



ROYAL SIAMESE CONSULATE

BEKINS BUILDING

VANCOUVER, B. C.

11th. Jan. 1928.

TELEPHONE SEYMOUR 3090

The Principal,
McGill University,
Montreal, P. Q., Canada.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter I have received from His Excellency the Siamese Minister in London, which explains itself.

As you will note, as a Memorial to His Late Majesty King Rama VI, of Siam, His Majesty the King has been pleased to command that a new edition of the Tripitaka be prepared, and copies are to be distributed to institutions and scholars who are devoted to the study of the Pali Scriptures.

I have been further requested, as you will note, to make enquiries and to forward a list to His Royal Highness the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Bangkok, giving those institutions and scholars in Canada to whom a copy of the Tripitaka should be presented.

As you are doubtless aware, Siam is the only Independent Buddhist Kingdom in the World, and the only member of the League of Nations in which Buddhism is the State Religion, in the same way that the Church of England is the State Church of England.

In Japan there is a form of Buddhism which is a mixture of true Buddhism and of the Native Shintoism. China has another form known as Foism, and there is the Lamaism of Tibet, but the Kingdom of Siam is the centre of the real and genuine Orthodox Buddhist Religion, which of course is to be found also in Burma, Ceylon, and Cambodia. This form of Buddhism is known as the Hinayana, the Southern or Pali Buddhism, and it is now commonly admitted that this is the purest most Catholic form, which comes nearest to the original teachings of the great Sage from Kapilavasthu.

His Majesty the King is the Protector and Supporter of the Faith, and is thus the Exalted Head on Earth of the Buddhist Religion, as well as Temple Sovereign of Siam.