THE SIAM SOCIETY
UNDER ROYAL PATRONAGE

The Siam Society was founded in 1904, under royal patronage, as an organization for those interested in the artistic, scientific and other cultural affairs of Thailand and neighbouring countries. The Society maintains an excellent Library which is at the disposal of Members. The Society publishes *The Journal of the Siam Society* and administers an active publications programme of books of topical interest and scholarly merit. The Society sponsors a programme of lectures and artistic performances, and regularly conducts study trips to places of archaeological and cultural interest in Thailand and abroad. Activities and events of the Society are reported in regular and special circulars of the Society. The Kamthieng House, an ethnological museum on the grounds of the Society's home, provides an example of a traditional northern Thai house with artefacts of rural life and superb collections of woven materials and wood carvings. The adjacent Saengaroon House is a typical house of central Thailand.

The Natural History Section of the Siam Society, which was organized in 1913, sponsors its own programme of lectures and study trips to places of natural interest, and concerns itself with the conservation of Thai wildlife and flora. The Natural History Section publishes the *Natural History Bulletin of the Siam Society* as well as aperiodic works of scientific interest.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society welcomes new Members, resident in Thailand or abroad, on the following bases:

- **Life Member** 15,000 baht (US$ 750.)
- **Ordinary Member** 1,500 baht (US$ 75.)
- **Student Member** 100 baht (US$ 5.)

Both Life Members and Ordinary Members receive the Society's *Journal* and the *Natural History Bulletin*, and discounts on all publications, study trips and performances, as well as the right to vote at the Society's Annual General Meeting. In addition, all members resident in Thailand receive the *Annual Report of the Siam Society*, which is issued in advance of the Annual General Meeting, and special circulars.

Student Member is a special category for Thai students only and carries the same privileges as Ordinary Member but without the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting or to receive the Society's *Journal*, *Natural History Bulletin* and circulars.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the *Journal of the Siam Society* and the *Natural History Bulletin* are available independently at the following rates:

- *The Journal of the Siam Society*, 500 baht (US$ 25) per year
- *The Natural History Bulletin*, 300 baht (US$ 15) per year

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Applications for membership, subscriptions or further information on the Society are welcome. Please contact The Administrative Officer, The Siam Society, 131 Soi Asoke, Sukhumvit 21, Bangkok 10110, Thailand.
INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Journal of the Siam Society welcomes all original articles and reviews of a scholarly nature and in conformity with the principles and objectives of the Society.

Articles are accepted for publication in English, Thai, French or German. If not in English, they must have an English summary. Articles should be forwarded whenever possible on Macintosh or IBM-compatible disks in any of the standard word-processing programs, preferably Microsoft Word for Macintosh, accompanied by one double-spaced hard copy. However, if this is not feasible, manuscripts may be submitted in one clear typewritten copy using a good dark ribbon, double-spaced on A4 (quarto) paper (approximately 21 x 30 cm), with generous margins. The top copy should be submitted. All notes and references should be similarly typed double-spaced. References should include name of author(s), title, name and volume of periodical or relevant publication series (where applicable), date and place of publication (or nature of reference, if unpublished), and pagination (where appropriate). Contributors should include their institutional affiliation, fields of special interest, and title of their chief publications in a brief biographical sketch. The Siam Society has selected The Chicago Manual of Style, 13th edition, 1982, as its stylistic guide. However, rather than impose at this time rigid standardization of such variables as transliterations, referencing, etc., we are, in general, publishing such elements in the way they are employed by our contributors. Page-proofs of articles and review articles are sent to authors on request only. Originals of illustrations will be returned on request. Authors of published contributions receive extra copies of the JSS free of charge. Additional copies will be supplied at cost price.

The Siam Society encourages readers to communicate comments, corrections, supplementary data or differing opinions to the Honorary Editor regarding materials which appear in the JSS. Suitably documented correspondence will be published under "Notes and Comments" or "Communications," bearing the writer's name.

The opinions expressed in the JSS are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Siam Society.

Manuscripts, books for review, and all correspondence should be sent to the Honorary Editor, The Journal of the Siam Society, 131 Soi Asoke, Sukhumvit 21, Bangkok 10110, Thailand. Subscription and membership enquiries and orders for publications should be addressed to the Administrative Officer, The Siam Society, 131 Soi Asoke, Sukhumvit 21, Bangkok 10110, Thailand.

Exchange copies of periodicals should be sent to the Honorary Librarian, The Siam Society, G.P.O. Box 65, Bangkok 10501, Thailand. To insure prompt delivery of mail, kindly do not intermingle the P.O. Box address and the Soi Asoke address.
CHOU TA-KUAN spent a year in Cambodia from 1296 to 1297 as part of a Chinese diplomatic mission sent by Timur Khan, the grandson and successor of Kublai Khan, to the court of Indravarman III (reigned 1295-1308). The Khmer empire, though past its zenith, was still powerful and wealthy. Chou wrote his account some time before 1312 and it is the only detailed contemporary account of Angkor to come down to us.

The text was translated from Chinese into French by Paul Pelliot and published in 1902. An English translation appeared in Bangkok in 1967 but has long been out of print, as has also the Siam Society’s 1987 edition.

This new edition by the Siam Society is particularly timely now that Angkor has again been visited and Chou’s descriptions of the walled city, people, dwellings and daily life retain all their vividness and colour across the centuries. In addition to Delaporte’s splendid lithographs this second edition has 30 illustrations in colour, most of them previously unpublished.

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