

## OBITUARIES



Mom Kobkaew Abhakara at the 7th Cycle celebrations of the foundation of the Siam Society in 1988.

### Mom Kobkaew Abhakara na Ayudhya 1908–2008

The demise of Mom Kobkaew on 19 May 2008 was briefly reported in *JSS* 2008. Mom Kobkaew, well known as chairperson of the Ladies' Golf Association, was also an assiduous follower of cultural events organised by the Siam Society, and because of that was elected Honorary Vice-President of the Society in March 1981.

Mom Kobkaew was born on 5 April 1908 and married HSH Prince Aditya Dibabha Abhakara (1904–1946) in 1929. She served as maid of honour to HM Queen Rambai Barni for a brief period 1928–9, and was said to be the unofficial 'First Lady' during the Regency (1935–1945). She was a pillar of the social scene in the 1960s but in more recent years lived quietly in retirement. Mom Kobkaew passed away at Chulalongkorn Hospital at the venerable age of 100 on 19 May 2008.



### Mom Luang Manich Jumsai 1908–2009

The name M.L. Manich is synonymous with dictionaries in Thai-English-Thai, Thai-French-Thai, and Thai-German-Thai, which he pioneered 70 years ago for students of modest means.

The dictionaries were the tip of the iceberg in his life-long devotion to education and the advancement of knowledge. In 1940, while working at the Ministry of Education, he founded the Teachers Training College with special emphasis on provincial and women teachers. He also established La-or Uthis, the country's first experimental kindergarten, as well as a number of other pioneering educational programmes. Concurrently he wrote textbooks for teaching English and a special programme for pre-school children. The Teachers Training College eventually became Rajabhat University. Later, he bought a plot of land on Soi Prasanmitr and helped M.L. Pin Malakul to establish Sri Nagarindraviroj University. Another learned institution associated with M.L. Manich is the Royal Institute which at one point nearly went into oblivion, but which he managed to have revived.

From 1950 he worked at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris and was in charge of educational programmes for developing countries. The highlight was the Laos script which is closely related to Thai and which he had type-cast especially,

for the first time, for the printing press in Vientiane. From that period in Paris, he started to research the seventeenth to nineteenth century documents and rare books on Siam in Paris, London and other European libraries, and became the first historian to have popularized historical links between Siam and the West. This research led him to build up possibly the biggest collection of seventeenth century European books, old maps and manuscripts on Siam, including the first book printed in Bangkok in 1789 in the reign of King Rama I.

As part of his programme to promote book publication and reading, he initiated in 1972 the first book fair in Bangkok which consisted of rickety book stands in makeshift tents on the roadside. Today the annual Book Fair has become one of the biggest events in the country.

Born in 1908 to a family of limited means, M.L. Manich won the coveted King's Scholarship in 1925 to go to study in England where he took degrees in Modern Languages and Education at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was decorated Commander of the British Empire (CBE), Chevalier de l'Ordre de Mérite, and the German Grosses Verdienstorden (Great Order of Merit). He succumbed to heart failure on 3 January 2009, a few months after celebrating his one hundredth birthday in October. He is survived by three children, Dr Sumet, Dr Art-ong, and Dr Parichart Jumsai na Ayudhya.



## Prok Amranand 1925–2008

Khun Prok Amranand, former ambassador to the United States and Deputy Minister of Commerce, and in retirement a faithful participant of Siam Society tours both inside and outside the country, died of cancer on 29 November 2008.

The son of Phraya Vidurathampinet and Khunying Chamras (née Yodmani), he was the eldest of six children. He studied at Thepsirind School and then law at Thammasat University, though his legal studies were interrupted by the war and service in the Royal Thai Police. After the war he went to the United States to study at Columbia University, New York, following in his father's footsteps.

On returning to Thailand in 1953, he worked in the Ministry of Commerce, and in 1958 took up a post in UN-ESCAP in Bangkok, then known as ECAFE. Khun Prok left the ESCAP as Director of International Trade Division in 1977 to join the Kriangsak government as Deputy Commerce Minister. During the Prem government he was appointed ambassador to the United States. Khun Prok left the diplomatic corps in 1982 and set up the Kanung-Prok law firm. He later set up the Udom-Prok law firm before retiring in 2006.

