

# THE COINAGE OF SIAM.

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## The Coins of the Bangkok Dynasty, 1782-1924.

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PAPER READ AT AN ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE SIAM SOCIETY ON THE 20TH MAY 1924.  
BY R. S. LE MAY, M.R.A.S.

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Your Royal Highnesses, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :—

It is nearly two years now since Mr. Michell, your Honorary Secretary, first did me the honour of asking me, in the name of the Council, if I would be prepared to read a paper before the Society on the subject of Siamese coins.

Although I could not fix a date then owing to my approaching departure for Burma and India, I promised Mr. Michell I would keep the matter well in mind, with the result that I am now privileged to appear before you, to treat of a subject which I think I may say is practically 'virgin soil', as yet almost untouched by the hand of research.

For some reason or other, perhaps on account of its inherent difficulties, the subject of numismatics in Siam has not yet attracted the serious attention of any student of this country's past. Collectors there have been, and still are; in fact, some fifteen to twenty years ago very high prices were paid for ancient Siamese coins of any degree of rarity—but no serious attempt appears to have been made by any collector to present the fruits of his studies to the public. But you will all agree with me, I am sure, that the study of Siam's coinage and coinage system should certainly form one of the aims of a Society such as ours: and, with this in my mind, I have ventured to step into the breach, and to make an endeavour to obtain some reliable information regarding the coins of Siam.

As you will see from the title of my paper to-night, I am only as yet prepared to deal with the coins of the Bangkok Dynasty, i.e. from 1782 A. D. to the present year of grace.

I know that, in doing so, I shall appear to be "putting the cart before the horse", but the story of the pre-Bangkok coinage of this country presents unusual difficulties, and if I were to wait until I was in a position to attempt anything like a clear description of the coins of that period, it might be many years before a start could be made.

I have thought it advisable, therefore, to make a beginning of my study of Siamese coinage by setting forth, without any further delay, a description of the coins of the Bangkok Dynasty, as far as our knowledge carries us at present. Even here it may well be that modifications and alterations will become necessary in the years to come, in the light of further information gained, especially in regard to the first three reigns. Indeed, I hope this attempt on my part will be the means of bringing new facts to light. Fortunately, from 1860 onwards, there is plenty of documentary evidence obtainable, and I do not anticipate, as far as the last three reigns are concerned, that much revision will be required in the survey now presented.

In the research work which I have undertaken, I have been fortunate enough to secure the collaboration of H. S. H. Prince Piya, the foremost collector of coins in Siam for more than 30 years past, who has been kind enough to place his collection and his knowledge freely at my disposal in studying this subject. I owe him a great debt of gratitude which I take pleasure in thus publicly acknowledging; and I may add further that the majority of the most valuable coins shown here this evening come from H. S. H.'s collection.

I must also express my sincere thanks to H. R. H. Prince Damrong, who has, as always, given me valuable hints and suggestions throughout.

It is by this friendly collaboration between the Siamese and European members of our Society that the most useful and valuable results can be gained.

The only works which deal in any way with Siamese coinage, that I have been able to trace, are as follows:—

1. A Report on Siamese Money to the Ministry of Finance at Paris, dated 1901.
2. A Catalogue of the collection of Siamese coins in the possession of H. M. the King of Italy, dated 1898.
3. A Book of Photographs of the Coinage issued in various portions of the Kingdom of Siam—prepared for the Library of the Ministry of Interior.
4. The Description of Siam by M. de la Loubère, who visited this Country as French Ambassador in 1687-88—Vol. I, pages 219 et seq.; and Appendix in Vol. II, pages 48-50.
5. "Moedas de Siam" (Siamese Money), by A. Marques Pereira (1879).
6. "Siamese Coinage", a pamphlet by Mr. Joseph Haas, the Austro-Hungarian Vice Consul in Shanghai, published in that city in 1880.

There is also a little volume on Siamese porcelain and other Tokens by Mr. H. A. Ramsden, published in Yokohama in 1911. All the information given regarding their use was borrowed from Mr. Haas, and the volume has but little bearing on the subject of this paper.

Of the above material, No. 1 is not available in the National Library here, and I have not as yet seen a copy of it. I can form no idea, therefore, of the value this Report may possess.

No. 2 is also not available, but in any case without the collection, with which to compare the details given, it would probably not be of much material assistance.

No. 3 is a photographic record of a collection of considerable size and variety, and has been a constant source of help. In some cases an attempt has been made to describe the marks, and to date the coins shown, but such details must be accepted with great reserve.

No. 4 gives an interesting account of the money in current use in Siam at the time the book was written, viz. 1687-88; and, what is more, gives a competent drawing of the marks on the

"bullet" tical of the reigning Monarch, King Narai, thus enabling us to place definitely *one* of the coins of the Ayuthia period. ¶

No. 5 is a short essay on Siamese coinage by A. Marques Pereira, who was at one time Portuguese Consul-General at Bangkok. It is referred to by Mr. Haas, and is of some importance from the fact that it makes certain definite statements regarding the subsidiary coinage of the Bangkok Dynasty.

No. 6 is an attempt by Mr. Haas, the Austro-Hungarian Vice Consul at Shanghai, who visited Bangkok about 1879, to give a description of the coins of Siam. In this pamphlet of only 30 pages he gives a good deal of information of a miscellaneous kind, dealing with the history of the country and its gambling-houses, and including a list of the Kings of Siam, while ten pages are devoted to tributary States. The actual space given to the coinage of Siam is small indeed, and that Mr. Haas did not go very deeply into the subject may be gathered from the following remark:—

"I have been unable to trace any coins from the first"  
 "and second Dynasty, *and it still remains an open question*"  
 "*whether such existed.*\* The oldest coins of which specimens remain"  
 "date from the 3rd. Dynasty (1630-1780) and were made at"  
 "Ayuthia, then the Capital of the Kingdom."

This is a bold statement on the part of a writer on Siamese coins, seeing that there were only 7 Kings of the 3rd. Dynasty, who reigned long enough to have issued coins bearing their own marks, and that at least 17 different Ayuthia marks are known out of a possible total of 20, to say nothing of pre-Ayuthian coins.

Still the little work is of a certain value in other directions, and I have been able to glean some interesting and, I think, reliable details from it.

This exhausts the material at my disposal already in existence, and it is not, therefore, without some show of reason that I call the subject practically "virgin soil".

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\* The italics are mine.

I should not, however, forget to mention also the Report published of the Centennial of Bangkok held in 1882, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the City's foundation. In connection with the celebrations a grand Exhibition was held, and the Report gives an epitome of the contents of Department No. 20 of the Exhibition, which was devoted to "Gold, Silver, Bronze and Crockery Coins". The compiler of the Report states that "the catalogue of" "the articles placed on exhibit in this room is full of interest to" "the antiquarian. The historical sketch of the many coins is well" "worth perusal, but is decidedly too long for insertion here." "Antiquarian Societies might afford to have it translated and" "published for general information."

Unfortunately, no copy of this catalogue is at present known, but H. S. H. Prince Piya, who was present at the Exhibition, tells me that the author of the catalogue was well known to him, and that the information given was based more on hearsay and legendary tradition than on accurate scientific research. At the same time a certain amount of interesting information is contained in the Report itself, and reference will be made to it again later on.

Now, although, as I have said previously, I am not going to attempt to-night a description of the coins of the pre-Bangkok period, still I feel that a brief glance at the history of Siam during those centuries, and also at the coinage of the neighbouring countries, is essential, if we are to understand and to appreciate the coinage of this later period now dealt with. Let us therefore consider the history of Siam briefly from a coinage point of view.

It is now agreed that the aborigines of Siam Proper, that is to say, the first historical people known, were the Lawa, whose Capital was at Lawo, the ancient name of Lopburi. There is no evidence to show what coinage system, if any, the Lawa had. If they used any metal at all, they probably used lumps of silver alloy or bronze for barter purposes, but it is at present idle to speculate since we know very little as yet of their history, government or customs.

From Siam Proper and the north the Lawa were driven to the hills by the Môn from the west during the early centuries of the Christian era, to be followed by the Khmer from the east at a period between the ninth and eleventh centuries.

In neither of these empires, according to reliable authorities, does it appear that there was any type or system of standard coinage in vogue.

It is known that there was a considerable colony of Indian peoples at Phra Pathom in the fifth and sixth centuries A. D., who had reached a reasonably high standard of civilisation, if we may judge from the sculptures discovered there, among which are excellent specimens of the Gupta Period of the Great Peninsula. I mention this because at Phra Pathom have been dug up flat coins of a distinctly Southern Indian type, with the conch-shell of Vishnu on one side, and the trident of Siva on the other (*Plate I No. 1*), but as similar types of coin have been found in Burma, and also in Indo-China, it seems probable that these coins were not indigenous, but were brought to Siam by Indian immigrants. At any rate, they are not of Môn or Khmer origin. Of true Môn or Khmer coins issued in Siam, no traces exist at present.

In his study of the coins of Arakan, Pegu, and of Burma, issued in 1882, Sir Arthur Phayre states categorically that coined money was not used in ancient times in the countries of Indo-China. In Arakan coins were first struck for the purposes of currency, and as a declaratory act of sovereignty, towards the end of the sixteenth, or the beginning of the seventeenth, century of the Christian era.

The system then adopted was taken from that existing in Bengal under the Muhammadan Kings, with which Province of India Arakan was at that time closely connected.

Several centuries before these pieces of money were issued, coins bearing religious symbols, but without date, and occasionally without any legend, had been struck by Kings of Arakan. A similar practice had existed in Pegu, though there is no distinct evidence as to the dynasty which caused such coins to be issued.

There is no proof of coins having been struck until recent times, in *Upper Burma*.

Some of the symbolical coins bear Buddhist, and some Hindu symbols, and these symbols were probably copied from ancient Indian coins.

In Pegu the dynasties were also originally Indian. The traditions and the native chronicles, as well as the name 'Talaing' (for Môn), show that settlements were made long before the Christian era at points of the coast on and near the delta of the Irawadi by people from ancient Kalinga and Telingana in Eastern India. At the end of his work Sir Arthur Phayre gives illustrations of two silver coins, with no date or legend, but with the conch-shell of Vishnu on the obverse, and the trident of Siva on the reverse, within which is an object which may represent a lingam with a serpent.

He states that a number of coins similar to these two were lately dug up about 25 miles from the town of Sittaung in Pegu, and he concludes by saying that these coins, which may have been cast in Pegu at a time when Hindu doctrines had undermined Buddhism, were probably not intended for currency, but as amulets by votaries of the doctrines represented by the symbols used.

This type of coin, as will be seen (*Plate I No. 2*), is very similar to that found in Siam at Phra Pathom.

I find it difficult to accept the above interpretation regarding the coins found in Siam, since, if these coins were for use as amulets only, why are there no holes in any of the specimens found, whereby to hang them round the neck? And this question applies equally to the coins found in Burma.

But this is a digression, and I wish now to turn to Cambodia, and see what can be gleaned from the history of that country.

In his monumental tome, entitled "Recherches sur les Cambodgiens", M. Groslier, Directeur des Arts Cambodgiens at Phnompenh, deals at length with the commerce and money of that

country, and arrives at the same conclusion as Sir Arthur Phayre in Burma, namely, that up to the close of the sixteenth century, no system of coinage was ever adopted in Cambodia. He pertinently asks the question "For what were products exchanged?" and he gives as answer a quotation from Tcheou Ta-Kouan, a Chinese Envoy at the close of the XIIIth century:—"In small transactions one paid in rice, cereals, and Chinese objects, followed later by cloth: in more important affairs one used gold and silver" (presumably by weight).

It is strange that an Empire, which lasted for at least six centuries; which stretched as far as Jaya in the South, Burma in the West, and Sukhotai in the North; and which could produce such a wonder of civilized culture as the Angkor Wat, still never found it necessary or expedient to employ any standard system of gold and silver coinage throughout its territories. And yet perhaps not so strange, when we consider that China still stands to-day in almost the same position numismatically.

According to M. Groslier, the first coins of Cambodia, of which any definite knowledge is known, were struck in 1595 by Sotha I, King of Cambodia: and from that date the use of silver and copper coinage was permanent and constant, right up to the time of the establishment of the French Protectorate.

Before 1595 a great deal of silver was imported from China in well defined weights, namely, variants of the "tael", which in Cambodia became the "damleng" (hence the Siamese "tamleung")—and from an inscription found in Angkor Wat, dated 1444 A. D., it appears that a gift was made from one person to another of "1 damleng, 3 bat, 1 sleng and 1 pey", thus giving us practically the whole gamut of Siam's coinage, although at that time they were only intended to indicate weights, as far as Cambodia was concerned.

Having thus disposed of Burma and Cambodia, there only remains the North of Siam, and it is from there that a ray of light comes to illumine our path.

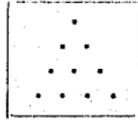
For many hundreds of years previous to the last century the province of Bayab remained a congeries of semi-independent principalities, and many of these are represented in the numismatic world by what may pass for coins, although in all cases they have taken on very peculiar forms. But most of those known to-day were in all probability of a date posterior to 1350 A. D., and therefore can play no part in tracing the origin of the "bullet" tical, from which they differ essentially. We must seek it elsewhere.

The history of the north is, as you all know, immersed in legend and romance. It seems that the Mòns held considerable sway there in and from the seventh century A. D., but that the Cambodian Empire never stretched its confines much further north than Sawankalok. As far as the Mòns are concerned, as I have said, no known coinage exists to-day. As far as one can say at present, it is only in connection with the independent Kingdom of Sukothai-Sawankalok that coins, similar in type to the "bullet" ticals of yesterday, make their appearance; and it is only from that period of Siam's history that we can at present derive any information regarding her coinage system. Of this, what may be called, pre-Ayuthian coinage a good many specimens are still extant, and the questions which require answering are as follows:—

- (1) What is the origin of this type of coin?
- (2) How far back from the Sukothai period does its use reach?

I have brought here to-night a few specimens of the pre-Ayuthian period for your examination (*Plate I, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7*), and you will see at once their close connection with the Ayuthian (*Plate I No. 8*) and Bangkok (*Plate I No. 11*) "bullet" ticals: so that we need not labour this point further. Now, as regards our two questions. We know that the invaders of the Khmer empire came from the North, i.e. from China, where may still be found the home of the "Thai" race, and there seems little doubt that the shape of the "bullet" tical was inspired by people who came from that country. Certainly it was not derived from India, where no coins, other than flat ones, are known. But although we may be reasonably certain that the "bullet" tical had its inspiration in China, yet no such shaped Chinese coin is at present known to me.

In fact M. de la Loubère, in his account of Siam, says that the Chinese never had any silver or gold coinage. And the form of the tical is surely unique. So far as my knowledge carries me, no other country has ever produced such a type. Whether this originated then in the minds of the rulers of Sukothai themselves, or whether it was derived from an older type of coin—both this question, and the second question must remain problems for future investigation. I will but add an interesting point, namely that, although the form is either indigenous or Chinese in character, most of the stamps or marks on the coins bear unmistakable signs of Indian influence: and we thus have one more good reason for naming this part of the world the Indo-Chinese Peninsula. I will give but one example, a horizontal (not vertical) mark,



the “Rāchāvāt (Pali, Rājāvās),”<sup>\*</sup> or “Sovereignty” mark, formed of 7, 9, or 10 dots in the shape of a pyramid, which is one of the oldest and most distinctive marks on a Siamese “bullet” tical. You will find an almost identical design on the flat coins of the Andhra Dynasty, which reigned in Southern and Central India from the middle of the IIIrd. century B. C. to the end of the IIInd. century A. D.

No doubt the use of these Indian marks was due to the influence of the Brahminism which flourished, in company with Buddhism, in Central Siam before and during the periods covered by the Sukothai and Ayuthia dynasties.

The foundation of the Kingdom of Siam, with its Capital at Ayuthia, though not made by the same branch, was made by the same race that established Sukothai, namely the “Thai”; and we find, therefore, throughout the 417 years of its life, a close attachment to the Sukothai form of coin, modified and standardised, but still true to type. It is indeed rather astonishing to find that no King of this period ever thought of the desirability of minting flat coins,

<sup>\*</sup> This word is used in Siamese to denote a fence which marks a Royal route or enclosure: signifying that the land enclosed is under the Royal dominion.

not even the famous King Narai, with all the European influence that surrounded him.

But so it was, and although, out of the 20 reigns of Ayuthia, which lasted more than 6 years apiece, as many as 17 representative types of "bullet" ticals are extant, it is impossible at present even to conjecture their respective periods of issue, since there are no effigies and no dates to guide one in the work.

I have now, I think, said enough to show why I have thought it advisable to confine my studies for the moment to the Bangkok Dynasty, and how the earlier periods bristle with what seem at present to be insuperable difficulties.

Let us therefore delay no longer, but take up the subject of our paper tonight. I trust, however, you will feel that I have not unduly wasted your time with the preliminary survey I have made.

### **The Coins of the Bangkok Dynasty.**

Up to the beginning of the sixties of the last century, that is, in the reign of King Mongkut (the 4th. of the Dynasty), the coinage of the Bangkok period, as far as its shape is concerned, followed the example set by the Ayuthia period (1350-1767). The tical is represented by a short bar of silver, with both its ends pressed inwards so that they practically meet.

This is called in Siamese "p'hōt dūang", of which "dūang" means "worm", and "p'hot" means "twisted or curled", from the Pali "Baddha" = "bound". From the shape thus formed arises the popular name "bullet" tical. The silver coins of lesser value were also formed in a similar manner.

