



Queen Sirikit on Her Majesty's State Visits in 1960 and 1962

Pornsan Watanangura¹

Abstract

The appointment of the two queens to be Queen Regents in Thai history, indicates the confidence of the incumbent Kings in the ability of their royal consorts. It also highlights a new era for Thai women and their role in society. The accompaniment of Her Majesty, with King Rama IX of Thailand, as the youngest monarchs in the world, on official State Visits in 1960 and 1962, proved to be a new and highly significant influence, both on a small country in Southeast Asia, post the crisis of World War II and also on how the country was to be perceived internationally thereafter. The state visits of the twentieth century have some similarities with the state visits made to Europe, for the first time, by King Chulalongkorn in 1897. The royal tours of both Kings took place during a background of political turmoil internationally; in both cases the monarchs, King Chulalongkorn and King Bhumibol, gained tremendous acknowledgement and respect internationally. The visits strengthened the already existing ties between the Siamese Court and some of the leading countries of the Western democratic world.

This research paper, beginning from the onset of the first visit to Europe of King Chulalongkorn in 1897, but concentrates on the state visits of Queen Sirikit in 1960 and 1962. It will illustrate the significant impact on diplomatic, political and cultural aspects internationally, at such a critical time. The presence of Queen Sirikit accompanying King Bhumibol, without doubt, increased the success of the visits and helped shape Thai-Asian and Western relations in the long term.

Keywords: Queen Sirikit on State Visits

¹ Prof. Dr. Pornsan Watanangura, Associate Fellow, The Royal Institute of Thailand, Academy of Arts, Comparative Literature; Emeritus Professor of German Language and Literature, Department of Western Languages, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University; Project leader of the research project *Buddhism in World Literature*, Excellence Centre for Language, Linguistics and Literature, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University.



1. Introduction

In the History of Thailand, there are only two Queen Regents: Queen Savabha Pongsri, during the reign of King Chulalongkorn, who acted as Queen Regent during His Majesty's first European tour in 1897. Queen Sirikit, acted as Queen Regent during His Majesty, King Bhumibol Adulyadej's monkhood in 1956. The appointment of the two queens, indicates not only the confidence of the Kings in the abilities of Their Majesties, but it is also evidence of the new role Thai women would begin to play during these periods in history. The conflicts in the world at that time, made it possible and essential that Queen Sirikit accompanied King Bhumibol when going abroad. The appearance of Her Majesty with King Rama IX of Thailand, as the youngest Royal monarchs in the world, on two state visits in 1960 and 1962, proved to be a new and significant opportunity for a small country in Southeast Asia, after the World War II crisis, to launch itself again positively, on the World Stage.

Similar to the first visit to Europe of King Chulalongkorn in 1897, the prevailing conditions after World War II, during the 'Cold War' made the State Visits of King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit in 1960 and 1962, not only advisable but unavoidable. Both state visits took place in a period of world political crisis, namely, during the age of colonization in the 19th century and the confrontation between two political ideologies during the 'Cold War' after World War II in the 20th century. Through the royal state visits, which were very important for the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Siam, the Siamese monarchs gained tremendous acknowledgement from Europe and from every country visited. The royal tours set the stage for a new era in Siamese-European and Thai-Western relations in many respects and strengthened already existing ties between the Siamese court and some of the leading countries of Asia, Europe and America, Australia and New Zealand. King Bhumibol with Her Majesty Queen Sirikit succeeded in changing the way in which the West viewed Siam, its monarchy and its people. Siam was no longer just the name of an exotic, faraway land in a fairy tale - it was a real place.



2. The State Visits during the World Crisis



Figure 1: Their Majesties on State Visits in 1960

The state visits of the royal couple of the Chakri Dynasty, in 1960 and 1962, were not strictly a world tour, but the trips are considered of great importance in the establishment of Thailand, in a stronger position on the world stage, during the political and ideological conflicts of the mid-twentieth century. Similar threatening conditions politically, that had occurred during the first state visit of 1897, were in evidence during the second in 1960 and 1962. A comparison of the preconditions of the royal tours of both of the Siamese Monarchs, will lead to a greater understanding of the significance of the State Visits of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit in the middle of the twentieth century.

At the end of the 19th century, conditions in Siam and throughout the region were changing rapidly. Even before King Chulalongkorn came to the throne in 1868,



Siam was under threat from aggressive colonial politics of the European powers and there were also wars with neighbouring countries. Clashes with European powers intent on extending their influence in the region led to the loss of the independence and sovereignty of a number of Siam's neighbours. These events were all warning signs of the Western powers' imperialist intentions in South and Southeast Asia. France and Britain, in particular, were no longer content to maintain trade and religious missions in the countries of the region as in earlier times. The armed clashes between France and Siam of 1893 during the reign of King Chulalongkorn, was the final spark that lit the fuse and prompted the King to embark on a new course of action aimed at preserving Siamese sovereignty.

In the words of the King: "I must travel to Europe. It is essential that we establish a presence there."²

This turmoil prevailed not only over Asia. An overview of Europe-Asia relations at the End of the 19th Century will shed some light on the decision of King Chulalongkorn going to Europe in 1897 at the time of world crisis.

At the end of the 19th century and continuing on until the end of the Second World War in 1945, Europe was at the very heart of the major changes affecting world events. Europe in 19th century after the Industrial Revolution drove changes, the consequences of which are still felt today. Competition among major European powers was also rife as countries fought to hold on to their colonies and expand their economic and political sphere of influence throughout Asia and Africa.

This turmoil of the late 19th century can be compared with the state of great anxiety, confusion and uncertainty politically during the 20th century, the period of the reign of King Bhumibol (1950 -). The European colonization before World War I in Siam, is in some way similar to the threat from the socialist-communist countries for many nations, including Thailand, which spread all over the world.

