
SPAFA AFFAIRS

PREHISTORY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, FOCUS OF SPAFA SEMINAR

The SPAFA Co-ordinating Unit with the cooperation of the SPAFA Thai Sub-Centre, concluded a Seminar in Prehistory of Southeast Asia. The Opening Ceremony of the seminar was held at the King Vajiravudh Memorial Hall, National Library, Bangkok, Thailand.

Mr. Nikom Musigakama, the Director of the Archaeology Division gave the address to all participants. He said that this was the first time that the SPAFA Thai Sub-Centre hosted a seminar on the Prehistory of Southeast Asia, in contrast to the Philippines SPAFA Sub-Centre for Prehistory which had successfully implemented similar activities several times before. He mentioned the objectives of the Seminar and stressed that this seminar would further the work already done by SPAFA in bringing together archaeologists and specialists in Prehistory in the ASEAN region. The people of the region, he said, had been closely inter-dependent for the past 10,000 years and will continue to do so in the future.

The Seminar was formally opened by Deputy Director-General of the Fine Arts Department, Dr. Suvit Rasmibhuti. In his welcoming address he mentioned that this seminar included many representatives of ASEAN as well as non-ASEAN nations most of them were outstanding archaeologists and specialists. He said that the aim of the seminar was for the intensive communication among them.

The seminar ran from January 12 to 15 1987 in Bangkok and then the field research and trips were conducted from January 16 to 25, 1987 in Lop Buri, Surat Thani, Phangnga, Phuket and Krabi, southern Thailand.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The major recommendations presented at the Seminar were as follows: contact between Southeast Asian institutions conducting prehistoric research should be

established and further promoted through exchange of publications, research data, and joint implementation of significant national projects, as well as through personal contacts between scholars and researchers; regular meetings between Southeast Asian Prehistorians should be promoted to discuss research data obtained scientifically in order to consolidate existing prehistoric reconstructions; the study of rock arts in Southeast Asia should be continued and expanded. Those recommendations were brought out by the Indonesian delegation.

The Philippine delegates recommended that thorough survey, mapping, and exploration of the limestone formation in southern Thailand with special attention to caves with prehistoric materials because of their potential for future archaeological research; a move should be initiated to protect the archaeological sites in southern Thailand; and, immediate attention should be given to shell midden sites in southern Thailand and lithic working sites in northern Thailand, and that these sites be investigated by highly-experienced teams.

The Malaysian delegation recommended that sea level changes in Southeast Asia should become a focus of study; reference collection of shells found in Southeast Asian sites should be established in order to identify species discovered in archaeological sites, to provide indication regarding past modes of utilization and preparation of shells for human purpose, and to increase paleoenvironmental studies. Bead and ceramic samples should be shared with SPAFA member countries, prepare four sets of bead and shard samples for distribution to the other member countries in order to assist researchers in observing the frequency, distribution and differences of types, and variations in surface decoration. There is a great need to standardize terminologies and descriptions of the categories of types of artifacts. Conservation and



Group photo of Seminar Participants taken at Surat Thani

preservation of rock arts site should also be undertaken scientifically.

The Thai delegation brought out some of the major problems which need further research: 1) clearer distinction of the different periods of Thai prehistory; 2) more precise description and categorization of stone tools; 3) standardization of terminologies of artifactual materials; 4) improve the periodization scheme of Southeast Asian prehistory. They also recommended that there should be closer cooperation between archaeologists, geologists and geomorphologists in order to include environmental changes in archaeological research.

The Seminar participants also recommended that more research should be undertaken regarding: 1) mangrove adaptation; 2) hunting-gathering ecology; 3) excavation of large prehistoric sites utilizing multi-disciplinal and inter-disciplinal approaches involving particularly the specialists in the field of geology and geomorphology; 4) investigation of ancient mining and metallurgy in Southeast Asia; 5) seek more precise methods of defining the boundary between Pleistocene and Holocene periods; and 6) systematic and comparative study of burial systems in prehistory and their possible implications on rock paintings and other cave art.