His first wife, M. R. Pimsai (who had the distinction of being the first Thai woman to graduate from Oxford) was an extremely active and much loved Hon. Secretary of the Siam Society, and died in tragic circumstances. She bore him three sons, and he also had three children by his second wife, Alma. All survive him.

Heng L. Thung  
1934–2009



Professor Heng L. Thung was born in the Dutch East Indies, which later became Indonesia. He grew up on the island of Java until he left for the United States to pursue his further studies. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Geology, a Master of Sciences in Aerial Photo Studies, and a Ph.D. in Transportation, Regional and City Planning – all from Cornell University. It was the study of aerial photos, and later satellite imagery, which made a profound impression on him and set the course for his life's career.

He worked and travelled in many countries from Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and the tropical jungles of Sumatra, to Kenya, Tanzania and the veldt of Africa, up to the Arctic archipelago of Spitzbergen in the icy seas north of Norway, from Holland and Spain to the islands of the Pacific.

Heng contributed academic papers and articles to numerous learned publications, including SPAFA, SEAMEO and the *Journal of the Siam Society*. He also published two books of his life's experiences. *The Pigeons and the Witch Doctor* tells of his adventures as a modern mapmaker in the countries he worked. The second, *In the Shadow of a Volcano*, is filled with anecdotes of his carefree growing years as a planter's son in Java – the last good days before World War II. He was just finishing a third book, of his experiences living and working in Africa. It was due to be published in 2009, a project which can hopefully be concluded on his behalf.

With two daughters married and living in the United States, Heng was retired and living with his wife Yvonne in Thailand, which was his home away from home. Although officially retired he was not a man to sit back and take it easy. He always seemed to have a number of projects on the boil at any one time. His knowledge and experience were in constant demand by government organizations and NGOs alike. He was currently working in an advisory capacity for the Remote Sensing and Environmental Studies of the SEAMEO-SPAFA Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts in Bangkok.

Most of the foregoing will be common knowledge to those who were acquainted with Heng. However, everyone who knew him will remember him in different ways. For what it is worth, I will add some personal recollections of the man who came to be a dear and valued friend in recent years.

My first encounter with Heng was an illuminating lecture at the Siam Society in the mid-90s, when he presented theories on the rise and fall of Angkorian society based upon the geological evidence which is often overlooked or underplayed by archaeologists. With the aid of aerial photography he demonstrated the specific geomorphologic reasons which allowed the civilization to flourish in this location in the first place, and which ultimately also led to its collapse.

A few years passed before I saw Heng again, but I never forgot that particular lecture. One day he showed up at a Siam Society function. I introduced myself, and we got chatting. It soon became apparent that we shared a similar historical inquisitiveness and read the same kinds of books. After that we regularly met for lunch, usually swapping books of common interest.

Although I only had the privilege of knowing Heng for a dozen or so years, I much enjoyed our conversations and e-mail exchanges. He was always a constant fount of good stories. His multi-faceted interests, coupled with an ability to extract pigeon-holed information from other academic disciplines, allowed him to interpret archaeological data in ways that were fresh and unconventional.

He clearly enjoyed turning conventional academic theories on their head, which often meant ruffling other people's feathers, and it sometimes got him into trouble. Whenever he arrived for one of our lunches with a mischievous twinkle in his eye I knew I was going to be treated to another controversial theory. The man and his flow of ideas will be much missed.

*Tom Lyall*



Anthony Farrington  
1939–2008

The English archivist and historian Anthony John Farrington died peacefully at his home in Chiswick on 5 September 2008.

In charge of the India Office Records, The British Library, before his retirement in 1999, Tony Farrington was a vastly knowledgeable archivist. Many British and foreign researchers visiting the India Office Records or the British Library have throughout the years received



generous help and advice from Tony. It was obvious that Tony much preferred to interact with the many historical researchers who passed through the doors of the India Office Library and Records on Blackfriars Road, and later the British Library at Euston, than to deal with the increasingly heavy administrative responsibilities which he had to shoulder.

