

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1966

The Annual General Meeting of the Siam Society terminating the year 1965 was held at the Society's Home, 131 Asoka Road (Lane 21) on Monday, 14th March 1966 at 8.15 p.m. with His Highness Prince Prem Purachatra in the chair. The Meeting was attended by some 200 members and guests.

In accordance with the agenda, the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 5th April 1965 as well as the Annual Report for 1965 and the Financial Statement for 1965 were adopted and Mr. Yukta na Thalang was re-elected Honorary Auditor for 1966. The meeting then re-elected the standing Council for 1966 *en bloc*. The meeting was followed by a lecture by Dr. Gunnar Seidenfaden on botanical results of the Fifth Thai-Danish Expedition and by Professor Gunnar Thorsen from Copenhagen on the results of the recent South-Thailand Expedition in the field of marine biology. The lecture was accompanied by a showing of slides

The Council upon taking office re-elected the following standing committees to carry out the activities of the Society:

STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 1966

1. Finance Committee

The Senior Vice-President (H.S.H. Prince Ajavadis Diskul)
Chairman
The Honorary Secretary (Luang Thavil Sethpanijkarn)
The Honorary Treasurer (Mr. V.F. Hemmingsen)

2. Editorial Committee

The Honorary Editor of the Journal (Dr. Lawrence Sternstein)
Chairman
H.H. Prince Dhanivat, Kromamun Bidyalabh
H.E. Monsieur Ebbe Munck
Mr. J.J. Boeles, Director Research Centre

3. Natural History Committee

Lt. General Phya Salwidhan Nidhes, Chairman

H.E. Monsieur Ebbe Munck

Mr. Ariyant Manjikul

H.S.H. Prince Piyarangsit Rangsit

4. Exchange Committee

H.S.H. Prince Subhadradis Diskul, Chairman

Phya Anuman Rajadhon

H.H. Prince Sukhuma Paribatra

Mr. J.J. Boeles

5. Travel Committee

H.S.H. Prince Ajavadis Diskul, Chairman

H.S.H. Prince Subhadradis Diskul

Mr. Kraisri Nimmanahaeminda

6. Research Committee

H.H. Prince Prem Purachattra, Chairman

H.S.H. Prince Ajavadis Diskul, Deputy Chairman

Luang Thavil Sethpanijkarn

Mr. V.F. Hemmingsen

H.E. Monsieur Ebbe Munck

Mr. Kraisri Nimmanahaeminda

Dr. Lawrence Sternstein

Mr. Graham Lucas

The Director of the Siam Society Research Centre, Mr. J.J. Boeles

The Council co-opted Dr. L. Sternstein as Honorary Editor of the Journal of the Siam Society. He had been responsible for Volume LIV, part 1, January 1966; part 2 of Volume LIV was published in July 1966.

The Honorary Editor of the Natural History Bulletin, H.E. Monsieur Ebbe Munck, ably assisted by Nai Tem Smitinand, produced four important parts of the Natural History Bulletin: Volume 21, No. 1 & 2 in January and Volume 21 No. 3 & 4 in December 1966. Both periodicals of the Society, the Journal and the Natural History Bulletin showed a marked increase in scholarly quality. It is the in-

tention of the Editorial Board to adhere to this standard and even improve on it. It was with very much regret that the council at the end of the year had to accept the resignation of H.E. Monsieur Ebbe Munck who was leaving the country. In recognition of his outstanding service to the Society over a period of six years, the Council invited the parting Danish Ambassador to become Honorary Vice-President of the Society.

The year 1966 saw publication by the Society of the following monographs:

1. Monograph Series, Number 3.
Albert H. Banner and Dora M. Banner,
The Alpheid Shrimp of Thailand, Bangkok 1966, ill.
2. The Kamthieng House; An Introduction, Bangkok 1966, ill.
This monograph serves as an introduction to the Kamthieng House, ethnological Museum of the Society.
3. Monograph Series, Number 1.
Gordon Young,
The Hill Tribes of Northern Thailand, Bangkok 1966, ill.
This is the third edition of this monograph.

The Council is pleased to report that our publications have proved of greater interest than ever before.

The Council held 11 business meetings during the year. The Society's membership at the end of 1966 reached a new high at 1,208 as compared to 1,132 at the close of 1965.

The classification of membership is as follows:

Royal Patron and Vice Patrons	4
Honorary Presidents	2
Honorary Vice-President	1
Honorary Members	3
Free Members	3
Corresponding Members	17
Life Members	220
Ordinary Members	<u>958</u>
Total	<u><u>1,208</u></u>

The Society has also 30 subscribers to its Journal and Natural History Bulletin.

The Society elected 178 new members and recorded 83 resignations and deaths. The number of visitors to the Library and Research Centre increased from 1,702 in 1965 to 2,154 in 1966. 244 persons visited the Kamthieng House as from the 21st of November 1966. Outgoing office mail, including circulars to members, increased to 17,904 pieces.

The financial position of the Society, under the laudable direction of the Honorary Treasurer, remains satisfactory-as is reflected in the balance sheet for the year 1966. Notwithstanding increased expenditure due to an expansion of activities, the Society managed to retain a small surplus of Baht 7,801.53 at the end of the year. This favourable balance would not have been possible without the following grants:

Danish Expedition Foundation	Baht 60,000.00
The Asia Foundation	<u>Baht 25,000.00</u>
	<u>Baht 85,000.00</u>

The Council wishes to express its gratitude to both Foundations for these two grants awarded at a crucial time in the development of the Society.

