

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1936.

The Council of the Siam Society has pleasure in submitting its report for 1936.

The Council met regularly throughout the year under review, the number of meetings being eleven and the average attendance seven (five constituting a quorum according to the Rules) at each Council. Phya Jolamark and Mr. H. Brandli resigned from the Council during the year.

### PARMENTIER CATALOGUE.

The translation from French to English of the Parmentier catalogue of the objects contained in the Museums of Siam undertaken by Major Seidenfaden, at the request of the Council, is now proceeding to completion, and is expected to be ready for the press in the first quarter of 1937.

### MEETINGS.

Two ordinary General Meetings were held during the year. In August, Professor F. J. M. Stratton, Professor of Astrophysics and Director of the Solar Physics Observatory, Cambridge University and Leader of the British Solar Eclipse Expedition to Japan, on his way home revisited Bangkok and was kind enough to lecture before the Society again. His subject was "A Changing Universe," and a large audience was present.

In September Dr. Hugo A. Bernatzik, Lecturer for Ethnology at the University of Graz (Austria) who is making an extended visit to Siam, gave a talk before the Society on "Some Primitive Tribes in South Africa, the South Sea Islands and New Guinea." Dr. Bernatzik has since this date been in the north-east part of Siam and the Council hope that before leaving Siam for good, Dr. Bernatzik will be able to lecture before the members on the results of his investigations of the primitive tribes inhabiting that part of Siam,

## PUBLICATIONS.

Vol. XXIX, Part I of the Journal was posted to members during the year. It was a well illustrated number and included the important researches of Phya Nakon Phra Ram on the subject of Tai Ceramics, and a valuable treatise on "the Coins of North Siam" by Dr. W. Harding Kneedler.

In November the Natural History Supplement Vol. X, No. 2 was sent out to members. This also was an issue well up to the standard of previous numbers and included a revised hand-list of the Birds of the Chiangmai Region by Mr. H. G. Deignan; a well illustrated paper on the Edible Bird-nest Islands of Siam contributed by the President; and a description of the method of growing the Lotus Mushroom, by Sup Vatna of the Department of Biology of the Chulalongkorn University. The number of Miscellaneous Notes also published in this Supplement made the issue of interest to the general body of Members.

Dharmasat—The Council sanctioned the publication of the Dharmasat prepared by Mr. J. Burnay, the cost to be met from the Reserve funds of the Society. At the time of writing this report the plates for this publication had been made, but the completion of this work awaits the return of Mr. Burnay from Europe, whither he proceeded on sick leave shortly before the close of the year under review.

## THE LIBRARY.

The Council has maintained with slight alterations the Exchange List of previous years, and the exchanges received have been bound on completion of volumes, and added to the Society's ever-growing Library.

It is a matter of regret that some volumes from the Society's Library have now been on loan for a period longer than is customary, and their early return is deemed of importance by the Council.

## TRIBAL DRESSES.

The care and maintenance of the Tribal dresses of Siam has been in the hands of Major Seidenfaden during the year. Some additions have been forthcoming to the collection already established, and boxes have been purchased for storing these costumes in good condition. Major Seidenfaden has the task of preparing these dresses

on suitable models for exhibition to the Society early in 1937, and following this display, it is hoped these exhibits will remain on permanent exhibition in the Society's home. The thanks of the Council have been tendered to those officials in the capital and the provinces who have so kindly co-operated in making this collection possible.

#### OBITUARY.

The Council regrets to record the death on September 14th of H. R. H. the Prince of Kambaeng Bejra, an Honorary Vice-President of the Society and a former Leader of the Transport and Travel Section of the Society. An address of condolence was sent to H. R. H. the Princess Prabhavasit Narimol in the name of the Council and the Society. The Council also laid a wreath before the Royal remains on their being set up in state at Wat Benchamabopitr.

The deaths are also recorded with regret of Professor Cornelius Beach Bradley and Mr. R. W. Giblin both of whom contributed valuable papers to early numbers of the Journal, and Dr. Haws Feltus, whose interest in Siam in the years of his retirement was productive in the sending to Siam of copious extracts from the Journals and Diaries kept by the early American Missionaries who laboured here, and which are now deposited at the University of Ohio and elsewhere for preservation.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

In the course of the year nineteen new ordinary members were elected and two were re-elected making an addition of twenty-one in all as compared with fourteen in 1935. One ordinary member died, nine resigned and two were removed for non-payment of subscription, being a loss of twelve altogether.

