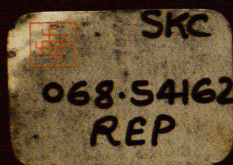


S.K.C.

REPORT & CONSPECTUS OF
THE KADARUPA AMUSANDHAM SAKSHI



1874.

REPORT AND CONSPECTUS

of the

**Kamarupa
Anusandhan Samiti**

OR

The Assam Research Society,

GAUHATI, ASSAM.

ESTABLISHED IN 1912.



Compiled by

S. K. BHUYAN M. A., B. L.,

Honorary Secretary.

1927

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Places, like peoples, races and individuals, are curiously dependent on whimsical fortune for their fame among the fickle generations of men. The bleak stony north-western frontier of India and its scowling Semitic tribesmen are familiar to all readers of books. Here, it is felt, history has been made, because here history has been recorded. It is the races who write that remain on the lips and dwell in the imaginations of succeeding generations, whereas the infinitely more fascinating and mysterious north-eastern frontier of India, the true meeting place of East and West, is neglected by scholar and traveller alike, and is only known to a mere handful of administrators. Yet here the blue hills that frame the Brahmaputra Valley are clad with noble forests, filled in the spring with odorous bloom, above which soar flashing and mostly nameless snowy peaks, which, anywhere else in the world, would be the subject of legend and poetry.—*J. D. Anderson.*

From "The Assam Borderland", originally published in "Travel and Exploration", reprinted in "The Indian World", for December 1910, Vol. XII, No. 69, pages 528 to 533, by the late Dr. J. D. Anderson I. C. S., M. A., Litt. D., sometimes Deputy Commissioner in the Districts of the Brahmaputra Vally, and Reader in Bengali to the University of Cambridge.

587

REPORT AND CONSPECTUS
of the
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Indira Gandhi National
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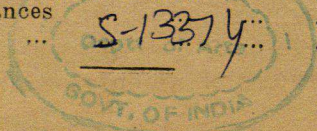
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Compiler's Note.

The present publication purports to be a Report of the work of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti or the Assam Research Society, for the year 1925-1926 and part of 1926-1927. We have, however, tried to give a complete idea of its aims and objects, and of the activities of the institution since its establishment in 1912 up to the date of publication, by inserting a brief retrospective survey in the body of the Report, and some Appendices containing other necessary informations. In presenting this Report before the public, the authorities of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti fervently hope that greater interest will be evoked in the institution, and that the public will come forward with material help to further the objects with which the Samiti was formed. The present age is marked by a widespread enthusiasm for recreating the past, and we hope Assam will not lag behind in this universal attempt to unravel the mysteries of the foregone ages of India.

We want funds to expand the premises of the Society, to collect antiquarian relics which are otherwise fast decaying and disappearing from view, to build up a library of books about Assam where intending workers will find facilities for research, to publish a Journal of the Society by which the public will be kept enlightened about its activities, and investigators encouraged to record and communicate to the world the results of their labours: we want men to send us articles of historical interest, or to give us clues that will enable us to trace them with the object of acquiring the same for the Samiti, permanently or temporarily. Besides, we need the services of an enterprising and energetic

travelling curator, who will go round to the interior parts of the province to acquire for the Samiti historical articles and puthis or to report on the same where acquisition is impossible for the present.

The idea of establishing a Provincial Museum at this ancient and historic town of Pragjyotishpur is in the air; and it is only by making a respectable collection of historical relics and articles that we can pave the way for its speedy foundation, and convert our Samiti into a genuine Asiatic Society of Assam.

The Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti is now engaged, practically, in doing the work which is elsewhere carried on under the auspices of Research Universities; and the eloquent words of the late Sir Asutosh Mukherjee, the greatest organiser, promoter and inspirer of historical research that India has ever seen, may be quoted in this connection,—“No people attained to real eminence as a Nation, unless they maintained in a state of the highest efficiency and excellence their chief seat of learning, their most potent instrument for the discovery and dissemination of truth in all departments of human activity.”

Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti,
(Assam Research Society)
Gauhati, Assam.
February 15, 1927.

S. K. Bhuyan,
Honorary Secretary.

Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti, Cauhati.

REPORT OF WORK FOR 1925-26,
AND PART OF 1926-27.

Passed in the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti, and read at the 14th. Anniversary of the Samiti held on September 11, 1926, under the presidency of the Hon'ble Mr. A. W. Botham I. C. S., C. S. I., C. I. E., Finance Member of the Government of Assam.

Hon'ble Mr. President, and gentlemen present. We are all grateful to you for coming here this evening to attend the 14th. anniversary of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti. We are aware of our short-comings, and that we have not been able to present before you a show worthy of the institution. This anniversary has been held at this odd time of the year with a view to attain the solvency of the institution by a prompt discharge of the debt transmitted to us by our predecessors.

According to Rule 24 of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti the anniversary for the year 1925-26 was to be held at the close of that session, where the names of the office-bearers and of the members of the Executive Committee of the present year 1926-27 were to be declared, and also report to be read of the work of

1925-26. But since some years past it was not found possible to observe this rule, and our anniversaries were always a belated function. The Executive Committee for the year 1925-26, whose term of office should have expired on the 31st. March, 1926, continued till July; the present Executive Committee and office-bearers were appointed in that month, and they have thought it to be their duty to start their career with a clean sheet, by first holding the anniversary long overdue. During this short tenure of our office, lasting only for two months, we have not found it possible to arrange a better show, which we hope you will all pardon in consideration of the circumstances of the situation.

The former anniversaries and general meetings of the K. A. S. used to be held at the Curzon Hall which is now under repairs. This has also compelled us to hold our anniversary today in the precincts of the Samiti, with limited accommodation and seats. However, it can not be denied that meetings held in sight of the historic collections of the Samiti have got their own advantages. Our inability to hold this anniversary within the K. A. S. premises only emphasizes the need for a hall of the Samiti where its larger gatherings can be accommodated.

But all these difficulties in our way have been lightened by our good fortune, that we have in our midst the Hon'ble Mr. A. W. Botham C. S. I., C. I. E., I. C. S., Head of the Finance Department of the Government of Assam,

who very kindly agreed to take the chair in today's function, when he was approached yesterday by a representative of this institution. He has shown his sympathy for the progress of the Samiti by being chiefly instrumental in securing a grant of Rs 2000/- for the construction of a Strong Room for the Samiti. His contributions to Assamese numismatology have been embodied in the volume,—“A Supplementary Catalogue of the Coins in the Government Coin Cabinet at Shillong,” a subject of research when Marshman, Gait, Gurdon and Stapleton have laboured, but where there are still room and opportunity for further investigation.

For the information of those who are not fully acquainted with the activities of the K. A. S., I give below—

Indira Gandhi National
Centre for the Arts

A Brief Retrospective Survey.

The K. A. S. is the first and foremost organisation in the province with the distinct object of promoting historical research. It was established on April 7, 1912, with its head-quarters at Gauhati. It had as its patrons at its birth Sir Archdale Earle, His Highness the Maharaja Sir Jitendra Narayan Bhupa Bahadur of Koch Behar, Sir Edward Gait, Lt.-Col. P. R. T. Gurdon, and Raja Prabhat Chandra Barua Bahadur of Gauripur. The object of the Samiti is well set forth in the following rules of the Samiti,—

“Rule 2. The Samiti will have its jurisdiction for research work over the area formerly

included in the sacred and ancient province of Kamarupa, now comprised within Assam, Eastern Bengal, North Bengal and Koch Behar. Research work will also be extended to any other part of India if anything relating to ancient Kamarupa happens to be extant therein.

Rule 3. The main object of the Samiti is to carry on researches in matters relating to history, archaeology, ethnography etc.—all that usually comes under the purview of a Research Society, and to collect books, manuscripts, coins, copper-plates, statues, carved stones- etc.—*i. e.* the things that should find place in a library and museum of such society."

The Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti has now passed through its stage of infancy, and the devotion of its selfless workers and sympathizers has made the institution worthy of a rank with other similar organisations of India. It stores within the limited space of its rooms and compound a brilliant assortment of historical articles. The Government and the Public have contributed to its fastly expanding museum, articles of antiquarian interest and of a multifarious character, curios, images, inscribed stones, martial weapons, regalia, and tokens of currency. The Samiti has been visited by distinguished officials, educationists, public leaders, and by eminent representatives of the Archaeological Survey of India, and they have all recorded their appreciation of the services of the Samiti.

I will now enumerate only a few of the

historical relics preserved in the museum of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti.

1. Manuscripts :—

The Government of Assam has lent to the Samiti for safe custody the collection of puthis made by Sj. Hem Chandra Goswami some years ago on behalf of the Administration. The Manuscripts cover a wide variety of subjects, mainly of the nature of epics, chronicles, song-books, and mathematical treatises. One of the most remarkable Manuscripts is an illustrated treatise on elephants, known as "Hastividya", compiled by one Sukumar Kaith, under the auspices of Queen Madambika, and her learned consort Swargadeo Siva Singha, King of Assam, 1714-1744 A. D. A descriptive catalogue of these Manuscripts is being printed at the Calcutta University Press at the expense of the local Government.

2. Images :—

There are several images of Vishnu in possession of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti, dug up in various parts of Assam, but only one of them is inscribed. There are images on inscribed stones purporting to be land grants of ancient Kings or Chiefs of Kamarupa. There is an erotic image, probably a remnant of the worship of Kama or Love.

3. Inscribed Stones :—

There are several inscribed and chiselled stones, purporting to be land-grants. There are

two finely hewn slabs indicating that they were placed at the Joy (North) and Bijoy (South) doors of the Council Chamber of the Barphukan or Ahom Viceroy at Gauhati. Some of these inscriptions have not as yet been deciphered, and Mr. R. D. Banerji of Mohen-jo-Daro fame has taken impressions of them.

4. Cannon :—

The Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti has now in its collection nearly half-a-dozen cannon of various dimensions and calibres. Some of them were made by Mahammadan artisans, and captured by the Ahoms during the conflict with the Mogul Emperors of Delhi; while others were made locally by Assamese gun-makers. Some of the inscriptions render a very valuable sidelight into the Assam-Mogul relations of the period.

5. Cannon-Balls :—

Some cannon-balls of smaller dimensions have been presented to the Samiti by Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami, Srijut Kaliram Barman and Srijut Jaltiram Lahkar.

Ancient Cannon-Balls at Gauhati :—

Several layers of cannon-balls of stone lying embedded on the river bank at Kharghuli at a distance of nearly two miles from the Gauhati Post Office have been recently exposed to view by the abrasion of the Brahmaputra. In order to reach the place, one has to proceed along the Kharghuli Road in the east of Gauhati, turn to the left at a distance of nearly two

furlongs from the New Press, ford a narrow streamlet, then penetrate through dense shrubberies, and drop down at the bank facing the shining levels of the Brahmaputra. The balls are of different sizes, the largest being as big as shaddocks, and the smallest have the size of glass-marbles used as stoppers of aerated-water bottles. There were thousands of such balls, and many have been extracted and removed by residents of Gauhati. The existence of the balls at Kharghuli, literally meaning a nook for gunpowder, is a proof of the place being used as an arsenal of the Ahom Government. Gauhati was the Viceregal head-quarters of the Ahoms, and the Barphukan's residence, Secretariat and Council Chamber were situated at Bharaloomukh and Fanshi Bazar. The arsenal was placed at Kharghuli at a safe distance from the town. The King of Darrang had to supply to the Barphukan an allotted contribution of gunpowder, which was received at Kharghuli. Gunpowder was prepared and manufactured at Sukreswar near the site where the residences of the Deputy Commissioner and the Civil Surgeon of Kamrup are at present situated. Excavations of the place adjoining the cannon-balls at Kharghuli may lead to the discovery of other historic relics and warlike stores.

Supplementary Note :—

The cannon-balls are rounded to a finis. The largest ones have a circumference of 12.5 inches and weigh $1\frac{3}{8}$ seers. The dumps referred

to might have been deposited there by the Ahoms, or more possibly by the Mahomedan invaders of the country. The fields on the other side of the Brahmaputra, between the river Barnadi and the village Kurua were the scene of several engagements with the Moguls, who might have stored the balls there. The invaders, perhaps, had to retreat in confusion from the place, and consequently forgot all about the balls, which were not even discovered by the Ahoms, who would have never allowed them to remain buried or dumped in the precarious bank of the Brahmaputra. These are all theories, and we cannot say positively whether the Ahoms or the Moguls used stone-balls at all in their warfare. Iron balls purported to have been fired from cannon have also been discovered here and there in Assam. Experts will be able to give their opinion regarding the respective velocity, penetrability and hitting power of stone and iron balls. One reason why we are not inclined to regard the stone-balls as missiles is because the largest ones are too heavy to be advantageously propelled by manual force, while the smallest are too light to produce any effect in offensive or defensive operations.

6. Regalia :—

The last King of Assam, Swargadeo Chandra Kanta Singha, his son Ghana Kanta Singha, and his grandson Kesava Kanta Singha lived and died at Gauhati. Juvaraj Kesava Kanta's widow the late Rani Mahendri Devi presented to the

K. A. S., a few years ago a large collection of the paraphernalia of the Ahom Kings, consisting of the royal sceptre made of ivory, *hengdangs*, the royal headdress, coats, cloaks, trousers, and wrappers etc. and a beautifully painted old-fashioned wooden box where these articles were preserved in the royal family. The daughters of Juvaraj Kesava Kanta Singha have very recently made a gift of historical articles, consisting of royal apparels, a sword and a gun.

7. Rani Sword and Cannon :—

Kumar Paramananda Singha, the descendant of the Rajas of Rani, tributary chiefs under the vassalage of the Ahoms, has presented to the K. A. S. a very heavy sword, an inscribed copper-dish, and a cannon. The sword is said to have been used in human sacrifice in the Rani Raj family.

8. Dimarua Shield :—

Another descendant of the tributary chiefs of the Ahoms, the Rajas of Dimarua, has presented a shield made of the skin of rhinoceros, which was probably used as a defensive weapon in warfare conducted with bows and arrows.

9. Potteries :—

Srijut Jogendra Nath Barua M.A., B.L., E.A.C. dug up a large quantity of ancient earthen potteries while re-excavating an old tank in his compound at Uzanbazar, Gauhati. Mr. Barua has kindly presented them to the K. A. S. They consist of glazed pitchers of different colours. A

distinguished member of the Archaeological Survey of India, Mr. K. N. Dikshit examined the potteries very carefully, and expressed his opinion that they were older than specimens of ancient pottery discovered in other parts of India.

10. Coins.

Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami presented to the Samiti some 79 coins of various descriptions bearing Assamese and Persian legends. The gift has served as a nucleus for an enlarged numismatic collection in future. The K. A. S. coin-cabinet has since been enriched by fresh additions from time to time.

11. Transcribed Manuscripts.

The K.A.S. has in its library several transcriptions of valuable Manuscripts, puthis and books. They were made chiefly because the originals could not be acquired by the Samiti, or because the original manuscripts were too delicate and worn out to be handled with safety.

The following is a list of the transcriptions made by the Samiti.—

(i) YOGINI-TANTRA. A pandit was engaged to prepare a correct reading with the help of seven copies of the book, three of which were obtained from the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and four were collected by Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami. The Maharaja of Kuch Behar kindly agreed to publish the book.

