

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1937

## THE COUNCIL.

The Council held ten meetings during the year at which the average attendance was 11.

At the Annual General Meeting in February the opportunity was taken of strengthening the Council by the election of several new members. The following additional members were elected :

H. S. H. Prince Sakol	Dr. George B. McFarland
Phya Sarasastra Sirilakshana	Mr. Ong Thyee Ghee
Mr. J. E. Davies	Mr. W. A. Zimmerman

## MEMBERSHIP.

At the Annual General Meeting in 1937, Prof. W. Credner of Munich was elected an Honorary Member. In the course of the year thirteen new ordinary members were elected and eighteen resigned. One member (Mr. M. R. B. Bowes) died during the year.

On the 1st January, 1938 the membership was as follows :

Honorary	Corresponding	Life	Ordinary	Free
17	12	3	135	4

making a total of 171 as compared with 176 in 1936, 171 in 1935 and 189 in 1934.

## PUBLICATIONS.

One part of the Journal, Vol. XXX, Part 1, 93 pages, was issued during 1937, and at the end of the year the Society had in hand an important number, Vol. XXX, Part 2 being a reprint of a rare translation of Van Vliet's Historical Account of Siam in the 17th Century, printed for H. R. H. Prince Damrong Rajanubhab, and translated in 1904 by W. H. Mundie, M. A., with critical notes by the President.

The Natural History Supplement Vol. XI, No. 1 was published in 1937. This contained a valuable paper on the riddle of the Schomburgk deer.

Craib's Flora of Siam Vol. II, Part 4, was in hand at the end of the year.

Dharmasastra: Progress on this work has been slow, and at December 31, 1937 the position was that plates 1-24 had been printed off; the Siamese text printed to pp. 1-25 and the English translation, pp. 26-32 has also been printed.

#### MEETINGS.

Eleven meetings have been held in 1937 of which six were Ordinary General Meetings, four were study-section meetings and one the Annual General Meeting.

The Ordinary General Meetings were as follows:—

1. February 8th, lecture by the Rev. Dr. Reichelt on *The Essence of Chinese Buddhism*.
2. May 1st, address by members of the Asiatic Primate Expedition of Harvard University.
3. May 6th, lecture by Mr. Kodando Rao of the Servants of India Society on *Eastern and Western Civilization*.

In the latter part of the year a series of lectures was given by the President, Phya Indra Montri, being parts of his paper derived from Van Vliet's Historical Account already mentioned under the heading of "publications." The lectures were read on behalf of the President by various members:—

4. October 5th, *Concerning some events in Siamese history*, read by Mr. C. J. House.
5. October 9th, *Yamada's position in Siam*, read by Phya Srithikarn Banchong.
6. November 2nd, *The political and economic position of Siam in the 17th century with particular reference to Japan*, read by H. S. H. Prince Varnvaidyakara Voravarn.

Of the study-section meetings, that of the Archeological Section was held on November 26th, when the Leader, Major E. Seidenfaden, welcomed M. Marchal, late Chief of the Archeological Service in French Indo-China. M. Marchal delivered a lecture entitled:—*L'art Khmer et les travaux de l'Ecole français de l'Extrême Orient*.

A meeting of the Ethnological Section on the subject of tribal dresses and two meetings of the Natural History Section are dealt with in separate paragraphs of this report.

#### PROPOSAL TO ADMIT ASSOCIATE-MEMBERS.

In June a sub-committee was formed to consider a proposal made by Mr. J. E. Davies that graduates of Siamese Universities should be admitted to membership at a lower subscription in order to promote enthusiasm in the Society's activities before their interest in academic pursuits had begun to wane.

The sub-committee consisted of H. H. Prince Dhani and Messrs. Zimmerman, Davies and House but the latter withdrew after the first meeting. They submitted a report to the Council recommending that associate-members be admitted within five years of graduation at Siamese or other approved universities, at a subscription of five baht per annum. Such members would not have the right to vote nor would they receive journals but they would have privileges of attending meetings and using the library.

A circular in the Siamese language was then sent to approximately 518 persons having the required qualification and a small number of acceptances was received. Subsequently by a majority vote of the Council it was decided to recommend an alteration of the rules in accordance with the sub-committee's report. This will be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting.

#### THE LIBRARY.

The work of collecting and binding journals received as exchanges from other societies has been well maintained.

Early in the year the Hon. Librarian and the Hon. Treasurer collaborated in destroying old files of correspondence and catalogues which were considered to be of no further value.

The Council sanctioned a reduction in price for sale to the public of sets of the first twenty-five volumes of the Journal of the Siam Society, complete with index. The new price is baht 320 per set and the Society's agents have been informed of this.

#### WILD LIFE PRESERVATION.

The visit of the American Primate Expedition early in the year drew attention to the value of preserving certain forest areas in

Northern-Siam as National Parks where the natural flora and fauna could be completely protected.

