

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1932.

The Council of the Siam Society has pleasure in submitting its Report for the past year.

It is not without interest to record that in the early part of the year the Council held its two hundredth meeting. Founded twenty-eight years ago, the average number of Council meetings from 1904 to 1914 per annum was five. Thereafter but four meetings were held in as many years, but from the sixtieth meeting in 1917 and onwards the Council have met regularly. These Council meetings represent a definite maintenance of interest in the work and aims of the Society, and it may be added that there are still serving on the Council original members of the Society.

At different periods during the year the Council bade farewell with regret to four of its members, Dr. R. Asmis, Dr. A. F. G. Kerr, Mr. A. Marcan and Mr. R. S. le May.

Dr. Asmis joined the Society soon after his arrival in Siam, and later was elected to the Council, and was a regular attendant at its deliberations. To his influence the growing membership of his countrymen may, in part, be attributed.

Dr. Kerr has been a member of the Council for nearly twenty years, and after the amalgamation of the Natural History Society with the older Society became leader of the Natural History Section and as such did much valuable work and thereby greatly stimulated the interest in this branch of the Society's activities. As a member of the Council Dr. Kerr has been of great help and his matured opinions, even on matters outside his particular domain, always assisted in the happy solution of difficult problems.

Dr. Kerr has contributed a number of interesting papers to the Society's Journal and his interest in the Society's work is being continued in his retirement for he has become a life member.

Mr. Marcan joined the Council in 1928; and served on the Finance Committee, the Natural History Museum Committee, and the Building Committee.

Both Dr. Kerr and Mr. Marcan have from time to time contributed papers to the Journal or the Natural History Supplement.

Mr. le May, a Vice-President, has been one of the Society's

most active workers in recent years. To him the successful outcome of the Building scheme is largely due as he, as a matter of fact, was the originator of the idea of making a home for the Society, and he was largely responsible for the launching of the appeal for funds.

He had served a term as Hon. Secretary, and was always ready to help in the administrative work of the Society. Furthermore, he has been a frequent contributor to the Journal, has lectured before the Society on several occasions and, finally, has completed the volume on the Coinage of Siam to take a worthy place in the list of the Society's publications. To show its appreciation of his work the Society entertained Mr. le May to a farewell tiffin at the Trocadéro Hotel on November 26th.

The Council sent a letter of congratulation to H. H. Prince Bidyalankarana on his appointment as President of the Royal Institute, and later in the year had the pleasure of welcoming H. S. H. Prince Varnvaidyakarana as a member of their body. Mr. E. J. Godfrey resumed his seat on the Council after a year's absence due to indisposition.

At the annual meeting in 1932 the members present unanimously voted the re-election of the retiring Council *en bloc*. The Council has met regularly throughout the year except in April, and the average attendance has been nine. During the absence on leave of Mr. R. Adey Moore, Honorary Secretary, Mr. C. J. House, Honorary Treasurer, kindly took over his duties.

In the course of the year, fifteen ordinary members were elected, as compared with 15 in 1931; 38 in 1930; and 38 in 1929. and one ordinary member became a life member. There were thirty-one resignations of ordinary members, one member died, one free member resigned, and one ordinary member became a free member. On the 1st January 1933 the membership was as follows:

Honorary	Corresponding	Life	Free	Ordinary
20	10	3	4	163

making a total of 200 compared with 218 in 1931, 244 in 1930, and 258 in 1929.

The elections to ordinary membership remains at the same level as for 1931, but it could hardly be expected that the Society

would remain unaffected by the departure permanently of so many members of the foreign colony. Nine of the resignations of 1932 are due to members leaving Siam for good.

The Council record with regret the death of Dr. Louis Schapiro which occurred in February 1932.

SOCIETY'S NEW HOME.

In March the Society took formal possession of the plot of land given by Mr. A. E. Nana, situated near the new road to Paknam and the title deeds have been obtained and lodged with the Society's bankers.

