

JSS

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The Journal of the Siam Society

THE JOURNAL OF THE SIAM SOCIETY

founded in 1904

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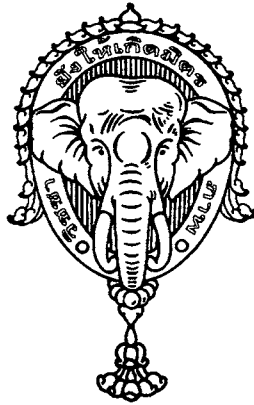
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EDITORIAL

This volume brings to a close the second of the two years for which I was appointed Hon. Editor of *The Journal of the Siam Society* and, at the time of writing the Society's Council is considering the appointment of an editor for the next issues.

Once again I have some apologies to make to members and other subscribers. Despite strenuous efforts it was not possible to get the volume published within the year for which it is dated—largely because there was no backlog of contributions after the publication of Volume 85; and although, unsolicited and solicited, they came in steadily, throughout the year it was only by November 1998 that enough material was available to make up a respectably-sized issue.

In Volume 85 I expressed the hope that we could revert to the Society's former practice of publishing two separate parts but in July 1998 I was again asked by the Council to make, for the sake of economy, one double issue, and this we have done.

Another, and more serious error has been called to my attention by Sheila Middleton in connection with her paper on engraved gems from Southeast Asia, and these are detailed in a separate *errata* slip. In fact, most of the items she asked to be noted are not so much errors as changes in wording made by myself or suggested by a referee in an attempt to clarify what we thought to be ambiguities or obscure passages in the text. As the completed paper and referee's comments were received only a short while before I left for Bangkok with the material for the printer there was no time to resolve all the changes we wanted to make with the author. In retrospect it would have been best to postpone publication until this was done, and in failing to do this I apologise both to the author and the readers.

There were far more errors in the *J.S.S.* 85 than I had wished for, and perhaps the most in my own article. One careful reader even asked me, 'Where is the dog?' mentioned in the caption of figure 11 (p. 179); and of course it was not there. At the last minute, I substituted, on the advice of the printers a photograph of Henri Parmentier, his daughter and J.-Y. Claeys (but

without the dog) at Tra Kieu in 1927, but forgot to amend the caption. This shows how necessary is careful independent proof reading by someone who has not written nor worked on the text for some time. One sees what one thinks should be on the page rather than what actually is there. Fortunately, the new Hon. Secretary of the Society has taken on the job of recruiting a number of proof readers for this issue so there should be fewer careless errors.

In my last editorial I mentioned that the majority of the papers delivered at the sixth conference of the *European Association for Southeast Asian Archaeology* which were not included in *J.S.S.* 85 would be published in a volume, to be entitled *Southeast Asian Archaeology 1996*, and this, edited by Marijke Klokke and Thomas Bruijn came out in September 1998, and is available from the Centre for South-East Asian Studies, University of Hull, HU6 7RX, UK. Since then the same association held its seventh biennial conference at the Museum für Völkerkunde, Berlin in August 1998 and most of the papers given then will be published in a similar volume to be edited by Dr Wibke Lobo, the conference organiser.

In this volume of the *J.S.S.* readers will note some further changes but also continuities, in style and layout. We have kept the same page size but used 'Times family' fonts which make the use of diacriticals for Sanskrit and other languages easier to handle. The 'Notes for Contributors' at the end of this volume has been slightly amended to take account of some omissions for instance how best to refer to multi-volume books—so potential contributors are advised to consult the latest version.

As on the last occasion, I and any future Hon. Editors of the journal 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.

Ian C. Glover, Ruthall Cottage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire, UK, December 1998.