

## : MAJOR THAI DANCE  
KEY WORD: MOHLAM KOK KHA KHAO

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Mohlam Kok Kha Khao is a research aims at a historical reconstruction of a kind of Mohlam or folk drama in Northeastern Thailand during 1952 - 1985, called Mohlam Kok Kha Khao. The information derived from documentary, observation of demonstration of the past performances, and also from interviewing artists and resource persons.

The research finds that Mohlam Kok Kha Khao is a kind of Mohlam deviated from Mohlam Moo and early dramatic form around 1952. Its development can be divided into 5 stages ; 1. The Beginning 1952 - 1956 , 2. The Development 1956 - 1960 , 3. The Golden Age 1960 -1965 , 4. The Declination 1965 - 1972 , and the Renaissance 1975 -1985. During the last stage, only Cho Watsin troupe existed. Its repertoire is only Sang Sin Chai play. Performers were all females. Hero wore white shirt, cowboy hat, knee-length stocking, and short pants showing white upper legs. This is how it was named Kok Kha Khao

Mohlam Kok Kha Khao performance has three parts, pre-performance, play proper, and port performance. Dance is found during play proper. Normal every performer dances but the three heroes dance in unison with a standard pattern. They usually dances after the singer sings the Lam Ton Pai to indicate departure of the characters. Eleven dance movements are found and three of which are commonly used. They are : tapping right or left foot, walking up and down stage and walking in circle.

Mohlam Kok Kha Khao probably disappeared because of the business conflict among members of the troupe and because of the rise of another kind of Mohlam called Mohlam Pluen. Mohlam Kok Kha Khao has not been found today. However, there should be more researches concerning various kinds of Mohlam that already disappeared . For the sake of better historical perspective of Mohlam.

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