

Annual Report for 1929.

On the 26th February 1929 the Siam Society completed the first twenty-five years of its existence, and it is gratifying to record that in this year the Society has shown continued vitality and that the aims for which it was established have been followed with a great measure of success. The revival of interest in the work of the Society, referred to in the annual reports since the war, has been more than sustained, and the increase in the number of Siamese members is very satisfactory. This, perhaps, is the best augury for the continued usefulness of the Society.

His Majesty the King, the Patron, with Her Majesty the Queen, again honoured the Society by being present at the General Meeting in May when Prof. Col. F. J. M. Stratton, leader of the British Eclipse Expedition to Siam delivered a lecture on "The Sun."

MEMBERSHIP.

During the year the number of ordinary members elected was 38 as compared with 31 in 1928, 23 in 1927 and 30 in 1926. There were 13 resignations and 8 removals. One death, that of Monsieur J. Grenard, has also to be recorded with regret. The number of ordinary members was thus increased by sixteen.

The deaths of three Honorary members, Sir Ernest Satow, Dr. H. Campbell Highet, and Mr. H. C. Robinson, and of one Corresponding Member, Mr. G. C. B. Stirling, have also to be recorded with regret. Sir Ernest Satow and Mr. Stirling held their appointments from the inception of the Society. Dr. H. Campbell Highet was an active member for many years, a past President, and a frequent contributor to the Journal while resident in Siam, and Mr. H. C. Robinson had contributed to the Natural History Supplement of the Journal from time to time.

The membership on January 1st, 1930, was:—

Honorary	Corresponding	Life	Ordinary	Free
18	10	2	225	3

making a total of 258, as compared with 246 in 1928, 233 in 1927 and 253 in 1926.

THE COUNCIL.

The membership of the Council remained as in 1928, all the members being re-elected at the annual meeting in February 1929. The President (Professor G. Coedès) was absent in Europe during part of the period under review, and in that time his appointment as Director of the *École Française d'Extrême-Orient* was announced. On the eve of his departure from Siam at the end of the year the Society in large numbers entertained the President and Madame Coedès to a farewell dinner at Phya Thai Palace, at which the Vice-Patron, H. R. H. Prince Damrong, presided. The senior Vice-President (Phya Indra Montri) was also absent in Europe for a part of the year, and the duties of Acting-President and chairman of Council have been carried out efficiently by Major Erik Seidenfaden. Major Ladell, on return from leave, took up the duties of Assistant Librarian. Twelve meetings of the Council were held.

The Council laid a wreath before the remains of His late Royal Highness Prince Mahidol at the Swan Kularb palace, on November 4th.

The Council voted a donation of Tes. 100 to the repair fund of Phra Sri Ratana Sasdaram monastery (Wat Phra Keo).

On the occasion of His Majesty's birthday both the Vice-Patron and the Honorary Vice-President received promotion in Princely rank, and the President on behalf of the Council and the Society conveyed congratulations on the honours conferred.

ACCOUNTS.

The Finance Committee of the Council have continued to act throughout the year, and prepared the Budget for 1930.

The Society's principal source of income, which is from Members' subscriptions, has been well maintained during the past year, being in fact only Tes. 25 less than in 1928, and the income from sales was satisfactory, even if less than in 1928, which was in this respect a record year. There has been a continued and gratifying demand

for the publications of the Society, and the year's figures include the sale of three complete sets of the Journal.

On the other hand, the expenditure has been greatly reduced, partly owing to the fact that the fourth part of Craib's Flora was not ready for publication.

The reduction in expenditure must, however, be largely ascribed to the action of the Council, adopted in 1928, in making a definite Budget beforehand.

The Budget prepared in 1928 has been closely adhered to with the result that Tes. 1,800 have been saved on the cost of producing the Journal, and minor economies have been effected in Stationery and Postages.

The financial position has now permitted the commencement of the important work of re-printing such numbers of the Journal as are out-of-print, as the Journal is in constant demand for sale in complete sets. A start has been made with Volume I, parts 1 and 2, of which 100 copies have been re-printed at a cost of Tes. 600. This is on sale to members at Tes. 8- and to non-members at Tes. 10- per copy.

