


# 1939 BRITANNICA BOOK OF THE YEAR

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South American ... livestock exposition, the Palermo show, ... held in Buenos Aires. It opened August 20, and although it does not schedule a closing date, it usually runs for ten days. It is an all-breed show, with emphasis on Shorthorn cattle, attracting the largest annual exhibition of this breed in the world.

(W. E. O.)

**Cats** Four national organizations, embracing cat clubs in all parts of the United States and Canada, register pedigreed cats of all varieties and sponsor cat shows. These associations, in order of their size, are The Cat Fanciers Association, Inc., The American Cat Association, The Cat Fanciers Federation, and the United Cat Clubs of America.

Shows are held by the local clubs under rules laid down by the parent association and with judges approved by the association. Most of the shows are held from November 1 until March 1, although a few are scheduled for the late summer and early fall in connection with fairs.

There were 33 shows held during the 1938–39 show season, of which 30 were in the United States and three in Canada. Some of the larger cities in which shows were held included two in New York city and San Francisco, and one each in Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Atlanta, Miami, Kansas City, Mo., El Paso, and Los Angeles, as well as a number of smaller cities. Canadian shows were held in Toronto, Ont., and Vancouver, B.C. (*See* also HORTICULTURE: *Flower Shows.*) (A. V. Hl.)

**Siam.** Area 200,148 sq.mi.; pop. (May 31, 1937) 14,465,000. Chief towns: Bangkok, capital, 681,000; Chiengmai, 75,000; Ayuthia, 300.000. Ruler: King Ananda Mahidol: language: Siamese; religion (1930 census): Buddhist 10,958,426; Mohammedan 498,311.

History.—The treaty of commerce and navigation with Great Britain signed in Nov. 1937, was ratified at Bangkok on Feb. 19, 1938; although Great Britain is the first country to renounce in practice all restrictions on Siamese trade, similar treaties have also been signed with the United States, Belgium, Denmark, France, Japan, Sweden, and Switzerland, the French treaty providing for the demilitarization of a zone 15mi. broad on the Mekong frontier.

The council of Regency resigned in August; on September 11 the Government dissolved the Assembly after an adverse vote; elections were held in mid-November, when the Government was returned, though with a precarious majority that left the political aspect somewhat obscure; about the same time King Ananda returned to the country on a short visit from his school in Switzerland.

It was reported in October that an attempt to restore the exiled King Prajadhipok by a *coup d'état* had failed. In October an order for two 10,000-ton warships was placed in Trieste, in pursuance of the policy of rapid naval expansion followed in recent years. A British air attaché was for the first time accredited to Bangkok during 1938.

Education.—In 1934–35: elementary schools 8,929, scholars 780; secondary schools 318, scholars 44,726; special schools 38, scholars 142,689; university, number of students 9,539.

Banking and Finance.—Revenue, ordinary 1937–38 (actual), 108,502 baht; revenue 1938–39 (est.) 109,423,940 baht: expenditure, ordinary (1937–38, actual), 101,627,102 baht; expenditure, ordinary (1938–39, est.) 109,397,988 baht; expenditure, (1938–39, est.), 22,108,324 baht; public debt (Mar. 31, 1938), 7,526; notes in circulation, Sept. 30, 1938, 146,000,000 baht; exchange reserve (mainly in sterling), Sept. 30, 1938, 200,000 baht; exchange rate (approx.), 11 baht = £1 sterling.

Trade and Communication.—Overseas trade, 1937–38: imports, merchandise, 111,128,400 baht; exports, merchandise, 165,935,900 baht; bullion and specie, imports 696,081 baht, exports 3,536,835 baht. Communications: roads, State highways under construction, 555mi.; roads, State highways completed (May 31, 1938), 676mi.; railways, State open for traffic (1936), 1,925mi.; motor vehicles licensed (Mar. 31, 1935) cars, taxis, trucks, etc. 4,021; cycles 76.

Agriculture and Mineral Production.—In metric tons, maize (1936), 4,500; rice (1937), 4,695,600; tobacco (1936), 7,000; rubber, crude (exports 1937), 36,000; cotton, ginned (1936), 1,600; tin ore, metal content (1937), 16,300.

**Siberia:** *see* UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.

**Siciliani, Fomenico** (1879–1938). Italian Army officer, was born at Capanzaro, Italy, May 1. He was chief of staff for Gen. Pietro Badoglio in the World War and was commissioner extraordinary for North Venice in charge of the territory taken from Austria. He was also in charge of the military press office and the exchange of prisoners. He accompanied Gabriele d'Annunzio in the seizure and occupation of Fiume and was later Italian military attaché in Brazil. From 1929 to 1930 he was vice-governor of Cyrenaica, a Libyan colony. He was commander of the Rome Army Corps at the time of his death, May 6, in Rome.

