

Annual Report for 1928.

The year has been an eventful one, and the revival of interest in the affairs of the Society, referred to in previous annual reports, has been more than sustained. His Majesty the King, the Patron, with Her Majesty the Queen, again honoured the Society by being present at the general meeting in October, when Dr. Hans Koester lectured on the religion of Shaktism.

The most important event for the future of the Society has been the proposal of the Council, approved by the members at a special general meeting, to raise funds for the erection of a building for the Society. The scheme has been successfully launched owing to the generous financial support and the interest taken by His Majesty the King, and Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Nagara Svarga, Prince Damrong and the Prince of Kambaeng Bejra. The unexpected offer by the Government of a site at a nominal rental, to which further reference will be found later, has added to the confidence with which it is hoped that the Society will own a suitable home at no very distant date.

MEMBERSHIP.

Dr. Malcolm Smith was elected an Honorary Member in recognition of his services to natural history in Siam.

During the year the number of ordinary members elected was 31, as compared with 23 in 1927, 30 in 1926, and 47 in 1925 (the year when 24 members of the former Natural History Society were elected to the Siam Society as the result of the amalgamation). There were 30 resignations and 5 removals from membership, and the death of Monsieur Réau the French Minister, has to be recorded with regret. The number of ordinary members was thus reduced by 5. The deaths of two Honorary Members, Mr. A. J. Irwin and Major Moulton, and of one Corresponding Member, Mr. B. O. Cartwright, have also to be recorded with regret. Mr. Irwin and Mr. Cartwright were both active members of the Society for many years before their retirement from Siam.

The membership on January 1st, 1929 was :—

Honorary	Corresponding	Life	Ordinary	Free
21	11	2	209	3

making a total of 246, as compared with 233 in 1927, 253 in 1926, 260 in 1925, and 238 in 1924.

THE COUNCIL.

Mr. L. Brewitt-Taylor, whose work has been of great value, retired owing to pressure of other duties, and the same cause was responsible for the resignation of Mr. V. H. Jaques from the position of Honorary Treasurer. Mr. J. Burnay resumed his position as Honorary Librarian on his return from leave. H. R. H. the Prince of Kambaeng Bejra joined the Council by virtue of his position as Leader of the Travel and Transport Section. The following were co-opted members of the Council: Mr. C. J. House (as Honorary Treasurer), Mr. E. Wyon Smith and Mr. E. J. Godfrey. Major Ladell and the Honorary Secretary were absent on leave during a portion of the year.

Sixteen Council meetings were held, compared with thirteen in 1927.

It was felt that the finances of the Society had not been receiving sufficient attention, and a committee consisting of Phya Indra Montri, Mr. R. S. le May, with the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, was appointed to take the matter in hand. It reported that the Society was not living strictly within its income and that expenditure should be cut down. A budget for 1929 was submitted, and it was suggested that the Finance Committee should become a permanent body, scrutinising all proposed expenditure, before it was submitted to the Council. These recommendations were agreed to, and it was decided that a budget be prepared annually.

DICTIONARY.

The compilation of the Siamese-English-French dictionary, which was commenced in 1927, was continued. Valuable notes on Siamese words compiled by Mr. E. J. Walton were made available to the committee.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

In the Report for 1927 it was mentioned that a committee was appointed to report on the establishment of a Natural History Museum. After consideration of the report, the Council resolved that the Minister of Commerce and Communications should be approached on the subject, with the suggestion that the proposed museum be incorporated with the Government Economic Museum. Dr. Hugh McCormick Smith and Mr. A. Marcan joined the committee, which prepared a fresh report from this view-point. The memorandum, having been approved, was submitted as planned.

EXCHANGES.

The committee appointed in 1927 to examine the question of exchange of publications with other societies presented their report which was passed by the Council.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE SOCIETY.

The Society has so far had only temporary accommodation, and has frequently been faced with the problem of finding new quarters, which at times has occasioned grave concern. During the year Poh Yome House was sold, but other temporary rooms were obtained at the Chulalongkorn University, being kindly offered by H. H. Prince Dhani, Minister of Public Instruction. It was felt that the Society needed a suitable building of its own, if it were to take its proper place in the intellectual life of the country. After deliberation, the Council decided that the anniversary could be most fittingly celebrated by the erection of a home.

The project, involving an expenditure of Baht 35,000 exclusive of site, was passed by a special general meeting of members on October 17th. An appeal was subsequently circulated, in which the gratifying announcement was made that a suitable plot of land between the Saowabha Institute and the Chulalongkorn University, at the present time part of the site which the University leases from His Majesty, had been kindly offered by H. H. the Minister of Public Instruction for the Society's use on a long lease at a nominal rental,

if sufficient funds were forthcoming to proceed with the building. At the end of the year about Baht 16,000 had already been subscribed or promised, so that the scheme appears to be assured of success.

CONGRESSES.

The President represented the Society at the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Batavia Society of Arts and Letters, and received the honour of being elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

Mr. W. A. Graham, a past President, represented the Society at the International Geographical Congress at Cambridge in June, and read a paper entitled "The Races of Further India."

GENERAL MEETING.

Dr. Hans Koester read a paper on the Religion of Shaktism in October, when Their Majesties the King and Queen honoured the meeting by their presence.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT SECTION.

A meeting was held in March under the leadership of the Prince of Kambaeng Bejra, when a paper on the "Hill routes between Pitsanuloke and Lomsak" was read, prepared from the diary kept by Mr. L. J. Robbins, formerly of the Vajiravudh College. The paper was illustrated by photographs and a short cinematograph film.

