



Golden Jubilee



The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations
of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's
Accession to the Throne



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Government Public Relations Department
Office of the Prime Minister

Statement
by
His Excellency Mr. Banharn Silpa-Archa
Prime Minister of Thailand
and
Chairman of the National Commission Organising
the Celebration of the 50th. Anniversary of
His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne

In 1996, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej shall have reigned over the Kingdom of Thailand for 50 years. This most esteemed and unprecedented occasion is one of the most auspicious events in Thai history, bringing great joy and delight to all Thais. The Government and people of Thailand have thus joined together to organise celebrations for the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne as a tribute to His Majesty's great honour and prestige.

Since His Majesty's coronation, His Majesty has adhered firmly to the Tossapit Rajatham or the Tenfold Buddhist Code of the King. His Majesty has dedicated Himself to the betterance of His Kingdom. Through His Royal Projects, His Majesty has brought increased happiness and well-being to all His subjects. As Thailand's beloved monarch, His Majesty is also the centre of unity for all Thais. During His Majesty's reign, Thailand has therefore enjoyed increased prosperity, progress and integrity. The people of Thailand will forever cherish and remember His benevolence.

In recognition of His Majesty's kindness and generosity as well as to express its gratitude and loyalty, the Government and people of Thailand are honoured to organise celebrations for the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne. In this regard, the Committee on Publications and Records, under the National Commission Organising the Celebration of the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne, has granted permission to both public and private sector agencies and organisations to publish books in recognition of His Majesty's vast abilities and making known for eternity, His Majesty's benevolence and omnipotence.

On behalf of the Government and the National Commission Organising the Celebration of the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne, I wish to express my appreciation to all the governmental and private sector organisations concerned as well as the Committee on Publications and Records, including all its ad-hoc working groups, for their commendable efforts in initiating and publishing academic publications honouring this auspicious occasion. These publications are of great benefit to the public and show our great respect for His Majesty who will forever remain in the hearts and soul of the Thai people.



(Banharn Silpa-Archa)
Prime Minister
and

Chairman of the National Commission Organising
the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of
His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne

Statement

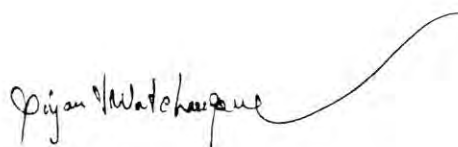
by

His Excellency Mr. Piyanat Watcharaporn
Minister to the Prime Minister's Office
and Vice-Chairman of the Public Relations Committee
for the 50th. Anniversary Celebrations of
His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne

In commemoration of a great King who has reigned for 50 years, the Public Relations Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Accession to the Throne has appointed a Commemorative Book Working Group to publish a book compiling all of the activities that were held throughout the country in the past two years on the occasion of His Majesty's Golden Jubilee.

These activities varied from charitable community-based projects to festivals, sport events, and elaborate centuries-old ceremonies, all of which were recorded by the best writers and photographers of Thailand. They clearly reflect the love and respect that all Thais have for their King.

The Working Group's contribution and dedication for the production of this priceless book are very much appreciated.



(Mr. Piyanat Watcharaporn)

Minister to the Prime Minister's Office
and Vice-Chairman of the Public Relations Committee
for the 50th. Anniversary Celebrations of
His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne

Statement

by

Mr. Chan Phoolsombat

Member and Secretary to the Public Relations Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the 50th. Anniversary Celebrations of

His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne

The auspicious occasion of the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne on June 9, 1996 is not only a once-in-a lifetime event of the Thai nation, but also an occasion of great joy and happiness for the Thai people. Consequently, the public and private sectors organised various celebrations during the years 1995 and '96.

The Public Relations Committee on Foreign Affairs for the 50th. Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne has decided to publish a book entitled "Golden Jubilee : The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Accession to the Throne" as evidence of the constant bond between Thais and the Monarchy Institution.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to those who give their cooperation and assistance in making this book possible.



(Mr. Chan Phoolsombat)

Director-General of the Government Public Relations Department,

and Member and Secretary to the Public Relations Committee

for the 50th. Anniversary Celebrations of

His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne

Statement

by

Mr. Bangern Musikapong

Director-General of the Government Public Relations Department

It is a great privilege and honour for the Government Public Relations Department to be entrusted by the Public Relations Committee on Foreign Affairs for the 50th. Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne with the task of producing a book called, 'Golden Jubilee: The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Accession to the Throne.' Another chapter in Thailand's history with the meaningful ceremonies and festivities is printed for study and admiration by Thais and their friends abroad.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the cooperation of various agencies and individuals who assisted and contributed in the successful completion of this book.



(Mr. Bangern Musikapong)

Director-General of the Government Public Relations Department



Preface

This book, entitled 'Golden Jubilee : The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Accession to the Throne', is aimed at paying tribute to His Majesty the King on this auspicious occasion. It also joins the nation in expressing respect, gratitude, and loyalty to our beloved King who has dedicated himself to the development of Thailand for the well-being of all Thai people.

The book is divided into two parts : The first half consists of His Majesty's biography and image from different angles while the remainder illustrates significant events, including state and royal ceremonies, and activities that were organised by both the public and private sectors throughout the country to celebrate this unprecedented occasion.

We hope that this book will serve as a record of the magnificent two years of celebrations for all readers ; Thai or foreign.

August, 1997



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Part I

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His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand

Function of the Thai Throne

"We will reign with righteousness, for the benefits and happiness of the Siamese people."

Those are the traditional words pronounced by each Thai King on the day of his accession to the Throne. Although seemingly simple enough in content yet those words reflect very well the essence of Kingship which has developed through the long and varying history of the Thai nation. That history is marked by two outstanding features: Thailand, also known for a long period as Siam, has always managed to retain its independence while nations all around fell prey at one time or another to colonialist powers, and Thailand has always had a King on the Throne as the nation's leader. It is therefore not surprising that the two features are often held as being intertwined, which makes the study of the function of the Thai Throne all the more vital to a biographical sketch of any Thai King.

On emerging into full nationhood with its capital at Sukhothai in the thirteenth century, the pioneers of independence chose to elevate the wisest and most capable among them to be King, thus symbolizing the Throne with the dual concepts of independence and unity. The King, in turn, having been entrusted with the task not out of any divine right, but by the consent of his fellow peers, felt an inherent obligation to rule the country 'with righteousness', not for the glory of himself or his family, but 'for the benefits and happiness' of the people in his trust. From the very beginning, therefore, a Thai King is judged by the sole criterion of how much benefit and happiness he could bring to the country.

With the change of capital from Sukhothai to Ayutthaya, the Khmer concept of divine Kingship made its influence felt on the

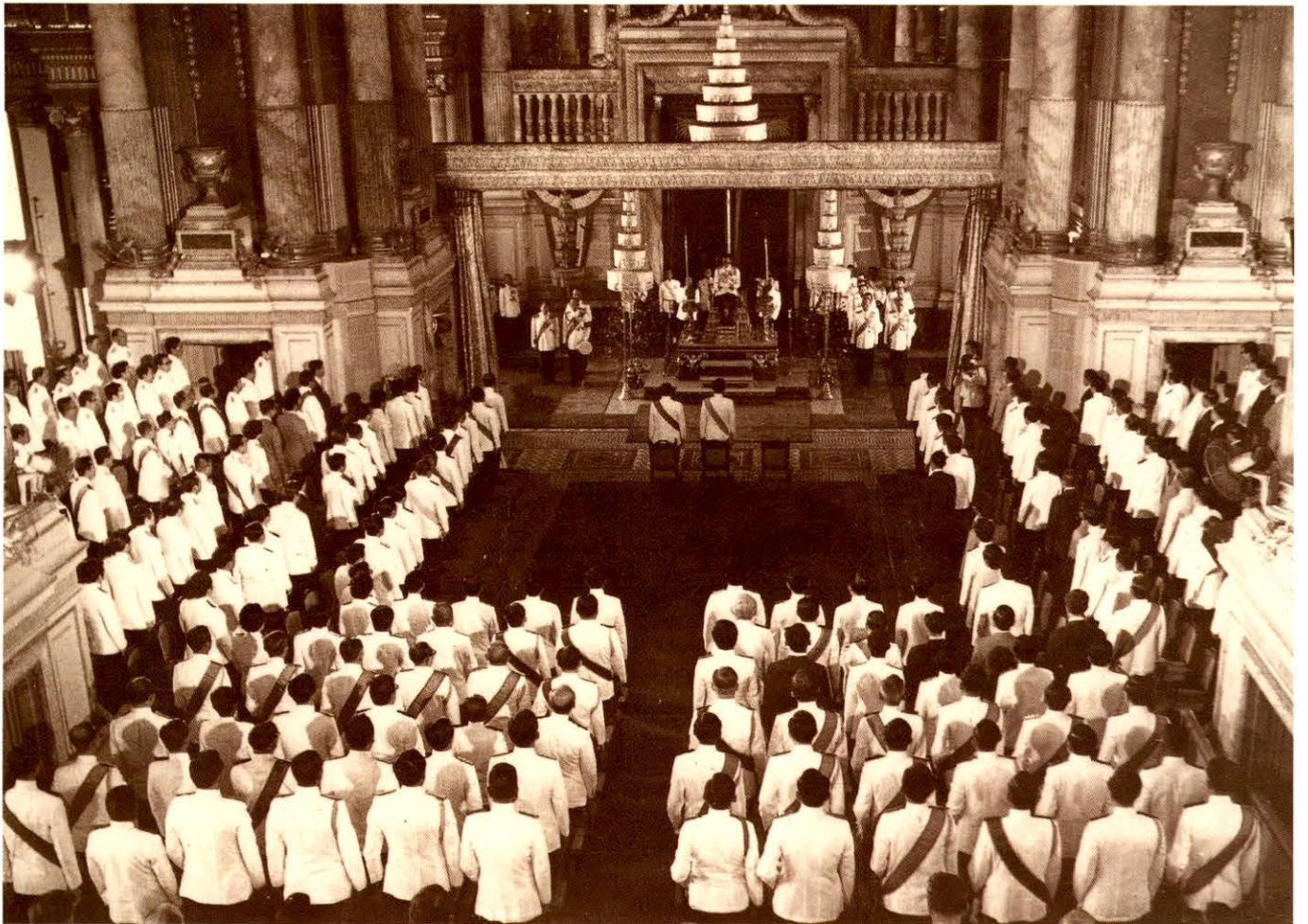
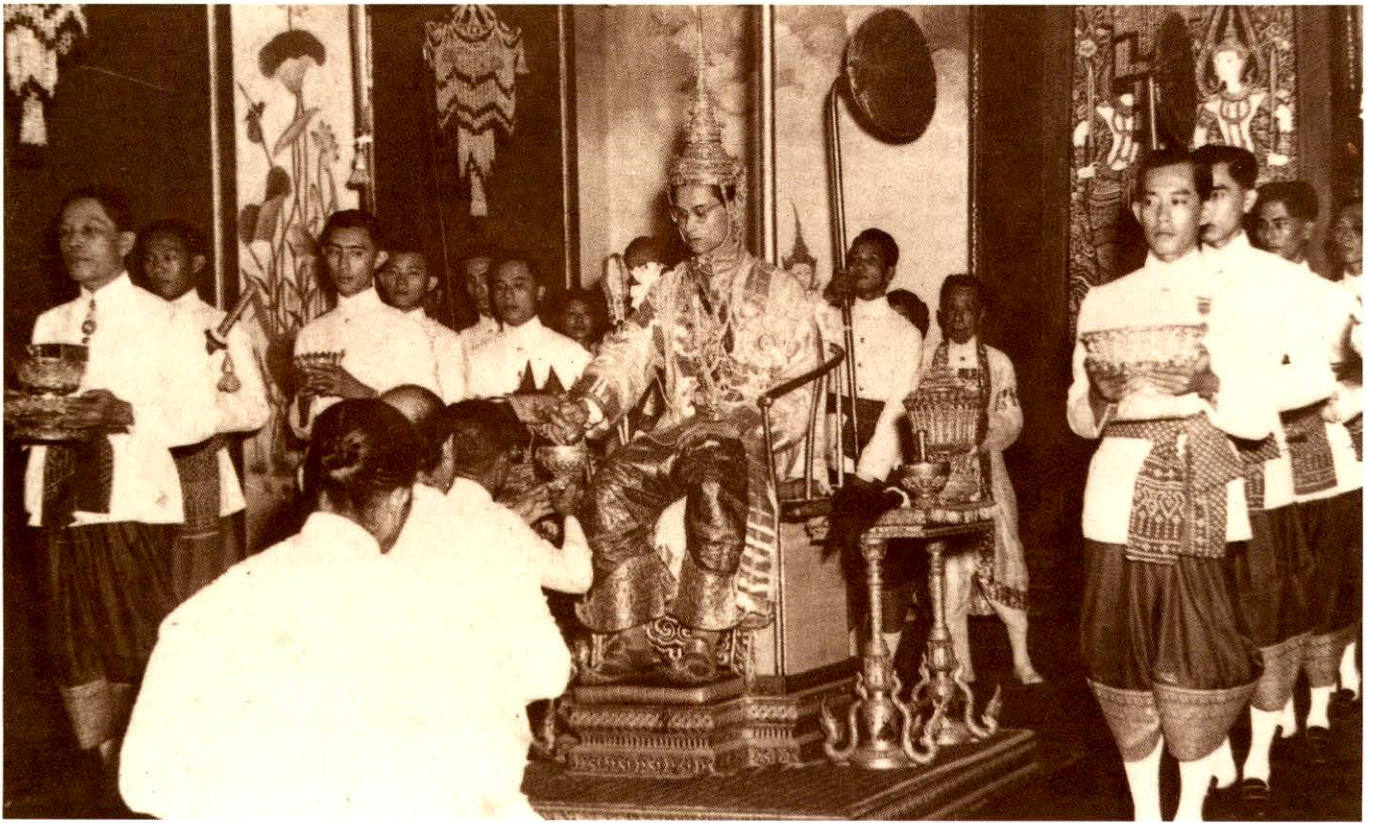




regal institution of Thailand, and the Ayutthaya Kings incorporated many of the divine features into the function of the Throne. Such addition might also have come about through the need to increase the symbolic power of the Throne owing to the enlargement of the country's boundaries, thereby cutting off a large number of the population from constant contact with the capital as well as from the personal relationship with the King as could be obtained in the more limited Sukhothai era. The concept of the King being the first among his peers and owing his function to the consent of the governed, however, was not erased and the divine Kings of Ayutthaya still rose and fell mainly through how righteously and how well they ruled for the benefits and happiness of the Siamese people.

After the destruction of Ayutthaya in 1767 and the brief reign of King Taksin at Thonburi, the present Chakri Dynasty of Bangkok was established in 1782 and carried on the Tradition of Thai Kings as handed down from Ayutthaya. Western influences however, became more powerful in Southeast Asia during the fourth and fifth reigns of the Dynasty and Thai Kings were wise enough to see that some adaptation to Western standard would become necessary in order that Thailand might survive in independence. Princes and courtiers began to be sent to study in Europe where democracy was the rule and in Thailand itself power began to be decentralised as well as divided among capable people outside the immediate circle of the King. In 1932, however, a group of people quickened the process by staging a bloodless revolution which changed the country into a Constitutional Monarchy in the European model. The then King Prajadhipok or Rama VII continued to reign as a Constitutional Monarch but only for a few years before he was forced by ill health to abdicate. King Ananda Mahidol was chosen to ascend the Throne at a tender age and spent his life mostly at study abroad. His unfortunate death in 1946 at the age of 20 brought his younger brother, Bhumibol Adulyadej, to the Throne and for the past fifty years, it has been left to King Bhumibol Adulyadej to give the meaning as





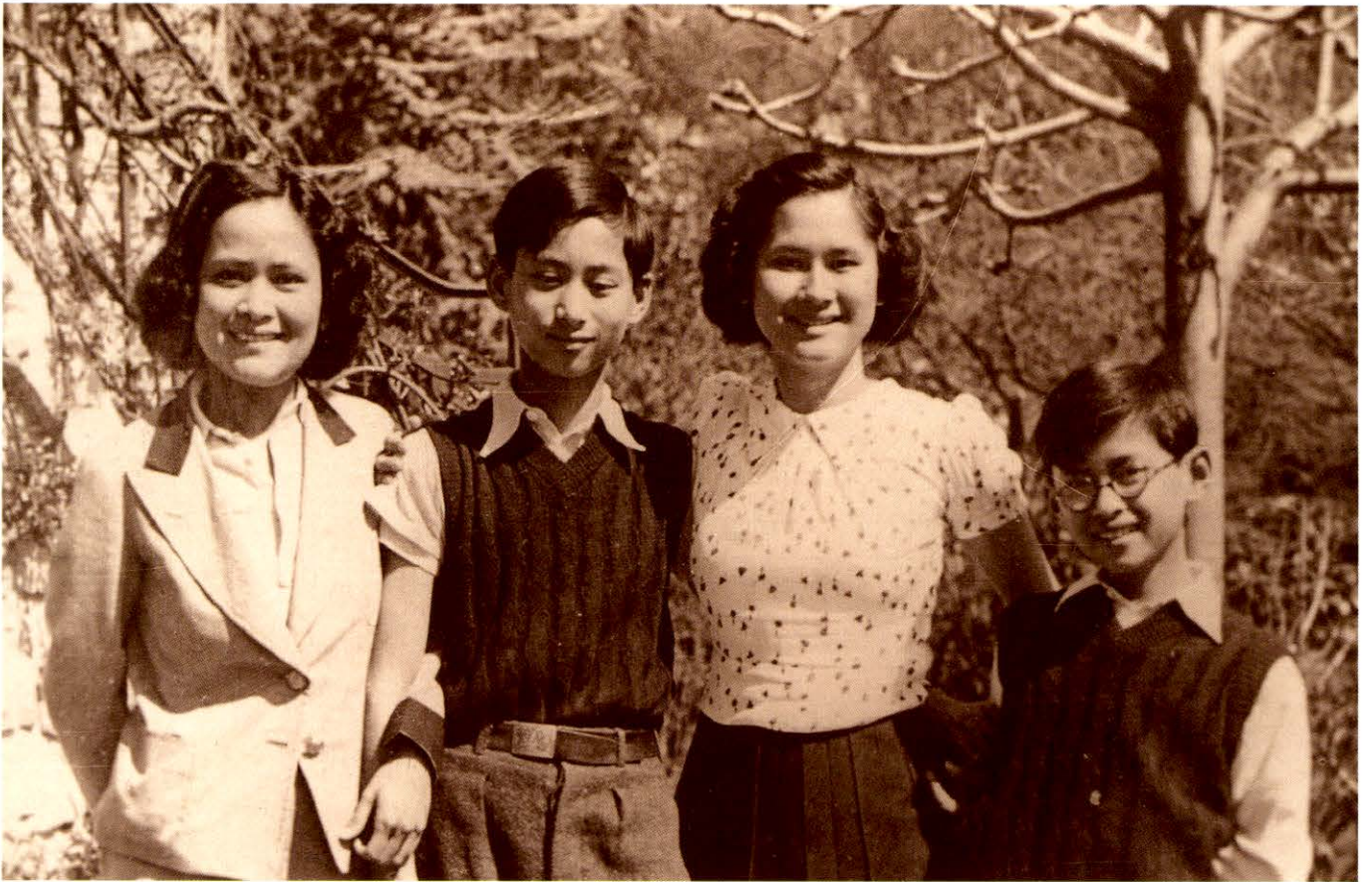
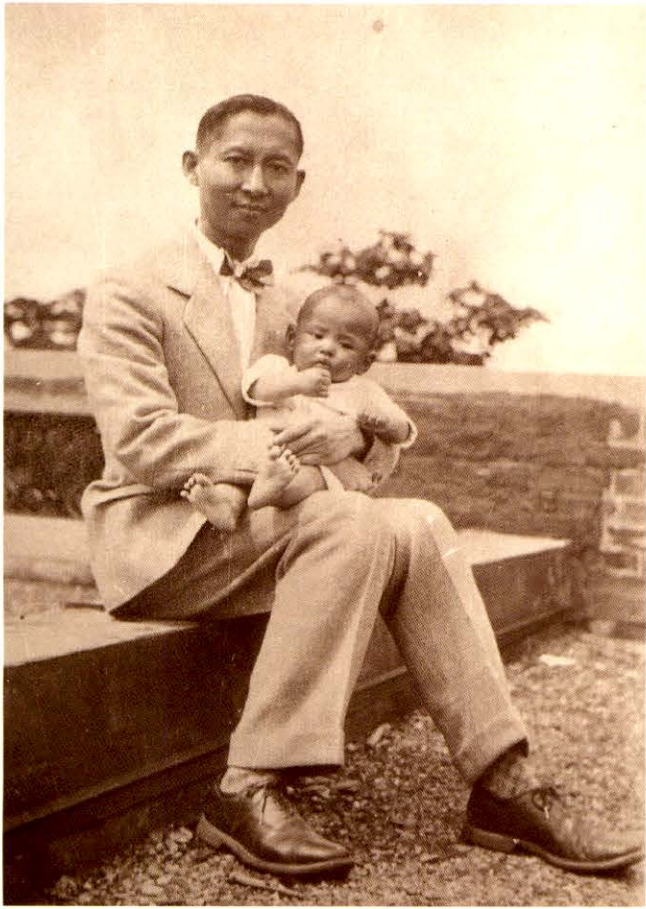


well as set the practical standard to the role of a Thai King within a democratic framework.

Biographical Data

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, The United States of America, on Monday the 5th. of December 1927, being the third and youngest child of Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Mahidol of Songkhla. Even the facts of his birth seem to be significant in several ways. He is, first of all, the direct grandson of His Late Majesty King Chulalongkorn or Rama V who was renowned for the great reforms which he made to all institutions of Thailand to bring them up to date and in line with the rest of the Western-orientated world. Prince Mahidol himself was perhaps one of the most modern-minded of all the sons of King Chulalongkorn and his life was dedicated to the development of many modern ideas particularly in the field of Medical Science so that he is now known as the Father of the Modern Thai Medical Profession. Last but not least, he was given the significant name of Bhumibol Adulyadej, meaning 'Strength of the Land Incomparable Power' which becomes prophetic as his Reign advances through various critical periods and the Thai nation evolves more and more around the Throne as the sole sources of unity and strength.

Prince Mahidol came back to Thailand and passed away when His Majesty was not yet two years old. After a brief period of primary schooling in Bangkok, His Majesty left with the rest of his family for Switzerland where he continued his secondary education at the Ecole Nouvelle de la Suisse Romande, Chailly sur Lausanne and received the Bachelieres Lettres diploma from the Gymnase Classique Cantonal of Lausanne. He then chose to enter Lausanne University to study Science, but the death of his elder brother King Ananda Mahidol in Bangkok on the 9th. of June 1946, changed the course of his life completely, for the Law of Succession bestowed on him the arduous but challenging function of the Thai Crown. His





Majesty decided to go back to Switzerland for another period of study, but this time in the subject of Political Science and Law in order to equip himself with the proper knowledge for government. In 1950, His Majesty returned to Thailand for the Coronation Ceremony which took place on the 5th. of May and he went back to Switzerland for another period of study before the urgent call of his country and people brought him back to Thailand in 1951 to stay.

His Majesty met and became engaged on the 19th. of July 1949 to Mom Rajawongse Sirikit, daughter of His Highness Prince Chandaburi Suranath (Mom Chao Nakkhatra Mangala Kitiyakara) and Mom Luang Bua Kitiyakara (née Mom Luang Bua Snidwongse). His Highness Prince Chandaburi Suranath was the third son of his Royal Highness Prince Chandaburi Narunath and Her Serene Highness Princess Absarasman Kitiyakara.

Their Majesties were married by Her Majesty Queen Sawang Vadhana, the paternal grandmother of His Majesty, at Sra Pathum Palace in Bangkok on the 28th. of April 1950 and Their Majesties have four children namely :

1. The Former Her Royal Highness Princess Ubol Ratana who was born on the 5th. of April 1951, in Lausanne, Switzerland.

2. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn was born on the 28th. of July 1952, in Bangkok, Thailand, and was conferred with the title of 'Somdech Phra Boroma Orasadhiraj Chao Fah Maha Vajiralongkorn Sayam Makutrajakuman' by His Majesty the King on the 28th. of December 1972, making him the Crown Prince or Heir to the Throne.

3. Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was born on the 2nd. of April 1955 in Bangkok, Thailand, and was conferred the title of 'Somdech Phra Debaratana Rajasuda Chao Fah Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Rathasimakunakornpiyajat Sayam Boroma Rajakumari' by His Majesty the King on the 5th. of December 1977.

4. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn was born on the 4th. of July 1957 in Bangkok, Thailand.





Personal Style of Conduct

It is often said that a man's pastimes best reflect his character and it is obvious that a man's character governs his style of conduct. His Majesty is recognized as an extremely successful amateur in several recreational areas prominent among which are jazz and popular music, painting, photography and the sport of yachting. Critical analyses of his style in those fields have been given by those knowledgeable and some of these comments may be the best leads to his character and thus to the approach which he takes in the conduct of his official duties.

A successful musician must have more than just the basic talent but must also possess a degree of what is called the 'inner' compulsion which drives one on to express one's feelings in musical terms. Compulsion is all the more necessary for a musician to go into the realm of composition. Critical appraisals have credited His Majesty with a great degree of both qualities and especially with the compulsive drive which has made him become a successful composer. The high quality of his basic talent is also apparent in that he could produce the so-called popular and romantic music as well as jazz with equal success, for the former demands an understanding of the general emotions while jazz in its true light is the expression of extremely refined sentiments.

His Majesty's paintings are distinguished for their strong strokes and bold colours, verging more on symbolism than any other style. This bold symbolistic style is often held by analysts as reflecting the inner desire always to get to the heart of things, to choose only the essence and to get there with the minimum of decorations or deviations.

The preferred medium of his photography is black-and-white, here again reflecting the preference for the bare essential. His photographic composition also confirms that preference by tending to select a single object or a single action as one strong focal point. If His Majesty touches up his photographs at any time, it is usually to crop and trim them so that the focal point of a composition may





stand out more clearly. This technique of emphasising a focal point is known as the 'involvement' style, signifying the deep interest of the photographer in the photographed object, as opposed to the 'picture-postcard' style which is concerned only with the depiction of superficial beauty.

On being presented by the Royal Thai Navy with the special badge for distinguished yachtmanship, His Majesty gave an Address in which he summed up the reasons for his enjoyment of yachting. In a yacht race, he said, the competitor must summon his fullest concentration and strength, for he is pitted, first of all, against the elements, then against the demands of the sporting technique, and lastly against the combined determination of other competitors to win the race. To these it may be added that the competitor is also ultimately pitted against himself, as His Majesty later said "... to win is really to overcome oneself." It is thus a very good training for a person who has to conduct himself in this modern arduous and competitive world. It must be noted here that His Majesty shared with his eldest daughter, Princess Ubol Ratana, the gold medals for OK class of yachting given during the Southeast Asian Peninsula Games in December 1967.





From these appraisals of his pastime activities, certain currents of His Majesty's character stand out quite clearly. Based on an inborn sense of perception, His Majesty would first search out the heart or hard core of a matter or problem at hand. He would then attack that hard centre in the quickest and best possible manner. Above all, should the problem be hard and persistent, he would never lose courage or patience, but would persevere on and on, like the lone yachtsman fighting the elements until the end of the race. Perhaps the key word of his character, like the style of his photography, is 'involvement'. Whether it be in any minor area or in the total task of kingship, it would never be in the nature of His Majesty to gloss over the subject, he would instead submerge his total self in the matter and is never satisfied until the best possible result is obtained. This total dedication to the tasks at hand can easily be seen by the manner in which His Majesty meticulously performs functions that are usually regarded as mere formalities, such as in putting his Seal or Signature to all Laws and Decrees, down to minor Public Orders. Instead he acquaints himself with all subjects which pass before him and makes observations wherever appropriate, requesting clarification from the relevant officials wherever necessary. In addition, His Majesty often makes formal State Functions into personal affairs, even adjusting the details of some ceremonies to make them more authentic and meaningful.

As a Constitutional Monarch, of course, His Majesty is above politics and thus his activities in certain fields must by nature be very limited. He, however, could still make his influence felt even in those limited fields through giving advices or merely expressing personal opinions, substituting words for actions in order to achieve the same objective. In making a proper appraisal of his role in modern Thailand, therefore, one must give emphasis to his words as much as to his actions, for the two have been deliberately used by him to complement one another.





● His Majesty's Ever Lasting Benevolence to His People

The Light of the Land

Like a guiding light for night travellers, His Majesty has shown the way out of hardship and poverty to all his people.

During a royal visit to a province in the Isan Region, Northeast of Thailand, the farmers told His Majesty of their plight. Their land was as dry and hard as the surface of a rock, and they could not plant any rice.

To look for a possible area which could be developed into a water reservoir, His Majesty led the group on foot for many kilometres through thick underbrush, with no trail marks, until nightfall.

By the time His Majesty had returned to the village, it was quite late. This, however, did not deter him. He stopped at the first house and asked the farmer who lived there how many bushels of rice he could get from a 'rai' of land. His reply was that he could get from seven to eight if there were some rain, however when there was none, his rice seeds could all die. His Majesty turned to tell those who assisted him in his development projects that the problem was urgent and serious. A development plan had to be devised to alleviate the farmers' plight. As he started to walk on, His Majesty told the farmer, who had seated himself on the ground with his hands clasped together in a gesture of reverence, "It will be better soon. It will."

Not long after that, out of His Majesty's kind heart and clever mind, a project to construct a prototype reservoir in order to save and collect every drop of water available in nature was planned, experimented, and then fully implemented. The idea was taught to the villagers and soon farmers in some of Isan's driest areas were able to produce 50 bushels of rice per 'rai'. Every heart was filled with gladness and gratitude as this truly was, 'a blessing from above.'

Story : Mr. Manoon Mookpradit

Translator : Dr. Peansiri

Vongvipanond



His Majesty's concern for the well-being of his subjects is not limited to any particular areas of the Kingdom for he has visited every town and village where his people are facing hardship. There is no region of the country which he has not visited. One can honestly say that he has seen almost every square inch of the Kingdom. Wherever His Majesty goes, he brings hope and happiness. Dry and hard farmland is transformed into rich fertile soil. Farmer's darkest despair becomes hope. Poverty is turned into well-being. Always with the kind concern for his people in his heart, His Majesty has travelled to every corner of the Kingdom, a royal duty he has performed continuously for 50 years. His subjects are his children therefore, as a father should, His Majesty assumes his first and foremost responsibility to be to ensure that all of his subjects can have a comfortable and enjoyable life. It is no wonder



that his people genuinely regard him as their father, the person they know they can always rely on. No Monarch in this day or age has worked so hard with his people and for his people.

Whenever and wherever a crisis occurs, be it natural or political, His Majesty never fails to lend a helping hand. His kindness and compassion are showered equally over his subjects both in the rural and urban areas. During Bangkok's many floods, His Majesty was seen wading and walking through dirty stagnant flood water on the streets as he was trying to study the causes of the problem and extent of the damage. As a result, the plight of Bangkok residents has been drastically reduced using the flood prevention plans which were designed by His Majesty. The polluted water problem has been gradually solved using a water cleaning system that was invented by His Majesty and then developed and implemented by the Chaipattana Foundation under Royal Patronage and Supervision.

His Majesty also plays a crucial role in dissolving social and political crises. Many times in Thailand's history, confrontations which occurred among groups with different political views could have led to a bloodshed if it had not been for His Majesty stepping in and stopping the confronting parties. These were true miracles and could only happen in Thailand. However angry groups may have been, they stopped when His Majesty told them to stop. He advised them to work out their differences with reason, not anger, and review the situation more carefully. Without these miracles, many civil wars could have resulted. This is the greatness of His Majesty which is well-known not only in Thailand, but also in the international community.

He is the light which guides his people out of hardship.

He is the light which guides them away from foolishness and ignorance.

He is the light which shines in every place and at every moment for all of his people.

It is this light which brings Thais together and unifies them.

The King of Hearts

*I*t would not be an overstatement for someone to say that there is no place in Thailand where His Majesty has never been and if the same person were to go on and say that there is nowhere in this country where people's hearts are not filled with love, gratitude, and loyalty to His Majesty, it would surprise nobody.

Wherever His Majesty goes, at whatever time of day or night, those who hear about his visit gather to greet him. They all come; children, parents, and grandparents. They always arrive very early to get good spots to sit or stand so that they can be as close as possible to His Majesty. They are willing to wait for as long as it takes just for an opportunity to see him and pay their respects. They do not seem to mind the dust, heat, rain, or even thunderstorms, just to see His Majesty's face is worth all the hours of waiting.

The magnetism of his beneficence explains the love and loyalty that his people have for him. They always welcome an opportunity to get close to him. For wherever he goes, there are always crowds waiting to greet him.





His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch once said in a sermon, *"That His Majesty conducts himself righteously, in his deeds and words, for the benefit of his people assures them that they need fear no harm for His Majesty is always benevolent. His presence in a particular place renders it auspicious because of his mercy and compassion. People rejoice to see him and be in his presence. They do not need to hide or run away for they can rest assured that they can live happily during his reign, and he is always there for them. ..."*

As for His Majesty himself, he is always close to his people. Always is he ready and willing to share in their difficult times. He will travel on rugged roads in the midst of intense heat or a sharp drop in temperature to find out first hand information on his people's problems. He then leads them out of their plight, ignorance, and injustice. He brings with him happiness and prosperity, wherever he goes, like gentle drops of rain.

The projects His Majesty has worked on for the benefit of his people cover many fields. The most outstanding of all are his rural development projects to try to improve the quality of life for all of his subjects. He works hard, devoting all of his time and energy to the projects which he knows will improve the lives and livelihood of his people.





The special relationship that this beneficent and benevolent Monarch has with his subjects explains the presence of waiting crowds wherever His Majesty goes. This is a phenomenon that may be a little unfamiliar to visitors from other countries. The crowds are always there when His Majesty is studying the Ping and Tapi River Basins in the North and South respectively, dry rice fields of Kud Na Kham in the Northeast, and Khung Kraben Bay in the East, or when he is presiding over various state and royal ceremonies at Sanam Luang and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha which is within the Royal Grand Palace. Which King would use his own palace grounds as an experimental farm for growing rice and raising dairy cattle ? The rice seeds which are used in the annual Ploughing Ceremony to mark the beginning of the rice planting season are harvested on his palace farm.

His Majesty is truly the King of Hearts for he reigns and rules in his people's heart.



The Stormy Evening at To-Kae Dam

The following episode took place at To-Kae Dam near Nakor Village in the Southern Province of Narathiwat more than ten years ago.

The village was, and still is, half-hidden by a dense forest at the foot of Budo Mountain Range's Eastern side.

It was 3.00 p.m.

The sun was very strong and the heat was steadily rising in the late afternoon. The sky had been cloudless since morning. Suddenly however, the sun seemed to dim, and thick black clouds moved in from nowhere and settled over the village.

Where before the water shone bright and sparkling, and dancing patterns of light could be seen on the gravelled road's surface, now it was a different story. The dark clouds looked threatening. A downpour could start at any moment.

About two hundred people were seated with their legs flat on the ground in orderly rows on both sides of the road leading up from the village to an open space on the slopes of the mountain. They had been sitting there peacefully and quietly for hours. Their eyes, however, shone with joy and happy expectation.

There had been a rumour that the King might come to the village today. Yes, they said he might.

It was 3.30 p.m.

The crowds were getting bigger now. People from other villages had also arrived to join the waiting crowds, not only the younger ones, but also the more elderly. The roads leading to the grounds where they were waiting were full of people walking back and forth looking for a suitable, or even any, space in the crowds. The air seemed electric, yet peaceful. Local and government officials, as well as other development workers, arrived and gathered to form reception lines.

It was 3.35 p.m.

It began to pour. Torrents of rain fell steadily from the overhead clouds onto the ground below. Everybody was soaked to the skin, however their moods remained unchanged. The crowds' joyful anticipation was unaffected by the downpour.

The first group of villagers to have had arrived, who were sitting with their legs flat on the ground in orderly rows, seemed undisturbed by the rain. They were still in the same reverent sitting position. Their faces still shone with joy and anticipation. They were unshaken in their determination to sit there and wait.

It was 3.45 p.m.

The royal station wagon arrived, accompanied by just a few other vehicles that carried the government officials in His Majesty's team. The King, in a blue hat and rain coat, stepped out of his royal blue and grey station wagon on the driver's side. His Majesty often drives during his 'field trips' to remote villages. He was accompanied, as usual, by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.





His Majesty led his group of officials, and walked through the heavy rain to To-Kae Dam Reservoir at the foot of Budo Mountain.

It was 4.00 p.m.

His Majesty was seen standing on top of the dam surrounded by officials. He was soaking wet. He had a map of the area wrapped in a plastic sheet in one hand, and a pencil in the other with which he used draw lines and write notes on the map. His customary camera was slung around his neck. A radio receiver and transmitter could be seen sticking out of his rain coat's left pocket. This was a highly unusual sight for a Monarch. It filled one with an overwhelming and indescribable feeling. Many may have seen it on television or in the newspapers, but to have seen this familiar scene with one's own eyes makes one speechless. The sight of a King in a simple rain coat working in the heavy rain in a remote mountain village to supervise a development project seems almost mythical.

What was more, His Majesty had only been recently released from hospital after a heart condition. So why was he risking his health, and perhaps his life? Why did and still does he have to work so hard?

It was 5.10 p.m.

His Majesty inspected the dam and reservoir. He gave instructions to the officials and walked down the mountain slope with Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. They got into his vehicle and drove towards where the villagers were waiting.

The downpour became a drizzle. Once in a while, the intermittent wind would shake the water off the leaves and branches onto the people who were seated underneath.

His Majesty stepped out of his station wagon and walked to the waiting crowds. They bowed their heads to the ground with their hands clasped together in a gesture of deep reverence. He knelt down on the muddy path surrounded by his loving and loyal subjects. He talked to them, asking about their farms and health,



and the conditions in which they lived. He also asked some of them to make a sacrifice of their farm land for his water resources project, explaining how it would benefit the entire community. In addition, he discussed with them how their problems, caused by this loss of land, could be solved. Tears of joy filled the eyes of the villagers as they watched him leave their village into the dark of the night.

This scene is not unique to this Southern village of Thailand. It happens again and again in every corner of the land. Villagers usually do not possess the kind of royal vocabulary required when addressing a Thai King, however the overwhelming joy and love that they feel for their caring and devoted King make many of them very talkative. They want to talk to him, tell of their plight, or sometimes just offer their best wishes. They talk to him like children to a loving father. A special bond has been forged between this caring Monarch and his loyal subjects. The people know that they can always count on him. They feel secure and cared for.



A Caring Monarch

*I*n the afternoon of February 18, 1985, a long line of vehicles, which included the familiar blue and grey royal station wagon, braved the dusty roads and headed towards Maew-Khun Wang Village in the Sun Patong District of Chiang Mai Province which is in the North of Thailand. His Majesty was coming to study the problems associated with the farming plots and water resources situation which were in need of urgent attention.

Although it was quite late in the afternoon, the heat was still as excruciating as ever. However, neither the dust nor the heat could deter His Majesty. As he stepped out of his station wagon, he walked straight and swiftly to a spot where he could study the topography of the area. As usual, he drove himself and as usual, he had a map (a new one this time) in his hand, a few pencils in his jacket pocket and a camera with a zoom lens slung around his neck. He stood there for a long time looking at the different natural features of the area and comparing them with the features which were represented on his map. At the same time, he held discussions with the accompanying government development and irrigation officials.

He worked at that same spot until the sun began to set and the temperature cooled down. As the sun disappeared behind the mountains, night insects appeared everywhere. Among those tiny bugs were the 'khuns.' These are vicious Northern insects which feed on human blood like the leeches of the South.

Seeing that it was getting very dark, His Majesty made preparations to leave. He walked back to his station wagon and stopped there for a moment before turning round and walking back to the same spot. He spoke to an irrigation engineer who had been helping him to study the map and area, and answering his questions.

"Show me your hand", said His Majesty. He then rubbed some ointment on the engineer's hand while gently saying, "It's OK. You'll feel better in no time."

It was so unexpected and unanticipated that it gave everybody there a shock, a shock of the delightful kind. How could this King be so caring ?

When asked how this had happened, the engineer said that he had no idea how His Majesty could possibly have known about his insect bites. He wondered whether or not it was when he had quickly brushed his free hand over the itchy bites on his other, which was holding the map for the King, that His Majesty noticed just how much he was suffering.

These small observations come very natural to this perceptive Monarch. He knows every member of his team, and notices when some of them trip and fall, sprain their ankles, are bitten by leeches, etc. He also knows when those, who cannot keep up with him on his long treks up mountain slopes or through thick underbrush, have to take a break under a shady tree. He cares for all of them and treats them only with kindness. This is why all of his team members, as well as all of those in his royal service, are so devoted to him.

The irrigation engineer who was given royal treatment for his 'khun' bites is, to this day, still serving and working with His Majesty the King.



A Visit with Uncle Wadeng

One late afternoon, the royal team drove to Khae Khae Bog in the Saiburi District of Pattani Province. The word 'Khae Khae' in the local dialect means 'breeze.' This gives one an impression of quite a pleasant place in which to live. In actuality, Khae Khae is simply a large unarable area of soft wet ground which is covered with decayed vegetation. In his attempt to help alleviate the poor farmers' hardship, His Majesty carried out a study with his team to help find a way to drain the water which floods the bog in the rainy season and save it for when the climate was drier and hotter. The strategy would result in tens of thousands of 'rai' of additional farmland for the impoverished farmers. The survey was planned to cover four villages. However, by the time the team reached the boggy village, it was quite late in the afternoon.

The first stop was at the village of Ban Johbai in Pun Sub-District on the Western boundaries of the bog. His Majesty talked to the officials and villagers for a long time, and learnt from them that there was a fresh water source nearby in Nam Jued Canal. This was a new piece of information. The canal could be dammed to make a larger fresh water reservoir. He decided on a feasibility study. Despite the protests from his security officials regarding the fact that the area had not yet been inspected, since it was not part of the trip's original plan, His Majesty acknowledged the ruggedness of the terrain, which could only be reached on foot, and brushed away their concerns for his safety. The information was crucial to the design of the water resources development project, and it could not wait. He was determined to see, with his own eyes, if the canal really could be used in the project.

The royal team drove further into the village. The condition of the road was very bad and no preparation had been made for the trip. The dust which was stirred up, as the vehicles rolled along the road, was so thick that nobody could see the car in front. When the road got so bad that the vehicles could not go any further, His

Majesty got out and started walking along the narrow path which was covered, in most places, with underbrush. The walk was long and it took His Majesty until sunset to reach the banks of the canal.

His Majesty stood there studying the topography of the area and eventually, he had to use a torchlight to read the maps that he always carries with him on such trips. His mind was working very actively and he shared his thoughts with the development officials who accompanied him. His security officials, however, were worried. It was dark and the area was unfamiliar. They had not prepared any plans to guard his safety. His Majesty, on the other hand, did not have the slightest bit of concern for his own safety. The plight of his people is, and has always been, first and foremost on his mind.

Soon after that, the team began to hear approaching footsteps. A group of people were walking right towards where they were. The security officials were tense as they were surrounded by complete darkness. A short time later, they were able to make out the silhouettes of a large group of people. They were Moslem villagers from nearby Tung Ket Village who had learned of the royal visit. It was such an auspicious occasion, and they would never miss this unexpected opportunity to see and pay respect to their beloved King. They came with beaming smiles on their faces.





Among the villagers who came to greet His Majesty was an old man whom everyone called, Uncle Wadeng. He was already in his seventies, but was still alert and energetic. He was very articulate and intelligent. He came to greet his King in his usual 'semi-attire.' He had only his knee-length farmers' trousers on when he was granted this special Royal Audience. However, he knew that he had the same right as all Thai people to talk to his King and let him know if he had a problem. It was Uncle Wadeng in his common people's tongue who answered His Majesty's questions regarding the area and its people's livelihood. He told him how grateful and delighted he was that His Majesty was planning to turn the bog into good farmland for all of the villagers. His eyes and face showed exactly how he felt. As he was talking, he glanced around as if to look for something. Eventually, he said to His Majesty, "You've come very far to visit us, but I have no gift for you. I just sold the fruit from my orchard for twenty thousand Baht, but I have already spent it all on my new water pump. I have just one durian left and even that it is not quite ripe yet."

Some of his neighbours then teased him and said that he had the new pump. Upon hearing that, Uncle Wadeng did not hesitate at all. He said to His Majesty,

"There. That can be my gift to you. Please take it." He was beaming as he offered the pump to His Majesty. However, he did not think it was a joke at all. Giving up his only precious possession, which cost him years of back-breaking work, to his King was nothing but a true joy.

Everybody there was deeply moved by his sincere love and loyalty for the King. He was unpretentious and expressed his joy in his own innocent way. They all laughed and His Majesty joined in too.

That night was dark, however everyone's heart there was filled with the light which emanated from His Majesty's deep and genuine concern for all of his people.



The King and the Leeches

*I*t was a late afternoon in September, 1985. The rainy season was at its peak. It had been raining continuously since morning.

The village of Ban Tamung is located on the slopes of a high hill in Narathiwat Province. The royal 'Wagoneer', driven by His Majesty himself, arrived at the village. The King and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn stepped out of the car in their rain coats, and started walking along the path which cut through dense rubber plantations. The path was muddy and slippery. The rain and wind made the temperature drop. His Majesty and Her Royal Highness walked fast, and very energetically. The officials, who accompanied them, had to make every effort to keep up. Some had to run while others gave up and stopped under trees. Only those fit and strong enough went on.

The party had to walk for more than two kilometres before it reached an area that had been planned as a water reservoir to store water for farmland in three 'tambons', or sub-districts in English. The area covered about 5,000 'rai' in Tambons Choengkiri, Mayoong, and Ruesoh. All of that time, Her Royal Highness kept pace with and walked right behind His Majesty.



What made this trip even more memorable was the fact that the path which the royal party took to get to the area for the reservoir cut through others which were infested with blood-thirsty leeches. It was nesting-time and they were hungry. They made no exception to anybody, not even His Majesty or Her Royal Highness. They were victimised just like everyone else in the group.

After surveying the area for the reservoir, the royal team drove back to Thaksin Ratchaniwet Palace. It was already dark, but the rain had let up. There were stars in the sky. All of a sudden, the royal vehicle stopped. The darkness and deserted highway caused quite a concern for the security officials. After a few minutes however, the team continued. It was only later that those in his team learnt that His Majesty had to stop his vehicle because the few leeches that were still attached to his body were having such a grand time. He had to stop and ask Her Royal Highness to remove the hungry vermin.

Later on, His Majesty referred to the leech incident as, "The war with the wiggling worms at Choengkiri."



"Our Loss Is Our Gain"

The quotation is a paradox and makes one wonder. Who said it? What did he mean? Economists and business executives may dismiss it as a statement of impossibility, or from a saint or idealist. However, many may recall that it was His Majesty the King who authored this quotation. It might be interesting to trace the source of this royal statement.

'The Domino Theory' was already an accepted forecast of the so-called 'free' Southeast Asian countries' fate. This included Thailand. Each of these countries was doomed to fall one by one, like a chain reaction, under communist rule. If we look at what happened in Indochina, we can see that this theory was in fact proved valid, with the exception of Thailand where the domino did not fall.

In a speech given in Narathiwat during one of his rural development trips, His Majesty provided an explanation to this. He said the reason why Thailand was spared from the domino effect was because we are still a society which cares and shares.

