

Notes of the Quarter.

THE ROYAL PATRONAGE.

Early in the quarter His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to intimate to the Council that the memorial of the President and officers of the Society praying that His Majesty may be pleased to honour the Society by the extension to it of His Royal Patronage, had been granted.

COUNCIL.

Towards the end of the quarter the President (Mr. W. A. Graham) resigned the position owing to his forthcoming departure from Siam. His resignation was received with regret and the members of the Society entertained Mr. Graham to a farewell luncheon at Phya Thai Palace on March 27th, when his services to the Society over many years were appropriately eulogised by Phya Indra Montri, the senior vice-President, who took the chair. The Council unanimously elected Professor G. Cœdès to succeed Mr. Graham as President, and the position of Vice-President, which Prof. Cœdès vacated, was filled by the election of Mr. R. S. le May, whose ardour and ability in the performance of the multifarious duties of Honorary Secretary received some recognition. The vacancy of Honorary Secretary was filled by the election of Mr. R. Adey Moore. These elections are all subject to confirmation by a general meeting of the members.

The Council were made acquainted during the quarter that His Majesty would be pleased to present his portrait to be hung in the Council room of the Society.

The gift by Mr. Graham was reported of a magnificent new lantern and epidioscope which will be invaluable in its ability to show material objects on the screen at general meetings, and which would not have become possible but for the generous instincts of Mr. Graham, who was suitably thanked for his gift by the members, at a general meeting. Mr. Graham has also presented books to the Library.

MEMBERSHIP.

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

January 22nd	Mr. F. W. Margrett; Mr. L. J. Robbins and Mr. W. C. Streatfeild.
January 29th	Monsieur Marcel Polain and Mr. M. P. Keane.
February 26	Luang Charoon Sanitwongs; Phra Suvabhand Bidyakara; Phya Jolamark Bhicharana; Mr. A. R. Hammond.
March 11th	Monsieur A. Wilden.

RESIGNATIONS.

The following members have resigned their membership of the Society :—Baron de Villenfagne de Sorinnes, Mme Maire, Messrs. R. H. Greg, Courtenay Crocker, W. M. Cochrane, J. M. Dunlop, T. H. Pollard, A. Press, K. E. Surbek, and C. Quadrelli, all taking effect as from December 31st.

REMOVALS.

At the Council Meeting of February 26 it was decided to remove the names of the following members for non-payment of their subscriptions over periods varying from one year or more :—Messrs. H. G. Biggwither, E. E. Brodie, Dit Bunnag, Mom Chao Bunsri Kasem, H. B. Henderson, J. M. Lindsay, J. Macdonald, H. Matsumiya, R. J. Milhuisen, J. R. Redfield, W. W. Rae, Khun Rorb Rukit, J. H. Swanson, and C. Yada.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS.

On the 10th February M. René Nicolas read a paper on "The Shadow Plays of Siam." The attendance numbered over one hundred and was a most representative gathering. M. Nicolas gave in full detail the history of the Nāng or Shadow Picture play, as far as Siam was concerned, illustrating his remarks with a series of magnificent pictures (cut out of whole buffalo hides) kindly lent for the occasion by the Royal Entertainments Department. The paper possessed great interest, and indeed it is more than probable that the audience will never see such a display again.

On March 11th H. H. Prince Bidyalankarana read a paper on "The Pastime of Rhyme Making in Rural Siam." More than eighty members with their friends were present. Prince Bidya's paper proved to be of an absorbing nature, and gave a graphic des-

cription of the various kinds of extempore rhyme making and singing indulged in at certain times by the peasants of Siam.

The President paid a well deserved tribute to Prince Bidya for the engaging style in which the paper had been delivered.

THE STUDY SECTIONS.

A meeting of the Philatelic Section was held on the 5th January to hear a paper by Mr. E. G. Sebastian on Early Turkish Issues but, apart from the lecturer, only Mr. E. C. Monod and Mr. E. Wyon Smith were present. The meeting was adjourned until the 19th January. On the 19th January the meeting was held and cancelled, owing to the poor attendance, and the paper was published in the Press of the 20th January.

A meeting of the Agriculture and Travel Section was held on the 26th January, when Dr. Rogers, M. D., M. A., of Cambridge gave an account of his recent travels, mainly in India and Burma. His lecture led to a great deal of controversy subsequently.

