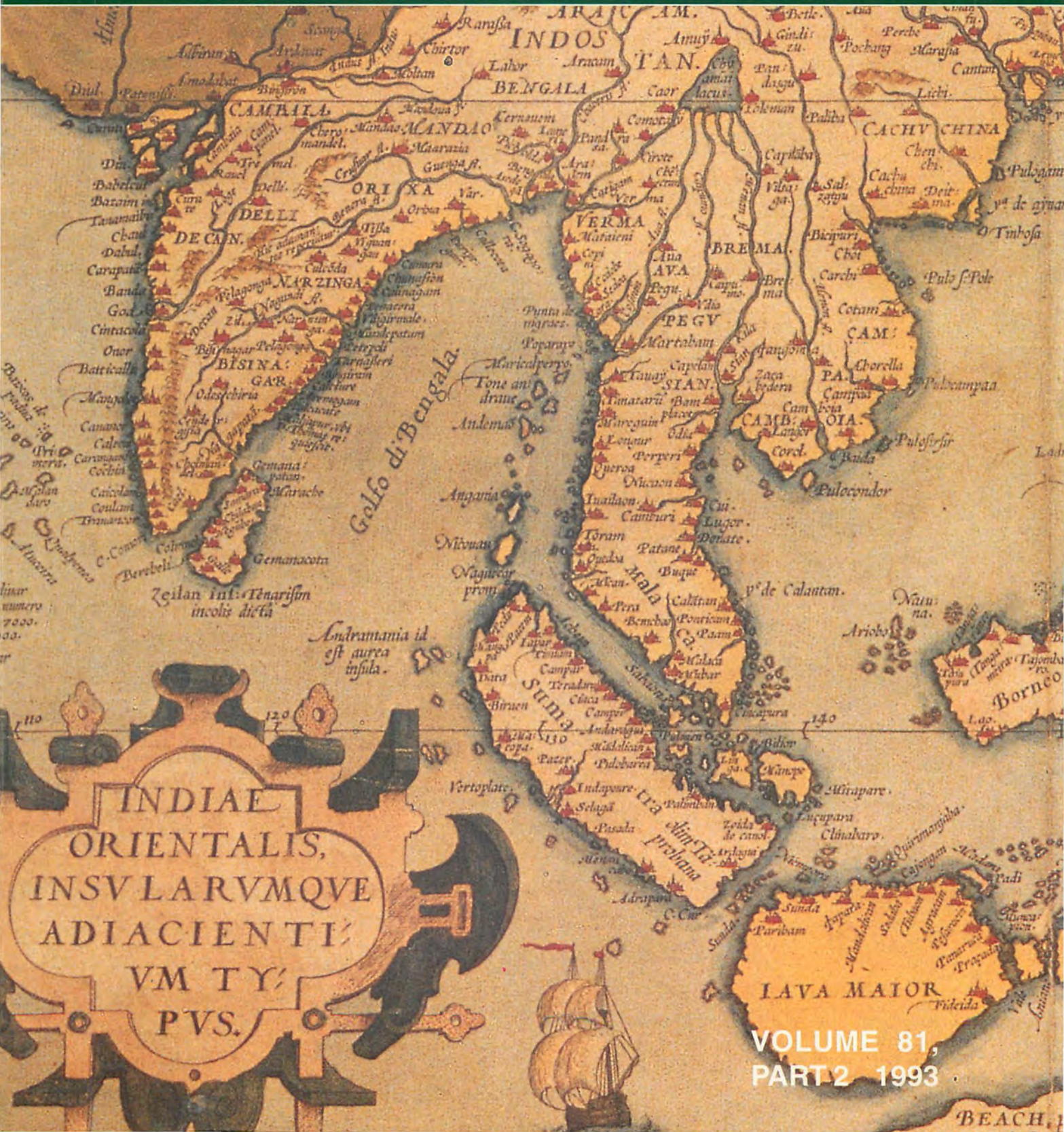


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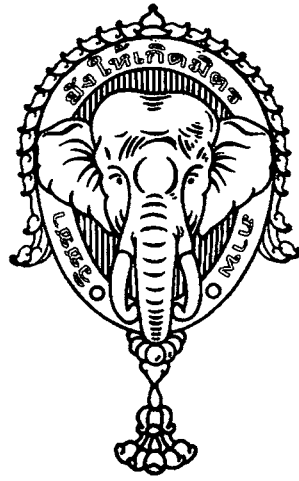


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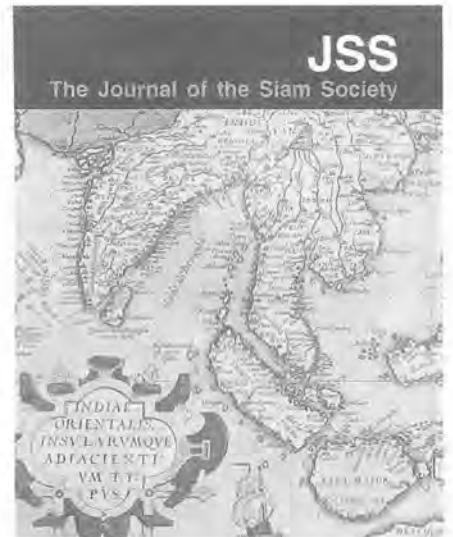
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## Editor's Notes

Special thanks are due Dr. Nyle Spoelstra for his great help in the copyediting, layout, and computer processing of this issue, all in addition to his many other duties. We thank also Khun Kanitha Kasina-Ubol and her staff for their ready help. Khun Euayporn Kerdchouay freely provided his expertise in selecting and designing the cover.

