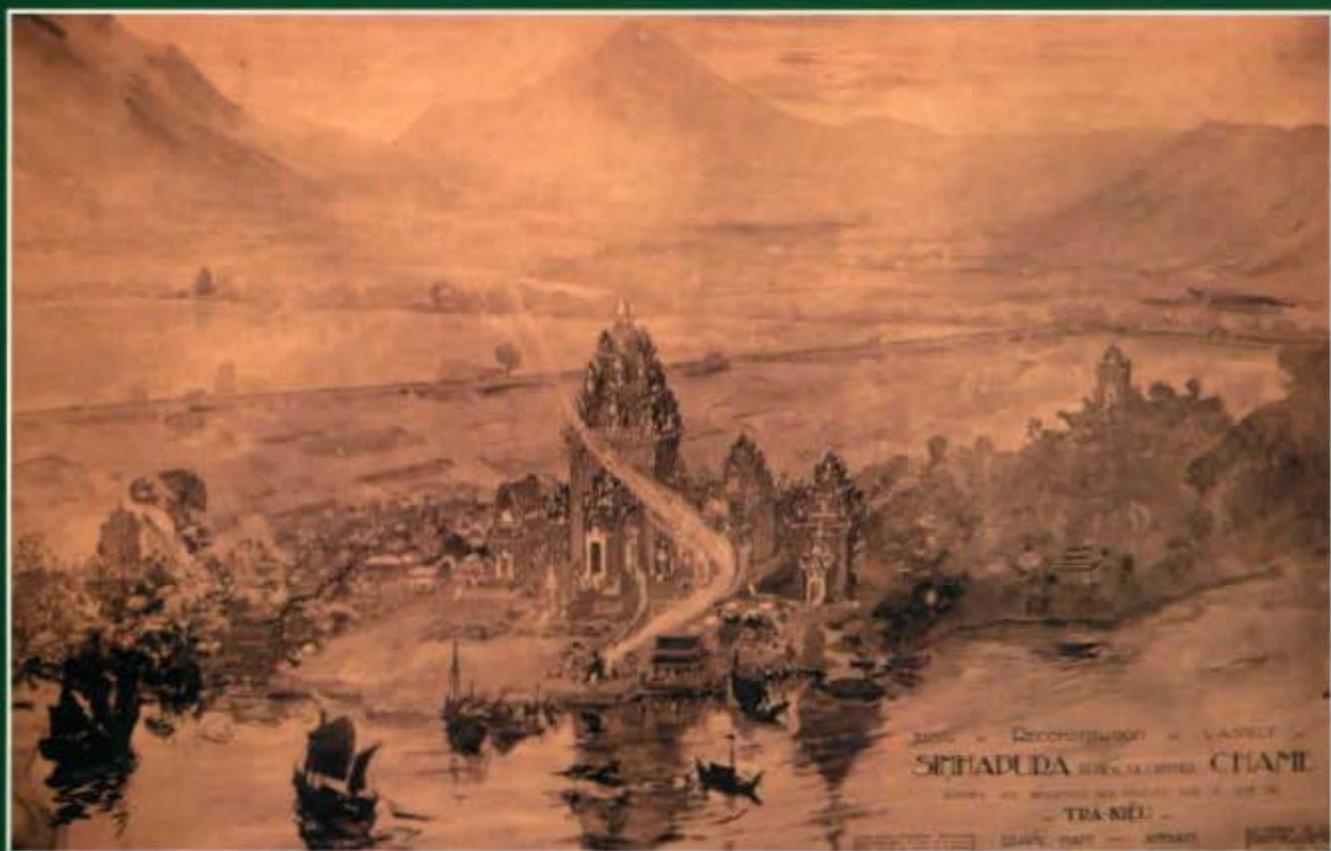


JSS

Volume 85, Parts 1 & 2

1997



The Journal of the Siam Society

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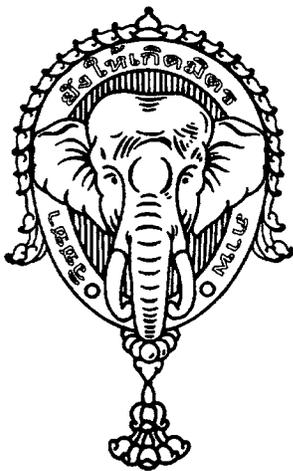
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The Journal of The Siam Society

