

Siam Undiscovered

Czech-Thai encounters between the 16th and 21st centuries:
rare documents, old photographs, royal visits

เรื่องราวที่ยังไม่มีใครค้นพบในสยาม

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H.M. King Prajadhipok with the Defence Minister Bohumil Bradáč, Prague, 1934,
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H.E. Mr. Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, with H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Bangkok, 1994
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On a canal in Bangkok, painting by Zdeněk Burian, inspired by the photographs of E. St. Vráz,
copy from the magazine *Širým světem* (No. 4, vol. 10/1933), © Mr. Jiří Hochman

พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัวและ Bohumil Bradáč รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงกลาโหม กรุงปราก พ.ศ. 2477

H.E. Mr. Václav Havel ประธานาธิบดีแห่งสาธารณรัฐเช็กเข้าเฝ้าฯ ถวายพระพรพระบาทสมเด็จพระปรมินทรมหาภูมิพลอดุลยเดช

ภาพคลองกรุงเทพมหานคร วาดโดย Zdeněk Burian โดยได้รับแรงบันดาลใจจากภาพถ่ายของ E. St. Vráz.

ซึ่งคัดลอกมาจากนิตยสาร *Širým světem* ฉบับที่ 4 เล่มวันที่ 10 ปี 1933

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**Foreword by
M.R. Chakrarot Chitrabongs**

It is a great privilege for me to present this interesting study on the history of the relations between Thailand and the Czech lands, going back to the sixteenth century.

Numerous Royal and Presidential visits have illustrated this long standing cooperation, not to mention Prince Bira on the racing circuits in Czechoslovakia.

On behalf of the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Thailand, I am pleased that so many unique documents, including rare photographs from the Náprstek Museum in Prague, are being published in Bangkok in celebration of several major events related to Czech-Thai relations: the Sixth Cycle Birthday Anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit; seventy years of Czech-Thai relations and the state visit of H.E. Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, to the Kingdom of Thailand which took place ten years ago. The photographs are of exceptional quality and will contribute to the modern history of Thailand. They have not been seen in Thailand before and many of them are a fine tribute to the art of photography and the skill of the photographers.

The photographs provide a unique insight into the expressions and life-styles of the ordinary people apart from the scenes of Thai royalty and ceremonies at the court of the King of Siam. Through these invaluable photographs, the Czech people could gain a better understanding of the Thai culture and the Thai people who lived a century ago. Indeed, I feel gratitude to E. St. Vráz and J. Kořenský who have made Thai culture known in the Czech Republic and have simultaneously given a very remarkable opportunity to all of us here in Thailand to appreciate the glory of the old days in Siam.

I hope that these old photographs will encourage both the Thai and the Czech peoples to share a cultural experience that will lead to permanent goodwill and longstanding relations. I am also honoured to express my warmest and most sincere wishes for the prosperous future of the people of the Czech Republic and my deep confidence for the bright prospects of the ever-lasting ties between the Czech Republic and the Kingdom of Thailand.



(M.R. Chakrarot Chitrabongs)
Permanent Secretary for Culture
Bangkok, September 1, 2004



M.R. Chakrarot Chitrabongs, Permanent Secretary for Culture with H.E. Dr. Jiří Šitler,
the Czech Ambassador to Thailand

ม.ร.ว.จักรกร จิตรพงศ์ ปลัดกระทรวงวัฒนธรรม และ H.E. Dr. Jiří Šitler
เอกอัครราชทูตสาธารณรัฐเช็กประจำประเทศไทย

คำนำ
โดย
หม่อมราชวงศ์จักรธ จิตรพงศ์

นับว่าเป็นเกียรติอย่างยิ่งสำหรับข้าพเจ้าที่ได้เป็นผู้นำเสนอเรื่องราวจากประวัติศาสตร์ที่สำคัญยิ่งของความสัมพันธ์อันแน่นแฟ้นระหว่างประเทศไทย - ประเทศสาธารณรัฐเชกให้ท่านได้รับทราบซึ่งเป็นเรื่องราวที่ย้อนกลับไปถึงศตวรรษที่ 16


ในช่วงเวลาเหล่านี้ มีการแสดงให้เห็นการแลกเปลี่ยนสันถวไมตรีอันแน่นแฟ้นด้วยการเสด็จฯ เยือนขององค์พระมหากษัตริย์และการเยี่ยมชมจากท่านประธานาธิบดี ทั้งนี้โดยไม่นับการกล่าวถึงเรื่องที่พระวรวงศ์เธอ พระองค์เจ้าพิระได้ทรงเข้าแข่งขันขับรถยนต์ในประเทศเชกโกสโลวาเกียด้วย

ในนามของกระทรวงวัฒนธรรมแห่งราชอาณาจักรไทย ข้าพเจ้ามีความยินดีที่ได้เห็นเอกสารสำคัญ รวมทั้งภาพถ่ายและพระบรมฉายาลักษณ์ซึ่งหายากที่ได้รับจากพิพิธภัณฑ์เนปสเติกในกรุงปรากเพื่อพิมพ์ลงในหนังสือที่กรุงเทพฯ แสดงให้เห็นเหตุการณ์สำคัญหลายเหตุการณ์อันเกี่ยวข้องกับสัมพันธ์ไมตรีอันดีระหว่างประเทศไทย - ประเทศสาธารณรัฐเชก เพื่อนำออกเผยแพร่เนื่องในวาระดิถีเฉลิมพระชนมพรรษาครบ 6 รอบของสมเด็จพระนางเจ้าสิริกิติ์ พระบรมราชินีนาถ รวมทั้งครบรอบ 70 ปีแห่งสันถวไมตรีอันแน่นแฟ้นระหว่างประเทศไทย - ประเทศสาธารณรัฐเชก และวาระครบรอบ 10 ปีที่ท่านประธานาธิบดี วาสลาฟ ฮาเวล แห่งประเทศสาธารณรัฐเชกซึ่งเดินทางมาเยือนประเทศไทย รูปภาพทั้งหมดมีคุณภาพดียิ่งและมีความสำคัญต่อประวัติศาสตร์ยุคใหม่ของประเทศไทย ภาพเหล่านี้ยังไม่เคยเผยแพร่ในประเทศไทยมาก่อน และมีภาพจำนวนมากแสดงถึงความชำนาญของช่างถ่ายภาพ และศิลปะในการถ่ายภาพที่มีความสามารถเป็นเลิศ

ภาพถ่ายเหล่านี้สร้างความเข้าใจอย่างลึกซึ้งให้แก่ผู้พบเห็น เพราะนอกเหนือจากพระบรมฉายาลักษณ์ของบุคคลสำคัญต่างๆ ในพระราชวงศ์หรือภาพพิธีการต่างๆ ในพระราชวังแห่งพระมหากษัตริย์ประเทศสยามแล้ว ยังมีภาพแสดงความเป็นอยู่ของบุคคลธรรมดาอีกด้วย ซึ่งจากภาพถ่ายอันหาค่ามิได้เหล่านี้ ได้ทำให้ประชาชนชาวเชกเห็น

และเข้าใจประชาชนชาวสยามเมื่อศตวรรษก่อนๆ ได้ดียิ่ง ข้าพเจ้าจึงรู้สึกขอบคุณต่อท่าน อี.เอส.ที. วราษ และ เจ. โคเร็นสกี ซึ่งได้เผยแพร่วัฒนธรรมไทยไปยังประชาชนชาวเชก และในเวลาเดียวกันได้ให้โอกาสประชาชนชาวไทยได้รับทราบความรู้เรื่องของวันเก่าก่อนในแผ่นดินสยามอีกด้วย

ข้าพเจ้าหวังว่าภาพถ่ายเหล่านี้จะสนับสนุนให้ประชาชนชาวไทยและชาวเชกได้แลกเปลี่ยนวัฒนธรรมร่วมกันด้วยความสนิทสนมยิ่งขึ้น ซึ่งจะนำไปสู่มิตรภาพอันยั่งยืนระหว่างประเทศทั้งสอง ข้าพเจ้าถือโอกาสอันมีเกียรติยิ่งนี้ ขอให้ประชาชนชาวเชกและประเทศสาธารณรัฐเชกประสบแต่ความเจริญรุ่งเรืองในอนาคต และข้าพเจ้าเชื่อมั่นอย่างยิ่งว่าสัมพันธ์ไมตรีอันดียิ่งระหว่างประเทศไทยและประเทศสาธารณรัฐเชกจะยั่งยืนแน่นแฟ้นยิ่งๆ ขึ้นตลอดไป


(หม่อมราชวงศ์จักรธ จิตรพงศ์)
ปลัดกระทรวงวัฒนธรรม
กรุงเทพฯ
วันที่ 1 กันยายน พ.ศ. 2547

**Foreword by
H.E. Ph. Dr. Jiří Šitler
the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Thailand**

In the year 2004, we celebrated 70th anniversary of the first State Visit of a Thai King Rama VII to Czechoslovakia, 30th anniversary of Czechoslovak-Thai diplomatic relations, and 10 years from the State Visit of the Czech President Václav Havel to Thailand.

However, Czech-Thai relations predate these anniversaries. Czechs already knew Siam from reports the Ayuthaya period, and wider audience became acquainted with Thailand from the lectures, books and photographs by Czech travellers who visited the country during the reign of Rama V - Chulalongkorn. In 1897, a Czech traveller witnessed, described and photographed the departure of King Rama V to his famous European journey, the journey that laid firm fundamentals for the development of the European-Thai relations. Already at that time, the travellers observed that Czech goods, like glass, furniture and shoes could be easily found on Thai markets. The Czech State with its current borders and capital emerged already in the 9th century, but from the 16th century until 1918, the Czech lands (Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia) were more or less integrated into the broader Habsburg empire, and they were represented by Austro-Hungarian Honorary Consuls in Bangkok from 1865 to 1918.

On October 28, 1918 the independent and sovereign Czechoslovak Republic was established. Czechoslovakia was a democratic and rich industrial country, and under the leadership of the important European statesman President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, she soon established flourishing economic relations with Siam, with strong presence of Czechoslovak companies like Bat'a or Škoda in the region. The highlight was the State Visit of H.M. the King Rama VII – Prajadhipok in Czechoslovakia in 1934, during which H.M. met our leaders and inspected major Czech companies.

This promising initial development was interrupted by the 2nd World War, during which the Czechoslovak government-in-exile led by President Edvard Beneš, although fighting side-by-side with Allies against Germany and Japan, maintained peace with Thailand. In 1948, communists seized power in Czechoslovakia, which led to the resignation of President Beneš and to the tragic death of the Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk (President Masaryk's son), both good friends of Thailand and its former King Rama VII.

Diplomatic relations between both countries were established in 1974, but it was not until 1989, the year of the democratic changes in Czechoslovakia and the end of the communist regime (followed by the peaceful separation of Czechoslovakia into two friendly nations, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, in 1992), when the new era of Czech-Thai relations began.

I remember vividly my first trip to Thailand as a member of the delegation of H.E. Václav Havel, the President of the Czech Republic, during his State Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand in 1994. I was impressed by the beauties of the country, elaborate ceremonies, kindness and friendliness of Thai people, and richness of Thai history.



*H.E. Dr. J. Šitler presenting his Credential Letters to
H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, September 2001.*

พจนารถ เอกอัครราชทูต ดร. จ. Šitler ทูลเกล้าฯ ถวายอักษรสาส์นตราตั้งแด่พระบาทสมเด็จพระเจ้าอยู่หัว รัชกาลปัจจุบัน

I am glad and proud that I could return here as an Ambassador, and I am even more glad to say that Czech-Thai relations are booming again – with the volume of trade and number of tourists increasing every year.

We are very proud that Prague, one of the most ancient capitals in Europe (it is without interruption, the capital of the Czech State since the 9th century), and other Czech cities had the honour to welcome many Royal visitors in recent years - H.M. Queen Sirikit, H.R.H. Princess Sirindhorn, H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn and H.R.H. Princess Ubol Rattana. We see it as a good sign for future development of our already cordial relations. It is symbolic that this book appears in the auspicious year of H.M. Queen Sirikit's 6th cycle anniversary.

We are happy that we can present some documents and pictures documenting our common history and present. I believe they can be interesting both for nostalgics who enjoy studying old good times and those who like the dynamic modern world.

On this occasion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the co-authors of the book, all the editors, sponsors, embassy staff, and also for the kind advice and help of Dr. Tej Bunnag.

Jiří Šitler

(Ph. Dr. Jiří Šitler)

คำนำ

โดย

ฯพณฯ ดร. จิří ชิทเลอร์

เอกอัครราชทูตแห่งประเทศสาธารณรัฐเช็กประจำประเทศไทย

ปี พ.ศ. 2547 สถานเอกอัครราชทูตของเราได้จัดงานเฉลิมฉลองครบรอบ 70 ปีแห่งการเสด็จฯ เยือนประเทศเชโกสโลวาเกียอย่างเป็นทางการของพระบาทสมเด็จพระเจ้าอยู่หัว รัชกาลที่ 7 แห่งประเทศไทย รวมทั้งฉลองครบรอบ 30 ปี แห่งความสัมพันธ์ทางการทูตระหว่างประเทศเชโกสโลวาเกียและประเทศไทย และในวาระครบรอบ 10 ปีแห่งการมาเยือนประเทศไทยของท่านประธานาธิบดี วาสลาฟ ฮาเวล แห่งประเทศสาธารณรัฐเช็ก

สัมพันธ์ภาพอันแน่นแฟ้นระหว่างประเทศเช็กและประเทศไทยได้ย้อนหลังไปนานกว่าอีกนับหลายศตวรรษ ประชาชนชาวเช็กรู้จักประเทศสยามจากเรื่องราวต่างๆ ที่ได้รับทราบตั้งแต่ครั้งสมัยกรุงศรีอยุธยาเป็นราชธานี และต่อมาได้รู้จักประเทศไทยมากขึ้นจากการปาฐกถา หนังสือ และภาพถ่ายซึ่งนักท่องเที่ยวยุโรปที่เข้ามาเยือนประเทศไทยได้นำกลับไปตั้งแต่สมัยพระบาทสมเด็จพระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว รัชกาลที่ 5 และในปี พ.ศ. 2440 นักท่องเที่ยวชาวเช็กคนหนึ่งได้เห็นและบรรยายเรื่องราวต่างๆ รวมทั้งฉายพระบรมฉายาลักษณ์ของพระบาทสมเด็จพระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว รัชกาลที่ 5 ก่อนการเสด็จประพาสยุโรปครั้งสำคัญ ซึ่งเป็นการเสด็จฯ เยือนเพื่อกระชับสัมพันธไมตรีระหว่างประเทศต่างๆ ในทวีปยุโรปกับประเทศไทยให้แน่นแฟ้นยิ่งขึ้น ในช่วงเวลานั้น นักท่องเที่ยวชาวเช็กที่เดินทางมาประเทศไทยสังเกตเห็นว่า มีสินค้าต่างๆ จากประเทศเช็กวางขายในตลาดทั่วไป เช่น เครื่องแก้ว เครื่องตกแต่งบ้าน และรองเท้า เป็นต้น นับตั้งแต่ศตวรรษที่ 9 เมื่อประเทศเช็กได้สถาปนาเมืองหลวงให้กว้างใหญ่กว่าเดิมนั้น ประเทศของเราได้เจริญรุ่งเรืองขึ้นตามลำดับ แต่แล้วตั้งแต่ศตวรรษที่ 16 จนถึงปี พ.ศ. 2461 ดินแดนของชาวเช็ก (โบฮีเมีย โมราเวีย และไซเลเซีย) ได้รวมเข้าไปเป็นส่วนหนึ่งของจักรวรรดิฮับส์บูร์ก และตั้งแต่ปี พ.ศ. 2408 จนถึงปี พ.ศ. 2461 กรุงปรากตกเป็นเมืองที่ถูกยึดครองโดย - ฮังการี - ก็ได้ก่อตั้งในกรุงเทพฯ

วันที่ 28 ตุลาคม พ.ศ. 2461 ประเทศสาธารณรัฐเชโกสโลวาเกียก็ได้รับสถาปนาให้เป็นประเทศเอกราช มีอธิปไตยเป็นของตนเอง และประเทศเชโกสโลวาเกียที่ได้รับการกอบกู้ขึ้นใหม่นี้เป็นประเทศประชาธิปไตยซึ่งมีฐานะร่ำรวย และอยู่ภายใต้การปกครองของรัฐบาลที่มีชื่อเสียงในยุโรป คือท่านประธานาธิบดี โทมัส การ์ริก มาซาริก ซึ่งได้สร้างสัมพันธภาพทางเศรษฐกิจอันรุ่งเรืองยิ่งขึ้นกับประเทศสยาม โดยบริษัทสำคัญจากประเทศเชโกสโลวาเกียหลายบริษัทได้ก่อตั้งขึ้นในประเทศไทย เช่น บริษัท “แบท” หรือ “สโกดา” เพื่อดำเนินธุรกิจในพื้นที่ และมีเหตุการณ์สำคัญในประวัติศาสตร์เกิดขึ้นคือ การเสด็จฯ เยือนประเทศเชโกสโลวาเกียของพระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว รัชกาลที่ 7 ในปี พ.ศ. 2477 ซึ่งผู้นำประเทศของเราได้เข้าเฝ้าฯ พระองค์ท่าน และกราบบังคมทูลเชิญเสด็จฯ เยือนบริษัทสำคัญต่างๆ ของชาวเช็กด้วย

การพัฒนาสัมพันธไมตรีได้ถูกแทรกแซงโดยสงครามโลกครั้งที่ 2 ซึ่งท่านประธานาธิบดี เอ็ดเวิร์ด บีเนส ได้สถาปนารัฐบาลลี้ภัยเพื่อช่วยฝ่ายพันธมิตรสู้รบกับประเทศเยอรมนีและญี่ปุ่นและช่วยประเทศไทยรักษาความสงบในยามต่อมา ปี พ.ศ. 2491 ระบบคอมมิวนิสต์ได้ยึดครองประเทศเชโกสโลวาเกีย ทำให้ท่านประธานาธิบดี เอ็ดเวิร์ด บีเนสต้องลาออกจากตำแหน่ง และทำให้ท่านรัฐมนตรีว่าการต่างประเทศ ยาน มาซาริก (บุตรชายของอดีตประธานาธิบดี มาซาริก) ต้องเสียชีวิต ซึ่งท่านทั้งสองเป็นมิตรที่สนิทสนมยิ่งของประเทศไทยในสมัยพระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว

ความสัมพันธ์ทางการทูตระหว่างทั้งสองประเทศถือกำเนิดขึ้นอีกครั้งใน พ.ศ. 2517 แต่ยังไม่ได้รับการพัฒนาจนถึงปี พ.ศ. 2532 ซึ่งเป็นปีที่ประเทศเชโกสโลวาเกียได้เปลี่ยนแปลงการปกครอง เนื่องจากฝ่ายคอมมิวนิสต์ถอนกำลัง

ออกไป (ติดตามด้วยการแบ่งแยกประเทศเชโกสโลวาเกียออกเป็นสองมิตรประเทศโดยสันติ คือประเทศสาธารณรัฐเช็กและประเทศสาธารณรัฐสโลวัก ใน พ.ศ. 2535) และศักราชใหม่แห่งสันถวไมตรีอันแน่นแฟ้นระหว่างชาวเช็กและชาวไทยก็ได้เริ่มขึ้นใหม่อีกวาระหนึ่ง

ข้าพเจ้าระลึกได้อย่างแม่นยำถึงการมาเยือนประเทศไทยเป็นครั้งแรกเมื่อ พ.ศ. 2537 ในฐานะเป็นบุคคลหนึ่งในคณะผู้แทนของ ฯพณฯ ประธานาธิบดี วาสลาฟ ฮาเวล แห่งประเทศสาธารณรัฐเช็ก และรู้สึกประทับใจในความงดงามของประเทศไทย การต้อนรับอย่างดียิ่ง ความโอบอ้อมอารีและน้ำใจของมิตรชาวไทย รวมทั้งประวัติศาสตร์งดงามและมั่นคงของประเทศไทยอีกด้วย

ใน พ.ศ. 2440 นายเอ็นริค สเตนโก วราซ นักท่องเที่ยวผู้มีชื่อเสียงชาวเช็กได้มีโอกาสเข้าเฝ้าฯ และฉายพระบรมฉายาลักษณ์ของพระบาทสมเด็จพระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว รัชกาลที่ 5 เมื่อพระองค์กำลังจะเสด็จฯ เยือนทวีปยุโรปครั้งสำคัญก่อนหน้าการเสด็จประพาสทวีปยุโรป นายวราซได้รับพระบรมราชานุญาตให้ตรวจตราเรือพระที่นั่ง และเขาบรรยายความรู้สึกของคนดังนี้ “ข้าพเจ้าได้เดินเข้าออกห้องที่ประทับต่างๆ ประหนึ่งสุนัขที่มีวาสนาได้รับการปลดปล่อยออกมาชมสถานที่สวยงาม และได้เห็นวัตถุงดงามมากมายซึ่งเหมาะกับการประดับในพิพิธภัณฑ์” ปี พ.ศ. 2478 พระบรมวงศ์เธอ พระองค์เจ้าทิระ ทรงมีพระหัตถเลขาจากนครหลวงเช็กถึงพระชายาในอนาคตของพระองค์ความว่า “คุณต้องมาเยือนกรุงปรากบ้างแล้ว ไม่ว่าเป็นโอกาสใดก็ตาม เพราะข้าพเจ้าเห็นว่าที่นี่เป็นนครที่เต็มไปด้วยความงดงามน่าพิศวงสวยงามมากจริงๆ” ซึ่งเป็นอีกตัวอย่างหนึ่งที่แสดงถึงสันถวไมตรีอันแน่นแฟ้นและความสนิทสนมที่ทั้งสองประเทศมีต่อนับว่าเป็นเรื่องราวที่น่าสนใจอย่างยิ่ง ซึ่งยังไม่ทราบกันแพร่หลายและมิได้เปิดเผยต่อกันทั่วไปจนกระทั่งปัจจุบันนี้ซึ่งจะนำเสนอโดยหนังสือเล่มนี้

ข้าพเจ้ามีความปลาบปลื้มยินดีอย่างยิ่งที่มีโอกาสกลับมาประเทศไทยอีกในฐานะเอกอัครราชทูต และข้าพเจ้ามีความยินดีที่จะกล่าวว่า ปัจจุบันนี้ สัมพันธภาพระหว่างประชาชนชาวเช็กและชาวไทยได้เจริญรุ่งเรืองยิ่งขึ้นอีก ด้วยปริมาณการค้าที่ทวีสูงขึ้นทุกปีทั้งในด้านการพาณิชย์และการท่องเที่ยว

ข้าพเจ้ามีความภาคภูมิใจที่นครปราก นครหลวงเก่าแก่ที่สุดแห่งหนึ่งในทวีปยุโรป (นครซึ่งไม่เคยถูกรบกวนนับตั้งแต่สถาปนาเป็นนครหลวงแห่งประเทศเช็กในศตวรรษที่ 9 เป็นต้นมา) และนครอื่นๆ ในประเทศเช็กซึ่งได้รับเกียรติให้เฝ้าฯ รับเสด็จพระราชอาคันตุกะหลายพระองค์เมื่อเร็ว ๆ นี้ เช่น สมเด็จพระนางเจ้าสิริกิติ์ พระบรมราชินีนาถ สมเด็จพระเจ้าลูกเธอ เจ้าฟ้าจุฬาภรณวลัยลักษณ์ และทูลกระหม่อมหญิงอุบลรัตนราชกัญญา ซึ่งถือว่าเป็นศุภมงคลอย่างยิ่งต่อการพัฒนาสัมพันธภาพอันแน่นแฟ้นของทั้งสองประเทศให้เจริญยิ่งขึ้น รวมทั้งเป็นศุภมงคลต่อการเผยแพร่หนังสือเล่มนี้ซึ่งจะมอบให้แก่ประชาชนชาวไทยเนื่องในวาระดิถีเฉลิมพระชนมพรรษาครบ 6 รอบของสมเด็จพระนางเจ้าสิริกิติ์ พระบรมราชินีนาถ

ข้าพเจ้ามีความยินดีที่สามารถมอบเอกสารและพระบรมฉายาลักษณ์รวมทั้งภาพถ่ายที่ระลึกระหว่างสองประเทศทั้งในประวัติศาสตร์และปัจจุบัน ซึ่งเป็นสิ่งที่ทำให้หวนระลึกถึงเหตุการณ์สำคัญต่างๆ สำหรับผู้สนใจศึกษาประวัติศาสตร์อันงดงามและผู้ที่ยกย่องความก้าวหน้าในโลกปัจจุบันด้วย

ข้าพเจ้าถือโอกาสนี้แสดงความขอบคุณอย่างสูงต่อนักประพันธ์ทุกท่านที่ร่วมกันสร้างสรรค์หนังสือสำคัญเล่มนี้ และขอขอบคุณบรรณาธิการ ผู้สนับสนุน เจ้าหน้าที่สถานเอกอัครราชทูต รวมทั้งคำแนะนำช่วยเหลือต่างๆ จาก ดร. เดช นูนาค

(ฯพณฯ ดร. จิří ชิทเลอร์)

เอกอัครราชทูตแห่งประเทศสาธารณรัฐเช็กประจำประเทศไทย

COSMOGRAPHIA,

Das ist:

Beschreibung der gantzen Welt/

Darinnen

Aller Monarchien

Keyserthumen / Königreichen / Für-
stenthumen / Graff- und Herrschafften / Ländern / Stätten und
Gemeinden; wie auch aller Geistlichen Stätten / Bisthumen / Abteyen / Klö-
stern / Ursprung / Regiment / Reichthum / Gewalt und Macht / Veränderung /
Auf- und Abnehmen / zu Fried- und Kriegszeiten / sampt aller vbrigen
Beschaffenheit.

Desgleichen

Aller deren / beyder Ständen / Regenten: Keysern / Königen /
Päpsten / Bischöffen / u. Leben / Succession / Genealogien und
Stammbäumen:

So dann

Aller Völcker in gemein Religion / Gesätz / Sitten / Nahrung /
Kleidung vnd Übungen / wie auch aller Ländern sonderbare Thier / Vögel / Fisch / Ge-
wächs / Metall / vnd was dergleichen mehr bey einem jeglichen Lande in acht zunehmen / in
guter Ordnung zusammen getragen:

Die schönen Landtschafft / auch der fürnehmsten Stätten und Gebäuden der gan-
gen Welt / sampt abgedachter Geistlicher und Weltlicher Regenten und anderer verrühmbten Perso-
nen / wie nicht weniger aller seltsamen Thieren und Gewächsen eigentlichen Contrafacturen
gleichsam abgemahlet und vnder Augen gestellt.

Erstlichen

Auf Antrieb und Vorschub / vieler hohen Potentaten / Fürsten und Stätten / durch
den fürerflichen und weitberühmbten Herrn

SEBASTIANVM MÜNSTERVM

an den Tag gegeben:

Zweyten aber

Auff das neue vbersehen und mit vielerley nothwendigen Sachen

Fürstlichen Stammbäumen / Figuren und Stücken:

Sonderlich aber

Einer vollkommenen Beschreibung der vnbekandten Länder Africa, America, so viel
davon durch allerhandt Reisen und Schiffarten / biß auff dieses 1628. Jahr fundt gemacht worden /
trefflich vermehrt / vnd mit neuen Indischen Figuren
gezeichnet.

Vasyl/

Beyden Henricpetrinischen:

Im Jahr

M. DC. XXIX.

Cosmographia (by Sebastian Münster), one of the first written sources of information about Siam in the Czech lands

I. The Beginnings of the Czech-Siamese Relationship

Missions of God: Siam and the Czech Jesuit Missionaries

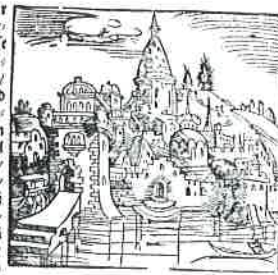
The image of Siam has been gradually shaped in the eyes of the Czechs over the centuries. Indirect evidence appeared about the distant country every now and then in various geographic records and reports, such as the German Münster's *Cosmographia* (1541 – 1628)¹. In 1679, the first recorded report on the Siamese Kingdom written by a Czech was sent to Bohemia by a Jesuit missionary called P. Matthias Cuculinus (*born 1641 or 1645 in the Moravian town of Mohelnice). In 1678, Cuculinus was chosen, along with six other brethren of the Society of Jesus in the Czech province, for a mission in the Spanish overseas territories in Mexico and the Philippines. And we would barely have had a chance to get hold of his report on the situation of the mission in East Indies (Tonkin, Cochin China, Cambodia, and Siam), if it were not for a series of remarkable coincidences. It started with the very departure of Cuculinus' Jesuit missionary fellowship to Mexico. As their ship was detained at Gibraltar by bad winds, they did not make it to join the Spanish fleet to Mexico, and could only see the sails sinking behind the horizon when they finally arrived at Cádiz. When awaiting another fleet to take them to Mexico, the brethren were sent to the Jesuit college in Sevilla. There, separate from common orderly practices, they devoted their time to collecting reports on overseas missions, copying them and sending them back to their native province in Bohemia. Their

¹ The *Cosmographia* was first published in 1541, and is considered the first German geographical book. Between 1541 and 1628, 24 editions were published. It was also translated into French and Italian, and in 1550 into Latin. It was easily available in the Czech lands. In 1554, Jan Zikmund of Púchov created the only Czech version.

Verschieden Tagreisen zu Wasser von dem Königreich Tarnasseri gegen Aufgang der Sonnen liegt diese Statt Tarnasseri / hat ein besondern König / der ist vast mechtig / und reich an Landen / Leuten vnd Gut. Es wechset bey dieser Statt gut Korn / Baumwoll / ein grosse Summa Sceden vnd Presilten Holz / auch viel guter Baumschützen. Es ist viel Vieh vnd allerlei Vögels in dieser Statt / Kühe / Ochsen / Büffel / Geissen oder Ziegen / Hasen / Falden / Habich / Papageyen / haben so groß als



Geysen zu Land / auß welcher Schindel man Messer macht / Hennen vnd Hanendrop mal größer weder hie zu Lande. Das Volk ist auff der Erden ohn außgespreite Lächer auß hölzernen Geschützen. Ihr Land ist Wasser vnd Zucker darinn gesotten / vnd ihre Weib sind von Baumwoll gemacht / vnd die Bede von Seiden. Es hat der Kön. vnd auch die Eslen in dieser Statt den Brauch / so sein Jungfraw zu der Ehe nemmen / nemmen sie ein Mann der nicht ein Poff oder Esel / sonder die erste Nacht bey der Braut ligit / vnd gilt gleich er sey ein Christ oder Heyd / ihres oder eines andern Sprache. Aber sollt einer nach der ersten Nacht bey ihr gefunden werden / so hüt er das Leben verlohren. Es ist auch ein Gewohnheit in dieser Statt / so der König oder die Pfaffen sterben / verbrennt man ihre Körper zu Aschen / vnd behalten die in verglasten irden Geschützen vnd machen grosse Opfferung dem Teuffel vnder Seelen wegen. So man aber den Körper verbrennt / wirft man viel lösslicher Specter in das Feuer / als Weprau / Aloe / Morichen vnd dergleichen / darvon in der ganzen Statt ein guter Geruch auffsteht / vnd sich zugegen viel Leut mit allerlei Specten spielen vnd Instrument / die machen ein solch geschönd daß keiner sein eygen wort hört. Darnach in den nächsten 15. Tagen rüß sich die gestorbenen Hausfraw / vnd laß sich auch verbrennen / damit sie zu ihrem Mann komme wie schier durch ganz India bräuchig. Solches aber thun allein die Fürnemmen der Statt / vnd nicht das gemein Volk.



Von dem Königreich Siam Sian oder Silon. Cap. xcvi.

Siam ist auch ein sehr mechtiges Königreich / sein langes ist dreyhundert / vnd die breite hundert vnd sechzig Meilen. Die Hauptstadt so dem ganzen Königreich ein / auff die dreyßig tausent Häuser der Mores gefunden werden. In diesem Lande sind grawsame Hölder vnd Wald / darinnen Löwen / Tigerthier / vnd Jungfrawen / vnd Scherpen / die Angschichter haben wie Sie Chiamay / der Fluß Menay / welcher gleicher Natur ist / wie der Nilus in Egypten / vnd zucht auch Crocodillen.

Sie haben ihre Häuser sehr hoch / ein jedes Haus hat seinen eygenen Nachen / in dem fürlichen vberlauff des Wassers / sich dieselbigen zugebrauchen. Sie haben viel Christliche Leut vnder ihnen / die ein sehr strenges Leben führen / vnd einen grossen Namen der Heiligkeit haben. Sie reden mit keinem Weib / dann hie durch wurde einer sein Leben verlohren. Sie gehen jederzeit Warß vnd vbel belledet daher / essen nichts als Reis vnd grüne Kräuter. Sie erbeten alles / vnd heischen doch nichts / sonder gehen den Leuten mit vnder / schlagen Augen vnd flüschweigend mit einem Wschir / für die Thieren / vnd empfangen nach auff / vnd beten zu ihren Götzen / in den Ehren / wie die Wündchen / Sie dörffen nichts kaufen / noch verlaufen.