COUNTRY REPORTS

Country reports from three participating member countries: Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand were presented and discussed. The first country report was presented by the Thai delegation. **Mr. Pisit Charoenwongsa**, head of the research department of the Archaeology Division, the Fine Arts Department, who was elected Chairman of the Seminar presented his paper entitled "The State of Prehistoric Research in Thailand". He reported that inspite of limited funds available, the scope of research by the Fine Arts Department had expanded to all regions of Thailand. The second Thai country report was presented by **Mr. Surin Pookajorn** on the Phi Tong Luang hunter-gatherers. He supplemented his report by a slide presentation. The third Thai country report entitled "Current Research on Prehistoric Copper-Based Metallurgy in Thailand" was presented by **Mr. Surapol Natapintu**. Based on present evidence, he reported that copper-based metallurgy was well developed in mainland Southeast Asia particularly in Thailand by the second millennium B.C. or even earlier.

The fourth Thai country report was presented by **Mr. Werasit Choosangthong** who discussed excavation at Non



Mr. Pisit Charoenwongsa from Thailand, Chairman of the Seminar flanked by Dr. Jesus T. Peralta from the Philippines as Vice Chairman and Miss D.D. Bintarti from Indonesia, Rapporteur of the Seminar.

Muang, Khon Kaen, northern Thailand, a moated circular mound 5 metres high, 600 metres in diameter which was explored in 1983. The fifth paper of Thai participant was given by **Mrs. Amara Srisuchat**. Her paper dealt with important cave and other prehistoric sites in southern Thailand. She presented numerous slides, and discussed excavations at Pak-Om, Buang Baeb, and Kho Khi Chan. C-14 dates from the three sites ranged from 4,750 to 6,910 B.P. She also discussed briefly a few sites with rock paintings, and called attention to the similarity between a rock painting and an orang asli using blow pipe similar to those in Malaysia.

The sixth paper of Thai participants was presented by **Mr. Niti Sangwan**. His paper dealt with rock painting sites in the Phangnga and Krabi bay areas, numbering nine examples. His talk was supplemented with slides. **Asst. Prof. Pacharee Sarikabutara** presented the final paper from Thailand. She discussed motifs used in the cave paintings in Krabi and Phangnga areas.

The Philippine delegation presented two papers. The first paper by **Mr. Wilfredo Ronquillo** discussed "Highlights of Philippine Prehistory: 1986". He reported on the major finds in Mindanao: (1) Butuan, Agusan Province in the northeastern Mindanao where 8 boats (balanghai) were found; and (2) The Griffin underwater site, located South of Basilan island near the Zamboanga Peninsula. The data show evidence of seafaring capabilities and trade links in the islands and overseas by the early centuries A.D.

Next **Dr. Jesus T. Peralta** discussed the "White Paste Stamped Ceramics Found in Butuan City, Agusan

Province". The wares were white, with stamped decoration, and fired at about 800 degrees C. These are the only white paste wares found in the Philippines. Some of the unusual features of the ceramics is that it is stamped decorated all over the body, in a technique which showed generally even pressure which may indicate that they were not made with the use of carved paddle. He concluded that these white paste stamped marked ceramic were imported to the Philippines. Similar wares were recovered from Dumarang, Palawan, and in Bujang Valley, Kedah and other places in Southeast Asia. The wares provide further proof of trade contacts with Southeast Asia by about 10th century A.D.

INDONESIAN COUNTRY REPORTS

The first paper of Indonesia's country reports was delivered by **Ms. D.D. Bintarti** concerning "Urn Burials in Indonesia". She reported that there were three prehistoric burial systems, namely with or without containers, or a combination of both. Excavated sites include Anyer and Plawangan on Java, Gilimanuk on Bali, Melolo in Sumba, and Lowoleba, a number of other sites are known but have not been excavated. She showed numerous slides to illustrate her presentation.

