



NEWS

Bangkok No. 9 September 2010

National Museum Volunteers





NATIONAL MUSEUM BANGKOK

National Museum Volunteers

The National Museum Volunteers (NMV), under the auspices of the Department of Fine Arts, is a recipient of the Thai National Heritage Preservation Award 1989, 2001 and 2004. The group is also a Member of the Council of the World Federation of Friends of Museums.

The National Museum Volunteers is an organization with Thai and international members whose purpose is to serve the National Museum Bangkok and the public through a variety of activities.

The NMV Newsletter

A monthly publication of the National Museum Volunteers, distributed free to members.

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Cover photo:

De la Loubre map of Siam (1693), courtesy of Khun Thavatchai (Please see 'At Home' announcement page 8)

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Hours of Operation

Wednesday to Sunday:

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Monday and Tuesday:

Closed, except on public holidays

Thai New Year and 1 January:

Closed

Entrance fee: baht 200

NMV Library

The library is located at the rear of the Museum grounds behind the Palace building.

Hours of opening:

Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Membership cards must be shown when borrowing books.

E-mail: nmvlibrary@gmail.com

Guided Tours

English: Thai Art, History and Buddhism
Wednesday & Thursday

French: Pre-Thai and Thai Art
Wednesday & Thursday

German: Thai Art and Culture
Wednesday & Thursday

Japanese: Buddhaisawan Chapel Buddhism and Thai Art
Wednesday & Thursday

Time: 9:30 am

Meet at: Museum ticket office

Fee: Free (*Museum entrance fee must be paid.*)

For information call:

Guide Chairperson (Guiding and Special tours):

Berni Sabatini 083 302 5005

Tour Leaders:

English: Lynda O'Callaghan 02 285 6162

French: Isabelle Depaty 02 261 1964

Jean-Pierre Joly 02 271 1249

German: Barbara Frank 080 088 3962

Japanese: Kumi Ishii 02 662 2179

Takako Komori 02 261 8048

NMV Website address:

<http://www.museumvolunteersbkk.net>



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This issue edited by:

Devin Brougham

CALENDAR



- Sep 5 Excursion – **“Day trip to Pak Chong”**
- Sep 6 Orientation: Study Group – **“Vajrayana Buddhism”**
- Sep 16 At Home – **“Mapping the Golden Land”**
- Sep 20 Study Group – **“Vajrayana Buddhism”**
- Sep 27 Study Group – **“Vajrayana Buddhism”**
- Sep 28 NMV ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING**
- Oct 1 French Guiding Workshop Commences
- Oct 4 Study Group – **“Vajrayana Buddhism”**
- Oct 11 Study Group – **“Vajrayana Buddhism”**
- Oct 14 Special Event – “FOOTNOTES IN HISTORY”**
- Oct 18 Study Group – **“Vajrayana Buddhism”**
- Oct 25 Study Group – **“Vajrayana Buddhism”**
- Nov – TBA Excursion – **“Chiang Rai, Chiang Saen, Mae Sai”**

For further details regarding upcoming NMV events, please see announcements in this newsletter or check the NMV website: www.museumvolunteersbkk.net



NOTICES

Cultural Events at Silpakorn University

The second series of events marking the bicentennial jubilee of the Tha Phra Palace takes place September 1st to 13th and is entitled ***“Wang Tha Phra, the Centre of the Sippa Mu Traditional Crafts”***.

Preliminary dates and details of the Bicentennial Celebration of Tha Phra Palace as follows:

September 1 – Buddhist and Brahmin religious ceremonies of merit making and propitiation of the incumbent spirits of Tha Phra Palace.

September 2 at 15.00 hrs. – Official opening of an exhibition presided over by H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. The exhibition is shown until September 13 and includes the history of Tha Phra Palace, the artists in residence and an art exhibition by Silpakorn University alumni.

September 6, 8 & 13 – Lectures and panel discussions on the history and development of the traditional crafts, the advent of modern art in Siam and future expectations.

September 9-10 – Demonstration of the traditional crafts by Fine Arts Department craftsmen, offering to the public hands-on experiences in craft skills.

September 13 from 8.30 hrs. – Conducted tour of the major architectural and artistic landmarks created by the artists in residence at Tha Phra Palace, notably Phra Ong Chao Jumsai and Prince Naris.

Historical Background of this Special Event

King Rama I (r. 1782-1809), the founder of the city of Bangkok, had built 3 palaces to the north of the Grand Palace as the royal residences of princes who would closely serve the King. The western most palace was known under the name of “Tha Phra Palace” (the Buddha Statue Pier Palace) because it was the one closest to the river pier where the great Buddha statue that had been transported from Sukhothai and destined to become the principle statue of Wat Suthat Thepvararam under King Rama I’s command, had landed in Bangkok.

