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Siamese and English Records  
of the Siamese Embassy to  
England  
in 1857-1858.

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PRESS-COMMENTS  
ON  
THE SIAMESE EMBASSY  
TO ENGLAND  
(1857-1858)

With a Foreword and an Introduction on  
“Siamese Embassies to Europe”

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## FOREWORD

Some time ago, Princess Traidos and Princess Amoradat requested the Royal Institute to select and edit a book for distribution at the cremation of their father Nai P'in T'ep Chalœm Bunnag, which, by Royal permission, will take place at Vat T'epsirin in March 1928. I then remembered a collection of records recently received from London and dealing with the Embassy sent to England by King Mongkut in 1857, under the leadership of P'ya Montri Suriyavongs (Jum Bunnag). These records are extracts from the English newspapers (such as the Times, the Illustrated London News, the Court Journal, etc.) kept in the library of the India Office,—they give interesting comments on the reception of the Siamese ambassadors and their stay in England.

The cremation will certainly be attended by a fair number of Siamese and Europeans conversant with the English language, and affords thus an excellent opportunity for printing and distributing these records. After consulting H. H. Prince Traidos, who approved of the publication, I entrusted Prof. G. Cœdès, General Secretary of the Royal Institute, with the task of selecting and editing the most interesting extracts, and I asked Mr. L. J. Robbins, B. A., English teacher at the Vajiravudh College, who

has a good knowledge of Siamese, to translate into English a paper on "Siamese embassies to Europe" which I have published some years ago.

But there will also be present at the cremation many Siamese who are not conversant with the English language, and I thought it would be suitable to have also a Siamese text published in the same volume. For that purpose, I have selected the records of the Siamese embassy written by Mom Rajot'ay, together with my own remarks and explanations,—so that this volume contains all the records and documents on that embassy which are now available.

The three sets of records published in this volume are very different from each other, and each has peculiar features which I will try to explain.

1) The report of Mom Rajot'ay, printed as the first part of this book, is an official report. It is very well written, and is peculiar in this way: the author has succeeded in his endeavours to give his countrymen an exact idea of such novelties as the railway, the telegraph, and even the circus, which were absolutely unknown in Siam and which had never been seen by himself before.

2) The "Voyage to London" which forms the second part of this volume is a very good piece of poetry; so good that some persons are

inclined to think that its real author is Sunt'orn P'u. But this is impossible, since that famous poet died in 1855, two years before the date of the Embassy. One of the most remarkable peculiarities of the "Voyage to London" is that every time the author has to use an English name or an English word, he always succeeds in finding an appropriate Siamese word to rhyme with.

3) The English extracts which form the last part of this book are not very different in substance from Mom Rajot'ay's records. One of their interesting features is that they give the English text of the address read by the First Ambassador at the Royal Audience, and also the reply of H. M. Queen Victoria. The chief peculiarity of these comments lies in the fact that the English journalists of that time, being not well acquainted with Siam and the Siamese, made all sorts of funny mistakes about Siam and the personalities of the Siamese ambassadors, and published many amusing but unfounded pieces of gossip, which were subsequently denied by better informed papers (see p. 36), or even by the Court (p. 70).

I trust that this book will be read with pleasure by all those who will receive it.

Damrong

Royal Institute, 7 February 1928.

## SIAMESE EMBASSIES TO EUROPE

by H. R. H. Prince Damrong.

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*(First published in "A Collection of  
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TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY L. J. ROBBINS, B.A.

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In the past, when Ayut'ya was the capital of Siam, Siamese envoys went to Europe on many occasions. The first embassy recorded was sent to Holland in the reign of King Ekot'osarot to deliver messages and enter into friendly relations with Prince Maurice of Orange. This was in the year 1607. After that, there were others in succeeding reigns; but of them all none were equal to those exchanged between King Narai and King Louis XIV of France. Louis XIV always desired to perpetuate the memory of his magnificence in every possible way. When Siamese envoys came to have audience of him at Versailles, he had medals struck and pictures painted to commemorate the occasion, and ordered detailed accounts to be written of the French embassies to Siam and of the embassy of the Siamese (Kosa Pan) to France. These various French records have been translated into other lang-

uages, and are of the greatest help in obtaining knowledge of the manners and customs of those days.

According to the foreign accounts, there were four Siamese embassies to France in the reign of King P'ra Narai. The first was in 1681 bearing letters to Louis XIV and the Pope. P'ra P'ip'at Rajamaitri was the chief envoy, and Luang Srivisan Sunt'orn and K'un Nak'on Vijai the second and third envoys. They travelled in a French ship, but this was wrecked on the coast of Madagascar and all on board were lost. Two years later, a mission of two minor officials was sent to discover news of the first. Unlike their predecessors, they arrived safely and proceeded to Paris. They had probably with them a letter from the Siamese Minister of State: it was not a royal letter. And for this reason, although the French government received the envoys, they were not allowed to have a formal audience of the King. But arrangement was made in order that Louis XIV met them one day as he was walking in the palace grounds, and he stopped and talked with them. He heard that King P'ra Narai would like to enter into friendly relations with him, and he thought at once that it was an excellent opportunity to spread his fame in the East. Therefore he appointed the Chevalier de Chau-



mont as his ambassador to go to Siam with a royal letter and gifts for King P'ra Narai. The French Ambassador went on a man-of-war, taking back with him the two Siamese envoys ; he arrived at Paknam in September 1685 and remained until December.

On his departure, he was accompanied by a third embassy sent by King P'ra Narai to Louis XIV. The chief Siamese envoy was P'ra Visut Sunt'oru, better known as Kosa Pan. Kosa Pan arrived safely and had audience of Louis XIV at Versailles on September 1st, 1686. He stayed in France for seven months, and returned the following March in a French frigate, together with M. de la Loubère, the second French ambassador to go to King P'ra Narai.

They arrived at Paknam in September 1687, and M. de la Loubère stayed until the following December. It appears remarkable that both French ambassadors should arrive and depart on corresponding months of different years; but in those days of sailing ships, voyages to and from the East were governed entirely by the monsoon seasons. With M. de la Loubère, there left a fourth Siamese embassy with instructions to visit both Louis XIV and the Pope. It is not known definitely who were the members of this embassy, although Father Tachard, a French priest who went with

them, states that one K'un Jamnan set out ; but it is doubtful whether he was the chief envoy. Five Siamese students also left to study in France.

This embassy arrived in France in July 1688. Meanwhile King P'ra Narai had died and a revolution had swept away his dynasty. His successor King P'et'raja had little love for the French: disputes arose with the French soldiers left behind, and finally they were driven out of the country, though news of this did not reach Europe. At the time when the Siamese embassy arrived, Louis XIV was not in his capital, and the French government arranged for the envoys to go first to Rome and visit Pope Innocent XI, who granted them audience on December 23rd, 1688. They returned to France and saw Louis XIV, and subsequently stopped in France about a year, after which they were sent back to Mergui, in those days the chief western seaport of Siam.

From the beginning of his reign, King P'et'raja broke off all friendly intercourse with France.

King Philip V of Spain sent an embassy to Siam in 1716, during the reign of King T'ai Sra. The Spanish accounts say that, soon afterwards, one of the King of Siam's ships took Siamese envoys to Manila, then the chief town

in the East belonging to Spain ; but the Siamese were dissatisfied with their reception there and returned to Ayut'ya, no embassy in reply being sent to Spain. Therefore, after the reign of King P'ra Narai had come to an end, it appears that no further Siamese embassies were sent to Europe while Ayut'ya remained the capital ; although on the other hand Siamese envoys went continually to countries in Asia, to China, Achin, and Ceylon.

The customs governing the sending and receiving of embassies in the age of Ayut'ya still existed when Bangkok became the capital. They probably originated in India, since they greatly resembled those of ancient Pegu, Burma and Ceylon. In many respects they were quite opposite to those of European countries. In Europe, an ambassador represents his king in the country to which he is sent, and the letters he bears are merely his credentials to ensure that he may be received in a fitting manner. But in Siam, according to the old traditions, the royal letter represented the king and the envoy was only the official bearer. The Siamese attitude towards the royal letter can be seen in the account of the embassy which accompanied the priests taken to Ceylon by P'ra Upāli. The letter left the palace in Ayut'ya in a state procession, and its departure was herald-

ed by a fanfare of the royal trumpets and conch shells. The Siamese officials in charge of it paid their respects every day as to the king. This continued until the letter was presented to the king in Ceylon. As soon as a royal letter from a foreign country arrived in Siamese territory, it was always received with similar ceremonial.

This Siamese custom on occasion led to difficulties and misunderstandings with European ambassadors. In the time of King P'ra Narai, when the Chevalier de Chaumont reached the town of Samutprakar, the Siamese received his royal letter from Louis XIV with a special river procession, on which he himself had to follow behind the boat containing the letter. At the first stop on the river journey to the capital, the official in charge of the reception arrangements paid respects to the letter, and taking it from the boat, placed it in a room prepared for it ; when the journey was resumed he again paid his respects to it. The French ambassador was astonished, and on enquiry was told that according to Siamese custom the royal letter is more important than the ambassador who bears it. So he thought of a plan whereby he should receive equal respect: at the next stop, just before the letter was to be taken down into the boat, he ordered a chair to be brought and sat down beside the letter, and when the

chief official came to pay his respects, the ambassador himself handed it to him to carry down to the boat. The next day, they rested at Vat Prot Sat, until the state barges arrived for the last stage of the journey to Ayut'ya. The ambassador then arranged to receive still more deference. He made Abbé de Choisy, a French priest who was intended to instruct King P'ra Narai in the Christian religion, stand by his side, and when Siamese officials came to pay respects and take the letter, he did not give it to them, but instead handed it on its golden tray to the priest, who walked together with the ambassador under the shade of the royal umbrella. The ambassador was probably very pleased with his stratagem.

In the past, when a Siamese embassy went to a foreign country, a gold tablet had first to be engraved. A copy on paper was made of the original, which was sent away together with a letter from the Minister of State. The engraving of a gold tablet in this manner was considered a sign of friendship between the two countries. When a treaty was made, in place of a seal, an impression from a signet ring was stamped on the tablet; which is the origin of the old Siamese idioms "of the same golden tablet" and "on the same golden ground" to express friendship.

A royal letter sent to a foreign country always had to be conveyed by an envoy. It was impossible for a letter to go in any other way, and not even an envoy from that country could take it back with him. If there was no envoy there was no royal letter. But a letter from the minister could go by the foreign envoy or in any other manner. This distinction is clear from the story of the priests sent to Ceylon in the reign of King Boromokot. When P'ra Upāli and P'ra Ariyamūni took the first group of priests, an envoy bearing a royal letter accompanied them. When P'ra Visuddhāchārya and P'ra Varañānamuni took the second group to replace the first, there was similarly an envoy with a letter. An envoy from King Kīrtisiri-rāja Singha of Ceylon accompanied P'ra Ariyamuni on his return: but this time the Siamese king did not wish to send another royal letter in answer, so the envoy from Ceylon was given letters from the minister to take back and a verbal message to his king from the king of Siam.

But, according to European custom, a royal envoy need not accompany a letter from the king. At Ayut'ya, the first European traders usually asked for letters from their king requesting that they might be allowed to trade freely in Siam, and these letters were ceremonially received by the Siamese, the

traders being considered as envoys. The merchants of those times stated that to obtain good treatment from the Siamese it was necessary to produce such a royal letter. Similarly, when the first French priests came to teach the Christian religion among the Siamese, they brought with them greetings from Louis XIV and the Pope, — and this was one of the reasons why, in the reign of King P'ra Narai, Siamese envoys were sent in return to France and Rome.

Ancient tradition said that a royal letter to a foreign country had to go in a royal conveyance until it reached the territory of that country; once arrived it was the business of the foreign king to receive it in a royal and fitting manner. For this reason, when a letter went by boat, it had to be a royal boat. From the time of King Ekat'osarot up to that of King P'ra Narai, there were royal merchant ships which traded continuously with foreign countries, and these were able to take Siamese envoys to Japan, Persia, and various states in India then still independent. But no royal ships ever went as far as Europe, so that when the first embassy was sent to Holland by King Ekat'osarot, the following procedure was adopted: the envoys first took the royal letter to Bantam (situated close to the site of the present town of Batavia) which was then the chief Dutch town in the East, and hav-

ing thus arrived in Dutch territory, were then taken in a Dutch man-of-war to Europe. In the time of King P'ra Narai, the first embassy to France went from Mergui to Pondicherry in India, which belonged to France, and then sailed to Europe (being wrecked at Madagascar). When Kosa Pan was sent, custom was not adhered to so strictly, because he actually set out from Siam in a French ship. The first Siamese envoys sent to Ceylon by King Boromokot sailed in a royal vessel, but this was found to be unseaworthy off the coast of Nak'on Srit'ammarat, and the envoys together with P'ra Upāli had to return to Ayut'ya. They sailed a second time in a Dutch merchant ship. But the captain of this ship had volunteered to take them to Ceylon, in the same manner that the Ceylon envoys had arrived, and it was considered that this temporary use of a merchant ship could be reconciled with custom. Whenever envoys left for China or Annam, right up to the Bangkok period, they sailed in royal vessels.

European and Siamese ideas used to be quite different concerning the rank and duty of an envoy; according to the one he was the representative of his king—to the other he was only the official in charge of a royal letter. Also in European embassies there is only one envoy; those who accompany him are the members of



his staff, such as secretaries. In the old time, there were always three men composing a Siamese embassy,—the first, second and third envoys,—and according to records of the Ayut'ya period, the highest rank a first envoy ever had was that of P'ra, and sometimes he was only a K'un. For example in the case of Kosa Pan's embassy, he, the first envoy, was called P'ra Visut Sunt'orn, the second envoy was Luang Srivisaravacha and the third K'un Kalyana Rajamaitri. In the time of King P'ra Narai, a first envoy sent to China was K'un Sri Rajamaitri. The first embassy sent by King Boromokot to Ceylon consisted of Phra Sut'arm Maitri the first envoy, K'un Vadip'ichit the second, and Mūn P'ip'it Sneha the third. But these were only special names chosen for the occasion: it was customary, if the envoys on returning gave a favourable report of their mission to the king, for them to be raised in rank. Thus Kosa Pan, when he went to France was P'ra Visut Sunt'orn; on his return he became P'ya Kosat'ibodi and occupied the high office of P'ra K'lang for a few months before the death of King P'ra Narai.

A European envoy is given full powers to discuss and explain the royal letter he brings, and what he says is considered exactly as if it came from his king. But a Siamese envoy

carrying a royal letter and a letter from the minister, was only allowed to discuss the contents of the latter.

