

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION

by

Chun Prabhavi-vadhana

I. THEIR NATURE

Thailand is considered in some world book production circles to hold a unique position in that it produces more special publications, in the form of "Special Publications for Free Distribution", than any other country in Southeast Asia.

"Free distribution" is here deliberately used in the strictest sense to refer only to books which are produced not for sale but to be given away for various worthwhile causes and on various occasions. Naturally, in most cases, the number is somewhat limited. However, this type of production for free distribution is also taken to include publications which are made available for sale, provided that profits or earnings received from the sale, without deduction, are donated to good causes in the spirit of charitable aid. This is a case of investment, not for commercial profit, but for the sake of social welfare, and in order to serve the community and to relieve human suffering.

These so-called special publications vary in format, subject, and physical make-up, as do the occasions of their publication and the manner of their distribution.

It is appropriate for me to emphasize here that it was impossible for me to trace all sources, despite all my painstaking efforts, for special publications for free distribution are, in all cases, private or personal affairs and sometimes even esoteric in nature. No record has ever been kept anywhere; and no research has been done before. This is certainly the first time that anyone has embarked on this project of the presentation of the so-called "Special Publications for Free Distribution"; the types of occasion for their publication are very numerous, and are difficult to categorize.

(1) The only scientifically regarded source which is available at present is the MA thesis of Mr. Suphat Songsaengchan, a copy of which.

is available at the Thai Library Association, but it limits itself to a single category only, i.e., special publications freely distributed on funeral ceremonies.

(2) Fortunately, I have a friend who is the King's private secretary; when he learnt of this project I was undertaking, he quickly lent a helping hand, providing the list of all the publications distributed by both the King and the Queen on various occasions from the beginning of their reign to date. My friend's information has greatly contributed to the success of this project.

(3) Sources for the rest have naturally been acquired at random, inasmuch as the publication of all these is purely a personal affair, as mentioned before, and the occasions for their publication and distribution have been so numerous.

(4) M.L. Pin Malakul, former Minister of Education, when he learnt of my project, kindly prepared the full list of 56 publications distributed yearly for 25 consecutive years on his birthday anniversary. I am grateful to him for lending me a helping hand in this cause.

I should like to mention here that I have now laid the groundwork for further explorative scholarship on this subject.

And now it seems appropriate to list the occasions and manners of the free distribution of special publications.

Occasions for Distribution

1. A birthday anniversary celebration.
2. The thirty-sixth birthday anniversary celebration, which is, according to royal custom, considered a significant juncture in having happily completed the third round of the 12-year zodiacal cycle, in accordance with astrological law.
3. The King's silver jubilee celebration on the 25th anniversary of his reign, on the 9th of June, 1971.
4. The King's coronation anniversary.
5. The sixtieth birthday anniversary celebration, which is regarded as the most important occasion in a man's life, to mark the rejoicing at having successfully and fruitfully lived to the age of 60.

6. The seventy-second birthday anniversary celebration.
7. The eightieth birthday anniversary celebration.
8. On the occasion of the *Kathin* Ceremony of presenting monastic robes to deserving priests in monasteries immediately after the Buddhist Lent ends, according to Buddhist practice.
9. On the most important Buddhist Holy Days, especially the *Visūkhā Pūjā* or *Wesak* as it is called in Ceylon, in commemoration of the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha, the Most Exalted One, which falls on the full-moon in May; and also on the *Māgha Pūjā* Day, which is equivalent to the Buddhist All Saints Day, and falls on the full-moon in the third month of the lunar calendar.
10. An anniversary in commemoration of a Ministry, especially the Prime Minister's Office to report to the nation of an individual prime minister's achievements during his tenure of office; and also, certain ministries' founding anniversaries.
11. A rare occasion on which one wants to present an exposition of one's individual conception or interpretation of the Buddhist scripture in tract form.
12. A rare occasion on which the Queen graciously published for free distribution a history of Bang Pa-in Summer Palace, in memory of His Serene Highness Prince Waeo-chak Chakrabandhu, who had once served Their Majesties; and also a book in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the death of King Mongkut and the enthronement of King Chulalongkorn, his successor, on the 1st of October 1968.
13. A very special occasion on which the Queen published a number of titles to pay homage to the past great kings of old Siam.
14. A rather rare and unusual occasion on which the Queen graciously published two books in verse form; one, on the 23rd of January 1966, to express Their Majesties' great pleasure and delight upon registering the white elephant from Chiang Mai Province "as a royal appanage, regarded as an outward sign, hallowed by ancient custom, of the greatness of the monarchy"; and the other, upon registering the white elephant from Yala Province on the 10th of March 1968, also as a royal appanage.

15. Another rather rare occasion on which the King graciously distributed "Phra Ruang", a historical play in verse form, as a token of respect to his predecessor, who was his own brother, on the 50th day internment religious rite for the corpse.

16. The cremation ceremony, which is the most outstanding example of an occasion for "Special Publications for Free Distribution"; because of the widespread practice of publishing to mark this day, there is a large variety of interesting and unusual subjects.

Manners of Distribution

1. To give freely and directly without qualification.
2. To give only to those who come to do honour to the giver, or to contributors to a good cause.
3. To give a token which entitles the receiver to collect the publication at a later time and place.
4. To make the publication available only for sale directly or by order, the funds thus collected to be given to charity.
5. To make the publication available only by order, to be sure of the purchaser's interest in the subject treated in the publication.

Now I shall give detailed descriptions of the occasions of free distribution.

II. OCCASIONS FOR DISTRIBUTION

1. On One's Birthday Anniversary Celebration

There are two methods of distribution in this category. One is for the one who celebrates his own birthday to give the publication away himself; and the other is for other people to make the distribution as a token of respect to honour him.

On this occasion, there are more cases of the latter example, i.e., of other people's honouring the person whose birthday it is, than the former. The subject presented is usually an educative or a moralistic one, often with the purpose of pointing out good and exemplary paths for youth to follow.

1.1 To cite one instance one need only quote the instructions given by King Chulalongkorn, the most beloved monarch of the Fifth Reign of the Chakri Dynasty of Thailand, to his sons, whom he had sent to be educated at Cambridge and Oxford around the turn of the century :

“When you have contracted debts and you fear your father will not pay them, or, if he does, that he will impose a penalty, do not think you can use the annual allowance which is laid down for you and accumulating while you are abroad, to pay such debts. It you should think so and therefore contract debts while abroad it will be likewise wrong for all the advantage which you enjoy while your father lives, or which may continue after he has passed away, you cannot say that they will remain always the same, and as you grow older you will have families to provide for and will need money for your support, and possibly your income may not be sufficient for your expenditures. You can not be sure that your education will give you positions of influence and remuneration equal to your wants, for the reason that the fact of your being princes may possibly, at some future time, be a barrier to your holding office, and if you should turn to business pursuits such as receiving employment as clerks, etc. there will still be difficulties in consequence of your being princes. If your capital is all spent in the payment of debts where will you then find your supports? Therefore I say if you think of spending such funds as these so as not to annoy your father it will still be the cause of future difficulties and embarrassments which you ought not to bring upon yourselves.”*

1.2 In commemoration of the Queen's birthday anniversary, on the 12th of August, 1969, the Women Press Reporters of Thailand published in four printings the *Thai Cook Book*, with recipes supplied by various famous chefs, connoisseurs, gourmets, epicureans and gastronomists in Thailand, to a total of 60,000 copies, sold at \$0.50 each, i.e.