This palace has served as the royal residence of several eminent princes of the Chakri Royal House throughout its history, namely:

-
1. Krom Khun Kasatriyanuchit (1779-1808), son of King Taksin and nephew of King Rama I.
 2. Krom Muen Jessadabodindra (1788 -1851), son of King Rama II who succeeded him as King Rama III.
 3. Phra Ong Chao Lakananukhun (1812-1835), son of King Rama III.
 4. Krom Khun Rachasihavikrom (1816-1868), son of King Rama III and founder of the Jumsai royal family.
 5. Krom Muen Adulyalaksanasombat (1819-1873), son of King Rama III and founder of the Uraipongse royal family.
 6. Chao Fa Krom Phraya Narisaranuvatiwongse (1863-1947), son of King Rama IV and founder of the Chitrabongs royal family.

These eminent personages, each in their turn, had contributed greatly to the cultural and artistic development of Bangkok, using Tha Phra Palace as their residences, offices and workshops. The palace thus became known in the local community as the centre of the traditional crafts or "*chang sippa mu*" in Thai. It is therefore quite appropriate that at present, the palace has become the central campus of Silpakorn University, the seat of learning of the fine arts.

Excursion to Northern Thailand

The excursion team is preparing a weekend study excursion to Chiang Rai, Chiang Saen and Mae Sai areas during the first half of November. Amongst the points of interest to be visited: Rai Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park in Chiang Rai, the old temples and National Museum of Chiang Saen and The Hall of Opium (opium museum), the Mae Fah Luang Gardens. This excursion will be led by Dr. Louis Gabaude whose main domain of research has been the history of ideas in contemporary Thai Buddhism, which he has periodically taught at the Sorbonne Art Institute in Paris, the Catholic University in Lyon and Silpakorn University in Nakhon Pathom. Further details to be announced.

Join the National Museum Volunteers' Annual Coffee Morning

Dusit Thani Hotel, Tuesday 28 September 2009

September is the time when members of the National Museum Volunteers get together at the annual Coffee Morning to meet and catch up with old friends who share a love of the region's art and culture.

So whether you're a newcomer to Bangkok or a longstanding member, please join us at the luxurious Dusit Thani Hotel on September 28th to learn about the wealth of cultural activities lined up for the coming year.

A surprise cultural performance scheduled for the event is sure to delight both those new to Bangkok as well as our seasoned members.

We look forward to a lively show of participants at this highly enjoyable event.

Date: Tuesday, 28 September

Time: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Venue: Dusit Thani Hotel
946 Rama IV Road, Bangkok (BTS Saladaeng / MRT Silom)

Admission: Free

For more details contact:

Bozena Mazur (President) information@museumvolunteersbkk.net
Ines Ehrlich (Public Relations) nmvpublicity@gmail.com

For further details regarding upcoming NMV events, please see announcements in this newsletter or check the NMV website:
www.museumvolunteersbkk.net

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

Welcome back! Can you also feel the excitement about seeing each other again after the summer break? There are so many nice stories to share and so many events planned!

The summer in Bangkok was hot but, thanks to the wonder of nature, we enjoyed some rainy days, bringing a touch of coolness. One such day was the 14th of July, when a group of 20 members headed to the Thailand Cultural Centre at the invitation of our Patron for a Thai Traditional Music Concert (see John's article in this issue). We entered into a world of music, crowned by HRH Princess Sirindhorn singing about . . . Thai desserts! You cannot imagine the impetus this performance has given us: we will host an At Homes on the topic 'Khanom, Thai sweets' – Jo-Ann is spinning plans for late 2010 / early 2011.

The National Museum Bangkok started renovation of the Red House. We are the lucky witnesses of how wonderful the Buddhaisawan Chapel has been renovated. We wish the Museum success with this important work to preserve national treasures that we have come to admire.

Next door, in the neighbourhood, Silpakorn University is celebrating its bicentennial jubilee and NMV's esteemed Patron, MR Chakrarot Chitrabongs, kindly invites all members to come. The newsletter is arriving just in time to inform you about events held at the Silpakorn. Please visit the NMV website to keep up with the newest updates on all our events.

September 28th is NMV Coffee Morning day – a time to meet friends and to sign up for upcoming events. It is a wonderful opportunity to introduce the NMV to Bangkok's newcomers and invite them to join our unique organisation. The Steering Committee is working on an interesting agenda. A surprise performance will bring a smile to your face. Please don't miss this most important day in NMV's annual life and bring your friends. The Steering Committee looks forward to seeing you there!

