

An aerial photograph of a lake, possibly in a forested area, with a color overlay of red and blue. The lake is the central focus, surrounded by a dark, textured landscape. The red and blue colors are applied in a way that highlights certain features, such as the shoreline and the surrounding terrain. The overall effect is a dramatic, high-contrast image.

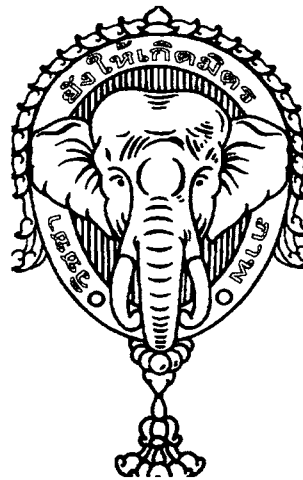
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Cover: Landsat imagery of the Angkor region shows the environmental setting. The large West Baray, eight kilometers long, is clearly visible from space, as is the Prek Thnal Dak shipping canal to the upper right. *(Photograph courtesy of the National Remote Sensing Centre of Thailand, National Research Council.)*

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About This Issue

All of the contributions appearing in this volume were selected by Mr. James V. Di Crocco, a past Vice President of the Society and an elected Honorary Member (1997), who served with distinction as Honorary Editor of the *Journal of the Siam Society* for the volumes dated 1989 through 1994. During that time Mr. Di Crocco edited over 1500 pages of the *JSS*, comprising approximately one and a half million words—doing so nearly singlehandedly.

For the present issue, Mr. Di Crocco, with his characteristic generosity and consideration for *JSS* contributors, had patiently and extensively edited those articles submitted by authors for whom English is not their first language, and he had provided basic copy editing guidelines for the other pieces in this volume. Because of other commitments, however, Mr. Di Crocco regrettably was unable to see this issue through to final publication.

In completing this 200–page, 180,000–word issue, the general editorial guidelines previously established for the 1989–1993 *JSS* format have been followed to the greatest possible extent. In particular, each author’s own transliterations and orthography have usually been retained, as have her or his note and reference formats.

Various Members of the Society provided further editorial assistance with individual articles but bear no responsibility for the errors remaining or for the very late appearance of this issue, which was eventually assembled, designed and checked by N. Spoelstra.

Mrs. Bilaibhan Sampatisiri, President of the 1998–2000 Council, has been firmly supportive of the continuing efforts to complete this issue, along with another previously missing volume in the series, and to return the *JSS* to a regular publication schedule. Mr. Euayporn Kerdchouay, General Manager of the Society, provided useful advice on design and layout issues, and Ms Kanitha Kasina–ubol, Assistant General Manager, supplied her usual, indispensable assistance throughout the entire production process.

All involved with this 1994 issue deeply regret the very considerable inconvenience the lengthy delay in its publication has caused for scholarly contributors, institutional subscribers, Siam Society Members, and other readers of the *JSS*.

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