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SAHACHAI WIWATANAPATAPHEE : BIOGRAPHY AND WORKS OF SURAPOL SOMBATJAREON. THESIS ADVISORS : ANAN SOBRERK, M.ED., PATTIYA JIMREIWAT , M.A., Ph.D., 204 P., ISBN 974-662-885-2

The purpose of this resesarch is to perform a historical review of the life and musical compositions of Mr.Surapol Sombatjareon(1930-1968), an outstanding and beloved Thai composer and singer. Surapol is accepted to be a naturally talented singer who was brought up with the old Thai folk songs form Supanburi Province. During the second World War Surapol performed the Ram Wong Songs as a sololist and later became a famous professional singer by the year of 1953. Eventually Surapol established and managed the "Lookthoong Popular Band (the country music)" which had over 50 singers, musicians and dancers. Surapol managed the band for over 8 years with great success and received great praise form music-lovers untill he was shot on stage in August 1968.

Of the 298 songs sang in his the country music (Wong Dontree Lookthoong), 165 songs were composed by Surapol, even though he had never learned how to read and write the western notation system. It was found that 81.81% of his compositions he were written with original melodies while the rest had melodies, scores or styles borrowed from traditional Siamese tunes. Of these 165 self composed compositions, Surapol recorded 131 with himself as singer. The majority of his compositions (50.91%) were in the Ramwong style while others were in other kinds of Thai Pop styles.

Analysis of the 165 lyrical compositions show that there were 9 different meaning patterns. Among these meanings, Songs expressed the beauty of girls, described country life styles and reflected on social problems. Since this research was done in 1998, over 30 years after Surapol's, death, the writer felt that there were details of Surapol's life and works that were over looked by this research. Thus more cultural investigation of Surapol's life and works should be done in the future.