For more details please check out:

http://www.museumvolunteersbkk.net/html/coffee_morning2010.html

Because we enjoy meeting with NMV friends as often as possible, we want to invite you for October's event (postponed from June); on 14th October our 'Footnotes' symposium will bring the members together to enjoy a 'family' day. This event is for us and we want to spend the day joyfully, like families use to do. I can't wait to see you on this day and please don't forget that food connects people – NMV members coming from all over the world will have the opportunity to share their favourite dish at the 'potluck' lunch.

NMV represented by John Toomey participated in this year's General Council of WFFM in Lisbon (John reported in the last News issue). Now the invitation to join the ICOM General Conference in Shanghai has just arrived. If you would like to represent the NMV at this conference, please contact me for more details.

Please join me in welcoming new Steering Committee Coordinators:

Ines Ehrlich took on the responsibility as Publicity Chair and has already started to strengthen our PR strategies. Eva Wauschkun is the new Hospitality Chair supported by Sylvia Zurhelle as Co-Chair. Sylvia spoiled the audience of July's lecture with delicious cakes. Matthias Geisler now supports Jean Harvey as Introductory Lecture Series Co-Chair with new ideas and fresh thinking. Thank you for joining the committee and for your energy to boost our activities.

See you at next event and latest at Coffee Morning on 28th September! Please visit the website regularly, as we are able to reach you with newest updates on all our events.

With my best wishes

Bo



At Home with Khun Thavatchai

Mapping the Golden Land: An Overview of the European Cartography of Siam, 1459-1910



- Date:** Thursday, 16 September 2010
- Time:** 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- Place:** The Library, Ariyasomvilla (www.ariyasom.com)
65 Sukhumvit Soi 1 (at the end of the soi)
Nearest BTS: Phloen Chit
- Donation:** 200 Baht member / 400 Baht non-member
- Deadline:** Tuesday 14 September 2010 or until all places are filled.
- Contact:** NMVAtHomes@gmail.com
- Please Note:** Numbers are limited and places fill quickly. All are welcome but NMV Members will get priority. Only those who have confirmed email reservations may attend the At Home presentation. Please advise immediately if you cannot attend so that others can take your place. Thank you for your understanding.

Khun Thavatchai Tangsirivanich is considered one of Thailand's foremost authorities on the subject of antique Thai maps.

His interest in cartography began in London in 1996 when he discovered an 18th century French plan of Ayutthaya, the ancient Thai capital from 1351 to 1767. Since then, he has devoted himself full time to collecting and researching old European maps of Siam.

Khun Thavatchai will guide us through the history and development of mapmaking from the beginning of the European discovery of the region up until 1910, focusing on the kingdom of Siam and its principal cities. He will illustrate his talk with many maps and charts from his own collection.



Map by Jacob Keizer (1747)



Inset Map by Arbuckle Bros., New York (1889)

Learn how European traders searching for the 'Golden Land' and the riches of the East documented their trade routes and accelerated map making in the region; how the old maps changed over time with increasing accuracy and developed into works of art; and how these have become rare antiques highly regarded and sought after these days by collectors.

During the past decade, Khun Thavatchai has shared his knowledge with the public through lec-

tures, written articles and newspaper interviews. As a result many people have shown great interest in his expertise and the appreciation for the western cartography of Siam has been considerably augmented

This At Home will be held in the library of Ariyasomvilla – a beautiful old restored Thai home now boutique hotel.

Please join us At Home with Khun Thavatchai and discover the history of map making of Thailand!



Map by Pierre van der Aa, Leiden (1713)



Map by Giovanni Maria Cassini, Rome (1797)

All map images courtesy of Khun Thavatchai

STUDY GROUP



Vajrayana Buddhism

- Orientation:** September 6th 2010 at 9:30 a.m. sharp
- Dates:** Mondays, September 20th, 27th, October 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th 2010
- Time:** 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
- Leaders:** Denise Tomecko, Catherine Lynch
- Place:** TBA
- Registration:** mmauffrey@hotmail.com

Vajrayana Buddhism, sometimes called Tibetan Buddhism, Lamaism or Himalayan Buddhism, is an esoteric form of Mahayana Buddhism. It is thought to have originated in the Swat Valley region of present day Pakistan and was studied at ancient Indian seats of learning such as Nalanda University. It was developed in Tibet beginning in the 7th century CE, in the reign of King Songtsen Gampo. His grandson King Trisong Detsen later invited influential Indian tantric masters (Santaraksita and Padmasambhava) to Tibet. Although long lost to its Indian birthplace, it is preserved to this day in the Buddhist practices of the Himalayan region.

