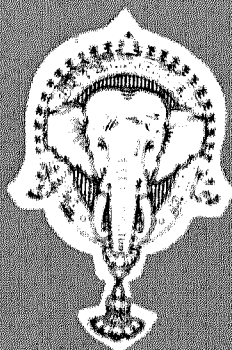


JSS

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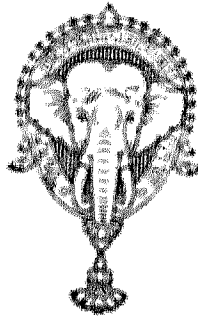
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THE JOURNAL OF THE SIAM SOCIETY

contents of volume 63 part 1 January 1975

	Page
H.R.H. Prince Wan Wai-thayakorn, Kromamun Naradhip Bongsprabandh	Preface i
In Memory of His Highness Prince Dhaninivat Kromamun Bidyalabh Brdhiyakorn	
Somdej Phra Nanasamvara (Suvadhano)	Dhamma Desanā Bahūsaccādīkathā 1
M.L. Pin Malakul	Education during the time when His Highness Prince Dhaninivat was Minister of Public Instruction 9
Articles	
Frank E. Reynolds	Buddhism as Universal Religion and as Civic Religion : Some Observations on a Tour of Buddhist Centers in Central Thailand 28
Charles F. Keyes	Tug-of-War for Merit : Cremation of a Senior Monk 44
E. Paul Durrenberger	The Lisu Concept of the Soul 63
Lucien M. and Jane R. Hanks	Reflections on Ban Akha Mae Salong 72
William F. Strobridge	Mrs. Hamilton King's Bangkok Diary, 1911 86
Nicholas Tarling	The Bowring Mission : The Mellersh Narrative 105
A.B. Griswold and Prasert ṇa Nagara	The Inscription of Vāt Khemā Epigraphic and Historical Studies No. 15 127
A.B. Griswold and Prasert ṇa Nagara	The Inscription of Vāt Braḥ Stec, near Sukhodaya Epigraphic and Historical Studies No. 16 143
Stanley J. O'Connor	Tambralinga and the Khmer Empire 161
Note	
Hans Penth	A Brick from Old Wat Pa Dāng (Chiang Mai) 176
Review Articles	
Charles F. Keyes	The Northeastern Thai Village : Stable Order and Changing World Prajub Thirabutana, <i>Little Things</i> William J. Klausner, <i>Reflections in a Log Pond : Collected Writings</i> 177
M.C. Chand Chirayu Rajani	Background to the Srivijaya Story—Part III 208

Reviews

		Page
Lim Teck Ghee	Joseph Fisher, ed., <i>Foreign Values and Southeast Asian Scholarship</i>	257
W. Scott Thompson	Somsakdi Xuto, <i>Regional Cooperation in Southeast Asia</i>	258
David P. Chandler	Ngo Vinh Long, <i>Before the Revolution: The Vietnamese Peasants Under the French</i> Truong Chinh and Vo Nguyen Giap, <i>The Peasant Question (1937-1938)</i>	264
Laurence D. Stifel	J. Alexander Caldwell, <i>American Economic Aid to Thailand</i>	268
Kobkua Suwannathat-Plan	Ross Prizzia and Narong Sinsawasdi, <i>Thailand: Student Activism and Political Change</i>	273
Michael Smithies	Philip Ward, <i>Bangkok-Portrait of a City</i>	279
Lorraine Gesick	<i>Chotmaihet ratchakan thi 2, ch.s. 1171-1173</i> <i>Chotmaihet ratchakan thi 2, ch.s. 1173</i>	281
Craig J. Reynolds	G. Coedès and C. Archaimbault, trans., <i>Les Trois Mondes (Traibhūmi Brah Rvañ)</i>	283
Hiram W. Woodward Jr.	Fine Arts Department, ed., <i>Art and Archaeology in Thailand</i>	286
Charles Nelson Spinks	<i>The Legacy of Phra Ruang. An Exhibition of Thai Ceramics and of Ancient Pottery of Ban Chiang</i>	289
M.C. Subhadradis Diskul	H.G. Quaritch Wales, <i>Early Burma—Old Siam. A Comparative Commentary</i>	290
Richard Davis	Charles Archaimbault, <i>Structures religieuses lao (Rites et mythes)</i>	293
William J. Klausner	<i>Atisha. A Biography of the Renowned Buddhist Sage.</i> Translated from Tibetan sources by Lama Thubten Kalsang et alia	297
Donald K. Swearer	Georges Dumezil, <i>The Destiny of a King</i> , trans. Alf Hiltelbeitel	298
William J. Klausner	Vicki Baum, <i>A Tale from Bali</i> Geraldine Halls, <i>The Voice of the Crab</i> Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>	300

PREFACE

It is my high privilege, as President of the Siam Society, to write the Preface to this In Memoriam number of JSS, dedicated to the memory of His late Highness Prince Dhaninivat Kromamun Bidyalabh Brdihyakorn, President of the Privy Council, Honorary President of the Siam Society.