Die

Chapter about Siam in Cosmographia (in German)

บทความเกี่ยวกับประเทศสยามในวารสาร Cosmographia

reports about the spread of Christianity throughout various parts of the world, partly satisfied the current desires for authentic information about distant countries and people. It also served as a means of attracting new missionaries. Therefore, the reports were stored in the Order's archives and some of them were preserved until the present day.

Cuculinus' report, dated November 7th, 1679 in Sevilla, is a representative sample of the kind; it had been

Die Siamiten halten gemeinlich darfür / Gott habe alle Ding erschaffen / er belohne die guten / vnd straffe die bösen. Der Mensch habe zwei Heiler / einen guten / der ihn bekehret / vnd einen bösen / der ihn verführet. Sie bewohnen viel vnd schöne Tempel / vnd thun darinn viel Vberder heiligen / die ewig ein tugentfames Leben sollen geführt haben. In der Statt Secotao ist auch ein Metallen Bild 40. Schuh hoch / die Priester sind sehr geliebet / dann alles was ab ist / halten sie für heilig / weil es mit dem Gold / vnd der Sonnen etwas gleichheit hat. Wenn trübsen ist / so schenken sie Priester den Steinigen verbotten. Summa die Siamiten sind die aller Aberglaubigsten Leut in den Mo-amländern.



Die Dramen in Siam sind grosse Zauberer / vnd sind der Könige fürnehmste Diener. Sie sind sehr stolz / vnd werden vnder dem gemeinen Volk als Götter angebetet / niemand darf ihnen wider sprechen. Sie sagen so sehr vnderständliche Himmel / einer höher als der ander / nach dem einer auch heyliger sey als der ander. vnd 13. Höllen / eine tiefer als die andre / nach den vnderständlichen verdiensten ihrer Sünden.

In diesem Königreich von Siam ligt Aurea Regio / das goldene Lande Ptolomii / welches von Ariano aurea continens genennet wirdt. Zu allernechst darbey ligt die Insel Aurea Cherionellus / welche mit einem schmalen Hals an dem Lande hanget / Tremellus vnd Junius halten darfür so sehr eben das Lande Sphor / dahin Siamon seine Schiff g / schickt hat. Das Land ist schmal / aber die Meer nach auff die fünf hundert Meilen lang / von Champa an zu rechnen / bis an Tanay. Aber von dieser Länge haben die Araber vnd Mores / zwanzig hundert Meilen / oberet / sampt den Städten / Datone / Pahan / Jo / Malacca / welches jetzt in der Portug. sen Händen ist / vnd Pera. Es haben auch die Königreich Ava / Chencan / Cayumo / vnd Brema ihren theil darinnen getheilt.

Es wirdt aber Aurea Cherionellus / die goldene Insel genennet / weil viel Gold / Edelstein vnd Weidwurz darinnen gefunden wirdt. Die Baum grünen allweg / vnd sind nimmer ohne Frucht.

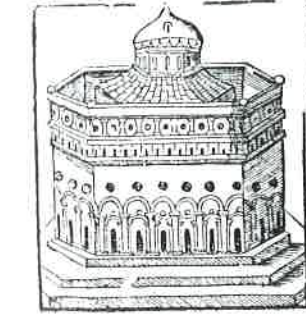


Obia ist die fürnehmste Statt dieses Königreichs. Sie halter vier mal hundert tausent Haushaltungen / vnd dienet dem König mit fünfzig tausent Soldaten. Sie sollen bey zwanzig hundert tausent Schiff klein vnd groß / auff der See halten. Die Statt ligt in dem Wasser wie Venedig / vnd man man zu Wasser oder zu Lande durch die Statt kommen.

Der König von Siam / hat 9. Königreich vnder ihm / vnd solle doch dem König von China Zins geben. Er halter gewöhnlich 6000. Mann zu seiner Leibwacht / vnd zwanzig hundert Heilanten an seinem Hof. Sonst hat er hin vnd wider in seinem Land bey dreyßig tausent Heilanten / deren drey tausent zum Krieg gewenet vnd abgerichtet seyn / wie Venerus meldet.

Die Colenim Reich haben ihre Herrschaften Lehenweiss vom König / vnd müssen ihm / auff sein Gebot / mit zwanzig tausent zu Pferd / vnd zwanzig hundert vnd fünfzig tausent zu Fuß dienen. So bald ein neuer König an die Regierung tritt / laß er vor allen ding ein neue Kirchen bauen / mit mechtigen Säulen / vnd laß die vollen Höhen stellen / sich darmit einen Namen zu machen / daher die vider Kirchen vnd Höhen in diesem Königreich. Der König wirdt gewöhnlich geheissen Perchoa / das ist / ein Herr ober alles.

Das ganze Land / ist mit den hohen Bergen / von Yangonia / Drama vñ Ava vñ dergleichen sonsten an sich selbst gang eben / wie das Land Egypten. Welches auch ein vrsach vñ Fruchtbarkeit ist. Die Lai gebeden von



Chapter about Siam in Cosmographia (in German)

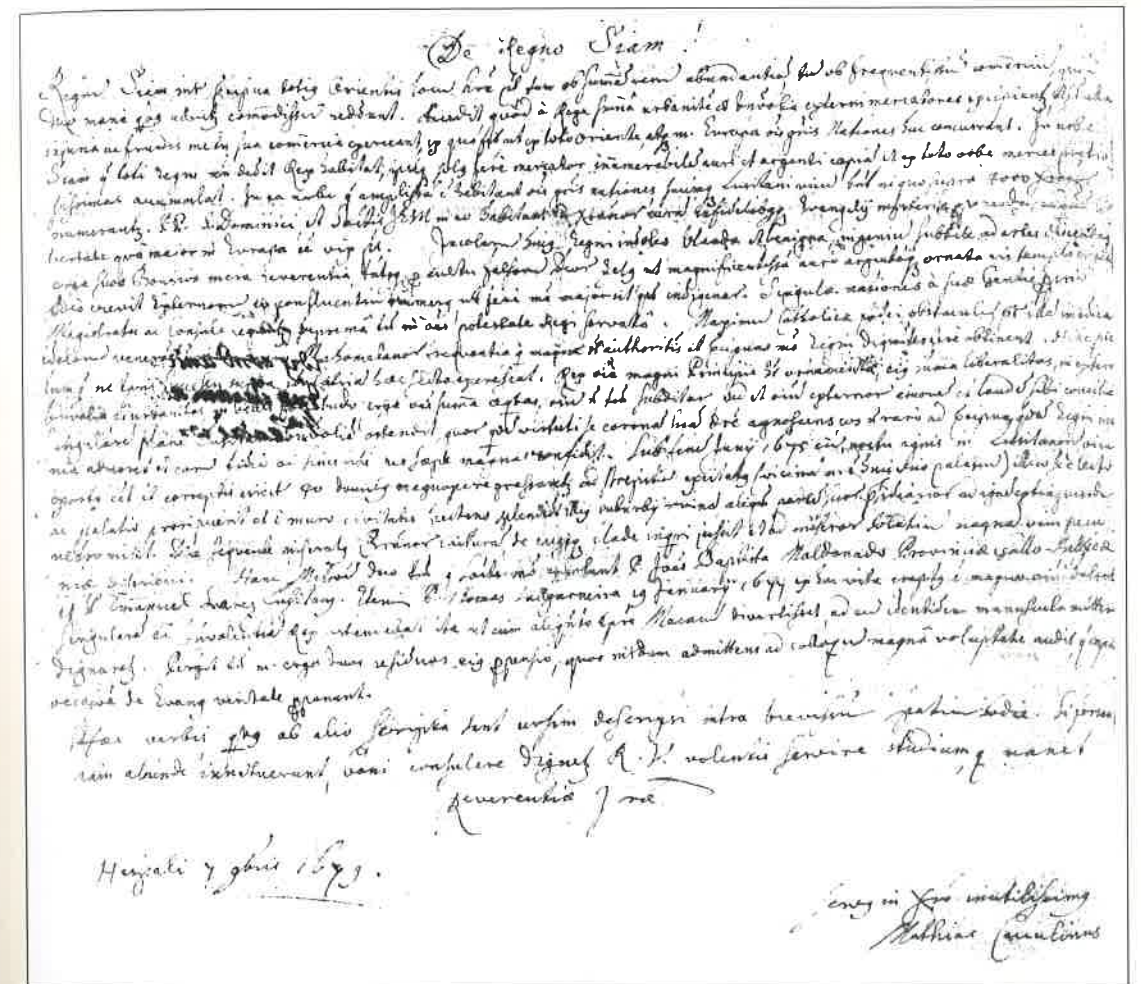
บทความเกี่ยวกับประเทศสยามในวารสาร Cosmographia

compiled in Latin from several sources available to the author during his stay in the Jesuit college of Sevilla. A short account on the State of Christianity in the Canary Islands is followed by four summaries, compiled from an unknown, yet apparently well-informed source on the situation in four realms of the East Indies - on Tonkin (*Relatio continens quaedam de statu Christianitatis in Regno Tunquin*), Cochin China (*De Cochinchina*), Cambodia (*De*

Camboya) and Siam (De Regno Siam). His report of four pages has been preserved in the Moravian Archives in Brno.²

Cuculinus writes that the Kingdom of Siam belongs to foremost of the Oriental realms partly because of the abundance of all things there, and partly because of the trade in which foreign merchants from Europe and Asia take part, with the King's permission. The Royal seat, the city of Siam by which the whole country takes its name, abounds with endless quantities of gold, silver and other treasures, and is home to various nations, 4,000 Christians and a Portuguese quarter included. The Christians are looked after by Jesuits and Dominicans. The general population is well-hearted, gifted and respectful to their leaders, as well as reverential to their gods, whose temples they adorn with gold and silver. Foreigners keep on arriving to the extent that they seem to outnumber the natives. The foreigners are ruled by their own chieftains, but higher power remains with the King. Apart from idolaters, there are numerous Muslims with considerable

² The file G /811, 557, ff. 93-94.



P. Matthias Cuculinus' report from 1679.
The first information on the Siamese Kingdom composed by a Czech. The Moravian Archives in Brno.
ข้อมูลชิ้นแรกเกี่ยวกับประเทศไทยโดย Matthias Cuculinus ใน พ.ศ. 2222 จากหอจดหมายเหตุ Moravian ใน Brno

authority, occupying high-ranked positions in the Kingdom. They comprise the major obstacle to and threat for Christianity. Let the King be praised, who cherishes the Portuguese in particular.

At the end of June 1675, when fire destroyed over 40 houses in the Portuguese quarter, the King sent his servants to help in putting out the fire, and consequently helped the affected Christians financially. There were two Jesuit missionaries in Siam: a Belgian called P. Joannes Baptista Maldonado and a Portuguese called P. Emmanuel Suarez. P. Thomas Vallgarneira died on January 19th 1677. How the King appreciated the missionaries has been demonstrated during their discourse on the true value of the gospels.

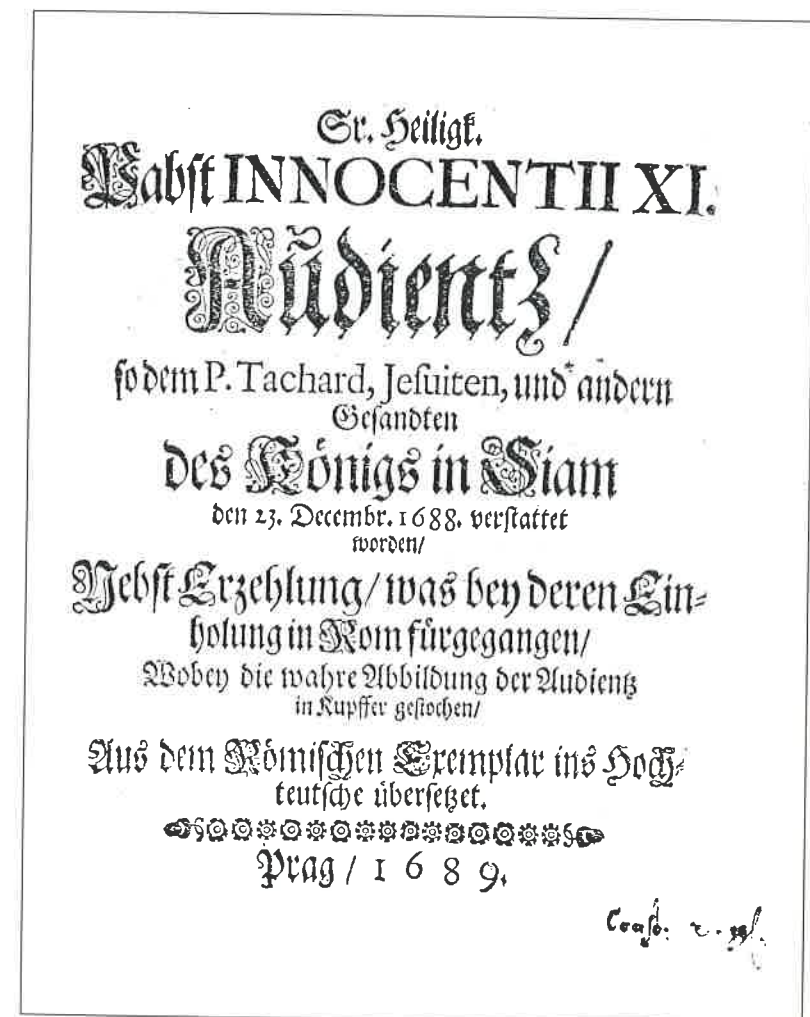
Further observations on Siam were most likely to appear in the preserved letters of Bohemian, Moravian and Silesian Jesuit missionaries, who worked in the 18th century in Cochin China and Tonkin (Joannes Gruber: 1739-41; Joannes Koffler: 1742-55³; Wenceslaus Paleček: 1739-58; Johannes Siebert: 1737-45; Carolus Slamensky: 1746-47; Joannes Hoppe; Josephus Neugebauer). Their letters were partly published (in abridged form) in a German translation in *Welt-Bott*,⁴ and they have been partly archived.

In 1689, the German version of the book of the French Jesuite Guy Tachard describing the 1688 audience granted by Pope Innocent XI to the Siamese delegation was published in Prague.⁵ This book still deserves the attention of Czech scholars.

³ The author of *Historica Cochinchinae descriptio*, Nürnberg 1803.

⁴ *Der neue Welt-Bott. Mit allerhand Nachrichten deren Missionarum Societas Jesus verteutscht und zusammen getragen von Joseph Stöcklein. Augsburg und Grät 1728-61.*

⁵ *Audienz Seiner Heiligkeit Inocentii XI, so Der Tachard, Jesuiten, und Anderen Gesandten des Koenig in Siam. 1688. Père Guy Tachard. Prag, 1689.*



German edition of the account of the 1688 audience granted by Pope Innocent XI to the Siamese delegation, published in Prague, 1689 (by Guy Tachard)

จดหมายเหตุเรื่องคณะราชทูตสยามเข้าเฝ้าฯ พระสันตปาปาอินโนเซนต์ที่ 11 เมื่อ พ.ศ. 2231 ฉบับภาษาเยอรมัน
 ซึ่งตีพิมพ์ที่กรุงปราก เมื่อ พ.ศ. 2232 (โดย Guy Tachard)

Private collection of M.L. Manich Jumsai, Bangkok



Audience granted by Pope Innocent XI to the Siamese delegation,
23 December 1688 (picture from the German edition of the account of the audience, published in Prague, 1689)
คณะราชทูตสยามเข้าเฝ้าฯ พระสันตปาปาอินโนเซนต์ ที่ 11 เมื่อวันที่ 23 ธันวาคม พ.ศ. 2222
(ภาพจากจดหมายเหตุฉบับภาษาเยอรมัน ตีพิมพ์ที่กรุงปราก พ.ศ. 2232)

Private collection of M.L. Manich Jumsai, Bangkok

In 1720, about seventy Christians lived in Siam, which may prove that the local natives resisted Christianisation much more strongly than the populations of surrounding countries. Most Jesuit missionaries working in Siam came from Portugal, Spain and France. However, there was also one by the name of Josef Neugebauer, a Jesuit from Silesia, which during those times was a part of the lands belonging to the Czech Crown. Neugebauer set

off on his journey from Vienna, in Austria. In April 1737, he boarded a ship sailing to India from Lisbon. In the following year he reached the Indian town of Goa, from where he travelled to Macao. Between 1740 and 1750, he worked in Cochin China as a Royal astronomer and engineer. However, when the atmosphere changed at the Vietnamese Royal Court, he and his fellow believers were dismissed from Royal service. At the beginning of 1751, he left for Siam, where he planned to found a Jesuit College and a school for the tutelage of Jesuit priests. He took an interest in construction engineering. During his stay in Siam, King Barommagot ruled the country. Neugebauer, in reports sent to Europe about the Siamese rulers' relations towards Christianity, depicted the young King's father as "a sworn enemy of the principles" and "an idolatry lord". He complained of the late King having had passed a law by which neither Thais nor Europeans were allowed to be baptised. Both the baptised and the baptising priest could be executed for an offence against this law. According to Neugebauer, King Barommagot did not seem to be so antagonistic to Europeans and their Christian ideas any more. Father Neugebauer planned to use his knowledge of astronomy and construction engineering to gain the King's favour, so that the latter would help to finance the building of the Jesuit College. With true Jesuit diplomacy, he intended to convince King Barommagot that such a building would serve as an eternal memorial to the King's father. He also wanted to persuade the King to abolish the law forbidding baptisms. Neugebauer spent the whole of the year 1751 in Siam. We do not know what he did during his stay, as his report did not reach Europe. What we do know is that he left Siam on 1st July 1752 without any considerable success, and set off for Macao. A report sent shortly after his arrival at Macao gave an account of a mission from the island of Sri Lanka, which brought rich gifts to the Siamese King, to persuade him as "the head of pagans" to receive Buddhist missionaries from Sri Lanka.⁶

⁶ Orasa Thaiyanan: Die Beziehungen zwischen Thailand (Siam) und Österreich-Ungarn (1869-1917/19) VWGÖ Wien 1987, pp. 15 – 18.

Times of Travellers: The Czech lands and Siam during the era of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (until 1918)

During the next 150 years, various merchants, adventurers, work seekers and travellers came to Siam following paths of their destinies. During this period, the Czech lands were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and we know very little about those people. What we do know, for example, is that there were several Czechs on board the Austrian warship Novara, which stopped in Siam on its way around the world (1857 – 1859).

Official relations between the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the Kingdom of Siam started in 1865, with the designation of the Austro-Hungarian Honorary Consul in Bangkok. Four years later, the foundations of diplomatic, economic, cultural and military relationships were laid by concluding a treaty on friendship, trade and shipping. As a small and a militarily weak country, Siam tried to avoid confronting the powers, and, within the context of its *survival policy*, maintained as friendly relationships as possible with them. King Mongkut, at that time acknowledged by many Europeans as a truly civilised man, particularly for his splendid command of Latin, concluded several treaties, including the one with the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. The latter was no Asian colonial power, and concluding the treaty of 1869 was for the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy primarily a matter of business interests. Siam did not gain many advantages from the treaty, and forty years later the Siamese government asked the Austrian party to revise some of the most disproportional items. On the other hand, the treaty allowed for the instant onset of Austrian tradesmen and entrepreneurs in the region. Siam was the first country with which the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy had concluded such a treaty.

Compared to the English, the French and the Germans, there were only few Austrian citizens living in Siam. In 1872, for example, there were only three persons,

in 1885 there were five of them.⁷ And although the Siam government wished the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, as well as other European countries, to have proper consulates in Bangkok, Austria did not consider the benefits from such a consulate meaningful. From 1883, Austrian interests at the Siamese Court were represented by the Embassy in Tokyo, Japan.⁸

On the other hand, Siam established honorary consulates in Vienna (1880/81), Budapest (1909) and Trieste (1912). Apart from these, there were no Thais living in the Empire. Between 1882 and 1891, there were just four Thai students studying at the Military Academy in Vienna. Later, as a part of their practice, they were designated lieutenants of the army and joined regiments appointed to them.⁹

At that time, the most important Austrian visit to Siam was a stop-over made by the successor to the Austrian throne Franz Ferdinand d'Este during his voyage around the world aboard the Austrian warship Kaiserin Elisabeth between 1892 and 1893. Apart from an extensive and thorough *Diary*¹⁰ of the journey, published by his successor, the event was also recorded by a Czech military musician called Václav Havelka, in his memoirs. He mentioned two aspects of Siam from the point of view of an ordinary member of the crew – a visit by a Siamese Prince on board the ship, and also an uprising in Bangkok.¹¹

The majority of Austro-Hungarian immigrants to Siam were people from Bohemia and Moravia. Due to the Empire's overall economic situation, it was the regions of Bohemia and Moravia, which were most often departed

⁷ Orasa, q.b., p. 36.

⁸ Orasa, q.b., p. 35.

⁹ Orasa, q.b., p. 159 – 173.

¹⁰ D'Este, Franz Ferdinand: Tagebuch meiner Reise um die Erde 1892-1893. 2 Bd. Wien 1895.

¹¹ Diary of Václav Havelka. New and unknown source about František Ferdinand's journey around the world. Historie a vojenství. The magazine of the Historical Institute of the Czech Army, 3/2001, Praha. (pp. 586-643, p. 609, 619).

from, either for other parts of the empire or for other countries, by people seeking work. The latter mainly occurred after the year 1867, when Austrian citizens were allowed to leave their country freely. Several letters were preserved, in which Austro-Hungarian, or more precisely Bohemian and Moravian, emigrants asked the Austrian Consulate in Bangkok to mediate contacts with either State or private subjects. For example, Hans Bondy from Brno applied for a job in a bank or an export firm. There were others who looked for jobs directly in Siam. Unfortunately, there were few craftsmen or construction engineers, professions that were most desirable.¹² Among the names in the Bangkok cemetery, there are some of Czech origin: "Augustin Bradáč from Lovosice in Bohemia", "Wenzel Moritz Hüttner from Vysoká Pec in Bohemia", "Julius Mühlberger from Slunečné in Bohemia" or "Josef Rázek from Pardubice in Bohemia".¹³ Some of these men contributed significantly to the development of the Kingdom of Siam, particularly Eduard Bock, builder of the main Siamese railway.

E. Bock, an ethnic German, was born on 21st January 1865 in Cetkovice, Moravia. He studied technology in Brno. In September 1892, he started his service for the Siam Railways. To begin with, he worked as a section engineer, and later he became manager of the technical offices. On the occasion of the inauguration of traffic on the railway, he was decorated with the Order of the Siamese Crown, IVth class.

There are preserved photographs, where we can see E. Bock at the side of the Queen of Siam at the occasion of the laying of the foundation for the first Siamese railway. The Czech traveller Josef Kořenský later writes about the events photographed: "*The entire royal court, including the King and the Queen, celebrated this memorable event at which the Moravian engineer had the honour to present to the Queen the screw which connected the tracks of the new railway. Our dear Moravian has lived in Siam for many years, he has learned the Siamese language*

¹² Orasa, q.b., p. 228 – 230.

¹³ Orasa, q.b., p. 231.

and is acquainted with the way of life there just as if it was his home country."

In 1898, E. Bock was relocated to the department of palaces building at the request of Ministry of Public Labour. In 1899, he left the Royal Service and started his own construction firm. He managed to obtain a license for marble and sandstone quarry from the Siamese government, and thanks to this, his firm became the most important in Bangkok, and Mr. Bock became a much respected man.

Even though he did not become consul, the Austrian Consulate choose him for an assessor associate consulate judge, and a trustee of an Austrian expatriate's young children. He also became the chairman of the "Austrian Supportive Fellowship", founded in 1905 in Bangkok (the members of which met only twice). After the start of the World War, he worked briefly as the director of Siam Stone Works. When in July 1917 Siam declared war on the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Eduard Bock was interned as an Austrian national, and deported along with other Austrians to the civilian internment camp at Yercaud in British India.¹⁴

During the era of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Czech glass, porcelain, furniture, shoes and Pilsen beer in particular were often imported to Siam from the Czech lands. However, machinery, electric appliances and guns of Czech origin were also exported by Austrian firms.¹⁵ In 1908, when the commander-in-chief of the Siamese army, Prince Nakornchaisri, came to Austria-Hungary for a short stay, he visited, in addition to the spa of Karlovy Vary, the Škoda Enterprises in Plzeň, where he showed considerable interest in military technology. As a result of the visit, the Siamese army ordered military hardware from Škoda.¹⁶ The declaration of war in 1917, and denunciation of the treaty of 1869 two years later, put a definite end to the five decades of relationship between the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and Siam.

¹⁴ Orasa, q.b., p. 236 – 237.

¹⁵ Orasa, q.b., p. 87, 88.

¹⁶ Orasa, q.b., p. 184.

Czech travellers Vráz and Kořenský in Siam

It was two famous Czech travellers who provided the Czech public with most information about the "Country of the White Elephant" during this period – Enrique Stanko Vráz (1897) and Josef Kořenský (1901). Besides their personal experiences, which they recounted in numerous books, magazines and lectures, they also brought over copious photographic materials, including valuable photographs of the Royal Family, and also pictures of the old, long gone Bangkok.



Enrique S. Vráz
นายเอ็นริเก้ สตังโก้ว วรัส

ENRIQUE STANKO VRÁZ

Traveller, writer, photographer, and collector

Born 18th April 1860 in Trnovo, Bulgaria – died 20th February 1932 in Prague

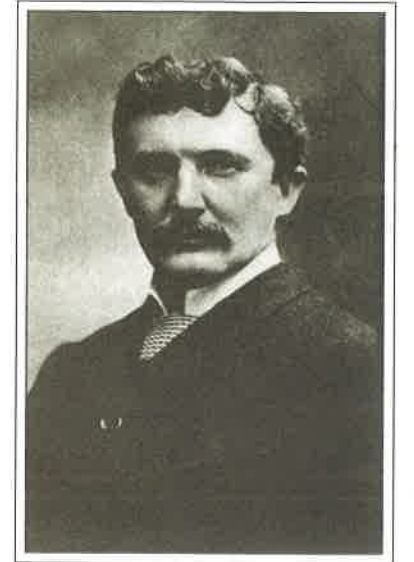
Enrique Stanko Vráz is the assumed name of a man whose family name and origin have remained unknown until today. What we do know is that in 1880 he left for Africa. After three years in Morocco, he moved to Gambia and started collecting natural items, and then stayed in Golden Coast (more or less the territory of present-day Ghana) for some time. After a stay in the Canary Islands to build up his health, he set off for South America, where he intended to cross the continent along the equator by riverboats. As he first had to make money to be able to undertake the journey, he started trading in gutta-percha and orchids. In the years 1892-3, he made the journey. The following year, he appeared in Prague, and made an extremely successful lecturing tour in Bohemia and Moravia. By the end of 1895, he left to travel the world. From Northern America to Japan, then to Singapore, Borneo, New Guinea... In 1897 he paid a visit to Siam, then back to Europe.

In December 1897, Vráz married a Czech American, Vlasta Geringer, in Chicago. Together they travelled through Mexico, and then went back again to Europe for another lecturing tour. In 1899-1900 they travelled through the USA, and then in January 1901 they left for China, where the Boxer Uprising reached its

peak at the time. In 1903, Vráz travelled again through South and Central America. In between his voyages, he continued to pay visits to Bohemia. His family went everywhere with him. In 1921, they finally settled down in Prague. Vráz's health deteriorated, and the endured tropical diseases set the bill. He made his living by lecturing, but this was a poor living until his death.

Vráz depicted his travelling experiences in many popular, well written books.

Vráz meant to write an extensive encyclopaedia, *Orbis pictus*, in which he would provide a geographical, natural and anthropological account of the earth in a highly accessible way. However, he fell victim to far too many minor activities, which never allowed him to finish his Opus.



Enrique S. Vráz
นายเอ็นริเก้ สตังโก้ว วรัส

In 1946, Prague publishers Toužimský and Moravec published Vráz's complete works in nine volumes, illustrated by Zdeněk Burian:

1. Za poklady Eldoráda. Napříč rovníkovou Amerikou (Seeing Eldorado. Across America along the Equator 1)
2. Tajé amazonských pralesů. Napříč rovníkovou Amerikou (Secrets of the Amazon. Across America along the Equator 2)
3. V zemi zlata a Inků. Napříč rovníkovou Amerikou (In the Land of Gold and Inca. Across America along the Equator 3)
4. Bílý ďábel v Pekingu. Toulky a dobrodružství v Číně. (A White Devil in Beijing. Travels and Adventures in China)
5. V zemi bílého slona. Příběhy a dobrodružství v Siamu. (In the Country of the White Elephant. Tales and Adventures in Siam)
6. U králů temné pevniny. Osm let dobrodružství v Africe. (Kings of the Dark Continent. Eight Years of Adventure in Africa)
7. V sedmém moři. Nová Guinea, Borneo a Japonsko. (The Seventh Sea. New Guinea, Borneo, and Japan)
8. Don Enrique. dobrodružství v Latinské Americe. (Don Enrique. Adventures in Latin America)
9. S lovci lebek na Borneu. (With the Head Hunters in Borneo)



Josef Kořenský
นายโจเซฟ ไคเรนสกี

JOSEF KOŘENSKÝ

Naturalist, pedagogue, traveller, and collector

Born 26th July 1847 in Sušno u Benátek, n. Jizerou
– died 8th October 1938 in Prague

Kořenský studied at secondary school in Mladá Boleslav, and was then admitted to the Prague Pedagogical Institute in Budeč, where he stayed for two years. He concluded his studies in 1867, afterwards teaching natural history, physics, drawing and geometry, German language, and singing at various schools, and completed his pedagogical career as the director of the school for girls in Smíchov, where he retired in 1908. Kořenský had a major interest in the natural sciences, namely geology, mineralogy, palaeontology, botany, and entomology. In 1927, he was awarded a doctorate honoris causa for life-long merit in the popularisation of natural sciences at the Faculty of Natural Science, Charles University, Prague.

Throughout his life, Kořenský also found much interest in travelling. After having travelled all over the Czech lands, he kept setting off for regular journeys throughout Europe, from Scandinavia, through the Alpine countries, to the Balkans and Italy. He went to Turkey, as well as the Caucasus, and beyond the Urals, to Siberia. During 1893-1894, he cruised around the world with his friend Karel Řezníček. The itinerary led them to North America, Hawaii, Japan, China, Malaysia, Java, Borneo, Sri Lanka, India, and Egypt, and Kořenský collected natural and anthropological items, as well as artefacts, all the way.

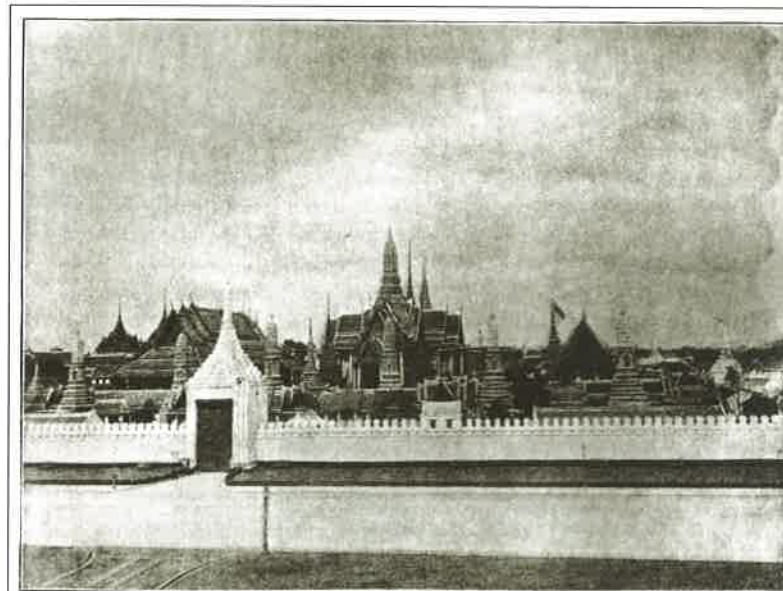
Between 1900 and 1901, Kořenský undertook another longish expedition, this time along a route of Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Siam, Korea, and Siberia. Afterwards, he only travelled in Europe, and towards the end of his long and fruitful life he ceased to travel abroad at all. On his return from a journey, Kořenský always tried to convey his experiences to as broad an audience as possible. He gave numerous lectures (for example to the American Ladies' Club), and wrote hundreds of articles for various magazines and around fifty books, all of them remarkable for their colourful depictions and lively language. Most popular were:



Řeka Menam a pohled na dolní část Bangkoku.

The Chao Phraya River in Bangkok. Photo of E. St. Vráz. Reproduction from the book
In the Country of the White Elephant. Prague 1941.