Two months later the Council decided to call for tenders for the erection of the building, the plans for which had been prepared by Mr. Healey as Honorary architect. Six local firms submitted tenders of which the lowest was accepted. The building was to be erected in six months at a cost of 24,000 ticals. At the end of the year the work was nearing completion and there is no doubt that the contract will be carried out in a satisfactory manner. This permanent home has been made possible by the gifts of past no less than present members and its completion is a matter which affords the Council the liveliest satisfaction.

MEETINGS.

On July 7th a meeting of the Natural History Section took place at the Chulalongkorn University for the reading of papers and exhibition of specimens. Dr. McCormick Smith was elected Leader of the Section in place of Dr. Kerr, and the members present unanimously passed a resolution appreciative of the work Dr. Kerr had done on behalf of the Society particularly in the field of botany—"in which he had left an imperishable record." Mr. Godfrey explained a display of one hundred and fifty butterflies; Dr. McCormick Smith displayed a number of animal, bird and fish specimens and read a paper on the zoology of Koh Tao; Mr. C. J. House gave an address on a Siamese arrow poison.

On October 28th an Ordinary General Meeting of the Society took place at the Chulalongkorn University, with the President in the

Chair, when Mr. E. W. Hutchinson, a life-member of the Society, read two papers. These were entitled (1) The origin of the French Foreign Mission in Siam, and its connection with Constantine Phaulkon; and (2) The French plan of Lopburi and a new plan of Phaulkon's house. These papers dealing with an aspect of Siamese history of the XVII century, attracted a large and representative audience. In thanking the lecturer, the President remarked he had ransacked the available archives in Europe to gather his data.

An Ordinary General meeting of members was held on Wednesday, December 14th at the Chulalongkorn University when Lt. Colonel C. H. Stockley lectured on "Fauna Common to India and Siam," illustrated by 24 lantern slides. H. H. Prince Dhani, a Vice-President, was in the chair in the absence through illness of the President, and there was a very interested audience. Lt. Colonel Stockley has a considerable knowledge of the jungle country in the western part of Siam and gave a most entertaining address, at the conclusion of which a lively discussion took place on the subject of Schomburgk's deer and game preservation.

REPRINTING OF JOURNALS.

During the year the necessary reprinting of parts of the Journal has been continued and Vol. XXII part I has been completed, and part II is now in the press.

This will complete this work for the present, and there are now adequate stocks of all parts in the Library enabling the Society to furnish complete sets of its Journal, or copies of any part issued. Of each such reprinting one hundred copies have been made. A detailed price list was printed in Vol. XXV, part II of the Journal.

THE JOURNAL.

Two parts of Volume XXV, each of over one hundred pages were issued during the year, part I, with many illustrations, was issued in January, and part II in September.

NATURAL HISTORY SUPPLEMENT.

The Society also published Vol. VII part 4 of the Natural History Supplement.

Mr. J. Burnay continued to act as Editor of the Journal, until his departure on leave towards the autumn of the year, when Prof. René Nicolas took over this duty. Mr. E. J. Godfrey, who had been assistant Editor-in-charge of the Natural History Supplement for some time, was appointed Editor of the Supplement.

FLORAE SIAMENSIS ENUMERATIO.

Volume II, part I of this work was completed early in the year. This work will exceed the number of parts originally planned, and the Council although making funds available for the publication of part 2 of Volume II, is seeking financial aid in order to ensure that this valuable work will be completed within a reasonable time.

PUBLICATIONS.

As mentioned in the last report the publication of Mr. le May's Handbook on the Coinage of Siam was proceeded with and a handsome edition of 250 copies was completed in October. 150 copies are bound in cloth and 100 copies in paper covers. This is now on sale as a publication issued under the Society's auspices.

The preparation of an Index to Vols. I to XXV of the Journal is almost completed. It has been decided by the Council that this Index will be available free to Members on written application to the Secretary.