The best archivists in the West tend also to be very distinguished scholars too. Tony Farrington was a shining example. Not only was he recognised as a foremost expert on the archives of the English East India Company (EIC), but he was also acknowledged as a leading authority on the history of that Company, especially its presence in East and Southeast Asia. His first major work in this field was the two-volume source publication *The English Factory in Japan 1613–1623* (London: The British Library, 1991). He subsequently published, in collaboration with some Taiwanese scholars, a volume of EIC sources on Taiwan and another two-volume work on EIC documents concerning Siam. These source books are meticulously annotated and contain extensive glossaries. At the time of his death he was working on EIC documents on Vietnam, and the publication of this work would be of great benefit not only to students of the East India Company or of Vietnam, but also to those interested in Asian history generally.

Tony was an accomplished organiser of exhibitions. With his British Library colleague the late Henry Ginsburg, he was responsible for curating the 1996 exhibition on Thai-British relations in Bangkok, officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the founding of the English East India Company, Tony was one of the main curators of a major exhibition in the British Library, “Trading Places”, one of the very best of its kind. This 2002 exhibition was a vivid visual realisation of the East

India Company's history, explained by succinct yet entertaining and informative captions. The exhibition book by Tony, *Trading Places: The East India Company and Asia 1600–1834* (London: The British Library, 2002) is beautifully illustrated, but above all written with admirable concision and style.

As his co-editor in the project to publish all extant EIC archival documents on Ayutthaya, published by the British Library in 2006 as *The English Factory in Siam, 1612-1685*, I had the privilege, and above all the pleasure, of working with Tony on a regular basis over a long period. Our aim was to republish the English documents on Ayutthaya dating from the time when the EIC still had its factory there, many of which had been published before in the series *Records of the relations between Siam and foreign countries in the seventeenth century*, a work that had long gone out of print and was available only in some libraries. With typical diligence and enthusiasm, Tony was able to unearth over two hundred additional documents or document extracts concerning Ayutthaya, all of which were published in the two hefty volumes of our work.

His range, however, encompassed an area far broader than the history of the EIC in the seventeenth century. Upon his retirement, Tony took on the task of making several series of twentieth century intelligence files in the India Office records ready for reproduction as microfiches. In his work directly concerning Thai history, he edited important or neglected texts on nineteenth century Siam by three early Protestant missionaries (Jacob Tomlin, Karl Gutzlaff, and David Abeel), James Low's account of his mission to Ligor (Nakhon Si Thammarat), and Dr Richardson's missions to Siam and Lan Na. These books were published by White Lotus Press, with whose owner Mr Diethard Ande Tony developed a good working relationship. Earlier, Tony had also worked on one project with River Books, helping to write and edit a well-illustrated, fascinating book on King Chulalongkorn's visit to India.

Tony had an abiding zest and enthusiasm for Thailand, even (or especially) the heat and chaos of Bangkok. For much of the past two decades he made annual trips to this country, and to neighbouring countries in Southeast Asia, partly on India Office Library/British Library business, partly to work on our edition of EIC Siam Factory documents, and partly for his own pleasure. It was typical of Tony that he loved the lively energy of Chatuchak weekend market, as much as the ruins in Ayutthaya and Lopburi which evoked the ghosts of kings, traders, and adventurers who peopled the pages of the EIC documents we edited. Indeed, he was still planning, in the midst of his fight with cancer, a final trip to Thailand in the winter of 2008–2009. That plan, alas, did not materialise.

Tony Farrington will be much missed by his friends and colleagues all over the world, not least in Thailand.