The second paper by **Mr. Kosasih E.A.** dealt with excavations in two caves on Muna Island, Southeast Sulawesi, in 1986. Paintings of humans, animals, ships and solar motifs are found in a complex of caves of the island. Animals depicted include horses, while faunal remains found in excavations included both land and aquatic species. Earthenware ceramics were also found which showed similarities with pottery from Buni, Northwest Java, Kalumpang, South Sulawesi and Lewoleba.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Dr. Nik Hassan Shuhaimi gave an overview of research on prehistoric archaeology in Malaysia, 1976-1986. He discussed Prof. W.G. Solheim II's periodization of the history of archaeological research in Malaysia, and suggested some revisions. The work of I. H. N. Evans and G. de G. Sieveking deserve to be seen as having fundamentally influenced the direction of research in Malaysia. Archaeology done by Malaysian scholars dates from Adi Haji Taha's work in Gua Cha, Zuraina Majid's in Niah Cave, and Leong Sau Heng's at Jenderam Hilir.

Mrs. Leong Sau Heng described "Recent Research on the Neolithic in Peninsular Malaysia". Over 130 Neolithic

sites have been reported. Very little data on neolithic economy has been collected. Flotation was undertaken in 1979 at Gua Cha by Adi Haji Taha, but no recognizable plant remains were recovered. She said that cave sites had been over-emphasized at the expense of open sites. The Jenderam Hilir site, an open site, has yielded cord-marked pottery, including 135 tripod legs, ground or polished stone tools, and grinding stones. Furthermore she asserted that the distribution of sites with tripod pottery showed that there was preference for low-land plains and alluvial valleys, probably as a consequence of dependence of the pottery-makers on horticulture.

Prof. Dr. Hong Djin Tjia discussed "Ancient Shorelines of Peninsular Malaysia". He concluded that sea level rose by 5 ms. between 5,000 B.P. and the present, then declined to 2 ms. with fluctuations to 1 m. below present level between 2,000-1,500 B.P., then rose again to 1-1.5 ms. above present level a few hundred years ago.

Dr. Bennet Bronson presented his paper on "Models for Southern Thai Pre- and Proto-History". He described southern Thailand as possessing unusual environmental and geographical characteristics, and the course of development of early societies were also as unusual. Regular seasonal movements by hunter-gatherers are likely to have occurred, during months of scarcity when human groups were forced to disperse. Sophisticated, market-oriented hunter-gatherers may have constituted the main population in the South until the early second millennium A.D.

Dr. David J. Welch presented a paper on "Approaches to Settlement Pattern Studies in Southeast Asian Archaeology," based on his current research in the Phimai and Pattani areas. In a 1600-sq.km. area of Northeast Thailand, 334 probable sites have been identified from

aerial photos; 300 sq.kms. have been checked by ground survey. Statistical analysis showed that sites were not randomly or evenly distributed, but clustered at certain spots, particularly on recently-formed low terraces. Based on the types of sizes of the settlements suggest that several politico-economic units existed around Phimai in the late Prehistoric period.

Dr. Karl Hutterer, read his paper entitled "Southeast Asia as a Region". He called attention to the dearth of knowledge concerning the Southeast Asian palaeolithic as one of the major challenges facing archaeologists in the region. A regional perspective, he asserted, must be combined with intensive local research to understand the transition from hunting and gathering to food-production. Exchanges of ideas as well as plants among various parts of Southeast Asia must have been reciprocal, and must be considered in developing hypotheses of development of Southeast Asian cultural traits.