The Natural History Section held a meeting on the 17th February, when the leader of the Section, Dr. Hugh McCormick Smith read a paper entitled "An account of the Siamese Sole fishes, with an enquiry regarding the so-called 'musical sole.'" Dr. Smith illustrated his lecture with a number of preserved specimens.

On March 24th a meeting of the History, Archaeology Literature and Philology Section was held. Mr. J. Burnay read an interesting paper on "Descriptive and Comparative Grammar of Thai Dialects."



Annual General Meeting.

The 17th Annual General Meeting of the Siam Society was held at the Rooms of the Society on Friday, January 29th 1926, at 6.30 p. m. *Present*: Mr. W. A. Graham, President, in the Chair: supported by Phya Indra Montri, Prof. G. Cœdès, and Major Erik Seidenfaden, Vice-Presidents; Dr. Hugh M. Smith, Prof. M. Bréal, and Mr. E. G. Sebastian, members of the Council, Mr. V. H. Jaques, Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. R. S. le May, Hon. Secretary.

The general body of members present included H. H. Prince Dhani Nivat, the Rev. C. R. Simmons, the Rev. L. A. Chorin, and Messrs. Ardron, Baudart, Bisgaard, Brändli, Brewitt-Taylor, Davy, Duplatre, Fegen, Godfrey, Ladell, Lewis, Lingat, Nicolas, Paulger, Streatfeild, Tyrer, and Zieler.

After the Hon. Secretary had read the Notice convening the Meeting, the minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting were read and approved.

The President then asked the Hon. Secretary to read the Annual Report for 1925, and this being done, the Report and the Statement of Account, which was presented and explained by the Hon. Treasurer, were adopted unanimously.

The President then proposed the election of Mr. W. J. F. Williamson C. M. G. as an Honorary Member of the Society. He dwelt at some length upon the services which this gentleman had rendered the cause of Natural History in Siam, and Prof. Cœdès having seconded the motion, the election was carried unanimously.

Two gentlemen were then proposed and seconded for election as Ordinary Members of the Society, as follows:—

Monsieur Marcel Polain, Chargé d'Affaires de Belgique, proposed by Mr. Bisgaard and seconded by Dr. Smith.

Mr. M. P. Keane, proposed by Major E. Seidenfaden, and seconded by Mr. Bisgaard.

On a ballot being taken, both candidates were declared duly elected.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1926.

Mr. Ardron then proposed, and Mr. Bisgaard seconded, a motion that the following gentlemen should form the Council for 1926:—

President :	Mr. W. A. Graham
Vice-Presidents	{ Phya Indra Montri Prof. G. Coedès Major E. Seidenfaden
Hon. Secretary	Mr. R. S. le May
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. V. H. Jaques
Hon. Editor	
and Librarian	Prof. G. Coedès
<i>Members :</i>	Mr. R. Adey Moore
	Prof. M. Bréal
	Mr. L. Brewitt Taylor
	Rev. L. A. Chorin
	Dr. A. F. G. Kerr
	Mr. W. H. Mundie
	Mr. P. R. Kemp
	Mr. E. G. Sebastian
	Dr. Hugh M. Smith.

The President explained that, in the ordinary way, as he was leaving Siam for good in April, he should place his resignation in the hands of the Meeting, and ask them to elect a new President: but his friends on the Council had pressed him to continue to occupy the post until his departure, and he felt it a great compliment to be asked to do so. The motion was then put to the Meeting and carried unanimously.

The President, then, having thanked the Meeting on his own behalf for re-electing him President, and also on behalf of the Council, went on to say how much the Council desired to see more Siamese gentlemen taking an active part in the affairs of the Society, and hoped that the new year would see a considerable increase in the number of Siamese members.

Finally he explained that the Council were anxious to adopt an emblem for the Society, and invited any member interested to submit designs to the Council for their consideration.

The meeting closed at 7.20 p. m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair, proposed by Mr. Bisgaard and carried unanimously.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1925.

The year 1925, although for a variety of reasons, perhaps not such an active one as 1924, has seen the Siam Society established upon increasingly firmer foundations. It is now five years since the Society set out to rehabilitate itself after the period of quiescence caused by the Great War, and the response given both by the Siamese and by the Foreign Community has clearly shown the demand for such a Society in Siam, and an appreciation of the work carried out. Its chief strength lies, without doubt, in the international and cosmopolitan character of its Council and membership, and it is certain that the interchange of ideas thus afforded is proving of great value to the Society, as well as to the cause of science in Siam generally. Every effort should be made to retain this essential characteristic of the Society, and to induce more and more of the educated Siamese classes not only to take an interest in the work being done, but also to put their own hands to the task of studying their country from a scientific point of view.

