



Phya Sarasastra Sirilakshna

OBITUARY NOTICE

Phya Sarasastra Sirilakshna
(Sanrasirn Sukhyang)

Phya Sarasastra Sirilakshna was a son of Luang Badhanabongs Bhakdi, Secretary to Chao Phya Mahindra, the Lord High Steward who served King Mongkut (1851-1868) up to the moment of the King's death and continued to serve his son, Chulalongkorn. Nai Sanrasirn, as he then was, was therefore brought up in an atmosphere of Siamese Court traditions. He was educated at Suan Kulab College. He won one of the annual King's scholarships, was sent to England and entered Oundle School. From Oundle he went on to the Royal Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill, where he duly graduated as an A.M.I.C.E. (Associate Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers). He then went on to the University of California, where he obtained a master's degree in Irrigation.

Nai Sanrasirn returned to Siam and worked in the Irrigation service of the Government until he became its Director. He was later promoted to the Director-Generalship of the State Railways and once acted for the Minister of Communications during the latter's absence abroad. During this period of Government service he received various honours, being finally created Phya Sarasastra Sirilakshna, and was awarded the Grand Cross of the Crown of Siam. Phya Sarasastra retired when the Revolution of 1932 broke out, and devoted himself to various unofficial pursuits, including the work of the Siam Society and some journalism. In the Siam Society he was active as leader of the Travel Section and rose in the Council to the office of a Senior Vice President, being reelected for several years in succession to that office.

Although an engineer and professionally a technician, he was also a fluent writer both in his own and in the English language. In the last few years of his life Phya Sarasastra was a continual invalid, and yet he pluckily served the Siam Society, continuing as its Vice President up to the day of his death.

Since 1948 he was again recalled into the service of the state as senator, where it is said that he distinguished himself by his just attitude and strict integrity.

Dhani.