Mr. Sayan Praichanchit, presented his paper "Preliminary Report on Lithic Industries in Mae Hong Son, Nan and Uttaradit: Northern Thailand". At Mae Hong Son, of the 6 different artifacts, majority were unfinished bifacials, some exhibiting edge-grinding and polishing. At Nan 7 types of artifacts were found, the most common were axes. While at Uttaradit, at least 5 types of artifacts were found. Neither ceramics, nor faunal remains had so far been found during the survey. By comparison to finds in dated sites such as Spirit Cave, Ban Chiang, and Chansen, the site may date to ca. 5950-200 B.C.

Dr. Douglas Anderson, discussed his findings based on his survey and excavation in Krabi. Survey began in 1974 and excavation began four seasons later. At Na Ching, adzes may have been manufactured at Lang Rong Rien rock shelter, Hoabinhian discoidal artifacts with steep edge



The Philippine and Indonesian Delegations.



Some of Thai Delegates to the Seminar. From left to right : Mr. Surapol Natapintu, Mr. Surin Pookajorn, Mrs. Amara Srisuchat, Miss Pacharee Sarikabutara, and Mr. Niti Sangwan.

flaking similar to those from Malaysia were found. C-14 dates for this stratum range between 7,000-8,000 B.P. Beneath it follows a metre-thick limestone layer, then three more cultural layers marked by charcoal stains, bone, and stone artifacts (fewer than 50 from all three). Level 8 has two dates of around 27,000 B.P. and one of 32,000 B.P., level 9, one date of 37,000. No date has been obtained for level 10.

The paper by **Dr. Sin Sinsikul** discussed "Quaternary Geology and Sea-Level Changes in the Area of Phangnga and Krabi" which he illustrated with slides. At 30,000 B.P. Phangnga experienced a transgression; a regression subsequently is indicated by an oxidized soil layer. Peat was deposited between 20,000-11,000 B.P. At 8,000 the sea entered Phangnga Bay. Shells were cemented in caves around Phangnga Bay around 4,500 B.P. It is concluded that sea level rose up to 5 ms. above the present level at about 5,700 B.P.

Mr. Paiboon Pramojanee dealt with "Geomorphology and Soils of Krabi and Phangnga". He showed slides of the area. At Sai Thai, Krabi, sea level was 12-20 metres higher at $5,740 \pm 130$; at Trang, $5,120 \pm 90$; at Satun, $7,680 \pm 140$ B.P.

Prof. Dr. R. P. Soejono discussed "Developments in Prehistoric Research in Indonesia During the Last 10 Years". He showed slides of the sites of the artifacts found. Over 100 sites have been investigated during this period, distributed throughout most of the country.

PARTICIPANTS

The official delegates of three SPAFA Member Countries were as follows: Prof. Dr. R.P. Soejono, Miss D.D. Bintarti and Mr. Kosasih E.A. from Indonesia;

Dr. Alfredo E. Evangelista, Dr. Jesus T. Peralta and Mr. Wilfredo P. Ronquillo from the Philippines; Mr. Pisit Charoenwongsa, Mr. Niti Sangwan, Mr. Surapol Natapintu, Mrs. Amara Srisuchat, Mr. Werasit Choosangthong, Mr. Surin Pookajorn and Miss Pacharee Sarikabutara from Thailand.

Consultants and Specialists from different countries and institutions also attended the Seminar. From Malaysia, five attended namely: Prof. Dr. Hong Djin Tjia, University Kebangsaan, Bangi, Selangor, Dr. Nik Hassan Shuhaimi bin Abdul Rachman also from the same University. Dr. Zuraina Majid from University Sains Malaysia, Penang, Mr. Adi Haji Taha of the Muzium Negara, Kuala Lumpur, and Mrs. Leong Sau Heng, University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. There were 3 consultants from Thailand namely, Asst. Prof. Dr. Pornchai Suchitta from Faculty of Archaeology, Silpakorn University; Dr. Sin Sinsikul from Department of Mineral Resources, Ministry of Industry; and Mr. Paiboon Pramojanee of Department of Land Development, Division of Soil Survey, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. From the USA, the consultants were: Dr. Douglas D. Anderson from Brown University; Dr. Karl L. Hutterer from the University of Michigan; Dr. Bennet Bronson of the Field Museum of Natural History; Dr. John N. Miksic, specialist in Archaeology under the Ford Foundation who has been teaching at the University of Gadjah Mada, Jogjakarta, Indonesia; and Dr. David J. Welch, Fulbright Visiting Lecturer at Prince of Songkhla University, Pattani. There were one each from England and France, namely Dr. Ian Glover of the Institute of Archaeology in London and Mr. Jean Boulbet, who has been working on the fauna and flora of the Phuket, Phangnga and Krabi areas,