Vajrayana incorporates Mahayana doctrines, like the Madyamika and Yogakara, as well as Tantric symbolic rituals, Yoga and elements of the indigenous shamanic religion of Bon. This is all laid upon a base of the classical teachings and monastic disciplines of the historical Buddha, who lived around 500 BC. Features include its system of reincarnating lamas, large pantheon of deities and a sophisticated understanding of mind and reality, which bears striking parallels to modern science and psychology.

Tibetan Buddhism is personified to the world through the office of the Dalai Lama, revered by Tibetans as an emanation of the Bodhisattva, and Deity of compassion, Avalokitesvara. The current Dalai Lama is the exiled spiritual and political leader of Tibet, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

Our study group will go on an historical journey through the religion, culture, art and politics of the Himalayan region, to emerge in modern times, where Vajrayana Buddhism was thrust onto the world stage after the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1950-1951.





THAI CULTURE (1)

The Allure of Luscious, Lustrous, Lovely, Luxurious Lacquer The International Conference

by John J. Toomey



John Toomey delivers his research on the relation of Ryukyuan and Korean mother-of-pearl inlay lacquer to Thai mother-of-pearl inlay lacquer

Silky soft, creamy smooth, glowing, shimmering, casting a soft pearlescent aura, a patina hovering closely above the surface, gracing both court and cloister, gilt with gold or silver, in colorful kammalor, inlaid with mother-of-pearl of rich rainbow iridescence, scattered with multi-colored egg-shell or cut gold and silver flakes, imbedded with amber or jewels, shaped as small gilt caskets to secrete hidden treasures or large shell-encrusted food coffers for the table of nobility or tall trays to present saffron robes to abbots, the lacquer of Thailand, and indeed of Asia and all the world enriches man's life beyond measure. This precious art was celebrated by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, in

the company of 250 Thai and foreign guests, including scientists and scholars and officials from the Fine Arts Department, the Royal Forestry Department, and the Industrial Promotion Department, when she called for and opened the "International Conference for the Study of Oriental



Medicine box, National Museum Bangkok

Lacquer for the Revitalization of Thai Wisdom”, June 20-22, 2010 at the Imperial Queen’s Park Hotel, Bangkok. This was the third lacquer conference that Her Highness had called, but this was the first to be International, the first to be presented in English with simultaneous translations of the opening ceremonies, and the first to invite foreign scholars, scientists, and audience.

Altogether, 22 papers were presented by scientists and scholars from Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, Austria, the UK, the USA, and Japan. The topics ranged from how to introduce hormones into lacquer



Wooden body of a tiab before lacquering and inlaying with mother-of-pearl



Mother-of-pearl inlay artist Mr. Suphan from the Krom Chang Sip Mu (Royal Palace Department of the Ten Crafts), cuts Thai hoi fai shells to inlay into the lacquer

trees to increase the flow of lacquer sap, to the traditional decoration of Burmese lacquer, to how traditional lacquer art is created in Vietnam, to the medical benefits and possible dangers of lacquer. The opening ceremonies included a presentation by Mr. Koji Kobayashi of the Kyushu National Museum, Japan, on *Mother-of-Pearl Inlay in Thailand and Eastern Asia*, coincidentally happily overlapping with my topic of the following afternoon *The Relationship of Thai Mother-of-Pearl Inlay Lacquer to That of Other Asian Cultures*. The point of my presentation was to show that the influence of the Ryukyus (present day Okinawa) and Korea on encouraging the develop-



Types of shells used for mother-of-pearl inlay

ment of fine quality Thai lacquer was greater than that of China and Japan. I did this by tracing the trade patterns of the 14th to 19th centuries and the development of certain art motifs and use of particular shells. My dear friend from my Germany days and fellow tea student and alumna of Sophia U. in Tokyo, Head of the Department of Far Eastern Art at the University of Vienna, Austria, Dr. Jorinde Ebert, delivered her research on *Some Little Known Southeast-Asian Court Lacquers Imported During the Renaissance and early Baroque into Viennese Collections*. Mr. Arlen Heginbotham of the J. Paul Getty Museum spoke on the conservation and display of lacquer and Mrs. Shayne Rivers of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, on the restoration of the Mazarin Chest. Dr. Sirichai of the Thai Fine Arts Department, whose office is just upstairs from our auditorium at the NMB, spoke on *Lai Kammalor*, the art of painting with lacquer colors, of which our museum has some fine examples, especially the magnificent

Inao Story screen in the Minor Arts room and some chests in the Ayutthaya room.