The Council thought it opportune to re-open the subject of legislation for the protection of wild animal life which had remained dormant for several years. Accordingly a letter was sent to the State Council together with a file of the minutes of the Council of the Siam Society relating to the subject extending back over ten years. A reply was received in August stating that the State Council were giving the matter their urgent consideration; a law which was believed to meet all the requirements for protecting wild animal life had already been drafted and it was hoped to bring it into force before long.

At the end of the year the Society was asked to assist in preparing lists of flora and fauna considered to need protection in Siam in order to assist the work of the International Conference for the protection of the fauna and flora of Tropical Asia and the Western Pacific, which is to be held in London in May 1938.

Dr. A. F. G. Kerr has prepared a list of flora which he considers to need protection in Siam and a committee of the Natural History Section is engaged in preparing a similar list of the fauna needing protection.

#### NATURAL HISTORY SECTION.

Two meetings of this Section have been held during the year. On June 29th, 1937 Dr. C. R. Carpenter of the Asiatic Primate Expedition, gave an address entitled "Behaviour Research on Free Ranging Primates", and on September 22nd there was a meeting for the reading of short papers and the exhibition of specimens.

Accounts of both meetings have been published in the Natural History Supplement. Dr. A. G. Ellis was Leader of the Section throughout the year but resigned in December on account of his approaching departure from Siam. In a letter to the Council he expressed apprehension as to the future of the Natural History Section owing to lessened interest of members in meetings and to the paucity of material coming forward for publication in the Supplement.

#### TRIBAL DRESSES.

The long-awaited exhibition of the tribal dresses collected by the Society was inaugurated on the morning of Sunday December 19th.

Major E. Seidenfaden, Leader of the Ethnological Section, was in charge of the display and delivered a short lecture before proceeding to demonstrate the costumes in detail. The meeting attracted general interest and was very well attended.

Subsequently Major Seidenfaden repeated his lecture and demonstration in the Siamese language to the pupils of the General Staff College of the Army on 26th of December. Mr. E. Healey assisted in arranging the display by lending some frames of the Siam Art and Camera Club.

#### EXCURSION.

An excursion was made to Ayudhya and Bang Pa In on Sunday March 7th., 1937, the journey being made by rail in both directions. Dr. de Campos acted as Leader at Ayudhya and it had been intended to pay a visit to the sites of the former European settlements of which he has made a special study but this did not prove possible owing to lack of time. This excursion was well attended and thanks are due to the Royal State Railways for providing a restaurant car and special coaches.

#### SOCIETY'S BUILDING.

No repairs were required during the year and no further trouble with white ants was reported. In July the town water supply was brought into the premises and one of the lavatories was equipped with sanitary installation and wash-hand basin.

#### ACCOUNTS.

The Society's income was well maintained during 1937 and, without reducing the reserves, covered the usual expenses and provided for the cost of the new sanitary installation and water supply and for the blocks for the Dharmasastra volume.



## CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP.

## ELECTIONS.

## HONORARY MEMBER.

February 16th., 1938.—Mr. R. S. le May.

## LIFE MEMBER.

December 24th., 1937.—Phya Pradibaddha Bhubal.

## ORDINARY MEMBERS.

1936.

May 5th.,—University of California.

August 4th.,—Mom Luang Pin Malakul, Messrs. J. N. Becker, P. Sastri and P. Dupont.

October 5th.,—Mr. K. Rasmussen.

November 3rd.,—Y. M. C. A. of Bangkok; Mr. Y. Nitta.

December 8th.,—Dr. C. S. Lechner.

1937.

January 5th.,—Dr. W. H. Kneedler.

February 2nd.,—Messrs. E. Neville and A. J. Edden.

March 2nd.,—Mr. J. F. Hutchesson.

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

Elected at Council meeting March 2nd., 1938.

