

Incidentally, I might mention of course that all religions are allowed in Siam, providing they do not break the Law of the Land.

The Bible or Canon, therefore, of Southern Buddhism was written in Pali (a dialect of Sanskrit, perhaps the Lord Gautama's mother tongue). This Pali Bible is called the Tripitaka, meaning the "three baskets." The "Three Baskets" are the following: the Vinaya-Pitaka, or basket of Discipline, containing rules for moral conduct, and religious usage; the Sutta-Pitaka, or basket of Doctrine, which, in five treatises called Nikayas, deals with questions of Doctrine, the Triratna or so-called Buddhist Trinity, the Buddha, the Doctrine, and the Sangha or Church; the Abhidhamma-Pitaka, or basket of Metaphysics, which treats of ethical and philosophical questions. To these must be added many commentaries.

This, therefore, explains the reason of the Memorial that is being prepared in honor of His Late Majesty King Rama VI. The Late King succeeded to the Throne in October 1910 and died in November 1925. His Late Majesty was one of the most illustrious of the line of Kings of the Chakri Dynasty, and while his reign was only 15 years, it was one of the most glorious in Siamese history. In short, during this reign the work of His *late* Majesty, King Chulalongkorn, was continued, and Siam emerged as one of the most progressive World States, one of the original members of the League of Nations, and one of the Allies in the Great War.

His Late Majesty worked incessantly for the happiness of his subjects, and his early and untimely death was deplored by the whole nation. His Late Majesty, as you may be aware, had, before succeeding, travelled widely in Europe, and on the North American Continent, and his personal connection with at least one Canadian institution as described below, is of interest.

His Late Majesty, indeed, landed in Vancouver on the 30th of September 1902, and among others presented to him was the late Captain Mellon, then President of the Art Historical & Scientific Association of Vancouver, B.C., and the then Crown Prince graciously signified his willingness to become an Honorary Member of the Association, and forthwith placed his name on the Register of the Association. It is also interesting to record that in view of this event, His Present Majesty kindly sent a portrait photograph of His Late Majesty as a gift to the Art Historical & Scientific Association, His Late Majesty being perhaps the only monarch ever on the role of a Canadian institution of this nature.

I feel, therefore, that possibly McGill University would like to accept one of these Memorial Copies of the Tripitaka for the University Library, or possibly for some section of the University which deals in Oriental studies, and also the study of religion. If more, therefore, than one copy would be welcome, kindly say so, as it is the wish of the Siamese Government to place this unique Memorial of a great King as broadly as possible throughout the World, in the interests of peace and goodwill among the Nations .