Many extremely instructive exhibits shown in easily understandable, graphic detail stood at the back of the meeting room, manned with English-speaking staff. Some of the most fascinating exhibits held both x-ray radiology equipment and nuclear displays used to penetrate objects such as buddha statues and lacquer vessels to analyze the components, in non-invasive ways. These exhibits stood the actual object, in this case a medium size mother-of-pearl inlay lacquer chest from the National Museum Bangkok, on a revolving pedestal, and projected its revolving x-ray image onto a screen behind it, analyzing the components of the shell, the cinnabar in the red part of the lacquer, and the type of tree sap the black lacquer was made from. And, yes, we were permitted to touch and hold the box! The nuclear booth showed how, by bombarding the nucleus of one atom of



Betel nut box and pedestal, National Museum Bangkok



L to R. NMV Guide Chair Berni Sabatini Univ. of Vienna
Head of Dept. of Far Eastern Art Dr. Jorinde Ebert,
NMV Member John Toomey, NMV President Bo Mazur

an object and destroying only one un-needed neutron, scientists could determine the molecular make-up within the object, such as a statue or vessel, to find out whether or not there was lacquer or pigment within hidden places. Presentations demonstrating both of these methods were also made from the stage.

Also among the exhibits were live demonstrations of *lai kammalor*, the art of painting with lacquer color, *lai rod nam*, applying gilt to lacquer, and, much to my heart's delight, the art of mother-of-pearl lacquer inlay. And much to my surprise, the artist demonstrating the technique was exactly the one I had observed restoring the window shutters and doors of Wat Ratchabhopit, when Mom Betty had taken the NMV there about a year and a half ago; and I would be using pictures of that very restoration

with him working in my presentation slides at this conference. We were happy to see each other and he was happy to know that I would be using slides of his work at Wat Ratchabhopit in this conference with him present to see them. We met up at lunch the next day, after my presentation.

I must mention a special personal moment. The opening ceremonies were orchestrated beautifully and everything went smoothly, but one thing

was a bit unusual, went a bit out of protocol. After the Princess gave a lovely speech and Her Highness had viewed the exhibits, we all went upstairs to the banquet hall to await her arrival. In the luxuriously appointed banquet hall, all the civil service and military dignitaries were in their white uniforms, decorated in gold and brass, sitting at the tables, arranged so that there was a good sprinkling of the various ministries with the foreign guests to mix up the conversation during the dinner. Down the center of the room ran a raised dais with a long table to seat about 50 guests with the Princess at the head. Lush flower arrangements were everywhere. This was Thailand at its most elegant. All stood for the Princess' entourage. She entered and looked straight at me and smiled. So I smiled back and nodded. She beamed her smile at me

again, so I smiled and bowed again. And then the same a third time. Then we all sat down and had an unforgettable meal.

After dinner we all stood as the princess and her entourage began to depart; but then she suddenly stopped, turned her head toward me, tilted it a bit and smiled. So I smiled back and nodded, knowing her intention. She walked over to me and asked me casually if I was enjoying the conference. I thanked her for arranging it and inviting so many wonderful foreign scholars, and I introduced the Japanese, Myanmar and American scholars at my table. Then we had a warm chat about her days in elementary school (I think she meant in the palace where she must have spent some time studying the minor arts at the *Krom Chang Sip Mu*, Department of the "Ten" Crafts of the Palace) when she learned to make lacquer and commented that she was not allergic to the sap as some people are. She told me she had studied as far as applying gold foil and she seemed pleased that a foreigner would know the term *lai rod nam*. I asked if she had gone on to study my topic, mother-of-pearl inlay lacquer; and she regretfully replied no, that she had no time. I said I understood the time restraints on a princess. She then joked that perhaps she would study mother-of-pearl in her next life.

We discussed other things and laughed a bit, while I was completely unaware of anyone or anything else in the room, as if the two of us were in a white cocoon, so captivating and intelligent and warm she was. I felt as comfortable as I would have felt had I just been having a chat with a younger sister that I hadn't seen for sometime. For a micro-second, I remembered that 250 people were waiting for us, so I dropped hints with the word "time" twice, but twice she showed she did not want to leave. Finally duty called; and, I felt, it was with some regret on both sides, that our cordial conversation ended.