First printing	30,000 copies
Second printing	10,000 „
Third printing	10,000 „
Fourth printing	10,000 „

From the sale of this book there was collected a little more than \$11,000 to be presented to the Queen for her disposal to charitable causes.

* Child, Jacob T. *The Pearl of Asia*. Chicago, Donohue, Henneberry, 1892. 339 pp. Page 158.

1.3 M.L. Pin Malakul, former Minister of Education has annually from 1947 to the present, on his birthday anniversary on the 24th of October, distributed books written by himself to those who come to pay him respect or do him honour. This interesting series of titles is given below.

Year	Title	Type	Publisher	No. of copies
1947	Adult Education	Education	Thai Watthana Phanit	1,000
1948	No distribution; on official visit in U.S.A.			
1949	„	„	India	
1950	“Phuang Malai” (a lei)	A play	Guru Sabhā	1,000
1951	“Kluai Mai” (orchids)	Poetry	„	500
1952	“Hua Chai Thong” (Golden Heart)	A play	„	1,000
1953	“Yang Pen Rong” (still being under-rated)	A play	„	1,000
1954	No distribution; on official visit in Mexico			
1955	“Devīvāsavadattā” (his wife’s work)	Thai classical ballet	Guru Sabhā	1,000
1956	1. Vidyū Paridar-sana” 2. “Arabian Nights” 3. “Experiences Amidst the Ocean.”	3 radio plays	„	1,000
1957	“To Lumbini Park and the Buddha’s 25th Century Anniversary Celebration”	Travel	„	1,000

Year	Title	Type	Publisher	No. of copies
1958	"Kaan Muang Ruang Rak" (Politics and Love)	A play	Guru Sabbā	2,000
1959	Three School Plays	3 plays	"	1,000
	1. The Princess and the Wood-cutter			
	2. Still being underrated			
	3. The demonstration Angel			
	A lecture on rural development and small pedagogy	Education	"	1,000
1960	Miscellaneous Problems	Autobiography & Mathematics	"	1,000
	(A Page In History)	Education	"	1,000
1961	(A Trip to Italy and Spain)	Travel	"	1,000
1962	(A Hundred Pieces of Poetry)	Poetry	"	1,000
1963	(Regional Education Development)	Education	"	1,000
1964	(Overnight Stop Around the World)	Travel in poetry	"	1,000
1965	(1) "Davadasadana" (The Twelfth Gift)	Poetry	"	1,000
	(2) (The Verses of 1964)	"	"	1,000
	(3) "Saam maak kwaa haa" (Three Outnumbers Five)	A play	"	1,000

Year	Title	Type	Publisher	No. of copies
1966	(The Holy Places)	Travel	Guru Sabhā	1,000
	“Hong Thong” (Golden Swan)	A musical play	„	2,000
	(Addresses to School Principals in 1965-66)	Education	„	2,000
1967	Four Plays (1. The Stars 2. The Lei 3. Chailai Never Realizes 4. Visiting Bangkok)	4 plays	„	1,000
1968	Mathematical Plays ((1) Three Outnum- bers Five (2) Chailai Never Realizes (3) The Money Gets lost)	3 plays	„	1,000
	a.1. (Provisions for Wat Maha Wong Founda- tion) 2. (The 2nd Reign Commemora- tion Foundation) 3. (Senior Teacher Certificate Scholarship)	Statements concerning foundations & scholarships	„	1,000
	b. A Lecture of of Khunying Dusdi at Phitsanulok (his wife's work)			
	c. “Haan Wao” & 2 Radio plays “Khao Di” (The Kite's Tail & Good News)			

Year	Title	Type	Publisher	No. of copies
1969	(The Landlady's Daughter)	A play	Guru Sabhā	1,000
	(Oh ! My Father !)	A play	„	1,000
	(Alas, Your Majesty !)	A play	„	1,000
1970	(1) (Land of the Buddha)	A play	„	1,000
	(distributed on the occasion of his wife's birthday anniversary)			
	(2) Miscellany of A Teacher Graduate	Collection of 10 articles	Guru Sabhā	1,000
1971	(1) Somsak in Trouble	A play	Guru Sabhā	1,000
	(2) (The King's Functions Concerning Education)	The English Education	„	1,000
	(3) Paramavongse Isaravararam Monastery : Past & Present	History	„	1,500

1.4 Publications distributed by the present Queen to celebrate the King's birthday anniversaries in 1968, 1969, and 1970, as follows :

1.4.1 "Portrait of His Majesty Album" distributed on the 5th December 1968, a biography of the King including his ordination as a Buddhist priest, his trips to visit his peoples throughout the kingdom, as well as his official trips abroad. 10,000 copies were issued.

1.4.2 "Collection of His Majesty's Functions", distributed on the 5th December 1969; it contains a description of some of the King's functions from October 1969 to the end of September, 1970. It is fully illustrated; and the number issued was 10,000.

1.4.3 "Collection of His Majesty's Functions", distributed on the 5th December 1970; it gives a partial account of the King's functions from October 1970 up to September 1971, with profuse illustrations; the number distributed to those who came to pay respect and do honour to the King was 8,000.

1.4.4 The Queen arranged to publish two books which were distributed on the occasion of the Queen Mother's birthday anniversary celebration, on the 21st October 1960.

1.4.4.1 "Buddhist Lectures" 500 copies

1.4.4.2 "Mahatanhasankhaya Sutra"—a translation into Thai from Pali of episodes in the Buddha's former births. 500 copies.

2. The Thirty-sixth Birthday Anniversary Celebration

The occasion of which is, according to royal custom, deemed a significant juncture of happily having passed the third round of the 12-year zodiacal cycle, in accordance with astrological law.

Free distribution is, of course, practiced among the royal family on this occasion, rather than among the ordinary people. The following is a major example.

2.1 The present Queen presented to those who came to congratulate her on her 36th birthday anniversary on August 12, 1968, 10,000 copies of an important book which is comprised of the writings of the following:

2.1.1 His Highness Prince Dhani, Chairman of the Privy Council, on "King Yot Fa Revives Our Culture."

2.1.2 M.L. Dej Sanitvongse, member of the Privy Council, on "Activities of King Yot Fa."

2.1.3 C.S. (pen name) on "A Biography and Behaviour of King Mongkut."

2.1.4 Her Serene Highness Princess Vibhavati Rangsit, the Queen's lady in waiting, on "A Translation of Prince Oscar of Sweden's diary"; and also the diaries of King Chulalongkorn as well as of His Royal Highness Prince Vajirunahisa, the elder brother of the King's father.

