

# Abstract of Proceedings of the Council of the Siam Society.

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At the 89th meeting held on Tuesday, May 30th, 1922, at the old British Court House the President proposed that the name of H. R. H. the Prince of Kambaeng Bejra, Commissioner-General for Railways, should be submitted to the next Ordinary General Meeting for election as Hon. Vice-President of the Society according to rule No. 8. This was agreed to.

The Hon. Secretary reported that about 25 members had sent in replies to the circular sent out by the Society last December, proposing to form "groups" or "sections" for studying various scientific subjects as indicated therein. The sub-committee considered that this was enough to justify them in forming about five "sections" and had provisionally appointed leaders for each of them, and dates for the opening meetings. These dates, however, depended upon whether the Society was able to find permanent quarters before then.

The Hon. Secretary reported that The University of Padua had sent a notice of the 7th centenary of its foundation and had invited the Siam Society to send delegates for its celebration on May 14th-17th. The President had written to Prof. F. G. Pullé of Bologna University (Corresponding Member) requesting him to attend on the Society's behalf. A similar invitation had been received from the Société Asiatique de Paris for their centenary on July 10th-13th, and the President had invited Prof. F. Lorgeou (Hon. Member) of Paris, to be our representative on that occasion.

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At the 90th Council Meeting held on July 14th, 1922, at the old British Court House, at 6-30 p.m. a letter from Mr. J. Crosby was read by the President, saying, that owing to his permanent departure from Siam to take up the position of British Consul-General at Batavia, he was obliged to resign from the Society. After nearly 18 years' connection with the Siam Society, in one capacity or another, he bid farewell to his colleagues on the Council and to his fellow members, with much regret. The President expressed the regret of

the Society at losing Mr. Crosby, and Prof. Cœdès proposed and Mr. Nunn seconded that Mr. Crosby's name should be brought before the next general meeting for election as an Honorary Member—Carried.

The question of fixing the price of the next number of the Society's journal to non-members, according to rule 22, was brought up. It was mentioned that the cost of production of the last number was so heavy, that the price of Tes. 6.00 asked for it was not enough. The forthcoming number would also be an expensive one, and it was therefore proposed to raise the price of it to Tes. 8.00. This was agreed to.

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At the 91st meeting, held at the old British Court House, on August 10th, 1922, at 6-15 p.m. it was decided to present His Royal Highness Prince Damrong Rajanubhab, the Vice-Patron of the Society, with an address of congratulation in commemoration of His Royal Highness's 60th birthday. Major Seidenfaden submitted a design he had received from the Arts and Crafts School for a case for the address. It was to be executed in leather, with symbolical and other figures upon it in silver. The address to be engrossed on hand-made Siamese paper with space for the signatures. The design was examined and approved, and Major Seidenfaden was appointed to look after its production. It was agreed that the address should be in English.

#### ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

An ordinary general Meeting of the Society was held at the new rooms in Chartered Bank Lane on Monday, October 2nd, 1922, when a most interesting paper was read by Prof. G. Cœdès, (Vice-President), entitled  $\text{WJZ} \hat{\text{W}}\text{JW}$  "Etude sur les ex-voto amulettes et autres empreintes Bouddiques en terre cuite et en metal." This lecture was delivered in French, and about 35 members and their friends were present. A large number of ancient and curious earthenware and metal charms or figures (known as Pra pim) were displayed, and the learned professor's paper was much enjoyed by an appreciative audience.

This paper will be published with illustrations, in an early number of the Journal.

The President, Mr. Graham, was in the chair, and before inviting Prof. Cœdes to read his paper, he submitted the name of H.R.H. the Prince of Kambaeng Bejra, Commissioner-General for Railways, to the meeting for election as Hon. Vice-President of the Society. The President remarked that His Royal Highness was well-known as a distinguished authority on all matters connected with transport and travel in this country, and that his acceptance of election was an honour to the Society. The election was carried unanimously by acclamation.

The President then submitted the name of Mr. J. Crosby, C.I.E., O.B.E., late British Consul-General and now serving in that capacity at Batavia, for election as Honorary Member. Mr. Crosby had been connected with the Society for many years, both in a private capacity, and as a member of the Council, and it was with much regret that the Society received his resignation. The election of Mr. Crosby was carried unanimously.