(ii) HARA-GAURI-SAMBAD. A correct reading was prepared by Pandit Lakshmi Kanta

Misra Bhagavati from a copy in his possession and from another collected by Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami.

(iii) ASSAM BURANJI—from the earliest times to the reign of Gadadhar Singha, obtained by Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami from the late Srijut Sukumar Mahanta, a resident of North Gauhati. The copy was made by Srijut Indreswar Barthakur, from the original which forms part of the Government collection of Puthis now in the custody of the K. A. S. This Buranji is written on the same lines as the one published by the K. A. S., but it is more detailed and elaborate. A chapter from this book viz. the reign of Gadadhar Singha has been inserted in Mr. H. C. Goswami's 'Typical Selections from Assamese Literature' published by the Calcutta University.

(iv) HISTORICAL LETTERS—selected from Assam Buranjis, representing the diplomatic correspondence of the Ahom Kings with the courts of Kuch Behar, Jaintia, Cachar and Delhi. The letters were collected by Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami from several manuscript chronicles, and the copy was made by Srijut Saniram Bara.

(v) HARI-VAMSA—a highly erotic book, describing in verse the amorous adventures of Sree Krishna with Radha and others, originally written by Kabisekhar Bhattacharjya under the orders of Juvaraj Charu Singha, son of King Rajeswar Singha, 1751-69, and Juvarani Pramada

Sundari. The copy was made by Srijut Mukta-dhar Sarma.

(vi). RANI-RAJ VAMSAVALI—giving a history of the Rani-Raj family of Kamrup. The copy was made by Srijut Mukta-dhar Sarma from a very old dilapidated paper-manuscript.

(vii). ASSAM BURANJI—from the earliest times to 1526. The original manuscript was recovered by Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami from one Atmaram Deka, an Ahom inhabitant of Dhekial Mauja in Golaghat. The last two words of the original manuscript are interesting as they indicate that the manuscript was transcribed by one Gangadhar.

(viii). Another ASSAM BURANJI—dealing with the wars of the Ahom Kings. It begins with the war in which the wife of the Bara-gohain Phasenmung personally led the Ahom forces, riding on an elephant, to avenge the death of her husband. It also describes the conflict with Delhi, where the Ahom army was led by Lacit Phukan, and the Mogul forces by Raja Ramsingha. It also contains copies of some diplomatic letters. The book is fragmentary.

(ix). GURU-CHARIT—a life of Sankardeva in Assamese verse. Transcriptions Nos. vii, viii, and ix are bound in one volume.

(x). DR. WADE'S HISTORY of ASSAM—There are two transcribed copies of this book. The first one was made for the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti by Srijut Benudhar Sarmah, who

recovered the original Manuscript in 1923 from the India Office Library, London, and the second one was made from Mr. Sarma's copy by Srijut Dibakar Goswami M. A., B. L.

(xi). DR. WADE'S GEOGRAPHY OF ASSAM--The copy was made by Srijut Benudhar Sarmah, who first traced it. It is a very valuable book, as it throws a flood of light on the geography of Assam in the latter part of the 18th. century.

(xii). HISTORY OF ANCIENT KAMARUPA--was copied by Mr. Benudhar Sarmah who recovered it from the India Office. The book is chiefly legendary, but is valuable to a historian who can read history in legends.

(xiii). BUCHANAN HAMILTON'S COMMERCE WITH ASSAM--a desultory notice. It is transcribed from a chapter in Montgomery Martin's "North-East Frontier of India".

(xiv). PATCHA-BURANJI—or History of the Emperors of Delhi, a Delhi chronicle in Assamese depicting the war of succession during the last years of Shah Jahan's reign, the Mogul Emperor's relations with the Hindu Rajas, and numerous court intrigues and adventures. The original Assamese manuscript was taken by Sir J. Buckingham, Superintendent of the Amguri Tea Estate, after whose death it was deposited in the India Office. Mr. Sarma recovered it from the latter place, and transcribed this copy for the **Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti**. Several chapters of

this book agree with the manuscript discovered by Prof. S. K. Bhuyan in the American Baptist Mission at Gauhati in May, 1925.

12. Paintings:—

There are specimens of ancient Assamese painting in several of the manuscripts in the Government collection of Puthis, *e. g.* *Kalki Puran*, now returned to the owner, *Hastividyanava* and *Gita-Gobinda*. We have also in the walls of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti enlargements of the pictures of King Gadadhar Singha, Anundorum Borooah, Mahamahopadhyaya Dhireswar Bhattacharya and Lakshmi Ram Borooah. Mrs. Jolly has presented to the Samiti several pictures depicting Manipuri home-life.

13. Library:—

The Library of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti contains a small collection of books, mostly on historical subjects. The Library has been enriched by the monographs on the hill-tribes, presented by the Assam Government, and several volumes lent by the Honorary Director of Ethnography. A complete set of the Asiatick Researches, consisting of 20 volumes, has been purchased a few months ago at a cost of nearly Rs. 270/-. Hunter's "Statistical Account of Assam" in 2 volumes has been very recently obtained for the Samiti at a cost of Rs. 31/9/-.

14. Publications:—

For want of funds the Samiti has not been able to score well in the field of publication. The

following pamphlets and volumes have been published till now,—

(i). Rules of the K. A. S., passed at the General Meeting held on June 12, 1916.

(ii). Prospectus of the K. A. S. December, 1914.

(iii). The Work of the K. A. S., edited by the late Srijut Chandranath Sarma B. L., 1920. This contains Reports of the work of the Samiti for 1916-1919, and some articles of historical interest contributed by Lt.-Col. P. R. T. Gurdon, Srijut Sarat Chandra Goswami, Mahamahopadhyaya Padmanath Bhattacharyya, Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami, Srijut Sarveswar Katak, and Professor S. K. Bhuyan.

(iv). ASSAM BURANJ, edited by Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami. It deals with the earliest period of Ahom history down to the reign of King Gadadhar Singha. The original manuscript was found at Gauhati in the family library of the late Juvaraj Keshavkanta Singha. Portions of this book have been prescribed in Assamese Vernacular, for the B. A. Examination of the Calcutta University.

15. Excursions :—

Under the auspices of the K. A. S. excursions have been made to several places of historical interest. The ruins at Kanwachal and Saraniya, in the vicinity of Gauhati, bespeak of the existence of temples at those places; and an ancient city of about a square mile can be

traced in the North-East of the Saraniya Hill. They were also visited at the instance of the K. A. S. by Mr. Panday, Assistant Superintendent of the Archaeological Survey of India. The Rakshasini Hill above Sualkuchi is an island in the Brahmaputra, which according to local traditions was the habitation of a pair of sea-monsters. The K. A. S. explorers found there several chiselled blocks of stone, and remnants of ancient masonry. An excursion to North-Gauhati resulted in the discovery and examination of several rock-inscriptions including the one relating to the defeat of the Mahammadans in Kamrup in A. D. 1206. Representatives of the Samiti had been to Mrs. Tunstall's Indigo-Plantation at Lanka, A. B. R., for a very valuable inscribed stone slab, and to Dibrugarh for a Vishnu image. Excursions have been made to the ancient royal families of Rani and Dimarua which resulted in the acquisition of certain relics for the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti.

Work during 1925-1926.

1. Executive Committee and Office-Bearers:—

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|------------------|
| (1) | Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami, | President. |
| (2) | „ Umakanta Goswami M.A., B.L., | Hony. Secretary. |
| (3) | „ Kaliram Barman, B. L., | Treasurer. |

- (4) Prof. Suryya Kumar Bhuyan,
M. A., B. L., Hony. Auditor.
- (5) Srijut Muktheadhar Sarma,
Hony. Asst. Secy. and Clerk-Librarian.
- (6) Prof. Bani Kanta Kakati, M. A.
- (7) Srijut Sonaram Chaudhury.
- (8) „ Nabin Chandra Talukder.
- (9) „ Sarveswar Sarma Katakai.
- (10) „ Jaltiram Lahkar.
- (11) „ Principal J. Borooah
Barrister-at-Law.

2. There were ten meetings of the Executive Committee during the year.

3. Collections :—

(i) A few ancient coins were added to the collection.

(ii) Some stone cannon-balls were found at a place called *Khar-Ghuli* near Gauhati and a few of them have been preserved in the Samiti premises.

(iii) The most valuable collection is the *Durga-Image* found at Tinsukia, Dibrugarh. The Assam Government acquired the Image and presented it to the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti.

(iv) Some very old Cowree shells were presented by Mr. Wilkins, Manager of the Kaliabar Tea Estate.

(v) Three carved stones with images have been brought to the Samiti premises from Sj. Kumudeswar Goswami of Uzanbazar, Gauhati.

4. The 13th. Anniversary meeting was held on the 27th October, 1925, under the presidency of the distinguished anthropologist Dr. J. H. Hutton M. A., D. Sc., C. I. E., I. C. S., Deputy Commissioner, Naga Hills and Hony. Director of Ethnography for Assam. Pandit Hem Chandra Goswami read a paper on the newly discovered copper-plate of King Indra-Pala of Kamarupa. Prof. Suryya Kumar Bhuyan, Mr. Muktheadhar Sarma and Mr. Jaltiram Lahkar made exhibits of valuable ancient Assamese Manuscripts and read accounts of them.

5. The following distinguished visitors graced the premises of the Samiti and recorded their opinions regarding the activities of the institution :—

- (i) Sir Devaprasad Sarvadhikari, Kt.,
C. B. E.
- (ii) The Hon'ble Mr. Chandradhar Barua,
Member of the Council of State.
- (iii) Dr. J. H. Hutton, M. A., D. Sc., C. I. E.,
I. C. S.
- (iv) Sir M. V. Joshi of Central Provinces.
- (v) The Hon'ble Mr. Syed Muhammad
Saadulla, M. A., B. L., Minister of
Education for Assam.

6. Library additions :—

- (i) Several books relating to Ethnography in Assam were kindly sent by the Government of Assam to be kept in our custody.
- (ii) A complete set of Asiatick Researches has been purchased.

7. Two Manuscript Puthis (i) Hari-Vamsa and (ii) Raniraj-Vamsavali have been transcribed. The most beautifully illustrated manuscript puthi *Kalki-Puran* had to be returned to its owner as he was unwilling to part with it, after keeping a transcription of it in the Samiti Library.

8. Remarks :—

This year has been a year of increased activity. Hopes have been held out that the pre-war Government grant of Rs. 1000/- per year will be restored. The passage of a Resolution recently in the Assam Legislative Council providing for Rs. 30,000/- for a Museum at Gauhati has imparted to the institution a new hope and greater incentive for work. With increased funds at the disposal of the Samiti the work of collecting old relics will proceed more vigorously. Towards the end of the session the Government has sanctioned Rs. 2000/- for the construction of a Strong Room for the safe depositing of the Puthis and other valuable collections.

Work during 1926-1927.

I will now give a brief report of the work executed or undertaken during the present year 1926-27.

The Executive Committee for the present year has been constituted with the following members, elected and nominated :—

1. Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami,
President.
2. Prof. Suryya Kumar Bhuyan,
M. A., B. L., Hony. Secy.
3. Srijut Sarveswar Kataki L. T.
Hony. Assistant Secy.
4. „ Kaliram Barman B. L.
Hony. Treasurer.
5. „ Jnana Nath Barah B. L.
Hony. Auditor.
6. Rai Bahadur Radha Nath Phukan
M. A., B. L.
7. Rai Bahadur Kali Charan Sen, B. L.
8. Srijut Jalti Ram Lahkar, L. T.
9. „ Muktadhar Sarma.
10. „ Nabin Chandra Talukdar.
11. Prof. Umakanta Goswami M. A., B. L.

The Budget for 1926-27 was passed in the Executive Committee meetings of August 16 and 26, 1926. Vide Appendix 1.

The present Executive Committee came into office only in July last. I will give a brief idea of the work it has fully or partially accomplished.—

1. The appointment of a whole-time clerk :—

For the last two years the clerical work of the Samiti was done by a part-time assistant who attended the office, as directed by the

Executive Committee, only four times a week, his visits being in the afternoon and lasting only for an hour. Fortunately for us the particular incumbent of that office, Srijut Muktheadhar Sarma was an energetic and experienced hand, who had the additional qualification of a knowledge of typewriting. Mr. J. Borooah, Principal of the Earle Law College kindly allowed the use of his typewriter for the occasional work of the Samiti. But the increasing correspondence of the Samiti and the necessity of sending a representative of the K. A. S. to other places in quest of historic articles demanded the services of a whole-time assistant. Besides, visitors came to the Samiti but they found the doors closed. With a view to remove these disadvantages the Executive Committee decided to have a whole-time assistant on a pay of Rs. 25/- a month. Srijut Hari Mohan Das was appointed to the post with effect from 20th. August, 1926. The Executive Committee has sanctioned the purchase of a typewriter, for which we have placed our orders with Messrs Remington Typewriter Co. (India) Ltd., through the Local Government for extending to the K. A. S. the concession of the Government contract rate of the machine.

2. Opening hours of the Samiti :—

With our newly appointed assistant we have been able to keep the Samiti Hall open,—
 From 7. 30 to 9. 30 A. M., and from 3 to
 7 P. M. on week days.

From. 3 to 7 P. M. on Sundays, and on Doljatra, Lakshmi Puja, and the Anniversaries of Sankardeb, Madhabdeb and Damodardeb.

The Samiti remains closed on the following occasions :—

Sri Panchami	...	...	1 day.
Magh-Bihu	...	...	2 days.
Bahag Bihu	...	....	2 days.
Id-duz-zuha	...	...	1 day.
Muharram	...	...	1 day.
Janmastami	...	...	1 day.
Durga Puja	...	...	4 days.
Christmas Eve	...	...	1 day.
New Year's Day	...	...	1 day.
King Emperor's Birthday	....	...	1 day.

Centre for the Arts

3. Organisation of the office :—

The next task that we have undertaken is the organisation of the office. During this fourteen years of life there has been accumulated a large mass of papers and correspondence relating to the Samiti. But unfortunately they were lying scattered in huge files in a most confused manner. They have now been sorted. Several file-boards have been purchased, and records have been classified under the following heads—

1. Government Grant.
2. Annual Report.
3. Collection.
4. Excursion.
5. Anniversary meetings.

6. Executive Committee.
7. Subscription.
8. Press Cuttings.
9. Transcription.
10. Manuscript Puthis.
11. General Committee.
12. Miscellaneous.
13. Budget.
14. Information.
15. Membership and Patrons.
16. Propaganda.
17. Library.
18. K. A. S. Society's Publication.
19. Archaeological Department.
20. Strong Room.

The future worker of the Samiti will not be at a loss to find out relevant papers, relating to an information or subject. The method of keeping the accounts has also been made systematic.

4. Division of work :—

With a view to attain closer supervision of the activities of the Samiti, the work has been divided into several departments, and the following allotment of functions has been made for the current year :—

In charge of Collection of ancient relics,
—Srijut Sarveswar Kataki.

In charge of Excursion — Srijut Nabin
Chandra Talukdar.

In charge of Propaganda and Press Report—
 Srijut Jnana Nath Barah, from
 1st. Nov. 1926 ; Sj. Sarveswar Katakai
 officiated till 31st. Oct. 1926.