The year under review saw two very important developments in the Society's financial structure in consequence of the Society's successful approach towards the Endowment Fund which was established in 1965. In 1966 contributions from the business community in Bangkok as well as from members and friends of the Society both in Thailand and abroad reached Baht 300,000. The other important development resulted from an appeal for the allocation of Baht two million (US\$ 100,000) from the National Budget of Thailand. This was submitted to the Government through the Minister of Education in 1965. After due consideration and upon recommendation of the Council of Ministers, the Committee of the Government Lottery Bureau decided this year to approve an unrestricted capital grant to the Society of Baht two million. A cheque for that amount was presented by His Excellency Field Marshal Thanom

Kittikachorn, Prime Minister of Thailand, to the President of the Siam Society in a ceremony at Government House on the 12th of October 1966.

This magnificent response constitutes official recognition of the performance of the Society over a period of more than sixty years, of which the Kamthieng House is the most recent manifestation. The interest from the capital of the Endowment Fund (Baht 2.3 million) will make it possible to finance the greater part of present operational expenses and, therefore, continuity of performance seems reasonably assured. Nevertheless, additional capital donations from other institutions and private sources continue to be required. The Kamthieng House is not able to take care of itself financially.

Thus in 1966 the Society was beneficiary of support from many sources, headed by the Thai Government. This is most encouraging.

As noted by the President in the preface of the guide book, 'The Kamthieng House, graciously opened by His Majesty The King, Royal Patron of the Siam Society, on the 21st November 1966, is a notable landmark in the progress of the Society's activities'. The establishment of this ethnological museum has engaged the Siam Society Research Centre for several years and would have been impossible without the generous support of Naung Kimhaw Nimmanahaeminda of Chiangmai (mother of our Council member, Mr. Kraisri Nimmanahaeminda), of the Asia Foundation, of many members and friends of the Society and by the substantial grant of US\$ 25,000 by the John D. Rockefeller the 3rd Fund, New York. In making the award, the trustees of the JDR 3rd Fund stated that they were aware of the significant contribution made by members of the Society to the re-erection in Bangkok of the Kamthieng House and they expressed confidence that this addition would serve not only as a repository of historical record, but would perform a positive educational role in the presentation of objects typifying the best of traditional craftsmanship in Thailand. It was understood that the Society would provide a modern installation and well-designed catalogues for the objects exhibited and would increase the effectiveness of the museum through the creation of choice archives of films, tapes and photographs. The trustees also strongly recommended that the

Society's members and citizens of the country be urged to contribute from their collections to the Kamthieng House. These recommendations of the JDR 3rd Fund's trustees constitute the credo of the Kamthieng House.⁵

In order to establish an archive of photographs, and to obtain suitable pictures for the first exhibition in the Kamthieng House, the Society launched a Nationwide Photographic Competition which proved to be a success. An exhibition of selected photographs was held together with the inauguration of the Kamthieng House and was viewed by His Majesty, the King. Awards of prizes in the Photographic Competition was made by H.H. Prince Dhaninivat, Kromamun Bidyalabh, Honorary President of the Society, on the 23rd November 1966. The first prize was free airpassage to Japan courtesy of Thai Airways International Ltd.

Meetings and excursions arranged by the Society during the year were as follows:

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| 8th March | Lecture by Mr. B. St. Rainsborough: 'Introduction to Chinese Porcelain'. |
| 14th March | Lecture by Dr. Gunnar Seidenfaden: Botanical Results of the Fifth Thai-Danish Expedition and Dr. Gunnar Thorsen, Professor of Marine Biology, Copenhagen: Results of the South-Thailand Expedition, with slides. |
| 25th March | Lecture by Mr. William Watson, F.S.A.: 'The Bronze Culture of the Tien Kingdom in Yunnan', with slides. |
| 11th April | Professor Dr. Otto Karow, the East Asiatic Seminar of Frankfurt University: 'South-East Asian Studies in Germany; their Development and Scope'. The lecture was followed by a showing of a selection of 'Colour Films on Three Hill Tribes of Northern Thailand'. |
| 28th April | Excursion to the Art Centre of H.R.H. Prince Naris at 1112 Rama IV Road, Klong Toei, Bangkok. |

- 19th May Lecture by H.S.H. Prince Hubertus zu Loewenstein, Dr. iur., D. Litt. h.c., special adviser to the German Government: 'Asia and Europe'.
- 22nd May Excursion to the National Museum at Uthong and to Suphanburi.
- 27th June Indonesian Dance performance by Miss Hanantjati Prabowidjojo and two films: 'Introduction to Indonesia'.
- 1st July Lecture with slides by Dr. Wilhelm Solheim II, Associate Professor of Prehistory, University of Hawaii: 'Salvage Archaeology in North East Thailand'.
- 28th July A performance at the Society's Home of 'Hun Krabok or Puppets Play' given by Nai Piak Prasertkul's troupe of Dhonburi, with orchestre.
- 3rd October Lecture by Mr. P.J. Milne of Wellington, New Zealand: 'A Survey of Seismological Operations in South East Asia and the Pacific'.
- 21st November Inauguration of the Kamthieng House of the Siam Society by His Majesty, the King.
- 23th November Award of prizes in the Photographic Competition on Traditional Thai Life, by H.H. Prince Dhanivat, Kromamun Bidyalabh at the Society's Home.
- 27th November Excursion to the Rose Garden Estate to participate in the Loy Kratong Night, with buffet dinner.
- 6th December Members' Evening in the Kamthieng House Museum of the Siam Society.

It is gratifying to note that lectures and excursions were much appreciated by members.

7th March 1967