2.1.5 Her Majesty on "Reminiscences of One Who Traveled Abroad With His Majesty."

This book contains 443 pages and was published by Tha Phra Chandra Press in Bangkok.

3. The King's Silver Jubilee Celebration On The 25th Anniversary of His Reign on the 9th June 1971

The 9th of June 1971 witnessed a great record-making celebration, culminating in bursts of joy and jubilation the country over, for it was His Majesty's Silver Jubilee, marking the 25th anniversary of his successful reign.

Consequently, in addition to the pomp and splendour of court and religious ceremonies and the huge military parade, there were produced the following interesting and outstanding special publications for free distribution :

3.1 A collection of the King's addresses and recommendations from December 1969 to November 1970. 10,000 copies were issued by the King's General Secretariat Office, 421 pp.

3.2 ("The Majestic Majesty of His Majesty") distributed by the Ministry of Defence; 8,000 copies.

3.3 "The Grand Palace" with color illustrations, distributed by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand for the sale of 10,000 copies, at 100 bahts each; the sum collected was presented to Their Majesties for their charitable work.

3.4 ("Functions and Activities of His Majesty"), presented by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand to the King to do with as he chose; 5,000 copies.

3.5 ("May It Please Your Majesty") written by Obhas Sevikul, published by the Bangkok Bank, 221 pp.; 4,000 copies were sold and the proceeds, without cost deduction, were sent to the King's charities; 1,000 copies were freely distributed.

3.6 A catalog of an exhibition of the King's paintings held at Tha Phra Royal Hall of the University of Fine Arts, June 8-10, 1971, arranged by the University of Fine Arts.

3.7 ("In Praise of the Silver Jubilee") generally distributed by the Applied Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand, 34 pp., 3,000 copies. Contents: the King's activities in connection with the applied sciences.

3.8 ("The Silver Jubilee Souvenir") distributed by the Thai Muslim community, published at Aksara Samai Press in Bangkok, 36 pp.; 2,514 copies, the contents of which are the King's functions vis-a-vis the Thai Muslim Community; 500 copies were given to the King and the rest to Islamic groups.

3.9 ("Bless Your Majesty!") written in verse by Vongse Javana-kavi, published by Phra Chandra Press in Bangkok, 38 pp; 5,000 copies; distributed by the King's Private Secretary's office.

4. The King's Coronation Anniversary on the 5th of May

In 1969 and 1970, The Lions Club of Bangkok, Dusit Chapter, published two books for sale; the sum collected, without any cost deduction, was presented to Their Majesties for their charitable causes.

4.1 ("H.M.'s Functions and the Significance of the Coronation Anniversary Ceremony"), 1969, 2,000 copies.

4.2 ("An Album On His Majesty's Travels Abroad"), 1970, 2,000 copies.

5. The Sixtieth Birthday Anniversary Celebration

This is popularly regarded by tradition as the most important anniversary in a man's life, to mark the rejoicing at having successfully and fruitfully lived to this age, i.e. through the fifth round of the 12-year zodiacal cycle, in accordance with astrological law; then the 60th birthday anniversary celebration takes place.

5.1 In discussing the significance of a man's 60th birthday anniversary, I can think of no better remarks than those made by King Vajiravudh in the special introduction to his famous translation of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. King Vajiravudh wrote this special introduction for the publication which was freely distributed to those who came to pay respect and say blessings to Chao Phraya Yamaraja, the King's favourite, on the latter's 60th birthday anniversary celebration in 1922.

Before giving King Vajiravudh's brilliant remarks, written for this particular 60th birthday anniversary celebration, it is appropriate for me to explain a bit more about the distribution of special publications on this occasion. There is a special function for the participants who are present on this momentous occasion which differs from their role at the celebration of an ordinary birthday, and that is that those younger in age than the one who celebrates his birthday, have to pour perfume or scented water onto the scooped-up hands of the central figure, while the latter murmurs good blessings to the greeters; and then the publication of the occasion is duly distributed to each participant. Strange as it may seem, the one who is celebrating his birthday blesses the participants, instead of vice versa.

King Vajiravudh graciously wrote the following special introduction to his translation of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, and it was distributed on the occasion described above.

"Chao Phraya Yamaraja (real name—Pan Sukhum) has made known to me that he will reach his 60th birthday in 1922 on a date which is regarded by our people as an auspicious day. Inasmuch as Chao Phraya Yamaraja would like to perform the religious rite according to tradition, he has arranged for his celebration in July, and has expressed his desire to have a book written by me to be distributed on the occasion. In view of the fact that almost all the books of value which I have written have already been published, the redistribution of these works would only be a boring repetition for the receivers. Therefore, it is necessary for me to find him a new title.

"As it happens, there is a play entitled *As You Like It* which I have been translating from Shakespeare since early 1921; the manuscripts have been gradually sent to press and have been thoroughly checked for errors, but have not been distributed as yet. To my mind, this very play is an appropriate publication for Chao Phraya Yamaraja to distribute on his birthday anniversary celebration, for it is a story with food for thought, viz. contentment, loyalty to one's master, kindness to one even if he is only a servant, and keeping one's head high in time of adversity. Another point is that this play of Shakespeare has been successfully translated into Thai by the great efforts of two persons who

had been Chao Phraya Yamaraja's students, i.e. myself, who is both the translator and composer of poems, and His Highness Prince Pachinakitidhipati, who has helped by giving his opinion on the translation of Shakespeare's difficult words and rhetorical expressions. As for me, I am glad to have the opportunity to show my gratitude to him for what he had done for me since my youthful days, while away from home studying in England. Therefore, I wholeheartedly offer this book for Chao Phraya Yamaraja to publish it.

"I would like to urge those who have received this publication to give good blessings to Chao Phraya Yamaraja so that he may attain long life, a fine complexion, good health and strength. And may the virtue of the triple gems in which we all take refuge accord him everything he desires in his pursuit of Dharma and cherished loyalty"

There is of course an exception here to the description given above of one aspect of the 60th birthday celebration, i.e., the central figure giving blessing to the younger ones who come to pay him respect. But the exception is that, no matter what the circumstances, where the King is concerned, he is the one who is above all else.

5.2 The 60th birthday anniversary celebration is normally practiced among wealthy families, who can afford the cost of publication; it is often difficult to know of the occasion unless one is invited to attend. I was invited by his son to attend that of Luang Sukhum, former Secretary-General of the Civil Service Commission, who celebrated his 60th birthday on May 1, 1964, by the arrangement of his sons and daughters who sent out invitations to friends of the family and to Luang Sukhum's colleagues to attend the function. This is always the case with the 60th birthday celebration: it is somebody else who gives the party for the man whose 60th birthday it is, not the man himself; however, he participates fully in the affair.