By the untimely death of His Majesty the late King on November 26, 1925 the Society suffered a severe loss. His Majesty, who had been Patron of the Society ever since its foundation in 1904, was a scholar of wide attainments who would have made his mark in the literary world of any country, and from that standpoint His place in Siam will be hard to fill.

His Present Majesty has, however, been graciously pleased to extend his Royal Patronage to the Society, and it is hoped that this continuance of the favour of the Royal House of Siam will be the means of stimulating the rising generation of this country to a sense of the importance of science and literature.

At the end of December a deputation of the Council of the Society, headed by the President, laid a wreath at the foot of the Urn containing the remains of His late Majesty as a token of homage and respect.

H. R. H. Prince Damrong, the Vice-Patron, still takes the keenest interest in the affairs of the Society, and showed this inter-

est in a very practical form in July last, by giving an address to the Society on his recent visit to Angkor Wat. Further reference to this address will be found in a later column; but it may be said here that both the Council and the Society in general feel a lively sense of gratitude to His Royal Highness for the kindness shown.

MEMBERSHIP.

During the year H. H. Prince Bidyalankarana, the Vice-Minister of Commerce, and now the Vice-President of the National Library, was elected an Hon. Member of the Society in recognition of his work in connection with Siamese literature and poetry, and it is gratifying to be able to state that His Highness will shortly read a Paper to the Society on the Pastime of Rhyme making and singing in Rural Siam.

Also five Honorary Members of the late Natural History Society have been elected to similar positions in the Siam Society, and have signified acceptance of their election. One Hon. Member, M. Pavie, the well-known French explorer and administrator, died during the course of the year.

Two Corresponding Members were elected in the persons of Mr. C. A. S. Sewell, M. R. A. S., who had been a Member of the Council since 1910; and Mr. J. Michell, F. R. G. S., who had been Hon. Secretary since the beginning of 1922, and who had rendered much valuable service to the Society in that capacity. Both these gentlemen have now left Siam for good.

During the year the number of new Ordinary members elected was 53, including 30 members of the late Natural History Society, who were elected members of the Siam Society as a result of the amalgamation. But, as up to date 6 of these latter have declined to accept membership, the actual number of new members amounted to 47.

Against this, there were 24 resignations, 7 removals, and 1 death, and the ordinary membership of the Society was, therefore, increased by 15.

The membership at the 1st. of January 1926 was as follows:—

Honorary	Corresponding	Life	Ordinary
21	12	1	226

making a grand total of 260, an increase of 22 over that of last year.

THE COUNCIL.

The principal changes in the Council during the year were the election of Mr. R. S. le May as Hon. Secretary in place of Mr. J. Michell, who left the country in February, and of Mr. V. H. Jaques as Hon. Treasurer in place of Mr. L. Bisgaard, who resigned in September. Mr. le May had already acted for Mr. Michell in 1923, and the change was therefore effected without much difficulty; though it may be said that the post of Hon. Secretary is one which is making increasing demands upon the holder, and the time may be not far distant when paid assistance will become an absolute necessity.

Mr. Bisgaard found that pressure of other duties rendered it impossible for him to carry on his duties as Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. Jaques kindly consented to take his place. The thanks of the Society were accorded to Mr. Bisgaard for the services he had rendered.

Mr. E. J. Walton resigned from the Council on his departure from Siam, and Dr. Ira Ayer found it necessary to resign also, on account of pressure of other duties. They were warmly thanked for the services they had rendered the Society, and three new members were elected in the persons of Dr. Hugh Smith, Mr. P. R. Kemp, F. R. G. S., and Professor M. Bréal.

Prof. Cédès, a Vice-President of the Society, was absent on leave during the greater part of the year; and his place as Hon. Librarian and Editor was taken by Mr. E. G. Sebastian.

Nine Council Meetings were held during the year, at which average attendance was just under 8, not quite so regular an attendance as in 1924.

THE JOURNAL.