This royal explanation can be interpreted differently, however, depending on a person's background. The best interpretation, though, can be reached if one analyses the royal speech which was delivered to an audience who had gathered in the Dusidalai Hall on His Majesty's 1992 birthday anniversary. The King said the following :

"...In the past three years, many countries which had been made into ideal states, according to certain doctrines, met with sad fates. This makes us wonder whether our country will face a similar collapse. So far, there have been no indications of such a tragic and similar phenomenon. Ten years ago, a group of foreign visitors came to see me. They asked for my advice on how to rule a country. I told them to run it like an impoverished State. They should not adhere too strictly



to any sort of textbook. The key factors to success are compassion and unity for each another. If one strictly follows what is written in textbooks, then one can expect to land right into the kind of problems that these books do not account for. Back-tracking to the first page is a waste of time. One should only consult textbooks, so that he or she can adapt what has been learnt to a real-life situation by oneself. That is the best strategy. I gave them a point to ponder. I said that one should keep in mind that "our loss is our gain." Economists may disagree with me, but I can explain myself. We have to give up, or lose something, so that we can reap the benefits, or our gain, later. This is how a Government should operate. It has to use its budget to invest in projects which will improve the quality of people's lives. A Government has to be willing to spend and may be 'lose' hundreds or thousands of millions of Baht from its own coffers because the



people will be able to reap the benefits of the Government's spending in no time at all. When their livelihood is improved and their poverty is eliminated, then the Government can expect to collect a lot of money in taxes which will then allow it to invest in even more projects. If we are all united in our belief of giving and unity, then our country will be successful in its development efforts. Besides, people's well-being can never be defined in monetary terms. ..."

That was, and still is, His Majesty's unwavering attitude and philosophy towards his country and people. Throughout his reign, he has demonstrated that this was not just a statement of abstract ideology. He has lived this philosophy and shown us all that 'giving', 'losing', and 'sacrificing' are important if we wish to reap the benefits of Thai people's well-being. For the past 50 years, His Majesty has been working hard to fulfill this philosophy. Whatever the social, economic, and political situations of the country might be, His Majesty never stops. He works tirelessly, giving everything of himself. It is his people who are gaining from all of his efforts. He deserves the title of 'The Working Monarch'. What he gives to his people goes beyond the labour and royal budget for his development projects, for he also provides his 'intellectual leadership' which explains how and why Thailand was not affected by the 'Domino Theory'.





When the Lord of the Land Had to Buy Land

*I*n Thai, the King is referred to as, 'The Lord of the Land.' He is the divine ruler over the entire Kingdom, often referred to as, 'The Royal Kingdom.' This has been the belief. This has been the tradition. Even nowadays, a title deed still carries the phrase, 'In the Name of His Majesty the King.'

There is a joke among those who work with the Royal Development Projects that His Majesty is the only 'Lord of the Land.' He, however, has had to struggle to buy land in his own Kingdom ! This is how the joke started.

In his 1994 birthday speech, His Majesty shared the following story with those who came to offer their birthday wishes to him. Those in attendance not only included government officials from the Palace Hall, but also farmers from different villages on the Palace Grounds.

"... I looked at the map to find the best spot to start this new development project. After long consideration, I decided upon a piece of land near Mongkol Chaipattana Temple which is about 10 kilometres from town. I planed to buy about 15 'rais' of land with



my own money and that was donated to me by friends of the Foundation. I sent a group of men to find out if the owner would be interested in selling. They were invited into a house and were successful in making arrangements for the purchase of that particular piece of land next to the temple. This took place before the Chaipattana Foundation was even officially established. The group came back and told me how they were able to finalise the deal. A member of the owner's family told them how he had had a dream a few nights before that the King would come to the village to help its residents. At first, the family did not know who these men were, but upon looking at a calendar with a picture of the King on it, they recognised the similarity between the people standing behind His Majesty and the people who were in their house right now talking about buying land from them. That was how they came to the conclusion that the King must have sent these men. They then immediately agreed to sell. A development service centre was set up there. The Government, in cooperation with the Land Development and Royal Irrigation Departments plus the corresponding district and provincial authorities, contributed to part of the cost. The rest of the money came from the Chaipattana Foundation. A section of the land was dug up to accommodate a large pond that would be used to supply water for farming activities. This was the beginning of what was later referred to as the 'New Theory.' We were lucky to hit the right spot for our pond. We had water while others were not so lucky. We were able to grow rice, fruit trees, and vegetables. Later, we bought another 30 'rai' of land and started a development centre. The plot of land was divided into three sections ; one part for rice farming, one for cash crops, and the other for the pond. The project farm yielded rice and vegetables which were sold, and fetched an annual income of 20,000 Baht. This meant that the 'New Theory' actually worked, so the project was expanded to other areas. In addition to the farm's pond, a larger water reservoir was also required. The land which had been set aside to construct the reservoir was actually bought for the Foundation by a



company. This was the beginning of a new type of development project the 'New Theory.' I believe that it will grow smoothly. ..."

I (the author) was a member of the 'Sia' group, or Chinese businessmen in disguise, who was given a Royal Command to buy that particular piece of land. I still have a clear recollection of what happened that day. The villagers were very surprised at how land developers could possibly be interested in buying such dry land in such a remote village, and started talking among themselves. The land was too dry and too far for anybody to even think of possibly turning it into a profitable housing estate or condominium. They wondered if we were not instead crooks who had come to fool them. Actually, none of us had the rich look of a 'Sia', or millionaire. Some of us were too tall while others were too dark to be Chinese. Some also wore very thick eyeglasses. Besides, we did not even talk like businessmen. They could not help but feel suspicious.

After quite a long chat with us, the land owner, who was already in his fifties, asked us to go into his house and talk further. The house was built on tall stilts, and was not very far from the temple. When we arrived, we were greeted by barking and unfriendly dogs. The owner's first question very was direct, "Who wants to buy the land ?" He had to make sure that we had no ulterior motives. We, in turn, gave evasive answers, trying to convince him that we did indeed have no ulterior motives and were sincere in our wishes to purchase that particular plot of land. At the owner's insistence, we had to tell him that it was somebody very important who wished to buy the land. He also wanted to know what the buyer intended to do with the land. Our evasive answers simply confused and upset him even more. The villagers, who had decided to tag along just to find out exactly what would happen at the end of this negotiation, were impatient and told us out right that we were wasting our time because the owner had no urgent need of money that would necessitate the sale of this particular plot of land. Besides, his family was quite well to do.



Finally, we had to tell him that the land would be used for the benefit of every family in that village, and would not be sold to others for profit. The owner still did not believe our story, and tried to guess whether or not it was the Prime Minister's wish to buy his land. In an effort to conclude the deal, we said, "Yes." The owner was still not quite convinced ! He looked each one of us over, and then suddenly caught a glimpse of a picture calendar on one of the walls of his house. It was a picture of His Majesty the King working on one of his field projects with all of us standing behind him.

"It is you. It is you, too. Isn't it? Is it His Majesty who wishes to buy the land?"

They were all overjoyed when we had to admit that we had been sent on a Royal Mission. In no time at all and at the encouragement of everybody there, the owner agreed to sell the 15 'rai' of land to us. It was later used to experiment on the 'New Theory', as had been initiated by His Majesty the King.



Water Is Life

"...Most crucially, of all, there has to be water ; water for drinking, farming, and household use. Life depends on water. If there is water, people can survive. With no water, nobody can survive. People can survive with no electricity, but even with electricity, people cannot survive if there is no water. ..."

That was, and still is, His Majesty the King's belief and is why his development projects have always been centred around water resources development. In fact, more than half of the projects, which have resulted from His Majesty's Royal Initiatives, are based on water resources development.

His Majesty can truly be said to be a specialist on water. Even experts at the Royal Irrigation Department agree because he is the most prominent scholar among them and is equipped with skill, knowledge, and experience in the field of water. They all respect

him not only because he is their King, but also because of his professional accomplishments as a hydro-engineer. Time and time again, he proves to them that his decisions are correct, though they may not quite agree with what they studied and learnt about at their engineering schools.

His Majesty fulfills every expectation of his subjects. Wherever he goes, he transforms the land into rich and fertile areas, thus making life happier for his people. Those who were doing badly on their farms can now enjoy better crops and those who were only able to get by can now enjoy some prosperity.

With His Majesty, miracles can happen. One did when he was in Mae Thi village in Lamphun, which is a small Northern Province. An old woman approached His Majesty on bended knees. She tearfully bowed her head at his feet and begged for help with the drought problem. Hardly had she finished, however, when it began to rain. This was the first time it had rained in many years.

The most important and most memorable in all of His Majesty's activities, however, has got to be the gentle drops of rain which fall from his heart to wash away his subjects' troubles and fill their hearts with hope.





A large proportion of His Majesty's projects are aimed at helping poor farmers who make up the majority of the population. Priority is given to villages in the driest regions of the country. As a first step to solve their immediate problems, a small water reservoir is built to store and collect water for use in the dry season. This usually does not require a large sum of budget and does not take long to construct either. The reservoir makes it possible for the people to at least produce enough food for their own needs.

The construction of a dam or water reservoir is sited in an area that not only meets the technical and academic requirements, but also takes into account the human and environmental factors for His Majesty well realises the sometimes adverse effects on them. He always encourages an open discussion among those who stand to gain or lose in a project, so that the best possible solution can be found. If, however, a solution cannot be found, because no party is willing to give up either their land or rights, then the project is usually delayed until the conflicting parties can come to a fair settlement among themselves.

The picture of His Majesty seen seated on the ground surrounded by villagers, who were unable to settle their differences, is a familiar one. His Majesty always makes sure that every party gets an opportunity to have its say. This is a 'public hearing' at grassroots level as was practised some fifty years ago. These meetings started to take place long before the term 'prachaa phijarn' or 'public hearing', had even been coined into the Thai language as its translation. It was not until many years later, however, that this term began to become accepted as a household word.

Conflicts usually occur because of everybody's claim on 'my land' though in actual fact, in many cases and on many occasions, 'my land' is part of the public's which is supposed to benefit everybody equally. If a sacrifice has to be made, then His Majesty lets all the occupants of the so called 'my land' discuss and negotiate among themselves, so that they can reach an agreement that is mutually satisfactory to all parties concerned.





From Water Resources Development to the 'New Theory'

*H*is Majesty is a practical development worker. He prefers to look for 'simple' measures to tackle 'complex' problems. Some of the strategies that His Majesty has initiated seem so simple that most people tend to overlook them. According to His Majesty's work philosophy, the first and foremost requirement of any strategy for solving a particular problem has to be that it can be implemented by the villagers themselves. This in turn requires that the proposed strategy is uncostly, implementable, and uncomplicated.

Water shortage is an increasingly important problem in Thailand. The worst water-related problem of all is the alternating droughts and floods which repeatedly strike villages in all regions of the country. A large budget and a great deal of effort have been spent on solving this problem, but with very little success. Yet the damage, in terms of hardship and financial loss that people have to suffer, is incalculable.





Not very long ago, His Majesty informed the Nation that he had discovered a 'New Theory' which could help solve the repeated drought problems. The theory had been successfully tried out in a project which was located on an experimental farm near Mongkol Chaipattana Temple. His Majesty's 'New Theory' was being financed by the Chaipattana Foundation under his Royal Patronage and Supervision.

The 'New Theory' is actually extremely simple.

It is based on an observation of a simple, yet natural phenomenon. The amount of rainfall may be more than adequate, but the water soon disappears because there is nothing to store or absorb it. The trees and forests have been destroyed to such a vast extent that most of the water is quickly drained into the rivers, and then to the sea. This not only is a loss of valuable water resources, but also a rapid drainage which can cause farmland to flood.

The formula of the 'New Theory' is 30-30-30-10.

The essence of the theory is efficient management of land use. The recommended method is for farmers to divide their land, usually about 10-15 'rai', into four different sections. Each would have a different purpose.



The first 30 % would be a pond to store seasonal rain water, like a huge natural jar.

The second 30 % would be for rice growing to meet the family's consumption needs.

The third 30 % would be to grow other crops for consumption and as a source of income.

The last 10 % would be for home building.

The objectives of the 'New Theory' on the use of farm land are as follows :

(1) It can even be implemented by small-scale farm owners who possess 10-15 'rai' of land.

(2) It can solve the immediate problems of the farmers, and allow them to work together in unity and a neighbourly spirit.

(3) It can help to make farmers self-sufficient. The rice grown on their farms should adequately feed their families throughout the year.

(4) The designed pond should be able to store about 1,000 square metres of water per 'rai'. A pond that covers ten 'rai' should provide enough water for the entire year. Besides, fish can also be raised in there as extra sources of food and income.

The 'New Theory' has been tried and tested.. It is this caring Monarch's gift to his people.

*The Chaipattana Foundation :
A Royal Avenue
to Victory in Development*

The Chaipattana Foundation was established by His Majesty the King to manage all of the development activities he had and would initiate, as well as supervise. The name 'Chaipattana' literally means 'Victory in Development.'

In his 1994 birthday anniversary speech, His Majesty spoke of the Foundation,

"...The mission that I have assigned to the Chaipattana Foundation is to develop our country towards a definite goal of making it a winner through victory in development. ..."

The delivering of his people from the yoke of ignorance and poverty has been His Majesty the King's self-assigned mission throughout the fifty years that he has been on the Throne. His Majesty has been constantly on the road, studying the situation in impoverished areas, knocking on his people's doors to get their problems, and devising ways in which he could help solve these problems. Wherever he goes, His Majesty brings hope to his people. He has helped improve the livelihood and quality of life for his people in countless villages.





For the past fifty years, His Majesty has initiated and succeeded in more than 2,000 development projects. These projects supplement the efforts of the Government. There are no overlaps, however, because they focus on regions which the Government have been unable to include in their plans, and where the problems are urgent and need immediate attention and solutions. Mutual cooperation between the Foundation and various government offices is by the usual '*modus operandi*'.

His Majesty realises that bureaucratic red-tape can be obstructive to development work in this day and age because it cannot keep up with Thailand's rapid social and economic changes. Certain budgetary laws and regulations may not allow some projects to proceed even though it is clearly obvious that they will benefit the people. The budgetary process itself is usually extremely time-consuming, however certain problems cannot wait. So in 1987, His Majesty founded the Chaipattana Foundation with a mission of carrying out projects to improve the quality of life for all of his subjects, and give 'victory in development' to the people. The initial funds for the Foundation came from His Majesty's own pocket. The Foundation is actually registered as a juristic person.



In order to assure that the Foundation would succeed in its mission, His Majesty himself serves as Honourary President and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is Vice-President and Chairperson of the Executive Committee. Nobody would disagree that both the President and Vice-President of the Chaipattana Foundation are two of the most experienced and knowledgeable development workers in this country.

Although the Foundation has only been operating for ten years, its achievements are quite impressive. His Majesty's ultimate goal is to allow his subjects to achieve an adequate and self-sufficient livelihood, and maintain their traditional ways of life based on family, religious, and educational values. He often uses a temple or its grounds as a meeting place where people can gather to discuss or exchange ideas and information. The project at the Mongkol Chaipattana Temple in Saraburi is one good example. His Majesty's 'New Theory' was successfully initiated and implemented there before it was taught to farmers in other areas of the country.

The Foundation also carries out projects for the conservation of natural resources, and improvement of health conditions in urban communities. A budget was allocated to the Foundation to finance waste water treatment projects in Bangkok and other cities. The 'Chaipattana Aerator' was designed and built based on research which was conducted by His Majesty himself. On July 2, 1993, a patent (Number 3127) was granted to His Majesty by the Intellectual Properties Department for his 'Chaipattana Aerator, Model RX-2.' This made His Majesty the first ever member of a Royal Family to be granted a patent for an invention. The aerator itself is the ninth of its kind to be patented in the world. Despite His Majesty's patent rights, public agencies are graciously allowed to use his brain-child free of charge to improve water reservoirs and conserve the environment.



*His Majesty the King,
the Honourary President of the Chaipattana Foundation,
is the true leader of all Thai people
on the royal avenue to victory in development.*



His Majesty the King Through Foreign Eyes

*"Thailand ist König Bhumibol und Bhumibol ist Thailand."
("Thailand is King Bhumibol and Bhumibol is Thailand.")*

This was the opening to a story which appeared in a clipping sent from a friend in Germany. Although no name or date was provided, the story concerned the 50th. Anniversary Celebrations (Golden Jubilee) of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The few words above express what has become an almost universal feeling about His Majesty the King of Thailand, both at home and abroad. Many foreigners resident in Thailand feel as deeply proud and loyal to His Majesty the King as do all Thai people, for his accomplishments during the longest reign ever, in the Kingdom, have never been equalled.

This and several other clippings were sent from an interesting source - someone who has never been to Thailand. She was simply carrying on a long family tradition of great fascination in Siam/Thailand; a tradition begun in 1890 by her grandfather, Theodor Collmann, who served as Assistant Director-General of the Royal Siamese Post Office for 19 years (1890-1909). Although he returned to Germany because of poor health, his ties with Siam remained strong, with an open house policy for Thai students who came to Germany to study and might be a little bit homesick. In 1914, Theodor Collmann received a letter, handwritten in German, from H.R.H. Prince Mahidol, Father of His Majesty. The letter, congratulating Collmann on the birth of a son, is still kept by the family. The son kept on the tradition of welcoming Thai students, and today, a granddaughter continues the family interest in Thailand.





Descendants of western people, who had long - past connections with Siam, have often continued their interest in the country throughout several generations. Many have opened their homes to Thais, news items about the country are duly noted, and clippings often arrive in letters. Without exception, there is lively interest in the Royal Family, and especially, in the work done by Their Majesties. Some do question whether a King and Queen actually do work so hard, when they could be living a life of ease, but they soon understand that Thailand has a different kind of Royal Family ; one that prefers direct contact with the people, so that they can see for themselves what is needed most.

While books written by Anna Leonowens about King Mongkut and the Fourth Reign are still believed to be factual by many of today's readers, it is the great grandson of King Mongkut, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who is of greater interest now. Thailand is unique. With so many countries in the world changing boundaries, names, and governments, Thailand happily maintains her monarchy. While governments may change, the monarchy provides the stability upon which the people rely.

To those who question whether His Majesty actually does work so hard for his people, or whether what they have read is simply the work of an efficient public relations department, there is really only one answer - what you have read or heard about the work of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is not only true, it doesn't even begin to cover everything that His Majesty does to make life better for his people ! His Majesty is one in the same : a remarkable King as well as a remarkable man, but that hardly begins to honour his accomplishments.

What do foreigners think of His Majesty the King? Those, who learn anything at all about Thailand, admire him. They sometimes find all he does hard to believe because how many Kings go out into the countryside to visit and talk to their people, and in turn listen to what they have to say before spending a lifetime trying to make things better?



His Majesty wasn't always as well-known. Growing up in Switzerland, he had a quiet childhood. Her Royal Highness the Princess Mother wanted her children to live as normal a life as possible, but this wasn't always easy, especially after Prince Ananda succeeded to the throne and became His Majesty King Ananda Mahidol (Rama VIII) when he was not yet ten years old.

The Royal Family visited Siam in 1938 and again, following World War II. The tragic death of King Ananda in June, 1946, and the subsequent accession to the throne by his younger brother, Prince Bhumibol Adulyadej, brought worldwide attention to Siam and the young King. From that time on, through good times and bad in the Kingdom, newspapers, magazines, and later, television projected His Majesty the King into the public eye. Now, after more than fifty years as King of Thailand, His Majesty has become well-known all over the world for his wisdom, compassion, innate humanity, and reverence for life, not only toward his own people, but all mankind. The monarchy can truly be said to be the golden cord that binds and unifies the nation.

When His Majesty returned to Siam early in 1950, to perform the final funeral and cremation rites for his elder brother, marry the beautiful Mom Rajawongse Sirikit Kittiyakara, and be formally crowned as King of Siam, it was a time of great jubilation for all Thai people. With all the pomp and splendour of these rare ceremonies, the eyes of the world were again focused on Siam, and many wondered how the young Monarch would succeed in such a difficult role. As the world has since learned, he succeeded very well and continues to do so!

The permanent return of Their Majesties the King and Queen to Thailand on December 2, 1951, signalled the genesis of an unprecedented reign; one totally devoted to the welfare, advancement, and benefit of all Thai people and their nation. After the long absence of a King in residence, it also brought about changes. Little by little, while adhering to the customs and long-established traditions of the monarchy, His Majesty developed his own ideas





and brought his own style to the role of Thai King while the world watched on. In much the same way as his august grandfather, King Chulalongkorn, made changes gradually, so did His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. There was one great difference, however, King Chulalongkorn ruled under an absolute monarchy while King Bhumibol Adulyadej reigns under a constitutional one.

It soon became evident that this was not to be a 'rubber stamp' reign. King Rama IX wanted to know his people, and about their welfare and progress. He was not satisfied with second-hand information, he wanted to see it for himself. With these thoughts and strong determinations, Their Majesties the King and Queen embarked on a twenty-day tour of the Northeast early in his reign. Not only was His Majesty the first King to visit this region, but never before had a Queen travelled to this poor and remote area. Everywhere the Royal Couple went, they found crowds of people waiting to greet them, or simply because they wanted to see their King and Queen! Many had walked for days through jungle, over mountains, and rugged terrain to reach a road, village, or wherever they might get even a glimpse, because most probably believed that this was a once-in-a-lifetime event.



Despite a full schedule, there were many unscheduled stops, for wherever Their Majesties saw people waiting to see them, they stopped to greet their subjects. Many brought gifts, hoping to present them to their King and Queen. They were the gifts of poor people, but the very best that they had to offer, such as, hand-woven cloth, vegetables, fruits, and flowers, which were often wilted beyond hope from a long wait in the scorching sun. Nothing was refused or rejected, and His Majesty was said to have remarked that, whatever happened, they would certainly not starve!

That was only the beginning. Over the years, the royal visits continued and expanded until Their Majesties had visited every province in Thailand, and were spending approximately eight months of every year visiting their rural subjects. They saw that, all too often, life was not improving in these areas. In many instances, the people were becoming poorer. Clearly, something had to be done, so Their Majesties set about their life's work of actively helping their people. Their 'hands-on' approach wasn't always popular with some government departments, and funds were short. To accomplish much of what they did in the beginning, Their Majesties used their own personal funds.

Kings always receive a certain amount of publicity, but His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej was to be a different kind of King from any that had been known before, and his reign and style of doing things brought attention from the foreign press as never seen before. On his return to Switzerland in 1946 to continue his formal education, His Majesty changed his studies from science to law and political science in order to prepare himself for his life as King, and allow him to implement his own ideas. Although the King is above politics, certain appointments, and all new laws and matters of State are presented to him for his approval and signature. This, he does not do lightly, as such matters must be studied carefully before the royal signature can be appended.

His Majesty is free to advise and suggest. People do well to listen carefully to what he has to say, for his words are not spoken





lightly or without prior consideration.

After the early publicity concerning the royal romance, his marriage, and the ancient rites surrounding his Coronation, the foreign press began to pay closer attention to the work of the King and what His Majesty was trying to accomplish for the Kingdom, as opposed to the glamour and glitter of life in the palace of an eastern monarch. No one could have anticipated the extent of the King's future projects at that time, perhaps not even His Majesty himself, for they just kept on expanding as time went on. It then became a different kind of news coverage, for here was a different kind of King, not one who simply delegated work or put ideas to the test, but one who did much of the planning and work for himself. Although many of His Majesty's ideas may have been slower coming into fruition than he had wished, His Majesty is a patient man who does not give up easily. People who followed the royal parties, as they went down country tracks (many could not be called roads!) or trampled through the tangled undergrowth of untamed jungles, observed that there was no turning back and never has been.

Today, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is known and admired, both at home and abroad, for his expertise in water technology, engineering, map making, graphics, and the many aspects of sustainable agriculture. His talents and abilities do not stop there. He is also an artist, composer, photographer, and an award winning sailor who has built his own sailboats. Such skills, versatility, and diversified interests are rarely found in one person.

In addition to His Majesty's wide ranging projects for his people, he is also well informed in foreign relations and world events. He is a diplomat of the first order, as has been seen time and time again. If there is a single thing which baffles people in foreign countries more than anything else about His Majesty, it is, "How can one man do so many things and do all of them so well?"



Between December, 1954, and October, 1987, forty State Visits and Official Visits by Chiefs of State, or their representatives, were made to Thailand from foreign countries. Between December 1959 and June 1967, Their Majesties the King and Queen made thirty-one State and Official Visits to foreign countries.

The first State Visit abroad by Their Majesties was to the Republic of Vietnam, from December 18 to 21, 1959. They flew by Royal Thai Air Force plane, landing at Ton Son Nhut International Airport in Saigon where they were welcomed by President Ngo Dinh Diem. Following the welcome address by the President and His Majesty's reply, His Majesty was presented with the key to the city of Saigon by the Prefect (Mayor) of that city. In the days following, the Royal Couple travelled to other cities of that country, and on the afternoon of December 19, the University of Saigon conferred upon His Majesty an Honourary Doctorate Degree in Law.

