

Notes of the Quarter (January-March 1924).

MEMBERSHIP.

Since the publication of the last number of the Journal, the following new members have been elected to the Society :—

H. S. H. Mom Chao Varn Vaidya.
Luang Pramonda.
Mr. W. Bain.
Monsieur M. Bréal.
Monsieur Burnay.
Dr. A. G. Ellis.
Mr. E. G. Gollo.
Mr. J. E. Hunter.
Mr. N. L. Landgren.
Monsieur Lingat.
Mr. A. R. Malcolm.
Mr. C. H. Monro.

In addition to these, Professor L. Finot of Hanoi, who was a Corresponding Member of the Society, has been elected an Honorary Member ; and Messrs. B. O. Cartwright, a former Vice-President, and W. Nunn, a former Member of the Council, Corresponding Members.

Dr. Ayer has kindly undertaken the duty of dealing with the Exchange of Foreign Journals and the necessary correspondence in connection with this work.

The following gentlemen have resigned their membership of the Society :—

Major Leo Day.
Mr. E. J. Godfrey.
Mr. F. S. Harrop.
Mr. W. T. Lewis.
Mr. W. F. Lloyd.
Mr. V. Lund.
Dr. Mendelson.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

There has been one Ordinary General Meeting of the Society since the close of the year, on January 4th., at which Mr. B. O. Cartwright read his paper on "The Huey Lottery". The lecture, which was well attended, was much appreciated, and will duly appear in the Society's Journal.

STUDY SECTIONS.

All three Sections have been occupied during the current Quarter.

That devoted to Travel and Transport organised another most successful excursion, this time to Ayuthia, on February 24th., and the trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all the 73 members and their guests who took part.

H. E. the Viceroy of Ayuthia personally conducted the party round the Museum, the Ruins, and the Temples visited, assisted by Mr. W. A. Graham, the Leader of the Section, while all the arrangements were ably carried out by Mr. E. Wyon Smith, the Section Secretary.

The Section of Archæology, History, Literature and Philology held two informal meetings, the one on February 26th. at which Mr. C. A. S. Sewell read a short paper on "the possible relationship between the Thai and Indo-European languages," the other on March 12th at which Monsieur R. Nicolas gave a causerie on "the Siamese Court language."

The Section of Technology and Fine Arts held an informal exhibition on March 4th. of "Sawankalok Ware", at which Mr. E. G. Sebastian, the Section Secretary, gave a short résumé of the results of his recent studies.

At this meeting H. R. H. Prince Damrong, H. E. the British Minister, and other leading collectors in Siam were kind enough to lend specimens for exhibition, and the informal nature of the proceedings gave an excellent opportunity for free discussion, of which advantage was taken.

It is hoped to make these meetings bi-monthly if practicable.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The 15th. Annual General Meeting of the Siam Society was held at the Society's room on Tuesday the 29th. of January 1924 at 6 p.m.

Mr. W. A. Graham, the President, occupied the Chair, and there were present as follows :

Professor G. Cœdès, Major E. Seidenfaden, Dr. Ib Hansen, Messrs. H. Brändli, P. Baissas, T. Fox, W. W. Fegen, W. T. Lewis, W. H. Newbould, E. G. Sebastian, C. A. S. Sewell, and R. S. le May, the Acting Hon. Secretary. Mr. L. Bisgaard, the Hon. Treasurer, was unfortunately unable to be present owing to indisposition.

Minutes of the 14th. Annual General Meeting were read and approved.

The President then called upon the Acting Hon. Secretary to read the Report for the year 1923. After this had been done, the President stated that the Statement of Accounts was already in the members' hands, and that, after the full details given by the Hon. Secretary both of this, and of the activities of the Society during the year, there was little left for him to add. He would like to mention, however, that although the cost incurred by the Society in connection with the Mon Dictionary might by some be considered high, the Council regarded the outlay as thoroughly justifiable, and consistent with the aims and objects of the Society. He felt confident, moreover, that a great deal of the cost would be recovered in time, even though the process might be a slow one.

The President also announced that the Council had committed themselves to the publication of a most important work on the Flora of Siam by Professor Craib of Aberdeen, in conjunction with Dr. Kerr, a member of the Council. This work would, however, be spread over many numbers of the Journal and would be brought out slowly as circumstances permitted.