# The Journal of the Siam Society

VOLUME 81, PART 2  
1993



## CONTENTS

In This Issue 7

### Section I: Geography

- |  |    |                  |
|--|----|------------------|
| THE LONDON COMPANY'S<br>ENVOYS PLOT SIAM | 11 | LARRY STERNSTEIN |
|--|----|------------------|

### Section II: Archaeology

- |   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| RECENT DATA ON THANON PHRA<br>RUANG BETWEEN SUKHOTHAI<br>AND SI SATCHANALAI | 99 | DAVID GODLEY, PAUL<br>BISHOP AND THIVA<br>SUPAJANYA |
|---|----|---|

### Section III: History

- |   |     |                  |
|---|-----|------------------|
| JACQUES DE BOURGES<br>(c. 1630–1714) AND SIAM   | 113 | MICHAEL SMITHIES |
| THE DANES IN SIAM<br>Their Involvement in Establishing<br>The Siam Commercial Bank Ltd.<br>At the End of the Last Century | 131 | A. EGGERS-LURA   |

**Section IV: Notes and Comments**

IRREGULAR YEAR ROTATION IN THE HISTORICAL RECORD	143	J.C. EADE
MEDICAL MEMORIES OF BANGKOK AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY	145	MALCOLM SMITH, M.D.

**Section V: Reviews**

TAKASHI TOMOTSUGI <i>Reminiscences of Old Bangkok: Memories and Identification of Changing Society</i>	150	MARK ASKEW
MORGAN SPORTÈS <i>Pour la plus grande Gloire de Dieu</i>	153	MICHAEL SMITHIES
MICHEL JACQ-HERGOUALC'H <i>La civilisation de ports-entrepôts du sud Kedah (Malaysia), Ve-XIVe siècle</i>	155	MICHAEL SMITHIES
RAPHAËL VONGSURAVATANA <i>Un jésuite à la cour de Siam</i>	155	MICHAEL SMITHIES



## In This Issue

LARRY STERNSTEIN, past Honorary Editor of the *Journal of the Siam Society*, has for many years searched through a baker's dozen of archival collections in cities from New York to Calcutta on the track of British efforts to map Siam in the early nineteenth century, beginning with the cartographic work of James Low in 1824. Since 1984 he has progressively reported the result of his research, thrice in the *JSS*. In the course of his studies he has broadened his field of interest to include every available trace of the maps of Siam produced by Low's successors, John Crawford and Henry Burney. Now, again in the *JSS*, he presents a wide overview of the Crawford and Burney maps as he has discovered them; an analysis of the maps themselves and of their making, including comparison with modern maps; a narrative of British cartographic policies of the period and the area; and a detailed description of the negotiations leading to the creation of the maps and the successes, frustrations and varying fortunes of the cartographers.

DAVID GODLEY, PAUL BISHOP and THIVA SUPAJANYA report on their extensive fieldwork undertaken to determine the true function of Thanon Phra Ruang, the ancient embankment and canal that runs from Kamphaeng Phet through Old Sukhothai to Si Satchanalai. As its name indicated, it has traditionally been considered to be a road: *thanon*. The conclusion reached by this team of investigators, however, is that the structure was most likely a canal, possibly used for transportation, water harvesting, and irrigation and drainage.

When the missionary work of the Portuguese began to falter in Asia, Louis XIV seized the opportunity to expand French missionary endeavors into areas thus becoming open to them. As lapsed episcopal sees were revived, the French titular bishop of Beirut was put in charge of an ecclesiastical domain extending from Cambodia to Jiangxi. One of the priests who

sailed to Asia with the new bishop was Jacques de Bourges. The missionary party arrived in Siamese territory in April 1662 and remained in the capital of Siam for a year. After de Bourges returned to France he wrote a detailed report of the travels of the bishop which was published in Paris in 1666. MICHAEL SMITHIES presents his translation and summaries of those parts of the report which related to Siam. De Bourges's text, the first published account of Siam by a Frenchman, is an important description of the arduous journey undertaken by many others in the seventeenth century and is valuable as a description of Siam as it was in that period.

A. EGGERS-LURA examines the influential role of his Danish countrymen in Siamese commercial affairs at the end of the nineteenth century, directing special attention to Danish involvement in the founding of the Siam Commercial Bank. A key figure in these activities was the sea-captain Hans Niels Andersen, who bought the Oriental Hotel, founded the East Asiatic Company and worked closely with the famous Danish Admiral, Andreas du Plessis de Richelieu, as a business partner connected with the establishment of the Siam Commercial Bank, a relationship unknown until a few years ago.

J.C. EADE continues his research into dating systems used in Thai inscriptions by examining methods of expression used by scribes or artisans in their numerical representation of dates, thereby offering an alternative interpretation of the Mahasakarāt year as found in the Grahi Buddha inscription.

MALCOLM SMITH, M.D. arrived in Bangkok in 1901 and remained in medical practice there until 1924. He was appointed medical practitioner to Her Royal Highness the Queen Mother Saowapa in 1914. The account of his experiences appearing in this issue of the *JSS* is now published for the first time (see the editorial note preceding his article).