From February 8 to 16, 1960, Their Majesties the King and Queen paid a State Visit to the Republic of Indonesia. They were welcomed at Kemajoran Airport by President Sukarno. A large and enthusiastic crowd of Indonesians in traditional dress were at the airport to welcome the Royal Guests. As usual, with such visits, there was a busy schedule involving wreath laying ceremonies, musical and dance performances, the exchange of formal dinners and informal luncheons, and honorary degrees, as well as the presentation and acceptance of decorations.

The trip to Indonesia was the continuation of a long tradition of visits by Thai Royalty. His Majesty King Chulalongkorn visited there more than once, and years later, King Prajadhipok and Queen Rambhai Barni also went there.

At the State Banquet, for Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand, held by President Sukarno on February 9, 1960, the President said :

"... Everybody here is very happy to be seated in this hall together with Your Majesties. ...The people of Djakarta are very happy. They came, numbering in their hundreds of thousands, to





greet you. ...It was because they know Your Majesties are representatives of a nation of friendly people who have been our best friends for centuries. ..."

On February 12, His Majesty was conferred an Honourary Doctorate Degree, Doctor Honoris Causa, by Gadjah Mada University, which was the highest degree that could be awarded. In his address, the University President said :

"...In studying the history of your country, the part the King plays in sacred life is very important. Like in other courts of Asia, the King of Muang Thai (sic) is patron of dance, the arts, music, and literature, so that native culture is able to develop along corresponding lines. ...Noteworthy is the fact that though Your Majesty knows the Western world and its civilisation well, ...Your Majesty greatly respects the traditions of your own country."

"Apart from that, the interest you have shown in the progress of your university students by handing personally, each one of them their certificates aroused our great respect, since it demonstrated the importance Your Majesty holds in the education of Muang Thai. ..."

The next State Visit to be made by Their Majesties the King and Queen was to Burma, from March 2 to 5, 1960. Travelling again on a Royal Thai Air Force plane, they were met in mid-air by an escort guard of the Burmese Air Force, and taken to Mingaladon Airport. Upon landing, they were welcomed by President and Madame Win Maung. One of the highlights of the visit was seeing the Shwedagon Pagoda in Rangoon on March 3rd.

In his address at the State Banquet, which was held in honour of Their Majesties by President U Win Maung, the president said :

"...We regard Their Majesties' visit as a very special gesture of friendship, and we would like Their Majesties to know that this is warmly appreciated and reciprocated."

"As we all know, Thailand was the only country in the South-east Asian Region that was able to remain independent in the face of advent colonialism in our part of the world towards the end of the 19th. century. ..."





Following this, in June of 1960, Their Majesties the King and Queen embarked on a series of State Visits to the United States and 13 European countries. The Royal visits to these nations lasted an exhausting seven months and four days.

On the first leg of their tour, Their Majesties the King and Queen arrived at Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu, Hawaii, on June 14. They were welcomed by William Quinn, then Governor of Hawaii, and other dignitaries. After four days in Hawaii, Their Majesties the King and Queen flew to the U.S. mainland, arriving in California on Saturday night, June 18. On the following Tuesday, they toured Paramount and Desilu Movie Studios where, it was reported, they 'chatted and joked with the stars.' A luncheon in honour of the King and Queen was held by the Motion Picture Producers Association. His Majesty spoke to the invited guests and met with press representatives. His Majesty was later reported to have 'a quick sense of humour, and a surprising knowledge of and tolerance for American show business.'

Their Majesties the King and Queen arrived in Washington D.C., on Tuesday, June 28, at noon (Eastern Daylight Time.) They were met at the Washington National Airport by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, officials, and other dignitaries. Literally hundreds of newsreel and television cameramen were on hand at the airport to record the arrival of the King and Queen of Thailand. The motorcade from the airport to Blair House, the President's Guest House, proceeded through streets decorated with Thai and American flags amidst cheers and applause from an excited crowd estimated at between 75,000 and 80,000 people, all of whom eager to welcome Their Majesties.



In the afternoon, following lunch, the Royal Couple visited Arlington National Cemetery where His Majesty placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. After a visit to the Lincoln Memorial and the placing of a wreath by His Majesty, Their Majesties attended a reception which was held in their honour by



the Joint Committee of Press, Radio, and Television Correspondents and News Photographers based in Washington. The introduction by Walter T. Ridder on this occasion clearly showed that Their Majesties the King and Queen had at a very early stage, won the hearts of at times, hard-hearted newsmen.

"It is an honour and pleasure to preside over so happy an occasion. In searching for an idea around which to couch these informal remarks, I asked a lady, who was well acquainted with both Their Majesties and their country, what I should say. Without hesitation, she replied, "Tell them that the King is one of the last of the Renaissance Men. ..."

"... In an era of specialists, the King emerges as a well-rounded Monarch; a man whose interests range from science and technology to philosophy and education, and from the standard of living of the lowest worker in the remotest part of Thailand to the sophisticated music of '*Le Jazz Hot.*' In short, His Majesty is a person of catholic (broad) tastes who has a wide-ranging curiosity for activities and great knowledge of a large number of the facets of human endeavour. ..."

On the evening of Tuesday, June 28, President and Mrs. Eisenhower held a State Dinner at the White House in honour of Their Majesties. His Majesty was awarded the Legion of Merit and Degree of Commander in Chief by President Eisenhower. The citation, which accompanied the presentation, read :

"His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, defender of the faith and Commander in Chief of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, has, since his Coronation on 5 May 1950, served as a symbol of unity and steadfastness in the Free World. ..."

In a speech given by the President at the State Dinner in the White House, he touched on friendships between the two countries, and also on a feeling of personal friendship between the Heads of State : "...We welcome them (Their Majesties), not only as Heads of a friendly and great state of Southeast Asia, but also as true friends."

The President went on, in a lighter vein, to say that there is often speculation as to what Heads of State could possibly speak about when they meet :

"...As far as we are concerned, we can talk about the differing cultures, but I can't tell him much about ours because he was born here. However, I can learn something about his which is useful. ...There are subjects, auxiliary to our main purpose, and they are to find out what each other is like."

"Well, he likes noodle soup. He said so publicly today, therefore I think I have the right to ask him for the recipe. ...I have four grandchildren who demand that the old man occasionally get out and take charge of a cook-out, and when I can surprise them with a new dish, it's a great triumph. If I can do that with noodle soup, Sir, then I am going to be very grateful to you."

"...What I am trying to say is that it is indeed a great honour, pleasure, and privilege for us to meet someone who bears the responsibilities that fall upon the King of a particular nation, yet still comes across with the same human feelings and family concerns toward his children, and what he and his wife are doing, as each of us does. ..."

In his reply to the President's address, His Majesty the King again put aside his prepared formal speech because : "...perhaps it would not reflect the true sentiment in our hearts, only what we imagined it would be."

"..., so I don't have very much to say because the President has stolen my words ; something or other about noodle soup. It's similar to my request to Mr. President to make ice cream for me. Well, I asked him for the recipe for ice cream, and perhaps I will find out the recipe for noodle soup so that I can give it to Mr. President for his grandchildren."

"...and ice cream is the delight of my children. They have, since their arrival in the United States, constantly asked for it so yesterday, as a farewell present, we took them to an ice cream parlour near Los Angeles which they enjoyed very much. ..."



(This is the recipe for noodle soup which was given to President Eisenhower by His Majesty the King of Thailand : Sauté several cloves of garlic in a frying pan containing hot fat. Fry them until they sizzle , and add about a tablespoon of diced pork and enough chicken stock to make the desired amount of soup. Let it simmer for a few minutes and then add cooked noodles as many as you like. Finally, garnish the soup with chopped chives or spring onions, and a dash of parsley.)

At 12:30 p.m. on June 29, 1960, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej addressed a joint session of the United States Congress. This was an especial honour, accorded only to highly respected Heads of State who visit the United States, and was yet another indication of the high regard held for His Majesty.

In his address, His Majesty noted that Thai and American people share one very important thing ; their love of freedom. He also expressed a very personal desire, as well as a natural wish, to visit his birthplace in Massachusetts.

Before leaving Washington, Their Majesties the King and Queen were honoured at more luncheons and dinners than can be listed. It seemed that everyone wanted to give them a special welcome for wherever they went, crowds of people waited impatiently to see, greet, and express their pleasure at having Their Majesties in the capital city. Before leaving, there were visits to the Library of Congress, National Archives, and National Gallery of Art. One final visit was to Mt. Vernon, home of George Washington, where His Majesty placed a wreath at the tomb of Washington.

On July 2, Their Majesties the King and Queen left Washington for Williamsburg, Virginia, and Jamestown where they toured the old capital and early settlements. At noon on July 4, the King and Queen flew into New York City where they were given a traditional 'ticker tape parade' down Broadway. Once again, thousands of people lined the streets to give the Royal Couple a special welcome to the 'Big Apple.' They were taken everywhere and shown everything, from viewing New York from the top of the



Empire State Building, visiting the Stock Exchange and United Nations Building, and attending a performance of 'My Fair Lady' to His Majesty's ride on a New York subway ! In between were luncheons, dinners, and receptions along with addresses in which His Majesty amply demonstrated his knowledge of a broad range of topics, as well as his sense of humour.

On the afternoon of July 5, His Majesty the King made a private and personal visit to the apartment of Benny Goodman. There, he had time to relax and enjoy doing one of the things he does best ; playing jazz ! For two hours, His Majesty matched chorus for chorus with Goodman, Gene Krupa, Teddy Wilson, Urbie Green, Jonah Jones, and Red Norvo who, for decades, have been some of the best and most well-known names in the American jazz scene. Most of them were already known to His Majesty from their previous visits to Bangkok. To be called a 'cool cat' and for it to be said that he could join their bands if ever he 'needed a job' were meant as great compliments which, without a doubt, His Majesty accepted as such !

Perhaps the ultimate personal highlight of the United States tour was, for His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the visit to his birthplace in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Although many years have passed since his first 'homecoming', the locals still remember it well and in recent years, the town square has been re-named after the



King who was born there. On July 6, 1960, many Massachusetts newspapers printed this exciting news :

"The only King ever to have been born in the United States returns to his birthplace tomorrow, and will meet the physician who delivered him."

Their Majesties the King and Queen arrived in Boston on July 7. They were welcomed with lunch at the Harvard Faculty Club. Following that, they proceeded to Mount Auburn Hospital where His Majesty was born. There, he met the man whom he called his 'first friend', Dr. W. Stewart Whittemore, the doctor who delivered him. Dr. Whittemore presented His Majesty with a gold-tooled leather-bound book which contained a certified copy of his birth certificate, and an aerial view of the hospital grounds.

"This is a dream fulfilled", said His Majesty who had a life-long wish to visit his birthplace, "to come here to this hospital to see my old friends. I am so happy to know them because I didn't know anything then."

Dr. Whittemore had earlier mentioned that His Majesty, "was a very good baby." His Majesty, in recalling that he had been remembered as a 'nice baby', said, "I hope I have grown into something nice."

To Dr. Whittemore, His Majesty presented a gold diamond-encrusted cigarette case with the inscription, "To my first friend, Dr.





Whittemore, with affectionate regards." To each of the four nurses who had cared for him, he gave gold compacts which had been engraved with the Royal Cypher.

Following visits to other places of interest throughout the country, Their Majesties flew from Los Angeles, over the North Pole, to Geneva, Switzerland. There, they enjoyed a few days of welcome relaxation before leaving for a State Visit to England from July 19 - 21. Near the French coast, six R.A.F. Javelin fighters met the Royal aircraft and escorted it down to Gatwick Airport.

They were met there by Princess Alexandra of Kent who was acting on behalf of His Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. On arrival at Victoria Station, after having proceeded by special train, they were greeted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

Dinners were given and returned, and places of interest were visited. Among them were Guild Hall, Cambridge University, and Westminster Abbey.

The year, 1960, was a busy and arduous one for Their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit with one State Visit following closely on the heels of another. There was a month-long visit to the Federal Republic of Germany beginning on July 2. There,



both the King and Queen were presented with the Decoration of the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit by President Luebke. Their Majesties attended a performance of Wagner's opera, *Lohengrin*, at the Bayreuth Festival Theatre and they also visited the Thai Pavilion at Bad Homburg which had been presented to the city by His Majesty's grandfather, King Chulalongkorn.

Portugal was the next country to be visited, followed by Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Everywhere the Thai Royal Couple went, they were welcomed with great joy and open hearts by the people. Italy was visited from September 28 - October 1. In his address at the State Dinner which had been organised in honour of Their Majesties, President Giovanni Gronchi mentioned the long - standing friendship between Thailand and Italy, and referred to the visit of King Chulalongkorn, His Majesty's grandfather, which although was many years ago, was still remembered by the Italian people.

On October 1, Their Majesties were welcomed to the Vatican State where they met with His Holiness Pope John XXIII. Although a devout Buddhist, His Majesty is an upholder of all faiths, and reigns in a Kingdom with complete religious freedom. His Majesty's visits, during his foreign tours, to the noted centres of worship of various religions were remarked upon by many who were highly impressed by his genuine interest.





The visit to Belgium was followed by a similar one to France where one of the highlights was an evening at the ballet with General and Madame de Gaulle. One report of the evening said, "...The entire house rose when they entered, and acclaimed the inimitable smiles and undeniable grace of the Royal Envoys from Bangkok."

Special attention was paid to His Majesty the King, and in particular his love of jazz, by a performance of a composition by George Gershwin who often composed in a jazz vein.

Following their trip to Luxemburg, Their Majesties went on to the Netherlands. In her welcoming address at the State Dinner for Their Majesties the King and Queen, Her Majesty Queen Juliana spoke of the long and friendly relationships between the two countries. She also recalled, "The reason which brought many Dutchmen to your country during the Second World War was a tragic one, yet the kindheartedness that Thai people showed them lightens the horrific memories."

The 1960 Royal Tour of Europe ended with the visit of Their Majesties to Spain, from November 3 - 8. They had been to thirteen European countries, and were greeted by crowds of cheering and enthusiastic people wherever they went. While being eager to welcome the visiting Royalty from a legendary Asian Kingdom, they also desired to see the young King whose well - known demeanor



for seriousness contrasted the smiling and celebrated beauty of his Queen.

Right from the beginning of the Royal Tour in the United States, people were pleasantly surprised by His Majesty the King's spontaneous sense of humour. Facing squads of news reporters and cameramen like none he had ever encountered in his own country, His Majesty never lost his calm composure. In fact, he joked and smiled in response to unexpected, and often quite unusual questions. From some of the photographs that had been taken on the tour, it appeared that His Majesty the King had very much enjoyed the repartée. Often, he chose to put aside a prepared speech and rose to the occasion, speaking extemporaneously.

However, despite the long tour's success and enjoyment, it was also a gruelling one at best. Nevertheless, it brought widespread respect and admiration for the young King's intelligence, sincerity, and broad ranging knowledge of many fields and interests. After a short period of relaxation in Switzerland, Their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit, together with the Royal Children, arrived home in Bangkok on January 18, 1961, to a jubilant welcome from their subjects.

Upon touchdown at Don Muang Airport, the royal plane cut its engines while Radio Thailand announced the safe return of the Thai Royal Family. Monks chanted prayers and temple bells were rung throughout the Kingdom. As Their Majesties the King and Queen once again stepped onto Thai soil, a band played the National Anthem and a 21-gun salute was fired. On their way back from the airport to the Grand Palace, it is recorded that the royal motorcade was stopped at least ten times by crowds who swarmed across the roads to see Their Majesties and present flowers to the Queen. His Majesty was finally home - Long Live the King!

The following day, Their Majesties the King and Queen granted an audience to the people at the National Assembly Building (Ananta Samakom Throne Hall.) Long before they were due to



appear, the grounds were filled to overflowing with happy Thais. In his welcoming speech to Their Majesties, the Prime Minister said :

"The people are well aware that this was not just a sightseeing tour for your personal enjoyment. Rather, it was to bring Thailand into a better understanding, strengthen already friendly relations, and increase the country's prestige with the rest of the world. The Nation realised that Your Majesties were carrying a great burden. As with all State Visits, however, official reception does not always ensure popularity ; we are indeed fortunate to have such a marvelous Monarch."

During the King and Queen's next State Visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from March 11-22, 1962, the President of that country held a banquet in honour of Their Majesties and mentioned how happy their visit had made everyone feel in Pakistan. He went on to tell of the kindness that he had been shown during his visit to Thailand the year before and to say, "I was just as impressed by your Majesties' immense popularity which is partly and importantly due to the lively interest, as well as concern, that is taken by yourselves in the well-being of your subjects."





Malaya welcomed Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand with traditional pomp and ceremony as they began a week-long State Visit from June 20 - 27, 1962. Five hundred guests were at the airport for the Official Welcoming Ceremony, including diplomats, Cabinet Ministers, and Thai nationals. The two-mile road into Istana Tetamu was lined with both nations' flags, and a multitude of people and students. The welcome was described as the most lavish ever to have been put on for State Guests.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong, speaking at the State Banquet in honour of the Royal Visitors, referred to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej as, "our Royal Friend and Brother." He went on to say, "...The hearts, as well as homes, of our nation and its people have been filled with genuine happiness at the prospect of welcoming Your Majesties."

At a buffet party which was held by Yang di-Pertuan Agong, His Majesty the King was kindly asked by the Prime Minister, Tengku Abdul Rahman, if he would like to join in a 'jam session' with the Radio Malaya Orchestra. He graciously accepted and although seemingly unprepared (His Majesty had to borrow an instrument), it turned out that this wasn't the case as he had brought his own reed! There is nothing a true lover of jazz enjoys more than to join in a good foot-stomping 'jam session' when music takes precedence over formality!



Later in 1962, Their Majesties the King and Queen made a State Visit to New Zealand from August 18-26. They then went directly on to Australia until September 12. In New Zealand, the Royal Couple endured many days of rain. Her Majesty the Queen wrote of that trip in her book which is entitled, *'Memoir of Overseas Trips with His Majesty the King.'* : '...The work program, as well as itinerary, in New Zealand was very heavy and hectic. We were obliged to travel by car from one city to the next on a daily basis. ...However, despite the rain and cold weather, locals lined the streets wherever we passed and gave us the warmest of welcomes.'

In the Borough of Tauranga and again in Rotorua City, His Majesty the King came face to face with a Maori warrior who challenge him. Without a sign of hesitation, His Majesty accepted both challenges to indicate that he came in peace and friendship. These were yet another positive indication of His Majesty's expertise in the sometimes sensitive field of foreign relations.

In reply to the Mayor of Dunedin City's address at the Civic Reception, His Majesty mentioned that he had read a newspaper article which focussed on his titles. It had distressed him, so His Majesty decided to quote it :





"What a find ! King Bhumibol (that's I) was better prepared for the weather than any other man who has ever visited this city. After all, his titles include Lord of Life, Descendent of Buddha, Supreme Arbiter of the Ebb and Flow of the Tide, Half - Brother of the Sun, and the possessor of 24 umbrellas !"

His Majesty went on to say that he had seen this before, but didn't understand where it came from. "If I were to have 24 umbrellas, I should at least have brought one here today to protect me from the sunshine ... and heavy rain up-on the north island. ...They say an Oriental King, possessing every luxury and ceremony, should have something which is a little oriental, and at the sametime queer or curious. But I think not only does that apply to other things, but also to ideas. We should not believe everything, we should first think and inquire. Just use your head and common sense to see if the things you hear are true or not. ..."

In his farewell speech to Their Majesties, the Governor - General said, "...You leave behind your happy memories for thousands of our children. ...The charm and warmth of your personalities have indeed won the hearts of all New Zealanders, old and young, Maori and Pakeha alike. ..."

The State Visit to Australia took Their Majesties to many provincial cities. On August 28, a State Banquet was given in their honour at Parliament House in Canberra. Australians gave Their Majesties a unanimous welcome and demonstrated that the kindness shown by Thai people toward Australian prisoners of war during W.W.II had not been forgotten. At a State Reception in Sydney, the State Premier, Mr. Heffron, lauded, "the breadth and integrity of vision which characterises Thailand's Monarch. ...Recent years in Thailand have called for the highest qualities of courage and character ... these qualities are in abundance in the man of King Bhumibol."

His Majesty the King was conferred an Honorary Doctorate Degree of Law *Honoris Causa* by Melbourne University on September 3, 1962. Their Majesties left Australia on Wednesday, September 12.

It is interesting to note that in almost all of the many countries where State or Official Visits had been made by Their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit, His Majesty was referred to by the press as, 'the young King of Thailand', even after he had passed the age of 35 years. There is no doubt that Their Majesties must have made a most favourable impression on everyone they met, as well as those who only saw them. It's rare indeed for two people to capture the hearts of entire nations and, under sometimes arduous circumstances, to maintain their warm smiles.

From May 27 - June 5, 1963, Their Majesties the King and Queen paid a State Visit to Japan. They were met on arrival at Tokyo International Airport by Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan as well as other members of the Japanese Imperial Family. Their days were filled again with sightseeing and official functions. Their Majesties then left Japan and flew directly to the Republic of China for a State Visit between June 5 -8. Speaking at the State Banquet in honour of Their Majesties the King and Queen, President Chiang Kai-Shek said, "Your Majesty's dedication to the welfare of all Thai people, and the graciousness and many contributions of Your Majesty the Queen to humanitarian causes have won not only the love and devotion of your people, but also our profound admiration."





Their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit next went to the Philippines for a State Visit from July 9 through 14, 1963. Their Majesties were met at Manila International Airport by President and Mrs. Macapagal.

An article in the *'Sunday Times Magazine'*, which had been published in Manila on July 7 in anticipation of the Royal Visit, carried a description of His Majesty :

"Seeing Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej for the first time, anybody cannot be but favourably impressed. He has an air of supreme composure, an earnest and scholarly look not unabetted by his omnipresent glasses, ..., and a complete lack of hauteur or artificiality in either face or bearing. ..."

"King Bhumibol is versatile. He is also a scientist, musician, ..., lover of sports, ... , and expert photographer. Some of his tunes have found their way to Broadway ... part of a Mike Todd Musical Production."

"...His Majesty's sincerity in developing his country and looking after the welfare of his people has reaped ... results in the areas of health, education, sports, economics, agriculture, industry, and social welfare, as well as invaluable dividends which include prestige, esteem and popularity. ..."

There was much of interest to be seen in the Philippines. His Majesty laid a wreath at the monument of Dr. Jose Rizal and visited his birthplace. Mrs. Macapagal organised a *Fiesta Filipina* in honour of the Royal Guests on July 10. Both of Their Majesties wore Philippine attire. Another of the more informal highlights of that particular Royal Visit was a private jazz session with Senator Manglapus and his musical group.

His Majesty was sure to have made many friends during his visit to the Philippine Military Academy on July 12, as he granted an 'Absolute Pardon of Cadet Punishments', as follows:

"Pursuant to the authority accorded in me as King of Thailand visiting the Philippine Military Academy, and in observance of the



customs and traditions of the Cadet Corps. Armed Forces of the Philippines, I hereby declare an absolute pardon for all outstanding cadet punishments as of 0930H, 12 July, 1963.

(Signed)

Bhumibol Adulyadej

King of Thailand"

The next State Visit to be made by Their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit was to the Republic of Austria, from September 29-October 5, 1964. In his address at the State Dinner in honour of Their Majesties, President Adolf Schaerf mentioned that, "many Austrians are music lovers. Therefore, we are particularly happy to welcome Your Majesty who is a renowned composer and musician, and whose artistic interests and accomplishments are universally known."

One of the great recognitions and honours that was accorded His Majesty during the Austrian trip in 1964 was a performance by the *Nieder Osterreich Tonkünstler Orchestra* of several of His Majesty the King's musical compositions in the Vienna Concert Hall. The concert was broadcast on Austrian radio, much to the delight of people who could not attend in person. On October 5, His Majesty received another most prestigious honour by being elected as an Honourary Member of *Die Akademie fur Music und Darstellende Kunst in Wien* (Vienna City's Academy of Arts and Music.) He was the first Asian and only the 21st. Honourary Member.

Official Visits were made to the Federal Republic of Germany from August 22 to 28, 1966, and to the Republic of Austria from September 29 to October 2, 1966.

A State Visit to Iran was made from April 23 to 30, 1967. Their Majesties celebrated their 17th. wedding anniversary in Iran on April 28.