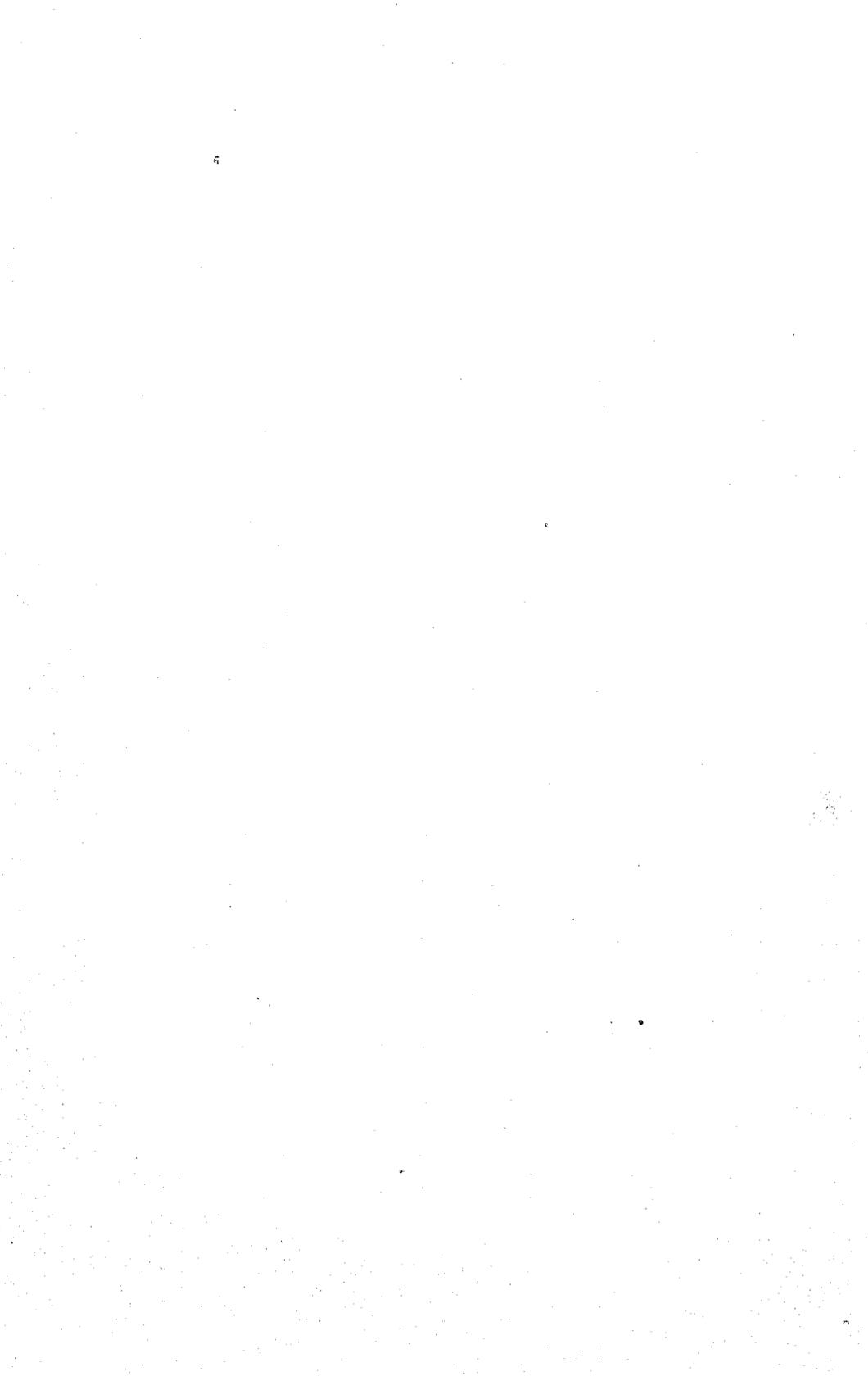
Nai Pue Rochana Purananda.	M. R. Sumanajati Svastikul.
Nai Bongs Sakuntasut.	Nai Ttak Kusuma na Ayudhya.
Nai Kia Hui Mangalapruk.	Nai Prachuab Ladbli.
Nai Prabanda Bodhibhakti.	Nangsao Samruay Svetasreni.
Nai Tong Law, Sugandhaman.	Nai Siri Tuyyanonda.
Nai Chuan Boonkham.	Nai Boon Song Chancharoen.
Nai Prasiddhi Kirtiputra.	

## DIED.

Mr. M. R. B. Bowes (November 1937).

## RESIGNATIONS.

Mr. Ang Kiaw Goan.	Sir R. Holland	Mr. A. F. N. Thavenot
Mr. J. Bailey	Mr. G. Levy	Mr. Th. Ziegler
Mr. A. H. Ballantyne	Chao Kavila	Conseil des recherches
Mr. G. R. Brooks	Mr. H. Minnigerode	scientifiques de l'In-
Mr. H. Christiansen	Mr. J. Haverkorn van	do-Chine.
Mr. E. Grut	Rijsewijk	



## ALTERATION IN RULES.

## ADMISSION OF ASSOCIATE-MEMBERS.

At an Ordinary General Meeting held on February 16th., 1938 a resolution was passed by the necessary majority to alter the rules of the Society as follows:—

In rule 5:— The word “three” to be altered to “four” and after the word “corresponding” add “Associate.”

In rule 7, after the words “entrance fee” add new paragraph:—

“Graduates of the Chulalongkarana University and the University of Moral and Political Sciences of Bangkok or of any other Institution of higher learning approved by the Council, may join the Society as Associates at a reduced subscription of five baht per annum for a period not exceeding five years from the date of their graduation, with every right of membership save that of voting at meetings and also those provided for in rule 22 (para 2) and in rule 32.”

The meaning of these new rules is that a grade of Associate-member is created; they do not receive the Journal free of charge and have no rights of voting or of summoning extraordinary meetings.

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