

<b>Thesis Title</b>	Documentation of the Musical Instrument Collection of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
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### Abstract

Musical instruments convey cultural and spiritual knowledge in several ethnological facets. They are not only meaningful objects to the musical artists, music arts and works but also in connection to time, life of people, events, wisdom , skills and other ethnological heritage of society as well as to cultural changes and development in acoustic research. Collection of musical instruments has been developed and well organized in those western countries especially in Europe and America but not much in Thailand.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is not only a famous musician and music composer who frequently showed her musical talent and artistic skills to the public, but also is the owner of a huge collection of instrument numbering over 1000 pieces. Her strong interest and continuing activities in music has made all Thai people adore her very much. They gave her many musical instruments including old and new pieces. Among of this collection, many instruments were given to Her Royal Highness by H.M. the King while others came from members of the Royal Family, old Family, musicians, craftsmen and other here in the kingdom and from foreign countries.

The Royal Collection reflects the wealth of diversity of musical instruments containing many different types of instruments. There have been periods during which

inventory records were not prepared but most of them had some brief record done by Her Royal Highness and her staff. The inventory records are reliable but limited in detail.

This research is a systematic gathering of information relating to the Musical Instrument Collection of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. From all of those instruments, 300 pieces were selected for an accumulation of information from a variety of sources by the author of this thesis (1994-1997).

The information documented in this research will contribute to the preservation, location and identification of instruments. The retrospective study was carried out by means of library study, personal interviews, observation and sending out of letters with information sheet to a single informant. Moreover, sketches and photographs of key characteristics i.e. colors, symbols were used to document and describe in detail each individual instrument. Such details included name of the instrument, basic construction, dimension, measurements, condition, location in storage, use, manufacture and historical information.

The Hornbostel and Sachs scheme has been used to classify the musical instruments. Mini-micro CDS/ISIS version 3.07 has been used for data processing. The text database (SDM) was developed as a reflection of the existing paper-based record system but used a format for information storage and retrieval, making information more easily accessible to users. The database now contains 126 records. Some problems have to be tackled before we can utilize mini-micro CDS/ISIS for musical instruments. One problem about hardware is limited memory capacity.

It was found that the best source of information is the musical instrument itself. The evidence found on the instrument may aid to search for more related information. They were multiform and complex, and required a special method of study, so as to compile a store of information about the object, the acoustics, the technology and workmanship, the historical and ethnographic perspectives, the aesthetic and symbolic perspectives, which are related not

only to the musical aspects of the instruments, but to all the other areas that make up their socio-cultural context as well.

It is hoped that this research is a model for the in-depth study of the musical instruments held by museums, conservatories ,universities, cultural centers and research institutes in Thailand