

Special General Meeting.

A Special General Meeting of the Siam Society was held at the Society's Rooms on Friday, December 4th, 1925 at 6.30 p.m., for the purpose of offering the condolences of the Society to His Majesty the King on the sad death of His late Majesty, as well as its congratulations upon His Accession, and of asking His Majesty to be graciously pleased to accept the office of Patron to the Society in the room of His late Majesty.

There were present, Mr. W. A. Graham, President, in the Chair: Major Erik Seidenfaden, Vice-President; Dr. A. F. G. Kerr, Monsieur M. Bréal, members of the Council; Mr. E. G. Sebastian, Hon. Editor and Librarian; and Mr. R. S. le May, Hon. Secretary.

The general company of members included H. E. the Dutch Minister, H. E. the Danish Minister, Monsieur F. Chaland (representing the French Legation), Mrs. D. J. Collins, and Messrs. Ardron, Ayer, Brewitt-Taylor, Bjørling, Bisgaard, Burnay, Brändli, Cambiaso, Christiansen, Courtney, Duplatre, England, Fox, Gee, Geake, Lewis, Lingat, Manfredi, Nicolas, Niel, Poix, Spigno, Tamagno, Tyrer, Warming, and Zieler.

After the Hon. Secretary had read the Notice convening the Meeting, the President stated that H. R. H. Prince Damrong had asked him to convey to the Meeting his regret at not being able to be present.

The President then gave a short address to the Meeting on the loss which the Society had suffered through the early and sudden death of His late Majesty, in which he emphasized the fact that King Rama VI had been the Patron of the Society ever since its inception on the 7th of April 1904, and had taken considerable interest in its activities, particularly in regard to the question of transliterating Siamese into Roman characters.

At the conclusion of his address, the President then stated that he had four Resolutions which he wished to submit to the Meeting, and he proposed to present them in pairs. These Resolutions were as follows—

RESOLUTION I.

Resolved that, on behalf of this Society, the President do submit a memorial to His Majesty the King, expressing the deep sympathy of the members with His Majesty, the Royal Family, and the Nation in the grief and sorrow occasioned them by the death of His Majesty King Somdetch Phra Paramendr Ramadipati Maha Vajiravudh.

RESOLUTION II.

Resolved: That the members of the Siam Society desire to record the great sorrow and regret caused them by the death of His Majesty King Somdetch Phra Paramendr Ramadipati Maha Vajiravudh, for 21 years their Royal Patron and Protector, and

Resolved that a Deputation consisting of the President and officers of the Society shall attend at the Dusit Maha Prasat on a suitable occasion and deposit a wreath on behalf of the Society before the Royal Funerary Urn.

These were seconded by Mr. le May and carried unanimously. The second two resolutions were:—

RESOLUTION III.

Resolved that, on behalf of the members, the President of the Society do submit to His Most Gracious Majesty King Prajatipok a letter, conveying their humble and sincere congratulations on the occasion of His Majesty's accession to the throne of Siam; and their heartfelt wishes for the happiness and prosperity of His Majesty and his People.

RESOLUTION IV.

Resolved: That the President and officers of this Society take an early opportunity to submit a memorial to His Most Gracious Majesty King Prajatipok, praying that His Majesty may be pleased to honour the Society by the extension to it of His Royal Patronage.

These were seconded by Mr. C. D. Gee and also carried unanimously.

The Meeting thereupon terminated.

Notes of the Quarter.

The event overshadowing all others during the Quarter just ended was the sudden death, in the early morning of November 26th., of His Majesty the King, who had been the Patron of the Society and its Gracious Protector ever since its inception in 1904. His Majesty's death at the early age of 44 has removed from the world of literature a scholar of high attainments, whose work on behalf of the Siamese language will be of lasting value, and who, among many other literary achievements, performed the difficult task of translating Shakespeare into Siamese. A Special General Meeting was held on the 4th of December to offer the condolences of the Society to His Majesty the present King, and a full Report of this Meeting will be found on another page of this Number.

On Sunday, December 27th, a deputation of the Council, headed by the President, proceeded to the Grand Palace and laid a wreath at the foot of the Urn of His late Majesty, as a token of homage and respect from the Society.

COUNCIL.

In September Mr. Bisgaard, the Hon. Treasurer, informed the Council to his great regret that he could no longer carry on his duties as Hon. Treasurer of the Society, owing to his multifarious other duties, and asked to be allowed to resign from his post. This resignation, which had been anticipated for some time past, was accepted with many expressions of regret, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Bisgaard for all the work he had done for the Society during his tenure of the post. The Hon. Secretary took over the duties temporarily, but fortunately a successor was soon found in the person of Mr. V. H. Jaques, who had recently joined Messrs. Tilleke & Gibbins, and who voluntarily offered his services in Mr. Bisgaard's place. At the Council Meeting of October 13th Mr. Jaques was, therefore, formally elected Hon. Treasurer of the Society, and the Council have every confidence that the finances of the Society will be well cared for in his hands.