As far as is known, there was no gold or copper coinage in the first and second reigns of the Bangkok Dynasty. In the third reign (1824-1851) the first gold "bullet" coins (of the weight of 1 Fuang =  $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical) were minted, three different personal marks being used. In the fourth reign (1851-1868) gold coins, both of the "bullet" and flat shapes, were minted, and flat silver and copper coinage first came into use. After the 4th. reign the minting of gold

coins practically ceased, but the silver and copper coinage remained. This latter has now been replaced in part by a nickel coinage.

To return now to the silver coinage. Two marks, in Siamese called "Trā", appear on the coin in each case, the mark of the dynasty being impressed on the top, and the personal mark of the reigning Sovereign just below it.

As I have already said, there are no dates, inscriptions or effigies on this type of coin, and it is this lack of graphic material that makes the study of the coins of the older dynasties of Siam so difficult. Fortunately, with regard to the Bangkok dynasty, the personal mark or stamp of each King on most of the Tical value coins is a matter of common knowledge, but the subsidiary coinage still presents certain difficulties. The dynastic stamp is the same for all the reigns of this dynasty.

The most notable exception in the Tical value coins is in connection with the interregnum of Phya Tak (1767 - 1782), who drove the Burmans out of Siam and paved the way for the foundation of Bangkok under the House of Chakkri. I will refer to this again in a moment. In the year 1781 Phya Tak became mad and was eventually put to death by his chief General, Chao Phya Chakkri, who in 1782 raised himself to the throne of Siam under the style and title of Somdet Phra Phutta Yawt Fa (His Majesty the Lord of the Highest Heaven) and settled the Capital of his Kingdom at Bangkok.

Two personal stamps or marks are commonly attributed to this first reign, namely the "Tri" (popularly called "Kri") from 1782-1786, and the "Unalom" (or "Bua") from 1786-1809, (*Plate I No. 11, and No. 13*), but the question is still sometimes debated whether the earlier of these two stamps, the "Tri", should not be assigned to the interregnum of Phya Tak. The Marques Pereira, in his little work written in 1879, categorically allots the "Tri" mark to Phya Tak, though he gives no authority for doing so.

On the whole, I am against this supposition and am inclined to agree with the modern opinion that both marks belong to Chao Phya Chakkri.

There are many reasons in favour of this. In the first place, after the fall of Ayuthia in 1767 at the hands of the Burmese, constant irregular fighting went on for some years, and Phya Tak must have been kept busily occupied in subduing the countryside. He had moreover no settled Capital city, and he was probably content to go on using the old Ayuthian ticals.

Secondly, on the "Tri" coins appears the "Chakr" or "Discus" for the first time (*Plate I No. 6*), and this mark has remained constant through all the succeeding reigns as the dynastic mark; and Chao Phya Chakkri was not of the same family as Phya Tak.

Thirdly, there is the similarity between the name of the King's family, and those of the two marks chosen.

It is true that the name "Chakkri" is one word in Siamese *จกักริ*, a Sanskrit word meaning 'strong' or 'powerful'; whereas "Chakr" and "Tri" (or "Kri") are two distinct and separate words: but the similarity between them is too striking to be a coincidence, and one must infer that the King chose the two symbols named on account of their resemblance to his own name.

During the reign of Chao Phya Chakkri we may thus record two issues of coinage, as follows:—

### I. Somdet Phra Phutta Yawt Fa ( 1782-1809 ).

AR (I) — 1782.

(Round).	1	Tical	
	$\frac{1}{2}$	Tical	
	$\frac{1}{4}$	Tical	(Salung)

Coins of the value of  $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical (Fuang),  $\frac{1}{16}$  (Sik), and  $\frac{1}{32}$  (Pai) are not known now, but were possibly also coined.

The  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical are both very scarce.

The above coins bear two stamps or marks, as already stated, namely, the "Chakr" or "sharp-edged Discus", and the "Tri" (which is

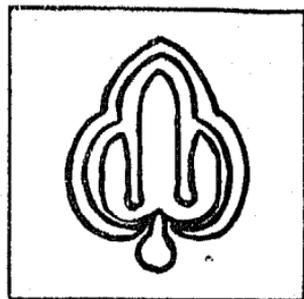
the shortened form of "Trisoon") or "Trident": the former emblem being a symbol of the Hindu God, Vishnu, and the latter \*one of Siva.

The two marks mentioned are as given below :—

Mark of  
"Chakr"



Mark of  
"Trī"



The "Trī" varies slightly, according to the period of minting, but the above is a representative form.

There is another form of the 'Trī' mark, with two prongs only, popularly called "Krā (Trā) Sawm", but this is almost certainly a forgery.

An important point in connection with the minting of these "bullet" ticals may be noticed here.

During the whole of the Ayuthia period (1350-1767), when the ends of the bar of silver had been pressed inwards sufficiently for minting purposes, each end received a *single*, firm, hammer-mark; so that, if you look at the sides of an Ayuthia tical, you will find that each presents a perfectly flat surface (*Plate I No. 9*).

This practice was continued intermittently for a time during the reign of the first King of the Bangkok Dynasty, but was gradually superseded by another practice of stamping each of the ends with *two* hammer marks, so that a distinct ridge is visible on each side of the coin. From the reign of the second King onwards this latter practice was rigidly followed, and forms one of the distinguishing features between the Bangkok and Ayuthia coins (*Plate I No. 10*).

Of the ticals stamped with the "Chakr" and the "Trī", three varieties are found, as follows :—

( a ) With a single hammer mark on each side.

( b ) With a single hammer mark on one side, and two hammer marks on the other.

( c ) With traces of two hammer marks on each side.

The '2 Salung' and '1 Salung' pieces which I have seen showed faint traces of double-marking on one side only.

In the year 1786, according to current report, the coins with the "Tri" stamp were replaced by a set with a new design.

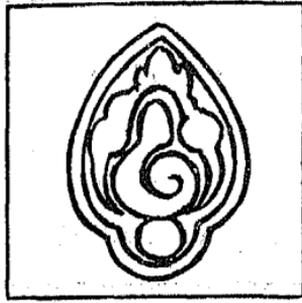
The normal number of coins issued of a series was six, viz. Tical (Baht), 2 Salung, Salung, Fuang, Sik and Pai. But there is another very rare coin of this second issue known, of the value of two Ticals (*Plate I No. 12*). Some doubt is cast upon its authenticity, owing to the shape; but the quality of the silver is good, the weight is correct, and the marks are almost certainly authentic, and I myself see no reason for doubting it: in point of fact, I consider it a genuine coin.

**AR (II) — 1786.**

<b>(Round).</b>	2 Ticals	
	1 Tical	
	$\frac{1}{2}$ Tical	
	$\frac{1}{4}$ Tical	(Salung)
	$\frac{1}{8}$ Tical	(Fuang)
	$\frac{1}{16}$ Tical	(Sik)
	$\frac{1}{32}$ Tical	(Pai)

These coins were stamped with the "Unalom", or "Eyebrow Curl", a sacred mark sometimes found on the forehead of an image of the Buddha. It takes the form of a conch-shell set up vertically on its head. This mark is popularly known as "Krā (Trā) Bua", or "lotus mark," on account of the shape of the frame. As the other stamp, the "Chakr", is constant, it is not shown again. A reproduction of the "Unalom" is given below:—

Mark of "Unalom"



The reason for the change in the personal mark of the Sovereign is, according to the story told, that on some auspicious occasion the King was presented with a magnificent conch-shell (in Siamese called "Sāng Kānōk") mounted in gold, and that he was so pleased with it that he at once adopted it as his personal sign, and ordered it to be stamped on his coins henceforth.

The Sīk and Pai with this mark are scarce.

As regards the hammer marks on this type of coin, oddly enough, the same three varieties are found as in those marked with the "Trī". It is rather difficult to account for this reversion to type, except that the double hammer-marking on the "Trī" coins is not by any means as distinct as on those of the later reigns. But in any case, it may be assumed, I think, that of the "Unalom" coins, those with the single hammer mark on each side were issued first, followed by those with a single mark on the one and double marks on the other, and eventually by those with distinct double-marking on both sides.

As the period of issue extended over 23 years, there are many different types of the "Unalom" mark to be found, varying from a clear and distinct form of the conch-shell, to a blurred, badly-defined and almost unrecognisable mark (*Plate I No. 14*).

A curious feature of most of the "Ayuthia" coins and many of the "Bangkok" ticals, too, is a peculiar cut, elliptical in shape, usually on the left hand side of the coin, just below the personal mark. I have not yet been able to discover the cause or the significance, if any, of this mark. Possibly it is purely accidental, caused in the process of minting.

## II. Somdet Phra Phutta Lert La ( 1809-1824 ).

The reign of this King, who was a son of the first King, is not an interesting one from a coinage point of view, as only one issue is known, and of that only four varieties, as follows:—

AR	1	Tical	
(Round).	$\frac{1}{2}$	Tical	
	$\frac{1}{4}$	Tical	... (Salung)
	$\frac{1}{8}$	Tical	... (Fuang)

Possibly, as before, the Sik ( $\frac{1}{16}$  Tical) and the Pai ( $\frac{1}{32}$  Tical) were also minted, but they are not known to collectors now. All the coins of lesser value than the Tical are scarce.

The marks on these coins are, first, the "Chakr" or dynasty mark on the top of the coin, and secondly the "Krüt" or "Garuda Bird," the vehicle of Vishnu, just below it (*Plate I No. 15*). It may be mentioned that the "Krüt" or "Garuda Bird" has again been chosen as the royal emblem by His present Majesty, but not for use on coins. It is seen, however, on the current issue of Siamese stamps.

Mark of "Krüt"



It is curious that the subsidiary coinage, both of the "Krüt" and of the "Tri" marks, should be so scarce now-a-days.

The question has arisen whether some of the many subsidiary issues now attributed to the third Reign do not belong to the earlier Kings, but the evidence is against this. I shall, however, refer to this matter again later, when dealing with the issues in question. Let us pass on, then, without further ado, to the prolific coinage of the third King of the Dynasty.

### III. Somdet Phra Nang Klao (1824-1851).

During the reign of this King, who was the second son of the second King, we come across the first evidence of *gold* coins being minted under the Bangkok dynasty. The coins are small, of the weight of one fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical) only, and are still bullet-shaped. They are three in number, each bearing a different personal stamp, in addition to the "Chakr", as follows:—

- AV** 1 Fuang — "Trā Prāsāt," or "Palace" mark.  
**(Round).** 1 Fuang — "Trā Dawk Mai", or "Flower" mark.  
 1 Fuang — "Trā Bai Matūm", or "Bai Matūm" mark.

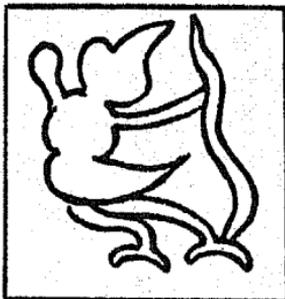
These marks will be shown under the silver coins, similarly stamped.

It is not yet definitely known when (if ever), or for how long, these gold coins were put into general circulation; but they are said to have been first distributed by King Phra Nang Klao himself in C. S. 1210 (A. D. 1848), at the inauguration ceremony of Wat Poh, which is situated next to the Royal Palace, and is one of the most important temples in Bangkok. All three were coined at the same time, and of the same quality gold. They are now very scarce.

Of silver coinage, the first example to come under our notice is a large coin,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Ticals in weight, bearing the mark, in addition to the "Chakr," of the "Krūt Sio" or "Garuda Bird" in profile. There are two types of this stamp (*Plate II Nos. 1 and 2*), differing slightly, as follows:—

- AR**  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Ticals.  
**(Round).**

(1) Mark of  
 "Krūt Sio"



(2) Mark of  
 "Krūt Sio"



These coins are said to have been struck by King Phra Nang Klao in honour of his father, King Phra Phutta Lert La, (the "Krüt" being the personal mark of the latter), for distribution among the courtiers. It may be assumed, with confidence, that they never came into general circulation as coin of the realm.

The same remark applies to a silver coin of the weight of one tical, stamped with the "Chaleo", struck twice on the coin (*Plate II No. 3*). This was also minted and distributed on some special occasion, now forgotten, and is a very rare coin:—

AR                    1 Tical  
(Round).

The "Chaleo" (ເຂລາວ) is a device made by folding and crossing a thin bamboo strip in the form of a trigram.

There are two kinds of "Chaleo". In one the points of the angles are sharp, thus:—(as appears on the coin)

Mark of "Chaleo"



In the other they are round.

It may be of interest to record that the "Chaleo" serves three purposes, viz :

a ) As an advertisement of sale.\*

If you put up a "Chaleo" on your boat, it means that your boat is offered for sale, and the meaning is understood by all, whereas a sign-board with letters will be understood by the literate only.

\* It may be mentioned that, for purposes of advertisement for sale, a bamboo fish-plate attached to a stick is also used, and when so used it is called a "Chaleo".

In olden times, when a wife misconducted herself, large red flowers called 'Dawk Chaba' (scarlet hibiscus) were placed on her ears, and a garland of the same flower was placed on her head, another round her neck, and a "Chaleo" tied in front of her face by a string round the head. She was then led round the town for three days by officials beating gongs. The object was to expose her to public contempt (cf. Law of Husband and Wife in Bradley's "Kot Mai Lem Nung"). I think the "Chaleo" in this case was also meant as an advertisement of sale, though not in the sense of an actual business proposition.

b) As a charm to keep off evil spirits.

A "Chaleo" is put on the medicine pot to prevent evil spirits from sucking out the essence of the medicine. The old method of extracting the essence of medicinal plants was by boiling them (leaves and roots generally) in an earthen pot, and the extract so obtained was used as medicine. Before boiling, the mouth of the pot was covered with a banana leaf or a piece of paper (usually the former) and into this a little "Chaleo" was stuck upright. This method is still in use among the people.

c) As a boundary mark.

The Siamese Dictionary published by the Ministry of Education says that the "Chaleo" is also used as a boundary mark. An example of its use in this connection is not known to me.

No doubt, the explanation given under (b) accounts for its presence on the coin under record, and it may be regarded as a specific charm to ward off evil spirits.

We now come to the silver coins in general current use. There are attributed to this reign no less than five distinct types of marks, as follows:—

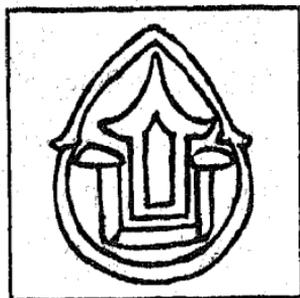
**AR. (I)** The mark or stamp most widely used was the  
**(Round).** "Trā Prāsāt", or "Palace" mark, commonly called "Krā Keng". Six normal values of this

type are known (*Plate II Nos. 5 to 10*), but, as in the case of the "Trā Unalom", there is also a very rare seventh coin, this time of the value of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Ticals (*Plate II No. 4*), bearing the mark of the "Prāsāt".

The authenticity of this coin has also been questioned, but if the quality of the silver, the shape of the coin, correctness of weight, and the form of the marks are true criteria by which to judge, then this coin is undoubtedly genuine, and I have accordingly included it

$1\frac{1}{2}$	Ticals	
1	Tical	
$\frac{1}{2}$	Tical	
$\frac{1}{4}$	Tical	( Salung )
$\frac{1}{8}$	Tical	( Fuang )
$\frac{1}{16}$	Tical	( Sīk )
$\frac{1}{32}$	Tical	( Pai )

mark of " Prāsāt "

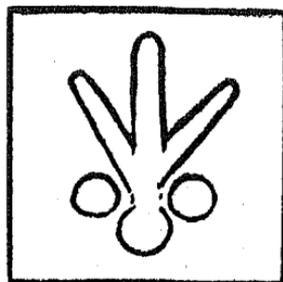


As an interesting curiosity I may mention that I have an undoubtedly genuine Ayuthian coin of the "Trā Bua Yān" type, which has been stamped in addition with the "Trā Prāsāt."

**AR (II)** The second type of stamp is the "Trā Dawk Mai," or "Flower" mark (*Plate II No. 11*), also consisting of six values, namely:—

1	Tical	
$\frac{1}{2}$	Tical	
$\frac{1}{4}$	Tical	( Salung )
$\frac{1}{8}$	Tical	( Fuang )
$\frac{1}{16}$	Tical	( Sīk )
$\frac{1}{32}$	Tical	( Pai )

mark of "Dawk Mai"

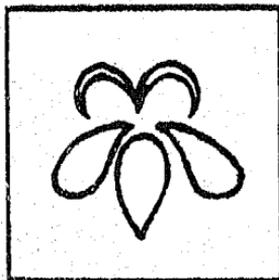


This issue is said to have been used for gifts at Cremation ceremonies, but they certainly afterwards came into general circulation, at any rate the lesser values. The Tical and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Tical are scarce

**AR (III)** The third type of stamp is the "Bai Matūm" (ใบมะตูม) mark, *Aegle Marmelos*, *Correa* (the Bale-Fruit tree) (*Plate II No. 12*) and also consists of six values, namely :—

1	Tical	
$\frac{1}{2}$	Tical	
$\frac{1}{4}$	Tical	(Salung)
$\frac{1}{8}$	Tical	(Fuang)
$\frac{1}{16}$	Tical	(Sik)
$\frac{1}{32}$	Tical	(Pai)

mark of "Bai Matūm"



The Salung and Fuang are common, but the other values are rare.

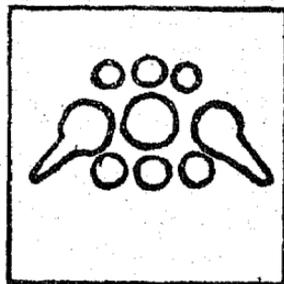
These coins are said to have been issued at the cremations of the Queen Mother and of one of the King's daughters.

**AR (IV)** The fourth type is the "Trā Ruang Peung", or "Bee-hive" mark (*Plate II No. 13*), owing to its similarity to a bee-hive.