When a foreign envoy came to Siam, his reception and entertainment was at the expense of the king. This is probably the reason why they were known as "guests of the country." The envoy, on his arrival at the outskirts of the country, had to wait there for many days while preparations were being made for his reception. If he came by sea, he waited at Paknam, while ceremonial boats for the river journey were sent and arrangements were made at the various stopping places along the river: Samut prakar, P'rapradeng, T'onburi, Nonburi, Prath'umt'ani, and the custom-station at Vat Prot Sat. At Paknam, the chief official in charge of the reception visited him and sent gifts and food; on the way, local officials had to entertain him. From Vat Prot Sat, the next stop was Ayut'ya, but the envoy had to wait many more days at Vat Prot Sat, while the royal letter and other documents were translated and a list made of the gifts he brought. Also the processional route at Ayut'ya had to be prepared and an auspicious day chosen for the arrival. On this day, a procession of state barges set out from Ayut'ya and brought back the envoy with the letter and gifts. At the Victory

gate by Vat Putt'aisavan, the letter was placed on a state coach to go to the royal palace, while the envoy was carried in a palanquin, and his attendants mounted on horses according to their rank in a procession of elephants, horses, and soldiers. The envoy waited outside the palace in a pavilion. Envoys from Ceylon record that they were there offered ceremonial garlands of flowers, but the European envoys do not appear to have received such gifts. In the palace grounds, elephants, horses, and many regiments of soldiers were drawn up; and all the foreigners in the place,—Europeans, Indians, Chinese, Cambodians, were told to be present clothed in their best. The king could receive the envoys in two ways: either in the audience hall within the palace, or from a balcony outside. The French envoys to King P'ra Narai were received in the first way, and the envoys from Ceylon to King Boromokot in the second. According to the Chevalier de Chaumont, only envoys from important countries, of which he gives as examples China and Persia, went inside the palace; others from small states, such as Tongking, Achin or the towns of Vieng Chan and Chiengmai, remained outside. But there is no corroborating evidence to show whether this is true or not.

When the first French embassy came to

Siam, the Chevalier de Chaumont, while he was waiting at Vat Prot Sat to go to Ayut'ya, asked about the manner in which he was expected to pay his respects to the king. The answer did not satisfy him, and he requested that some modification in the procedure should be made; so Chao P'ya Vijayen (Phaulkon) was sent down to confer with him before the official reception.

The Chevalier gives a very detailed account of the traditional manner in which a foreign envoy had to pay his respects. If he was to be received in the audience hall, on arriving at the palace he waited outside in a pavilion. Just before the king was ready, he was taken to an outer hall. The governors of provinces and high state officials entered the audience hall and knelt prostrate on either side, while the lesser officials remained kneeling in the outer hall. When the king appeared with a fanfare of trumpets and conch shells, the envoy was conducted to the stairway leading to the audience hall, where he had to kneel prostrate and make obeisance three times; then he went up the stairs on hands and knees, and at the doorway made obeisance again, finally crawling up to his place before the king and once more making obeisance. If the envoy was received from the balcony of the palace, the high officials waited in the court-yard, while the lesser officials

prostrated themselves beneath the balcony. The envoy had to come out of the pavilion and make obeisance; crawl up to the balcony and make obeisance again, and then crawl to the place prepared for him and make a final obeisance. At that time, in all countries in the East, such kneeling and prostration was essential in paying respects to a king, and was in complete contrast to the European practice of standing while doing homage. The manner in which the European envoys actually paid their respects at Ayut'ya is not recorded, but from the accounts of early embassies to Bangkok, the envoys there did not crawl or prostrate themselves. It is probable that the same procedure was followed in the days of Ayut'ya.

In the account which Colonel Yule gives of Sir Arthur Phayre's embassy to King Mindon of Burma in 1855, it is stated that the English ambassador would not wait in his pavilion until the king was ready, so that the Burmese had to let him wait inside the audience hall. The Burmese wanted him to crawl, which he would not do, and would not allow him to walk in the presence of the king.

A royal letter was never actually handed to the king by an envoy; during an audience, the letter on a golden tray, together with the

gifts he brought, were set down in front of him, and he was then introduced to the king by the foreign minister (in the case of a Lao envoy it is not known whether the Foreign minister or the minister of the interior made the introduction). Then the king made three customary and formal questions. First: Were the king and royal family of the foreign country in good health? Second: did the envoy have a good journey and how long did it take? and Third: Was the rainfall satisfactory in the rainy season of his country and were the people prosperous? In Burma the king himself did not speak; he only nodded while a high official spoke in his place.

When the king had pronounced the first question, the foreign minister conveyed the royal words to the officials under him who sat to the right and left, and they told the interpreter, who translated to the envoy. The answer of the latter had to go up to the king through the same intermediaries. Similarly for the second and third questions. After this, the official who looked after the envoy presented him with a betel set and cloths from the king, which was a sign that the audience was over. Directly after, the king withdrew to a flourish of trumpets, and the officials and the envoy made obeisance three times. Then the

envoy left the audience hall, and was taken to see the great glory of the palace—the white elephants.

When the first French ambassador came in the reign of King P'ra Narai, certain modifications were made in the traditional ceremony of audience. The officers of the man-of-war on which he came, and various French priests were allowed to be present at the audience. They entered the hall and sat down before the king appeared, but did not approach with the ambassador because they were not of the same rank. The ambassador also actually put the royal letter into the king's hand. Abbé de Choisy brought the letter into the hall on a golden tray and the ambassador then took it up to the throne; but according to accounts, this was so high that he could not reach the king's hand, and King P'ra Narai, since there was no precedent to go by, had to break all tradition and bend down to receive it. The ambassador was allowed to pay his respects in the European manner; he did not have to kneel. Chao P'ya Kosa and Chao P'ya Wijayen went in front of him, and when they prostrated themselves he bowed as low as possible. Then he sat down and put on his hat! Probably the Siamese officials put on their pointed ceremonial hats, and the ambassador followed their example. In the

pictures of Kosa Pan's audience with Louis XIV, the Siamese envoys are seen wearing their hats.

The Burmese custom is the same. At Ayut'ya, and also in Burma, an envoy was not allowed to carry a sword or to have shoes on at an audience. But the first European ambassadors coming to Bangkok certainly appeared with swords and shoes, and probably the French ambassadors at Ayut'ya did the same.

King P'ra Narai modified an old custom for the French ambassadors by making a gift to them of rolls of silk instead of the usual garments. He explained that they had come from a cold to a warm climate, and needed suitable clothes; but he was afraid that, if he had the silk cut up into garments, these might not please the ambassadors. This custom of offering ambassadors clothes for their use in Siam came down into the Bangkok era.

Foreign envoys were formally received in audience when they arrived and when they left with full dress ceremonial. But during their stay in the country, they could have audience on other special occasions; for example, the Singalese envoys were received when King Boromokot inspected the gifts he intended to send to Ceylon, and the Chevalier de Chaumont was entertained at a banquet by King P'ra Narai at Ayut'ya, though this took place behind



the palace ; he was also received by the king many times at Lopburi.

After having audience of the king, an envoy had on appointed days to pay respects to the Second king and visit government officials of the highest rank. On each occasion he had to present gifts. The Second king received the envoy in exactly the same manner as the king, even to the asking of the formal questions. As regards high officials, if the envoy was of relatively low rank, he sat on the floor while the official sat on a couch ; as when the envoy who came to ask for Siamese priests to go to Ceylon visited Chao P'ya Jamnan. If the envoy was a European of high rank, a table and chairs were provided, and, after the greetings were over, food was brought and an orchestra played ; as when the Chevalier de Chaumont visited the P'ra K'lang. The Burmese custom is the same. Colonel Yule, secretary to Sir Arthur Phayre's embassy to Burma, recounts that they visited many officials on the same day, and on one morning had to eat five meals. After the visiting was over, the envoy was taken to various places of interest, and watched informally any processions taking place. When he departed, he received Siamese decorations. De Chaumont was given the "p'an t'ong" among many others. A list of the deco-

rations of the envoys from Ceylon was given in the letter from the foreign minister which they took with them, but these were not of the highest class.

Turning to embassies of the Bangkok period, in the first reign there were none. It began at the time of the French revolution, and during the Napoleonic wars, Siam was engaged with Burma. In the second reign, envoys came from various colonies of England and Portugal; but these did not necessitate a reply from the king. The first important envoys came in the third reign, when the President of the United States of America sent Mr. Edmond Robert with a letter and gifts to arrange a treaty. This was in 1832. It was known in Siam that the President was only a representative elected by the people for a certain period, and not the hereditary heir of a royal tradition; also America was at the far end of the earth from Siam. Therefore it was considered impossible for a Siamese envoy to be sent there in reply.

Siamese envoys went to Europe for the first time in the Bangkok era during the fourth reign, in 1857, after an interval of 160 years since the last occasion in King P'ra Narai's time.

In 1855, Queen Victoria sent Sir John Bowring in charge of an embassy to Siam,

at a time when King Mongkut wanted treaties to be made between Siam and other self ruling countries. It was understood on both sides that the embassy was more important than any previous one, as it was the first time that one of the greatest countries in Europe had sent ambassadors to Bangkok on a footing of equality, and King Mongkut considered the event to be similar to the first arrival of French ambassadors at Ayut'ya in the reign of King P'ra Narai. So he arranged for Sir John Bowring to be ceremonially received in similar fashion. Sir John Bowring, on his part, desired greater deference than had been accorded to Crawford and Burney, the envoys previously sent from India. But when he read over the old accounts, he was perfectly satisfied with the preparations.

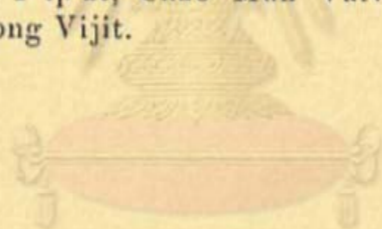
Sir John Bowring records that King Mongkut expressed the desire to send a Siamese embassy to England in reply and enter into friendly relation with that country, but the difficulty was that there was no Siamese ship able to take them there. He also consulted Sir John concerning the royal letter and gifts to send to Queen Victoria, who replied that it would be an excellent thing if the letter were written in English, since King Mongkut was the only monarch in the East who understood the language; Queen Victoria would be very

gratified to receive such a letter. As regards gifts, Siamese articles of native workmanship would be more acceptable than any others.

A year later, in 1856, General Jackson, President of the United States, sent Mr. Townsend Harris, and Emperor Napoleon III of France sent M. de Montigny, to discuss treaties with Siam, as England had done.

It is not known what arrangements were made with America, but King Mongkut let the French envoy know that he wished to send Siamese envoys to France. So the French government communicated with the Siamese foreign minister, to the effect that Napoleon III would be pleased to place a French man-of-war at the disposal of Siamese envoys to take them to France and bring them back to Siam, just as was done in the time of Louis XIV. When King Mongkut heard this, he said that since England had been the first to send an ambassador to Bangkok, it would not be fitting for the first Siamese envoys to go to France without letting England know. So the Siamese foreign minister wrote to England to say that Siam wished to send envoys there, but had as yet no ship to take them; France was willing to provide a man-of-war for Siamese envoys,—therefore would England provide a man-of-war in the same way? The English government

replied that Queen Victoria would be pleased to send a man-of-war to fetch the Siamese envoys and would receive them in a manner in every way fitting to the dignity of the King of Siam. Therefore in 1857, P'ya Montri Suriya-wong was appointed chief envoy, with Cha Mūn Sanp'et P'akdi and Cha Mūn Mont'ien P'it'ak as second and third envoys, and was sent to England with a royal letter and gifts to arrange a treaty. As regards France, at that time Napoleon III was at war, and it was necessary to wait three years more, till 1860, before a Siamese embassy was sent, which comprised P'ya Sri P'ip'at, Chao Mūn Vaivaranat, and P'ra Narong Vijit.



สถาบันวิทยบริการ  
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

PRESS COMMENTS  
ON  
THE SIAMESE EMBASSY  
TO ENGLAND  
(1857-1858).

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I

ARRIVAL OF THE SIAMESE  
AMBASSADORS.—THEIR STAY AT  
PORTSMOUTH (28-29 OCTOBER 1857).

สำนักงานวิทยบริการ  
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

The Times,  
Monday,  
19 October,  
1857.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

We learn from our Malta correspondent that among the passengers on board Her Majesty's despatch steamer *Caradoc*, which arrived at Malta on the 8th ult., were the three Siamese Ambassadors—Phgor Montri Suriywmgsi, Chamun Sulbedh Chaity, and Chamun Mix Dir Bidacks (*sic*)—accompanied by a numerous suite. Upon their arrival they were saluted by Her Majesty's ship *Hibernia* and afterwards by Fort St. Angelo. They were received at the palace by his Excellency the Governor, Sir William Reid, and Rear-Admiral Sir Montagu Stopford, with their respective staffs. Their Excellencies took up their abode at the Imperial Hotel, much, it is said, to their dissatisfaction, as they expected they would have been the guests, according to the custom of their country, of the Governor. In the evening, attended by Commander Clavering, R. N., of the *Caradoc*, they were present in the Governor's box at the opera, where the richness and novelty of their costume attracted much attention, and on the following morning Lieutenant-General Sir John Pennefather had the troops out in review order on the Floriana parade ground, in honour of their arrival. Their Excellencies were to leave Malta by the *Caradoc* for England direct on the 10th or 11th.

The Times,  
Tuesday,  
20 October.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

The Ambassadors about visiting England are said to be — first and second from the first King of Siam, and the third from the second King of Siam — there being two kings, the first sending two ambassadors, the second one. The second Ambassador is the adopted son of the King; the first is the brother of the Prime Minister. Another younger brother and son are in the suite, coming here to be educated. They are Bhuddists, and consequently do not eat beef or mutton, or use milk, cheese, butter, or anything produced from bulls or cows. Hog's lard is the only fat allowed to be used in cooking. For the information, however, of those who may wish to invite them in England to parties, we may state that they eat freely of game, poultry, pork, and curry of the very hottest at every meal. They drink moderately of brandy, wine, champagne, and pale ale. They are very fond of tea, which they drink at every meal, and all day long, without milk. They eat no pastry or sweets. Eight of the principal members of the embassy dine together; the others, excepting servants, have a separate table, and pay great respect and homage whenever they address one of the superior eight. They are very cleanly, and all make a point of bath-



ing every day. Their teeth are black from the use of the betel-nut. They have all sorts of European articles for ordinary purposes. They have splendid presents on board for Her Majesty, among them two crowns and a lady's saddle, enriched with diamonds, rubies, and other precious stones, spears with gold heads, &c. They have also 50,000l. in dollars on board, besides bars of gold; so they are tolerably well provided. Their dress is very splendid—a rich tunic with a belt of gold clasped in front with a buckle ornamented with diamonds and rubies; loose trousers, and small richly-ornamented skull-cap, with a spire running from the top. Their faces are perfectly Chinese, and they look amazingly like the nodding figures in the large tea-shops in England. A number have changed their gay oriental dress for slop-made paletôts and Jim Crow hats. The change is not an improvement.

The Times,  
Wednesday,  
28 October.

### Arrival of the Siamese Embassy.

Portsmouth, Tuesday night.

(By Electric and International Telegraph).

Her Majesty's steam despatch yacht *Caradoc*, Lieutenant Clavering commanding, anchored at Spithead this evening at five minutes past 9 o'clock from Alexandria, with the Siam-

ese Ambassadors on board. Heavy weather, and being compelled in consequence to lay to and bear up, has been the cause of their non-arrival at the time anticipated, several days since. Their Highnesses will remain on board the *Caradoc* to-night, and land in the morning under Royal honours. There are three Ambassadors and 25 in suite.

The Times,  
Thursday,  
29 October.

### The Siamese Embassy.

Portsmouth, Wednesday.

