

Research Title: Primary documents in French concerning the reign of King Prajadhipok

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Abstract

The purpose of this research project was to survey, gather, summarize and classify the primary documents in French concerning the reign of King Prajadhipok. The documents from the years 1906 to 1941, i.e. from the time the King first went to study in France until his death, were collected and examined to assess foreigners' attitudes, especially those of world powers, towards the reign of King Prajadhipok.

This research is reported in three sections. The first is the annotated bibliography of approximately 3,000 documents found in libraries and archives centres in France. These entries are classified into three types: printed documents, news and articles in newspapers, and archives. For each document, its source is identified, and its title translated. Moreover, its content is summarized in Thai so as to provide the continuity of the documents. In the second section, the data collected were investigated and arranged into four reports: the King's biography, politics in Siam, the reformation of Siam, and the image of Siamese people and society. The third part is a collection of all the primary documents both in the form of DVDs and xeroxed copies.

It was found that the primary documents in French provides sufficient data for the study of King Prajadhipok's activities, as well as for the development of Siam's political and national administration, particularly during his reign from 1925 to 1935.