With the passing away of His Highness, the King and country have lost a great officer of State.

His Highness had risen to the highest position of Regent and was well qualified to serve the Sovereign. He took his honours degree at Oxford in Oriental Languages and Culture and continued his study and research on the subject of historical Thai polity. He found that our traditional concept of kingship as set forth in the Dharmastra was that of a King of Righteousness.

He started his career in the Ministry of Interior and in the provinces too, because he wanted to get to know the Thai people and their needs.

Imbued with the knowledge of Thai traditions and of the Thai people, he served as His Majesty's Private Secretary in the Sixth Reign, as Minister of Education in the Seventh Reign, and as Regent and President of the Privy Council in the present Reign.

So far as the Siam Society is concerned His Highness was President for many, many years, so that he may be said to be the life and soul of our Society.

The articles he contributed to the Journal were, as I stated in His Highness' 84th Anniversary number, very substantial, comprehensive, informative, and scholarly, showing His Highness to be the great authority that he was on Thai history and culture.

I wish once again to pay a tribute to His Highness' reasonable attitude. Referring to "The Date and Authorship of the Romance of Phra Lo", Prince Dhani dealing with Prince Damrong's theory comments: "From the point of view of strict historical criticism such a conclusion sounds a little arbitrary and yet there is no other suggestion and thereby the theory of the Prince must needs remain unchallenged."

I can give another instance within my own experience. His Highness wanted a word for "Journal". As I had given the word *Warasasat* (*Varasasattis*) for Journalism to Thammasat University, I suggested *Warasat* (*Varasat*) for Journal. Characteristically of him, His Highness told me that he was not altogether satisfied with the word but as he could not think of anything better, he would use it.

This shows how far-minded he was. He was indeed a very lovable man, with simple taste and a great sense of humanity. He was well liked and respected by a wide circle of friends. His classification in Rotary was gardening and it was in the garden, close to Nature, that he liked to spend his leisure time.

He was mild and modest but was decided and determined, with a mind of his own. He would not hesitate to go about, wearing the *phanung*, alone. He was not self-conscious about it but did it in all sincerity, with the full conviction of its appropriateness. We respect him for the courage of his opinion.

On behalf of the Siam Society, I extend to His Highness' family our deep sympathy and profound condolences on their irreparable bereavement.

Narathip

Krommao Narathip Bongsapradith
President, Siam Society



In the ceremonial gift of a piece of food to the



At a moment in the traditional Chinese dress he usually wore.



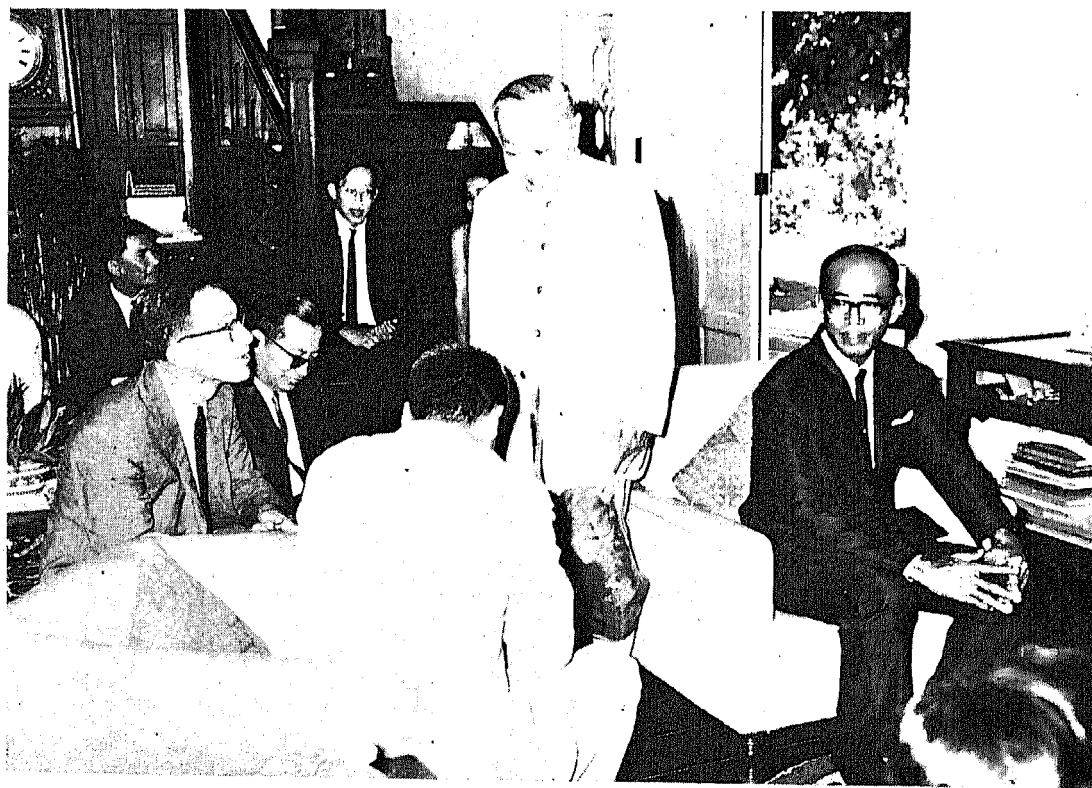
Escorting H.M. The King at the banquet to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Siam Society in 1954.



