

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

SIAMESE PUBLICATIONS IN B. E. 2474 (1931-1932 A. D.).

Statistics of Siamese publications sent to the Royal Institute (in compliance with the Press Act) and reviews of some of them have been published in the number of this Journal for July 1932 (Vol. XXV pt. 2, p. 216, sqq.).

The number of books received during B. E. 2474 shows an increase over that of the previous year and is distributed, according to the date of receipt and subject matter, as follows:—

April to June	151 books in	194 volumes
July to September	...	435	„ „	1,176 „
October to December	...	281	„ „	418 „
January to March	...	311	„ „	574 „
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Pali Texts	18 books in	67 volumes
Religion	...	422	„ „	700 „
Law	...	50	„ „	57 „
History	...	67	„ „	105 „
Journals, essays etc.	...	109	„ „	221 „
School books	...	102	„ „	169 „
Poetry and drama	...	172	„ „	652 „
Fiction	...	118	„ „	184 „
Miscellaneous	...	120	„ „	137 „

Thus the total for the year is 1178 books in 2362 volumes. But the books that are out of the rut are comparatively few and the present writer, at any rate, has found only eight books of this kind viz.

- (1) "Nangsü Jon Jät Thai," a translation of Dodd's "Thai Race", by Princess Mondārob Kamalāsana, pp. 277. Printed for distribution at the cremation of Nai Siu Hun Bamrungjib B.E. 2474. Setting aside the question of any inaccuracy that may exist in the English book the translation is important in that it makes the contents of Dodd's book accessible to some extent to Siamese readers.
- (2) "Songrām laa Santibhāb," a translation of Tolstoy's "War and Peace" from the Russian, by Major Luang Yot Avudh, 2551 pp., in 4 vols. Price: Vol. 1, Tes. 4; Vol. 3 and 4, Tes. 3 each. The book is not a full translation, but has been popular with Siamese readers.
- (3) "Bocanānukrom Kot 'māy" a dictionary of Siamese legal terms, ancient and modern, by Khun Samahar Hitagati.
- (4) "Mo Khvām" ("The Lawyer"), a treatise on legal procedure, pp. 285. Printed for distribution during the funeral of Madame Lamun Indramontri, December 2474.
- (5) "Vijjā Fai Fā," a text book on electricity and its application, by Luang Nobanād Vijjāguṇ B.Sc., and Nai Samran Phao Bundharm, pp. 765.
- (6) "Lak laa vidhi Kep Rakshā Āhār" on preserving and canning food, by 'Mom Sri Brohmā Kṛḍākor, pp. 129, Price Te. 1.
- (7) "Kāmanita," adapted from Karl Gjellerup's "The Pilgrim Kamanita" by "Sathien Kośés" and Nāgapradip" B.E. 2473. 206 pp.
- (8) "Rūang Thio Pradeś Tavan Ok" ("Travels through Eastern Countries" by Princess Sip Phan, pp. 263. Printed for distribution at the cremation of 'Mom Chao Davidhābhisek Soṇakul, B. E. 2473 (N. B. Recently a new edition of this book has been brought out for sale, price Tes. 1.25 per copy).

A brief and just review contributed by a well known scholar is given below:—

"The authoress, having undertaken a journey through Malaya, Hongkong, Manila, China, Japan, Cochin China and Cambodia in 1926, has elaborated her notes of travel with historical data and her own observations. As she already points out in the preface to the 3rd. edition, the aim of the book is to talk of her travels chiefly

to fellow women of Siam. It is therefore evident that for readers abroad the interest would lie mainly from a psychological point of view. It has been said by a critic that bearing in mind that she was brought up in the household of the late Queen Saovabha, receiving education at the same time at the Rajini school for girls, one would therefore be led to expect a product of modern education with a background of Siamese traditions. The book in fact reverberates the above tones with a modest and observant way of looking at things in general. Her treatment of China and Japan are especially noteworthy. China is regarded by the Siamese, as a close relative—the traditional “elder brother”—of Siam, the former fountain of culture and refinement, which has of late been engaged—most decidedly without success—in a political experiment. The authoress, writing before the Siamese revolution, moralises upon the political example. The same moralisation with a different conclusion will be found in the case of Japan. The latter, always a little understood comrade of Siam, is here considerably vindicated for her reserved character, and given her due place in the realm of arts, culture and above all duly appreciated for her national stability. Considerable space is devoted to Angkor, the Athens of the Siamese.”



MEMBERSHIP.

The following changes in membership have been recorded during 1935 :

ELECTIONS.

May 15th.—Phya Boromabat Bamrung, Mr. H. G. Deignan (restored).

July 17th.—Dr. R. L. Pendleton, Luang Medhi,

Messrs. M. R. B. Bowes, J. W. G. Sparrow.

August 21st.—Messrs. H. G. Minnegerode and H. L. Norris.

October 2nd.—Mr. F. R. Dolbeare, and The Taihoku University Library.

November 1st.—Phya Pananuchorn, Luang Saman Wanakit,

Dr. H. Gerlach and Mr. J. Richard.

December 4th.—Luang Siribaed.

DIED.

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

Sir George Scott (Hon. member); H. H. Prince Prisdang;

H. E. Dr. E. Nord; and Phra Aran Raksa.

RESIGNATIONS.

1934.

Mr. E. Eisenhofer,

Mr. R. P. Jones,

Mr. A. Queripel,

Mr. R. Folliet,

Mr. C. Notton,

Mr. H. Paschkewitz,

Lt.-Col. F. C. Fraser,

Mr. C. Moninot,

Mr. J. G. Shelley.

Mr. J. R. Gould,

Miss Porter,

1935.

Mr. J. Baxter,

Mr. H. M. S. Jacobi,

Mr. D. F. Mace,

Phya Bhakdi Noraset,

Mr. W. Haines,

Mr. P. Schweisguth,

Phya Boromabat

Mr. A. N. Gould,

Dr. O. R. Causey.

Bamrung,

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