

# OBITUARY

## **A Tribute to Chao Phraya Sri Dharmadhibes**

The Siam Society's former Senior Vice-President, Chao Phraya Sri Dharmadhibes, passed away peacefully on the 29th September B.E. 2519 (A.D. 1976) at the great age of 90 years, 11 months and 8 days.

He served with dignity and grace in the Kingdom's three branches of administration, viz. the judiciary, executive and legislative, for five reigns of the illustrious Chakri dynasty. He also served as His Majesty's Privy Councillor for three reigns. His service to his country covered in all a period of 72 years.

His exemplary life is worthy of ranking him among the greatest sons of Siam.

This humble writer served under him when he was Minister of Justice, and with him when he was the most senior Privy Councillor.

Chao Phraya Sri Dharmadhibes was a man of principle and integrity in the truest sense. His knowledge of the principles of laws and state affairs was profound and deep. He had a bright mind, right through his ninth decade. His views and opinions were consistent with the changes of the times, and his conviction was firm and steadfast.

He was a man of moral courage, and never hesitated to express his thought in what he believed was true and just.

This is clearly felt and appreciated by all who possess a proper sense of values, inclusive of the august Sovereign himself.

Chao Phraya Sri Dharmadhibes was the last Chao Phraya of the realm. He was bestowed the honour of the title of Chao Phraya, Siam's top rank in officialdom, at the early age of 46. This clearly signified his great capabilities and integrity which were hard to equal.

For the Siam Society, he sat as Senior Vice-President for several years, under the much venerated and learned Presidency of Prince Dhani Nivat, Krommuen Bidhyalarb. For the Thai Red Cross as well, he served as its Vice-President for several years.

Chao Phraya Sri Dharmadhibes was the author of a wealth of law books, most of which formed the basis for later writers, inclusive of this writer himself who had the rare opportunity and privilege to be one of his pupils.

Truly Chao Phraya Sri Dharmadhibes was, in his own right, a very prominent son of Siam.

So this tribute is humbly and gratefully dedicated.

Bangkok, 20 January B.E. 2520 (A.D. 1977)

*Sanya Dharmasakti*  
*President of the Privy Council*