After World War II, before the world tour and state visits of King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit of Thailand, in 1960 and 1962, Europe was in a state of restoration, economically, politically, even culturally. The United States of America replaced the

² Letter from King Chulalongkorn to Prince Svasti Sophon, dated September 3, 1893, cited in: Jiraporn Sathapanawatana's *Siam in Crisis* R.E.112, Bangkok: Teachers Training Department 1976, p. 194.



importance of Europe and became a ‘world power’ leading the ‘Western Democratic World’. The fact that the Alliance won the Second World War against Hitler’s Germany did not end the conflicts in Europe, including Stalin’s socialist-communist regime, which continued to expand its political ideology. The situation led in the end to confrontation between countries with different political and economic ideologies, i.e., between democratic and socialist-communist lead nations in Asia, Europe and America. The ideological conflict in the twentieth century was sharpened after the establishment of the ‘Federal People Republic of Yugoslavia’ after 1948. The Cold War began. The world was then divided into two blocks with the United States of America on one side, the Soviet Union, and the People Republic of China, after its revolution in 1949, on the other.

Many countries in the world, especially those in Southeast Asia including Thailand, fought against the Communists. The communist parties were active regionally. In Europe, the German Democratic Republic (Die Deutsche Demokratische Republik/ die DDR or East Germany) was established in 1949, also the Federal Republic of Germany (Die Bundesrepublik Deutschland or West Germany). The violent military expansions of the Soviet Union into East-block states (Poland, Hungary, and into East Germany 1950-1960, escalated the confrontation between the two ideologies. In 1950, the People Republic of China claimed Thailand as its former colony. The danger was clear and present. This alarming sign indeed accelerated Thailand to become a member of the United Nations in 1950. The government also showed solidarity with the UN by sending troops to the Korean War and gave shelter to the Chiang Kai-shek’s army of ‘Kuomintang’ in northern Thailand, near the boarder to China.³ Laws against crimes that deal with communism were passed. Many Thai intellectuals showed sympathy with the communist ideology. Among them was Chit Bhumisak, a student of the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University. The process of the communist expansion in Thailand after World War II, could be best demonstrated by the literary movement of *Littérature Engagée* developed in

³ The region is later known as the ‘Golden Triangle’ in northern part of Thailand with ‘Khun Sa’, known as “King of Opium” as leader. Members of this army were partly integrated with the hill tribes in the North, partly with the Thais. It is the projects of His Majesty King Bhumibol of Thailand in the sixties that gradually transferred this opium region into agricultural land.



Thailand, which had its first phase between 1947 to 1957. This political-literary movement is characterized by the first actions of the so-called “progressive” writers and their proclamation of *art for life against art for art's sake*. The central question was about the function of literature and the actual task of the writer. This “peaceful uprising” of 1952 resulted in many Thai authors turning to the social problems of the country and they therefore, gave greater impetus to “progressive literature”. This also applies to the time after the first military putsch by General Sarit Thanarat in 1957 that led to a blossoming of progressive “literature for life” in Thailand, if only for a period of a year. The second military putsch in Thailand was however a major turning point. General Sarit abolished the constitution, dissolved parliament and governed the country with 20 laws he set himself. Communist actions, or actions considered as such, were forbidden and the media was heavily censored. Many writers and journalists were put under strict surveillance or arrested as communists. Among them, Chit Bhumisak, who was accused of being a communist. In May 1965 Chit went “into the jungle” in order to take part in the revolutionary fight of the farmers, workers and the Communist Party of Thailand. Chit Bhumisak was shot dead on 5 May 1966 in the jungle in a province of north-eastern Thailand. Following Chit’s death, the previously more literary socialist battle of the Thai people gained a new realism and became for many a political reality in many regions of Thailand. Satien Chantimathorn, a famous Thai writer, with his book *‘The Thread of Littérature Engagée’*,⁴ called the time period after the second military putsch in the year 1958 “Dark Ages of Enlightenment”. It was also the beginning of the Vietnam War with Henry Kissinger’s ‘Domino Theory’, which feared the countries of South East Asia would topple and become Communist, one after the other.

This literary and political movement in Thailand after World War II did not change the stable and clear position of the Thai government which at that time was supporting the ‘Western Democratic ideology’, considering the United States of America as a close ally. Thai military, wanting, above all else, to safeguard their independence, had allowed the formidable military presence of the United States during 1961-1975, in Thailand.

⁴ Satien Chantimathorn wrote this book, in which a first view of this literary movement in Thailand is given, after joining other students going to the jungle for 5 years after student demonstration in October 1976.



It was within this context that King Bhumibol, accompanied by Queen Sirikit, the ninth monarch of the Chakri Dynasty, found it imperative to make state visits in 1960 to 15 countries in Europe and North America, one year prior to the ‘Berlin Wall’, the symbol of the peak of the ‘Cold War’. In 1962, the monarchs of Thailand visited four countries in Asia including Australia, and New Zealand. It was the time of the Vietnam War and political turmoil in South East Asia.

Queen Sirikit’s composition in *‘In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King’*,⁵ witnesses the world crisis during His Majesty’s State Visits to the United States in 1960.

“...An important appointment that myself and the members of our entourage awaited with enthusiasm and excitement, was the day when the King would be awarded an Honorary Degree at Williams University, one of the oldest universities in the United States. [...] That night, I could not sleep well. I confess it was because a member of the committee had whispered to me, *“Tomorrow, even if something goes wrong, you should not be frightened. And please don’t think that we dishonour you. There might be distribution of leaflets or some students will walk out during the ceremony.”* [...].

But the situation was totally different.

That night, at dinner, the Rector of Williams University, said

“ ... You know that in America, no one can stop people from expressing their opinions. He himself was surprised that there was no reaction as expected, and therefore, he had asked these students, (many with long hair which made them look even more frightening), why they had not walked out of the ceremony when one of the leaders of Southeast Asian country was being awarded a degree. The students said

⁵ *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, Her Majesty Queen Sirikit is gracious to grant Her Royal permission for the first edition of this book on the Auspicious Occasion of the Royal Ceremonial Celebration of Her Majesty the Queen’s Third Cycle Birthday Anniversary on 12th August 1968 (B.E. 2511) and on the Auspicious Occasion of the Royal Ceremonial Celebration of Her Majesty the Queen’s Sixth Cycle Birthday Anniversary on 12th August 2004 (B.E. 2547)



that they had not intended to attack directly Thailand, but as Thailand had friendly relations with their government, and they were against their Government's policy, they had planned to walk out of the ceremony while the King was giving his speech. But, they did not do so because the King had clapped his hands to honour the three of them. They thought the King was opened-minded because he had listened to other people's opinions. [...]”⁶