Official Visits were again made to the United States by Their Majesties the King and Queen from June 6-20 and 24-29, 1967. On June 6, in His Majesty the King's dedication address of the Thai Pavilion, which was a personal gift from His Majesty, at the East-West Centre in Honolulu, he said :

"Perhaps on this site, one is more fully equipped mentally to bury the statement that 'East is East and West is West; never the twain shall meet' . "

The Royal arrival in Los Angeles was the start of a busy schedule of travel and activities between the east and west coasts of the United States ; tours, dinners, presentations, and fortunately some private time to enjoy relaxing.

A dinner was held in honour of Their Majesties on June 10 by John E. Sawyer, President of Williams College, who said, "...no one can visit Thailand, even briefly, without discovering, even in the remotest corners, the profoundest of respect, abiding faith, and warm affection in which Their Majesties are held. ..."

In his reply, His Majesty demonstrated his sense of humour at its very best :

"Thank you Mr. President ... In New York Mrs. (James) Linen told me something ! She said that this weekend, in Williamstown, I



should relax and be my sweet self. I don't know how to be my sweet self because I don't think I am very sweet. Perhaps I can be my ... grumbling self because people say I grumble too much ! So I'll be natural this weekend and if I'm not so sweet it is the fault of Mrs. Linen. ... I have been told to relax and be myself. I can say anything without the fear, I'm told, to be misquoted, and if I'm misquoted the responsibility won't be on myself, it will be on Mrs. Linen. And now I have seen the action that if it is the responsibility of Mrs. Linen she will take it out on Mr. Linen. ... So now I relax so much I don't know what to say. ..."

The following day (June 11, 1967), His Majesty was awarded an Honourary Doctorate Degree of Law by Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts. The Citation read, in part :

"... Consistently and purposely committed to the progress of your people, Defender of an ancient faith, and a culture of incredible grace and color, Upholder of a traditional national independence and religious toleration ... we pay our respect to the courage and integrity of the trusted and supreme protector Monarch and Sovereign of Thailand. ..."

On June 13-14, Their Majesties the King and Queen were in New York, and on the morning of the 15th., they departed for Los Angeles. Their Majesties returned to New York State for a day or two of relaxation, and then left for Canada on June 20. On that evening, a State Dinner was given in their honour by Canada's Governor-General. On June 22, 1967, the King and Queen of Thailand visited EXPO.' 67 in Montreal.



On the morning of June 24, Their Majesties flew to Maine for a private visit before leaving for an Official Visit to Washington D.C. on the afternoon of June 27. From Andrews Air Force Base, they flew by U.S. Marine Corps. helicopter to the White House where they were met by President Lyndon Johnson and officials. A State Dinner was held in their honour at the White House on the evening of June 27. At the dinner, His Majesty commented on how pleased



they were that Mrs. Johnson could also be present, and congratulated them both on the birth of a new grandchild!

Their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit left Andrews Air Force Base aboard a chartered Pan American Airways aircraft shortly before noon on June 29, for a special flight to London, England.

No one need go abroad to learn the feelings that many foreigners have for His Majesty the King. People of many nationalities have come to Thailand to work, attend school, visit, and a lot actually end up retiring here. Admiration for His Majesty, and his hard work, broad intelligence, and dedication to what he terms his 'job' is voiced by everyone. Should such a thing as a 'fan club' exist for a King, membership in one for His Majesty would far out-number that of any celebrity!

As knowledge of the work and ability of the Thai King spreads around the world in these days of almost instant communication, so do the scope and number of his admirers.

The number of honorary degrees and membership in learned societies is beyond count, only a few have been mentioned. Of the many honours that were presented to His Majesty during his 60th. or 5th. cycle birthday celebration, these should be mentioned :

On May 8, 1987 the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee unanimously agreed at its meeting in Istanbul, Turkey to present to His Majesty the King of Thailand, the insignia of the Olympic Order- the 'Olympic Order Gold' - for his outstanding contribution to the 'promotion, development, and advancement of sports in the Kingdom, region, and continent.' His Majesty provides an excellent role model for Thai youth both in his devotion to duty and his good sportsmanship.

In April, 1966, His Majesty achieved a historic feat by his Trans-Gulf solo crossing in the 'Vega' sailing dinghy. The sea was rough and His Majesty didn't reach Sattahip Naval Base until 18 hours (and 80 nautical miles) later. In the Southeast Asian Peninsula (SEAP) Games in 1967, he won the coveted Gold Medal in the O.K.



yacht class. His Majesty is the ultimate sailor, having built some of his sail boats himself.

On more than one occasion, His Majesty retired from competition after realising that he had fouled. "If I didn't retire when I knew that I'd violated a rule, then the sport would be something else," explained His Majesty. "In a committee room, they would not feel it right to disqualify me."

The second of the two especially significant honours which were afforded His Majesty in 1987 was the Gold Medal Award. This was presented by the Asian Institute of Technology (A.I.T.) on July 21 in a ceremony at the A.I.T. auditorium. The award was presented to His Majesty for his 'Outstanding Leadership in Rural Development' and was the first of the Institute's Gold Medal Awards ever to have been presented.

The years, 1987 and '88, saw unprecedented celebrations in the Kingdom of Thailand, for within a period of less than ten months, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej had celebrated his auspicious 60th. birthday and become the longest ever reigning Monarch. The festivities were not confined to Thailand alone.

In the United States Senate and House of Representatives, a resolution was unanimously passed to congratulate His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand on his 60th. birthday, and express



appreciation for his long and valued friendship with the United States. (Joint House Resolution 412 which was put forward in the Lower House by House of Representative, Conte. The resolution was then brought before the United States Senate.)

One of the speakers on that occasion noted :

"His Majesty has distinguished himself internationally and gained the affection of his countrymen through his hard work on behalf of all Thai people. ...Friendship among the peoples of many nations is the surest guarantee of international harmony. ..."

His Majesty the King has gained a well-earned reputation for his compassion and willingness to share his knowledge. A few years ago when His majesty invented an aerator machine to aid in cleaning up water pollution, he was advised to patent his invention. This was done but even today, he still allows free non-commercial use of his invention so that many people are able to benefit.

Land erosion is a widespread problem in the world, in large part due to the massive destruction of the earth's forests. In June, 1991, His Majesty recommended the use and study of vetiver grass for soil and water conservation. Studies and trial cultivation, of what has been termed the 'miracle grass', extended to all parts of Thailand. Foreign agronomists and agricultural researchers , who were experiencing the same problems, came to observe, learn, and obtain vetiver grass for planting in their own countries.

His Majesty the King graciously presented U.S. \$10,000 as an incentive to 'promote the dissemination of useful and practical information on vetiver grass.' U.S. \$5,000 of that sum was set aside for the person who contributed most to the use and study of vetiver grass by his or her research.

'*The Vetiver Newsletter*' of June, 1994, was devoted entirely to the 'Use and Research of Vetiver Grass in Thailand Through the Initiation of His Majesty the King.' At a private ceremony which was held at Chitralada Palace, His Majesty was presented with a specially commissioned bronze vetiver sculpture in recognition of his work in this field.



The growing worldwide interest in the use of vetiver grass for soil and water conservation, and the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of His Majesty the King's reign initiated an International Conference on 'Vetiver : a Miracle Grass.' The conference, which was held in Chiang Rai Province from February 4-8, 1996, was organised jointly by the Chaipattana and Mae Fah Luang Foundations, and Royal Development Projects Board. In addition, they had the support of the World Bank and Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (F.A.O.).

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously opened the conference and attended two days of lectures there. More than 100 international vetiver specialists from 44 countries attended, plus several hundred other participants.

Letters praising the vetiver conference were received from many countries, including Ghana, the Philippines, the Republic of South Africa, and India. Mr. Richard Grimshaw, the Vetiver Network Coordinator in Virginia, U.S.A., wrote to Dr. Sumet Tantivejkul, Secretary-General of the Royal Development Projects Board, and lauded the success and organisation of the conference. In part :



"We were honoured by the presence of Her Royal Highness, and of course His Majesty's presence was felt in the very concept, as well as every aspect, of the conference. Without his initiative, there wouldn't have been a conference which would have made the world a poorer place. ..."

The success of the conference, after months of hard and dedicated work on the part of the organisers, is without question, and 'above all other achievements, this conference has brought His Majesty the King's ideas and initiations regarding vetiver grass onto the worldwide scene.'

Foreign eyes may see His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej differently from those of Thais, and their viewpoint may come from a different perspective. However, their admiration is no less. Many are amazed that in these days of rapid change in governments, boundaries, nations, names, and Heads of State, Thailand not only reveres her King, but also her people have no concept of, or wish for, life without the Monarchy. Some foreigners do feel that many Thais don't fully appreciate His Majesty and all that he does. For some, he has always been here, for all of their lifetime. The feeling that is sometimes expressed is that many Thais take His Majesty 'for granted', more than should be done, even though they love and respect him beyond question.

What has to be seriously considered is that, above all, His Majesty is an extraordinary King. Another differing point of view is how His Majesty is seen through foreign eyes as opposed to how he is viewed by his own people. Foreigners are inclined, more often than not, to think of him as a *King* and, at the same time, a *man* as well. They think of the King as a person and human being, therefore their great respect and admiration really has two sides. In today's fast-paced world of 'what's in it for me?', His Majesty stands out as a totally unselfish Sovereign who has dedicated his entire life to the welfare of his people and, beyond even that, benefit of all mankind.

In a 1963 publication which honoured His Majesty the King's

36th. birthday, Han Lih-Wu, then doyen of the Diplomatic Corps. in Thailand, wrote of his personal impressions of His Majesty the King :

"The first impression that one gains of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, particularly at ceremonial functions, is that the august King is serious. He looks dignified. He sits straight. ..."

"...as one sees more and more of His Majesty in public, one notices that behind the dignified and serious appearance, there is kindness and friendliness."

"The King has ...a special place in the hearts of his people. ...he wields a moral influence over the nation that is both deep and wide. ..."

What was said more than three decades ago is as true today as it was when first spoken. The respect and admiration for His Majesty only increases as years pass by.





● Commemorative Poems

A Royal Tribute

Ninth King of the Chakri Dynasty
Celebrates the historic anniversary,
The Golden Jubilee, of fifty years -
Glorious era, the Nation cheers !

With virtuous intent nobly aimed
To fulfil what He first proclaimed,
Steeped high in His consciousness,
To always reign with Righteousness ;

To always act for the common weal,
For all His people with equal zeal,
Of whatever class or whatever creed,
Whether rich or poor with whatever need.

Wherever storms and floods cause grief,
He provides corrective means of relief ;
Wherever land is dry or arid the ground,
He makes it arable till crops abound.

He instils in the Thai people unity,
Brave courage in face of iniquity ;
Dauntless in improving their welfare,
He is loved and constantly in their prayer.

His aesthetic skills are world renowned ;
His artistic abilities the world astound ;
His musical talent is widely known,
His composing and playing the saxophone.



In sport events, He competed with vigour ;
Imbued with dignity and honour, Victor
With Royal Daughter in sailing the boat
His own hands crafted then made afloat.

His literary flair has led Him to write -
How fittingly appropriate and how right -
"Mahajanaka" from the Jataka tales
To practice perseverance in all travails.

In paying loyal homage to His Majesty,
The Guiding Light of our Destiny,
We wish Him for ever to endure,
To our happiness for ever ensure !

Author : Thanpuying Maniratana Bunnag

Translator : M.L. Birabhongse Kasemsri



In Praise of H. M. King Rama IX

O great virtuous King, cherished ruler and protector :
Being mindful of the welfare of all your subjects,
Your Majesty travelled extensively to visit the people,
So their quality of life was improved through your compassion.

When the world was in crisis from growing disunity,
Why, then, could Thailand keep her peace and happiness ?
It was by your great royal renown,
The name Bhumibol resounding throughout the world.

When Thai people despaired of seeing the way,
What great merit came to their rescue?
We are made happy by your Ten Kingly Virtues,
And so the Triple Gems and all good angels protect you.

The State gains prosperity by following your footsteps ;
You lead us on courageously, despite fatigue and despondency.
Your sole wishes are for the nation's freedom and well-being,
Astute in the eyes of the world.

O great Rama IX, angelic father of the land !
The whole world could not find another such ruler.
Beyond words of praise and description,
We bow our heads to pay homage to Your Majesty

On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee.
For fifty years you have magnificently ruled.
May Your Majesty be blessed with happiness and longevity
Together with Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Children.

Author : Thanpuying Somrojana Swasdikul na Ayudhaya

Translator : Montri Umavijani





H. M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great Our Beloved King

Great is the Man

with one hand touching his heart,
the other pointing out to the traffic chaos with deep concern.

Great is the Man

with untiring efforts,
treading the whole country to map out ways to prevent flooding.

Great is the Man

with only a few words,
defusing the crisis and reuniting the country.

Great is the Man

with a thousand projects,
relieving the poor and educating the less fortunate.

Great is the Man

with his music,
comforting the weak and the weary.

Great is the Man

with righteousness,
reigning over the people with loving kindness.

Great is the Man

with selfless sacrifices,
upgrading our beloved country to a great nation.

Great is the Nation

with unity,
growing with peace and prosperity.

Great is our Joy

with loyalty and humbleness,
serving this Great Man, our beloved King.

Author : Khunying Niramol Suriyasat





Through These Fifty Years

There is a river in his heart
that flows to feed this land.
Its current moves to the tune time
to keep the years supple as spring.

There is a lotus in his thoughts
that unfurls petals of white purity.
Its perfume scents the air we breathe
salving the years with his wisdom.

There are garlands in both his hands,
many-coloured flowers of love.
Given with never an end to giving,
magic flowers brightening the years.

There is a mountain under his feet
with a vista beyond common eyes.
He shows us horizons of hope
that are always there all in the years.

There is an ocean in our hearts,
a singing ocean of gratitude ;
for he who cares for us with his being,
for he who reigns with his mind and his heart,
through all these fifty years.

Author : Khunying Chamnongsri Rutnin





Long Live Our Precious King

Of all the Monarchs in the world,
There is none like our beloved King;
With tender love and merciful heart,
Bliss to Thai people he does bring.

His first proclamation on the Throne,
"With moral principles we will reign";
And from that day on, he kept his promise,
Though he has to suffer 'loss' before 'gain'.

He visits Thai people in villages afar,
Over hills and dales in distant lands;
Those country folks greet him with joy,
And patients are cured by royal doctors' hands.

He strictly practises 'Dasapit Rajadham',
Which means ten qualities of high morality;
He works so hard from morn till night,
To help solve the problems of his country.

Our King is gifted with musical skill,
All his songs people love to sing ;
His fame in music spreads abroad,
May the Triple Gems bless our precious King.

Author : Professor Emeritus Tapanee Nakornthap

*Member of the Sub-Committee for the Translation
of the Narrative Poem, 'Phra Abhai Mani'*





The Light of the Land

King Bhumibol, greatest of Kings !
Thy subjects join in lauding thee.
And wishing thee the best of things,
To mark thy Golden Jubilee.

'Strength of the Land' thy name doth mean,
Thou givest life and hope to all.
Countless benefits can be seen,
From thy projects big and small.

Hilltribe people up in the North,
New methods of crop growing learn.
Abundant produce they bring forth,
And so, more income they do earn.

In arid lands where droughts prevail,
Thou providest the royal rain.
So farms and soil that used to fail,
Their fertility thus regain.

Hard it is not to understand,
Why people revere thee ever.
Thou who art the light of the land,
May thy glory last forever !

*Author : Associate Professor Malithat Promathatavedi
Member of the Sub-Committee for the Translation
of the Narrative Poem 'Phra Abhai Mani'*





*An Ode to His Majesty
King Bhumibol Adulyadej
in the Year of His Golden Jubilee*

As the songs in praise
Of His Majesty King Bhumibol
Echo permeating descant,
People chant His name
In bewitched delight.

He's the symbol
Of noteworthy national unity.
People watch Him
With worshipping eyes,
And unfathomed loyalty.
O, the idyllic idol of the populace.

In the galaxy of many Monarchs,
His name shines as the golden sun
Emitting streams of rainbow light
With a multi-magnificent personality

Like His Jubilee gift,
A dazzling diamond of 545 carats,
With 148 gold-hued facets,
That reflects His all-round dexterity :

Inventer, Artist, Ruler,
Musician, Naturalist, Developer,
Engineer, Composer, Writer...

His palace evermore,
A swarming hive of schemes,
He works with unfatigable zeal
To carry out His Promethean mission.



With deep-rooted dedication,
To relieve the pains of the poor,
To restore lives of less fortunate,
To renovate the environment,
To reanimate arts and culture,

To be a legacy of the realm
For eons to come.

In this auspicious year,
Pray I to the Triple Gems,
Long may He be our legendary King.
To reach His contented century,
With blessed body and brilliant brain.

Author : Uthai Sindhusarn



In Homage of Their Majesties

TWO Majesties, Sovereign King and Gracious Queen,
Long have they ruled over us.

FIVE decades past,
Through peaceful and turbulent times, now in Golden Jubilee.

THREE Gems steadfastly worshipped,
Upholders of the principles of Lord Buddha.

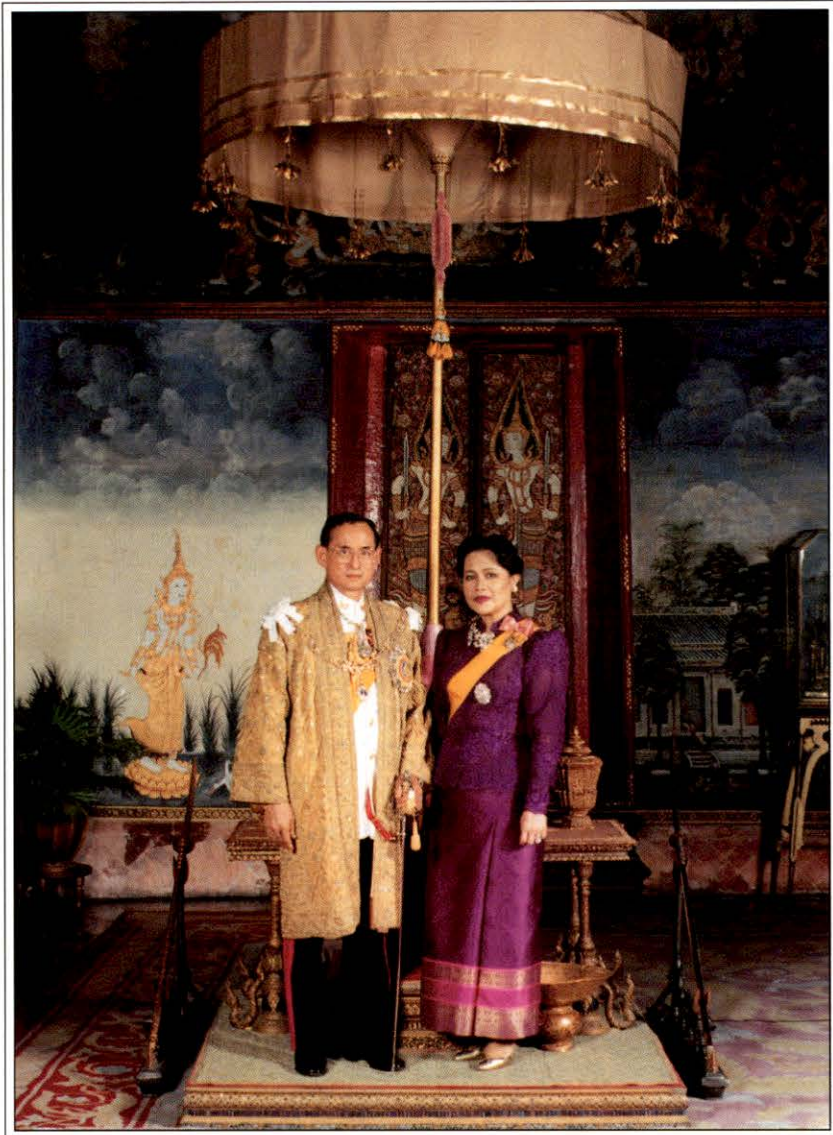
NINE in a long line of Vishnu's Avatars,
Protectors of the people.

TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and THIRTY - NINE years
After Lord Buddha's passing to Nirvana,
Troubled humanity awaits Bhodhisatva Maitreya
Who would lead us out of the strife and turmoil,
Into a peaceful and happy existence.

Here is Bhodhisatva,
Personified in His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej Maharaja.
Sacred on earth, by the grace of all things,
May Their Majesties the Queen and King
Enjoy long and happy lives,
And reign over our Nation forever.

Author : Mom Rajawongse Chakrarot Chitrabongs

Deputy Secretary-General of the National Culture Commission





The Golden Jubilee : June 9, 1996

Myriads of candles lighting up the rainy evening
conjure the image of an aggrieved young King
who had just lost his dear brother,
and himself but another candle in the wind.

From fifty years past till today,
he has borne all burdens of the crown
with perserverance and patience,
like his model King Mahajanaka.
Not by swimming to safety alone,
but by putting ashore, against all odds,
the Ship of State ridden with nightmare.

Righteousness has been his compass and his helm
to control as well as to sympathise
until his reign has become a royal felicity.

Author : Montri Umavijani





Part II

- Illustrations of the Magnificent Golden Jubilee Celebrations





*The Royal Ceremonial Emblem
in Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary
(Golden Jubilee)
Celebrations of His Majesty the King's
Accession to the Throne*

The Royal Golden Jubilee Emblem has His Majesty the King's Seal as its centre-piece. This rests on the tusks of two white elephants with a two-tiered gold tray below. On top of the seal is the Chakri Dynasty Crest which is surmounted by the Royal Crown of Victory.

The white elephants at either side of His Majesty's Seal each bear a seven-tiered white umbrella which is symbolic of royalty. Under the two-tiered gold tray is the Thai numeral for fifty. The inscription on the blue ribbon beneath that reads : 'The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne.'

Elephants were the royal vehicles in times of past. They symbolise the subjects who have always loyally served, as well as respected, their King and the Chakri Dynasty while, at the same time, living happily under the shade of the royal white umbrellas.

According to traditional beliefs, white elephants are regarded as symbols of might, prowess, and wisdom. The former flag of Thailand, or Siam as it was previously known, depicted a white elephant on a red field. The elephants form an important part of the emblem as they help to encourage awareness of wildlife preservation. They were also included to highlight their importance in Thai history.

Out of a hundred and forty-three contestants who participated in the national competition to find the best and most appropriate design for the Royal Ceremonial Emblem, it was decided that first prize should be awarded to Miss Wiyada Charoensook.





*The Royal Ceremonies
to Pay Homage to the Royal Ancestors,
and Celebrate the Bestowal of
the Royal Title of Honour on the Late
King Ananda Mahidol (Rama VIII)*

A series of royal ceremonies to mark the 50th. Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Accession to the Throne began on June 8, 1996. Their Majesties the King and Queen proceeded to the Amarindravinitchai Throne Hall in the Grand Palace. After that, they paid homage to the relics of the royal ancestors and Chakri Dynasty's former kings. These relics were contained in royal urns, and placed on the Throne underneath the Nine-tiered White Umbrella of State. His Majesty the King then presented Commemorative Prayer Fans to the Supreme Patriarch and 25 high-ranking monks. Following that, a royal scribe read out the announcement to celebrate the bestowal of the royal title of honour on the late King Ananda Mahidol, Rama VIII, who was His Majesty the King's elder brother. A chapter of Buddhist monks chanted prayers which marked the end of the royal merit-making ceremony.





The Royal Ceremonies for the Braminic Rites to Pay Homage to the Former Kings, and the Granting of an Audience to Well-Wishers

*O*n June 9, 1996, His Majesty the King's Golden Jubilee Day, a religious ceremony took place in the Royal Golden Jubilee Pavilion, at the Sanam Luang ceremonial site. Their Majesties the King and Queen lighted ceremonial incense sticks and candles. Then, His Majesty the King presented Golden Jubilee Commemorative Prayer Fans to the Supreme Patriarch and 10 high-ranking monks.

Later, Their Majesties the King and Queen paid homage to the former kings. The Chief Brahmin read out verses of tributation. The Guards of Honour from the three Royal Thai Armed Forces presented arms and the ceremonial band played the Royal Anthem, followed by a 21-gun salute. At the same time, Buddhist monks, as well as religious leaders of other faiths, from all over the country chanted their blessings.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn offered his humble best wishes and congratulations to His Majesty the King on behalf of the Royal Family while the Prime Minister paid tributes on behalf of the Cabinet, government officials, military officers, and Thai people from all walks of life. The Parliamentary President and the President of the Supreme Court represented parliamentarians and the judiciary respectively in offering their best wishes and congratulations to His Majesty. Later on, His Majesty the King delivered a royal address.