These interesting personages, consisting of Phya Muntri Suroywangse, Principal Ambassador from the First King of Siam; Chau Mun Sakbedh Bracty, Second Ambassador from the First King; Charmun Mandir Bidacks, First Ambassador, and Nai Bichar Sarbkick, Second Ambassador from the Second King of Siam, with 12 principal officers of State and a retinue of servants, in all 27 persons, whose arrival on Tuesday night in Her Majesty's steam despatch yacht *Caradoc* we reported briefly yesterday, have landed at this port, and await advices from the Government before proceeding to London.

This morning, as early as seven o'clock, Captain H. Seymour, C. B., son of the Commander-in-Chief, and flag-captain of the port,

went out to Spithead in the steam-yacht *Fire Queen*, Mr. W. F. Paul, master, R. N., commanding, and made arrangements for the disembarkation of the distinguished corps. At 9.30 a.m. the *Caradoc* steamed into this harbour with the Siamese standards of the First and Second Kings flying from her main and fore masts, and which were saluted by the Governor's battery *en passant*. On coming to moorings in the harbour, abreast of the dockyard, Admiral Sir George Seymour, K. C. B., the Commander-in-Chief, went off in his barge to pay his respects and offer the hospitalities of the Admiralty-house to the long-delayed voyagers, who received him with every demonstration of high reverence as the representative of the Queen, of whom they have come so far to seek an audience. Meanwhile the dockyard wharves, the ships in docks adjacent, and the ground abutting on the reception jetty became thronged with the officers of the dockyard and their friends, a large number of ladies among them, to witness the disembarkation of the illustrious strangers.

At 11 o'clock the *Caradoc* ranged up alongside the jetty, her progress to which point was cheered by the enlivening strains of the band on board the *Diadem*. Rear-Admiral-Superinten-

dent Martin had made the best preparations that could be managed on so sudden an occasion for the landing of their Highnesses, and General Scarlett, commanding the district, had posted a detachment of the third battalion of the Scots Fusileer Guards on the spot to keep the ground. The guard of honour was furnished by the 68th Regiment, and commanded by Major Grier. On the chief Ambassador landing on the jetty he cordially shook hands with Admiral Martin, General Scarlett, Colonel Wright, deputy-assistant quarter master-general; Captain Gordon, aide de-camp; and Town-Major Breton, which courtesy was followed by the other Ambassadors, and the flagship *Blenheim* fired the usual salute. The Port Admiral's carriage was in waiting, into which the chief personages were ushered by Admiral Martin and General Scarlett, and the other members of the Siamese Commission having entered other equipages the whole were escorted to the Admiralty-house, where a superb breakfast was in waiting, to which all the captains and commanders of the fleet at Portsmouth, Admiral Martin and staff, General Scarlett and staff, and Lieutenant Clavering, commanding the *Caradoc*, were invited.

After the *déjeuner* the "distinguished foreigners" were conducted over the dockyard by Admiral Martin and staff, and shown every object of interest, with most of which they exhibited and expressed unfeigned surprise. This occupied until nearly three o'clock, when the entire *cortège* were driven, under the conduct of Flag-Lieutenant Malcolm and other officers, to the quarters prepared for them by Her Majesty's Government at the George Hotel, within the garrison of Portsmouth. Here their appearance was greeted by a large concourse of spectators of all classes, and certainly their Excellencies would not have felt in any way flattered could they have understood the remarks made by divers of the lower class of the auditory as they alighted from their equipages. Their State costume certainly borders closely upon the theatrical pantomimic, only that it is of a richer quality in material than the usual "property" of the supernumeraries in a stage burlesque of the Christmas or Easter family; but they appear to enjoy themselves and their position, and exhibit the utmost cordiality and affability to all who tender them the like courtesies.

This evening they will amuse themselves by visiting the Portsmouth Theatre Royal and witnessing the spectacle of *The Jewess*, which

is as well put upon the stage by Mr. Rutley, the lessee, as it could be at any theatre of the like dimensions. The house will no doubt be crowded by anxious sightseers, and it is questionable whether the objects before the curtain will not eclipse in attraction the efforts of those behind it.

To-morrow the Embassy will move to London by special train. Mr. Fowle, an *attaché* from the Foreign-office, has been at Portsmouth for some days past awaiting the arrival of the *Carador*, and has the charge of the mission. The treasures brought by their Excellencies as presents from the Kings of Siam for Her Majesty have been landed carefully to-day, under the superintendence of Lieutenant H. W. Hall, director of dockyard police, and stowed away in safe custody. No foreigners have ever landed at Portsmouth who have created the interest and curiosity of the Siamese, and their hotel is attended by large assemblages of gazers, who look at them as they sit smoking at the open windows with eyes and impudence such as only the lower members of John Bull's family indulge in.

The chief Ambassador acknowledges to the luxury of 58 wives, and it is related of him that in going round the dockyard to-day his

eye lighted on a young lady whom he would have liked to make the 59th at the purchase-money of 3000*l.* This was related to us by a lady to whom the eastern Mormon confessed the weakness, with whose charms he also acknowledged himself smitten.

After their siesta the whole of the illustrious chiefs walked about the town, and visited the jewelry establishment of Messrs. E. and E. Emanuel, of High-street, and were engaged in inspecting their numerous objects of vertu and value, with which they expressed themselves much pleased, and on retiring presented cigars to Mr. Emanuel and his friends in the establishment.

#### The Siamese Ambassadors.

The Standard,  
Saturday,  
31 October.

Their Excellencies the Ambassadors from the Court of Siam, who, with their suite, are at present residing at Claridge's Hotel, were yesterday, among others, visited by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor and other distinguished visitors. Among the carriages which met them on the previous day at the Waterloo Station of the South-Western Railway, was an elegant state chariot, manufactured by F. Aldebert and Co., Long Acre. It is a very elegant vehicle, constructed with great taste, and has a graceful

outline. The body is painted of a bright lake, the panels displaying a rich emblazonment of the arms of Siam, comprising the Imperial Crowns and Banner, exhibiting the white elephant, the whole decorated with handsomely arranged drapery. We are given to understand that the report which appeared in a morning contemporary, in reference to the chief Siamese ambassador having 58 wives, and desiring to purchase for £3000 the 59th in Portsmouth, is altogether a fabrication.

The Hampshire  
Telegraph,  
Saturday,  
31 October.

#### Arrival of the Siamese Embassy.

The *Caradoc*, 2 iron paddle-wheel steamer, Lieut.-Commanding Henry A. Clavering, arrived at Spithead on Tuesday night, from Malta, having on board the special Ambassadors from the King and Deputy King of Siam, and their numerous attendants. . . . A large concourse of persons assembled upon the landing stage, including the officers in port, and of the dockyard, together with a large number of ladies. The Siamese, in their rich parti-coloured dresses, gazed curiously at the throng assembled on the jetty, and seemed to be delighted with the homage shown to them, and the prospect of so soon setting foot on British soil. The landing-stage was partially covered with red baize, and a guard of honour consist-



ing of two companies of the 68th, under the command of Major Grier, was drawn up on the landing stage and presented arms as the Ambassadors stepped ashore, as also did a detachment of the Scots Fusilier Guards, then on duty in the dockyard. . . . The excellent bands of the 68th and the *Diadem* alternately performed the National Anthem as the vessel came alongside the jetty and the Ambassadors quitted the vessel. At a subsequent part of the day the members of the Royal Commission were shown the principal objects of interest in the dockyard by Admiral Martin and the members of his staff, including the *Victoria* and some other of the largest vessels not yet completed. With most of the objects they expressed much surprise and astonishment. . . . A guard of honour, consisting of a detachment of the Royal Marine Artillery, was here [at the George Hotel] posted, and sentries were placed at the main entrance during the sojourn of the distinguished party. Immediately upon their arrival several of them sat at the open windows of their apartments, and seemed in no wise abashed at the curious gaze of the people who crowded about the façade of the building. . . . Several of the subordinate members of the suite were strolling about the

streets in the evening, and endeavoured to conform to the English mode of dress by substituting for their pointed scull caps hats of the most approved modern fashion, which contrasted strangely, if not ridiculously, with their variegated Oriental costume. Their baggage, containing the magnificent presents intended for her Majesty, and valued at some hundreds of thousands of pounds, and their own rich and splendid wardrobes and other property, were carefully landed and deposited safely under the superintendence of Lieut. H. W. Hall, director of the dockyard police. They were afterwards removed in omnibuses and other vehicles to the George Hotel. . . . Amongst other places, the distinguished party visited Galt's Outfitting Establishment. Mr. Galt invited them to see the interior of an English house, which offer was readily accepted, and before leaving the drawing room handed Mr. Galt cigarettes, receiving in return good Havannahs, which they appeared to enjoy. A rather singular incident occurred during their stay here. It appears that the children were playing upon the hearthrug with an old Burmese Joss, or idol, which Mr. Galt had in his possession. Unexpectedly seeing this deity transformed into a child's bauble, they started back with a facial

expression of abject astonishment, and, reverentially raising the idol, placed it in an upright position in a corner of the room. According to the statement of the interpreter, on being introduced to Mr. Galt, it appears that the notabilities have 50 wives each, although he (the interpreter) begged pardon and expressed a hope that no offence would be given by his making such a confession. They visited several other shops in the High Street, but the only purchase we have heard of was a gold snuff box at the shop of Mr. Dudley.

The Times,  
Friday,  
30 October.

### The Siamese Embassy.

The Siamese Ambassadors, accompanied by the Princes of Siam, visited the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, on Wednesday evening, and witnessed the performance of the *Jewess*. Their Excellencies, whose entrance into the body of the house created quite a sensation among the audience, remained till the end of the play, returning to their hotel about 11 o'clock. Yesterday morning, shortly after 10 o'clock, they left Portsmouth by a special train, and, travelling on the South-Western Railway, reached London before one.



II

FIRST STAY IN LONDON

(30 OCTOBER—18 NOVEMBER 1857).

สถาบันวิทยบริการ  
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

The Morning  
Post, Friday,  
30 October.

### The Siamese Embassy.

The members of the Siamese Embassy left the George Hotel, Portsmouth, yesterday morning for London. Their Excellencies travelled to town in a special train provided for their accommodation on the South Western Railway—Mr. Godson, the superintendent of the traffic department, taking charge of the distinguished party.

The ambassadors arrived at the Waterloo station at half past twelve o'clock and were received by a guard of honour of the 11th Hussars.

Special carriages, prepared by order of the Government, were in waiting at the station, in which the Princes proceeded from Waterloo under escort of a detachment of the 11th Hussars to Claridge's Hotel, Upper Brook Street, where the state apartments had been secured for their reception.

The Morning  
Post, Saturday,  
31 October.

### The Siamese Embassy.

The arrival of the august *personnel* of this novel embassy at Claridge's Hotel was announced yesterday. The excitement of the railway journey, followed by a semi-official progress through London, appears to have had a depressing effect on the nerves of the distinguished party, for, once ensconced in the comfortable

quarters provided for them, they declined any further exertion on Thursday; and beyond admitting to a formal interview the Earl of Shelburne, one of the foreign under-secretaries, the day was passed in close retirement. The chief ambassador, however, before retiring to rest took occasion to exhibit his practical good sense by desiring to inspect the arrangements made for the accommodation for his suite, and Mrs. Claridge had the honour of conducting his highness through the various departments of her husband's unrivalled establishment. After satisfying himself that due provision had been made for the comfort of his staff, the prince retired to rest, having first partaken of a frugal repast, prepared by his own *chef de cuisine*, consisting of crab fish, pounded with various eastern condiments.

The very incorrect statements which have heretofore appeared touching this embassy render it desirable that the *personnel* should be correctly described. Everybody knows that in Siam there is a King Chief and a King Deputy. Of course each has his representative in the present mission. The respective positions of the latter do not seem to be quite understood at present, probably owing to our Government not having been able to appoint a gentleman

thoroughly conversant with the Siamese language to attend upon the embassy. There are, however, seven principal personages who associate together, and partake of their meals at one table. The annexed list sets forth this little party, and its accuracy rests on the fact of its being a literal transcript of the visiting cards which have been prepared for the members of the embassy <sup>(1)</sup>:—

The Prince N. Y. Nobhawonse Krom Mu'n Mahesuar Siva Wilas, the eldest royal son of his Majesty the first King of Siam.

The Prince N. L. Supratith Krom Mu'n Vesnunarth Nibhudhorn, the second royal son of his Majesty the first King of Siam.

The Prince Chaufah Chulalonkorn, the third son of his Majesty the first King of Siam.

The Prince Chaufah Chaturont Rasmi, the fourth son of his Majesty the first King of Siam.

Somdetch Phra Paramendr, Maha Mongkut, Major Rex Siamensium.

Chau Mun Sarbedh Bhackty.

Phya Muntri Suriywangse.

It can scarcely be expected that our readers will be able to bear these very unique names

(1) It goes without saying that none of the Princes named in the list came to England with the Embassy. King Mongkut and the four Princes mentioned before him had apparently ordered visiting cards to be printed in England, and the reporter of the Morning Post, who happened to see these cards, took them for those of the members of the embassy.

in recollection, but the curious may be interested in their preservation, and therefore we give them. The suite numbers nearly 30 persons of various grades—the outward symbol of which appears to be generally indicated by the head-dress. Thus the “eldest royal son of the first king” wears a conical hat, with a brim of some seven inches wide, while the brims of the hats worn by the servitors gradually diminish, until in the lowest class, you find none at all.

Yesterday morning the princes were waited upon by a number of West-end tradesmen, anxious to increase the stock of valuables which report says they bear to this country. Very few were admitted to interview; indeed, if we except Messrs. Garrard, the Crown jewelers, and Mr. C. F. Hancock, of Bruton-street, we believe all were refused.

At noon yesterday the princes took a carriage airing in the parks, accompanied by Mr. Fowle, of the Foreign-office, who has been appointed to attend upon their highnesses while in this country. They expressed infinite surprise at much that was pointed out to their observation, and Regent-street, with its crowd of gay pedestrians, obtained a full share of admiration.

After luncheon the Lord Mayor paid a visit to the princes, and had the honour of a private



audience to invite their highnesses to a grand banquet to be given to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge in the Egyptian-hall of the Mansion house on Wednesday next. Mr. Fowle was gone to the Foreign-office when the Lord Mayor arrived, and the conversation between his lordship and the princes was carried on through the medium of a native member of the suite, who formerly resided for a considerable period in this country. Their highnesses accepted the proffered hospitality with becoming condescension, and the civic banquet will be graced with their presence on Wednesday. Some time after the Lord Mayor had retired the Earl of Clarendon arrived, and had a long interview with the princes, at which the reception of their highnesses by her Majesty was definitively arranged.

Last night the Princes, with a numerous suite, went to Astley's Royal Amphitheatre, where they occupied the royal box, with other accommodation prepared for them. Their highnesses remained throughout the evening, and expressed the most unqualified delight with the performances.

The princes returned to Claridge's shortly before midnight.

The Court  
Journal,  
Saturday,  
31 October.

The Siamese Ambassadors attended yesterday at the Foreign Office, Downing Street, for formal introduction to the Queen's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The Ambassadors appeared in their Eastern costume. Two of them are somewhat advanced in life, and bear the traces of age in their aspect. The third is juvenile.

The Morning  
Post, Monday,  
3 November.

### The Siamese Embassy.

The members of this embassy are remaining in comparative retirement until after their reception by her Majesty at Windsor Castle.

