

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1935.

The Council of the Siam Society has pleasure in submitting its report for 1935.

The Council has met regularly throughout the year under review, the number of meetings being ten and the average attendance nine (five constituting a quorum according to the rules) at each Council. During the year Mr. Edward Healey was invited to become a member of the Council and to accept the office of Honorary Architect. As Mr. Healey was the architect for the Society's home, it was felt his advice regarding the maintenance of the fabric would be valuable. Mr. Healey accepted the Council's invitation.

The Bangkok Women's Club applied for, and were granted, the privilege of using the Society's home as their official headquarters, and subsequently held their annual meeting in the building.

PARMENTIER CATALOGUE.

The translation from French to English of the Parmentier catalogue of the objects contained in the Museums of Siam has now been undertaken by Major Seidenfaden, at the request of the Council.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION.

Mr. C. J. House early in the year took over the duties of Honorary Secretary of the Natural History Section from Mr. U. Guehler, who had consented to act temporarily.

The position in regard to the preservation of the wild life of the country remains as at the date of the last report, and the proposed law, regarding the provisions of which the Society were consulted, has not yet been promulgated.

MEETINGS.

There were four meetings, three Ordinary General Meetings of members and one meeting of the Natural History Section.

On September 24th Mr. John Bailey read a paper on The Crawford Mission to Siam in 1822. The President was in the Chair, and there was a good attendance.

On November 13th Professor H. Bantli, of Chulalongkorn University, gave an account of his journey with Mr. R. Schaller to Yunnanfu *via* the Shan States, Talifu and the Yangtse river. This was illustrated with lantern slides, and the President was in the Chair.

On December 18th at the residence of Phya Nakorn Phra Ram, Samsen, a translation of a paper prepared by him on Thai Ceramics was read, and his unique collection of porcelain, mostly of Sankalok ware, was open to inspection. H. H. Prince Dhani Nivat, Vice-President, was in the Chair.

The meeting of the Natural History Section took place on July 23rd when Dr. O. R. Causey read a paper "Some Notes on Siamese Mosquitoes", illustrated with slides, and a number of exhibits were introduced by Nai Ariant Manjikul, Mr. C. J. House and Phya Srithikarn Banchong. The Leader of the Section, Dr. A. G. Ellis, presided.

MEMBERSHIP.

In the course of the year fourteen ordinary members were elected as compared with twelve in 1934. Two ordinary members died and twenty resigned, while two were elected to Corresponding membership.

One Honorary member and one Free member died and one Free member was restored to membership after absence.

On the 1st January, 1936 the membership was as follows:—

Honorary	Corresponding	Life	Ordinary	Free.
19	13	3	132	4

making a total of 171 as compared with 189 in 1934 and 207 in 1933.

EVOLUTION OF SIAMESE SCRIPT.

Thirty-nine copper blocks have been made from the photographs which were re-taken last year, the originals having deteriorated.

These have been lodged in the Society's building and it is considered that they will remain in good condition for a number of years if necessary, in order to form the basis of the written portion of the work.

FLORAE SIAMENSIS ENUMERATIO (CRAIB).

The position with regard to this publication was the subject of careful consideration by the Council during the year.

It was reported that several subscribers had cancelled their orders and also that the one hundred unbound copies previously supplied to Aberdeen University would no longer be required. It was decided to issue a new circular to fifty institutions not at present subscribing in order to attempt to increase the revenue.

It was found that the Society had expended Tcs. 6,881 on this publication. The income from sales could not be stated exactly, but was computed to be Tcs. 5,400. Considerable stocks of back numbers were in hand for which there was a small, but regular demand.

The Council decided to continue the publication up to the end of Volume II, after which the position would be reviewed again.

The whole of Vol. II, part 3, was set in type at the end of the year and will be published early in 1936. The edition has been reduced to 300 copies.

FINANCE.

Early in 1935 an appeal was forwarded to the Siamese Government for a grant in aid to the funds of the Society, but, after a careful consideration of the arguments advanced by the President on behalf of the Council and of the work the Society was doing, the Administration regretfully found itself unable to accede to the petition.

In July, the President drew attention to the finances of the Society which appeared to him to require consideration, and in consequence two meetings of the Finance Committee were held, one of which was entirely devoted to Craib's Flora as described above.

With regard to the reduced membership the President undertook to prepare a circular addressed to non-members in order to promote interest in the Society; this was in hand at the end of the year. The Finance Committee recommended certain minor economies and a slightly lower price for printing was obtained by reducing the edition of the Journal to 375 copies, including Authors' separates.

The Exchange Committee was also convened with instructions to effect economies. The Budget for 1936 was considered later in the year and the Council explored the possibility of reducing the annual subscription with a view to popularising the membership. The majority, however, considered that the time was not ripe for such a change which would probably lead to a reduced revenue.

THE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE.

This consisted of Major Seidenfaden, Dr. Ellis, and Messrs. Guehler, Burnay and House. The meeting was held in September.

The Exchange list was found to be in good order and difficulty was experienced in effecting any serious reduction as it was felt that the discontinuance of exchange relations with many well-known foreign societies and institutions would lower the prestige of the Siam Society abroad and be detrimental to its interests. Thus a suggestion to discontinue relations with Dutch and Italian societies whose publications are less read than others, was not accepted by the Council.