Many NMV members availed themselves of the opportunity to attend the International Conference on Oriental Lacquer and learned from so many world scholars. The atmosphere of such a professional and international conference exhilarated all the participants each day. Old friendships were renewed and new friendships formed. Networking began. We were very well treated and very well cared for. We all even got some wonderful free lunches and art books! And photos and irreplaceable memories. If the pattern of a lacquer conference every other year continues, we could look forward to another international lacquer conference perhaps in 2012. Let's keep our hopes high!

THAI CULTURE (2)



Annual Invitational of Thai Traditional Music and the Princess' New Composition

Text and photos by John Toomey



MR Chakrarot Chittrabongs, NMV Patron, accompanies HRH Chakri Sirindhorn's new song along with members of his "Plainem Musical Ensemble"

Each year the Thai Office of the National Cultural Commission organizes an invitational concert featuring the senior (over age 60) professional musicians of the families that carry



An elder sings while accompanying himself on traditional Thai castanets

on traditional Thai music. Up until now, males and females have alternated every other year, but this year both combined and the 30-49 year old generation was also included in the concert held last month, July 14th, at the Thailand Cultural Center, with the participation of HRH Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who herself plays Thai classical instruments and sings.

Our National Museum Volunteers official patron Mom Ratchawong (fourth generation member of the royal family) Chakrarot Chittrabongs (playing xylophone on left of first picture) arranged for special seating for us up front with an excellent view, just a few rows in front of the Crown Princess'



Full vocal ensemble with full instrumental ensemble

dais. In the last part of the program the Princess ascended the stage to perform her own song in praise of 15 Thai desserts, sometimes with a little humor. Accompanying her was the “Plainern Musical Ensemble”, named after M.R. Chakrator’s ancestral home, the mansion of his grandfather Prince Naris, who was a son of King Rama IV. The 93-year-old auntie of M.R. Chakrator, a princess herself, also plays the xylophone in this ensemble.

After the concert, Thai ladies in traditional costume made and served Thai desserts for all in front of the Thailand Cultural Center. We National Museum Volunteers feel very privileged to have witnessed and enjoyed a unique event in the history of the National Living Treasures of Thailand. Other photos show respected guardians, both solo and ensemble, of the ancient musical traditions of Thailand.



Female vocal soloist with full ensemble



The Girl-Fruit-Tree by Eva Linow-Wauschkun

On this door (palace door between rooms 7 and 8a and cabinet in room N-10 (Ayutthaya)) we can see a girl-fruit-tree. These fabulous trees are in the mythical forest Himaphan which is located below the heavens of the gods.



Celestials and ascetics (*rishis*) who have achieved a certain level of consciousness through following religious precepts live in this forest. The fruits of the tree grow in the form of women (*nariphala*). The girl-fruit spoils quickly and every inhabitant of the Himaphan forest tries to get the best of it; it is like a competition. Not all of the fruit is ripe, other fruits will not be picked and spoil or perish in this struggle. But there is one *rishi* who gathers up the bodies and burns them. So he is restoring them to life and giving them a opportunity to grow again as a girl-fruit.

The same motif can be found on another palace door (near room 10) and also on a cabinet in the Ayutthaya room N-10.

The doors and the cabinet are decorated in the lacquer and gold leaf technique (*lai rod nam* or ornaments washed with water) which was originally developed in China.

The surface is given several coats of black lacquer and the design drawn on it. A special yellow paint is then painted wherever the black is to remain. Gold leaf is now applied over the whole surface. The next day it is washed, the gold adheres to the lacquer and slips away with the yellow paint from the rest of the surface, leaving a black background on which is a sharply outlined gold design.

This technique, used to preserve, strengthen, waterproof and decorate was very popular during the Ayutthaya period. It was used in the decoration of household and temple furnishings, for example on doors, window panels or cabinets, mainly from the 17th to the first half of the 18th century.

A wide variety of designs are used, from floral sprays or flowering trees often inhabited by small animals and birds, to scenes from the life of the Buddha or the Jataka stories, and even representations of foreigners in costumes of the period.



EXCURSION

A Day trip to Pak Chong to Visit Phra Ajahn Jayasaro



- Date:** Sunday, 5th September 2010
- Time:** Departure 9:00 a.m. / Return approx. 7:30 p.m.
- Location:** Emporium Suites (Sukhumvit / BTS Phrom Phong)
- Donation:** Members 1,500 Baht / Non-members 2,000 Baht
NB: **Prepayment required**
Preference will be given to NMV members
- Leader:** Storm Walker
- Reservation:** Aviva Biran: biranaviva@gmail.com
Please advise your mobile phone no. when booking

This excursion into the beautiful hills of Pak Chong (near Kao Yai National Park) will take us to meet the English monk *Phra Ajahn Jayasaro*. *Ajahn* follows the Forest Tradition of Thai Theravada Buddhism, which focuses on the practice of meditation and strict adherence to monastic rules, rather than lengthy scholastic studies of the *Pali* Canon (the texts which form the doctrinal foundation of Theravada Buddhism). *Ajahn* was a close disciple of the famous Forest Master, *Ajahn Chaa* (1918-1992).