5. Acquisition of Ahom Royal family articles:—

The Samiti has been fortunate to acquire recently some historical articles belonging to the descendants of Swargadeo Chandra Kanta Singha, the last reigning King of Assam. A deputation consisting of the following gentlemen, Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami, Rai Bahadur Radha Nath Phukan, Srijut Sarveswar Katakai, Srijut Jnana Nath Barah, Srijut Muktaadhar Sarma, Prof. S. K. Bhuyan, waited upon Srijut Hem Chandra Gohain and Srijut Nagendra Nath Choudhury, sons-in-law of the late Juvaraj Keshav Kanta Singha on 8.8.1926. The two gentlemen with the consent of their wives presented to the Samiti the following articles, which are now preserved in the premises of the Samiti ;—

1. Dragon cloth	...	1	Piece.
2. Kepkara	....	1	"
3. Guna-Patti for head with Tai			
characters	...	1	"
4. Cap	...	1	"
5. Hengdan	1	"
6. Jari-chouga	...	1	"
7. Mirjai	1	"
8. Kingkhap-Buku-chola		1	"
9. Jari Chadar	...	1	"

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10. Gomcheng Bukuchola	1	„
11. Tangali	2	„
12. China-chola	1	„
13. Dacca muslin Jama	1	„
14. Burma cloth	1	„
15. Tas cloth	1	„
16. Small flint-gun	1	„
17. Keshav Kanta Juvaraja's Seal	1	„

6. Acquisition of Makrang Images :—

Pandit Hem Chandra Goswami, President of the Samiti informed the Executive Committee, of three stone images recovered by his brother Srijut Jagat Chandra Goswami from the Makrang Tea Estate in the district of Sibsagar. Srijut Jagat Chandra Goswami has kindly presented these images to the Samiti which have been a very important acquisition, and will be invaluable to all students of Assamese Hindu Iconography.

7. Strong Room :—

The Government of Assam has very kindly sanctioned Rs. 2000/- for the construction of a Strong Room for the Samiti, where the puthis and other valuable relics will be preserved. A plan and estimate of the Strong Room have been prepared at a cost of Rs. 40/-. They were approved by the Executive Committee and have been sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, for his approval, and payment of the sum sanctioned by the Government. The work will be undertaken as soon as the plan is approved by the authorities. The Strong Room, when

completed, will give additional assurance to owners of historical relics that their articles, whether presented, sold, or lent to the Samiti will be kept in safe custody, free from all dangers as far as human eyes can foresee. This has removed a long-felt want of the Samiti, for which the best thanks of the Samiti are due to the Government, and specially to the Hon'ble Finance Member, Mr. A. W. Botham, and the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Mr. S. M. Saadulla.

8. Extension of the Shed :—

As the present shed where our heavy collections are now placed is short of space, the Executive Committee has decided to extend it to the southernmost limit of the Samiti's compound. Srijut Nabin Chandra Talukdar has been placed in charge of the construction. The present hall of the Samiti has been stocked with a large quantity of scantlings presented to it by Mr. A. J. W. Milroy, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Kamrup Division. These scantlings will be properly utilized in the shed, and the Samiti Hall will be available for holding general meetings and for placing the Puthi Almirah, when the construction of the Strong Room is undertaken.

9. Excursion to Khetri and Hatimura Parbat—

The Samiti has received information from Srijut Sarveswar Kataki and Srijut Sonaram Choudhury that there are certain valuable relics

at Khetri. An excursion has been proposed to that locality with a view to recover those relics. Srijut Annada Kanta Baruah B. A. of Laban, Shillong, has informed us of the existence of some carved inscriptions and of a sword used in human sacrifice at Hatimura Parbat, near Jakhalabandha, Nowgong. An excursion to that locality may be rewarded by the acquisition of valuable historical finds to the Samiti.

10. Publication of a Handbook of the K. A. S.—

The Samiti has undertaken the publication of a souvenir or a handbook of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti, giving a short description of its activities, its collections, and the possibilities of future work. A Sub Committee has been formed with the following gentlemen as members—

Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami, Srijut Suryya Kumar Bhuyan, Srijut Sarveswar Kataki, --Convener and Srijut Jaltiram Lahkar. The publication of the above book will be helpful in acquainting the public with the activities of the Samiti, and will, we hope create an interest in the institution.

11. Cataloguing of the Exhibits :—

The exhibits of the Samiti have not as yet been properly catalogued. We have now a fair collection of historical relics, consisting of ancient puthis, royal costumes, swords, cannon, cannon-balls, potteries, inscribed and uninscribed images and stones, shield, old flint and cotton materials for striking fire. It is proposed to

make a list of this collection, with a short description of the articles. Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami has kindly agreed to prepare the catalogue.

Conclusion.

I have brought the Report to a conclusion. We are all grateful to the Government for restoring to the Samiti the pre-war grant of Rs. 1000/- from the current year, 1926-27. We are still more grateful that during the period of financial stringency our Government saw its way to help the institution with a grant of Rs. 600/- a year. The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pramode Chandra Datta, the then Minister of Education made a supplementary grant of Rs. 400/- to the Samiti a few years back. The Government has sanctioned this year, as we have mentioned before, a sum of Rs. 2000/- for the construction of a Strong Room of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti, where the more valuable historic relics can be preserved. It must be admitted that but for this continuous flow of Government sympathy, the Samiti could not have been brought to its present stage. But, further expansion of the Samiti's house has become necessary. There is not sufficient room to place and exhibit the collections of the Samiti in a neat and systematic manner, as in other museums. A few glass cases will display with advantage the magnificent costumes of the Ahom Rajas and the valuable paintings contained in the manuscript puthis. They are now heaped up

in almirahs ; and neither the delicate leaves of the manuscripts and nor the fine texture of Assamese *Gomcheng* and *Kingkhap* will stand any rough handling. The stone images also demand a more suitable habitation. Besides, space is required for the Office and the Library of the transcriptions and printed books of the Samiti. The construction of a Provincial Museum has been voted by the Assam Legislative Council. And we all hope, effect will be given to the resolution at the earliest possible opportunity, or some *ad interim* arrangement be made to meet the growing demand for space for the collections of the Samiti.

The work of all such antiquarian institutions is bound to be imperceptible and slow. A lot of spade-work has to be done, and a lot of correspondence has to be entered into before any historic article can be acquired for the museum or the library. There must be some one to give information regarding the existence of a historical relic, a cannon or a sword, a puthi or an image. The owner should be persuaded to part with it. Some body must be sent to acquire and bring it to the Samiti, or the owner requested to send it. All this involves an unavoidable circumlocutory process. Besides, you have to fight with the sentiments of the owners, who are naturally unwilling to part with family heirlooms.

Another function of a representative antiquarian society is to educate public minds in the value

of old historic articles. An image or a historical relic embedded on the earth has no importance to the ordinary passer-by. Some training coupled with sentiment is necessary to attach to it any importance, and to realise the part which it can play in the reconstruction of the past history of the land. To educate the public in the historic value of these relics is another function of an institution like the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti. For that purpose, pamphlets and literature widely broadcasted should be continually streaming from the institution, and stock must be taken every now and then of all antiquarian work and activities.

To fulfil the great ends of a research organisation like the K. A. S., two things are necessary—men and money. A number of earnest and disinterested workers is the first desideratum. At the same time it must be admitted, that as we are circumstanced at present, it will be difficult to get whole-time workers. We must deprive ourselves of what leisure we get, in the interval of official or professional business, to carry on the work of the institution. Those who are not prepared to go to that extent can at least help us by taking a keen interest in the progress of the institution, by sending us clues or informations of any historic relic, and by becoming members.

An anomaly with research work is its huge expense, unaccompanied by any *material* profit. We will shudder if only we remember wha

untold wealth has been lavished on the excavations at Luxor and Taxila. The great Victoria Memorial Hall—the consecration of the dream of Lord Curzon in white marble—has in its spacious rooms and corridors only a few war-trophies, autograph-letters, and cuttings and issues of old papers. You can never say that the men who have financed these expensive excavations, and the construction of the Victoria Memorial Hall do not understand the value of money. They have all been inspired by the ideal that in order to effect the conservation of the deeds and achievements of men on this earth, these expenses in historic investigations are necessary, and that there is “Neither East nor West, Border, nor Breed, nor Birth,” in the great republic of historical learning.

If similar expenses had been made in historic investigations in Assam, the results would have been marvellous. Assam is a virgin field for research ; and much of its past history, inspite of the labours of Jenkins, Robinson, Hannay, Gait and Gurdon, is still shrouded in mystery. The purse of an Assamese Lord Carnarvon, and the tenacity of an Assamese Howard Carter should be available for excavating the ruins and temples in the vicinity of Sadiya, Rangpur, and in the very town of Gauhati. Government has discharged its obligations for the prosecution of historical and archaeological research. The Archaeological Department has been stabilised in the recent Imperial Budget, and some amount

has been spent in the excavating operations near Tezpur, which have been attended with fruitful results. The fact of state obligation does not absolve our own countrymen from financing investigations into the past history of the land where they have taken their birth.

The prospect of a University for Assam is looming large in the eyes of all educated Assamese. But, what is a University without facilities for original historical investigations? What will be the advantage, if the would be Assam University manufacture Graduates and Masters, who are thoroughly conversant with the history of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, but who cannot utter a word about King Bhaskaravarman or Maharaja Naranarayan? The Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti, or whatever be its name in the near future, will be an indispensable adjunct of the future Assam University. The early foundation of the University in Assam depends upon what progress we make in this institution, what relics and manuscripts we can collect, what library of antiquarian and historical books we can build. I see before my eyes, students of the future University of Assam aspiring after academic laurels poring over books and manuscripts in the library of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti, the epigraphist deciphering the illegible characters of the inscriptions, the numismatist with magnifying glass trying to read undiscovered annals in the coins preserved in the museum. The fulfilment of this dream depends

upon the hearty and material co-operation of the children of the soil, of those placed by Providence to watch their well-being and advancement, and of those guided by love of knowledge for its own sake.

Gauhati, Assam. }
 Sept. 11, 1926. } S. K. Bhuyan.
Honorary Secretary
 Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti.



Indira Gandhi National
 Centre for the Arts



Appendices.

No. 1.

Budget Estimate for 1926-27.

Passed in the Executive Committee Meetings of August 16 and 26, 1926, and adopted at the 14th. Anniversary Meeting held on September 11, 1926.

Receipts :—

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Cash in the Post Office Savings Bank on 1-4-26, to the account of Hony. Treasurer. | Rs. 2450-14-11 |
| 2. Interest for 1925-26, on the deposit in the Post Office Savings Bank. | ... 69-2-2 |
| 3. Cash in hand with Hony. Secy., on 1-4-1926. | 83-9-3 |
| 4. Government contribution for 1926-27, received on September 6, 1926. | ... 1000-0-0 |
| 5. Expected contributions from Members. | ... 150-0-0 |

Total. Rs.3753-10-4

Expenses :—

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Clerk and Librarian's Allowance | Rs. 260-0-0 |
| 2. Chowkidar's Pay | ... 168-0-0 |
| 3. Stationery | ... 50-0-0 |
| 4. Postage | ... 30-0-0 |
| 5. Books | ... 350-0-0 |
| 6. Periodicals | ... 80-0-0 |
| 7. Advertisements | ... 25-0-0 |
| 8. Collection of Materials | ... 400-0-0 |
| 9. Excursions | ... 150-0-0 |
| 10. Copying Charges | ... 100-0-0 |
| 11. Furniture | ... 200-0-0 |
| 12. Repairs and Petty Constructions | ... 500-0-0 |
| 13. Photo-apparatus and Materials | ... 40-0-0 |
| 14. Printing Charges | ... 400-0-0 |

15. Municipal Taxes ...	Rs. 19-0-0
16. Miscellaneous ...	... 100-0-0
17. One Typewriter and Materials ...	... 250-0-0

Total. Rs. 3122-0-0

Expected closing Balance on 31-3-1927; Rs. 631-10-4

No. 2.

Speech made by Prof. S. K. Bhuyan in proposing Dr. J. H. Hutton to the Chair, on the 13th. Anniversary of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti, held on October 27, 1925.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in proposing to the chair Dr. J. H. Hutton, I. C. S., C. I. E., M. A., D. Sc., Honorary Director of Ethnography of the Province of Assam. As his official and scholarly activities lie somewhere in the heart of the Naga Hills, he may not be so well known to all of you. But let me assure you that he is one of those distinguished members of Government service in Assam, who since the contact of the British with Assam have taken advantage of their residence here to explore the various branches of investigation in the province, and who have thereby familiarised the name *Assam* to the rest of the world. This devoted band of workers include, among others, Dr. J. P. Wade, David Scott, Col. Hannay, Major Butler, Major-General Francis Jenkins, Capt. Dalton, Capt. R. B. Pemberton, H. N. Godwin-Austen, S. E. Peal, William Robinson, Sir Edward Gait, Lt.-Col. Shakespeare and Lt.-Col. P. R. T. Gurdon. Let me add also to this list the name of the Hon'ble Mr. H. C. Barnes, our present Finance Member, who is carrying out a scheme to introduce to the world in a presentable form the valuable masterpieces of old Assam literature.

Dr. Hutton has not written any history of Assam, but it will be sufficient if I say that he is a close and well-read student of Assamese history, and takes greater interest in the relics and antiquities of the province even than the average expert. In fact it is impossible for a man of his habits of close observation to ignore the various possibilities of historical research in the province. His recent paper *On the carved stones of the Dayang Valley, Sibsagar*, published in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal bears testimony to his keen interest in the historical relics of Assam.

Dr. Hutton's line of research lies entirely in a different field, no less important than the transactions of kings and ambassadors. We are fortunate, gentlemen, that we live in the province of Assam, which some call "benighted", inhabited as it is by a diversity of races, speaking diverse languages, and professing diverse religions and customs, from the most enlightened and intellectual Aryan population of the plains down to the most primitive and unsophisticated denizens of the hills, some of whom have not as yet been brought under the humanising influence of modern civilisation, and are supposed to be still living in their aboriginal ferocity as head-hunters and snake-worshippers. The plains have assimilated the culture and civilisation of neighbouring and distant lands, their old and time-honoured customs have been gradually swept away by the force of modern surroundings. But among these primitive hillmen some have still retained "their customs of primaeval antiquity", and present to the modern observer a picture of what man was in the childhood of human civilisation. To the modern student, each of the tribes of Assam presents opportunities for lifelong research and investigation.

Considering the rapidity with which the disintegration of the rigid conservatism and tribal solidarity of the hillmen has followed the levelising influence of modern

civilisation, it is high time that they should be studied and preserved now, before they pass into "fading histories".

No one seems to be more inspired with this ideal than Dr. Hutton, who, soon after his arrival in India as a member of the Indian Civil Service, busied himself with the anthropology of the Naga Tribes. The blue-book and the red-tape are not meet places for Apollo, and the exacting duties of a district officer in Assam do scarcely leave any room for research and investigation. But Dr. Hutton, during his residence of thirteen years as an official in the Naga Hills, has, with the critical acumen of a western scholar, and with the best traditions of Oxford culture, studied the peculiar features of several of the Naga tribes, their customs, physignomy, language, marriage, religion etc. The results of his long and laborious investigations have been given to the world in two decent monographs, *The Angani Nagas*, and *The Shema Nagas*, published by direction of the Assam Administration, in execution of a scheme inaugurated by Sir Bampfylde Fuller. Dr. Hutton's scientific contributions on the Naga Tribes must be distinguished from the various papers and articles published from time to time in journals and reviews. Dr. Hutton's works are a distinct contribution to the ethnological literature of the world, and will facilitate the comparative study of the primitive races scattered all over the globe. It is in the fitness of things that the Government of Assam has appointed Dr. Hutton, Honorary Director of Ethnography for Assam, and rewarded his services as an anthropologist and as a distinguished member of the Indian Civil Service by conferring on him the C. I. E.