แม่น้ำเจ้าพระยาที่กรุงเทพมหานคร ภาพโดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สติงโก้ว วรัส
จากหนังสือ *In the Country of the White Elephant* กรุงเทพฯ พ.ศ. 2484



Pohled na Vat Pra Kaeu sousedící s královským palácem.

Wat Phra Kaeo. Photo of E. St. Vráz.
Reproduction from the book *In the Country of the White Elephant. Prague 1941.*

วัดพระศรีรัตนศาสดาราม (วัดพระแก้ว) ภาพโดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สติงโก้ว วรัส
จากหนังสือ *In the Country of the White Elephant* กรุงเทพฯ พ.ศ. 2484



The temple complex of Wat Pho
Photo E.St. Vráz, glass coloured stereoscopic slide
วัดโพธิ์ ภาพถ่ายสีชนิดสเตอริโอ โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิงโก วรสี



The parade of the Royal Guard at Sanam Luang
Photo E.St. Vráz, glass coloured slide
ขบวนสวนสนามของทหารรักษาพระองค์ ณ ห้องสนามหลวง ภาพถ่ายสี โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิงโก วรสี



Ceremonial parade in front of the Royal Palace
Photo R. Lenz, bought by J. Kořenský, photo
ขบวนสวนสนามในหน้าพระราชพิธีมหามงคลราชพิธี
ภาพถ่าย โดย นายอาร์. เลนซ์ นายโจเซฟ ไทเรนสกี ซื้อมา



H.M. King Chulalongkorn embarking on his voyage to Europe
Photo E.St. Vráz, glass negative
พระบาทสมเด็จพระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว เสด็จพระราชดำเนินลงเรือเมื่อคราวเสด็จประพาสยุโรป ภาพบนกระจก โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิงโก วรสี



H.M. the King of Siam with his children

(upper row, left to right: H.R.H. Prince Paribatra Sukhumbandhu, Prince of Nakhon Sawan; H.R.H. Princess Valaya Alongkorn, Princess of Phetchaburi; H.R.H. Prince Mahidol Adulyadej, Prince of Songkla; H.M. King Chulalongkorn; H.R.H. Prince Asdang Dejavadh, Prince of Nakhon Ratchasima; H.R.H. Prince Sommatiwongse Varodaya, Prince of Si Thammarat; H.R.H. Princess Siraborn Sobhon, lower row, left to right: H.R.H. Princess Malini Nobhadara, Princess of Si Satchanalai; H.R.H. Prince Yugala Dighambara, Prince of Lop Buri; H.R.H. Prince Chakrabongse Bhuvanath, Prince of Phitsanulok; H.R.H. Princess Nibha Nobhadol, Princess of U Thong)

Photo Royal Photographer, bought by E.St. Vráz, photo

กษัตริย์แห่งสยามพร้อมด้วยพระโอรสและพระธิดา

(แถวบน จากซ้ายไปขวา สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าบริพัตรสุขุมพันธุ์ กรมหลวงนครสวรรค์วรพินิต, สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าไวยดลยศจอมพล กรมหลวงนครราชสีมา, สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้ามหาดลลิตยเดช กรมหลวงสงขลานครินทร์, พระบาทสมเด็จพระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว, สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าอภัยภูเบศร กรมขุนนครราชสีมา, สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าสมมติวงศไวย กรมขุนศรีธรรมราชธำรงฤทธิ์, สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าศิริกนกโชติ กรมหลวงลพบุรีราเมศวร์, สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าจักรพงษ์ภูวนาถ กรมหลวงพิษณุโลกประชานาถ, สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าภาณุรังษีสว่างวงศ์ กรมพระยาภาณุรังษีสว่างวงศ์, สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าจุฑาธุชธราดิลก กรมขุนเพ็ชรบูรณ์อินทราไชย, สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าจุฬาภรณวลัยลักษณ์ อัครราชกุมารี, สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้ากัลยาณิวัฒนา กรมหลวงนราธิวาสราชนครินทร์)

ภาพถ่าย โดยช่างภาพพระราชวัง นายเฮนริก สติงโก วีรส์ ชือมา

The Royal Couple with their children at the inauguration ceremony of the Bangkok Railway

Photo J. Antonio, bought by E.St. Vráz, photo

พระบาทสมเด็จพระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัวและสมเด็จพระศรีวิจิตรนาถบรมราชินีนาถ พร้อมด้วยพระโอรส พระธิดา ในงานพิธีเปิดใช้เส้นทางรถไฟ

ภาพถ่าย โดย เจ. อันโตนิโอ นายเฮนริก สติงโก วีรส์ ชือมา



H.M. the Queen of Siam with her children

H.M. the Queen Sri Bajavindra holding H.R.H. Prince Prajadhipok (King Prajadhipok, Rama VII), middle;

H.R.H. Chudhadhuj Dharadilok, Prince of Phetchabun, left;

H.R.H. Prince Asdang Dejavadh, Prince of Nakhon Ratchasima, right

Photo Royal Photographer, bought by E.St. Vráz, photo

พระราชมารดาแห่งสยามพร้อมด้วยพระโอรส

ครบกเกล้า สมเด็จพระศรีวิจิตรนาถบรมราชินีนาถทรงอุ้มสมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าประชาธิปกศักดิเดชน์ (พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว รัชกาลที่ ๗)

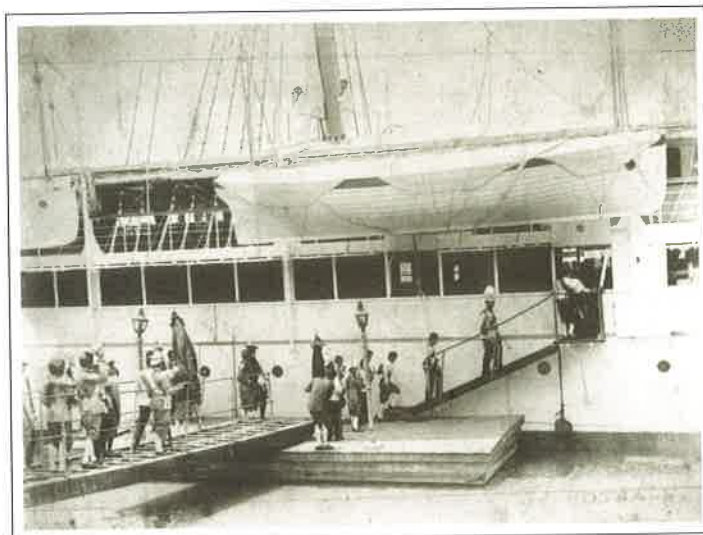
ซ้าย สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าจุฑาธุชธราดิลก กรมขุนเพ็ชรบูรณ์อินทราไชย,

ขวา สมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าอภัยภูเบศร กรมขุนนครราชสีมา

ภาพถ่าย โดยช่างภาพพระราชวัง นายเฮนริก สติงโก วีรส์ ชือมา



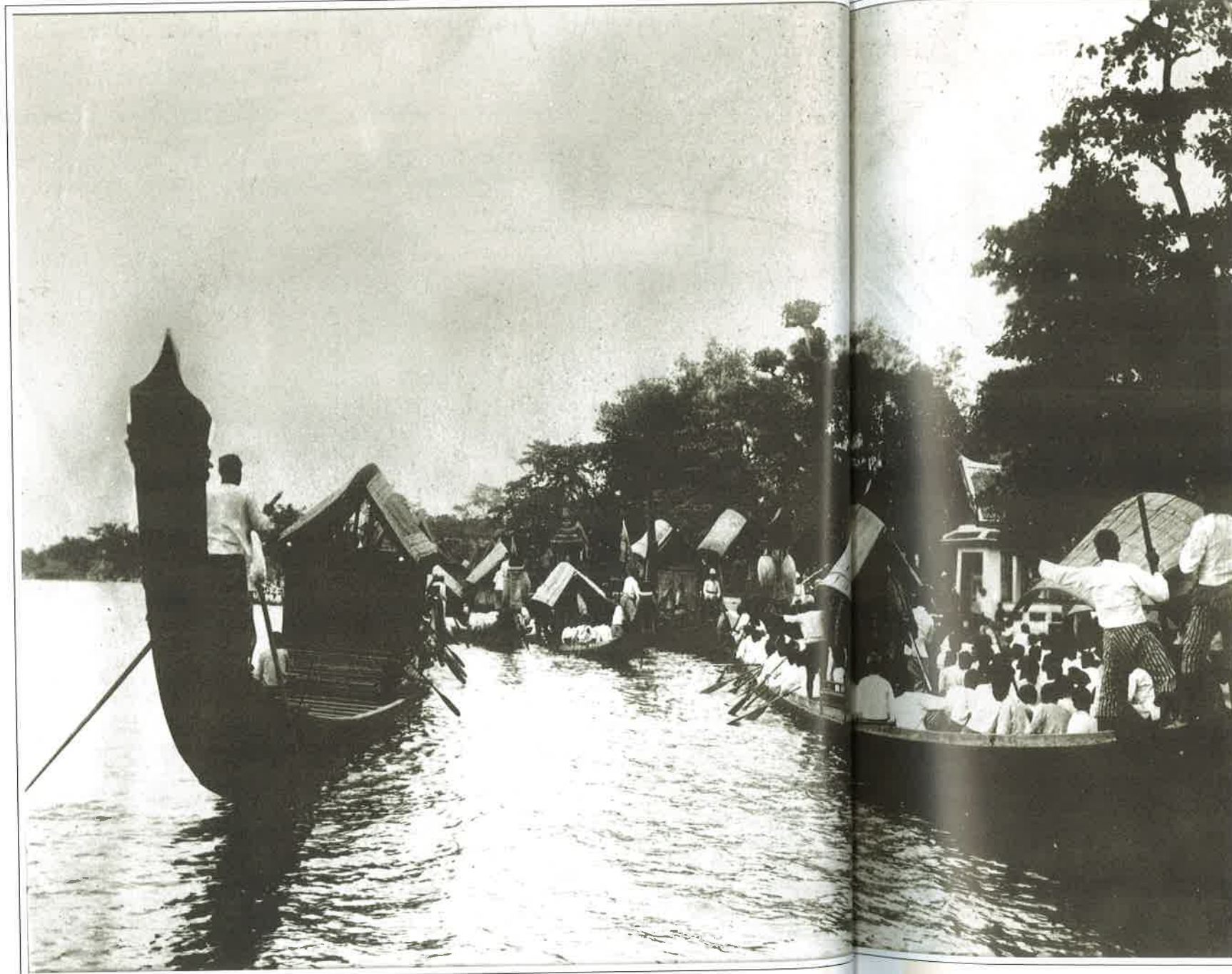
H. M. the Queen fixing the first tie of the Bangkok Railway.
 Eduard Bock sitting with his back to the photographer. Photo J. Antonio, bought by E. St. Vráz, photo
 สมเด็จพระศรีพัชรินทราบรมราชินีนาถในรัชกาลที่ 5 เสด็จฯ ไปทรงวางศิลาฤกษ์ทางรถไฟสยาม
 ภาพถ่าย โดย เจ. อันโตนิโอ นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิงโก วรสี ชื่อนมา



H.M. King Chulalongkorn boarding
 the ship for his voyage to Europe in 1897.
 Photo E. St. Vráz, glass negative
 พระบาทสมเด็จพระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว
 เสด็จลงเรือพระที่นั่งในคราวเสด็จประพาสยุโรป
 พ.ศ. 2440
 ภาพโดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิงโก วรสี พิธีมกระจก



In the temple complex of Wat Phra Kaeo. Photo E. St. Vráz, glass negative
 ภายในบริเวณวัดพระศรีรัตนศาสดาราม (วัดพระแก้ว)
 ภาพถ่าย โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิงโก วรสี



The Royal Boats on the river
 Photo R. Lenz, bought by J. Kořenský.
 เรือพระที่นั่งในแม่น้ำ
 ภาพถ่าย โดย นายอาร์. เลนซ์ นายโจเซฟ โทเรนสกี ซื้อมา



Mahakan Fortress, an old bulwark of Bangkok,
 with the Golden Mountain in the background
 Photo E. St. Vráz.
 ป้อมมหาเทพ ป้อมเก่าแก่ของกรุงเทพมหานคร วิษณุเทืองเป็นฉากหลัง
 ภาพถ่าย โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สติงโก วรดิ



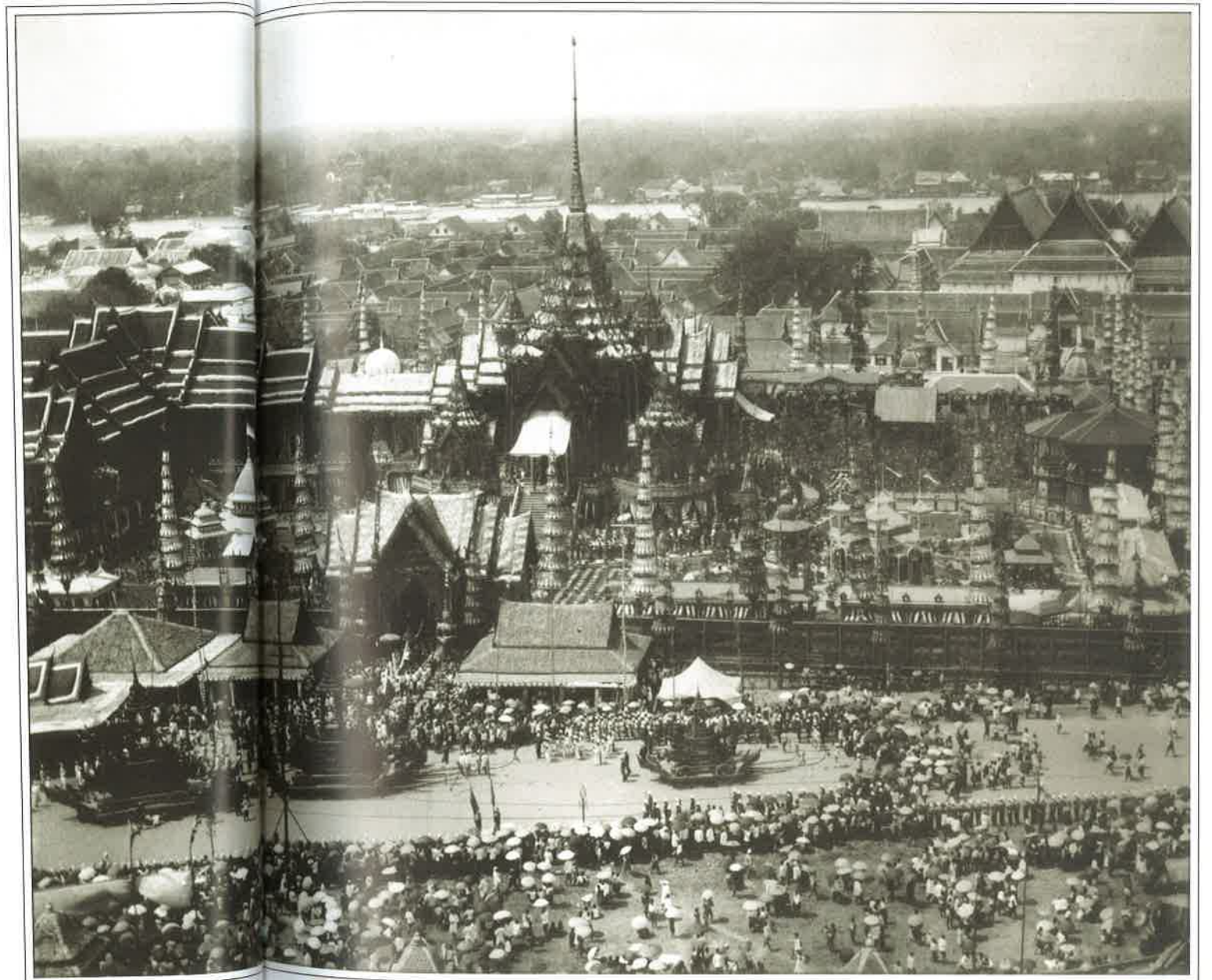
Shops in the Bangkok market
 Photo E. St. Vráz, glass negative
 ร้านค้าในตลาดกรุงเทพฯ
 ภาพนกแก้ว โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สติงโก วรดิ



The Chakri Throne Hall in the Royal Palace. Photo E. St. Vráz, glass negative
พระที่นั่งจักรีมหาปราสาท ภายในพระบรมมหาราชวัง
ภาพไลต์ โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิ่งโก้ วรัส



The Chakri Throne Hall in the Royal Palace.
Photo E.St. Vráz, glass negative
พระที่นั่งจักรีมหาปราสาท ภายในพระบรมมหาราชวัง
ภาพโดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิ่งโก้ วรัส ฟิล์มกระจก



The procession in the cremation ceremony of H.R.H. Princess Debnari Ratana and
H.R.H. Prince Siriraj Kakhudhabandha, in front of Wat Phra Kaeo
Photo bought by E.St. Vráz, photo
ขบวนพระราชพิธีถวายพระเพลิงสมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าเทพมารีรตินา
และสมเด็จพระเจ้าบรมวงศ์เธอ เจ้าฟ้าสิริราชกุลภักดิ์ ท้าวพระแก้ว
ภาพถ่าย โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิ่งโก้ วรัส

Cesta kolem světa (Journey around the World; 2 vol., 1896-1897)

K protinožcům (To the Antipodes; 2 vol., 1901-1903)

Světlem a přírodou (Through the World and Nature; selected essays, 1918)

With the pedagogical purpose of his explorations always in his mind, he continued working on his travel books and made them accessible to the young: Cruising the World (Journey around the World for adolescents) – 3 volumes: America (1898), Japan (1899), From China to the Fatherland without Shortcuts (1899); Cruising the World Again (To the Antipodes for adolescents), 12 volumes, 1906-1910.

Other books for adolescents were published under the names: Abroad, Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, Central and South America (1890-1913).

Enrique Stanko Vráz depicted his stay in Siam in the book called "In Siam, the Country of the White Elephant", first published in 1901.

Vráz came to Siam from Singapore, where he stopped in March 1897, after having left New Guinea and the Molucca Islands. He reached the estuary of the Menam on board a Norwegian ship called Tamarind at the end of March 1897, and went further on until he reached Bangkok – a "Venice of the Orient".

Vráz describes his life in Siam almost step by step – he converts each experience into a lively story, portraying the picturesque characters he meets, giving a detailed yet vivid account of the daily life of people living in boats on the river, he depicts the Thais' enthusiasm for games and contests, theatre, dance and music, and presents the atmosphere of markets abounding with fruits, vegetables, spices and other products with minute accuracy. And he pays the same close attention not only to the vibrant street life, but also to depiction of temples and shrines, their architecture, their adornment, paintings

and sculptures. Apart from Bangkok, Vráz also visited Ayuthaya, the former capital of Siam. The vast ruins of a city once so rich and famous impressed him a great deal.

Vráz devotes a whole chapter of the book to his visit to the Royal Court, in which a detailed account of the size and shape of the Royal palace, as well as of the Royal lineage and Court etiquette is given.

Another chapter follows Chulalongkorn's ways of ruling; the ups and downs of his administration. Vráz emphasises the King's qualities, but is not mute about his faults. Individual chapters treat some important events in the life of the Royal Family – the funerals of members of the Family, as well as more cheerful occasions, like the Royal children's rites of passage. There are various ceremonies in Siam that mark the passage from childhood to adulthood, usually celebrated for boys' between twelve and sixteen years of age, and around ten years for girls. The most important ceremony is the cutting of the hair (top knot tonsure ceremony).

Vráz also gives a lot of space in his narrative to another typical phenomenon related to the Royal Family – the breeding of white elephants, and the general role of an elephant in Thai culture. The elephant seems to be an indispensable ally in various branches of the economy, but at the same time is bred for its beauty and magnificence. Therefore it should be no wonder that it became the symbol of the country.

During his stay, Vráz witnessed and photographed King Rama V's departure for his European journey on the 7th of April, 1897. He describes the King in the following words: "*Chulalongkorn is of a rather small but shapely figure, compared to the average Siamese he is of medium height. His complexion is bright, his face handsome, yes, the Siamese consider him a truly attractive man. Indeed, his features are more refined than the features of others, his impressive eyes betray kindness. His tutors great merit consists in... that he is a friend to progress, a generous man and a truly enlightened Monarch within the Asian context.*" Vráz also tells of the underlying reasons and arrangements, as well as the specific moments of the departure.



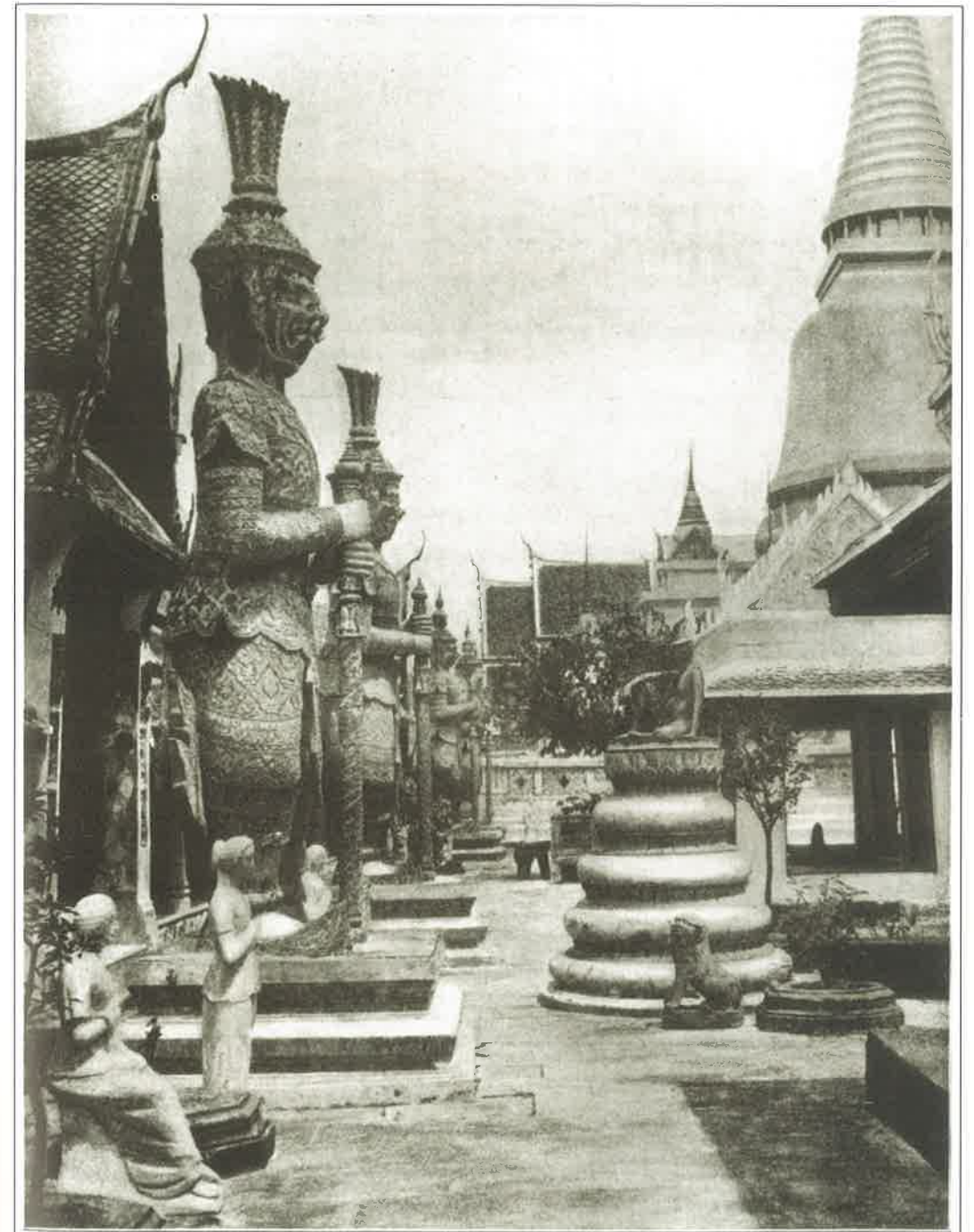
Siamese theatre. Photo E. St. Vráz. Reproduction from the book *In the Country of the White Elephant*. Prague 1941.
โรงภาพยนตร์สยาม ภาพถ่าย นายเอ็นริโก สติงโก วรดี จากหนังสือ *In the Country of the White Elephant* กรุงเทพฯ พ.ศ. 2484



Chinese Pavillion in the royal summer palace Bang Pa In. Reproduction from the book *In the Country of the White Elephant*, by E. St. Vráz, Prague 1941.
พระที่นั่งเวหาศน์จำรูญ ภายในพระราชวังบางปะอิน ภาพถ่าย นายเอ็นริโก สติงโก วรดี จากหนังสือ *In the Country of the White Elephant* กรุงเทพฯ พ.ศ. 2484



Hall of the Chinese Pavillion in the royal summer palace Bang Pa In. Reproduction from the book *In the Country of the White Elephant*, by E. St. Vráz, Prague 1941.
ห้องพระโรงพระที่นั่งเวหาศน์จำรูญ ภายในพระราชวังบางปะอิน ภาพถ่าย นายเอ็นริโก สติงโก วรดี จากหนังสือ *In the Country of the White Elephant* กรุงเทพฯ พ.ศ. 2484



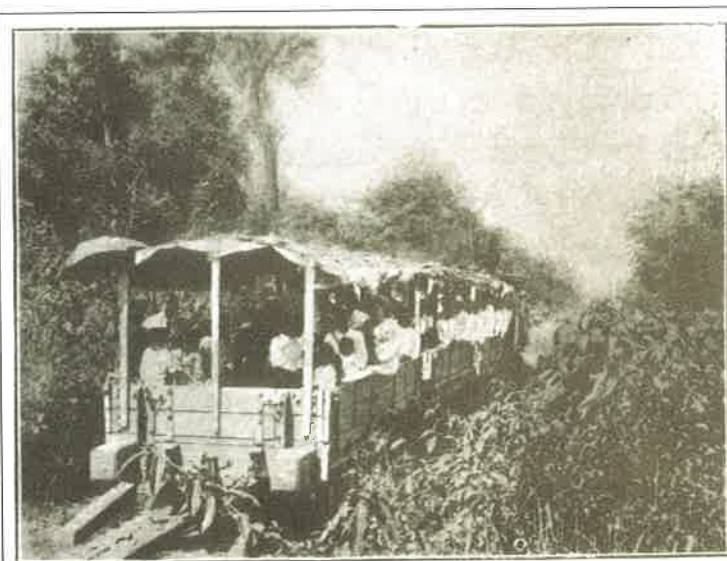
V jednom z nádvoří Vat Pra Keu

In the courtyard of Wat Phra Kaeo. Photo E. St. Vráz
บริเวณลานวัดพระศรีรัตนศาสดาราม (วัดพระแก้ว) ภาพถ่าย นายเอ็นริโก สติงโก วรดี



Na řece. Stejnou pobíží Vltava.

On the river, Photo E. St. Vráz, glass negative
แม่น้ำ กรุงเทพมหานคร โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สติงโก่ วรวิ



Civilisace v Siamu.

The first inland-bound train
from Ayutthaya,
Photo E. St. Vráz, photo
ทางรถไฟสายเมืองสายแรกจากอยุธยา
ภาพถ่าย โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สติงโก่ วรวิ

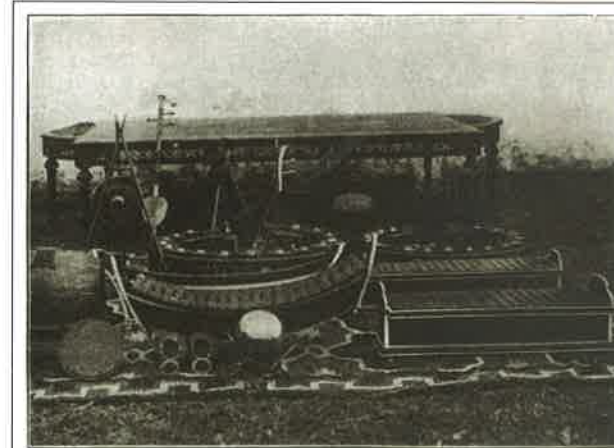


On a canal in Bangkok, painting by Zdeněk Burian, inspired by the photographs of E. St. Vráz,
copy from the magazine Širým světem (No. 4, vol. 10/1933)

ภาพคลองกรุงเทพมหานคร วาดโดย Zdenek Burian โดยได้รับแรงบันดาลใจจากภาพถ่ายของ E. St. Vráz,
ซึ่งคัดลอกมาจากนิตยสาร Širým světem ฉบับที่ 4 เล่มที่ 10 ปี 1933



Fruit vendor, glass negative bought by E. St. Vráz
แม่ค้าผลไม้ ภาพเนกาทีฟ โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สติงโก่ วรวิ



Malajsko-siamské hudební nástroje.

Siamese musical instruments, Photo E. St. Vráz,
Reproduction from the book
In the Country of the White Elephant, Prague 1941.
เครื่องดนตรีไทย ภาพโดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สติงโก่ วรวิ
จากหนังสือ In the Country of the White Elephant กรุงเทพฯ พ.ศ. 2484



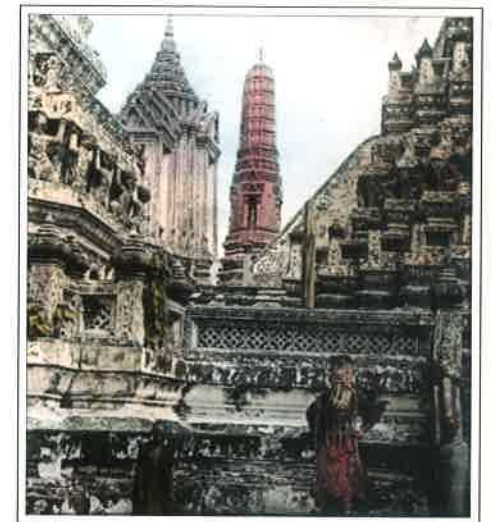
The courtyard of
Wat Phra Si Rattana Sassadaram
(the Temple of the Emerald Buddha)
Photo E.St. Vráz,
glass coloured stereoscopic slide
ลานในวัดพระศรีรัตนศาสดาราม (วัดพระแก้ว)
ภาพสเตอริโอสีฉ่ำ โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิงโก วรัซ



A pagoda decorated with majolica at
Wat Chaeng (the Temple of Dawn),
Photo E.St. Vráz,
glass coloured stereoscopic slide
เจดีย์วัดอรุณ (วัดแจ้ง)
ภาพสเตอริโอสีฉ่ำ โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิงโก วรัซ



H.M. Queen Savang Vadhana,
Photo Royal Photographer, bought
by E.St. Vráz, photo
สมเด็จพระนางเจ้าสว่างวัฒนา
ภาพถ่าย โดยช่างภาพพระราชวัง
นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิงโก วรัซ ซื้อมา



The staircase of Wat Chaeng complex,
Photo E.St. Vráz, glass coloured
stereoscopic slide
บันไดวัดแจ้ง
ภาพสเตอริโอสีฉ่ำ โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิงโก วรัซ



The portal at the entrance to
the ubosot of Wat Chaeng,
Photo E.St. Vráz,
glass coloured stereoscopic slide
ประตูทางเข้าพระอุโบสถวัดแจ้ง
ภาพสเตอริโอสีฉ่ำ โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดิงโก วรัซ



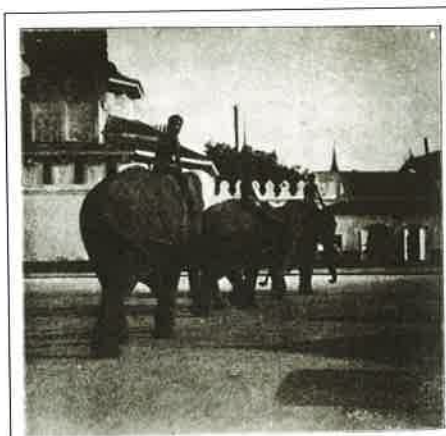
Královské museum v Bangkoku.

Royal Museum in Bangkok, Photo E. St. Vráz, Reproduction from the book
In the Country of the White Elephant, Prague 1941.

พิพิธภัณฑ์สถานแห่งชาติในกรุงเทพมหานคร ภาพโดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สติงโก่ วรสี จากหนังสือ In the Country of the White Elephant กรุงเทพฯ พ.ศ. 2484



The Menam River in Bangkok, Photo of E. St. Vráz, Reproduction
from the book In the Country of the White Elephant, Prague 1941.
แม่น้ำในกรุงเทพมหานคร ภาพโดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สติงโก่ วรสี
จากหนังสือ In the Country of the White Elephant กรุงเทพฯ พ.ศ. 2484



Poslední bílí sloni u odchodu do královského paláce.

Sacred white elephants near the Royal Palace in
Bangkok,
Photo E. St. Vráz.

ช้างเผือกบริเวณใกล้กับพระบรมมหาราชวัง กรุงเทพมหานคร
ภาพโดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สติงโก่ วรสี



Laoské služebnice v paláci krále.