After Prof. Cœdes had read his paper, a few questions were asked by interested members, and replied to by the Professor and the meeting terminated.

#### THE SOCIETY'S HEADQUARTERS.

Ever since its foundation, the Siam Society has laboured under the disadvantage of being without a permanent "home" or headquarters either for holding its meetings, or housing its library.

In the early days when its membership was comparatively small, and its library comprised a few books only, it was found sufficient to hire a room from time to time for the meetings and to pay a small sum in rent for house room for the small book shelf which contained the library. The great expansion, however, which has occurred during the last year or two in the membership, and the large additions to the library have made it imperative that the Society should find some room which it could call its own. Such a room has now been found on the first floor of the former Falck & Beidek building, familiarly known as the "Hang Singto" in Chartered Bank Lane, which is conveniently situated, and suitable for the purposes of the Society.

fortunately, the lack of a permanent meeting room was a serious obstacle to commencing work, and it was not until the Society had acquired its present handsome quarters that it was possible to notify the members that the sections were formed, and were ready to commence their meetings.

The Sections now formed and in operation are as follows:—

1. Technology and Fine Arts.

Leader: Mr. J. G. Raggi.

Hon. Secretary, Dr. Eldon James.

2. Sociology.

Leader: Mr. B. O. Cartwright.

Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Michell.

3. Physical Anthropology.

Leader: Dr. J. R. Redfield.

Hon. Secretary, Mr. B. O. Cartwright.

4. Archæology, Literature and comparative Philology.

Leader: Prof. G. Coedès.

Hon. Secretary, Major Seidenfaden.

5. Agriculture, Transport and Travel etc.

Leader: Mr. W. A. Graham.

Hon. Secretary, Major Leo Day.

The opening meetings were chiefly concerned with appointments of officers and arranging their programmes and dates for future meetings etc. The attendance was not large at any of them, but a lively interest was shown by those who did attend, and the discussions showed that there was a large and most interesting field of research in each of the subjects mentioned.

The Council trust that this development will be heartily supported. All members whether they have already sent in the list of subjects or not, are cordially invited to attend the meetings. The object of the movement is for the free exchange of ideas and information regarding any subject of interest appropriate to the known aims of the Society, not necessarily confined to those suggested on the circular, and not merely the delivery of lectures by "experts". Any further information regarding the sections will be readily supplied by the several Secretaries, or by the Hon. Secretary of the Society.

The Library which for some time past has been housed in the Royal Library through the kindness of H.R.H. Prince Damrong, has been removed to the new room, and is open for the use of the members on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 5-30 p.m. to 7-30 p.m. when the Assistant Librarian is in attendance. The rent, furnishing, lighting and attendance are expenses which the Council feel are justified by the recent large increase in the membership. The "study sections" which are mentioned elsewhere, are designed to promote a still further increase, for it is hoped that when the activities of these sections become known, many persons who are not at present members, will join in order to take advantage of the facilities they afford for study, and the exchange of information regarding subjects of scientific interest connected with Siam.

It is suggested that members possessing articles likely to be of interest to the Society, such as photographs, old prints, models or relics, etc., connected with Siam, might donate or loan them for exhibition in the Society's room, which makes a very appropriate repository for such objects, for the interest and benefit of all the members.

#### THE STUDY SECTIONS.

Some months ago, the Council of the Siam Society issued a circular to the members proposing that groups or sections for the study of various scientific subjects should be formed. The object of this proposal, it was stated was "to give to every member who came to take advantage of it the fullest possible benefit of his membership in the Siam Society, and to bring members of similar tastes in touch with each other."

A leaflet containing a list of the various subjects accompanied the circular and members were requested to mark any of them in which they were interested and return it to the Hon. Secretary, when, if the response was sufficient, arrangements for making up the sections and appointments for meetings, could be made.

Replies came in rather slowly, but in the course of a few months some twenty-five leaflets had been returned, and the Council considered they were justified in proceeding with the scheme. Un-