The events two years later in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, was more dramatic. Here the story in Sydney:

“...The weather was fine on the day when we arrived in Sydney [...] A large crowd had already gathered. But, as soon as our car stopped at the city hall, a protest sign appeared once again to chase away the dictator. There was the noise of people trying to subdue a troublemaker, just two cars behind us. This person had at first been part of the crowd, then when our car passed by, he had lifted the sign up in his hand. The people nearby and some police officers caught him and snatched away the sign, but it was too late because we had already seen it. [...]. After the ceremony and our return to Government House in Sydney, some people brought these leaflets to him (His Majesty the King) in his private quarters. The leaflets' message was the same, it was to 'drive the dictator back to Thailand', together with an additional message accusing Thailand's 1962 Government of being murderers for having executed innocent people. Anyone who knew anything about Thailand, apart from reading this leaflet would think that our country was entirely lawless, as in a gangland movie. Some Thai students in Sydney privately told us that this country has a secret organization of reds which is very well funded. [...] Their criticisms of our Government were not really reasonable. Those called innocent in the leaflets were those who

⁶ *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, footnote 5, p. 236-242.



had been sentenced to death for arson and those who were spies and had committed various crimes in our country.⁷

Due to the ease of twentieth century travel, a far more extensive royal tour was carried out by King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit in 1960 and 1962, far more extensive than the voyage to Europe of King Chulalongkorn in 1897. Both royal tours illustrate the importance of maintaining the sovereignty of a country, by being accepted as equal, by all the countries visited. In this regards the policy of pursuit of the ‘balance of power’, played a most crucial role.

3. The policy of the balance of power, *cauchemar des coalitions*⁸, in the time of the ‘Cold War’

It is vital to draw a comparison between the political situation in the reign of King Bhumibol, around 1960, and the situation at the end of the 19th century, in the time of King Chulalongkorn, as a clue for a better understanding of the policy of the balance of power pursued by both Siamese Monarchs.

The first visit to Europe of King Chulalongkorn was not yet scarred by the two world wars of the 20th century, Europe was still at the peak of its political, cultural, diplomatic, and military powers. Europe after World War II has changed tremendously. It would take the continent almost half a century to recover from the wounds inflicted by these wars. Europe after World War II had changed tremendously and had experienced a new situation, due to the ideological conflicts in the world. The war had had a huge effect a South-eastern Asian country, Thailand.

In the eyes of these European nations, Siam at the turn of the last century under King Chulalongkorn, was a small country with relatively little political bargaining power and, unlike Japan, endowed with a weak military. Strategically and economically, it was much less important than either China or India. Yet, it was key to the success of France’s colonial ambitions to lay claim to the Indochina

⁷ *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, footnote 5, p. 200-202.

⁸ It is known among the European historians that *cauchemar des coalitions* belongs to the politics of Frederick the Great of Prussia in 18th century.



peninsula and for the British to control Burma, India, and Malaya. The friendship French President Félix Faure showed to the Siamese monarch during the time of King Chulalongkorn's visit to Paris 1897, was motivated in part by his awareness of the possibility of a conflict between England and Russia. The political circumstances in Europe, around this time, were tense with the conflicts of the different interests between the European powers, England, France, Russia, particularly in the area of colonial politics. These political tensions help to clarify the reasons behind the tactics of the Siamese monarch, when he adopted to forge relations with some of the major powers at the time, namely Russia and Germany. In befriending Russia and Germany, the King hoped to preserve the sovereignty of his Kingdom, against the colonial designs of the French and British, while also achieving a balance of power between the various foreign influences in Siam. During the reigns of King Rama IV and King Rama V, there were just a small number of Western countries with a significant presence in Siam. These were principally France, England, Russia, Germany and the United States. The shifting nature of the relations between many of the major European powers at the time is particularly useful in explaining the strategy pursued by King Chulalongkorn i.e. to "lean on Russia" to "intimidate France."⁹

According to the remarks of the former European Union ambassador, H.E. Klauspeter Schmallenbach in February 2003, King Chulalongkorn's success in establishing cordial relations with the European powers, at such a difficult time, was no less an achievement than that of French Foreign Minister Robert Schumann, who convinced his German counterpart to sign a treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community in the 1950s,¹⁰ not long after the conclusion of the Second World War.¹¹

⁹ Pornsan Watanangura, Tosporn Kasikam, *Relations between the Kingdom of Siam and the Royal Houses of Europe in the Documents Pertaining to King Chulalongkorn's First Visit to Europe in 1897*, p. 48-49, 94-98, 105-111.

¹⁰ Schumann relied for success on close cooperation with Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the newly-formed Federal Democratic Republic of Germany, a country that historically had been an enemy¹⁰ of the French and that had only recently occupied their country. Then in 1963, at a time when many of the countries of Western Europe were still highly protective of their recently acquired independence, France, represented by President Charles de Gaulle, and Germany under Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, signed a Friendship Treaty.

¹¹ H.E. Klauspeter Schmallenbach, King Chulalongkorn – A First True Honourary European. In: *The Journal of European Studies*, Special Issue, Year 12, Volume 1, January – June 2004, p.11-79.



The difficult time after World War II was evident in Europe and Asia. Similar to the situation at the end of the 19th century in Thailand, when Prime Minister Phibun Songkram with his traditional anti-communist position, led Thailand to continue its recognition of Taiwan. He also supported the French in their actions against communist insurgents in Indochina. In the meantime, the balance of power in the world would shift from the ‘Old World’ to the ‘New’. The United States assumed a dominant role in the world, culturally, politically, militarily and subsequently economically. In 1955, the headquarters of the new *South East Asia Treaty Organization* (SEATO) was established in Bangkok and Thailand offered the United States the use of Thai military bases. In the 1960s, several countries in Western Europe embraced a call for European integration and, in 1967, the *European Economic Community* (EEC) was established. Also in 1967, Thailand became a founding member of the Association of Southeast Asia. After the fall of Berlin Wall, with the ratification of the Treaty on European Union, otherwise known as the “*Maastricht Treaty*”, signed in 1992, the *European Union* came into being.

