

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

Payap College

Record Group: Siam Mission. American Baptist Foreign  
Missionary Society.

Control Number: 020/79

Inclusive Dates: 1821-1900

Terms of Use: According to the Rules and Regulations of  
the Manuscript Division.

Introduction

This record group consists of fifteen reels of microfilmed records of American Baptist missionaries in Siam. The reels are divided into three series:

- Series I Siam Mission Correspondence with the Society 1833-1900
- Series II Society Correspondence with fields 1826-1893
- Series III Burma Mission Correspondence with the Society 1821-1900

Series I was presented as a gift of the Board of International Ministries, American Baptist Church. Series I contains only correspondence from the Siam Mission. Series II includes all ABFMS correspondence with the various overseas missions including the Siam Mission. Series III is Burma correspondence relevant to the founding of Karen missions in Siam.

These records cover the entire period of nineteenth century Baptist missions in Siam and form an unusually complete set as they include Karen materials as well as those of the Bangkok-located Siam Mission. The originals of Series I and III are located at the American Baptist Historical Society, Rochester, New York, USA. The originals of Series II are located at the Board of International Ministries Library, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, USA.

Historical Statement

Baptist work in Siam began when the Burma Baptist Mission sent the Rev. & Mrs. John Taylor Jones to Bangkok in 1833. In 1837 the Siam Mission organized the first Protestant Church in East Asia. However, the Mission was never a large one and was constantly

weakened by problems of health and untimely deaths. In 1851 the entire mission compound and property was destroyed, and in the same year Dr. Taylor died and Siamese work was suspended. While work with Chinese continued, by 1869 nearly all Siamese work was ended. From this period the mission remained very small and finally died a quiet death at the end of the century.

Herbert R. Swanson

October, 1982

HRS/kc

22/10/82

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ASTERISK (\*) indicates individuals relevant to Karen Missions in Siam.