Dr. Hutton has been intimately associated with the monographs on other Naga Tribes, *The Lhota Nagas* by Mr. J. P. Mills I. C. S., and *The Ao Naga Tribe of Assam*

by Dr. W. C. Smith. Another monograph on the Ao Nagas from the pen of Mr. Mills is in the press. •

We are very fortunate, gentlemen, in having Dr. Hutton in our midst this evening. With these few words I request Dr. Hutton to kindly take the chair and preside over the 13th. Anniversary of the Kamarupa Anusandan Samiti.

No. 3.

Speech delivered by Dr. J. H. Hutton I. C. S., C. I. E., M. A., D. Sc., Honorary Director of Ethnography of the Province of Assam, as President of the 13th. Anniversary of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti.

Gentlemen,

I am the more sensible of the honour you have done me in asking me to preside over the anniversary meeting of this society in that I am conscious of having been personally unknown to most, if not to all of you. I do, however, assure you that I have very much at heart the object for which this society of yours was formed, and I consider myself among the most fortunate of my service in that my paths lie in this province of Assam. To-night I am happily able to bring you a message of goodwill from His Excellency the Governor'

* Mr. Mills' Monograph on the Ao Nagas has been published since the above lines were written, with a Foreword by Henry Balfour, and Supplementary Notes and Bibliography by Dr. J. H. Hutton. We may quote the words of the *Sunday Times*—

"No tribute of praise can be too great for the work now being done in the Naga Hills by two experienced officers of the Indian Civil Service, Dr. J. H. Hutton and Mr. J. P. Mills. In the course of their official work they have collected accurate information about some of the most interesting people in the world from the ethnological point of view".

who asked me to assure you of his personal interest in your work. There is no need for me to speak of the interest in it felt by the Hon. Finance Member, who has already enabled a start to be made towards constructing a printed record of the contents of the ancient puthis of Assam. I think I can promise you that, subject, of course, to the vote of the Legislative Council, the subsidy given by Government to your Society will be again raised to Rs. 1000/-. This, of course, is wholly inadequate for the work there is to be done, and as a contribution from Government it is barely in proportion to the work which the Society has voluntarily undertaken, and of the progress of which we have just heard the report. We must hope, somehow, to induce the Education Department at any rate to find money for the publication of at least Dr. Wade's History of Assam.

The real success of your work, however, depends not on any Government help, but on each member of the Society. Excavation, of which there is a vast deal to be done in Assam, is of course, a form of research needing funds and at least a certain amount of special training; as for historical research, I can add nothing to the admirable suggestions which Professor Bhuyan has already given you; but there is an unlimited quantity of information as to past customs, traditions, legends, folk-lore, which any one of you can help to collect and which exists in every village, and which, though it may appear to have purely insignificant and local value, may be ultimately of great importance when the whole puzzle is pieced together. It is only by slowly and patiently collecting such information, that light can be thrown on the early history of Assam, of which we know so little. I refer, of course, to the earlier part of the pre-Ahom periods. Where no written records exist we are dependent upon tradition, and the need for research in this is all the greater in that the rapid

change which society is undergoing is likely to obliterate much of what may yet survive. Not only does education tend to put an abrupt and final end to the handing down of traditions which depend for their continuance on the amazing accuracy of illiterate memories, but the immigration of an alien population from another province threatens to change the racial character, traditions and memories of entire areas of Assam. I would therefore suggest that it may be worth your while to consider the inception of a systematic collection of local traditions, customs and folk-lore, beginning, say, with the more backward parts of Kamrup and extending gradually to other districts, and, as your society grows in numbers and in strength, including more and more of the Assam Valley and even of the surrounding Hills. If such information be carefully filed and docketed as it comes in, and at the same time recorded on a card index arranged by villages and cross-indexed under subjects, it would create ultimately an extremely valuable mass of information, and the indexing, without which it would be difficult to make use of the material collected, and which is such a serious and costly undertaking at a later stage, would be easy enough if it were done to keep pace with contributions received. It would not be inspiring work, and it would be work of which you yourselves would hardly be likely to see the full results in your own generation, but it would none the less be an interesting work and a patriotic work. But to serve truly its purpose it would need to be an exact work, eschewing theories and vain speculations, content to record precisely just exactly what was found and where and how it was found.

Cicero, perhaps the greatest of Roman pleaders, stated * that it was the first duty of Man to seek after Truth, and to track her down, and if you will permit me, I would urge upon you the necessity of a sober

* *De Offic.* I. 4. 13

exactness, of a plain and painstaking examination of facts without which there can be no real science. You may say that this a platitude, but however well recognized it may be in theory, it is only too frequently ignored in practice. I came across, for instance, comparatively recently two books purporting to deal with the ancient history of Assam, and in both cases the author had sought to establish a theory which rested on no demonstrable facts by an appeal to real or fancied similarities in the sound or the spelling of certain names, whether of people or places. One of these theories was so fantastic as to be ludicrous, if one were not afraid the uncritical might take it seriously. Juggling with names is desperate business, and will lead a man anywhere he wishes to go. A name, after all, is only a label. If "Mech" is really derived from "Mleccha", it is likely to be identical, as a word, with Vlach, Walloon and Welsh, but no sane man would therefore contend that these stocks are identical races. Labels are liable to get washed off, and are easily changed, as the patient who is given extract of *nux vomica* for *cascara sagrada* finds to his cost. But perhaps the most fertile promotress of false doctrine is Vanity--the sort of Vanity that leads a Dimasa to return himself as a Chettri at the census, it derives the word *kayastha* from the word *kshattriya*, while in a much less reasonable form it leads otherwise sensible British citizens to insist on their descent from the lost Ten Tribes of Israel in order that they may flatter themselves that they are God's Own Chosen People.

I therefore put before you the idea of scientific research as a form of intellectual asceticism. No greatness, moral or physical, has ever been obtained without the exercise of that self-control which is bred by the ascetic spirit, and I maintain that the ascetic ideal is no whit less necessary to intellectual achievement. And I put this to your Society with the greater confidence in that

its members come of a nationality noted for its religious ascetics. In research, therefore, let us put aside all allurements of art, romance and vaingloriousness, even of patriotism, and seek the naked fact and pursue it, however distasteful it be. An ancient wiseacre * wrote *Magna est Veritas, et praevallet*—"Great is Truth, and prevaiileth". A later age, unable, one supposes, to accept so dubious a statement, but unwilling to admit it mistaken, has altered the tense to the future—*Magna est Veritas, et praevallebit*—"She will prevail". Gentlemen, I assure you that there is no evidence even of this, no evidence at all. From Tennessee to Timbuctoo untruth is rampant, and the most we can say is *praevaleat*—"let Her prevail". But she will not succeed in doing so unless all of us help her all we can, and that is the proper motto for any research society :—*Magna est Veritas, et praevaleat*.

Indira Gandhi National
Centre for the Arts
No. 4.

Precis of the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Mr. A. W. Botham C. S. I., C. I. E., B. A., I. C. S., Finance Member of the Assam Government, as President of the 14th. Anniversary of the K. A. S. held on September 11, 1926.

The president rose amidst cheers to address the meeting. He thanked the workers for giving him an opportunity to spend a pleasant evening in the Samiti. He congratulated the members for the fine collections which they have been able to acquire for the institution. He regretted that time could not be found for reading the original papers received for the Anniversary. They had very tempting titles, and he thought, they would be valuable contributions towards the history of Assam. The president expressed the desire to be in close touch with historical and antiquarian research in Assam.

* Esdras, III, iv, 41, Vulgate.

Speaking as a member of the Samiti, rather than as Finance Member of the Government, he realized the necessity of the early foundation of a Museum for Assam. He referred to the copper-plates of the Hindu or Pre-Ahom period, described by Sir Edward Gait in his *History of Assam* and to other objects of historical and archaeological interest which had been lost to the province owing to the want of a provincial museum. He exhorted the Samiti to proceed with the work of collection, which would form the nucleus of the future Assam Museum, though belated in its establishment. The beginning of the museum, the president said, may be done by the Samiti; and as a member of the Samiti, he made an appeal to all to take keen interest in the progress and well-being of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti.

No. 5.

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List of papers and articles read or taken as read, in the general meetings and anniversaries of the K. A. S., from 1915 to 1926:—

1. History of Goalpara. Srijut Kaliram Medhi M. A. Sept. 8, 1915.
2. Darrang Raj-Vamsavali. Srijut Hemchandra Goswami. May 5, 1917.
3. Tezpur Rock-Inscription. Lt.-Col. P. R. T. Gurdon. November 20, 1917.
4. Night-Worshippers in Assam. Srijut Saratchandra Goswami. May 16, 1918.
5. Ahom Rule in Assam. Prof. S. K. Bhuyan. December 19, 1918.
6. Buddhist Shan Tribes in Assam. Srijut Kshetradhar Bargohain B. A. February 15, 1919.
7. Old Assamese Cannon. Srijut Sarveswar Kataki.

8. The Bodos or Kacharis. Srijut Kamalakanta Bhattacharyya. April 24, 1919.
9. Extraction of Gold in Pre-British Assam. Srijut Benudhar Sarma. February 7, 1920.
10. Pre-Ahom Copper-plates. Srijut Saniram Barah. January 1, 1920.
11. Ganga-Pukhuri. Srijut S. R. Barah. March 31, 1920.
12. A Copper-plate Grant of Bhaskara-Barman. Mahamahopadhyaya Padmanath Bhattacharyya M. A. July 13, 1920.
13. Recent Excursions to Dimapur. Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami. July 13, 1920.
14. Assamese-Arabic Philology. Maulavi Saiyid Muhibul Huque B. L.
15. Inscription on the Chalanta image at Umananda. Srijut Sarveswar Katak. May 3, 1921.
16. Aryan Settlement in Assam. Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami. August 23, 1922.
17. Life and Teachings of Sankardeva. Prof. Bani Kanta Kakati. May 15, 1923.
18. Stone Inscription at Umananda Temple. Srijut Sonaram Chaudhury.
19. Aryan Settlement in Assam. Srijut Saniram Barah. October 27, 1925.
20. The Ancient Koch Capital of Bijaypur. Srijut Jaltiram Lahkar.
21. Kingdom of Siromani Bhuyan. Srijut Harinarayan Datta-Barua.
22. Ancient Barnagar. Srijut Chintaharan Patgiri.
23. Report on the Manuscript Assamese Puthis in possession of the American Baptist Mission at Gauhati. Prof. S. K. Bhuyan.
24. Newly discovered Copper-plate Grant of Indrapala, Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami. Oct. 27, 1925.

25. Traces of Buddhism in Assam. Srijut Saratchandra Goswami. October 27, 1925.
26. Kamarupa in Ancient India. Srijut Divakar Goswami M. A., B. L. September 11, 1926.
27. Commerce in Assam in Pre-British Period. Sj. Sarveswar Kataki.
28. Durga-Image in Possession of the K. A. S. Srijut Muktheadhar Sarma.
29. History of Luki. Sj. Jaltiram Lahkar.
30. Ancient Town of Pragjyotishpur. Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami.
31. Glimpse of Assam in the Records of the Honourable East India Company. Professor S. K. Bhuyan.

N. B.—Papers, from Nos. 2. to 7, and 12 have been printed in the *Work of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti*, published in 1920.—S. K. Bhuyan

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No. 6.

Abstract of work done during 1926-1927.

(A) Since the constitution of the Executive Committee for 1926-1927 on July 7, 1926, to the 14th. Anniversary meeting held on September 11, 1926.

1. Purchase of Hunter's *Statistical Account of Assam*.
2. Transcription of the following Puthis,—(a) *Hari-Vamsa* and (b) *Rani-Raj-Vamsavali*.
3. The appointment of a wholetime clerk.
4. Organisation of the office and sorting of the records under appropriate heads.
5. Acquisition of articles in possession of the descendants of Swargadeo Chandra Kanta Singha.
6. Acquisition of three stone-images from the

- Makrang Tea Estate in Upper Assam, through Srijut Jagat Chandra Goswami of Golmghat.
7. Purchase of one glass almirah, and the construction of one bookshelf, one table, and other furniture for the office.

(B) *Since the 14th. Anniversary meeting to January 15, 1927.*

1. Acquisition of 5000 cannon-balls extracted at Kharghuli by Prof. S. K. Bhuyan in May 1926.
2. Excursion to Khetri by Sj. Sarveswar Kataki, Hony. Asst. Secy., resulting in the acquisition of the following relics,—(1) One Jongal Balahu Shield, (2) One Langkai sword.
3. Acquisition of the following articles from Mr. A. Wali B. A., Asst. Teacher, Cotton Collegiate School, Gauhati, through Sj. Sarveswar Kataki,—(1) One Rabab or Tokari, (2) Three Japi Sulajari, (3) One Kingkhap Mirjai, (4) One China Kaporar Buku-Chola.
4. Acquisition of the following articles from a friend of the Samiti who prefers to remain unknown, through Sj. Sarveswar Kataki,—(1) One Khuti Hiloi, (2) One Langkai sword.
5. Subscription by the Samiti of the following historical magazines :—
 - (1) *Journal of Indian History*, edited by Prof. S. Krishnaswami Ayenger Ph. D., Madras.
 - (2) *Indian Historical Quarterly*, edited by Dr. Narendranath Laha Ph. D., Calcutta.
6. Acquisition of an Anantamurti from Babu Sanjib Chandra Roy Gauhati, through Srijut Sarveswar Kataki.
7. Exchange of publications with the Assam Sahitya Sabha, Jorhat.

8. Transcription by typewriting of the following historical articles :—

(1) *Report on Assam, 1793*, by Capt. Welsh, from Sir Alexander Mackenzie's *North-East Frontier of Bengal*, kindly lent to Prof. S. K. Bhuyan by C. S. Mullan Esq. I. C. S., Under-Secretary to the Government of Assam. This Report contains also the comments of David Scott.

(2) *Assam since the Expulsion of the Burmese*, by an unknown writer, published in the *Calcutta Review* for 1853, kindly lent to Prof. S. K. Bhuyan by the Librarian Government Public Library, Shillong.

9. Transcription of the series of articles on the Ahom Government, *Agar Din*, by the late Rai Bahadur Gunabhiram Borooah, published in the *Assam Bandhu*, 1885, kindly lent to Prof. S. K. Bhuyan by Pandit Hem Chandra Goswami.

10. Publication of a Notice regarding the K. A. S. in the *Assam Gazette* with effect from its issue of November 3, 1926, through the courtesy of the Second Secretary to the Assam Govt.

11. Purchase of a Portable Remington Typewriter on the Govt. contract rate of Rs. 180/- through Commissioner of the Assam Valley Division, and the Second Secretary to the Assam Govt.

12. Purchase of a copy of the Proceedings of the A. S. B., No. VI, June 1895, containing Gait's *Note on Historical Research in Assam*.