Monsieur Parmentier's monograph on the collections in the National Museum in Bangkok and in the provincial Museums of Siam visited by him, is in process of being translated (from French to English) free of cost to the Society. It is proposed to issue the same as a number of the Journal.

EXCHANGE COMMITTEE.

The Exchange Committee have revised their lists from time to time and the copies of the Journal and Natural History Supplement distributed to various societies, etc., are now divided into two categories (a) a purely complimentary list, and (b) an actual exchange list.

EXCURSIONS.

The continuance of the general depression led the Agriculture,

Travel and Transport section to decide not to attempt to arrange any excursions for the time being.

To the regret of all who have worked with him in this Section, Mr. E. Wyon Smith, the Hon. Secretary, tendered his resignation in December owing to his forthcoming departure from the country.

THE LIBRARY.

Mr. W. R. S. Ladell continued to act as Honorary Librarian until he went on leave, when Mr. R. Lingat kindly agreed to act in his absence. The Library, which is steadily growing year by year, will be more suitably housed in the Society's new home.

Gifts during the year include three volumes on anthropology by Professor Sarasin; Siamese State Ceremonies by Dr. Quaritch Wales; and the necessary parts of the Burma Research Society's journal to complete the Society's set—a gift made in honour of the Burma Society's coming of age.

TRANSCRIPTION.

Following the receipt of the report of the Committee appointed by H. H. the Minister of Public Instruction to draft a uniform system for transcription from Siamese into Roman characters, the Council decided to publish this report in the Journal as well as the letter received from the Minister in this connection. This is to be accompanied by a prefatory note, in the hope that members of the Society may have suggestions to make which would prove helpful in the further consideration of this important question.

ACCOUNTS.

Expenditure has been heavy in 1932 but the Society may congratulate itself on having carried out its usual work and also publishing a further part of Craib's Flora and the Coinage volume without touching its Reserve Fund. Part of the expenditure on the Journal and on blocks for illustrations is carried over from the previous year when the money available for these items was underspent. This accounts for the reduction of Tcs. 700 in the balance carried forward. The income from subscriptions was somewhat below expectations; arrears proved more difficult to collect than

usual, but the Council hopes that the greater part of the amount recorded will be recoverable.

Early in the year, when Siam was on the gold standard, the Society was able to place its funds on fixed deposit at very good rates of interest. When money was required later on for the new building, it was found expedient to borrow from the bank to pay commitments rather than to sacrifice the interest accrued on the deposits. This is the explanation of the loan of Tes. 7,903 to be found in the Building Construction account.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year 1932.

Receipts.	Tcs. Stgs.	Expenditure.	Tcs. Stgs.
To balance brought forward from 1931		By Clerk's wages	360.00
„ Subscriptions. 1931	Tcs. 75	„ Coolie's wages	261.00
do. 1932	4,325	„ Postages—Hon. Treasurer	53.40
do. 1933	25	„ Postages—Hon. Secretary	110.33
	<u>4,425.00</u>	„ Books bound for library	65.00
„ One life-membership composition	300.00	„ Printing Journal	1,437.75
„ Sale of Journals	396.66	„ Printing Natural History Supplement	631.00
„ Sale of Natural History Journals	90.11	„ Printing authors' separates	42.00
„ Sale of Craib's Flora	634.10	„ Printing Craib's Flora, Vol. II, part 1	882.00
„ Sale of Mon Dictionary	66.00	„ Printing "Coinage of Siam"	1,045.50
„ Author's contribution to cost of indexing the Coinage volume	25.00	„ Cost of indexing coin volume	75.00
„ Interest on Current account	31.32	„ Blocks for Journal	520.50
		„ Blocks for Natural History Supplement	82.18
		„ Stationery	62.15
		„ Addressing & wrapping Journals	32.21
		„ Printing circulars	63.10
		„ Postages on forwarding Journals	300.62
		„ Fire insurance	80.16
		„ Sundries for library	24.37
		„ Book-cases for library	70.00
		„ Refreshments at meetings	70.00
		„ Outstanding charges re Grand fete	62.50
		„ Subscription returned	25.00
		„ Land registration fees	58.24
		„ Bank commission and exchange losses	5.05
		„ Re-printing Journal Vol. XXII, part 1.	265.00
			<u>265.00</u>
		Total expenditure	6,694.06
		„ Balance carried forward to 1933	917.65
			<u>7,601.71</u>
	Tcs. 7,607.71		

Subscriptions outstanding.

