

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1930.

The Council of the Siam Society have pleasure in submitting their Report for the past year.

During the year Their Majesties honoured the Society by Their presence at an ordinary General Meeting on June 9th.

In the name of the Society the Council sent a telegram of congratulation to their Vice-Patron, H. R. H. Prince Damrong Rajanubhab, on the occasion of the Prince's birthday, the anniversary falling during His Royal Highness's visit to London. The Vice-Patron returned his thanks by cable.

## MEMBERSHIP.

At the Annual General Meeting held on February 19th 1930 Prof. Cœdès, the late President, the Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Eliot, G.C.M.G., and Prof. Kuroita of Tokio University, were elected Honorary Members in recognition of their services to the Society; and the number of free members was increased by one. In the course of the year 28 ordinary members were elected, as compared with 38 in 1929, 31 in 1928, 23 in 1927 and 30 in 1926. There were 19 resignations and the number of ordinary members was thus increased by nine.

The membership on January 1st 1931 was as follows:—

Honorary	Corresponding	Life	Free	Ordinary
21	10	2	4	235

making a total of 272, compared with 258 in 1929, 246 in 1928, 233 in 1927 and 253 in 1926. The membership in a community which is constantly changing remains progressive, each year of the past four showing an increase, slight, perhaps, but constant.

## THE COUNCIL.

At the annual meeting in February 1930, Phya Indra Montri (Mr. F. H. Giles) was elected President of the Society to succeed Professor G. Cœdès, who left Siam to take up the important post of Director of L' Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient at Hanoi, and the Council was enlarged by the election of H. E. Dr. Asmis, the German Minister, and Monsieur R. Lingat.

During the absence on home furlough of Mr. House, the Honorary Treasurer, the Rev. Father Chorin kindly took over his duties.

#### ACCOUNTS.

Three years have passed since the Council introduced the system of budgetting for all expenditure in advance and, by forming a Finance Committee, subjected the accounts to more rigorous supervision than formerly.

The fruits of this policy can be seen in the greatly strengthened financial position of the Society, which now has funds of over Tes. 6,000 available for exceptional publications.

Expenditure has been kept within the limits of the subscription income, and the proceeds from the sales of the Society's publications have been allowed to accumulate to form a reserve.

The demand for back numbers of the *Journal* and for Craib's *Flora of Siam* has continued to be satisfactory, although the income from this source is less than in the two previous years.

There has been no decline in membership during the year and the fall in subscription income is to be attributed to an unusually heavy list of arrears, which, however, are considered by the Council to be largely recoverable.

On the expenditure side, the *Natural History Supplement* absorbed a larger sum than usual, as two parts were published during the year. This item, due to the publication of Mr. Godfrey's paper on Butterflies, had, however, been foreseen two years ago and duly provided for.

As indicated in last year's report, the Reserve Fund was strengthened by a further Tes. 2,000, bringing this account at the end of 1930 up to Tes. 4,100. It is proposed to add another Tes. 2,000 from the surplus of the 1930 account. This money, and also that of the Building Fund, has been placed on fixed deposit, and good rates of interest have been obtained up to the present time.

## THE BUILDING FUND.

The Council's hope, referred to in last year's report, that they would be able to proceed with the erection of the Society's new home during 1930 has unfortunately not been possible of realisation. The sum subscribed amounted at the end of the year to about Tes. 24,500, and an effort is to be made to raise the balance required in 1931. The Council have appointed a new Building Committee, composed of the President, H. H. Prince Dhani and Mr. le May, with power to co-opt, and this Committee is considering new ways and means of raising funds.

## DICTIONARY COMMITTEE.

If work on the Siamese dictionary has not proceeded as quickly as some perhaps had hoped, progress can still be reported. The Council approved, on the recommendation of the Dictionary Committee, a modification of the scope of the volume as accepted originally by the Council in 1927. They were moved to agree to such a modification by the representation that, if the original plan were carried out, the cost of producing such an enormous bulk of volumes would be prohibitive. The modifications agreed upon are as follows. The original principle of the dictionary is to be retained, as far as English is concerned. This language will be used in the etymological part only, it being understood that in each case a full translation in English, and in English only, would be given of that part of the dictionary. As regards the other parts the principle of a polyglottic dictionary is to be retained so far only as English would be used for occasional glosses. Where French would yield a more forcible translation, it would be used alongside English.

During the year Dr. George McFarland accepted a seat on the Dictionary Committee, and H. H. the Minister of Public Instruction reported that an appeal from the Ministry had been forwarded to all provincial Education Officials to enlist their aid in collecting true Thai words. At a meeting of the Dictionary Committee held in August the question of publication in the Journal from time to time of material collected by contributors was discussed. It was agreed that no information, if of value, should

be withheld until the remote period when the compilation of the dictionary itself became possible. H. H. Prince Dhani and Dr. McFarland expressed their willingness to contribute lexicological notes to the Journal, and the Committee agreed that the publication of the Siamese index to Prof. Coëdès' *Inscriptions*, Vol. I, should not be further delayed.