On this occasion, they distributed to the guests a publication on the life and works of Luang Sukhum, which contains 311 pp.; and, at a guess, the number of copies must have been more than 1,000.

* Prachuap Thong-urai. Books for free distribution. In Chao Krung Magazine, Vol. 12, no. 2., Nov. 1962, p. 60-61.

Believe it or not, Luang Sukhum is one of the favourite sons of Chao Phraya Yamaraja of whom I have written in 5.1 above. In my opinion, Luang Sukhum must have had in mind his father's history in making a special point of the distribution of a publication on his 60th birthday anniversary celebration, for the book was a well-prepared one.

5.3 I cannot go further without mentioning a big event that caused much excitement in the book production world, in the category of free distribution: this was a fine-printed, hard cover, huge and expensive volume of 406 pp. with profuse color illustrations, distributed on the 11th of August 1971 to the amount of 7,000 copies, by the present Prime Minister of Thailand's wife, on the occasion of the 60th birthday anniversary celebration of Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, the Prime Minister of Thailand. The title of the big, heavy book is "The Passing 60 Years Life," and it contains detailed accounts of his personal history, and his activities and achievements throughout his life. It was extensively distributed through the courtesy of the Thai Library Association to which I belong, which had copies placed in different libraries all over the country.

6. The 72nd Birthday Anniversary Celebration

There are a good many people who celebrate the 72nd birthday anniversary celebration by distributing unusually good publications to their visitors.

To give an illustration of this occasion it is most appropriate to mention the case of my most respected personality, who once held one of the world's most coveted positions as the President of the United Nations General Assembly; he has been many times Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, the most outstanding scholar of the country, former Foreign Minister of Thailand, one-time Thailand's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States, past Rector of Thammasat University and currently President of the Siam Society, the learned institution of the country, not to mention Siam's delegate to the good old League of Nations in Europe right after World War I.

He is none other than His Royal Highness Prince Wan Waithayakon, who is known in his own country by the royal title given by his,

august monarch as Major Gen. Krom Mün Naradhip Bongse Prabandh. And on his 72nd birthday anniversary on the 25th of August 1963, the group of people who considered themselves his friends—former colleagues, former students, all the big names, headed by his contemporary during his college days in England, Phraya Manavaraja Sevi, a member of the King's Privy Council—assembled many articles (with the sole condition that the subject of each should deal with one or the other of the Prince's special fields of interest, viz. international law, foreign relations, philology, literature, political science, social sciences, economics, history and philosophy) to make a very thick book distributed on this occasion. The book is unusually large with 711 pp. and 55 contributors, and fortunately, I was one of them, really just a humble one. 5,000 copies were printed, which is, for this type of valuable book, an unusually large number for the book market in Thailand.

7. The 80th Birthday Anniversary Celebration

7.1 August 25, 1971 saw the 80th birthday anniversary of the same prince; and to mark this occasion as well as to invite those who knew the prince intimately and would like to honour him, the prince's daughter and her husband distributed a valuable book written solely by the prince himself in various fields of interest, both in English and Thai, viz. antiquity, literature, poetry, philology, word coining, diplomacy, international relations and understanding, mass media, education, public speaking, Buddhism, etc.—a beautifully printed large book of 166 pages, of 1,000 copies.

7.2 Another national figure who distributed a publication on his 80th birthday anniversary celebration was His Highness Prince Dhani Nivat, Krom Mün Bidyalabh, President of the King's Privy Council, a revered scholar who is well versed in literature and history as well as in the Sanskrit language; the book was distributed on the 7th of November 1965, a work of 52 pp. written by Her Serene Highness, Princess Sipphan Sonakul, his sister, of 1,000 copies. The title is "A Trip To India."

8. On the Occasion of the Presentation of a Monastic Robe in the Kathin Ceremony

The Kathin ceremony commences the day after the Buddhist Lent ends, and it lasts one whole month. (In other words, from the 1st day of the waning moon of the 11th month until the full-moon day of the 12th month, according to the lunar calendar.) The duration, of course, varies each year, for it depends on the moon's orbit. The duration in 1971, for example, was from the 5th of October to the 2nd of November. The presentation of a monastic robe to the monk must be done during this one-month period, and a publication may be distributed during the ceremony.

By and large, the distribution of publications of this type is practiced among Ministers of State who are graciously offered the chance to represent the King in presenting a monastic robe to a monk in one of the royal *wats* or Buddhist monasteries. However, there are some Ministers who do not distribute books, but who instead give educational materials to the school children who line up to welcome them upon the performance of the Kathin ceremony for the King.

8.1 It is worth mentioning the fine, thick and valuable book, distributed by the Ministry of Education on the 1st of November, 1970, when the Minister with a large party went to present the Kathin robe for the King at Wat Ambavanacetryaram, in Ambava District, Samut Songkhram Province; and that is *Rasavahini*, a scholarly book on Buddhist stories originally written in Pali by the legendary Buddhist scholar of Ceylon and translated into Thai by Saeng Manavidura, the celebrated Thai scholar in Pali and Sanskrit who is attached to the Royal Institute. This huge volume contains 799 pages of 103 Buddhist stories, of great interest to a student of Buddhism, complete with the history of the age-old *wat* or Buddhist Monastery mentioned above. It was printed to the generous amount of 10,000 copies, so that they could be placed in the various libraries of the kingdom.

The King apportioned the presentation of a Kathin robe not only to the Minister, but also to the Director-Generals of Departments in that ministry as well, as one may notice from the following :

8.2 The Department of Religious Affairs, while presenting the Kathin robe to Wat Noranatha Sudikaram, distributed a small special publication of 44 pp. on the history of that monastery, on the 2nd November 1970.

8.3 On the 1st of November 1970, the Department of Secondary Education, upon presenting the Kathin robe to Wat Klang Ming Muang, Muang District of Roi-et Province, distributed a special publication on interesting points of moral education (90 pp.).

8.4 On the 31st of October 1970, the Department of Vocational Education, in presenting the Kathin robe to Wat Phra Non Chakra Siha Voravihara, of Sing Buri Province, distributed a special publication in memory of the occasion.

9. On the Visākha Pūjā and Māgha Pūjā Holy Days

9.1 *On the Visākha Pūjā Holy Day.* The Visākha Pūjā is the holiest of the Buddhist Holy Days of Thailand. It commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and the death of the Buddha, and it falls on the full moon in May.

The distribution of special publications on this occasion started with the King himself ordering the Royal Institute to arrange a national contest for an essay on a given Buddhist topic, each year concerning one phase or aspect of Buddhism. This practice had been initiated even before the present reign, i.e. in 1928. There was only one year—i.e., 1928—in which a paper was distributed which was not awarded the prize, but it was a special title: “What A Buddhist?”; and from 1929 on, the book distributed on the Visākha Pūjā Day has been that of the prize-winning paper. 1,000 copies have been distributed each year.

