

AN INITIAL MEETING.  
*For Associate Membership.*

At the last annual meeting of the members of the Siam Society, the rules were changed to enlarge the class of membership, in an effort to attract Siamese graduates from Siamese or foreign Universities. This alteration was made in the hope that the facilities the Society was able to offer for the continuation of study, by the use of the Society's growing library, and the privilege of attending all meetings held by the Society, might appeal to these post-graduates.

On August 10th, these newly elected associate members were invited to meet the members of the Council with the dual object of being formally welcomed to membership and of making personal acquaintance with the facilities the Society offers to the associates.

The associate members were welcomed by the President, who in the course of a brief speech said :

As President of the Siam Society it affords me great pleasure on behalf of the Council and the Members of this Society to bid you a hearty welcome. I bid you welcome in your capacity as associate members but with the fervent hope that in time to come you may be enrolled as full members. Believe me, we are very happy to see you amongst us and we take this as a happy sign of an awakening interest in our work among the University-trained youth of Siam. The Siam Society counts among its one hundred and forty members only between thirty and forty ordinary Siamese members,—a number which is all too small.

However, the fact that seventeen associate members have now joined our Society gives us a hope that better times are coming. Since the inception of this Society, now more than thirty-four years ago, the main part of the work has been carried out by foreigners, but with

your joining us we shall look forward to more and more of the work being done by nationals of Siam, which is only as it should be. Remember, the name of this Society is the Siam Society.

The aims of our Society are the investigation and encouragement of Arts, Science and Literature in relation to Siam and neighbouring countries. As you will see this programme is a very broad one and it embraces such sciences as anthropology, ethnology, ethnography, folklore, sociology, religion, philology, history, geography, geology, zoology and botany besides fine and applied arts, architecture, literature, poetry and drama.

You are welcome too choose any of these sciences or branches for your personal investigation and research and we shall be happy if you will do so. In this connection I would like to say that the Society will always be ready with advice and assistance whenever such should be sought. May I finally draw your attention to the Society's emblem which is the head of the god of wisdom, Ganesha or Phra Phikanesuan, and our motto which, translated is, *Knowledge makes for friendship*.

That means that besides welcoming you as members of the Siam Society we also welcome you as our friends, and may a long and friendly co-operation between you and us be the outcome of this meeting to-day.

Thereafter the Honorary Librarian (Phya Srishtikar Banchong) showed the associates over the contents of the library, and copies were presented them of the Index to the first twenty-five volumes of the Society's journals, together with reprints of the reviews of publications of other journals, from the Siam Society's journal Volume XXX, pts. 1 & 2.

After a tour of the library, the new members and the Council assembled in the body of the hall when Mr. Walter Zimmerman, one of the sponsors of the scheme for this new class of membership, addressed them as follows:

There are few greater fallacies than the assumption that education is crammed into the few years between the start and finish of a prescribed academic programme. This is true whether we are thinking in terms of a secondary school or the unusual advantages of university and graduate experiences. In other words, one cannot complete an education in five or fifty years. To be worthy of the name, education must be a life-long pursuit.

The average normal mind apparently has no limit for assimilating impressions and ideas providing it is controlled by healthy will-power. Education, therefore can be conceived as a life-long, ever-enriching endeavour. Knowledge is not divided into limited compartments. It is without bounds or limits, and has implications of which a life time is not long enough to do more than scratch the surface.

Formal education often has a deadening effect upon the mind. Without realizing it the student follows the secondary goal, that of merely conforming to the conventional standards of academic achievement which are apt to be superficial. The result is that the imagination and curiosity of the mind are dulled, and education, in its truest sense, ceases at the end of the class-room experience. The development of mind and personality stops far short of its potential goal. How tragic when the principal purpose of a school is to discipline and condition the mind in order that the higher goals of education may be reached. Real freedom in education comes when the preparatory or school period is over. Then the student discovers the deepest joys of learning, because the points of departure in the learning process are within his own fields of interest and personal experience.

Therefore, great scientists do not all come from University halls. Many emerge from obscure and unexpected places, where they have in a selfless spirit applied what they knew, to a condition or a human need, and by so doing have unearthed new fragments of truth. This kind of thing has given Pasteurs, Curies, Edisons, Pupins, Oslers and Grenfells and scores of other benefactors to the world.