Of this type there are four values, namely,

$\frac{1}{4}$	Tical	(Salung)
$\frac{1}{8}$	Tical	(Fuang)
$\frac{1}{16}$	Tical	(Sik)
$\frac{1}{32}$	Tical	(Pai)

mark of "Ruang Peung"



It will be noticed that there are no values of 1 or  $\frac{1}{2}$  Tical. All the four values given were in common use, and the Salung and Fuang are still easily found to-day.

**AR (V)** Fifthly, there is another type of stamp which has been tentatively placed in this reign (*Plate II No. 14*), as it resembles type **(II)**.

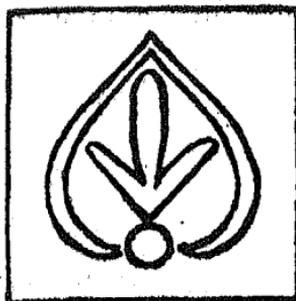
There are four values known, as follows:—

$\frac{1}{4}$	Tical	(Salung)
$\frac{1}{8}$	Tical	(Fuang)
$\frac{1}{16}$	Tical	(Sik)
$\frac{1}{32}$	Tical	(Pai)

The mark on these coins resembles an arrow-head with a single dot below it. In the Salung value there is a frame to the mark, but in the smaller values the frame is not always present, or at any rate visible.

The mark, under **(II)**, as will be seen, has no frame, and has three dots under the "arrow-head" instead of one, as shown below.

mark of "arrow-head"



Prince Piya thinks the above type merely a variant of (II), and issued at the same time. I cannot yet accept this fully.

The five types mentioned above are defined as I, II, III, IV, and V; but it is not intended to convey the idea that they were issued in that order. The dates of their issue are not known now, and though they are all attributed to the 3rd. reign, a doubt still flickers in one's mind whether some of them should not be assigned, as already remarked, to previous reigns, of which the subsidiary coinage now appears to be so scarce.

Of the five types, (I), i.e. the "Trā Prāsāt", may definitely be assigned to the 3rd. reign.

Of the next three, the Marques Pereira assigns (IV), the "Ruang Peung" or "Bee-hive" mark, to the 1st. reign, (III) the "Ba, Matūm" mark, to the 2nd. reign, and (II), the "Flower" mark, to the 3rd. reign.

He makes no mention of (V), which apparently escaped his notice.

He quotes no actual authorities for so assigning these coins, and he is probably writing purely on hearsay evidence. At the same time we must remember that he wrote his account 45 years ago, when knowledge of the coinage of the previous reigns should still have been fairly fresh in the minds of the people. On the other hand, Prince Piya obtained his information first hand, from officials employed in the coining Department, that four of these issues emanated from the Palace of the 3rd. King of the Dynasty,

and the fact of the three different marks on the small gold coins is probably good evidence, that the silver coins bearing the same marks were issued in the same reign.

I have therefore thought it best to group them in the order and reign just described. If at any time alteration is necessary, it can be effected later without much difficulty.

Prince Piya points out with regard to this question that the 1st and 2nd reigns were times of stress and war, and that little coinage was needed, since commerce was thereby seriously restricted; and that it was not until the third reign that the peaceful conditions necessary for an expanding trade and commerce were established: hence the paucity of the coins of the first two reigns. This may be the explanation of this curious fact, as even the subsidiary values of the "Unalom" mark are not easy to obtain.

#### IV. Sorndet Phra Chawm Klao (Mongkut) (1851-1868).

The fourth reign of the Bangkok Dynasty, which saw the opening up of Siam to foreign commerce and trade, was also the turning-point in the history of Siamese coinage, as during its course the "bullet" shaped coins, which had been the currency of Siam for so many hundreds of years, finally ceased to be minted for practical purposes, and their place was taken by the regular flat coin with arms, or effigy, and inscription, now in almost universal use.

It would occupy too much time to enter here into all the interesting circumstances and details surrounding the introduction of the first modern minting apparatus into Siam, but it may be noted that the question had arisen as early as 1856 (if not earlier) and enquiries had been made in England regarding its cost. It is clear from the correspondence between Sir Robert Schomburgk, the British Consul, and H. M. King Mongkut, that the shortage of silver "bullet" ticals for trading purposes had reached an acute stage in February

1858, and that the King was anxious to obtain, at as early a date as possible, a coining press large enough to turn out about 100,000 ticals a day. This shows how quickly the trade and commerce of the country had grown since 1851, the date of the King's accession.

In March 1858 Sir R. Schomburgk was requested and authorised, on behalf of the Government, to obtain, through the British Government, a minting machine at a cost of £2,000, and two engineers to work it. At the same time the Siamese Government expressed their grateful thanks for the small minting apparatus which Queen Victoria had graciously ordered for the King as a present, although the latter would naturally not be capable of supplying the requisite amount of coinage now demanded.

Sir R. Schomburgk took the necessary steps, as requested, only to find a few months later that the Siamese Envoys, who had recently gone to England, had already ordered a complete minting apparatus during their tour of the manufacturing districts. The Government order was therefore countermanded, and the Envoys' order was carried out by Messrs. Taylor of Birmingham, at a cost of £3,000. This firm also made the small machine presented by Queen Victoria, mentioned above.

It is not quite clear when the new machinery arrived, but it was stated to be "nearly finished" in May 1858, and it probably reached Bangkok, therefore, at the end of 1858 or beginning of 1859. But little time was lost in minting the new flat silver Ticals, for the Edict announcing their issue to the public is dated September 17, 1860.

This minting apparatus was, I am told, set up in the Grand Palace, and the present Mint, next to Messrs. Badman & Co., was not built until late in King Chulalongkorn's reign, in 1898, the year after His Majesty's first visit to Europe.

Even after the introduction of the flat coinage, however, the "bullet" ticals continued in ordinary use for a good many years,

and were actually not demonetized until October 1904, when the whole amount so withdrawn from circulation, to the value of over 14 million ticals, was handed over to the Mint for re-coinage.

King Mongkut's reign, though it only lasted for 17 years, was also an extremely prolific one in the number of coins issued, as the following detailed account will show.

The use of gold evidently attracted the King's fancy, and for the first time in Siamese history, as far as is known, a serious attempt was made to introduce it as current coin of the realm.

Referring once more to the Report of the Centennial Exhibition in 1882, we find that

"In olden times gold was very plentiful in Chiengsaan,"  
 "and as early as 1347 years ago six grades of gold existed."  
 "The first quality realised 9 times its weight in silver, the second"  
 "quality eight, the third seven, the fourth six, the fifth five, the"  
 "sixth four. Gold of baser quality than these was a pale colour,"  
 "and sold for 3 times or twice its weight. Subsequently gold of"  
 "the 'nopa kun' (9) and 'nua-paat' (8) qualities, in the times of"  
 "the old capital Ayuthia, was valued at 16 times its weight in silver,"  
 "and now gold of these two qualities sometimes realises 18, 19 and 20"  
 "times its value (weight) in silver.\* At present money is abundant"  
 "all over the country, and people have the means of purchasing gold."  
 "Hence the increase in its value."

During King Mongkut's reign no less than 19 different gold coins were minted, but although the flat series of 1863 was definitely issued as a form of currency, it is doubtful whether these ever found general favour, or if any of the other coins were ever minted in sufficient quantities to come into general current use. They are all rare, and were probably mostly used for presentation purposes by the King at ceremonies. Those which came into common use, being pure gold, were probably mostly melted down by the Chinese jeweller for ornaments.

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\* This has now risen to 26½ times.

Mr. Haas, in his little work, makes the following remark in this connection :—

“Gold is only coined for the King, who on great State”  
 “occasions, such as cremation-ceremonies, coronations, etc., distri-”  
 “butes gold coins together with silver coins of 4 and 2 Ticals,”  
 “2 Salung, Songpai, Pei, and At;—the former are therefore rare”  
 “and highly prized by the people. In other respects the gold coin”  
 “does not differ from that of silver and copper; it bears the same”  
 “stamp and is named after its weight. The value of coined gold is”  
 “fixed at 16 times its weight of silver.”

As far as I have been able to ascertain, the above appears to be an accurate statement of the facts, though the reference to the similarity of the gold and copper coins does not convey any precise meaning to me. I know of no gold and copper coins of this or any reign in any way similar, though the silver and gold are identical in some cases.

**AV (I)**      The first issue recorded was of the “bullet”  
**(Round).**      shape and 4 in number, of the following  
                          weights :—

2	Ticals	in	weight
1	Tical	„	„
$\frac{1}{2}$	Tical	„	„
$\frac{1}{4}$	Tical	„	„

As stated just previously, the actual value of gold is said to have been 16 Ticals (silver) to 1 Tical's weight of gold.

These coins are stamped with the “Chakr” as usual, and with the “Mongkut” (or Siamese Crown) as the personal mark of the King (*Plate II No. 17*). The 2 Ticals value was probably coined later than the other values, as the metal used is of a different, and inferior quality.

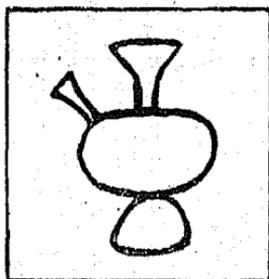
mark of "Mongkut"



AV (II) Attached to this issue were three coins of smaller value, stamped with the "Phra Tao", or "Royal Water-pot" mark, popularly called the "Khun Tho" (*Plate II No. 20*), as follows:—

$\frac{1}{4}$	Tical	in	weight	"
$\frac{1}{8}$	Tical	"	"	"
$\frac{1}{16}$	Tical	"	"	"

Mark of "Phra Tao"



The same marks, and the same arrangement, will be found on the silver "bullet" coins of King Mongkut, issued at the same time (q. v.).

AV (III) Subsequently another gold coin, elliptical in form, was minted, but to what use this coin was put is not known to me.

$1\frac{1}{2}$  Ticals in weight

It was stamped with two marks, the "Mongkut" on the left and the "Chakr" on the right (*Plate II No. 15*).

This coin is usually known as "Thong Met Kanūn", or the "Golden Jackfruit Seed", presumably by reason of its shape.

**AV (I)** The first flat gold piece minted in this country  
**(Flat).** is stated to have been a rectangular sheet of metal,  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch thick, with four marks of the "Chakr", one in each corner, of the weight of 20 Ticals (silver).

The piece was made of soft metal, and at the rate of 1 Tical of gold = 16 Ticals of silver, would be of the value of 320 Ticals.

I have placed this so-called coin in this reign, because flat coins of all metals and denominations were first introduced in it, but there is considerable doubt in my own mind as to whether it was not minted in a previous reign (for a purpose now unknown), since, according to the Edict of 1863 dealing with the minting of a series of 3 flat gold coins, it is categorically stated that these latter were the first flat gold coins to be minted in Siam (i.e. in King Mongkut's reign). I have not yet seen a specimen of this type of coin, but I am told that the gold is distinctly inferior in quality to any other of King Mongkut's coins of the same metal.

**AV (II)** In a long Edict, dated Thursday, the 2nd day  
**(Flat).** of the waning moon of the 11th month in the year of the Pig (5th cycle), equivalent to Oct. 29th. 1863, King Mongkut announced the minting of three gold coins for general use as currency. After pointing out that all important countries issued a gold coinage, but that hitherto Siam had been without one, His Majesty stated that he had issued a Royal Command to the Mint to prepare 3 values of coins, of gold 8.5 fine ("thong kham netia päat sét song"), i. e. gold leaf of the Chop Ann Seng, the first equal in value to 8 Ticals silver, the second to 4 Ticals, and the third to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Ticals, the last named to represent the weight of a Chinese "tael." He went on to say that the types of these coins had been borrowed from those of the English sovereign and half-sovereign: but that the latter coins were an alloy of gold and copper, containing of the latter 1 in 12 (i. e. 22 carat gold) for the purpose of hardening the coin. He was afraid, however, that the Siamese folk would look askance at gold coins which were not pure,

and he therefore decreed that all three coins should be made of "thong nak sib-puät" (i. e. 1 Tical of gold=18 Ticals of silver). In this case the various weights would be as follows (*Plate III Nos. 1, 2, & 3*):—

Large size, of the weight of 1 Salung 1 Fuang and 3 Pai

Medium size, „ „ „ 1 Fuang and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  Pai

Small size, „ „ „ 1 Fuang and 1 Pai

and the gold would be absolutely pure, free from any alloy of silver or copper.

His Majesty then entered into a long discourse on the history of gold in Siam and finally, after giving due weight to all possible names for the coins to be issued, decreed that they should be called as follows, in conformity with the high language names given to other coins, namely the "Att" and "Solot":—

$\frac{15}{32}$  Tical = ทองทศ = Thong Thot ( Dos )

$\frac{15}{64}$  Tical = ทองพิศ = Thong Phit

$\frac{5}{32}$  Tical = ทองพัดตั้งค์ = Thong Paddeung

The three words, ทศ (Thot), พิศ (Phit), and ตั้งค์ (Deung) are pure Sanskrit, meaning 10, 20 and 30. The meaning of พัด in พัดตั้งค์ is obscure. The last named coin is identical with the Fuang of the series described under (V), except that the "Paddeung" has a milled edge, while the Fuang (V) has not.

Curiously enough, King Mongkut omitted to give any description of the dies used for stamping these coins, but this omission may be rectified by stating that:—

The *obverse* is stamped with the Crown in the centre, supported by a royal umbrella on either side, with rays of light radiating from above, and leaf scrolls between the umbrellas.

On the *reverse* is the Elephant inside the "Chakr", with bead borders for the outer and inner frames.

There are twelve vertical lines immediately under the Elephant.

All three values have a milled edge.

There are two other gold coins of a somewhat archaic character which may next be described.

**AV (III) (Flat).** A circular coin of the weight of a Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical), stamped on the *obverse* with a large "Mongkut", with a scroll of "dawk mali" (Jasmin) on either side; and on the *reverse* with the letter "กฐ" above and "๒๗" below, signifying "Krungthep", the Siamese name for Bangkok. The words are enclosed within a beaded border, and the edge of the coin is not milled (*Plate III No. 4*).

**AV (IV) (Flat).** A small circular coin of the weight of a Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical), stamped on the *obverse* with the "Chakr" above, the "Mongkut" below, and a "Phra Tao" (or "Khun Tho") on either side; the whole within a border of twisted rope (*Plate III No. 5*).

The reverse is blank.

There was probably a gold Salung ( $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical) of this type also.

The coin actually portrayed is a silver Salung bearing identical marks [see under **AR Flat (III)**].

For what purpose either of these coins was issued is not now known.

**AV (V) (Flat).** In order to understand fully the next issue of gold, it is necessary to refer to a Decree which was promulgated by King Mongkut on the 2nd. day of the waxing moon of the 11th. month of the year of the Monkey (Sept. 17th. 1860), that is to say, three years before the gold coins described under **(II)** were issued.

In this Decree His Majesty described, in the free and unsophisticated language of the period, the difficulties under which the people of this country had laboured in ancient times through the want of a standard currency, and how the Kings of Ayuthia, His Predecessors, had endeavoured to deal with this difficulty by issuing round ("bullet") ticals, with the necessary subsidiary coinage, of a definite standard, duly stamped by the Royal Mint.

He further went on to describe how this custom had obtained up to the present day, but that latterly miscreant forgers had been at their evil work, and had flooded the country with their spurious coins (of which I have in my possession two specimens, one made of copper coated with silver, and the other of some kind of white metal). Further, now that the country had been opened up to foreign trade and commerce, large quantities of foreign silver dollars (Mexican) were being imported for use as bullion, and although it had been agreed with all the foreign Consuls that the basis of exchange should be fixed at  $3\frac{1}{2} = 5$  Tcs., still the merchants had not been satisfied and trade had been hampered, because the fineness of the foreign silver was not the same as that of the Siamese silver. Therefore His Majesty had decided to establish a Royal Mint for the issue of a new flat silver coinage, "equal in every respect to the coinage of that State of Europe which is called France". The basis of the issue was to be the Tical, and the subsidiary coinage was to consist of 2 Salung, Salung, and Fuang pieces. As regards the design chosen, I cannot do better than describe it in the words of the Decree:—

"On one side (the *obverse*) there is a picture of the Royal "Crown in the centre. There are Royal Umbrellas supporting it" "on both sides. There are branches of trees, looking like flames," "added to the background of the coin."

"On the other side (the *reverse*) is a picture of the "Chakr". In the heart of the "Chakr" is a picture of an Elephant," "symbolical of the Kingdom of Siam. On the outside of the circle" "round the "Chakr", in the case of the Tical value, are 8 stars," "each star representing 1 Fuang: the 2 Salung piece has 4 stars," "representing 4 Fuang: the Salung has two stars, and the Fuang" "1 star."

By way of digression, one may note that an attempt had been made in 1835 to interest His Siamese Majesty of the 3rd. reign in a flat coinage. In that year Mr. Hunter, one of the earliest merchants to arrive in Siam from Europe after the Crawford Treaty, brought

with him a consignment of bronze coins with “เมืองไทย” (Muang Thai) on the *obverse*, and 2 stars, one above and one below the words: while on the *reverse* is a large lotus blossom with the date ๑๑๙๗ (1197) = 1835 below (*Plate III No. 6*). No value is expressed. The idea did not, however, take on, and the attempt was unsuccessful.

Although the above Decree only refers to the issue of silver coinage, still it represents exactly the style and form of the next issue of gold coinage, which was identical in every respect with the silver issue (*Plate III Nos. 7 to 12*).

A series of six values was minted, of the following weights:—

2 Ticals

1 Tical

$\frac{1}{2}$  Tical

$\frac{1}{4}$  Tical

$\frac{1}{8}$  Tical

$\frac{1}{16}$  Tical

It seems clear that, although the silver coinage of the above type was issued in Sept. 1860, this gold coinage could not have been minted till some years later, in view of the fact that, as already described, the first flat gold coins (i.e. of the sovereign type) were not themselves minted until Oct. 1863.

