FIVE PUBLICATIONS TO MARK THE SOCIETY’S CENTENARY

The Society of Siam
Selected articles for the Siam Society’s centenary
Edited by Chris Baker
Bangkok, The Siam Society, 2004
pp. 409


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Journal of the Siam Society Vol. 93 2005
The Siam Society: A Century

by

William Warren

Bangkok, The Siam Society, 2004

pp.v + 181, illustrations

One hundred years ago, on February 26, 1904 a group of Thais and Western residents of Bangkok gathered at the Oriental Hotel. Their purpose was to establish an organization that would meet to exchange and disseminate reliable information about the kingdom’s history, archaeology, anthropology, languages, natural history, and other subjects.

The Siam Society was the result of the meeting. Over the century since, despite wars and other difficult periods, it has adhered steadfastly to its original aims. It has published an annual Journal as well as a Natural History Bulletin which together cover a wide range of learned studies. In addition it has held regular meetings, offered countless lectures by experts in their field of study, arranged field trips for members to places of interest in Thailand and abroad, and sponsored numerous projects to advance causes as varied as the restoration of temple murals and the importance of environmental conservation.

The centenary book, written by the well-known local author William Warren, not only tells the story of an institution respected worldwide for its learning but also elaborates on some of the remarkable men and women who have been responsible for its achievements.

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Journal of the Siam Society Vol. 93 2005
Footprints of the Buddhas of this Era in Thailand

by

Virginia McKeen Di Crocco

Bangkok, The Siam Society, 2004

pp. 261, illustrations

This book traces the evolution of Buddha Footprints from early origins in India to the creation of the Siam Society’s gold version in honor of Queen Sirikit’s Fifth Cycle in 1992.

Early Footprints were natural impressions in rock. Later the Footprint became an important medium for illustrating Buddhist cosmology.

Virginia Di Crocco’s carefully researched text explains how the iconography changed in Buddha Footprints in Thailand and adjacent areas according to developments in beliefs about the world. The book covers the practice of making Buddha Footprints, and seeks to make a significant contribution to the religious and artistic history of Southeast Asia.

Contents

I The Gold Footprint of the Four Buddhas, created in honor of H.M. Queen Sirikit’s 60th birthday
II Early Buddha Footprints in the Indian sub-continent and Sri Lanka
III Footprints deemed those of the Buddha Gotama
IV Buddha Footprints created in Southeast Asia prior to the 13th century, and the evolution and meaning of Buddha Footprints with 108 auspicious symbols
V Theravada Buddhism in Thailand and the creation of Buddha Footprints c. early 13th to mid-14th century
VI Buddha Footprints created in Thailand c. mid-14th century to 1531
VII Buddha Footprints created in Thailand in the 17th and 18th century prior to 1767 and the fall of the kingdom of Ayudhya
VIII Buddha Footprints created by or for the former King of Ayuthya, Uthumporn, in the Amarapura-Sagaing area.
IX Buddha Footprints created during the reigns of King Taksin of Thonburi and Kings Rama I, II, II of the Chakri dynasty
X Buddha Footprints created during the reigns of Kings Rama IV to Rama IX the Great of the Chakri dynasty
XI The Gold Right Footprint of the Four Buddhas of this Bhaddakappa created by the Siam Society in honor of the 60th birthday of H.M. Queen Sirikit
XII The casting of the Gold Footprint of the Four Buddhas

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Journal of the Siam Society Vol. 93 2005
Witnesses to a Revolution: Siam 1688
Edited and translated by Michael Smithies
Twelve key texts describing the events and consequences of the Phetracha coup d’état, and the withdrawal of French forces from the country
Foreword by Dr Dhiravat na Pombejra
Bangkok, The Siam Society, 2004
pp. 214, illustrations

Intrigue, mystery, murder, double-dealing, corruption, and deception are all found in the accounts of the twelve persons (three of whom are anonymous and hitherto unpublished) who describe here their roles in the dramatic events of 1688 in Siam surrounding the coup d’état of Phetracha and the death of King Narai.

The succession was complicated by the role of Constantine Phaulkon, a Greek adventurer who acted, without the title, as minister of foreign affairs and trade, and who cultivated the French presence in the country to support his own position. The French had stationed troops in Bangkok, “the key to the Kingdom” and Mergui, on the Bay of Bengal, and became hopelessly embroiled in events beyond their comprehension, leading to their retreat in November that year.

Each text places the author (where known) in context, and is given helpful footnotes to assist the reader.

Anon., Relation of the... revolution in the Kingdom of Siam (previously unpublished)
Saint-Vandrille, The Revolution in Siam (hitherto unpublished)
Beauchamp, Account of the Revolutions at the Court of Siam (published 1861)
Anon., Account of what occurred at Louvo... and Bangkok... in 1688 (unpublished)
Anon., Succinct account... of Siam... in 1688 (Dutch original, unpublished)
Martineau, Report to Paris, 12 July 1689 (published in French, 1920)
De Lionne, Justifications, January 1692 (published in French 1920)
Véret, Letter about the Siamese revolution of 1688 (published in French 1935)
Ferreux, Letter about Mme Constance, to de La Vigne (published in French 1920)
Rival, governor of Bangary, deposition of 1691 (unpublished)
Laneau, Extracts from letters written in detention in Siam (published in French 1920)
Kosa Pan, Letter of 1693 to the French Foreign Missions, Paris (JSS 1936)

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Articles
O. FRANKFURTER
King Mongkut (first published in JSS vol. 1, 1904, pp. 191-207)
Introduced by Tej Bunnag

CHARLES HIGHAM
The opposed human figure at Khok Phanom Di

YONEO ISHII
Exploring a new approach to early Thai history

PIYADA CHONLAWORN
Relations between Ayutthaya and Ryukyu

MICHAEL SMITHIES
Four unpublished letters from Desfarges, Beauchamp, and Vollant, survivors of the siege of Bangkok in 1688

SUMET JUMSAI
Prince Prisdang and the proposal for the first Siamese constitution, 1885

YEVGENY D. OSTROVENKO
Russian-Thai relations: historical and cultural aspects

LEEDOM LEFFERTS
Village as stage: Imaginative space and time in rural Northeast Thai lives

Note
PATRICIA M. YOUNG
The lacquer pavilion in the First Reign context

Reviews by Helen James, Dawn F. Rooney, Virginia Di Crocco, Reinhard Hohler, Liam C. Kelley, George Dutton, Justin McDaniel, David Smyth, Montira Rato, and Tarmo Rajasaari.

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The Journal of Siam Society welcomes original articles and reviews of a scholarly nature in conformity with the principles and objectives of the Siam Society, investigating the arts and sciences of Thailand and neighbouring countries.

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Articles should be primarily in English, and must be accompanied by a ten-line abstract in English and a five-line biographical note about the author(s). The word length of the contribution must be given in a covering letter, supplying full postal and e-mail addresses, and the author(s) must confirm that the article has not been published elsewhere in any form, nor is currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. Articles submitted to JSS are subject to review by external referees.

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References and bibliographical entries should follow modern academic practices appropriate to the field in which the article is written. Bibliographical entries must be complete and include the full name of the author(s), title, and publication data including the place of publication, publisher, and date of publication (with the original date of publication if the item used is a reprint).

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