
PROFILE

M.C. Subhadradis Diskul was born in Bangkok, the son of H.R.H. Prince Damrong Rajanubhab, who is known as the "Father of Thai History." After graduating from Chulalongkorn University, Professor Diskul joined the civil service at the Department of Elementary Education, Ministry of Education. He later entered the Department of Fine Arts in the Education Ministry as Chief of the Archive Section. He then further went on to pursue his studies at l'Ecole du Louvre in Paris and the University of London. He is the first Thai scholar to have studied archaeology and art history abroad. On his return from Europe, Professor Diskul was appointed curator in the Archaeology Section of the Department of Fine Arts and has made significant contributions to the research, conservation and restoration of the cultural assets indigenous to Thailand. In 1964, in recognition of such achievements, Professor Diskul was appointed concurrently as the first Thai Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology at Silpakorn University. He was later assigned to the position of Dean of the Graduate School and then Rector of Silpakorn University and trained a number of Thai specialists in the field. At the same time, Professor Diskul contributed to the establishment of various national museums so that the nation's local cultural assets could be utilized and exhibited, and to the academic foundation of archaeology and art history in Thailand, thus placing Thai cultural history in the context of world history.

Professor Diskul is also renowned for his pioneering work in the field of archaeological and historical studies on Southeast Asia, especially on Thailand, and has published a number of books which received high acclaim. In 1983, he attracted international attention as a leading scholar of archaeology and art history in Southeast Asia when he made a keynote speech at the 31st International Congress of Asian and North African Studies (held in Tokyo). Since 1987, as Director of the SPAFA (Regional Center for Archaeology and Fine Arts of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization), he has devoted himself to the development and restoration of traditional cultures in Southeast Asian regions as well as to training a number of experts on archaeology, art, cultural assets and other related fields. These achievements of Professor Diskul have been much praised by international institutions such as UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Professor Diskul has been appointed to various important posts such as the Honorary Vice President of the Siam Society, the most prestigious academic body in Thailand and Chairman of the Historical Society of Thailand. At present, he holds another key position as Consultant to the Thai Fine Arts Department, Ministry of Education, and introduces to the world the culture of Southeast Asia and teaches the importance of studies on the region from an Asian viewpoint. As an academic authority, Professor Subhadradis Diskul is internationally acclaimed for the significant contributions he has made to increasing understanding of Southeast Asia.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

- 1923 Born in Bangkok, Thailand
- 1943 Graduated from Chulalongkorn University
- 1946 Joined the civil service at the Department of Elementary Education, Ministry of Education
- 1947 Became Chief of the Archives Section, Department of Fine Arts, then Chief of the Damrong Library Section in the same Department
- 1951 Obtained the title of "Ancien Eleve de l'Ecole du Louvre" in Paris
- 1952-53 Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London, England.
- 1953-64 Curator in the Division of Archaeology, Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Education
- 1964-75 Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology, Silpakorn University
- 1976-81 Dean of the Graduate School of Silpakorn University
- 1980 Became Chairman of the Historical Society of Thailand
- 1982-86 Rector of Silpakorn University
- 1984 Conferred the Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant
- 1987-92 Director of the SPAFA (Regional Center for Archaeology and Fine Arts of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization)
- 1990- Honorary Vice President of the Siam Society
- 1993- Consultant to the Thai Fine Arts Department of Archaeology and Museums
- 1994 Conferred the First Class of the of Chulachomklao by His Majesty the King of Thailand

MAJOR WORKS

- Pra Pathom Chedi*, Bangkok, 1948
- Lopburi Art*, Bangkok, 1953
- Ayutthya Art*, Bangkok, 1956
- Arts in Thailand*, 1963 (Japanese translation, Imura Bunka Jigyosha Co., 1987; English translation available)
- Masterpieces from Private Collections*, Bangkok, 1970
- A Visit to Ceylon*, Bangkok, 1974
- Sukhothai Art*, Bangkok, 1978 (translated into English and French)
- Thailand Archaeologia Mundi Collection*, Geneva, 1978 (translated into English, French, German and Italian)
- The Art of Srivijaya, (ed.), Kuala Lumpur, Paris, 1980
- Bronze Hindu Gods during the Sukhothai Period*, Bangkok, 1990