In the evening, a candle-lighting ceremony, led by Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-archa, took place at the Sanam Luang ceremonial site. This was followed by a firework display. Similar events were held simultaneously all across the country. Moreover, various cultural shows were held at Sanam Luang and all along Ratchadamnoen Avenue, as well as in other parts of Bangkok, until the following morning.



























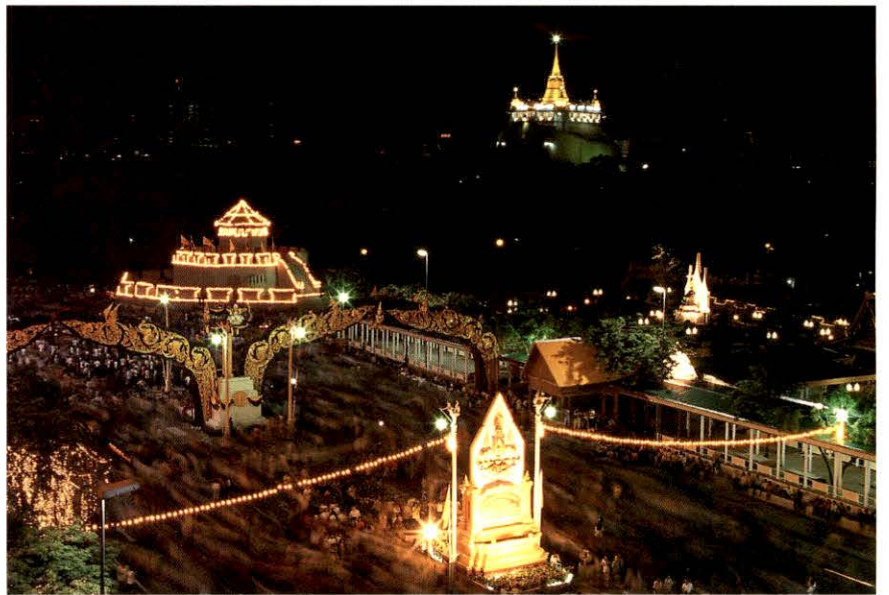














*The Royal Ceremony to Mark the 50th.
Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty
the King's Accession to the Throne*

In the afternoon of June 10, 1996, a royal ceremony to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty the King's Reign was held at the Chakri Throne Hall in the Grand Palace. A total of 50 Buddhist monks chanted prayers. His Majesty the King then permitted the Court Brahmin and Astrologer to pass consecrated candles known as Waen Wian Thian, to members of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister, Parliamentary President, and President of the Supreme Court, as well as to Privy Councillors, senior civil servants, and military officials alike. The passing of consecrated candles from one person to another is, according to ancient traditions, a blessing. After the Wian Thian Ceremony, His Majesty sprinkled lustral water on the Royal Regalia and Seal of the present reign.









The Royal Regalia is traditionally presented to the Kings of Thailand during their coronation ceremonies, and is comprised of five objects which are considered to be the most important symbols of the King's regal authority. These are : the Phra Maha Phichai Mongkut, Phra Saeng Khan Chai Si, Than Phra Kon, Wanwitchani, and Chalong Phra Bat Choeng Ngon, or, as more commonly known in English, the Great Crown and Sword of Victory, and the Royal Staff, Fan, and Slippers.

The Great Crown of Victory is made of gold and covered in diamonds. It is graciously worn by the King during important ceremonies, such as, at his coronation. It is considered to be the most significant insignia of a Thai King's sovereignty.

The ancient Sword of Victory has a double-edged blade and is considered as a leading emblem of sovereignty.

The Royal Staff is made of Chaiyapreuk wood and is covered in gold. It is used as a symbol of regal authority, and is associated with the guidance of the King's footsteps down the paths of equity and justice.

The Royal Fan is made of palm leaves and its handle is richly decorated with gold ornaments. According to ancient belief, it is used by the King to ward off any evil that might cause harm to his subjects.

The Royal Slippers, with curving extremities, are made of gold.





The Royal Barge Chantings at Ratchaworadit Pier

The tradition of royal barge chanting is one of many Thai cultural heritages that has been passed down from generation to generation. Rhythmic barge songs are composed and chanted not only to control the movement of the oars, but also to raise the spirits of the crews.

Royal barge chanting is only performed at Ratchaworadit Pier on special occasions. The year, 1996, saw such event on June 9-10, in celebration of the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne.

The Royal Barges floated on the Chao Phraya River with beauty and graceful elegance while dramatic boat songs were being sung by trained male voices. Music filled the air as the barges, manned by oarsmen whom were cladded out in ancient yet brilliantly coloured costumes of blue, green, red, and white, moved to the rhythmic beats of the drummer whom, like a concert conductor, controlled the movements of the oarmen's paddles.

The boat songs that were sung on this auspicious occasion were composed by the winner of a competition that was organised by the Royal Thai Navy in celebration of the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne.

Every royal barge procession is presented as if in full flight, aided by the stylised wing-beating motion of the oarsmen's paddles. Their rising and falling paddles gleam in the light, suggesting a sedate movement, like the wings of a swan.

Those who witness this magnificent procession will carry with them an astounding and ever lasting impression of this memorable event.





The Granting of an Audience to Foreign Diplomats on the Occasion of His Majesty the King's Golden Jubilee



The grand celebrations, marking the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne in 1996, brought great joy to all Thais throughout the Kingdom. Foreign diplomats, the media, and visitors alike had also been invited to join this auspicious occasion in Thailand.

On June 12, 1996, members of the diplomatic corps. and consular representatives were granted an audience with Their Majesties the King and Queen to offer their best wishes and felicitations to His Majesty on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of his reign. The ceremony took place at the Chakri Maha Prasat Throne Hall in the Grand Palace.







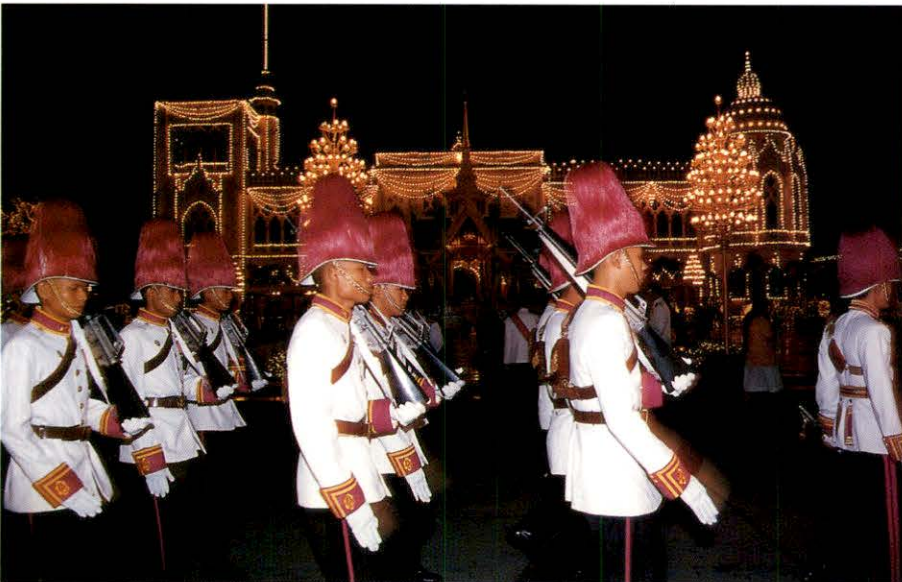
The Grand Reception to Mark the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne

*O*n June 14, 1996, the Thai Government hosted a grand dinner and garden party in honour of His Majesty the King at Government House.

They were organised as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of His Majesty the King's Reign. The grand dinner took place at the Santi Maitri Hall. Attending the banquet were members of the Royal Family, Privy Councillors, Cabinet members, senior government officials, high-ranking military officers, members of the diplomatic corps., and other dignitaries. After the grand dinner, Their Majesties the King and Queen proceeded to the pavilion in front of the Thai Ku Fa Building to attend the garden party. Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-archa kindly asked the distinguished guests to join him in the royal toast to His Majesty the King.

On this special occasion, the Government presented a set of royal chairs to His Majesty as a gift. The set consisted of four wooden chairs decorated with the Royal Golden Jubilee Ceremonial Emblem. The chairs were all gilded, with the seat and back cushions of each covered in gold cloth. In addition to the set of four chairs, four gilded tables were also presented to His Majesty.









A Grand Military Parade in Honour of His Majesty the King

*O*n the occasion of the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne, the Supreme Command Headquarters organised a grand parade of the Royal Thai Armed Forces in honour of His Majesty the King. The spectacular parade, the grandest ever to have been held in Thailand, was an auspicious occasion that had been designed to allow Thai soldiers to display their loyalty to His Majesty the King who holds the position of Head of the Royal Thai Armed Forces. It also displayed the might of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, both to the people and international community.





The parade was held on June 23, 1996. It was composed of both land and air elements, with the bulk of the forces coming from the Royal Thai Army. The land element consisted of 4,175 men and 620 military vehicles, and was organised into nine regiments : six from the Royal Thai Army, one from both the Royal Thai Navy and Air Force, and a Cadet Regiment. The air element, on the other hand, consisted of six groups of aircraft with four apiece. Five of those came from the Royal Thai Air Force, while the other was from the Royal Thai Navy.

Participants in the parade were dressed in combat fatigues with unit scarves, combat boots and webbing, field belts, water flasks, and standard weapons.

The air element consisted of 24 high-performance fighter aircraft. Seven AU-23 aircraft also took part in the display, trailing a cloth banner with the words, 'Long Live the King', written on it. Flowers and popped rice were scattered from the sky, and smoke trails were emitted in the colours of the national flag. This truly was a sign of blessing for His Majesty the King.

During the parade, a 21-gun salute was fired by the First Artillery Regiment of the King's Guard, a parachuting demonstration was performed by the Special Warfare Command, and 999 fireworks were let off by the Royal Thai Army Chemical Department.





The Golden Jubilee Arches

*O*n the occasion of the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Accession to the Throne, the public and private sectors joined forces in building seven major arches in Bangkok in honour of His Majesty the King. The seven arches were designed by architects from the Fine Arts Department. The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration was responsible for building three of the arches. The others were built by the Ministry of Education, the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Prime Minister's Office, and Boonrawd Brewery Company.

All of the arches were built to represent the seven auspicious possessions of a truly great King, namely the crystal wheel, elephant, horse, gem, lady, finance minister, and commander.







The Crystal Wheel Arch depicts two Singhas (lions) each holding a seven-tiered umbrella. At the top of the arch is the Golden Jubilee Emblem, and below that are angels seen blessing His Majesty the King. The crystal wheel itself appears rising from the ocean.



The Crystal Elephant Arch shows two elephants from the Chattan and Ubosot families. In the middle of the arch is a three-headed white elephant bearing His Majesty the King's initials. There are also smaller elephants holding trees, and gold and silver trays. Angels carry the King's paraphernalia, including His Majesty's sword and umbrella.







The Crystal Horse Arch depicts two crystal horses glowing with bright and shining light. At the top of the arch appears the Emblem of the Golden Jubilee.



The Crystal Gem Arch is comprised of two seven-headed Nagas. The crystal gem itself rotates and shines brightly to the entire world, and is surrounded by lotus flowers.

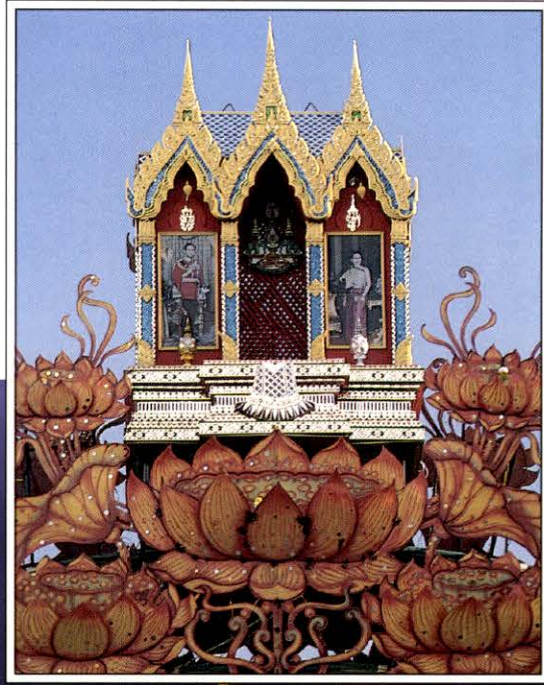






The Crystal Lady Arch, represented by a swan, is in reference to Her Majesty the Queen. The arch is decorated with a long sash to highlight the pavilion, housing Their Majesties' portraits, at the top of it. According to Thai belief, the five lotuses below the pavilion symbolise the five qualities of a perfect woman.







The Crystal Finance Minister Arch depicts two Wayupak birds from Thai mythology. They symbolise the crystal finance minister. The birds stand on a platform shaped like a 'Pod Duang' coin which was used in Thailand in days of old.



The Crystal Commander Arch is comprised of two unicorns which symbolise Thai militarymen. They stand on an arch, shaped like an ancient city gate, which in turn symbolises strength and a readiness to serve His Majesty the King.







The 1996 Visits of World Leaders to Thailand on the Occasion of the Golden Jubilee

*A*s guests of the Thai Government, Their Imperial Japanese Highnesses Prince and Princess Hitachi paid a State Visit to Thailand between August 28 and September 2. They represented the Emperor and Empress of Japan in offering their heart-felt congratulations to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee Celebrations. The Prince and Princess had an audience with Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand on August 28, when a dinner reception was held in their honour at Vimanmek Mansion.







Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also graciously paid a State Visit to Thailand, but between October 28 and November 1. The five-day visit was at the invitation of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Accession to the Throne. A state banquet, hosted by Their Majesties the King and Queen in honour of their royal guests, took place at the Chakri Throne Hall in the Grand Palace on October 28. During their visit, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, were provided with the opportunity to witness the final rehearsal of the Grand Royal Barge Procession to mark the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty the King's Reign. The royal guests also travelled to the ancient city of Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya to witness light and sound performances, and to the Northeastern Province of Sakon Nakhon to view rural development projects that were initiated by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.





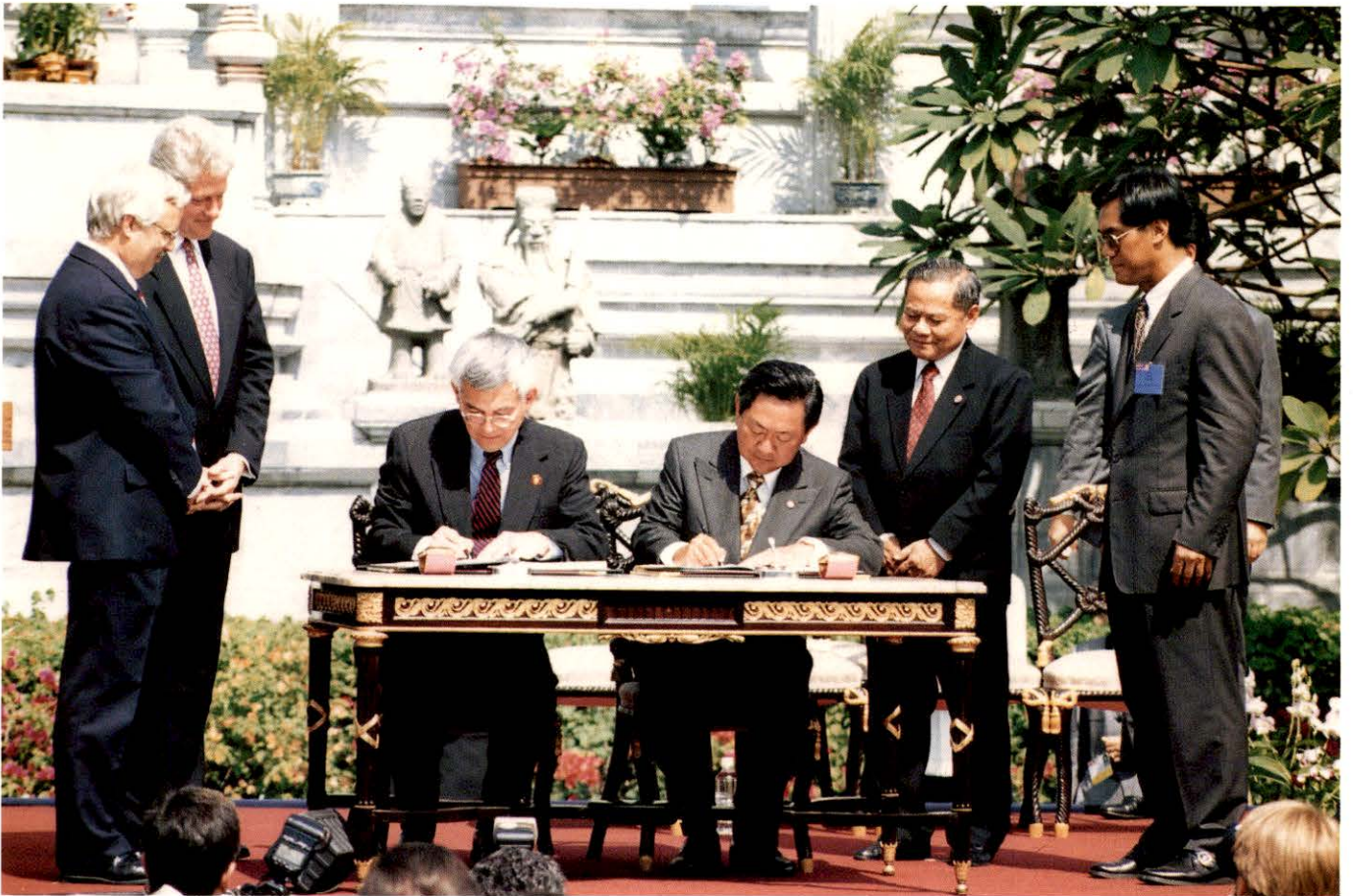




In addition, the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, and the First Lady, Hilary Rodham Clinton, purposely visited Thailand, as guests of Their Majesties the King and Queen on November 25 and 26, to offer their best wishes to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of the 50th. Anniversary Celebrations of his reign. The visit was also to strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries. During their stay in the Thai Kingdom, the U.S. president and his wife were provided with the opportunity to visit the Grand Palace and were given a royal banquet in their honour on November 26. On this occasion, Thailand and the United States signed an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation.









The Golden Jubilee Royal Barge Procession and Kathin Ceremony

One of the most festive and colourful events in commemoration of the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Accession to the Throne was the Grand Royal Barge Procession for the Royal Kathin Ceremony. This colourful and exciting event took place on November 7, 1996, when His Majesty the King presided over the ceremony to present the Royal Kathin, suffron robes, and other monastic paraphernalia to a congregation of monks at Wat Arun Ratchawararam (the Temple of Dawn) on the banks of the Chao Phraya River.

Featuring a total of 52 barges and manned by 2,000 oarsmen from the Royal Thai Navy, the procession was 1.1 kilometres long and some 90 metres wide. At the centre of the flotilla were four major royal barges : the Narai Song Suban King Rama IX which conveyed His Majesty the King, and Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn and Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn ; the Subanahongsa (Golden Swan) which was reserved for the Royal Family ; the Anantanagaraj (Multiple-headed Naga) which bore the Royal Kathin Robes ; and the Anekajatibhujonga (Innumerable Naga Figures) which acted as a secondary barge.

The procession originated from the Royal Vasukri Landing Place and proceeded down the Chao Phraya River for a distance of approximately three kilometres. Before arriving at Wat Arun, it passed Wat Phra Kaeo (the Temple of the Emerald Buddha), the Grand Palace, and Wat Po.

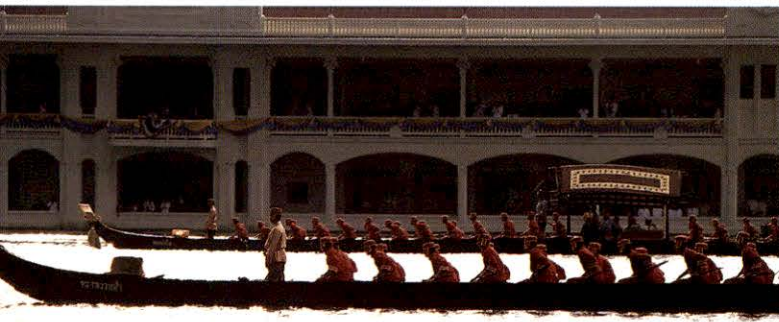
The rarely held Royal Barge Procession is recognised as one of the world's finest spectacles in which all the grandeur and splendeur of Thai arts and culture are presented for everyone to see.







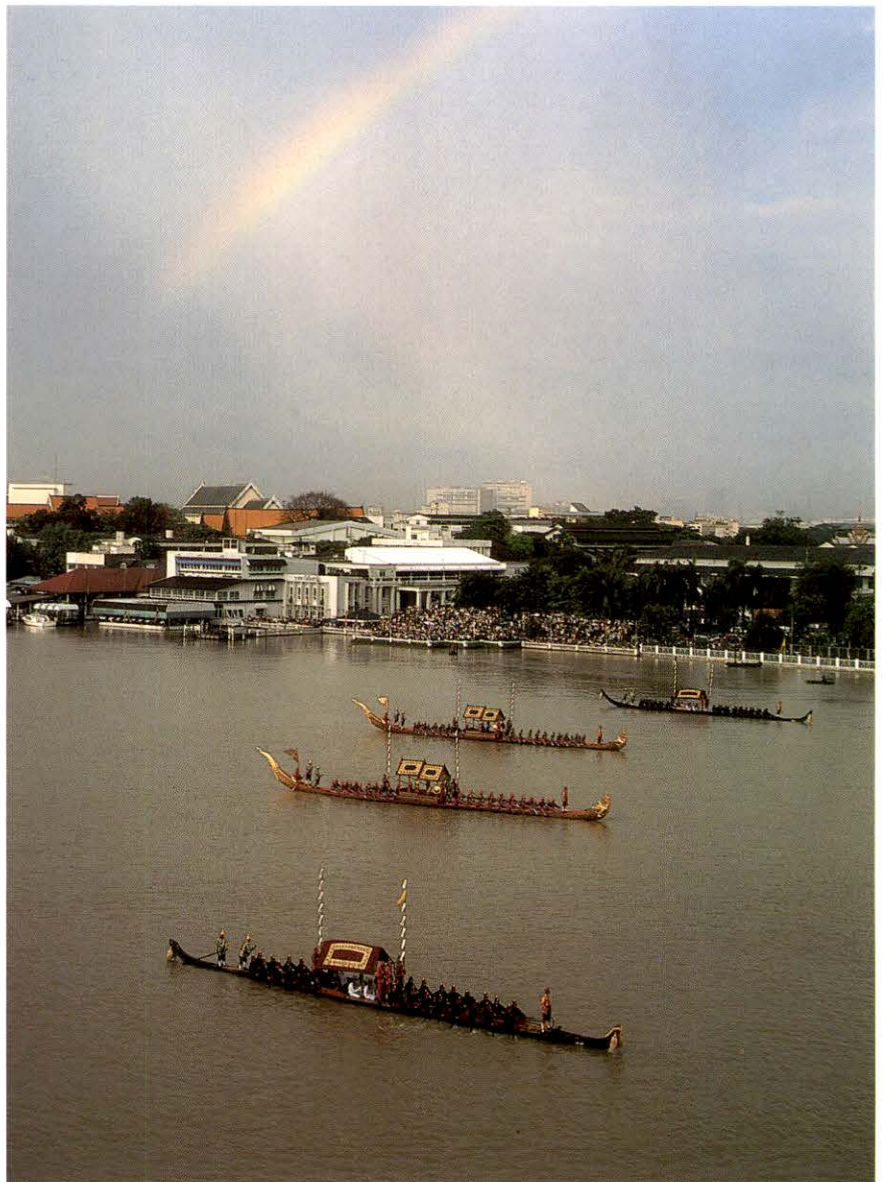


































The Trooping of the Colours on December 3, 1996

During the past fifty years of His Majesty the King's Reign, he has enhanced the prestige of the Thai military. In gratitude of that, the military hold the annual oath-taking ceremony and the Royal Guards trooped the colours in honour of His Majesty on the occasion of his birthday. That particular year's ceremony was held on December 3, two days prior to His Majesty the King's birthday, at the Royal Plaza in Bangkok. The ceremonial site was packed with people who came both to see their King, and the age-old marching of the Royal Guards in their bright and colourful uniforms complete with plumed hats. Their Majesties the King and Queen arrived at the Royal Plaza in an open car and inspected the guards.











