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COMMUNITY LIFE

STHAPORN AROONWILAS : CEYLONESE - SCHOOL BUDDHIST BELIEFS IN

RELATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE IN SUKHOTHAI - SRISATCHANALAI THESIS

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The purpose of this thesis is to study the development of community life in Sukhothai - Srisatchanalai that derived from the propagation of Ceylonese - school Buddhism and affected the way of life in both cities.

The study reveals that Sukhothai and Srisatchanalai were built by the kings of Siam as the centres of their kingdom in the Yom river basin, because it was convenient for trade and communication with other cities. Moreover, the relationship between Sukhothai and Srisatchanalai showed that there was growth and development in both cities. This happened because of the communities' belief in Ceylonese - school Buddhism. Political, economic and social factors also were conducive to this faith in Buddhism. One of many ways to support Buddhism was "Kalpana", the giving of land, wealth, and manpower to monasteries. Accordingly, The communities expanded around the Buddhist monasteries. Furthermore, the bhikkhu (monks) became leaders and had important roles in the community. The monks who studied Ceylonese - school Buddhism from the late thirteenth to early fifteenth centuries were supported by the kings in their propagation of Ceylonese - school tenets and practices, although older local beliefs never died out completely. Sukhothai - Srisatchanalai communities inherited Buddhism from Ceylon, as evidenced in their way of life, art and architecture.

ภาควิชา.....ประวัติศาสตร์.....

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ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาร่วม.....