13. Borrowing of the following articles by the Hony. Secretary from Srijut. Jajnadatta Sarma Doloi of Sualkuchi Siddheswar Temple :—

(1) One Assamese manuscript puthi, *Markan-*

deya-chandi, by one Basudeva Sarma of Srihati, and transcribed by one of the ancestors of its present owner.

- (2) One copper-plate, indicating grant of land to the Siddheswar Devayala at Sualkuchi, by Swargadeo Siva Singha in *Saka* 1645, 9th. Chaitra.
- (3) One copper-plate, indicating Brahmottar grant of land to a Brahman of Bangesar Pargana, made by Siva Singha in *Saka* 1662, 20th. Paush.
14. Ekra-walling of the shed where the heavier images, cannon are placed, fencing of the Samiti's compound, erection of a gate-house, fixing iron-bars in the windows of the Samiti Hall, extension of the shed towards the south, under the supervision of Srijut Nabin Chandra Talukdar.
15. Preparation of a Plan and Estimate of the Strong Room, approval of the plan by the Government, invitation of tenders, acceptance of the tender of a local Contractor, and commencement of work.
16. Acquisition of a large-sized stone-cup from Srijut Padmakanta Deka B. Sc. of Jagi, Nowgong, through Srijut Harimohan Das, Clerk of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti.
17. Taking over the custody of the Photographic Reprint of an Ahom Buranji of Assam from Khunlung-Khunlai to the end of the Ahom Rule, from the Commissioner, A. V. D., till the establishment of the proposed Assam Museum.
18. Acquisition, as temporary loan, of one Vishnu image with Durga and Lakshmi on both sides, from Srijut Jagabandhu Das of Commissioner's Office, and another from Jogendra Nath Barua B. L., through Srijut Sarveswar Kataki.

19. Transcription by typewriting of two articles,—
 (1) Memorandum of Proceedings regarding Assam, about 1792, and (2) Report relative to Assam in 1797, made by the Persian Translator, from *Selections from Unpublished Records of Government*, by the Revd. J. Long Vol. I, 1869.
20. Acquisition of the following articles, constituting the equipments of the ceremonial dress of a Naga warrior, presented by Dr. J. H. Hutton C. I. E. through the Government Emporium, Gauhati,—five spears, one *dao*, three head-dresses used by different tribes, one cane haversack, two cane gauntlets, two cane leggings, one red waist-cloth with tail-apron, one red breast-piece.



N. B. Certain portions of the Report and the Appendices have been published in newspapers from time to time:—

- (a) Ancient Cannon-Balls at Gauhati, in the *Times of Assam* of March 20, 1926, and reprinted therefrom in Calcutta papers.
- (b) The *Conclusion* of the Report, in the *Times of Assam* of November 6, 1926, under the title *Research in Assam*.
- (c) Appendix 2, opening speech of Prof. S. K. Bhuyan requesting Dr. J. H. Hutton to take the chair on the 13th. Anniversary meeting, in the *Statesman* of December 4, 1925, slightly condensed, under the title of *Research in Assam : Field for Investigating Anthropology*.
- (d) Appendix 4, *precis* of the speech of the Hon'ble Mr. A. W. Botham in the account of the Proceedings of the 14th. Anniversary meeting, in the *Times of Assam* of September 18, 1926.

—S. K. BHUYAN.



Remarks made by Distinguished Visitors.

1. *Mr. Kashinath Dikshit M. A., Superintendent, Archaeological Survey of India, Eastern Circle, Calcutta. 21-2-1921:—*

I visited the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti's rooms on the 19th. February and again on the 21st. I think the Society has made a good beginning, and it deserves all the encouragement it can get from the public and Government. The barest nucleus of a collection of archaeological interest for the province has been collected, and I hope it would be possible before long to have a Provincial Museum worthy of the province, if Government and the public take sufficient interest. It is certainly a matter of reproach that this province, which is so exceptionally rich in ethnographic and historical material, has not yet awakened itself to the necessity of having a Museum of its own, where such material can be studied. For the present the Society should in my opinion work on these lines :—

(1) Collection of all images and sculptures etc. lying scattered all over the province. This work can be easily undertaken by non-official members of the Society. who can induce the villagers and owners to part with them.

(2) Taking impressions of all inscriptions lying at temples etc. and a plaster cast of important rock inscriptions, as for example, the Tezpur inscription.

(3) Approaching Government and other learned Societies to present Reports and Journals etc. of archaeological interest, to the library of the Samiti.

(4) Making greater efforts to induce the educated public, specially the staff of the local College, to take greater interest in the work of the Society.

2. *The late Rai Bahadur Ghanasyam Barua B. L., Minister of Local Self-Government, Assam. 18-6-1921 :—*

I visited the rooms of the Samiti this afternoon and met four of its veteran members there. I was very pleased to see the collection so far made, and remembered with renewed regret the rejection of the Museum Scheme by the Legislative Council. I hope, the members of the Samiti will still continue their efforts with the means at their disposal, until better fortune dawns upon them.

The urgent necessity of at least one Strong Room to store in some valuable collections—such as old coins, specimens of clothings of the Ahom royal family etc. and the collection of Assamese puthis was pressed upon me. Aid was sought of Government in a few other matters also. All I could do was to advise the Samiti to approach Government officially, if it so wished, so that the request might be properly considered. I do not see why the original Scheme itself should not be pressed upon the Council again. I wish the institution god-speed.

3. *Srijut Lohit Chandra Nayak B. L., formerly Member of the Assam Legislative Council. 28-6-1921 :—*

I visited the rooms of the Samiti with Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami, the President of the Samiti. The Samiti has made a good beginning in respect of archaeological collections, and with more co-operation, the museum will be so attractive that it will be the observed of the observers.

It is, indeed, a matter of regret that the museum is taken in hand so late. The collection of archaeological remains of the province will show of what stuff the Assamese of the days of yore were made, and will give an impetus to the present-day people to revive their old decaying arts. It is a lamentable mistake on

the part of the Legislative Council to neglect the Museum Scheme. It is not finally settled, and we have to see its unsettling very soon, and a museum re-established as a pride and glory alike of ancient Assam.

4. *The late Rai Bahadur Devicharan Barua B. L., sometimes Member of the Legislative Assembly. 2-8-1921 :—*

I visited the premises of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti yesterday, and was shown round the several results of its activities by the courtesy of the members of its Managing Committee. The progress so far made, though small, is quite encouraging. The undertaking is, undoubtedly, a noble one, and if properly encouraged by the benevolent public and the benign Government is sure to yield results similar to those derived from well-established museums. I believe the day is not distant enough when the local Cotton College will be converted into a residential University ; and taking that welcome event into consideration it becomes the bounden duty of the residents of the Province and the generous public to see that the infant institution thrives into a full-fledged museum so that there will be no difficulty to the students of various branches of science for research work.

5. *The late Khan Bahadur Saiyed Abdul Mazid B. L., C. I. E., the then Minister of Education, Assam. 7-12-1921 :—*

I visited the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti this day with Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami E. A. C., the President of the Samiti, who very kindly showed me the ancient relics and inscriptions. This small room contains most historical relics of which any museum might well be proud. I wish I could devote more time here. The readings are very interesting as well as the coins, and there are much materials of very great historical value. It is fortunate that the natives of the Province have

been able to make such a fine collection which otherwise would have been lost. The President and the other members of the Samiti may well be congratulated on the success of their efforts.

6. *B. C. Allen Esq. B. A., I. C. S., C. S. I., formerly Commissioner of the Assam Valley Division, 23-6-1922 :—*

I was much pleased with what I saw of the work of the Society. With slender resources they have made a very good beginning. They deserve encouragement.

7. *Rai Bahadur Kanaklal Barua B. L., F. R. E. S., Director of Industries, Assam. 13-11-1922 :—*

I have seen the collections, and I found the old puthis and the pottery recovered in recent excavations very interesting. A Government officer was deputed at public expense to read through the puthis lent. It is a pity that a short account concerning them has not yet been published for general information. It is not known what that officer did, but whatever he achieved should certainly be public property.

The pieces of glazed and other pottery found in re-excavating an old tank are very interesting. These have not been studied yet by a competent person. Some of the old pitchers and earthen jugs are still in tact as they were evidently thrown into the water of the tank which eventually became choked with weeds etc. These relics include a decanter made of China clay, which perhaps point to an origin in India. Some unbroken earthen plates very like *sanaks* used by Mahomedans have also been found. The glazing of the earthenware appears to have been done with mica dust, and the custom still prevails in parts of the Goalpara Subdivision. The skeleton of a human body was found along with these remains in the old tank, which had stone steps

and which was evidently at one time within the compound of a well-to-do person.

The collections made so far should be studied carefully by a person taking interest in these matters, and the results of such study should be published. May we not expect some of the professors of the local College to take up the interesting work ?

8. *Rai Bahadur Pramode Chandra Datta B. L., the then Minister of Education and of Local Self-Government, Assam. 20-11-1922 :—*

I paid a visit to this institution at the request of the President and the Secretary.

It is unique of its kind in Assam doing very useful work. The collections and exhibits, so far made, though not quite so large, are very interesting, and one feels no doubt that, with proper encouragement specially in regard to its finance it will bring to light much that is obscure in the history of Assam.

The progress so far made is due to the selfless devotion of a small number of patriotic gentlemen. I have been pressed for a grant for the construction of a Strong Room for the safe custody of the rare collections and coins and other interesting exhibits. I am sorry that owing to the financial stringency I cannot promise the assistance just at present. I have however asked them to give me an estimate. I wish it all success.

9. *His Excellency Sir John Henry Kerr K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., I. C. S., Governor of Assam. 19-12-1922 :—*

I visited the premises of the Samiti today, and was greatly interested in the collections which they have got together. Progress is hampered by want of funds, and I am afraid that in the present financial situation it is impossible for me to promise any immediate assistance from Government. This deserving institution should how-

ever be remembered by the Education Department when more prosperous times come. Meanwhile I have much pleasure in acceding to the request of the members that I should become Patron of the Samiti.

10. *G. A. Small Esq. B. A., I. E. S., Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Division :—*

I visited the Samiti today and was much interested in the collections which were shown me by Pandit Lakshmi Nath Sarma and Srijut Sarveswar Katakai.

I understand that recently several interesting pieces of pottery have been found at a depth of 8 or 10 feet during the digging of the foundations of the Gauhati Electric Supply Company's buildings.

Possibly some of these could be obtained to add to the collection here.

It is a pity that the institution has not sufficient funds to permit of providing accommodation for all the inscribed stones. Many of them are exposed to wind and rain.

11. *Rakhal Das Banerjee Esq. M. A., Superintendent, Archaeological Survey of India, Eastern Circle, Calcutta. 2-11-1924 :—*

The Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti has done good work during its short existence. They have provided a small Museum which would become part and parcel of a representative institution for the whole province. They have got their own house, and a fair collection of images, Ahom relics and old inscriptions.

In order to improve the Society's collection it would be necessary :—

(1) To lend the Government coin cabinet at Shillong, and to form a representative coin committee.

(2) To permit the members to collect images, sculptures and inscriptions, including old guns from all parts

of Assam. These specimens may be brought at the cost of the Government, and would remain Government property but they would be lent to the Society for exhibition pending the formation of a Provincial Museum.

When funds permit, occasional special grants may be obtained from Government for the provision of show-cases in order that the fine collection of Ahom raiment, swords, pottery etc. may be properly exhibited.

A very large number of images and sculptures are lying uncared for in all parts of Assam, and if the Government would help this useful institution in collecting them a provincial Museum can be formed at a little cost and in no time.

12. *Rai Bahadur Syamlal Gupta, formerly of the Behar and Orissa Executive Service. 15-11-1924 :—*

I am much obliged to Professors P. C. Roy, and S. K. Bhuyan for showing me round the premises of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti and its interesting collection of ancient relics of Assam. The collections, even so far as they have progressed, form a most promising nucleus for a Provincial Museum, and should interest all visitors to Assam, who want to know anything of its past history and civilization. I wish the institution every success, which should be on its way of attainment with some kind attention from Government which it most deserves.

I hope it will be possible to decipher some of the ancient inscriptions which are now under investigation.

13. *Sir Devaprasad Sarvadhikari Kt., M. A., LL. D., C. B. E., formerly Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University. 4-10-1925 :—*

Through the courtesy of Mr. Hem Chandra Goswami, President of the Samiti, I was privileged to visit the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti in his company and that of Professor Suryya Kumar Bhuyan, two of the most energetic

and successful workers of the Society. They gave me most interesting explanation of the collection.

The collection of sculpture, coins, manuscripts and relics of the different periods of Assam history is very interesting. I was however filled with wonder and disappointment that the collection is not larger and more varied, considering the vast field in Assam awaiting scholarly examination in the department of Antiquity and Anthropology. With His Excellency the Governor of the Province as patron, with successive Ministers and high officials as really sympathetic well-wishers, and with capable and helpful advice such as Mr. Dikshit and Mr. Rakhal Das Banerjea of the Archaeological Department have from time to time been giving to the Samiti, its work should have no difficulty in growing from more to more. Better organisation and more financial help are all that is needed. I had the privilege of seeing some specimens of Mr. Dikshit's and Mr. R. D. Banerjee's investigations at Nalanda, Matsang, Harappa and Mohen-jo-Daro at Simla only a few days ago, and seeing, hearing and reading the inconsequential work in that direction near the North-Eastern Frontier Provinces of India, my disappointment here becomes acuter than ever. More vigorous work may soon yield results that will compare favourably with what has come to light in the North-Western Frontier of India. Capable and willing workers are not altogether wanting, and their work would have a better impetus even with the semblance of a Museum, which should not be long in coming. It is a pity that inter-district misunderstanding in the same Province should lead to the suspension of so necessary a scheme as a Provincial Museum, and no efforts should be wanting to bring about a more correct understanding.

Till the Museum comes, the authorities would do well to arrange a catalogue of its collection, and get into touch with the Asiatic Society, and let the outside public know what they are trying to do.

14. *Srijut Chandradhar Barua, formerly Member of the Council of State. 21-10-1925 :—*

Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami kindly gave me an opportunity to visit the collections of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti; and Srijut Muktheadhar Sarma, the librarian, showed me the various things today. The things though only a few, are very much interesting. This is an attempt in the right direction, and I wish every success to it. I am of opinion that the energetic people of the other districts of Assam can do a good deal to assist the Samiti in this most useful work. Let me hope that this small collection will immensely grow, that we may have in its place, in the near future, a stately Museum befitting the old reputation of our province.

15. *Dr. J. H. Hutton I. C. S., M. A., D. Sc., C. I. E., Honorary Director of Ethnography, Assam. 27-10-1925 :—*

By the courtesy of the members I was shown the collection of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti to-day. The nucleus is here of a really valuable collection, and one, which would be truly representative of Assam, but its proper preservation is hopelessly handicapped by want of funds. The collection has been started by private enterprise, and the members of the Society have enthusiasm, but few resources; and unless something is done by Government there is a danger of the more precious objects in the collection deteriorating from the absence of adequate protection. The puthis and Buranjis ought to be in air-tight cases, and the illustrated ones ought to be between glass sheets, so that they can be handled without being damaged. All this needs money, and the only remedy that I can see is to push the construction here of a Provincial Museum and the appointment of a permanent curator who should have had sound training in this work. This can only be done when the Legislative Council is willing to vote the money and it is the members of that Council who need to be convinced of

the value and necessity of housing this collection, properly extending it to form a Provincial Museum before the objects of historical interest in Assam are lost or destroyed.