The Lao servants in the Royal Palace,
Photo Royal Photographer, bought by E. St. Vráz, photo
ข้าราชการประจำในพระบรมมหาราชวัง
ภาพถ่าย โดยช่างภาพพระราชวัง นายเอ็นริเก้ สติงโก่ วรสี ชื้อมา



Siamské tanečnice v paláci krále.

Siamese dancers,
Photo E. St. Vráz, photo
รำไทย
ภาพถ่าย โดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สติงโก่ วรสี

Two days before the departure, Vráz was allowed to inspect the royal boat, Mahachakri: "I was lucky to get on the boat and indulge in true Asian luxury, royal chambers, a heavenly bedroom, a decorated salon and a bathroom. One could not see the wooden walls for all the brocade, gold, silk, marble, ivory and mother-of-pearl. Even the washbowl and the cuspidor (Chulalongkorn also chewed betel, though only a little) were of beautifully ornamented gold. I sneaked out of the rooms like a poor dog who was banished from a butcher's shop. How many beautiful artefacts for the museum!"

He witnessed the departure in the company of two Belgian aristocrats. "Both gentlemen returned at noon, delighted with honour of introducing themselves to the King after he had dismissed the other dignitaries. In order to avoid being roasted in the hot boat, which was tied to the solid and scalding hot walls of the riverbank, I made the unfortunate suggestion to quickly fetch my Siamese-Chinese interpreter. Upon our return fifteen minutes later, only three minutes afar the palace, we heard the first, second, third, etc salvo. Twenty-one altogether with the boat Makut Radchadamri and the royal flag hoisted on the boat Mahachakri. Goodness, gracious, the King was on his way to the boat and we were late! Both Belgians fretted and fumed and I holed up in the corner aware of my guilt. However, not only we, but the whole diplomatic corps was two minutes late and missed the King, and the minister for court ceremonies did not regard it appropriate to invite the gentlemen aboard. Only one envoy of a power, which the King was planning to visit, was at his place in time to await the Siamese Majesty - the French representative Mr. Hardouin. And shaking his hand the King imparted upon him several gracious words! Austria arrived out of breath, but still in time in the person of consul Wiede and his lovely spouse, born in Siam, yet of European descent. England, Italy, and Germany were late. In spirit Belgium probably sent me to hell, and I was ruefully ashamed."



V nádvoří král. paláce před obřadem postřížin.

The second traveller, Josef Kořenský, depicted his stay in Siam in his book "To the Antipodes", and in the rearranged and extended issue of the series "Cruising the World Again", in volume 10, "In Siam and China".¹⁷

Kořenský, as well as Vráz, came to Bangkok from Singapore, which he left on May 24th, 1901, on board a steamer called "Deli". However, he did not stay for a long time in Siam. It was no later than June 1st 1901 when he set off for Honking. In Bangkok, Kořenský visited the

In the courtyard of Royal Palace before the tonsure ceremony,
Photo bought by E. St. Vráz,
Reproduction from the book
In the Country of the White Elephant,
Prague 1941.

บริเวณพระตำหนักในพระบรมมหาราชวังก่อนงานพระราชนิธิ
โสกันต์ ภาพโดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดงโก วรสี
จากหนังสือ In the Country of the White Elephant
กรุงเทพฯ พ.ศ. 2484

¹⁷ Kořenský, Josef : *Nové cesty po světě*, v.10 : *V Siamu a Číně* [Praha, Otto 1907-1909].



Mr. Vojta Náprstek, founder of
the Náprstek Museum in Prague
Mr. Vojta Náprstek ผู้ก่อตั้งพิพิธภัณฑ์ Náprstek
ในกรุงปราก



Náprstek Museum in Prague,
Betlémské square
พิพิธภัณฑ์ Náprstek ที่ Betlémské square
ในกรุงปราก

Austro-Hungarian consul Erwin Müller, who worked on the main engineering project for the irrigation system, and his Czech wife, Albertina Netvalová. Kořenský joined him on one of his supervision tours around canals. On the way, Kořenský observed local nature closely, and collected various natural items, including insects, fish, and reptiles. Being a pedagogue with all his heart and soul, Kořenský devoted much space in his books to minute descriptions of flora, fauna and geographical characteristics. Besides, he paid a good deal of attention to architecture, mainly to old Buddhist monasteries, temples and to the Royal palace. As for culture, he noted similar things as did Vráz: rites of passage, funerals, and the cult of the elephant.

King Chulalongkorn was in Java during Kořenský's stay in Bangkok, so the two could never meet. Kořenský remarked: "I was all the more sorry for it, as I had prepared everything carefully, so that I would be ready to be received at His Majesty's the King of Siam audience, and to look at the face of the Asian monarch whose generosity and wisdom gained him so much reputation."

However, Kořenský pays equal attention to the life of ordinary people, describes their dressing, eating, as well as their entertainment habits, labour, and religion.

In the present day, the heritage of both travellers is to be found in Náprstek Museum in Prague. A collection of photographs, transparencies and negatives forms a valuable part of it.

Josef Kořenský did not take photos himself, but bought ready-made photographs on his way. At those times, there was already a photo centre in every tourist zone, where pictures showing local attractions, architecture, street life, landscapes, still lives, natural items, animals, as well as anthropological or archaeological artefacts, could be bought by travellers. Many of those were brought home by Kořenský. Pictures of Siam were obtained at Mr. Lenz's studio in Bangkok. R. Lenz was a German photographer who had lived in Siam for several years, having come there from Singapore. Kořenský notes about him: "Most of his income originates at the Royal Court. King Chulalongkorn likes to be photographed often, mostly



Náprstek Museum in Prague
พิพิธภัณฑ์ Náprstek ในกรุงปราก

alone, sometimes with his children, never with his wife. Also other members of the Royal Family like to be photographed frequently. A special studio has been built for the purposes on the Courtyard." In addition: "My friend Vráz bought pictures at Lenz, too, and he met there Mr. Herbst, his assistant, a native from Brno."

E. S. Vráz had gained the reputation of a traveller-photographer, yet he may also have bought pictures as Kořenský mentioned. Materials stored in Náprstek Museum prove it. There are photos of all kinds: Vráz's originals, copies made by Vráz from other materials, as well as photos bought from other authors. It is not difficult to identify negatives taken by Vráz himself, by the size of glass plates, and also often by notes made in Vráz's handwriting.

In "The Country of the White Elephant", Vráz also mentions the Royal Court photographer Lenz and his assistant Herbst: "I was deeply involved in taking photographs in Siam myself, through which I also met the Royal Court photographer and his younger assistant in Bangkok. They were

both busy at the Court at least once a week, but often every other day, and were able to provide me with backstage pieces of information particularly invaluable for a traveller and a collector of anthropological curiosities. To my not little surprise, the assistant of the Court photographer, an intelligent young man, appeared to be a native from Brno, brought to Bangkok by his adventurous mind. He was called Herbst and used to be employed once by the Langhans Enterprise in Prague. And however Moravian German he was by origin, he often remembered his happy existence in Prague ... His boss, a German called Lenz, once a photographer in Singapore, has made a nice fortune in Bangkok. The King orders in great quantities and pays well and in time... The King wishes his and his children's complexion to appear as pale as possible in the photographs, and their hair black and straight. Usually, he wears neither rings nor other jewellery except for orders to be photographed, with only one exception, and that is the occasion when he gets photographed in the National Royal attire."

Nowadays, Vráz's original negatives on glass plates taken during his voyages are of an immense historical and documentary value. They are an indispensable source of information for researchers, as well as rare resources of popular education.

In 2004, the Embassy of the Czech Republic, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Embassy of the United States of America in the Kingdom of Thailand organised the mobile exposition "Siam Through the Eyes of Travellers E. St. Vráz and J. Kořenský" which was successfully presented in many Thai cities, and widely discussed in the media.



Dievka z Laosu.
Girl from hill-tribe of Northern Thailand or Laos,
Photo bought by E. St. Vráz
เด็กหญิงชาวเขาซึ่งเป็นชนเผ่าทางภาคเหนือของไทยหรือลาว
ภาพโดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดั่งโก้ว วรวัส



Siamský umělec vytvářející sochu Buddhou.
Siamese artist, Photo E. St. Vráz
ศิลปินชาวสยาม
ภาพโดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดั่งโก้ว วรวัส



*Entrance into elephant enclosure,
Photo E. St. Vráz, Reproduction
from the book
In the Country of the White Elephant,
Prague 1941.*
ทางเข้าทุ่งเหน็บคดคล้องช้าง ภาพโดย นายเอ็นริเก้ สดั่งโก้ว วรวัส
จากหนังสือ In the Country of the White Elephant
กรุงเทพฯ พ.ศ. 2484

Ohrada (záseky) na polodivoké slony.



H.M. King Prajadhipok with the Defence Minister Bohumil Bradáč, Prague, 1934
พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว และ Bohumil Bradáč รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงกลาโหม กรุงปราก พ.ศ. 2477

II. Between Two World Wars: Siam and Czechoslovakia 1918 – 1938

The King of Siam in Czechoslovakia



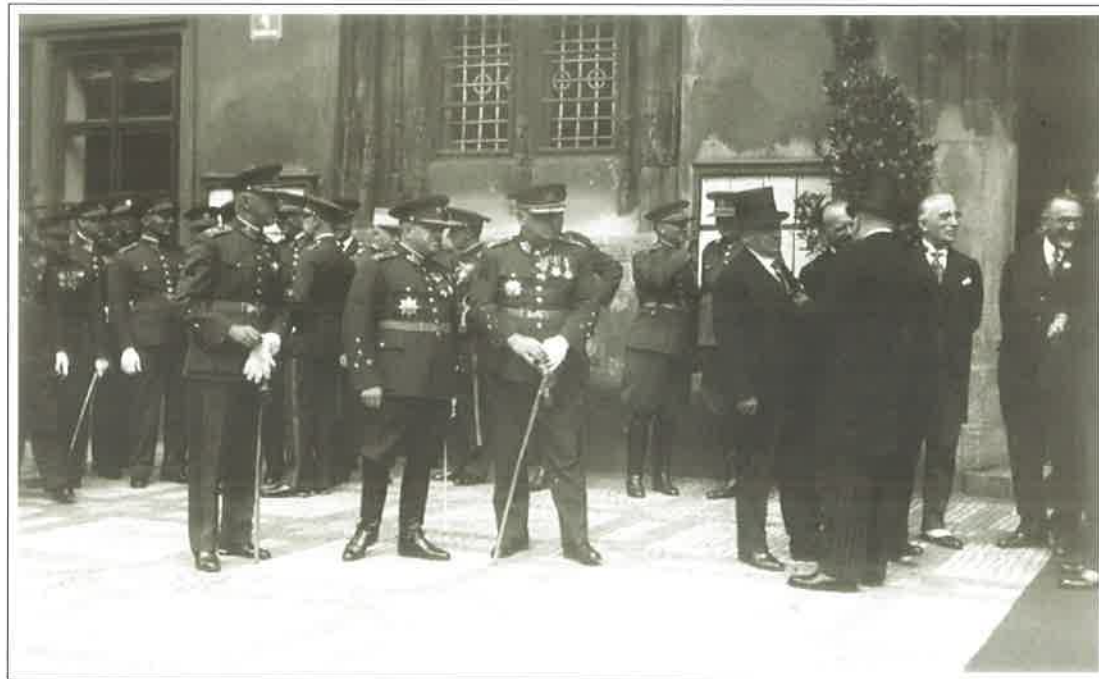
On March 2nd 1934, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague received a letter from the Czechoslovak Ambassador in London, Jan Masaryk, marked "secret". The text ran as follows:

I dare report:

Today, I visited the Ambassador of Siam who related to me what follows: the King and Queen of Siam will arrive in Czechoslovakia around the 4th of August and will stay until the 19th of August, i.e. two weeks. A short visit to Prague is on the schedule, then several days in Tatras (...) As the Ambassador intimated, the King would not appreciate unnecessary ceremonies, and would prefer as simple an arrangement of the stay as possible. Furthermore, the Ambassador mentioned an eventual exchange of decorations, and if this should be the case (as in other countries) asked

H.M. King Prajadhipok with the Defence Minister Bohumil Bradáč in front of the Prague City Hall - the welcoming ceremony.

รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงกลาโหมปราก รับเสด็จพระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัวบริเวณด้านหน้าศาลาว่าการกรุงปราก



Czechoslovak officials waiting for H. M. King Prajadhipok's arrival.
คณะข้าราชการเชโกสโลวาเกียฝ่ายรับเสด็จพระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว

for a list – as soon as possible – of those who may come into consideration. Now, this is primarily the matter of an official invitation from the government, or the President, which should be delivered to me soon, so that I may forward it in due course.

With regard to the fact that the President may, at the time indicated, if God blesses him with good health, be in Topolčianky, it needs to be considered who shall take charge of the King during his stay in Prague. It may prove feasible to accomodate the King in a hotel in Prague, and then invite him to a semi-official Visit of the President in Topolčianky.

From what had been said with the proverbial Siamese discretion by the Ambassador, I have gathered that the King would like to stay in an official Visit for 2 or 3 days, and then prefers to travel in privacy with an official assigned by our part (...)

The Ambassador: Jan Masaryk¹⁸

¹⁸ The Siamese King's visit to Czechoslovakia. JM/MK. The Embassy in London to the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague, secret, in London 27th February 1934, document No. 28284, file No. 17921/34/P of 14th February 1934, a copy from the archives MFA).



H.M. King Prajadhipok with the Defence Minister Bohumil Bradáč in front of the Prague City Hall - the welcoming ceremony.
Bohumil Bradáč รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงกลาโหมฝ่ายรับเสด็จพระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว ณ บริเวณด้านหน้าศาลาว่าการกรุงปราก

Further diplomatic negotiations and extensive arrangements followed, necessary for rendering such state visit possible. Jan Masaryk, the son of the Czechoslovak President, played the key role in the process.

For Czech diplomacy, it was an important event. World War I finished in 1918 and on October 28th of the same year the independent Republic of Czechoslovakia was declared as a successor state of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. This young state very soon established relations with the Kingdom of Siam, however the exchange of diplomatic representatives did not happen. Czech people were informed very briefly about Siam through occasional news in daily press or articles written by travellers such as Bohumil Pospíšil or Jan Havlasa. Therefore the visit of King Prajadhipok could bring a new impulse to Czech-Siamese relations.

The visit to Czechoslovakia was a part of King Prajadhipok's European journey, which also included visits to Austria, Denmark, and Hungary. Time schedule and diplomatic protocol had to be adjusted to this fact,



Czechoslovak officials waiting for H. M., King Prajadhipok's arrival
คณะข้าราชการเชโกสโลวาเกียรอรับเสด็จพระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว



Arrival of the Royal Couple to Prague,
photograph from the Czechoslovak press
พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัวและสมเด็จพระนางเจ้า
รำไพพรรณี พระบรมราชินี เสด็จฯ เมืองกรุงปราก
ภาพจากหนังสือพิมพ์เชโกสโลวาเกีย

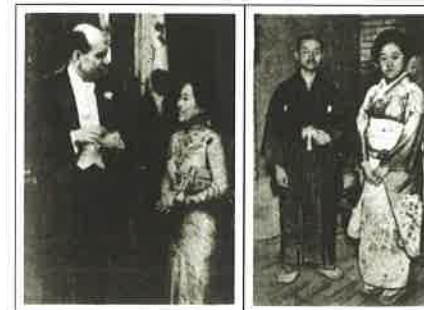
and the King's preferences met at the same time. From the diplomatic point of view, it was a delicate issue. On the one hand, it was highly desirable to emphasise the importance of the visit, and on the other hand, it was necessary to respect His Majesty's wish to keep it as simple as possible. Finally, on July 13th 1934, the Cabinet Council decided to treat the Royal Family as official guests of the government from their crossing the Czechoslovak border until their departure. Train stations along the King's itinerary, as well as all governmental and state administration buildings would be decorated with the state standards during the official part of the King's visit. As for the expenses related to the Siamese visit, the Ministry of Finance would provide the Ministry of Agriculture with an extra budget of 100.000 Czech Crowns, state owned railways, spas and hotels would supply their services free of charge.¹⁹

¹⁹ The visit of the Siamese Royal Couple and their entourage. To No. 89.572/P of 12. VII. 1934. The Government to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Prague on 16th July 1934, document No. 4053/853/34/S. m.r.



H. M. King Prajadhipok accompanied
by Defence Minister Bohumil Bradáč
inspects the Fifth Regiment
of T. G. M. on the Prague Old Town
Square.

Bohumil Bradáč รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงกลาโหม
อัญเชิญเสด็จพระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว
ทรงตรวจแถวกองทหารเกียรติยศ T.G.M. ที่ 5
ณ จตุรัสกรุงปรากโบราณ



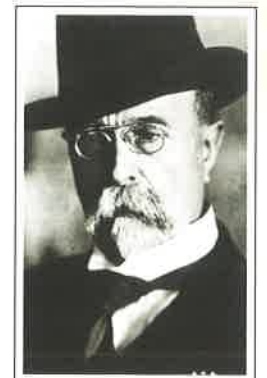
(left) - Jan Masaryk talking to H.M. Queen Rambhai (London)

(ซ้าย) สมเด็จพระนางเจ้ารำไพพรรณี พระบรมราชินีมีพระราชปฏิสันถารกับ Jan Masaryk (กรุงลอนดอน)

(right) - The Royal Couple in Japanese kimonos presented erroneously as "traditional Siamese garments" in the Czechoslovak press.

(ขวา) พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัวและสมเด็จพระนางเจ้ารำไพพรรณี พระบรมราชินีทรงฉลองพระองค์ชุดกิโมโนประจำชาติญี่ปุ่น ซึ่งหนังสือพิมพ์เชโกสโลวาเกียตีพิมพ์ผิดพลาดว่าเป็นชุดประจำชาติไทย

On Sunday, July 29th 1934, at 16.59 pm., an express train with the distinguished visitors arrived at Wilson Station in Prague, straight on time. His Majesty Prajadhipok, the King of Siam, and Queen Rambhai Barni left the train, and the orchestra of the 5th infantry regiment named by T. G. Masaryk played the Siamese and the Czechoslovak anthems. The commander of an honorary troop bade "Present arms!", followed by the chief of the diplomatic protocol Mr. Strimpl, who introduced the present representatives of the Czechoslovak government, ministries, state administration and the army to the Royal Couple.



T.G. Masaryk, President of Czechoslovakia
ท่านประธานาธิบดีสาธารณรัฐเชโกสโลวาเกีย

Poslední významné události československé



The visit of the Royal Couple as presented in the Czechoslovak press
สื่อมวลชนเชโกสโลวาเกียตีพิมพ์ข่าวการเสด็จพระราชดำเนินเยือนของกษัตริย์และราชินี

The importance of the visit for the Czechoslovak government was clearly demonstrated by the composition of the welcoming committee. Unfortunately, the Czechoslovak President T. G. Masaryk was too ill at that time, to be able to take a personal part in it. Nevertheless, present at the welcoming were the Prime Minister Jan Malypetr, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Edvard Beneš, the Ambassador in London Jan Masaryk, the President's Chancellor Dr. Přemysl Šámal, the Inspector General of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces General Jan Syrový, the Mayor of Prague Dr. Karel Baxa and many other prominent state representatives.

It was no later than at the border crossing at Cheb, when the presidential restaurant carriage had been attached to the express train, that an envoy delegated as the personal guide of the Siamese King during his stay in Czechoslovakia, Minister K. Halla, came in the carriage from Prague to meet the Royal Family. Legation counsellor Dr. J. Gerke was delegated to guide the Prince Devawongs. The Queen was accompanied by Mrs. Gerke. Also, the Siamese Ambassador to London Sampati joined the King's suit in Cheb, interrupting his stay in Mariánské Lázně.

Apart from Prince Devawongs, the official entourage of the King consisted of the chief of the Siamese Army General Staff and the King's secretary Lieutenant General Phya Vajitvongse, the personal physician of the Royal Family vice admiral M. C. Thavera Jaiyanti, adjutant major Prasobsri Chirapavati, the Queen's maid of honour M.L. Klong Jaiyanti, the personal assistant of the King's secretary M. R. Smaksman Kridakara, the King's valets Luang Siri Sombat and Luang Damrong Duritrekh. The unofficial part of the suite consisted of Royal Prince Chirasakti, M. C. Ajjha, Mr. S. Iotikasthira, the Queen's maids C. Ngoen and Grimaldi de Présalé, and Prince Devawongs' valet Mr. Lowe.

The Siamese Royal Couple was given a very warm welcome. Queen Rambhai received a bunch of roses and King Prajadhipok later inspected the honorary troop of the 5th Infantry Regiment.



H. M. King Prajadhipok and
H. M. Queen Rambhai admire
the products of Moser crystal glass works
in Dvory
พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัวและสมเด็จพระนางเจ้า
รำไพพรรณี พระบรมราชินี เสด็จฯ เยี่ยมชมโรงงานทำ
เครื่องแก้วของนายคูดริค โมเซอร์ ใน Dvory



H. M. King Prajadhipok and
H. M. Queen Rambhai with
Foreign Minister Edvard Beneš (right)
and Inspector General of the
Czechoslovak Armed Forces General Jan
Syrový (middle behind the Royal Couple)
พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว และสมเด็จพระนางเจ้า
รำไพพรรณี พระบรมราชินี ทรงฉายกับ Edvard Beneš
รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงการต่างประเทศ (ขวา) และ
Jan Syrový ผู้บัญชาการกองทัพอากาศเชโกสโลวาเกีย
(คนกลางด้านหลัง)

When leaving Wilson Station, the King and the Queen were cheered by crowds of citizens gathered all along the way from Wilson Station, through Hoover's Avenue, Wenceslas Square down to the lower part of Štěpánská Street, where the royal family had been accommodated in the Hotel Alcron. Many houses and buildings in Prague were decorated to welcome the Siamese visit. Both the Siamese and the Czechoslovak standards waved over the hotel. The former was hoisted at the residence of the Czechoslovak President – and at Prague Castle, too. At Hoover's avenue, a troop of the National Guard stood in honour.

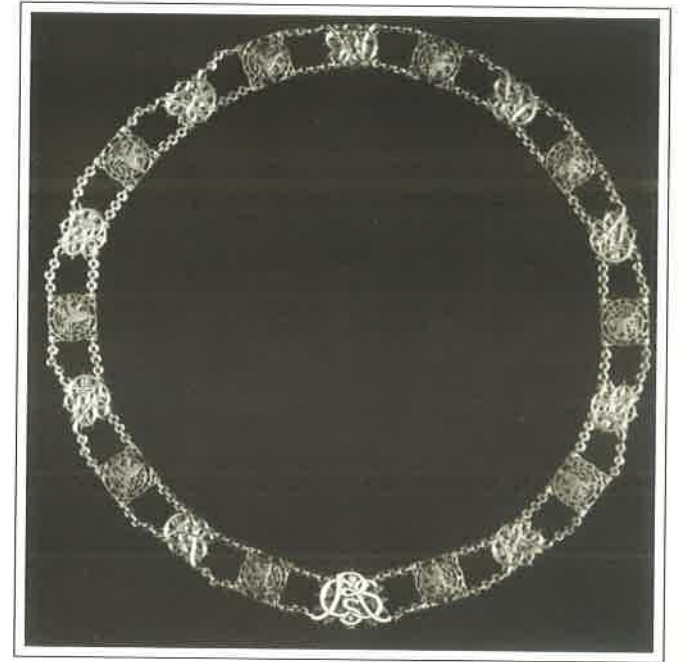
Prague citizens were curious about the monarch from an exotic country. Long before the arrival, newspapers printed bits and pieces of information about Siam, its population and the royal family. King Prajadhipok had been described, amongst other, as a very progressive monarch and a reformer. Photographs of the Couple covered the front pages of many dailies. Apart from the official portraits, there was one photograph in particular that appeared fairly often. The Royal Couple posed in traditional Japanese outfits – kimonos, to honour the host during one of their previous visits to Japan. Unfortunately, the Czechoslovak journalists knew very little about the real life in Siam, and having got hold of the picture, found much interest in it, and presented it as, "the Royal Couple in traditional Siamese garments". Therefore, many of the onlookers were not a little surprised, when they saw the King in a dark suit, and the Queen in a tasteful gray dress with a fur boa, instead of fancy colorful Asian costumes, and a top hat and a small gray hat with a ribbon respectively, instead of royal crowns on their heads.

The entrance hall of the Hotel Alcron was decorated with flowers and the Siamese state and royal standards. The King found accommodation in the so called "Prince's Suite", which consisted of an audience chamber, a dining-room, a smoking lounge connected to a music-room, a ladies salon, a bedroom and a boudoir and two bathrooms.

At the last moment, it was decided to render its interior simple, according to the King's wishes and taste. All of the luggages of the Royal family and their entourage had been delivered to the hotel in advance and distributed into the rooms. There was a big box among them, holding all kinds of Siamese spices, so that the King and the Queen would not suffer much by too radical a change of eating habits. There was also another box with a set of the King's hunting rifles. The King was a brilliant shot and had originally planned a chamois hunt in Tatra Mountains.²⁰

When accommodated, the King was decorated with the highest Czechoslovak honour – the Order of the White Lion²¹, by Chancellor Dr. Šámal and by the Chief of Diplomatic Protocol on behalf of the President of Czechoslovakia. Envoy Halla decorated other members of the King's entourage with medals of a lower rank.

In return, the Siamese King awarded the Czechoslovak President T. G. Masaryk with the Order of the White Elephant of the highest rank, and sent him signed photographs in silver frames of Himself and the Queen.²²



Golden Chain of the Order of
the White Lion
สร้อยทองคำเครื่องอิสริยาภรณ์สิงห์เผือก

²⁰ Národní politika, 29th July 1934, p. 3.

²¹ The Siamese King Prajadhipok, conferring the Order of the White Lion with chain, the Office of the President to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (protocol) in Prague, 30th July 1934, document No. B 368/34, a copy from the archives of MFA CR.

²² Recorded on 3rd August 1934 – delivery of photographs of the Siamese King and Queen to the President, Office of the President, archives, No. D 6545/34.



The Order of the White Lion
เครื่องอิสริยาภรณ์สิงห์เผือก

The Order of the White Lion with a chain was the highest Czechoslovak civil merit order. The President of Czechoslovakia awarded His Majesty the King of Siam Prajadhipok with it by an edict on July 27th 1934. Also awarded with the Order of the White Lion were:

1st class: His Highness Prince Devawongs, General Phya Vajitvongse

2nd class: M. C. Thavara Jaiyant

3rd class: Major Prasobsri Chirapravati, M. R. Smaksman Kridakara

4th class: Luar Siri Sombat, Luang Damrong Duritrekh²³

At 8 pm., a banquet was held at the Prague Castle to honour the royal visit. A coach bearing the King and the Queen arrived at the lower end of the stairs at the Matyáš Gate. From there, the chief of protocol escorted them to the Throne Hall, where they were awaited by Prime Minister Malypetr and Foreign Minister Dr. Beneš, and his wife. Next, the Royal Couple was conducted further into the Mirror Hall to meet all the invited guests, lined in a semicircle in a carefully designed order. The procession entered the gloriously illuminated hall, led by the Chief of Protocol, followed by the King with the Prime Minister at the right hand side and the Foreign Minister at his left hand side, behind them the Queen and the wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and then the members of the entourage.

The King and the Queen, accompanied by the Prime Minister, met all of the guests present. The Prime Minister and his wife introduced each one individually. When the ceremony was at an end, the gentlemen accompanied their partners to dinner, with the King at their head, followed by the Prime Minister. The King lent his arm to the wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister lent his arm to the Queen, and other gentlemen lent their arms each to an assigned partner. Every gentleman received a note stating the name of his partner at the table, and there was also a sitting order with the place appointed to them marked on it.

During the dessert, Prime-Minister Malypetr paid a tribute to the Royal Couple with a toast in French: "J'ai l'honneur de lever mon verre à la santé de Leurs Majestés le Roi et la Reine de Siam et à la prospérité de

²³ Official entourage of the Siamese King – delivery of the White Lion diplomas. The Czechoslovak Embassy in London, August 23rd 1934, document No. 104581/34/P.



H. M. King Prajadhipok accompanied by Defence minister Bohumil Bradáč inspects the Fifth Regiment of T. G. M. on the Prague Old Town Square.

Bohumil Bradáč รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงกลาโหมนำเสด็จพระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัวทรงตรวจแถวกองทหารเกียรติยศ T.G.M. ที่ 5 ณ จตุรัสกรุงปรากโบราณ



H.M. King Prajadhipok talking with Czechoslovak representatives

พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัวมีพระราชปฏิสันถารกับผู้แทนประเทศเชโกสโลวาเกีย

Leur Royaume." The Siamese Anthem followed. All of the guests stood up and remained stading the Royal Couple sat down again. Then the King paid a tribute to the President and to Czechoslovakia and the Czechoslovak Anthem was played.

After dinner the gentlemen lent their arms to the ladies and the procession left the dining room in the same order as they entered.

Coffee was served in the Mirror Hall.

At 9.45 pm., envoy Halla asked the King and the Queen to follow him into the delightful Garden of Paradise, where there was organised a garden party, in which, in addition to those present at the dinner, members of the Prague diplomatic corps, leading personalities of financial and business circles and journalists also took part.

When the King and the Queen entered the garden, a military orchestra played a fanfare, after which the Royal Couple proceeded to the space assigned to them, and envoy Halla and Dr. Gerke started introducing some of the distinguished personalities. All of Prague was lit up for the special occassion, and the Royal Couple were delighted by the sight of one of Europe's most beautiful cities. At 10.15 pm., the King and the Queen were served a small snack. They stayed in the garden until 11.00 pm. which was thirty minutes longer than scheduled. On departing, the castle guard saluted them with presenting arms.

On the following day, the King laid a wreath on the grave of the Unknown Soldier, and paid a visit to Prague City Hall. In front of the City Hall, he was awaited by Defence Minister Bohumil Bradáč, the mayor Dr. Baxa, and other representatives of the army and municipal council. Minister Bradáč and mayor Baxa welcomed the King. A military orchestra played the Czechoslovak and the Siamese national anthems. The King received a report from the commander of the honorary troop at the standard of the Fiftth Regiment of T. G. M., and inspected the regiment. He greeted the troop with the Czech military salute: "Compagnie d'Honneur NAZDAR!" and the troop responded "ZDAR!" Then the King and his entourage



Back Row from left

H.H. Prince Chula-Chakrabongse
H.H. Prince Arthit-Dhipaya-Arbha
Mom Chao Subha Svasti
H.M. King Prajadhipok
H.H. Prince Oscar-Nudhis
Kromamuen Anuwatra-Chaturont

Front Row from left

H.H. Prince Chumbhot-Pong Paribatra
(later Kromamuen Nagara Svarga
Sakdipinit)
H.M. Queen Rambhai Barni

แถวหลังจากซ้าย

พระเจ้าวรวงศ์เธอ พระองค์เจ้าจุลจักรพงษ์
พระเจ้าวรวงศ์เธอ พระองค์เจ้าอาทิตย์ทิพอาภา
หม่อมเจ้าศุภสวัสดิวงศ์สนิท สวัสดิวัตน์
พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว
พระเจ้าวรวงศ์เธอ พระองค์เจ้าอิสสารีนุทิศ
กรมหมื่นอนุวัตรจาตุรนต์

แถวหน้าจากซ้าย

พระเจ้าวรวงศ์เธอ พระองค์เจ้าจุลมยุตพงศ์บริพัตร
(ต่อมาสถาปนาเป็นกรมหมื่นนครสวรรค์ศักดิพินิต)
สมเด็จพระนางเจ้ารำไพพรรณี พระบรมราชินี

proceeded to the municipal chapel, where he bowed at the memorial of an Unknown Soldier, and stood still for around two minutes. The wreath, decorated with ribbons in colours of the Siamese Kingdom, was brought to the grave by two lieutenants in full dress and white gloves. After that, the King was shown around the ancient rooms of the City Hall and signed the Visitors's Book.

From the City Hall, the King returned to the Hotel Alcron to take a brief rest. At 12.45 he left the hotel for Prague Castle, where he took part in "un déjeuner intime" organised in his honour by Ambassador Jan Masaryk.

After the lunch, the King and the Queen went back to their hotel again, and from there they left for the internationally-renowned spa Karlovy Vary. They arrived at 7.30 pm. and took their accommodation in the Hotel Pošta. At half past eight, the King gave a dinner for his private guests.

PESTRÝ TYDEN

1981. Bakkenknipt, strykt på tvärbakad. Hinder var större än karaktärsdraget, proporsjoner, mått, i det lilla, i det stora, i det psykologiska, i det fysiska, i det sportiva.

[illegible]

H. M. King Prajadhipok accompanied by the Mayor of Prague Dr. Karel Baxa leaves the Prague City Hall. Reproduction of photo from the weekly magazine Pestrý Týden.

พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัวเสด็จออกจากราชสำนักการกุศล พร้อมกับ Dr. Karel Baxa นายแพทย์คนรัก
ภาพจากนิตยสารรายสัปดาห์ Pestrý Týden.



The entrance hall of the Hotel Alcron in Prague. The Royal Couple was given a very warm welcome here in the evening of July 29th 1934

ห้องโถงทางเข้าโรงแรมอีกร้อนในกรุงวาก ซึ่งมิคนะบุคนเฝ้าฯ รอรับเสด็จ
พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัวและสมเด็จพระนางเจ้ารำไพพรรณี
ในช่วงเย็นของวันที่ 29 กรกฎาคม พ.ศ. 2477



The "Prince's Suite" in the Hotel Alcron,
where the Royal Couple stayed during
their visit to Prague

ห้องประทับภายในโรงแรมอัลครอน
ระหว่างที่เสด็จ เียนกรุงปราก

2.8



Thyris. V.

9.8 percent

צמח/כח מכור

சென்னை நகராட்சி

Signatures of the Royal Couple
in the guest-book of the Hotel Alcron
ลายพระหัตถ์พระปรมาภิไธยและพระนามาภิไธย
ในสมุดลงนามแขกผู้เข้าพักในโรงแรมอัลครอน



KARLOVY VARY Vřídelská kolonáda

Spa colonnade of Karlovy Vary
เสาระเบียงสปาของเมือง Karlovy Vary



Masterpiece of Czech glass industry
presented to the Royal Couple
โรงงานผลิตแก้วหุดเกิ้ล ถวายเครื่องแก้วชิ้นเยี่ยม
ของเชคโกสโลวาเกีย

Some forty five minutes before the King, lieutenant general Phya Vajitvongse and adjutant major Prasobsri Chirapravati left the Alcron Hotel accompanied by envoy Halla.

Their task was to stop by at the residence of the President in the castle of Láň, and sign the Visitors Book on behalf of the King and the Queen.

On the occasion of their visit, the castle guard paraded at the gate and paid a military tribute to the Lieutenant General Phya Vajitvongse. After that, Supreme Ministerial Commissioner Dr. Černý led the Siamese envoys to the audience hall where he expressed the President's regrets and apologies not to be able to meet the King and the Queen personally, but he assured them at the same time, that the President followed their visit in Czechoslovakia very closely, and appreciated the honour of being awarded the Order of the White Elephant by the King. Both Siamese officers signed the book of

visits and advanced to Karlovy Vary accompanied by Ambassador Jan Masaryk.²⁴

On the following afternoon, the King and the Queen took a walk for about an hour along the promenade at the spa, and were filmed on the occasion. Later, the film became part of an official document on the past and present of Karlovy Vary.

After 11 am., the King and the Queen set out an excursion to the crystal glass works of Moser in Dvory. To begin with, they saw the plant where glass products were fashioned, and then went on to the huge sample hall of the factory. For this occasion, Ambassador Jan Masaryk, on the behalf of the President, presented Queen Rambhai with a dining set and asked her to choose one herself, according to her own taste. At the Queen's request, the factory manufactured two sets for 24 persons, one made of glass, the other made of porcelain, and delivered both to Paris, from where they were later shipped to Bangkok. During the Royal Visit to Karlovy Vary, two masterpieces of Czech porcelain and glass industry were installed in Their Majesties' apartments in the Hotel Alcron in Prague with a letter of donation by the glass works. A case with two glass pieces was similarly installed in the apartment of Ambassador Sampati.

Having finished the excursion of glass works, the King and the Queen made a short trip by car in the country. Then they had lunch with Jan Masaryk at the hotel Pupp. In the afternoon, they spent their time walking around the city and resting. At half past six they set out for Prague by car.

On the morning of Wednesday August 1st, the King, accompanied by envoy Halla and Dr. Gerke, paid a visit to two important industrial enterprises – Ringhoffer Enterprises and Českomoravská Kolben-Daněk (both presently owned by Siemens). At the former, the Ringhoffer brothers showed the King the workshops where



Jan Malypetr, Prime Minister of
Czechoslovakia during 1932 - 35
นายกรัฐมนตรี Jan Malypetr แห่งเชคโกสโลวาเกีย
ระหว่าง พ.ศ. 2475 - 2478



The Royal Couple in the Ringhoffer
Enterprises Tatra Co.

พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว และสมเด็จพระนางเจ้า
รำไพพรรณี พระบรมราชินี เสด็จฯ ไปยังโรงงานริงโอฟ์
ซึ่งเป็นบริษัทสร้างรถยนต์ยี่ห้อตาตรา

²⁴ The Siamese King Prajadhipok: record in the book of visits in Láň. The Office of the President, archives, 31st July 1934, doc. No. D 6545/34.

train carriages and cars were assembled, and the company cinema. At the latter, the King was mostly interested in the electronic workshops, and military reflectors. In the afternoon, he proved to be a real fan of film, visiting the A-B Film Studio at Barrandov, Prague. He spent the evening in the historical town of Mělník, near Prague, where he also had dinner in the château restaurant. Late at night, he returned to the Hotel Alcron.

On Thursday August 2nd, the King and the Queen left for Plzeň to see Škoda Enterprises. Up to that date, the Royal Visit was the most important contact between Škoda and the Thai State, which would soon become a valuable business partner of Škoda in South-East Asia. The prominent guests received a grand welcome in an adorned area close to the iron mills. No documentary photographs of the event have survived to the present day, yet the place where the management met the Royal Couple has itself been unofficially called "Siamese Square" ever since.

The next day, the Royal Visit to Škoda Enterprises was covered by various newspapers and magazines published both in Prague and Plzeň. *Nová Doba* from Plzeň wrote:

*"Yesterday, the King and the Queen of Siam and their entourage paid a visit to Škoda Enterprises in Plzeň. They were given a welcome by Dr. Loevenstein (the CEO of the concern) and Ambassador Jan Masaryk. The executive manager Ing. Vamborský conducted the tour and provided explanations. The guests showed a good deal of interest in all plants they saw and expressed their appreciation of the overall organisation and production processes. After the presentation, a lunch was served in the House of Foreigners in Lichotín. The guests left Plzeň at 3.30 pm."*²⁵

Two days later, the same newspaper came up with another story, this time a not so serious one, headlined

²⁵ *Nová doba*, August 3rd 1934.

"The Siamese King's obstacles on his way to Plzeň". It ran as follows:

"The King of Siam, who visited Plzeň recently, travels in a splendid car made in England. However, a tyre of the car went flat twice on his way from Prague to Plzeň, once near Beroun, the second time by the Hrádec Inn near Plzeň. It was already on the occasion of the first accident near Beroun that Škoda sent another car to pick up His Majesty, so that he might finish His journey. When the splendid car of the King's finally arrived to Plzeň, the flat tyre should have been replaced. Nevertheless, it size proved to be so extraordinary, that no such tyre could be found all around Plzeň. The King of Siam is known for his delight in speedy travel. His car is so equipped that not only can the driver observe all details about the car's performance, but so too can the King from his place. The closer the speed indicator gets to the mark of the hundred, the better satisfaction of the King. And when he sees the indicator falling too low beneath the hundred mark, he insists on speeding up."

On Friday August 3rd, the King should have left for Moravia to visit the Baťa shoe-making enterprise in Zlín and the arsenal enterprise Zbrojovka in Brno. However, the continual change of places tired the Royal Couple to the extent that they left the visit to Moravia out of their schedule, and decided to go directly to the mountain spa of Štrbské Pleso in the High Tatras.

The King and the Queen arrived at Wilson Station shortly after 9 pm. Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Beneš and Chancellor Dr. Šámal were waiting for them in a salon. Also in attendance were envoys Masaryk, Striml and Halla and representatives of diplomatic protocol, the city of Prague and the Army, and the Honorary Platoon of the 5th Regiment T. G. M. with its orchestra and its standard. Chancellor Dr. Šámal presented a bunch of flowers to the Queen on behalf of the President. The Siamese and the Czechoslovak anthems were played, and the King inspected the Honorary Platoon. Then the King expressed his appreciation of Prague saying he would like to come back for several days in privacy in future, and the Royal Couple took their leave and climbed into their special express train, setting out for Štrbské Pleso in the

company of envoys Jan Masaryk and Karel Halla. By their departure from Prague, the official part of the royal visit to Czechoslovakia was over.²⁶

At 7 pm., the Siamese visitors reached Štrbské Pleso in Slovakia. Along their route from the train station, cheering crowds gave them a most warm-hearted welcome. The King checked in at the Hotel Hviezdoslav, where the entire first floor was reserved for the Royal visit. The King stayed there for three days, and devoted his time mainly to relaxation, walking amongst nature and fishing in the river Poprad after a tiring diplomatic round.²⁷

²⁶ For the official part of the visit see documents and articles as follows: Schedule of Their Majesties' the King and the Queen of Siam visit in Czechoslovakia July 29th – August 7th 1934. Copy from the archives of MFA CR, b.d.; Visit of the Siamese King in Czechoslovakia from July 29th to August 7th 1934. Copy from the archives of MFA. B.d.; Schedule of the Siamese Royal couple's travel to RČS, The Directory of the State Railways Plzeň, Praha, Brno, Olomouc, Košice, in Prague on 24th July 24th 1934, document No. 36.302-VI/1-1934, copy from the archives of MFA; Schedule of the visit of H. M. the King of Siam to CSR, copy from the archives of MFA, b.d.; Národní politika č. 206/July 29th 1934; We welcomed Their Majesties the King and the Queen of Siam yesterday. Národní politika č. 207/ July 30th 1934; Pestrý týden No. 31 / 4th August 4th 1934; H. M. the King Prajadhipok, Národní listy 29. 7. 1934; How it is to rule Siam, whose King became our dear guest yesterday. Národní politika 29. 7. 1934; The Siamese Royal couple in Czechoslovakia, České slovo 29. 7. 1934; On the arrival of the Siamese Royal couple to Prague, Slovenský střed 29. 7. 1934; Nedělní revue. Cheerful reception to welcome the Siamese Royal couple, Našinec (Olomouc) 30. 7. 1934; King Prajadhipok and Queen Rambhai in Prague, Ostravský deník 30. 7. 1934; His Majesty the King of Siam Prajadhipok, Národní listy 31. 7. 1934; Visit of the Siamese Royal couple in Prague. Národní osvobození 31. 7. 1934; The King of Siam says goodbye to Prague - but not for long. Národní osvobození 4. 8. 1934).

²⁷ See The King of Siam – hunting and fishing. Ministry of Agriculture, on July 25th 1934. document n. 86.639-VIII B-1934. Copy from the archives of MFA ČR; The stay of the Siamese King in Štrba, State Spa Administration Štrbské Pleso, July 25th 1934, document No. 94.951/2/34, copy from the archives of MFA.

From Štrbské Pleso, the King and his entourage travelled to Budapest, and after that, returned from Hungary to Czechoslovakia for a further unofficial stay.

On 7th August 1934, the President of Czechoslovakia sent a telegram to the Siamese King a telegram. The text ran as follows:

KANCELÁŘ
PRESIDENTA ČESKOSLOVAKY,

Opis telegramu.

k čís. D 6653/34.

Siamský Král PRADŽADHIPOK:
telegram pana presidenta.

L 412/34.

His Majesty the King of Siam

Štrbské Pleso

I wish to repeat how sorry I am not to have been able to greet Your Majesties during Your visit in Czechoslovakia - which I hope You enjoyed.

T.G.Masaryk.

Vypraveno 7.srpna 1934
z lán.

Soubíř s prvopisem.
SPISOVNA KANCELÁŘE
PRESIDENTA REPUBLIKY
V Praze, dne 22. srpna 1934.



President T.G. Masaryk
ประธานาธิบดี T.G. Masaryk

His Majesty the King of Siam,

I wish to repeat how sorry I am not to have been able to greet Your Majesties during Your Visit in Czechoslovakia – which I hope You enjoyed. T. G. Masaryk.

The Siamese King answered:

His Excellency President Masaryk, Lány.

*On receipt of your kind telegram the Queen and I are also very sorry of not to have the opportunity of personally paying you our respect. Before our departure, I wish to thank your Excellency and Government for the kindness and hospitality extended to us during a most enjoyable and interesting visit. I wish your excellency speedy recovery and best of health and prosperity to your people. Prajadhipok Rex.*²⁸

On the night of August 16th, a train carrying the King and the Queen in on board incognito, crossed the Hungarian-Czechoslovak border near Komárno. The central body of the Slovak administration in Bratislava arranged for the forgoing of passport checks for the King and his entourage, and gave them plain-clothed policemen as guide on their way to Bratislava. The central administrativ body in Prague looked after the King's security during his unofficial stay in Prague in a very discreet manner so that the King and the Queen would be disturbed as little as possible.²⁹

The train with the Siamese Couple arrived in Prague in the morning of August 17th. The destination was Masaryk's station. To provide as much privacy as possible, the carriages with the Royal Company inside were detached from the express, at the suburban Station of Libeň, and sent separately to Wilson station after 9

²⁸ Siamese King Prajadhipok: telegram from the President. The President's Office, archives, document No. L 412/34, copy of the telegram No. D 6653/34, dispatched on August 7th 1934 from Lány.

²⁹ Cf.: The Siamese King back in ČSR on August 17th and 18th 1934. Presidium of the Interior Ministry to the Presidium of the Provincial Administration in Prague and Bratislava document No. 13.837, in Prague on August 10th 1934. Copy from the archives of MFA CR.

a.m. The King stayed again at the Hotel Alcron, where he had been very satisfied during his previous stay.

There is not much known about the King's and Queen's second visit to Prague. With respect to the Couple's privacy, the Czechoslovak administration did not provide any official reports. According to the press, at noon on August 17th, their car was seen on the road from Prague to Karlovy Vary, where the gendarmerie was, at that time, on the alert. King Prajadhipok went for an unofficial visit to Lány.³⁰ He was invited for a private lunch by Ambassador Jan Masaryk on behalf of the President. Unfortunately, even during this second visit, the President's health did not allow for a personal meeting of the two statesmen. Nevertheless, members of the President's family and closest friends took part in the lunch at 1 p.m. Attending were the President's daughter Mrs. Alice Garrigue Masaryková and his son Jan Masaryk, eight members of the King's entourage, envoy Halla, and Dr. Ledvina. After lunch, the guests took coffee at the Castle's pond, accompanied by Herberta Masaryková, Herbert Revilliod, Leonard Revilliod and the President's archivist Dr. Gašparíková. At 4 o'clock, the visitors returned to Prague.³¹

On the morning of August 18th, the King and the Queen, accompanied by Jan Masaryk, Dr. Halla and a Mr. Brauner from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, paid a visit to the Waldes factory in Vršovice. They were met by the entrepreneur Jindřich Waldes, who mentioned lively business relationships between his firm and the Siamese Kingdom, in his greeting speech. The King thanked him for a friendly welcome, signed the Visitor's Book and looked through all five departments of the factory. He showed a particularly great interest in production of thimbles, buttons, needles, and pins. The executive manager, Mr. Puc provided an expert explanation. Finally,

³⁰ Siamese King at the President. Národní osvobození 18. 8. 1934.

³¹ Siamese King Prajadhipok: his visit to Lány. The President's Office, Lány August 23rd 1934, doc. No. L 451/34. Archives of MFA CR.

the King visited Waldes Museum of dress fasteners, where he took particular interest in the Asian section. To his great surprise, he found a golden Siamese agrapha decorated with East Indian diamonds with which his grandfather had on rare occasions decorated prominent statesmen, among the collection of Siamese brooches.

The King left Waldes factory at half-past twelve, and went back to the Alcron Hotel for lunch.

At 3 pm. the King boarded the aircraft of Lufthansa company to fly to Luzern in Switzerland. Seven members of his entourage accompanied him. Nine members of the Siamese entourage left by train for Paris.³²

When the King left, the relations between the Siam Royal Family and Czechoslovakia did not diminish, indeed they strengthened in an atmosphere of friendliness. When the new President of Czechoslovakia, former Foreign Minister Dr. Edvard Beneš, was elected after T.G.Masaryk's death, King Prajadhipok sent him a congratulations letter. The President replied:

*"His Majesty Prajadhipok Rambhai Barni. Wentworth. I thank Your Majesty for the kind congratulations on my election to the Presidency of Czechoslovakia, which I highly appreciate. Edvard Beneš"*³³

King Prajadhipok's Visit to Czechoslovakia brought an important stimulus to the further development of relationship between two distant countries.

In 1938, the question of Czechoslovak representation in Thailand was adjusted to allow the French Embassy in Bangkok to take charge of the protection of Czech interests. The Consulate of Czechoslovakia in Singapore took care of all consular activities concerning Thailand.

³² The Siamese King left to Prague. His visit to Waldes. Flight to Luzern. Národní Osvobození 19. 8. 1934

³³ Former King of Siam Prajadhipok, congratulations on Beneš' election to the Presidency of Czechoslovakia, reply, transcript of the letter, D10.828/35, dispatched 26.12.1935, a copy from MFA's archives.



Prince Bira's car
รถยนต์พระที่นั่งของพระวรวงศ์เธอ พระองค์เจ้าพิริยพันธุ์ภาคเดช

The Motor Racing Prince of Siam in Czechoslovakia

In September 1937, the Prince of Siam, Bira, became a big attraction for the motor races on Masaryk Circuit in Brno. He participated in races of lower category using British car ERA 1500 cc. He did very well at first and was thought to be a hot candidate to win. However, during the race, as the press of that time mentioned, "he wanted to be faster than his car allowed him to be, and from his leading position at the beginning dropped down to fourth position by the end."³⁴

Prince Bira's real name was Birabongse Bhanutej Bhanubandh. He was a nephew of King Chulalongkorn. He was born on July 15th, 1914 and when he reached fifteen, he was



Prince Bira and his car
พระวรวงศ์เธอ พระองค์เจ้าพิริยพันธุ์ภาคเดชและรถยนต์พระที่นั่งของพระองค์

³⁴ Světozor, annual report 37, No.: 39/1937.

sent to the United Kingdom for his education. He was a student at Eton College, and later on he studied sculpture arts in London. At the time of his studies, he was keen in all sports, and because he was well renowned, he soon started to race cars. Because his name was very difficult to remember, and could not fit into the starting lists, he began to use the nickname 'Bira'.

His racing career began in the mid 30's. In spring 1935, he entered the well-known race on the Circuit at Brooklands, driving a modified Riley Imp. His talent was remarkable from the very beginning of the race. When he bought an excellent ERA 1500cc racing car (manufacturer's mark 2.R.B.) on his 21st birthday, he became a rising star in car races. He came the second in the French Dieppe race, and with little practical experience he bettered the famous Frenchman Veyron, driving his Bugatti, the winner was Fairfield from the UK in another ERA car. It was evident that a new personage had entered car racing in the up to 1500cc category, called the "Voiturettes" – buggies.

Other leading positions followed - a second place at the Bern Grand Prix, a first place in the 1500cc at Donnington in 1935, etc. His first visit to Czechoslovakia dates back to that period. Bira was fascinated by Prague, which inspired him as a sculptor. He wrote to his wife-to-be Ceril about it: "Prague, 21st September. You simply must visit Prague whatever happens, for I think it is a marvelous city. It is so beautiful. There are masses of sculptures for me to see and it has already inspired me, and I promise myself when I go back for the autumn I shall work like a Trojan. I am so keen on art and sculpture, you can't imagine it."³⁵

Bira's cousin, Prince Chula Chakrabongse, who was six years his senior and also lived in Great Britain, helped him to establish a "White Mouse" racing team, and took up its management. Another new car, the ERA (R.5.B.), was bought for their car team – Bira called it "Remus" and his original car was named "Romulus". Later on, they

³⁵ Ceril Birabongse: The Prince and I. Life with the motor racing Prince of Siam. Veloce publishing Plc. Dorset, England 1992, pp.28-29.

bought a more powerful 3000cc Maserati, and a German BMW 326 sports car. However, he was still achieving his biggest successes with ERA cars. And these were not few in number. His name was regularly mentioned at the top of the charts of famous races such as The Trophy of the Prince Rainier in Monaco, the J.C.C. Trophy at Brooklands, the Mountain Circuit on the Isle of Man, the Eifelrennen at Nürbergring in Germany, the Grand Prix de Picardie in France, and many others. For his racing achievements, he was awarded "Gold Star", a prize which was conferred on the best British car racers.

When Bira arrived in Czechoslovakia he was already a professional car racer. Before Bira, together with his cousin Chula, left for Czechoslovakia, Bira had burnt his face and arm rather badly during a BRDC 500 mile race on the Outer Circuit at Brooklands, when acid from his Delahaye's battery sprayed over him. Because of this he travelled to Brno by train instead of driving there. Bira wrote to Ceril: "Brno, Czechoslovakia. 24th September 1937. We had quite a long and tiring journey from London and changed trains no less than 5 times. We were met by a very smart Czech who came to receive us at Prague and accompanied us to Brno. He came to receive us in proxy for the Prime Minister so altogether we felt quite grand!!...My face is nearly peeled off now but it is pretty patchy! So I hope you won't be ashamed of me. Do you know I am at the present moment nearly 3000 miles away from you and yet I simply worship you...? It will be something like hell when I go away next month to Siam, but I shall console myself by saying to myself that I shall be doing the right thing..."

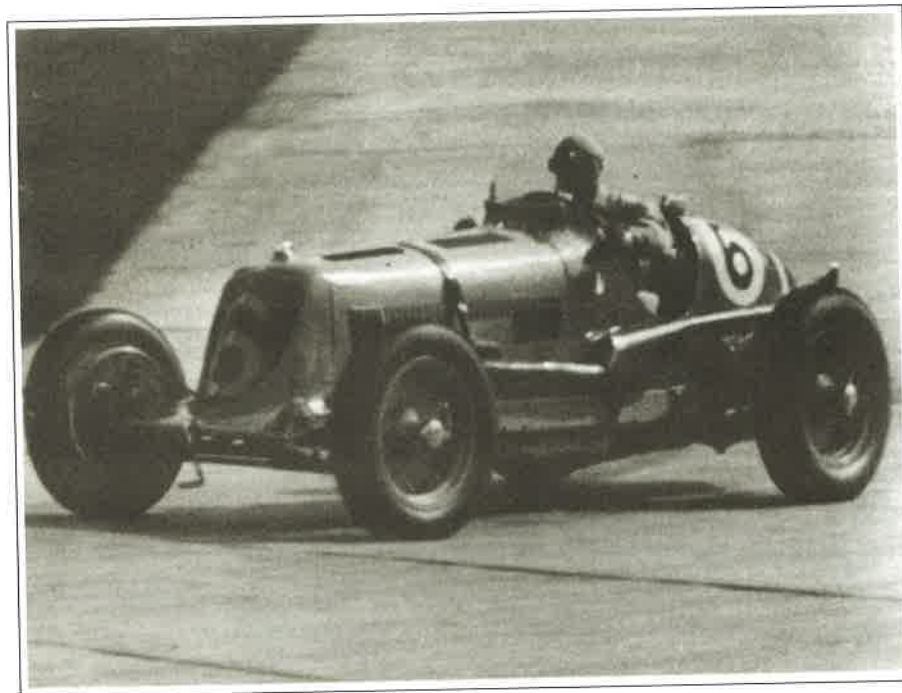
Bira wrote to Ceril a telegram after not very successful race: "FIRST AFTER TWO THIRDS BLEW UP CAME FOURTH ALL LOVE".³⁶

A note about his return to Siam concerned an obligation to ask the King of Siam to approve his marriage with Ceril, the daughter of British high officer. Bira was given that approval. Bira, who came back to Thailand after 8 years, was celebrated there as a national hero, and

³⁶ Ceril Birabongse: q.b., p. 62.

was honoured with a State award and the rank of Guard Lieutenant.³⁷

In 1938, H.R.H. Prince of Siam Chula was awarded with the Order of the White Lion. In the proposal letter is written: "H.R.H. Prince of Siam Chula visited Czechoslovakia in the summer of 1937 on the basis of invitation he received from Czech Prime Minister M. Hodža. Because of his friendly concern for Czechoslovakia and his importance among public spheres of Siam, he is called to be very useful for Czechoslovak interests"³⁸



Prince Bira in his 3 litre Maserati 1937.

รถยนต์พระที่นั่ง Maserati ของพระวรวงศ์เธอ พระองค์เจ้าพิริยพงษ์ภาณุเดช พลิกเมื่อปี พ.ศ. 2480

³⁷ In addition : Lahner, J.: Galerie Mistru. B.Bira. Motor Journal issue 16, 7th December 2001 (Brno), p. 32 –35.

³⁸ Prince of Siam Chula : conferring of the order of the White Lion, Presidential Office to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (protocol) , Prague 13th January 1938, document No.: B23/38, a copy from MFA's archives.



Birabongse Bhamutej Bhanubandh, Prince Bira

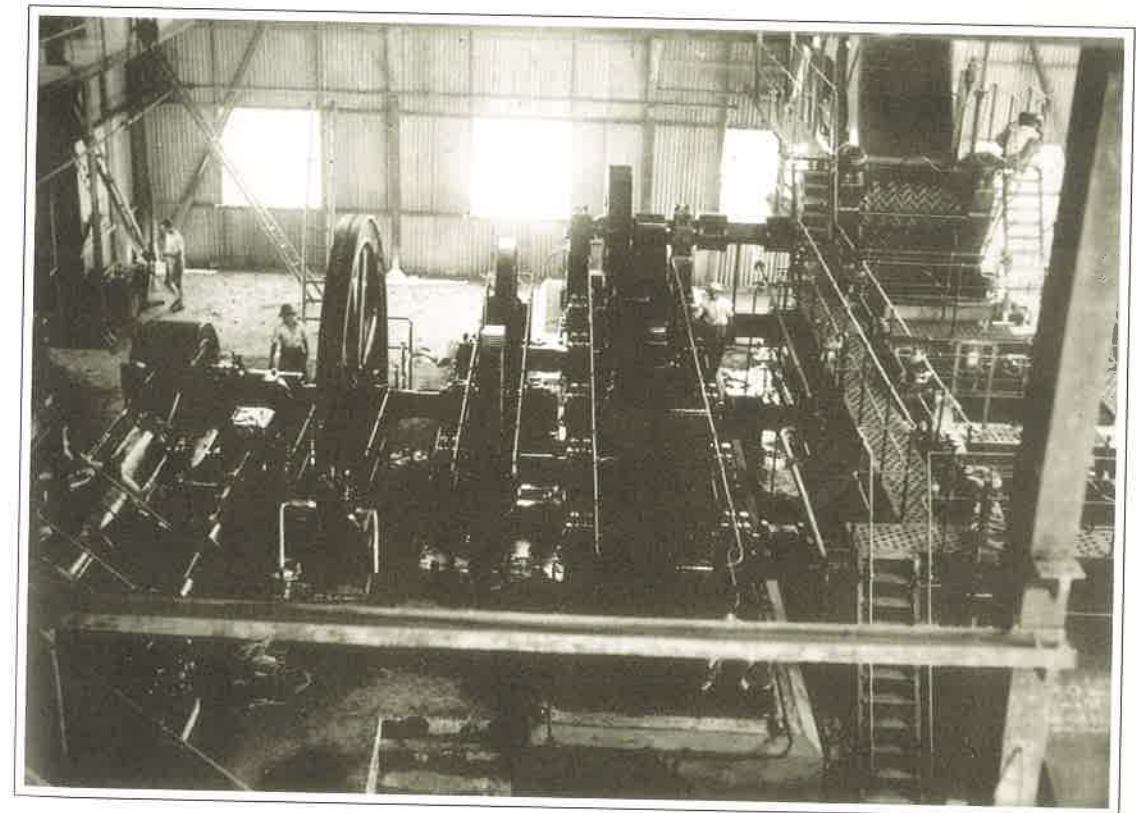
พระวรวงศ์เธอ พระองค์เจ้าพิริยพงษ์ภาณุเดช

Economic Relations Across Oceans

Siam was a very good outlet for Czechoslovakian goods before World War II. Many representative offices were established in Bangkok, for example the Škoda Company imported from Czechoslovakia various machines, tools, paper, enamel goods, glass, china, textile and shoes. In return Siam supplied Czechoslovakia with rice, natural rubber, tropical wood for the furniture industry, spices, various oils plants and raw materials for the textile industry. The biggest achievement was a sugar refinery in Lampang built by Škoda in 1937.



Sugar mill in Lampang built by Škoda Works in 1937
ห้องบดน้ำตาลของโรงงานผลิตน้ำตาลที่จังหวัดลำปาง สร้างโดยบริษัท Škoda ในปี พ.ศ. 2480



Grinding room of the sugar mill in Lampang built by Škoda Works in 1937
โรงงานผลิตน้ำตาลที่จังหวัดลำปาง สร้างโดยบริษัท Škoda ในปี พ.ศ. 2480

as floods of railways, which disabled supplies of materials and equipments for the construction. The processing capacity of the milling equipments was 500 tons of sugar cane per day and two years later, in 1939, the capacity increased to 800 tons. The final product was white sugar. Between 1936 and 1938 other supplies followed by imports of tens of cars and vans with the winged arrow mark of Škoda Mladá Boleslav, road rollers, a tower crane for The Royal Navy Dockyard in Bangkok, a steam boiler for a governmental power station, diesel engines, a conduit for steam boilers etc. Business correspondence of the company from 1938/1939 also remarks upon an interest of the Thai government in materials for artillery, notably a 4 cm fort cannon, model 36. However, business negotiations were interrupted due to the German occupation of Czechoslovakia on March 15th 1939.³⁹ In 1937, Czechoslovakian export to Thailand was worth 12 millions Czk (Czech Crowns) and import 6 millions Czk.⁴⁰ World War II and political changes in Czechoslovakia in 1948 discontinued business activities for a long period.

³⁹ Archives of Škoda Holding a.s. Plzen; Kupka V. – Francev, V. – Fuchs, J.: Československý 4cm pevnostní kanon vz.36 a jeho osudy (Czechoslovakian 4cm fort cannon model 36 and its destiny) Edice Pevnosti, Fort Print Praha 2003, p. 46.

⁴⁰ Report of a group Visit of CSR by Thai MP's, Confidential. 35 copies. Print No.10, receipt No. 022226. 0415/58 confidential. Received 10.X.1958. Copy from Czech MFA's archives.

III. War Intermezzo: Was Siam at War with Czechoslovakia?

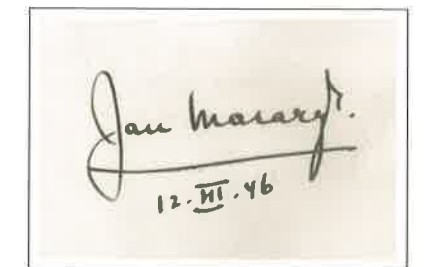
German aggression against Czechoslovakia began in 1938 and the forcible occupation of Czechoslovakia by Germany in 1939 discontinued already fairly developed Czech –Thai relations. When the World War II was almost over, certain speculations about Czechoslovakia being in a state of war with Thailand appeared. During the German occupation, the Czech government went to exile in London and supported the Allies. On the contrary, the Siam regime of Pibun Songkhram established an alliance with Japan. On December 16th 1941, the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Dr. Edvard Beneš, issued the following proclamation in London: "In accordance with article 3, paragraph 1 of section 64 of the Constitutional Charter, I, hereby, proclaim that the Czechoslovak Republic is in a State of war with all countries which are in state of war with Great Britain, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or the United States of America (...)." ⁴¹ After January 25th 1943, when Thailand officially declared to be in a State of war with all members of the Alliance, the British Foreign Office asked representatives of the Czechoslovakian government, if by that means, Thailand was automatically in a State of war with Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovak side concluded: "... by our means this declaration does not cover Siam and therefore the Czechoslovak Republic is not in state of war with Siam.

⁴¹ Alignment of the Nations in the War. November 20 1943. Copy from Czech MFA's archives; Déclaration de l'état de guerre entre la République Tchécoslovaque et les Etats qui sont en guerre avec la Grande Bretagne, l'Union des Républiques Socialistes Soviétiques (sic) et les Etats Unis d' Amérique. Transcript. Copy from Czech MFA's archives.



