THE SIAM SOCIETY

PATRON

His Majesty the King

VICE-PATRONS

Her Majesty the Queen
Her Royal Highness the Princess Mother
Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

HON. PRESIDENT

Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana

HON. VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mr. Alexander B. Griswold
Mom Kobkaew Abhakara na Ayudhaya
H.S.H. Prince Subhadradas Diskul
M.R. Patanachai Jayant

HON. MEMBERS

The Ven. Dhammaghosacariya (Buddhadasa Bhikkhu)
The Ven. Debvedi (Payutto)
Dr. Fua Haripitak
Dr. Mary R. Haas
Dr. Puey Ungphakorn
Dr. Kraisri Nimmamahaeminda
Dr. Sood Saengvichien
H.S.H. Prince Chand Chirayu Rajani
Professor William J. Gedney
Professor Prawase Wasi, M.D.

HON. AUDITOR

Mr. Yukta na Thalang

HON. ARCHITECT

Mr. Sirichai Narumit

HON. LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. John Hancock

HON. LANDSCAPE CONSULTANT

Mr. William Warren

COUNCIL OF THE SIAM SOCIETY FOR 1989/90

Dr. Piriya Krairiksh
Dr. Tem Smitinand
Mr. Dacre F.A. Raikes
Dr. Rachit Buri
Mrs. Virginia M. Di Crocco
Mr. James Stent
Mr. Sidhijai Tanphiphat
Dr. Warren Y. Brockelman
Mr. James V. Di Crocco
H.E. Mr. Hisahiko Okazaki
Prof. Wongchan Pinainitisatra
Dr. Pintip Tuaycharoien

President
Vice President
Vice President
Vice President & Leader of the Natural History Section
Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer
Honorary Librarian
Honorary Editor of the NHB
Honorary Editor of the JSS
Honorary Officer
Honorary Officer
Honorary Officer (for Publicity)

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Mrs. Bonnie Davis
Dr. Chek Dhanasiri
Dr. Ing. Hermann W. Heitmann
Mr. Henri Pagau-Clarac
Mr. Teddy Spha Palasthira
Mr. Kaset Pitakpaivan
Dr. Thawatchai Santisuk
Mr. Smitthi Siribhadra

Mr. Barent Springsted
Dr. Pornchai Suchitta
Mr. William B. Tate
Dr. Charit Tingsabadjh
Dr. Steven J. Török
Mr. Steve Van Beek
M.R. Chirie Voravarn
Editor's Note

A special note of thanks is due Mr. Euayporn Kerdchouay for his long-standing contributions to the production of the Journal of the Siam Society, particularly but not exclusively in the areas of design, layout and graphics. Appreciation also goes to Peter Rogers for his own special assistance, to Luca Invernizzi Tettoni for his photographs, and to Anothai Nunthithasana for continuing help in a variety of ways. We are grateful to Sayant Pornnatharat and the Bangkok Post for permission to use the photograph of modern Thai tattooing on p. 39 which first appeared on p. 46 of the Bangkok Post of 8 June 1988.
The Journal of the Siam Society

VOLUME 77, PART 2 1989

CONTENTS

Editor's Note 4
In This Issue 7

ARTICLES

THE PONG TUK LAMP: A RECONSIDERATION 9
ROBERT L. BROWN

ARCHITECTURAL COMPOSITION IN JAVA FROM THE EIGHTH TO FOURTEENTH CENTURIES 21
JACQUES DUMARÇAY

A NOTE ON THAI TATTOOS—NOTE SUR LE TATOUAGE EN PAYS THAI JUSQU'A LA FIN DU XVIIe SIECLE 29
FRANÇOIS LAGIRARDE

TECHNICAL STUDY ON THE WHITE-GLAZED WARES WITH GREEN PATTERNS EXCAVATED IN THE TAK AREA, THAILAND 43
KAZUO YAMASAKI ET AL.
BANGKOK IN 1883:
AN ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL PROFILE

THE TRAVELS IN FRANCE
OF THE SIAMESE
AMBASSADORS, 1686-7

BLOCKPRINTED FABRICS OF
GUJARAT FOR EXPORT TO SIAM

ON THE ORIGIN OF THE
URAK LAWOI'—A RESPONSE
TO J. IVANOFF

HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
IN THAILAND—WHAT'S NEW

REVIEWS

JACKSON, Buddhism, Legitimation and
Conflict: The Political Functions of
Urban Thai Buddhism

BICKNER, HARTMAN and PEYASANTIWONG
(eds.), Selected Papers on Comparative Tai
Studies by William J. Gedney

