

Master's Report Title	Phkasraphon : An Analytical study of Khmer Society, Tradition, and Faith
Name	Phramaha Sak Phetprakhon
Concentration	Khmer Studies
Department	Oriental Languages
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to study the Khmer novel entitled "Phkasraphon" from the following aspects: society, tradition, and faith in 1933. This novel sheds some light on occupations, status, education, values, traditions and faith in Khmer society.

The result of the research can be summarized as follows: 1) Khmer society in 1933 was predominantly a rural society, 2) The occupations of most people involved natural resources, that is, agriculture, wild goods, trade of rice and the needs of daily life. 3) The status of females was lower than that of men. 4) Women were expected to follow their parent's instructions and ancient Khmer traditions. 5) Most of the Khmer people had no chance to study according to modern systems of education. 6) The rich families encouraged their sons to study to enable them to work in government offices and to earn respect for their families. 7) Older women preferred to eat areca nut and betel leaf and usually went to the temple for observance of the Eight Buddhist Precepts. 8) Most of the Khmer people still honored moral persons, but the culture was moving gradually towards materialism and as a result honoring people with wealth. 9) As regard wedding tradition, parents usually made marriage arrangements for their children. 10) Daughters had no right to express an opinion on who their partner would be. 11) At ceremonies for the deceased, photos of the persons were put in front of the coffins; crocodile-flags were decorated; and the Thamming Song was sung to mark the ceremonies. The days for the ceremonies were not limited but, instead, it depended on the wishes of the hosts. The Khmer philosophical faith included Buddhist principles such as the law of karma, rural beliefs namely ghost worship, belief in the ancestral soul, and Brahmanic faith namely, faith in gods, Indra, Brahma etc. In short, The Khmer people believed in Buddhist doctrine but also followed rural and Brahmanic rites.