*Dhiravat na Pombejra*



Michael Wright  
1940–2009

Michael Wright, also known by his Thai name of Mek Maneewaja, passed away on Wednesday 8 January 2009, succumbing to lung cancer. An Englishman, Michael was a life member of the Siam Society and had served as Honorary Librarian on the Council. Over the years, he was a steady visitor to the Society's library, an important source for his constant thirst for knowledge. A self-educated man, his knowledge of the Thai language, culture and history was widely respected by those who knew him. He worked as a translator for the Bangkok Bank from 1970. He was a contributor to the first issue of *Silpa Wattanadham* in 1979 and participated in the debate on Siamese inscriptions of the Sukhothai period. From 2000 he penned a column in Thai in *Matichon Weekly*, expounding in both serious and light-hearted veins on Thai history, culture and the social scene.





Roxanna M. Brown  
1946–2008

Roxanna Maude Brown, an American Art Historian and Director of the Southeast Asian Ceramics Museum, Bangkok University, Rangsit Branch, died on 14 May 2008 at the age of 62. She was a renowned scholar and arguably the world's foremost authority on historical ceramics retrieved from shipwrecks in Southeast Asian waters.

Roxanna was born on 2 May 1946 in Chicago, Illinois, and lived in Southeast Asia since the late 1960s. Her academic credentials include a bachelor's degree in Journalism from Columbia University, 1968, after which she attended the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London 1972–3; she took a Master's Degree in Art History at the University of Singapore, 1973, and a PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 2004.

Her interest in Southeast Asia began in 1968 when she visited her younger brother, Fred Leo Brown, in Sydney, Australia where he was recovering from a Vietnam war wound. Shortly thereafter, she went to Southeast Asia where she taught English and worked as a freelance journalist in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) and Phnom Penh.

In the early 1970s she travelled to Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore, where she met William Willetts, noted scholar of Chinese art and professor at the University of Singapore. He persuaded her to research historical ceramics of the region under his tutelage which led to her Master's degree and a book, *Southeast Asian Ceramics, Their Dating and Identification*, which was published by Oxford University Press, Singapore, in 1977. A second, revised, edition followed in 1988 and it remains the definitive work on the subject.

In 1975 she worked in Hong Kong where she was assistant editor of *Arts of Asia* and launched the first International Asian Antiques Fair with two partners.

In 1980, Roxanna returned to Bangkok where she married a young Thai and became a Thai citizen, while retaining her American citizenship. In 1981 she gave birth to a son, Jaime Tasweesin Ngertongdee, who was the greatest joy of her life. Now an adult, Jaime is a graduate of Ramkhamhaeng University and currently enrolled in a post-graduate course on real estate management at Thammasat University, Bangkok. Her marriage ended shortly after the birth of her son.

In 1982, Roxanna was returning home from a lecture at the Foreign Correspondent's Club and was knocked off her motorcycle and then run over by a ten-wheel truck at a major intersection in Bangkok. She was severely injured, her right leg was amputated, the bones in her left leg were shattered and she had internal injuries. Doctors gave her a five per cent chance of survival. By sheer determination and will, she lived. Weeks in intensive care were followed by months in the Bangkok Nursing Home and then several years of therapy and rehabilitation in the United States. In 1986, she returned to Thailand and lived in Chiang Mai where she taught the history of ceramics in the Faculty of Fine Arts at Chiang Mai University.

Eventually, she decided to return to the United States and pursue her lifetime dream of obtaining a doctorate degree. The subject of her PhD dissertation, 'The Ming Gap and Shipwreck Ceramics in Southeast Asia', became Roxanna's forte which she researched tirelessly. She lectured widely, presented papers at international conferences and published two books (one co-authored with Sten Sjostrand) on the subject. Her PhD dissertation is to be published by the Siam Society.

The Southeast Asian Ceramics Museum was established by Surat Osathanagruh in 2002 to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of Bangkok University, which he founded. Surat, owner of the ceramics collection, envisioned the museum as a research and training centre in addition to the largest and finest source of Southeast Asian historical ceramics in Thailand. Ironically, Surat died the day Roxanna left Bangkok for Seattle. Roxanna worked for three years towards his goals and selecting and cataloguing pieces for the museum before the building was completed in 2005. She founded and edited the bi-monthly *Southeast Asian Ceramics Newsletter*, which was a wealth of information, and her literary legacy. Her extensive contacts in the field and vast experience brought together the latest finds and current research on ceramics and provided a forum for an exchange of views.

