



THE SIAM SOCIETY UNDER ROYAL PATRONGAGE

The Siam Society was founded in 1904, under royal patronage, as an organization for those interested in the artistic, scientific and other cultural affairs of Thailand and neighbouring countries. The Society maintains an excellent Library which is at the disposal of Members. The Society publishes *The Journal of the Siam Society* and *The Siam Society Newsletter* in addition to occasional works of topical interest and scholarly merit. The Society sponsors a programme of lectures and artistic performances, and regularly conducts study trips to places of archaeological and cultural interest in Thailand and abroad. Activities and events of the Society are reported in the *Newsletter* and special circulars of the Society. The Kamthieng House, an ethnological museum on the grounds of the Society's home, provides an example of a traditional northern Thai house with artefacts of rural life and superb collections of woven materials and wood carvings. The Saengaroon House is a new addition to the Society's compound. A typical house of central Thailand, it too is open to the public.

The Natural History Section of the Siam Society, which was organized in 1913, sponsors its own programme of lectures and study trips to places of natural interest, and concerns itself with the conservation of Thai wildlife and flora. The Natural History Section publishes the annual *Natural History Bulletin of the Siam Society* as well as aperiodic works of scientific interest.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society welcomes new Members, resident in Thailand or abroad, on the following bases:

Life Member	15,000 baht (US\$ 750.)
Ordinary Member	1,500 baht (US\$ 75.)
Student Member	100 baht (US\$ 5.)

Both Life Members and Ordinary Members receive the Society's *Journal*, the *Natural History Bulletin*, and the *Newsletter*, and discounts on all publications, study trips and performances, as well as the right to vote at the Society's Annual General Meeting. In addition, all members resident in Thailand receive the *Annual Report of the Siam Society*, which is issued in advance of the Annual General Meeting, and special circulars.

Student Member is a special category for Thai students only and carries the same privileges as Ordinary Member but without the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting or to receive the Society's *Journal*, *Newsletter*, *Natural History Bulletin* and circulars.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the *Journal of the Siam Society* and the *Natural History Bulletin* are available independently at the following rates:

The Journal of the Siam Society, 500 baht (US\$ 25) per year

The Natural History Bulletin, 300 baht (US\$ 15) per year

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Applications for membership, subscriptions or further information on the Society are welcome. Please contact Mr. Euayporn Kerdchouay, Administrative Secretary, The Siam Society, 131 Soi Asoke, Sukhumvit 21, Bangkok 10110, Thailand.

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Journal of the Siam Society welcomes all original articles and reviews of a scholarly nature and in conformity with the principles and objectives of the Society.

Articles submitted for publication (accepted in English, Thai, French or German) should be forwarded whenever possible on Macintosh or IBM-compatible disks in any of the standard word-processing programs, accompanied by one double-spaced hard copy. However, if this is not feasible, manuscripts may be submitted in one typewritten copy, double-spaced, on A4 (quarto) paper (approximately 21 x 30 cm), with generous margins. The top copy should be submitted. All notes and references should be similarly typed double-spaced. References should include name of author(s), title, name and volume of periodical or relevant publication series (where applicable), date and place of publication (or nature of reference, if unpublished), and pagination (where appropriate). Contributors should include their institutional affiliation, fields of special interest, and title of their chief publications in a brief biographical sketch. The Siam Society has selected *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 13th edition, 1982, as its stylistic guide. However, rather than impose at this time rigid standardization of such variables as transliterations, referencing, etc., we are, in general, publishing such elements in the way they are employed by our contributors. Page-proofs of articles and review articles are sent to authors on request only. Originals of illustrations will be returned on request. Authors of published contributions receive extra copies of the *JSS* free of charge. Additional copies will be supplied at cost price.

The Siam Society encourages readers to communicate comments, corrections, supplementary data or differing opinions to the Honorary Editor regarding materials which appear in the *JSS*. Suitably documented correspondence will be published under "Communications," bearing the writer's name.

The opinions expressed in the *JSS* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Siam Society.

Manuscripts, books for review, and all correspondence should be sent to the Honorary Editor, *The Journal of the Siam Society*, 131 Soi Asoke, Sukhumvit 21, Bangkok 10110, Thailand. Subscription and membership enquiries and orders for publications should be addressed to the Administrative Secretary, The Siam Society, 131 Soi Asoke, Sukhumvit 21, Bangkok 10110, Thailand.

Exchange copies of periodicals should be sent to the Honorary Librarian, The Siam Society, G.P.O. Box 65, Bangkok 10501, Thailand.



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THE RAM KHAMHAENG CONTROVERSY COLLECTED PAPERS

The Siam Society's latest publication brings together a unique collection of papers on a subject of great topical interest. The history of Thailand as a nation relies principally upon evidence from its first capital at Sukhothai where, in the golden age of the late 13th century, King Ram Khamhaeng devised the writing system he handed down to posterity on the stone now known as **Inscription No. 1**. The stone was discovered by King Mongkut (Rama IV) during a visit he made Sukhothai in 1833 before his ascent to the throne. He had the stone brought to Bangkok where it remains to this day in the National Museum.

In recent years serious doubt has been cast upon the authenticity of **Inscription No. 1**, some eminent authorities not hesitating to brand it outright as a fake. One distinguished art historian is categorical in presenting evidence that it was the work of King Mongkut himself, performed between the years 1851 and 1855

If this premise is correct much of the history of the Thai nation would be open to reinterpretation. Perhaps for that reason, and certainly because Ram Khamhaeng is seen as a father figure to the nation he welded into the first Thai kingdom, the idea that the inscription is not genuine has been hotly disputed by more conservative voices.

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