Three parts of the Journal were issued during the year, Vol. XVIII part 3, and Vol. XIX parts 1 and 2; while Vol. XIX part 3 was in the press at the close of the year.

Vol. XVIII part 3 contained a long and original work on the Coinage of Siam, and other interesting papers which appeared in the Journal were The "Huey" Lottery; a visit to Doi Angka (the Highest Mountain in Siam); the results of the Polish Solar Radia-

tion Expedition to Siam and Java in 1923; the first Report of the Archaeological Department of the Siamese Government; A visit to Wat Maha That and the Pottery Kilns at Sawankalok; and a Paper (in Siamese and English) on the Yao Tribe of Northern Siam.

There was thus a considerable diversity in the subjects treated, and interest in the Journal was well maintained. There is fortunately no lack of material available, and it is to be hoped that the Journal will continue to grow in importance and usefulness.

Mr. E. G. Sebastian edited the Journal throughout the year with the assistance of the Hon. Secretary.

Mr. E. J. Godfrey has now been appointed Hon. Assistant Editor to take charge of Natural History publications.

RULES OF THE SOCIETY.

The new revised Rules of the Society were approved by the Annual General Meeting held on January 30th. 1925, and printed in Vol. XIX part 1.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS.

Only one Ordinary General Meeting was held during 1925, but that proved to be probably the most important and largely attended meeting ever held by the Society. On July 29th. the Vice-Patron, H. R. H. Prince Damrong, was kind enough, as already mentioned in this Report, to give an address in English entitled "Angkor from a Siamese Point of View." The meeting was attended by more than 100 members and friends, and the address, which was illustrated by lantern slides, proved of absorbing interest, presenting as it did the reflection of a trained Siamese mind on an ancient site which is now an object of wonder to the whole civilised world.

The address is being published in Vol. XIX, part 3.

THE STUDY SECTIONS.

The Study Sections were not quite so active during 1925 as in the previous year, but still a number of meetings were held, as detailed below.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SECTION.

The first meeting of this newly constituted Section was held on May 6th when a Leader and a Secretary were elected. The

second meeting was held on July 6th. when a fine collection of butterflies was shown by Mr. Godfrey and specimens of Siamese fish by Dr. Hugh Smith. A third meeting was held on December 29th., when Dr. Hugh Smith was elected Leader, in place of Mr. Godfrey who wished to devote his whole attention to the editing of the Natural History Supplement, and it was stated that the remaining portion of Vol. VI would be published in the course of the next month or so.

Owing to the departure from Siam of some of the more prominent members of the late Natural History Society, interest in this part of the Society's activities was not so evident as in former days; but the work already done has been of a very valuable nature to the world of Natural History, and it is hoped that every effort will be made to keep this work well to the fore of the Society's activities.

SECTION OF HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY, LITERATURE AND PHILOLOGY.

This Section held one very successful meeting in October last, when Mr. E. G. Sebastian read, on behalf of Mr. W. A. R. Wood C. I. E., H. B. M. Consul General at Chiangmai, a most interesting paper on "Mendez Pinto, the Portuguese Adventurer of the 16th Century." This paper was much enjoyed by all present, and the Society is to be congratulated in finding such a valuable new contributor in Mr. Wood.

SECTION OF PHILATELY.

The Philatelic Section held its first meeting under the aegis of the Siam Society on July 23rd., when a Leader and a Secretary were appointed. This was followed by two further meetings during the year, on the 27th of August and the 29th of October, respectively. At the first of these Mr. Wyon Smith read a Paper on the General Processes involved in the manufacture of Stamps, and at the second Mr. le May gave a lecture on the Post Office established at the British Legation in Bangkok in 1882. Other papers are being arranged for 1926.

"FLORAE SIAMENSIS ENUMERATIO" PT. I.

It will not be out of place to mention in this Report that the above work by Professor W. G. Craib of Aberdeen University has met with a very good reception, and enquiries are being received for it from all parts of the world.

It may also be recorded that the Ministry of Commerce and the Royal Forest Department have subscribed to 10 and 12 copies respectively of the complete work: and that the neighbouring Governments of the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, Hongkong and Burma have also taken a practical interest in the publication, and subscribed to one or more copies of the complete work, which may run to five parts.

AGENTS OF THE SOCIETY ABROAD.