As foreshadowed in last year's report, the Council decided to form a reserve fund by placing a sum of Tes. 2,000 on fixed deposit, this being approximately the revenue derived from sales during 1928, and therefore in the nature of capital. This fund will be available for publications of an exceptional character, and the Council proposes to add to it an equal sum from the cash balance carried forward for 1929.

DICTIONARY.

The compilation of the Siamese-English-French dictionary which was begun in 1927 was continued.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

The Memorandum prepared by the Committee appointed to report on the establishment of a Natural History Museum suggested

that such a museum might with advantage be incorporated with the Government Economic Museum. This document was forwarded by the Council to H. R. H. the Minister of Commerce and Communications and is under consideration.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE SOCIETY.

The decision of the general body of members that this anniversary would be most fittingly celebrated by the erection of a permanent home has received substantial support. Subscriptions and gifts have now reached a figure which the Council feel has justified them in approaching Mr. E. Healey, A.R.C.A., who is a member of the Society, and in asking him to draw up specifications for the proposed building. Mr. Healey has met the Council very generously in this matter, and the thanks of the Society as a whole are due to him in this connection. With the generous cooperation of H. H. Prince Dhani, the Council has selected an admirable site in the grounds of the Chulalankarana University, with access from both Phya Thai and Rama I. roads. It is hoped to proceed with the erection of the building during the coming year.

In connection with the Jubilee the Council have also decided to issue a Commemorative Volume. It was suggested by the Vice-Patron, H. R. H. Prince Damrong, that no more suitable subject could be chosen than the Evolution of Siamese Script, and the Council have adopted this suggestion. The publication of the volume depends naturally on the support received, and, if sufficient is forthcoming it is hoped to publish this book in 1930.

CONGRESSES, ETC.

The President represented the Society at the Centenary of the Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures held in Paris in May.

An invitation having been received to be represented at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the American Academy of Arts and Letters at New York in April, the Council asked Dr. Eldon R. James to represent the Society on that occasion. Unfortunately this request did not reach Dr. James in time to enable him to attend the anniversary.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

On May 30th Professor Col. F. J. M. Stratton read a learned paper on "The Sun". On this occasion Their Majesties the King and Queen honoured the Society with their presence at the meeting.

On July 31st Mr. W. R. Moore read a paper on the "Hill Tribes in Siam and the Shan States". The paper was illustrated by many beautiful coloured lantern slides prepared by the author.

On October 30th Sir Edward Cook, C. S. I., C. I. E., read an interesting paper on "Akbar and the Moghul Empire" in October. This paper was profusely illustrated by lantern slides.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION.

On March 19th Dr. W. Credner, who is now Professor of Geography at Canton University, read a paper on "The Scenery of Siam in its relation to Geology," illustrated by a series of remarkable photographs taken by the author in his various journeys throughout Siam.

On April 24th Professor Dr. Johannes Schmidt, leader of the Dana scientific expedition, read a paper on "The Migration of the Eel." This was admirably illustrated by photographs taken by the expedition.

On November 25th Luang Choola Jeebijjadhara, of the Department of Fisheries, read a paper entitled "Some Observations on the Breeding of the Fighting Fish," and the paper was preceded by an excellent exhibition of specimens.

THE JOURNAL.

Two parts of the Journal were issued, Vol. XXIII, Part 1 and Part 2.

Vol. XXIII, Part 1, contained the paper on "The Indian Religion of the Goddess Shakti" by Dr. Hans Koester and a "Note sur la revision des lois siamoises en 1805" by M. R. Lingat.

Vol XXIII, Part 2, included the first part of "Adversaria on Elephant Hunting" by Phya Indra Montri, a "Note sur le nom du Cap Liant" by M. J. Burnay, and a paper entitled "De l'origine des échelles musicales javano-balinaises" by Dr. J. Kunst, with four plates.

One Natural History Supplement was published, Vol. VIII, No. 1.

Included in this number were a paper by Dr. Credner on "Problems of Geomorphology in Siam," and some "Notes on Traps made by the Hill Peoples of Siam," with numerous plates by Mr. H. B. G. Garrett.