16. *Sir M. V. Joshi Kt., Formerly Member of the Executive Council of His Excellency the Governor of Central Provinces and Berar. 10-1-1926 :—*

I visited the Samiti this morning with Mr. Goswami, Secretary and two other friends. The Samiti bids fair to do good work considering what it has already achieved. More Assamese gentlemen might take interest in it ; very few do at present, and the Samiti would thus have greater chances of valuable finds of antiquarian interest. The greater the scope for work, the greater would be call on the Government and the people for funds. The Government grant of Rs 600/- a year is barely enough for a beginning. It is possible that the collection now begun may end in a Museum, and one trusts to time for such developments.

17. *The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla M. A., B. L., Minister to the Government of Assam. 23-1-26 :—*

I paid a very hurried visit to this institution. The Secretary was kindly in attendance.

Some of the collections are remarkable, and bid fair to dream of a Museum for our Province later on. I wish I had money to grant to this deserving Samiti, but I will remember its case, when I present the next budget in the Council.

18. *Srijut Rohinikanta Hatibarua B. A., M. L. C. 31-1-1926 :—*

I visited this institution this morning. The members of the Anusandhan Samiti deserve credit from the people of Assam for what they have done towards preserving

the old relics of this ancient land of Kamarupa. But I regret to say that this Samiti has not yet been able to draw the kind attention of the public and the Government, and this is due more to the apathy of the public and Government towards such a useful institution. I understand that the members of the Samiti are doing their level best to have this institution quite in keeping with the name of this ancient land of Kamarupa which is rich in ancient literature and relics. I will be very glad to help this institution in whatever way I am called upon to do.

19. *Messrs. A. V. Thakkar B. E. of the Bheel Seva Mandal, and Jyotibhushan Sen M. A., Members of the Servants of India Society. 9-3-1926 :—*

We were very kindly shown some inscriptions, potteries and other interesting objects collected here. They are very interesting. Every one who may visit this collection will, no doubt wish that something more substantial will be done to house the collection and to make additions thereto.

We are told the Assam Legislative Council has recently passed a resolution asking the Government to sanction Rs. 30,000/- for the purposes of the Museum. It is hoped that the money will be sanctioned soon and utilized both for a building and for whole-time staff required for looking after the collection.

20. *The Hon'ble Mr. A. W. Botham I. C. S., C. S. I., C. I. E., B. A., Member of the Executive Council of His Excellency the Governor of Assam. 12-9-1926 :—*

I was much interested yesterday in the collection of articles of historical and archaeological importance which the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti has made, and which will, I hope, form the nucleus of a Provincial Museum for Assam. I wish the Samiti all success in its valuable work.

Executive Committee and Office-Bearers, from 1916-1917 to 1926-1927.

1916-1917.

Rai Bahadur Bhubanram Das, *President*; Mr. Kalicharan Sen, *Secretary*; Mr. Gaurikanta Talukdar, *Assistant Secretary*; Mr. Jogendranath Barua E. A. C., *Treasurer*; Mr. Satyanath Barah, *Auditor*; Mr. Saratchandra Goswami; Mr. Ramdev Sarma; Mr. Hem Chandra Goswami; Mr. Sureschandra Banerjea; Prof. Lakshminarayan Chatterjee; Munshi Azizar Rahman.

1917-1918.

Mr. Hem Chandra Goswami, *President*; Rai Bahadur K. C. Sen, *Hony. Secy.*; Mr. G. K. Talukdar, *Asst. Secy.*; Mr. Ramdev Sarma, *Asst. Secy.*; Mr. J. N. Barua, *Treasurer*; Mr. Satyanath Barah, *Auditor*; Mr. Azizar Rahman; Mr. G. C. Bardalai; Prof. Lakshminarayan Chatterjee; Rai Saheb Padmanath Gohain-Barua; Rai Bahadur Bhuban Ram Das.

1918-1919.

Mr. Hem Chandra Goswami, *President*; Rai Bahadur Kalicharan Sen, *Hony. Secy.*; Mr. Bishnuram Medhi, *Assistant Secretary*; Mr. Jogendranath Barua, *Treasurer*; Mr. Satyanath Barah, *Auditor*; Rai Bahadur Krishna Chandra Chaudhuri; Prof. Lakshminarayan Chatterjee; Prof. Suryya Kumar Bhuyan; Mr. Chandranath Sarma; Mr. Sisirkumar Barua; Mr. R. D. Sarma.

1919-1920.

Mr. Hem Chandra Goswami, *President*; Rai Bahadur Kalicharan Sen, *Hony. Secy.*; Mr. Jogendranath Barua, *Treasurer*; Mr. Satyanath Barah, *Auditor*; Mr. Chandra Nath Sarma; Mr. R. D. Sarma; Mr. Bishnuram Medhi,

Prof. Suryya Kumar Bhuyan; Rai Bahadur Krishna Chandra Chaudhuri; Mr. Sisirkumar Barua.

1920-1921.

Mr. Hem Chandra Goswami, *President*; Mr. Bishnu Ram Medhi, *Hony. Secy.*; Mr. Jogendranath Barua, *Treasurer*; Rai Bahadur Kalicharan Sen; Mr. Satyanath Barah, *Auditor*; Prof. Suryya Kumar Bhuyan; Prof. Banikanta Kakati; Mr. Chandranath Sarma; Principal J. Borooah; Mr. Kaliram Barman; Mr. Jaltiram Lahkar.

1921-1922

Mr. Hem Chandra Goswami, *President*; Prof. S. K. Bhuyan, *Hony. Secy.*; Mr. Sarveswar Kataki, *Asst Secy.*; Mr. Jogendranath Barua, *Treasurer*; Rai Bahadur Krishna Chandra Chaudhuri; Rai Saheb Ananda Chandra Agarwala; Mr. Satyanath Barah, *Auditor*; Prof. Bani Kanta Kakati; Mr. Jaltiram Lahkar; Mr. Syed Mahibul Huque; Miss Augusta Geisenheuer.

1922-1923.

Mr. Hem Chandra Goswami, *President*; Mr. Umakanta Goswami, *Hony. Secy.*; Mr. S. Kataki, *Asst. Secy. and Librarian*; Mr. J. N. Barua, *Treasurer*; Mr. S. N. Barah, *Auditor*; Rai Bahadur A. C. Agarwala; Prof S. K. Bhuyan; Prof. B. K. Kakati; Mr. Bharatchandra Das E. A. C.; Rai Bahadur Krishna Chandra Chaudhuri; Mr. Jaltiram Lahkar.

1923-1924.

Principal J. Borooah, *President*; Mr. Uma Kanta Goswami, *Hony. Secy*; Mr. Sonaram Chaudhuri, *Asst. Secy*; Mr. Muktaadhar Sarma, *Asst. Secy. and Clerk-Librarian*; Mr. Satyanath Barah, *Auditor*; Mr. Jogendranath Barua, *Treasurer* till January 1924; Prof. Suryya Kumar Bhuyan, *Treasurer* from March 1924; Rai Bahadur Radhanath Phukan; Rai Bahadur Ananda Chandra Agarwala; Prof. Banikanta Kakati; Mr. Jaltiram Lahkar.

1924-1925.

Principal J. Borooah, *President*; Mr. Uma Kanta Goswami, *Hony. Secy.*; Mr. Muktheadhar Sarma, *Asst. Secy. and Clerk-Librarian*; Prof. Suryya Kumar Bhuyan, *Treasurer*; Mr. Satyanath Barah, *Auditor*; Rai Bahadur Radha nath Phukan; Mr. Hemchandra Goswami; Prof. Bani kanta Kakati; Pandit Lakshminath Sarma; Mr. Herasat ullah; Mr. Jaltiram Lahkar.

1925-1926.

Mr. Hemchandra Goswami, *President*; Mr. Uma kanta Goswami, *Hony. Secy.*; Mr. Muktheadhar Sarma, *Clerk-Librarian*; Mr. Sonaram Chaudhuri, *Asst. Secy.*; Mr. Kaliram Barman, *Treasurer*; Prof. Suryya Kumar Bhuyan, *Auditor*; Mr. Nabinchandra Talukdar; Mr. Sarveswar Kataki; Mr. Jaltiram Lahkar; Principal J. Borooah; Prof. Banikanta Kakati.

1926-1927.

Mr. H. C. Goswami, *President*; Prof. S. K. Bhuyan, *Hony. Secy.*; Mr. S. Kataki, *Asst. Secy.*; Mr. K. R. Barman, *Treasurer*; Mr. Jnananath Barah, *Auditor*; Mr. M. Sarma; Mr. N. C. Talukdar; Mr. J. Lahkar; Rai Bahadur R. N. Phukan.; Rai Bahadur K. C. Sen; Prof. U. K. Goswami.

No 9.

Patrons and Members of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti.

PATRONS.

1. His Excellency Sir John Henry Kerr K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.C.S., Governor of Assam. *Shillong.*

2. Sir Archdale Earle, formerly Chief Commissioner of Assam. Yarlet, Walton on the Hill. *Surrey, England.*
3. Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. T. Gurdon C. S. I., I. A. Retired, formerly Commissioner of the Assam Valley Division, C/o Lloyds Bank, Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall. *London, S. W. I.*
4. Sir Edward Gait, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Behar and Orissa. Cranmer Lodge. *Camberley, England.*
5. Raja Prabhatchandra Barua of Gauripur. P. O. *Gauripur, Assam.*
6. H. C. Barnes Esq. C. I. E., I. C. S., M. A. Commissioner of the Assam Valley Division. *Gauhati.*

HONORARY MEMBERS.

1. Sir Praphullachandra Ray Kt., C. I. E., D. Sc., Ph. D., University College of Science. 91 Upper Circular Road. *Calcutta.*
2. Mahamahopadhyaya Padmanath Bhattacharyya Vid-yavinode M. A., Formerly Senior Professor of Sanskrit in the Cotton College, Gauhati. 45 House Katara. *Benares City.*
3. Mahamahopadhyaya Haraprasad Sastri M. A., C. I. E., 26 Pataldunga Street, *Calcutta.*
4. Rai Saheb Nagendranath Basu Prachya-vidya-mahar-nava. 9 Biswakosh lane, Bagbazar. *Calcutta.*

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

Members Resident at Gauhati.

1. Dr. D. Thomson M. A., B. Sc., Ph. D., I. E. S., Principal, Cotton College. *Gauhati.*
2. Mr. Jnanadabhiram Barua, Barrister-at-Law, Principal, Earle Law College. *Gauhati.*
3. Mr. R. Cullis Goffin M. A., I. E. S., Senior Professor of English, Cotton College. *Gauhati.*
4. Srijut Suryyakumar Bhuyan M. A., B. L., A. E. S., Professor of English, Cotton College ; Uzanbazar. *Gauhati.*

5. Srijut Banikanta Kakati M. A., A. E. S., Professor of English, Cotton College. Gauhati.
6. Babu Bijoychandra Sen Gupta M. A., A. E. S., Professor of History, Cotton College ; Cotton Hindu Hostel. Gauhati.
7. Babu Bhubanmohan Sen M. A., A. E. S., Professor of History, Cotton College ; Cotton Hindu Hostel. Gauhati
8. Maulavi Saiyid Muhammad Muhibullah M. A., A. E. S., Professor of Arabic and Persian, Cotton College ; Lakhtakia. Gauhati.
9. Maulavi Abul Fazl Syed Ahmed M. A., A. E. S., Lecturer in Arabic and Persian, Cotton College ; Cotton Moslem Hostel. Gauhati
10. Pandit Lakshminath Sarma Kaviratna M. A., Head Master, Collegiate School ; Gauhati.
11. Srijut Sarveswar Sarma Katakati L. T., Assistant Master, Collegiate School ; Gauhati
12. Srijut Jaltiram Lahkar L. T., Assistant Master, Collegiate School ; Panbazar. Gauhati.
13. Srijut Saniram Barah, Teacher, Satribari Mission School ; Satribari. Gauhati.
14. Srijut Muktheadhar Sarma, Clerk-Librarian, Earle Law College ; Sukreswar. Gauhati.
15. Rai Bahadur Radhanath Phukan M. A., B. L., Temporary Additional Sessions Judge, Assam Valley Division ; Uzanbazar, Gauhati.
16. Srijut Bharatchandra Das B. A., Extra Assistant Commissioner ; Maskhowa, Bharalumukh. Gauhati.
17. Srijut Siddheswar Gohain M. A., B. L., Extra Assistant Commissioner. Gauhati.
18. Srijut Hemchandra Goswami, Retired Extra Assistant Commissioner, Uzanbazar. Gauhati.
19. Srijut Jogendranath Barua M. A., B. L., Officiating Subordinate and Assistant Sessions Judge, Assam Valley Division ; Uzanbazar. Gauhati.

20. Srijut Rameshchandra Das M. A., B. L., Pleader, Judge's Court; Lecturer, Earle Law College. Uzanbazar, Gauhati.
21. Rai Bahadur Krishnachandra Choudhuri, Retired Extra Assistant Commissioner; Uzanbazar. Gauhati.
22. Babu Pramodchandra Roy B. A., Superintendent of Excise; Paltanbazar. Gauhati.
23. Mr. Upendranath Bezbarua B. Sc. (Cal). LL. B. (Queen's) Barrister-at Law; Advocate, Calcutta High Court; Officiating Lecturer, Earle Law College. Gauhati.
24. Rai Bahadur Kalicharan Sen B. L., Government Pleader, Panbazar. Gauhati.
25. Srijut Rohinikumar Chaudhuri B. L., M. L. C., Bharalumukh. Gauhati.
26. Srijut Kamakhyaram Barua B. L., Pleader, Judge's Court; Bharalumukh. Gauhati.
27. Srijut Bishnuram Medhi M. Sc., B. L., Pleader, Judge's Court: Uzanbazar. Gauhati.
28. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar B. L., Pleader. Judge's Court. Uzanbazar. Gauhati.
29. Babu Hemantakumar Lahiri M. A., B. L., Pleader, Judge's Court. Cauhati.
30. Srijut Jogendranath Barua B. L., Pleader, Judge's Court; Gauhati.
31. Srijut Kaliram Barman B. L., Pleader, Judge's Court; Sukreswar. Gauhati.
32. Babu Satyendramohan Lahiri M. A., B. L., Pleader, Judge's Court; Fanshibazar. Gauhati.
33. Srijut Sisirkumar Barua B. L., Pleader, Judge's Court; Uzanbazar. Gauhati.
34. Maulavi Shah Syed Muhibul Huque B. L., Pleader, Judge's Court; Lakhtakia. Gauhati.
35. Srijut Jnananath Bara B. L., Pleader, Judge's Court; Uzanbazar. Gauhati.
36. Srijut Siddhinath Sarma B. L., Pleader, Judge's Court; Uzanbazar. Gauhati.

