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*See Cheng & Walker, this volume, for a discussion of the piece

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first part of Volume 112 of the *Journal of the Siam Society* (JSS), a milestone edition that underscores our enduring dedication to scholarly exploration in and cultural preservation of Thai and neighboring cultures. As we embark on this journey, we carry both a sense of excitement and a touch of nostalgia, honoring the memory of colleagues and friends recently lost, starting with an obituary of the late John Joseph Toomey (1945–2021), a cherished life member of our society. In forthcoming issues, we will honor the legacies of Gérard Diffloth (1939–2023) and Elizabeth H. Moore (1948–2024), commemorating their profound impact on Mon–Khmer and Burmese studies, respectively.

This edition is distinctive as we transition to a new era at JSS, introducing a fresh editorial team and board members. In this transition, we extend our sincere gratitude to Chris Baker and Paul Bromberg for their remarkable editorial leadership over the past decade. Their dedication steered the JSS ship with great success and accomplishments.

In celebrating the 120th anniversary of the Siam Society, we are privileged to showcase an insightful biographical reconstruction by Volker Grabowsky, shedding light on the life of Oskar Frankfurter, a founding member, and former President of the Siam Society (1906–1917).

Diving into a diverse array of research studies, Pia Conti explores Buddhist tantric art in the 10th-century Khmer empire while Marcus Bingenheimer & Paul McBain guide us through a revisit of Chinese temples in Bangkok. Terry E. Miller & Taywin Promnikon unfold a fading narrative of 150 years of musical memory in Thailand's Lopburi province. Gregory Kourilsky provides a comprehensive review article of the Tai–Khmer Buddhist tradition of meditation, often dubbed *kammatthan*. Finally, Javier Schnake offers a fresh edition and translation of the Mahākassapa's *Parinibbāna*, providing a glimpse into the rich Pali literature composed locally.

With this issue, we introduce four new sections. First, in “From the Archives”, Maëlle Pennégues brings to light a hidden gem—a newly unearthed travelogue to Siam in 1685 by a French missionary, enriching our understanding of historical journeys to the region. This handwritten travel report, accompanied by an annotated transliteration, is accessible on the web for consultation as supplemental material on our ThaiJo website.¹

¹ As a reminder, JSS was formerly available through the Siam Society's main site (<https://thesiamsociety.org/publications/journal-of-the-siam-society/>). The general information and back-issues of volumes 1–95 (1904–2008) remain on that site, but new issues from 2009 appear only on the ThaiJo website, accessible here: https://so06.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/pub_jss.

Second, in “Literature Escapes”, Émilie Testard explores versions of *Lilit Phra Lo*, while Tony Waters delves into the intriguing *Nithan Thong-in* by King Vajiravudh.

Third, in another fresh addition to JSS, “Museum Spotlights”, Sofia Sundström, Yuyu Cheng & Trent Walker, and Naomi Wang illuminate our pages with discoveries from various museum collections worldwide, showcasing the richness of cultural artifacts from Thailand and the region.

Finally, rounding out this edition with glimpses into recent “Events and Exhibitions”, are Alexandra Green’s exploration of *Burma to Myanmar* at the British Museum, and Gomesh Karnchanapayap’s description of a unique Metaverse performance of *Mali Bucha* in Singapore.

And, of course as expected, a full panoply of book reviews is available for consultation. We invite you to immerse yourselves in the diverse tapestry of knowledge and discovery woven within these pages. Thank you for your support and interest in the Siam Society’s continuing journey.

Nicolas Revire
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CONTENTS

OBITUARY

In Memoriam: John Joseph Toomey (1945–2021)

Kim Matics.....1

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS

Oskar Frankfurter: A Biographical Reconstruction

Volker Grabowsky.....5

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Vajradhātviśvarī and Vairocana: Mirror Tantric Images in 10th-Century Cambodia

Pia Conti.....31

In the Footsteps of Wolfgang Franke: Revisiting Chinese Temples in Bangkok

Marcus Bingenheimer & Paul McBain.....49

Fading Musical Memory: 150 Years of Lao Phuan Singing in Lopburi, Thailand

Terry E. Miller & Taywin Promnikon.....71

REVIEW ARTICLE

The “*Kammatthan* Buddhist Tradition” of Mainland Southeast Asia: Where Do We Stand?

Gregory Kourilsky.....85

EDITION & TRANSLATION

The Great Disciple Mahākassapa and His *Parinibbāna*

Javier Schnake.....131

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A Newly Unearthed Travelogue: Relation to Siam in 1685, by Jean Basset

Maëlle Pennégues.....163

LITERATURE ESCAPES

D’une version à une autre du *Lilit Phra Lo* : audace et impuissance du traducteur

Émilie Testard.....172

The “Consulting Detective” *Nithan Thong-in* by King Vajiravudh

Tony Waters.....191

MUSEUM SPOTLIGHTS

A Misidentified Image of Bhṛkuṭī in the National Museum Bangkok Sofia Sundström.....	197
A Sino–Thai Blue-and-White Porcelain at UMMA Yu-Yu Cheng & Trent Walker.....	205
A Malay Queen’s Siamese Silver Bowl at the V&A Museum Naomi Wang.....	217

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

<i>Burma to Myanmar: A Recent Exhibition at the British Museum, London</i> Alexandra Green.....	227
<i>The Metaverse for Mali Bucha: Dance Offering, a Hybrid Stage Performance in Singapore</i> Gomesh Karnchanapayap.....	237

BOOK REVIEWS

Charles Higham, <i>Digging Deep. A Journey into Southeast Asia’s Past</i> Mitch Hendrickson.....	243
Bérénice Bellina et al., eds, <i>Sea Nomads of Southeast Asia: From the Past to the Present</i> Clifford Sather.....	244
Françoise Fauconnet-Buzelin, <i>Un évêque au pays des talapoins : Louis Laneau, 1637–1696</i> Alain Forest.....	249
Christof Renauer, <i>Pierre Dieulefils: Cambodia in Postcards</i> Joachim K. Bautze.....	252
Sok Udom Deth, <i>A History of Cambodia—Thailand Diplomatic Relations 1950–2020</i> Tej Bunnag.....	254
Yves Goudineau & Vanina Bouté, eds, <i>From Tribalism to Nationalism</i> Paul T. Cohen.....	255
Michael K. Connors & Ukrist Pathmanand, eds, <i>Thai Politics in Translation</i> Jean Baffie.....	260
Giuseppe Bolotta, <i>Belittled Citizens: The Cultural Politics of Childhood on Bangkok’s Margins</i> Thanida Boonwanno.....	265
Pamela N. Corey, <i>The City in Time: Contemporary Art and Urban Form in Vietnam and Cambodia</i> John Clark.....	268
Philip Constable, <i>The Cycle of Life in the Paintings of Thai Artist Pichai Nirand</i> Vipash Purichanont.....	273