Volume 85, Parts 1 & 2
1997



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The Siam Society
1997
ISSN 0857-7099



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EDITORIAL

When I was invited in 1996 by the President and Honorary Secretary of The Siam Society to take over the position as Honorary Editor of its journal from 1997 I realised that this was a considerable honour but, nevertheless, it was an honour I accepted with some apprehension. For one thing, I knew that I could not make more than occasional visits to Bangkok and most of the work would have to be done in England, and not even in London, but in a remote rural village in Shropshire where, for most of the year, I live following my retirement from teaching at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. I knew of the long and proud reputation of the *Journal of The Siam Society* for representing so many aspects of Thai culture to the academic community at large, but I was also aware that in recent years production schedules had slipped, that the volume for 1994 had not yet appeared, and other ones were late.

One brief I was given was to try to get the journal back on time, and if possible to produce the two issues for 1997 within the year; a daunting task which has not really been achieved, but more on that later. Furthermore, I felt that there was a need to re-establish the links between the Society and the broader international world of scholarship – particularly in regard to Thai studies. In its early years, the Society's journal was almost the only regular outlet, in a western language, for scholarship on Thailand. But the past thirty or so years has seen a phenomenal growth of higher education in Thailand, as world-wide, and a concomitant increase in scholarly publications. In Thailand, this comes mainly from Thai universities, government and public institutions in Thai language, but also from North America, Europe and Australasia in Western languages, as well as in Japanese and Chinese from various centres in eastern Asia. The result is that a single journal can no

longer play the sort of rôle for Thai cultural studies such as enjoyed by the *Journal of The Siam Society* in its earlier years. This is not a matter for regret but it is important that the journal finds its proper niche in a much bigger 'pond' and continues to attract high quality papers from Thai scholars who want to present their work to non-Thai readers, and by overseas scholars whose focus of interest is in Thailand and its 'cultural area'. I mention this here because I feel that it is important that studies of Thailand be considered within a broader framework than merely the national boundaries of the present-day kingdom. In fact contributors to the journal have always looked outwards, as well as backwards in time, and presented significant papers on Burma, Cambodia, Malaysia as well as the Tai-speaking areas surrounding the country to the northwest, north and northeast, and in this the present volume is no exception.

When I started to work on Volume 85 in the middle of 1997 I found that only three papers had been received, or at least passed to me in England, for consideration for publication and while some others were promised there was clearly not enough material available to produce a single good issue, let alone two, within the calendar year. In order to accelerate matters I have taken something of a 'short cut' which I hope subscribers will understand, and which to some extent explains the archaeological bias of this volume.

In September 1996, the *European Association for Southeast Asian Archaeology*, an organisation which I had helped to establish ten years earlier, held its Sixth biennial Conference at the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden in the Netherlands, and by the middle of 1997 a substantial number (about forty-four) of the revised papers presented there had been received for the conference proceedings. Funding levels and production facilities, however,

meant that only a single volume of conference proceedings was possible and the total length of the papers received was too great for a single volume. Following a brief visit to Leiden in July 1997 in order to discuss this matter with the conference organiser, Dr Marijke Klokke, it was agreed that some of the papers on Thailand, or most relevant to the traditional interests of The Siam Society, would, with the explicit agreement of the respective authors, be 'borrowed' from the conference proceedings for the present volume. This arrangement meant that it was possible to think of assembling, if not quite publishing, an issue of Volume 85 within 1997, and would also allow Dr Klokke to include more of the 1996 conference papers in the proceeding which she was preparing for publication.

Seven of the papers in this volume, therefore, specifically those by Louise Cort and H. Leedom Lefferts, Richard Englehardt and Pamela Rogers, John Guy, Elizabeth Moore, Michel Jacq-Hergoualc'h, Jean-Pierre Pautreau and his colleagues, as well as the one by myself, were all first presented at the 1996 Leiden Conference, and I want to express my gratitude to Dr Klokke and the various authors for making this possible. It is hoped that the Leiden Conference volume, to be entitled *Southeast Asian Archaeology 1996*, will be published by the middle of 1998 and when the information is available, full publication details and a listing of the papers included will be made in a later number of this journal.

