

JOURNAL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES

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Amongst all the structures belonging to the past of Bangkok, none has been subjected to destruction or indiscriminate alterations as rapidly as its old bridges. This is due to the fact that the city's mode of communication and transportation has changed from the waterways system to the road system almost entirely. As a result, canals have been filled up and bridges flattened down to become mere parts of the roads. Most of the remaining bridges were so enlarged or so modified to match the enlarged roads that their original proportions and character have been lost. These "necessary changes", combined with a lack of understanding and intention to conserve cultural heritage in general, have resulted in Bangkok losing some of her valuable treasures irredeemably.

This book is an attempt to record, by pictures and descriptions, the story of the old bridges of Bangkok. The author cannot claim this to be the complete book on the subject. He only hopes that it will stir up interest in this part of our artistic and historical heritage among the public and administrators alike, and will act as a catalyst for further studies and an effort to preserve whatever remains in a more appropriate way before it is too late.

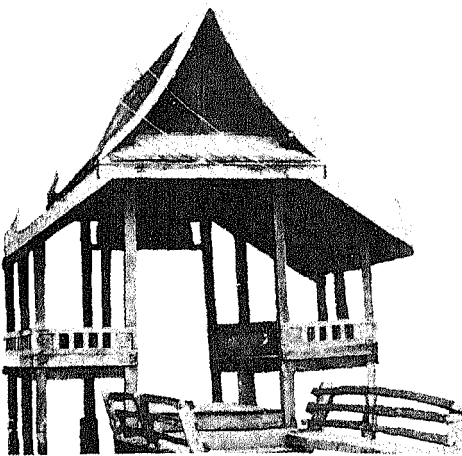
OLD BRIDGES OF BANGKOK

สะพานเก่า กรุงเทพฯ

Sirichai Narumit

ศิริชัย นฤมิตรเรขการ

THE SIAM SOCIETY
1977



"... bridges in old Thailand were not only used as traffic utilities, but also served a social function as meeting and resting places. A number of bridges of this type, with benches along the sides and tile roofs over them, still can be found in some wats in Dhonburi and some other provinces."

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