The description given above of the designs stamped on these coins is sufficiently accurate to obviate a repetition, and I think we may all agree that the gold series is a fine one and approximates to the standard of being “equal in all respects to the coinage of that State of Europe which is called France.”

**AV (VI)** The last gold coin to be dealt with is a flat (Flat). circular coin of the weight of 1 Fuang, called in Siamese “Bannakarn,” signifying “a Royal Gift,” as the die for stamping it is said to have been presented to King Mongkut by Queen Victoria. It is similar in design to (V), but has a bead frame, while the Crown is much larger with sprays of

the jasmine flower known as "dawk mali" (*Plate III No. 13*). The edge is not milled.

The issue of silver coins in this reign in many respects followed the same lines as that of gold.

**AR (I)** In the first place, a set of silver "bullet" coins (**Round**). was minted, this issue constituting the last issue of "bullet" coins in Siam for general current use, as follows:—

4	Ticals
2	Ticals
1	Tical
$\frac{1}{2}$	Tical
$\frac{1}{4}$	Tical (Salung)
$\frac{1}{8}$	Tical (Fuang)
$\frac{1}{16}$	Tical (Sik)

seven in number, bearing the mark of the "Chakr" as in all the other reigns, and the personal mark of the "Mongkut" or Siamese Crown in addition (*Plate II Nos. 16, 17, and 18*).

I am informed that a coin of the weight of a 'Chang' (80 Ticals) was also issued, but not for use as currency.

**AR (II)** In addition, 5 coins of subsidiary value were (**Round**). issued, namely,

$\frac{1}{4}$	Tical (Salung)
$\frac{1}{8}$	Tical (Fuang)
$\frac{1}{16}$	Tical (Sik)
$\frac{1}{32}$	Tical (Pai)
$\frac{1}{64}$	Tical (Att)

bearing one mark only, the "Phra Tao", or "Royal Water-pot", commonly called "Khun Tho", as in the case of the gold coins (*Plate II No. 20*).

It is said that two of the values given above, viz. 4 Ticals and 2 Ticals, were never in use as currency, but were only used for presentation purposes. However this may be, all the other values (note the two values of  $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical) were certainly common currency; and most of them are still easy to find in the pawushops of the city.

It is stated that a coin bearing the "Chakr" and the "Mongkut," of the value of  $\frac{1}{32}$  Tical, was also minted; but I have not seen it myself, and at present I think its existence doubtful.

Coins are found bearing the mark of the "Mongkut" repeated four times and grouped around the "Chakr" in the centre. I possess two such coins of the value of 1 Tical and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Tical. These may have been minted for some special occasion, as they certainly have the appearance of being genuine, or else as curiosities to please a passing fancy (*Plate II No. 19*).

Coins are also found with the mark of the "Mongkut" only, that of the "Chakr" being omitted, but whether this was due to carelessness or design is not known. Probably the former, as the same remark applies to the "Trident" and "Lotus" marks of the first reign.

In recent years large quantities of imitation "bullet" coins, bearing the "Mongkut" mark, have been made for use as buttons on white coats as worn in the tropics, and have found a ready sale throughout the Far East. Most of these are, of course, of good silver, and not made to deceive, but, as stated by King Mongkut in his Decree, there were also many spurious counterfeits issued, which are very colourable imitations of the genuine coin, until they are broken in two.

**AR (I)** The principal issue of flat silver coins was of 7  
**(Flat).** values, and is the important one referred to in  
 the Decree of Sept. 1860. It is similar in all  
 respects to that described in **AV Flat (V)**, with the 4 Tical value  
 added:—

4	Ticals	
2	Ticals	
1	Tical	
$\frac{1}{2}$	Tical	
$\frac{1}{4}$	Tical	(Salung)
$\frac{1}{8}$	Tical	(Fuang)
$\frac{1}{16}$	Tical	(Sik)

With the exception of the 4 Tical piece, these coins are all stamped as in **AV Flat (V)**, each with the requisite number of stars, both on the *obverse* and *reverse*, to show the number of Fuangs represented, from 8 on the Tical to 1 on the Fuang (*Plate III Nos. 7 to 12*): but, as may be expected, on the Sik ( $\frac{1}{16}$  Tical) there are no stars at all. The edges of these coins are not milled.

The 4 Tical piece\* has the design on the *obverse* similar to that on the other coins, but on the *reverse* are the letters “*ᨾᩯ᩵ᨾᩮᩥᩬ᩵*” (Kingdom of Siám) in Siamese in the centre, enclosed within a frame, and the words “Chang Tong Ming Pao” in Chinese round the outside of that frame (*Plate IV No. 1*).

It is said that this coin was never put into current use, but only used for presentation purposes. If Mr. Haas is correct, the same would apply to the 2 Tical piece.

As in the case of the gold coinage, there are also certain other small flat silver coins to be recorded, viz :—

**AR (II)** A circular coin of the value 1 Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical) (**Flat**). bearing on the *obverse* the mark of the large Crown, with a scroll work of “dawk mali” on either side, and on the *reverse* the letters “*ᨾᩯ᩵ᨾᩮᩥᩬ᩵*”, as in **AV Flat (III)** (*Plate III No. 4*).

$\frac{1}{8}$  Tical (Fuang)

**AR (III)** Two small circular coins, of the value of (**Flat**).  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical (Salung)  
 $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical (Fuang)

These coins bear on the *obverse* the four marks as in **AV Flat (IV)**, namely the "Chakr" above, the "Mongkut" below, and the "Khun Tho" on either side (*Plate III No. 5*). The *reverse* is blank.

The above three coins are said to have been current and in general use at one time, but they are all rare now.

**AR (IV) (Flat).** The next issue consisted of three values, called "Bannakarn" or 'gifts', as in **AV Flat (VI)**, and was as follows:—

1 Tical

$\frac{1}{4}$  Tical (Salung)

$\frac{1}{8}$  Tical (Fuang)

These coins (*Plate IV Nos. 2, 3, & 4*) are similar in design to **AR Flat (I)**, but they may be distinguished from the latter by certain peculiarities. They have a single bead border, quite different from the border in **(I)**, and the Salung and Fuang have no inner circles. In the Tical value the "Chakr" is much larger than in **(I)**, but in the other values, curiously enough, it is smaller. All three values have a milled edge, and the requisite number of stars on both *obverse* and *reverse*.

**AR (V) (Flat).** There is finally to be noticed the use of a Mexican dollar (dated 1856), probably one or two years after that date, at a time when the Ticals available were not sufficient for commercial purposes. In this case the Treasury stamped a number of Mexican dollars on the *reverse* with small marks of the "Crown" and "Chakr" side by side, near the edge of the coin, and issued them as currency. (*Plate IV No. 5*).

It is worth mentioning that the Siamese word "เหรียญ" (Rieñ)—for dollar—is an adaptation of the Spanish "Real", in which the "l" becomes "n"; but it is interesting to note that the present mode of writing this word in Siamese is by false analogy with the Sanskrit word "hirañña", meaning "silver".

**AE (I)** The only "bullet" coin of baser metal which is known to me is a copper coin, of the weight of 1 Fuang, with the mark of the "Khun Tho" (*Plate II No. 20*).

Primâ facie it appears to be a genuine coin, but I have only seen the one example and it is difficult therefore to express a definite opinion regarding it. It may, of course, be a counterfeit silver coin, of which the outer casing or washing has come off.

**AE (I)** The first flat coins of baser metal in King Mongkut's reign were put into circulation by a Decree of Aug. 25th. 1862, and were composed of an alloy of tin, copper, and black tin (ตีบุกดำ)

They were minted in Bangkok, being cast in moulds, *with* milled edges, and were of two values, as follows:—

$\frac{1}{8}$  Fuang (1 Att)

$\frac{1}{16}$  Fuang ( $\frac{1}{2}$  Att, or Solot).

They were stamped with the Crown and Umbrellas on the *obverse*, and the Elephant-Chakr combination on the *reverse*. Above the "Chakr" on the reverse were written the words in circular form

แปดอันแปดพ็อง (i.e.  $\frac{\text{eight}}{\text{sixteen}}$  of these make one Fuang), and สิบหก

the same at the bottom in Chinese characters. To the left of the Elephant, in English, the figures  $\frac{1}{8}$  or  $\frac{1}{16}$ ; to the right, the letter F. (*Plate IV Nos. 6 and 7*).

**AE (II)** By a later Decree of Dec. 14. 1865, in addition to the above tin coins, an issue of thick, heavy copper money was also minted from moulds and put into circulation, of two values, *without* milled edges, as follows:—

**Thick**  $\frac{1}{2}$  Fuang (4 Atts)

$\frac{1}{4}$  Fuang (2 Atts)

The design on these coins was precisely similar to that on the two coins previously mentioned, except, of course, that the value expressed was different, namely “  $\frac{1}{2}$  ” (i.e.  $\frac{2}{4}$  of these make one Fuang (*Plate IV Nos. 8 and 9*).

Mr. Haas mentions another coin of the same description, but presumably of tin, of the value of  $\frac{1}{32}$  Fuang (i. e.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Att), but this is not known to me, nor is there any mention of such a coin in either of the Decrees just mentioned.

**AE (III) (Flat).** Finally the same two values,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  Fuang (*Plate IV Nos. 8 and 9*), of the same size and design, were minted in copper, also *without* milled edges, but in this case the coins were of an extreme lightness and thinness.

**Thin**  $\frac{1}{2}$  Fuang ( 4 atts )  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  Fuang ( 2 atts )

All these locally minted copper and tin coins were withdrawn from circulation in the next reign, as will be seen later on. The tin coins, according to Mr. Haas, were extensively forged and the country was flooded with quantities of spurious imitations imported from Hongkong.

This concludes the tale of gold, silver, and copper (or tin) coins issued in King Mongkut's reign.

For the sake of clarity it will be as well to recapitulate the dates of the first issues of flat coinage of the different metals used:—

**Flat Gold Coinage** on the 29th. October 1863  
**Flat Silver Coinage** on the 17th. September 1860  
**Flat Tin or Copper Coinage** on the 25th. August 1862

Before we leave the reign of King Mongkut finally, it will, I think, be appropriate to refer to three types of money, two of which were approaching their end at the close of his reign, while the third was used for the first time in Siamese history, as far as is known at present.

I. The first of these is classed under the generic term of "**Bia**" or "**Cowrie-Shells**".

As in many other countries of the world, cowrie-shells were in use for barter purposes in Siam from time immemorial, and remained in common currency in the Kingdom until they were finally displaced by the tin and copper coinage of King Mongkut's reign. There are eight kinds of cowrie-shell known in Siam, varying in size and shape, from one of enormous size down to a diminutive shell, but all of the same value (*Plate VIII Nos. 1 to 6*). Their names are as follows:—

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Bia Phlōng   | (เบี้ย โพล้ง) |
| 2. Bia Kāa      | (เบี้ย แก้ว)  |
| 3. Bia Chan     | (เบี้ย ฉั่น)  |
| 4. Bia Nang     | (เบี้ย นาง)   |
| 5. Bia Moo      | (เบี้ย หมู)   |
| 6. Bia Pong Lom | (เบี้ย พองลม) |
| 7. Bia Bua      | (เบี้ย บัว)   |
| 8. Bia Tūm      | (เบี้ย ตุ่ม)  |

Nos. 7 and 8 are not shown in the illustration.

Bia Tūm is similar to Bia Nang, but the edges are more crinkled. Bia Bua is very scarce now.

I have been told that during the Ayuthia period of Siamese history the cowrie-shells in use were all brought from the River Meh Khong, which borders the Kingdom on its eastern frontier: but that in later times these were gradually displaced by shells from the sea-shore. It is said that these latter never had quite the value as those from the Meh Khong. This is not generally accepted, however, and M. de la Loubère, writing in 1687 in his "Description of Siam", states as follows:—

"On les pesche abondamment aux Iles Maldives et quel-  
 "quefois aux Philippines, mais en très petite quantité, à ce qu'on  
 "m' a dit. Toutefois Navarretè, en ses discours de la Chine, dit:—"  
 "'On en porte de la côté de l'Inde et de Manille', et plus bas il dit,"

"on porte des sigueies (i. e. cowries) des isles de Baldivia, qui sont" "les Maldives". M. de la Loubère makes no mention at all of river-shells.\*

According to the report on the Centennial Exhibition in 1882, it is stated that "in the Buddhist year 1078 (i. e. A. D. 536)" "cowries were valued at the rate of 200 per Fuang, and that from" "the foundation to the destruction of Ayuthia (A. D. 1350-1767)" "their legal value was 800 to the Fuang. The popular value varied" "between 200, 1,000, and 1,600 per Fuang (no doubt in accordance" "with the law of supply and demand). For 1327 years cowries were" "used for small change. They ceased to be used for such purposes" "in Siam in A. D. 1862". No authority is given by the writer for this bold statement, but no doubt it represents a traditional story.

After the fall of the Ayuthia Dynasty the value of 'Bia' rose to 200 to the Fuang on account of the troublous times, but later on it fell again and fluctuated between 800 and 1,300, according to the quantity available in the market.

During the reign of King Mongkut the value was again stabilised at 800 to the Fuang, or 100 to the Att, but with the introduction of the tin and copper coinage in this reign in 1862 the use of cowries was finally abandoned. Thereafter their use was confined purely to the public gambling-houses, as counters in playing "fan-tan" and other games.

II. The second of these types is termed "**Pee**" (𑄢). 'Pee' were almost exclusively used, at first at any rate, in the gambling houses as small change, and the following account of them, taken from Mr. Haas's book, which may I think be accepted, is of considerable interest.

---

\* Cowries were used as money in Central and Northern India in the 4th and 5th centuries A. D. (cf. Prof. Giles' translation of Fa Hsien's Travels).

“ As gambling became more and more a recognised institu-  
 “ tion, the “ bullet-shaped ” small coins (the Fuang and Salung) were ”  
 “ found inconvenient to handle (*Plate V No. 4*) . . . . . To remedy this ”  
 “ inconvenience, the owners of gambling establishments introduced ”  
 “ special counters made of Glass (*green, white and yellow*), Porcelain, ”  
 “ and Brass (? Bronze), and representing various shapes such as stars, ”  
 “ butterflies, door-tablets, &c., on which were inscribed, in Chinese ”  
 “ characters, the name of the ‘Hong’, or establishment, the value, ”  
 “ and some favourite motto or classical quotation; and also in ”  
 “ Siamese characters the value which the counter was supposed to ”  
 “ represent (*Plate VIII Nos. 7 to 15*).

“ As designations of value there appear 1 Salung ( in ”  
 “ Siamese  $\frac{1}{16}$  ), 1 Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  ), Songpai, 1 Pai, and 1 Att, and ”  
 “  $\frac{1}{18}$ th. (?  $\frac{1}{16}$ th.) of a Songpai ( in Siamese,  $\frac{1}{18}$  ). ”

“ These counters, being issued under authority granted in ”  
 “ the gambling licence or concession, rapidly became a favourite ”  
 “ medium of exchange, and were found to fill a long felt want of ”  
 “ small money so well, that the circulation went much beyond its ”  
 “ legal sphere. ”

“ Such a facile field for foreigners was not long to be left ”  
 “ unexplored by the enterprising celestial. Gradually a large quantity ”  
 “ of imitations were thrown into circulation, and in self-defence the ”  
 “ gambling “Hongs” were compelled to call in and exchange for ”  
 “ money their counters, which they continually substituted by new ”  
 “ ones of varied colours and shapes. ”

“ In this way originated the great variety of counters ”  
 “ consisting, as far as I can ascertain, of about 890 different kinds. ”  
 “ The control by the Government became naturally more and more ”  
 “ difficult, and at last in 1871 (three years after King Mongkut’s ”  
 “ death), it became necessary to prohibit and stop completely all ”  
 “ circulation of these counters. They are, however, still to be seen ”  
 “ in some parts of the country. ”

There is little to be added to this except to say that these "Pee" are still to be found in large quantities in Bangkok, in the stalls of the various pawnshops in the Sampeng Quarter: and that at one time various enthusiasts used to endeavour to make complete collections of them, to the number of about 2,000 sets. Some of these collections remain, but the enthusiasm has long since died, and the hobby is now a fashion of the past. The specimens of various types illustrated are representative, and two evidently depict Queen Victoria.

III. The third type to which I wish to refer is **Paper Money** which appeared for the first time in Siam in the reign of King Mongkut. Strictly speaking, paper money would not as a rule come within the scope of a study of coins, but that of which I propose to treat is of considerable interest from various points of view, and deserves mention, I think, in any history of the coinage of this country. This paper money may be divided into three classes, as follows:—

(a) **Of large size**, measuring 14 cm x 10.2 cm. ( $5\frac{7}{16}$  x 4 in.). On one side are two rectangular borders of leaf-scroll, one inside the other (*Plate IX Nos. 1 and 2*). The paper is a fairly thick wove, unwater-marked, of a bluish-white tinge. In the centre appears, in four lines, in an old-fashioned black script, the following quaint inscription:—

ใช้สิบ ตำลึง ให้แก่ ผู้เอา หมายถึง มาให้เก็บ หมายถึง ไว้ทรัพย์สิน จักไม่สูญเลย  
which may be translated as follows:—

"Pay 10 Tamleung ( 40 Ticals ) to the bearer of this note".  
"Keep this note carefully, so that its value may never be lost".

At either side is an impression of a Chinese character repeated a number of times, each character representing 1 Tamleung (4 Ticals), while over the whole are stamped in red the "Chakr" above, and the "Crown" below.