The anti-communist policy of Thailand tremendously influenced the foreign policy of the country after World War II, in the reign of King Bhumibol. Thailand, still a small country in the eyes of the West, gained a strategic position in Southeast Asia, by being a buffer state against the communists, invading from the East, that is from Korea, Vietnam and Cambodia. Each country in Indo-China including Thailand, holds a strategic status. Losing one country, in the sense of Henry Kissinger’s ‘Domino-Theory’, the foreign minister of the United States at the time, could lead to the loss of the whole region of Indo-China, which is one of the most important strategic bases of the United States in Asia.

Before the world tour of Queen Sirikit in 1960, the Thai policy of pursuing a ‘balance of power’ in foreign policy, was marked by a number of state visits by the King and Queen, to neighboring countries, thus stabilizing old friendships. State visits were undertaken regionally to the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam on December 18-21 1959); Indonesia and Burma [February 8-16 and March 2 to 5 respectively in 1960; Pakistan (11-22 March 1962) and Malaya in June 1962]. Their Majesties were warmly welcomed by President Ngô Đình Diệm of South Vietnam, President Achmad Sukarno of Indonesia, President U Win Maung of Burma, President Field Marshal

Mohammed Ayub Khan of Pakistan and the King of Malaya, His Majesty King Yang di-Pertuan Agong Syed Putra Jamalullail and Her Majesty Queen Raja Permaisuri Agong, in a magnificent and dignified ceremony in Kuala Lumpur. With these state visits, Thailand had tied the friendship with all neighboring countries and attached a condition of alliance to fight against the communists in South East Asia. The policy of establishing a balance of power, in the time of King Chulalongkorn, by making alliances with Russia and Germany, to balance the two powers of Europe, England and France, turned out to be a policy of friendship with the whole ‘western democratic world’ in the 20th century. The result was to balance and protect Thailand from the power of two major ‘socialist-communist countries’, Soviet Union and the People Republic of China.



Figure 2: Their Majesties with President Sukarno at the airport in Indonesia, 8 February 1960, in: *Königin Sirikit, Juwel ihres Landes*, S. 63



Figure 3: Their Majesties with President Macapagal and wife in Philippines, in: *Königin Sirikit, Juwel ihres Landes*, p.103



Figure 4: His Majesty King Bhumibol in Malaya in: *Königin Sirikit, Juwel ihres Landes*, p.111



The state visits thereafter in June 1960, which lasted seven months and four days, were not only to present the world's youngest monarch to the world, but they also clearly demonstrated the clear position of Thailand's foreign policy, which was aiming to form alliances with the western world, particularly the United States of America. In this connection, the presence of Queen Sirikit of Thailand, with Her Majesty's charm and beauty, was a major key to the success of the royal tours.

4. On Her Majesty's State Visit in 1960 and 1962 – Ambassador of successful Mission for Thailand - A New Era in Thai-Asian and Western Relations

When King Chulalongkorn travelled to Europe in 1897, he was alone without Queen Savabha Pongsri. The traditional role of Siamese women and the duration of the journey, would not allow her to travel. More over, Queen Savabha Pongsri as Queen Regent of Siam had a more important duty at the time of political crisis of the country and during the absence of the King. The world travel of the ninth Monarch of the Chakri Dynasty was different. Here, - Queen Sirikit, as the second Queen Regent in the Thai history, accompanied, for the first time, His Majesty King Bhumibol, representing Thailand as a goodwill Ambassador resulting in the success of the missions and consequently marked an important turning point in relations between Thailand and Asian-Western countries.

Similar to the first visit to Europe of King Chulalognkorn, the state visits of Queen Sirikit in 1960 and 1962 were not recreational trips.

In the word of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit in *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King*:

“I once thought that visiting foreign countries would be a joyful and exciting experience, especially for young people. [...] I never left my homeland at all because the King definitely had no intention of leaving the country, *except for an unavoidable reason*. As the Head of the Thai Nation, the King thought it best to stay inside the country in order to be close to his people. [...] and as for me, I never thought of going anywhere if He did not go.”



In 1959, I accompanied the King to some foreign countries for the first time. We travelled to the Republic of Vietnam for a State Visit for a few days. Then the King visited Indonesia and Burma, and I had a chance to go with him.

During that time, I heard that the government had contacted the governments of fourteen European countries, as well as America, in preparation for state visits by the King. *Theses trips were very important and were to take many months to complete. [...]*¹²

(emphasized by the author)

The account by Her Majesty Queen Sirikit confirms the hidden political agenda of both state visits in 1960 and 1962.

The state visits were indeed of great political importance and the Thai government consequently took care of Their Majesties trip in every aspect. The long journey which took seven months, led the government to arrange for the royal family to stay in one location, in Switzerland. The house arranged was called Flonzaley, located in the mountains between Lausanne and Montreux, on the Swiss-French side in the Puidoux-Chexbres district. Their Majesties could see their children and stay with them for a short periods after returning from each of the visits. Her Majesty also relates that the house would provide their parents from some relief from their travels.

4.1 ‘The Queen is not a fairy tale queen’

Leader of Traditional Thai Costume and Fashion

As the State Visits made to America and Europe in the summer 1960, were the first major occasions for Her Majesty to accompany the King to 15 countries, from summer to autumn, through to winter with its snow, a vast number of preparations were essential, especially the preparation of clothing.

¹² *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, footnote 9, p. 78-80.



“First, I invited some ladies who had been to foreign countries as Ambassadors’ wives to discuss this matter with me and to give their advice about clothing. From these conversations I learned about the dress styles of those who had once been guests of the Royal Family at the garden party of the Court of St. James. I also learned about the clothing styles of the Ambassadors’ wives when they went to meet Heads of States in very grand formal ceremonies. However, my personal advisors all agreed that since these ladies had merely attended ceremonies in their capacity as Ambassadors’ wives overseas, the clothes they had worn had probably not been so stunning. Their recommendation to me was as follows: “Your Majesty is the Queen of Thailand, the first Lady of our country and the representative of Thai women, so your case cannot be the same as ours.”¹³

Finally, Her Majesty had to make up her own mind as to the most appropriate dress styles to wear, while accompanying His Majesty to America and Europe. After making some research, Her Majesty’s last decision was to dress in both the Thai and western styles, in trend at the time, similar to King Chulalongkorn, who dressed in ‘English style’, as reported in a Polish newspaper.¹⁴ In the end, Mr. Pierre Balmain, a French designer, who happened to be in Bangkok at the time, came to be Her Majesty’s couturier for western costumes on subsequent occasions.