On Saturday the princes paid a visit to Messrs. Garrard's establishment in Pantonstreet, where they were greatly interested in the superb works of art in the precious metals submitted for their inspection. In the afternoon their highnesses, attended by a numerous suite, drove to the Zoological Gardens in the Regent's-park, and remained for a considerable period viewing the extensive collection of animals contained therein. In the evening the princes honoured the Princess's Theatre with a visit.

On Sunday none of the party left their hotel.

Yesterday their highnesses honoured the establishment of Mr. C. F. Hancock, of Bruton-street, with a visit, and inspected the great variety of works of art on view. The princes were shown the sword Mr. Hancock has just completed for the Corporation of London, for presentation to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge to-morrow; and after a stay of upwards of three hours their excellencies took their departure, expressing themselves highly pleased, and having previously given orders for sundry presents to take with them on their return to Siam. In the evening the princes and suite honoured the Olympic Theatre with their presence.

The Court  
Journal,  
Saturday,  
7 November.

Considerable surprise has been expressed that the Siamese Ambassadors and the sons of the King or Kings of Siam were not presented to her Majesty on Wednesday, when the Queen held a Court and Privy Council. Why the Foreign Secretary should thus delay the presentation of this interesting embassy to his Sovereign, it is, perhaps, useless to conjecture; doubtless the Earl of Clarendon had good reasons therefore, but the surprise that has

already been expressed is likely to be heightened if it should turn out to be true that the Siamese Embassy is to be taken down to Windsor this day—as we believe is intended—and that the official presentation is to take place this afternoon.

The Standard,  
Saturday,  
14 November.

The Royal Ambassadors from the Court of Siam, accompanied by a numerous suite, attended at the Royal Colosseum, Regent's Park, last evening, and on being shown over the institution by the managing director, Dr. Bachhoffner, the Royal visitors expressed their great admiration at the general arrangements, as also at the instrumental and vocal concert, in which Miss Susanna Cole, Miss Reeves, Mr. Elliot Galer, and Signor Veroni, took part as vocalists.

The Court  
Journal,  
Saturday,  
14 November.

The Royal Ambassadors from the Court of Siam, accompanied by a numerous suite, attended at the Royal Colosseum, Regent's Park, last evening.

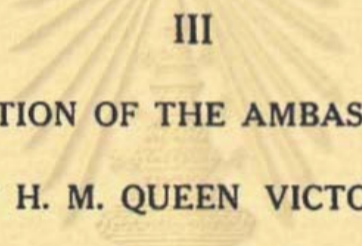
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The reception of the Siamese Ambassadors has been postponed. Their Excellencies were to have been received with marked distinction.

The Queen would have held a full Court, and the Household Body Guards of Gentlemen and Yeomen would have been on duty. It is, of course, a matter of regret that this reception has not taken place, more especially so as her Majesty had determined to welcome these distinguished strangers in state. As it is, we believe an early day will be named after the funeral of the Duchess de Nemours; but from the Court being in deep mourning, the reception may lose something of its *éclat* and splendour.



สถาบันวิทยบริการ  
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย



III  
RECEPTION OF THE AMBASSADORS  
BY H. M. QUEEN VICTORIA  
AT WINDSOR  
(19 NOVEMBER 1857).

สถาบันวิทยบริการ  
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

The Morning  
Post, 17  
November.

### The Siamese Princes.

The visit of the above princes to Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle, which was put off in consequence of the death of the Duchess de Nemours, is now fixed for Thursday next. Their Royal Highnesses are expected to arrive at Windsor by a special train of the Great Western Railway at one o'clock, and proceed direct to the Castle, where a magnificent entertainment will be provided for them in the Waterloo Chamber. The Princes, after being conducted over the private and state apartments, and shown the most interesting objects in and around the Castle, will, if the weather should admit, be driven to Virginia Water, through some of the most beautiful drives in the Great Park. The illustrious visitors will return to town in the evening.

The Morning  
Post, 20  
November.

### *From Our Own Correspondent.*

Windsor, Thursday.

The Siamese princes and their attendants arrived at Windsor, at half past 12 o'clock to-day, by the Great Western Railway. Three of the Queen's carriages, with servants in scarlet liveries, were in readiness to convey the princes and their suite to the Castle, where they were received in the quadrangle by a guard of honour

of the Scots Fusiliers, under the command of Colonel Holder, the band playing a slow march. The guard of honour remained at the Castle during the stay of the princes, the band and Scotch pipers playing alternately, until the royal visitors took their departure at three o'clock. On arriving at the station, and before entering the state carriages, the princes lighted their cigars in defiance of "no smoking allowed"; and the Prince Regent laughed and bowed to the ladies who were admitted on the platform.

The London  
Gazette,  
20 November.

Windsor Castle, 19 November, 1857.

This day had audience of the Queen:

Their Excellencies Phya Montri Suriy-wongse, First Ambassador, and Chau Mun Sarb-bedh Bhacty, Second Ambassador, from the First King of Siam; also His Excellency Chamun Minder Bidacks, Ambassador from the Second King of Siam, to present their credentials and autograph letters from their Majesties:

To which audience they were introduced by the Right Honourable the Earl of Clarendon, K. G., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and conducted by Major-General the Honourable Sir Edward Cust, K. C. H., Her Majesty's Master of the Ceremonies.



The Times,  
Friday,  
20 November.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

Windsor, November 19.

Her Majesty the Queen held this day a Court for the reception of the Ambassadors from the Kings of Siam.

The Ambassadors arrived at Windsor Castle shortly before one o'clock, attended by Mr. Fowle and Captain Clavering, Royal Navy.

Phya Mantri Suriywanse and Chau Mun Sarbedh Bhacty were the representatives of the First or Major King of Siam.

Cha-mun Mondir Bidacks was the representative of the Second King of Siam.

In the suite of their Excellencies were Chamun Rajamate and Nai Bichar Sarabakich, officers in charge of presents; Mom Rajoday, Royal Interpreter; Captain Achune, and Captain Duk.

Their Excellencies were passed up the Grand Staircase and into the Guard Chamber (which were lined by the Yeomen of the Guard under the command of Captain Morton Herbert, the Exon in waiting), and were conducted into the Tapestry Room.

Soon after one o'clock the Queen was conducted by the Lord Steward and the other Officers of State to the Throne Room. Her Majesty was accompanied by His Royal High-

ness the Prince Consort and Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal and was attended by the Duchess of Atholl and Lady Caroline Barington, Ladies in Waiting, and the Gentlemen in Waiting.

His Royal Highness Prince Frederick William of Prussia, attended by the gentlemen of his suite, was present at the reception in the Throne-room.

The Earl of Clarendon, K. G., the Queen's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, stood in attendance near Her Majesty at the audience.

The Ambassadors were conducted by Major-General the Hon. Sir Edward Cust, K. C. H., Her Majesty's Master of the Ceremonies, and Mr. Norman Macdonald, Gentleman Usher, from the Tapestry-room, through St. George's-hall and the Grand Reception-room, to the door of the Throne-room, where they were received by Lord Ernest Bruce, Vice-Chamberlain, Sir William Martins, and Sir Frederic Smith, Gentlemen Ushers, by whom their Excellencies were conducted to the Queen on the throne.

Phya Mantri Suriywansé, one of the representatives of the First or Major King of Siam, bore autograph letters from the Kings, written in gold. The presents from the two Kings of Siam to Her Majesty the Queen were

arranged on either side of the room. They comprised an Eastern crown of gold and enamel, enriched with diamonds, emeralds and rubies; a gold collar, thickly studded with rubies; a large star; a massive ring, set with diamonds, and a variety of precious stones; a golden belt, enriched with rubies; a chair of State or Throne; a rare and valuable white shell, having a number of jewels inserted; a cup and saucer of agate; a State palanquin; a State saddle and bridle; a number of umbrellas covered with gold embroidery; boxes and cups of solid gold; silver salvers with gilt embossed edges; a metal drum, and a variety of other articles of rarity and curious workmanship, together with a painting of the court of the Kings of Siam.

The Ambassadors having been introduced the First Ambassador delivered the following address:

May it please Your Most Gracious and Excellent Majesty.

We pray you will please permit us to acquaint Your Majesty,

That we of the Siamese Embassy viz: myself — Phya Montri Suri Wongse the first Ambassador, Chau Mun Sarbbedh Bhacty the second, and Chau Mun Monder Bidacks the third Ambassador having received the gracious royal

mandates of their gracious and excellent Siamese Majesties Phra Bard Somdetch Phra Paramendr Maha Mongkut the Supreme or Major King of Siamese Kingdom and its adjacent tributary countries Laos, Cambodia, and several provinces of Malay Peninsula, &c. &c. our most respected Sovereign,—and Phra Bard Somdetch Phra Pwarendr Ramesr Mahiswaresr the Second King of Siam—to convey both Their Majesties royal letters and the accompanying royal letters to be laid under Your Majesty's royal feet for paying the respectful sincere homage of both their Majesties to Your Highest Majesty (the powerful and enlightened Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and vast British colonies in various regions of the world, upon which, Your Majesty's colonies, the sun we know never sets),

for the confirmation and promotion of royal friendship

have now arrived at Your Majesty's feet with all the Siamese royal letters and presents in our charge.

We pray you will please permit us to assure Your Majesty with all sincerity that Our Sovereigns, both their Siamese Majesties, have perceived that the mutual friendship between Your Majesty's dominions and the Siamese Kingdom has undoubtedly become firmer and

closer than before in consequence of Your Gracious Majesty's good opinion, and is the source of immense happiness and comfort to the peoples who are respectively subjects of both nations.

Also that Your Gracious Majesty has graciously honoured both their Majesties and the Siamese Kingdom with royal friendship and indulgence higher and more intimate than bestowed upon other nations in Chin India by having given royal answers &c. &c. to both their Majesties' first communications.

The gratitude and friendly feelings of our Sovereigns are expressed at length in their royal letters brought by us.

And also we all in this Embassy have received Your Gracious and Excellent Majesty's most esteemed and royal favour on board men of war of Your Majesty through our way from Siam until Your Majesty's capital where on our safely arrival and staying here we are treated with pleasant high respects and very kind attention in every necessity by Your Majesty's Government whose courtesy we met with great joy. We pray therefore to assure Your Majesty that we will not fail to praise Your Majesty's Government on every where and mention all favourable kind treatments which we have pleasantly met here to our Governments on our being returned to our

native land and we with our governments will be very grateful to Your Majesty alway and will not forget through our descendants;

We are sorry we could not express our great thanks which fullest in our hearts with our speech or verbal mention more ever than this space of moment would allow us as there is an inquestant duty (of us) to have opportunity in Your Majesty's royal permission to offer to Your Majesty now the royal letters from their Majesties our two Kings of Siam and their accompanied royal presents mentioned enumerated therein.

We pray for our gracious sovereign that should Your Majesty be pleased to honour our gracious sovereign Phra Bard S. P. P. Maha Mongkut and younger full brother Phra Bard S. P. Pwarendr Ramesr Mahiswaresr the second King of Siam and fulfill their two Majesties hearts with incomparable thanks to Your Gracious Majesty by receipt of their royal letters and presents now.

We wish Your Majesty pardon for all our preceded or above spoken speeches or words.

The First Ambassador then presented the autograph letters from the Kings of Siam.

Her Majesty was pleased to return a most gracious answer.

At the termination of the audience their Excellencies returned to St. George's-hall, and were afterwards ushered into the Waterloo Gallery, where luncheon was served.

The following noblemen and gentlemen were present at the Court:—The Lord Steward, Earl Spencer; the Groom of the Stole to the Prince Consort, the Marquis of Abercorn; the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Earl of Clarendon; the Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms, Lord Foley; the Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, Viscount Sydney; the Treasurer of the Household, the Earl of Mulgrave; the Vice-Chamberlain, Lord Ernest Bruce; the Lord in Waiting, Earl of Caithness; the Lord in Waiting to the Prince Consort, Viscount Torrington; the Groom in Waiting, General Sir Edward Bowater; the Groom in Waiting to the Prince Consort, Major-General Wylde; the Equerry in Waiting, Major-General Buckley; the Equerry in Waiting to the Prince Consort, Captain the Hon. D. de Ros; Captain Schweinitz and Dr. Wegner, in Waiting to the Prince Frederick William of Prussia; the Silver Stick in Waiting, Colonel Mountjoy Martin; the Field

Officer in Waiting Colonel Ridley, C. B. (Grenadier Guards); the Adjutant in Waiting, Captain Burgoyne (Grenadier Guards); the Gentlemen Ushers in Waiting, Sir William Martins and Sir Frederic Smith; the Page of Honour in Waiting, Mr. Farquharson; the Master of the Ceremonies, Major-General the Hon. Sir Edward Cust; the Controller of the Lord Chamberlain's Department, Mr. Norman Macdonald; and the Master of the Household, Colonel Biddulph.

A Guard of Honour of the Scots Fusileer Guards mounted a guard in the quadrangle of the Castle. The band of the regiment played the national anthem as the Queen entered the Audience-room.

Court  
Journal,  
21 November.

The State reception, by her Majesty, of the embassy from the kings of Siam, has been the principal event at Court during the week. Though each king sent representatives, yet there was a chief envoy—Phya Mantri Suriy-wanse—who actually bore and delivered the letters to the Queen, and who was distinguished from all the others in costume. This chief ambassador was decorated by an enormously broad-brimmed hat, ornamented with gold; the



other members of the embassy all wore conical-shaped skull caps, seamed with gold, those of the highest dignity were of purple velvet, but all ornamented at the top with a gilt spike head. Some of these caps had the addition of a curtain, or flap, down the back of the neck, after the manner of the shakos of our Indian army. A tunic, bound round the waist by a sash, and trousers, with a long loose robe, worn over all, is the general style of dress, and scarlet or red and gold are the prevailing colours. The robe of the chief ambassador was of gold tissue; but apparently woven on a lighter fabric than we are accustomed to see among the Orientals. We hear that some of the members of the embassy, whose Court costume at home does not include shoes and stockings, and whose nether habiliments are somewhat of the shortest, according to Siamese "regulations," were rather put to it to appear before the Queen in a proper and becoming manner, and made some European addition to their Oriental dresses of a rather incongruous nature, but, on the whole, the Siamese acquitted themselves with great good sense and good-breeding in the very trying ordeal—to them—of a state reception by her Majesty. Some of our own East Indian magnates might well have taken a lesson from the Siamese, who approached the Queen with

the same reverence they pay their own Sovereign, while the Indians venture into the presence of her Majesty with less ceremony than they would dare to use even at the Court of their most insignificant native prince. The appearance of the embassy was handsome, but not equal in splendour to what we are accustomed to see from India. None of the members wore arms.

The members of the Siamese Embassy very much resemble the Chinese in feature and complexion. In stature they are decidedly below the average English standard, but are to be distinguished at once from the members of the celestial empire, by their short full black hair, and the absence of the long *queue*—the distinguishing ornament of the Chinaman.

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Some of the presents brought by the ambassadors from the Kings of Siam are very handsome; but, lest our readers should be surprised by the description of their magnificence, we must remind them that, at the close of the year 1855, a number of costly presents of the most beautiful design and workmanship were sent by her Majesty the Queen to the King of Siam. This is alluded to in the address which the

Ambassadors read to her Majesty at Windsor, on Thursday, and the presents brought may be considered in some sort as a return and acknowledgment of the compliment paid by the Queen.

The Morning  
Post, Friday,  
27 November.