In the end a reduction of four copies of the Journal and eleven copies of the Natural History Supplement was effected, chiefly by deleting certain educational institutions which it was thought were able to subscribe to the Journals if they were sufficiently interested.

RE-PRINTING.

The first part of the former Natural History Society of Siam Journal was re-printed during the year in accordance with the policy of the Council in maintaining stocks of all back numbers.

This part was the only one of the Natural History Journals of which inadequate stocks existed.

BUILDING.

Towards the end of the year the Honorary Architect, (Mr. E. Healey) inspected the Society's building which has now been erected three years. He reported that it was in excellent order and unlikely to require repairs, except painting, for several years. During the rains the building was repeatedly invaded by white ants but owing to the vigilance of the caretaker very little damage was done to the valuable stocks of books and journals. On Mr. Healey's advice preventative measures were successfully undertaken.

A public water-main has now been laid along the Society's road but the Council have not yet taken steps to have the supply taken into the premises. This road has remained in excellent condition but the connecting roads, known as Cole Avenue and South Road, have been very bad during the rains and required temporary repairs before every meeting. These roads were not constructed by the Society but Tcs. 300 were contributed to the making of the South Road in 1933. The question of linking up the Siam Society road

directly with the Paknam Road, thus avoiding the present circuitous approach, is being discussed with neighbouring land-owners.

THE JOURNAL AND SUPPLEMENT.

Volume XXVII, part 2 of the Journal, which was in the press at the beginning of the year (154 pp), was issued in May; and in August Volume XXVIII, part 1, (93 pp.), and the long deferred Index to Vols. I—XXV (47 pp) were sent to members; and this was followed in December by the issue of Volume XXVIII, part 2, (138 pp.). Mr. J. Burnay, continued to act as Editor of the Journal throughout the period under review.

The first part of a new volume of the Natural History Supplement, Volume X, part 1, was also published in this period, for the first time under the editorship of Dr. A. G. Ellis.

EXCURSIONS.

The Agricultural, Travel and Transport Section was unable to arrange any excursions during the year. Phya Srithikar Banchong and Luang Thavil continued to be Leader and Honorary Secretary of this Section until December, when Luang Thavil who was posted to the provinces for duty, tendered his resignation.

The end of the year coincided with an attempt to arrange excursions conducted at week-ends to temples, and other sites worthy of inspection in Bangkok, on both the east and west banks of the river as well as to places of historical interest in the provinces. Mr. U. Guehler was co-opted to this section in connection with the drawing up of programmes likely to make an appeal to members, and at the Council's wish Major Seidenfaden expressed his willingness to act as guide as far as possible.

ASTRONOMICAL SECTION.

This Section has held one meeting in the Society's compound during 1935, on the 19th of January, to view a total eclipse of the moon, but on the few other occasions this year when there have been opportunities to study the heavenly bodies, the ill-health of the Leader (Mr. H. Brändli) has unfortunately prevented further activities.

TRIBAL DRESSES.

Considerable progress was made in the year with classification of the tribal dresses which had been sent in to the Society by various Commissioners and other officials throughout the country. Their efforts in this direction were acknowledged by a letter of thanks in Siamese signed by the President. There are still a few dresses which it is hoped to obtain to be added to the collection already assembled and now that the classification is more or less complete, Major Seidenfaden, who has undertaken the task of describing the dresses in the course of a series of short notes, will, it is hoped, be able to arrange for their exhibition in the Society's home. The best means of displaying these dresses will be decided when the dresses are actually ready for display. In this connection H. S. H. Prince Varnvaidyakara, a member of the Council, has been most helpful in regard to inspiring the collection and the despatch of these dresses from the outer regions; again rendering help when it was found that some types or examples were missing; and finally by notifying the Council that it was his pleasure to meet all expenses in this connection.

AGENTS.

The Council approved of an addition to the Agencies for the disposal of the Society's publications by the appointment to the existing list of one of the foremost Japanese distributing firms, the well-known house of Messrs. Maruzen and Co., of Tokyo. Through this new connection the Council hope to make more widely known the aims and work of the Society, and so foster the relations now developing increasingly between the two countries.

ACCOUNTS.

A year of very heavy expenditure has been balanced with a very exceptional income and the Society finds itself at the end of 1935 some Tcs. 630 better off than at the beginning of the year.

The subscription revenue amounted to Tcs. 3,600 which is Tcs. 250 more than last year. This has only been obtained by careful collection of arrears; actually, owing to diminished membership, the subscriptions for the current year were Tcs. 225 less than in 1934. Certain agency accounts were settled and produced a large part of the income from sales which are very satisfactory, although, unfortunately this source of income varies very much from year to year.

On the expenditure side, printing and other charges in connection with the Journals and publications amounted to Tcs. 3,817. Of this, the printing of the Journal of the Siam Society absorbed Tcs. 2,118, three parts having been published during the year in compensation for only one part in 1934. The general expenses amount to about Tcs. 1,500 yearly of which Tcs. 816 are for wages and Tcs. 147 for fire insurance.

The Reserve fund which is on fixed deposit, was restored to Tcs. 4,000 in the course of the year.