He concluded by saying that he felt sure all members would agree that the past year had been a very full and active one for the

Society, and he then invited comments upon both the Report and the Statement of Accounts. None being forthcoming, Mr. Sebastian proposed, and Mr. Newbould seconded, that the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts should be adopted. This was carried unanimously.

The President then informed the meeting that, at the request of the Council, he had written to H. R. H. the Prince of Nagara Svarga, asking him if he would honour the Society by becoming an Honorary President. A very charming reply of acceptance had been received, and he now put forward His Royal Highness' name for formal election.

On the proposal of Professor Cœdès, seconded by Mr. Sewell, this was carried with acclamation.

The President then stated that the Council had spent a good deal of time recently examining the question of Corresponding and Honorary Members, with a view to defining the status of each class for future use, and had come to the conclusion that Honorary Members should be those who had distinguished themselves either scientifically or otherwise, and who would, in the opinion of the Council, bring honour by their election to the Society and that Corresponding Members should be those who had been intimately connected with the Society, but who were not, or no longer, resident in Siam, and whose interest in the Society the Council wished to retain.

Bearing this in mind he proposed that Professor L. Finot, who was now a Corresponding Member, should be elected Honorary Member. This was seconded by Major Seidenfaden and carried unanimously.

Further he thought it would be right and proper, that Messrs. B. O. Cartwright and W. Nunn should be elected Corresponding Members, on account of their connection with, and services to the Society over a period of years—in the case of the former, almost since the inception of the Society.

This was accordingly proposed by Mr. Sewell, seconded by Professor Cœdès and carried unanimously.

The next item before the Meeting was the election of officers for the year 1924.

Mr. Sebastian proposed, and Mr. Newbould seconded, that the same Officers and Council should carry on as in 1923. The President indicated that Messrs. Cartwright, Nunn, Dr. James and Rev. Father Chorin were not now available; he therefore proposed Major Seidenfaden as Vice-President in place of Mr. Cartwright, and Messrs. Raggi and Sebastian in place of the members of the Council who had left. This amendment was agreed to by Mr. Sebastian and Mr. Newbould; and this proposal, as amended, was carried unanimously.

The following four candidates were then proposed for election as members :

1. H. S. H. Mom Chao Varn Vaidya.
2. J. E. Hunter, both of whom were proposed by Mr. Sebastian, and seconded by Mr. le May.
3. M. Bréal, proposed by Professor Coedès, and seconded by M. Pila.
4. M. Lingat, proposed by Professor Coedès, and seconded by M. Baissas.

On a vote being taken "en bloc", all four were declared duly elected.

A letter of resignation was read from Mr. W. F. Lloyd, on his approaching departure from Siam for good. This was accepted with regret.

Mr. Sewell then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. le May, who had been acting for Mr. J. Michell as Hon. Secretary since June, for the services he had rendered to the Society during that period. This was seconded by Major Seidenfaden, and in putting the proposal to the vote the President said that he wished to associate himself with it. The proposal was carried unanimously. Mr. le May briefly replied that he appreciated very much the vote of thanks so sincerely put forward and carried; that he would be glad to continue the duties of Hon. Secretary until Mr. Michell's return, and that he would always do his utmost to further the aims and well-being of the Society.

The meeting terminated at 7.15 p.m.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1923.

The year 1923 may be said to have marked another year of progress in the history of the Siam Society, and it may confidently be affirmed that the close of the year finds the Society in a stronger position than ever before.

His Majesty the King, the Royal Patron of the Society, still shows an unabated interest in its labours, and every year does but add to the debt which the Society owes to H. R. H. Prince Damrong, its Vice-Patron, both for the deep interest which he takes in everything pertaining to the Society's welfare, and also for the assistance and kindly counsel freely given to its members at all times and on all occasions.

It is a pleasure to be able to add that H. R. H. the Prince of Nagara Svarga, a well known lover of Siamese Art, has graciously accepted the post of Honorary President of the Society.

In addition, H. R. H. the Prince of Kambaeng Bejra, who last year accepted the position of Honorary Vice-President, has, during the past year, undertaken the duties of Leader of the Section of Travel and Transport; and the thanks of the Society are due to H. R. H. for his energy and kindness in doing so. Unfortunately, owing to his departure for Europe, the Prince Kambaeng Bejra has now found it necessary to resign his position; but it is hoped that this will be only temporary.