LINDELL, SWAHN and TAYANIN
Folk Tales from Kammu - IV:
A Master-Teller's Tales

EDMONDSON and SOLNIT (eds.),
Comparative Kadai: Linguistic
Studies Beyond Tai

Index to the Siam Society Newsletter 1985-1989
Corrigenda
In This Issue

The Pong Tuk lamp, excavated before 1927 by villagers at the important Dvaravati site of the same name northwest of Bangkok, has been the focal point of high interest because of its identification as of Roman or Graeco-Roman provenance, with all that such a derivation implies for early contacts between the Mediterranean world and what is now Thailand. The lamp was dated to the 1st or 2nd century A.D. by Coedes, and to some time before the birth of Christ by Picard. ROBERT L. BROWN and ANNA M. MACDONNELL now marshal evidence to demonstrate that the lamp is of a common Byzantine type dating to the 5th or more probably 6th century A.D., consistent with the early florescence of the Dvaravati cultural period.

JACQUES DUMARÇAY analyzes the constraints which affected the architectural composition of monuments in Java between the 8th and 14th centuries. These constraints were both economic and technical; in addition, there were those imposed by the ritual uses of the building, the iconographic element, and the representation of the universe embodied in the structure, as well as the traditional fixing of concepts of beauty through manuals and treatises and reference to pleasing buildings already constructed. The re-use of ancient monuments saw old foundations adapted to the taste of the time.

The practise of tattooing has been carried to special degrees of elaboration in Thailand. FRANÇOIS LAGIRARDE explores the origins, history and purposes of this custom by examining the first-hand reports of visitors and the accounts of ethnographers up to the end of the 17th century, placing these in the context of tattooing in Southeast Asia in general.

In 1984 a veritable treasure-trove of ceramics, many of types and of a quality previously unknown, was discovered in burial sites situated on the mountains in the Tak area along the Thai-Burmese border. Among the most striking and puzzling of these were handsome white-glazed wares with green patterns. The first identifications of these wares encompassed a varied spectrum of origins, but a variety of evidence indicated that they were of Burmese origin with lead glazes opacified by tin. (see The Siam Society Newsletter, Vol 1, No. 4, 1985, pp. 6-13). KAZUO YAMASAKI, MASAYO MUROZUMI, JOHN C. SHAW and ALAN R. GEORGE present a detailed preliminary technical analysis of these wares using the instruments and facilities of the Fast Neutron Facility of Chiang Mai University and of institutions in Japan. This analysis suggests that the wares were indeed made in Burma and confirms the composition of the glazes.

CONSTANCE M. WILSON draws upon volumes of the Bangkok Postal Directory of 1883 to provide information concerning the economic and social structure of Bangkok in that year. These show among other things that at that time the Thais not only held most of the government positions, as expected, but also dominated the professions and were holding their own with Chinese immigrants in manufacturing and commerce. Although the Thais naturally held a strong position as landlords, the Chinese were already making heavy investments in property.

MICHAEL SMITHIES presents a comprehensive narration of the itinerary in France of the three Siamese ambassadors during their mission of 1686-7, noting in detail the monuments, palaces and personalities they visited, the entertainments that they were offered, the court formalities of the day, and the interplay between visitors and hosts on this lengthy journey.

MICHELLE ARCHAMBAULT recently visited one of the living national treasures of India, Mr. Maneklal Gajjar, who in his home village of Pethapur in Gujarat continues the tradition of making "saudagiri blocks" to imprint patterns on fabrics originally intended for export to Siam. This trade flourished for a century before it ended in about 1940. Mme. Archambault traces the patterns from their origin in Siam through three trading companies to the blockmakers in Pethapur, touches on the nature of the motifs used, and describes in detail the making of the blocks. Many "saudagiri patterns" are still used today to carve blocks and print fabrics for local markets; the designs which once were so fashionable in Siam are still popular in Gujarat.

STEPHEN W. PATTEMORE and DAVID W. HOGAN respond to a statement by J. IVANOFF in a previous issue of the JSS that the Sea People of Phuket Province who call themselves the Urak Lawoi are ethnically derived from intermarriage between the Moken Sea People and Malays. While welcoming Mr. Ivanoff's sensitive treatment of the Moken, Messrs. Pattemore and Hogan maintain that the Urak Lawoi are distinct in origin from the Moken and also have been distinct from the mainstream of Malay life for centuries.

An index to scholarly articles which appeared in the Siam Society Newsletter from March 1985 to March 1989, before the nature of its contents was modified, is provided by MICHAEL SMITHIES, a former editor of that publication.

In his regular feature on developments of interest in Thai archaeology and history, PORCHAI SUCHITTA draws attention to the recent work of Dr. DHIDA SARAYA of Chulalongkorn University in presenting a pandisciplinary overview of the Dvaravati period as the initial phase of Siam's history, focusing on the interaction of people, culture and society to help clarify Dvaravati economic, political and social structures.