¹³ *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, footnote 9, p. 82.

¹⁴ In: *Kurier Warszawski (The Warsaw Courier)* Morning Additional Issue dated 3 July 1897.



Figure 5: Queen Sirikit and Pierre Balmain, Balmain visited Thailand in 1979,
Königin Sirikit in: *Juwel ihres Landes*, p. 217

On the occasion the Lord Mayor of London arranged a luncheon banquet to take place at Guildhall in honour of Their Majesties, Queen Sirikit wore a Thai costume to Guildhall.¹⁵ At the ball on the last night in London, arranged by the Duchess of Kent and Princess Alexandra, Queen Sirikit of Thailand and the Thai ladies wore Thai costume now known as “Thai Borom Biman”. This impressive costume, especially with its accessories and ancient belts or waist bands, were extraordinarily elegant and very impressive to the Westerners.¹⁶

¹⁵It was a grand banquet and very formal. The Royal Family had arranged many carriages for the transportation. That evening Queen Sirikit was shocked to read large headlines in some newspapers “Queen Sirikit Rode Hatless to Guildhall,” with pictures in the carriage, for the Thai costumes were not yet known to them.

¹⁶Compare: *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, footnote 5, p. 110.



It is Queen Sirikit's traditional Thai style costumes during this period of world travel, which were firstly presented to the world. Today, Her Majesty has set the standard of traditional Thai costumes. This new fashion trend for Thai women has developed an income for the people in rural areas. The Royal project, "Silpacheep", the Queen's foundation, which maintains the art of traditional weaving, both in silk and cotton, is also engaged in preserving and developing other traditional crafts. Her Majesty the Queen has been tireless in Her work to promote these traditional art forms and to garner income generation for rural communities.



Figure 6: Queen Sirikit in traditional Thai robe, in : *Königin Sirikit, Juwel ihres Landes*, p.239



Figure 7: King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit in “Thai Borompiman” in Hofburg Palace in Vienna 1964



Figure 8: Queen Sirikit in “Thai Ruan Ton” at Eastwest Center, on the campus of the University of Hawaii, USA. In 1967



Figure 9: Queen Sirikit examining silk materials



Figure 10: Their Majesties discussing on Thai textiles



Figure 11: Queen Sirikit with villagers during advice on Thai silk



A Sharp Intellect and Charm both in Word and Action

The first country in the program was the United State of America, which lasted one whole month, the most crucial destination of the journey. The State Visit to America lasted one whole month. The Queen was only twenty-eight years old. For Queen Sirikit, the most fearful event was the press conference, which “almost crushed my excitement at visiting America for the first time”.¹⁷ Her Majesty still remembered the King’s first press conference:

“The room was full of microphones and tape recorders, and spotlights that targeted powerful beams of light onto our faces, and my eyes were blurred. Many camera bulbs were constantly flashing, reporters surrounded us, and all eyes were stuck on us. They took photographs, made films for television broadcasting, and interviewed the King – all at the same time ...¹⁸



Figure 12: Press release in Los Angeles 1960, in: *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, p. 44.

¹⁷ *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, footnote 5, p. 92.

¹⁸ *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, footnote 5, p. 92.



Figure 13: Queen Sirikit and King Bhumibol on the visit of the Liga of the Red Cross societies in Switzerland 1960, in: *Königin Sirikit, Juwel ihres Landes*, p.349

The trip to America was hard and exhausting. There were ceremonies to be attended and many places to be visited. During the whole month, Their Majesties were rarely back at the residence before midnight or one o'clock in the morning. The Queen admitted that journeys like this were new to her. During the trip to New York Queen Sirikit felt very weak, queasy and airsick because of inadequate sleep for many weeks. Her Majesty told about her experiences with New York press:

“...although I followed the King’s instructions to use my mental power and not give in, I still could not move at all ... But when the plane circled La Guardia Airport in New York, my mental power broke. I ran to the toilet, paying no attention to people questioning me in Thai and



in English [...] I stood in front of the wash basin [...] I heard a knock on the door ... the King called for me [...]. I shall never forget that moment. I felt terribly sick. Both my heart and my legs were trembling. My hands were completely cold, and my head was in a whirl. [...] I stepped down the stairs after the King into a big crowd. [...] My ears heard people shout “Queen, Queen smile !, ” [...] While I was feeling queasy and dizzy, someone held a small tape recorder to my mouth and asked, “What is your impression of New York?” It seemed strange to ask someone who had just stepped off an aeroplane such a question, but I gave an answer to the inquirer and he or she seemed to be satisfied with it. I could not even remember my answer [...].¹⁹

For the young royal couple, the trip to the United States of America was a prelude to a long and persistent friendship with the US President, from since President Eisenhower to President Goerg W. Bush. *TIME Magazine* (11.July 1960) reported on the warmest reception of President Eisenhower in the White House and characterized the Queen of Thailand as “the enchantingly elegant and the most feminine Queen Sirikit, 27”²⁰

In Europe, on the first day of Their Majesties’ arrival in Germany, the Queen was very excited to see big crowds of people, who joyfully greeted them along the sides of the roads of the royal route. The German people were smiling and looked happy to see the royal couple from the Oriental. Some had words of blessing and some shouted “Long live Thailand”. Even after the King and the Queen had entered a building, the crowd still refused to go home. The gatherings grew larger and they kept shouting the names of Their Majesties. The Queen went out on to balcony with King Bhumibol, smiling and waving to the crowd for a while, but, they would still not go home, so that

¹⁹ *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, footnote 9, p. 96, 98.