*From the Court Circular.*

Windsor, Thursday.

The three Siamese Ambassadors arrived yesterday afternoon on a visit to her Majesty—viz., Phya Muntri Suri Wangse, the first; Chau Mun Sarbedh Bhackty, the second; and the third, Cha Mun Monder Bidacks. Their Excellencies dined with her Majesty in the evening, attended by their chief interpreter (Mom Rajoday), Lieut. Clavering, R. N., and Mr. Fowle. The party also included their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and Prince Frederick William of Prussia; the Earl and Countess of Clarendon, Lady Augusta Bruce, Lady Anna Maria Dawson, Lady Caroline Barrington, Captain V. Schweinitz, Dr. Wegner, and Mr. Gibbs.

The band of the Scots Fusilier Guards played during the dinner in the Castle.

Her Majesty's private band performed the following compositions in the drawing-room :

Overture, " Le Serment" .....Auber  
 Andante and Rondo.....Mozart  
 Le Bouquet des Dames.....Strauss

\* \* \* \* \*

The Siamese Ambassadors and their attendants left the Castle in the forenoon [to-day] for London.

Annual  
 Register,  
 1857.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

This day [19 November 1857] Her Majesty the Queen held a Court for the reception of the Ambassadors . . . .

The peculiar mode enjoined by Siamese etiquette in approaching Majesty was adopted on this occasion by the Ambassadors. They approached the Royal Throne in a position between crouching and crawling, and pushed the presents before them as they advanced. The scene was one of more than usual interest.

The Hampshire  
 Telegraph,  
 Saturday,  
 5 December.

The Dublin Freeman has a very comic story about the Siamese Ambassadors at Court:—The Court newsman does not tell us all he might about the presentation to the Queen of the

Siamese Ambassadors, whose physical quality and political unity are calculated to prolong our associations of the celebrated twins from the same land. The Queen and her Court were assembled in state, and as soon as the door of the audience chamber opened, the Ambassadors and their suite, eight persons altogether, appeared. Having made profound salaams they threw themselves on their hands and knees and in a compact body went up the room on all-fours to the throne. The royal gravity (her Majesty is known to have as keen a sense of the ludicrous as most people) was sorely tried by this proceeding; but when the principal Ambassador, increasing his prostrations, laid his chin on the step of the throne, and in that attitude commenced to read his address, the trial became painful. The exit from the Queen's presence was accomplished by a retrograde movement on all-fours likewise, the Ambassadors keeping their faces always to her Majesty. There was a luncheon served in one of the state apartments, in the course of which their Siamese excellencies, to the intense horror of the assembled court, lit their pipes and began to blow a comfortable cloud. The Queen herself, however, very sensibly and good-naturedly laughed, and said nothing about it, notwithstanding

her aversion to the fragrance of the tobacco plant.

Court  
Journal,  
Saturday,  
12 December.

A paragraph has gone the round of the papers affecting to give some extra particulars of the reception of the Siamese Ambassadors by the Queen, at Windsor Castle; it concludes as follows: "There was a luncheon served in one of the state apartments, in the course of which their Siamese Excellencies, to the intense horror of the assembled Court, lit their pipes and began to blow a comfortable cloud. The Queen herself, however, very sensibly and good naturedly laughed, and said nothing about it, notwithstanding her aversion to the fragrance of the tobacco plant." We simply assert that her Majesty was not present at the luncheon, and that the Ambassadors did not smoke. The luncheon was served in the Waterloo Gallery. Earl Spencer presided for the Queen, as Lord Steward of the Household (the last official act of the noble Earl). On the left of Earl Spencer sat the Chief Ambassador, his colleagues, and suite, in the order of their rank; and on the right of the Lord Steward was the Earl of Clarendon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the officers of the Royal

Household. The repast did not occupy more than half an hour.

Bell's Weekly  
Messenger,  
Saturday,  
22 November.

### The Siamese Embassy.

Yesterday their Excellencies the Siamese Ambassadors and suite, including the principal state officers, the adopted son of the First King of Siam, the nephew of the Second, Captain Clavering, R. N., and Mr. Fowle, of the Foreign Office, visited the institution of Mr. Mayall, in Regent Street, for the purpose of having a series of pictures taken for their Majesties of Siam. The ambassadors were in the court dresses worn on the occasion of the presentation to her Majesty at Windsor Castle. The process of photography being new to their excellencies, they became much interested, and went through the operation with much apparent gusto. Although the weather was by no means favourable, Mr. Mayall succeeded in producing a fine series of pictures—both photographic and stereoscopic.

The Times,  
Monday,  
23 November.

### The Siamese Embassy.

The crown brought by the Siamese Embassy is a high conical cap of gold filigree, with bands of gold enamel running round it and ornamented

with a few jewels. In general appearance it is not unlike the triple crown of the Pope; and, as it is intended to be worn, it is made exceedingly light. The "umbrellas" are apt to suggest very undignified notions to our minds, as presents from one Sovereign to another; but they are different affairs to our umbrellas. Our readers must imagine a golden stick, and on it a flat shade, or umbrella, of gold tissue; above it, on the same stick and at some distance, a smaller shade, and then again a smaller, until they taper to a point; they are all of gold tissue, and are standards emblematical of Regal dignity, being as such planted before the throne at Siam. The star is more like a very small, but boldly projecting shield, studded with beautiful jewels. A conch shell of great beauty ornamented with precious stones is among the presents. The ring is a massive hoop, set with a variety of stones all of the same size; among them is a very fine cat's eye.—*Court Journal*.

The Illustrated  
Times,  
23 November.

### Presentation of the Ambassadors to the Queen.

It was on Thursday, Nov. 19, that the Siamese Ambassadors, accompanied by Captain



Clavering, R. N., and Mr. E. Fowle, went to Windsor by special train of the Great Western Railway. At the Windsor station her Majesty's carriages were in waiting to convey them to the Castle, where they were received by a guard of honour, drawn up in the quadrangle.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Ambassadors . . . were conducted to the presence of the Queen in the following order :—First came his Excellency Phya Mantri Suriywanse, the chief Ambassador from the Major King of Siam, who advanced towards her Majesty in a stooping position, bearing on a salver of gold the autograph letter from the two Kings. His suite followed him on their hands and knees, and as they approached the throne they made a series of the most reverent obeisances. Immediately in front of the throne was an ottoman, and on this the Chief Ambassador placed the salver, after which he performed a retrograde movement for a few yards, to commence a new series of obeisances, advancing after each one to the ottoman on which he had left the salver and letters. His Excellency, still in a stooping position, now proceeded to read in the Siamese language, with a distinct voice, the following address, which was after-

wards read in English by Mr. E. Fowle, secretary to the legation :

(see *ante*, p. 59)

The First Ambassador having then presented the autograph letters from the Kings of Siam, her Majesty was pleased to return the following answer:—

“I have great pleasure in receiving the ambassadors from the Kings of Siam; and I desire them to be assured that I view the embassy as a particular mark of the friendship of their Siamese Majesties, and of their desire to cultivate and maintain the most cordial relations with the Sovereign and people of Great Britain. That desire is most cordially reciprocated on my part; and I earnestly hope that the treaty which has been recently concluded between the two countries may tend to increase and strengthen the friendly and commercial intercourse between them to the advantage of both.

“I am happy to learn that the conduct of my officers, whom I charged with the duty of conveying and attending upon the Ambassadors during their voyage to England, has been such as to contribute to their comfort and to afford them satisfaction.”

A copy of the above having been handed to his Excellency by Lord Clarendon, the audience terminated, and the members of the

Embassy now returned to St. George's Hall, from whence they were conducted to the Waterloo Gallery, where luncheon was served, and at which they were joined by several of the noblemen and gentlemen of her Majesty's household, who had been present at the reception. His Excellency the Chief Ambassador wore an enormous broad-brimmed hat, elaborately ornamented with gold; and the other members of the Embassy wore conical-shaped skull caps, seamed with gold, and ornamented with a chased gold spike at the top. Those of the highest dignity had the addition of a sort of curtain to their caps of dark purple velvet. The dress of the Chief ambassador was very magnificent, being of gold tissue woven on a fabric of gold net. Round his waist he wore a belt thickly set with diamonds of great value. As may be supposed, this reception was a most interesting sight to the select few who were privileged to be present. The Siamese, in following out a national and peculiar mode of approaching a Royal personage, acquitted themselves with the most perfect propriety.

#### **The Siamese Ambassadors and Suite.**

His Excellency Phya Montri Suriywanse, a noble of high rank, brother to the present Prime Minister, and first Ambassador from the Major

King of Siam, is about thirty-seven years of age, and is nearly related to both the Kings of Siam, being the son of the late Queen's brother, a person of high attainments, and one of the three noblemen appointed by their Majesties the Kings of Siam, to draw up, in conjunction with Sir John Bowring, the treaty which now exists between the two countries. His Excellency takes much interest in agriculture, has a taste for architecture, and seems very earnest in his desire to glean such information as may be useful to him on his return to Siam. This being the case, it is not surprising that machinery of all kinds should be with him an object of interest. We are informed that he is now collecting the works of the best English authors on various branches of science, that he may be able to promote the instruction of the rising generation of Siam through the medium of the missionaries, who have establishments at Siam as well as at Singapore. He is also making large purchases of various manufactures, not for the purposes of trade, but for the King, who is anxious to familiarise his people with the various productions of Great Britain, and to encourage and improve their manufacturing abilities, by displaying to them the results of European civilisation. His Excellency has long been a Court favourite, not

only with the Kings of Siam, but with the nobles and royal officers of whom he is the chief. He likewise holds the appointment of Lord High Steward to the King, and is governor of the royal palaces and domains. From our portrait it will be noticed that the Chief Ambassador is inclined to be corpulent. In height he is slightly below the English standard; his countenance shows the high-bred Siamese, who is chiefly remarkable for his non-resemblance to the Chinese type. His manners are those of a gentleman, if judged even by the European standard. He is strongly inclined to mirth and exhibits much general good nature, with an appreciation of any kindnesses that may be shown either to himself or members of his suite. He has with him a younger brother, a good-looking youth, and a son, aged thirteen years, both of whom he intends to leave behind him in England, for the purpose of having them educated. To Professor Wilson, of the East India House, he brings from the First King of Siam, who is a corresponding member of the Asiatic Society, some interesting papers and elaborate paintings relating to the Buddhist religion.

His Excellency Chau Mun Sarbbedh Bhacty, the King's Minister for Private Affairs and Second Ambassador from the Major-King

of Siam, is the son of Khoon Chintabichitr, a man of great learning, and treasurer of the sacred Buddhistical books belonging to the royal family. His Excellency was at an early age adopted by the King, who superintended his education, and bestowed on him the same affection that he showed for his own children. He is a man of great intelligence, and from his conversation it may be gathered that he possesses a fair knowledge of some of our best scientific works; he is collecting for the King such books as the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, also Latin, Sanscrit, Bali. and Persian Lexicons—works on navigation, naval and military tactics, gunnery, engineering, and astronomy. He is also purchasing for the King large quantities of furniture, plate, and jewellery; and has commissioned Mr. Hancock, the court jeweller, to make a sword which is to cost between £800 and £1,000. The design was furnished by his Excellency, who is a clever ornamental draughtsman. He is of unassuming manners, and precise and simple in his style of dress. He wears little jewellery, and from morning till evening passes most of his time in dictating to his secretary, or in receiving the different tradesmen with whom he has business to transact. In stature he is above the English standard, with a good figure of a somewhat muscular build.

His Excellency, Cha Mun Mundir Bidacks, is the son of an old faithful nurse of the Second King of Siam, from whom he comes as Third Ambassador. Since he has been in England he has suffered much from the effects of our climate, and has been unable to get abroad to the same extent as the other members of the Embassy. He is of retiring manners, and seems pleased at the slightest attention shown to him. He is second in command of the Royal guards attached to the person of the Second King, and has a soldierly bearing about him which well befits his manly and well proportioned figure.

The Honourable Cha Mun Rajmde (*sic*) and the Honourable Nai Bichar Sarbkitch are Siamese noblemen, who came in charge of the presents sent by the Kings of Siam to her Majesty. The first is a step-brother of the Chief Ambassador, and holds the second command of the body guard of the first King of Siam; the other is one of the private ministers at the Court of Siam. They are both intelligent young men, pleasing in their manners, and of amiable dispositions.

The Honourable Mom Rajoday, educated by his Majesty the First King of Siam, is the Grand Interpreter to the Court of Siam, and accompanies the Embassy to England in that

capacity. He is related by marriage to both the Kings ; he speaks English exceedingly well, and takes great pains to convey to their Excellencies and the members of the Embassy a fair translation of all that is addressed to them. He is somewhat aged, and far from active. His manners are obliging, and there is nothing he seems to enjoy more than a tête-à-tête with an English gentleman. He is tolerably well read, and is forming a library of English works to carry back with him; and for his Majesty the First King he is purchasing the most recently invented astronomical instruments, and talks of the instruments of our most celebrated makers with a knowledge of the subject which is somewhat surprising.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

The Standard,  
Saturday,  
28 November.

We have with us at this moment some of the most interesting and remarkable visitors that have ever arrived on the shores of Britain. We allude to the ambassadors from Siam; and as the stay of these illustrious persons will not, in all probability, extend beyond five or six weeks from this time, it would be very desirable that some public recognition of their visit to England should take place at the earliest con-



venient period. The importance of preserving the highly satisfactory relationship now existing between the Siamese and the British people cannot well be exaggerated, more particularly in the present state of our Indian and Chinese affairs. A strong incentive to keep alive friendly feelings with these interesting people will be to let them understand that their envoys have been treated with every mark of honour and respect by all classes since their arrival in this country. The reception given by Her Majesty and her Royal Consort, and likewise by his Royal Highness the Prince of Prussia, and the other illustrious personages to whom their excellencies have been introduced, cannot but be most gratifying to themselves, and most satisfactory to their countrymen at home. Her Majesty was pleased to express herself very much pleased with her Oriental guests, and on the occasion of the visit to Windsor on Wednesday evening his Royal Highness the Prince Consort and the Prince of Prussia held a very long conversation with their excellencies through the medium of their interpreters. The astonishing proficiency they exhibit in all branches of scientific knowledge is almost past belief. The arts and manufactures of Europe, fortification, shipbuilding, astronomy, chemistry, all subjects, in fact, that are treated of

in the "Encyclopædia Britannica," they seem to be thoroughly and practically acquainted with. The "Encyclopædia" they state to have been the foundation of their learning, and what they have since acquired they have gained from English and American missionaries, and from various popular and standard works to which they have had their attention directed. The acquaintance they show with the great European writers on science and history, particularly the English, is truly surprising, and is as flattering to ourselves as it is useful to themselves and to their country. The ambassadors themselves are fine, intelligent men, and thoroughly gentlemen. The principal personages number about seven, and the whole party, including the interpreters and attendants, amounts to about 28. They live precisely after English fashion, and drink the wines and eat the same food as ourselves, although they never saw an English table before their arrival in this country. They are occupying their time now in making an extensive collection of scientific books and instruments which they will take with them on their return. His Royal Highness the Prince of Prussia expressed a strong desire to see their excellencies at Berlin, but they were not able to accept the invitation. Altogether the visit of these distinguished personages is an event that should be marked in some distinct manner. The mode

in which it should be done will easily suggest itself to those to whom the task of doing the honours most properly belongs.

