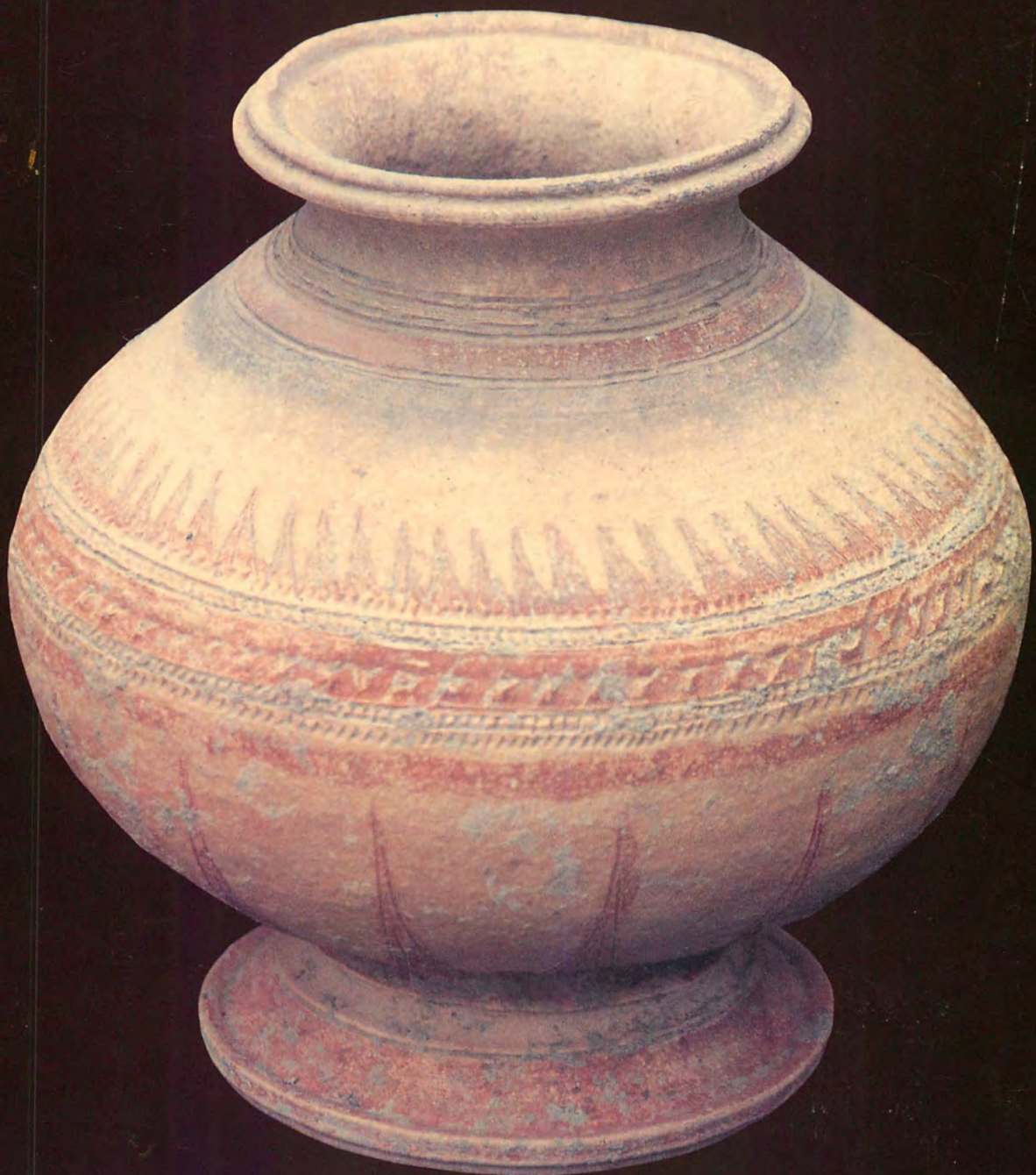


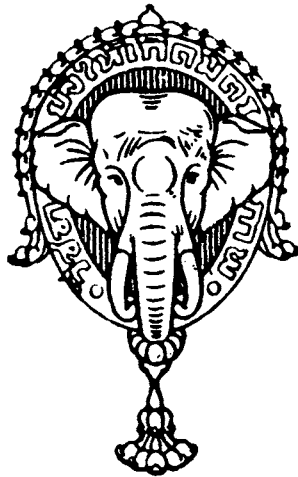
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Front cover : Footed jar from Wat Phra That Haripunjaya, 13th century. Photo courtesy Wat Phra That Haripunjaya
Museum. See pp. 88, 92.