²⁰ *Queen Sirikit : Glory of the Nation*, published by the National Identity Office, The Office of the Permanent Secretary, The Office of the Prime Minister, Royal Thai Government, first published 2011, German version, footnote 5, p. 72.



the royal couple were delighted to go out three times. Queen Sirikit was very impressed and could not forget this warm welcome and the hospitality of the German people everywhere, during nine days stay in Germany:

“I could never have imagined the interest that the German people held for us. They had persistently stood there for hours and hours waiting to see us for just a short while, giving no thought to their personal comfort, even though it was already such a late hour for them. Whenever we reflected on this, it brought back such warm and happy memories for us. It was a very impressive and unforgettable moment for the King and myself.”²¹

One of the explanations for this wonderful welcome has been put forward by a German that the monarchs of Thailand came to Germany shortly after Germany had suffered from their guilt and was still struggling for their survival to build up their nation again. Germany had just recovered from the crisis and had just experienced the period of “Wirtschaftswunder” in the early 60s. Still, the feelings of unhappiness, disappointment and guilt were perceptible. Amidst this atmosphere, the arrival of the young royal couple from a far away land was a huge encouragement. Queen Sirikit had charmed the German people with her charm and indescribable beauty. The persistent stories and pictures of the Queen of Thailand in one of the German Womens’ magazines *Bunte*, even after Her Majesty’s State Visit in Germany in the year 1960 confirm this statement.

Charming Presenter and Engagement to Strengthen the Position of Thai Women

In Germany, Her Majesty was interviewed by German mass media several times and their photographers were most often with them at those times. One of the most popular question was the question of emancipation of Thai women:

²¹ *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, footnote 5, p. 118.



“... They would ask me when it was that Thai women had gained equal rights with men. I always responded that we have had equal rights with men for a very long time. We did not need liberation because we were not humiliated; rather, we were ourselves all the time. Our tasks and duties were to have a happy family and bring our children up as good citizens. The view that we merely followed behind men was an erroneous one, if we followed, it was because we liked to do so. But, if necessary, we could be leaders. I reminded them of the Thai ancient proverb about women that says, “One hand rocks the cradle, the other hand swings the sword. [...]

Another thing that they liked to ask was whether I had any influence over the King. I quickly responded that I never did. When I told them that it was the other way around, they laughed. They even told me that when they interviewed many other leaders’ wives, these ladies all said that they influenced their husbands, especially in regard to their husband’s work. I told them that it was our long tradition for a wife to trust her husband and never to interfere in his work. The male journalists laughed with delight, while the female journalists reserved their position; they disagreed, but they did not interrupt.”²²

It is well known that at the 6th decade of the 20th century in Germany was marked as ‘Pillenknick’-Jahre, whereas (German) women had for the first time sexual freedom through the ‘Pille’. The position of German women, especially in the family, is very different from that of Thai women. In Germany, the long family tradition had set the strong position and duty of ‘fathers’ inside and outside the family, while German women have always been a symbol of The “Three Ks”- Kinder (children), Küche (kitchen) and Kirche (church). The answer of the Thai Queen from a far away land may present a new aspect of women emancipation. Many Thai women share the opinion, that they behave as ‘inferiors’ in order to be high in a position.

²² *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, footnote 5.



Figure 14: Queen Sirikit with Frau Luebke, the wife of the Bundes president of the Bundesrepublik of Germany in 1960, in: *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, p.62



Figure 15: Their Majesties before the Town Hall in Bonn, 1960 , in: *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, p.59



Figure 16: Queen Sirikit with Thai students in the Bundesrepublik Germany in 1960, in: *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, p.61

Her Majesty's support for Thai women is well-known, as it is not only limited to strengthen the position of them, but has been enhanced to encourage the education of women and their children, improvement of their family lives and last but not least the promotion of their professional activities through handicrafts and weaving.

4.2 The Red Cross Activities

During the first visit to Europe in 1897, on the excursion to Lake Lemman at the district called Evian in Switzerland, King Chulalongkorn met the President of the Red Cross Society, who talked a great length about joining the Society.²³ After

²³Telegram sent from Geneva on May 22nd 1897, at 8 p.m. via Saigon and arriving in Bangkok on May 23rd at 2.45 p.m., in: Pornsan Watanangura, Naruemit Sodsuk, Khanittha Boonpan (editors), *The First Visit of King Chulalongkorn to Europe in 1897 – A Collection of Letters and Documents from the First Visit to Europe of King Chulalongkorn in 1897*, (English version). Bangkok: Centre for European Studies at Chulalongkorn University, p.33.

the visit, the Red Cross was established in Siam. Queen Savabha Pongsri was the first President of the Red Cross Society of Siam and Queen Savang Vadhana the second President. Nowadays, Queen Sirikit, as President of the Red Cross Society, has made the work and activities of Thai Red Cross known abroad. The original work of supporting wounded soldiers, has been expanded to help refugees, natural catastrophies and blood donation, among other valuable roles.



Figure 17: Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, President of Thai Red Cross Society, in: *Königin Sirikit, Juwel ihres Landes*, p. 330



Figure 18: Queen Sirikit on the managing the emergency accommodation for the refugees, in: *Königin Sirikit, Juwel ihres Landes*, p. 339

5. Fazit: A New Era in Thai-Asian and Western Relations

King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit's world trip in 1960, state visits in 1962 (and 1965), set the stage for a new era in Siamese-European-western relations. These bonds would define the country's relations with Europe and America throughout the 20th century, down to the formation of the European Union. Especially important is that on these trips, the monarchs were received as an "equal" by the crowned heads and leaders of the visited countries and this tremendously changed the 'old image' of 'Siam' or 'Thailand'.

The voyages to the West by the Siamese monarchs in the 19th and 20th century had many points in common. In sailing to the continent, King Chulalongkorn set Siam on a course of development based almost entirely on the Western model, particularly education. His trips marked the start of *official* diplomatic relations with European countries such as Russia, Norway, and Poland, and strengthened already existing ties between the Siamese court and some of the leading countries of Europe, especially Russia, Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The State Visits of King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit in the 20th century strengthened these bonds and established 'old friendships' in the new difficult circumstances after World War II, which can be best illustrated from Their Majesties' state visits to the United States of America, Germany, France, Belgium, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom in 1960. The journeys marked a new era of transporting the technology from the western

world through ‘aid for the third world countries’ which developed from the speech of King Bhumibol to the American Congress in June 29, 1960.