Before moving on to more specific aspects of our purpose in meeting here today, I should like to share with you a definition of an educated man, as conceived by a friend of mine who is a leading executive and educator of North America.

An educated man is one who has the mentality to think clearly, the will to work accurately, the culture to recognize, appreciate and apply the good, the true and beautiful wherever found, the democracy to maintain the common touch, the social conscience to relate himself helpfully to society at some point beyond vocation and its reward, and who has come to see in the universe not a machine, but a purpose, and behind that purpose a creative principle.

A number of Siamese young people, particularly from among those who have studied abroad, have confessed to me some of the difficulties

they encounter upon their return to Siam. They come back with high resolves to keep abreast of current progress in their own particular fields of interest.

But upon their arrival home, there is the customary round of visiting with relatives and friends to be made; the available supply of scientific books and magazines is limited; a flat pocketbook prohibits buying books from abroad; there are no professional societies to join or lectures to attend; there is a new job (often one that has no connection whatever with the vocation they have been trained for) to be mastered; and worst of all, there is the antagonism and contempt that a returned student meets from fellow-workers who have not had his advantages.

All these tend to discourage the student and unless he has unusually strong will power, he soon is content to follow the path of least resistance. When he accepts the latter plane of conduct, he casts discredit upon the whole purpose of his training!

It has occurred to members of the Siam Society Council that perhaps the Society could contribute to the university graduate's desire to continue his loyalty to some of the ideals inculcated in his training period. The founders of the Siam Society showed real wisdom and comprehension in formulating the purpose of the organization. Let us review the second and fourth paragraphs under the *names and objects section*:

2. The objects of the Society shall be the investigation and encouragement of Art, Science and Literature in relation to Siam and the neighboring countries.

3. In order to further the objects of the Society to their fullest extent, Sections of the Society shall be constituted, as far as may be found possible, for the purpose of promoting and encouraging specialised study in particular subjects.

The following subjects shall, either singly or in groups, be considered as suitable for the formation of sections—Agriculture, Anthropology, Archaeology, Fine and Applied Arts, History, Literature, Natural History, Numismatics, Philately, Philology, Transport, Travel, and such other subjects as may, from time to time, appear suitable to the Council for the above purpose.

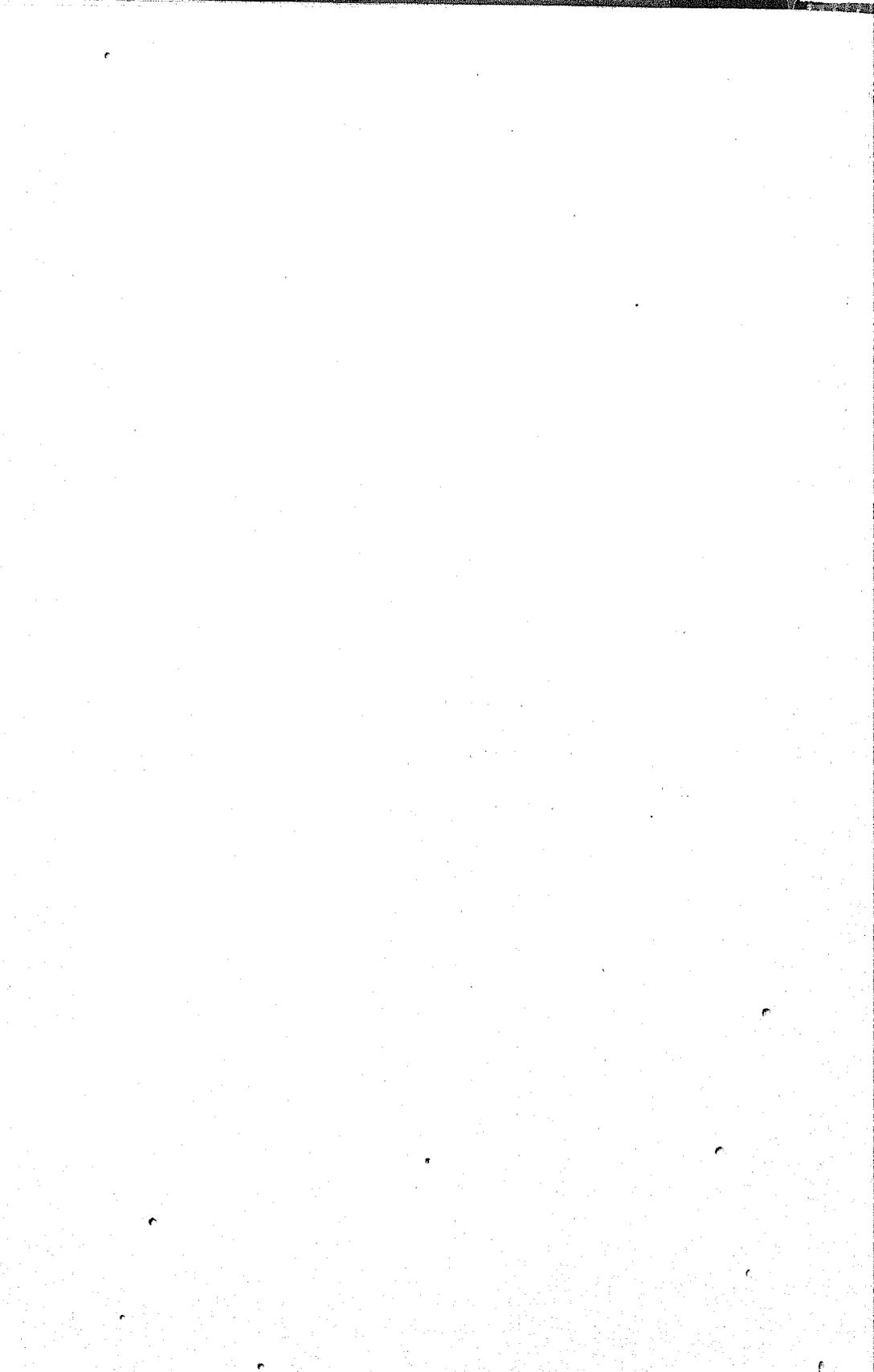
The Society does not have reference or laboratory facilities for extensive research in scientific, historical, vocational or avocational fields, but it can act as a sponsoring body and as a centre for filing data,