respectively.

Observers from within and outside the region were in attendance. Six Malaysians coming from different states participated in the Seminar, namely Mr. Ahmad bin Harun, Mr. Md. Ali Jaafar, and Mr. Zakaria Kamaruddin from Kedah; Mr. Kamaruzaman Abdul Rahman, from the University Kebangsaan, Bangi, Selangor; Dr. Othman Yatim from Muzium Negara, Kuala Lumpur, and Mr. Ibrahim Kalali from Sabah Museum, Sabah. From Thailand, observers came mostly from Divisions of Archaeology and National Museum, Department of Fine Arts. They were Mr. Pathommarek Ketudat from the Faculty of Sociology and Anthropology, Thammasat University; Mr. Sawang Lerdtit from the Center of Southern Thailand Studies, Prince of Songkhla University; Mr. Pajrapong Na Pombejra; Assoc. Prof. Chusiri Chamoraman; Assoc. Prof. Wattana Puttanganon from the Faculty of Humanities of Ramkhamhaeng University;

Mrs. Kulpanthada Janposri from Conservation Laboratory of the National Museums Division; Mr. Vidya Intakosai, Project Leader of the Underwater Archaeology Project, Sattahip, Chon Buri; Mr. Prachote Sangkhanukit, Mr. Metha Vichakkhana, Mr. Pathom Rasitanon, Mr. Jaruk Wilaikaew, Mr. Staporn Kwanyuen, Mr. Pratheep Phengtako, Mr. Arunsak Kingmanee from the Archaeology Division; and Mr. Somchai Na Nakhon Phnom from the National Museums Division. From England, there was Ms. Elizabeth Moore, a Graduate Student working on the thesis; from the USA, Dr. Vincent Piggott from the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania; Miss Jill Thomson and Mrs. Judith Welch. There was one observer from India, Dr. H. P. Ray, of the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

A total of 115 people attended the Seminar during the sessions in Bangkok and/or the field trips to the South.

MR. KONGDEJ PRAPATTHONG, A MEMORIAL

by YUPHA Klangsuwan

Faculty of Sociology and Anthropology, Thammasat University



Kongdej Prapatthong.

"Don't wear a sad face when working..."

Mr. Kongdej Prapatthong one of Thailand's outstanding historical archaeologists passed away suddenly in his office on July 16, 1986 at the age of 48. His passing is a great loss to Thai scholarship in general, and to Thai archaeology in particular. His death is a tremendous loss to many people who had the good fortune of having known him.

A learned man who had a mastery of several Thai classical and Indian languages, he also possessed a vast knowledge of Asian history and culture. Colleagues and students who needed to verify their sources of information, or were in search for precise facts turned to Mr. Kongdej for help. Not only did Mr. Kongdej willingly share information, he even cited exactly the sources, including the date, place of publication, and the edition of the book. He relied on original inscriptions and primary sources rather than the interpretation of some other scholar

no matter how world famous that scholar may be. His immense knowledge and sharp memory earned him the reputation of "portable reference library" and "the walking encyclopaedia". But to most of his colleagues and friends he was simply "khūn," and to the youngsters he was "Phi Khūn".