His Majesty the King's Birthday Celebrations

December 5 is King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday. It is also observed as Thailand's Father's and National Days. On this special occasion, all of His Majesty's subjects rejoice once more demonstrating their affection and loyalty to him. Each year, festivities occur throughout the Kingdom on the occasion of His Majesty the King's birthday. Included are spectacular light displays which decorate trees, houses, private companies, and government offices.

One of the celebrations' highlights is the candle-lighting ceremony which is held at the Sanam Luang ceremonial site in the heart of Bangkok. Ever since 1996, Thai people everywhere have been celebrating the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty the King's Reign. Naturally, the candle-lighting ceremony on December 5 of that auspicious and particular year was held on an even grandeur scale at the Sanam Luang Golden Jubilee Pavilion. Similar ceremonies were simultaneously performed throughout the country. Entertainment programmes, including firework displays, took place out in the open air at Sanam Luang following the candle-lighting ceremony.











The Lantern and Illuminated Float Procession

To add colour to the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, a lantern and illuminated float procession was jointly organised by the Tourism Authority of Thailand and private sector on December 8, 1996, from 7.30 p.m. to 10 o'clock at night. All parties were invited to join the procession to honour and express their respect and loyalty to His Majesty the King.

The grand procession began from the Royal Plaza in Bangkok and headed along Ratchadamnoen Avenue towards Sanam Luang. The event featured traditional lanterns of various styles, designs, and origins. Along with the procession came candles and flowers which decorated and had been made into portraits of His Majesty the King and traditional royal offerings respectively. The illuminated float procession itself consisted of automobile floats which were decorated with thousands of tiny light bulbs that had been arranged into various shapes. This was followed by an orchestra and a group of Thai classical musicians.









The Golden Jubilee Exhibition at Sanam Luang

A major exhibition of His Majesty the King's Reign was held at the Sanam Luang ceremonial site in Bangkok in celebration of his Golden Jubilee. Organised by the Thai Government's Public Relations Department, the month-long exhibition began on December 2, 1996, and continued through until January 4, 1997.

The exhibition site took up all six satellite pavilions, surrounding the Royal Golden Jubilee Pavilion, which were built temporarily for major ceremonies to mark this special occasion.

The exhibition featured His Majesty the King's life and work, as well as grand ancient royal ceremonies. It also displayed gifts and souvenirs which were given by both the private and public sectors to mark His Majesty's Golden Jubilee. Among them were a golden dragon that had been crafted in the People's Republic of China, a Golden Jubilee Leica Camera, Golden Jubilee Watches, commemorative stamps, silver and gold-plated coins, and a royal chair from Vimanmek Mansion.

At one pavilion, visitors, both nationals and non-nationals of Thailand, were given the opportunity to express their best wishes to His Majesty the King by writing their names and goodwill messages on the 'Batmala', 10X5 inch pieces of cotton cloth which were knitted and woven together to form a kind of 'greeting card' more than 29 kilometres long. These individual pieces of cotton cloth represent the hearts of every individual in Thailand and when brought together to form this one extremely long 'greeting card', it symbolised the unity that Thai people have for their beloved King in terms of love, respect, and loyalty. The 'Batmala' was later presented to His Majesty the King during a magnificent procession of more than 9,000 people on January 19, 1997.





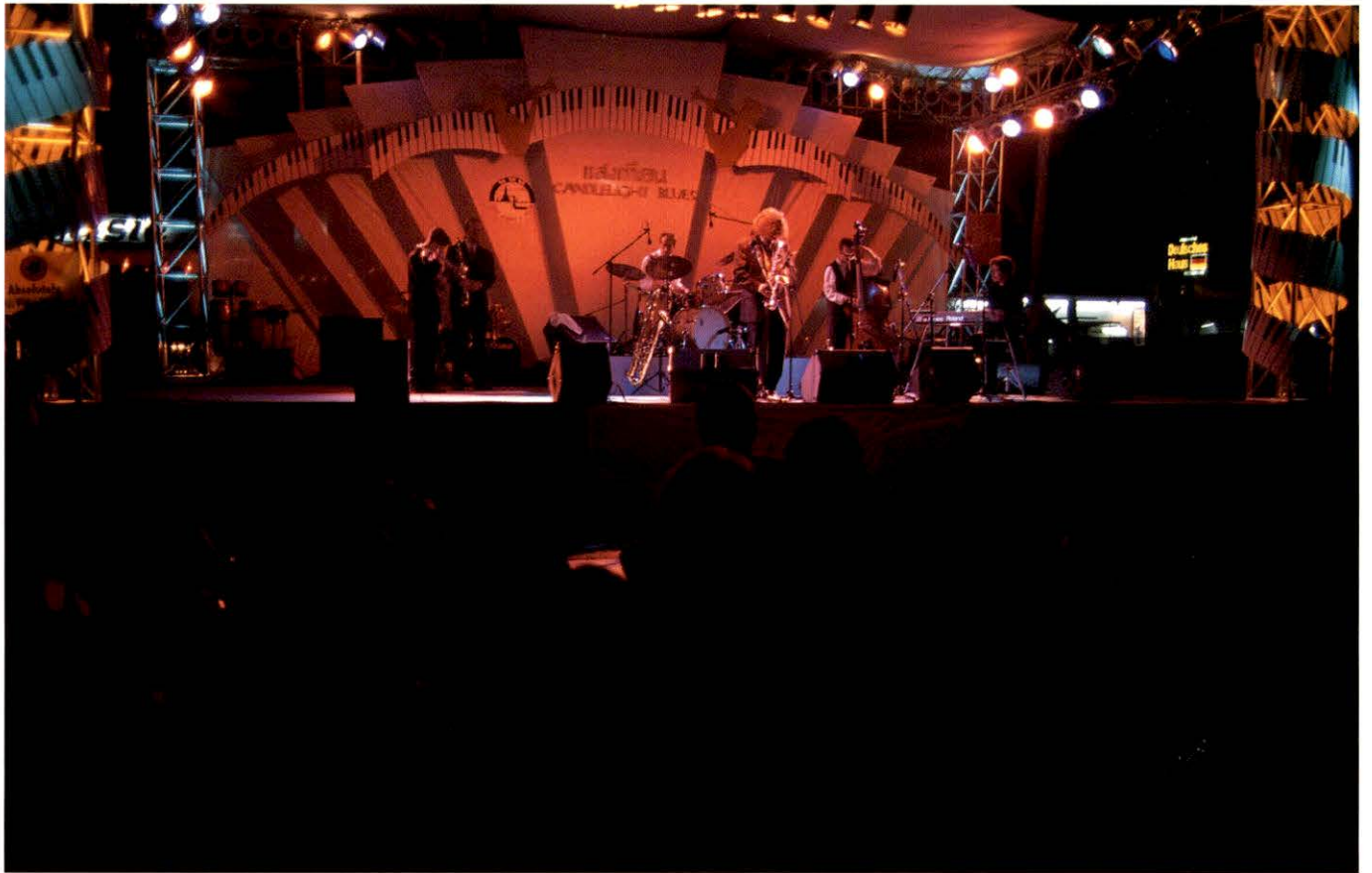




A Musical Performance in Honour of His Majesty the King

To honour His Majesty the King on the auspicious occasion of the 50th. Anniversary of His Accession to the Throne, the Tourism Authority of Thailand organised a series of concerts called, 'The Thailand International Jazz Festival'96' from November 20 to 22, 1996, at Ambhorn Gardens in Bangkok. A similar event was also held between November 22 and 23, 1996, at Pattaya Beach in the Eastern Province of Chonburi. This was meant not only to celebrate His Majesty the King's musical genius, but also as his shining example of the pursuit of knowledge through musical art. More than 40 leading jazz bands from around the world joined this special event in Thailand to perform a selection of His Majesty's compositions. Among these were 'Falling Rain', 'Love at Sundown', 'Candlelight Blues', and 'Magic Beams'.







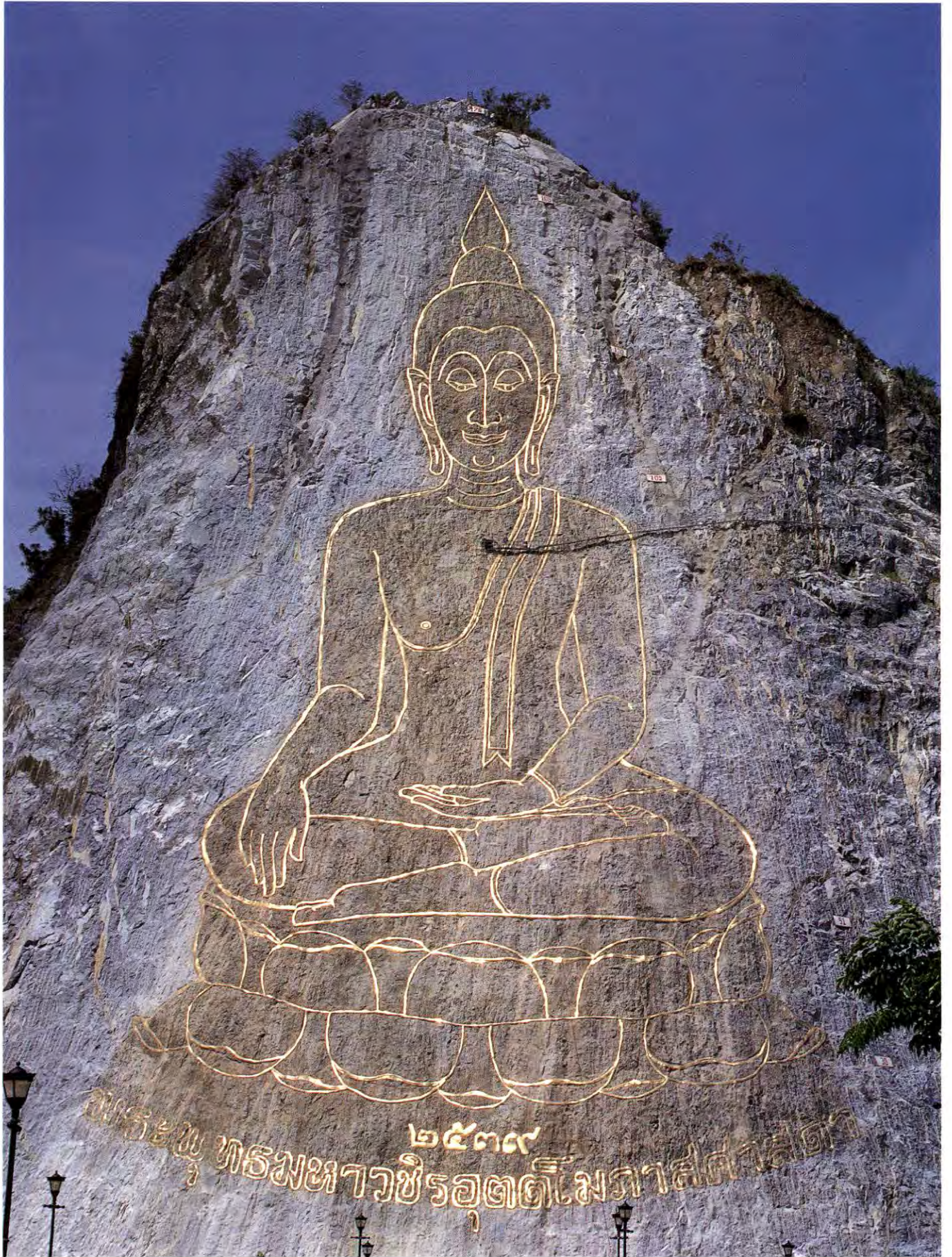
The Engraved Buddha Image at Khao Chi Chan

To commemorate the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne, the largest ever engraved image of Lord Buddha was constructed on the slopes of Khao Chi Chan, the hill in the compound of Nyanasamvararam Temple, which is located in the Eastern Province of Chonburi.

Guided laser technology, the first of its kind, was introduced in the sketching of the 150-metre high image of Lord Buddha. The engraved image depicts Lord Buddha subduing Mara, and can be seen from several kilometres away. The area around Khao Chi Chan has been transformed into a public park.

His Majesty the King graciously named the image, 'Phra Buddha Maha Vajira Uttamophat Satsada' which in English means, 'the Buddha that enlightens and shines like a diamond.'







The Presentation of a Quartz Buddha Image to His Majesty the King by Chulalongkorn University

On the occasion of His Majesty the King's Golden Jubilee, Chulalongkorn University presented a special gift, a Buddha image which had been crafted from a quartz stone, to His Majesty when he presided over the university's commencement ceremony on July 11, 1996.

The quartz stone, which is actually a rare natural crystal known in Thai as Khiaw Hanuman, was obtained from the People's Republic of China. It is clear and pure, with the appearance and quality of a diamond.

The Buddha image measures four inches at the lap and is seen meditating. It is mounted on an ivory base which came from, during the normal process of growth control, the tip of a work elephant's tusk. The image was crafted fully-dressed, with a gold and silver royal costume. It also has a body chain which is decorated with nine precious gems, under a gold, silver, and copper alloy tiered royal umbrella. Expert Northern craftsmen made up the team that was responsible for the project.

This crafted quartz stone Buddha image is the 8th. such one of the Rattanakosin Period ; the first being the Emerald Buddha which is nineteen inches wide, crafted from a huge piece of jade, and considered to be the most revered and significant Buddha image in all of Thailand.





The Golden Jubilee Commemorative Bank Notes

To celebrate the auspicious occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne, the Bank of Thailand issued, as legal tender, three newly designed 500 Baht notes.

The first bank note is for regular circulation and was issued on April 3, 1996 to mark Chakri Day which falls on April 6 of each year. Apart from its beautiful new design, the note took advantage of anti-counterfeiting techniques. The front features a portrait of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej with His Privy Seal (Phra Ratchalanjakorn). The back prominently features a picture of the monument to Their Majesties Kings Buddha Yodfa Chulalok the Great (Rama I) and Buddha Loet-La Nabhalai (Rama II). To the left of them is an illustration of the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, and to the right is a drawing depicting a scene from the Royal Works of King Rama II; known as, 'Ramakian' or 'Ramayana.'

Only 9,999,999 commemoratively designed bank notes of the second type were issued as legal tender on June 6, 1996. This one features nearly all of the elements that appear on the regular





circulation bank note. The only difference being that the Royal Privy Seal on the front of the note was replaced by the Royal Emblem in Celebration of the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne.

The third type of these specially designed commemorative bank notes was limited in issue to only 500,000 on June 6, 1996. This note was specially designed by the Bank of Thailand to proclaim His Majesty's 'barami', a term signifying grandeur, prestige, and augustness.

The note is exquisitely beautiful and at the same time, most extraordinary as the intricate designs were printed on polymer which is longer-lasting than normal paper. Embedded in the polymer are a see-through Insignia of the Chakri Dynasty, and golden foil which signifies the Golden Jubilee Celebrations. The pictorial elements on the note were elaborately designed to illustrate some of His Majesty's benevolent activities, as well as some of the festivities in celebration of this significant event.

On this auspicious occasion, the Bank of Thailand also issued the 50 Baht note as legal tender. It was specially printed on polymer and features the Royal Golden Jubilee Emblem on the front with a portrait of His Majesty King Prajadhipok (Rama VII) on the reverse.



The Golden Jubilee Commemorative Coins

The Government commissioned the Ministry of Finance's Treasury Department to mint a special set of coins in commemoration of the 50th. Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne.

The coins were produced in medal-like, attached-ribbon, and commemorative form, with the last one being released in 13 denominations ranging from 25 Satang to 6,000 Baht. They were manufactured in gold, silver, cupro nickle, copper cladded cupro nickle, bi-metal, and aluminium bronze. The coins were minted to both proof and non-proof quality except for the ten, five, and two Baht, as well as 50 and 25 Satang denominations which were only minted to non-proof. An effigy of His Majesty takes up much of the room on the front of the commemorative coins with the inscriptions, 'King Bhumibol Adulyadej Sayamindhradhiraj Boromnardbhopitre' and 'Ninth Reign', surrounding it. The reverse has the Royal Emblem for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of His Majesty's Reign on it.

The medal-like form of these special coins was released in four types to mark this auspicious event : The bi-metal type has inner and outer rings of gold and platinum respectively, with the front of the medal depicting His Majesty in full Royal Regalia. The second type was produced using nearly 100 percent pure gold and on the front, it shows His Majesty sitting on the Throne with a silhouette of the Royal Grand Palace in the background. The other two types, which were formed in copper and 90 percent pure gold, both depict the King in military uniform on the front of them. On the reverse of each of the four types of medal is the Royal Emblem, symbolising His Majesty's Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

The attached-ribbon form is by far the most special in terms of its decorative qualities. The oval-shaped medal was issued both in plated and solid gold, and its front depicts His Majesty in full Royal Regalia seated on the Throne. As with all of the coins in this special



series, its reverse has the Royal Emblem for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of His Majesty's Reign on it. Attached to the medal is a looped yellow ribbon with five blue stripes in its middle. The yellow represents the Chakri Dynasty and is also the main symbolic colour of His Majesty's birthday which actually fell on a Monday. The blue, on the other hand, is to represent Royalty with the five stripes signifying the Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Five-Decade Reign.





The Golden Jubilee Commemorative Stamps

To mark the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty the King's Reign, the Communications Authority of Thailand issued four sets of commemorative postage stamps on June 9, 1996. The first of these sets portrays His Majesty the King sitting on the gilded Phudtan Kanchanasinghasana Throne with the Royal Regalia placed beside him. He is wearing the Royal Gown and Great Crown of Victory. In his hand is the Great Sword, also of Victory. His Majesty's portrait is framed in gold, and employs the embroidered Phudtan flower design, with the Royal Seal in the upper left-hand corner.



The second set consists of five illustrations, which depict great moments from His Majesty the King's Coronation Ceremonies, namely the Royal Ablutions Ceremony, Pouring of the Libation, Granting of a Grand Audience, Royal Progress by Land, and Addressing of the Nation from the Royal Balcony.



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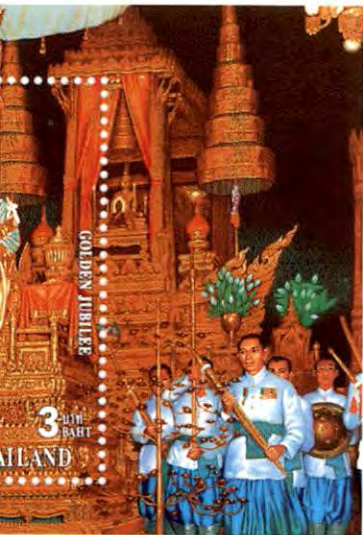


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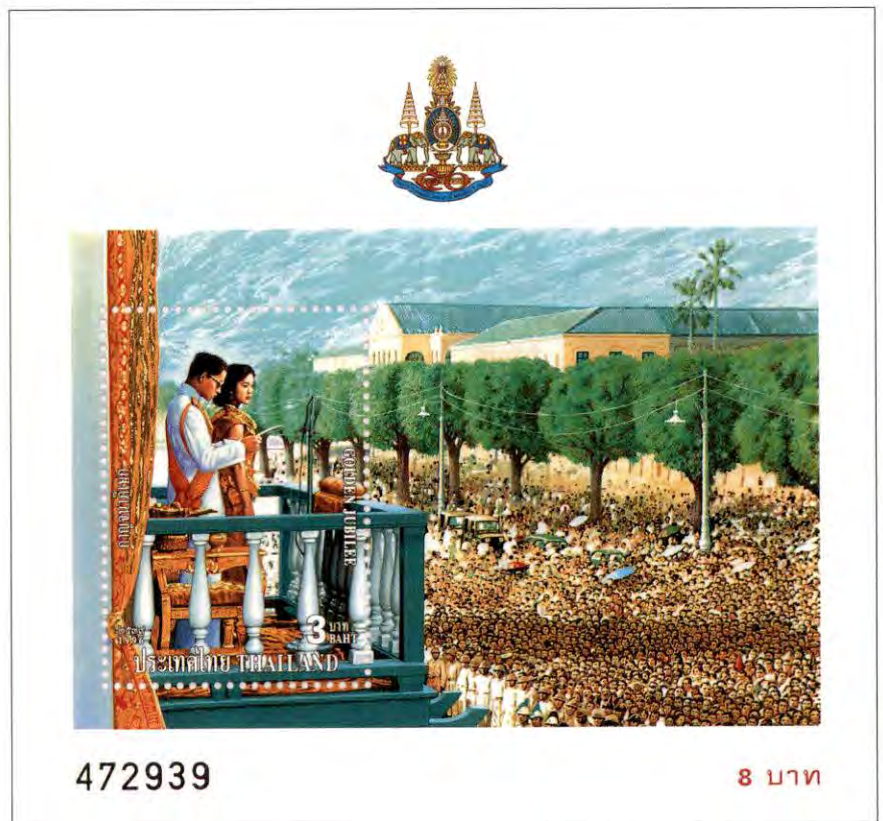
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The third set consists of three Royal Utensil illustrations. These are : the Royal Betel and Areca nut Set, Golden Spittoon and Gold-enamelled Cuspidor, and Royal Water Urn.

The last of these sets depicts His Majesty's development initiatives, namely the prevention of soil erosion by the growth of vetiver grass, improvement of water quality by the use of a Chaipattana Aerator, Royal Rain-making Project to counter drought problems, Natural Water Resources Development Survey Project, and Reforestation Campaign in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

The fifteenth stamp for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations was issued on November 7, 1996. The stamp illustrates the new Royal Barge, Narai Song Suban King Rama IX, which is the first one to have been constructed during the present reign.





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The Royal Thai Navy's Projects to Celebrate the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne

*O*n the auspicious occasion of the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Accession to the Throne, the Royal Thai Navy launched seven projects as part of the official celebrations. They are :-

1. The Construction of the Narai Song Suban King Rama IX Royal Barge

The Narai Song Suban King Rama IX Royal Barge is the first of its kind to have been built during the present reign of the Chakri Dynasty, however it is not the first to bear this name. (It is in fact the second.) Its wooden figurehead was carved into the Narai God, and included a Garuda catching a Naga. The barge was built in a similar fashion to the one that was constructed in the reigns of Kings Rama III and IV.

The Narai Song Suban King Rama IX Royal Barge is 3.20 by 44.30 metres. It weighs 20 tons and has a complement of 50 crew. The latter is symbolic of the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Reign.

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej graciously initiated the construction of the Narai Song Suban King Rama IX Royal Barge on September 5, 1994, by placing its main manoeuvring keel into position. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, acting on behalf of His Majesty the King, launched the Royal Barge into the Chao Phraya River on April 5, 1996, and it was dedicated to His Majesty the King by the Royal Thai Navy on May 9, 1996.





2. The Restoration of the Royal Barges

With the cooperation of the Fine Arts Department and the Royal Household Bureau, the Royal Thai Navy has restored 52 Royal Barges in honour of His Majesty the King. The project was also aimed at preserving the fine arts and cultural heritage of Thailand.

The Royal Naval Dockyard Department repaired the skins and structures of the Royal Barges while the Fine Arts Department was responsible for their colouring and decoration. The Royal Household Bureau provided paraphernalia concerning the royal rank, as well as appropriate outfits for the crews.

The restoration project was divided into four sections. The first section was composed of the principal Royal Barges, namely the Subanahongsa, Anantanagaraj, and Anekajatibhujonga. Twelve other barges were also included in this section, namely the Ekachai Hern How, Ekachai Lao Thong, Krut Hern Het, Krut Tret Trai Chak, Krabi Prab Muang Marn, Krabi Ran Ron Rap, Asura Vayupak, Asura Paksi, Pali Rang Thaveep, Sukhreep Krong Muang, Sua Thayarn Chon, and Sua Kamron Sindh.