Jan Masaryk (1886-1948)
- Ambassador to the United Kingdom
1925-1938
- Minister of Foreign Affairs
1940-1948

Jan Masaryk ดำรงตำแหน่งเอกอัครราชทูต ณ สหราชอาณาจักร
ระหว่างปี พ.ศ. 2468 - 2481
และดำรงตำแหน่งรัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงการต่างประเทศ
ระหว่างปี พ.ศ. 2483 - 2491



Signature of the Minister of
Foreign Affairs J. Masaryk
ลายเซ็นของ J. Masaryk รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงการต่างประเทศ

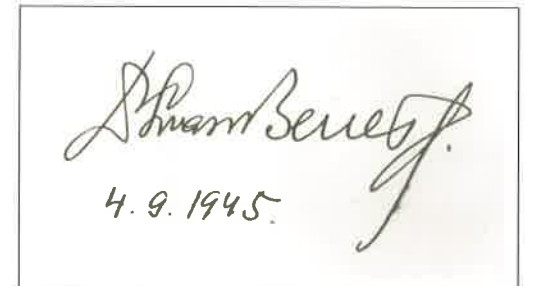
We did not declare war with them and therefore the question is still open." A hand written note in the margin of an archive copy of the document is very interesting: "Minister Masaryk also said that we were not going to do anything about it..."⁴² Obviously, regarding friendly relations with Siam and the Siamese Royal Family, neither President Beneš nor Minister Masaryk were interested in a declaration of war. At a request of the American State Department, the Czechoslovaks further specified in April 1944: "We are not at a State of war with Siam. The declaration of the President from December 16th 1941 must be understood in such a way that Czechoslovakia fell into a State of war with only those countries, which were at the same time in a State of war with the three big power countries." In a confidential memo to the Ambassador of the Czechoslovak Republic in Washington they added: "...we can not make a precedent, which will show Czechoslovakia being in a State of war automatically, meaning without much consideration and without an individual act of the state."⁴³ Peace between Czechoslovakia and Thailand was saved.

⁴² Pro Domo. Document from 8th January 1943, No.: 2632/42. Copy from Czech MFA's archives. Fond LA-O, kr 196

⁴³ Subject: WASHINGTON – declaration of a State of war. Document from April 3rd 1944 No.1763/conf./44. Ref. Dr. Procházka, Dr. Špaček. Copy from Czech MFA's archives.



Edward Beneš (1884-1948)
- Minister of Foreign Affairs 1918-1935
- President of Czechoslovakia 1935-1948
Edward Beneš ดำรงตำแหน่งนายกรัฐมนตรีระหว่าง พ.ศ. 2461-2478
และดำรงตำแหน่งประธานาธิบดีระหว่าง พ.ศ. 2478-2491



Signature of the President E. Beneš
ลายเซ็นของประธานาธิบดี E. Beneš



President E. Beneš parading the Czechoslovak troops
ประธานาธิบดี E. Beneš ชมการสวนสนามของกองทหารเชโกสโลวาเกีย

IV. Thailand and Czechoslovakia after World War II. (1945 – 1989)

The Broken Tradition of Diplomatic and Cultural Relations



Pridi Phanomyong
นายปรีดี พนมยงค์



Marshal Pibun Songkhram
จอมพล ป. ปิบูลสงคราม

After World War II, Thailand and Czechoslovakia tried to once more take up their previous tradition of friendly relations. This opened a discussion in 1947 via the Czechoslovak Ambassador in Nanking. Stimulation was provided by the Thai Ambassador in Nanking, Sanguan Tularak, who was interested in economic development after the war, and who expressed a wish to establish bilateral diplomatic representations on the basis of good economical relations, and profitable for both sides. In an official note dated October 22nd 1947, Ambassador Tularak announced the positive attitude of the Thai government towards this question.

The Ambassador to Nanking at the time, Dr Lelek, submitted the proposal of the Thai government to the Czech Foreign Ministry for a declaration, whilst the Thai political situation changed completely. Marshal Pibun Songkhram organised a military coup on November 9th, 1947, and deposed Prime Minister Dhamrong, declaring himself to be Prime Minister of the Regent Government. This event caused considerable changes not only at home, but also in the foreign politics of the country. The negotiation was interrupted, since it was not clear whether the new Government accepted the initiative proposal of Dhamrong's cabinet⁴⁴. Three months later, the situation also changed radically in Czechoslovakia. In February 1948, the communist party came into power. The Thai Kingdom, with its foreign policy focused on western countries, was understood to be an unfriendly regime to communists.

⁴⁴ Czech MFA's archives, record for Dr Šimovič 24.10.1951, based on acts of MFA No.: 238.5 2/47, 246.290/47-1/1

Prince Bira's Car Accident at the Racing Track in Brno

After the war, motor racing slowly resumed. The Grand Prix of Czechoslovakia, held on Masaryk's Circuit in Brno September 25th 1949, was recorded in the Czechoslovak and international history of motor racing in indelible lettering. From our point of view, despite the more than 50 years since that time, it is admirable that the organisers were able to arrange such a magnificent sporting event. Some estimates mention over half a million visitors, eager to see performances of the top European car drivers after a break of ten years. The numerous accidents which happened during this event became a common theme of contemporary commentaries. Two Czechoslovak drivers, Václav Uher and Jaroslav Janák, paid for it with their lives.

Prince Bira could not miss such a significant event. He left for Czechoslovakia as a member of royal family with certain worries. In a country where power was in the hands of the communists, who dominated an indistinct political situation, the western press was full of news about disposessions, the imprisonment of opponents of the regime, their torture, and executions. Bira's desire to race was stronger than his unease, though.

Prince Chula wrote a telegram to Bira and Ceril, who was following him: "HOPE ALL WELL AND BIRA REMEMBERS DIFFICULT CIRCUIT STOP MISSING YOU STOP AFTER RACE PLEASE WIRE NEWS INCLUDING ABOUT RETURN BEST LOVE."

From the start of the greatest race of Grand Prix of Czechoslovakia, Bira set out in the lead. He took up at a really fantastic rate, and on the straights he reached a speed of over 200km/h. He was followed by the other competitors: famous racers de Graffenried, Chiron and Farina. And it was Farina who did not handle his car in a forest between Žebětín and Kohoutovice, where he uprooted several guard stones and fell among the audience. In shock, he ran out on to the circuit and caused another accident, that of British racer Parnell. Bira was still leading the race, and his speed was even increasing. However, on the third lap he got into an accident at the same place as

Farina and Parnell. He collided with a tree and was ejected out of the cockpit. He saved himself by promptly catching tree branches, coming out of it with only a broken leg. An intense crash also caused the injury of a fireman who was sitting on a branch, and fell onto a crashed Maserati. The bend where Farina and Bira crashed became since that time the most visited place on the Brno Circuit due to of its difficulty⁴⁵. Ceril remembers the event after the crash: "I have never seen Bira so frightened – he was really terrified and clutched my hand in the ambulance. Promise me darling, you won't leave me for a moment? Even if they have to operate, you must be there all the time. Promise! Don't you see – they are taking me to a Communist hospital, and I am a Prince – think what they did to Royalty during the Revolution!" he was quite obsessed by this. I stayed with him all the time holding his hand, hoping I wouldn't faint. The doctors tried to get me wait outside, but Bira wouldn't hear of it, and when they said he must stay a few days in hospital, he absolutely refused. Nothing would have kept him in what he thought of as a Red Hospital; his only desire was to get out the country as soon as possible. After signing a paper absolving the hospital of responsibility, we went to the hotel. He said "Wound or no wound – you must drive me through the Iron Curtain next morning."

He was in great pain all night – even after taking the pills they had given him – but struggled out of bed in the morning, and somehow I got him into the car and drove towards the frontier. We were late starting; it had taken a long time to get him dressed and I would much rather have waited one more day. Still it was only about 50 miles to the frontier and the same distance on to Vienna, where I hoped we could rest.

It was nearly midday when we reached the customs post, and as I went to take the passports and car papers out of Bira's briefcase he put his hand to his forehead. "I've left them behind in the hotel" he said. He told me he had hidden all the documents and money before the race behind a picture – and with all he had been through afterwards he had

⁴⁵ Lahner, J.: Galerie Mistrů B.Bira. (Gallery of Masters. B. Bira). Motor Journal No.16, 7 December 2001 (Brno), s...Ceril Birabongse: q.b., p. 178.

quite forgotten about them. So there we were, with nothing for it but to turn round and go back for the papers and return again to the frontier. When we eventually approached Vienna it was already getting dark, and Bira was pale and in pain. I was out of my mind with worry, and then a new fear struck him. We knew Vienna was divided into four zone of occupation – Russian, French, American and British. How on earth, he said, could we be sure we didn't go into Russian one by mistake? New panic, new thoughts of the Russian Revolution and all the stories he had heard ever since he was a boy from Mother and her refugee friends.

Suddenly I told him he was saved; I saw American soldiers standing on the pavement – we were in the American zone. So I asked the GIs where we could get a bed for the night. It was getting late – all we wanted was for Bira be able to lie down; we didn't want food, just for him to take his painkillers and try to sleep. The soldiers pointed across the road to what seemed a rather modest hotel, but they said we'd be OK there, and we were thankful for anything. I went and asked for a room – they said they had one, but I must pay in advance. We had left everything (except a small overnight case) in the car, hoping the American military police would be patrolling the streets and, despite the hotel being very noisy, Bira slept. We were both dead-exhausted by then.

In the morning, I rang for coffee and breakfast – but got no answer. There was no one about as I gradually got Bira down the stairs, only one or two girls in dressing gowns who looked around doors – and then I realised we had spent the night in a brothel!

We were thankful when we reached Zurich and found a lovely hotel on the lake and a good Swiss doctor who took charge of Bira and dressed his wounds, which he said had been extremely well attended to by the Czech doctors. He made Bira stay in bed for a few days and we eventually got back to Tredethy on October 3rd – my 33rd birthday.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ Ceril Birabongse: q.b., p. 178 –179.

Prince B. Bira was a typical example of a successful private racer of the 30's and 40's. Only when motor racing started to become more and more professional at the beginning of the 50's, was he unable to compete with the powerful factory teams. Nevertheless, he embarked on other fights despite this disadvantage. Moreover, with his exotic appearance and charm from him, he contributed to diversity in car races. This is exactly how Czechoslovak fans remember him.

Diplomatic vacuum

Despite the fact that several discussions took place in 1951, 1953 and 1956, diplomatic relations between Thailand and Czechoslovakia were not re-established due to various obstacles, mainly of political origin. An attempt to resume diplomatic relations made by Czechoslovakia in September 1956 was characteristic of that time. The attempt was verbally communicated to the Thai Ambassador in Rangoon, Burma. In mid-November, the Ambassador officially replied: *"The Thai government does not have any objections in principle to the re-establishment of diplomatic relations. This would be appreciated only if a Trade Representative Office could be opened in Bangkok from the outset. Diplomatic relations would follow according to the development of economic relations."*⁴⁷ Further negotiations followed this. A management of consular agenda was passed on to the Embassy of Czechoslovakia in Rangoon.⁴⁸ However, a confidential directive of the MFA for a negotiating diplomat in 1957 added:

"Our interest in re-establishment of diplomatic relations still continues. If a suitable opportunity is offered during discussions, without giving the impression that our interest is too urgent, we would like to find out the current position of

⁴⁷ Information for Czech Ambassador Mr. Nosek for Bangkok meeting regarding an establishment of Commercial Representative Office in Thailand.

⁴⁸ Holub, A and Co.: Thajsko: Obchodně – ekonomické sborníky (Thailand: Trade and Economic Volume). Institution of International Trade/ ČTK- Pressfoto, Prague 1977, p. 174.

*Thai government to the re-establishment of diplomatic relations and eventually a time when we can expect to open an embassy there."*⁴⁹

Thai MPs in Communist Czechoslovakia

To help break down the existing diplomatic barrier between Thailand and Czechoslovakia, an invitation was issued to the Thai Parliament for a visit to Czechoslovakia. This visit took place between September 26th and October 2nd 1958, as part of a study tour of members of the Thai Parliament to India, the Soviet Union, and China. At the time of the escalating "Cold War", this was considered a very sensitive political matter. The tour happened thanks to an invitation of The Highest Soviet of Soviet Union, and this fact was often attacked in the press, as well as the promotion of the delegation's leader Rear Admiral Thaharn Kamchiran. He had initiated the discussion about a possible visit with the Soviet Ambassador in Bangkok, but this was seen as ethically unacceptable. Some rumours circulated, explaining Thaharn's journey as a symptom of a difference of opinions between him and the leadership of the Democrat Party. Thaharn refuted these speculations and stressed that he had consulted with the party leadership. An editorial of the Bangkok Post at that time commented that even if a piece of gold falls down into the mud, it stays as a piece of gold, and if a member of the Democrat Party travels wherever he does, he still stays as a member of the party.

The delegation was due to arrive in the Soviet Union by the end of June 1958. Due to various pressures from both local right wing circles and the USA, who considered this tour of MPs to be politically unsuitable because of the high-strung international situation, the date and members of the delegation were changed a couple of times. Not by coincidence the US embassy in Bangkok

⁴⁹ Information for Czech Ambassador Mr. Nosek for Bangkok meeting regarding the establishment of a Commercial Representative Office in Thailand. The Embassy of Czechoslovakia, New Delhi. 13.2. 1957, copy from MFA's archives.



The Prague Castle
ปราสาทหลวงแห่งกรุงปราก



The Prague Castle
ปราสาทหลวงแห่งกรุงปราก

issued an invitation to visit USA to the Thai Parliament at the same time.

The delegation was supposed to have 21 members, including leading representatives of the Chard Sangkom Party. However, party leaders forbade the participation of their MPs. Finally, a fifteen member delegation arrived in the Soviet Union on September 12th 1958, by a special Soviet TU 104 aircraft, after their week-long stay in India. The members of delegation visited Tashkent, Frunze, Moscow, Kiev and Minsk.

The Communist leadership understood the strategic importance of this visit, which provided them with a possibility of getting through the "Iron Curtain". That was why the National Assembly of the CSR, after consultations with their Soviet partners, made the offer to the group of Thai MPs to visit Czechoslovakia.

The offer was finally accepted by seven of the MPs. The delegation was led by Rear Admiral Thaharn and consisted of representatives of various opposition parties. Since Czechoslovakia did not have any diplomatic relations with Thailand at that time, the delegation was therefore unofficial. The visit was based on a parliamentary platform, and on the regional national committee level. Representatives of the Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture also attended official meetings.

After their arrival in Czechoslovakia, the delegation made a courtesy call on the Chairman of the National Assembly, Mr. Zdeněk Fierlinger, which developed into a discussion about the work of the National Assembly and its bodies. The Chairman of the National Assembly held a welcome dinner at the Prague Hotel International in honour of the delegation. In Bratislava, the Chief of the Slovak National Council, together with the Deputy Chief of the Commission, held an official dinner in honour of the delegation, after a courtesy visit of the Slovak National Council. A farewell dinner in Prague's Hotel Alcron was hosted by A. Hodinová-Spurná, Deputy Chair of the National Assembly, and Deputy Foreign Minister Dr J. S. Hájek.



Prague in 1950s
กรุงปราก ประมาณ พ.ศ. 2493



Prague in 1950s
กรุงปราก ประมาณ พ.ศ. 2493



Signature of Zdeněk Fierlinger, Chairman of
the Czechoslovak National Assembly
ลายเซ็นของ Zdeněk Fierlinger ประธานสภานิติบัญญัติเชโกสโลวาเกีย



Spa of Karlovy Vary in 1950s
 ภาพ ณ Karlovy Vary ในทศวรรษ 2496

The programme of the visit was very crowded. The aim of the communist leadership was to present Czechoslovakia in the best possible light, and have an ideological influence on the Thai MPs. A confidential document of the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry observed: "Even if a change of Thai politics and the establishment of diplomatic relations cannot be expected now, it is possible to develop, besides commercial relations, also political, cultural and scientific relations by direct-contact delegations. This is the only way to freeze the influence of enemy propaganda against countries of the socialistic camp on the Thai public."⁴⁹ Besides visits to state institutions and the famous Charles University, the Czech state bodies also inserted into the programme of the Thai delegation several visits to successful and representative companies – an engineering factory of the V. I. Lenin (formerly Škoda) company in Plzeň, the shoemaking company Svit (formerly Bat'a), the glass manufacture Moser in Karlovy Vary, the exemplary agricultural cooperative JZD Sedlečko, regional child hospitals in Brno, spas in Karlovy Vary, and so on. MP's were invited to The National Theatre in Prague to see the opera "Dalibor" by Czech composer Bedřich Smetana; and in Brno a marionette ensemble called "Radost" (who were preparing for a trip to South East Asia that included Bangkok) arranged a special performance about naughty kids for them. In Zlín, a program of folk dance and songs was prepared by members of a local amateur folklore ensemble. It was, as the report says, "so interesting that the MP's performed their own national dance, which has been danced in their country for thousand years."⁵⁰

The Thai MPs were being monitored by both civil servants and the Czechoslovak Intelligence Service (StB). For further information, their political and private profiles were compiled and their behaviour and quotes

⁴⁹ Report about the Thai PMs Visit of CSR, Confidential, 35 copies, Copy No. 10, document No.022226.0415/58 conf. Received 10.X.1958. Copy from MFA's archives.

⁵⁰ Report about the Thai MP's Visit of CSR, Confidential, 35 copies, Copy No. 10, document No.022226.0415/58 conf. Received 10.X.1958. Copy from MFA's archives.

were analysed. Thanks to these reports we are now aware of the fact that "despite their difficult programme and tiring long journey, all of the delegates followed with desirable interest all visits to factories, social facilities and cultural performances, and didn't show their tiredness, moreover they were very disciplined. They also used their lack of spare time for walks to take up with the life of our nation."⁵¹

Some curious quotes of the Thai MPs were also recorded, although they were mostly of a private nature. For example, Rear Admiral Thaharn replied to a direct query about the relations between Thailand and China that "there are not any differences between the Thais and the Chinese; we are brothers and we should live as a husband and wife. However, the wife raised the roof and that's why her husband has gone off at the deep end and left". The report further mentions that "Thaharn has his own individual ideas about socialism, and doesn't understand this word in the same way as we do. He announced, for example, that their Kings Rama VI, VII and VIII were actually also communists, and that they familiarised themselves with socialist ideas during their studies in Western countries, and started to apply them in Thailand. All of the members of the delegation reproached Yuang (one of the members of the delegation) for translating nonsense like this. Also, based on Yuang's Statement, "the head of delegation didn't have a clue what was going on and the Rear Admiral evidently came to life during a motor boat cruise on the river Danube. He gathered detailed information with his amusing imperious tone, he was willing to let himself pose for photographers in a captain's hat standing behind the steering wheel. With laugh he said that in Thailand people imagined communists as hairy people with long fangs and knives in their hands."

About Yuang Iamsila, MP, we read that he was "a very ambitious man, with certain tendencies to seek

⁵¹ Report about the Thai MP's Visit of CSR, Confidential, 35 copies, Copy No. 10, document No. 022226.0415/58 conf. Received 10.X.1958. Copy from MFA's archives.



Spa colonade of Karlovy Vary in 1950s
 ภาพ ณ Karlovy Vary ในทศวรรษ 2496

advantages by intrigue; he is without any doubt very bright, and with his intelligence and experience he outmatched the other members of the delegation (...) He would like, in his own words, to get all of the opposition groups in the Thai Parliament under his control. When he returns he would like to lecture on his impressions from the journey at the universities. Since he came back from jail he has very often been shouted down during public speeches by calls of "Do not believe him, he is a communist!" He would like to use the Rear Admiral, who cannot be suspected to be a communist in public, for his lectures as an eye witness to support his conclusions. On the question as to what standpoint on these activities of the Rear Admiral the leadership of Democrat Party is going to take, he indicated that it was not out of question that the party would split. He then might be able to get admiral together with a strong faction under his own control. He mentioned this in connection with a statement that during the whole trip he was trying to change the admiral's mind and win him round to his side. He also said he had prepared a proposal for a new constitution, which was laying in his drawer, however he could not talk about it, since it would be very dangerous for him." The same report further remarks: "It's questionable whether all of his statements can be taken seriously, and whether he just did not make them up to be provocative or ironic. For example, he spoke about Czechoslovakia, saying if we were able to produce anything, why wouldn't we be able to plant rubber plants? This exact same quote could, however, be meant as another reaction to sometimes the unsuitable highlighting of the priorities of our system, and the extolling of successes by some of our functionaries..."

On the other hand MP Phorchai Sangchat "provoked sometimes; he pretended friendly relations too much to receive our greater trust and frankness of information. He wasn't malicious, but obviously he enjoyed each embarrassing or inconvenient situation that our functionaries sometimes got into."

MP's Sudhi Bhuvabhandhu, Charoen Prapnasagdi and Manas Promboon didn't show themselves very often. The reason was their lack of English. However, Charoen "made notes about his experiences at the hotel room, and he mapped their journey."



View of Karlovy Vary in 1950s
ทัศนียภาพของ Karlovy Vary ในปี พ.ศ. 2496

MP Thawon Kayotha "was very concerned that we didn't know his name after arrival and he protested specifically against it..." "At the beginning of the stay he was very silent and he didn't show himself..." "He was possibly encouraged when we assured him that his country's backwardness was the fault of certain group of people who didn't support the creativity of the nation, and external powers which crippled his developing country. We think that he was the one from the delegation who bore the faith of his nation in his heart, in contrast to Yuang, who built a sort of cult of his personality. He repeatedly asked naive questions, and tried to find out how a revolution can be accomplished."⁵²

⁵² Report about the Thai MP's Visit of CSR, Confidential, 35 copies, Copy No. 10, document No.022226.0415/58 conf. Received 10.X.1958. Copy from MFA's archives.



The first Chargé d'Affaires of the Czechoslovak Embassy in Thailand, Mr. Miroslav Lukáš, with the staff of the Embassy during the celebration of the National Day of Czechoslovakia in Bangkok, 9.5.1975 (30th anniversary of the end of WWII)

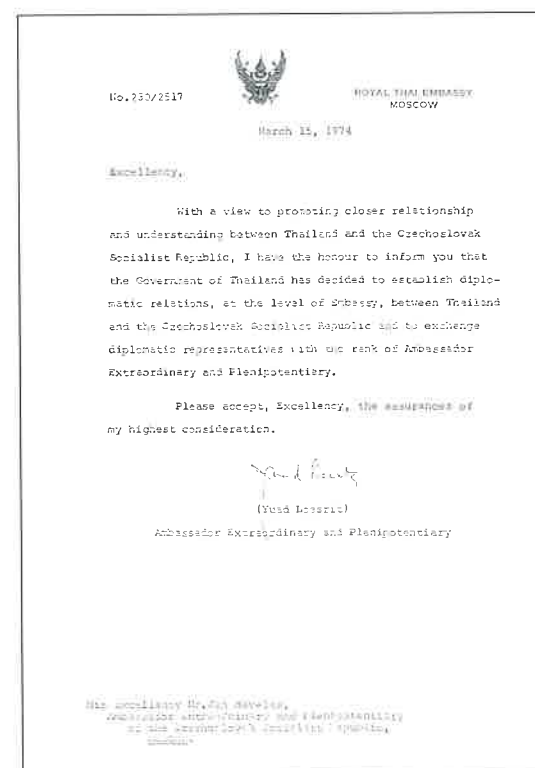
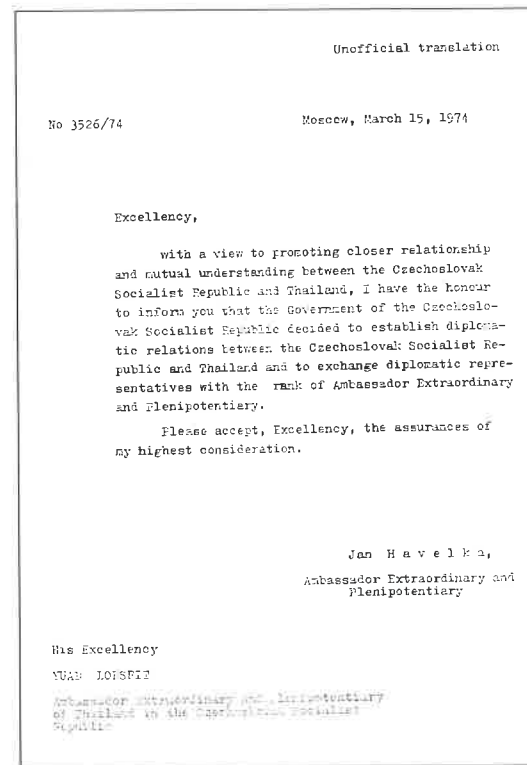
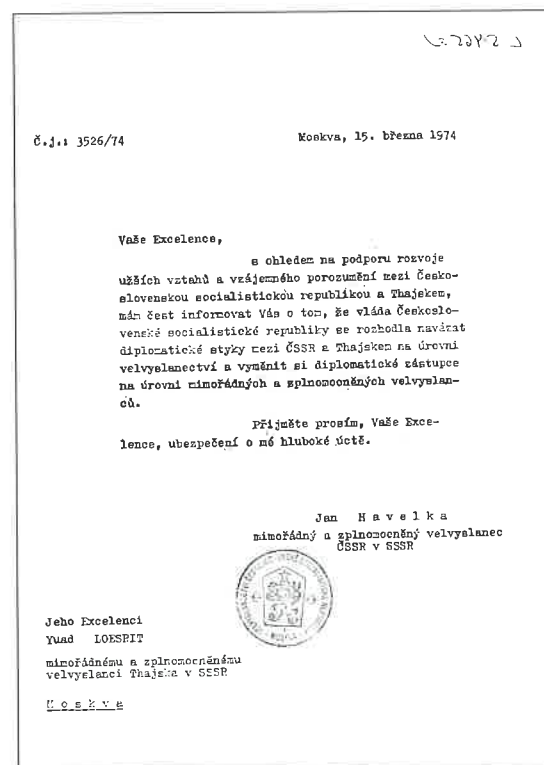
Mr. Miroslav Lukáš อัครราชทูตคนแรกของเชโกสโลวาเกียประจำประเทศไทยกับเจ้าหน้าที่สถานทูตในโอกาสฉลองวันชาติประเทศเชโกสโลวาเกียที่กรุงเทพมหานคร 9 พฤษภาคม พ.ศ. 2518 (30 ปีแห่งการสิ้นสุดสงครามโลกครั้งที่ 2)

The Establishment of Diplomatic Relations in 1974

The main obstacles preventing the establishment of diplomatic relations were questions regarding the war in Indochina. For many years, Thailand unambiguously supported the Americans and their allies, while the Czechoslovak government stood by the Vietnamese communists. When on October 23rd 1969 the Thai Ambassador to Moscow, Yuad Loesrit, passed a letter to the Czechoslovak Ambassador to Moscow with a proposal of the Thai cabinet for the establishment of diplomatic relations, the Czechoslovak side postponed their decision for those reasons. The end of Vietnam War brought the proposal to life. At that time the Thai and Czechoslovak governments adopted a more flexible position to mutual relations, and on March 9th 1973 the new Thai cabinet inquired about the Czechoslovak standing as to the 1969 Thai proposal, via the Czechoslovak Trade mission in Bangkok. The Cabinet of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, after consultations with the Foreign Ministry of the USSR, approved the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Thai Kingdom on May 4th, 1973. On that basis, the Czechoslovak cabinet approved the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Thai Kingdom by its decree No. 20 of January 17th 1974. The Czechoslovak Ambassador to Moscow, Jan Havelka, and Yuad Loesrit exchanged Notes on the establishment of diplomatic relations on March 15th, 1974. At the same time a joint communiqué was released.⁵³

In its primary stages the Czechoslovak Embassy was composed of representatives of the commercial section, and it replaced the current mission of the Czechoslovak companies of foreign trade in Bangkok.

⁵³ Tansania – Thailand 5. Czech MFA's archive. Document No.: TO-T 1970-1974; Establishment of diplomatic relations between CSSR and Thai Kingdom – original of Thai note and copy of Czechoslovak note – Moscow, 15 March 1974. Czech MFA's archives, document No.: L5.465.



Diplomatic Notes confirming the establishment of diplomatic relations between Czechoslovakia and Thailand in 1974
 สำนักราชการความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างประเทศไทยและประเทศเชโกสโลวาเกีย พ.ศ. 2517

Czechoslovakia was represented at Ambassadorial level by the Embassy in Rangoon, Burma. The Bangkok office was led by *Chargés d'Affaires ad Interim*, who were selected from staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They also operated as Heads of the Commercial Section in the Embassy.

The first Ambassador to Thailand, with residence in Rangoon, was HE Ladislav Jetmar (1975 – 1978). The first Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, with residence in Warsaw, was HE Kanit Sricharoen (1978 – 1981).⁵⁴

The establishment of diplomatic relations was followed by an agreement concerning adjustments in commercial relations. In 1987, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Siddhi Savetsila visited Czechoslovakia. However, the relationship stayed at quite a low level until the democratic changes in Czechoslovakia in 1989, and was characterised by mutual caution.

Cultural and sporting contacts were also rather sporadic. From time to time, some news about Czechoslovakia or Thailand appeared on the TV, radio or in the press of both countries, but most of these news stories were fragmentary and misrepresented, due to the difference in political positions. It's worth to mention the participation of Czechoslovakia at an International Exhibition of Red Cross, held on the occasion of the Days of the Thai Red Cross in April 1952. Opuses of famous Czech composers such as A. Dvořák, B. Smetana, Z. Fibich and B. Martinů were often on the repertoire for broadcast at Chulalongkorn University.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Sources: Czech Representation in Bangkok; Czech MFA, Prague.
⁵⁵ Thailand, q.b., p. 175.

Czech composers broadcasted at the Chulalongkorn University



Bohuslav Martinů



Antonín Dvořák



Bedřich Smetana



Leoš Janáček

The Czech Emigrant Community in Thailand

In Thailand, there were not only official representatives of Communist Czechoslovakia. The country became home for some of those who had to flee communist oppression, and who, for obvious reasons, avoided contacts with the Czechoslovak office in Bangkok before 1989. Here are some examples: Henry Wilde, a relative of the famous writer Egon Erwin Kisch and a nephew of Leo Trotsky's secretary, was born in Prague and survived the Nazi concentration camps of Theresienstadt and Bergen-Belsen. He decided not to return to Czechoslovakia after the war, and became an American citizen and US government official. He was posted to the US Embassy in Bangkok in 1968 and was immediately seconded to the US Army, serving in various capacities, lastly as the director of the 5th Field and US Army Hospital. After retiring from the US foreign service, he was asked to stay as a lecturer, and later professor of medicine at Chulalongkorn University and the Thai Red Cross Institute. Henry Wilde was made Commander of the Order of the White Elephant in 1984, and a Knight Commander of the Order of the Crown in 1998.

After the communist takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1948 many democrats had to leave the country, including the father of the young Zdeněk Mečíř from the Czech city of Plzeň, "the home of the best beer in the world". So Zdeněk Mečíř, or rather Denis D. Gray – the family changed their name after becoming US citizens – became a refugee at the age of seven, and travelled extensively around the world with his father. He arrived in Thailand in 1975 after having been assigned to Vietnam and Cambodia during the war. During his entire time in Thailand he served as chief of the Associated Press bureau for Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Burma. Denis D. Gray is one of the most respected journalists in Bangkok. In 1982, he was granted an interview with His Majesty the King.

After the Soviet invasion in 1968, many people left Czechoslovakia. Some of them, after spending time in other countries around the world, finally ended up in Thailand. Maxmilian Wechsler from Plzeň, an attorney



Denis D. Gray with H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej at Chitralada Palace, 1982

Denis D. Gray เข้าเฝ้าฯ พระบาทสมเด็จพระเจ้าอยู่หัวรัชกาลปัจจุบัน ณ พระตำหนักจิตรลดารโหฐาน พ.ศ. 2525



Henry Wilde (second right) with his colleagues from the Bangkok's WHO Centre for Research on Rabies, 1999

Henry Wilde และคณะผู้ติดตามจากศูนย์วิจัยโรคพิษสุนัขบ้าแห่งองค์การอนามัยโลก ที่กรุงเทพมหานคร ใน พ.ศ. 2542



Jan Mrskoř with H.E. Mr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, February 2002

Jan Mrskoř และ ราชทูต นายสุรเกียรติ์ เสถียรไทย รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงการต่างประเทศของไทย กุมภาพันธ์ พ.ศ. 2545

and journalist, and founder of the Czech Press agency in Thailand, has lived here since 1974. Jan Mrskoš, descendant of Vojta Náprstek, founder of the Náprstek Museum in Prague and sponsor of the trips by Vráz and Kořenský to Thailand in 1897 and 1901, arrived in Thailand in 1988, and he later owned a kitchenware factory near Lampang.

Czechoslovakia contributes to the industrialisation of Thailand

The field of commercial activities was more active after the Second World War. Thailand suffered from a remarkable lack of products and supplies from abroad, especially from the USA, didn't satisfy the local market. At that time, Thailand showed an interest in various Czechoslovak products – building materials including mounting, flat and concave glass, table glass and china, enamel goods, textiles, shoes, knitting and weaving goods, socks and tights, paper and writing aids, instruments and tools, nails, screws, wires, isolators, machine tools, and medicines.⁵⁶ The Bangkok Post newspaper noted the increasing volume of trade with Czechoslovakia in their edition of February 3rd 1949: *"On the trade front this week an interesting indication was given of Siam's new connections with the economy of what is sometimes called the 'Soviet satellite bloc' in Central Europe. Details provided by a Czech trade representative here show that Siam has bought and will be buying in the future, many imports from Czechoslovakia."*⁵⁷

According to a Statement from Ministry of Foreign Trade, Czechoslovak interests in Siam in the second half of the 1940's were represented by:

- A Representation of the Czechoslovak Metal and Engineering Works, Bangkok. The delegate was

⁵⁶ Record for Dr. Šimovič dated 24.10.1951 based on act of MFA No.: 171.573/48, MFA's archives.

