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THE SECOND WORLD WAR - 1957

PANNEE PRUDYABUMRUNG : THE REFLECTION OF THAI CULTURE AND
SOCIETY THROUGH POPULAR SONGS AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR - 1957.

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This study aims to analyze Thai popular songs composed during the period of 1945 (after World War II) to 1957. The report discusses Thai society and culture reflected in the songs and also analyzes socio-cultural functions of these songs. The study employed an ethnomusicological approach to collect information. The research methods included documentary research and interviewing technique. Key informants were four music composers and one other musician who collects recordings made during the studied period.

Three hundred fifteen songs composed during 1945-1957 were studied and categorized into 6 groups according to their central themes. Almost half of them (135 tunes) are love songs. Sixty nine tunes mainly reflect the country's society, economy, politics and way of life. There were 18 patriotic tunes. Sixteen tunes were composed for institutions/organizations such as universities and other government institutions. The rest (13 tunes) describe scenes of natural beauty.

The text of songs reflect Thai way of life during the post second world war period. After the second world war, as shown in the songs, people had to face poverty caused by the economic depletion. The songs also reflect social classes, family, belief system, social value and world view. These songs had different functions such as recreation, socialization, state resistance to opposing political philosophies and also promotion of the state ideology. The songs also helped convey people's problems and concerns to the government. Economic roles of these songs were also analyzed. Many songs were composed for movies, radio and television programs. Another type of business related to music composition was the recording business.