37. Srijut Umakanta Goswami B. L., Pleader, Judge's Court; Sukreswar. Gauhati.
38. Maulavi Herasat-Ullah B. L., Pleader, Judge's Court; Dighalipukhuri, East. Gauhati.
39. Srijut Ramdeva Sarma, Muktear, Sukreswar. Gauhati.
40. Srijut Harendrakumar Choudhuri M. A., Bharalumukh Gauhati.
41. Srijut Chandra Kumar Agarwala, New Press. Gauhati
42. Maulavi Hazi Muhammad Shah, Maujadar of Luki. Paltanbazar. Gauhati
43. Srijut Nabinchandra Talukdar, Landholder; Panbazar; Gauhati.
44. Srijut Prasannanarayan Choudhuri, Clerk, Deputy Commissioner's Office; Barpetiapara. Gauhati.
45. Srijut Sonarum Choudhuri. Government Pensioner; Rangmahal, P. O. North-Gauhati.
46. Srijut Govindachandra Sarma, Panda, P. O. Kamakhya.
47. Srijut Tarinicharan Sarma, Panda. P. O. Kamakhya.
48. Srijut Lakshminath Das M. Sc., Superintendent of Water Works, Uzanbazar. Gauhati.
49. Srijut Kesavchandra Das B. A. B. T., Deputy Inspector of Schools. Gauhati.
50. Srijut Jagadananda Chaudhuri, Contractor, Paltanbazar. Gauhati.
51. Srijut Rajendralal Uzir, Sub-deputy Collector; Uzanbazar. Gauhati.
52. Srijut Nilanath Sarma, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Division. Gauhati.
53. Srijut Suryyakanta Barua B. A., Extra Assistant Commissioner, Chenikuthi. Uzanbazar. Gauhati.
54. Srijut Chittramala Barua, Sub-Inspector of Schools. Gauhati.
55. Srijut Tirthanath Phukan B. L., Pleader; Lecturer, Earle Law College, Uzanbazar. Gauhati.

District Kamrup, outside Gauhati.

1. Srijut Pratapchandra Goswami. *P. O. Nalbari.*
2. Srijut Pratapnarayan Choudhuri, Mauzadar. *P. O. Nalbari.*
3. Rai Saheb Rajanikanta Choudhuri, Mauzadar. *P. O. Sarbhog.*
4. Srijut Ramprasad Das B. L., Pleader. *Barpeta.*
5. Srijut Chintaharan Patgiri, Barnagar. *P. O. Sarbhog.*

District Goalpara.

1. Rai Bahadur Anandachandra Agarwala I. P., Superintendent of Police. *Dhubri.*
2. Kumar Dwipnarayan Deb of Bijni. *P. O. Baitamari.*
3. Babu Dwijeshchandra Chakravarti M. A., B. L., Dewan of Gauripur Raj. *Gauripur.*
4. Srijut Harinath Pathak Chaudhuri. Sub-Registrar. *Dhubri.*
5. Srijut Bhunath Chakravarti. *P. O. Bagribari.*

District Nowgong.

1. Mrs. L. G. Stunstall. Indigo Plantation.
Lanka, A. B. R.
2. Mrs. Labanyamayi Webb. *Lumding A. B. R.*

District Darrang.

1. Srijut Chandranath Sarma B. L., Pleader. *Tezpur.*
2. Babu Debnarayan Ghosh. *Tezpur.*
3. Srijut Indreswar Barthakur B. A., Assistant Head Master, Government High School. *Tezpur.*
4. Rai Saheb Padmanath Gohain-Barua, Special Literary Pensioner and Honorary Magistrate. *Tezpur.*
5. Srijut Lakshmikanta Misra Bhagavati, Teacher, Government High School. *Tezpur.*
6. Srijut Rajanikumar Padmapati, Government Pensioner. *Tezpur.*

7. Rajkumar Dharmanarayan Deb. Darrang-Rajar Howly. *Mangaldoi.*
8. Srijut Kaliram Medhi M. A., Extra Assistant Commissioner. *Mangaldoi.*

District Sibsagar.

1. Mr. G. A. Small B. A., I. E. S. Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Division. *Jorhat.*
2. Srijut Saratchandra Goswami B. A., B. T., A. E. S. Assistant Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Division. *Jorhat.*
3. Srijut Bishnuprasad Dowerah B. L. Extra Assistant Commissioner. *Jorhat.*
4. Srijut Nakulchandra Bhuyan, Dhekiajuli Tea Estate. *P. O. Titabar.*
5. Srijut Dambarudhar Bargohain, Barbam Tea Estate. *P. O. Sonari.*
6. Srijut M. Hundiqui, Nagenijan Tea Estate. *P. O. Seleng-Hat.*
7. Srijut Nirmalchandra Hazarika, Saloi Tea Estate, *P. O. Seleng-Hat.*

District Lakhimpur.

1. Mr. R. G. Gulliland, Tea Planter, Lepetkata Tea Company *P. O. Barborooah.*
2. Mr. T. P. M. O' Callaghan, Political Officer, Sadiya Frontier Tract. *Sadiya.*
3. Mr F. Fraser Burny, Manager, Dikom Tea Estate. *P. O. Dikom.*
4. Mr. Abinash Chandra Datta, Income-Tax Officer. *Dibrugarh.*
5. Srijut Benudhar Rajkhowa B. A., Extra Assistant Commissioner. *Dibrugarh.*
6. Srijut Sarveswar Barua B. L., M. L. C., Pleader. *North Lakhimpur.*
7. Srijut Nilmani Phukan B. A., M. L. C. *P. O. Rehabari, Dibrugarh.*

8. Rai Bahadur Parasuram Khound, Retired Extra Assistant Commissioner. *Dibrugarh.*
9. Rai Bahadur Nilambar Datta, Amolapati. *P. O. Rehabari, Dibrugarh.*
10. Srijut Bachalal Barua, Mauzadar. *P. O. Lahoal.*
11. Srijut Laksheswar Barua B. L., Pleader. *Dibrugarh.*
12. Srijut Harakanta Sarma. *P. O. Rehabari, Dibrugarh.*
13. Srijut Sibram Bardaloi B. L., Pleader. *Dibrugarh.*
14. Rai Saheb Gunagovinda Barua, Government Pensioner and Honorary Magistrate. *P. O. Rehabari, Dibrugarh.*
15. Maulavi Syedar Rahman M. A., B. L., M. L. C., Pleader. *Dibrugarh.*
16. Srijut Krishnaram Medhi B. A., Sub-Deputy Collector. *Dibrugarh.*
17. Srijut Narendranath Bhuyan, *Kholihamari, Dibrugarh.*
18. Srijut Padmadhar Chaliha M. A., B. L., Pleader. *Dibrugarh.*

Hill Districts.
Centre for the Arts

1. Dr. J. H. Hutton C. I. E., I. C. S., M. A., D. Sc., Deputy Commissioner, and Honorary Director of Ethnography for Assam. *Kahima, Naga Hills.*
2. Miss Augusta Geisenheur, American Baptist Mission, *Mokakchang, Naga Hills.*
3. The Hon'ble Mr. A. W. Botham, I. C. S., B. A., C. S. I., C. I. E., Finance Member to the Government of Assam. *Shillong.*
4. Rai Bahdur Kanaklal Barua B. L., F. R. E. S. Director of Industries, Assam. *Shillong.*
5. Srijut Sailendra Kummar Datta, Stenographer to the Superintending Engineer, Assam. *Shillong.*

Surma Valley.

1. Mr. A. H. W. Bentinck I. C. S., M. A., F. R. G. S., C. I. E., Officiating Commissioner, Surma Valley Division. *Silchar.*

2. Srijut Umakanta Goswami M. A., B. L., A. E. S.,
Professor of Economics, Murarichand College,
Sylhet.

Outside Assam.

1. Khan Choudhuri Maulavi Amanatullah Ahmad, Zamin-
dar of Barmaricha, Member of the Legislative Council
of the Cooch Behar State. *Cooch Behar*.
2. Srijut Ambikanath Barah M. A., C/o Messrs. Martin &
Co., 6 & 7, Clive Street, *Calcutta*.
3. Srijut Kamalakanta Bhattacharyya, 44 Maniktola
Street. *Calcutta*.
4. Babu Puranchand Nahar M. A., B. L., 24 Indian Mirror
Street, *Calcutta*.
5. Srijut Jatindranath Dowerah B. A., Lady Jane Dundas
Hostel, 71/1 Cornwallis Street. *Calcutta*.
6. Rai Saheb Durgadhar Barkataki, 94/1 Upper Circular
Road, *Calcutta*.

Indira Gandhi National
Centre for the Arts

N. B. In the event of any change of address members are requested to kindly communicate the fact to the K. A. S. Office.

No. 10.

List of Puthis preserved in the Samiti.

The following Assamese manuscripts were collected by Srijut Hemchandra Goswami when he was deputed by the Government of Assam for that purpose during the Chief-Commissionership of Sir Archdale Earle. The manuscripts were first deposited in the Commissioner's Record Room, Gauhati; and they were subsequently handed over to the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti for custody till the establishment of the Provincial Museum at Gauhati. A descriptive catalogue of the manuscripts prepared by

Mr. Goswami is being printed at the Calcutta University Press at the expense of the Local Government.

N. B. The letter S inserted after the name of a Puthi indicates that the manuscript is in Sanskrit.

A. Collected in Gauhati Sub-Division.

1. Kitavat-Manjari.
2. Jyotish-churamani, No. 1.
3. Jyotish-churamani, No. 2.
4. Kishkindhya-kanda, 12 folios.
5. Rani-raj-Vamsavali by Madhav Dwija.
6. Swarga-narayan-Maharaj-Akhyan.
7. Swarga-narayan-Yuddhar-Charit.
8. Guru-charit.
9. Kama-ratna-tantra.
10. Churamani-tantra.
11. Raghu-vamsavali.
12. Bhakti-Ratnakar by Sankardeva. S.
13. Katha-sutra by Bhagavat-Bhattacharyya.
14. Santa-Nirnaya by Krishna Bharali.
15. Gita-Govinda, illustrated.
16. Ghosha-Ratna by Gopal Misra.
17. Gunamala by Sankardeva.
18. Lakshmi-charit by Jagannath Dwija.
19. Data-Karna by Vishnuram Dwija.
20. Asok-charit by Kanudeva Bipra.
21. Kankhoa by Madhava-Kandali.
22. Swapnadhyaya.
23. Kavi-Kankanar Phakara or Aphorisms.
24. Yama-Gita by Kaliram Das.
25. Byadha-charit.
26. Dak-Bhanita.
27. Kerali-Jyotish. S.
28. Jyotish-Darpan.
29. Mantra-o-Aushadh.

30. Ashta-bargi-dasa.
31. Dwadas-rasi-nirnaya.
32. Adhbhut-sara. S.
33. Grahan-aryya.
34. Graha-vija-jnan.
35. Nandi-kesari-dasa.
36. Samskara-kala-nirnaya. S.
37. Jataka-chandrika.
38. Graha-snana-mantra.
39. Graha-puja.
40. Puskara-santi-prayoga. S.
41. Graha-puja.
42. Brihat-jataka-chandrika. S.
43. Samvatsara-patti. S.
44. Saraswati-puja-bidhi. S.
45. Sanket-ganana.
46. Jyotish-chakra.
47. Tithi-byavastha.
48. Jyotish-muktavali. Indira Gandhi National
Centre for the Arts
49. Ardha-jayarnava-dasa. S.
50. Gayali-kavach. S.
51. Ganga-shorasi-puja. S.
52. Rudraksha-samskara-bidhi. S.
53. Apad-uddhara-mantra. S.
54. Nama-ghosha.
55. Pujar-bidhi.
56. Sape-khowa-mantra.
57. Jyotish-ratna-mala.
58. Rasi-bidhan.
59. Jyotish. S.
60. Samudrik. S.
61. Ayana-angsa-jyotish. S.
62. Maha-dasa-ganana. S.
63. Sraddha-chandrika. S.
64. Bharat-Savitri.
65. Pancha-devata-puja.

66. Kaka-charit.
67. Spandan-charit. S.
68. Assam-Buranji.
69. Bhakti-gan by Aniruddha.
70. Mrigavati-charit.
71. Lilavati by Kaviratna Dwija in Sanskrit and Assamese.
72. Bhagavat, 8th. Skandha.

B. Collected in Barpeta Sub-Division :—

1. Kishkindhya-kanda Ramayana by Madhav-Kandali.
2. Gopaldeva-charit.
3. Bhagavat, 10th. Skandha. S.
4. Katha-ghosha.
5. Parijat-haran, by Sankardeva.
6. Kangsa-badha by Ramcharan Thakur.
7. Bhaswati, astronomy by Kaviraj Chakravarti.
8. Ayodhya-kanda Ramayana by Madhav-Kandali.
9. Uttara-kanda Ramayana by Sankardeva.
10. Ratnamala-Vyakaran by Purushottam Vidyavagis. S.
11. Haris-chandra-upakhyan by Sankardeva.
12. Rajasuya-jajna by Madhavdeva.
13. Nagakshya-yuddha by Bhavadeva Bipra.
14. Udyoga-parva Mahabharata by Ramsaraswati.
15. Lanka-kanda Ramayana.
16. Satrujaya by Raghunath Das.
17. Bali-chalan by Sankardeva.
18. Bhagavat, 10th. Skandha, 1st. part, by Sankardeva.
19. Dipika-chanda by Purushottam Gajapati.
20. Bhakti-ratnakar by Ramcharan Thakur.
21. Udyoga-parva Mahabharata by Ramsaraswati.
22. Sailsa-parva Mahabharata by Damodar Bipra.
23. Damodar-charit by Nilakantha.
24. Saṅgha-parva Mahabharata by Gopinath Pathak.
25. Manichandra Ghosh.
26. Aswa-medha-parva Mahabharata by Gangadas,
Bhavanidas & Subudhirai.

27. Birat-parva Mahabharata by Ramsaraswati.
28. Swargarohan-parva Mahabharata by Gopinath Pathak.
29. Sankar-charit by Ramananda Dwija.
30. Drona-parva Mahabharata by Gopinath Pathak.
31. Gita by Govinda Misra.
32. Karna-parva Mahabharata by Vidya-Panchanan.
33. Bhishma-parva Mahabharata by Ramsaraswati.
34. Udyoga-parva Mahabharata by Ramsaraswati.

C. Collected in the District of Nowgong :—

1. Puspa-haran-bana-parva Mahabharata by
Chandra-Bharati.
2. Babruvahan-Yuddha by Haribar Misra.
3. Ghora-nidan.
4. Hari-vamsa by Bhavananda.
5. Thakur-charitra by Vidyanidhi.
6. Manu-samhita. S.
7. Hitopadesa by Raghudev Goswami.
8. Durgotsav-bidhi. S.
9. Anna-purna-puja-bidhi. S.
10. Anadi-patan by Sankardeva.
11. Adbhut Ramayana.
12. Bhagavat, 9th. Skandha, by Kesavdas.
13. Sasvata-tantra.

D. Collected in Jorhat Sub-Division :—

1. Hasti-vidya-arnava, by Sukumar Kaith.
2. Bhagavat, 10th. Skandha by Sankardeva.
3. Bhagavat, 1st. & 2nd. Skandha. S.
4. Karna-parva Mahabharata by Vidya-Panchanan,
illustrated.
5. Saru-Swarga-khanda by Sarvabhauma.
6. Brihat-Swarga-khanda by Sarvabhauma.
7. Bhagavat, 8th. Skandha. S.
8. Ratnamala-vyakaran.
9. Brahmana-sarvaswa by Halayudha. S.