I am fortunate to be given by His Majesty's Private Secretary the list of interesting titles of the special publications distributed successively from the beginning of the present reign to date, and list them here.

9.111 “Gratitude”, May 3, 1946

9.112 “Virtues That Are Admirable”, May 12, 1947

9.113 “Respectfulness for the Six Components”, May 5, 1948

- 9.114 "One Who Is Hard To Find", May 12, 1949
- 9.115 "Dharma That Protects The World", May 31, 1950
- 9.116 "Three Remarks of the Buddha", May 21, 1951
- 9.117 "Sovereignty of the Three Components", April 9, 1952
- 9.118 "Source of Virtue of the Three Components", April 30, 1953
- 9.119 "Dharma That Would Greatly Help", March 30, 1954
- 9.120 "Four Sublime States of Mind", May 6, 1955
- 9.121 "Rules of the Virtuous", May 24, 1956
- 9.122 "The Immortal Dharma", May 13, 1957
- 9.123 "Three Categories of Merit-Making", May 2, 1958
- 9.124 "Four Kinds of Endeavour", May 22, 1959
- 9.125 "To Shun The Abusive And To Associate With the Learned", May 10, 1960
- 9.126 "Pay Homage Only To the Deserved One", May 29, 1961
- 9.127 "Remain Only In the Appropriate Place", April 16, 1962
- 9.128 "Due To Merit Done In Previous Life", March 29, 1963
- 9.129 "Stay Right!", March 23, 1964
- 9.130 "Being Well Listened", May 26, 1965
- 9.131 "Arts", June 3, 1966
- 9.132 "Disciplines Well Learned", May 23, 1967
- 9.133 "Words of Proverbs", May 11, 1968
- 9.134 "To Care for Parents", May 30, 1969
- 9.135 "To Help Sons And Daughters", May 19, 1970
- 9.136 "To Help the Spouse", May 4, 1971

1,000 copies of each title.

- 9.137 In addition, in 1956 the King had distributed to the public 20,000 copies of a brochure of the royal ceremonies and his functions and activities during his ordination to become a monk for 2 weeks.
- 9.138 Also, on this very holy day of Visākha Pūjā, the Buddhist Association of Thailand has made a practice of distributing 1,000 copies of an annual publication, with the title of "Visākha Pūjā", to Buddhist organizations all over the world, from 1928 to the present. The contents of this publication naturally include articles and features and essays about Buddhism, both the Theravada and Mahayana schools, both theoretical as well as practical. Also, it is always fully and finely illustrated.

9.2 *On the Māgha Pūjā Holy Day.* The Māgha Pūjā falls on the full moon of the third lunar month which marks the birth of the Dharma, at which time 1,250 of the Buddha's disciples, for whom He had performed the ordination Himself, gathered together in one place, coming from different directions, to pay homage to the Buddha, without any sign of foreknowledge of each other's intended journeys.

The Buddha saw it as an auspicious occasion. He then delivered His great Pātimōkkha Sermon which contained the Rules of the Order, 227 altogether, as they stand today.

9.2.1 As a rule, rare works are found to distribute as special publications on this holy day; but the Young Buddhist Association of Thailand distributed to the public in 1969, 1970 and 1971, a brochure of 2,000 copies yearly, the contents of which were articles and features on Buddhism, theoretical and practical, especially for the young.

And also, it gave away an annual publication of 1,000 copies in 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971.

10. **On the Occasion of the Anniversary in commemoration of the founding of a Ministry, especially the Prime Minister's Office**

10.1 On the 11th of March, each year, from the forming of the cabinet in 1960 to date, the Cabinet Office has distributed 7,000 copies to the public annually a special publication containing the Prime Minister's addresses, messages, and watch-words, as a report to the nation of his accomplishments during that year. The publication also includes his addresses to various organizations on special occasions, such as, the anniversaries of the founding of the State Railway of Thailand, the Government Savings Bank, and the Bangkok branches of the Rotarians and the Lions, etc.

10.2 On the 1st of April, 1952, the Ministry of Education distributed a publication in commemoration of the 60th founding anniversary of the ministry. It naturally contained the history, activities and achievements of the ministry through the years.

10.3 Also on the 1st of April, 1964, the Education Ministry celebrated its 72nd founding anniversary by distributing a special publication on the history of the ministry from 1892-1964.

In 10.2 and 10.3 one can see evidence of the significance the Thai people attribute to the 5th and the 6th rounds of the zodiacal cycle, not only of men, but of places and organizations as well.

11. A Rare Occasion On Which One Wants To Present an Exposition of One's Individual Conception Or Interpretation of The Buddhist Scripture In Tract Form

11.1 On January 1, 1971, Mr. Prakaiphrük Sarutananda of 139/7 Soi Thian Siang, Sathon Tai Road, Bangkok, with his close friends, published a beautiful, expensive, big (299 pp.) book, of 2,000 copies, whose title is: "The Practice of Paying Homage to the Buddha (unabridged)". The tract was written by the Reverend Puriramyā Pavarō, who was, during his secular years, a ranking official of the Royal Irrigation Department, Ministry of Agriculture. After coming to understand the three eternal characteristics of life, viz. the impermanency of things, the prevalence of sufferings in the world, and the non-soul concept, he entered the priesthood permanently, wandering from place to place to find a quiet, solitary and suitable location for his deep meditation and conscientious study of the Buddha Dharma. As a result of his scholarly efforts and persistent meditation, this very great work was born.

Mr. Prakaiphrük and his colleagues, all of whom used to work with and were intimates of the author, financed the publication of this religious tract.

Attention should be called to the fact that this great work would not reserve copyright if its distribution is not for sale; and Mr. Prakaiphrük makes a strong point that this publication will only be given to those who are sincerely interested in the subject and seriously wish to study it.

11.2 There is, in Bangkok, a very valuable foundation, started and organized by a professional civil engineer called Luang Parinna Yogavipulya, who won a government scholarship to study in England years ago. It is "The Foundation for Education in the Art of Right Living," 744 Soi Phaya Naga, Phaya Thai Road, Bangkok. It operates a primary school to train youngsters to follow the path of right conduct and to prepare them for worthy vocations in their future lives.

In the course of its activities this Foundation has published a number of useful special publications, all of which have had as their sole purpose the encouragement of people to be good citizens of the country and righteous human beings. These publications are not for sale, but are distributed to those who are interested in the good cause of the Foundation. The Foundation, a non-profit organization, accepts only voluntary donations from those who support its sincere efforts in the training of young and responsible citizens.

