

Annual Report for 1927.

The year 1927 has been one of importance in the history of the Society, and of more than usual activity.

On two occasions His Majesty the King, the Patron, with Her Majesty the Queen, honoured the Society by being present at meetings: at one held in June in the Council Room of the Royal Institute under the auspices of the Natural History Section, and at another in December. The latter took place in the Isaravinichaya Hall of the National Museum, and was arranged by the History, Archaeology, Philology and Literature Section. The thanks of the Society are again due to H. R. H. Prince Damrong, the Vice-Patron, for allowing the Society to meet in the Royal Institute.

Following the demise of Queen Sukhumal Marasri, the Council sent a letter of condolence to H. R. H. the Prince of Nagara Svarga, Honorary President of the Society, and at a later date the members of the Council attended at the Dusit Maha Prasad, and laid a wreath before the Urn.

MEMBERSHIP.

No addition was made to the list of Honorary or Corresponding members in 1927.

During the year the number of Ordinary members elected was 23 as compared with 30 in 1926 and 47 in 1925 (the year when 24 members of the late Natural History Society were elected members of the Siam Society as a result of the amalgamation).

Against the 23 elections there were 16 resignations and 25 removals, while the deaths of two members, Messrs. R. C. Edwards and H. Jagd, have to be recorded with regret. The ordinary membership of the Society was thus reduced by 20.

The Membership at the 1st January 1928 was as follows:—

Honorary	Corresponding	Life	Ordinary
21	12	1	199

making a grand total of 233 as compared with 253 in 1926, 260 in 1925, and 238 in 1924.

THE COUNCIL.

There have been various changes in the Council in the twelve months under review. Mr. L. Brewitt-Taylor, Dr. Hugh M. Smith, Mr. W. H. Mundie, M. J. Burnay and Prof. M. Bréal have been on leave, and Mr. A. Marcan and Professor René Nicolas have been elected to the Council. Mr. Sebastian having proceeded on leave, M. J. Burnay was elected to act as Librarian, and, since the latter went on leave, Major Ladell has acted for him in this important office.

Thirteen Council Meetings were held in 1927.

Several matters of importance have been considered by the Council during the year. With the sanction of the Council and at the request of the Natural History Section, the President forwarded a petition on the subject of the preservation of the wild animals of the country to be laid before His Majesty. The Council received a reply from His Majesty's Principal Private Secretary to the effect that by Royal Command enquiries had been addressed to the Ministries concerned, asking for their opinions and suggestions as to the possibility of an enactment. The Council has kept in touch with the authorities in neighbouring countries where enactments having similar objects are in force, with a view to collecting information to be placed at the disposal of the authorities here at the appropriate time.

Of far-reaching importance has been the decision approving the proposal made by Mr. le May that the compilation of a Siamese-English-French dictionary be undertaken. The Council appointed a Committee with power to co-opt members, and this Committee has begun the groundwork of compilation. The Committee is at present constituted as follows :—Prof. G. Cœdès, Chairman, H. H. Prince Dhani Nivat, Phya Indra Montri, M. J. Burnay, Major Erik Seidenfaden, Mr. R. S. le May, all members of the Council ; H. H. Prince Bidyalankarana, Luang Thurakich, Phra Pramonda and the Rev. Brother Hilaire. H. H. Prince Dhani Nivat, as Minister of Public Instruction, has kindly promised to obtain, if possible, the financial assistance and general co-operation of the Government. H. R. H. Prince Damrong has very kindly allowed the staff at the Vajiravudh Library to

assist in the preparatory work, and the Ministry of Public Instruction has presented the Committee with two copies of the Padānukrom, the official dictionary of the Ministry. A beginning has thus been made of this much needed work, but many years must elapse before the dictionary in its final form will be ready for publication.

Another important subject considered by the Council was the establishment of a Natural History Museum, and a Committee consisting of Dr. Kerr, Prof. Morrison and Major Ladell was appointed to draw up a note embodying suggestions as to the main principles to be adopted for this purpose.

The rapidly growing library has received much attention during the year, and the efforts of M. J. Burnay and Major Ladell are very evident in the improved arrangement of the ever-increasing number of publications received by the Society. In this connection the Council have appointed a Committee to examine the whole question of exchanges with Foreign Societies, and to report to the Council thereon. The Committee consists of Prof G. Cœdès, Mr. R. S. le May and Major Ladell.

CONGRESSES.