Delivering the speech in honour of that occasion.



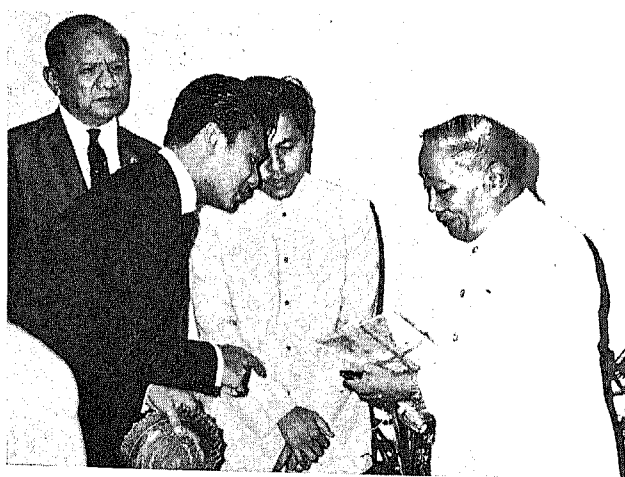
Visiting President John F. Kennedy at the White House, with his sister, Princess Sibpan Sonakul in 1963. He is reading a letter written to President Abraham Lincoln from his Grandfather, H.M. King Mongkut, Rama IV.



Newly elected Council members of the Siam Society paying respect to him at his palace in early 1969.



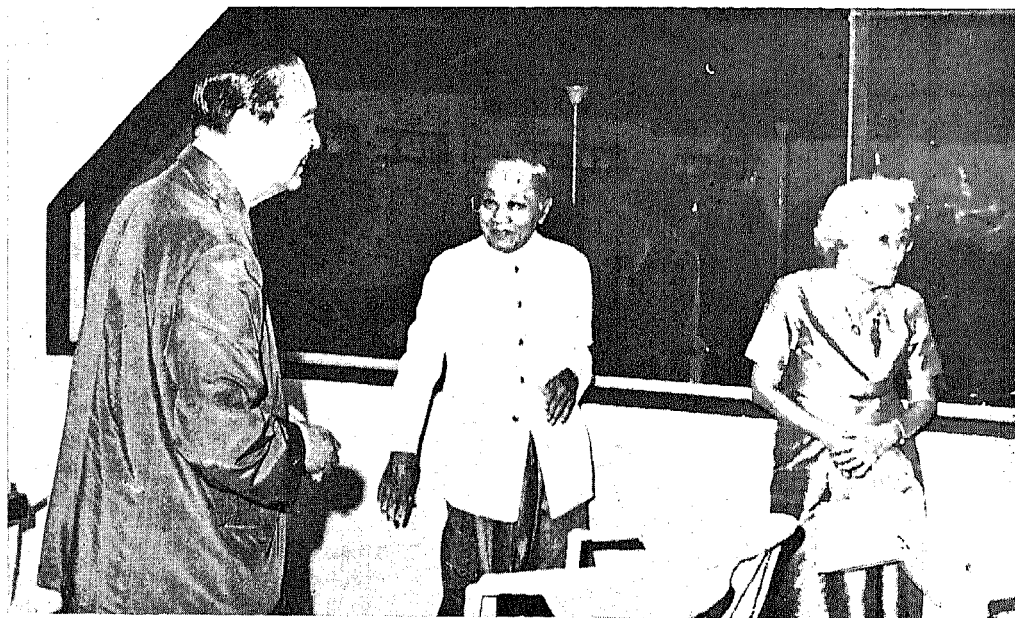
Opening an exhibition at the Siam Society arranged in honour of his
eighty-fourth birthday in 1969.



Receiving gifts from members of the Thai Wathana T. Suwan Foundation,
which organized the exhibition.



H.R.H. the President of the Siam Society presenting him with the Key to open the Prince Dhani Room at the Siam Society in late 1973.



With H.R.H. the President and his sister, Princess Sibpan Sonakul, in the Prince Dhani Room.

