



Design on Cover to the Address.

**The 60th Anniversary of the Birth of H. R. H.
Prince Damrong Rajanubhab, Vice Patron
of the Siam Society.**

The official celebration of the completion of the "Great Cycle" of 60 years in the life of our highly respected Vice-Patron, H. R. H. Prince Damrong Rajanubhab, took place on November 13th, 1922 and the three succeeding days at His Royal "Highness" residence Varadis Palace, Bangkok. The Siam Society took the opportunity of presenting His Royal Highness with an address of congratulation on the happy occasion, and also in grateful recognition of the continual interest which H. R. H. has shown in the Society ever since he became its Vice-Patron—which is since its foundation eighteen years ago.

All the members of the Council then in Bangkok and about fifty of the members, were received by H. R. H. on Wednesday November 15th, at the Varadis Palace, at 3.45 p.m. when Mr. W. A. Graham, the President, made the presentation and read the address, which was as follows :—

" To His Royal Highness Prince Damrong Rajanubhab.

" May it please Your Royal Highness,

" On this happy occasion when the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Birthday of Your Royal Highness is taking place, the Members of the Siam Society have great pleasure in approaching Your Royal Highness with this address, and in joining their earnest and most sincere congratulations to those which are now being offered to Your Royal Highness by your innumerable friends and admirers.

" The Members of the Siam Society have long recognised the fact that Your Royal Highness has been one of the principal mainstays of the Society ever since, at the time of its foundation, you were pleased to honour it by becoming its Vice-Patron; and the Society rejoices in this opportunity to give expression to the feelings of gratitude and esteem by which it is actuated towards you.

“ As the kindly Adviser and friend of the Society, as a constant contributor to the Journal and as the guide of others who have been freely encouraged to draw upon the inexhaustible reservoir of your knowledge in the course of their studies, Your Royal Highness has conferred benefits upon the Society, the importance of which it is impossible to magnify.

“ The Society is proud of its long association with one, who, as the historian of his father-land is strengthening the real foundation of that true patriotism now daily growing amongst the people, and the Society trusts that the ties of this association may continue, and be drawn ever closer in the long and felicitous years of health, happiness and work that the Society fervently prays may lie before Your Royal Highness.”

In his reply, the Prince said that he did not feel worthy of such an honour, but that he had to yield to the majority which seemed to be of a different opinion. The beautiful address, he assured them, would always be kept by himself and his descendants as a precious souvenir. He added that his interest in the Siam Society was due to three reasons:—In the first place the Society had since its foundation received the patronage of both the late King and His present Majesty. Secondly, his interest in historical research made him in sympathy with the aims of the Society, and thirdly he felt that all members of the Society were true friends of Siam.

In conclusion he wished all prosperity to the Society and expressed the hope that more Siamese would become interested in its work.

The address—of which two photographs are shown herewith—was designed and executed by the Arts and Crafts School. The case containing it is a stiff card-board portfolio covered in maroon-coloured leather. The front of the case is covered with a beautiful design in silver—the border and field being of pierced silver of a—foliated pattern interspersed with allegorical figures in repoussé. The centre contains two conventional “tevedas” upholding a lotus flower bearing H. R. H.’s monogram with a label underneath bearing

the B. E. dates 2405-2465. Lower down appears the head of a dog denoting the year of H. R. H.'s birth. This is supported on the right by the badge of the Ministry of the Interior and on the left by that of the Royal Library. At the bottom is another label with the words, in Siamese, "Presented by the Siam Society." The whole design in burnished silver on the rich red background of leather is highly effective, and is a remarkable specimen of the skilled craftsmanship of the Arts and Crafts School.

The address itself is engrossed upon hand made Siamese paper (*kradat khot*) and printed in old English characters—the title and capitals being illuminated by hand. Bordering the address is a beautiful ornamental design in gold, containing seven miniature paintings of ancient temples in various parts of the country associated with His Royal Highness's travels and researches.

The signatures of the Princes and high Government officials connected with the Society and those of the Council, appear below the address, and the following two pages contain the names of more than one hundred other members of the Society.
