

Thesis Title            Changes in the Sangha's Education in Chiang Mai  
Town During the Second Half of the 25th Century of  
the Buddhist Era

Author                    Ms. Kaimook Uttayawalee

M.A.                      History

Examining Committee :

|          |             |              |          |
|----------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| Lecturer | Dr. Vachara | Sindhuprama  | Chairman |
| Lecturer | Naruemol    | Srikitjakarn | Member   |
| Lecturer | Aroonrut    | Wichienkeeo  | Member   |

#### Abstract

This thesis analyzes the development of education for the sangha (monkhood) in Chiang Mai town during the second half of the 25th century of the Buddhist era (1907-1956). It was during this period that the education provided for the Buddhist monkhood was affected by the growth of the national educational system both in terms of the state's new educational plan for all citizens and the religious education given to the monks. This thesis examines the causes, factors involved, and impacts upon the education of the monkhood. In doing so, the research for this thesis followed the historical approach using descriptive analysis. Data were derived from both oral and documentary sources.

This study found that the second half of the 25th century of the Buddhist era was the period during which the administrative and educational system used for monks in Bangkok was implemented in Chiang Mai. This affected the administrative and educational system used by the monkhood in Chiang Mai. In this regard, Buddhism and the monkhood had played an important role in preserving the distinctiveness of the

Lan Na kingdom's culture in the past, particularly in the study of letters. The study of Buddhism, as well as folk wisdom were transmitted in the Buddhist monasteries where the administration of the monkhood operated according to the traditions of the Lan Na kingdom. Developments changing the monkhood here began from about 1987-1906 when the government of Siam and the ecclesiastical administration in Bangkok introduced the administrative and educational system in Chiang Mai that was used in the rest of the kingdom. These changes comprised a part of the transformation affecting the whole of Lan Na culture. They involved political, economic, and social changes that were then occurring in Lan Na as Lan Na was made to be a region in the Siamese nation-state.

These changes in the education of the monkhood that occurred in the second half of the 25th century of the Buddhist era directly affected and also reduced the importance of the traditional education provided in the monasteries, particularly involving the study of Lan Na letters. The introduction of the central Thai language as the medium of instruction in both the new state educational system and the new religious educational system did allow for certain secular subjects, such as medicine, astrology, and various crafts, to continue to be taught. The teaching of these subjects reflect the continued existence of the role the monastery and the monkhood had played in society as a preserver of traditional cultural study.

This study of the development of changes in the education of the monkhood brings together information on Lan Na folk wisdom that was transmitted in the monasteries. This study also points out how changes to this traditional educational system were introduced when that traditional culture began to erode. This has become particularly more obvious following the start of the 26th century of the Buddhist era.