This opportunity is taken of stating that sole agents for the sale of the Society's publications have now been appointed in various countries, as follows:—

1. Messrs. Luzac & Co., 46 Great Russell Street, London, for Great Britain and Ireland.
2. Messrs. Harrassowitz, of Leipzig, for Germany.
3. Messrs. Geuthner, Rue Jacob, Paris, for France.
4. Messrs. Kelly and Walsh of Singapore, for the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States.

Negotiations are also being carried on for the appointment of an agent in India.

In Siam itself, copies of all the Society's publications can be obtained at the Oriental Stores Ltd., Bangkok, or upon application to the Bangkok Times Press Ltd., as well as, of course, at the rooms of the Society.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

Receipts on the whole were considerably in advance of those for 1924, and as the expenditure did not increase to any marked extent, the balance to be carried forward is Tes. 1,580.30 against Tes. 389 last year.

The large amount of Tes. 800/- received from the sale of Journals includes the settlement of long out-standing accounts with Messrs. Luzac of London and Messrs. Harrassowitz of Leipzig. Sales of the M^on Dictionary still continue, and the sale of Craib's Flora of Siam may be considered as satisfactory.

In addition to the balance mentioned, there is still a sum of Tes. 1,625 outstanding for subscriptions due as against Tes. 1,500 last year).

Naturally, a number of members go away on leave every year, and the Society is not able to collect their subscriptions until they return; but it is to be feared that a large proportion of the present arrears will not prove recoverable, and that the names of a number of members will have to be removed from the books of the Society.

It is to be hoped that these difficulties will not occur to the same degree in the future.

On the expenditure side, the cost of Printing the Flora of Siam, Pt. 1, appears for the first time. The cost of printing the Journal, and of the blocks for the same, differs very little from that of last year.

The only item which shows any considerable increase is the expenditure on Printing Notices and Wrapping and Posting of Journals. This will be given careful attention in the future, with a view to its reduction, if possible.

As mentioned already, the balance carried forward to 1926 is Tcs. 1,580.30.

R. S. LE MAY,
Hon. Secretary.

Bangkok, January 29th 1926.

THE SIAM SOCIETY.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Receipts.						Expenditure.
To Balance brought forward from 1924 Statement	..			389.41		By Furniture and Fittings
„ Subscriptions received for 1922	..	25.00				„ Electric Current, Jan. to Nov. 1925
do. do. 1923	..	50.00				„ Clerk's Salary, Jan. to Nov. 1925
do. do. 1924	..	350.00				„ Coolie's Salary, Jan. to Nov. 1925
do. do. 1925	..	4,400.00				„ Postages of Hon. Secretary
do. do. 1925	..	60.00	part paid			„ Postages of Hon. Treasurer
do. do. 1926	..	250.00				„ Rent paid for Rooms, Jan. to Nov. 1925
do. do. 1927	..	25.00		5,160.00		„ Hire of Chairs
						„ Printing Journals
To Sales of Journals	..			800.28		„ Printing Craib's Flora
„ Sales of Mon Dictionaries	..			109.14		„ Lantern Slides
„ Sales of Craib's Flora of Siam	..			195.68		„ Maps
„ Sales of Stamp Catalogue	..			3.50		„ Blocks and Plates for Journal
„ Sales of Natural History Journals	..			109.70		„ Printing Author's Separates
„ Rent of Rooms, Dec. 1924 to Nov. 1925	..			600.00		„ Stationery and Printing Circulars
„ Anonymous Gift	..			14.00		„ Printing and posting postcards; and wrapping, posting etc. of Society's publications (less postage recovered)
„ Bank Interest on Current Account @ 1%	..			20.24		„ Transport and Freight charges
						„ Advertisement
						„ Balance on account current with Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at 31st December 1925.
						Ticals 7,401.95
						Ticals 7,401.95

Compared with the books and vouchers, and found to be in accordance therewith.

J. C. HEGGIE.

Bangkok, 18th January 1926.

No. of Members at January 1st. 1926.

Honorary	..	21
Corresponding	..	12
Life	..	1
Ordinary	..	226
		260

Note: Postages, printing, stationery, wages and electric current unpaid at 31st December 1925 amount to Ticals 170.11.

V. H. JAQUES, Hon. Treasurer.

Outstanding Subscriptions.

1922	..	..	Tics.	100
1923	..	..	„	200
1924	..	..	„	450
1925	..	..	„	875
				1,625
			Tics.	1,625