Before moving to Pak Chong in 2001, *Ajahn Jayasaro* was the Abbot of *Wat Pah Nanachat* (International Forest Monastery) in Ubon Ratchatani. He has since been living in his little hermitage at Pak Chong, where he practices and teaches according to the Thai Forest Tradition of *Ajahn Chaa*. He gives *Dhamma* talks in Thai twice a month and has kindly agreed for us to come and listen to one of his rare talks in English.

In the forest tradition *Dhamma* talks are never prepared beforehand, but due to *Ajahn Jayasaro*'s extraordinary wisdom and ability to reach out to his listeners, the talks are a most enlightening experience.

The talk will be followed by a short meditation session and time will be allocated for questions and answers. It is not unusual for *Ajahn Jayasaro* to then invite his guests for a walk around the beautiful surrounding grounds and, if we are lucky, we will also be able to visit his meditation house or *Kuti*.

Travel Arrangements:

We will leave Bangkok by bus from the Emporium Suites (Sukhumvit Rd) at 9:00 am and make one stop on the way for refreshments and a restroom break. Upon arrival we will have a picnic lunch (provided by the NMV) in the beautiful gardens of Pak Chong, before *Ajahn Jayasaro* starts his *Dhamma* talk at 1:30 pm. Please let us know if there are any vegetarians in the group when you sign up.

Approximate return to Bangkok will be between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m.

Leader:

Our leader, Storm Walker, was born in the U.K. and has been a Thai resident for the past 28 years. Storm practices Chinese medicine and energy healing. She also teaches yoga and tai chi and holds meditation sessions in her home.

Storm has been interested in Buddhism for many years and since she discovered *Ajahn Jayasaro* she has been attending his *Dhamma* talks regularly and has great regard for his wisdom.

Storm has kindly agreed to give an introduction to meditation to those who are interested before the excursion. It will be held at her home (not far from the Thailand Cultural Center). The exact date and time for this will be announced later.



EXCURSIONS POLICY

Participating in NMV excursions is a benefit of being a member. An NMV member may be accompanied by a non-member if they are family or a house guest (maximum of 2), space permitting.*

Bookings

- Always make reservations by email to the organiser listed in the announcement.
- Please provide your name, mobile number plus membership status of you and guest(s).*
- You are not registered until your request has been received by email and an acknowledgement has been sent to you in writing.
- Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis.
- By making a booking, you are committing to pay in full for your place.
- If full payment is requested prior to an excursion and has not been received, the organisers retain the right to pass your place to another person.
- Often an excursion announcement will give a booking deadline. If full, the trip may close and be finalised before this date.
- Until the excursion organiser is actually in receipt of your payment, you are not considered to have paid.
- The NMV reserves the right to cancel an excursion if enough members do not sign up.

Cancellations

- Your payment indicates your intention to travel. If you cancel, there will not be a refund.
- If you cannot attend an excursion, please notify the organiser immediately.
- If you cancel your booking, unpaid fees are considered a debt owed to the NMV. We regret that no further bookings can be made until this debt is cleared.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY

The NMV will not provide personal insurance for excursion participants. The Museum Group's Excursions are an activity of the National Museum Volunteers, which is a non-profit organization and is not a professional travel service. It cannot be held responsible for any injury, loss, or damage that may occur during any excursion, although the Museum Group's Excursions will make reasonable efforts to provide for the safety of participants.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Please complete all details on this form and mail to the address below with a crossed cheque of 1,200 Baht for residents in Thailand (1,800 Baht for couple) or **2,000 Baht** or **US \$60** (for cheques drawn on a US bank) for an overseas subscription, made payable to **NATIONAL MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS**. *We regret Postal Orders cannot be accepted.*

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON
National Museum Volunteers
P. O. Box 1305, Nana Post Office
Bangkok 10112

Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms: (First name) _____

(Family name) _____
(PLEASE USE CAPITALS)

Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: Fax: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Nationality _____

New Member Renewal Change of Address

Cash: _____ Cheque Amount: _____

Bank Name & Cheque No: _____

Date: _____

Please indicate if you would like to volunteer in any of the following:

Guiding Newsletter Contribution Library Slide Library
 Editing Computer Skills Publication Hospitality
 Other (please specify) _____

Membership entitles you to:

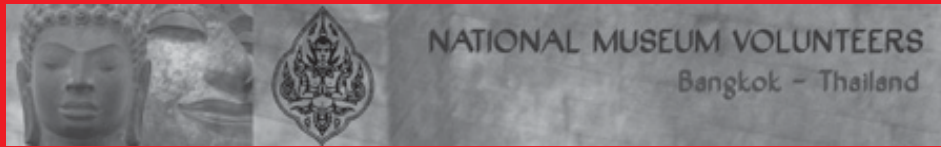
- > Attend the guiding workshop to train to become a museum guide.
- > Participate in study groups.
- > Enjoy discounted fees and preference on local and out-of-country excursions, at homes and lectures.
- > Receive the NMV monthly newsletter
- > Use the NMV library (Possibility to borrow books)



NMV STEERING COMMITTEE

Patron:	MR Chakrarat Chitrabongs
President:	Bo Mazur *
Vice-president:	Isabelle Depaty *
Secretary:	Claudia van der Heyden *
Treasurer:	Benedicte Huaut *
Guide Chair:	Berni Sabatini *
<u>Tour leaders:</u>	
English (Tours):	Lynda O'Callaghan
French:	Isabelle Depaty * Jean-Pierre Joly
German:	Barbara Frank Christiane Fischer
Japanese Liaison 1:	Kumi Ishii
Japanese Liaison 2:	Takako Komori
At Homes:	Jo-Ann Gasteen *
Accessibility:	Vacant
Library:	Francoise Vincent Barb MacNeill
Lecture series:	Jean Harvey Matthias Geisler
Membership:	Annemarie Hellemans *
Monthly program:	Anette Pollner
NMV News Editor:	Devin Brougham *
Product Manager:	Frederic Prager
Publicity:	Ines Ehrlich
Excursions:	Viorica Brougham Aviva Biran
Study Groups:	Else Geraets * Martine Mauffrey
Hospitality:	Eva Wauschkun Sylvia Zurhelle
Webmaster:	Bo Mazur *
At Large:	Shalindni Ranawana
Contact us:	President: information@museumvolunteersbkk.net News Editor: nmvnews@gmail.com Webmaster: webmaster@museumvolunteersbkk.net

* Executive committee members

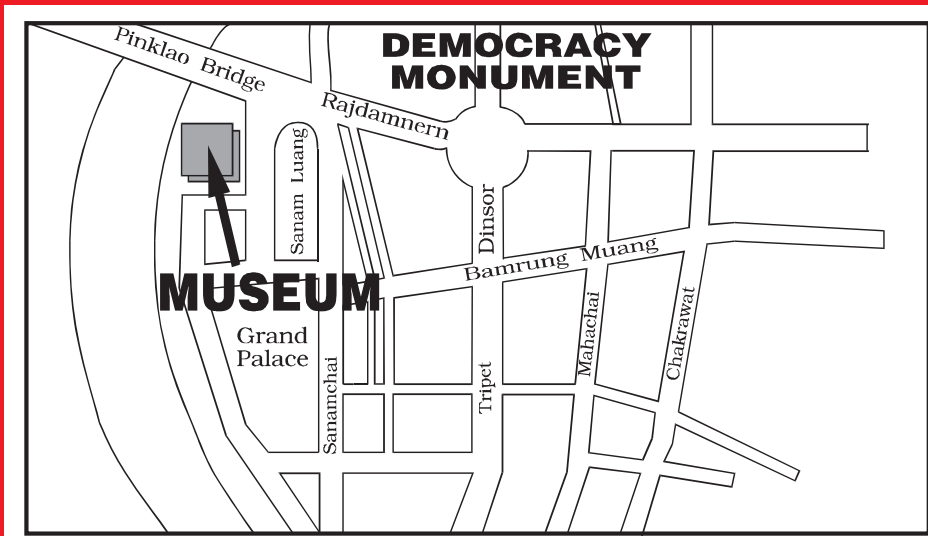


www.museumvolunteersbkk.net

National Museum Volunteers

P.O. Box 1305 Nana Post Office
Bangkok 10112
Thailand

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ตู้ ป.ณ. 1305 นานา
กรุงเทพฯ 10112



The National Museum Bangkok is located on

Naphrathat Road (ถนนหน้าพระธาตุ)
between the National Theatre and Thammasat University,
across from the Sanam Luang