presenting and discussing findings and for meeting of her studiously inclined people. It might well become a clearing house for an inclusive and co-operative experiment in adult education wherein the museums, libraries, schools, historical and social institutions of the whole community could be co-ordinated. Experiments of this kind elsewhere have developed a balanced and practical adult education programme for a higher grade of citizenship. Transitions under way in Siam will eventually call into service lay and volunteer services and organizations of this character.

The addition of the associate classification to the Society's membership should have a two-fold value. It should give the recently graduated student a contact with a group that is sympathetic to his needs and interests; and to the Society it should give the additional resource of young minds, who are in the midst of school, laboratory and vocational problems relating to the development of our country.

Associate membership in the Siam Society does not offer you a complete service in any of the several fields of its interests. It rather provides you younger people an opportunity to unite with the Society in mutual helpfulness.

The President bringing the informal gathering to a conclusion, expressed regret that several associate members were, by reason of official duties, both in Bangkok and elsewhere, prevented from attending.



## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1938.

## THE COUNCIL.

The Council for 1938 was composed as follows :

Major E. Seidenfaden	<i>President</i>
H. H. Prince Dhani Nivat	} <i>Vice-Presidents</i>
R. Lingat	
Phra Arj Vidayakom	
J. T. Edkins	
Phya Srishtikar Banchong	<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>
J. E. Davies	<i>Hon. Librarian</i>
U. L. Guehler	<i>Hon. Editor, Journal</i>
	<i>Hon. Secretary N. H.</i>
	<i>Section and Hon.</i>
	<i>Editor, N. H. Supp.</i>
E. Healey	<i>Hon. Architect</i>
R. Adey Moore	<i>Hon. Secretary</i>
H. H. Prince Bidyalankarana	
H. S. H. Prince Sakol Varnakara Varavarn	
H. S. H. Prince Varnvaidyakara Varavarn	
Phya Indra Montri	
Phya Sarasastra Sirilaksana	
J. Burnay	
Rev. Father L. Chorin	
W. A. Zimmerman	
Ong Thyee Ghee	

The actual number of members on the Council should be twenty-one, but the vacancy created by the retirement of Dr. A. G. Ellis in March, 1938, has not been filled, thus leaving the number at twenty.