Other archaeological papers in the present volume came either unsolicited, or through my personal and academic contacts. I make no apologies for this since I have many more contacts in and around the discipline of archaeology than in say, history or art history. However, I must make it clear that I am not intending an archaeological 'take over' of the journal.

When I started to consider the publication of Volume 85 we planned to issue it in two parts as has been the Society's normal practice. However the financial crisis hitting East Asia in 1997 had its impact on The

Siam Society as elsewhere, and I was asked to combine the two parts into a single volume for the sake of economy. Hopefully, we can revert before too long to producing two separate yearly issues.

Turning to more technical matters, readers will note some changes but also some continuities in the present volume. For one thing we have kept the same page size and font (Palatino) as for the volumes for 1995 and 1996, although reducing the font size a little (to 10 pt) giving greater length; and reverting to two columns which allows more flexibility in the placement of figures. Personally, I liked the old larger format as used for the 1993 and earlier volumes, but it was a non-standard size and thus more expensive to produce; and I know that neither subscribers nor librarians like too many changes in sizes of journals.

The previous Honorary Editor, Dr Pitya Bunnag, announced that he would be following, as far as possible the 'Harvard, Chicago, Oxford or author-date' style of referencing – it goes under different names – with the minimum of footnotes, and these placed as 'Endnotes' following the main text, and a full alphabetical list of authors cited in the text. I have followed this style, indeed tried to standardise it further by providing a quite detailed set of Notes for Contributors at the end of this volume. This will be available separately on application to the office of The Siam Society, and may be amended or added to in future, so potential contributors are advised to consult the latest version.

Working mainly in England, I have, as Editor, no secretarial help there and only a limited amount is available to me from the Society's office in Bangkok, and therefore I will have to be quite rigorous in asking contributors to adhere to the guidelines laid down. Only rarely will it be possible to have contributions re-typed into machine-readable format and I do not regard it as the editor's job carefully to check or complete references. In the past, academic writers could expect the help of skilled copy editors and typesetters to get their papers into pub-

lishable form, but today the text goes, rather directly, from the authors' own word-processor system to the printer, and the onus is on the authors to present their material in the most acceptable manner. Contributions, however excellent in their content, will be returned to authors for re-presentation if the guidelines are not followed.

In preparing this issue I have had the help of quite a number of people, particularly in the Society's office in Bangkok and I would especially like to thank Khun Kanitha Kasinabol, who I know is most overworked there, for keeping regularly in touch with me in England via e-mail. We had hoped to include Thai abstracts for all the papers in this volume but unfortunately they could not be made ready in time and we will print them in JSS Volume 86, Part 1, for 1998.

At the time of my appointment as Honorary Editor the Council of the Siam Society also requested that an Editorial Board be created to help the Honorary Editor, to help with the selection and refereeing of papers submitted for publication and generally to advise on the future direction of the journal. It is still our intention to recruit an International Advisory Board of prominent Thai and overseas scholars and I hope that this will be created in 1998.

Finally, I should say something about 'refereeing': I am not sure to what extent contributions in the past to the Society's Journal have been subject to regular peer-group refereeing. It is my intention, while editor, to try to make the journal fully refereed in order to strengthen its academic credentials. Certainly in the academic world of universities and public research organisations, articles in fully-refereed journals count for more; they are more likely to be cited, and of course fully-refereed journals attract the best contributions. Refereeing papers takes time, and is sometimes uncomfortable for the potential contributor, but is necessary if the *Journal of The Siam Society* is to maintain its standing as a major venue for research publications on many aspects of the present-day and past cultural life of Thailand and its neighbours. For the present issue only a few compromises with this aim have been necessary, and all the

papers in this volume, including that by myself, have been refereed by an independent specialist and many useful comments and suggestions have been received and incorporated in the published version. Referees, who are necessarily anonymous, also deserve a considerable vote of thanks.

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