The Council subsequently approved of the Committee's recommendations.

#### CONGRESSES, ETC.

An invitation has been received from the XVIIIth Congrès International des Orientalistes, inviting the Society to send a representative to the Congress to be held at Leyden, from the 7th to the 12th September 1931. Mr. Homan van der Heide, an Honorary member, and now resident in Holland, has consented to represent the Society at this Congress. M. Nicolas and M. Lingat may also be present.

The Council has been in communication with the Fifth Pacific Science Congress to be held at Victoria and Vancouver, B. C., from May 23 to June 4, 1932.

The Society received an invitation to be represented at the Chulalongkorn University in November at the conferment of degrees by His Majesty, and Major Seidenfaden, a Vice-President, and Dr. A. F. G. Kerr, a senior member of the Council, attended in the absence from Siam of the President.

The Teachers Association also extended an invitation to members to attend a lecture given in the presence of His Majesty on the 5th December by Phya Indra Montrai, the President of the Society.

#### MEETINGS.

On February 12th Mr. R. S. le May read a paper at a general meeting entitled *Some Reflections on "Siamese Tales, Old and New,"* a book by him in course of publication.

On June 9th Major W. R. S. Ladell read a paper at a general

meeting entitled "Some Insect Friends and Foes." The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides and specimens.

On June 16th Professor Pearse read a paper on the Migration of Animals from the Ocean into Land and Freshwater habitats.

#### JUBILEE BOOK.

The publication of the proposed Jubilee volume on "The Evolution of Siamese Script" has been postponed on financial grounds. The orders received in reply to the Society's preliminary circular sent to members and learned societies only numbered about 120 against a minimum number of 250 required, and the Council accordingly decided that, in view of the small support accorded, the edition as planned was not possible. Enquiries are therefore being made with a view to ascertaining what reduction might be effected (a) by a smaller edition and (b) by the substitution of paper covers for a portion of the edition instead of the full buckram for the whole issue. The illustrations prepared in part for the volume are available for reproduction in the Journal if the volume should eventually not be published.

#### EXCHANGE COMMITTEE.

The Exchange Committee of the Council have drawn up a new list of exchanges with foreign societies, but their report had not been formally placed before the Council at the end of the year.

#### STATUS OF SECTION LEADERS.

The question of the status of section leaders having been raised, the Council appointed a sub-committee to consider this subject. This Committee's report was circulated among members, and at the subsequent discussion the Council decided that the President should, if possible, take the chair at all meetings, and that the Leader of the particular Section should support the President. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, he would occupy the Chair.

#### STUDY SECTIONS.

During the year the Study Section of History, Archaeology,

Philology and Literature was divided into two sections, (1) Archaeology and History; and (2) Literature and Philology. H. H. Prince Bidyalankarana expressed his willingness to become the Leader of the Literature and Philology Section.

#### THE JOURNAL.

A small committee was appointed in the course of the year to advise on changes in the format of the Journal, and their recommendations were in due course accepted by the Council and given effect to in Volume XXIV, Part 1. It is hoped that the new form will be more acceptable to members.

Ways and means of creating a reserve of papers for publication in the Journal have been under discussion, and it has been suggested that machinery should be set up for the translation of French papers into English. A further suggestion that met with the Council's approval was the institution in the Journal of a section called Notes, to which all members were asked to contribute.

Volume XXIII, Part 3, and Volume XXIV, Part 1, have been issued during the year, and Volume XXIV, Part 2 is in the press.

#### NATURAL HISTORY SUPPLEMENT.

The Natural History Section has published Volume VII, Part 4, and the Index to Volume VII, and Volume VIII, Part 2. The first mentioned supplement comprised Mr. Godfrey's paper on the Butterflies of Siam, upon the compilation and publication of which the Council extended congratulations to the author.

Mr. J. Burnay continued to act as Editor of the Journal but vacated the duties of Librarian in favour of Major Ladell. Mr. E. J. Godfrey acted throughout the year as Assistant Editor, in charge of the Natural History Supplement.

#### FLORAE SIAMENSIS ENUMERATIO.

Printing of Part IV of the above work was proceeded with, and a great part completed before the end of 1930. This part will be published during 1931.