In the absence of Professor Cœdès, M. J. Burnay acted as Editor of the Journal, and Mr. E. J. Godfrey continued as Assistant Editor, in charge of the Natural History Supplement.

FLORAE SIAMENSIS ENUMERATIO.

It was not found possible to proceed with the publication of Part IV of the above work, but it is hoped to do so in the coming year.

EXCURSIONS.

The excursion arranged to Petchaburi on August 18th attracted many members and their friends, to the number of nearly sixty and proved a great success. Thanks are due to the Agriculture, Travel and Transport Section for the excellence of the arrangements made.

GIFT.

The following gift was received in the course of the year for the Society's library: A booklet in Memory of King Chulalongkorn, from the Honorary President, H. R. H. the Prince of Nagor Svarga.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1929.

Receipts.

To Balance brought forward from 1928	Tes.	2,445.23
„ Subscriptions received for 1928	Tes.	25.00
do. do. 1929	„	5,175.00
do. do. 1930	„	175.00
		<u>5,375.00</u>
To Surplus on foreign exchange		0.65
„ Luzac & Co.,—a/c sales 1927/8		651.39
„ Otto Harrasowitz—a/c sale 1928		75.92
„ Sales of Journals		804.64
„ Sales of Craib's Flora of Siam		519.57
„ Sales of Stamp catalogue		14.30
„ Interest on current a/c		46.12
		<u>9,932.82</u>
	Tes.	9,932.82
Reserve Fund Account.		
To Balance on Fixed Deposit	Tes.	2,000.00
Building Fund Account.		
To Balance on Fixed Deposit		16,000.00
„ Balance on Current account at Bank		4,048.67
		<u>20,048.67</u>
Monthly subscriptions not yet due		310.00
Estimated Interest accrued		620.00
Amounts promised		2,000.00
		<u>2,930.00</u>
State of the Fund at December 31st, 1929.	Tes.	22,978.67

Examined and found to agree with the books and vouchers,

G. R. BROOKS,

Hon. Auditor.

Bangkok, January 12th, 1930.

Expenditure.

By Furniture and Fittings	Tes.	32.20
„ Clerk's wages		270.00
„ Coolie's wages		264.00
„ Postages—Hon. Treasurer		37.70
„ Postages—Hon. Secretary		85.28
„ Telegram to Ecole Centrale, Paris		11.90
„ Books bound for Library		109.00
„ Minute book for Dictionary Committee		4.50
„ Blocks and Plates for Journals		72.50
„ Printing Journal		1,212.00
„ Printing Natural History Supplement		522.00
„ Re-printing Volume I of Journal		600.00
„ Printing Authors' separates		85.50
„ Stationery		135.05
„ Stamped post-cards		50.00
„ Addressing, wrapping and forwarding of Journals		17.50
„ Printing post-cards and circulars		193.50
„ Postages on forwarding Journals		138.17
„ Fire Insurance Premium		85.39
„ Book purchased		13.98
„ Sundries for Library, carpenter's work, etc.		16.00
„ Hire of Post-Office box		20.00
„ Meeting expenses: Electric installations for lantern and hire of fans		143.41
„ Preliminary expenses re Jubilee book		152.70
„ Wreath placed upon the Urn of the late H. R. H. Prince Mahidol		25.00
„ Subscription towards repair of Wat Phra Sri Ratanasasidaram		100.00
„ Payment on account to Bangkok Times Press, Ltd.		100.00
		<u>4,505.28</u>
Total expenditure		4,505.28
„ Transferred to Reserve Fund, as per contra		2,000.00
„ Balance carried forward to 1930		3,427.54
	Tes.	<u>9,932.82</u>

C. J. HOUSE, Hon. Treasurer.

Subscriptions outstanding.

1929 Tes. 175

Number of Members as at 31st December 1929.

Honorary	18	Ordinary	225
Corresponding	10	Free	3
Life	2		
		Total	<u>258</u>

[Published for the Siam Society by J. Burnay, Editor, and
printed at the Bangkok Times Printing Office, Bangkok, in April,
1930.]