MEMBERSHIP.

Since the issue of the last Notes, the following elections have taken place:—

ORDINARY MEMBERS:—

- September 11th 1925 Professor A. Press; M. Pierre Jabouille, M. B. O. U; Mr. H. M. B. Hols; Mr. J. Senn.
- October 13th 1925 Mr. V. H. Jaques; Mr. J. Dunn; Mr. J. S. Lowden.
- November 13th 1925 H. H. Prince Dhani Nivat; H. E. Dr. R. Asmis; Mr. H. Christiansen; Phra Anuvad Vanarak.

RESIGNATIONS.

The following members have resigned their membership of the Society:—Mr. C. W. Andersen, Monsieur F. Didier, Monsieur Henri Laurent, all taking effect from the 31st of December 1925: while Mr. E. Chapple, a member of the former Natural History Society, notified that he did not wish to take up his new membership.

"FLORAE SIAMENSIS ENUMERATIO".

It is a pleasure to report that during the past Quarter, in answer to enquiries made, the Ministry of Commerce and the Royal Forest Department have agreed to subscribe for 10 and 12 copies respectively of this work, and the thanks of the Society are due to these Departments of the Government for the kindly and welcome financial assistance given.

With the approval of the Council, the Hon. Secretary has also approached no fewer than nine neighbouring Governments, namely those of Japan, Hongkong, the Philippine Islands, Indo-China, Federated Malay States, Straits Settlements, Java, Burma, and India, as to whether they would be willing to subscribe to a number of copies of the complete work, in order to lighten the financial burden imposed upon the Society by its publication. Up to the present, the Straits Settlements Government has subscribed for 12 copies, the Federated Malay States Government for 4, three Depart-

ments of the Government of Burma for one each, and that of Hongkong for one. Replies have not yet been received from India, Java, Japan or French Indo-China, but the response so far given has been both welcome and satisfactory, and the thanks of the Society are due to the Governments concerned, especially that of the Straits Settlements, for the financial assistance given.

STUDY SECTIONS.

1. The Section of History, Archaeology, Literature and Philology held a very successful meeting on October 21st 1925, when Mr. E. G. Sebastian read, on behalf of Mr. W. A. R. Wood C. I. E., H. B. M. Consul-General at Chiengmai, a Paper on Mendez Pinto, the Portuguese Adventurer of the 16th Century. There were some forty members present, and the paper, which shed a good deal of light on contemporary Siamese history, was much enjoyed by all who heard it.

2. The Philatelic Section has also been active since the last number was issued. Two meetings have been held, the first of which took place on the 27th of August, when Mr. E. Wyon Smith read his promised paper on the General Processes involved in the manufacture of Stamps. The second was held on the 29th of October, when Mr. le May read a Paper on the British Legation Post Office established in Bangkok in 1882, accompanied by a display of Bangkok "B" Stamps, kindly lent for the occasion by Monsieur E. C. Monod, the Leader of the Section.

Both these Papers were well attended and listened to with much appreciation by those present. It is hoped that the Philatelic Section will continue its activities with vigour, and that 'new blood' will be forthcoming to maintain the present interest shown.

3. The Section of Natural History held a meeting on the 29th. of December to discuss future activities. At the meeting, which was well attended, Dr. Hugh Smith was elected Leader, in succession to Mr. E. J. Godfrey, who wished to give his whole attention to editing the Supplement to the Journal, and Mr. W. R. S. Ladell was elected Secretary in place of Mr. P. R. Kemp. It was

decided to hold an after dinner meeting early in the new Year, at which Dr. Smith would lecture on the Fish of Siam.

AGENTS OF THE SOCIETY ABROAD.

Messrs. Kelly and Walsh of Singapore have now been appointed sole Agents for the sale of the Society's publications in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States; and Messrs. Gauthner of Paris to a similar position in France.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SOCIETY.

In considering the Society's activities during the present year, members will derive added satisfaction from the knowledge that all liabilities incurred in connection with those activities have been duly discharged, and that the Society will begin the year 1926 with a balance in hand of some Tes. 1,500.

The cost of publishing the present number of the journal has yet to be met, but should be amply covered by subscriptions for 1925 which have not yet been paid.

In this connection members are earnestly requested once more to forward their subscriptions, which are due on the first day of the year, as promptly as possible. The Society is almost wholly dependent upon them, and a delay in their receipt produces a position which necessarily imposes restrictions on its potential activities.