SECTION OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS.

A session was held in May, when Mr. le May lectured on Chinese porcelain. A number of specimens were exhibited to illustrate the paper.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION.

At a meeting in August, Dr. Hugh McCormick Smith exhibited specimens of fish and flying squirrels, Dr. A. F. G. Kerr shewed a number of plants, and Mr. A. Marcan read a paper on the Mangroves of Siam.

THE JOURNAL.

Two parts of the Journal were issued, Vol. XXI, part 3, and Vol. XXII, part I. Vol. XXII, part II, was in the press at the close of the year.

Vol. XXI, part 3, contained the fully illustrated and important paper on the excavations at P'ong Tuk and their importance for the ancient history of Siam, by Professor G. Coedès, and a contribution to the Problem of the Siamese alphabet by Professor Dr. F. Otto Schrader. Vol. XXII, part I, brought to a close the extracts appearing in previous numbers of the English correspondence of King Mongkut, and the interesting story of Wat Benchamabopitr as related by H. R. H. Prince Damrong. This part was accompanied by a series of plates of the Images of the Buddha to be found within the cloisters of the temple, and a full list of the images was also printed with the paper.

One Natural History Supplement was published, Vol. VII, part 3. Included in it was an account of the physical features and vegetation of Kao Tao, the most isolated island in the Gulf of Siam, by Dr. A. F. G. Kerr and a paper on Birds from the Rahaeng district by Mr. F. N. Chasen and Mr. C. Boden Kloss.

Professor Coedès edited the Journal throughout the year, and Mr. E. J. Godfrey continued to act as Assistant Editor, in charge of the Natural History Supplement.

FLORAE SIAMENSIS ENUMERATIO.

It was found possible to carry out the publication of Part III of the above work, and it is hoped to proceed with the succeeding parts as soon as possible.

RECEPTION.

On the occasion of Professor Finot's visit to Siam in July, the President and Council gave an At Home in his honour, to which the members of the Society were invited. Accommodation at the

Chulalongkorn University was kindly made available, and a warm welcome was extended to Professor Finot, who has been a Corresponding Member of the Society since its inception, and was elected an Honorary Member in 1923.

EXCURSIONS.

To the regret of the Council it was not found feasible to arrange any excursions as in some preceding years. It is hoped, however, that it will be possible to arrange one, if not two, during 1929.

GIFTS.

The following gifts have been received during the year for the Society's library: From H. R. H. the Princess of U'thong, a copy of *Bhuddhamamaṅka*; from F. M. Chao Phya Surisakdi Montri, a copy of *Niras Muang Luang Prabang*; from Dr. Hans Koester, a copy of his work *Anthroposophy in India*; from Major Erik Seidenfaden a copy of his paper, *Some Notes on the Siamese Army*; and from Mr. O'Neill a copy of his translation, *The Natural and Political History of the Kingdom of Siam 1688*, by Gervaise.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of The Siam Society for the Year 1928.

Receipts.		Tes. Stgs.	Expenditure.		Tes. Stgs.
To Balance brought forward from 1927	1,754.37	By Furniture and Fittings	208.60
„ Subscriptions received for 1926	Tes. 25.00		„ Electric Current	79.45
do. do. 1927	„ 250.00		„ Clerk's wages	180.00
do. do. 1928	„ 5,000.00		„ Coolie's wages	264.00
do. do. 1929	„ 125.00	5,400.00	„ Postages—Hon. Treasurer	47.35
To One life-membership subscription	300.00	„ Postages—Hon. Secretary	159.02
„ Surplus on foreign exchange	11.51	„ Rent for rooms	520.00
„ Tea to M. Finot (contributed by Council)	161.00	„ Refreshments at lectures { in 1927	187.00
„ Otto Harrasowitz—a/c sales 1927	74.10	{ in 1928	62.25
„ Sales of Journals	1,056.00	„ Books bound for library	96.25
„ Sales of Natural History Journals	255.50	„ Filing cards for Dictionary	80.00
„ Sales of Mon Dictionary	21.40	„ Lantern slides and photographs for lecture	125.50
„ Sales of Craib's Flora of Siam	991.15	„ Blocks and plates for Journal	681.15
„ Sales of Stamp catalogue	17.29	„ Printing Craib's Flora Part 3	1,230.00
„ Interest on current a/c	33.47	„ Printing Journals	2,585.00
			„ Printing Authors separates	135.00
			„ Stationery, including postcards	162.50
			„ Addressing wrapping, forwarding etc. of Society's publications, circulars etc.	53.50
			„ Printing postcards and notices	47.50
			„ Postages on forwarding Journals	335.77
			„ Fire Insurance Premium	71.25
			„ Books purchased and accessories for lantern	19.96
			„ Cost of removal from Poh Yome House	65.00
			„ Sundries and lorry hire	15.26
			„ Tea to M. Finot—August 31st 1928	155.25
			„ Expenses of representative at Geographical Congress, Cambridge	64.00
			Total Expenditure	7,630.56
			Balance carried forward to 1929	2,445.23
		Tes. 10,075.79			Tes. 10,075.79

Examined and found to agree with the books and vouchers.

G. R. BROOKS. Bangkok, February 1929.

C. J. HOUSE, *Hon. Treasurer.*

No. of Members as at 31st December 1928.—Honorary 21
Corresponding 11, Life 2, Ordinary 209, Free 3, Total 246.

Subscriptions outstanding—1927 Tes. 50, 1928 Tes. 225,
Total Tes. 275.