These special publications for free distribution may be listed chronologically, if not specified otherwise, a publication has been written by Luang Parinna himself, as follows :

1950	11.3	"A Map of the Path to Niravana",	1,000 copies
	11.4	"Will Man Be Reborn?",	1,000 copies
1952	11.5	"Is There Any Life After Death?" (in English)	2,000 copies
	11.6	— ditto — (in Thai)	1,000 copies
1957	11.7	"Concise Principles of Buddhism" in English, containing 29 pp.	5,000 copies
	11.8	The same title but in Thai, 56 pp	5,000 copies
1958	11.5	"Tri Pitaka" (a translation from Pali in abridged edition : work of Rev. Pariyati, of Paduma Vanaram Monastery)	1,000 copies
1959	11.10	"Is There Any Life After Death?"	1,000 copies
	11.11	"To Bring Youngsters To Church", written in Thai by Pannananda Bhikkhu	3,200 copies
	11.12	"Treasure of Wisdom", written in Thai by Phra Songgram Bhakti	1,000 copies
1960	11.13	"Concise Principles of Buddhism" (in Thai)	1,000 copies
	11.14	"Concise Principles of Buddhism" (in English)	1,000 copies

1962	11.15	"Dharmapada Series", vol. 1	1,000 copies
	11.16	"", "", vol. 1	2,000 copies
	11.17	"", "", vol. 2	1,000 copies
1963	11.18	"Education Which Is Misled", a lecture of Pannananda Bhikkhu	1,000 copies
	11.19	"Perfect Education"	1,000 copies
	11.20	"Dr. Washington Carver : The Scientist", by Shirley Graham & George C. Lipscomb; a translated work by Phra Songgram Bhakti	1,000 copies
1966	11.21	"Concise Principles of Buddhism" (in Thai)	2,000 copies
		(in English)	1,000 copies
1967	11.22	"Up From Slavery", a story of Booker T. Washington, a translated work of Luang Saman Vanakich	1,000 copies
	11.23	"Will Man Be Reborn?",	1,000 copies
1968	11.24	"Perfect Education",	1,000 copies
1970	11.25	"Tri Pitaka" (a translation from Pali in abridged edition : work by Rev. Pariyati of Paduma Vanaram Monastery)	1,000 copies
	11.26	"Up From Slavery", a story of Booker T. Washington, a translated work of Luang Saman Vanakich	1,000 copies

12. A Rare Occasion On Which the Queen Graciously Published For Free Distribution

12.1 On the 23rd of May 1964, the Queen graciously published for free distribution 1,000 copies of a history of Bang Pa-in, the royal summer palace, in memory of His Serene Highness Prince Waeo-chak Chakrabandhu, who had once served Their Majesties.

1.22 On the 1st of October 1968 the Queen distributed a special publication for free distribution in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the death of King Mongkut, the fourth monarch of the Chakri Dynasty; and the enthronement of King Chulalongkorn, his successor, the fifth king of the same dynasty.

12.3 Also, on the 20th March 1967, the King, in presenting his own style of Buddha Image which was given the name of "Buddha Navaraja Pabitr" to the seats of Provincial administration, distributed the publication describing that Image along with it.

13. A Very Special Occasion On Which the Queen Published A Number of Titles To Pay Tribute To the Past Kings of Old Siam

<i>Title</i>	<i>Occasion for distribution</i>	<i>Date</i>
13.1 The King's Speech	Unveiling of King Naresuan's statue at Don Chedi, Suphan Buri Province, 1,000 copies.	25 Jan. 1959
13.2 The King's Speech	Opening of the shrine of King Naresuan in Phitsanulok Province, 1,000 copies	25 Jan. 1962
13.3 Chai Mongkhon Chetiya	Performing religious rites and paying tribute to King Naresuan in Ayutthaya Province, 1,000 copies.	25 Jan. 1963
13.4 Declaration Made In Paying Homage To King Naresuan	Performing religious rites and paying homage to King Naresuan at Wat Si Chum, Sukhothai Province, 1,000 copies	25 Jan. 1964
13.5 Declaration Made In Paying Homage To King Naresuan	Performing religious rites and paying homage to King Naresuan in Chiang Dao District of Chiang Mai Province, 1,000 copies	25 Jan. 1965

	<i>Title</i>	<i>Occasion for distribution</i>	<i>Date</i>
13.6	Declaration Made In Paying Homage To King Naresuan	Performing religious rites and paying homage to King Naresuan in Si Satchanalai District of Sukhothai Province, 1,000 copies	25 Jan. 1966
13.7	Declaration Made In Paying Homage To King Naresuan	Performing religious rites and paying homage to King Naresuan in Muang District of Sukhothai Province, 1,000 copies	25 Jan. 1967
13.8	Declaration Made In Paying Homage To King Naresuan	Performing religious rites and paying homage to King Naresuan at Wat Nong Bua Lamphu, Udon Province, 1,000 copies	25 Jan. 1968
13.9	Address And Declara- tion Made In Paying Homage To King Naresuan	Performing religious rites and paying homage to King Naresuan in Mae Suai District, Chiang Rai Province, 1,000 copies	25 Jan. 1969
13.10	Address And Declara- tion Made In Paying Homage To King Naresuan	Performing religious rites and paying homage to King Naresuan in Chaiyo District, Ang Thong Province, 1,000 copies.	25 Jan. 1970
13.11	Address And Declara- tion Made In Paying Homage To King Naresuan	Performing religious rites and paying homage to King Naresuan in Muang District, Prachin Buri Province, 1,000 copies.	

14. A Rather Rare and Unusual Occasion On Which the Queen Published Two Books in Verse Form To Express Their Majesties' Great Pleasure and Delight Upon Registering Two White Elephants As Royal Appanages, Regarded As An Outward Sign, Hallowed By Ancient Custom, of The Greatness Of The Monarchy

14.1 A Versicle of Praise At the Ceremony of 23 Jan. 1966
And Verse To Be used welcoming and register-
with Musical Instru- ing Sawet Ratanakavi,
ments the white elephant in
Chiang Mai Province

14.2 A Versicle of Praise At the ceremony of 10 Mar. 1968
And Verse To be used welcoming and register-
With Musical Instru- ing Sawet Sura Khachathan,
ments the white elephant in
Yala Province.

15. Another Rare Occasion On Which the King Distributed A Special Publication In Honour of His Brother

15.1 On the 28th of July 1946 the King graciously distributed "Phra Ruang" a great historical play, written by the brilliant King Vajiravudh in verse form, as a token of respect to King Ananda Mahidol, his own brother and his predecessor, on the 50th day interment religious rite for the corpse.

16. The Cremation Ceremony Which Is the Most Outstanding Example of an Occasion for "Special Publications For Free Distribution", Because of the Widespread Practice of Publishing To Mark This Day: a Large Variety of Interesting and Unusual subjects

General Characteristics

Cremation was not an invention of Buddhism; it was known in Vedic India, although burial was certainly the earlier form.