10. Bhagavat, 12th. Skandha. S.
11. Ayodhya-kanda Ramayana by Ananta-kandali.
12. Kavya-prakas.
13. Sisupala-badha. S.
14. Adi-parva Mahabharata by Ramsaraswati &
Srinath Brahman.
15. Sankar-charit by Bhushan Dwija.
16. Srirama-kirtan by Anantadas.
17. Bhagavat, 11th. Skandha by Sankardeva.
18. Kalika-puran. S.
19. Bhagavat, 4th. Skandha. S.
20. Srirama-kirtan by Hridayananda.
21. Bhakti-premavali by Narottama.
22. Gita-Govinda. S.
23. Murkha-bodha. S.
24. Pada-manjari. S.
25. Hitopadesa. S.
26. Mahanatak. S.
27. Krit.
28. Samayamrita. S.
29. Lanka-kanda Ramayana by Madhav-Kandali.
30. Uttara-kanda Ramayana by Sankardeva.
31. Shat-chakra & Mandala-adhyaya.
32. Arjuna-Samvad.



E. Collected in Golaghat Sub-Division :—

1. Utkala-khanda by Chandrasur.
2. Bhagavat, 5th. Scandha by Aniruddha.
3. Sudhanva-badh by Kavi-Saraswati.
4. Panchali-vivaha by Ramsaraswati.
5. Katha Ramayana.
6. Ayodhya-kanda Ramayana by Ananta-kandali.
7. Vishnu-Puran by Bhagavat Misra.
8. Prasna-saravali.
9. Karna-parva.
10. Santa-sampradaya by Govindadas

11. Bhagavat, 4th. Skandha, by Aniruddha.
12. Ankar-Aryya by Kasinath. S.
13. Jayadeva by Ramsaraswati.
14. Karna-parva by Ramsaraswati.
15. Gopal-ata-charit by Ramananda Das.
16. Kishkindhya-kanda by Madhav-Kandali.
17. Brahma-vaivarta-puran Janma-khanda, by Kaviraj
Chakravarti.
18. Bhagavat, 11th. Skandha, by Sankardeva.
19. Sankar-charit by Ramananda-Das.
20. Bhagavat, 1st. & 2nd. Skandhas.
21. Baghasur-badha by Ramsaraswati.

F. Collected in Auniati Satra:—

1. Brahma-vaivarta-puran.
2. Kishkindhya-kanda by Ananta-kandali.
3. Damodar-charit & Santa-charit by Nilakantha Das.
4. Kesavdeva-charit by Krishna Acharyya.
5. Ajamil-Upakhyān by Sankardeva.
6. Brittasura-badha by Chandra-bharati.
7. Bhakti-vilas.
8. Deva-jit by Madhav-Kandali.
9. Gita-Govinda.
10. Kumara-Sambhava.
11. Jyotish-chakra. S.
12. Hari-vamsa.
13. Gitar-bakala or Anthology of Songs.
14. Bhagavat, 1st. Skandha.
15. Patra-kaumadi.
16. Varsha-varnan.
17. Hasta-muktavali. S.
18. Raghu-vamsa Tika. S.
19. Gitar-puthi.

G. Collected in Garamura Satra:—

1. Katha-Bhagavat.
2. Bhagavat, 7th. Skandha.

3. Bhagavat, 3rd. Skandha.
4. Ananda-lahari by Ananta-acharyya, illustrated.
5. Mushala-parva.
6. Vishnu-dharmottar.
7. Aswamedha-parva.
8. Santi-parva.

H. Collected in Dakhinpat Satra.

1. Bhagavat, 1st. Skandha, 1st. part by Sankardeva.
2. Sindhura-parva by Ramsaraswati.

I. Collected in Bengena-Ati Satra:—

1. Katha-Bhagavat, 9th. & 10th. Skandhas.
2. Maha-moha.
3. Kirtan by Sankardeva.
4. Ghosha by Madhavdeva.
5. Sundara-kanda.
6. Assam Buranji.

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J. Collected in Bar-Alengi Satra:—

1. Sabha-parva by Ramsaraswati.
2. Adi-parva by Ramsaraswati.
3. Padma-puran.
4. Hitopadesa.
5. Bijay-parva.
6. Two Mss. in Ahom script.

K. Collected in Kamalabari Satra:—

1. Haris-chandra.
2. Bargit.

The following puthis have been subsequently acquired for the Samiti:—

1. Lava-Kusar-yuddha by Haribar Bipra from the late Rani Mahendri Devi,

2. Santi-parva Mahabharata by Ramsaraswati in country-made paper, from Rai Bahadur Parasuram Khaund, Dibrugarh.

The following puthis have been returned to their respective owners:—

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Uttara-kanda Ramayana in | Collection J. |
| 2. Adi-kanda Ramayana in | „ J. |
| 3. Bhagavat, 5th. Skandha in | „ J. |
| 4. Amulya-ratan in | „ J. |
| 5. Kalki-puran in | „ D. |
| 6. Hari-vamsa in | „ D. |
| 7. Kirtan in | „ A. |

No. 11.

Accounts for the year 1925-26.
Receipts and Expenses-Actuals.

Passed by the Executive committee of the Kama-
 rupa Anusandhan Samiti.

Receipts.

1. Opening Balance on 1st. April, 1925.	Rs. 2553-11-1
2. Interest on P. O. Savings Bank Deposit for 1924-1925, accruing on 17.6.1925.	Rs. 66-1-11
3. Govt. Contribution for 1925-1926.	Rs. 600-0-0
4. Subscription from Members.	Rs. 63-0-0
5. Receipts from other sources.	Rs. 0-0-0
Total Receipts.	Rs. 3282-13-0

Expenses.

1. Librarian's allowance.	...	Rs. 180-0-0
2. Chowkidar's pay.	...	Rs. 168-0-0
3. Stationery.	...	Rs. 10-2-9
4. Postage and Telegrams.	...	Rs. 20-12-0

5. Purchase of Books.	...	Rs.	8-0-0
6. Periodicals.	...	Rs.	9-4-0
7. Excursions.	...	Rs.	6-0-0
8. Collection of materials.	...	Rs.	1-14-0
9. Copying Charges.	...	Rs.	30-0-0
10. Repairs to Samiti House and Chowkidar's shed.	...	Rs.	98-11-0
11. Furniture (Almirah).	...	Rs.	63-12-0
12. Printing charges.	...	Rs.	10-2-0
13. Photo Camera.	...	Rs.	94-14-0
14. Municipal Tax.	...	Rs.	18-12-0
15. Miscellaneous (Expenses in connection with the Anniversary).	...	Rs.	28-1-1
Tottal Expenses.			Rs. 748-4-10

Closing Balance on 31st. March
1926, carried forward to next
year as Opening Balance of
1926-1927

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... Rs. 2534-8-2

The closing balance was distributed
as follows :—

1. With Honorary Secretary	...	Rs.	83-9-3
2. With Honorary Treasurer, in P. O. Savings Bank.	...	Rs.	2450-14-11

Notable Utterances.

1. **Hieun-Tsang** wrote in his **Travels**:—The memories of the people of Kamarupa are retentive and they are earnest in study....The reigning king is Bhaskara-Barman, his title Kumar. ...The king is fond of learning and the people are so in imitation of him. Men of ability come from afar to study here.

Prof. C. V. Vaidya adds in connection with this statement of the Prince of Pilgrims,—The fame of Assam for learning continued for some centuries more down to the days of Sankara.

E. B. Havell,—Kumar Bhaskara-Barman treated all learned men with respect, and the colleges of Kamarupa, like Nalanda, attracted students from all quarters.

2. **Copper-plate Grant of King Ratnapala of Kamarupa**, of the first half of the eleventh century:—Pragjyotisha, the best of towns, provided with brilliant troops of warriors, like systems of suns, is adorned by learned men, religious preceptors and poets, who have made it their place of resort, just as the sky is adorned by Mercury, Jupiter and Venus.

3. **Henry Thomas Colebrooke** in the **Asiatick Researches**:—In the scarcity of authentic materials, for the modern history of the Hindu race, importance is justly attached to all genuine monuments, and specially inscriptions on stone and metal, which are occasionally discovered through various accidents. If these be carefully preserved and diligently examined, and the facts ascertained from them judiciously employed towards elucidating the scattered information, which can be yet collected from the remains of Indian literature, a satisfactory progress may be finally made in investigating the history of the Hindus.

4. **Mahamahopadhyaya Dr. Ganganath Jha**, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Allahabad, as President of the Madras Session of the All-India Oriental Conference:—India is subject to such ravages of fire and water that each year we are losing in the shape of manuscripts, burnt or washed or crumbled away, an amount of treasure, which could not be replaced in the future even at the expenditure of millions of rupees; and the callousness which the public displays towards this would be appalling anywhere else except in this unfortunate country.

No. 13.

Postscript.

Since the above pages were in print the following additions have been made to the Library and Museum of the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti.

Library:—

Books presented by the authors,—(1) *The Use of Stone in the Naga Hills* by Dr. J. H. Hutton, reprinted from the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Vol. LVI, January-June, 1926. (2) *An Assamese Nur Jahan* by Prof. S. K. Bhuyan. (3) *Mir Jumla and Ram Singha in Assam* by Prof. S. K. Bhuyan, reprinted from the Journal of Indian History for December, 1926. (3) *A Review of Haliram Dhekial Phukan's History of Assam*, written in Bengali in A. D. 1829, by Prof. S. K. Bhuyan, reprinted from the Journal of the Bangiya-Sahitya-Parishat.

The Government of Assam has presented the latest volume of the Monographs on the hill Tribes of Assam, viz. *The Ao Nagas* by Mr. J. P. Mills M. A. (Oxon.), I. C. S.

Books purchased,—(1) *History of Burma* by G. E. Harvey. (2) *History of Siam* by W. A. R. Wood. (3) *Mughal Administration* by Prof. Jadunath Sarkar C. I. E.

It has been proposed to purchase all the copies of the Journal and Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal which contain articles relating to Assam. We also intend to acquire for the Samiti the three volumes of Montgomery Martin's *Eastern India*.

Museum:—

(1) An image of *Sharanan Kartik* in white stone, six-faced and four-handed, presented by Srimati Jilipi Dasi, wife of Khargeswar Kaivarta of Athgaon, Gauhati; acquired through Messrs Hyder Hossain and Afzal Hossain, students of the Fourth-Year B.A. class of the Cotton College. The image was found by the owner very recently in the bed of the Brahmaputra, near Fanshibazar, while she was bathing.

(2) A miniature brass image of Jashoda with the baby Srikrishna, presented by Srijut Prabodhchandra Bardaloi, Extra Assistant Commissioner.

An excursion to Kajalimukh has been proposed with the object of inspecting the remains of old Ahom forts there, and to recover available historical relics. Dumps of cannon-balls like those at Kharghuli and huge stone basins are reported to be lying about at Kajalimukh.

New Member:—

Mr. R. R. Thomas M. A., P. R. S., Senior Professor of Logic and Philosophy, Cotton College; Uzanbazar Gauhati.

Visitors:—

A Visitors' Book was opened in September, 1926, where visitors to the Samiti are expected to enter in their names. We are glad to announce that about 500 ladies and gentlemen have since then visited the Samiti's premises and inspected the collections. The ladies took great interest in the articles, specially in the apparels of the Ahom royal family.

Rev. James J. M. Nichols-Roy B. A., M. L. C., now Minister for Local Self-Government, Assam, visited the Samiti on February 7, 1927 and made the following remarks:—

I visited the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti yesterday. The Secretary, Professor Bhuyan, was very kind in showing me the collections of old relics which are of much historical value. I was very much interested in the things I saw there yesterday. It is hoped that this collection will form the nucleus of a big Museum for Assam. The educated public of Assam ought to take a keen interest in the valuable work of the Samiti. I wish the institution a real success. 8-2-1927.

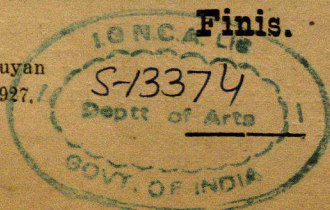
We were fortunate to have a second visit from His Excellency Sir John Henry Kerr K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., 1. C. S., Governor of Assam, on February 8, 1927, his first visit to the Samiti being on December 19, 1922. His Excellency was accompanied by the Honourable Minister Maulavi S. M. Saadulla, Mr. W. H. Calvert Private Secretary, Mr. S. N. Mackenzie, Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup and Mr. H. G. Bartley, Superintendent of Police. His Excellency the Governor was pleased to make the following remarks:—

I was very glad to pay a second visit to this institution and to see the progress that has been made during the last four years. The collections are growing fast, and the strong room which is being built will help to relieve the congestion. The Samiti has received and is receiving liberal assistance from Government, and it is up to the educated public of Assam to help it in its valuable work. 8-2-1927.

Finis.

S. K. Bhuyan

15-2-1927.



**Publications of the
Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti,
Gauhati.**

1. Rules of the K. A. S., passed at the General Meeting held on June 12, 1916.
2. Prospectus of the K. A. S., December, 1914.
3. The Work of the K. A. S., 1st. Edition, 1920, edited by the late Srijut Chandranath Sarma B. L., containing Reports of the work of the years 1916 to 1919, and articles of historical interest by Lt.-Col. P. R. T. Gurdon, Srijut Saratchandra Goswami, Mahamahopadhyaya Padmanath Bhattacharyya, Srijut Hemchandra Goswami, Prof. S. K. Bhuyan and Srijut Sarveswar Kataki. Price Re. 1/4/-
4. Purani Assam Buranji, an old chronicle of Assam from the earliest times to the reign of Gadadhar Singha. Edited by Srijut Hem Chandra Goswami, 1922. Pages 138 to 167 of this book have been prescribed in Assamese Vernacular for the B. A. Examination of the Calcutta University. Price Rs. 2/-. The price has now been reduced to Re. 1/8/-.
5. Report and Conspectus: Report of Work for 1925-26 and Part of 1926-27, with a Brief Retrospective Survey and Appendices, compiled by Prof. S. K. Bhuyan, 1927. Price Rupee 1/-.

N. B.—Each of the above publications has been and will be given free to all members whose names are not in the arrear list. Publications Nos. 3, 4 and 5 are for sale to the public; and liberal commission is allowed to Agents and Purchasers of 10 or more copies.

To be had of:—
HARIMOHAN DAS,
Clerk and Librarian,
Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti,
Gauhati, Assam.

Notice.

KAMARUPA ANUSANDHAN SAMITI, GAUHATI.

The Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti, or the Assam Research Society, has a collection of old historical relics, such as inscribed stones and images, cannon, cannon-balls, swords, potteries, puthis, royal costumes, coins etc.

The premises of the Samiti situated on the southern bank of Dighali Tank, Gauhati, remain open from 7-30 to 9-30 A. M. and from 3 to 7 P. M. on working days; from 3 to 7 P. M. on Sundays and on Doljatra, Lakshmipuja and the Anniversaries of Damodar Deb, Sankat Deb and Madhab Deb. The Samiti remains closed on the following occasions, Sripanchami, Maghbihu, Bahagbihu, Id-duzzaha, Muharram, Janmastami, Durgapuja, Kalipuja, Christmas Eve, New Year's Day, King Emperor's Birth-day and Sivaratri.

Information which may lead to the recovery of any historical relic or article will be thankfully received.

S. K. BHUYAN,

Honorary Secretary,

Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti,
Gauhati, Assam.

