

# COMMUNICATION

## ON "LAW IN TRADITIONAL SIAM AND CHINA"

I have read the article "Law in traditional Siam and China: A comparative study" by Sarasin Viraphol (*JSS*, vol. 65 pt. 1) with interest and appreciation. I am sure that those who have read it would agree with me that the author's treatment of the subject is perceptive and just. I am writing this note with the sole purpose of correcting some of the references in that article for the benefit of students of the old law of Thailand.

1. The "Three Seal Code" mentioned in footnote 17 of page 81 was authoritatively handwritten in three sets. Each set comprised 41 copies in the local form, which was a long, pleated paper called "*samud thai*" (สมุดไทย) The "Three Seals" affixed as marks of authentication on every copy were the Phra Ratchasri (พระราชศรี), a mythological lion-elephant to indicate the Interior Department; Phra Kotchasri (พระคชศรี), a mythological elephant for the Defence Department; and the "crystal lotus" (บัวแก้ว), for the Finance Department. This last is now the seal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while that of the Ministry of Finance has become Suriya Monthon (สุริยมณฑล), the sun.

As regards the printing of the law in modern book form, after that of Dr. Bradley and Prince Rabi of Ratchaburi in 1901, Nitisarn Press printed a version, also of some parts, entitled *Prachoom kotmai thai* (ประชุมกฎหมายไทย), part 1, in 1930. The method of printing was by taking photographs of the original books, some of which were kept in the national archives and some in the Ministry of Justice. In the following year, 1931, another version appeared called *Kotmai prachum sok* (กฎหมายประจำศก), by the Daily Mail Press. In 1939, the University of Political and Moral Science (now called Thammasat University) published the original and complete version of the law.

2. In the appropriate references, the correct names are Luang Suttivart Naruput (หลวงสุทธิวาตนฤพุมิ); Phraya Nittisart Pisarn (พระยานิติศาสตร์ไพศาลย์); Prince Rajaburi Direkrit, or Prince Rabi (พระองค์เจ้าระพีพัฒนศักดิ์ กรมหลวงราชบุรีดิเรกฤทธิ์), and not "Chao Phraya Rajburi Direkrek".

3. The law "Joan Har Sen" (โจรห้าเส้น), on page 103 does not refer to "five-kilometre robbery". One kilometre is 25 *sen*. Five *sen* is only 0.2 kilometre.

Sanguan Lewmanomont

Lewmanomont International Law Office  
Bangkok