⁵⁷ Significant Trends. The Bangkok Post Vol. 3, No.154, Thursday, February 3, 1949.

their employee Mr Jiří Blažek, who came back to Czechoslovakia when the agency had been disbanded, and took a post at the Kovo Company. In Thailand, the company was still represented by local correspondent, Nai Prayong, a correspondent of Kovo Ltd. in Bangkok.

- The Slavia Trading Co. in Bangkok (founded by Renard Zawilinski), which represented Budvar (a brewery from České Budějovice), the trading company Kotva Ltd., and the Association of Chemical and Metallurgical Production.

- The Czechoslovak Siam Trading Company Ltd. in Bangkok (founded at the joint suggestion of British citizen W. Buchan and Škoda employee Antonín Veverka). The company dealt in heavy engineering products, diesel engines, automobiles, motor cycles, pumps, cameras and radio receiving sets. Unfortunately, the company did not have a very good reputation, and went into liquidation between 1948 and 1950.⁵⁸

- The Zlin Co. branch of the franchise, trading in Singapore under the Zlin name. This affiliation was first set up by the Chemapol organisation of foreign trade, and it was later taken over by Transakta. In 1967, Zlin Co. declared bankruptcy. Immediately a substitute franchise, Zlinpex Co., was set up in 1968. This company didn't last too long; and also went into liquidation in 1972. No suitable company was found to continue its business. This affiliation had secured approximately half of the Czechoslovak exports to Thailand, and distributed a major part of the Czechoslovak imports.⁵⁹

In addition, Thai sources from 1949 mention that the Government Purchasing Bureau had been appointed as agents for "Minerva" sewing machines and bicycles, Y.I.E. Asia was distributing "Lada" sewing machines and typewriters, and Athorn Phanich was distributing Czechoslovak sports firearms and pistols, including those

⁵⁸ Record for Dr. Šimovič dated 24.10.1951, based on transcript of the Ministry of Foreign Trade Cey/743/74/51 dated 23.10.1951. MFA's archives.

⁵⁹ Holub, A. and Co. Thailand. q.b., p. 174.

manufactured by the Zbrojovka Brno arms factory. After the war, the Czechoslovak engineering industry (mainly Škoda) had supplied through their agents, Gerson & Sons Ltd., spare cane rollers for the government's sugar factory at Uttaradit, which had been badly in need of reconstruction for a long time. On top of this, Škoda supplied some spare parts and electric meters for the Government Power Station. Two 200KVA diesel-powered electric generators were each delivered to the General Post Office. Fifty pumping sets were supplied to the Irrigation Department. The company was also awarded by contracts by the Purchasing Bureau for the supply of ten diesel-powered road rollers for the Highway Department, and six others for reconstruction work at the Don Muang airfield.⁶⁰

The Czechoslovak communist government fully realised the possible outlet of the Thai market. It was certain that the Czechoslovak commercial presence by means of appointed companies was insufficient. The result of this was an interest in opening a Representative Office of Commerce of CSSR in Thailand. In a confidential document of the Ministry of Foreign Trade (MFT) dating back to 1953 that concerned the possibilities of opening a High Commission in Bangkok, was written: *"Thailand is a very good outlet market for CSSR for most of our products, especially for textile, rubber-textile shoes, cement, automobiles, motorcycles, etc. We offer profitable prices and new outlet possibilities are still developing; however the only insufficiency is the fact that we are referred to correspondence between our privileged companies and Thai companies (...). Systematic personal monitoring of the market by our people would make our imports better. In 1952, Czechoslovak exports to Thailand reached 45,406.000 Czk, and it is expected to reach 56,500.000 Czk in 1953. Recently, MFT started to explore the possibility of Thai imports, especially of rice and rubber. The import of rubber was cancelled in 1950 because the*

⁶⁰ Distribution Success: Czech Firm Reports Progress in Trade. The Bangkok Post Vol.3, No.154, Thursday, February 3rd, 1949.

*government of Pibun Songkhram announced an embargo on the export of 'strategic materials' into 'countries of national democracy' after specific pressures from the USA."*⁶¹

In 1958, the Czechoslovak commercial section in Thailand was founded, based on the semi-official decision under the formal name of Delegation of the Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Corporations. Beside the Chief delegate, there worked 1-3 other delegates, and each of them was responsible for representing several aspects of foreign trade. The commercial section secured the main part of Czechoslovak trade during a not very positive period, and after bankruptcy of Zlinpex they were responsible for whole Czechoslovak trade.⁶²

Considering the limited importance of services, the main activities in the field of Czechoslovak-Thai foreign trade were concerned with trade in goods. Despite the comparatively high level of economic complementarity and subsequently positive conditions, which resulted from the differences of the economic structures in both countries, the roles of Czechoslovakia in Thai foreign trade and of Thailand in Czechoslovak foreign trade were only secondary. This fact was mainly due to the unfavourable political presumptions for any development of trade. The Thai share of Czechoslovak foreign trade with developing countries rarely reached 1%.⁶³

There were two characteristic trends in the long term development of foreign trade turnover, exports, and imports between Czechoslovakia and Thailand. Firstly there was a gradual increase in all indicators (the average turnover for the period from 1949 to 1973 reached 6% annually, Czechoslovak exports to Thailand reached 5%,

⁶¹ CR postscript No. 144-Siam-743-25-53 from August 26th 1953, Czech MFA's archive.

⁶² Holub, A. and Co. Thailand, q.b., pp. 174 – 175.

⁶³ Holub, A. and Co. Thailand, q.b., p. 176.

and Thai exports to CSSR 11%)⁶⁴, and secondly they fluctuated from year to year. The reason for this was that Thailand supplied only a few materials which CSSR had the possibility of buying somewhere else, and the levels of purchase depended on various conditions.

Whilst in the 60's non-industrial commodities dominated the Czechoslovak exports to Thailand, in the 70's machinery and equipment required for the continuing Thai industrialisation started to prevail. The renewal, modernisation and development of the textile industry in Thailand shifted the Investa organisation of foreign trade to the primary position amongst Czechoslovak exporters (27% in 1973). The company took over the Pragoinvest organisation, which had been at the top for many years (19% in 1973). Pragoinvest, an exporter of traditional diesel engines and diesel aggregates, was one of the few organisations noted for their stable positions in the Thai market. At lower positions, there were engineering companies such as Strojimport (14%) and Motokov (6%). The main representatives of non-industrial organisations followed – Centrotex and Keramika (about 4% each). Exports from other organisations were low, and very often of single natures. On the level of particular commodities, the highest amounts of Czechoslovak export to Thailand in 1972 were made up of piston diesel engines⁶⁵, weaving machines⁶⁶, machine tools⁶⁷, piston compressors, vacuum pumps, abrasive materials, rolling chains, spares and accessories for textile machines, equipment for tanning factories, power units, knitting machines, synchronous electric motors, and swan-down quilts.⁶⁸

⁶⁴ Holub, A. and Co. Thailand, q.b., p. 178; to a summary of Czechoslovak – Thai foreign trade in the period 1949 – 1973, see Appendix 4.

⁶⁵ 3.2 mil. Czk = 17.3% of Czechoslovak export in 1972 and 1.2 mil Czk = 4.7% in 1973.

⁶⁶ 1.3 mil. Czk = 7% in 1972 and 3 mil. Czk = 12.1% in 1973.

⁶⁷ 1.02mil. Czk = 6.3% in 1972 and 2.2mil. Czk = 9% in 1973.

⁶⁸ Holub, A. and Co. Thailand, q.b., p. 182.

The structure of Thai exports to Czechoslovakia was incredibly poor for many years. Exports were limited only to a few materials. Only rubber featured as a regular export. Sometimes jute was also imported into Czechoslovakia. Other agricultural products or industrial products were not imported into Czechoslovakia, with the rare exception of rice. The poor structure of commodities was also reflected in the structure of foreign trade organisations. Practically the only constant importer was Chemapol, which was responsible for the import of natural rubber. The second-largest importer to Czechoslovakia was Centrotex, which imported natural jute.⁶⁹

The Czechoslovak-Thai Trade Agreement

At the beginning of the 1970's, an official Thai Trade Mission visited Czechoslovakia and the other European socialist countries for the first time, with the exception of the German Democratic Republic.⁷⁰ The head of the mission was the Minister of Agriculture, Bunchana Atthakor. Its main aim was to find new business opportunities at a time of economic crisis in Thailand. Thailand signed a trade agreement with Bulgaria during this period, but Czechoslovakia and Thailand's did not come to an agreement. Czechoslovakia submitted a proposal for a general non-contingent trade agreement to Thailand in 1971, but in 1972 Thailand replied with an opposite proposal, in which a payment system in convertible currencies was highlighted.⁷¹ Due to the vital trade balance between CSSR and Thailand, there were no important comments.⁷² In the next period, both proposals were adjusted, and a trade agreement was signed

⁶⁹ Holub, A. and Co. Thailand, q.b., p. 186. Structure of Thai export to CSSR based on organisations of foreign trade and product items – see Appendix 5.

⁷⁰ Thai Economic and Trade Mission to Eastern Europe 1971, Pra Cha Chang Co., Ltd. Bangkok 1971.

⁷¹ Holub, A. and Co. Thailand, q.b., p. 174 – 175

⁷² Report on the proposal to initiate discussion between Czechoslovakia and Thailand about Treaty of trade relations between both countries. Czech MFA's archives, copy of document No.: 011667/74 (1970 – 1974).



H.E. Siddhi Savetsila visited
Czechoslovakia in 1987

นายพลอากาศเอก สิทธิ เสวตศิลา รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวง
การต่างประเทศเยือนประเทศเชโกสโลวาเกียในปี พ.ศ. 2530

on May 18th, 1974, during a visit of the Czechoslovak Trade Mission to Bangkok. The agreement included a most-favoured-nation clause, made access to markets easier, adjusted the relations of payment, and prepared for an annually-updated document of commodity staff. More favourable conditions for the work of the Czechoslovak Commercial Section were made after the establishment of diplomatic relations. The Czechoslovak Commercial Section was given the same status as the commercial sections of other embassies or high commissions with established diplomatic relations.⁷³ In 1978, the final Czechoslovak-Thai Agreement on Trade was signed. In 1987, other possibilities for extensions in trade between both countries were discussed at Ministerial level. Both Foreign Ministries discussed this in March in Prague, and later in October in Bangkok during the 1st session of the Czechoslovak-Thai Committee for Trade Cooperation.

⁷³ Holub, A. and Co. Thailand, q.b., p. 174 – 175

V. A New Era of Friendship: The Development of Contacts after 1989

Governmental, parliamentary and diplomatic relations refreshed

The “Velvet Revolution” of November 1989 in Czechoslovakia, and the ensuing process of democratic change provided completely different conditions for the further development of Czechoslovak – Thai co-operation. In March 1990 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Siddhi Savetsila, was already in Prague discussing the possibilities for the development of bilateral relations. On the other side, in October 1990 Jiří Dienstbier, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic (CSFR), left for an official visit to Thailand. During the discussions with Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Choonhavan and Foreign Minister Subina Pinkajana, both sides expressed their satisfaction with the broad development of mutual relations, especially during the previous year, and accordingly claimed that the establishment of Embassies staffed with Ambassadors in Prague and Bangkok would greatly contribute to improving bilateral contacts. By early 1991, the Prague and Bangkok embassies were opened, and the countries exchanged Ambassadors. The first resident Ambassador to Thailand was H.E. Karel Stehno (1991 – 1992), and the first Ambassador to Prague was H.E. Kobsak Chutikul (1993 – 1994).⁷⁴

The Czech Republic was officially recognized as one of the succession states of former Czechoslovakia by Thailand on January 1st 1993 and set up diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level. Mutual contacts were developed mainly with the aim of finding the most effective forms of economic cooperation. Bilateral visits at Ministerial levels confirmed this mutual interest.

⁷⁴ See Insert 1.



H.E. Mr. Kobsak Chutikul, the first Thai Ambassador to Prague,
with the Czech President, H.E. Mr. Václav Havel, and the Czech Prime Minister,
H.E. Mr. Václav Klaus, 1993

ทนาย นาย/เอกอัครราชทูตไทยประจำกรุงปราก พร้อมด้วย H.E. Mr. Václav Havel ประธานาธิบดี
และ H.E. Mr. Václav Klaus นายกรัฐมนตรีแห่งสาธารณรัฐเช็ก



The President of the Czech Republic, H.E. Mr. Václav Klaus,
receiving the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand,
H.E. Mr. Sivakiart Sathirathai during his visit to the Czech Republic in May 2003

H.E. Mr. Václav Klaus ประธานาธิบดีแห่งสาธารณรัฐเช็กต้อนรับ พลเอก นายสุรเกียรติ์ เสถียรไทย รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงการต่างประเทศ
ระหว่างการเดินทางเยือนสาธารณรัฐเช็กในเดือนพฤษภาคม พ.ศ. 2546



The Thai-Czech Parliamentarians Friendship Group delegation headed by its President Khunying Kalaya Sophonpanich
was received by JUDr. Vojtěch Filip, Vice Chairman of the House of Representatives of
the Czech Republic on 11th June 2003 at the Parliament Building.

นาง JU Dr. Vojtěch Filip รองประธานสภาผู้แทนราษฎรสาธารณรัฐเช็กเป็นเจ้าภาพต้อนรับสมาชิกกลุ่มมิตรภาพ
สสไทย-เช็ก ณ อาคารรัฐสภา
เมื่อวันที่ 11 มิถุนายน พ.ศ. 2546



The delegation of Thai-Czech Parliamentarians Friendship Group calls on JUDr. Miroslav Somol,
Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade and his party on
12th June 2003 at The Ministry of Industry and Trade.

คณะผู้แทนกลุ่มมิตรภาพ ไทย-เช็ก เข้าพบปะสนทนากับนาย Dr. Jur. Miroslav Somol
รัฐมนตรีช่วยว่าการกระทรวงอุตสาหกรรมและการค้า และคณะ
เมื่อวันที่ 12 มิถุนายน 2546 เวลา 13.00 น. (เวลา) ณ กระทรวงอุตสาหกรรมและการค้า



H.E. Dr. Cyril Svoboda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, received H.E. Mr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, during his visit to Prague in May 2003

ภาพ: ดร. Cyril Svoboda
รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงการต่างประเทศของสาธารณรัฐเช็ก
ต้อนรับ พลเอก ท่าน สุรเกียรติ์ เสถียรไทย
รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงการต่างประเทศของไทย
ระหว่างการเยือนกรุงปราก ในเดือนพฤษภาคม พ.ศ. 2546



Dr. Tej Bunnag, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented a cheque to H.E. Dr. Jiri Sitler, Czech Ambassador to Thailand as a relief to flood victims in the Czech Republic at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23 December 2002.

After a delegation of almost one hundred representatives under the leadership of the Czechoslovak Prime Minister, Marián Čalfa, Thailand was also visited at the beginning of the 90's by the then Minister of Finance Václav Klaus, together with delegates of the Czech National Bank; the Czech Prime Minister Petr Pithart, together with an 80-member delegation consisting of representatives of political and commercial life and journalists. Thailand was also visited by the Chief of General Staff, General Pezl, by the Chairman of the Parliament, by Foreign Ministers Jiří Dienstbier and Jan Kavan (in February 2002), and by other Ministers. The President of the Czech Republic, Václav Havel, with his wife Olga Havlová, visited Thailand together with a delegation of dozens representatives from political, economic and cultural areas.

Since 1990, there have been several important visits from Thailand to Czechoslovakia, later to the Czech Republic. Besides economic missions, ministerial visits, including the visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs Surakiart Sathirathai (in May 2003), and MPs' visits, a delegation of the Thai Army under the leadership of General Suchinda Kraprayoon visited the Czech Republic. The country was visited consecutively by all three daughters of the Thai King: Princess Ubol Ratana, Princess Sirindhorn, and Princess Chulabhorn, and also by Queen Sirikit.⁷⁵

After a 1994 visit of the President of the Thai National Assembly, Prof. Marut Bunnag, to the Czech Republic, a Thailand-Czech Parliamentarian Friendship group was founded. On the Thai side the group consists of 70 members of parliament. The first Chairman of the Group was Gen. Charan Kullavaniya. The current Chairman of the Group is Khunying Kalaya Sophonpanich. Mr. Kobsak Chutikul, the first Ambassador of Thailand to the Czech Republic, is presently the Second Vice-Chairman of the Group.

⁷⁵ See Insert 2 regarding an exchange of delegations; See insert 3 regarding agreements signed up with Czech Republic and Thailand.



H.E. Mr. Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, with H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej

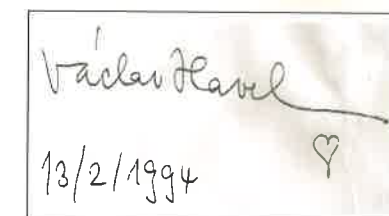
H.E. Mr. Václav Havel ประธานาธิบดีแห่งสาธารณรัฐเช็กเข้าเฝ้า
พระบาทสมเด็จพระปรมินทรมหาภูมิพลอดุลยเดช

A Czech – Thai Society was founded in the Czech Republic in 1998. The objective of this voluntary, non-governmental and non-profit organisation is the co-operation and creation of contacts within the wide spectrums of culture, science, education, economics and tourism between people and organisations in the Czech Republic and Thailand.⁷⁶

In November 2002, the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented US \$ 10.000 in humanitarian aid to the Czech regions affected by floods.

The Czech President visits Thailand

The most significant event of the 90's was undoubtedly the State Visit of the President of the Czech Republic, Václav Havel, and his wife Olga Havlová, to



President's signature from
The Oriental Guestbook
ลายเซ็นประธานาธิบดีจาก The Oriental Guestbook

⁷⁶ See link www.czechthaisociety.cz.



H.E. Mr. Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, with his wife Olga Havlová sightseeing the Grand Palace

H.E. Mr. Václav Havel ประธานาธิบดีสาธารณรัฐเช็กและ
Mrs. Olga Havlová ภรรยา ขณะเยี่ยมชมพระบรมมหาราชวัง

Thailand between the 11th and 14th February, 1994. The President was accompanied by, among others, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Ivan Kočárník, and Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Radomír Sabela.

President Havel arrived for a four-day visit from Calcutta, after he had completed his state visit in India. His aircraft landed on the afternoon of Friday 11th February, at the air force base in Bangkok. After opening the aircraft door, the Director General of the Protocol Department, together with the chargé d'affaires of the Czech Embassy, went aboard to welcome the President and his wife. After that the presidential couple disembarked from the aircraft and were welcomed by His Majesty the King of Thailand, Bhumibol Adulyadej, and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit on the airfield. The Czech President was introduced by the King of Thailand to the Thai Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Commander in Chief, and other Thai representatives. The Queen escorted Mrs. Havlová into the entrance hall of

the Royal Thai Air Force Headquarters Building and the King, together with the President, took their places on the dais. An honorary unit saluted, and twenty one volleys were fired. A military band played the Czech and Thai national anthems. After that, the Chief of the Honorary Unit announced a military parade. The band played a festive march, after which the Chief gave a report. The King then escorted the President into the entrance hall, where they joined their wives, and an introduction of the Czech delegation took place. Later on, the King and Queen escorted the President and his wife to the waiting cars, and left together for the historical golden Maha Jesadabodin monument in the centre of Bangkok, where Václav Havel was given the key to the city gate by the Governor of the eight million people of the Thai metropolis, Mr. Krisda Arunvongse. The motorcade then headed to Boromabiman Palace, where the Czech delegation was accommodated. After short dialogue in the lounge, the Royal couple bade farewell to the President and his wife, who together accompanied them to their cars, and then left for their apartments.

To conduct more private discussions, the Czech President again met the Thai King at Villa Chitralada in the Dusit Royal Palace on the same day. It was a purely private visit in which only the Presidential Couple and the Royal Family took part. The heads of state discussed Czech – Thai relations, as well as some problems of wider regional and global natures. The Czech President gave as a present to the Thai King, who is well known as a big fan of jazz and as a musician and composer, a masterpiece of musical instrumentation – a saxophone.

For the Czech side, this visit was even more significant because the Thai King accepted only one or two state visits per year. In the evening Their Majesties hosted a banquet in honour of Václav Havel and his wife at the Chakri Palace. The President and his spouse were welcomed by the staircase by the Lord Chamberlain, and then upstairs by the Royal Family. They left together for a parlour in the left wing of the palace, where the presents were displayed and photographers were allowed to take photographs for three minutes. In the hall containing the Royal portraits, the Chief of Presidential Protocol introduced the Czech delegation. The Lord Chamberlain

then introduced the main guests before the chief of Protocol introduced the diplomatic corps and other guests. After the appetizers, all guests left for The Throne Hall. The last to enter the Hall were the King with the Queen and Royal Family, followed by the President and his wife.

After dessert had been served, the King and the President toasted everybody in English. The Czech President admired, among other things, the stability and independence of Thailand. He said that contacts between both countries were not very intensive in the past, but after November 1989, the best efforts for mutual understanding were made. After the speech, both national anthems were played.

At the end of the banquet, a performance of the Thai Royal Ballet, Ramakien, took place. The next day, the Czech President received Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai and the President of the Thai National Assembly, Marut Bunnag. Then he received an honorary doctorate from Chulalongkorn University. In his speech at the University, which was dedicated to the problems of multicultural relations in an era of global civilisation, he observed in his conclusions:

"Ladies and gentlemen,

I have come to your kingdom from a distant and not very large Central European country. And yet there are a number of similarities between our two countries, not only external similarities, such as the fact that we are both building democratic institutions that correspond to our specific conditions. There is a deeper similarity. Our country was a traditional crossroads for different European spiritual trends and cultures, where for centuries various ethnic elements have both clashed dramatically and given each other mutual inspiration, from the ancient mingling of Celtic elements with the Slavic, to the enriching influence of the German and Jewish peoples, as well as the various other spiritual and intellectual influences such as Catholicism, Orthodoxy, the Reformation, the Enlightenment and Romanticism. So too the spiritual life

*of your country was enriched by various impulses, from the Indian to the Chinese and Burmese. Neither the Czech Republic nor Thailand are great powers, but thanks to the qualities I have just mentioned, both our countries should have a heightened appreciation of the multicultural nature of the world today, and the need for peaceful coexistence and mutual respect between the many different societies living on our planet."*⁷⁷

In the meantime, Olga Havlová was involved in a separate programme including a visit to The Support Foundation and a lunch with handicapped children from The Blind Foundation Bangkok.

In the afternoon the Presidential couple visited the famous Temple of the Emerald Buddha and the national museum, Phra Nakorn. In the evening they took part in a reception hosted by the Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai in their honour at the governmental building Santi Maitri. Czech Ministers I. Kočárník and J. Zieleniec, who met Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri during their special programme, joined the President there. They also signed, together with their counterparts, a mutual trade agreement at the Thai Foreign Ministry. This agreement's object was to facilitate easy access to the markets of both countries. Other agreements were also signed, such as an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation, an agreement on investment protection, and a protocol on cooperation between the Foreign Ministries of the Czech Republic and Thailand. On the same day, the ministers were invited to a private dinner with representatives of the commercial and financial sectors of Thailand.

On Sunday 13th February, President Havel visited the historical city of Ayuthaya 80 km north of Bangkok, which was the Thai capital city between the 14th and 18th centuries.

At Ayuthaya, the President visited the Temple of the Sitting Buddha, and the nearby Historical Park. After a short break in the summer place of Royal Family, he

⁷⁷ Prague Castle website. President Václav Havel – Speeches (http://old.hrad.cz/president/Havel/speeches/1994/1202_uk.html)

also visited the national museum of Chao Sam Phraya, and the Wat Yai Chai Mongkon monastery. From Bang Pa-in, they returned to Bangkok by boat along the river.

Both sides commented very positively on the atmosphere of the visit. The only shadow cast over the occasion was an accident of President Havel in Boromabiman Palace, where he slipped in the bathroom and broke a rib.

During the press conference held on the occasion of Havel's visit to Bangkok, Václav Havel stressed that the Czech Republic and Thailand are connected by a sense of their own independence, the building of democratic systems, and respect for human values. Successful discussions with King Rama IX, PM Chuan Leekpai, and other representatives brought opportunities for intensive cooperation between the Czech Republic and this highly developed Asian country. Both countries could help each other as the gateways to their own regions.

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Ivan Kočárník added that Thailand was a prospective partner for the Czech Republic. He expressed his conviction that the signed agreements would create good prospects for the development of bilateral business activities, and Czech companies would have an opportunity to gain a "wedge" in Thailand. The Czech delegation was further pleased by Kočárník's comments, including detailed information, about Czech political stability and economic liberalisation during their discussions with the Prime Minister and their counterparts.

The Foreign Ministers agreed to start consultations about co-operation between CEFTA (the Central European Free Trade Association) and AFTA (the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement). Close contacts between the regional organisations would help to overcome traditional Asian protectionism. Prague offered Bangkok several projects to develop a public transport network and to build a municipal waste incinerator. The possibility of building a factory in Thailand for the production of Škoda cars was also discussed. A possibility for trilateral cooperation with Vietnam, which would facilitate entry into this newly developing market, also arose out of a



H.E. Mr. Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, receiving an honorary doctorate of Chulalongkorn University

H.E. Mr. Václav Havel ประธานาธิบดีแห่งสาธารณรัฐเช็ก ได้รับปริญญาดุษฎีบัณฑิตกิตติมศักดิ์จากจุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

round table discussion. H.M. Queen Sirikit accepted an invitation for an unofficial visit to the Czech Republic, in addition Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai was officially invited to the country.⁷⁸

Mr. Václav Havel learned to admire the Thai traditions and culture and he was planning another visit to Thailand in 2004. He was hoping that he could open the exhibition "Siam Through the Eyes of Travellers E. St. Vráz and J. Kořenský". However, due to unexpected



⁷⁸ Thesis to evaluation report of Presidential visit to India and Thailand with interlanding in Turkey and Kuwait. Czech MFA's archives; Programme of state visit of the President Václav Havel and Olga Havlová in the Kingdom of Thailand during 11 – 14 February 1994. Czech MFA's archives. Dailies Rudé Právo 14.2.1994, MF Dnes 12.2.1994, Hospodářské noviny 14.2.1994.



Ramakien performance in front of the Grand Palace
การแสดงโขนเรื่องรามเกียรติ์ในหน้าพระบรมมหาราชวัง



The Presidential Couple at the banquet hosted by Their Majesties at The Chakri Palace
พระบาทสมเด็จพระเจ้าอยู่หัวและสมเด็จพระราชินีเสวยอาหารค่ำที่พระที่นั่งจักรีมหาปราสาท



President Václav Havel on the boat
on Chao Phraya River
ประธานาธิบดี Václav Havel บนเรือชม:สองฝั่งแม่น้ำเจ้าพระยา

health complications, which occurred in India, he had to postpone his visit to Thailand. He expressed his gratitude to the Royal Thai Family for their care and interest. He was touched by the gesture by Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn who sent him a bouquet of flowers to New Delhi. He also expressed his appreciation of the Royal Thai government's hospitality showed to him during the preparations of his visit and conveyed his greetings to all of the participants of the exhibition's opening ceremony.



H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn with her Czech guide Dr. Dáša Antlemanová

สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี
กับ: Dr. Dáša Antlemanová นักวิชาการชาวเช็ก

Members of the Thai Royal Family Enjoy the Czech Republic

For a long time, The King of Thailand, Rama IX, did not travel abroad. Members of his family very often travel and act on his behalf. The eldest daughter of the King, Princess Ubol Ratana, brought a gleam of the Thai Royal society to the Czech Republic in May 1994. In February 1996, an informal visit of Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn followed.

Princess Sirindhorn recounts her memories of Prague in her book "As the Winter Wind Whispers": "We arrived at Prague Airport at around 11:00 a.m. As it was an informal visit, there was no ceremony. We were welcomed by the Ambassador and his Wife (Mr. Vorapoj and Mrs. Phacharin Snitwongse), and the Embassy staff. The Czech delegation included the Director General of the Diplomatic Formalities Department (Mr. Jan Drábek), and the Director General of the Asia Department (Mr. Miloš Pojar).

Upon completion of the arrival formalities we set out to the Official Residence, where I stayed overnight. Before I got in the car, a person from Czech Television brought a microphone almost into contact with my mouth and asked me something which I did not hear properly, nor fully understand. I heard words something like 'Amnesty International'. Mr. Sem blinked his eyes as a sign that I should get in the car. I agreed with him as we had come there for pleasure and relaxation, so I should stay away from having words with any person. I actually wanted to know what he was talking about, probably something about drug trafficking, I wasn't sure...

The Ambassador sat in the same car with me, talking about the President, whose wife I had had the opportunity to welcome two years ago had recently died. I had heard about the President's illness from the Polish people. The Ambassador told me that the Czech economy was favourably stable, people were earning more since its connection with Europe, and its political and economic system had been mostly adjusted to become a part of Europe. There has been a large amount of investment from abroad. The Czech Republic is able to manufacture more products for export and may soon become a member of the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic



H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn during her visit to the Czech Republic in February 1996

สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี เสด็จพระราชดำเนินเยือนสาธารณรัฐเช็ก
ในเดือนกุมภาพันธ์ พ.ศ. 2539



H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn with H.E. Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic (Czech daily newspaper "Mladá Fronta Dnes")
สมเด็จพระเจ้าลูกเธอ เจ้าฟ้าจุฬาภรณวลัยลักษณ์ อัครราชกุมารี
และ H.E. Václav Havel ประธานาธิบดีแห่งสาธารณรัฐเช็ก
(Mladá Fronta Dnes หนังสือพิมพ์รายวันของเช็ก)

Treaty Organisation (NATO). Certain factors accommodate investment, namely political and economic stability, lower inflation rates than those of neighbouring and regional countries, low debts, a steady foreign exchange rate, and low labour costs. Investment protection laws have been introduced, such as prohibited seizure of property, etc. Presently, certain Thai businessmen are interested in investing in the Czech Republic in such areas as the hotel industry, tire manufacturing, and joint investment with Czech businessmen.

At the Official Residence, I met the Ambassador's daughter and son, the Ambassador himself, his aunt Mrs. Wilawan, and a few Thai people residing in Prague. The gardener was very kind; he had made a snowman for me, but the warmer weather had melted it.

At lunch I ate a lot as I was very hungry and the lunch was delicious. After lunch, we went out for a sightseeing trip led by a guide named Dr. Dáša Antlemanová. She was not only a tour manager, but also a pediatric psychiatrist. The Ambassador said that one of the reasons he chose Dáša was because she was of medium height. This meant that we did not have to look up at her, stretching our necks when talking with her.

We parked our van and walked to Old Town Square. We felt that it was very cold, but later got used to it. This area used to be the centre of the city in the 1100's. People settled close to the River Vltava. Some streets built at that time still remain and there are certain landmarks, such as parks and churches, which date back to that era. We were going to St. Nicholas and Charles Bridge and Charles University, established in the 1400's, of which one faculty is the Faculty of Medicine.

In the section called the Jewish Quarter, there were two groups of Jews who lived there in Middle Ages. The first group came from the West to live in the Old-New Synagogue. The Jews from the Byzantine Kingdom lived in and around the area presently called the Spanish Synagogue. Later, both groups consolidated and the area was restricted and called a Ghetto, like our slum... I walked to the cemetery, which is not a very large area, but which contains approximately 100,000 corpses, buried by piling the bodies on top of one another, up to about twelve layers. There are about 12,000 tombstones installed on the ground, some leaning and some



H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn being welcomed at the Prague Airport by the Director General of the Department for Bilateral Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jakub Karfik
Mr. Jakub Karfik กระทรวงการต่างประเทศ ฝ่าย รับผิดชอบ
สมเด็จพระเจ้าลูกเธอ เจ้าฟ้าจุฬาภรณวลัยลักษณ์ อัครราชกุมารี
ณ สนามบินกรุงปราก

lying on the ground. One corpse of an important person, who founded the Synagogue, was buried there too. This interesting person was Rabbi Low (pronounced 'Lao') (1520 – 1609)... Rabbi Low was a philosopher and an author, and also the director of a Jewish Biblical School. A related legend states that he was a superman. He once moulded a clay monster called Golem, and put a sacred stone into its mouth to enliven it. Golem was running wild, so horribly, that the Rabbi had to get the sacred stone out of his mouth and hid it in the roof of the Old-New Synagogue. Golem was probably comparable to a computer robot of our present time..."

The Princess visited many other Prague sights, including the Maisel Synagogue, the Old Town Clock Tower, the Stavovské Theatre, the Karolinum, Wenceslas Square, the New Town Hall, Klementinum, Concert Chamber where her niece, Ployphailin, had once performed, and Charles Bridge. She remembers this famous sight: "Walking along Charles Bridge, there were lots of tourists. There were tens of millions of people visiting, many of whom were Thais. In Summer, it was so crowded that we could not walk about".