His Majesty’s speech gave a great impression to the audience by combining his personal desire to see his birthplace in Boston, and his father’s alma mater, Harvard, with the spirit of good will of all Thai people. The American people were more sympathetic to the King of Thailand and his country, particularly by his mention of American aid and cooperation between the two countries. In His Majesty’s opinion,

“ ... American assistance will enable Thai people to achieve their objectives through their own efforts. I need hardly say that this concept has our complete endorsement. Indeed, there is a precept of the Lord Buddha that says ‘Thou art thine own refuge’. We are grateful for American aid, but we intend, one day, to do without it.²⁴

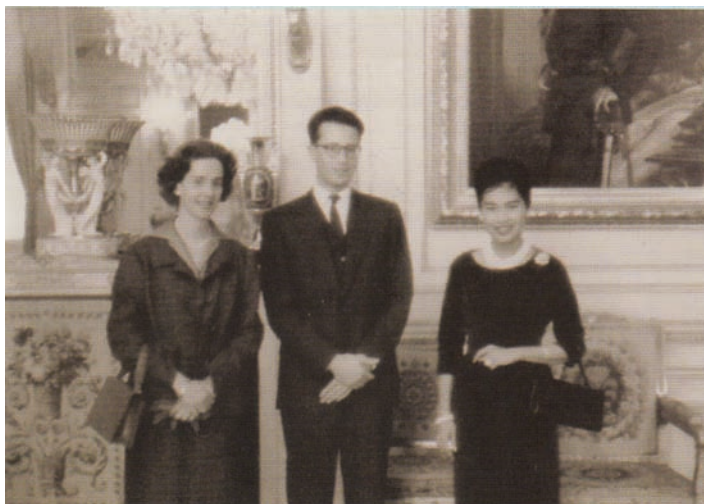


Figure 19: Queen Sirikit and King Baudouin and His Majesty’s fiancé Fabiola in 1960, in: *Königin Sirikit, Juwel ihres Landes*, p.93

²⁴ Amporn Samosorn, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand – A Model Goodwill Ambassador of the Country. In: *Thai Airways Kinnaree Magazine* to celebrate His Majesty The King’s Diamond Jubilee on 9th June 2006. Also see: <http://thaiairways.com>



Figure 20: In: *Post Today*, special publication on the occasion of 400 years of Thai-Dutch Relations 2004, pictures with contribution from the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Bangkok



Figure 21: His Majesty King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit during the audience with Pope Johannes xxiii at Vatican, October 1, 1960, in: *Königin Sirikit, Juwel ihres Landes*, p. 92

Thailand became not only one of the close allies of the United States, but of all the European countries with the same political ideology. Everywhere in Europe, the Thai royal couple were welcomed and hailed with great enthusiasm. In 1960, from the United States of America, the King and Queen went on to the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, Portugal, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Italy, the Vatican City, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Spain. Especially in Germany after the hard time post World War II, King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit were the highlight of all state visits ever made to Germany. The young, fresh and intelligent monarchs, with the beauty of Her Majesty the Queen, with her delicate and elegant gestures, conquered the hearts of the Germans and Europeans.



Figure 22: Queen Sirikit on a talk on the visit in a hospital in Lisbon, Portugal in 1960, picture from the Achives of the Foreign Ministry in Lisbon, Portugal



Figure 23: Exchange of presents – Her Majesty Queen Sirikit and Queen Ingrid of Denmark in 1960, in: *Königin Sirikit, Juwel ihres Landes*, p. 88



Figure 24: King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit on State visit in Spain with generalissimo Francisco Franco and his wife, 3 November 1960, in: *Königin Sirikit, Juwel ihres Landes*, p.100



While the most tangible rationale for King Chulalongkorn's first trip to Europe in 1897 was to prevent the kingdom from becoming a colony of the West, there were other more abstract reasons for the journey. The first of these was to familiarize the West with Siam and to fix in the minds of the people of Europe an image of the country as 'civilized'. This is why it mattered that King Chulalongkorn was hailed by the European media as an intelligent leader skilled in winning the hearts of almost all those he met, whether royals like himself or common people. The affection, in almost the same way as his grandson, King Bhumibol and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit were shown, was virtually equal to that showered upon him by his own subjects in Siam.

At the beginning of the voyage to Europe in 1897 by King Chulalongkorn, it was reported, in *Illustriertes Wiener Extrablatt*, that Siam, after the sensation of the famous Siam-twins, In-Chan, that the Austrians had seemed to forget this country until the arrival of the King of Siam. King Chulalongkorn succeeded in changing the way in



Figure 25: Their Majesties in a banquet, New Zealand, 20 August 1962, in: *Juwel ihree Landes*, p. xx

²⁵Pornsan Watanangura, Tosporn Kasikam, *Relations between the Kingdom of Siam and the Royal Houses of Europe in the Documents Pertaining to King Chulalongkorn's First Visit to Europe in 1897*, footnote 4, p. 119-268 (chapter 4, 5)



which the West viewed Siam, its monarchy and its people. Siam was no longer just the name of an exotic, faraway land, it was indeed a real place.

King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit also heard the opinions of many who believed Thailand to have a fairy-tale image. Thailand was clearly not known to many countries in the world, as the following illustrates:

“Mr. and Mrs. Simmermann, long-time American friends of the Princess Mother, came to visit us. [...]. They told us that professors at the university in Los Angeles knew very little about oriental countries. They did not know about Thailand and thought that Southeast Asian countries were backward. They usually mentioned only the heat, flies, and mosquitoes, demonstrating the narrow view that Westerners could have of other countries. This couple endeavoured to explain that oriental cultures were ancient and valuable and some of them did not yet exist in Western countries. [...] In fact, there were still many foreigners with good intentions towards us. For example, I recently invited a very important Westener to have lunch with me. He said that he was very concerned because when he visited the temple in the Grand Palace, he heard a tour guide explain to some foreign tourists, “The King of Thailand, King Rama V, had a thousand wives.” [...] Is what the tour guide said true? ” I replied, “No, it’s not true.” Then he said, “If it’s not true, you shouldn’t let them speak nonsense like that because there are a lot of foreigners who do not use their brains to think first before believing what they have been told what was true or not (as the King said in a speech), but these people will believe whatever they are told straightaway. [...]”²⁷ (Reported in Los Angeles)

²⁶ *Illustriertes Wiener Extrablatt*, evening post, 24 June 1887, cited in: Pornsan Watanangura, Tosporn Kasikam, *Relations between the Kingdom of Siam and the Royal Houses of Europe in the Documents Pertaining to King Chulalongkorn’s First Visit to Europe in 1897*, footnote 4, p. 128

²⁷ *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, footnote 9, p. 256, 258.