The Court  
Journal  
Saturday,  
28 November.

At the dinner-party given by her Majesty, at Windsor Castle, to the Siamese Ambassadors, Phya Muntri Suri Wangze, the first Ambassador, being of royal blood, occupied the seat of honour close to the Queen at the table. His Excellency is no mean proficient in English, and there are many continentals, professing to talk English, who do not understand the language as well as this representative of the far distant kingdom of Siam. The Queen entered into conversation with the Ambassador, and though the interpreter appointed by the Foreign Office was at hand to explain any difficulty that might arise, there was little necessity for his services, and, on the whole, the Ambassador acquitted himself remarkably well. Of course with all Europeans with whom the Siamese have come into contact, the rank and functions of the *two* Kings of Siam have been a fruitful subject of enquiry and discussion. The explanations given by the Ambassadors have, however, failed to make the matter much clearer to English comprehensions.

The Siamese Ambassadors have received several small parties to breakfast at their Hotel, and every one who is connected with them in an official way, or has had transactions with the kingdom of Siam, has been invited. At these repasts the Siamese do the honours with much *bonhomie*. There is an idea that they are forbidden the use of wine; this may be the case, but they still take care to provide it most hospitably for their guests. The relatives of Sir John Bowring have been treated with marked distinction by these interesting strangers.

The Illustrated  
Times,  
23 November.

### The Siamese Presents to the Queen.

On the occasion of the reception of the Ambassadors at Windsor Castle the presents from the two Kings of Siam were displayed on either side of the apartment in which the audience took place. They consisted of an Eastern crown of gold and enamel, enriched with countless diamonds, rubies, and other precious stones; a golden collar or necklace, also thickly studded with gems; a large star composed of diamonds; a massive ring set with diamonds and almost every variety of precious stones; a golden belt, enriched with rubies; a chair of state or throne, elaborately carved and

gilded in burnished gold; a state palanquin; state saddle and bridle, delicately embroidered with gold thread, and ornamented with jewels. There were also banners richly emblazoned, and a number of state umbrellas made of cloth of gold. Among the most curious things in the collection is a valuable snow-white shell, ornamented with richly-chased gold and jewels, a cup and saucer of agate, and a teapot made of a clay similar to terra-cotta, which is mounted with gold ornaments of the greatest delicacy. Gold and silver salvers, ivory musical instruments, goblets of pure gold, studded with jewels, and ornamented in enamel; boxes of gold, elaborately chased and inlaid with antimony ore, are included amongst these gifts; also a metal drum cast in one piece, and having a beautiful tone. One of these instruments is to be found in every village, and is beaten on public occasions and also to summon the people to arms. There are also among the collection a Siamese dressing-case, with fittings of gold, inlaid with emeralds; swords, daggers, and spears innumerable; and certain interesting pictures, representing the coronation of his present Majesty and a court reception, are not the least striking. The value of the presents has been estimated by a court jeweller at from £15,000 to £20,000.

The crown is a high conical cap, not unlike the triple crown of the Pope; and as it is intended for actual wear, it is made exceedingly light. The "umbrellas" are apt to suggest very undignified notions to our minds, as presents from one sovereign to another, but they are very different affairs from our umbrellas. The reader must imagine a golden stick, and on it a flat shade, or umbrella, of gold tissue; above it, on the same stick, and at some distance, a smaller shade; and then again a smaller, until they taper to a point. They are all of gold tissue, and are standards emblematical of regal dignity, being as such planted before the throne at Siam. The star is more like a very small but boldly-projecting shield, studded with beautiful jewels.

The manufacture of the precious metals by the Siamese into a variety of vessels—particularly vases, urns, tea and coffee pots and urns, boxes and other articles, in which gold is embossed on silver in a style somewhat resembling that for which the Russians are celebrated—has obtained for the Bangkok goldsmiths an Oriental celebrity. Their number must be great, "as the King informed me," says Sir J. Bowring, "that he had employed no less than six hundred for several months in making the tomb of his brother, the late King. The gold vessels of Siam are almost all of an orange colour, which,

I was informed, was produced by exposing them in a certain stage of manufacture, to the action of sulphur. Mother-of-pearl is much used for inlaying woods. The glass manufactures are numerous, particularly for the production of variegated vitreous substances, mingled with metallic oxides, with which the temples are covered, and which glitter gaily in the bright sun. Gold-beaters are also abundant, and there is an enormous demand for their work, particularly for gilding statues of Buddha, for ornamenting temples, pictures, and other decorations. Copper and iron founders are also ingenious workmen; and Pallegoix says that by a supply of metal from a multitude of crucibles not containing more than 100 pounds each, a colossal statue fifty feet in height has been produced in the capital.

“Some of the most costly of the garments worn by the people of high rank were, as we learnt, manufactured in their houses; and they prided themselves on being able to produce textures more valuable than any they imported from foreign countries. The laws forbid the use of certain garments to any but persons of elevated condition. As to the ordinary dresses of the people, they are almost wholly made from cotton stuffs of foreign origin.

“The arts of drawing and painting are

mostly formed on Chinese models, but in a ruder shape. Most of the sculptured images are imported from China, and have all the monstrous forms which are popular among the Chinese. But the Siamese paint, decorate, and gild their temples far more ostentatiously than the Chinese."

We may here add the following native account of the mode of manufacturing a peculiar species of cloth, the use of which is confined to the nobility, who boast it has never been successfully imitated out of Siam:—"This description of cloth, called *Pha Poom*, is used by gentlemen of distinction and rank in Siam and Cambodia, as sarongs or dresses, and is also worn by the nobles and followers of his Majesty and his ambassadors. This description of cloth has been manufactured to perfection in Siam and Cambodia from ancient times. In the manufacturing of this cloth, white silk yarn is used, and dyed in the following manner:—The silk yarn is taken in the quantity of about a handful; and the parts that it is desired should remain undyed are tied round with the leaves called *ka pho*, and then put into the dyeing matter, the parts exposed only taking the dye. The leaves are then removed, and tied round the parts that have been dyed, and other parts that it is desired should



remain white or undyed, and is again put into the dyeing matter of a different colour, the parts exposed only taking the dye. This process of removing and tying of the leaves is repeated; the silk yarn is all dyed of the requisite colours, and then it is woven into cloth, having flowers on both sides nearly alike. This description of cloth is only manufactured in Siam and Cambodia, but when it was first invented is unknown."

We have now only to identify the different objects represented in the engraving. No. 1 is the terra-cotta tea-pot and agate cup and saucer previously referred to; they stand in a gold tray. 2. A massive silver salver; beneath it is a comb, which, with the exception of the teeth, is of solid gold inlaid with jewels. 3. A conch-shell and stand; the scissors at the back are a beautiful specimen of Siamese workmanship. The group numbered 4 consists of the crown, girdle, and some Siamese spears. 5 is the golden throne. 6 are Siamese swords and dagger. 7. A gold vase enriched with jewels. 8. A water-bottle and stand of gold, also enriched with jewels. 9. A metal drum. 10. A gold cup. 11. An ivory flageolet.

The Illustrated  
London News,  
28 November.

### Royal Presents from Siam.

The presentation of the magnificent gifts brought by the Ambassadors from the Kings of Siam for Queen Victoria, took place at Windsor Castle, on Thursday week.

[Here follows an account of the Royal reception as given in the *Times* of 20th November 1858. The following additional paragraph refers to the presents:—

Of these splendid articles we have engraved a group upon the next page, the following:—

A Royal Crown of gold, enamel, diamonds, and rubies; a magnificent jewelled Star, and a golden Girdle, studded with nine bosses of jewels, which, from its size is of extraordinary weight; an enormous gold Ring, set with diamonds, rubies, carbuncles, cats eyes, &c., of great beauty, and which appears, from its large size, to be worn on the thumb; a gold and enamel Basin for washing, and a Tea cup and saucer of similar material; a beautiful miniature Tea Equipage, having a Tray of gold elaborately embossed; opal Basins; and a bronze Kettle ornamented with gold, with an ivory handle; an embroidered Banner, of red, black, and gold; a State Staff, with a boss of white goats hair; and two species of Arms, with deadly looking blades: these are all very beautifully ornamented; and in point of design may vie with many of the choice productions of Europe. In the background is

one of the gigantic Umbrellas held over Royalty, of which the collection contains several.

The Illustrated  
London News,  
5 December.

### Royal Presents from Siam.

In the Illustrated London News of last week we engraved a group of superb articles recently brought to this country by the Siamese Ambassadors, and presented from the two Kings of Siam to her Majesty Queen Victoria. We likewise then described generally the ceremony of the presentation of the Royal gifts at Windsor Castle, and we now complete our illustration of this interesting event by engraving whole length Portraits of the three Ambassadors, from photographs by Mayall, and a View of the State Ceremony in the Throne room.

The three Ambassadors were not attired in that gorgeous costume to which Orientals have accustomed us; and their lower limbs (which at home go unscathed) were here encased in a European fashion, which contrasted laughably with their upper and more flowing garb. The chief Ambassador wore a hat with the broadest of brims, relieved by gold embroidery. The two other Ambassadors wore helmet-shaped caps.



IV

FIRST STAY IN LONDON

(*CONTINUED*)

(20 NOVEMBER—7 DECEMBER 1857).

สถาบันวิทยบริการ  
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

The Standard,  
Monday,  
30 November.

On Friday these intelligent strangers paid a visit to the cutlery works of Messrs. Mappin and Brothers, in Sheffield, and remained for two hours inspecting the various beautiful articles of manufacture produced by that establishment.

Bell's Weekly  
Messenger,  
Saturday,  
12 December.

### **The Siamese Ambassadors at Messrs. Mappin's.**

A few days since a crowd surrounded the establishment of Mappin Brothers, in King William Street, City, and these interesting Orientals were seen to descend from their carriages and enter show-rooms at No. 67, glittering with silver and plated ware. What a spoil for barbarian arms! What riches to be divided among barbarian invaders! If the Siamese are destined to play the part of the Goths and the Huns towards this country, and to precede that celebrated New Zealander whom Lord Macaulay sees in imagination sitting upon the broken arches of London Bridge, mourning over the departed greatness of the mother country, the Siamese invasion must surely have been accelerated by the display of rich goods and cunning workmanship spread before the eyes of the three ambassadors. More than two hours they devoted to an examination of the ware, smoking furiously during the whole time, and expressing

their excited feelings through their interpreter, an intelligent native of their own country. The Siamese are themselves no mean workers in the precious metals. The Bangkok goldsmiths are celebrated throughout the East, particularly for their efficiency in embossing gold and silver. Their home manufacture of vases, urns, tea and coffee pots, and betel boxes would enable them to look with a critical eye on the Sheffield productions of Messrs. Mappin; but the Ambassadors would probably own that European machinery, the application of science to art, and that extraordinary sub-division of labour seen at the Queen's Cutlery Works, Sheffield, and elsewhere, enable the English manufacturers to obtain the palm as well for quality as for quantity of production.

The Globe.  
Thursday.  
3 December.

### King of Siam.

England has truly become the workshop of the world. Monarchs set the example, and their subjects follow the fashion. A week scarcely passes that we have not some evidence of this flattering preference of the British manufacturer over all others. The course selected is generally to transfer a sum of money almost fabulous, to be employed by an agent, banker or merchant amongst the leading men in their

respective trades. In this way the King of Siam will become possessed of one of the most luxurious "easy chairs" it is possible to imagine; one, which, like a moving throne, can be propelled almost at will wherever the great Eastern monarch may desire. It is now for a while being exhibited, with its crimson embossed Utrecht velvet, its wheels with silver peripheries, its walnut carving, in the window of Mr. Ward, on the north side of Leicester Square.

The Globe,  
Monday,  
7 December.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

It is very evident that foreign potentates come to this country prepared to lavish large sums of money upon the manufactures of Great Britain, and are likewise influenced by considerable judgment and discretion as to the houses to be selected for such purposes. We have another instance of this in the almost fabulous order given to Mr. Benson, of Ludgate Hill, the great jeweller. This establishment, indeed, has been the diurnal rendezvous of late of these illustrious visitors.



V

VISIT OF THE EMBASSY TO BIRMINGHAM,  
MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL AND  
SHEFFIELD (8-31 DECEMBER 1857).

สถาบันวิทยบริการ  
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย



The Birmingham  
Daily Post,  
Wednesday,  
9 December.

### Visit of the Siamese Embassy to Birmingham.

We briefly announced in yesterday's *Post* the intention of the Ambassadors from the two Kings of Siam, who were lately presented to the Queen, to pay a visit to Birmingham, for the purpose of inspecting the various manufacturing processes which have doubtless made our town tolerably well known in the important country which their Highnesses represent. They were expected to arrive during the forenoon of yesterday, but owing to some delay in London, they did not reach Birmingham till about ten minutes to five. They travelled by the London and North Western line, and occupied a carriage attached to one of the ordinary trains. The Mayor, John Ratcliff, Esq., was in waiting, accompanied by Alderman Palmer, for the purpose of welcoming them to the town; and on the three Ambassadors stepping from the carriage, Captain Clavering, one of the gentlemen in charge of them while in England, went through the ceremony of introduction. This done, Mr. Ratcliff offered the chief Ambassador his arm. Alderman Palmer and some one else did the same to the second and third, and followed *en queue* by their Highness's attendants, the Mayor led the way to the Queen's Hotel, which of course was soon reached. Here an extensive suite of apartments had been

engaged for them, and Mr. Ratcliff and Mr. Palmer passed two or three hours in their company. Though an interpreter was present, the Mayor found no difficulty in conversing with the Chief Ambassador or Prince Regent, as he understands English tolerably well.

Phya Mantri Suriyawase, the Chief Ambassador, is a member of the royal family of Siam, and represents, along with Chau-Mun Sarbbedh Bhaety, the First or Major King. The Second King is represented by Cha-Mun Mondir Bidacks. In the suite of their Excellencies were Cha-Mun Rajamate and Nai Bichar Sarabakick, officers in charge of presents; Mom Rajoday, Royal Interpreter; Captain Aelune and Captain Duk. The three Ambassadors were attired in rich loose robes, not nearly so gorgeous in appearance however, as those worn by the last Oriental visitors the Mayor had, the Princes of Oude. Their heads were covered by helmet-shaped caps, not unlike a reduced copy of the spiked helmets which came home from the Crimea in such numbers a couple of years back. As far as the dusky twilight allowed us to observe, they had in their faces much of the Chinese physiognomy, and like the Siamese generally, were of short stature. Their skin is lighter in colour than that of Asiatics generally.

We are not aware that any such embassy has before visited England. In a commercial point of view, the Kingdom of Siam is considered the most important of the three empires which divide among them the countries between the Gulf of Bengal and China: and it has an area of nearly 200,000 square miles. The Ambassadors may be said to be connected with a firm who are our rivals on a small scale. The Kings are manufacturing goldsmiths. In their palaces they keep a staff of workmen engaged in the fabrication of gold and silver vases, which are presented to chiefs and others as insignia of office. The embassy may possibly carry back an electro-gilding apparatus with them.

To-day, at eleven o'clock, they will commence their visits to the manufactories, and as they remain in Birmingham three or four days, the Mayor will of course have the opportunity of showing all that is worth seeing.

The Birmingham  
Daily Post,  
Thursday,  
10 December.