Three Honorary members and one ordinary member, died as recorded in detail elsewhere, and one Corresponding member, (Mr. Taw Sein Ko) was reported to have died some time ago.

On the 1st January, 1937 the membership was as follows:—

Honorary	Corresponding	Life	Ordinary	Free.
16	12	3	141	4

making a total of 176 as compared with 171 in 1935, 189 in 1934 and 207 in 1933.

## FLORAE SIAMENSIS ENUMERATIO (CRAIB).

Part 3 of Volume II of this publication was issued early in the year; no further material has been received from the Editor in the course of the year. At the same time circulars were sent to about one hundred institutions abroad, including most of those which formerly received gratuitous copies from Aberdeen University, and an advertisement was inserted in the annual publication *Chronica Botanica*.

There was a satisfactory response to the circular and the subscription list is now in better condition than before.

During the year the Aberdeen University made a final payment of twenty pounds to settle the very confused accounts relating to unbound parts supplied. The Council desires to acknowledge their very ready help in clearing up this matter.

## REVISION OF RULES.

The edition of Rules printed in 1925 is now almost exhausted and therefore the Council decided that it would be opportune to subject them to review and revision if necessary. The matter was placed in the hands of a sub-Committee consisting of H. H. Prince Dhani and Messrs. Lingat and House who reported to the Council in due course.

A number of minor changes have been sanctioned by the Council and it is recommended that the quorum for a General meeting shall in future be a fixed proportion of members actually resident in Bangkok, instead of an arbitrary number as at present. The legal position of the Society as a property owner has also received attention.

The Council gave very careful consideration to a recommendation of the sub-Committee that members living abroad should pay a lower rate of subscription but it was decided not to make any change at present on financial grounds because the membership of Society is very small. It is hoped to place the revised Rules before the members at the next Annual General Meeting.

## NATURAL HISTORY SECTION.

The Section has been in charge of Dr. A. G. Ellis as Leader throughout the year with Mr. C. J. House as Secretary and has been rather more active than for some years past.

Three meetings have been held during the year.

On February 19th there was a meeting for the demonstration of specimens supported by two papers: "Common parasites causing disease in Human Beings" by Dr. Svasti Daengsvang and "A method of growing the Lotus Mushroom" by Nai Sup Vatna; the latter paper was subsequently published in the Natural History Supplement.

On June 24th., Mr. U. Guehler received the members at his house and showed a number of living specimens of large birds and a very considerable collection of horns and antlers. Later on he gave an interesting talk of his experiences on a recent hunting trip in the Mè Wong district and considerable discussion followed.

On October 14th the Section assembled to hear Phya Indra Montri's paper on the Swifts which build edible nests and also a paper on Sea Squirts from the Gulf of Siam by Luang Choolacheeb.

All three meetings have been fully reported in the Natural History Supplement.

#### TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT SECTION.

This section has played a large part in the activities of the Society during the past year; Phya Srishtikarn Banchong has continued as Leader and due to his hard work and activity the Society has been able to resume excursions to local places of interest, a popular branch of the Society's work which has been in abeyance for a number of years. In addition, this Section made arrangements for some excellent visits to Bangkok temples.

##### 1. **Excursions.**

(a) *Pimai*—held January 24–26th (Chinese New Year).

This excursion to the seldom visited Khner ruins of Pimai is probably the most ambitious effort of the Society up-to-date. Twenty-four members and guests took part in the adventure. The first night was spent in the train at Korat and Pimai was reached early next day; the difficult road-less section from Chakaraj station was covered in two ancient buses, one of which broke down on the return journey. The difficulties were overcome and the party arrived in Bangkok the following afternoon according to plan.

- (b) *Lopburi*—held Sunday, February 23rd.

This was a day excursion on the same lines as former visits; twenty-one members and friends participated.

Major Seidenfaden very kindly acted as guide here as well as at Pinai.

- (c) *Angkor Wat*—held December 24th–27th.

Twenty-one persons took part in this, the Society's second trip to Angkor Wat. It was not possible to arrange for the rail journey to be made by night as was done in 1930 but the new motor road from the Siamese frontier to Angkor enabled the party to reach the ruins on the evening of the 24th December. Two complete days were spent there and Mr. Rémy de Planterose kindly acted as leader of the party.