## EXCURSIONS.

The excursions arranged by the Agriculture, Travel and Transport Section, have for several years made a wide appeal to both members and their friends. At the beginning of the year the Society broke new ground and the excursion to Angkor Wat proved very successful and was greatly enjoyed by all taking part in it. The thanks of the Society were conveyed to the Authorities in Indo-China and to the Siamese Royal State Railways for the facilities granted, which allowed the journey to be made under very pleasant conditions.

Two other excursions, one to Lopburi and one to Kanburi, were arranged by the Section in the course of the year, and the facilities provided were again generally taken advantage of. The co-operation and helpfulness of the local officials on these occasions is a great factor in the success attending these brief journeys out of Bangkok.

## GIFTS.

It was agreed to accede to the request of H. R. H. Prince Damrong, to forward to His Holiness the Pope, for the Vatican Library, the first fourteen volumes of the Society's Journal as a gift from the Society.

Professor H. Otley Beyer, Professor of Anthropology in the University of the Philippines, forwarded for the Society's acceptance a bound MS. volume entitled "Chinese, Siamese and other Ceramic wares in the Philippine Islands"; two copies of a printed paper entitled "New data on Chinese and Siamese Ceramic wares of the 14th and 15th Centuries," and two sets of photographs. These were sent for the use of such members of the Siam Society as are particularly interested in Sawankalok wares or in Chinese celadons and porcelains of the late Sung and early Ming periods. A note for publication in the Journal dealing with the above subject is in course of preparation, and the Professor has been thanked for his kind gifts.

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**Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year 1930.**

<b>Receipts.</b>		Tcs. Stgs.
To Balance brought forward from 1929	...	3,427.54
.. Subscriptions received for 1929	Tcs. 125.00	
.. do. do. 1930	.. 4,700.00	4,825.00
.. Surplus on foreign exchange	... .. .09	
.. Luzac & Co., -a/c sales 1929	... .. 303.00	
.. Sales of Journals	... .. 177.92	
.. Jubilee Book : subscriptions paid in advance	... .. 45.00	
.. Authors' separates : extra sets ordered	... .. 4.00	
.. Dinner a/c : receipts	... .. 490.00	
.. Interest on current a/c	... .. 50.80	
.. Over-paid in 1929 to Bangkok Times Press	... .. 100.00	
		Tcs. 9,423.35
<b>Reserve Fund Account.</b>		
To Balance brought forward from 1929	...	2,000.00
.. Transfer from General a/c, per contra	...	2,000.00
.. Interest received	...	100.00
.. Balance on fixed deposit	...	4,100.00
<b>Building Fund Account.</b>		
To Balance brought forward from 1929	...	Tcs. 20,048.67
.. Donations received during 1930	...	630.00
.. Monthly subscriptions completed	...	310.00
.. Interest received	...	311.59
.. Balance : Deposit a/c	Tcs. 20,600.00	
.. Current a/c	970.26	21,770.26
.. Interest accrued but not yet received	...	670.00
.. Amounts promised	...	2,000.00
State of the Fund at December 31st, 1930	...	Tcs. 24,440.26

<b>Expenditure.</b>		Tcs. Stgs.
By Furniture and Fittings	...	92.50
.. Clerk's wages	...	300.00
.. Coolie's wages	...	264.00
.. Postages—Hon. Treasurer	...	22.94
.. Postages & telegrams—Hon. Secretary	...	224.57
.. Books bound for Library	...	49.75
.. Photographs for Jubilee book	...	223.00
.. Blocks, plates, art paper, for Journal	...	106.50
.. Printing Journal	...	1,042.00
.. Printing Natural History Supplement	...	1,535.00
.. Printing Authors' separates	...	41.50
.. Stationery	...	93.75
.. Stamped post-cards	...	9.00
.. Addressing, wrapping and forwarding of Journals	...	17.50
.. Printing post-cards and circulars	...	68.00
.. Postages on forwarding Journals	...	269.61
.. Fire Insurance	...	80.16
.. Insurance over-paid	...	65.25
.. Book purchased	...	10.00
.. Sundries for Library, clerical work for N. H. Section, etc.	...	25.00
.. Hire of P. O. box (two years)	...	40.00
.. S. E. C., Permanent installation for lantern	...	57.60
.. Dinner to Prof. Coedès, Dec. 1929	...	450.00
.. Transfer to Reserve Fund as contra	...	2,000.00
.. Balance carried forward to 1931	...	2,303.72
		Tcs. 9,423.35

C. J. HOUSE,  
Hon. Treasurer.

**Subscriptions outstanding.**

1930	...	Tcs. 750
Honorary	...	21
Corresponding	...	10
Life	...	2
Ordinary	...	235
Free	...	4
		272

**Number of Members as at 31st December, 1930.**

Examined and found to agree with the books and vouchers,  
G. R. BROOKS,  
Hon. Auditor.

Bangkok, February 9th, 1931.