

OBITUARY

In Memory of M.R. Patanachai Jayant President of The Siam Society 1981-89



During his twenty-three years of close association with the Siam Society, M.R. Patanachai Jayant served the Council in March 1969 first as Honorary Treasurer under the then President, Phya Anuman Rajadhon. From 1971 to 1981 he continued to serve as Honorary Treasurer, as well as Vice-President, when H.R.H. Prince Wan Waithayakorn Kromamun Naradhip Bongsprabhand, Professor Chitti Tingsabadh and later H.S.H. Prince Subhadradis Diskul were presidents.

In 1981 he was elected President of the Council, the position which he held until 1989. In recognition of his long and active participation and scholarly contributions to the Society, which brought progress to the Society under his leadership, he was elected Honorary Vice-President in 1990.

M.R. Patanachai was born on 22 April 1925, the son of Phra Worawongse Ther Phra Ong Chao Wiwathanachai. He was educated at Vajiravudh Academy, Thammasat University, and the Sussex College of Technology in England, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Humanities. He also received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy Honoris Causa in Sociology and Philosophy from Ramkhamhaeng University.

Beginning in 1952 he pursued a distinguished career in banking at the Bank of Thailand and later at the Thai Danu Bank, from which he resigned in 1974 when he was appointed by Her Majesty the Queen to serve at the Thai Red Cross Society. His years of devotion to that institution were marked by his efforts as Member of Council, Honorary Assistant Secretary General in charge of Administration, Honorary Assistant Treasurer, and Honorary Director of the Volunteers Division, among others. He also served as chairman of several major corporations and was a Past Governor of Rotary Club 330.

M.R. Patanachai was a member of the Senate from 1975 to 1976.

Along with his other manifold duties of high responsibility he served as a lecturer at many institutions of learning. For his long and varied services of lofty distinction he was honored with the bestowal of no less than seven royal decorations.

His passing away on 3 September 1991 is noted with great regret and deep sorrow. The loss of this scholarly and sensitive gentleman will leave a void in the lives of many Thai people and foreign friends who knew him.

Those of us who knew M.R. Patanachai Jayant mourn his passing. May his *viññāna* find peace.

RACHIT BURI
*Vice-President
The Siam Society*