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REPORT TO THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK
ON THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, THE RUINS OF ANGKOR
AND THE KINGDOM OF SIAM.

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Lhasug - Thone - Hane - Ratsat.

TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT AND TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK. I have the honor to submit to your respected judgment the result of my observations during my voyages, and of my studies on the curious and interesting countries of Indo China, unfortunately too little known. I would feel only too happy if the truthful information which I am about to give you will prove of some use to the eminent society of which you are members, and if you will accept favorably this short sketch.

Cambodia was formerly called Kampiōxa-Nakhon, from which has been made the name of Cambodia, afterwards Kmer. It was then a great kingdom, extending from 8° 30' to 20° latitude. Its dominion extended over several States, including Lao and even Siam. About 300 years only have passed away since it lost its splendor. Attacked and harassed on one side by Siam and on the other by Cochin China it lost gradually almost its entire territory, and to-day there remains but an extent of about forty square leagues, divided into four provinces, viz.: Rhorisat or Poursat, Kampon Sadi, Kampon-Som, and Kamput; the last two are maritime provinces.

About twenty-five years ago a Cambodian prince named Ongduan was in prison at Bangkok (Siam), when the news came to that city that the king of Cambodia, his brother, who had taken refuge among the Anamites, had just lost his eye-sight. Immediately the King of Siam liberated Ongduan, conferred upon him the royal insignias, gave him large sums of gold and silver, and had him escorted with

the principals: The white and black elephant, three species of tigers, the rhinoceros, the horse, the ox, the buffalo, the tapir, the bear, the pig, the wild boar, the porcupine, the elk, the stag, the deer, the roe, the gazelle, the wild goat, the dog, the cat, the civet-cat, several species of monkeys and squirrels, the otter, the hare, different varieties of rats, etc., etc. The small eagle, the hawk, two kinds of vultures, the argala, the crow, the owl, the eagle-owl, the scops-eared owl, the fern-owl, the karien, the pelican, the crane, the heron, the cormorant, the stork, the wild goose, the diver, the water-hen, the teal, the gull, the aleyon, the white ibis, the peacock, several varieties of pigeons, the wild-rock, the toneau, the calao, several species of parrots, two kinds of partridges, pigeons, turtle-doves, black-birds, dominicans, humming-birds, etc., etc. The bats, several kinds of crocodiles and lizards, the chameleon, the flying-lizard or dragon, the small boa constrictor, several kinds of serpents and frogs, centipedes, scorpions, cancrelas mosquitoes, several kinds of fire-flies or lucirolles, etc., etc. Divers species of turtles, whales, the blower, the porpoise, the shark, the saw-fish, the dolphin, the honito, the gold-fish, the ray, the sole, the salmon, the sardine, the sea-shrimp, the kapi, the crab, the sea-dog (or sea-bichon), the kahi-khraï, the mengphû, the retreating-fish, the dog-tongue, the craw-fish, the eel, the mussel, the oyster, the cowry, the tridaene, the pearl-mussel, the crumpet-shell (or whelk), the nautil-turek, etc., etc., and a great number of other cetacea, fishes, mollusks, etc., etc., whose Siamese and English names I do not recollect.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TEMPLE OF ANGKOR.

Nokhor, or Angkor, was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Cambodia, or Kmer, formerly so famous among the great states of Indo-China, that almost the only tradition preserved in the country mentions that empire as having had twenty kings who paid tribute to it, as having kept up an army of five or six million soldiers, and that the buildings of the royal treasury occupied a space of more than 300 miles.*

In the province still bearing the name of Ongkor, which is situated eastward of the great lake of Touli-Sap, towards the 14° of north latitude, and 104° longitude east of Greenwich, there are on the banks of the Mekon, and in the ancient kingdom of Tsiampais (Cochin China), ruins of such grandeur, remains of structures which must

weapons except their formidable claws. A few of them have clubs, sabres or branches of trees.

In peristyle No. 1, is represented the march of warriors mounted on birds, horses, tigers and fabulous animals; the horses of the chiefs are led by the bridle. On the right the soldiers are advancing towards the scene of combat in the center, but here there are no fantastic animals.

The bas-reliefs of the second peristyle also represent a combat between the king of the apes and the king of the angels, and the death of the former. Close by is a boat filled with rowers, all with long beards, and some of them attired in the Chinese fashion. The group is admirable for the natural positions and for the expression given to the faces. A cock-fight and women at play with their children are also represented. It is in these bas-reliefs that the highest degree of skill is shown. Other subjects follow, the meaning of which I could not discover.

On the south side, to the left hand, is a military procession—bodies of soldiers headed by chiefs, some mounted on elephants, others on horseback, and each corps carrying different arms: lances, halberds, javelins, sabres and bows. On the right are two series, one representing the Hindoo paradise *Swarga*, the other the Hindoo infernal regions *Naraina*. A crowd of persons are entering paradise, and are received in palanquins; they have with them banners, fans, parasols, and boxes for holding betel, without which even paradise would not be perfect happiness to a Cambodian.

A triumphal march in paradise shows the elect seated on a magnificent dais, surrounded by a great number of women, with caskets and fans in their hands, while the men are holding flowers and have children on their knees. These appear to be all the joys of paradise.

The punishments of the infernal regions, on the contrary, are varied and numerous; and while the elect, who are enjoying themselves in paradise, are all fat and plump, the poor condemned beings are so lean that their bones show through their skin, and the expression of their faces is pitiful and full of a most comic seriousness. Some are being pounded in mortars, while others hold them by the feet and hands; some are being sawn asunder; others are led along like buffaloes, with ropes through their noses. In other places the complutal (executioners) are cutting men to pieces with sabres, while a crowd of poor wretches are being transfixcd by the tusks of elephants or on the horns of rhinoceros. Fabulous animals are busy devouring some;