## 2. Visits to Bangkok Temples.

Visits were made to some of the well-known Bangkok Temples on alternate Saturday afternoons during the rainy season, the following being the places selected:—Bôt Brahm and the Wats Rajabopit, Raj Pradit, Phra Jetubon, Raj Nada, Thep Tida, Benchamabopit, Mahathat, Jana Songkram, Prayurawongs, Pijai-yati, Arun, Saket and Suthat.

Usually two temples were visited in the course of each afternoon.

All the visits were well attended and were found very interesting, while it also proved to be an activity which attracted a number of new members to the Society. On the occasion of the visit to Wat Mahathat (August 22nd), H. R. H. Prince Kambaeng Bejra, then on his last visit to Bangkok, joined the party for a short time.

The programme was rounded off by a Sunday morning visit to the Grand Palace and Wat Phra Keo on October 18th.

Much of the success of these visits was due to the explanations given by Major Seidenfaden who acted as guide on nearly every occasion and to the careful arrangements of the Section-Leader, Phya Srishtikarn Banchong who also acted as guide on several visits. The Council here records its sincere appreciation of their services.

## SOCIETY'S BUILDING.

Following the advice of the Honorary Architect, (Mr. E. Healey) some small repairs to gutters etc., were carried out.

The campaign against white ants was continued and none were seen in the building during the year. The Council have decided to bring the town water supply into the premises but it was estimated that the cost of the sanitary installation provided for in the original plans would be Tes. 886. This was thought to be beyond the Society's financial resources at present and a sub-committee consisting of Honorary Architect, Librarian and Treasurer was deputed to submit a more economical scheme.

Owing to an unusually dry season the approach roads gave little trouble this year. The neighbouring land-owner on the south of the Society's property was approached with a view to co-operation in securing the land required to obtain direct access to the Paknam road but this object has not yet been achieved.

## SIAM ART AND CAMERA CLUB.

This club, on its dissolution, made a gift of its funds, amounting to Tes. 230 to the Society with a recommendation "that the Siam Society form a Section for the encouragement of Art and/or Photography in Siam when they think the time is more opportune." The Council in gratefully acknowledging this gift accepted the Club's recommendation in principle. The money has been added to the sum kept on fixed deposit.

## ACCOUNTS.

The accounts call for little comment this year as the income of the Society was well maintained and the expenditure closely followed that of a normal year. The revenue from the sale of Craib's Flora was particularly satisfactory and more than covered the cost of printing the new part issued during the year.

**Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year 1936.**

<b>Receipts.</b>				Tes. Stgs.	<b>Expenditure.</b>				Tes. Stgs.
To balance brought forward from 1935	...	...	...	962.10	By Clerk's wages	...	...	360.00	
.. Subscriptions, 1934	...	...	Tes. 75		.. Caretaker's wages	...	...	396.00	
.. do. 1935	...	...	150		.. Postages and revenue stamps, Hon. Treasurer	...	...	35.22	
.. do. 1936	...	...	2,800		.. Postages and petties, Hon. Secretary	...	...	60.00	
.. do. 1937	...	...	225	3,250.00	.. Printing Journal, Vol. XXIX, part 1	...	...	574.50	
.. Sale of Journals	...	...	...		.. Blocks for Journal	...	...	486.00	
.. Sale of Natural History Journals	...	...	...	151.63	.. Photographs for Siamese porcelain paper	...	...	108.00	
.. Sale of Flora of Siam	...	...	...		.. Printing N. H. supplement, Vol. X, part 2	...	...	512.25	
.. Sale of "Coinage of Siam"	...	...	...		.. Blocks for N. H. Supplement	...	...	42.00	
.. Sale of Mon Dictionary	...	...	...		.. Photographs for ditto	...	...	22.00	
.. Harrassowitz-a/c sales	...	...	...		.. Authors' separates (cost of covers only)	...	...	38.50	
.. Donation from the Siam Art and Camera Club	...	...	...	230.62	.. Printing Flora of Siam, Vol. II, part 3	...	...	387.00	
.. Travel Section, refund of cost of circulars	...	...	...		.. Postage on distributing Journals	...	...	162.60	
.. Subscription overpaid	...	...	...	7.56	.. Wrapping and addressing Journals	...	...	20.50	
.. Interest on current account	...	...	...	9.68	.. Printing and distributing circulars	...	...	66.36	
					.. Stationery	...	...	41.10	
					.. Electric light and fans	...	...	63.22	
					.. Repairs to electric installation	...	...	25.19	
					.. Fire Insurance: Buildings	...	Tes. 86.67		
					.. Stocks	...	60.09	146.76	
					.. Hire of P. O. box	...	...	20.00	
					.. Books bound for library	...	...	162.75	
					.. Purchase of book-cases	...	...	70.00	
					.. " of rattan chairs	...	...	60.00	
					.. " of boxes and table lamp	...	...	21.30	
					.. Repairs to building	...	...	31.00	
					.. White-ant protection & cleaning materials	...	...	45.25	
					.. Meeting expenses	...	...	18.30	
					.. Editorial expenses	...	...	39.55	
					.. Advertisement of Flora of Siam	...	...	21.76	
					.. Photographs for Dharmasastra volume	...	...	27.60	
					.. Wreath for the late H. R. H. Prince Kambuang Bejra	...	...	20.00	
								<u>4,400.01</u>	
					By transfer to fixed deposit (Reserve account)	...	...	250.00	
					.. balance carried forward to 1937	...	...	629.27	
				Tes. 5,309.28				<u>5,309.28</u>	