1931	Tcs. 100
1932	„ 325

Number of Members as at 31st. December 1932.

Honorary	20
Corresponding	10
Life	3
Ordinary	186
Free	4
	<u>223</u>

Reserve Fund Account.

To balance brought forward from 1931	4,300.00
„ Interest received	200.00
	<u>4,500.00</u>
Total on fixed deposit	4,500.00

The Building Construction Fund Account.

To balance brought forward from 1931	28,353.88
„ donations received during 1932	150.00
„ interest received	923.00
„ value of cement given by the Siam Cement Co., Ltd.	500.00
	<u>29,926.88</u>
Total received to date	29,926.88
To loan from the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank	7,903.94
	<u>37,830.82</u>

By cost of raising land on site		677.03
„ road construction—rough surfacing.		1,000.00
„ Building contract	Tcs. 24,000.	
three instalments paid		16,800.00
„ cement supplied under the contract		500.00
„ purchase of ceiling fans		190.00
„ interest on loan		26.89
		<u>19,193.92</u>
Total expended to date		19,193.92
By balance on fixed deposit		18,636.90
		<u>37,830.82</u>

Examined and found to agree with the books and vouchers,

G. R. BROOKS,
Hon. Auditor.

Bangkok, 6th January 1933.

C. J. HOUSE,
Hon. Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP.

The following changes have been recorded since June, 1932, when the last list was published, (Vol. XXV, p. 235).

ELECTIONS.

1932.

August 3rd.—Messrs. P. Schweisguth, A. G. Lynch, J. C. Wood.

October 5th.—Mr. H. E. Novion.

November 2nd.—Mr. James Baxter.

December 7th.—Mr. D. M. N. Davidson, Mr. J. Kindness.

1933.

February 8th.—Rev. K. P. Landon.

March 15th.—Mr. W. A. Zimmerman, Dr. E. Nord, Mr. A. Rochat, Phya Rajawangsan, Miss M. Porter.

May 10th.—Mr. W. Fuhrhop.

July 12th.—Mr. H. S. Kennedy.

DEATHS.

The death of the following members is recorded with regret :—

Mr. E. J. Godfrey, (June 1933)

Professor W. G. Craib, (Sept. 1933), Corresponding member.

RESIGNATIONS.

1931 (additional)

Mr. J. M. Evans, Mr. M. Gaillet, Dr. Hurlimann.

1932.

Dr. Asmis,	Mr. W. M. Gilmore,	Mr. T. H. Nielsen,
H. H. Prince Aditya,	Mr. K. Gunji,	Dr. Poix,
Mr. C. A. Allen,	Mr. E. Hall-Patch,	Phya Prida Narubesr,
Dr. C. Bachman,	Mr. G. Hansen,	Phya Petchada,
Mr. H. P. Bagger,	Mr. J. K. Hanhart,	Phra Suvabhand,
Mr. L. Bohensky,	Mr. H. J. M. Huber,	VII day Adventists
Mr. O. Brolykke,	Mr. J. Mallin,	mission.
Mr. H. G. Deignan,	Mr. A. Marcan,	Rev. C. R. Simmons,
Mr. J. E. England,	Mr. K. Möhr,	Mr. W. Webster,
Mr. C. D. Gee,	Mr. E. C. Monod,	Gen. P. L. E. Warming,
		Mr. J. C. Wood.

REMOVALS.—(under Rule 8).

1933.

Mr. R. Cazeau, Mr. E. O'Neil Shaw, Phya Pracha Korakit Vicharn.