A serious and dedicated scholar, he never made his profession come in the way of making friends and in enjoying the company of young people. At work and at play, Khun Kongdej did things wholeheartedly and intensely, like playing Thai chess, a game where he was a champion. He was the best guide and companion in difficult fieldtrips. Fieldtrips with Khun Kongdej were as interesting as they were fun. And he could make archival research as intriguing as detective story. He often reminded close friends, "Don't wear a sad face when working, otherwise you will scare the younger generation away from scholarship".

Khun Kongdej came from a family of naval officers. His father was Captain Yam Prapatthong who was married to Khun Suwanna and they had six sons, four of whom became Colonels of the Royal Thai Navy except the eldest and the third sons. Khun Kongdej was the eldest, and the only one who chose a scholarly career. He used to say that while his brothers fought the battles, he would write the accounts.

He received his early education at King Pong Vidhya School and at Wat Rachativas School. Later he took up a Bachelor's Degree in Archaeology at Silpakorn University. After graduation in 1962 he won a scholarship to study for a Master's Degree in archaeology at Deccan College, Poona University, India, and subsequently underwent further training in archaeology at the Archaeology Institute of India. Soon after his return, he joined the Fine Arts Department but decided after a few years to spend sometime teaching historical archaeology at Silpakorn University (1966-1974). In 1974, he joined the National Library where he became an epigraphist from 1974 to 1980. However, in 1980 he was appointed as archaeologist in the Conservation and Restoration Section of the Archaeology Division, Fine Arts Department. In 1982 he became Chief of that Section, a position he retained until his death in 1986.

While still a schoolboy, Khun Kongdej already demonstrated his incisive and critical mind. One of his high school teachers who taught Thai history gave a lecture on the Thai-Burmese wars waged during the Ayutthaya period. The teacher told the pupils that King Hong Sawadee Burengnong was a "Lin dam" (literally "had

a black tongue") which has the connotation in Thai of being an extraordinary brave warrior. Kongdej answered back and argued that the appellation suited King Tabengchaveti better than King Hong Sawadee Burengnong. The teacher was upset by the boy's temerity to question him, and asked the boy where he got his information. Kongdej replied proudly that he read it from a well-known novel entitled, *Phu Chana Sib Thid* (The All-Round Hero-Winner) which was written by a famous writer named Yakhob. Instead of analyzing the reasons behind their difference of opinion, the teacher scolded Kongdej and said: "How dare you use a novel that was not approved by the Ministry of Education!". Whereupon Kongdej was beaten three times. This lesson in Thai history was to remain as a negative example on how to conduct intellectual discussions for the rest of Kongdej's life. He decided to devote himself in the pursuit of verifiable evidence on Thai history.

The scholarly skills he acquired whether in languages, archaeological methods, and documentation were channelled to one of the main preoccupations of his life to trace the origins and the development of the Thai people. For this reason, he proposed a research project which would entail the study of Thai chronicles as well as Chinese historical records for all possible references on the Thai people, and together with these historical accounts, undertake archaeological research in Thailand and China. He found many references to the early Thai people in Chinese chronicles, annals and other literary sources. Such toponyms as Thai-nung, Ta-mung could refer to Thai people who were said to have lived along the Huang Ho and later settled at Nakhon Lung, Kakhon Pa. He also believed that novels like the *Sam Kok* (The Romance of the Three Kingdoms) could be useful sources of information. In some of the sections of this long literary work, there were references to Thais who lived along the southern part of China, and such characters mentioned as the Beng Heng, the Man-ong seem to parallel with what the Thais know as local lord. Nanchao Kingdom in southwestern China was also said to be once the settlement of the Thais of ethnically related Thai people. He mentioned that the Nanchao Inscription of King Kao Lo Feng period may show evidence of the Thai groups in Yunnan, and that the King in Mong Hua dynasty may have been a Thai. Khun Kongdej also worked on Northern Thai Chronicles such as *Singhona Wat Kumarn*, and those of Payao, *Hirannakorn Nuang-yang Chiang Saen*, *Phra Dhatu Doi Tung*, *Chiang Mai*, etc. All of these chronicles tell about people in Lanna Thai who

were not natives but who migrated and built their settlements in the area. In short, Khun Kongdej wanted to utilize historical accounts, chronicles, inscriptions both in Thailand and in China in order to throw light on the archaeological evidence about the various ethnic groups related to the Thai peoples.

