

In Memoriam

H.R.H. PRINCE WAN WAITHAYAKORN, KROMAMUEN NARADHIP BONGSPRABAND

Some time has passed since the demise of His Royal Highness Prince Wan Waithayakorn, Kromamuen Naradhip Bongsprabandh, but the emotion evoked by his memory is still vibrant.

For me personally, His late Royal Highness was like a second father. When I first went to school in England, he was Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James's. From that time onwards, he took a kindly and personal interest in my studies and subsequent career. It was he who recommended me to teach at the University, and later to join the diplomatic service, thus shaping the course of my life. I therefore cannot think or write about him without a feeling of deep gratitude.

For Thailand, His late Royal Highness was a monumental personality of recent history. One of the greatest statesmen and diplomats ever produced by his country, he was also a true scholar whose creative genius in coining new words has enriched the national language. The modern Thai dictionary enshrines his immortality.

For the world, His late Royal Highness was a memorable figure whose influence is still felt in international councils. His work for the League of Nations and the United Nations, especially his exemplary presidency of the United Nations General Assembly, is still recalled with pride, and visitors to the United Nations Headquarters find his picture hanging there among those of the internationally great.

For the Siam Society, His late Royal Highness was a distinguished and effective President during two terms of office. Together with His late Highness Prince Dhani Nivat, Kromamuen Bidyalabh, he virtually dominated the Siam Society for nearly four decades. His scholarship is much in evidence in the Siam Society's *Journal*.

His late Royal Highness Prince Wan is destined to become a legend in Thai history. The Siam Society and its members who were associated with him can feel proud that their names are linked with his as a part of that legend.

Prem Purachatra
President of the Siam Society,
1965-1968