Invitations have been received for the Society to be represented at the International Geographical Congress to be held at Cambridge in 1928, at the Congress of Orientalists to be held at Oxford in 1928, and at the Congress of Historical Sciences to be held at Oslo in 1928. Arrangements have been made for delegates to attend these Congresses on the Society's behalf.

The Society was directly represented by M. J. Burnay at the centenary celebrations held in Paris in October in honour of Marcelin Berthelot.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

A general meeting took place in December when Professor René Nicolas read a paper entitled "Le personnage du singe Hanuman dans le Ramayana siamois." Three short scenes illustrating the chief sides of the character of Hanuman, performed by members

of the Krom Khon Luang, who were graciously lent by His Majesty for the occasion, added greatly to the success of the lecture, which was delivered at the National Museum.

The Natural History Section.

This section held three meetings, the first in March when Dr. Morrison read a paper on the Microscopic Inhabitants of the Canals of Bangkok. At this meeting, Dr. Hugh M. Smith having resigned the leadership of the Section owing to his leaving Siam for a protracted period, Dr. A. F. G. Kerr was elected in his place. The second meeting was held in June in the Council Room of the National Institute, when Their Majesties were present. H. M. The King took part in the discussion following the reading of a number of short papers by Major Ladell, Dr. Morrison, Mr. Marcan, Dr. Kerr, and Mr. Aagaard. The evening was a notable one in the annals of the Society. The third meeting took place in October when Dr. Kerr, the section leader, lectured on Koh Tho, an island, in the Gulf of Siam.

*Section of History, Archaeology,
Philology and Literature.*

The first meeting of the Section was held in July, when M. J. Burnay read a paper on Siamese Phonetics and Siamese History, prepared by Prof. G. Cœdès and M. J. Burnay.

The second meeting took place in December at the National Museum, when Professor Cœdès lectured on the excavations made by the Royal Institute at Pong Tuk in Rajaburi Province. Their Majesties were present at the meeting, at which H. R. H. Prince Damrong presided, and a large audience gathered to listen to the account of the discoveries and to the lecturer's survey of the history of the monuments which originally occupied the site now being excavated.

Section of Fine and Applied Arts.

With the concordance of the temple authorities and under the leadership of Mr. R. S. le May a very successful meeting was held

in June at Wat Benchamabopitr. H. R. H. Prince Damrong related the history of the site on which the temple stood from early times to the present day, and subsequently accompanied the visitors round the gallery of images of the Buddha behind the Bôt.

THE JOURNAL.

Three parts of the Journal were issued during the year, Vol. XX, part 3, and Vol. XXI, parts 1 and 2. Vol. XXI, part 3 was in the press at the close of the year.

Vol. XX, part 3 contained a note on the Emblem of the Society with an explanation of the motto chosen to accompany the design. This part also included a paper on the Manners and Customs of the Chinese people as revealed in historical narratives and novels, by Phya Indra Montri, and a paper upon the Relations between Holland and Siam which had been read by Mr. Blankwaard at a general meeting of the Society held in April, 1926. In Vol. XXI, part 1, publication was begun of some of the letters and proclamations written in the English language by King Mongkut, edited by Prof. Cœdès, and the paper on "Le théâtre d'ombres au Siam" read by Prof. Nicolas at a general meeting of the Society in February, 1926. This paper was well illustrated. Dr. A. F. G. Kerr continued the notes he contributed to Vol. XVIII of the Journal on the Lawā of the Baw Lūang plateau, southwest of Chiangmai, the instalment being devoted to the vocabulary collected by the author in 1922, and to a description of the Lawā of Kānburi Province, also accompanied by a vocabulary. In Vol. XXI, part 2 the second instalment of the English correspondence of King Mongkut appeared, and contributions by MM. J. Burnay and G. Cœdès on the phonetics of old Siamese.

Two Natural History Supplements were published during the year. Vol. VII, parts 1 and 2 included papers by Dr. Hanitsch on a collection of Blattidae from Southern Annam, and Lt. Col. Fraser's notes on a collection of Dragonflies (Odonata) from Siam.

Professor Cœdès edited the Journal throughout the year, and Mr. E. J. Godfrey continued to act as Assistant Editor, in charge of the Natural History Supplements.

FLORAE SIAMENSIS ENUMERATIO.

It was not found possible to proceed with the printing of Part III. of the above work in 1927, owing to the late arrival of the manuscript from Aberdeen.

EXCURSIONS.

To the regret of the Council it was not found feasible to arrange excursions as in the preceding year. It is hoped, however, that at least two will be arranged during 1928.