**Siegfried Line:** *see* ARMIES OF THE WORLD.

**Sierra Leone.** A British Crown colony in West Africa. Area total: 27,925 sq.mi. (Colony 4,000 sq.mi.); pop. (est. Dec. 31, 1936), 1,920,000 (1931, Europeans 598). Governor, Sir D. J. Jardine. (X.)

History.—The disintegration of tribal authority has created considerable difficulties for the Government's present policy of developing local government through the native authorities. Ordinances to implement this policy were introduced in 1937, and a provision of £6,365 was voted in 1938 to enable treasuries to be established in 15 chiefdoms.

An attempt is being made to check road and railway competition, by legislation. A new motor road is at present under construction along the coast and the peninsula, financed from Colonial Development funds. A colonial office commission was formed in 1938 to report on the Fourah Bay college. (J. L. K.)

Education.—Elementary: schools, 243; scholars, 20,298.

Finance.—Revenue (1937) £1,025,709; (est. 1938), £857,282; expenditure (1937) £919,766; (est. 1938), £852,409; public debt (Dec. 31, 1937), £2,056,359.

Trade and Communication.—Overseas trade 1937: imports, total, £1,339,582 (Bullion and specie £147,652); exports, total, £2,319,977 (Bullion £269,465). Communications: roads, motor, Colony 70mi., Protectorate 852mi.; railways, Government, 310 miles.

Agriculture and Mineral Production.—Production 1937: palm kernels (export), 76,776 tons (£884,812); ginger (export), 3,677,072lb. (£97,622); kola nuts (export), 5,034,700lb. (£60,504); diamonds, 913,401 carats (£1,084,664); gold, unrefined, 39,151oz. (£251,766); iron ore (export), 693,985 tons (£325,605).

**Silicosis.** Pneumoconiosis is a pulmonary condition resulting from inhaled dust. Most forms are manifested merely by pigmentation with no effect on function. Two kinds of dust, free silica and asbestos, produce definite pulmonary disease. A few others may provoke changes recognizable in Röntgenograms, but proof of their etiologic significance is lacking.

Silicosis is an industrial disease caused by inhaling large amounts of free silica over a period of years. In normal lungs it is mani-

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nodules, often causing no symptoms. In infected lungs the fibrosis is massive and is accompanied by compensatory emphysema producing dyspnoea. It specifically predisposes to tuberculosis of which a large but variable proportion of its victims die. Silica is not a mechanical irritant. Its action is physico-chemical and can be modified by the presence of other minerals. Experiments demonstrate that inhalation of silica is retarded when other substances are mixed with it in the air and that minerals like gypsum, iron, and aluminium retard its action inside the body by coating the surface of silica grains.

Asbestosis is the other generally recognized pneumoconiosis producing symptoms and disability. It is characterized by fine, diffuse fibrosis originating about the terminal bronchioles and spreading into the lung. Such reaction reduces pulmonary elasticity and obliterates many blood capillaries with resultant dyspnoea and sometimes cardiac changes in advanced cases. Associated infections may heal, accentuating the pre-existing dust fibrosis. Experimental evidence strongly suggests a mechanical rather than a chemical irritation by this fibrous mineral.

Other dusts fail to influence the outcome of pulmonary infection. (*See* also RADIOLOGY; TRIPOLI.) (L. GAR.)

## Silk and Silk Manufacture.

The downward trend of silk demand evidenced in recent years seemed to gain acceleration in the first six months of 1938, but the last six months showed a very interesting spurt in demand from the United States that may mean new life for silk fibre during 1939. The increased demand may be due, in part, to a style demand for silk flat crepes and silk triple sheers, greatly heralded by the close of the year as the fabrics for 1939, and also to certain improvements in the manufacture of seamless hosiery which are opening up increased consumption in that field. (*See* RAYON.)

This trend of increased consumption of silk in the United States may be seen in the following record of exports from Japan during 1937 and 1938, Japan producing about 75% of the world's supply:

| | | *To United States* | *To All Others* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1938 | Jan. 1—July 1 | 161,[illegible]* | 41,120 |
| | July 1—Jan. 1, '39 | 231,[illegible] | 40,747 |
| 1937 | Jan. 1—July 1 | [illegible] | 29,693 |
| | July 1—Jan. 1, '38 | [illegible] | 60,984 |

*Figures in bales.

