



Piansai Aunand



In Memoriam

M.R. PIMSAI AMRANAND

To say that the Siam Society has not been the same since September 1977 is our way of sorrowfully recording the death of M.R. Pimsai Amranand, the Society's late Honorary Secretary.

For over ten years since her accession to the Society's Council, Pimsai was the Siam Society, bringing to us through her remarkable personality the very best in human traits—wit, energy, compassion, sparkling humour and a sense of dedication to the objectives of the Society that is cherished by all of us. There was no facet of Siam Society activity that did not concern Pimsai; mundane repair jobs and significant policy matters all received her careful attention. She brought to each piece of work the appropriate tool—patience where it was required, innovative thinking in planning projects and programmes, a sharp financial mind, great charm in human relations, and sheer dedication to the standards and objectives of the Society. She embodied that rare combination of thinker and doer that makes things run. Pimsai's work is neither finished nor forgotten. As the originator of many of the Society's best ideas, she has left us a legacy that will be remembered and followed in the years to come, and we shall strive to implement them with the degree of excellence that she always required of herself.

The Siam Society was only one of Pimsai's interests. As mother and wife she was a dedicated homemaker, hostess and parent. She was also well known to the public for her contributions to cooking and gardening, subjects she wrote about with skill and authority. Her *Gardening in Bangkok* is a best-selling book which can rightfully be regarded as the standard work in English on the subject. Pimsai also wrote numerous newspaper articles. At the time of her death she had just completed *Modern Thai Cooking*, a book written in collaboration with her aunt M.L. Taw Kritakara. Pimsai wrote as she spoke, vividly and forcefully, bringing to her reading public material both instructive and entertaining, combining the useful with the imaginative.

Pimsai joined the Council of the Siam Society as Assistant Honorary Secretary in 1967, became Honorary Secretary in 1969, and remained in that position until her death. Despite long periods of residence and education abroad, Pimsai strongly retained her Thai identity and her familiarity with Thai and Western cultures. Indeed, if one could choose the best contribution to credit to Pimsai, one might mention her ability to communicate and to bring together in mutual understanding people and ideas from Asia and the West. This she did wherever she was: in her delightful home, with the Siam Society on an up-country field trip or at a reception in Soi Asoke, and of course in her prolific writing.

We miss our beloved Pimsai everyday, but we shall continue in our work inspired by her ideas and image.

The Council of the Siam Society