In addition to her significant contributions to the analysis of shipwreck ceramics and trade, she participated actively in art-related organizations in Bangkok and elsewhere in Southeast Asia. Roxanna had a special interest in education that was realized through various workshops she conducted at the Southeast Asian Ceramics Museum, using shards for a 'hands-on' approach. Noteworthy are the sessions she held for the blind in the Blind Access project initiated by the National Museum Volunteers, Bangkok. She was a life member of the Siam Society and had delivered a lecture on 24 January 2008 on 'Matching Thai Ceramics and Ayutthaya History'. She was a great friend of the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines where she lectured frequently. She was formerly on the board of the Textile Society of Bangkok and was a faithful participant in its activities.

She flew to Seattle to present a paper, 'The Sea Trade from China to Southeast Asia', at a conference on 'Maritime Asia in the Early Modern World' co-sponsored by the East Asian Studies Center at the University of Washington and the University of California Los Angeles on 8 May 2008. Soon after her arrival in Seattle, she was arrested in a federal investigation into looted antiquities on a charge of wire fraud for allegedly allowing her electronic signature to be used on appraisal forms of items donated to museums. She was taken to the Federal Detention Center at Sea Tac in Seattle, Washington where she died four days later. Results of an autopsy released by King County Medical Examiner's Office gave the cause of death as peritonitis, an infection caused by a perforated gastric ulcer. The Attorney General's office subsequently dropped the charges against her. The consensus amongst colleagues and friends is that Roxanna did not deserve the callous treatment she received in Sea Tac detention centre.

Her surviving family includes her son, Jaime, her mother Belva Brown, brothers Wesley and Fred, sister Lorraine, and her cousin, Karen Lindner, to whom she was especially devoted throughout her life.

A memorial service followed by a cremation was held for Roxanna at Forest Lawn Funeral Home in Seattle, Washington, in June 2008. Her life was honoured at a gathering organized by two longtime friends, Patricia Cheeseman and John Shaw, on 10 July at the Alliance Française in Chiang Mai. Funeral services took place at Wat Wetawanthammawat (Wat Cheong Wai) in Bangkok from 22 to 27 July. Bangkok University hosted a Ceremonial Day in her honour on 20 September presided over by the President of the University.

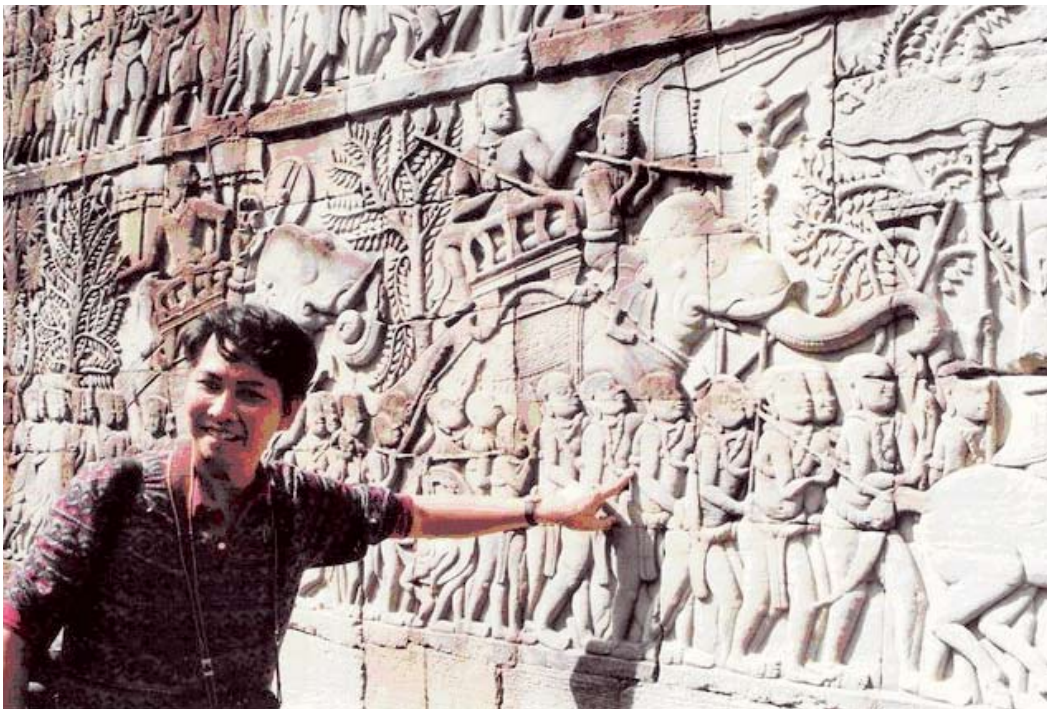
Roxanna is remembered by colleagues as a renowned scholar, by family as a devoted mother and by all as someone who overcame tragedy to excel in her field.