In addition to this, on each side of the inscription is printed at intervals, as a further protection against forgery, an equal number of leaves, each leaf representing 1 Tamleung, as in the case of the

Chinese characters. Thus the 10 Tamleung note has 5 leaves on either side, the 6 Tamleung note has 3, and so on (*Plate IX No. 1* shows a 4 Tamleung note).

The other side of the paper is completely covered, except for a fairly wide margin, with a pattern of black leaf-scroll drawn in freehand. There is no border to the pattern, and in the centre is impressed a red seal in the "Kawm" or Cambodian character, signifying "Krung Thep Mahanakawn Amara Ratana Kosindr Mahind Ayudhya Maha Rajathani"

กรุงเทพมหานครนครอมรรัตนโกสินทร์มหินทายุ สมสยามมหาอาณาจักร

i. e. the full and Royal name for the city of Bangkok.

As far as I am aware at present, there are four values of this class, of 3, 4, 6, and 10 Tamleung respectively (12, 16, 24, and 40 Ticals), and two notes which I have seen (namely of the two latter values) bore on the back of the note, in King Mongkut's own handwriting, what appears to be "Zwei money 40 Ticals" on the 10 Tamleung, and "Dix Money 24 Ticals" on the 6 Tamleung, on the margin above, and "S. P. P. M. Mongkut's 3rd. year" on the margin below (*Plate IX No. 2* shows a 10 Tamleung note).

The letters S. P. P. M. represent "Somdet Phra Paramin Maha".

We may thus infer the year of issue of this paper money to have been 1853.

(b) **Of small size**, but of the same paper as (a), wove, bluish-white, and unwatermarked, measuring 8.7 X 5 cm. ( $3\frac{3}{8}$  X 2 in.) (*Plate X Nos. 1 and 2*).

On the one side is a double rectangular frame with a beaded border, and inside it the following inscription, preceded by a double circle, thus :—

เงิน + ใช้ หมายถึง นี้ แทน เกิด เขา พระคลัง จัก ใช้ เงิน เท่านั้น ให้ แก่ ผู้  
 เอา หมายถึง นี้ มาส่ง ใน เวลา แต่ เที่ยง ไป จน ป้าย สาม โมง ทุก วัน ณะ โรง ทหาร  
 พระบรมมหาราชวัง ฯ

which may be translated as follows :—

“Kindly use this note in place of the one Fuang (Salung, &c.)”  
 “coin. The Chief of the Royal Treasury will pay this amount to”  
 “the bearer, who presents it for payment any day between the”  
 “hours of noon and three o’clock in the afternoon at the barracks”  
 “in the Royal Palace.”

This inscription is completely covered by an impression of the same seal in red in the Cambodian character (at the head of which is a flower), as appears on the larger notes of higher value. On the other side is a border of leaves and flowers, inside which is expressed the value of the note in no less than 11 different languages, of which nine follow one another down the paper in this order :— Siamese, Chinese, Latin, English, Gujarati, Malay, Cambodian, Burmese, and Lao ; while on the right (sideways) is Sanskrit (Deva Nagri), and on the left (sideways) is Pali (in the Kawm script).

Over all again is stamped in red an impression of the “Chakr” above, and the “Crown” below.

At the top of the note, outside the border, has been embossed in plain relief one, two, or more double concentric circles, each circle representing one Fuang :— thus, 1 Fuang has one circle, one Salung two, one Salung Fuang has three, two Salungs four, and 1 Tical eight.

At the bottom, also outside the border of leaves, is written in ink the number of the note.

Of this type of paper money there were five values, viz, 1 Tical,  $\frac{1}{2}$  Tical (two Salungs),  $\frac{3}{8}$  Tical (Salung Fuang),  $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical (one Salung), and  $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical (one Fuang), or, as they are quaintly expressed in Latin (of which language King Mongkut was so eager a scholar):— unum Ticale, dimidia pars Ticalis, tres octava partes Ticalis, quarta pars Ticalis, and octava pars Ticalis.

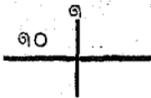
Both these classes, (a) and (b), although rare today, were undoubtedly in use for a considerable period during the reign of King Mongkut, and show an interesting and genuine attempt on the latter's part to meet the needs of his people in a form which combined utility with scholarship.

(c) **The third class**, as an actual medium of exchange, is more doubtful, but is also worthy of record. It is a thick cream wove, unwatermarked paper, measuring 10.8 x 8.5 cm. ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  x  $3\frac{3}{8}$  in.) (*Plate X No. 3*).

On the one side is a border of scroll-work, inside which, in one line, is the inscription:—

พระราชทาน เงินตรา ชั่ง สิบ ตำลึง

or, in literal English "A royal gift of one Chang and 10 Tamleung in money". Under this is the value in figures as well, expressed in

the Siamese fashion, thus  . In the lower left hand

corner, inside the border, is printed the number, and over this is stamped in two lines the Royal Monogram in blue "S. P. P. M. Mongkut K. S."

In the upper left hand corner is the impression of an octagonal seal (in plain relief) of the Royal Crown. To the right are impressed in red the "Chakr" above, and the "Crown" below.

The other side of the note is blank.

As far as I am aware, there are 11 values in all, viz. 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12 and 15 Tamleung, representing 12, 16, 20, 28, 32, 40, 48, and 60 Ticals: also 1 Chang (80 Ticals), 1 Chang 5 Tamleung (100 Ticals) and 1 Chang 10 Tamleung (120 Ticals).

The border scroll-work varies considerably with the different values, and appears to be of 4 kinds. One kind is confined to the Chang (80 Ticals) value alone. Another is found in the Chang 10 Tamleung (as shown in the illustration) and the 10 Tamleung values

A third is used for the 8,4, and 3 Tamleung values; and a fourth for the remainder, namely the Chang 5 Tamleung, 15,12,7, and 5 Tamleung values.

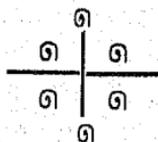
I have used the epithet "doubtful" in connection with this type of paper-money as a means of exchange or currency, as the word "prā-rāchātān" is a verb expressing "a royal gift": and it seems probable that the different values were used by the King in giving "bia-wăt", or gratuities, to his subjects, and were not negotiable, but payable at his own good will and time.

It is said that they were at times used to pay the troops their salaries when actual coin was scarce, but the values appear to be high for this purpose.

All three classes of paper-money described above, (a), (b), and (c), were made and printed locally.

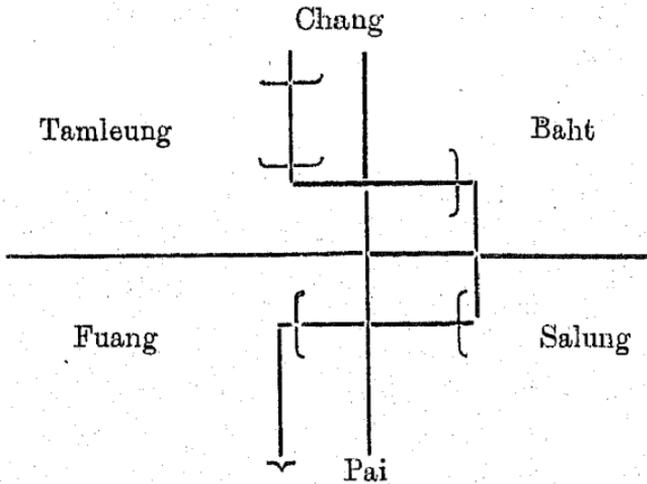
A few words on the method of expressing the value in Siamese in figures will not be out of place here.

For a very long time past Siamese currency has been expressed in terms of Chang (80 Ticals), Tamleung (4 Ticals), Baht (Tical), Salung ( $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical), Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical) and Pai ( $\frac{1}{16}$  Tical): and when it is desired to express in figures a certain sum of money, for example, 1 Chang 1 Tamleung 1 Baht 1 Salung 1 Fuang and 1 Pai, it is written in the following way:—



The figure at the head of the cross	represents the	number of	Chang
" " " "	" " " "	" " "	Tamleung
" " " "	" " " "	" " "	Baht
" " " "	" " " "	" " "	Salung
" " " "	" " " "	" " "	Fuang
" " " "	" " " "	" " "	Pai

The order therefore runs in this direction :—



## V. Somdet Phra Paramin Maha Chulalongkorn (1868-1910).

In spite of the length of this reign which is known as the "Record Reign", since it lasted 42 years (longer than any other Siamese reign in history), the output of new coinage was not conspicuously large.

The minting of gold was confined to one coin and that of little importance, but an important change took place in the type of silver coinage issued, by the introduction of the King's effigy.\* Also, in November 1908, two years before the King's death, a very important Decree was promulgated, namely the Gold Standard Act, which placed the currency of the country on a gold basis, and thereby gave a remarkable stability to the exchange value of the Tical. This has been naturally of incalculable benefit to the trade and commerce of the country, especially when we consider the financial crisis caused by the Great War, and reflects great credit on the foresight of the Government. One hesitates to think of what might have happened, if this momentous change had not taken place before war broke out.

\* For reasons (connected with the Shadow and the Soul) why the effigy of the King never previously appeared on Siamese coins, see Frazer's "Golden Bough", Abridged Edition, page 193.

At the same time the old copper coinage was definitely displaced by a smaller nickel and copper coinage on a decimal basis, and "Atts" gave way to "Satang".

The following interesting note is taken from the Statistical Year Book for 1922 :—

"The existing decimal system of coinage in Siam was established by the Gold Standard Act, proclaimed in the year 2451 (1908)"

"This Act provided for the minting of the following coins :—"

METALLIC DESCRIPTION	NAME OF COIN	STANDARD		REMEDY IN	
		weight	fineness	weight	fineness
Gold ..	Dos ..	6.20 grammes	Gold 900 Copper 100	1 Dos 2 egs. 1,000 Dos 2.5 egs.	1½ per mill
Silver ..	Tical ..	15 grammes	Silver 900 Copper 100	1 Tical 9 egs. 1,000 Ticals 12 grs.	3 per mill
.. ..	2 Salung piece ..	7.5 grammes	Silver 800 Copper 200	2 Salungs 6 egs. 1,000 2 Salung pieces 12 grs.	4 per mill
.. ..	1 Salung ..	3.75 grammes	Silver 800 Copper 200	1 Salung 5.5 egs. 1,000 Salungs 6 grs.	4 per mill
Nickel ..	10 Satang piece ..	3.5 grammes	Pure Nickel	10 Satang 20 egs. piece	
.. ..	5 Satang piece ..	2 grammes	Pure Nickel	5 Satang 15 egs. piece	
Bronze ..	1 Satang piece ..	5 grammes	Copper 95 Tin 4 Zinc 1	1 Satang 25 egs. piece	

"The Gold Dos has never been minted, for, by a notification appended to the Act, it was decreed that the operation of sections 11, 12 of the Gold Standard Act, which provide for the exchange by the Mint of gold coin for bullion, should be suspended, and that the Government would continue, as previously, to issue ticals in Bangkok against gold received abroad, at the rate of 13 ticals to the £1 sterling, or approximately 1s. 6½d. to the tical. The effect of this Notification was to place Siam in the category of countries having a gold exchange standard."

The Notification also dealt with the question of coins current at the date of the passing of the Gold Standard Act.

They were as follows:—

Silver	.....	}	Tical
			Salung = $\frac{1}{4}$ Tical
			Fuang = $\frac{1}{8}$ Tical
Bronze	.....	}	Sik (4 atts)
			Sio (2 atts)
			Att
			Solot ( $\frac{1}{2}$ Att)
Nickel	.....	}	20 Satang piece
			10 " "
			5 " "
			$2\frac{1}{2}$ " "

The Notification runs:—

“( 1 ) The Tical and the Salung minted under former Acts ‘shall continue in general use as heretofore’.

“( 2 ) The Fuang and the bronze Sik, Sio, Att and Solot, ‘shall continue in use for the time being, pending their exchange’ ‘by the public for the new coins’.

“( 3 ) The nickel 20 Satang piece, 10 Satang piece, 5 Satang piece and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Satang piece, which were issued under notification ‘dated the 21st. day of August 2441 ( 1898 ), shall be demonetized,’ ‘but the officials in charge of the State Treasuries shall issue the,’ ‘new Satang pieces in exchange for the old ones, until such time’ ‘as it may be notified that the exchange shall cease.’”

"The exchange of the Fuangs, the old bronze coins and the "old Satang pieces mentioned in clauses 2 and 3 above, shall be "made at the following rates, viz.,"

"Bronze coins = 1 Tical's worth for 100 Satang"

"Fuangs = 8 Fuangs for 1 Tical".

"The old and new Satang pieces shall have equivalent values."

A subsequent Notification, dated May 7th. 2452 (1909), demonetized the Fuang and the bronze coins, the Sik, Sio, Att, and Solot, but declared that the Treasuries and certain other specified offices would continue to receive and exchange the Fuang, Sik, Sio, Att and Solot, and the nickel coins of 20,10,5 and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Satang up to the 16th. May 2453 (1910), after which date these coins would no longer be received.

As most of you know, in spite of the issue of paper-money in King Mongkut's reign, and of a further temporary paper issue of a single small denomination in 1874, to which reference will be made later, paper currency did not come into general use until late in the reign now under review.

The following note on this subject is taken from the "Outline of the Currency History of Siam (1902-23)" published in "The Record" No. 10 (October 1923):—

"Until September 1902, when the Government commenced "an issue of its own Currency Notes, the paper money in actual "circulation in Siam was represented by the notes of the three "foreign Banks then established at the Capital, and though these "were helpful in familiarizing the public with the use of notes," "they never thoroughly established themselves in the public "favour (though accepted fairly freely in the metropolis), nor "attained any large circulation. This is shown by the fact that "the Bank Notes outstanding on December 31st. 1902, more than "14 years after the first of the three Banks opened a Branch here," "amounted to a total of only Tes. 3,319,000 odd, while on the same "date the Government issue, then of a little over three months"

“standing, had attained a figure of Tcs. 2,306,185. The Currency ”  
 “Notes, being national ones, fully backed by metallic and other ”  
 “reserves, speedily drove the Bank Notes out of circulation, and in ”  
 “seven years’ time, by the end of December 1909, when the value of ”  
 “the Currency Notes outstanding was Tcs. 16,776,930, the Bank ”  
 “Notes were represented by a figure of only Tcs. 62,000 odd. ”  
 “They have long since entirely disappeared.”

*Plate XI No. 2* and *Plate VII No. 8* show specimens of the 1 Tical notes issued by the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, and by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, respectively. The former is dated July 1st. 1890, while the latter is undated, which is unusual in a Bank note.

The third Bank referred to in the above extract is the Banque de l’Indo-Chine.

**AV**                      The only gold coin minted, as already indicated.  
**(Flat).**                      was of the weight of

1 Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical) (*Plate IV No. 10*).

According to the Report of the Exhibition in 1882, the value of coined gold was then from 18 to 20 times its weight in silver, and this coin would therefore at that time have had a *value* of about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Ticals (silver). It has a milled edge, and is of European make, It was probably never in general use as currency.

On the *obverse* is a portrait of the King in profile, surrounded by an inscription setting forth his Titles, as follows:—

*Round the head,* สมเด็จพระปรมินทรมหาจุฬาลงกรณ์ , that is, Somdet Phra Paramin Maha Chulalongkorn.

*Round the foot of the bust,* พระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว , that is, King Chula Chawm Klao.

Between the inscriptions are 2 six-rayed stars.

On the *reverse* is a Siamese Crown with rays at the top and an emblem formed of the “Chakr” and the “Tri” (obviously intended

as dynastic symbols here) below, the whole resting on a shield divided into three parts, of which the upper one contains a three-headed elephant, the one to the lower left an elephant, and that to the lower right what appear to be a "kris" (or Malay dagger) and a sceptre crossed. At either side is a royal umbrella as supporter. To the left is written **อาณาจักรสยาม** (Kingdom of Siam): to the right **รัชกาลที่ ๕** (the 5th. reign): and at the bottom **เฟื้องหนึ่ง** (one Fuang).\*

I am not able to say when this coin was first minted, but it was probably at the same time as the silver coins of a similar design; from the Fuang of which issue it can be easily distinguished by its thinness and weight. It is also slightly smaller.

Seeing that the system of flat coinage was definitely introduced into Siam during the reign of King Mongkut, it would not be likely for Ticals of the "bullet" shape ever to be minted again for currency purposes. But there are certain types of this class associated with the fifth reign, and it will be as well to include them in this survey.

**AR (I)** The first is said to have been minted at the suggestion of Chao Phya Nara Ratana, Director of the Mint, who obtained permission to distribute them as gifts at the cremation at Wat Saket of the younger sister of H. R. H. Prince Mahit, Pranang Chao Charoen Kamon Suk Sawat, who died in B. E. 2417 (1874).

This coin bears two stamps, the "Chakr" and the "Phra Kieo" or "Coronet", which is worn on the Top-knot of young Royal Princes at ceremonial occasions (*Plate II No. 21*).

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\* Gold Salungs and Fuangs of the "bullet" shape, bearing the mark of King Mongkut, have been, and still are coined by the Royal Mint, but only for presentation purposes, and not as coin of the realm.

mark of "Phra Kieo"



**AR (II)** Secondly there was issued in the year C.S. 1242 (1880) a whole series of "bullet" coins ranging from an enormous lump of silver weighing 1 Chang (80 Ticals) down to the smallest, which is 2 Ticals in weight.

This issue was made on the occasion of the cremation of of Somdet Phra Deb Sirindhra, the mother of King Chulalongkorn.

1	Chang	( 80 Ticals )
10	Tamleung	( 40 Ticals )
5	Tamleung	( 20 Ticals )
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tamleung	( 10 Ticals )
1	Tamleung	( 4 Ticals )
2	Ticals.	

Most of the above coins, but not all, bear three stamps, as follows:—

In the centre, the "Chakr" in an elaborate form.