Last night the Siamese Ambassadors, with their retinue, paid a visit to the Gallery of Illustration, and evinced their delight at the performance of Pell's Opera Troupe by frequent plaudits. There was a very full house.

The Birmingham  
Daily Post  
Friday,  
11 December.

### The Siamese Visitors.

From what our worthy Mayor says, the Siamese Ambassadors are thoroughly enjoying themselves, and appreciate heartily the mechanical genius of our manufacturing people. On Wednesday, after leaving the Messrs. Winfield's, the Ambassadors were conducted to Messrs. Heaton and Sons' mint, in Bath Street, and here they spent a considerable time examining minutely and with much interest, the various processes used in copper coinage. Messrs. Heaton and Company, wire drawers, Shadwell Street, were then visited, after which the distinguished strangers were introduced to the papier maché establishment of Messrs. Jennens and Bettridge, where they were particularly struck by the elegant specimens of workmanship exhibited to them. This was the last manufactory visited on Wednesday, and in the evening the Ambassadors dined at the Queen's Hotel, with the Mayor and Mr. J. F. Winfield, intimating, in the course of the evening, their enjoyment of the day's proceedings. Yesterday the Ambassadors visited the engineering establishment of Mr. Taylor, in Broad Street, the sword manufactory of Mr. Reeves, and, lastly, Messrs. Elkington and Mason's. Mr. Taylor received an order from their Highnesses for a mint, which proved

especially interesting to the embassy, and provoked a good deal of intelligent enquiry. We understand that the firms abovenamed are to be favoured with numerous orders, and no doubt the Embassy will carry back with them into Siam specimens of the Hardware Village produce that will not a little astonish the natives of that part of the world; at all events, they will long bear in mind the surprising sights they have witnessed in the metal metropolis.

The Birmingham  
Daily Post,  
Monday,  
14 December.

### The Siamese Embassy.

Their Excellencies the representatives of the two Kings of Siam took their departure for Manchester yesterday morning. During their stay, the Mayor, Mr. Ratcliff, showed them every mark of attention. On Saturday their visits to the manufactories were continued and that of Mr. G. R. Collis was included. Here they stopped a couple of hours, Mr. Collis showing them everything that was worthy of notice. They were especially pleased with the process of striking medals, some specimens from the best dies of the extensive collection formed in Church Street Works, being presented to them, including two sets of Dacier's "Kings of England" series, bound in Morocco.

By way of acknowledgment, the Ambassadors gave Mr. Collis a collection of Siamese coins.

The Birmingham  
Daily Post,  
Tuesday,  
15 December.

Our late visitors, the Siamese Ambassadors, were again at Pell's Opera Troupe entertainment on Saturday evening, and enjoyed themselves with immense gusto.

We stated yesterday the Siamese Ambassadors had taken their departure from Birmingham, to pay a visit to Manchester and the manufacturing towns of the north. We understand that their Excellencies before their departure paid a visit to the Mayor at his residence on Sunday morning, and expressed their high sense of his politeness and attention, and the deep interest they had taken in the wonderful machinery and processes of manufacture submitted for their inspection. After partaking of a slight refreshment with the Mayor and Alderman Palmer, they left town for Manchester, where they arrived the same evening.

The Manchester  
Examiner and  
Times, Monday,  
14 December.

#### Distinguished Visitors to Manchester.

The Siamese ambassadors, whose recent appearance in London attracted so much attention, arrived in Manchester, from Birmingham,

by the afternoon train yesterday. They are attended by a numerous suite, and, for the present, are staying at the Queen's Hotel.

The Manchester  
Examiner and  
Times, Tuesday,  
15 December.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

On Sunday afternoon . . . these distinguished foreigners arrived at the Queen's Hotel, where apartments had been previously engaged for themselves and suite, who together number fifteen. One of their excellencies is, we understand, detained in London by sickness, so that only two of them are in Manchester. Yesterday morning, accompanied by his worship the Mayor (I. Mackie, Esq.) they left the Queen's Hotel in four cabs, and drove to the works of Sir Elkanah Armitage and Sons, at Pendleton, where they minutely inspected every department and the spinning and manufacturing processes. They spent there about two hours and a quarter, and expressed themselves highly pleased with what they had seen. They next drove to the Town Hall, where they remained about half an hour. They were then taken to Messrs. Watts's new warehouse, in Portland-street, and from thence to the works of Mr. Joseph Whitworth, in Chorlton-street, over which they were slowly conducted. They

remained here until dusk, and were evidently greatly interested. Several times they desired to know the cost of various articles, and the miniature rifle manufactured by Mr. Whitworth they examined very carefully. On leaving here, they returned to the hotel, where his worship the mayor had the honour of dining with their excellencies in the evening. They will visit several other manufactories to-day.

The Manchester  
Examiner and  
Times,  
Wednesday,  
16 December.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

Yesterday morning, their excellencies, accompanied by his worship the Mayor, visited the works of Messrs. Sharp and Stewart, who were ready to receive them. After having spent about three hours in inspecting the machinery, &c., their excellencies partook of refreshments with Messrs. Sharp and Stewart in their private office. Their excellencies particularly requested to be furnished with the prices of various kinds of machinery. They next visited the works of Messrs. Fairbairn and Sons in Mill-Street, over which they were conducted by Mr. Peter Fairbairn. Here also they expressed themselves very much pleased with what they saw. Their excellencies then returned to their hotel. The mayor was again invited to



dine with them, but owing to a previous engagement his worship was unable to do himself the honour. If their excellencies remain in Manchester till Saturday, which is very probable, we understand they have accepted an invitation to dine with the mayor, at his private residence. To-day, in consequence of there being a council meeting, his worship will be unable to accompany their excellencies to the various manufactories, &c., which they propose to visit, but we believe they will be accompanied by one or two of the aldermen.

The Standard,  
Wednesday,  
16 December.

#### The Siamese Ambassadors in Manchester.

The ambassadors of the first and second Kings of Siam...arrived in Manchester on Sunday evening...They were attended by Mom Rajoday, chief interpreter; Mr. Chune, assistant interpreter; Mr. E. Fowle, Secretary; and a numerous suite. They brought letters of introduction from Lord Clarendon, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to the Mayor (Ive Mackay, Esq.,) who waited upon them yesterday morning, and accompanied them in their visit to various manufactories. The ambassadors left the hotel shortly before eleven o'clock, and proceeded to the works of Sir Elkanah Armitage

and Sons, at Pendleton, where they spent upwards of two hours. They minutely inspected every process through which the cotton passes until it appears in the shape of the manufactured article, and in every department they manifested great interest. . . . The distinguished party visited . . . the works of Messrs. Joseph Whitworth and Co. Here they spent nearly three hours. They examined, with marked attention, the whole of the machinery in course of manufacture, and frequently asked questions as to the price of the articles shown them. In this respect they evinced considerable acuteness, making comparisons between the prices of various descriptions of machinery produced in Manchester and elsewhere.

(*Manchester Guardian.*)

The Manchester  
Examiner and  
Times, Thursday,  
17 December.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

Yesterday, the first ambassador only visited our manufactories ; the second remained in his room at the Queen's throughout the day. The former was accompanied by Mr. Alderman Bowker, first to the railway carriage works of Mr. Ashbury, at Openshaw, and then to the screw-bolt works of Mr. John Glasgow, in Trafford Street, Gaythorn. At each of these places his excellency remained a long time—

more especially at the works of Mr. Ashbury, where he spent upwards of three hours in examining the many interesting things which are there to be seen. In the afternoon, a visit was paid to the jewellery establishment of Mr. Furniss, St. Ann's Street. An immense crowd collected in that street, and the adjoining corner of the square, and continued until the strangers were driven off to the Queen's Hotel.

The Manchester  
Examiner and  
Times, Friday,  
18 December.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

Yesterday morning their excellencies, accompanied by his worship the Mayor, visited the print works of Messrs. Hoyle and Sons, in Mayfield. After having spent a very considerable time in inspecting this establishment, they drove to the silk embroidery works of Mr. James Houldsworth, at Blackley, where they made several purchases. They returned to the Queen's Hotel about four o'clock, where the mayor had again the honour of dining with them. Last night, at nine o'clock, their excellencies and suite visited the Mechanics' Institution Exhibition, and before leaving they expressed themselves highly delighted with the dissolving views and the luminous chromatic fountain. They recognised the view of the Pyramids

even before it was fully developed to their sight, and they spoke of it in terms of high commendation. Leaving the exhibition their excellencies proceeded to the Town Hall, accompanied by the mayor, their chief interpreter, and the secretary, where one of Mr. Charles Hallé's classical chamber concerts was being held. Their excellencies remained until the concert was concluded, being evidently much pleased with the violin performance of M. Sinton. Earlier in the evening, we understand, the ambassadors and suite visited the establishment of Messrs. Kendal, Milne, and Faulkner, Deansgate, and made purchases to the extent of nearly £600. This morning the embassy will leave Manchester for Liverpool.

The Standard,  
Tuesday,  
22 December.

### The Siamese Ambassadors at Manchester.

The ambassador of the second king of Siam recovered from his indisposition on Saturday. Visits were made on that day to several shops in Piccadilly, where the ambassadors made purchases to a considerable amount. Their excellencies have also given a large order to Messrs. Sharp, Stewart and Co., for tools of various kinds.

The Court  
Journal,  
Saturday,  
19 December.

The Siamese Ambassadors have left for Liverpool. They have purchased largely at Birmingham, and expressed themselves delighted with the wonders of the manufacturing town. At the Mechanics' Institution they were received with three hearty English cheers, which seemed to astonish them not a little. In the evening their Excellencies purchased £700 worth of goods at the bazaar of Messrs. Kendal, Milne, and Faulkner. The Major was presented with a snuff-box of silver gilt, chased, of Siamese manufacture; it will hold half a pound of snuff, and it is unnecessary to add that it is not intended for the pocket of a modern English waistcoat.

The Manchester  
Examiner and  
Times, Monday,  
21 December.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

We understand their excellencies the Siamese ambassadors and their suite left this city for Liverpool by the 8.45 a.m. train yesterday. They contemplate returning to Manchester in the course of a few days. On Saturday, their excellencies paid a second visit to the shop of Messrs. Kendal, Milne and Faulkner, where they again made extensive purchases.

The Liverpool  
Mercury,  
Monday,  
21 December.

### The Siamese Ambassadors in Liverpool.

Yesterday morning, the Siamese ambassadors, who arrived in this country a short time ago, and had an interview with her Majesty, paid a visit to Liverpool. The names of their excellencies are Phya Montri Suriwongse, the chief ambassador, and Chau Mun Sarbedth Bhacty, second ambassador. They arrived in Liverpool yesterday forenoon, about eleven o'clock, from Manchester, where they have been making a short stay. Their excellencies were attended by Mr. Edward Fowle, secretary of legation appointed by her Majesty's Government. A number of Siamese constituting the suite, accompanied their excellencies. His worship the Mayor, James Holme, Esq., having been apprised of the intended visit of the distinguished guests, met them at the railway station, Lime-street, and conducted them to the Adelphi Hotel, where they will occupy apartments during their temporary stay in Liverpool. Shortly afterwards, their excellencies, accompanied by the Mayor, proceeded to George's Pier, and embarked on board the Woodside steamer Prince, which his worship the Mayor had specially engaged for the occasion. On reaching Birkenhead, his worship left the distinguished guests, and returned to Liverpool.

Their excellencies, attended by Mr. Fowle, proceeded thence to Leasowe Castle, at the express invitation of Major-General Sir Edward Cust, Bart. Having partaken of lunch, they were shown over the castle, and inspected the different objects of interest, with which it is well known the mansion abounds. Subsequently Sir Edward Cust placed his carriage at the disposal of his guests, and accompanied them to the new dock works at Birkenhead, in which they appeared to take great interest. After completing the inspection of the dock works, the ambassadors returned to Liverpool, and proceeded direct to the Adelphi Hotel. We understand that to-day their excellencies will, in company of the Mayor, pay a visit to the extensive works of Mr. John Laird, at Birkenhead. Their excellencies were highly pleased with the kind attentions shown them by the Mayor, and other gentlemen since their arrival, and have acknowledged it in very complimentary terms.

จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

The Liverpool  
Mercury,  
Wednesday,  
23 December.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

These distinguished personages, as we have already stated, arrived in Liverpool on Sunday last, from Manchester. On Monday, they left the Adelphi Hotel early in the day, and pro-

ceeded to view the north dock works. They were accompanied by Mr. Charles Turner, Mr. T. Bold, and Mr. E. Heath. The party travelled in four carriages; two of the carriages belonged to the Mayor, and the other two were supplied by Mr. Bell, of the Adelphi coaching establishment. Having made an inspection of the dock works, the party returned, threading their way through the numerous docks intervening between that and the south end of the Prince's Dock. Here they went on to the new landing-stage, and having surveyed that, they proceeded across to Woodside, and visited the extensive and important works of Mr. John Laird, who was present, and, with his usual courtesy, accompanied the party through his establishment, and explained the various interesting operations in progress. The ambassadors, in company of the Mayor, attended the Royal Amphitheatre in the evening.

Yesterday morning, their Excellencies and suite left the Adelphi Hotel, in three carriages, supplied from Mr. Bell's coaching establishment. They were accompanied by the Mayor, in his state carriage. The party proceeded in the first instance to St. George's Hall, and were shown through the building. During their stay, Mr. Best performed several pieces on the organ. They next paid a visit to the shop of Mr.



Hausburg, Church-street, where they remained a short time, and on leaving made several purchases. Afterwards they passed on the Town Hall, but did not alight, and then went direct to Messrs. Horsfall and Co.'s foundry. Mr. Clay, the manager, received them, and conducted them through the establishment. Their Excellencies appeared to take great interest in inspecting the machinery and the ingenious mode adopted for making and cutting iron. A visit was then paid to Mr. Nicholson's sawmills. Here, through the kindness of the proprietor, they were shown the mills and other machinery in full operation. Leaving the sawmills the party proceeded to the extensive establishment of Messrs. Fawcett and Preston, York-street, where they stayed upwards of an hour. While they remained a large quantity of metal was cast, an operation which the distinguished visitors watched with great interest. A number of ladies and gentlemen were present by special invitation. After completing their inspection of Messrs. Fawcett's establishment, the party returned to the Adelphi Hotel, and in the evening they attended Hengler's Cirque Variété, Dale-street. This evening they are to dine with his Worship the Mayor, at the Town Hall.

The Standard,  
23 December.

### Visit of the Siamese Ambassadors to Liverpool.

. . . . When sailing across the river their attention was particularly arrested by the noble appearance presented by the range of docks, five miles in extent.

The Liverpool  
Mercury, Friday,  
25 December.

#### The Siamese Ambassadors.

These distinguished foreigners dined with his Worship the Mayor, on Wednesday evening, at the Town Hall. They were attended by Mr. Fowle, secretary of the legation, and several members of their suite. The foreign consuls in the town, and many of the leading merchants, were invited to meet them. Their excellencies did not exhibit any of the Oriental peculiarities as regarded their choice of food. They partook of all the usual dishes, in the same manner as the other guests, drank their wine, and appeared to enjoy the banquet, after the English style, most satisfactorily. At the close of the proceedings, they indulged themselves with a smoke—a luxury to which, in common with all other Orientals, they are devotedly attached. Yesterday morning, the ambassadors and their suite left Liverpool by the half past eleven o'clock train for Manchester. From thence they proceed to Sheffield, and will afterwards

visit several of the principal towns in the north of England.