Khun Kongdej was a meticulous historian and insisted on assessing the evidence before using them. For instance, he said that the Thai scholars generally overlook the important difference between chronicles (which refer to the royal family and the dynasty) and history. Scholars should bear these differences in mind before using sources and writing up history text-books. These distinctions are important in order to fully understand the developments of the institution of the monarchy, Thai society in general, and that of the Thai peoples whoever and wherever they may have been in the past.

He had an active and wide-ranging teaching career. He taught archaeology at Silpakorn University from 1966-1974 where he headed the Historical Archaeology Section. He also gave lectures at Thammasat University, Chulalongkorn University, and at the Educational Institute for Buddhist Monks. He taught at these different institutions until 1974 when he was transferred to the National Library. While he was working there, he did research on the Mons in Thailand using the various inscriptions found in Thailand, as well as from foreign sources. In his articles, he discussed the possible sites where the Mons could have settled, and inferred from these where other Mon inscriptions were most likely to be found. His other important articles is on the "Ancient Inscriptions at Supadnaram Temple". There were three inscriptions found at the Supadnaram Temple, Tham Phu Ma Nai, Khong Chiam District, Ubon Ratchathani Province. The first inscription which is the oldest of the 3 tells about the beginning of the northeastern history along the Mūn River. The King was named Mahentharaworaman. The inscription is dated to about 558-657 A.D. The second and third inscriptions are of the same date around 858-957 A.D. These three inscriptions provide evidence of the existence of a well-organized society in the area of Ubon Ratchathani 1,400 years ago. Another stone inscription which he transcribed, translated and analyzed was a stone inscription dated 1485 B.E. which was found by Mr. Sukhit Rungratanakorn, of the Computer Center of the Highway Department.

In his researches, Mr. Kongdej was not satisfied with using only one type of evidence. He believed that social processes were very complex and thereby required an array

MR. KONGDEJ PRAPATTHONG

Name	Kongdej Prapatthong
Date of Birth	: December 17, 1937
Father and Mother	: Capt. Yam and Mrs. Suwanna Prapatthong
Wife	: Khun Songsri Prapatthong (Veeraprachat)
Daughter	: 1. Miss Siriratang Prapatthong 2. Miss Waltanawan Prapatthong
Education	: - King Pong Vidhaya School - Wat Rachativas School - Certificate in Archaeology from Silpakorn University, 1958 - B.A. in Archaeology from Faculty of Archaeology, Silpakorn University, 1962 - Deccan College, Poona University: Archaeology Institute of India
Official Employment	: - 1962 Curator Archaeology Division, Fine Arts Dept., worked in Chiang Saen District, Chiang Rai Province. - 1966 transferred to Archaeology Department, Silpakorn University. - 1971 head of the Historic Archaeology Section, Archaeology Dept, Silpakorn University. - 1974 Epigraphist National Library Division Fine Arts Dept. - 1978 Epigraphist National Library Division Fine Arts Dept. - 1980 transferred to Archaeologist Conservation Section 1. - 1982 Archaeologist Chief of Conservation Section Fine Arts Dept. - 1985-1986 Archaeologist Chief of Conservation Section Archaeologist Division.
Date of Death	: July 16, 1986 in the office room at Archaeology Division.

