RECENT SIAM SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Witnesses to a Revolution: Siam 1688

Translated and edited by Michael Smithies

Foreword by Dhiravat na Pombejra

Intrigue, mystery, murder, double-dealing, corruption, and deception are all found in the accounts of the twelve persons (three of whom are anonymous and hitherto unpublished) who describe here their roles in the dramatic events of 1688 in Siam surrounding the coup d’état of Phetracha and the death of King Narai.

The succession was complicated by the role of Constantine Phaulkon, a Greek adventurer who acted, without the title, as minister of foreign affairs and trade, and who cultivated the French presence in the country to support his own position. The French had stationed troops in Bangkok, “the key to the kingdom” and Mergui, on the Bay of Bengal, and became hopelessly embroiled in events beyond their comprehension, leading to their retreat in November that year.

Professor Michael Smithies, Honorary Member of the Siam Society, has studied this period for several years. He has done a great service in bringing together and translating these texts. They give fascinating insights into the conspiracies, self-interest and betrayal that characterized so many of the participants. His book is a serious work of scholarship, but can also be read as an adventure story, where so many involved were out of their depth what was for them in a strange, confusing, and distant land.

Bangkok, The Siam Society, 2004 (July)
pp. vi+214, index, illustrations
ISBN 974-8298-55-8

The book is on sale to members at Bt 500 and Bt 600 to non-Society members. Please add Bt 50 per copy to cover packing and postage.
Dedications to H.R.H. Princess Galyani Vadhana
Krom Luang Naradhiwas Rajanagarinda
on her 80th birthday
Bangkok, Siam Society, 2003

This handsome volume of 255 pages, containing 14 articles by well-known scholars of Thai culture, is introduced by the President, Bilaibhan Sampatisiri, who thanks H.R.H. Princess Galayani for her devotion to the work of the Siam Society, of which she is its Honorary President.

The articles found there range from prehistoric excavation to sets for a Thai opera first performed in Bangkok in 2003:

- Thailand: A monarchy in a globalized world
  H.E. General Prem Tinsulanonda

- Charuksuksa, a study of inscriptions (in Thai)
  Term Meetem

- Reflections on thirty-three years of archaeological research in Thailand
  C.F.W. Higham

- Dvaravati: Recent revelations and research
  Peter Skilling

- Inscription I: from pious fable to historical fact
  Michael Wright

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  Piriya Krairiksh

- L’inscription thaë du Vatt Buddhaghosacary de Phnom-Penh, K.1213 (in French)
  Olivier de Bernon

- The Thasai Prince’s rebellion of 1641: a forgotten event in Ayutthayan history
  Dhiravat na Pombejra

- An anonymous pamphlet of 1690 concerning events in Siam in 1688
  Michael Smithies

- A Buddha image sponsored by Jao Laung Noi In of Lampang in 1841
  Hans Penth

- Photographs as cultural documentation
  M.R. Chakrarot Chitrabongs

- Thung Bangkapi in the mid-1930s: a personal recollection
  Sirichai Narumit-Rekagarn

- In search of indigenous theories
  Chetana Nagavajara

- Mae Naak opera stage sets
  Sumet Jumsai

There are numerous illustrations in colour and black-and-white.

The hard cover volume bound in artificial snakeskin and embossed in gold is available to Society members for Bt 699 (US$ 30).
The Society of Siam: Selected articles for the Siam Society’s centenary

Edited by Chris Baker

Bangkok, Siam Society, 2004


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The soft-cover volume costs Bt 800 (US$ 25) to members; (Bt 950 (US$ 30) to non-members). Please include Bt 50 per copy ordered for shipping and handling.
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The Journal of Siam Society welcomes original articles and reviews of a scholarly nature in conformity with the principles and objectives of the Siam Society, investigating the arts and sciences of Thailand and neighbouring countries.

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Articles should be primarily in English, and must be accompanied by a ten-line abstract in English and a five-line biographical note about the author(s). The word length of the contribution must be given in a covering letter, supplying full postal and e-mail addresses, and the author(s) must confirm that the article has not been published elsewhere in any form, nor is currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. Articles submitted to JSS are subject to review by external referees.

Typescripts should not normally exceed 7,000 words, and must be typed on one side of the paper only with double line spacing, preferably using 12 point Times New Roman font. Two copies of the typescript should be submitted together with the text on a computer disk or by e-mail. The use of up-to-date word-processing programs that are readily convertible into other formats is appreciated.

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References and bibliographical entries should follow modern academic practices appropriate to the field in which the article is written. Bibliographical entries must be complete and include the full name of the author(s), title, and publication data including the place of publication, publisher, and date of publication (with the original date of publication if the item used is a reprint).

References to articles written in Thai should include the title in Romanized Thai followed by a translation into English in parentheses. Romanization in general follows the system of the Royal Institute.

If in doubt concerning form or how to reference non-standard sources, please consult the Chicago Manual of Style (most recent edition), or Hart’s rules for compositors and readers at OUP (most recent edition). If in doubt over spelling, use, as with the United Nations, the Concise Oxford Dictionary (most recent edition), taking the first entry where variants are allowed.

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