The Council held eleven meetings during the year, the average attendance at these being ten.

The Annual General Meeting was held on February 19th, 1938, when the incoming President, Major Erik Seidenfaden, paid a tribute to Phya Indra Montri, the retiring President, who had stated his desire not to stand for re-election, which decision was received with great regret. At this meeting Rules 5 and 7 of the Society were altered to make possible the admission of graduates of the Chulalongkorn University, the University of Moral and Political Sciences, and any other institution of higher learning, approved by the Council, as Associate Members at a reduced subscription of five baht per year, for a period not exceeding five years. Mr. R. S. le May, a corresponding member, was made an Honorary Member at this meeting.

On the 1st January 1939, the membership was as follows:—

Honorary	Corresponding	Life	Ordinary	Associate	Free
18	10	4	132	18	4

making a total of 186 as compared with 171 in 1937, 176 in 1936 and 171 in 1935. The rise is due to the election of 18 associate members, without whom the total would be 168.

#### PUBLICATIONS.

During 1938 two very important numbers of the Journal were issued these being Vol. XXX, Part 2, and Vol. XXX, Part 3. Part 2 is 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 a critical analysis by Phya Indra Montri (Mr. F. H. Giles) which was concluded in Part 3.

Prior to his going on leave the Hon. Editor proposed the appointment of an Editorial Committee, consisting of Monsieur J. Burnay, former Hon. Editor, H. H. Prince Dhani and Mr. W. A. Zimmerman, to assist and advise on editorial matters. This was sanctioned by the Council.

During the absence of the Hon. Editor, H. H. Prince Dhani acted as Editor in a very efficient manner,

The Natural History Supplement Vol. XI, No. 2, was published during the year and included an extraordinarily interesting paper on the butterflies of Siam, by D. M. Noel-Davidson, F. R. Z. S., and J. J.

Macbeth. Photographs of a fine Sambhar stag's head were also published in this number.

Craib's Flora of Siam, Volume II, part 4, was also issued in the course of the year.

Dharmasastra. The blocks for this work are in the Society's possession, these having been printed off. Mr. J. Burnay hopes shortly to complete the work.

#### MEETINGS.

Seven meetings were held during the year 1938, three being ordinary general meetings, two, special meetings organised by the President, one, a study-section meeting, and the other, the Annual General Meeting.

The special meetings organised by the President (Major Erik Seidenfaden) were:

February 4th, a lecture in Siamese on *Tribal dresses* to 160 undergraduates of the Chulalongkorn University.

February 6th, a lecture in English on *Tribal dresses* to 30 Members of Lodge St. John, Bangkok, with their wives.

The ordinary general meetings were as follows:—

(1) March 28th, a lecture by Professor Klaus Pringsheim on *Siamese Music*, followed by a concert at which selections of Siamese and European music were played by Professor Klaus Pringsheim and Mr. P. N. Hydon.

(2) November 10th, a lecture by Dr. Walter M. Horton of the Graduate Faculty of Oberlin College on *Religion and Culture in the Pacific Area*.

(3) December 28th, an exhibition of films by H. R. H. the Prince of Jainad on archaeological sites in Siam and neighbouring countries.

The study-section is indebted to H. H. Prince Dhani, who conducted members round the cloisters of Wat Phra Keo on the morning of July 31st, and explained the Siamese Ramakien, the mural paintings of which are found in the cloisters.

#### HUNTING ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting of the Council on February 2nd, the then President, Phya Indra Montri, reported on the fact that he had attended a meeting held at the Phya Thai Military Hospital in connection with the proposed formation of a Hunting Association, or a Zoological Society of Siam as it was more properly called. After a discussion it was

decided to appoint Mr. C. J. House to represent the Siam Society on the Council of the Zoological Society, and to allow the Bangkok branch of the Society whose headquarters are at Lopburi to meet in the Siam Society's home.

#### TRIBAL DRESSES.

Two lectures were delivered as reported above. The Society has presented the collection of tribal dresses to the Department of Fine Arts in the hope that it would form the nucleus of the new ethnographical branch of the National Museum. The Fine Arts Department has accepted the collection, and the National Museum is now arranging for a permanent exhibition of these dresses as an integral portion of the Museum.

#### PROTECTION OF FAUNA.

Mr. C. J. House, early in the year, forwarded a list of wild game and birds to be included in the list for the London International Conference, held in May 1938 for the preservation of *Fauna* and *Flora* of Tropical Asia and the Western Pacific, and also notified this conference that a law was being drafted in Siam dealing with the preservation of certain types of *Fauna*.

#### A FAREWELL LUNCHEON.

Mr. C. J. House, for many years Treasurer of the Society, and Dr. Ellis, the Leader of the Natural History Section, both of whom retired from Siam in the early part of the year, were given a farewell luncheon at the Trocadero Hotel by members of the Society, at which ladies were present. The President paid a tribute to their labours on behalf of the Society and the two guests replied.

#### NATURAL HISTORY SECTION.

The suggestion made by Dr. A. G. Ellis that the Natural History Section should be wound up was not accepted, Mr. C. J. House urging that papers were coming in and that Mr. U. L. Guehler, the present leader, had offered to act for Mr. House during what was then expected to be his home furlough.

#### CITY WALLS.

A survey of the remaining old walls of the city was made during the year by the President, who was assisted by Mr. E. Healey. The

plans made during the survey were shown and explained. A letter was addressed to the Director-General of the Fine Arts Department on the question of the preservation of such portions of these walls as now existed, and the latter expressed his sympathy with the project.

#### SOCIETY'S RULES IN SIAMESE.

Prince Varnvaidyakara Varavarn forwarded his promised translation of the rules of the Society for registration with the authorities and was thanked for his kindness.

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

The new Associate Members visited the Society's home, on August 10th, the arrangements being in the hand of Prince Dhani and Mr. Zimmerman. They were welcomed in speeches by the President and Mr. Zimmerman.

#### THE LIBRARY.

Mr. U. L. Guehler resigned his position as Honorary Librarian and Phya Srishtikar Banchong was appointed in his place. Mr. U. L. Guehler was thanked for his work as Honorary Librarian over a long period.

The work of collecting and binding Journals received as exchanges from other societies has been maintained. The library has been extensively used both by members and visitors.

#### EXCURSIONS.

Some excursions were suggested, one to Ayudhya, one to Angkor Wat, etc., and a sub-committee consisting of the President, Phya Sarasastra Sirilakshana, Phya Srishtikar Banchong, Mr. Ong Thye Ghee and Mr. Zimmerman were appointed to explore the possibilities. Subsequently the sub-committee reported on possible places for the excursions and the cost per head.

#### NATURAL HISTORY SECTION.

No meetings of the Natural History Section were held during the year.

#### ACCOUNTS.

Mr. J. T. Edkins took up the duties of Honorary Treasurer on the retirement of Mr. C. J. House.

The Society's activities during the year were maintained without reducing the Society's reserves. The income covered the usual expenses and an extraordinary expense in the form of the cost of painting the care-taker's house.

#### SOCIETY'S BUILDING.

Repairs costing Tcs. 281.45 were made to the building and a better lighting system, as suggested, was installed. The building has also been painted. The question of the raising of the Society's compound has been held in abeyance till the new Budget is considered.





## CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP.

## ELECTIONS.

## HONORARY MEMBER.

February 16th 1938—Mr. R. S. le May.

## ORDINARY MEMBERS.

May 4th—Luang Vichit Vadakarn.

J. A. Hjartved.

September 7th—H. S. H. Prince Ajavadis Diskul.

October 12th—H. S. H. Prince Sanit Prayurasakdi Rangsit.

J. O. Hassig.

J. Thode.

November 2nd—Monsieur Brionval.

J. R. Holt.

J. H. Brown.

C. V. Endahl.

December 7th—Phra Rajadharm Nides.

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

May 4th—Momluang-ying Bunlua Kunjorn.

Nai Ua Chandravongse.

September 7th—Nai Kliow Bunnag.

## RESIGNATIONS.

H. E. M. Martin

F. R. Dolbeare

Dr. O. Schwend

Luang Saman Vorakit

Nai Prachuab

Nai Thonglaw

Bunnag

Sugandaman<sup>(a)</sup>

C. J. House

Dr. H. Gerlach

(a) Associate Member.

[Published for the Siam Society by J. E. Davies, Editor, and  
printed by W. H. Mundie, at the Bangkok Times printing office, 593  
Hongkong Bank Lane, Bangkok, in March, 1939.]