**Reserve Fund Account.**

To Balance brought forward from 1935	...	...	Tes. 4,000.00
.. Transfer from General account	...	...	250.00
.. Interest received	...	...	120.00
			<u>4,400.00</u>

Examined and found to agree with the books and vouchers.

G. R. BROOKS,  
*Hon. Auditor.*

**Subscriptions outstanding.**

1934	...	Tes. 25
1935	...	200
1936	...	425

**Number of Members as at 31st. December 1936.**

Honorary	...	16
Corresponding	...	12
Life	...	3
Ordinary	...	144
		<u>175</u>

C. J. HOUSE,  
*Hon. Treasurer.*



## CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP.

## ELECTIONS.

1936.

July 1st.—Messrs. J. Edkins and W. G. Taylor.

September 2nd.—Mr. J. Haverkorn van Rijsewijk.

November 4th.—Messrs. W. A. M. Doll, O. Losch, W. D. Reeve,  
D. S. Green, A. R. Buchanan.

December 2nd.—Dr. J. de Campos.

1937.

February 3rd.—Lt.-Col. Pichon, Mr. E. I. Knox.

March 3rd.—Phra Saroj Ratana Nimanaka.

## HONORARY MEMBER.

At the Annual General Meeting held on February 24th, 1937, Professor Dr. W. Credner, Munich, Germany, was elected an Honorary member of the Society.

## RESIGNATIONS.

Dr. J. M. May	Mr. A. H. Hale	Mr. H. G. Q. Wales.
Rev. K. P. Landon	Mr. C. E. Novion	Col. Roux.
C. L'Evesque	Mom Luang Sarit.	Prof. H. Eygout.
	Bureau of Foreign Affairs, Government	General of Formosa.
	University of Taihoku, Formosa.	

## DIED.

The death of Mr. Taw Sein Ko, *Corresponding member*, was reported in 1936.

## REVISION OF RULES.

A new edition of the Rules of the Society has been published incorporating certain alterations which were passed by the Annual General Meeting on February 24th, 1937. Any member wishing to have a copy sent to him should apply to the Honorary Secretary.

## THE COUNCIL.

(elected at the Annual General Meeting, February 24th., 1937.)

PHYA INDRA MONTRI (F. H. GILES)	PRESIDENT.
Erik Seidenfaden	} Vice-Presidents.
H. H. Prince Dhani Nivat	
W. H. Mundie	
Dr. A. G. Ellis	Leader of Natural History Section.
Phya Srishtikarn Banchong	Leader of Travel Section.
J. Burnay	Honorary Editor.
E. Healey	Honorary Architect.
H. S. H. Prince Varnvaidyakara Voravarn.	
R. Lingat.	
Rev. Father Chorin.	
Phya Sarasastra Sirilaks.	
H. S. H. Prince Sakol Varnakara Varavarn.	
Ong Thye Ghee	
J. E. Davies	
Dr. George McFarland.	
W. Zimmerman	
U. Guehler	... .. Honorary Librarian.
C. J. House	... .. Honorary Treasurer.
R. Adey Moore	... .. Honorary Secretary.

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[Published for the Siam Society by J. Burnay, Editor, and printed by W. H. Mundie, at the Bangkok Times printing office, 593 Hongkong Bank Lane, Bangkok, in April, 1937.]