The number of Siamese members continues to grow, and the present year has seen the election of H. S. H. Prince Piya, who is acknowledged on all sides, to be one of the leading collectors of Siamese "objets d'art". Another noteworthy election is that of H. E. Phya Nondisen, Chief Secretary to the Ministry of the Royal Household. It is hoped that more and more Siamese gentlemen of literary or artistic tastes will join the Society and assist it in the prosecution of its researches into the history, language, and life of Siam.

For the results of the Society's labours to be of a valuable and authentic nature, friendly collaboration between Siamese and

foreign members is essential, the one to bring a knowledge of the intimate life and customs of his own people, and the other to bring his western methods of scholarship and research to bear upon the knowledge gained, for its presentation in a scientific form. In this way each may supplement and assist the other.

There are indeed many facets of the national life which would well repay study by our Siamese members.

Membership.

During the year 28 new members have been elected to the Society, including H. R. H. the Prince of Nagara Svarga, who, as already stated, has kindly consented to become an Honorary President, thereby adding to the prestige of the Society.

In addition, Miss Cole, a former Vice-President has been elected an Honorary Member, on her departure from Siam, as a recognition of her long interest in the Society's welfare. Monsieur P. Petithuguenin, also a former Vice-President, now resident in Peking, who has rendered much good service to the Society, has been elected a Corresponding Member; and Dr. Eldon James, on his leaving Siam, has availed himself of the opportunity of becoming the first Life Member of the Society.

There have been 21 resignations, and 10 removals (on account of non-payment of subscriptions), and the membership of the Society, at the 31st. of December 1923, was as follows :

<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>Life</i>	<i>Honorary</i>	<i>Corresponding</i>
175	1	17	9

making a grand total of 202.

The Council.

Two new members were elected to the Council during the year, Dr. Eldon James in January, and Mr. R. S. le May in July.

Dr. Eldon James was obliged to resign, however, in September on account of his departure from Siam (thereupon becoming a life-member, as stated); and Mr. W. Nunn resigned in November for the same reason.

Mr. J. G. Raggi resigned the post of Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. L. Bisgaard was elected to and accepted the vacant post. At the Council Meeting of June 15th. a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Raggi for the work he had done on behalf of the Society.

Mr. W. A. Graham, the President, went to Europe on leave in June, and returned to Bangkok in November. For the interval Prof. G. Coedès was unanimously elected to fill the post of Acting President. At the same time Mr. Michell, the Hon. Secretary, also went on leave and Mr. R. S. le May undertook the duties of Hon. Secretary during his absence. Mr. Michell had not returned at the close of the year.

Two other members of the Council, Mr. E. J. Walton and Dr. Ira Ayer, were also absent from Bangkok during the greater portion of the year.

During the course of 1923, eleven Council Meetings were held, at which the average attendance was between 8 and 9, a most satisfactory result.

As a matter of record, it may be mentioned that the 100th. Council Meeting of the Society was held on July 2nd. last.

Ordinary General Meetings.

During the year three Ordinary General Meetings were held at the Society's Room, at which Papers were read on the following subjects:

- August 8th. "Legends and Folk-lore of North of Siam"
by Mr. R. S. le May.
- October 9th. "Le 'Lagor Nora' ou 'Lagor Chatri' et les
origines du théâtre classique Siamois", par
M. René Nicolas.
- November 14th. "Gardening in Bangkok", by Dr. Carthew.

All three papers were much appreciated by large gatherings of members and their guests and will be subsequently printed in the Journal of the Society. The Paper on the Siamese Theatre was accompanied by a representation given by a troupe of actors from

Nakhon Srithammarat, kindly obtained for the occasion by H. R. H. Prince Damrong, who was present at the Meeting.

Amendment of Rule 22.

Owing to the fact that the Journal of the Society had been sent indiscriminately to members of the Society who had neglected to pay their subscriptions for one, two, three and even four years, it was considered advisable by the Council to make an alteration to the first paragraph of Rule 22, which provided that every member of the Society should be entitled to one copy of the Journal.

At the Ordinary General Meeting on October 9th. it was accordingly proposed that the first paragraph of Rule 22 should be amended to read as follows:—

“Upon payment of his subscription, every member of the Society shall be entitled to one copy of each number of the Journal published during the year covered by the subscription.”

This amendment was carried unanimously.

The Journal.

Three parts of the Journal were published during the year, comprising Vol. XVII parts 1, 2, and 3.

