Thesis Title A Study of Naval Songs Composed by Admiral His Royal

Highness Prince Jumbhorn Khet Udomsak

Name Rangsiphan Kheangkhan

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Thesis Supervisory Committee

Wachiraporn Wandee, M.A.

Poonpit Amatyakul, Ph.D.

Commodore Wisanuthep Silpabanleng, Ph.D.

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Abstract

Westernization and developmental changes in the Royal Siamese Navy occured in Siam during the reign of King Chulalongkorn (Rama V), especially in the last 10 year of his reign (1900–1910). Among the Royal Children of H.M. the King, who had their military education and training in Europe, His Royal Highness Prince Abhakara Kiartiwongse, Prince of Jumbhorn (1880–1923) was one who studied in British Navy, and later served as Minister of the Royal Siamese Marine during the reign of King Rama VI. Prince Jumbhorn did much great developmental work for the Royal Siamese Navy. He became a very outstanding General of the Siamese Navy and later was recognized as "Father of the Royal Thai Navy".

Long before Prince of Jumbhorn's lifetime before he worked in the Royal Siamese Navy, Thailand did not have any of songs composed specificly for the Navy's use. Among of Prince Jumbhorn's great works was his musical compositions or songs that he composed for the Siamese Navy during the years 1900–1920. Investigation found 7 lyrical compositions all written in Thai language which influenced a great deal on the life style, belief and culture of the Siamese Navy Men. With the musical melody, 2 out of 7 songs showed pure western style while the others used the old Traditional Siamese melodies. Analysis of all 7 songs were described in this thesis.

Almost a century later, three of his seven compositions are still very popular, well loved and frequently sung by the Thais. His most popular song named "Pleng Dok Pra Du", is now the most well known "Navy Song" of the nation. It was found that the melody derived from an old Traditional Scottish love and slow tempo song, namely "Comin' Thru' the Rye". Prince Jumbhorn used this melody along with his new lyric and

it has been well loved all over for almost a century. It is interesting to find that his Thai lyrical composition changed the original mood of this song to a cheering up strong feeling so well.

Prince of Jumbhorn also composed 2 other beautiful western style songs named "Darb Khong Chart" (Sword of the Nation) and "Dern Nah" which were a good example of the early age of Westernized Thai Pop. Further study is suggested for a comparative analysis of Prince Jumbhorn's composition with works of his younger brother, Prince Paribatra of Nakorn Savarn who was also a great composor of the same time.