



OBITUARY

It was with deep regret that the Council of the Siam Society Under Royal Patronage announced the passing away of the Society's Honorary Vice-President, His Serene Highness Prince Subhadradis Diskul on 6 November 2003.

His Serene Highness was associated with the Siam Society for 42 years and served as President of the Siam Society from 1979 to 1981. Under his presidency the Society redefined its role in contemporary Thai society, a vision that greatly influenced subsequent Councils. His Serene Highness continued the Society's campaign to conserve the fragile legacy of the temple murals of Bangkok.

A tireless teacher, Prince Subhadradis is fondly remembered for the many fascinating study trips he led over four decades, particularly to the Grand Palace complex and to various Khmer sites in the kingdom and in Cambodia. In this capacity Prince Subhadradis was to serve the Society as Chairman of the Travel Committee for many years.

In the intellectual tradition of His Serene Highness's late father, His Royal Highness Prince Damrong Rajanubhab, the "Father of Thai history", Prince Subhadradis was recognized as one of the Kingdom's most eminent art historians. His knowledge of Thai and Khmer art was unparalleled, resulting in many important academic papers on the subject.

Prince Subhadradis was a much-loved figure at Silpakorn University, where he served as professor of art and archeology, and later as rector. His work in preservation of the cultural heritage of the region was also furthered in his role as director of SPAFA.

Widely honoured and decorated for his contributions to Thai culture and world heritage, His Serene Highness was awarded the Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Illustrious Order of Chula Chom Klao by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and was recognized by the French Government as a Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur.