



Arts & Culture FAQs



Frequently Asked and Anticipated Questions

The Fine Arts Department, Thailand



**Administrative and Operational
Divisions under the Fine Arts
Department**



Office of Secretariat



Archaeology and Museum

Office of Archaeology

Office of National Museums



Languages and Documentation

Office of Literature and History

Office of National Archive

Office of National Library



Fine Art and Traditional Art

Office of Performing Arts

Office of Traditional Arts

Office of Architecture



Regional Offices of Fine Arts



Arts & Culture
FAQs

Frequently Asked and Anticipated Questions

The Fine Arts Department
Ministry of Culture
Thailand

PREFACE

Thailand has an ancestry dating back over 1,000 years of history, over and above its oral tradition of great antiquity. The many diverse forms of its arts and culture are the foundation of nation-building, progressively sustained and harmoniously blending external influences and indigenous ingenuity to give the unique Thainess and a strong sense of identity as we see today.

The official management of the country's arts and culture is under the authority of the Ministry of Culture, of whose agencies the Fine Arts Department is one. Specifically, the department is responsible for the conservation, promotion and development of the following offices: archaeology, museums, architecture, Thai visual arts and Thai traditional arts, performing arts, literature and history. In other words, it cares for and keeps alive the classical traditions of the country, manifest through intellectual interpretation, performing culture, and material monuments and objects. The department also supervises the depository of the historical, educational, scholarly records of knowledge and information: the National Library and National Archive. The Fine Arts Department's authority extends over all the regions of the country; moreover, it works in an official capacity with overseas institutions, organizations and specialists dedicated to the conservation of culture, historic monuments and sites worldwide.

Throughout its history, the department, apart from tirelessly advancing academic work and the cause of conservation, has served, through all its arms, both government and private agencies and the general public. It works in tandem with society and individuals at various levels towards the achievement of the common goal of promoting and preserving the cultural heritage.

In March 2009, the Fine Arts Department celebrated its 90th anniversary. To coincide with the forthcoming centennial, it is fitting for the department to publicize its role and duties to the wider public through a book (in Thai version), *Arts and Culture at Society's Service : 100 Questions Answered by The Fine Arts Department*. This book is intended to present in an encapsulated form the myriad tasks and

functions the department puts at the service of the public and Thai society, focused especially on those services and activities that are of interest to outsiders who may want to work in coordination with the Fine Arts Department. This first edition has been painstakingly prepared to contain as much accurate and timely information as possible. Already, its Thai version has enjoyed tremendous success.

This first English edition, a freshly revised translation of its parent Thai version, is aimed at foreign agencies and professionals already working in Thailand or in the international community who are part of the same network of cultural conservation as the Fine Arts Department, so that they can now have immediate access to sufficient information to link up with the Fine Arts Department directly and speedily for dialogue or cooperation.

The Fine Arts Department hopes that this book shall be another channel of communication that facilitates contact, brings about benefits and helps to strengthen its relations with overseas agencies and conservation specialists both public and private who may already be working with the Fine Arts Department, in the future to explore means towards realizing common objectives, singly and collectively. This little publication will serve as a small stepping-stone for the department on its way to greater participation, dialogue and sharing of worthwhile projects and activities with international peer professionals in arts and culture.



(Griengrai Sempachalit)

Director General

The Fine Arts Department
Ministry of Culture
Thailand

December 2009

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- Dissemination and Public Relations
- Legal Affairs

Office of Literature and History

- General Administration
- Language and Literature
- History
- Tradition and Custom
- Translation and Compilation

Office of National Museums

- General Administration
- Curatorial
- Museum Registration and Collection
- Museum Promotion and Development
- Conservation Science
- National Museum Bangkok
- The National Gallery
- National Museum in Honor of H.M. the King's Golden Jubilee
- National Museum of Royal Barges
- The Royal Elephant National Museum
- Sipsa Thirawat Memorial National Museum
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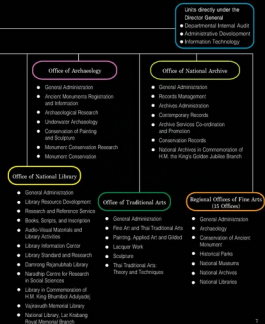
Office of Performing Arts

- General Administration
- Performing Arts
- National Theatre
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- Western Music
- Research and Development Group (Performances)

Office of Architecture

- General Administration
- Architecture
- Engineering
- Decorative Arts
- Construction Management

The Organization Chart of the Fine Arts Department



The Fine Arts Department, Ministry of Culture

The Fine Arts Department's major tasks are exclusively focused on the nation's heritage of arts and culture. Its operations fall within the perimeter of these terms-protection, defending, conservation, preservation, restoration, promotion, creation, dissemination, education, research, analysis, development, passing the torch of national art, treasures and cultural heritage. The ultimate purpose is to hold aloft the aesthetic delicacy and unique cultural expressions of the Thai Ways, which are eminently evocative of nationhood, national ideals and identity, forming the basis for the sustainable development of Thai society and security. Its duty and responsibilities thus grow directly out of the above commitments, as follows:

1. To implement the Act on Ancient Monuments, Antiques, objects of Art and National Museums, related laws and regulations.

2. To preserve, conserve, restore, promote, create, and disseminate the nation's arts, sciences and cultural heritage through the specialized activity and proliferation of museums, archeology, ancient monuments, languages, literature, history, customs and traditions, national library, national archive, performing arts, music, architecture, works of art.

3. To perform the study, research, analysis, and be the information centre for the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage through the activity of museums, archeology, ancient monuments, languages, literature, history, traditions and customs, national library, national archive, performing arts, music, architecture, works of art.

4. To provide education and perform research and analysis on performing arts, music, traditional arts, and other matters bearing on arts and culture.
5. To supervise all operations related to the nation's arts and culture.
6. To fulfil any other obligations which, under law, falls within the authority of the department or as commanded by the Ministry of Culture and the Cabinet.

Vision

To be the principal agency in building the intellectual funds for use by Thais in the conservation and creation of artistic and cultural heritage.

Mission

1. To uphold and preserve the value and identity of artistic and cultural heritage.
2. To carry the torch of artistic and cultural heritage in perpetuation.
3. To add to and enhance the value of artistic and cultural heritage.
4. To set higher standards of quality of art and culture management.
5. To raise consciousness and foster the appreciation of the value of artistic and cultural heritage.

Office of
Secretariat





Silpakorn shop, Na Phra That Rd.

Office of Secretariat

The Office of Secretariat oversees all bureaucratic operations of the department, be it general administration, secretarial work, planning, personnel management, budgeting, dissemination and public relations, foreign relations, legal affairs.

Apart from routine, administrative duties, the Office of Secretariat plays a central role in facilitating foreign relations and publicizing the Thai art and cultural scene to domestic and international audiences.

1. Foreign Relations

This unit is responsible for monitoring and assessing international developments in order to prepare policy, planning and projects so that all international operations respond to the department's domestic and foreign



policy directions in cultural heritage conservation. In addition, it handles administration, coordination, negotiations, and pushes forward all collaborative efforts involving the professional dialogue and exchange of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques of cultural conservation with international organizations dedicated to the conservation of cultural heritage worldwide. Some of these organizations the Fine Arts Department holds membership of, such as CIEPS, ISSN, IFLA, ISBN, ICOMOS,



AIC, AICOM, IIC, ICON, ICOM, ICA, SARBICA, FIAF, AND SEAPAVAA. The other organizations are directly involved in, such as UNESCO, SPAFA, CHAT, and WIPO. The secretariat is the nerve center of the department handling all promotional and coordinating efforts in support of cultural networks, agencies and organizations.



Another key role of the secretariat's is to disseminate information and provide relevant services on arts and culture to the public and professionals both domestic and international. The secretariat is welcome to give consultation, recommendation and cooperation on carrying out the activities or projects in conformity with the plans of the department and ministry which operate in response to the Government's policy

directives. It facilitates formalities involved for its own staff about to embark on overseas trips and helps process foreign researchers' request to do paper research or to undertake joint research projects with units under the department. It will welcome and provide hospitality for the guests of the Government, the Ministry of Culture,

the department or as requested by other departments. It keeps records of foreign operations by personnel reporting to the department.

In the case of agency or person writing to seek permission or cooperation



to do academic research, to make a study visit, or to negotiate or discuss cultural exchange or cooperation with the Fine Arts Department, the Foreign Relations Group shall be the first mediator to process their requests and make a

preliminary recommendation to the Director General for eventual decision. It acts as the coordinating agent between the internal office or unit assigned and the agency seeking dialogue or cooperation.

2. Dissemination and Public Relations

This unit disseminates news and publicizes activities, including the scientific and technical information on arts and culture, and the cumulative body of expert knowledge in various fields of operations under the Fine Arts Department. Targeted at the public and media at large, the services take the form of printed materials, audio, video, broadcasts, activities and projects. They are as follows:

- The magazine *Silpakom*

A bi-monthly magazine, *Silpakom* spreads news and knowledge on such disciplines as archaeology, museums, works of art, performing arts and orchestra, literature, history, traditions and customs, and the works of the National Library and National Archive. The periodical also serves as an open forum for the exchange of art and cultural theory, methodology, and scientific techniques among scholars and conservators. As a public media, *Silpakom* plays an active role in the promulgation of Thai arts and culture overseas, by courtesy of agencies



under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, e.g. the Department of Information, the *Thai Corner* display for Thai publications and memorabilia at 15 locations overseas, the Department of Consular Affairs, the Department of Protocol, the Department of International Organizations, the Department of ASEAN Affairs, and the Department of East Asian Affairs.

- The *Thai Culture* series

These lavishly-illustrated, serial pamphlets feature the history, movement and multi-faceted world of Thai arts and culture, explaining the authenticity and worth of the nation's elegant, age-old heritage. The series include such titles as *Introducing Cultural Thailand in Outline*, *Thai Lacquer Works*, *The Khon*, *Thai Music*, *The Development of the National Museums in Thailand*, among others.

- The production of documentary programs and video broadcasts on Thai arts and culture. The *Khan Chong Song Thai* (Thai Looking-glass) program

Office of
Archaeology



Office of Archaeology

Archaeological operations in Thailand began with the interest in its ancestry and the collecting and studied appreciation of antiquities and valuable treasure. The first ever budding of archaeology, which saw the surveying, excavation and interpretation, occurred in the reign of King Nang Klao (Rama III) and was undertaken by the then-monk Prince Mongkut, who later was crowned King Mongkut (Rama IV). The venerable prince, in making pilgrimages through provinces around the country, discovered fascinating ancient artifacts and ancient sites of historical importance, for example

the first inscription-bearing stone pillar, the gray Manangasila Seat slab, and the giant stupa Phra Pathom Chedi.

In particular, he ordered the digging of the grounds surrounding the stupa and made an analysis of its shape and form. Later, a law was enacted prohibiting any digging in search of treasure on the temple's premises. All the ancient artifacts and valuables had been collected under one roof at the Praphat Priphithaphan Throne-Hall, marking the dawn of Thailand's museum proliferation.



In 1907, King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) founded the *Borabagadi Samosorn* (Archaeology Club) for the purpose of studying the past through researching and subjecting ancient manuscripts, annals and chronicles to textual criticism. And that was how the word "Borabagadi" (archaeology) came into being for the first time.

King Vajiravudh (Rama VI) appointed an archaeology committee for the Bangkok Library and entrusted it with the duty to safeguard ancient sites, ancient artifacts, and to do field work of inspecting antiquities. The archaeology affairs of Thailand have gone through continual development ever since, especially

with the arrival of archaeological specialists in Thailand to do archaeological work, spurring the country's archaeological scene to adopt more universal approach to archaeological survey.

In 1933, the Museum and Archaeology Division was set up under the Fine Arts Department, making the archaeology affair an integral component of the country's cultural heritage conservation, which over time grew to become the Office of Archaeology of today.



The Office of Archaeology, the Fine Arts Department is the official face of the country's archaeological conservation. Its duty is to study, survey, and research past human life and culture based on material evidence left behind from prehistoric to historic periods, through excavation of archaeological sites, including underwater archaeology. The findings uncovered are presented as academic reports to be disseminated to the wider population. The core of its operations consists in the preservation, defending, protection, conservation, and restoration of ancient heritage sites and archaeological sites, as in the survey and registration of heritage sites, restoration of heritage sites and archaeological sites, refurbishing heritage sites for use as a resource for learning and a cultural tourist attraction. These activities build up an accumulation of knowledge and understanding of the nation's cultural heritage, which paves the way for sustainable conservation and safeguarding in the time to come.

Among the important academic works of the Office of Archaeology is the survey project on the distribution of three-legged cauldrons in Thailand. Three-legged cauldrons number among pieces of archaeological evidence of prehistoric times found in Southeast Asia and neighboring regions. The lacquer (*Melanorrhoea usitata* Wall.)

study project aims to preserve Thai wisdom and provide insight into ways to improve black lacquer techniques and craftsmanship for posterity. The project to survey Aroyayassala (ancient Khmer community hospitals) in Thailand, the project on consolidating architectural knowledge for the preservation of ancient heritage sites: brick structure, the study of late prehistoric burial ceremony on the Thung Kula Rong Hai plateau, northern local textiles, glass utensils and ornaments of the pre-16th century BE period are among the projects undertaken by the office.

International Cooperation

The Office of Archaeology's international cooperation is extensive and varied. The joint Thai-New Zealand research project titled *The Development of an Iron Age Chieftain: Phase Two* has Professor Charles Higham of the University of Otago, New Zealand joining the team at the Ban Non Wat archaeological site located in the upper Moon River valley, Amphoe-Nonsung, Nakhon Ratchasima Province to study the way of life and burial ceremony of the New Stone Age in the lower northeastern region of Thailand. The Living Angkor Road Project is undertaken in conjunction with the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, Silpakorn University, and



Apsara Authority, Cambodia. The project aims to apply the remote sensing and GIS technology to pinpoint the ancient roadway and human settlements in the reign of Jayavarman VII and to develop a multi-media database. The 500th anniversary celebration of Thai-Portuguese relations project plans to consolidate archaeological work on the Portuguese settlement in Ayutthaya and erect a database and exhibition building. Under the Thai-Netherlands project, a database building will be erected at the Holland settlement in Ayutthaya. The joint Thai-Malaysian archaeological project identifies archaeological topics of lasting interest for in-depth study and the exchange of archaeological knowledge.

The underwater archaeology Division under the Office of Archaeology organizes training programs in underwater and maritime archaeology to archaeologists and technicians from the member countries of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), under the coordination and partial funding by SEAMEO Regional Center for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SPAFA). Similar programs are offered to archaeologists and technicians from the Fine Arts Department and students of the Faculty of Archaeology, Silpakorn University. Training programs are further given to public volunteers for the protection of maritime cultural heritage, to equip them with the knowledge and understanding of diving and underwater archaeology as a significant part of the conservation of cultural heritage.

The Office of Archaeology represents the Fine Arts Department in joining the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), an international non-governmental organization dedicated to the conservation and protection of the world's historic monuments and sites. ICOMOS acts as the formal consultant to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), especially its premier conservation arm, the World Heritage Committee.



Office of
National Museums



Office of National Museums

The first recognizable museum in Thailand was inaugurated in the reign of King Mongkut (Rama IV). While in the monkhood, the future king, having made pilgrimages to villages and districts up and down the country, collected ancient finds encountered during the trips, and in 1857 stored them in the Ratchasuedi Palace, located to the east of the Amarin Winitchai Hall. After the Aphirao Niwet Palace Complex in the Grand Palace, intended for state audience and receptions, was completed, he removed his treasure trove and the foreign tribute collection largely of European origin and put them up on display at the grand Anantasamakhom Hall, one of the state rooms in the complex.

In 1874, King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) founded a museum at the Concordia, known later as the Sala Sathaisamakhom Hall. During the king's annual birthday celebration the public was allowed in to view the display. In 1887, he ordered the relocation of the Concordia collection to the Bawon Sathan Mongkhon Palace, or Wang Na, opening the installations for regular display to the public. The operation was later upgraded to institutional function



as the Museum Division in 1889, the first ever governmental body for museum management.

In 1902, the Ayutthaya Museum was opened at Chankasem Palace, Ayutthaya Province, becoming there-upon Thailand's first local museum. From the moment on, Thailand's museum affairs developed continuously. In 1926, the 'Metropolitan Museum' (National Museum Bangkok) opened its doors to the general public. Public 'national museums' as localized institutions of study and display of monumental, archaic objects and representations have subsequently been opened at many locations nationwide, under the Fine Arts Department.

Today there are six national museums located in Bangkok and its environs under the management of the Office of National Museums. They are Bangkok National Museum, Changton National Museum (National Museum

of Royal Elephants), National Museum of Royal Barges, Silpa Bhasri National Museum, Kanchanaphisek National Museum, and National Gallery.

As the flagship institution of its kind, the Office of National Museums has a duty to study, scrutinize, analyze, research the story of man and his environment based on archaeological artifacts, art objects, and physical materials of ethnic distinction, and to propagate consequent academic works of educational interpretation and exhibition. It produces through various means documentation and archive materials for national and international reference, and handles scientific dating, proof, and assessment of archaeological materials and art objects, as well as offering scholarly consultation. As the national agency of museum management, it handles collections and oversees the curation of antiquities in keeping with the universal principles of museology. It works to preserve the priceless collections of ancient origin and artistic worth with scientifically-proven methods. It seeks to register cultural objects in the hands of monasteries and private owners, which are deservedly of national importance or evocative of national identity. It produces educational materials on museum collections and preservation. It regulates the import, export and transfer of ownership of archaeological and art

objects (to prevent illicit traffic, looting and theft). It maps out development plans for national museums nationwide toward professionalism, and promotes cooperation with domestic and international museums.

Among research project developments by the Office of National Museums are the 'Museum for Security Enhancement in the Southern Restive Provinces,' 'Glass Ornaments and Utensils Before the 18th Century B.E.,' and 'History of Bawon Sathan Mongkhon of the Ratanakosin City: Analysis of Archaeological Materials-Based Evidence.'

The agency publishes books and pamphlets to disseminate academic knowledge and results of research, with such titles as *The Gold Treasure Trove of Wat Ratchaburana*, *The Art of the Land*, *The Heritage of the Land*, and *In Commemoration of His Majesty the King*, joining the nation in the golden jubilee celebration in 2006. It organizes training programs in museology to extramural people, and specialized operatives of state and private museums. It runs activities to



promote national museums as a source of learning, as in holding the exhibition on currency and banknotes at the Bangkok National Museum, and various types of circulating exhibitions.

The National Gallery in its capacity as the nation's premier institution of art is the depository of artworks created by nationally important artists both Thai and expatriate. Some of the artworks include the paintings of King Vajiravudh and the present king, Chuan Leekpai (former prime minister), Pratu-ang Emcharoen, Thawan Datchani, and the photographs of the Israeli Alex Levac. Exhibitions are held to display Thai traditional paintings, such as *pha phrabot* (Buddhist scroll paintings), Dharma cabinets, and Thai books, western-style Thai paintings, paintings of the king and members of the Royal Family done by foreign artists during the fifth reign, and post-1932 artworks, for example the sculpture of Professor Silpa Binsri and senior artists who were in his earliest classes. These collections represent the evolution of Thai art and the development of art forms in Thailand.

The National Gallery holds circulating art exhibitions to publicize the artworks of various artists to the public. Some of these exhibitions include the photographic exhibition *Looking Through the Lens* by the photographers

affiliated with the Royal Photographic Society of Thailand, the exhibition *The Success Art of Thailand*, the exhibition in honour of the senior artist and national artist Sawet Tantleuk, and the 60th Anniversary of Pratuang Emcharoen. The art gallery has compiled a body of knowledge on art in Thailand as the basic databank and reference source for the public.



International Cooperation

The Office of National Museums embraces cooperation with international organizations in the field of conservation and museums, by subscribing to The American Institute of Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC), Australian Institute for Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM), International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC), and United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC or ICON). This exchange of information on conservation, gleaned through periodical articles, enables Thai conservators to update their expertise in conservation technology. The International Council of

Museums (ICOM) is dedicated to the conservation of cultural heritage for museums and museum professionals. It helps to lay down professional standard and code of ethics, and to promote cooperation, coordination and mutual assistance between museums. The Asian National Museum Association (ANMA) is the network of exchange and cooperation among national museums of Asia, working to create mutual understanding through projects of cooperation in museum affairs and sharing knowledge of museum pieces under the control of member museums. The exchange is made with respect to data, expert personnel, and exhibition.

Technical cooperation and exchange are further pursued with the help of international organizations. A special exhibition titled *Dvaravati: Genesis of Buddhist Art in Thailand* was held at the Guimet Museum, Paris, which is France's national museum specializing in Asian art; the same exhibition was subsequently staged at the Bangkok National Museum. As part of the Sino-Thai tableware exchange program, experts on Chinese tableware ceramics were invited from China to give a lecture on Chinese tableware to curators of the national museums.

The National Gallery organizes joint exhibitions with embassies and international organizations and foun-



dations. The photographic exhibition, titled *Shadows of Jerusalem*, featured the blind artist Leonid Padriew. An exhibition was held to feature a group of Japanese potters creating modern Japanese glazed ceramics, titled *New Products from the Old Kilns of Japan*. The art gallery also acts as an agent for artists and the public in publicizing art activity to international audiences. It holds workshops to promote knowledge of visual arts and the management of international art gallery.

Office of
Literature and
History



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Office of Literature and History

Thailand's official operation in the field of literature and history began in the reign of King Chulalongkorn (Rama VI), concurrently with the birth of the first national library-the Vajirayan Library and Archaeology Club. The earliest effort was focused on textbook research and publishing works dealing with aspects of literature and history.

When the Royal Council was founded in 1926, the Bangkok Library affair and the work of the Fine Arts Department, which at the time handled only the artistic craftsmanship and museum operations, merged into a single agency. At about this time, the literature section was set up not only to manage the metropolitan library but also to engage in the philological revision of liberal arts studies, language being the most basic infrastructure of culture. The events therefore crystallized the institutional beginnings that paved the way for subsequent scholarly study of literature and history, evolving over time to become the present-day Office of Literature and History.

The Office of Literature and History leads the study of the nation's history, language and literature tradition. By work specialization, it is divided into 4 groups: language and literature, history, tradition and custom, translation

and compilation. Overall, their duty is to do research, analysis, recension, revision, translation, composing, conserving, promoting, reviving, and carrying the torch of scholarly studies in the field of national literature, history, tradition and custom. The classical erudition is then promulgated to the public in the form of books, documents, printed materials, and other means. The office is further available for consultation, recommendation, and assessment of controversies or crucial questions in the field of language, literature, history, tradition and custom of national concern.

The Office of Literature and History is also secretary of the committee for the revision of Thai history, and secretary of the national committee for the government's commemorative publications on important or royal ceremonial occasions. Some samples include the coffee table books *60th Anniversary of HM King Bhumibol's Accession to the Throne 1946-2006*, *The King and Conservation of Thai Heritage* (in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Accession), the royal crematorium memorial book for the cremating funeral of HRH Princess Kalyani Vadhana held at Sanam Luang. Its chief responsibility consists in publishing the books and preparing the manuscript content in prose and verse for publication.



To promote, revive, and bequeath the classical tradition, the Office of Literature and History launches several projects toward instilling pride and appreciation. It organizes poetry chanting contests, promotes speech-making and rhetorical eloquence, literary composition, braille-letters, and Thai calligraphy. On the professional front, it offers seminars on themes of literature, the cultural roaming project on topics of perennial interest, e.g. *On the Trail of Foreigners' Records and Annals: From the Gulf of Siam to the Chao Phraya River*, and the dialogues-on-history project, covering such themes as *Unveiling the World of Thai-Burmese Relations*.

Another integral part of the Office of Literature and History's duty is publishing and dissemination of nationally important historic books

and tracts, as well as academic studies on art, culture, traditions and customs as researched by its staff. These titles include, for example, *Historical Chronicles: Royal Writings Edition, Reports of the Ministerial Council Meeting in the Reign of King Chulalongkorn, Ancient Royal Rites and Twelve-Month Ceremonies, Royal Rites and Commoners' Customs, a Complete First Edition of Van Vliet's Siam*, written by Dutch merchant Jeremias Van Vliet, *The Travels of Mendes Pinto* (a bilingual translation), *The Revolution at the Closing Years of King Narai's Reign and the Collapse of Ayuthaya Based on Documents by Foreigners*, *Henry Burney's Papers* (shedding light on the Thai-British relations and Thai relations with neighboring countries during the early Ratanakosin period), and *Travels to the Mekong in Northern Siam*, and etc.

International Cooperation

The Office of Literature and History welcomes international cooperation, academic exchange, and seminars in the field of history with international colleagues, especially with the countries in Southeast Asia. It regularly sends staff to participate in the programs of training in history, traditions and customs organized by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization - Centre for History and Tradition of Southeast Asian Countries (SEMEO CHAT). And the Fine Arts Department represents Thailand by sitting on its executive board as a full member. Representing the Fine Arts Department in the international arena, the office attends such forums as the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, the Traditional Culture Expression (with UNESCO) and the World Intellectual Property (WIPO). It works out joint academic projects with member countries on topics of mutual interest and concern, such as the project on lesson sharing in Thai-Lao cultural and

custom affinity held consecutively between 2008 and 2010. The aim is to strengthen mutual respect and understanding.

Other collaborations of note include the Thai-Portuguese academic cooperation project, aimed at studying primary sources and evidence of the relations between Thailand and Portugal which celebrates the anniversary of 500-year bi-lateral relations in 2011, and the project to translate and publish documents from Great Britain's Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in the series titled *Documents Relating to the Relations between Siam and Foreign Countries*.



Office of
National Archive





Office of National Archive

The tradition of archive keeping in Thailand dates back to the Ayutthaya kingdom, and continues into the Ratanakosin (Bangkok) period. These historic documents recording momentous events and palace affairs have generally been well preserved down the centuries. The National Archive, as the government agency entrusted with a duty to safeguard government papers as archival records, was first conceived in the reign of King Chulalongkorn who recognized the importance of preserving government papers. He accordingly ordered that important documents be cared for by the National Archive.

In 1916, a unit was formed for the first time as part of the Vajirayan Library, whose duty was the safekeeping of archival papers. It was decided that broadly two types of documents applied, namely those antedating April 1st, 1916, which included royal decrees and provincial reports issued from the fourth reign upwards, and those contemporary documents which included ministerial decrees, regulations, reports, and daily newspapers issued in Bangkok. In 1945, the Office of His Majesty's Principal Private Secretary transferred such documents as royal decrees, provincial reports, chronicles, royal orders, and government papers issued during



the fifth and sixth reigns to the National Archive for safekeeping. The invaluable collection of papers formed the first ever treasured stock from which the National Archive grew as the repository of official records, especially those no longer in use by the agency concerned.

The National Archive subsequently expanded its work scope to cover records of important domestic events, as well as of overseas occurrences that have bearing on Thailand. These contemporary accounts intended for future reference and study date from the Revolutionary Transition of 1932 to the present.

Currently the National Archive

has a duty to collect, classify, safeguard, preserve, create search devices, and provide retrieval service for important chronicles deemed to be primary source materials that make up the nation's history. The agency has thus far selected and reprinted some of those chronicles of unquestioned importance. Edited to retain the original text, the publications are of enormous interest to researchers and the public. These publications are, for example, *King Chulalongkorn's Visit to Europe, 110 RE* and *Siamese Correspondence (The Bowring Treaty)*, being the narratives of key events during the years 1855 and 1870 that had enormous

impact on the economy, society, and politics. In this virtue, they are a part of the nation's historical records of incalculable value.

The National Archive further has the duty to record important events of national significance, either of domestic origin or overseas occurrence. They are largely royal rites, state ceremonies, and important ceremonies, to be published for general distribution. Some of these titles include, for example, *Chronicle on the Royal Ceremony Commemorating the 80th Birthday Anniversary of*

His Majesty the King, Chronicle on the Bicentennial Celebration of King Mongkut's Birth and Photographic Chronicle in Honour of HRH Princess Kalyani Vadhana on the

Occasion of Her 84th Birthday Anniversary. The National Archive also serves as both a database and coordinating center on all chronicle affairs domestic and overseas.

The Kromluang Phichit Preechakan room in the National Archive offers a search service for written

chronicles and papers, such as the action reports of various government agencies from the closing years of the fourth reign to the present, private papers, contemporary documents of historical value, etc. On the mezzanine is available the service for historical reference materials, deposit theses, etc. In the Banachatra room is available the service for audiovisual materials, such as photographs, slides, audio tapes, videotapes, maps, charts, posters, etc.

The National Archive in Honour of King Bhumibol Adulyadej building, located on the same premises, offers a search service for materials on the life and activities of His Majesty and members of the royal family Mahidol, which include royal literary works, addresses, speeches, books, paintings, photographs, voice recordings, etc. It houses documents detailing royal-initiated projects and commemorative projects.

International Cooperation

The National Archive seeks international alliance and solidarity through membership of international organizations, such as International Council on Archives (ICA), Southeast Asia Regional Branch of International Council on Archives (SARBICA), and Southeast Asia Pacific Audio Visual Archives Association (SEAPAVAA). This





international networking and technical partnership in archival affairs are aimed at upgrading the operational quality of the National Archive to the international standard of professionalism.

In an effort to promote more constructive historiography on international scale, the agency is ready to exchange Thai chronicle documents with other countries. A case in point is the Netherlands exchange, in which otherwise unavailable information of historical value was obtained from the documents stored in the Netherlands national archive, thereby expanding the scope of study of bilateral relations between the two countries in bygone



days. Further, illustrated coffee table books are published to commemorate relations with other nations, for example *400 Anniversary of Thai-Netherlands Relations* (2004), *Ode to Friendship: Celebrating Thailand-Singapore Relations (40 years of relations in 2005)*, *Thailand-The Philippines: Ties beyond times (60 years of relations in 2008)*. The agency also offers whatever assistance is needed to foreign researchers who have been approved by the National Research Council of Thailand.

Office of
National Library





Office of National Library

The public role of the National Library for collecting and safekeeping of nationally important documents and printed materials was inaugurated as early as the fifth reign of King Chulalongkorn, who ordered in 1903 the establishment of the Vajirayan Library to serve as the Royal Library of the realm. From that moment onward has the work of collecting rare books or books of invaluable worth considered a cultural heritage been officially launched, whose collections covered inscriptions, Thai books, palm-leaf scriptures, the private collection of King Vajiravudh (Rama VI), vintage editions, etc. Over time the library adopted an international library classification system as the foundation of continual upgrading of the library administration in subsequent times.

Today the National Library has a duty to preserve, collect, and safeguard the nation's intellectual property, knowledge, creativity, arts, and culture, which take the form of ancient manuscripts, prints, printed media, audiovisual materials, and electronic media. The agency constantly acquires and utilizes library technology, information science, and information technology in line with international practices. Its policy is to provide educational, search, and research services to other agencies,

organizations, and the general public while the philosophical motto is the "Source of Lifelong Learning, Well-Spring of Informal Education."

The National Library also plays a number of roles in storing and spreading information and learning: it acts as the national coordinating centre on academic information system, the centre for international periodical reference on Thailand and Southeast Asia, the national centre for issuance of print identifiers (ISBN (International Standard Book Number) and ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) for books and periodicals published domestically, the centre for exchange and loans for domestic and international publications, and the depository for United Nations publications.

The educational and search service of the National Library, made as modern and speedy as possible, ranges over all types of information media, which include ancient manuscripts, micro-film, books, video,



audio, phonographic records, and other electronic media. A section is devoted to the preservation of rare books, using modern technology to accomplish the task.

The National Library has the authority to assign the numeric identifiers ISBN (for books) and ISSN (for periodical publications), which is offered as a service for writers and publishers. The introduction of the system helps to raise the book publishing industry of the country to international standard, and to facilitate the systematic classification of publications and book data in the library. The system makes it possible to know the number of printings occurring in a year's time and to secure the preservation of books in the

National Treasury of Publications. Under the Printing Notification Act, B.E. 2550, it offers a book identification service. The agency further has a duty to provide technical information on the National Library operations to agencies and educational institutions. In this capacity, it gives lectures on ancient manuscripts, provides advice and suggestions on library science and information science to librarians and library staff, works with other agencies to reorganize and augment the store of information as national property. It cooperates with other agencies in the production and exchange of information, as in the exchange of microfilm and newspaper data with Thammasat University, producing microfilm for the Department for Development of Thai



Office of
Performing Arts



Office of Performing Arts

The performing arts of Thailand, no less an element of national identity than the country's other cultural entities, have since the ancient times been serving as supportive accompaniment to royal rites, state ceremonies, and various traditional ceremonies. The Office of Performing Arts, Fine Arts Department, inherited and incorporated the work on all performing and theatrical arts from the Music Division, which was born in 1911. The merger brought together under one roof the supervision of performances of all dramatic and musical arts, particularly dance and orchestra management, which were formerly handled separately under the department of *khon*, department of Royal Guard *piphat*, and western music division.

Today the Office of Performing Arts has a duty to preserve, pass on,

and revive the ancient tradition of musical and performing arts, especially as accompaniment to royal rites, state ceremonies, and various traditional ceremonies. In its capacity as the nation's agent and repository of knowledge on theatrical, orchestral and musical arts, it carries out the study and research into all forms of traditional performing arts, and as far as possible creates, promotes, supports, and provides technical service in the fields to society at large.

Along with the above duties, the department systematically resurrects, develops, creates, inspires, and publicizes all the theatrical, orchestral, and musical arts that bear the recognizable stamp of national or local identity. The idea is to foster pride in a sense of Thainess in its multiple manifestations, not least in this traditional culture. It also promotes cultural exchange with





other nations as related to theatrical, orchestral, and musical arts. It runs the National Theatre as the center stage for learning and appreciation through the staging of cultural entertainment for Thais and tourists.

Providing artistic performances to accompany functions of national importance is the direct province of the Office of Performing Arts. With the performance of Thai music, Thai popular music, and dance dramas, the institute has served in such capacity at royal rites and private parties of the King and royal family members, including the reception of foreign dignitaries. These functions included, for example, the entertainments dedicated to the royal funeral of HRH Princess Kalyani Vadhana, the theatrical performance of *Phra Maha Chanok*, an adaptation of His Majesty's book, in commemoration of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 60th birthday anniversary, the performance of *jataka* (birth story) play of

Thotsachet (Ten Lives of the Buddha) and *Phra Vessantara* to celebrate the auspicious occasion of the king's 60th birthday anniversary.

For the entertainment benefit of the general public, the institute puts on a show of traditional music and drama performances, including *khon* (a form of masked play), drama, ballet, dance, Thai traditional music, and Thai popular music, presented through such programs as *Sileuk Natakarn* (Comedy Drama), *Sangitasaek* (Music Hall), and *Piphat Sepha Thi Wangna* (Orchestra and Ballet at the Front Palace), which are held at the National Theatre in Bangkok and regional venues. It occasionally joins benefit functions held by state agencies and private sector as requested.

In its capacity as the central authority on drama, orchestration, and music, the Office of Performing Arts carries out research on aspects of Thai dramatic and musical arts. They are, for example, the research project on musical accompaniment to royal rites, the project on examining and



publishing musical notes 1936-1939, the project on development of knowledge management for drama performances: case study of the book *Variety Show of Ballet and Dance*, and the research project on ancient khon costumes, which sought to codify intricately-patterned khon costumes in accordance with the ancient costume code for khon players. It also is concerned with the dissemination of theatricals and academic knowledge of national drama, orchestration, and music, as through the project to promote and build the networking of community and school music through lectures and demonstration of Thai dramatic arts by maestros, and the project to record Thai choruses by western-style orchestras for conservation and dissemination.

International Cooperation

The Office of Performing Arts has a permanent policy to showcase the exotic enchantment of Thai dramatic arts overseas, especially by joining Thai culture festivals held in many countries. It responds positively to invitational exchange of dramatic arts with

the international community. In 2006, the performance of a khon episode titled *Nanglo-Yok Rop* was held at the Palace of Versailles, as part of the Thai Culture fair in France held in honour of 60th Anniversary of HM King Bhumibol's Accession to the Throne. The performance of the southern folk opera *Mahafra* in honour of 60th Anniversary of HM King Bhumibol's Accession to the Throne was held at the Tokyo Forum theatre, Japan. A joint performance of *Mahafra* was held by the combined Thai-Japanese troupe. Cultural exchanges of drama, orchestration, and music are of course made with nearby countries in the region which share similar cultural traditions, for example the *Indo* drama adopted from Indonesia, and the khon dance drama of *Ramakeri* being an adaptation of India's legendary epic *Ramayana*. By tradition, the latter provided the original source of inspiration and creativity for all performing arts prevalent in almost all the countries of Southeast Asia.

In addition, the institute holds regular Thai dance drama workshops for interested foreigners who wish to have an intimate knowledge of the ancient arts, including the origin of Thai dramatic arts, symbolic interpretation of performing arts etc.





Programme

Représentation de théâtre masqué

Épisode du Ramakirti

Tout à fait thai



Office of
Traditional Arts



Office of Traditional Arts

The Thai tradition of artistic creations and craftsmanship has been handed down since ancient times. Nowhere is the tradition so well-organized with state support as in the so-called *Chang Sip Mu* (ten groups of craftsmen), a group of master artisans dedicated traditionally to serving the Court. Though accidentally identified by the word "ten," the branches of traditional craftsmanship really number over 10. They include, for example, draftsman, sculptor, carver, metal caster, etc. These craftsmen played an important role in creating fine arts, and executing

restoration work of various kinds. The supreme works of art by the craftsmen in diverse categories have been the model prototype and inspiration for Thai arts in all subsequent periods.

Officially the government departments responsible

for traditional craftsmanship underwent a major overhaul during the reign of King Vajiravudh who ordered the merger of the department of interior craftsmen, the department of goldsmith, and the department of traditional arts controlled previously by the Ministry of Palace under one jurisdiction for the first time, that of the Fine Arts Department in 1911. The restructuring laid the foundations of the Office of Traditional Arts of today.

At present, the Office of Traditional Arts has a duty to preserve, revive and pass on the skills and expertise in traditional craftsmanship and to act as the national centre for artistic endowment. The master craftsmen under its wing are responsible for technical craftsmanship and creativity geared



to the conservation, restoration and repair of heritage sites and artworks of incalculable value. In the process, the men of art through theoretical immersion and practical works in the field learn to perfect their artistic skills and along the way keep creating masterful works of painting, sculpture, and traditional creative arts. They also help to produce applied art that is unmistakably evocative of national identity. The department encourages the exchange of knowledge of craftsmanship with other state agencies, private organizations both domestic and abroad. It of course supervises, cares for, repairs, and supports the construction of national monuments and the replication of important Buddha images.

The Office of Traditional Arts divides the artistic specialization into 3 groups:

1. Thai Fine Arts and Craftsmanship, which consists of
 - Carving and wood-carving of intricate workmanship
 - Metal working and head-dress making
 - Lacquering (gilding, stained glass and mother-of-pearl inlay)
2. Painting, Applied Art, and gilded lacquer work, which consists of
 - Painting
 - Applied art

- Drawing and gilded lacquer work

3. Sculpture, which consists of

- Sculpture
- Molding and casting
- Figure modeling and pattern engraving

Another team, called Thai Art Academic Group, has a duty to study and research the theoretical basis and technical requirements of artworks by compiling, recording and disseminating knowledge on the creation of Thai traditional artworks and related craftsmanship. The important accomplishments of the Office of Traditional Arts can be seen in the structures, fixtures, and ornaments that give support to royal rites, state ceremonies, formal ceremonies of various types, or as specially commissioned by other agencies.



A splendid sample of the department's achievements can be seen in the accessories and ornaments that embellish the royal crematorium of HRH Princess Kalyani Vadhana, among which are the resplendent sandalwood funerary urn and the gilded urn.

The department was called on to create the royal attire and adornment for the Buddha image Phra Phuttha Patma Suvarnabhumi Sirichok Phor Por Por, commissioned by Thai Airways International Public Company Limited for establishment in a Thai monastery in Nepal.

The eye-catching emblems for auspicious occasions, such as the emblem of the 60th anniversary of the Accession and the emblem of His Majesty the King's 80th birthday anniversary are also designed by the department.

It designed, sculpted and molded the statues of members of the royal family and personages for national monuments, for example the statues of HRH Prince Mahidol, King Naresuan, and King Mongkut, which is located in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Saranrom Palace.

It responded to the royal initiative of His Majesty the King when its painters created the murals for the ubosot Phra Phuttha Rattanasathan inside the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, to be forever associated with his reign.

Countless repairs and restoration efforts have been made to nationally important artworks, for example the repair of the umbrella of the stupa Phra That Chomikitti, Chiang Rai, the restoration of ceremonial carriage, royal palanquin and accessories, the repair and creation of accessories for royal barge.

Upon request, assistance is given to the restoration of artworks of other na-



tions, for example repairing the umbrella of the stupa at Dipadutamaram Temple, Sri Lanka, whose request was made through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Office of Traditional Arts' immersion in the inherited arts of Thailand leads to the compilation of standardized knowledge of Thai artworks and craftsmanship. An extensive body of technical know-how appears under separate titles. They explain the steps for the restoration of ceremonial carriage, royal palanquin and accessories; steps for creating the gods and denizens of the Himavat forest and sandalwood funerary urn, the making of *khon* mask, the casting of a metal urn, mother-of-pearl

in lay, gilding and stained glass in lay, tie-modeling with wicker, gilded cloth making. A book is purported to enumerate the working in Thai artworks and craftsmanship, in which are shown the technique of stucco, sculpting and casting, traditional clay-molding.

The Office of Traditional Arts offers several traditional art workshops and training programs to the general public and young people. The regular courses offered include, for example, sculpture and mold-casting, wet stucco technique, gilded lacquering, painting, and applied art. And there are a hands-on workshop on the drawing process in Thai art, a seminar and training program on gilding and stained glass in lay, a demonstration of traditional arts, the art of pottery glazing, and hands-on training programs in Thai painting, Thai stucco, Chinese stucco, and mold-making.

The Office of Traditional Arts opens two learning sites to the public.

1. Hall of Sculpture

Located at Wang Thaphra, this site was once used as a workshop for sculpting, casting, alloy-making practices required in producing sculptures, as well as being a factory of the Handicraft Division. The Fine Arts Department renovated the building and repaired the statue prototypes so they can be used in exhibitions. The location serves as an information bank, a research facility for the general public to learn about sculptures and artworks that are the nation's priceless heritage. On exhibition are the prototypes of public monuments, Buddha images, and figures of the gods, which monuments can be found in Bangkok and the provinces. Circulating exhibitions are also staged occasionally.



2. Office of Traditional Arts

Located on Phuthamonthon Sai 5 Road, this site serves as a workshop and exhibition venue for traditional artworks on display by specialization, which include painting, gilded lacquer work, drawing, sculpting, casting, wood-carving, metal embossing, gilding and stained glass in lay, and mother-of-pearl in lay. Exhibitions are regularly held here, as well as seminars and workshops on the process and techniques of Thai traditional arts by master craftsmen, for example training in gilded lacquer work for the general public.

International Cooperation

The Office of Traditional Arts is open to the exchange of knowledge and cooperation on artworks and craftsmanship with other countries with a view to promoting networking and good relations. It carried on a project to exchange art knowledge with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the Philippines, a workshop on pottery glazing, a joint exhibition of artworks with Filipino artists, and an exhibition of Thailand-Philippines artworks, held both in Thailand and the Philippines.

Another exchange project involving artworks and workshops was made with the organization Five Arts Inc. USA, which expressed strong interest in the sculpture creation of the Office of Traditional Arts.

The program enabled participants to complete the entire course of sculpting, making a mold, and casting.

The military of Bhutan asked for help with designing its uniform, a request made through the Bhutanese embassy. An exchange program was made on the Thai-Bhutanese Buddhist art scene. A study visit and workshop for Bhutanese sculptors was held on casting, especially small Buddha images.

The department gladly offers its expertise to help with overseas restoration effort, as when Sri Lanka sought help with the restoration of the umbrella of the stupa at Cipadutamaram Temple, conveyed through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A collection of Thai paintings were sent to be shown at Xiuzhou's international exhibition of folk paintings at Xiuzhou District, Jiaxing Prefecture, Zhejiang Province, China. The fair saw the participation of 9 countries from the continents round the world including Sri Lanka, France, Kenya, Maldives, Britain, and others.

Exhibitions and demonstrations have been staged to publicize the techniques of traditional arts, for example khon mask, gold leaf covering, gilded lacquer work, woodcarving, etc as part of Thai culture festivals and other occasions held in many countries, for example Australia, India, and France.



Office of
Architecture





*Lotus Pagoda
restoration completed in 2009*

Office of Architecture

The first foray into architecture affairs was officially integrated into the Fine Arts Department in 1933, originally known as the Architecture Division. Its responsibilities included the design, drawing up plans, and inspection of architectural structures of merit, as well as the performance of architecture-related rites for religious and memorial sites. Its outstanding works during the formative years included such achievements as the restoration of the Phra Phutthabat (Buddha's Footprint) mandapa (square pagoda) in Saraburi in 1933, and the encapsulation of the ubosot (upasatha, or ordination hall) standard archetype, which was distributed to provinces nationwide for use as the standard plan of model Thai-style religious architecture in Buddhism. The stylistic model and components supposedly reflect the contemporary trends in taste and con-

ceptualization crystallized over aeons of time. Today the Office of Architecture has sweeping duties identifying and consolidating national identity architecture, as well as localized signature architecture. Its job also extends over traditional duties involving the preservation, restoration, commemoration, exploration, research, development, and creation of all basic modes of vintage Thai-style architecture—traditional, applied, and contemporary. It seeks to upgrade its standard of operation on a par with international excellence. As of this date, it plays an integral role as the nation's official arbiter and builder of identity architecture, offering a wide range of architecture-related services as to other government agencies, state enterprises, temples, institutions, and organizations. The services involve surveying, designing, creating architectural plans, interior design, landscape





architecture, and engineering, as well as giving price estimates, supervision and inspection of architectural works.

Regarding the creation of works of architecture and interior design, the Office of Architecture seeks to identify its approach with the fundamentals of Thai artistic tradition as handed down from generation to generation of refinement, respecting attitude, beliefs, orders (of architecture), forms, and traits considered distinctively Thai, and based on this core of identities reapply them in actual practices to result in works of architecture deemed to embody national identity and localized signature features.

The Office of Architecture has to its credit several monumental accomplishments in architecture and interior design-Santi Chaiprakarn Palace, the ubosot of Wat Phraaram IX Kanchanaphisek, the crematorium and associated structures for the funeral rite of HRH Princess Kalyani Yadhana, National Archive in Dedication to His Majesty the King, Kanchanaphisek National Museum, National Museum for Royal Barges, Ramkhamhaeng National Museum at Sukhothai, interior decoration in the office building of the Constitution Court and the senator reception room, among others. It also oversees restoration and refurbishment projects for the nation's important heritage sites of architectural merit, for example the Thakhuha government house and Santimeitri Building in the government house compound, Loha Prasat ('Brazen Palace', a terraced, multi-storeyed structure) inside Wat Ratchanadda, National Theatre, and National Library at Watuki Pier.

On the technical front, the Office of Architecture has compiled an specialized body of professional and scholarly knowledge as a source of reference in the architecture field, for example the project to compile a body of knowledge on crematorium architecture and components, which is the spin-off from the royal funeral rite of

HRH Princess Kalyani Vadhana. Several study and research projects on various aspects of architecture are undertaken, for example structural study project on old buildings and causes of deterioration, study project for establishing standard canon of orders, genres and styles in Thai architecture, and project to standardize Buddhist architecture styles by locality, which will serve as an archive of sources and information on the nation's rich, nationally-significant

architecture. The office further seeks to educate the public by organizing exhibitions, for example "Loha Prasat: Buddhist Architectural Masterpiece in Response to Royal Initiative," publicizing the restoration of Loha Prasat. Among the recent publications is *Six Decades of Royalty-Inspired Creations*, a compilation of the Fine Arts Department's accomplishments in architecture, engineering, and interior design between 1946 and 2006.

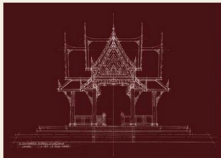




International Cooperation

The Office of Architecture launches numerous projects involving overseas operations, most notably the design and construction of Thai architecture to commemorate historic occasions or to showcase this aspect of Thai identity to international audience at selected locations around the world. Examples of such endeavours include

symbolic edifices inside Thai embassies and designated spots overseas-Chatunamuk (Four Porticos) Pavilion in Parc Denantou, Ouchy, Lausanne, Switzerland; Trimuk (Three Porticos) Pavilion in Ueno Zoo, Tokyo, Japan; and King Chulalongkorn Memorial Thai Pavilion, Ragunda, Sweden. It lends its expertise to the design and construction of makeshift Thai pavilions



Sketch of the 500 years Thai-Portuguese Memorial Building, Lisbon

for display at Thai culture festivals held overseas, and the design and interior décor of international organization offices, for example the conference room of WHO, India and the Thai reception room at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy.

The Office of Architecture seeks technical cooperation with other nations and organizations, as in sending its staff on overseas study visits to learn innovative design and construction technology for public edifices from libraries, museums, theatres, and other recognized institutions or sources of learning in art and culture, to tap design and construction resources that may

be profitably reapplied in Thailand. Academic exchange programs are also regularly held with specialists in architecture. As an example, a symposium titled *Monumental Architecture by Expatriate Italian Architects in Siam* was held between Thai and Italian architects, thereby consolidating the camaraderie and expanding the existing network of specialists and practitioners in transnational architecture.

Regional Offices of
Fine Arts



Regional Offices of Fine Arts

As the state agency responsible for the country's arts and culture affairs with jurisdiction extending over all regions of the country, the Fine Arts Department in 1966 set up two regional units and accordingly overhauled its operational structure in response to continual increase in workload. At the present, there are 15 regional offices directly accountable to the Fine Arts Department. Like its parent organization, the regional offices have a duty to preserve and enhance the value and identity of the country's heritage of arts and culture encompassing three basic categories: archaeology, ancient sites, national museums, language and literature, history, customs and

traditions, documents and books, annals and chronicles, drama, orchestra, music, architecture and art. Their operations combine both field and academic work in all fields of arts and culture happening locally under their jurisdiction to develop, create, pass on the torch, and publicize the professional knowledge and expertise acquired through conservation work on the artistic and cultural front. In this latter role, it serves as an information source or database of the artistic and cultural heritage in various fields, by embarking on research projects of lasting interest. There are, for instance, the *Ancient Trading Posts Along the Andaman Coast* project by the 15th Regional Office of Fine Arts, involving archaeological excavations in Krabi and Phangnga. The project yielded ample material evidence, e.g. beads,





silver coins, etc confirming the existence of brisk trading and cultural relations between the ancient Andaman coastal towns and overseas partners. The *Tai Song Dam Community Study* project by the 14th Regional Office collects information on the lifestyle and living conditions of the ethnic group Tai Song Dam (or Tai Dam) at Ban Don Ruap, Tambon Bang Mak, Amphoe Mueang Chumphon, Chumphon Province.

The regional offices have a further duty to coordinate with and advise local state and private agencies, and the public on worthy artistic and cultural operations, as well as expanding the network of artistic and cultural conservation under their

jurisdiction. A legion of projects are launched to help the offices move closer to the goal. They include the project for the artistic and cultural heritage networking of communities and educational institutions for the conservation and development of archaeological sites, involving archaeological camp activity aimed at educating community of conservation awareness through on-site activity at archaeological sites, and the training in basic archaeology of young people in educational institutions and communities surrounding an archaeological site. There are the local volunteers project for the safeguarding of its artistic and cultural heritage, the training project on how to develop community museum as a source of learning, development and promotion of products, using inspiration from Thai local wisdom. Historical tourism also receives support. Other projects in language and archive preservation include the training in Lanna religious scripts for the preservation of Lanna religious scripts and wisdom, and keeping the oral archive of Ubon Ratchathani through interviews with the elders of Ubon Ratchathani. Other services given in the course of day-to-day operational performances include giving a guided tour of a local national museum, historical park, library, and archive.



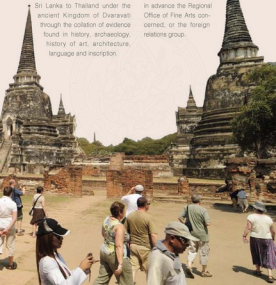
International Cooperation

The 15 Regional Offices of Fine Arts welcome international cooperation in archaeology and kindred affairs. The 12th Regional Office at Nakhon Ratchasima Province and the University of Otago,

New Zealand jointly conducted an archaeological survey under the project *The Development of an Iron Age Chieftain* at the Ban Non Wat archaeological site located in the upper Moon River valley, Amphoe Nonsung, Nakhon Ratchasima Province. Focused on the study of an Iron Age prehistoric community, the project aimed to unravel the knowledge of the development of the ancient community, which straddled

the transitional period leading to the early prehistoric age in Southeast Asia. The 5th Regional Office at Prachin Buri Province undertakes a study titled *The Establishment of Sri Lankan Buddhism in Thailand during the Dvaravati Period*, which aims to trace the earliest spread of Buddhism from Sri Lanka to Thailand under the ancient Kingdom of Dvaravati through the collation of evidence found in history, archaeology, history of art, architecture, language and inscription.

The regional offices of the Fine Arts Department, especially those supervising local historical parks and national museums, offer a guided tour service of the facilities to foreign visitors. Visitors wanting to use the service should contact in advance the Regional Office of Fine Arts concerned, or the foreign relations group.



Arts & Culture FAQs

🏢 Office of Secretariat

- 1 Does the Fine Arts Department accept a request for it to stage promotional activities for Thai arts and culture overseas?
- 2 What must one do to make a study visit to or to do research connected to the Fine Arts Department?
- 3 Where can one go to do shopping at the Fine Arts Department's shops? What is on sale there?
- 4 When in doubt about the rules and regulations issued by the Fine Arts Department, where can one go for consultation?

🏛️ Office of Archaeology

- 5 What can property-owner do who lives in the zone which has been declared by the Fine Arts Department as a heritage site?
- 6 What must one do to obtain permission to film a documentary or a movie on the heritage site or inside the zone of a heritage site?
- 7 Where can one go to do archaeological research, particularly survey and excavation reports on archaeological sites around Thailand?

🏛️ Office of Museum

- 8 What should visitors do to have a guided tour of a national museum?
- 9 Can I request the use of museum premises for social function or any other activity?
- 10 What must I do to take Buddha images, ancient artifacts and art objects out of the kingdom?
- 11 What must be done in order to request ancient artifacts and art objects on loan for temporary overseas exhibition?
- 12 Can artists stage a show of their works at the National Gallery?

📖 Office of Literature and History

- 13 Why does the history recorded by foreigners differ from that written by the Thais themselves?
- 14 How can one research the history and well-known figures of Thailand?
- 15 What should one do to secure permission for reprinting the Fine Arts Department's books?

📁 Office of National Archive

- 16 How can one take advantage of the services available at the National Archive?

17 If I want to have copies of photographs and documents kept in the National Archive for publishing and dissemination, what should I do?

18 What is the procedure involved if one wants to donate photographs to the National Archive?

Office of National Library

19 What services does the National Library offer of documents, books, and printed materials?

20 Does the National Library maintain collections of foreign-language books, documents, and publications?

21 How can one request interlibrary loans with overseas libraries?

22 How can a commercial publishing house apply for the ISBN code for books and the ISSN code for periodicals?

Office of Performing Arts

23 What music and dance drama performances are offered annually by the Fine Arts Department?

24 Where can I get the annual program of scheduled performances, and if I want to make a reservation, how can I do it?

25 What criteria are used to select a khon troupe for overseas performance?

26 How can one commission a khon performance by the Fine Arts Department?

Office of Traditional Arts

27 What should one do to view a demonstration of traditional arts?

28 Does the Fine Arts Department accept commissioning for designing and creating Thai artwork?

29 Can one request a guided tour of the Hall of Sculpture, and if so what steps should he take?

Office of Architecture

30 Where can one go to learn about the Fine Arts Department's accomplishments in architecture, engineering, and interior design?

31 Does the Fine Arts Department have blueprints of religious structures, such as ubosot, vihara, etc available for public access?

32 Can the Fine Arts Department be commissioned to design a building that reflects Thai identity, for example applied Thai-style building and Thai pavilion?

Regional Offices of Fine Arts

33 Are there accommodation facilities available in the historical parks managed by the Fine Arts Department?

1

“Does the Fine Arts Department accept a request for it to stage promotional activities for Thai arts and culture overseas?”

The Fine Arts Department and its units are willing to cooperate with other government agencies or cultural organizations interested in promoting Thai arts and culture, as in staging a promotional tour to publicize the Thai cultural heritage, which usually takes the form of Thai traditional music and dance performances, traditional *Chang Sip Mu* craft demonstration, and others. Interested parties may send a written request to the Director General of the Fine Arts Department, detailing the type of activity desired, schedule and venue, proposals relating to convenience arrangements for the trip, accommodation, payment of cost of materials



and equipment, and other related expenses. The request must reach its intended addressee at least one month in advance.

Communication should be directed to the Foreign Relations Group. Call +66 (2) 282 2123, 282 2121, ext. 207 and 208.

2

“What must one do to make a study visit to or to do research connected to the Fine Arts Department?”

Study Visit

Make an application in writing to the Director General of the Fine Arts Department, stating the wish for a study visit and give such details as

time, place, specialists, etc so that the matter can be relayed to the unit and staff concerned for making a schedule and convenience arrangements as appropriate.

Research Engagement

Research activities may involve archaeological excavations and survey, conducting paper research, compilation, etc.

- Thai researcher

Make an application to the Director General of the Fine Arts Department, giving details of the research project, unit one wishes to stop in and collect the data, period of research engagement, and budget for research.



Once the request is granted, go to the unit and show the permission letter to the unit concerned for the right of entry. Observe the rules and regulations of the unit. After the research is completed, send a copy of the complete research results to the Fine Arts Department.

- Foreign researcher

1. The researcher contacts and seeks an official permission from the National Research Council of Thailand

(NRCT) by following the NRCT regulations on granting permission to foreign researchers to do research in Thailand, B.E. 2550. Give the name of the project, topic of study or research, scope and objectives of the study, etc.

2. The unit concerned under the Fine Arts Department examines the project proposal and report it to the Director General of the Fine Arts Department for approval.

3. The Fine Arts Department will forward its decision to the NRCT, who will notify the researcher of the result.

4. The NRCT will send a writ of course giving the foreign researcher the right of entry to the Fine Arts Department, which is to be used by the researcher when reporting to the unit at the start of research.

Henceforth, the researcher may commence his research and collect the data from the collections available at the National Library, the National Archive, etc. For more information on applying for a study visit or doing research by foreigners, contact the Foreign Relations Group. Call +66 (2) 282 2123, 282 2121, ext. 207 and 208.

3

“Where can one go to do shopping at the Fine Arts Department’s shops? What is on sale there?”

At present, there are two shops, called Silpakom, operated by the Fine Arts Department. One private bookstore is open for business on the premises owned by the Fine Arts Department.



1. The first Silpakom shop is located opposite the Grand Palace, open everyday from 7.00-19.00 hrs. The shop has on sale books published by the Fine Arts Department, handicraft products made by the artisans of the Office of Traditional Arts, and other memorabilia. A corner of the shop offers food and refreshments, managed by a private entrepreneur renting the space on the premises.

2. The second Silpakom shop is located on the ground floor of the Fine Arts Department building, Thewet.

Available are mostly books published by the Office of Literature and History. It is open Monday to Friday, 9.00-16.00 hrs.

3. The Museum Shop owned and managed by the publisher River Books is located inside the Bangkok National Museum. A collection of foreign language books and Thai books on the theme of Thai arts and culture, as well as books by the Fine Arts Department are on sale. Food



and refreshments are served as well. It is open everyday except Monday, from 9.00-16.00 hrs.

All the national museums also have a small corner offering books on arts and culture on sale, including locally produced souvenirs.

4

“When in doubt about the rules and regulations issued by the Fine Arts Department, where can one go for consultation?”

The Fine Arts Department has a legal Group that offers legal advice and clarification of the finer points of the rules and regulations issued by the Fine Arts Department, especially Act on Ancient Monuments, Antiques, Objects of Art and National Museums, as well as other related laws,

rules and regulations which the Fine Arts Department is bound to enforce. Such things as the import and export of ancient objects, works of art, or Buddha images are the prime territory coming under its authority.

The legal division has the extended duty to liaise with the police, customs officers, officers attached to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and related agencies in tracking and recovering lost or stolen treasures, ancient objects, and works of art. For more information, contact the Legal Group. +66 (2) 222 4566, 225 8958, ext. 33.



5

“What can property-owner do who lives in the zone which has been declared by the Fine Arts Department as a heritage site?”



Property-owner or resident or anyone occupying the ancient site that has already been declared a heritage site can take action with respect to the property as follows:

1. He may continue to live and carry on activities as normal, and must take care to observe the National Ancient Site, Ancient Object, Artwork, and Museum Act, B.E. 2504, Second Amendment, 2535 B.E.

2. If the property owner plans to do any of the following—build a structure,

repair, alter, change, dismantle, add to, destroy, remove, or dig inside the zone which has been declared a heritage site, he must notify the Fine Arts Department and seek official permission in writing from the Director General of the Fine Arts Department prior to taking any such action.

3. The property owner may open his property to visitors for an admission fee, but must inform the Fine Arts Department of the intention and follow the stipulations laid down by the Fine Arts Department.

4. He may sell or transfer the ownership rights to other people, but must notify the Fine Arts Department of the action.

For further information, consult the National Ancient Site, Ancient Object, Artwork, and Museum Act, B.E. 2504, Second Amendment, 2535 B.E. Or inquire at the ancient site registration and information group (call +66 (2) 282 3707, 628 5035), or the legal group (call +66 (2) 222 4566).

6

“What must one do to obtain permission to film a documentary or a movie on the heritage site or inside the zone of a heritage site?”

To film a documentary or a movie, first submit a permit request using the form available at the Fine Arts Department. The department will review the request to determine if the documentary or movie filming can do any potential harm to the property. It also makes a preliminary check to ensure the planned pictures are politically correct or deemed suitable, or to see if the event publicly serves to promote or enhance the reputation of the heritage site.

Permission is ultimately at the discretion of the Director General of the Fine Arts Department.

To seek permission, proceed in accordance with the following steps:

1. Fill in and submit the permission form, giving such details as the location of shooting, date and time, list of production team members by job duty, etc. Attach the paper evidence for the permit seeker, including copy of ID, copy of house registration, as





well as narration script or movie script, sketches of scenes in the production. In the case of foreign documentary or movie filming, permission must also be obtained from the Film Board of Thailand. All the documents must be submitted in advance no less than 10 days. For foreigners, their passports only should be used in lieu of any other ID.

2. For Bangkok and environs (adjacent provinces), submit the request to the Office of Archaeology. For other provinces, submit it to the regional or branch or administrative office of archaeology or historical park located in the province, as the case may be. Should the province have no branch office of archaeology or historical park, go to the national museum or office of culture based in the province, whatever it is.

3. Pay the necessary fee according to the basic fee structure:

Thai film, per film/day

2,000 baht

Foreign film, per film/day

10,000 baht

Documentary, advertising film, TV drama, stills (for Thai producer) per day
1,000 baht

If shooting takes less than 5 hours, the fee shall be halved of the normal rate

Documentary, advertising film, TV drama, TV program, stills (for foreign producer) per day

5,000 baht

If shooting takes less than 5 hours, the fee shall be halved of the normal rate

Fraction of a day counts as 1 day

4. Pay the following one-time damage insurance premiums:

Thai film

500,000 baht per film

Thai drama

20,000 baht per drama

Foreign film

2,000,000 baht per film

Documentary, advertising film, TV drama, TV program, stills by Thai or foreign producer, no damage insurance is required

7

“Where can one go to do archaeological research, particularly survey and excavation reports on archaeological sites around Thailand?”

The Office of Archaeology, located on Si Ayutthaya Road, Theset, has a library specializing in archaeology, located on the first floor of the building. It is open to users to do research from books and papers related to archaeology and conservation, including reports on survey and excavation of archaeological sites around the country. It is open Monday-Friday, 9.00-16.00 hrs. Users are required to fill in the user form available on the 3rd floor of the Office of Archaeology building.

The resources of this specialized library include the serialized survey and excavation reports from 1957 to the present. The report on the remarkable discovery of the Ban Chiang archaeological site is among numerous reports on the shelves. These primary

source materials will be of immense use to students of archaeology. In addition, the library houses a collection of foreign-language books on prehistoric archaeology donated by Professor Dr. Chester Gorman, an American archaeological expert who participated in excavating Ban Chiang. The library's books and other resources have benefited generations of local archaeologists.

Researchers can borrow some books for copying, in which case they are required to leave his student ID or citizen ID to the staff for identity purposes.

For further information, contact the Office of Archaeology. Call +66 (2) 282 4801, 282 4846, ext. 331.



8

“What should visitors do to have a guided tour of a national museum?”



To have a guided tour of a national museum, contact that national museum or any national museum around the country in advance to ensure convenience and prearrangement of a guide as appropriate.

The Bangkok National Museum has the following schedule of guided tours led by museum volunteers:

Thai language

General tour of the museum facility: Sunday, 10.00-13.30 hrs

English language

History of Thai Art and Buddhism: Wednesday and Thursday, 9.30 hrs

French language

Pre-Thai Art and Thai Art: Wednesday and Thursday, 9.30 hrs

German language

Thai Art and Culture: Thursday, 9.30 hrs

Japanese language

Thai History and Culture: Wednesday, 1st and 2nd week of the month, 9.30 hrs

Thai Art and Buddhism at Buddha'sawen Chapel: Wednesday, 3rd and 4th week of the month, 9.30 hrs

9

“Can I request the use of museum premises for social function or any other activity?”

You may request the use of museum premises only after being approved by the Director General of the Fine Arts Department or chief officer of the national museum concerned, as the case may be, and pay the fee as scheduled.

To seek permission for the use of premises of a national museum, take the following steps:

1. In Bangkok, write to the Director General of the Fine Arts Department. In the regions, write to the chief officer of the national museum. Give full details of the time and date, extent of the area, and type of activity planned.

2. When given approval, pay the fee as scheduled. This fee shall go towards the archaeology fund to be used in support of archaeological operation.

The basic consideration in allowing the use of museum premises is that the function shall not pose danger to the museum building and vicinity, shall not disturb the general tour activity of the museum, and the planned activity and performances must be positive in character and show utmost respect for the museum location.

For further information, contact the Office of National Museums. Call +66 (2) 262 8554.



10

"What must I do to take Buddha Images, ancient artifacts and art objects out of the kingdom?"

1. Write to the Director General of the Fine Arts Department and ask for a permit request form. If you are Thai, produce a copy of your house registration and the original citizen ID, or if you are a foreigner the original passport and a signed photocopy of the passport. Submit the documents to the Office of National Museums, Si Ayutthaya Road, Dusit, Bangkok, and the 6 regional National Museums, located in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Songkhla, Phuket, Ubon Ratchathani, and Udon Thani.

2. In the case of exporting or taking a Buddha image out of the kingdom, it must be accompanied by a promissory representation that the Buddha image is for worshipping,

study and research, laudatory commendation, or for cultural and archaeological exchange, with a clear photograph of the image taken from the front attached therewith.

3. Bring all the Buddha Images, ancient artifacts and art objects to be taken out of the kingdom to the Office of National Museums or any one of the 6 regional national museum for inspection and verification.

4. Pay the fee as scheduled.

In the case of the import of ancient artifacts that are a Buddha Image, deity, religious icon, fragment or component of an ancient site, ancient currency, ancient inscription, ancient document, and prehistoric implements, utensils and ornaments of proven overseas provenance, write to the Director General of the Fine Arts Department for permission. Give full details of the ancient artifact, place of storage, and objective of import. Attach a photograph of the ancient artifact and a certificate of affirmation of its provenance issued by a state agency for use in importing.

For further information on the import and export of ancient artifacts or art objects, contact the Office of National Museums. Call +66 (2) 628 5033, 281 6766. Or the legal affairs group, Office of the Secretariat. Call +66 (2) 225 8958.



11

“What must be done in order to request ancient artifacts and art objects on loan for temporary overseas exhibition?”

1. Enquire and ask for the regulations on borrowing ancient artifacts for overseas exhibition, and the permit form.

2. Attach the necessary papers to accompany the permit request, for example the letter of intent to borrow the ancient artifacts or art objects, details of the exhibition program, such as the show scripts, sketch of the exhibition room, mounting fixtures and venue, etc. There must also be a letter of authorization from the person with signatory powers to the Agreement. The formalities of advance coordination effort shall be for no less than 3 years before the ancient artifacts and art objects can be allowed out of the kingdom.

3. The duration of loan and transportation shall last no more than 1 year as of the signing date for the Agreement.

4. The borrower must enter into an agreement or contract with the Fine Arts Department before he is allowed to take the ancient artifacts or art objects out of the National Museum, and is required to strictly abide by the clauses of the contract. There must also be damage insurance taken out for the



Donor's Art Exhibition at Guimet Museum, Paris

ancient artifacts.

The chief consideration for the loan of ancient artifacts and art objects for overseas show is directed to the borrower which must be an institution, agency or organization of credible repute and guaranteed by the Government. As the ancient artifacts and art objects selected for the request will be in solid, sturdy condition, transportation, mounting, and displaying must measure up to the museum safety standard. The borrower must pay all the expenses involved, such as maintenance, transportation, insurance, etc.

For information, contact the Office of National Museums. Call +66 (2) 626 5028, 281 6766.

12

“Can artists stage a show of their works at the National Gallery?”

The National Gallery will be glad to help publicize the works of Thai and foreign artists. The artist is required to fill in a show request form at the National Gallery, stating his wishes along with his biography and samples of his works to be exhibited, to be made at least 1 year in advance.

In deciding which artwork to exhibit, the decider body shall consist of a committee of art experts and academics, and

national artists. The National Gallery will not demand the payment of a rental fee but the exhibitor must shoulder the cost of amenities and overtime pay of the staff, or any other expenses involved. Foreign artists may make his request via his embassy who will contact the Office of National Museums on his behalf. Twenty percent of the revenue earned from the sale of the artworks during the show shall be given to the National Gallery as a contribution to its operations.

For further information, contact the Office of National Gallery. Call +66 (2) 282 0637, 282 2639-40.



13

“Why does the history recorded by foreigners differ from that written by the Thais themselves?”

Foreigners who traveled to Thailand in times past were a mixed bunch of characters widely different from one another. These expatriates were merchants who came here to engage

in commerce, experts who worked for the government, missionaries, etc. And then there were mercenaries and adventurers, not to mention fortune seekers. What they wrote of Thailand

therefore reflected the opinions of aliens who come to grips with Thai social and cultural conditions. Writing from their foreign perspectives, their records sometimes missed the mark, entirely erroneous interpretation that did not reflect the true conditions of society at that time. The good thing about these writings, however, is that they provided us with a useful window on the urban and rural environment and way of lives of the people in the past because the expatriates often had a chance to travel to or explore communities and villages further afield. For instance, Nicolas Gervaise's *Histoire Naturelle et Politique du Royaume de Siam*, gives a graphic account of the city and lives of the people of Ayuthaya. On the other hand, chronicles written by the Thais themselves were mostly important government documents, such as correspondence between government departments, international treaties, the royal annals and personal reminiscences of members of the royal family, which almost always eschewed descriptions of the living conditions of ordinary people.

The Office of Literature and History has published translations of the writings and memoirs penned by the foreigners who involved themselves variously with the country in the

Ayuthaya and Ratanakosin periods. These original texts have been subjected to textual criticism and commentary to set the record straight, in order to give a more accurate picture and understanding. Some samples of these books include *Les relations de la France et du Siam 1680-1907* by Captain Seauve, a member of the Mission Pavie which came to survey and map the border



regions between Siam, Laos, and Cambodia, and the series of documents by Henry Burney, which purportedly explained the relations between Siam and England and neighboring countries in the early Ratanakosin period.

For further information, contact the Office of Literature and History. Call +66 (2) 628-5021, ext. 507, or 2810382.

14

“How can one research the history and well-known figures of Thailand?”



Research can be done, using the resources of the Office of Literature and History. The collection includes Thai history books that have been checked and revised for accuracy, documents and books by foreigners writing about Thailand of the past, bio-graphies, etc. These books and documents have been painstakingly revised to high standard of historiography and will prove to be of reliable, profitable reference materials.

Some history books are available in serial publications, for example the northern Lactians of Siam, translations and discourses on history, index of Thai history, etc.

The office houses the nation's recognizably important books recently issued to coincide with historic occasions, e.g. *Collected Chronicles (Golden Jubilee Edition)*, *Important Ancient Sites in Ayutthaya*, etc.

The biographical collection includes titles on important heroines in Thai history, a series of biographical sketches of art experts, etc.

For further information, contact the Office of Literature and History. Call +66 (2) 626 5021, ext. 506, or +66 (2) 281 0382.

“What should one do to secure permission for reprinting the Fine Arts Department’s books?”



Books that the Fine Arts Department allows to be reprinted are those books and documents which the Fine Arts Department holds the copyright of, or have been authorized to execute the copyright, or those books published by units under its control and written to its job responsibility, with the exception of classified books and documents, or those the Fine Arts Department has already reserved for some other project.

Printing for Charity Distribution

The Fine Arts Department will give permission to reprint books owned by the Fine Arts Department

to be distributed for charity benefits, for educational purposes or for public charities, without seeking commercial interest or monetary gain whatsoever.

1. Tender your request in writing no less than 30 days prior to the event date. Make clear your intention to the director of the Office of Literature and History, Fine Arts Department.

2. Once granted the permission, you may take the manuscript and have it reprinted as per the regulations. Staff of the Office of Literature and History has the right to check for accuracy in the last printed proof of production before the order to print is given, to ensure

absolute accuracy and completeness. In addition, the Fine Arts Department is obliged to recommend a suitable printing house known for quality and speed. Any expenses incurred shall be settled between the printing office and the permittee themselves.

3. Upon completion of the printing, a certain number of books must be deposited with the Fine Arts Department.



Printing for Sale

1. Write to the director of the Office of Literature and History, asking for permission for a reprint.

2. Permission if granted shall be for one printing only, with the print-run as stated. For a new reprint, permission must be resought every time.

3. If and when giving permission for the printing, the Fine Arts Department shall write a foreword as



evidence of permission, to appear on a printed page near the front of the book.

4. Permittee must arrange for the print-run of no less than 3,000 copies at one printing, make royalty payment and give a certain number of copies to the Fine Arts Department as per the requirement.

5. The Fine Arts Department reserves the right to not permit others to reproduce or print the same title within a suitable period of time.

For further information, contact the Office of Literature and History. Call +66 (2) 281 1153, 228 10382, 628 5021, ext. 503, 513.



ร้านหนังสือ ศิลปากร

SILPAKORN BOOKSTORE

น่านฟ้า

08.00 - 18.30 น.

OFFICE HOURS

08.00 - 18.30 hrs.

“How can one take advantage of the services available at the National Archive?”



The following steps should be taken when using the services at the National Archive.

1. Register yourself to obtain a membership card by showing your ID or student ID, or a passport if you are a foreigner. Those wanting to do research spanning a period of 2 months' time and over must receive approval in writing from the National Research Council of Thailand. Show your approval paper each time you enter the archive facility.

2. Only pencil and notebook are allowed in the research room. Other articles and belongings should be left in the locker. Researchers may bring their laptops into the room.

3. Do your research through search devices such as document catalogue, index cards, or computer search.

4. Fill in the document use form for reading and research in the research room only.

5. When wanting to make copies, fill in the request form for chronicle copying to be submitted to the officer concerned for permission. The copying of all types of chronicle documents must be done by National Archive staff only.

6. Users must treat chronicle documents with care and avoid causing damage to the documents at all time. They are to follow the service regulations strictly.

For information, contact the National Archive. Call +66(2)281 1599, 281 1666 or visit www.nat.go.th.

17

"If I want to have copies of photographs and documents kept in the National Archive for publishing and dissemination, what should I do?"



Borrow the photograph or document you wish to copy by filling in the loan slip, giving the document code, title, borrower's name, and loan date. Return the slip to the staff who will proceed to requisition the manuscript document from the storage.

2. Once the document is brought forward, fill in the photocopy request form, giving name of the user, type of copy, document code, title, file title, etc. Return the form to the research room staff together with the document to be copied, pay the fee, and arrange the pickup date. The duration in which the photocopying can be processed depends on the type of document concerned, its condition, and number of users seeking photocopies.

3. For audio-visual materials, a written request for permission to disseminate the document must be submitted to the Director of the National Archive, giving the name of agency, company, or person together with document title, and specifying the objectives and type of dissemination.

4. In dissemination, reference information concerning provenance of the document, such as source, code, etc must be given in order to help users who may want to do additional research.

5. At least one copy of the publication whose content wholly or partially can be traced to documents from the National Archive must be given to the National Archive for the benefit of other users.

For further information, contact the National Archive. Call +66 (2) 261 1599, 261 1666 or visit www.nat.go.th.

18

“What is the procedure involved if one wants to donate photographs to the National Archive?”

1. The donator must be the owner or heir or person who owns the copyright to the photographs.



2. The donator must deliver the photographs and transference inventory as recorded in the private paper transference form of the National Archive, which gives details on the number of photographs, inventory, name of transferor, name of transferee, and date of transference.

3. The donator must permit the National Archive to display or propagate in accordance with the stipulations laid

down by the donator, as specified in the private paper transference form, for example for reading or copying or photocopying or publishing in aid of education, research and reference.

The National Archive will gladly accept documents and photographs in paper, photographic negative, slide, and digital image of all types, which are of historical value, that explain and depict buildings, events, dress culture, living conditions, and lifestyles.

For information on document donation, contact the National Archive. Call +66 (2) 281 1599, 281 1666 or contact regional National Archive offices nationwide.



1.9

“What services does the National Library offer of documents, books, and printed materials?”



The National Library offers services on a wide range of documents and printed materials as follows:

- Books and textbooks on all fields, for example social science, linguistics, science, history, humanities, computer, etc
- Newspapers and periodicals backdated from current issue to first edition
- Theses, research reports from academic institutions and agencies
- Schoolbooks and textbooks from secondary school (middle to high school) to tertiary (college) levels, memorial editions, cremation memorial books
- Royal Thai Government Gazette and reference materials

- Priceless antique books and rare books
- Ancient documents, for example inscriptions, Thai books, palm-leaf scriptures, facsimiles of various types of ancient documents
- International printed materials, housed in a

separate location or corner, for example publications on Korea, United Nations publications, and Asian Development Bank publications sent to the National Library as a depository library

- Audio-visual materials, for example microfilm, maps, CDs, video, audio, photographs, and old calendars

The inventory of most books and publications can be searched at www.nlt.go.th or one can perform a computer search at facilities provided. Most public-service rooms have enough room for laptop users.

For further information, visit www.nlt.go.th or call +66 (2) 281 5212, 281 5313.



Vajiravudhkasorn Library

The library serves the public who want to learn about King Vajiravudh, for example his biography, activities, and writings. A room features a scaled-down replica of the Dusit Thani experiment on democracy, showing the mechanism of a democratic model, royal quotations, and a life-size wax figure of His Majesty dispensing important initiatives in the reign.

The library is open Monday-Friday, 9.00-16.30 hrs, and closed Saturday-Sunday and public holidays. For advance tour bookings, call +66 (2) 281 7340, 281 5212, 281 5313, ext. 402, 403.

Library in Commemoration of H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej

The library gives information on King Bhumibol Adulyadej, such as royal biographies, activities, including testimonials and citations that universally honour His Majesty with the designation "The Great."



The library is open Monday-Friday, 9.00-16.30 hrs, and closed on Saturday-Sunday and public holidays. Call +66(2) 281 5212, 281 5313, ext. 403.

King Rama IX Music Library

The library provides the service on royal compositions, western popular music, and printed materials related to royal songs, music activities, magazines and periodicals on songs and music, and audio recordings of royal songs from the past to the present.

The library is open Monday-Friday, 9.00-16.30 hrs and closed Saturday-Sunday and public holidays. Call +66 (2) 281 5212, 281 5313, ext. 408.

Princess Sirindhorn Music Library

The library provides music services to members of the public, housing books, periodicals, musical notes, CDs, VCDs, music audio of all types, biographies and works of important figures in music, for example HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, HRH Prince Paribatra Sukhumbhandh, HRH Prince Nagara Savarga, Phra Chen Duriyang (Peter Feit), Luang Vichit Vadakan, Acham Montri Tramot, etc.

The library is open Monday-Friday, 9.00-16.30 hrs, and closed Saturday-Sunday and public holidays.

Call +66 (2) 281 5212, 281 5313, ext. 410.

Narathip Centre for Social Science Research



Located in the Thaworawathu Building, Sanam Luang, the library serves the public with documents and information in social science, and holds an exhibition of private books and personal effects of His Highness Prince Narathip.

The library is open Monday-Friday, 9.00-16.30 hrs, and closed Saturday-Sunday and public holidays. Call +66 (2) 222 4867, 221 6830.

Prince Damrong Rajanuphap Library



The library provides the service on documents and information on history and archaeology, and houses an exhibition of manuscripts, documents, and personal effects of Prince Damrong.

The library is open Monday-Friday, 9.00-16.30 hrs and closed Saturday-Sunday and public holidays. Call +66 (2) 281 7577.

National Library, Lat Krabang Royal Memorial Branch

The library provides the service on documents, general information, theses, and research reports from 2003 onwards.

The library is open Monday-Friday, 9.00-16.30 hrs and closed Saturday-Sunday and public holidays. Call +66 (2) 739 2298, ext. 106.

Visitor Guidelines

For services available in the National Library, please inquire at the information desk in the room concerned. For the ancient document room, visitors are required to submit a written request, with a letter of confirmation issued by the agency to which he affiliates.

Photocopying Services

All photocopying is to be processed by National Library staff or those entrusted with the job only. Service users are responsible for any fee incurred based on announced rates.



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“Does the National Library maintain collections of foreign-language books, documents, and publications?”

The National Library houses several categories of foreign documents and publications, for example Chinese publications in the Chinese information resource room, Korean publications in the Korea corner, and United Nations publications, the latter due to the National Library being a depository library for UN publications.

The books, documents, and publications available in the National Library have been acquired under the Printing Notification Act, through procurement, donation, acquisition from various agencies, as well as through the exchange program with other national libraries and important

libraries around the world. Some of these overseas libraries include the US Library of Congress, the National Library of Australia, the National Library of China, the national libraries of various countries of Southeast Asia, among others. Exchange is also made with the libraries of overseas colleges which offer the Thai studies program. The foreign books obtained through exchanges are placed on the shelves as per standard library classification.

To search for more information, visit www.nlit.go.th or inquire at the Research and Reference service group, National Library. Call +66 (2) 281 5212, 281 5313.

21

"How can one request interlibrary loans with overseas libraries?"

Users wanting to make an overseas interlibrary loan should do the following:

1. Ask for an overseas interlibrary loan form at the centre for publication exchange and loan, National Library.

2. Fill in the form, giving one's name, title of document requested, format of information desired, e.g. document, file, etc. Give the form to the staff.

3. The National Library will contact and submit a loan request to the overseas library, made in the name of the National Library. During processing, the National Library will continually report to the user any progress made.

4. When the National Library obtains the document, the user will be notified of its arrival and is required to pay the cost as stipulated by the overseas library and the National Library's processing cost. Occasionally, the delivery may be made via email, as the case may be.

For further information, contact the library resource development group, centre for publication exchange and loan, National Library. Call +66 (2) 628 5180.





22

“What music and dance drama performances are offered annually by the Fine Arts Department?”

1. *The Srisuk Natakarn (Dramatic Comedy)* program features the light performance of ballets, dances, skits, or khon episodes. Each presentation of the Srisuk Natakarn theatricals is organized under a common theme, for example love between mother and child, parting, etc.

2. *The Silpakorn Concert* program highlights the presentation of Thai popular music, both instrumental and singing, by the Fine Arts Department

band, offering popular numbers, country music, and classical music, with a guest appearance by noted performers.

3. *The Silpin Silpakorn (Artists of Silpakorn)* program features the works of performers under the management of the Fine Arts Department, presented in a variety show format, of both plays and music.

4. *The Dontri Thai Fairot Rue (Who Says Thai Music is Bland?)* program shows the lively, yet elegant sound of

Thai traditional music and singing with the backup of the traditional orchestra of percussion and stringed instruments, etc.

5. *The Piphat Sapha Thir Wangna (Orchestra and Ballet at Front Palace)* program features the singing of ballads to traditional orchestral accompaniment in the open-space in front of King Pinklao Monument inside the Office of Performing Arts on January 7 each year, which is the birthday anniversary of King Pinklao.

6. The Eclectic Music for Everyone project held at Sangita Sala offers a variety performance of music and drama of all types-Thai traditional, Thai popular, and Thai contemporary, by artists of all hues who, glad to show off

their talents, are picked by the Fine Arts Department. The Fine Arts Department band itself will inaugurate and close the season with its own show, which starts from January to April each year, from 17.00 hrs onwards every Saturday and Sunday.

Furthermore, khon and drama performances of a story or episode are offered at all national theatres owned by the Fine Arts Department. For a schedule of performances and venues, visit www.finearts.go.th. The annual calendar of drama and music performances is published by the Office of Performing Arts, Fine Arts Department. Call +66 (2) 224 1342, 222 1092.



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“Where can I get the annual program of scheduled performances, and if I want to make a reservation, how can I do it?”



The Fine Arts Department issues an annual calendar of drama and music events, detailing a fixed schedule of planned performances, and poses it on its website, www.finearts.go.th.

Alternatively, it may be picked up at the National Theatre on a day on which there is a show. For information on showtime and others, call +66 (2) 224 1342, 222 1092.

To make reservations or buy a ticket for a performance, contact the box office at the National Theatre during office hours. For a public holiday on which a performance is scheduled, tickets are available at the box office one and a half hrs before the curtain goes up. For further details and reservations, contact the box office, or call +66 (2) 224 1342, 222 1092.

25

“What criteria are used to select a khon troupe for overseas performance?”

1. Objectives and intention of the host
2. Space available and readiness of the venue, for example if the surface area is too small, a large scene of the *Ramakien* episode of Yokrop (Battle) cannot be staged.

3. The readiness of the performers on standby and equipment availability, for example stage sets, music, costumes, etc.

For information on overseas drama and music performances, contact the Office of Performing Arts. Call +66 (2) 224 1379, ext. 207.

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"How can one commission a khon performance by the Fine Arts Department?"



The following steps should be taken when wishing to make a request for drama and music performances by the Fine Arts Department:

Domestic

1. Write to the director of the Office of Performing Arts, or the Director General of the Fine Arts Department, stating a request for performances. Samples of a request form can be found at www.finearts.go.th. Such details as date, time, venue, and objectives must be clearly spelled out.

2. Contact the performance production group, the Office of Performing Arts. Call +66(2) 224 1379, ext. 205, 105.

3. Appointments shall be made to clarify details or inspect the venue in advance of the staging of the production in order to finalize necessary details

of the performance, and to determine what type of players to be used to fit the fair character and stage size.

4. Pay the performers' fee as laid down in the circulating capital regulations of the Office of Performing Arts.

Overseas

1. Write to the Director General of the Fine Arts Department (via the foreign relations group, Secretariat of the Department) for permission, giving such details as objectives, fair venue, format of the fair and performances, a clear offer to meet the expenses involved, etc. In making its decision, the Fine Arts Department takes into account the agency or organization responsible, objectives of the fair, readiness of the troupe on standby, and equipment availability.

2. If and when approval is granted, contact the Office of Performing Arts for determination of costumes to be used in the performance.

For further enquiry, visit www.finearts.go.th or contact the production management section. Call +66 (2) 225 2538.

“What should one do to view a demonstration of traditional arts?”

Send a written request to the Director General, Fine Arts Department or the Director, Office of Traditional Arts, stating your Purpose to view creative work in progress at one of its workshops. Alternatively, one may request an offsite demonstration given by the department. Give all details on the type of demonstration required, time and date, nature of work, type of specialization, etc. The Office of Traditional Arts will gladly publicize and give a demonstration for the benefit of educational institutions, charity



organizations, foundations, and agencies in the public and private sector. Persons making the request must shoulder all the expenses involved.

For further information, contact the administration section. Call +66 (2) 482 1362, 482 1084.



*“Does the Fine Arts Department
accept commissioning for designing
and creating Thai artwork?”*

Already it is the province of the Office of Traditional Arts to create traditional artworks of the highest caliber, suggestive of national identity. It serves the Court, organizations, religious bodies, foundations, etc. In committing itself, it gives particular consideration to the design and creation of Thai artworks that have the greatest benefit to all. Organizations may submit a request in writing to the Director General, Fine Arts Department, stating help with the design and creation of their artwork of choice.

The services involving the design and creation of artwork by the Office of Traditional Arts are confined principally to rendering murals in a temple and creating the stylized attire and ornaments for important Buddha images. It also offers the repair service for dilapidated sites of ancient craftsmanship, as in re-building not so long ago the Brahma statue at the Ratchaprasong intersection shrine.

For further information, contact the administration section. Call +66 (2) 462 1362, 462 1064.



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"Can one request a guided tour of the Hall of Sculpture, and if so what steps should he take?"

Visitors to the Hall of Sculpture, visiting as a group and wanting a guided tour, must make a request in writing to the Director, Office of Traditional Arts for approval. State date and time, number of visitors, etc so that the Hall of Sculpture management can arrange a suitable guide and visitor brochures for the guests.

The Hall of Sculpture displays a number of prototypes of monumental figures, kings and great kings dedicated at physical monuments, Buddha images, and figures of the gods, all of

which are erected in Bangkok and the regions. As an example, your attention is called to the prototype of the King Phra Buddha Yodfa Chulalongkorn Memorial, located next to the abutment of the Memorial Bridge on the Bangkok side; the sculpture was the achievement of Professor Srip Biraeri.

The Hall of Sculpture is open Monday-Friday, 8.30-16.30 and closed on public holidays. For further information, contact the Hall of Sculpture. Call +66 (2) 222 5820.

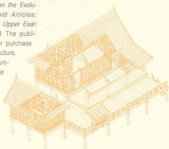


“Where can one go to learn about the Fine Arts Department’s accomplishments in architecture, engineering, and interior design?”

1. One can consult books and pamphlets published by the Office of Architecture for general distribution. The most recent publication is *Six Decades of Royalty-Inspired Creations*, a compilation of the Fine Arts Department’s record of achievements in architecture, engineering, and interior design between 1946 and 2006. The following titles may also be of use to interested enquirers: *Research Project on Design Management for National Museum*; *Study and Research Project on the Evolution of Thai Household Articles*; *Buddhist Architecture in Upper Esan* (available on CD-ROM). The publications are available for purchase at the Office of Architecture, or may be consulted at university libraries around the country.

2. The Office of Architecture keeps at its office in Thewet a compilation of all the registered architectural plans and blueprints of buildings at the Office of Architecture, Fine Arts Department, Thewet. Interested parties may write to the Director of the Office of Architecture for access to the records, with official authorization from his agency, as the case may be.

For further information, contact the Office of Architecture. Call +66 (2) 282 0390, ext 404-407.



“Does the Fine Arts Department have blueprints of religious structures, such as ubosot, vihara, etc available for public access?”



The Office of Architecture offers for sale standard construction plans and itemization for religious structures in Buddhism for use in actual construction and for study purpose.

These standard plans of Buddhist structures are of ubosot and sermon halls designed to embody local identity of the four regions: central, north, northeastern, and south. The blueprints are available in 3 sizes: large, medium, and small, to suit the location concerned and utility needs. The standard blueprints for other religious structures including, for example, vihara, bell tower, crematorium, kuti (monk's quarters), mandapa, and others are also



available, particularly of the central region model, with forthcoming models for the other regions in the process of preparation. They are likewise available in 3 sizes.

These standard blueprints for Buddhist structures are on sale for 200 baht each during office hours at the Office of Architecture. For further information, contact the Office of Architecture, Call +66 (2) 282 0390, ext 404-407.

“Can the Fine Arts Department be commissioned to design a building that reflects Thai identity, for example applied Thai-style building and Thai pavilion?”



Thai Pavilion at Olbrich Garden, Madison, WI, USA

The person concerned must write to the Director General of the Fine Arts Department for consideration and assistance. Normally the Fine Arts Department lends its expertise to the design of public buildings upon commissioning by government agencies, examples of which include the National Theatre, City Pillar Shrine, Buddha Hall, and bases and pedestals for countless monuments.

The department has already been credited with numerous Thai pavilions built to celebrate or commemorate historic events overseas, for example Trimuk (Three Porticos)

Pavilion in Ueno Zoo, Tokyo, Japan; Chaturamuk (Four Porticos) Pavilion in Westpark, Munich, Germany; and Trimuk (Three Porticos) Pavilion in Kurpark, Bad Homburg, Germany.

Each work of Thai-style architecture requires a team of craftsmen and builders of diverse specialties and often takes considerable time due to the ornate elaborateness in Thai architecture. Nevertheless, the Office of Architecture gladly offers its advice on the best approach to planning and executing the design of all types of building to interested public.

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“Are there accommodation facilities available in the historical parks managed by the Fine Arts Department?”

Accommodation is available to visitors as houses as well as a camping area. Visitors, however, need to write to the head of the historical park for permission. Fees must be paid according to the rates. For everyone's safety's sake and to prevent any damage to the ancient heritage site inside the park, visitors are required to strictly observe the regulations.

Currently, only two historical parks offer accommodation:

1. Muang Sing Historical Park, Kanchanaburi Province. Call +66 (3) 452 8456-7

2. Phu Phrabat Historical Park, Udon Thani Province. Call +66 (4) 324 1670, 323 8173

Bookings should be made about 1-2 weeks in advance. All visitors must produce citizen ID.





Lofa Prasad: Buddhist Architectural Masterpiece in Response to Royal Initiative Exhibition

Contact of the Fine Arts Department

Office of Secretariat

Na Phra That Road, Bangkok 10200
Tel. : +66 (2) 225 2652, 221 7811,
225 1227, 623 6450
Fax. : +66 (2) 221 0638, 221 1812
Web site : www.finearts.go.th

Office of Archaeology

81/1 Si Ayuthaya Road, Dusit,
Bangkok 10300
Tel. : +66 (2) 282 4801, 282 4843,
282 4848
Fax. : +66 (2) 282 3770
Web site : www.archae.go.th

Office of National Museums

81/1 Si Ayuthaya Road, Dusit,
Bangkok 10300
Tel. : +66 (2) 628 5662, 628 5033,
282 2121, 281 0433, 281 6766
Fax. : +66 (2) 281 6766
Web site : www.thailandmuseum.com

Office of Literature and History

81/1 Si Ayuthaya Road, Dusit,
Bangkok 10300
Tel. : +66 (2) 628 5021, 281 0382
Fax. : +66 (2) 281 1153
Web site : www.literatureandhistory.com

Office of National Archive

Samsen Road, Dusit, Bangkok 10300
Tel. : +66 (2) 281 1599, 281 1646
Fax. : +66 (2) 281 5341, 628 5172
Web site : www.nat.go.th

Office of National Library

Samsen Road, Dusit, Bangkok 10300
Tel. : +66 (2) 281 7927, 281 7988,
282 7746, 281 5212, 281 5313
Fax. : +66 (2) 281 5449
Web site : www.nlt.go.th

Office of Performing Arts

Rajini Road, Phranakhoon,
Bangkok 10200
Tel. : +66 (2) 225 9097, 224 1379
Fax. : +66 (2) 225 9097

Office of Traditional Arts

93/Puthamonthon 5 Road, Salaaya,
Nakhon Pathom 73170
Tel. : +66 (2) 482 1362, 482 1084
Fax. : +66 (2) 482 1362, 482 1084

Office of Architecture

81/1 Si Ayuthaya Road, Dusit,
Bangkok 10300
Tel. : +66 (2) 282 0390
Fax. : +66 (2) 282 5445

**The 1st Regional of Fine Arts,
Ratchaburi**

Serving 6 provinces: Ratchaburi,
Phetchaburi, Prachuap Khiri Khan,
Samut Sakhon, Samut Songkhram,
Samut Prakan

Tel. : +66 (3) 232 3226-7

Fax. : +66 (3) 232 3226-7

**The 2nd Regional of Fine Arts,
Suphan Buri**

Serving 5 provinces: Suphan Buri,
Kanchanaburi, Nakhon Pathom,
Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani

Tel. : +66 (3) 555 5281, 554 5486-7

Fax. : +66 (3) 554 5486

**The 3rd Regional of Fine Arts,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya**

Serving 5 provinces: Phra Nakhon Si
Ayutthaya, Nakhon Nayok, Saraburi,
Ang Thong, Sing Buri

Tel. : +66 (3) 524 2501

Fax. : +66 (3) 524 2448

**The 4th Regional of Fine Arts,
Lop Buri**

Serving 5 provinces: Lop Buri,
Chai Nat, Nakhon Sawan,
Phetchabun, Uthai Thani

Tel. : +66 (3) 641 3779, 641 2510

Fax. : +66 (3) 641 3779, 641 2510

**The 5th Regional of Fine Arts,
Prachin Buri**

Serving 7 provinces: Prachin Buri,
Chachoengsao, Chon Buri,
Chanthaburi, Rayong, Trat, Sa Kaeo

Tel. : +66 (3) 721 1296, 721 2610

Fax. : +66 (3) 721 2610

**The 6th Regional of Fine Arts,
Sukhothai**

Serving 6 provinces: Sukhothai, Tak,
Kamphaeng Phet, Phichit, Phitsanulok,
Uttaradit

Tel. : +66 (5) 563 3003

Fax. : +66 (5) 569 7365

The 7th Regional of Fine Arts, Nan

Serving 4 provinces: Lampang,
Phayao, Phrae, Nan

Tel. : +66 (5) 471 1160

Fax. : +66 (5) 471 1160

**The 8th Regional of Fine Arts,
Chiang Mai**

Serving 4 provinces: Chiang Mai,
Chiang Rai, Lamphun, Mae Hong Son

Tel. : +66 (5) 322 2262

Fax. : +66 (5) 340 9072

**The 9th Regional of Fine Arts,
Khon Kaen**

Serving 6 provinces: Khon Kaen,
Maha Sarakham, Loei, Nong Khai,
Nong Bua Lam Phu, Udon Thani

Tel. : +66 (4) 324 2129, 333 7629
Fax. : +66 (4) 324 2129, 333 7629

The 10th Regional of Fine Arts, Roi Et

Serving 4 provinces: Roi Et,
Kalasin, Sakon Nakhon,
Nakhon Phanom

Tel. : +66 (4) 351 3752, 351 3916
Fax. : +66 (4) 351 3530

**The 11th Regional of Fine Arts,
Ubon Ratchathani**

Serving 5 provinces: Ubon Ratche-
thani, Mukdahan, Yasothon,
Si Sa Ket, Amnat Charoen

Tel. : +66 (4) 531 2845
Fax. : +66 (4) 531 2846

**The 12th Regional of Fine Arts,
Nakhon Ratchasima**

Serving 4 provinces: Nakhon
Ratchasima, Chalyaphum,
Buri Ram, Surin

Tel. : +66 (4) 447 1518, 428 5096
Fax. : +66 (4) 447 1518

**The 13th Regional of Fine Arts,
Songkhla**

Serving 5 provinces: Songkhla,
Satun, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat

Tel. : +66 (7) 448 3460-1
Fax. : +66 (7) 448 3460

**The 14th Regional of Fine Arts,
Nakhon Si Thammarat**

Serving 4 provinces: Nakhon Si
Thammarat, Chumphon, Surat Thani,
Phatthalung

Tel. : +66 (7) 532 4479, 535 6458
Fax. : +66 (7) 535 6458

The 15th Regional of Fine Arts, Phuket

Serving 5 provinces: Phuket, Ranong,
Phang-nga, Krabi, Trang

Tel. : +66 (7) 631 1025, 637 8900
Fax. : +66 (7) 631 1025, 627 3006



Arts & Culture FAQs

(Frequently Asked and Anticipated Questions)

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The Emblem of the Fine Arts Department

The emblem of the Fine Arts Department depicts Ganesha, the Hindu patron of arts and sciences and god of intellect and wisdom, seated on the cloud-like, running-scroll throne inside a circle. His head is haloed in framing rays, his trunk hangs straight down, his right tusk is broken (in myth), he wears a naga (serpent) sash-style, his upper left hand holds an open noose, his lower left hand rising holds a water-jar lid, his upper right hand holds a lightning, his lower right hand holds the broken tusk, his left leg is bent inwards (in meditation pose), his right leg hangs down. The circle is decorated with seven crystals round the rim, symbolizing the seven arts and sciences, which are the province of the Fine Arts Department-sculpting, painting, music, performing arts, rhetoric (speech), architecture, and letters. As the god of arts and sciences, Ganesha rules over intellect, learning, talent, courage, and is the protector of justice.