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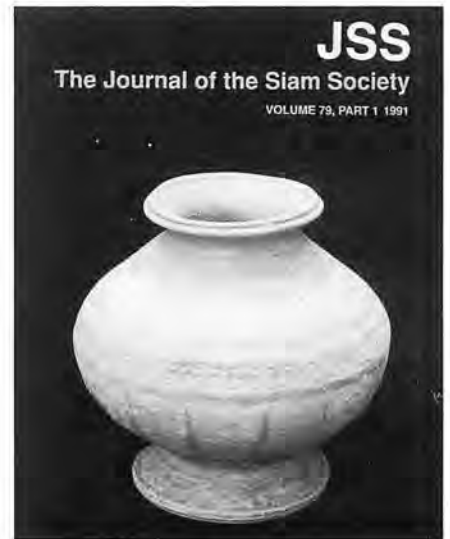
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Editor's Note

Special appreciation goes to Peter Rogers, Honorary Chairman of the Publications Committee of The Siam Society, for stepping in to furnish assistance to the *JSS* above and beyond the call of duty during the absence of the Honorary Editor on a trip abroad during a crucial period. Thanks as always go to Euayporn Kerdchouay, Administrative Secretary, and to the Assistant Administrative Secretary, Anothai Nanthithasana; also to Dr. François Lagirarde and Dr. Waldemar C. Sailer for their helpfulness. A special word of thanks is extended to Sulak Sivaraksa, a former Honorary Editor of *The Journal of the Siam Society*, for his assistance in making available various book reviews.

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In This Issue

The centenary of the birth of one of Thailand's most outstanding personalities, H.R.H. Prince Wan Waithayakorn, is being celebrated in 1991 in Bangkok, Paris, Geneva and New York as part of the UNESCO Calendar of Great Personalities and Historic Events. BONNIE DAVIS recalls his eminence as diplomat and scholar, his dedication to the principles of the United Nations which he served both as the ambassador of his country and as President of the General Assembly, and his distinguished presidency of The Siam Society for many years.

The evening of 14 August 1991 was marked by an event of splendid pomp and circumstance for The Siam Society. At the Hilton International Hotel in Bangkok our Honorary President, Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana, graciously presided over a gala dinner that launched an intensive fund raising campaign designed to prepare the Society for the challenges of the twenty-first century now just around the corner. Unprecedented in the 87-year history of the Society was the appearance of the Prime Minister of Thailand as guest speaker. His Excellency Mr. Anand Panyarachun drew his audience of 400 into gales of laughter with his Cantabrigian wit and into profound thought with his creative insights into the Royal Thai Government's attitudes toward and plans for private volunteer organizations like our Society. PETER ROGERS summarizes the evening for us.

The central theme of this issue is the Mons and their significant role as the pioneering vectors of a distinctive artistic and religious culture in Thailand and its neighboring countries.

NAI PAN HLA, former associate of Gordon H. Luce, senior epigraphist, historian, editor and promoter of things Mon, surveys the cultural contributions of the Mons (his own people) in a special article written from a lifetime of experience and first delivered as a lecture at the Siam Society.

EMMANUEL GUILLON next examines aspects of Mon cosmology, with particular reference to creation myths, as expressed in the narrative best known as the *mulā muh*. Dr. Guillon's contribution constitutes a chapter in his forthcoming book on *The Mons: A Civilization of Southeast Asia* soon to be published by the Siam Society.

CHRISTIAN BAUER then performs the arduous task of updating Shorto's classic dictionary of Mon inscriptions in his extensive "Notes on Mon Epigraphy," complete with charts and maps, incorporating findings since Shorto's work and including the most recent information.

A new look at the ceramics of the long-enduring Mon kingdom of Haripunjaya, located in what is now Thailand, is taken by VIRGINIA M. DI CROCCO, who scrutinizes aspects of Haripunjaya wares to include fabric, design and dating.

Leaving the Mons to re-examine two points of interest in Thai history, we present comments by Honorary Member of The Siam Society, His Serene Highness Prince CHAND CHIRAYU RAJANI — poet, historian, epigrapher, polymath, witty master of the creative and documentary literary arts — whose 80th birthday was celebrated last year in Chiang Mai with deep appreciation for his wide-ranging contributions to the understanding of Thai culture.

Under *Notes and Comments* JEROLD A. EDMONDSON and DAVID B. SOLNIT respond to a statement by JAMES R. CHAMBERLAIN in his review (*JSS* 77.2, 88-90) of their recent study on *Comparative Kadai*. Dr. Chamberlain took exception to their rearrangement of the Proto-Tai tonal categories into what he considers a Chinese frame of reference. Drs. Edmondson and Solnit defend their position; Dr. Chamberlain sticks to his guns.

Finally, we note with deep regret the passing in 1991 of two major figures in the field of Thai studies. M.R. PATANACHAI JAYANT was President of The Siam Society Under Royal Patronage from 1981 to 1989, and most recently was Honorary Vice-President of the Society. DR. RACHIT BURI, Vice-President of the Siam Society and formerly Leader of the Natural History Section, a close friend and associate of M.R. Patanachai, speaks for all of us as he marks his passing in an affectionate memorial. Also, the legendary ALEXANDER B. GRISWOLD, whose profound scholarship and elegant commentary enhanced many an issue of *The Journal of the Siam Society*, passed away in Maryland on 4 October. Our next issue will contain his obituary. Further memorials will follow.