In Canada, in Montreal at a reception at the Citadel, Queen Sirikit wrote:

“ They (many guests) were very interested in Thailand, although we could hardly find any people who really knew about Thailand...it could be concluded that the Canadians knew very little about Thailand.²⁸

[...] it could be concluded that the Canadians knew very little about Thailand because we were so far away from each other. I thought that because of this lack of knowledge, in future, our public relations should have a wider coverage. I showed them that medicine in Thailand was very advanced and we were proud that it was second to none. Our physicians could perform brain surgeries, cardiac operations and other major operations without difficulty. That was new information to them. [...]. The King told me later that when he visited an elementary school in Canada, a teacher was teaching young students about Thailand. The teacher asked what the name of the capital of Thailand was and one of the students answered that it was Moscow!”²⁹



Figure 26: Queen Sirikit and Queen Elizabeth II of England on the State Visit in Thailand in 1972, in: Juwel ihree Landes, p. xx

²⁸ *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, footnote 9, p. 286.

²⁹ *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King, The Royal Compositions of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit*, footnote 8, p. 276.



We cannot deny that both voyages gave a more accurate view of Thailand, its monarch and its people. With the King's trips, Thailand and the countries visited entered a new era in diplomatic, political and cultural relations. Their Majesties' journeys transformed the perception of Thailand in Europe and Asia and that of Europe, America as well as the Europeans, the Americans in Thailand.

In conclusion, King Chulalongkorn's travels through Europe served a purpose as important as the round-the-world tour made by Their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit after the Second World War; an historic trip that reacquainted the world with Thailand and the country's young monarch. In 1960, the world was entering a new phase in its history, the Cold War. Tensions between the capitalist economies of the West and the Communist Eastern bloc were heating up, and the countries of Europe were seeking to forge new bonds after the destruction of the Second World War. His Majesty King Bhumibol set off on his journey at a time when Communist ideology threatened to topple governments throughout Southeast Asia. Like his grandfather before him, the present monarch and especially Queen Sirikit excited the people of the West. With the trips, Thailand and the countries visited entered a new era in diplomatic, political and cultural relations. Their Majesty's arrivals in Europe and America were symbols of Thailand's reopening and reorientation to the West.



References

- Chulachomglau-Chaoyuhua, Phrabatsomdejphra, Private letters to Queen Saovabha Pongsri*, 1992. Publication of Prince Damrong Rajanubhap and Princess Chong Chit Thanom Diskul on the occasion of the 5th Cycle Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, August 12, 1992.
- King Chulalongkorn's trip to Europe, 1897*, Volume 1, 1980. National Archives, Fine Arts Department, 1980.
- German Political Archives, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, File R 19239 Volume 19, 20. SIAM NO. 1 A 6488.
- Pornsarn Watananguhn, Naruemit Sodsuk, Kanittha Bunpan (editors), 2003. *The First Trip to Europe of King Chulalongkorn in 1897*. Translation of Collection of letters and telegrammes of King Chulalongkorn, Thai-German version. Bangkok: The Centre for European Studies at Chulalongkorn University.
- Sirikit, Her Majesty Queen, The Royal Composition, 2004. *In Memory of the State Visits of His Majesty the King*. Her Majesty Queen Sirikit is gracious to grant Her Royal permission for the first edition of this book on the Auspicious Occasion of the Royal Ceremonial Celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Third Cycle Birthday Anniversary on 12th August 1968 (B.E. 2511) and on the Auspicious Occasion of the Royal Ceremonial Celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Sixth Cycle Birthday Anniversary on 12th August 2004 (B.E. 2547).

Secondary Sources

- Amporn Samosorn, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand—A Model Goodwill Ambassador of the Country. *Thai Airways Kinnaree Magazine to celebrate His Majesty The King's Diamond Jubilee on 9th June 2006*. Also see: <http://thaiairways.com>
- Jiraporn Sathapanawatana. *Siam in Crisis R.E.112*. Bangkok: Teachers Training Department 1976, p. 194.
- Kurier Warszawski (The Warsaw Courier)* Morning Additional Issue dated 3 July 1897.
- Pensri Duke, 2001. *The Foreign Affairs, Independence and Sovereignty of Thailand From Rama IV to end of the Government of General P. Pibulsongkram*. 2nd edition, The Royal Institute Thailand.



- Pornsan Watanangura, 2007. 136 Years After German Unification: From the Legend of “Siegfried” to “WM 2006”. *The Journal of European Studies, Year 15, Volume 2, July-December 2007, 12-15.*
- Pornsan Watanangura, Tosporn Kasikam, 2010. *Relations between the Kingdom of Siam and the Royal Houses of Europe in Documents Pertaining to King Chulalongkorn’s First Trip to Europe in 1897.* Research project with ‘Ratchada Pisek Sombot Award 2009’, supported by Chulalongkorn University (370 pages)
- Satien Chantimathorn, 1982. *Literature for Life in Thailand*, Bangkok: Chao-Phraya Publishing.
- H.E. Schmallenbach, Klauspeter, 2004. King Chulalongkorn–A First True Honourary European. *The Journal of European Studies Special Edition, Year 12, Volume 1, January-June 2004, 11-79.*
- Tosporn Kasikam, 1996. *Psychological Factors in the Foreign Policy with the Western Powers in 19th Century–A Comparative Studies of the Kingdom of Siam and Mienma.* M.A. Thesis, Faculty of Political Science, the Graduate School, Chiangmai University (unpublished)
- Uraivan Svasdisant, Khunying, 2011. *Königin Sirikit, Juwel ihres Landes*, National Identity Office, The Office of the Permanent Secretary, The Office of the Prime Minister, Royal Thai Government. German version, translated into German by Prof. Dr. Karl Weber.