H.G. Quaritch Wales, in his *Siamese State Ceremonies*, states: "Up to modern times the remains of Brahmans and Ksatriyas in India are cremated with rites which, though differing vastly in the main from those observed in Siam, show the following similarities: (1) the corpse is wrapped in a ceremonially pure cloth; (2) gifts are made to the officiating priests; (3) the corpse is washed; (4) the body is apparelled

in rich raiment and jewels; (5) there is a funeral pyre; (6) the near relatives approach and deprive the corpse of all the jewels with which it is adorned; (7) the chief mourner walks around the funeral pyre three times; (8) coins are distributed amongst those present; (9) there are loud lamentations during the proceedings; (10) the heir stirs the ashes with a stick, looking for any bones that may have escaped the flames; (11) gathering up a portion of the ashes he throws them into the water, the remainder he collects into a heap, to which he gives the rough semblance of a human figure, supposed to represent the deceased; (12) the anniversaries of the deaths of his mother and father must be observed with appropriate ceremonies, and liberal gifts must be made to the priests. Some of these features were no doubt borrowed by Buddhism from Hinduism at a very early period but others are purely Hindu and have reached Siam via Cambodia with a certain amount of influence from Srivijaya.”*

In Thailand

Cremation is the means by which the vast majority of the Thai people dispose of their dead. The exceptions whose corpses are buried are criminals, victims of cholera and small-pox, people who have been struck by lightning, and women who have died in childbirth. These exceptions are explained either by fear of the fatal disease, or by fear of ghosts.

The Distribution of Publications at Cremation Ceremonies

Mr. Sulak Sivarak mentioned in his collection of essays entitled “Lai Sū Sayam”* that the practice of free distribution of publications on various occasions was introduced in the reign of King Rama V of the present Chakri Dynasty; and he added that probably the first book ever to be distributed was that on the royal chanting of the stanzas, distributed in 1880 upon the occasion of the double cremation of the corpses of Her Royal Highness Princess Sunanda Kumariratana and Her Royal Daughter Princess Karnabharana Bejraratana.

* H.G. Quaritch Wales. *Siamese State Ceremonies*, p. 158-9.

* Sulak Sivarak. *Lai Sū Sayam*, p. 398-99.

In view of the great value of this type of book in the promotion of Buddhism and the great interest the people showed towards it, King Chulalongkorn, or Rama V, then saw to it that other works of a Buddhist nature and other non-fictions were published and freely distributed on the occasion of cremation rites as well as other ceremonies.

It was in fact His Highness Prince Damrong, the most celebrated historian of the kingdom, who initiated special publications for free distribution on various occasions, feeling a strong urge to preserve the great literary works of the nation. It is, indeed, owing to his impulse, that the free distribution of special publication in the form it usually takes today has become increasingly common.

Statistics of Publications Distributed 1958-1968

There is interesting statistical information in Suphot Songsaengchan's *A Study of Cremation Books Reproduced from the National Library and Other Sources B.E. 2501-2510*, an M.A. thesis, concerning the trend in cremation books which was reproduced from the National Library and from other sources, viz. 898 titles reproduced from the National Library and 3,431 from other sources.

Suphot Songsaengchan mentions that between 1958 and 1968 the trend did not change very much—i.e. religious subjects attracted the most attention from publishers of cremation books. Other subjects receiving attention, listed in descending order of attractiveness, were in the social sciences, geography and history, literature, and the applied sciences; latterly, the applied sciences attracted greater interest, especially medical sciences, which came up to a place between history and literature. The others published were on language, arts and recreation, generalities, and philosophy.

The numbers of cremation books published in each field, according to Suphot, during 1958 and 1968 were as follows: religion 1,564 titles, 36.13%; social sciences 865 titles, 19.98%; geography and history 485 titles, 11.20%; applied sciences 425 titles, 9.82%; literature 416 titles, 9.61%; philosophy 200 titles, 4.62%; generalities 155 titles, 3.58%; arts and recreation 144 titles, 3.33%; language 45 titles, 1.04%; pure science 30 titles; 0.69%.

In practice, people approach the National Library to help in the selection of subjects to be published. Publication of more books on the following subjects should be encouraged, as is recommended by Suphot:

1. pure science
2. technology
3. arts and recreation
4. philosophy & modern philosophy
5. language
6. statistics, social welfare, education and commerce
7. foreign geography and history
8. library science and newspapers & journalism

The long list of interesting special publications distributed by Their Majesties on the occasion of various cremation rites, provided by the King's personal secretary, is chronologically arranged with the titles of the publications distributed and the names of the deceased whose cremations were the occasions, as follows:

1950 16.1 "The King's Letters Upon A Trip to Makham Thao Water Way and His Remarks on the Arrangement of the Bangkok Military Circle", on His Royal Highness Prince Paribatra, on the 17th March, 2,200 copies.

16.2 "The Biographical Account of King Naresuan", written by Prince Damrong, on King Ananda's cremation, on the 29th March, 5,200 copies.

16.3 "Stars & Garters", on H.R.H. Prince Naris's cremation, on the 10th April, 2,000 copies.

16.4 "Customs In the Court of Ayutthaya", coupled with Prince Damrong's remarks on Princess Prabha Barna Bilai on the 11th April, 1,000 copies.

16.5 "Collected Works of King Mongkut", Miscellaneous, Part I, on Princess Phuang Soi Sa-ang, on the 23rd April. 1,200 copies.

1953 16.6 "A Biographical Account Attached To Prince Chandapuri Suranatha's Portrait", on General His Highness Prince Chandapuri Suranatha's cremation, on the 7th June. 3,000 copies.

16.7 "A Sermon on Saradhada Dharm", on the cremation rite in 16.6, 3,000 copies.

16.8 "Royal Ceremonies During the Twelve Months", on the cremation rite in 16.6, 3,000 copies.

16.9 "A Text of Astrology". On the cremation rite in 16.6, 3,000 copies.

1966 16.10 "A Biographical Account of Princess Sri Savarindira and Prince Vajirunahisa's Diary", on the royal cremation of Her Royal Highness Princess Sri Savarindura, the King's grandmother, on the 22nd April. 6,020 copies.

16.11 "Dalang", written by King Yot Fa, on the cremation in 16.10, 6,020 copies.

16.12 "Solasa Panha", in Thai on the cremation in 16.10, 6,020 copies.

16.13 "Solasa Panha or the Sixteen Theories of Questions with the Original Pali Text and Thai Translation", in English on the cremation in 16.10 6,020 copies.

1960 16.14 "His Own Remarks", on the cremation of Prince Patriarch Vajirayanavongse, on the 26th April. 5,000 copies.

1962 16.15 "A Biographical Account & Certain Works of King Chulalongkorn", on the cremation of Princess Pratishatha Sari, on the 12th July. 3,000 copies.

16.16 "Collection of King Mongkut's Exposition: Two Categories", on Prince Trai-dibdevasuta Devakul's cremation, on the 9th October.

16.17 "A Diary To the Publication 'Klai Baan' ", collected by Prince Damrong, on the cremation of Supreme Patriarch Ariyavansagatanana, on the 18th November. 5,000 copies.

1963 16.18 "King Bhumibala's Speeches from Dec. 3, 1959 to Feb. 27, 1963, on Mr. Muangroeng Vasantasinha's cremation.