The second was comprised of 19 barges, namely the Thong Kwan Fah, Thong Ba Bin, Rung Prasan Sai, Luang Yai, Taeng Mo, E-luang, Tamruad 1, 2, and 3, Dung 3, 4, 15, 16, 18, and 19, and Sang 1, 3, 4, and 6.

The third included 11 barges, namely the Dung 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 20, and 22, and Sang 7.

The fourth and final one was consisted of 8 barges, namely the Dung 2, 6, 8, 13, 14, and 21, and Sang 2 and 5.

3. The Organisation of the Grand Royal Barge Procession

The Grand Royal Barge Procession on November 7, 1996, was based on the traditional and ceremonial water-borne processions that have been undertaken by Thai kings since the Sukhothai Period of the 13th. and 14th. centuries. A total of 52 Royal Barges, including the newly-built Narai Song Suban King Rama IX, glided along the





Chao Phraya River with grace and beauty to mark the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Accession to the Throne.

About 2,200 officials from the Royal Thai Navy received training in how to crew these Royal Barges. The training period lasted seven months, and covered synchronised and ceremonial rowing practice, both on and off land.

4. The H.T.M.S. Mae Klong Museum

The Royal Thai Navy has established its first Thai warship museum by turning His Thai Majesty's Ship Mae Klong, which has gracefully served the Navy for almost 59 years, into a museum. The ship and her on-board equipment, including weapons, were kept as much and as perfect as possible in their original conditions. Located at Chulachomklao Dockyard in Samut Prakarn Province, the ship-turned museum is scheduled to be opened in June, 1997. It will provide information to the public on the Navy's activities and Thai warship maritime history.





5. The Laem Promthep Golden Jubilee Lighthouse

This is the first lighthouse to be built on land. Situated at the popular Laem Promthep in the Southern Province of Phuket, the lighthouse aids navigation in the Andaman Sea. It also supplies data on Thailand's mean time, and the sun's rising and setting times.

The base of Laem Promthep Golden Jubilee Lighthouse is nine-metres wide, which is to signify that His Majesty the King is the ninth King of the Chakri Dynasty.

Taking measurements from the Laem Promthep Viewpoint, the lighthouse is 50 feet high which is in reference to His Majesty the King's 50 years of reign.

The lighthouse has a range of 39 kilometres. This is in recognition of 2539 B.E. (1996 A.D.), the year that Thailand celebrated the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn graciously laid the lighthouse's founding stone, complete with inscription, on April 12, 1996. The project is due to be completed in the near future.





6. The Marine Rehabilitation and Environmental Conservation Project

With the cooperation of both the public and private sectors, the Royal Thai Navy launched the above project to rehabilitate the marine environment, increase the number of habitat areas for marine animals, and convince the public of the importance of marine resources. One of the main aims of the project was to achieve concrete results (to a specified extent) by December 31, 1996. It involved :-

- The collection of underwater rubbish along the coastline Provinces of Chonburi, Rayong, Chanthaburi, and Trad in the East, and Songkhla and Phang-Nga in the South.

- The cultivation of coral reef, in a designated 250,000 square kilometre area, around islands in the Sattahip District of Chonburi Province.

- The cultivation of sea and hawksbill turtles totalling 50,939 in Chonburi and Phang-Nga Provinces.

- The cultivation of top shells (350,939 in total) at the Royal Thai Navy's Oceanography Station in Sattahip District, and their later releasement into their natural habitats.

7. The Ban Laem Golden Jubilee Offshore Lighthouse

Located in Ban Laem District in Petchaburi Province, the lighthouse is there to mark out an ark shell conservation area and also conserve the offshore environment in an area some 3,000 metres from the shore. The project also included the construction of an artificial coral reef along Ban Laem coastline. This not only helps in the conservation of the largest ark shell cultivation area in Thailand, but also increases the population, variety, and productivity of offshore marine animals.





The Reforestation Campaign in Commemoration of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The Reforestation Campaign is a unique project that is being implemented as yet another in a long line of tributes to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of the 50th. Anniversary Celebrations (Royal Golden Jubilee) of his Accession to the Throne in 1996. The campaign has received enormous nationwide support and dedication which demonstrate the pride that Thai people everywhere have in their nation and more so, in their King. For many Thais who wish to pay homage to their revered King on this auspicious occasion, this is perhaps the best, and only way for many of them to be able to do so. For these reasons, the campaign reflects close collaboration between the Royal Thai Government and all its citizens in revitalising the forests throughout the country.

The first and foremost objective of the campaign is to expand and establish, as much as possible, the tree growing areas in the shortest period of time. This will be done by planting indigenous tree species on approximately 5 million rai of degraded land. It is also an objective of the project organisers to mobilise the public into participating as much as possible so that everybody will have the chance to share in the glory of the Royal Golden Jubilee, and that the planted trees will be permanently and affectionately taken care of by all involved.

The campaign commenced in 1994 and is scheduled to be completed in 1999. Its goals are to revive depleted forests, especially in the watershed areas. Other target areas include national parks, wildlife reserves, and mangrove forests. In addition, the project aims to plant trees along roadsides and waterways, on government land, and in school premises, religious compounds, and recreational areas, such as parks and reservoirs. The Royal Forestry Department is responsible for the preparation of the tree and forest seedlings for planting.





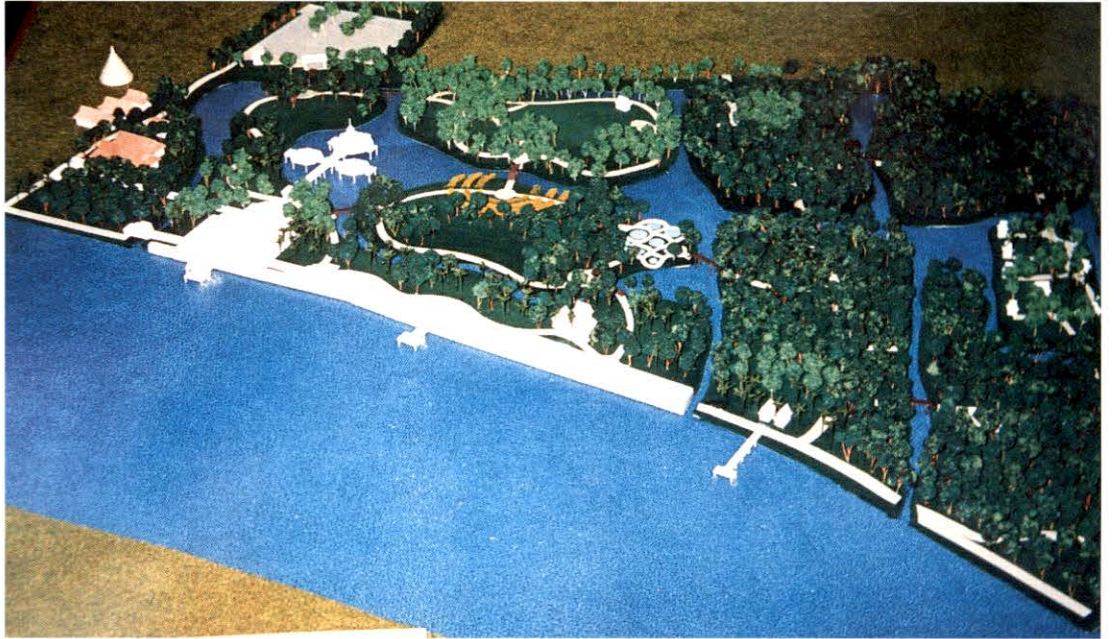
The Royal Riverside Park

Among the projects in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty the King's Reign was the construction of Thailand's first riverside park in the Muang District of Nonthaburi Province. The project, undertaken by the Ministry of Finance's Treasury Department, occupies a 102 rai area (about 40 acres) on the banks of the Chao Phraya River. The Cabinet approved a budget of 937 million Baht to finance this project.

The Royal Riverside Park consists of a lake, land-scaped, decorative, and flowering plant gardens, a multi-purpose pavilion, an office building which will be responsible for the administration, day-to-day running, and up-keep of the park, a group of Thai-style houses, an open-air theatre, a stand, a car park, and piers. The gardens are the focal point of the park and are comprised of, among other things, a water garden with numerous water plants indigenous to Thailand, plus a conservation garden featuring native crops from Nonthaburi, such as, durian, mangosteen and pamelo.

Part of the park is expected to be open by the end of 1997. It will serve as a recreational area for Their Majesties the King and Queen, the Royal Family, and Royal Guests. It will also serve as a recreational centre, as well as a tourist destination for both Thai and foreign visitors.

On this auspicious occasion, meanwhile, the Ministry of Science, Technology, and the Environment launched the Bang Ka Chao Green Area Project in the Phra Pra Daeng District of Samut Prakarn Province. The project encompasses a 148 rai area and is scheduled to be completed in 1999. It includes the construction of a park and botanical garden, which are important for the ecological conservation of the Chao Phraya River Delta.





The National Campaign to Eliminate Iodine Deficiency Disorders among Thai People

*O*n the occasion of the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne, the Thai Red Cross Society, Ministries of Public Health and the Interior, and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration have, in an expression of loyalty to His Majesty, initiated 'The National Campaign to Eliminate Iodine Deficiency Disorders among Thai People.' The campaign is aimed at reducing the goitre prevalence rate in Thai children nationwide to five percent or less by the year 1995, and to make that figure sustainable. It is also to encourage brain development and the prevention of mental retardation in new-born babies from 1996 (His Majesty the King's Golden Jubilee Year) onwards.

Iodized salt has been distributed by to about 12 million households all over the country. Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the launching ceremony on January 28, 1996, at the Royal Plaza, thus marking the beginning of the ambitious campaign.

The Establishment of the Museum and Training Centre of Traditional Thai Medicine

*T*o commemorate the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty the King's Reign, the Ministry of Public Health has established the Museum and Training Centre of Traditional Thai Medicine in recognition of its continuing significance to Thai medicine. The building is located on a 12 rai plot of land in Nonthaburi Province, and serves as a resource centre for the learning and advancement of traditional Thai medicine. The museum is on the second floor and exhibits important topics at various times of the year, such as recent herb, technique, and recipe discoveries. Surrounding the building, there are herb gardens.





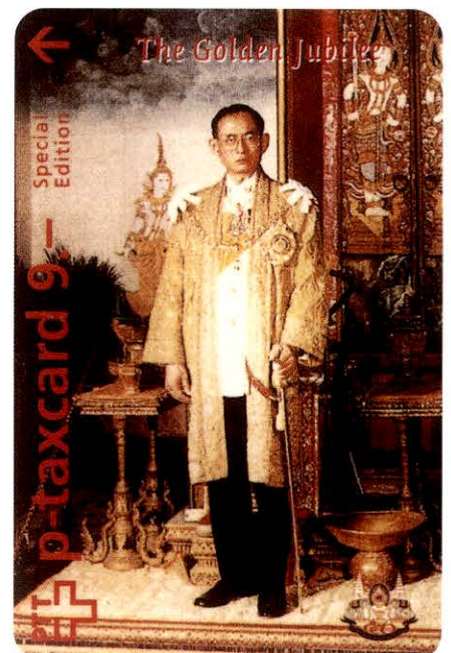
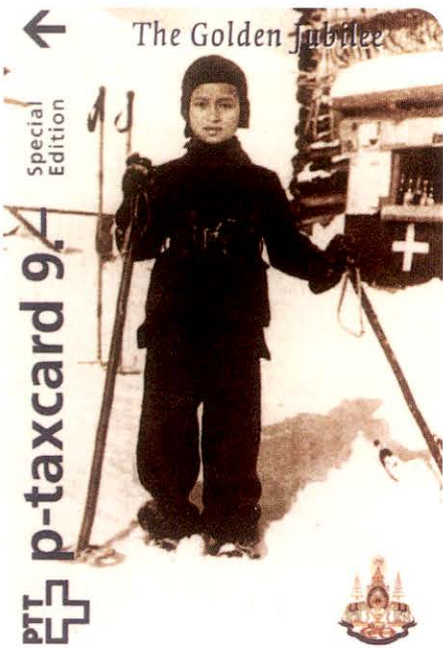
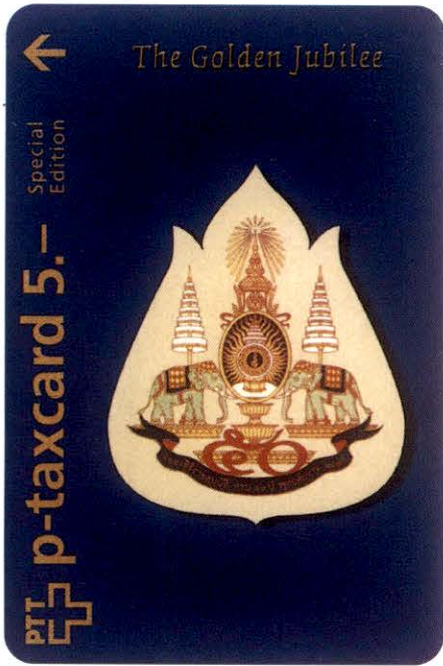
The Royal Thai Embassies' Activities in Commemoration of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations

During the years 1995 and '96, the Royal Thai Embassies situated abroad in Asia, Australia, Europe, and America organised their own activities to mark the Golden Jubilee Celebrations. These included exhibitions, panel discussions, video presentations, gala dinner concerts, and religious functions. All represented the highest of honours that could be accorded by Thai people to His Majesty the King, the great Monarch of Thailand.

Rejoicing at this auspicious occasion, the people of Thailand were joined by many countries around the world in celebrating this spectacular event. Switzerland, in particular, had attached quite a large significance to this occasion for one special reason. It was in Switzerland that His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej spent his childhood and received a 17-year long education. This very fact has served as unique link in the already happy relationship between Thailand and Switzerland. In light of it, Swiss TELECOM PTT and the Royal Thai Embassy in Bern agreed to work together to issue a special set of three telephone cards in commemoration of His Majesty the King's Golden Jubilee. The first is an illustration of the Royal Ceremonial Emblem which commemorates the 50th Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne. The second is a picture of His Majesty as a young Prince in Switzerland at the age of nine (1936). The third and final card features His Majesty in Thailand, as the Soul of the Nation, at the age of 66 (1993).









Thai People Nationwide Join in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations

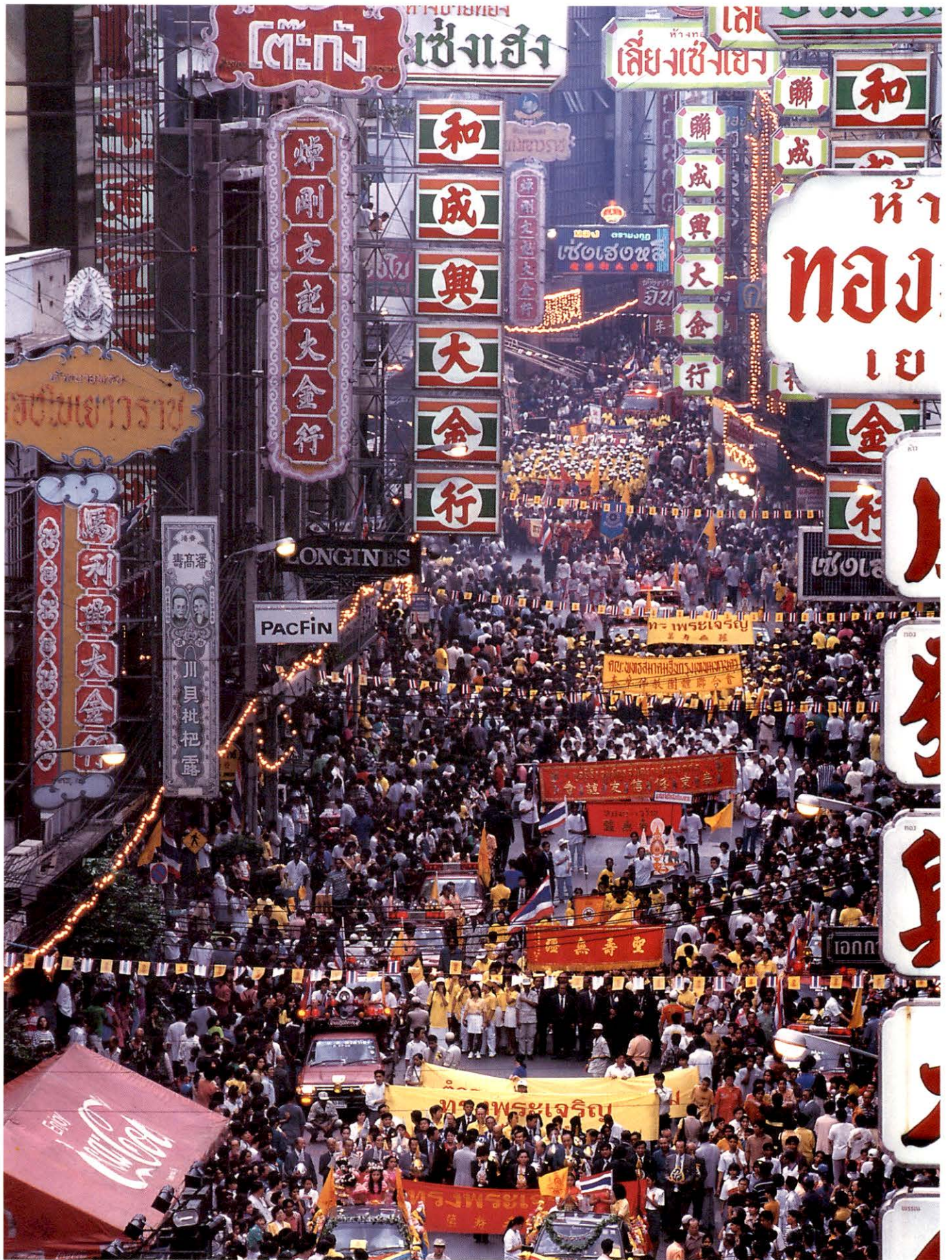
*T*hai-Chinese people, having 55 different family names, joined forces in celebrating the 50th. Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne with eight activities. Among them was the running of a 'golden' Golden Jubilee Ceremonial Emblem, along with flags which bore the same ceremonial emblem, all across the country and encompassing each of Thailand's 76 Provinces. The event took place between June 10 and December 5, 1995. On this occasion, and upon the arrival of the ceremonial emblem and flags, free meals were offered to prisoners in every province.

Free meals, mainly consisting of Chinese food, were also offered to people from all walks of life as a form of indiscriminate alms-giving on June 9, 1995, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Sanam Luang in central Bangkok.

In June, 1995 and '96, Thai-Chinese people, having 55 different family names, carried out development work all along Yaowarat Road and in Bangkok's Chinatown area. The general public were urged to join in the activities to show gratitude to His Majesty the King.

On June 9, 1996, the Golden Jubilee Day, the group organised the grandest ever street fair in the Chinatown area. They were joined by uncountable associations, business entities, and organisations. Food was offered to 99 monks in the morning, followed by a procession of Chinese deities, alms-giving, and Chinese-style public performances.

As Thai people in Thailand's Capital, Bangkok, joyously celebrated the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty the King's Reign, those who live in the other 75 Provinces had sought out, and were implementing special projects in honour of their beloved King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The following pictures illustrate but a few in the huge plethora of tributes to His Majesty the King on this auspicious occasion.









1. A chapter of 1,500 Buddhist monks chant prayers at Phra Pathom Chedi, or the Great Pagoda, in Nakhon Pathom Province.
2. The running of the Golden Jubilee Ceremonial Flags and Emblem in Samut Prakan Province.
3. The releasing of fish into the Mae La River in Singburi Province.
4. A walkathon in Rayong Province in honour of H.M. the King.
5. Reforestation activities in Phetchaburi Province.
6. Grand celebrations take place in Ratchaburi Province on June 9, 1996, to mark the Golden Jubilee Day.
7. Blood donations in Uthai Thani Province on December 5, 1996, H.M. the King's birthday.
8. Thais in Pathum Thani Province joyously celebrate the Golden Jubilee Year.



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1. A religious practice at Pa Keng Temple in Chaiyaphum Province as a tribute to His Majesty the King.
2. Both the public and private sectors in Yasothon Province join in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in front of the Town Hall.
3. The construction of 65-metre high 'Ho Kaew Mukdahan', or 'Mukdahan Crystal Tower', to commemorate His Majesty's Golden Jubilee Celebrations.
4. The planting of shade-giving trees in Amnat Charoen Province as part of the Reforestation Campaign.

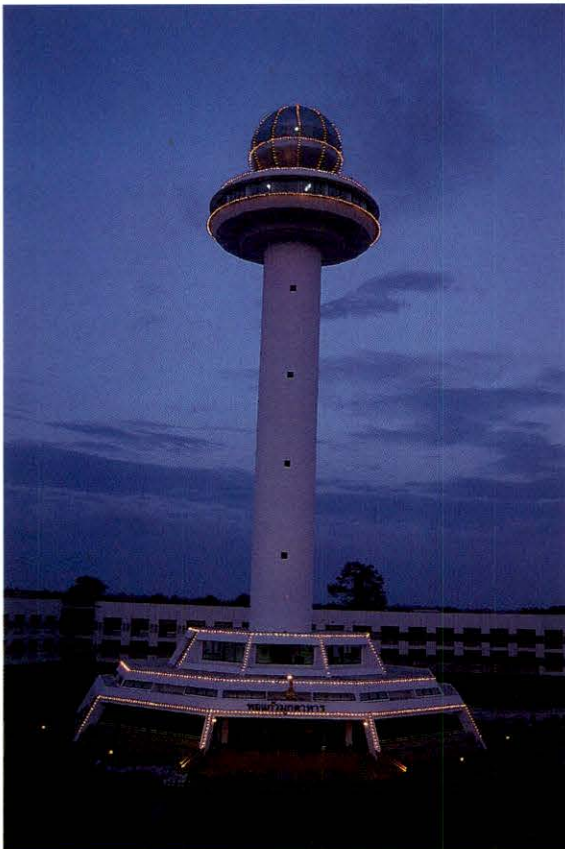


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5. Another atmosphere of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in Khon Kaen Province.
6. The private sector and Nakhon Phanom Red Cross Society joined forces in building 109 much-needed houses for the poor.
7. Foreign students, dressed in exquisite Thai costumes, join in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of His Majesty's Reign at Buri Ram Pittayakhom School.



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1. The running of the Golden Jubilee Ceremonial Flags and Emblem in Chumphon Province.
2. Reforestation in Yala Province.
3. Muslims in Songkhla Province offer their best wishes and congratulations to H.M. the King on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of his Reign.
4. The Governor of Phatthalung Province hands out land deeds to residents of Khokcha-Ngai Sub-District.
5. A festive and joyous atmosphere is present at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province.
6. Alms giving in Ranong Province as a tribute to His Majesty.







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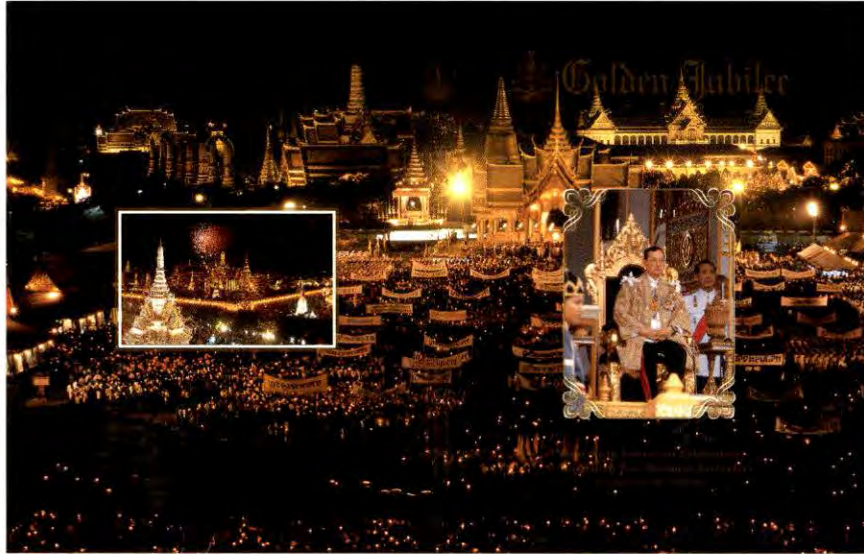
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