To one side of this, the "Crown" on vessels supported by Umbrellas.

To the other side, a sprig of "Chaw Rampeui," chosen because the maiden name of the King's mother was "Rampeui": and the date beneath ๑๒๔๒ (1880) (*Plate II No. 22* illustrates a 4 Tical piece).

mark of  
"Rampeui"



mark of  
"Crown"



**AR (I)** The first silver coins minted were a less decorative edition of the well-known series issued in the last reign.

They were of 3 values, viz:—

- 1 Tical
- $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical (Salung)
- $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical (Fuang)

On the *obverse* is the "Chang-Chakr" (Elephant-Discus) combination, surrounded by stars at intervals (8 on the Tical, and so on), and a border of a geometrical design. On the *reverse* is the Siamese Crown resting on two Siamese vessels (for gifts) of different sizes, the smaller one inside the larger, with a royal umbrella on either side as supporter (*Plate V Nos. 1, 2, and 3*),

This series differs from the series **AR Flat (I)** of King Mongkut's reign both in the number of values issued, three against seven, and also in the design, of which the chief points to be noticed are (1) that the Crown in this case rests on vessels and not on a stand, and (2) that there is no floral scroll decoration between the Umbrellas and the Crown.

The Salung and Fuang of this type are sometimes seen bent in the form of a bowl: this has been done by the gambling-houses so that the croupiers may rake them in the more easily (*Plate V No. 4*).

**AR (II)** The next issue of silver coins showed an important step forward in the history of Siamese coinage, in that an effigy of the King on the *obverse* was introduced for the first time. It was of three values, as before

- 1 Tical
- $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical (Salung)
- $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical (Fuang)

On the *obverse* of all three values is a profile portrait of King Chulalongkorn, with inscriptions as on the gold Fuang just described, to which it is similar in every way (*Plate V Nos. 8 and 9*).

On the *reverse* of the Tical value the design is also somewhat similar in general appearance to that of the gold Fuang, but on examination it will be found to differ in many important respects (*Plate V No. 5*).

First of all, the *shield* has supporters in the shape of what appear to be two lions. The *umbrellas* have no stands, and underneath the shield are two long, crossed sceptres protruding above and below, from the heads of which are hanging on either side the draped folds of a flag. Underneath the shield is a portion of the chain of some Order, and under that again is a scroll with an undecipherable inscription.

Beneath this are the words  $\text{๒๓๓} \text{ ทิว}$  (one Tical).

The *reverse* of the Salung ( $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical) and Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical) is similar in all respects to that of the gold Fuang already described.

The preceding type of coin persisted till the last years of King Chulalongkorn's reign, but slight modifications took place on two occasions.

In the year R. S. 122 (1903) the words expressing the value decreased in size, and underneath appeared the year in Siamese, thus  $\text{๑๒๒}$  (122) (*Plate V No. 6*).

This remark applies to all three values.

A few years later, a new Tical appeared with the lettering, both as regards the value and the date, considerably larger than in the type just mentioned (*Plate V No. 7*).

Otherwise the type remained unchanged.

As a note, it may be mentioned that in the year R.S. 116 (1897), during the absence of King Chulalongkorn in Europe, the Queen (who was Regent) paid a State visit to the Royal Mint, and a certain number of the Ticals in circulation were stamped on the *obverse* with the year to mark the occasion, thus  $\text{๑๑๖}$  (year 116) to the right, and the words “ $\text{โรงกระษาปณ์}$ ” (Royal Mint) to the left (*Plate V No. 10*).

**AR (III) (Flat).** Finally, in the year R. S. 127 (1908), two years before the death of King Chulalongkorn, a new type of Tical was introduced to mark the celebration of the Record Reign. This took place at the time when the lesser currency was changed from an "att" to a decimal basis (*Plate V Nos. 11 and 12*). There was therefore only one value of the new type:—

#### 1 Tical

On the *obverse* is a lifelike profile portrait of the King, as he appeared at the time, showing the head and shoulders, in uniform and with decorations. On one side is inscribed the word “จุฬาลงกรณ์” (Chulalongkorn), and on the other side (behind the head) the word “สยามินทร์” (Siam-Indhra, or King of Siam).

On the *reverse* is an elephant with three heads, showing the forelegs only. To the upper left of the elephant is the word “สยามรัฐ” (State of Siam); and to the upper right the words รัชชปี ๑๒๗๘ (R. S. 127), that is “the year 1908, being the 41st. year of the reign.” At the bottom is inscribed, to the left หนึ่ง (one), to the right ติล (Tical).

Many of these ticals were coated with platinum for presentation purposes, and most of those seen to-day have a hole and a ring in them.

**AE (I) (Flat).** The first coin of baser metal issued in King Chulalongkorn's reign was of tin or an alloy of tin, and minted locally, with a plain un-milled edge. There was only one value of this type, viz.

$\frac{1}{16}$  Fuang ( $\frac{1}{2}$  Att).

The design followed very closely that of the first silver Tical of this reign, with the Siamese Crown on the one side resting on bowls, and the “Elephant-Discus” combination on the other. But on the latter side, as in the tin coins of King Mongkut's reign, there appeared the value ‘ $\frac{1}{16}$ ’ on the left, and F. on the right. Above, the inscription in Siamese, “๑๖ อันเฟื้อง” (16 to the Fuang), and the same in Chinese below (*Plate V No. 13*).

**AE (II)** With the above may be associated a copper coin of similar design, but vastly superior in execution and finish. The design is almost identical with the silver Tical **AR Flat (I)**, except that above the Crown appear rays, ten on either side, while on the *obverse* the elephant is of somewhat stouter build. This coin, which seems to be of European make, with a milled edge, is actually thicker than the silver Tical in question, and is a remarkably beautiful specimen of the minter's craft (*Plate V No. 14*). As on the Tical, there is no value expressed, and its value and use have not yet been categorically determined. The most probable explanation of its existence is that it was a model prepared in Europe for the new Tical and sent out to Siam.

**AE (III)** In the year 1875, i.e. seven years after King **(Flat)** Chulalongkorn came to the throne, appeared the first regular series of copper coins of lesser value, for general use. They were of 4 values, as follows:—

- 4 Atts (Sik)
- 2 Atts (Pai)
- 1 Att
- $\frac{1}{2}$  Att (Solot)

These coins were struck on the *obverse* (to quote from a Royal Proclamation of 1898 which refers to their issue) with the Royal Monogram จ. ป. จ. (Chulalongkorn Paramin), and the little Crown above the letter จ, and also with the inscription ราชอาณาจักรสยาม (Kingdom of Siam) and รัชกาลที่ ๕ (5th. Reign); on the *reverse* with a wreath of laurel leaves, and in the space in the middle with the denomination of the particular coin, and the date, viz. สิบ (Sio), above ๔ พันเฟื้อง (4 to the Fuang) below, and below that again the date ๑๓๓๘ (1238 = 1876) (*Plate VI Nos. 1 to 4*).

These coins were struck abroad (in England), and the edges are not milled.

Interesting mis-strikes of this issue in my collection are the 4 Atts, with the Crown and Royal Monogram on *both* sides: and the 2 Atts similarly struck, but with the design on the *reverse* sunk and not in relief (just as in a metal seal for use on wax).

**AE (IV)** The above remained in use till the year 1887, when they were supplanted by a new series modelled on the lines of the English copper money current at the time, and also minted in England. This was of 3 values, viz:—

2 Atts (Sio or Pai)

1 Att

$\frac{1}{2}$  Att (Solot)

On the *obverse* is the effigy of the King with the following inscription around it, จุฬาลงกรณ์ ป.ร. พระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้ากรุงสยาม (H. M. Chulalongkorn, King of Siam).

On the *reverse* is an allegorical figure representing Siam, seated on a shield containing the three partitions already described under the **AV (Flat)** Fuang of this reign, and holding a staff. To the left <sup>๑</sup>หน (one), to the right <sup>๑</sup>เซียว (Sio) &c. Under the figure the date (*Plate VI Nos. 5, 6, and 7*).

There are no less than 3 varieties of this series, all of which require notice.

(a) At first the date was expressed in terms of the Chula-Sakarat, or Little Era, viz. ๑๒๔๘ (1249 = 1887). In this series the King's head is in the reverse position to the seated figure, referred to in French as "tête-bêche" (*Plate VI No. 5*).

(b) In the second series, the year is expressed in terms of the "Ratanakosin" Era, which was introduced in the year R. S. 108 (1889-1890). In this case the King's head and the seated figure are also "tête-bêche" as regards their relative positions.

(c) Thirdly, there is a series, minted in, and apparently confined to, the year R.S. 122 (1903), in which the King's head and the seated figure are in the same alignment, but facing different ways (*Plate VI No. 8*).

**Nickel (V) (Flat).** The above series of copper coins, with its various modifications, remained actually in use until the year R.S. 127 (1908), when it was definitely succeeded by a decimal nickel coinage. But it is interesting to note that in the year 1898 an attempt had already been made by the Government to introduce the nickel decimal coinage, and that in fact a Royal Proclamation was issued by the King on the 21st of August R.S. 117 (1898), notifying the issue of nickel coins, consisting of 4 values, as follows:—

20 Satang

10 Satang

5 Satang

$2\frac{1}{2}$  Satang

On the *obverse*, in the centre, is a three-headed Elephant, with the words “สยาม อาณาจักร” (Kingdom of Siam) above, and the words “ศก ๑๑๖” (the year 116) below, these inscriptions forming the upper and lower segments of a circle: the remainder on either side is filled up with a scroll-work of leaves.

On the *reverse*, in the centre, is a large figure, ๒๐ (20), ๑๐ (10), &c., with the value in letters above, e.g. สิบสตางค์ (ten satang), forming the segment of a circle, the remainder of the circle being filled up by a scroll-work of leaves, as before (*Plate VI Nos. 9-12*).

During the year R.S. 116 (1897) the King went to Europe for the first time, and it was no doubt during his visit that the minting of these coins was arranged.

A fund of useful and interesting information is given in the Decree referred to above, and a summarised translation is as follows:—

**Royal Proclamation of 21st. August R. S. 117 (1898),  
notifying the issue of nickel coins.**

“ Formerly the subsidiary currency had the following values, ”  
 “ viz. 800 cowries equal one Fuang, 2 Fuang equal one Salung, 4 ”  
 “ Salung equal one Tical. At present we are using the following ”  
 “ copper coins as fractions of the Fuang, viz. 4 Atts (Songpai), 2 Atts ”  
 “ (pai), 1 Att, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Att (Solot). These were struck on the *obverse* ”  
 “ with the Royal Monogram  $\text{R. S.}$  and the Little Crown above the ”  
 “ letter  $\text{R}$ , and also with the inscriptions “ Kingdom of Siam ” and ”  
 “ Fifth Reign ” ; on the *reverse* with a wreath of laurel leaves, in the ”  
 “ middle of which appears the denomination of the particular coin and ”  
 “ the date. Their issue was notified in the year of the Pig, Chula Era ”  
 “ 1237, and the year of the Rat, Chula Era 1238. There are also copper ”  
 “ coins of another design for the 2 Atts (Pai), the Att, and the  $\frac{1}{2}$  Att ”  
 “ (Solot) only. These have on the *obverse* His Majesty’s effigy with the ”  
 “ following inscription round the border, “ Chulalongkorn P. R. Phra ”  
 “ Chula Chom Klao Chao Krung Siam, ” and on the *reverse* the figure ”  
 “ representing ‘ Siam ’ holding a staff and seated on a shield. Their ”  
 “ issue was notified in the year of the Pig, Chula Era 1249. All these ”  
 “ coins are valued in accordance with the original notation. In the ”  
 “ accounts the figures of a sum are accordingly entered in three ”  
 “ columns, viz., Catties, Bahts, and Atts — 64 Atts, or 6,400 cowries, ”  
 “ equalling one Tical and 80 Ticals one Catty, which is the unit. Now ”  
 “ the system of keeping accounts is to be changed to a decimal one, ”  
 “ reducing the number of columns to two only, viz., Ticals and, ”  
 “ Satang. The value of a Satang is to be a hundredth part of a ”  
 “ Tical, so that the summing up of a number of figures will be a ”  
 “ much simpler task. H. M. the King has therefore been pleased to ”  
 “ command the mintage of subsidiary nickel coins of 4 denominations, ”  
 “ all having on the *obverse* the image of the three-headed Elephant ”  
 “ and the inscriptions “ Kingdom of Siam ” and “ Year 116 ”, but on the ”  
 “ *reverse* each denomination shall show its respective nominal value ”  
 “ in letters and large numerals in the centre, thus twenty Satang, ”  
 “ 20 ; ten Satang, 10 ; five Satang, 5 ; and two and a half Satang,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ”

“Being free from oxidizability and very portable, these nickel ”  
“ coins will form a more suitable currency than the copper ones. Both ”  
“ kinds of the latter will, however, still be legal token coins for their ”  
“ original nominal value, side by side with those of the Satang de- ”  
“ nominations, and the one may be freely demanded from the ”  
“ Treasury in exchange for the other at its full proportionate ”  
“ nominal value.”

“ On and from the 21st. September R. S. 117 ( 1898 ), the ”  
“ nickel coins shall be current at their respective values mentioned ”  
“ above.”

“ Proclaimed on 21st. August R. S. 117 (1898), being the ”  
“ 10,874th. day of the present Reign.”

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Notwithstanding the issue of this Proclamation, the accounts continued to be kept in Ticals and Atts until after the issue of the Gold Standard Act on the 11th. of November 1908 ( R. S. 127 ), when the nickel coins above-described were called in, and the system of currency was changed definitely to a decimal one, with a new series of Satang (Cent) coins.

It is clear now that the attempt in 1898 was premature, as the coins found little favour among the people, and when they were eventually called in, they were sold, to the nominal value of Tcs. 1,500,000, to a local firm as metal with the condition that they should be melted down.

**Nickel (VI)** As indicated above, a new series of Satang  
**(Flat).** values, minted in Europe, came into use in  
the year R. S. 127 (1908), with the introduc-  
tion of the Gold Standard Act. This series consisted of 3 values,  
each with a round hole in the centre, of which two were nickel,  
and one was copper, as follows:—

10 Satang	} nickel
5 Satang	
1 Satang	copper.

On the *obverse* is a large "Chakr" filling the entire available space. In the inner margin are inscribed, in very small letters, the words  $\text{ร. ส. ๑๒๗}$  (R. S. 127).

On the *reverse* is the figure  $\text{๑, ๕, ๑๐}$  (1, 5 or 10) below: on the left, the words  $\text{สยามรัฐ}$  (State of Siam), and on the right the word  $\text{สตางค์}$  (Satang). Round the hole runs a decorative border ending in a tail (*Plate VI Nos. 13, 14, 15*).

As regards the *obverse* of this series, a slight modification was introduced in the following year R. S. 128 (1909), when the two letters  $\text{ร. ส.}$  (R. S.) were omitted, and the figures  $\text{๑๒๘}$  (in 1910,  $\text{๑๒๙}$ ) appeared alone (*Plate VI No. 16*).

This completes the tale of the subsidiary coinage issued in the reign of King Chulalongkorn, but I cannot leave this reign without referring to an issue of paper-money which took place in the year 1874.

It has been indicated, in dealing with King Mongkut's reign, that the tin coinage introduced was very extensively forged, and eventually King Chulalongkorn decided to replace it with the series of copper coins noted under **AE Flat (III)**. While the machinery for the minting of this series was being introduced, a Decree was promulgated on the 29th. of June 1874, notifying the issue of locally made Paper Money (of the value of 1 Att), to be used temporarily in place of the tin coinage then in circulation.

As the new series of coins was issued in 1875 and 1876, the period of circulation of these paper Atts could only have covered two years at the most, and they are accordingly very scarce now.

Only one side of the note is printed. The other side is blank. The paper used is a stout cream wove, and measures  $5\frac{3}{4}$  in  $\times$   $3\frac{5}{8}$  in. ( $14.7 \times 9.3$  cm.).

First, there is a deep border, composed of black leaf-scrolls within rectangular frames, with quatre-foils in the corners. Inside

the border, in the centre of the note, is printed the value in large black letters “ราคาัฐหนึ่ง” (Value 1 Att) (*Plate XI No. 1*).

Embossed in plain relief on the paper, but underneath the words of the value, is a large round impression of the Royal Arms, while to the left of the value is embossed another smaller, and rectangular impression of the Royal Arms. In the top-left corner, inside the border, is *written* in black ink the number, e. g. ๑๔๔๙๒ (14,492), while just below the value, towards the right is *written* in red ink the number again, but in words this time หมื่นสี่พันสี่ร้อยเก้าสิบสอง (fourteen thousand, four hundred and ninety-two).