Next, the group went to the baroque Cathedral of St. Nicholas in the Lesser Town. Near this cathedral, at



H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn with the Director of the Moser glass factory, Mr. Antonín Vlk
สมเด็จพระเจ้าลูกเธอ เจ้าฟ้าจุฬาภรณวลัยลักษณ์ อัครราชกุมารี และ Mr. Antonín Vlk ผู้อำนวยการโรงงาน Moser glass



H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn with the Mayor of Karlovy Vary, Dr. Josef Pavel, tasting the healing water from Mill Spring
สมเด็จพระเจ้าลูกเธอ เจ้าฟ้าจุฬาภรณวลัยลักษณ์ อัครราชกุมารี นายกเทศมนตรีของ Karlovy Vary และ Dr. Josef Pavel



H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn with the Mayor of Karlovy Vary, Dr. Josef Pavel
สมเด็จพระเจ้าลูกเธอ เจ้าฟ้าจุฬาภรณวลัยลักษณ์ อัครราชกุมารี นายกเทศมนตรีของ Karlovy Vary และ Dr. Josef Pavel



H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn visiting the Moser glass factory in Karlovy Vary
สมเด็จพระเจ้าลูกเธอ เจ้าฟ้าจุฬาภรณวลัยลักษณ์ อัครราชกุมารี เสด็จฯ ไปเยี่ยมชมโรงงาน Moser glass ใน Karlovy Vary



H.M. Queen Sirikit with Mrs. Dagmar Havlová, wife of the Czech President, during the visit of the Queen to Prague in October 2002
สมเด็จพระนางเจ้าสิริกิติ์ พระบรมราชินีนาถ และ Mrs. Dagmar Havlová ภริยาประธานาธิบดีเช็ก ระหว่างการเสด็จพระราชดำเนินเยือนกรุงปราก ในเดือนตุลาคม พ.ศ. 2545

the Vinárna U Maltézských Rytířů, the Princess and her company had dinner:

"In the evening, we went to the Vinárna U Maltézských Rytířů (Wine Tavern of the Maltese Knights) Restaurant, where the Ambassador said there were ghosts. I thought we could try to dine there, as we did not have to stay there overnight and we could be safe in a group of several persons. After we arrived, they served Becherovka liquor. It was yellow, sweet and bitter, and made of herbs... The restaurant owner told us the history and the story of ghosts with a musician playing Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance songs. He played a strange flute, like a Scottish bagpipe, but it looked better as the man did not blow it but used his armpit to squeeze the air bag hanging along his side. I did not understand the legend much, I just heard about two regular curses: the curse of the Knights of Malta in this residential area with a secret pathway, and the

curse of the Black Horse concerning the ghosts (this was being told under a dim light). We were told about the owner of the old inn who had two daughters – one pretty and the other not so pretty. The pretty one fell in love with a soldier and sneaked away to meet him at a well. Her father was very angry and killed her; it was for this reason that the ghosts existed. Actually, he told a very long story, but I forgot most of it.

The Ambassador took us by coach to view Prague at night. We stopped to view Charles Bridge and the city we had visited during daytime. The scenery was beautiful. After that, we went back to sleep as we were very exhausted." Next day the Princess also visited Prague Castle, Loreta and the nearby Strahov Monastery.

A six-day visit of the youngest daughter of the King of Thailand, H. R. H. Princess Chulabhorn, in May 2000 was of an official character. The Princess is a well known science researcher in fields of organic chemistry and medicine, and her biography includes tens of pages of honorific titles, functions, lectures in Thailand and abroad, as well as a long list of prestigious science laboratories, in which she had worked. The visit took place following an invitation from President Havel. The Royal delegation occupied part of the Marriot Hotel near Masaryk Railway Station.

The Princess met with President Havel and his second wife Dagmar, whom the President married after the death of his first wife Olga, who had suffered from cancer. President Havel referred on this occasion to his previous visit to Thailand six years previously, which had made a very deep impression on him. Czech-Thai relations had previously been, in his own words, "frozen", but recently they became much more intensive.⁷⁹

The Princess visited Prague Castle after her meeting with the President. In the evening, the presidential couple hosted a gala dinner in her honour.⁸⁰

⁷⁹ E.i., before the visit the Agreement on the Transfer of Offenders and Cooperation in the Enforcement of Penal Sentences was signed in Bangkok on April 26, 2000; agreement took effect from September 24, 2002).

⁸⁰ Lidové noviny 18.5.2000, MF Dnes 18.5.2000.



H.M. Queen Sirikit with Mrs. Dagmar Havlová, wife of the Czech President, during the visit of the Queen to Prague in October 2002

สมเด็จพระนางเจ้าสิริกิติ์ พระบรมราชินีนาถ และ Mrs. Dagmar Havlová ภริยาประธานาธิบดีเช็ก ระหว่างการเสด็จพระราชดำเนินเยือนกรุงปราก ในเดือนตุลาคม พ.ศ. 2545

Next, Princess Chulabhorn visited Karlovy Vary. First of all, the Princess visited the Moser glass factory, as her uncle King Prajadhipok had 66 years previously. Afterwards, she visited the recently renovated City Theatre. She viewed the powerful Vřídlo hot spring, and a colonnade called Mlýnská kolonáda, where together with the Karlovy Vary mayor, Mr. Josef Pavel, she tasted the healing waters from Mill Spring.⁸¹

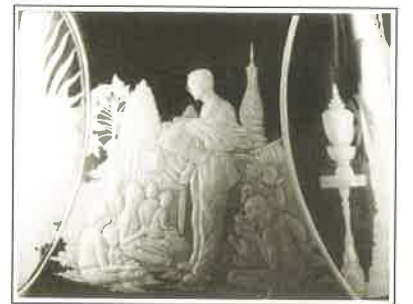
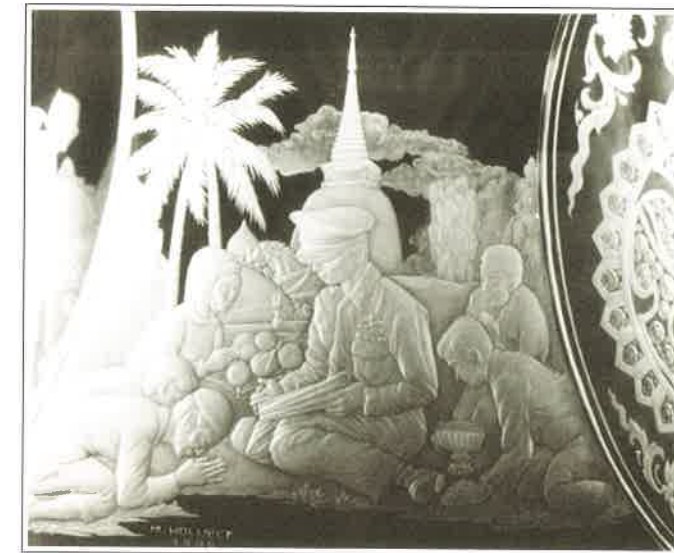
The most important visit of a representative of the Thai Royal Family came in October 2002, when Her Majesty Queen Sirikit arrived in the Czech Republic for a one-day visit. The royal aircraft landed at Prague Ruzyně Airport shortly after noon. Once there, H.M. the Queen was met by a representative of the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry, who escorted her to Prague Castle. Dagmar Havlová, the wife of the President, received H.M. the Queen there. H.M. the Queen signed the memorial book and toured the buildings. She continued to Charles Bridge, the Old Town Square and then left for the airport to travel to Italy.⁸²

⁸¹ Čížek J.: The visit of The Princess of Thailand. Czech-Thai Society: <http://www.czechthaisociety.cz/zajimavosti/princezna-princezna.htm>.

⁸² Programme of the Visit of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of the Kingdom of Thailand to Prague 27 October 2002. Czech MFA's archives 25/10 02:11 TX/RX No 0904.

Important Partners in Commercial and Economic Cooperation

Thailand has become one of the most important trade partners of the Czech Republic in Asia. Mutual trade was developing in a very positive way from the beginning of the 90's until 1996. The sale of 36 L-39 Primer jet aircraft, completed in 1994, significantly contributed to a remarkable increase in Czech exports to Thailand between 1993 and 1994.



Present of the Moser glass factory for H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his coronation. The vase is exactly 50 cm high as the symbol of the 50 years on the throne.

The work on this very special piece lasted more than 11 months.

โรงงานผลิตเครื่องแก้ว Moser ทุ่มเทสร้างถวายงานฉลองขึ้นครองราชย์ 50 ปี ที่พระบาทสมเด็จพระเจ้าอยู่หัวภูมิพลอดุลยเดช ทรงครองราชสมบัติครบ 50 ปี

Long lasting Cooperation between the Royal Thai Air Force and AERO Vodochody

AERO Vodochody a.s. is the largest aircraft producer and military plant of the Czech Republic. It has been developing and manufacturing military and civil aircraft for over 80 years. The company produced more than 6,500 light military combat and training airplanes in last three decades; these have been successfully operated in more than 20 Air Forces throughout the world.

Mutual cooperation between RTAF and AERO Vodochody started in 1991 during discussions about the L-39 aircraft, in which RTAF was interested. The contract for 36 of the L-39ZA aircraft was signed in May 1992, after several negotiation sessions. The whole batch was delivered between December 1993 and October 1994. The L-39ZA aircraft represents the latest member of the L-39 family. The aircrafts avionics system is based on the precise INS [inertial navigation system], and all necessary information is presented on an Heads-Up Display.

The service is successful not only due to the characteristics of the aircraft, but mainly because of the highly-experienced and skilled personnel and pilots. Proof of this can



One of the 40 Czech jet airplanes bought by the Royal Thai Air Force in 1994
เครื่องบินเจ็ท 1 ใน 40 ลำของเช็กที่กองทัพอากาศไทยจัดซื้อ ใน พ.ศ. 2537

be seen in the outstanding results attained in the Cobra Gold competition, where also US Air Force aircraft and pilots participated.

Between 1995 and 1996 4 additional new aircraft were delivered, joining the fleet of the existing aircraft.

General overhauls are currently being performed on all of the fleet. The purpose of the overhaul is to regain service operability and reliability, as well as to exchange all items of limited life installed on the aircraft. AERO specialists, in cooperation with Thai personnel have been performing this overhaul since 2000 at the Takhli Air Force Base; the expected completion date is Autumn 2005.



New activities by Czech engineering companies appeared in a balance of Czech exports in 1996, mainly due to the performances of Stavostroj N. Město and Stasis H. Slavkov. However, the volume of trade was influenced by the economic crisis in Thailand and subsequent currency devaluation. Since that time, the Czech Republic has been experiencing a markedly passive balance of bilateral trade relations.⁸³

Approximately 25% of the Czech exports to Thailand in 1996 consisted of building machines, mainly rollers. During 1997, the volume of building activities was reduced due to the crisis in Thailand; projects such as the construction of highways and development of the



Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Dr. Miroslav Somol, during the visit of the R.T.A.F. Airbase in Takhli in October 2003

Dr. Miroslav Somol รัฐมนตรีช่วยว่าการกระทรวงอุตสาหกรรมและการค้าของสาธารณรัฐเช็กระหว่างการเยือนฐานทัพอากาศของไทย ที่ตากลิ เดือนตุลาคม พ.ศ. 2546

⁸³ See Appendix to mutual trade.

Industrial Zone in the Rayong area were stopped. This trend was naturally projected onto Czech exports. Whilst in 1996 Czech Republic supplied Thailand with rollers to the value of US\$ 11 million, in 1997 the value dropped to US\$ 7 million, and in 1998 this commodity was not supplied at all. Concurrently, the same happened with the export of printing machines, machine tools and steel products. The pricing policy of some Czech companies, which were offering their products at higher costs than their competitors, also induced a reduction in Czech exports (in, for example, the tractor market).

The situation of Thai exports to the Czech Republic changed remarkably after the devaluation of Thai currency. Many Czech importers started returning to Thailand from the Chinese and Indo-Chinese markets. They had left for these markets a couple of years previously to take advantage of the cheaper products (especially in textile goods and canned food products), as the Thai economy had at that time started to lose its comparative advantage of cheap labour, and products had become more expensive. This trend continued up to 2004.

The turnover of Czech-Thai trade developed at a dynamic rate. Based on Czech data, turnover in 2002 reached US\$ 192 million, which was an increase of 22% on the previous year. Czech exports to Thailand increased by 33% at that time, reaching US\$ 58.7 million, while Thai exports to the Czech Republic increased by 17% to US\$ 133.1 million.

Based on Thai statistics, imports from the Czech Republic in 2002 amounted to US\$ 54 million, which is comparable to the Czech statistics. However, a big difference can be seen in the figures accounting for the Thai exports to the Czech Republic. The Thai statistics show exports of only US\$ 69 million; this would mean that Thai products worth more than US\$ 60 million were imported into Czech Republic via other countries.⁸⁴

⁸⁴ See Appendix 6 & 7: Summary of Czech – Thai foreign trade during 1998 – 2002 based on data from Thai and Czech statistics

Despite the fact that the Czech Republic experienced a big balance of trade deficit in 2002 and 2003, Czech exports to Thailand were growing faster than Thai exports to the Czech Republic. On the Czech side it was appreciated that the export of machines and equipment, traditionally representing our strongest export base, more than doubled during this period. This made up about 60% of total Czech exports. More than half of that (US\$ 17 million) consisted of computer components, which are exported to Thailand by international companies for their own production processes. With the beginning of the overhaul of the L-39 jets, the export of aircraft spares also increased. After two years, the Czech republic managed to export steam turbines. As a result of the rapid development of the Thai automobile industry, Czech exports of car spare parts, mainly break systems and fuel pumps, increased. On the other hand, the export of Škoda cars plummeted, as a high customs burden prevented Czech cars from competing with cars made in Thailand. Exports of milk powder, which previously constituted nearly half of Czech exports to Thailand, also fell, but exports of malt appeared for the first time.⁸⁵

Among the companies with currently high levels of activities in the Thai market are Škoda Auto, Škoda TS Plzeň, Zbrojovka Uherský Brod, Sellier & Bellot, Aero Vodochody, Strojimport, Laktos Praha, Preciosa Praha, Technoexport, and so on.

On the other hand, Thailand has a dominant position in the Czech markets for some commodities such as canned tuna, pineapples, rice, latex surgical gloves, silver jewellery, PC components, electronics, and electronics spares.

A major part of the increase in Thai exports consists of electronic equipment such as computer parts and telecommunication equipment. In addition, the export of clothes and shoes is increasing rapidly.⁸⁶

⁸⁵ See Appendix 8: The Commodity Structure of Czech export to Thailand in 2002.

⁸⁶ See Appendix 9: Commodity structure of Thai export to CR in 2002.



Škoda Tudor 1933
รถยนต์ Škoda Tudor ในปี พ.ศ. 2476



Škoda Faeton 1920
รถยนต์ Škoda Faeton ในปี พ.ศ. 2463



Škoda Faeton
รถยนต์ Škoda Faeton

The first models of Škoda cars
รถยนต์ Škoda รุ่นแรก

Various Thai companies have already asserted themselves in the area of Czech-Thai trade, for example Yontrakit Autocentre, Czech Trade Mera, Min Sen Machinery, Diary Master, Trinity.com, PMB Interfood, Bantai-Crystal Ceramic, Krystalina, Global Union Express, IRD Engineering, Sutech Consultant, Sanong Bangkok, H.R.I., Wong Wai Wit, Siam Instruments, and others.

Prospective Areas for Czech – Thai Economic Cooperation

Most often, demand for Czech products in Thailand reflects the traditional Czech exports there.



Škoda Fabia Combi
รถยนต์ Škoda รุ่น Fabia Combi



Models being presently sold in Thailand
รุ่นต่าง ๆ ที่กำลังจำหน่ายอยู่ในประเทศไทยปัจจุบัน

Škoda Octavia
รถยนต์ Škoda รุ่น Octavia



Specifically, there is demand for machinery tools, milk powder, power machinery and high voltage links transformers, water pumps, iron, steel and coloured metal products, electrical appliances, electronic motors, laboratory equipment, recycling machines, spares for tractors, weapons and ammunition, glass goods, and textile products. To the most promising branches for Czech exporters undoubtedly belongs the military industry. Czech weapons systems have an excellent reputation in Thailand, and Thai defence forces have a long experience with Czech weapons. Supplies of Škoda cars, which are well established in the local market, especially the Fabia Combi model, enjoy the favour of Thai customers. Czech

companies could assert themselves in the export of energy equipment, environmental protection equipment, technologies for breweries and sugar refineries, the petrochemical industry, the glass, textiles and food processing industries, agricultural and railway technology, and machine tools. In the non-engineering sector, the Czech Republic has very good opportunities to increase its exports of milk powder, whey, malt, potato starch and wheat flour.

On the other hand, there are good conditions for Thai business to enter the Czech market. Besides the already quoted increases in the import of commodities, like electronics etc., tourism is a very important component in Thailand's relationship to the Czech Republic. Whilst at the beginning of the 1990s there was merely a couple of hundred tourists to Thailand per year, now the number has increased to the tens of thousands.⁸⁷

Based on a poll, Czech people consider Thailand to be the most attractive country where they would like to spend their holidays. Increasingly, some of them combine their holidays with business trips. This brings new possibilities for further economic co-operation. In the future, a certain increase in Czech-Thai trade turnover can be expected.⁸⁸

⁸⁷ Source: Embassy of Kingdom of Thailand in the Czech Republic (Internet: <http://www.thajsko.com/thvtisku/dothajska.htm>).

⁸⁸ Source: Ministry of Trade and Industry CR. Internet: http://www.export.cz/territory/087/087_7.htm
http://www.export.cz/territory/087/087_11.htm

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Thai – Czechoslovak diplomatic relations

Diplomatic relations

- 15 March 1974, diplomatic relations established with former Czechoslovakia at the ambassadorial level (until 1990 ambassadors with residence in Rangoon, from 1990 in Bangkok). The Czech Republic was accepted as one of the succession states of the former Czechoslovakia on 01.01.1993. At the same time, diplomatic relations were established at the level of Embassies.



Staff of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bangkok, November 2004
เจ้าหน้าที่สถานทูตเช็กในกรุงเทพฯ เดือนพฤศจิกายน พ.ศ. 2547

Royal Thai Embassy

Romaina Rollanda 3, 160 00 Prague 6 – Bubeneč, Czech Republic

Ambassadors of Thailand to Czechoslovakia with residence in Warsaw

H.E. Mr Kanit Sricharoen (1978 – 1981)
H.E. Mr Uthai Thongphakdi (1981 – 1983)
H.E. Mr Chuay Kannawat (1983 – 1986)
H.E. Mr Bhadung Dhanyangkun (1986 – 1989)
H.E. Mr Chamras Chombhubol (1989 – 1991)

Ambassadors to the Czech Republic with residence in Prague

H.E. Mr Kobsak Chutikul (1991 – 1994)
H.E. Mr Vara-Poj Snidvongs (1994 – 1997)
H.E. Mr Narin Pontham (1997 – 2000)
H.E. Mr Tamnu Tangkanasing (2001 – 2002)
H.E. Mr Kriengsak Deesrisuk (2003 – 2004)

H.E. Mr. Václav Klaus, Prime Minister
of the Czech Republic,
with the Thai Ambassador
H.E. Mr. Kobsak Chutikul

H.E. Mr. Václav Klaus นายกรัฐมนตรีสาธารณรัฐเช็ก
และ ายพณฯ นายเอกอัครราชทูตไทย
ประจำสาธารณรัฐเช็ก



President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech
Parliament,
Mr. Milan Uhde, with the Thai Ambassador
H.E. Mr. Kobsak Chutikul

Mr. Milan Uhde ประธานสภาผู้แทนราษฎรสาธารณรัฐเช็ก
และ ายพณฯ นายเอกอัครราชทูตไทยประจำสาธารณรัฐเช็ก



Embassy of the Czech Republic

Ruam Rudee Soi 2, Ploenchit Road, Bangkok, Kingdom
of Thailand

Ambassadors to Thailand with residence in Rangoon

H.E. Mr Ladislav Jettmar (1975 – 1978)
H.E. Dr Miroslav Žemla (1978 – 1981)
H.E. Ing Jozef Božek (1982 – 1986)
H.E. Ing Jaroslav Richtr (1986 – 1990)

Ambassadors to Thailand with residence in Bangkok

H.E. PhDr Karel Stehno (1991 – 1992)
H.E. PhDr Jan Bečka, Csc. (1996 – 2000)
H.E. PhDr Jiří Šitler (2001 – present)

Actor Richard Gere, Czech Ambassador
Jiří Šitler and P. Joseph Maier at the
Mercy Centre orphanage in Klong Toey,
Bangkok, July 18, 2004

ริชาร์ด เกียร์ นักแสดง,
ายพณฯ เอกอัครราชทูต Dr. Jiří Šitler และ P. Joseph Maier
ณ บ้านเด็กกำพร้า Mercy Centre คลองเตย กรุงเทพฯ
เมื่อวันที่ 18 กรกฎาคม พ.ศ. 2547

Appendix 2

Exchange of delegations after 1989⁸⁹

Czech delegations to Thailand

- March 1990 – Consultation of MFA Deputies in Bangkok
- October 1990 – Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia, Jiří Dienstbier, mainly devoted to increasing of trade and the extension of economic co-operation
- May 1991 – Official visit of the Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia, Marián Čalfa to Thailand. Possibilities for co-operation mainly in economic areas were discussed
- October 1991 – Visit of the Minister of Finance, Václav Klaus. An agreement on the promotion and protection of investments was signed
- February 1992 – Delegation led by the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Petr Pithart
- May 1992 – Czechoslovak military delegation led by GCOS General Pezl
- October 1993 – Delegation of the Czech Police Department led by Deputy Director, Ing Zátorský
- February 1994 – State visit of President Václav Havel, together with a delegation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance I. Kočárník, and Foreign Minister J. Zieleniec
- March 1994 – Delegation of the Chamber of Deputies led by the Leader of the Chamber, Milan Uhde
- May 1994 – Minister of Trade and Industry of the Czech Republic, Václav Dlouhý, with a group of businessmen

⁸⁹ Czech Embassy in Thailand. Thailand. Mutual relations. Internet: <http://www.czechembassy.org/www/default.asp?ido=3001&idj=1&amb=13>; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of CR; Stehno, K: Thai – Czech Bilateral Relations . Internet: <http://www.thajsko.com/zajimavosti/mezistatnivzathy.htm>.

- June 1994 – Deputy Minister of Work and Social Affairs, Mr. M. Vaněk
- November 1995 – Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. M. Somol
- November 1995 – First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. A. Vondra
- March 1996 – Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. H. Bambasová
- October 1999 – Chairman of Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the Senate, Mr. M. Žantovský
- April 2000 – Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. H. Kmoníček
- February 2002 – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Mr. J. Kavan
- October 2003 – Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Mr. M. Somol
- November 2004 – Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. P. Kolář

Thai delegations to the Czech Republic

- March 1990 – Visit of the Foreign Minister of the Thai Kingdom, Siddhi Savetsila. Discussions about the possibility of developing bilateral relations
- March 1990 – Delegation of the Thai Parliament, which was interested in developing contacts with the legislative body
- April 1990 – Visit of the Deputy Prime Minister, Pong Sarasin
- October 1990 – Visit of the Deputy Prime Minister, M. Rattanakoses
- August 1991 – Consultations of the MFA Deputies
- September 1991 – Visit of a Thai military delegation led by the Commander-in-Chief of the Military Forces, General Suchinda Kraprayoon

April 1993 – Secretary of Prime Minister Office S. Thianprasert

April 1993 – Group of MPs led by P. Nilwatcharamanee

September 1993 – Groups of judges led by the Chief of Criminal Court Paitoon Netipoh

September 1993 – Group of MPs led by the President of the Senate, Meechai Ruchupan

September 1993 – Delegation of the Thai Parliament led by its Chairman, Marut Bunnag

March 1994 – ‘Goodwill’ visit of the Deputy Prime Minister, Supachai Panitchpakdi

May 1994 – Unofficial visit of Princess Ubol Ratana

February 1996 – Unofficial visit of Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

November 1999 – Delegation led by Sophon Phetsawan, the Deputy Chief of the Parliament

May 2000 – Official visit of Princess Chulabhorn

June 2000 – Delegation led by Commercial Director Kornpoj Asvinvichit for a Commercial Chamber meeting

October 2002 – Private visit by H.M. The Queen Sirikit

May 2003 – Official visit by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Surakiart Sathirathai

February 2004 – Official visit of Thai Trade Representative, Dr. Kantathi Supamongkhon

September 2004 – Visit of the Commander in Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force, ACM Kongsak Vantana

Appendix 3

Important Agreements signed between the Kingdom of Thailand and Czechoslovakia/The Czech Republic

Trade Agreement between the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of the Thailand (Prague, 20.9.1978) [terminated]

Arrangement on Cooperation between the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the kingdom of Thailand (Prague, 26.8.1991) [terminated]

Air Service Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (Bangkok, 14.6.1988), Confidential Memorandum of Understanding (Prague 8.2.1994), Agreed Minutes of Consultations between the Aeronautical Authorities (Bangkok, 19.10.1999)

Agreement between the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the Kingdom of the Thailand for the promotion and protection of investments (16.10.1991) [terminated]

Agreement on the Abolition of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports between the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand (Prague, Bangkok, 2.12.1991)

Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Kingdom of the Thailand for the Promotion and Protection of Investments (Bangkok, 12.2.1994)

Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Kingdom of the Thailand for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (Bangkok, 12.2.1994)

Arrangement on Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand (Bangkok, 12.2.1994)

Trade agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of the Thailand (Bangkok, 12.2.1994) [terminated]

Agreement between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Czech Republic on the Transfer of Offenders and Co-operation in the Enforcement of Penal Sentences (Bangkok 26.4.2000; took effect from 24.9.2002)

Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Czech Republic (to be signed in 2005)

Appendix 4

Summary of Czechoslovak-Thai Foreign Trade between 1949 and 79 (in Czk, thousands)⁹⁰

Year	Import	Export	Trade balance (for CSSR)
1949	7253	835	+6418
1950	1130	-	+1130
1951	1842	-	+1842
1952	6538	-	+6538
1953	8183	-	+8183
1954	3171	-	+3171
1955	7355	78	+7277
1956	13038	319	+12719
1957	13676	-	+13676
1958	11037	12	+11025
1959	15935	1675	+14260
1960	14372	20147	-5775
1961	12723	18485	-5762
1962	11822	4178	+7644
1963	14485	12073	+2412
1964	17224	12441	+4783
1965	16627	2193	-5304
1966	18797	29785	-10988
1967	20668	9741	+10927
1968	19970	12869	+7101
1969	19192	9437	+9755
1970	21786	20668	+1118
1971	20407	15409	+4998
1972	18492	7766	+10726
1973	25170	9410	+15760

⁹⁰ Holub, A. and comp.; Thailand. Obchodně ekonomické sborníky. Institution of International Trade /ČTK – Press foto, Prague 1977, p. 174.

Appendix 5

Structure of Thai exports to CSSR on the basis of organisations of foreign trade and product elements (in Czk, thousands)

	1972		1973	
	import	share%	import	share%
total import	7766	100.0	9410	100.0
Centrotex	530	6.8	-	-
Jute	530	6.8	-	-
Chemapol	7236	93.2	9410	100.0
Rubber	7236	93.2	9410	100.0

Appendix 6

Summary of Czech-Thai foreign trade between 1998 and 2002 (in US\$, millions):⁹¹

Element	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Turnover	78.5	82.9	106.9	157.5	191.8
Export of CR	14.2	14.2	27.5	44.1	58.7
Import of CR	64.3	68.6	79.4	113.5	133.1
Balance CR	-50.1	-54.4	-51.8	-69.4	-74.4

⁹¹ Source: Ministry of Trade and Investments, Internet: http://www.export.cz/territory/087/087_7.htm.

Appendix 7

Summary of Czech – Thai foreign trade between 1998 and 2002, based on Thai statistics

Element	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Turnover	45.00	46.78	71.68	132.49	122.85
Thai Export	29.6	27.37	40.34	46.14	68.67
Thai import	15.40	19.41	31.33	86.35	54.18
Balance (Thailand)	14.21	7.96	9.01	-40.21	14.49

Appendix 8

Commodity Structure of Czech exports to Thailand in 2002, based on SITC classification:

Rank	Share%	Value in th.USD	Main items
0	28.9	16,342	milk powder, malt
2	0.3	205	wood, clay
5	2.1	1,210	pigments, paint products, drugs
6	6.1	3,458	paper, glass products, steel tanks, tires textile, steel products
7	58.1	32,778	computer components, textile machinery, steam turbines, breaking systems, Škoda cars, fuel pumps, aircraft spares, condensers
8	4.3	2,401	weapons and ammunition, lamps, lustres, light fixtures, measuring equipment, musical instruments

Appendix 9

Commodity Structure of Thai exports to the Czech Republic in 2002 based on SITC classification:

Rank	Share%	Value in th.USD	Main items
0	15,7	16,954	fish, rice, vegetables, fruit, soups, spices
1	0,2	214	tobacco
2	2,1	2,118	flowers, rubber
5	1,8	2,348	plastic products, organic chemicals, dyes, tannin
6	10,8	11,150	textiles and cloth, rubber products
7	47,0	71,272	Equipment for automatic data processing, telecommunication equipment, printed circuits, valves, air conditioning units
8	22,4	29,722	clothing and accessories, shoes, contact lenses, photographic equipment, toys, jewels, prams

Sources

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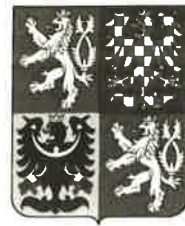
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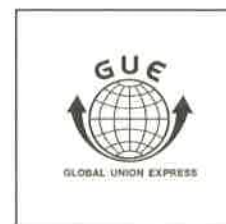
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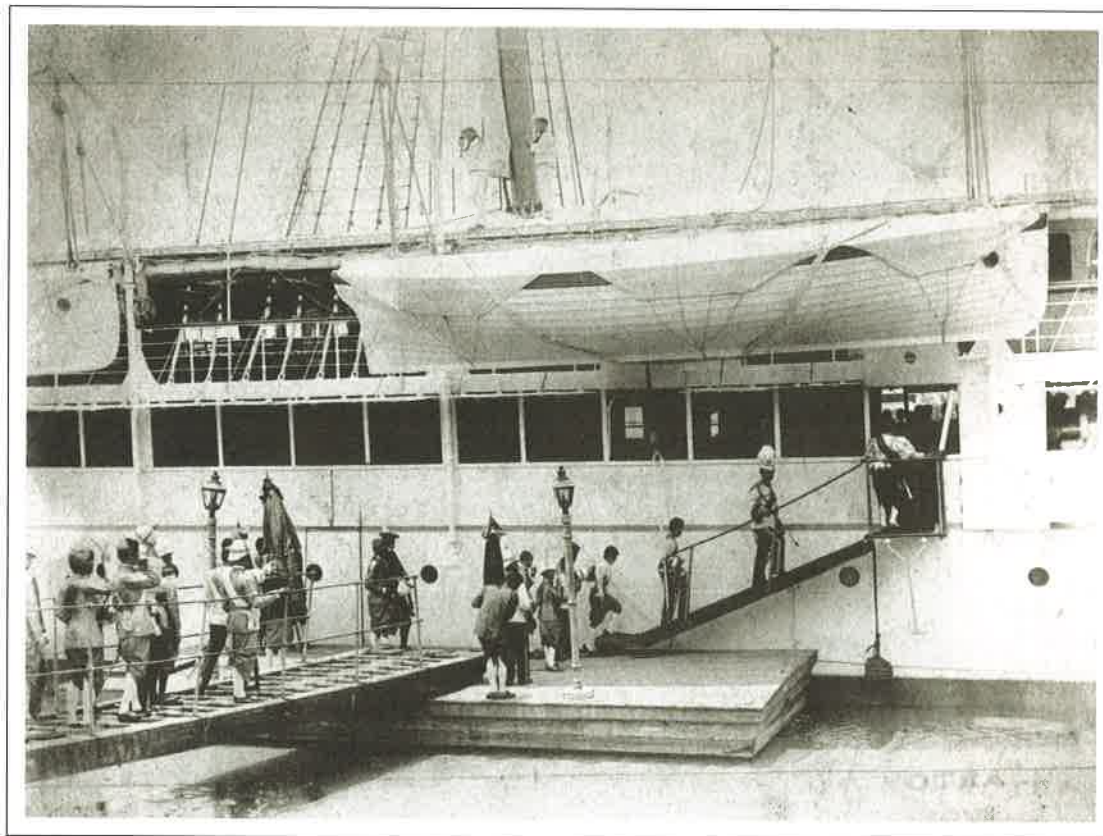
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H.M. King Chulalongkorn boarding the ship for his voyage to Europe in 1897.

Photo E. St. Vráz, glass negative

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ภาพโดย E. St. Vráz, ฟิล์มกระจก