GIFTS.

The following gifts have been received during the year for the Society's library : A history of Ratburi province in Siamese, printed in connection with the Lumbini Exhibition, and presented by Phya Gadadharabodi ; " An Asian Arcady " (The Land and Peoples of Northern Siam), presented by the author, Mr. R. S. le May ; A Guide to Bangkok, presented by the author, Major Erik Seidenfaden ; and a set of photographs taken at Wat Benchamabopitr on the occasion of the visit of the Section of Fine and Applied Arts, presented by Chin Ngi, the photographer of the Royal Institute.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

There was a slight decrease in nett receipts during the year, attributable to the fact that the Dansk Samfund gave up its lease of part of the Society's premises in April and to a small drop in the number of subscriptions collected. Larger expenses than usual in connection with the library produced an increase in expenditure, with the result that the balance to be carried forward is Tcs. 1,748.62 as against Tcs. 2,480.44 last year.

The sales of Journals and Craib's Flora of Siam shown in the balance sheet were mainly effected by Messrs. Luzac & Co. of London and represent sales over a period of approximately two years up to the middle of 1927.

In addition to the balance mentioned, there is also a sum of Tcs. 350 outstanding for subscriptions due, as against Tcs. 925 last

year and Tes. 1,500 in 1926. The substantial decrease of the sum outstanding under this head is due to the fact that by virtue of the rule providing for the removal of members on failure to pay their subscriptions a considerable number of names have been removed from the list of members.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of The Siam Society for the Year 1927.

Receipts.			Tcs. Stgs.	Expenditure.			Tcs. Stgs.
To	Balance brought forward from 1926	.. ..	2,480.44	By	Furniture and Fittings	.. ..	597.95
"	Subscriptions received for 1925	Tcs. 50.00		"	Electric Current	.. ..	98.18
	do. do. 1926	" 305.00		"	Clerk's wages	.. ..	180.00
	do. do. 1927	" 4,427.30		"	Coolie's wages	.. ..	264.00
	do. do. 1928	" 75.00	4,857.30	"	Postages—Hon. Treasurer	.. ..	19.30
		_____		"	Postages—Hon. Secretary	.. ..	105.28
To	Tiffin to W. A. Graham	.. ..	36.00	"	Rent for Rooms	.. ..	650.00
"	Excursion to Petchaburi	.. ..	40.00	"	Refreshments at lectures etc.	.. ..	77.25
"	" " Lopburi	.. ..	400.00	"	Books bound for library	.. ..	403.25
"	Rent from Dansk Samfund 1/XII/26 to 17/4/27	.. ..	158.00	"	Slips and filing cards (for Dictionary)	.. ..	216.00
"	Otto Harrasowitz—a/c sales 1926	.. ..	34.81	"	Lantern Slides for lecture	.. ..	57.00
"	Luzac & Co.—a/c sales to 30/6/27	.. ..	717.60	"	Plates for journals	.. ..	110.93
"	Sales Stamp Catalogues	.. ..	7.00	"	Sifton Praed & Co. settlement of old a/c, books for library	.. ..	83.50
"	Interest	.. ..	33.84	"	Printing Craib's Flora Vol. 1 Part 2	.. ..	978.00
				"	Printing Journals	.. ..	2,322.00
				"	Printing Authors' Separates	.. ..	75.00
				"	Stationery	.. ..	116.25
				"	Addressing, wrapping, forwarding etc. of Society's publications, circulars etc.	.. ..	92.50
				"	Printing postcards and notices	.. ..	172.00
				"	Postages on forwarding journals	.. ..	226.52
				"	Fire Insurance Premium	.. ..	71.15
				"	Sundry expenses—office and library and transport etc.	.. ..	94.56
				"	Balance at 31/12/27 (Petty Cash Tcs. 5.75 and Balance at Bank Tcs. 1,768.62 less Cheque Tcs. 20 not presented)	1,754.37
			Tcs. 8,764.99				Tcs. 8,764.99

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Examined and found to agree with the books and vouchers.

G. R. BROOKS. Bangkok, January 1928.

No. of Members as at 1st January 1928.—Honorary 21, Corresponding 12, Life 1, Ordinary 196, Free 3, Total 233.

NOTE: Bills outstanding amount to approximately Tcs. 450.

V. H. JAQUES, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Outstanding Subscriptions.—1926 Tcs. 50, 1927 Tcs. 300, Total Tcs. 350.