*Dawn F. Rooney*

## Smitthi Siribhadra 1949–2008

On 17 November 2008 one of Thailand's most distinguished scholars passed away. He was 59 years old. Condolences poured in from all over the country and overseas expressing disbelief at this tragic loss. Known primarily as one of the world's leading authorities on Khmer art, Acharn Smitthi Siribhadra was a Renaissance man living in an artistic world he created for himself, yet solidly anchored to modern reality. His appreciation for all things beautiful was intuitive; his passion for acquiring knowledge in all branches of the arts, a continuous process; and his willingness to pass on his knowledge to others was much appreciated by everyone who knew him.

Smitthi studied under Thailand's leading art historian, Prince Subhadradis Diskul at Silpakorn University where he received a B.A. in Archaeology with honours in 1970. One of his most memorable experiences during that period was in the summer of 1969 when he was selected to accompany Professor Jean Boisselier, one of the most eminent scholars on Asian art, to historical sites throughout Thailand to assist in preparation for the professor's two books, *Thai Sculpture* and *Thai Painting*.



Smitthi guiding his first trip to Bayon, January 1992

After graduating, he was awarded the prestigious Ananda Mahidol Scholarship to further his studies in Paris on Indian civilisation and the art and archaeology of Southeast Asia under the tutelage of Professor Boisselier. His ten-year sojourn in Paris deeply immersed him in the Western way of life which proved invaluable in building his subsequent role and fostering cultural links between Thailand and France.

Upon returning to Thailand, Smitthi resumed his duties as a lecturer at Silapakorn University's Faculty of Archaeology, where he inspired many students with his scientific method of teaching, instilling in them a deductive way of thinking which he had learned and practised in France. For this and his continuing efforts in furthering Franco-Thai relations, the French government honoured him with several special awards in the field of art; the most important of which being Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres bestowed on him in February 2008.

He served many years on the Council of the Siam Society working with his colleagues to preserve and promote Thai traditional art and culture. Members of the Society will best remember him by the numerous lectures he presented and the study trips he led to various parts of Asia, in particular to Angkor. I remember well the first trip he guided in Cambodia in 1992 shortly after Angkor had reopened for tourism under the management of a single state agency. Their lack of sufficient guides for the number of tourists arriving prompted Smitthi to lead our group all by himself, to explore no less than 26 monuments in five days, some of them still deep in the jungle. When asked how many times he had been to Angkor, he answered, "This is also my first time!" Amazingly he knew the monuments intimately like the back of his hand merely from his years of studying and teaching from books by the French pioneers in the field.

For over twenty years, Smitthi served as senior adviser on arts and culture to H.M. Queen Sirikit. He joined her entourage on many trips abroad as the chief organiser of the S.U.P.P.O.R.T. Foundation exhibitions promoting Thai arts and craft which gained wide acclaim in Japan, France, Russia, Austria and the United States.

In 2004 he was appointed Project Director of H.M. Queen Sirikit's Institute of Textiles, the first-ever such institute in Southeast Asia. In his lecture to the Siam Society in February 2008 Smitthi told us that for about six months he and a small team of textile specialists travelled extensively to select representative pieces of fabrics from various countries. They visited top textile museums around the world to observe their latest equipment and technology in displaying and caring for rare antique pieces. The Queen Sirikit Institute of Textiles, slated to open in late 2009 within the compound of the Grand Palace, will comprise a museum displaying textile pieces and royal garments, as well as a laboratory for the study and conservation of traditional fabrics.