Part 1. was devoted almost entirely to an interesting paper read before the Society by Major Erik Seidenfaden on “An Excursion to Pimai, a temple city in the Korat Province”, which was accompanied by a series of remarkable photographs and plans of the Cambodian temple to be seen there. Dr. Kerr also contributed “Meteorological Observations in Chiangmai 1910-14”.

Part 2. dealt with a paper, both in Siamese and English, on the “Red Karens” (the latter being a translation by Mr. E. J. Walton), which constituted an answer to the Society’s Questionnaire on this subject; together with additional notes on the Karens in Siam by Major Andersen, and on the Lawa by Major Seidenfaden.

Part 3. contained a long and detailed description of the “White Meo”, both in Siamese and English (the latter by Major

Seidenfaden), also in answer to the Society's Questionnaire; together with an additional note by the translator on the same subject; also more critical notes by Professor Cœdès on the Sukhotai Stone decyphered by Professor Bradley.

The editing of the Journal continues to be kindly undertaken by Professor Cœdès, and the Society has still a considerable amount of material in hand for future publication.

Publications by Members Abroad.

It will not be out of place, in this Report, to record the fact of the publication during the past year by Messrs. G. Van Oest & Cie (of Paris and Brussels) of a sumptuous volume on "Bronzes Khmèrs" by our learned Vice-President, Professor G. Cœdès. The Society offers its congratulations to Professor Cœdès on the completion of an original and valuable study of this branch of ancient Cambodian Art.

It is also of interest to mention that Major Seidenfaden published, in the Bulletin de l'École Française d'Extrême-Orient, a "Complément à l'Inventaire des Monuments du Cambodge pour les quatre provinces du Laos Siamois". During his visit to Bangkok, Professor L. Finot paid a warm tribute to the value of the work done by Major Seidenfaden, which the Society desires to endorse to the full.

Study Sections.

It was clear early during the year that the Study Sections were not meeting with as wide a response on the part of the members of the Society as had been hoped for: and in September 1923 it had to be admitted that only two out of five Sections formed were still alive and active, namely (1) Archaeology, Literature and Philology, and (2) Agriculture, Transport, and Travel. It was felt, however, that the chief cause of the failure to attract was probably a misunderstanding on the part of members, who felt that they were not entitled to attend the meetings of the various sections, unless they had originally put down their names for the particular section holding the meeting.

In order to remove this misunderstanding, and to endeavour to place the Sections on a better basis, it was decided to circularise members to the effect that each Section would have a Leader and a Secretary, as before, to arrange the meetings, but that all members were free to attend all meetings of all the Sections.

It was also decided to revive the Section of Technology and Fine Arts, and to institute a series of bi-monthly informal exhibitions of various classes of Siamese and Far Eastern Art. The first of these meetings was held at the Royal National Library, by kind permission of H. R. H. Prince Damrong, on December 15th. The subject chosen was "Bronzes Khmèrs", on which Professor Cœdès gave a short epitome of the introduction to his book; and Professor L. Finot, the eminent French Scholar from Hanoi, was the guest of the evening. There was a large gathering of members and their friends to meet Professor L. Finot and to view the Exhibition.

The Section of Archaeology, History, Philology and Literature has held a number of meetings during the year and Mlle. Karpelès, Professor Cœdès, and Major Seidenfaden have given short, but interesting informal lectures on the "Buet Nak" Ceremony, the History of the North of Siam, the Haw Rebellion of 1883-4, the Tribes living to the north-east of Luang Prabang, and on other subjects dealing with the history and customs of the country. They were much enjoyed by those members who attended them, but unfortunately the number that availed themselves of the opportunity was very few.

The Travel and Transport Section organised an interesting lecture with lantern slides on "Travel in Siam" by Mr. Wallace Lee, a geological expert, who had travelled extensively throughout the country; and Mr. Moore, another traveller, also contributed some remarkable photographic studies of the Hill tribes of Northern Siam. In November this Section also arranged an excursion to Nakhon Pathom and a visit to the great Pagoda there, under the guidance of Professor Cœdès, with the kind assistance of H. R. H. Prince Damrong and the Lord Lieutenant of the Circle. Nearly 70 members and

guests took part in the excursion, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It is hoped to arrange more excursions in the coming year.

