

**21. Letter from Prince Priest Jinawarawansa in Bankipore to W. C. Peppé in Birdpore, dated 6 August 1898.**

*Acknowledges Peppé's letter of 29<sup>th</sup>. Deplores the failure to count the number of bone relics now out of Peppé's possession but now that they are to be offered to the King of Siam is satisfied with the result of his mission. Does not mind who takes the relics to Siam so long as the King is recognised 'as the head of the Buddhist religion'. Knows that Peppé has been allowed to retain a number of duplicates and ask if he can have one of the Buddhist crosses and one or two of the flowers as well as one trident. Offers in exchange anything from Siam or Ceylon 'you may consider equivalent'.*

Bankipore  
6<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1898

My dear Mr Peppé

I received your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> ult. two days ago, and I am very much obliged to you for the replies to my memo.

I deplore the loss of opportunity of counting the number of bone relics, now that they are going out of your possession, but as these relics will now be offered to the King of Siam, I am satisfied with the result of my mission, and can now leave India with satisfaction at any time. I remain so long in India on account of these relics in order to hear the decision of the Govt. To me it matters not in the least who takes the relics to Siam, so long as the King is recognised as having claim to them as the head of the Buddhist religion, and I am only sorry that you were not selected, as I had hoped that you would be, to take the relics to Siam, but that the Siamese Govt. is to send a deputation to receive them. I don't know if you have been informed of this, but if not, this must be treated as confidential.

I know that you are entitled to retain a number of duplicates of the ornamental offerings for your private use, and as they are very numerous, I would ask you to let me have one of the Buddhist crosses which is quite unknown in Siam, as a specimen, and one or two of the different kinds of flowers, which are the characteristic of themas also one trident, for exchange with anything you may consider equivalent and like to have, either from Siam or Ceylon, and I hope you will let me have them if you could possibly spare them as souvenirs of my visit to your home.

You can write still write to me care of the Collector of Gaya as I shall soon be going there. Hoping soon to hear from you.

Yours very truly  
P.C. Jinawarawansa