

IMAGINED PASTS: ANASTYLOSIS AND THE CREATION OF THE THAI NATIONAL PAST



**John Victor Crocker
April 2006**

**Volume 1
Thesis Chapters 1 to 7
Bibliography**

This thesis is submitted in fulfilment
of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Philosophy
Asian Studies Faculty
Australian National University

THE AUSTRALIAN
LIBRARY
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Declaration

This thesis is the writer's own work, unless otherwise acknowledged



John Victor Crocker
Submitted 26 April 2006

Acknowledgements

For any research student, the development and writing of a thesis is very much a journey, a journey usually solitary, sometimes lonely, sometimes apparently without end, but always dependent on the advice and support of guides and friends. In a way the writing of a thesis is as much a journey of self-discovery as it is one of the assemblage of knowledge. Like many others, I have been the beneficiary of the influence and assistance of many individuals both before and during the period of researching and writing the thesis.

I am in no doubt that I owe most to my supervisor Dr. Craig Reynolds, who has been a source of inspiration and encouragement through the several topic and direction changes which inevitably occur, not to mention the long writing period which this thesis has undergone. His deep knowledge of the period and the terrain has been of great use in identifying and locating relevant texts and concepts. His wide experience in writing and publishing scholarly works has also been of immense benefit in the actual writing and editing of the thesis. I also gratefully acknowledge the considerable help and encouragement received from Dr Helmut Loofs-Wissowa. His vast experience in the fields of archaeology and Southeast Asian history has been of great benefit, as has been his provision of otherwise obscure references. I also wish to acknowledge the encouragement and much appreciated assistance of Achan Maliwan Buranapatana of Khon Kaen University.

I particularly wish to express my appreciation for the assistance of Khun Wirapan Wicharn of the National Research Council of Thailand in arranging my very fruitful visit to the Office of National Museums and Archaeology in Bangkok in November 2003, and my thanks to Khun Wasu Pochayandana and also to Khun Kitcha Yupho, architects in the Fine Arts Department, for making my visit to their office so productive in gaining data and opinions on contemporary anastylosis. I also wish to express my thanks to the staff of the Sixth Office of the Fine Arts Department at Phimai for their kind help during a field trip to the monuments at Phimai and Phnom Wan.

Any Asian Studies student should become familiar with the wide-ranging holdings of both the National Library of Australia and the Menzies Library of the ANU. All of the librarians have been of great assistance, but I wish to especially acknowledge the contribution which Vacharin (Khun Lek) McFadden of the National Library has made, not least by her knowledge of the Coedès collection of the Library.

Important to me has been the encouragement and interest of my fellow postgraduate students. The opportunity to discuss ideas and shared problems has been very useful and knowledge of other areas of study is useful in taking a

broad view of one's own topic. I particularly thank my friends Merica and Vinanda Vannasin for their support, and Karinrat (Tae) Srismith for her encouragement.

Finally, the most important factor in my studies over the past many years has been the interest and support of my wife, Rosemary, who has been both a fellow student in earlier years and a supportive and enthusiastic fellow explorer of the delights of the highways and byways of Thailand and its prodigious Khmer heritage.

Canberra, April 2006

Note: In this thesis I have attempted to follow convention or the Royal Thai Institute rules in the romanisation of Thai words, since it is often said that various romanisation systems tell you how the word is spelled in Thai, or how it is pronounced, but not both, and only complex systems express the tone to be used. In the case of the word for the Northeastern part of Thailand, I have chosen to use the construction "Issan" as best conveying to an English-speaker how the word is pronounced in Thai, rather than the competing forms of "Isan" or "Isaan".

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Volume 1

Declaration	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Table of contents	iv
Abbreviations	vi
Chapter 1: Creating and finding an image of the past	page 1
The development of cultural tourism	6
The imagined past in Thailand	11
The writer and the study of Thai monuments	13
The research question, literature review and research methodology	14
Thesis structure	17
Chapter 2: The meaning of Indian-style monuments in Southeast Asia	19
The colonial rediscovery of monuments in Java and Cambodia	24
The interpretation of Indian-style monuments in Java and Cambodia	27
Issues in Southeast Asian history: Indianisation and the <i>Mandala</i>	35
The <i>mandala</i> concept of relations between states	44
The extent of Khmer influence north of the Dangrek mountains	50
A new life for the ancient monuments	53
Chapter 3: The development of Anastylis: Borobudur and Angkor	55
Restoration in Java: Candi Mendut, the Borobudur And Prambanan	57
Conservation and restoration on Cambodia	69
The introduction of the term “anastylis” and its meaning	80
Anastylis as a maturing technology	83
Chapter 4: Khmer-style monuments in Northeast Thailand	86
“Siamese Laos” and the early period of Thai archaeology and conservation	88
The early documentation of the Khmer monuments of Phimai, Phnom Rung , Muang Tam and Phnom Wan	92
Post WWII interest in the Khmer temples of NE Thailand	105
The structure of Khmer-style temples	108
Early prospects for anastylis in Thailand	112
Chapter 5: Rebuilding the Khmer heritage: anastylis in Thailand	114
The restoration of Prasat Phimai, Nakhon Rachasima Province	114
The restoration of Prasat Phnom Rung, Buriram Province	122

The restoration of Prasat Muang Tam, Buriram Province	128
The restoration of Prasat Phnom Wan, Nakhon Rachasima Province	140
Theoretical issues in the current application of anastylosis	142
The 2000 restoration of Prasat Phnom Wan, Nakhon Rachasima Province	146
Anastylosis in Cambodia and Thailand as practiced so far	153
Future anastylosis in Thailand	161
Anastylosis analysed	164
Chapter 6: Culture and selling the past	168
The nature of heritage and its creation as a target for cultural tourism	172
The present position of the Khmer heritage in Thailand	186
Chapter 7: Conclusion: History or mystery?	189
Imagined pasts: anastylosis and the creation of the Thai National past	196
Bibliography	200

Volume 2

Appendices

1	The arch and the stone: the ring and the corbelled arch	1
2	Report to the EFEO by H. Marchal on a visit to Java in 1930	6
3	Banteay Srei (paper by H. Marchal)	25
4	The reconstruction of the southern sanctuary of Bantay Srei (paper by H. Marchal)	38
5	The Maha Rosei Ashram (paper by H. Mauger)	46
6	The restoration of the Angkor monuments and its problems (paper by L. Malleret)	66
7	Anastylosis; An alternative for conservation of stone monuments	75
8	Details and drawings in the 1999 proposal to restore Phnom Wan	80

Abbreviations used in this thesis

BEFEO	Bulletin de l' Ecole française d'Extrême-orient
BSEI	Bulletin de la société des études indochinoises
EFEO	Ecole française d'Extrême-orient
FAD	Fine Arts Department, Thailand
JSS	Journal of the Siam Society, Thailand