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The Siam Society Under Royal Patronage

131 Asoke Montri Road, Sukhumwit 21

Bangkok 10110, Thailand

Tel. +66 2 661 6470–3

Email: info@thesiamsociety.org

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Taling Chan

Bangkok 10170, Thailand

Tel. +66 2 422 9000

Email: info@amarin.co.th

COVER: The Buddhist disciple or Fat Monk Gavampati, also known as (Mahā-)Kaccāyana or Phra Sangkachai; 17th–18th century, Thailand; bronze with traces of gilt, eyes inlaid with shell and garnet; H. 36.8 cm; Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2001.27 © MET

*For a discussion of Gavampati, see the Special Edition

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With many thanks for your continuing support and interest.

EDITORIAL

In Memoriam dedicated to Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother and former Vice-Patron of The Siam Society, opens this issue of the *Journal of the Siam Society* (JSS). The short tribute by ML Pattaratorn Chirapravati & Arthid Sheravanichkul reflects on Her Majesty's enduring commitment to the preservation and promotion of Thailand's artistic and cultural heritage.

The central feature of this volume is a *Special Edition* on the legend and cult of Gavampati, bringing together four studies that explore the textual traditions, historical development, and artistic representations associated with this intriguing disciple of the Buddha, popularly known as the Fat Monk. Contributions by John S. Strong, Donald M. Stadtner, Gregory Kourilsky, and Javier Schnake examine Gavampati from complementary perspectives—ranging from textual and narrative traditions and art and archeological evidence to intertextual analysis of Pali, Thai, and Lao Buddhist literature—offering new insights into the regional circulation and significance of this Buddhist figure in mainland Southeast Asia.

Beyond this thematic dossier, the issue presents a wide range of contributions reflecting the diversity of current research in Thai and Southeast Asian studies. In *Manuscript Study*, Trent Walker proposes a unified transliteration system designed to facilitate the study and comparison of manuscript traditions across mainland Southeast Asia.

Research Highlights includes a study by Natchapol Sirisawad on Siamese wooden panels depicting the Buddha's miracles at Sāvattthī; followed by Witinan Watanasap & ML Chittawadi Chitrabongs on polygyny and royal palace spaces in late 19th-century Siam. Karandeep Singh explores the interplay of memory, power, and gender in Siamese cremation volumes, highlighting their role as vehicles of commemoration and social identity. The section concludes with a historiographical journey by Sébastien Tayac on Silpa Bhirasri (born Corrado Feroci), revisiting the legacy of the Italian-born sculptor and educator who played a pivotal role in the development of Thailand's modern artistic institutions.

Research Notes presents shorter contributions that draw attention to newly identified sources, linguistic questions, and regional case studies. These include Pittayawat Pittayaporn's discussion of the Vietnamese origin of the 12-year calendrical cycle names in the Saek language; Olivier de Bernon's presentation of the rare collection of papers of the French jurist Georges Padoux, recently acquired by Chulalongkorn University; Ian G. Baird's report on the continuing impact of land mines on the Mlabri community of northern Thailand; and a short study by Patcharee Chunthong & Thanasin Chutintaranond on Lap mueang gastronomic traditions and regional identity in Nan province.

The issue also includes two *Events & Exhibitions* reports. Sophie Biard reviews the exhibition *Bronzes royaux d'Angkor, un art du divin*, first held at the Musée Guimet in Paris before traveling to the United States, which brought together an exceptional selection of Khmer bronzes. Meanwhile, Ian G. Baird outlines the conference *Decolonizing Southeast Asia Studies*, recently held at Chiang Mai University, which addressed ongoing debates concerning the future directions and methodological frameworks of the field.

As always, the issue concludes with *Book Reviews*, featuring a robust selection of recent publications in fields ranging from art and archeology to history, linguistics, anthropology, and contemporary social and political issues relevant to the study of Thailand and Southeast Asia.

The JSS warmly welcomes submissions from scholars working on all aspects of Thai and Southeast Asian studies. Now widely recognized internationally, it has recently reached a significant milestone: according to the latest SCImago Journal Rank for 2025, the JSS is rated in the top quartile (Q1) in Cultural Studies and Q2 in Anthropology and Arts and Humanities. This marks a substantial rise from previous rankings and confirms its emergence as a leading venue in these fields, with growing global visibility and impact.

As an independent learned society, the continued publication of the journal depends on the generous support of its members and friends. Readers who wish to further support the Society's activities and publications are invited to make a donation by scanning the QR code or by following the instructions provided on the previous page.

This volume is offered to our esteemed members and readers in the hope that its diverse contributions will inform, enrich, and inspire further study.

Nicolas Revire
Managing editor
journal@thesiamsociety.org

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