A summarised translation of the Decree of June 29th. 1874 is given below :—

### Decree of June 29th. 1874.

“The tin Atts and Solots which had been minted and put”  
 “into circulation in the place of cowries in the last reign have been”  
 “much counterfeited, and when the legal value of the Att was subse-”  
 “quently reduced to twenty cowries, a great many of these coins dis-”  
 “appeared, while no more have been manufactured owing to the”  
 “fact that copper ones could not be produced with the existing”  
 “machinery. Bigger machines of greater power are being ordered,”  
 “and as soon as they are installed and ready for working, the Mint will”  
 “produce such copper coins as will challenge the ingenuity of coun-”  
 “terfeiters. At present, however, the public are taxed with the token”  
 “coins of the gaming house Farmers (**Pee**, q. v.), which are accepted”  
 “only in their respective issuing districts and only during their”  
 “issuers’ tenure of the district monopoly. H. M. the King has now been”  
 “pleased to command the printing of paper “atts”, each sealed with the”  
 “Royal Arms of two different sizes, and all numbered in consecutive”  
 “order to differentiate them from each other. Should any note be”  
 “found with the same number as another, the counterfeit note will”  
 “probably be discovered after a careful examination of the seal-marks”

“and the frame-work design. These paper “atts” shall be legal currency”  
 “for the time being until copper coins can be issued after the installa-”  
 “tion of the new machinery. Any one having more of them than he”  
 “needs may present them for payment at the Treasury between 11”  
 “A. M. and 3 P.M., and their value will be paid him that same day.”  
 “Should any of the notes presented be torn in two or more places, it”  
 “will be accepted as long as the pieces can be formed into one and the”  
 “same note, and no commission whatever will be charged on its pay-”  
 “ment. By command of H.M. the King, therefore, Phya Rajbhakdi”  
 “Sriratanarajsombat, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Crown”  
 “of Siam and Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Chula Chom Klao,”  
 “hereby notifies to all, high and low, that, from the first day of the”  
 “waxing moon in the second eighth month of the year of the Dog,”  
 “sixth of the current cycle, the Treasury will issue paper “atts” instead”  
 “of tin coins till the Mint is completely furnished (when copper coins”  
 “will be manufactured to replace these paper “atts”), and that these”  
 “paper “atts” may be freely used by the public without fear of loss.”

Proclaimed on Monday, the first day of the waning moon in”  
 “the first eighth month of the year of the Dog, sixth of the current”  
 “cycle, Chula Era 1234, being the seventh year of the present Reign.”

## VI. Somdet Phra Paramin Maha Vajiravudh

(Rama VI) 1910 — .

Shortly after the accession of King Vajiravudh, the style and title of the Dynasty was changed, and each King of the Dynasty is now known officially as Rama I, II, and so on, ending with the present King, who is styled Rama VI.

So far the present reign has proved uneventful as regards the issue of coinage, the types introduced at the close of the last reign being maintained.

**AV** No gold coins have up to the present been issued.

As already remarked, gold Salungs and Fuangs of the “bullet” shape are still sometimes minted by the Treasury upon

request, for presentation purposes, but these bear the mark of the "Chakr" and the Crown of the 4th. reign.

**AR**  
**(Flat).**

One series of silver coins has been issued, consisting of three values

1 Tical

$\frac{1}{2}$  Tical

$\frac{1}{4}$  Tical

Except for the fact that the effigy and inscriptions have been altered to suit present conditions, the design on both *obverse* and *reverse* of all three coins is the same as in that described under King Chulalongkorn **AR Flat (III)**. It will be noticed that the value Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical) has now disappeared, and that the value " $\frac{1}{2}$  Tical", which disappeared when the "bullet" ticals ceased to be minted, has been reintroduced (*Plate VII Nos. 1, 2, and 3*).

**Nickel**  
**(Flat).**

As far as the subsidiary coinage is concerned, the same series, as noted under King Chulalongkorn, has been continued, the only modification noticeable being in the date. At first this was expressed in simple figures as before, such as ๑๓๐ (130) or ๑๓๑ (131); but in 1913, when the "Ratanakosin" Era was definitely discarded in favour of the ancient Buddhist Era, this latter at once began to appear on the coinage in the form of พ. ศ. ๒๔๕๖ (P. S. 2456, i. e. Putta Sakarat, or Buddhist Era 2456), corresponding with A. D. 1913 (*Plate VII Nos. 4, 5, and 6*).

10 Satang

5 Satang

1 Satang

One peculiarity of the 5 Satang piece is known.

In the year B. E. 2463 coins of this value were minted with only the figures '2463' stamped upon them, the letters พ. ศ. (P. S.) being omitted (*Plate VII No. 7*). Later mintings have, however, reverted to the original form.

Also it may be remarked that there are two types of the bronze 1 Satang bearing the date ๒๔๖๑ (2461). This is due to the fact that a portion of the bronze currency of that year was minted in Bangkok, in addition to those obtained from Europe in the usual way.

As you probably all know, the fineness of the silver coinage has, during the past four or five years, been constantly changed in order to adapt itself to the price of silver prevailing, but I do not propose to weary you with these technical details now.

I have only, therefore, in concluding my paper, to thank you, one and all, for the deep attention you have given to my efforts to place before you the results of what to me has been a labour of love, and to you, I hope, is not so dustily dry a study as you had perhaps anticipated.

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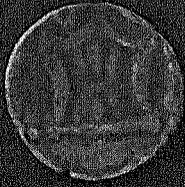


## KEY TO PLATE I.

1. **AR** Coin dug up at Phrapathom, 80 miles west of Bangkok: of Indian origin, showing Trident of Siva, with (?) tortoise beneath. Probably before 7th. century A. D. Weight, 135 grs. No value expressed.
2. **AR** Type of coin dug up near Pegu, Lower Burma, of similar style and period. Weight unknown. No value expressed.  
(Taken from Sir A. Phayre's Book on Burmese Coins, 1882).
3. 4. 5. Mixture of Silver and Lead, and/or Antimony. Types of pre-Ayuthian Coinage (i. e. before A. D. 1350), showing various marks, such as the "Chākṛ" (or Discus of Vishnu), the Elephant, &c.  

No. 3	weighs	1361	grs.	(approx. 6	Ticals).
No. 4	,,	709	grs.	(approx. 3	Ticals).
No. 5	,,	1306	grs.	(approx. 5½	Ticals).
6. **AR** The "Chākṛ" or "Discus of Vishnu", which is the Dynastic mark constant throughout the Bangkok Period (1782-1924 A. D.).
7. **AR** Type of pre-, or possibly early, Ayuthian Tical in silver (i. e. before or about 1350 A. D.). Two marks, the "Chākṛ" above, and the "Rāchūwāt" below. Weight, 215 grs.
8. **AR** Type of mid-Ayuthian Tical, showing what is thought to be a lotus mark. Weight, 226 grs.
9. **AR** Illustration of single hammer-mark on Ayuthian Tical.
10. **AR** Illustration of double hammer-mark on Bangkok Tical. The ridge in the centre can be plainly seen.
11. **AR Phra Phutta Yawt Fa (Rama I)**—1782 A. D. —1 Tical—Mark of "Tri" (Trident of Siva)—Weight, 230 grs.
12. **AR** Do. Do. Do. —1786 A. D. —2 Ticals—Mark of "Unalom" (Vertical Conch-Shell)—Weight, 467 grs.
13. **AR** Do. Do. Do. Do. —1 Tical—Mark of "Unalom"—Weight, 232 grs.
14. **AR** Do. Do. Do. Do. —1 Tical—Blurred, indistinguishable mark of same issue.
15. **AR Phra Phutta Lert La (Rama II)**—1809 A. D. —1 Tical—Mark of "Krūt" (Garuda Bird)—Weight, 234 grs.

Plate I



1



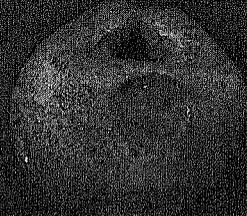
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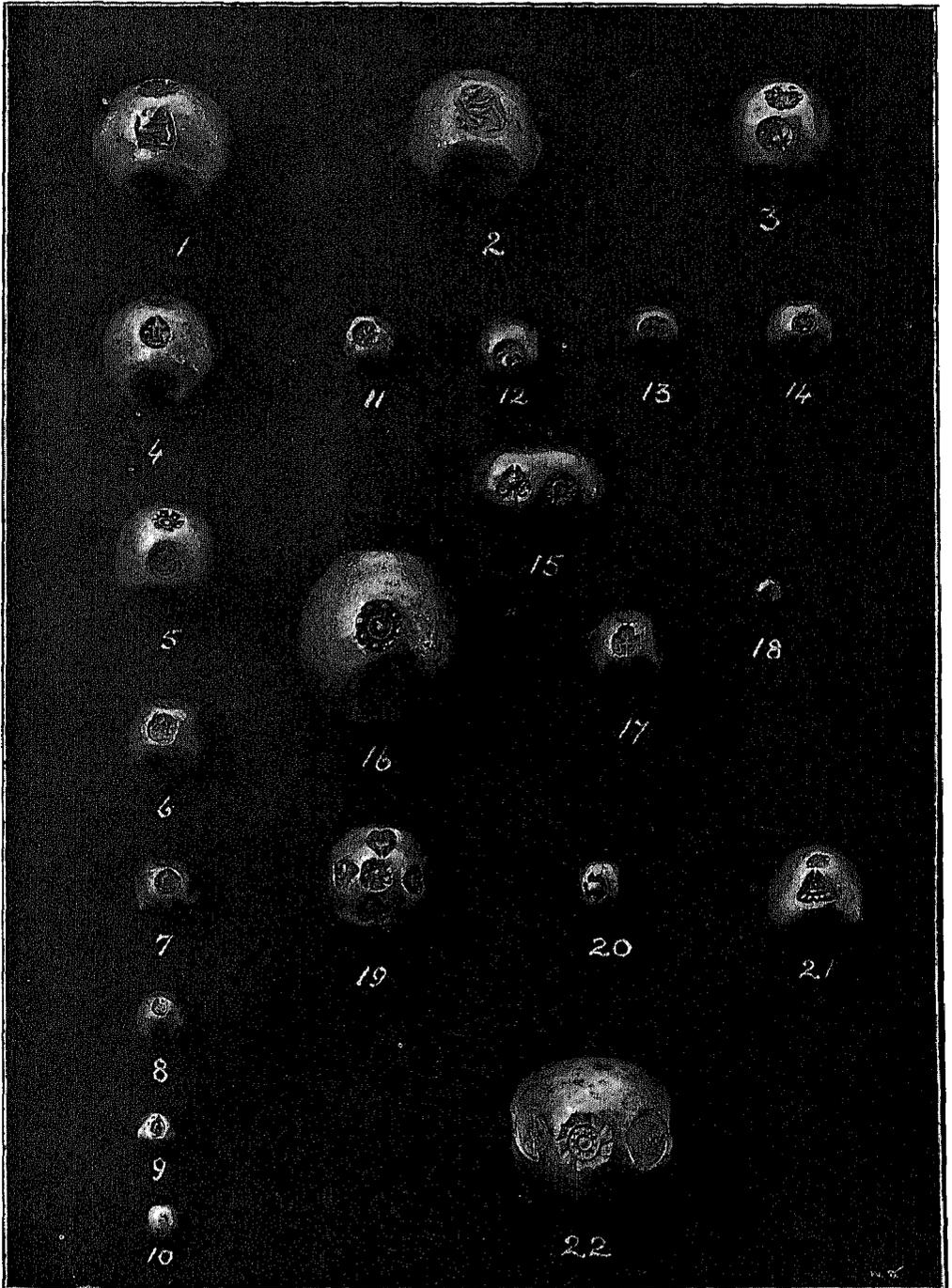




## KEY TO PLATE II.

1. **AR Phra Nang Klao (Rama III)** — 1824-1851 A. D. —  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Ticals — Mark of "Krit Sio" (Garuda Bird in profile) — Weight, 584 grs.
2. **AR** Do. Do. Do. —  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Ticals — Mark of "Krit Sio" — Another type — Weight, 585 grs.
3. **AR** Do. Do. Do. — 1 Tical — Mark of "Chaleo" (Trigram) — Weight, 283 grs.
4. to 10. **AR** Do. Do. Do. Set of 7 values —  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Ticals (Weight, 351 grs.); 1 Tical (Weight, 282 grs.);  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $\frac{1}{16}$ , and  $\frac{1}{32}$  Tical (Weights according to scale) — Mark of "Prasat" (Palace).
11. **AR** Do. Do. Do. — 1 Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical) — Mark of "Dawk Mai" (Flower) — Weight, 27 grs.
12. **AR** Do. Do. Do. — 1 Salung ( $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical) — Mark of "Bai Matum" — Weight, 58 grs.
13. **AR** Do. Do. Do. — 1 Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical) — Mark of "Ruang Peung" (Bee Mark) — Weight, 28 grs.
14. **AR** Do. Do. Do. — 1 Salung ( $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical) — Mark of "Arrow-Head" — Weight, 60 grs.
15. **AV Phra Chawm Klao - Mongkut (Rama IV)** — 1851-1868 A.D. —  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Ticals — Mark of "Mongkut" (Crown) to the left, and "Chäkr" to the right. — Weight, 343 grs.  
 N. B. This coin is commonly called "Tong Met Kanun" or the "Golden Jackfruit-Seed".
16. **AR** Do. Do. Do. — 4 Ticals — Mark of "Mongkut" (Crown) — Weight, 933 grs.  
 N. B. The lower mark is indicated: the upper one shown is the "Chäkr" (Discus).
17. **AR** Do. Do. Do. —  $\frac{1}{2}$  Tical — Mark of "Mongkut" — Weight, 117 grs.
18. **AR** Do. Do. Do. —  $\frac{1}{64}$  Tical (1 Att) — Mark of "Mongkut" — Weight, 4 grs.
19. **AR** Do. Do. Do. — 1 Tical — Mark of "Mongkut" (repeated 4 times) — Weight, 236 grs.
20. **AR** Do. Do. Do. — 1 Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical) — Mark of "Phra Tao" (Bottle for Holy Water) — Weight, 29 grs.
21. **AR Phra Paramin Maha Chulalongkorn (Rama V)** — 1868-1910 A. D. — 1 Tical — Mark of "Phra Kiao" (Coronet) — Weight, 234 grs.
22. **AR** Do. Do. Do. — 1880 A.D. — 4 Ticals — Mark of "Crown" to the right, and of "Chaw Rampoui" to left — Weight, 938 grs.

Plate II







### KEY TO PLATE III.

1. **AV Phra Chawm Klao - Mongkut (Rama IV)** — 1851—1868 A. D.—Issued October 1863—“Thong Tot” (Dos)— $\frac{15}{32}$  Tical — Weight, 102 grs.  
*Obverse*: Crown supported by umbrellas with scrolls between, and with rays above.  
*Reverse*: Elephant in medallion, with bead frames.
2. **AV Do.** Do. Do.  
 Thong Phit— $\frac{15}{64}$  Tical — Weight, 54 grs.  
 Same design as in 1. on *Obverse* and *Reverse*.
3. **AV Do.** Do. Do.  
 Thong Paddeung— $\frac{5}{32}$  Tical — Weight, 34 grs.  
 Same design as in 1. on *Obverse* and *Reverse*.
4. **AV Do.** Do. Do.  
 1 Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical) — Weight, 29 grs.  
*Obverse*: Large Crown with sprays of flowers on either side (not shown).  
*Reverse*: The letters “ $\text{ᨾᨿᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶ}$ ” (Krung Thep), the Siamese name for Bangkok, in a bead frame (as shown).
5. **AR Do.** Do. Do.—(date of issue not known)—1 Salung — Weight, 56 grs.  
*Obverse*: 4 marks—“Chakr” above, Crown below, “Phra Tao” (Water-Bottle) to left and to right.  
*Reverse*: Blank.
6. **AE Phra Nang Klao (Rama III)**—1824 — 1851 A. D. — Copper Token, brought to Siam by English merchant for possible use as coin, but not accepted. Weight, 60 grs.  
*Obverse*: The words “ $\text{ᨾᨿᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶ}$ ” (Muang Thai), the Siamese name for “Siam”, with 2 stars, one above and one below (not shown).  
*Reverse*: A large lotus bloom, with the date  $\text{ᨾᨿᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶ}$  (1197) = 1835 A. D. below (as shown). No value expressed.
- 7 to 12. **AV Phra Chawm Klao (Rama IV)** — 1851—1868 A. D. — Date of issue not known—2 Ticals (Weight, 465 grs.) to 1 Songpai ( $14\frac{1}{2}$  grs.), with milled edges.  
*Obverse*: Crown, with umbrellas and leaf scroll on either side, in a beaded frame.  
*Reverse*: Elephant in a medallion formed of the “Chakr” surrounded by stars, one for each “Fuang” indicated: the whole in a beaded frame.
13. **AV Do.** Do. Do.—Date of issue not known—1 Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical) — Weight, 31 grs.  
 Similar in design to above, but the Crown is much larger, and the edges are not milled.  
 Called “Bännākān”, signifying a “Royal Gift”.

Plate III



1



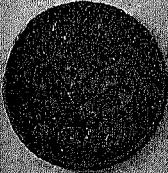
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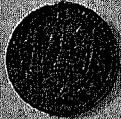
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Plate III



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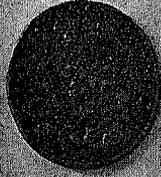
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## KEY TO PLATE IV.