Prices of the raw silk in New York (the principal market place) rose steadily from $1.565 in January (the lowest average recorded since July 1935) to $1.83 in December. They showed little variation, however, during the first six months, resulting in a sharp drop in interest in trading on the Commodity Exchange. Total consumption by United States mills during the year was 411,794 bales, compared with 425,299 bales during 1937.

Much effort was spent during 1938 to re-establish the position of silk, in the United States, through labelling of silk garments and other products. The Federal Trade Commission in Washington enforced compulsory identification of rayon, and rules were adopted for the labelling of silk, including limitation of the terms "pure silk," "all silk," to products containing no adulterant, including weighting and, of course, other fibres. The commission continued to consider also that certain names of types of fabrics commonly used on rayon as well as silk, such as crepe, taffeta, satin, etc., were, in the eyes of the public, exclusively applicable to silk unless specified otherwise.

In Europe, the French Central Silk Committee—in agreement with the International Silk Committee—has created in Paris, under the name of the Silk Centre, a bureau with the aim of connecting the different industries interested by silk, and co-ordinat-

[illegible] in other countries to re-popularize silk. A [illegible] lished in French and English, describing the work of [illegible] with the title "Soie Informations," is being distribute[illegible] the bureau's office at 15 rue Galvani 17, Paris, France.

In the United States, the silk industry, by the figu[illegible] Bureau of Census published at the end of 1938, is su[illegible] important part of the textile industry. Despite the growth of rayon fibre in the fabric industry, there were [illegible] ing to the 1937 Census of Manufactures, 423 firms list[illegible] gaged in the production of silk woven goods, broad good[illegible] fabrics, silk throwing and spinning, and the productio[illegible] yarn and thread as contrasted with 425 establishments as rayon product manufacturers. In the volume of pr[illegible] however, rayon maintained its now prevailing lead over total output amounting to $250,000,000 against $90,00[illegible] silk goods.

The world's visible supply of raw silk, at the end of the season, was estimated to be 15,000,000lbs., or about t[illegible] figure as on June 30, 1937. International sericultural expe[illegible] predicted that based on stocks, this season's production, an[illegible] increased demand, very small world supplies of raw silk main at the end of the season in June 1939. (I. L.

## Silver.

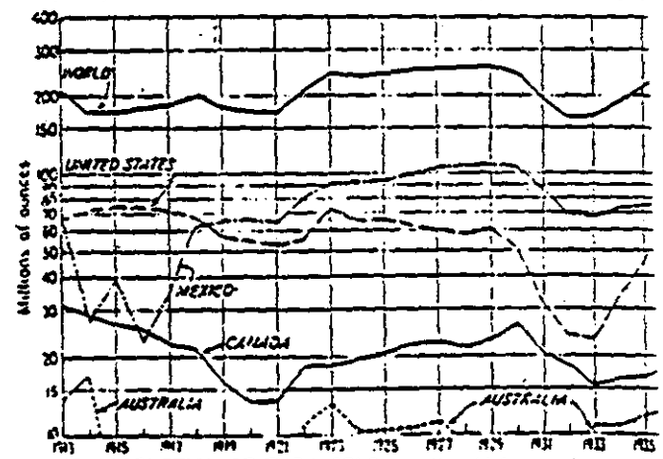
The world's silver production is rather heavily in North America: this continent in 1929 fu[illegible] 75% of the total output, and 67% in 1937; Mexico is the producer, with 31%, followed by the United States wit[illegible] Canada with 8%, and the remainder of the continent (in Central America, West Indies and Newfoundland) 2%.

A high light in the industry is the increase of output in [illegible] tina, from 50,000oz. in 1935 to 4,100,000oz. in 1937. The [illegible] of the important producers is shown in the accompanying and table.

Figures for the first three quarters of 1938, although no[illegible] complete, indicate a small increase in output over the period in 1937; the chief increases are in Mexico, Canad[illegible] Peru, and the chief losses in the United States and South [illegible] can countries outside of those listed for increases.

In a proclamation dated April 29, 1938, the nationalizat[illegible] silver, which was established in the United States on A[illegible] 1934, was revoked; this was largely a matter of form, as the [illegible] of the Act had for some time been obsolete; the price of [illegible] cents per ounce, paid by the Treasury for newly mined do[illegible] silver, was not altered.

British production of silver is comparatively small; the U[illegible] Kingdom itself has only a negligible output, and Empire pr[illegible] tion centres chiefly in Canada, Australia, Burma, and South A[illegible] Empire production as a whole is still slightly under the 1929




SILVER PRODUCTION OF THE WORLD and the chief producing countr[illegible] compiled by *The Mineral Industry*