Smitthi's multi-faceted talents extended to the area of stagecraft. For Queen Elizabeth II's state visit in 1996, the Thai government engaged him to mount a 45-minute *tableau vivant* on the history of Thailand staged at Wat Chai Wattanaram in Ayutthaya: a grand extravaganza with a cast of 1,000 resplendent in authentic period costumes and accessories. Smitthi took the role of King Mahachakrapat, borne on a bejeweled palanquin, in a magnificent coronation procession before Their Majesties the Queen and King and their British royal guests.

Another of his triumphs was the December 2007 *khon* performance of an episode from the Ramakien for H.M. King Bhumibol's 80th anniversary celebration. In addition to the traditional piphat band, a brass ensemble played from a score for western instruments composed during the Sixth Reign. Again, Smitthi had dual roles as producer and actor, taking the part of Thosakan, a tour de force rendition since his first and only lessons in classical dancing took place just four months before the performance!

On most occasions when heads of state and other VIPs came to Thailand, Smitthi would be their official guide to the Grand Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha, the National Museum, Ayutthaya and other places of historical interest. Among the many decorations he received in recognition of his contribution in disseminating Thai culture, was the Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand.

Smithi was a warm, fun-loving person with an engaging smile who approached everything he undertook with great flair. He loved singing and on long bus rides would often regale the study trip members in a robust baritone voice, with his extensive repertoire of musicals, arias, and songs from different countries in their original languages.

For all his many talents he remained a teacher at heart, sharing his knowledge and inspiring those around him with love and enthusiasm. His tragic and untimely death leaves a vacuum in the academic world. He will be greatly missed by those who admired and cherished him. May he rest in peace.

*Eileen Deeley*



## Domnern Garden 1928–2009

Dr Domnern Garden died at the age of 80 on Sunday 18 January 2009 in Bangkok from complications arising from a hip replacement operation.

Domnern came to Thailand from New York with the name Robert Golden, an American passport, and an advanced diploma in law from the Harvard Law School which was later converted for all holders into a doctorate. He came on impulse to attend the wedding of a fellow student from Thailand, and decided to stay. To practice

law he obviously had to read, write and speak fluent Thai, and did so by studying in a temple away from Bangkok.

He joined the firm of Ina Joergensen which specialised in registering and ensuring patents, and later set up in partnership with a Thai lawyer.

But he was by no means your dull conventional lawyer. He patronised the arts and built up a good collection of modern Thai painting in its extraordinary blossoming in 1961–64. Though a lover of classical music, he was one of the earliest to recognize the genius of the Beatles. He established a farm in Pak Chong and had a Thai friend run it; this was none other than Khamsing Srinawk, one of the leading modern Thai writers who wrote with the pen name of Lao Khamhawm.

Domnern translated Khamsing's work *Fah Baw Kan (The Politician and other stories)* into English, to have it published by the Kuala Lumpur branch of Oxford University Press. His interest in language per se was developed in the massive Thai-English dictionary he produced with Sathienpong Wannapok, which has run to several editions and a compact disk. He was closely connected with many leading members of the Siam Society, where he held a grand sixtieth birthday party on 5 November 1988, and, though he never took office, was a faithful attendee (and critic) at annual general meetings.

It will come as no surprise to learn that he took Thai citizenship and at first the name Domnern Fahpayu (meaning 'walking through the storm'); but, as he said himself, everyone laughed when they heard that, so the family name was changed again to the more neutral Garden.

He invested in land and built several houses, all to the highest standard. Fairly late in life, he married a Thai lady, Rarun, and had two children who survive

him. Last rites were performed at Wat Makut Kasatriyaram, near the United Nations building.

Domnern was a highly intelligent and sophisticated person hiding under a veneer of assumed simplicity; his wide circle of close friends, many from the northeast, will miss him.