The Standard,  
Monday,  
28 December.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

Their Excellencies the Siamese ambassadors and suite returned to Manchester from Liverpool on Thursday, shortly before one o'clock, and immediately proceeded to the Queen's Hotel. During the afternoon the ambassadors visited the shop of Mr. William Lees, wholesale ironmonger, Cateaton Street, and purchased a variety of articles, after which they returned to the hotel. On Saturday their excellencies remained in their apartments throughout the day. It was expected they would take their final departure from Manchester yesterday (Sunday) when they would visit Sheffield.

The Sheffield  
Daily Telegraph,  
Tuesday,  
29 December.

### The Siamese Ambassadors in Sheffield.

The Ambassadors who some time ago arrived in England on an embassy to her most gracious Majesty, bearing costly presents from their Majesties the Kings of Siam to our Queen, and who within the last few weeks have been making a tour of the provinces, arrived in Sheffield from Manchester on Sunday. "The illustrious strangers," Phya Montri Suriywonse

and Chau Mon Sarbbedh Bacht, with a suite of 16, took up their residence at the Royal Hotel. In their travels through the provinces the Ambassadors are under the charge of Ed. Fowle, Esq., of the Foreign Office. Early yesterday morning they were waited upon by the Mayor (R. Jackson, Esq.), and Ald. Matthews. The object of the Ambassadors, we ought to state, is to inspect the various manufactories of this country. Accordingly, accompanied by his worship and Mr. Matthews, their excellencies visited *Ætna* works, where they witnessed the processes of steel conversion and the manufacture of various edge tools, in all of which they manifested considerable interest, and made extensive purchases. From *Ætna* works the ambassadors proceeded to the Hartford works, Willey Street, Wicker (Messrs. Shortridge, Howell, and Co.) where they spent a considerable time in inspecting various branches of Sheffield manufactures; and next they proceeded to Rodgers and Sons (Queen's cutlers), Norfolk Street. In the articles exhibited in Messrs. Rodgers' showrooms their excellencies evinced great interest, and here again made some purchases. In the inspection of these three houses the greater portion of the day was spent. In the evening the Mayor and Ald. Matthews had the honour of dining with their

excellencies, and afterwards accompanied them to the theatre, where the presence of the foreign ambassadors excited considerable interest.— There is a third ambassador (Chau Mon Mindir Bidacks), who is ill in London, and consequently unable to visit the provinces. Their excellencies will remain in Sheffield several days.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

The Sheffield  
Daily Telegraph,  
Wednesday,  
30 December.

The appearance yesterday in the Old Haymarket of their excellencies the Siamese ambassadors excited great interest. They visited the establishment of Mr. John Shepherd, where they made purchases. An immense concourse of people gathered in front of the shop. Several policemen were in requisition. They were, however, unable to keep the crowd back, and several panes were broken.

The Manchester  
Examiner and  
Times, Thursday,  
31 December.

### The Siamese Ambassadors in Sheffield.

The illustrious ambassadors from Siam, accompanied by Edward Fowle, Esq., of the Foreign Office, and a suite of sixteen persons, arrived at Sheffield on Sunday. They were accommodated at the Royal Hotel at which place they were visited, on Monday morning, by the Mayor (Robert Jackson, Esq.), and Alderman Matthews, who accompanied the illustrious

strangers to several of the principal manufactories. The first place which was visited was the Ætna Steel Works, where the processes of steel conversion and subsequent manufacture into its various edged tools was fully explained. The next place visited was that of Messrs. Shortridge, Howell, and Co., where several branches of the cultery trade were witnessed; after which a visit was paid to Messrs. Rodgers and Sons, the Queen's cutlers, Norfolk-street. The appearance of the articles exhibited in the show rooms excited considerable interest, and their excellencies made several purchases. In the evening, the Mayor and Alderman Matthews dined with the ambassadors, and afterwards accompanied them to the Theatre Royal. The Pantomime greatly pleased them. On Tuesday, several other manufactories were visited, and on Wednesday morning the illustrious strangers left Sheffield for Birmingham.

*From our Correspondent.*

The Birmingham  
Daily Post,  
Wednesday,  
30 December.

#### **Return of the Siamese Embassy to Birmingham.**

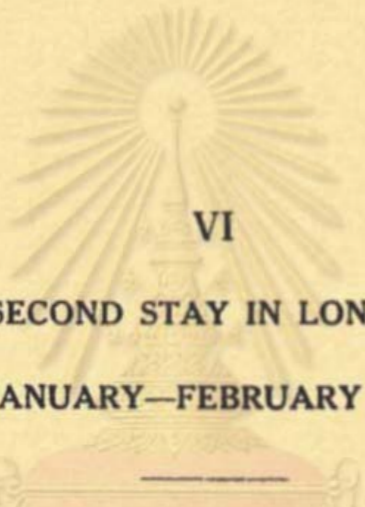
Their Excellencies the Ambassadors from the two Kings of Siam returned to Birmingham yesterday evening, *en route* for London, after having visited Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield and the manufacturing districts of the north.

They reached the New Street Station shortly after five o'clock, and were received by the Mayor and Aldermen Hodgson, who afterwards had the honour of dining with them at the Queen's Hotel. Awaiting the Ambassadors was a letter from the Marquis of Breadalbane, Lord Chamberlain, inviting them and their agent, Captain Fowles, to the marriage of the Princess Royal. They visited Howes and Cushing's circus yesterday evening, along with the Mayor and Aldermen Hodgson and Palmer. The spacious house was crowded to excess. Like everybody else, the Siamese gentlemen seemed very much pleased with the performance, the feats of Mr. Robinson giving them especial delight.

The Globe,  
Friday,  
1 January 1858.

Their Highnesses the Siamese Ambassadors returned to Claridge's Hotel last evening, from a lengthened tour in the manufacturing districts. Their Highnesses came from Birmingham direct to London.





VI  
SECOND STAY IN LONDON  
(JANUARY—FEBRUARY 1858).

DEPARTURE OF THE EMBASSY  
(6 MARCH 1858).

จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย



The Illustrated  
London News,  
6 February.

### Siamese Embassy.

Their Highnesses the Siamese Ambassadors and suite were entertained at a déjeuner on Wednesday last by Mr. W. Parker Hammond, F. R. A. S., at his residence in the Camden Road Villas. Mr. Hammond, who has had a considerable share in bringing about the present cordial relations between this country and Siam, took occasion to remark, on proposing his Siamese Majesty's health, that the King of Siam is far in advance of any contemporary Asiatic Sovereign, both in enlightened and liberal ideas of Government, and in literary and scientific attainments. As a practical evidence also, of the commercial value of the Siamese alliance, it was mentioned that since the conclusion of the treaty so satisfactorily negotiated in 1856-57, by his Excellency Sir John Bowring, no less than 500 square-rigged vessels have entered the port of Hong Kong alone, from Bangkok, the Siamese capital.

จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

The Illustrated  
London News,  
20 February.

### The Siamese Ambassadors.

Yesterday week his Excellency the Siamese Ambassador and suite honoured Messrs. Defries and Sons' manufactory, in Houndsditch, with a

visit, and expressed themselves highly pleased with the prismatic mirrors for the Sultan of Turkey. His Excellency and suite frequently expressed their interest during their progress through the manufactory, especially with the glass chandelier and cotton weaving departments. They seemed, indeed, astonished that such a place should exist in the heart of the City. We believe it is the intention of his Excellency to purchase two of these mirrors as a present to the King of Siam.

The London  
Gazette,  
23 February.

Buckingham Palace, 19 February 1858.

This day had audience of the Queen ;

Their Excellencies Phya Montri Suriy-wongse, First Ambassador, and Chau Mun Sarbedh Bhacty, Second Ambassador from the First King of Siam ; also Chamun Minder Bidacks, Ambassador from the Second King of Siam ; for the purpose of taking leave of Her Majesty :

To which audience they were introduced by the Earl of Clarendon, K.G., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and conducted by Major-General the Honourable Sir Edward Cust, K.C.H., Her Majesty's Master of the Ceremonies.

The Court  
Journal.  
Saturday,  
20 February.

A splendid sword of gold, with the hilt and sheath set with diamonds and other precious stones, and bearing the cypher of the King as well as a figure of the sacred elephant of Siam, has been made by Messrs. Hunt and Roskell, as a present to his Majesty, the second King of Siam. It is a piece of very excellent workmanship, and his Majesty S. P. Pawarendrranesr, who is a perfect scholar of English, as well as a lover of English art, will, no doubt, be highly pleased with the acquisition. We understand that the sword will be a present from the Ambassadors to the King. Other Court sabres, gilt, and of a less expensive material, are being also made by the firm alluded to.

The Siamese Ambassadors paid their respects to her Majesty on Thursday, at St. James's. On this occasion the chief Ambassador laid aside his peculiar badge of dignity—the enormous broad-brimmed hat—and was content to appear in a skull cap like the rest of his compeers. The Siamese, however, whatever may be the custom of their own country, never appear covered before the Queen. Their hats or caps are left in an ante-room, in this matter setting an example of deference and good taste, which it would be well for the Orientals frequenting our Court to be made to follow.

The Illustrated  
London News,  
13 March.

### Sword for the King of Siam.

We have just seen a magnificent sword, which has been produced by Messrs. Hunt and Roskell, of New Bond Street, for the King of Siam. It is of gold and silver-gilt, set with brilliants, rubies and emeralds, and surmounted with the sacred elephant of Siam. In the crossbar of the hilt are two globes, the celestial and terrestrial—indicative of the king's power. The blade is beautifully ornamented and bears the inscription dedicating the sword to his Majesty; and the richness of the material employed, combined with the excellence of the design, forms a *tout ensemble* which, when once seen, is not easily forgotten. The sword has been designed by Mr. Brown, an artist honourably known and long attached to the eminent firm above named.

The Court  
Journal,  
Saturday,  
27 February.

The Siamese Ambassadors, who were to leave England last Wednesday, are delayed in town for some days longer. They will embark from Southampton, in a ship expressly provided by the government, and placed at their service.

A son of the First Ambassador of Siam, himself a Prince of royal blood, will remain in England for some time to learn our language and literature. The young Prince is very intelligent and observant.

The Court  
Circular,  
ii March.

### Departures.

Their Highnesses the Siamese Ambassadors and suite have left Claridge's Hotel for Paris, *en route* to Siam, *viâ* Marseilles. Their Highnesses were escorted by a guard of honour to the station, whence they proceeded by special train to Dover.

The Times,  
Wednesday,  
14 April.

### The Siamese Presents.

The Queen has been pleased to send the presents of the King of Siam for public exhibition at the South Kensington Museum, and Lord Palmerston has added to them the Siamese sword of state which was presented to himself.

The Times,  
Friday,  
21 May.

### Sword for the King of Siam.

When the Siamese Ambassadors were in this country they ordered a State sword for one of their Lords and Masters, the first King of Siam. The execution of this order was entrusted to Mr. P. G. Dodd, of Cornhill, who has produced a sword, with a most elaborately-chased scabbard and hilt of pure gold. The cost of the sword, which will well repay inspection, is, we believe, 300 guineas.





หม่อมราโชทัย  
หม่อมราชวงศ์ กระจ่าง อิศรางกูร ณ อยุธยา



Ambassador to the Second King.

The first Ambassador.  
to the First King of Siam.

Second Ambassador to the First King.

The Siamese Ambassadors from photographs by Mayall.

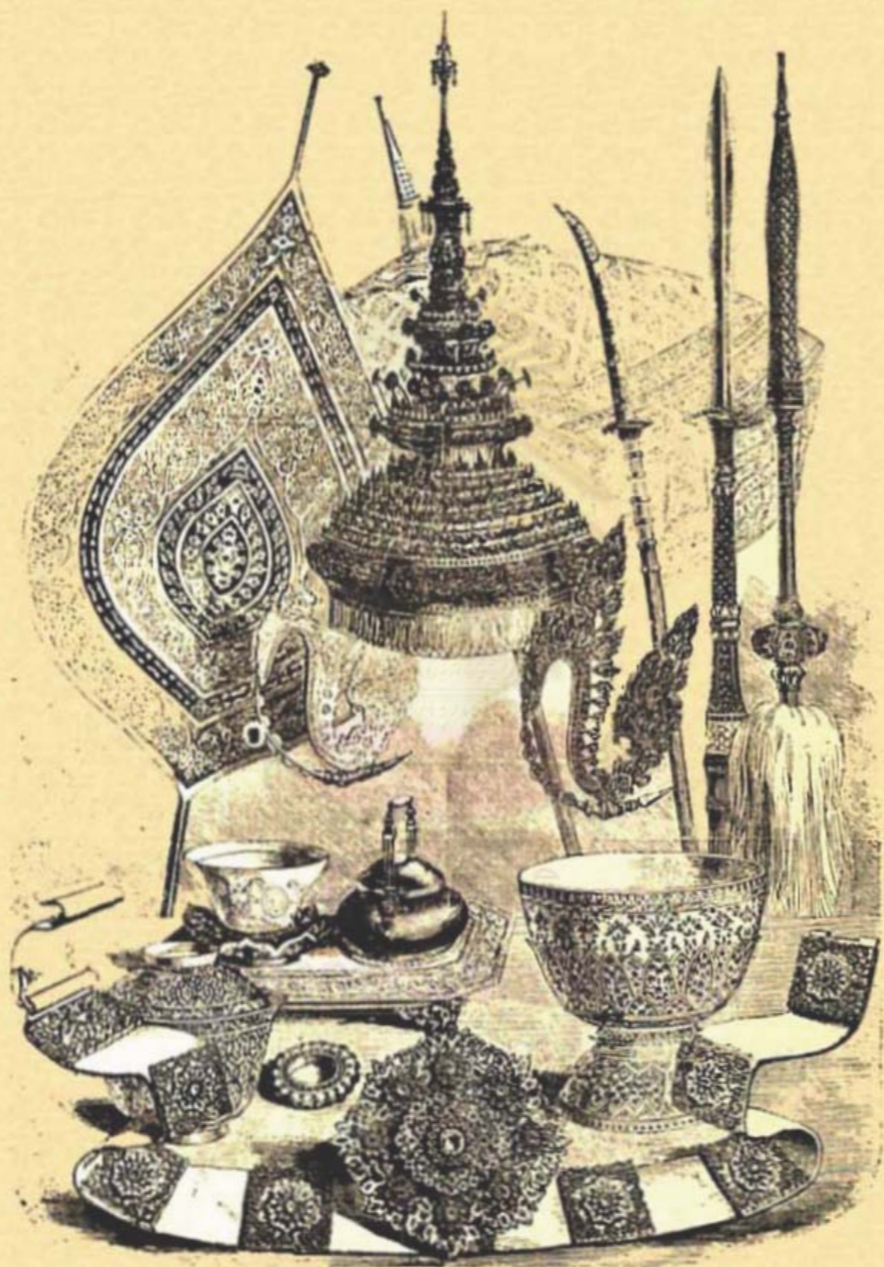


*Illustrated London News, December 5, 1857.*



Reception of the Siamese Ambassadors with presents  
by Her Majesty at Windsor Castle.

*Illustrated London News, November 28, 1857.*



Presents from the Kings of Siam to Queen Victoria.