of evidence from archaeological remains, inscriptions, references from both internal and external sources, and that materials prior to and immediately after an event or a period in history can aid scholars in analyzing evidence and putting them in the right perspective. His work on the style of the chedi in the Sukhothai and Chiang Saen periods, demonstrated the way he skillfully used the different types of evidence and source materials. In the "Phra Dhatu Chedi of Muang Chiang Saen", he showed that the style of the chedi changed in accordance to both the practical structural requirements as well as changing symbolisms and religious conceptions of the time. He also explained how foreign influences were incorporated into the chedi form and re-interpreted according to Thai tastes and symbolism. His article on Sukhothai

Archaeology discussed the plan and location of the town, the architectural style of the monuments, and utilized inscriptions, historical accounts, chronicles in order to show the development of the town through time. One final example to illustrate his thoroughness and incisive scholarship is his article entitled "Ideas on Ayuthya Chronicles" where he discussed from internal evidence of the texts, and on linguistic principles of how chronicles were written, re-written, revised, and even re-interpreted by subsequent writers. He said that these changes within the chronicles show the intricacies in using them as evidence of historical events.

Busy as he was as a full-time researcher on epigraphy, because of his love for intellectual discussions and exchange of ideas, he often invited friends and students to his home for informal sessions. It was at these meetings that he presented his research findings and asked colleagues to evaluate his ideas and opinions.

Although he loved intellectual exchanges and discussions, Khun Kongdej was never one to put down another person, or make differences of opinion mar friendships. Possessed with a charming personality, his calm and quiet style of doing things, his ability to relate to all kinds of people under trying circumstances, he

was often asked to act as an arbiter and mediator in various institutional disputes. This task he did at great expense of his time and energy, and even risking his own personal career. Fortunately, he was always successful in bringing together rivalling factions. A very simple man at heart, he asked for the simple joys of family life, the company of close friends, and his work. It is ironic that such a brilliant and devoted scholar rose no higher than rank C-6 in the civil service. But it is almost certain that Khun Kongdej held no rancour against anyone person nor any institution. He loved life and scholarship too much to bother about ranks and promotions. However, as an administrator, he looked after the promotion and career development of those immediately below him. One of the last jokes he told friends just before he died was that, perhaps after all these time, the results of his researches would pass approval of the Ministry of Education. It is regrettable that his numerous fine articles are not accessible to those who cannot read Thai. The Fine Arts Department by issuing a memorial volume which compiled most of Khun Kongdej's writings is a step in the direction of disseminating scholarly works by a Thai to a wider public. It is hoped that an English translation would soon follow.

SOPHIA APPEAL FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE ANGKOR COMPLEX

The International Symposium on the Preservation of the Angkor Complex held at Sophia University, Tokyo on April 20, 1985;

1. Considering that the Angkor Complex comprising Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom and many other monuments is the highest expression of the splendor of Khmer civilization which flourished in the present Cambodia;
2. Being convinced, therefore, that the Complex represents one of the most valuable cultural heritages which mankind can be proud of as its common assets;
3. Being seriously concerned that the Complex is deteriorating owing to the ravages of tropical nature and to the difficulties in safeguarding it effectively;
4. Being of the opinion that the Complex should be preserved by the Cambodian people by all possible means, if necessary through international co-operation;
5. Appeals to those individuals and organizations concerned with the cultural heritage of mankind to join their efforts in finding appropriate ways to prevent the deterioration of the Angkor Complex and in creating the conditions which allow its restoration and preservation; and



Kamkpucean Youths, two of them Monks, enjoy the Peaceful Grounds surrounding the Temple of Angkor Wat. The Temple was built during the reign of King Suryavarman I (1002-1049 A.D.) and is one of Architectural Wonders in the World.

6. Appeals, further, to those institutes and organizations concerned to study the desirability of finding an appropriate way to train personnel who may participate in the eventual restoration and preservation of the Angkor Complex.

This is an excerpt from **CULTURAL HERITAGE IN ASIA: Study and Preservation of Historic Cities of Southeast Asia** Edited by Y. Izhizawa and Y. Kono and published by Institute of Asian Cultures, Sophia University, Tokyo.