1. **AR Phra Chawm Klao - Mongkut (Rama IV)** — 1851 — 1868 A. D. —  
 4 Ticals — Weight, 933 grs.  
*Obverse*: Crown, with umbrella and leaf scroll on each side, in a beaded frame.  
*Reverse*: The words “ $\text{ᨾᩯ᩵ᨦᩈᩬᩁ}$ ” (Kingdom of Siam) in a frame, and the words “Chang Tong Ming Pao” in Chinese around the frame: the whole surrounded by an outer beaded frame.
- 2, 3, & 4. **AR** Do. Do. Do.—1 Tical (Weight, 231 grs.): 1 Salung (Weight, 59 grs.): 1 Fuang (Weight, 28 grs.).  
 Similar in design to the gold issue described on Plate III, but the spokes of the “Chükr” are larger. Called “Bännäkän”, or a “Royal Gift”.
5. **AR** Do. Do. Do.—Mexican Dollar (dated 1856) — Weight, 411 grs.  
*Reverse* stamped with “Mongkut” (Crown) and “Chükr” (Discus), and placed in use as currency temporarily.
- 6 & 7. **AE** Do. Do. Do. —Att ( $\frac{1}{4}$  Fuang) — Weight, 103 grs.; and Solot ( $\frac{1}{16}$  Fuang) — Weight, 54 grs.  
*Obverse*: Crown on stand with supporting umbrellas and sprays of flowers between them.  
*Reverse*: Elephant in a medallion formed of the “Chükr”, in a beaded frame.  
 On the “Att” is written in Siamese “eight to the Fuang”, and in figures “ $\frac{1}{2}$ .....F”: on the Solot “16 to the Fuang”, and “ $\frac{1}{16}$ .....F”: and on both the value in Chinese below.
- 8 & 9. **AE** Do. Do. Do.—4 Atts ( $\frac{1}{2}$  Fuang) — Weight, 233 grs.; and 2 Atts ( $\frac{1}{4}$  Fuang) — Weight, 120 grs.  
*Obverse*: Similar design to 6 & 7.  
*Reverse*: Similar design to 6 & 7, but the 4 Atts has the inscription “Two to the Fuang” in Siamese and the figures “ $\frac{1}{2}$ .....F”; and on the 2 Atts is “Four to the Fuang”, and “ $\frac{1}{4}$ .....F”; with the value in Chinese in both cases.
10. **AV Phra Paramin Maha Chulalongkorn (Rama V)** — 1868 — 1910 A. D. —  
 1 Fuang — Weight, 30 grs.  
*Obverse*: Bust of the King, with inscription setting forth his Titles.  
*Reverse*: Siamese Crown, with rays, resting on a shield, with Royal Umbrellas as supporters, and inscriptions to left, to right, and below, reading “Kingdom of Siam”; “Vth Reign”; and “one Fuang” respectively.

Plate IV



3



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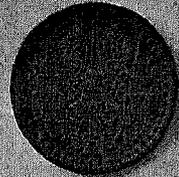
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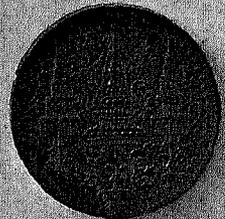
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## KEY TO PLATE V.

- 1.2.3. **AR Phra Paramin Maha Chulalongkorn (Rama V)**—1868—1910 A.D.—  
 1 Tical (Weight, 235 grs.):  $\frac{1}{2}$  Tical (Weight, 57 grs.):  $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical (Weight, 29 grs.).  
*Obverse:* Crown resting on two Siamese bowls, one inside the other, with Royal Umbrellas as supporters, but no leaf scrolls between.  
*Reverse:* Elephant—Discus combination in a beaded frame. The edges are milled.
4. **AR** Do. Do. Do.—No. 2,  $\frac{1}{2}$  Tical, cupped like a bowl, for use in the gambling-houses.
5. **AR** Do. Do. Do.—1 Tical (Weight, 229 grs.):  $\frac{1}{2}$  Tical (Weight, 57 grs.):  $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical (Weight, 28 grs.).  
*Obverse:* Bust of the King, with inscription round it, setting forth his Titles.  
*Reverse:* Siamese Crown with rays, and the "Chākṛ" and "Trī" emblems beneath, the whole resting on a shield, with "lions" and Umbrellas as supporters, and a scroll beneath. The background is formed of two draped flags on crossed poles. To the left the inscription "Kingdom of Siam": to the right "the Vth. reign": and at the bottom "one Tical", all in Siamese.
6. **AR** Do. Do. Do.—1 Tical (Weight, 232 grs.).  
 Similar to No. 5, except that the words of value "one Tical" are smaller, and underneath them is expressed the year in Siamese "122" (1903-4).
7. **AR** Do. Do. Do.—1 Tical (Weight, 231 grs.).  
 Similar to No. 6, except that the lettering of both the value and the date is larger than in either No. 5 or No. 6.
- 8 & 9. **AR** Do. Do. Do.— $\frac{1}{2}$  Tical (Weight, 57 grs.): and  $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical (Weight, 28 grs.).  
 Both *Obverse* and *Reverse* similar in all respects to the Gold "Fuang" of Plate IV No. 10.
10. **AR** Do. Do. Do.—1 Tical (Weight, 234 grs.), similar to No. 5 with the Siamese inscription added "Rōng Krasūb" (Royal Mint) to left, and "116" (1897) to right, to commemorate the visit of H. M. the Queen of Siam to the Mint in that year.
- 11 & 12. **AR** Do. Do. Do.—1 Tical (Weight, 232 grs.)—issued in 1908.  
*Obverse:* Profile Bust of King with the inscription "Chulalongkorn" to left, and "Siam Indra" (King of Siam) to right.  
*Reverse:* Three-headed Elephant, with "Siam Rat" (State of Siam) to left,  
 41  
 "R. S. 127" (1908-9) to right, and "Neung Bāt" (one Tical) below.  
 Issued to commemorate the 41st. year of the "Record Reign" of King Chulalongkorn (November 1908).
13. **AE** Do. Do. Do.— $\frac{1}{16}$  Fuang ( $\frac{1}{2}$  Att)—Weight, 116 grs.  
*Obverse:* Siamese Crown, resting on two bowls with Royal Umbrellas as supporters.  
*Reverse:* The Elephant—Discus combination, with the inscription above in Siamese "16 to the Fuang", and the same in Chinese below. To the left, the value " $\frac{1}{16}$ ", to the right "F."
14. **AE** Do. Do. Do.—No value expressed or known—Weight, 211 grs.  
 Design similar to Plate V No. 1, except that above the Crown are rays, ten on either side; and on the obverse the Elephant is of stouter build. Possibly a bronze model for the silver Tical just referred to. The edge is milled.

Plate V



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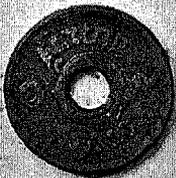
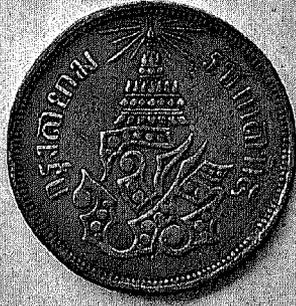


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Plate VI



## KEY TO PLATE VI.

1. 2. 3. & 4 **AE Phra Paramin Maha Chulalongkorn (Rama V)**—1868-1910 A.D.—  
4 Atts (Song pai), Weight, 338 grs.; 2 Atts (Pai), Weight, 170 grs.; 1 Att,  
Weight, 80 grs.;  $\frac{1}{2}$  Att (Solot), Weight, 40 grs. Minted in England.
- Obverse*: The Royal Monogram  $\text{จ. ๖. ๖.}$  (Ch. P. R.) and the small Crown  
with rays above. To the left, "Krung Siam" (Kingdom of Siam): to the  
right, 'Rūchakān thi ha' (5th Reign).
- Reverse*: Wreath of laurel leaves, with denomination and date in the centre,  
e.g. "Sio sī an uang" (Sio, four to the Fuang), and C.S. 1236 (1874-5).
5. 6. 7. **AE Do. Do. Do.** —2 Atts (Pai), Weight, 170 grs.: 1 Att, Weight,  
83 grs.: &  $\frac{1}{2}$  Att (Solot), Weight, 41 grs. Issued 1887. Minted in England.
- Obverse*: Effigy of King with inscription round it, setting forth his Titles.  
*Reverse*: Allegorical figure of "Siam", seated on a shield, and holding  
a sceptre.
- On the Att—to left, "Neung" (one); to right "Att" (Att); under the figure,  
the date, C.S. 1249 (1887-8).
- 8 **AE Do. Do. Do.** —2 Atts (Pai), similar to No. 5, but with the  
era changed from C.S. (Chula-Sakarāt) to R.S. (Ratanakosin Era), e.g.  
122 (1903-4)—Weight, 179 grs.—This era dates from the founding of Bangkok  
in 1782, but was only introduced in 1889.
- 9.10.11.12 **Nickel Do. Do. Do.** —20 Satang, Weight, 98 grs.: 10 Satang,  
Weight, 61 grs.: 5 Satang, Weight, 44 grs.:  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Satang, Weight, 29 grs.—  
Issued in 1898.
- Obverse*: Three-headed elephant in the centre, with "Siam Anachak"  
(Kingdom of Siam) above, and "Sok 116" (the year 116) below: leaf-scrolls  
between the words.
- Reverse*: A large figure of value in the centre e.g. ๑๐ (10), with the value  
in letters above, e.g. 'sib Satang' (ten Satang): leaf scrolls round the border  
as before.
13. **AE Do. Do. Do.** —1 Satang (cent), Weight, 70 grs.
- Obverse*: Inscription in Siamese "Siam Rāt" (State of Siam) "1 Satang".  
*Reverse*: Representation of 'Chāk' containing the date 'R. S. 127' (1908-9).
14. & 15 **Nickel Do. Do. Do.** —5 Satang (cents), Weight, 30 grs.: 10  
Satang (cents), Weight, 52 grs.
- Obverse & Reverse* similar to No. 13, with the exception of the value.
16. **Nickel Do. Do. Do.** —10 Satang (cents), Weight, 51 grs. Similar  
to No. 15, but the *Reverse* has the date in figures only, e.g. 129, and the  
letters 'R.S' omitted.





## KEY TO PLATE VII.

1. 2 & 3. **AR Phra Paramen Maha Vajiravudh (Rama VI)** — 1910 — A.D.  
1 Tical, Weight, 231 grs.;  $\frac{1}{2}$  Tical (2 Salung), Weight, 115 grs.;  $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical (Salung), Weight, 56 grs.  
*Obverse*: Bust of King looking to right, with inscriptions in Siamese (a) to left, "Maha Vajiravudh," (b) to right, "Siam Indra" (King of Siam).  
*Reverse*: Three-Headed Elephant with inscriptions (a) to left, 'Siam Rāt' (State of Siam); (b) to right, date "2460" (1917—18); (c) below, "Neung Bāt" (one Tical), or "Song Saleung" (2 Salung), or "Neung Saleung" (one Salung).
4. **AE** Do. Do. Do.—1 Satang (Cent)—Weight, 77 grs.  
*Obverse*: Inscription "Siam Rāt" (State of Siam) "1 Satang".  
*Reverse*: Representation of the 'Chākṛ', containing the date "P. S. 2463" = B. E. 2463 (1920-21).
5. & 6. **Nickel** Do. Do. Do. —5 Satang (Cents), Weight, 31 grs. : 10 Satang (Cents), Weight, 54 grs.  
*Obverse & Reverse* similar to No. 4, with the exception of the value.
7. **Nickel** Do. Do. Do.—5 Satang (Cents), Weight, 31 grs.  
*Obverse* Similar to No. 5, but *Reverse* has date with figures only, thus "2463" (1920-1), and no era is expressed.  
This only occurs on coins minted in the above year.
8. **Bank Note**, value one Tical, issued by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China in Bangkok prior to the issue of Government Notes in 1902. Undated.



2



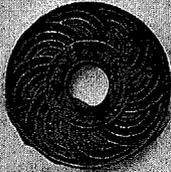
1



3



5



4



6



7

8







## KEY TO PLATE VIII.

1. to 6 Six types of **Cowrie-shells**, all of equal value, used in Siam from time immemorial as Currency, as follows:—

- |              |            |                  |
|--------------|------------|------------------|
| 1. Bia Plong | 2. Bia Kaa | 3. Bia Chan      |
| 4. Bia Nang  | 5. Bia Moo | 6. Bia Pong Lom. |

The value varied intermittently between 200 and 1600 to the Fuang ( $\frac{1}{8}$  Tical), but in the XIXth century it was usually fixed at 800 to the Fuang, or 100 to the Att. Their use was discontinued in 1862.

Bia Bua and Bia Tum are not shown.

7. 8. & 9. Three types of Brass, or Bronze, '**Pee**', used in Siam originally as gambling counters, but also as small change for general purposes.

Probably XVIIIth and XIXth centuries.

No. 7 represents 1 Fuang (8 atts): the other two have no value expressed.

10 to 15. Six types of Porcelain '**Pee**', used for the same purposes as indicated above. Nos. 11. & 12 have a value of 1 Salung (16 atts) and 1 Fuang (8 atts) respectively, and show a well-known portrait of Queen Victoria. No. 13 shows a Value of 1 Salung (16 atts): No. 14 is (conjecturally) 25 Cowries: and No. 15 is said by Mr. Haas to be  $\frac{1}{18}$  (?  $\frac{1}{16}$ ) of a Song Pai (4 atts).

All the above 'Pee' were issued, not by, but with the authority of, the Government.

Plate VIII



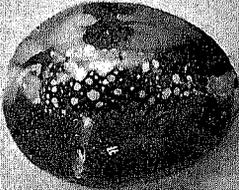
5



1



4



2



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3



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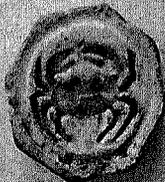
7



9



11



10



12



14



13



15





## KEY TO PLATE IX.

1. **Phra Chawm Klao - Mongkut (Rama IV)**—1851—1868 A. D.

Paper-Currency issued in 1853 (for the first time in Siam).

Bluish, wove, unwatermarked Paper, 14 cm. x 10.2 cm.

Value 4 Tamleung (16 Ticals).

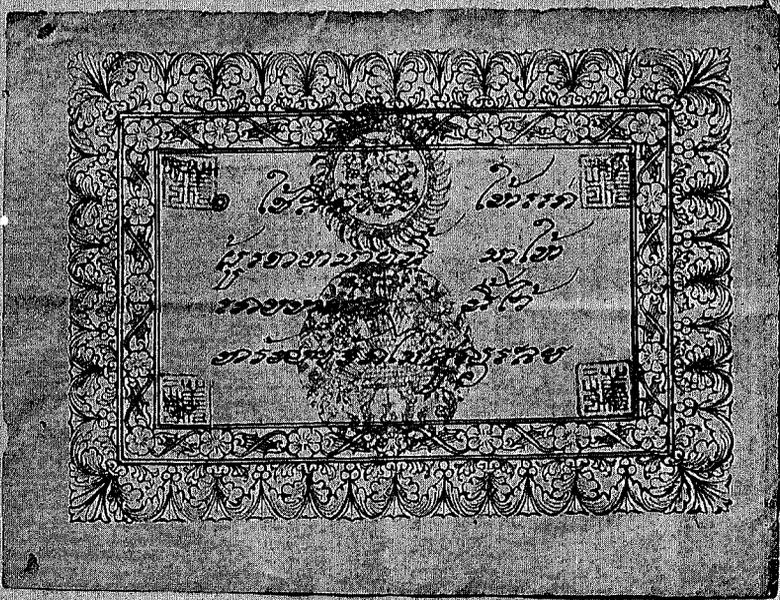
Rectangular Borders of flowers and leaf-scrolls, with inscriptions:—"Pay 4 Tamleung (16 Ticals) to the bearer of this note. Keep this note carefully, so that its value may never be lost". 'Chākkr' and 'Crown' seals super-stamped in red.

2. Do. Do. Do.

*Reverse* of similar Paper Currency.

Value 10 Tamleung (40 Ticals). Back-ground of leaf-scrolls with Royal Seal super-stamped in red. Above written in ink, "Zwei (?) Money 40 ticals", and below, "S.P.P.M. Mongkut's 3rd year", both in His Majesty's own hand-writing.

**N. B.** Four values are known, viz., 3 Tg. (12 Tes.); 4 Tg. (16 Tes.); 6 Tg. (24 Tes.); and 10 Tg. (40 Tes.).







## KEY TO PLATE X.

1. **Phra Chawm Klao - Mongkut (Rama IV)**—1851—1868 A. D.

Paper Currency of lesser value than as shown on Plate IX.

Bluish, wove, unwatermarked Paper, 8.7 cm. x 5 cm.

Value "1 Salung", expressed thus 

Rectangular borders of leaf scrolls, with value inscribed in 11 different languages, including Latin.

'Chakr' and 'Crown' seals super-stamped in red.

2. Do. Do. Do.

*Reverse* of similar Paper Currency. Value "1 Fuang", thus 

Rectangular bead-border with inscription:—

"Kindly use this note in place of the one Fuang coin. The Chief of the Royal Treasury will pay this amount to the bearer, who presents it for payment any day between the hours of noon and 3 o'clock in the afternoon at the barracks in the Royal Palace".

Royal Seal super-stamped in red.

**N. B.** Five values are known, viz., 1 Tical,  $\frac{1}{2}$  Tical,  $\frac{3}{8}$  Tical,  $\frac{1}{4}$  Tical, and  $\frac{1}{5}$  Tical.

3. Do. Do. Do.

Thick, cream, unwatermarked paper, 10.8 cm. x 8.5 cm.

Value expressed, 1 Chang 10 Tamleung (120 Ticals).

Inscription on one side only, the *reverse* being blank.

Border of scroll-work, with inscription:—"A royal gift of 1 Chang 10 Tamleung

in money". Value in figures as well, thus . Number of note in lower left corner, with Royal Monogram super-stamped in blue. In upper left corner octagonal Royal Crown Seal in plain relief. To the right, "Chākṛ" and "Crown" Seals super-stamped in red.

**N. B.** 11 values are known, viz., 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, and 15 Tg.; 1 Chang; 1 Ch. 5 Tg., and 1 Ch. 10 Tg.







## KEY TO PLATE XI.

1. **Phra Paramin Maha Chulalongkorn (Rama V)**—1868—1910 A. D.

Paper Currency issued in 1874. Stout, cream wove, 14.7 cm. x 9.3 cm.—Value 1 Att.

Rectangular frame of leaf-scrolls with value written in Siamese in large black letters, thus 'Value one Att'.

Large round Royal Seal embossed in plain relief, with smaller, rectangular seal to left, also in plain relief.

In the top left corner the number in black ink, and to the lower right, the number again, in words, also in black ink.

The *reverse* is blank.

2. Do. Do. ๒๒๑ Do.

**Bank Note**, value one Tical, issued by the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, prior to the issue of Government Notes in 1902—Dated July 1st. 1890.