1964 16.19 "The King's Letters Executing Orders During the 5th and the 6th Reigns", on Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat's cremation, on the 17th March. 10,000 copies.

1965 16.20 "Recipes Given On the Radio", by M.L. Tiu Jalamargabicarana, on the author's cremation, on the 15th Nov. 1,000 copies.

16.21 "Pubbasikkhavarana", on the cremation of Supreme Patriarch Ariyavansagatanana, on the 20th Nov. 5,000 copies.

1966 16.22 "The Royal Pyre During Ayutthaya Era" containing King Chulalongkorn's remarks, on Prince Sudhasinodaya's cremation, on the 26th Feb. 600 copies.

16.23 "Kuttarakuru" written by King Vajiravudh, on H.H. Prince Darunavayavadhana's cremation, on the 3rd March. 1,000 copies.

16.24 "His Majesty's Trip To The United States in 1960", on Prince Samabhava Kashemsri, on the 8th May. 1,500 copies.

16.25 "Ngo Pa" (a play), on Princess Badhanaganana Chaiyant, on the 16th Nov. 1,500 copies.

16.26 "Notes Upon Visiting Vietnam and Australia", on M.R. Kittinadda Kitiyakara, on the 22nd Nov. 1,500 copies.

1968 16.27 "His Majesty's Trip to Pakistan and Malaysia", on Phraya Phichai Songgram's cremation, on the 10th Jan. 900 copies.

16.28 "Prince Damrong's Trip to Europe in 1891", on Prince Dissanuvati Diskul, on the 20th Jan. 2,000 copies.

16.29 "The Tai Race - The Elder Brother of the Chinese" by Dr. William Clifton Dodd, a Thai translation work by Luang Nibedya Nitisarga, on Mr. Surathoen Bunnag's cremation on the 20th July. 2,000 copies.

1969 16.30 "King Chulalongkorn's Diary", on Luang Prasert Maitri's cremation, on the 29th Dec. 2,000 copies.

16.31 "Decoration Medals during King Chulalongkorn's Reign", on King Chulalongkorn's Consort On's cremation, on the 22 March. 3,000 copies.

16.32 "Administering the Adult Mind", on Mr. Anek Satrabhaya's cremation, on the 16th June. 2,000 copies.

16.33 "Administering the Adolescent Mind", on the cremation in 16.32. 2,000 copies

16.34 "His Majesty's Trip To the United States in 1960" on Prince Bipulayapencanga Kitiyakara's cremation, on the 30th June. 1,200 copies.

1970 16.35 "Buddhanuvatra" (a religious tract), on Thao Vanida (Bang Snidvongse na Ayudhya)'s cremation, on the 3rd March. 1,500 copies.

16.36 "A Trip To The Hills", being His Majesty's diary during his sojourn at Bhubinga Palace in Chiang Mai Province in 1970, on the cremation in 16.35. 1,500 copies.

16 37 "King Chulalongkorn's Diary in C.S. 1241", on Phra Pativeda Visishta (Sai Lekhananda) on the 21st Nov.

1971 16.38 "Ramayana", on Mom Davivongse Davalyasakti's cremation, on the 23rd Feb. 3,500 copies.

III. MANNERS OF DISTRIBUTION

1. To give freely and directly without qualification. This is the manner in which the King distributes special publications on the Buddhist Holy Days, such as Visakha Puja (see 9.111-9.136). It is also the manner in which publications are distributed by the Young Buddhist Association of Thailand on the occasion of Māgha Pūjā, (see 9.21).

2. To give only to those who come to do honour to the giver, or to contributors to a good cause of persons or institutions, as in the case of books distributed on the occasions of birthday celebrations and cremation rites, or books distributed by the Foundation mentioned earlier.

3. To give a token which entitles the receiver to collect the publication at a later date. In this category, the writer of this paper has had two experiences. Firstly, on the occasion of the cremation rite of Mr. Kasem Poshakrishana, on the 13th May 1971, one book was immediately distributed on that very day, but another one "Maha Stipatthana Sutra", a religious tract on meditation written by the deceased's brother, a distinguished surgeon, was available for collection from the Thammasat University Press, in Bangkok, about 3 weeks later; probably the publication was still in press during the cremation. Secondly, on Mr. So Sethaputra's cremation, which took place on the 25th August 1971, the writer was told to collect the publication at the cremation site between 1-15 December 1971; in fact, at the time of writing, the writer had not yet obtained his copy.

4. To make a publication available only as a result of direct purchase, or by order, the money collected from the sale being spent on charity, as in the case of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand distributing the publication on His Majesty's Silver Jubilee Celebration on the 11th June 1971, as already mentioned.

5. To make a special publication strictly available only upon order, to be sure of the receiver's sincere interest in the subject treated in the publication, as in the case of "The Practice of Paying Homage to the Buddha", in 11.1

CONCLUSION

It is naturally not the purpose of this paper to treat the subject in full detail; rather it leaves room for further research. As a matter of fact, this interesting subject has not been touched on in an appropriate way before; this is the first time that such a treatment has been attempted.

The sole intention of this paper is to describe the rather special position Thailand holds in Southeast Asia in the field of special publications for free distribution. What the writer of this paper has done is:

1. describe what special publications for distribution are.
2. list the occasions on which distributions are fitting, with special emphasis on cremation books, which are distributed in the greatest numbers and are the most varied in subject matter, and
3. describe the different manners of distribution.

It must be confessed that the information so far garnered was derived at random from the writer's own collection. Facts and figures for the cremation books, systematically acquired, are from Mr. Suphot Songsaengchan's M.A. thesis. Full information concerning Their Majesties' distributions is due to the kind courtesy of the King's personal secretary. The full list of publications distributed on his birthday for many consecutive years was provided personally by M.L. Pin Malakul. The writer wishes to express his sincere thanks to these persons for their valuable assistance.

REFERENCES

- Child, Jacob T. *The Pearl of Asia*. Chicago, Donohue, Henneberry, 1892. 339 pp.
- Sivarak, Sulak. *Lai Sii Sayam*. Bangkok, Prae Pittaya, 1967. 623 pp.
- Songsaengchan, Suphot. A Study of Cremation Books Reproduced from the National Library and Other Sources, B.E. 2501-2510 M.A. Thesis. School of Library Science, College of Education, Prasanmitr, 1969. 495 pp.
- "Sthirakoses". The Old Custom of Thailand Series 5: Custom in Relation to Death. Special publication distributed on the cremation rite of Khun-yin A-ngun Adhikarana Prakas, 29 Nov. 1962. 177 pp.
- Thong-Urai, Prachuap. Nang Sü Chaek. (In Chao Krung Monthly Magazine). Vol. 12, no. 2, Nov. 1962, p. 59-65.
- Wales, H.G. Quaritch. *Siamese State Ceremonies*. London, Quaritch, 1931. 326 pp.