

A Former President.

It is with the greatest regret that we have to record the death of Dr. Oscar Frankfurter, Ph. D., who for many years was the President of the Siam Society. He was elected in January 1906, and most worthily held that office for a longer period than any other of our Presidents. He died in Hamburg on the 1st October this year after a short illness, in the 71st year of his age. Dr. Frankfurter was born in Hamburg on the 23rd February, 1852, and was educated at the Universities of Göttingen and Berlin and took the degree of Ph. D. He then studied Eastern Languages at Oxford, and joined the Siamese government service in 1884. He was employed in various posts, including those of Chief Secretary in the General Adviser's Office, and Adviser in the Foreign Office, until the year 1905, when he received the appointment of Chief Librarian of the National Library, Bangkok, which post he occupied until the declaration of war by Siam in 1917.

Dr. Frankfurter was a sound scholar, and one of the kindest of men: he was one of the most valued and regular contributors to the Journal of the Society, and held the respect of all who knew him. His favorite motto was the saying attributed to Heraclitus, *panta rhei kai ouden menei*, but his memory will remain deep in the hearts of those to whom he was guide, philosopher and friend.

On hearing of his death the Council of the Society addressed the following letter of condolence to his widow:—

THE SIAM SOCIETY,
Bangkok,

December 15th, 1922.

DEAR MRS. FRANKFURTER,

The Siam Society has learned with deep sorrow of the death of Doctor Frankfurter and, at the unanimous request of the Council and Members, I write to offer you our heartfelt condolences in your sad affliction.

The Doctor will always live in the memory of the Society as the most enthusiastic of its original founders and as the foremost of the small and devoted band by whom the Society was kept in being during a time when its existence was threatened.

Those of us who enjoyed the privilege of association with your husband through the long period of his presidentship of the Society, deplore his death as that of an old and valued friend, and, remembering his many endearing qualities, can sympathise with you in your bereavement.

We trust that the knowledge of the respect and esteem in which the Doctor was held by us all, may bring you some small degree of comfort at this time of your great sorrow.

Believe me, Dear Mrs. Frankfurter,

Yours very truly,

W. A. GRAHAM,

President,

The Siam Society.

Dr. Frankfurter's contributions to the Journal of this Society include the following articles:—

Vol. I., (1905).—The Aims of the Society.

—King Mongkut.

Vol. II., Part 1, (1906).—Note on a supposed Dutch Translation of a Siamese State Paper in 1688.

—In memoriam Geheimrat Bastian.

Vol. III., Part 2, (1907).—Some suggestions for Romanizing Siamese.

—Secret Writing in Siamese.

Vol. IV., Part 1, (1907).—Siamese Missions to Ceylon in the 18th Century.

—The Romanizing of Siamese.

Vol. V., Part 4, (1909).—"Siam in 1688," translation of an early narrative, with introduction and notes.

Vol. VI., Part 3, (1909).—Translation of "Events in Ayudhya, 686-966," a manuscript presented to the National Library by Hluang Prasöt Aksornit, with introductory note on the indigenous sources of Siamese history.

—Some Remarks on Kaempfer's Description of Siam 1690.

Vol. VII., Part 2, (1911).—The Late King Chulalongkorn.

Vol. VIII., Part 3, (1912).—The Mission of Sir James Brooke to Siam.

Vol. X., Part 2, (1913).—The Attitudes of the Buddha, illustrated.

Vol. XI., Part 1, (1914).—Unofficial Mission of John Morgan.

Vol. XI., Part 2, (1915).—The Story of the Records of Siamese History, Translation of H. R. H. Prince Damrong's Preface to the History.

His other publications comprised the following:—

Handbook of Pāli, being an elementary grammar, a chrestomathy and a glossary.—London and Edinburgh, 1883.

Ein siamesischer Eulenspiegel: die Erlebnisse des Sri Thanonxai.—T'oung-Pao, July 1894, pp. 234–259.

Die böse Sieben.—T'oung-Pao, December 1894, pp. 393–397.

Translation into English of a sermon preached by Somdet Phra Vanarat on April 19, 1895, on the occasion of the demise of H. R. H. Prince Chow Fa Maha Vahirunhis.

Träume und ihre Bedeutung nach einem siamesischen Traumbuch. — Internat. Archiv für Ethnographie, VIII, 1895, pp. 150–153.

Die Emancipation der Sklaven in Siam.—Festschrift für Adolf Bastian zu seinem 70. Geburtstage, Berlin, 1896, pp. 575–582.

Siam.—Jahrbuch des internat. Vereinigung für vergleichende Rechtswissenschaft, III, 1896, pp. 824–828.

Die rechtlichen und wirtschaftlichen Verhältnisse in Siam.—Berlin, 1896.

Die siamesische Palastsprache.—Gurupūjākaumudi, Festgabe Albrecht Weber, Leipzig, 1896, pp. 95–96.

Elements of Siamese Grammar.—Bangkok and Leipzig, 1900.

- Siam.—The East of Asia magazine, 1902, pt. 2, pp. 115-121.
- Chapters V. (Siam from an historical standpoint), VI. (Language of Siam), VII. (Religion of Siam), in A. Cecil Carter's The Kingdom of Siam, New York, London, 1904.
- A proposed change in the Siamese era Chulasakaraj 1,000 (A.D. 1638).—T'oung-Pao, March 1907, pp. 99-104.
- Chapters on Buddhism (pp. 207-214), and on the National Library (pp. 248-251) in Twentieth Century Impressions of Siam 1908.
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