At the present time there are thus three Sections functioning, as follows :

1. Technology and Fine Arts—Leader, Mr. R. S. le May.
Secretary, Mr. E. G. Sebastian.
2. History, Archaeology and Philology—Leader, Prof. Coëdès.
Secretary, Major E. Seidenfaden.
3. Agriculture, Travel and Transport,—Leader H. R. H. the
Prince Kambaeng Bejra (now resigned).
Secretary, Mr. E. Wyon Smith.

Representation of the Society at European Congresses.

The Siam Society received an invitation to appoint a delegate to the International Congress of the History of Religions, which was held at Paris in October 1923. Professor Cabaton, of the Paris School of Oriental Studies and a Corresponding Member of the Society, was accordingly requested to attend the Congress on behalf of the Society. He has now reported that he did so, and that a report of the proceedings would be sent later.

Death of H. R. H. Prince Damrong's Mother.

The Council of the Society addressed a letter of condolence to H. R. H. Prince Damrong on the occasion of the death of His Royal Highness' mother, who was a consort of His late Majesty King Mongkut, and a deputation was present at the 50th. day ceremonies to offer a wreath on behalf of the Society.

Philatelic Section.

At the end of last year a request was received from the Siam Philatelic Society, that it might be allowed to merge itself into the Siam Society, as it had been decided to wind up the former as a separate body. After due consideration it was eventually agreed to receive the Siam Philatelic Society as a section of the Siam Society, as requested.

The Mon Dictionary.

The Mon Dictionary, prepared by Mr. R. Halliday and published by the Siam Society, has now been on sale for nearly a year, and a considerable number of copies have already been sold. A presentation copy was sent to H. E. the Governor of Burma, Research Society and the "Rangoon Gazette", for review, and a favourable preliminary notice appeared recently in the Journal of the Burma Research Society.

Owing to the fall in exchange, it has been found necessary to increase the price of the book in Local currency, namely from Tcs. 18/- (as previously announced) to Tcs. 22/-, the equivalent of £2 sterling, at which price the volume is being sold abroad.

Programme for 1924.

Several members have promised papers on various subjects during the coming year, and it is hoped to arrange at least three or four Ordinary General Meetings during 1924.

The chief object of the Study Sections is to induce members to take up a particular line of study, so that they may be in a position to obtain material for the preparation of Papers to be read before the Society. The great danger to which a learned Society is exposed, is that all the serious work and study should devolve on the shoulders of two or three persons, while the mass of members remain interested, but inactive spectators.

Many of our members remain in this country for a long period of years, and it is certain that their exile from home would be made more enjoyable by an extraneous and serious interest, such as the study of some phase of life, or art, or language affords.

It is hoped, therefore, that members will take the fact of their membership of the Siam Society more and more seriously, and strive by every means in their power to contribute as much authentic information as possible to our still scanty knowledge of a country so distinctive in character and so rich in untouched material as is Siam.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

Receipts during the past year have been higher than in any previous year, the total income being Tcs. 6,727.44, out of which subscriptions for 1923 represent the sum of Tcs. 3,875. Our expenditure has, however, also been much higher than in normal years, owing to the fact that the Society undertook the cost of publication of the Mon Dictionary prepared by Mr. R. Halliday, which absorbed the sum of Tcs. 3,500. It is to the credit of the Society that the whole of this has been paid off during the year. Blocks and plates for the journal also involved considerable expenditure.

The bank balance at the end of the year amounted to Tcs. 382.85 only, from which it may be seen that the expenditure absorbed not only all receipts for the year 1923, but also most of the Tcs. 2,851.96 brought forward from last year. It may be mentioned in passing that a portion of certain items recorded refers to expenditure incurred in 1922.

The total amount of bills outstanding for 1923 amounts to Tcs. 911.62, most of which represents the cost of printing the 3rd. part of the Journal, Volume XVII, against which may be set the amount of unpaid subscriptions, namely Tcs. 875, plus the balance carried forward Tcs. 382.85, a total of Tcs. 1,257.85.

Thus, in spite of our heavy outlay, the Society can start the year 1924 with a clean state, but, as already reported, considerable difficulty was experienced last year in collecting subscriptions due, and members are therefore earnestly requested to send in their subscriptions for 1924 to the Hon. Treasurer as soon as possible, so that the Council may be in a position to consider and attend to the needs of the Society to the fullest extent possible.

It is only by hearty co-operation on the part of all members on this point that a firm financial basis can be secured for the Society's future activities and prosperity.

