

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ADORNDIBYANIBHA AND THE EMERGENCE OF LAKHON WANG SUAN SUNANDHA

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Abstract— In 1898, King Chulalongkorn purchased land, with funds from his Privy Purse The King named this area Dusit Garden Palace in honour of his love to his first consort Queen SunandhaKumariratana. Thirty two residential houses were built for the King's consorts and daughters. The house from which LakornWang SuanSunandha (dance-drama of Suanandha Garden Palace) originated was the residence of HerRoyal Highness Princess Adorndibyanibha. The Princess loved a female Mahori (Thai orchestra) ofSunandha Garden Palace and therefore started a dance-drama practice as an activity for the band. In1917, Chao ChomManda Kian, mother of His Royal Highness Prince VoravarnakaraKromPhraNarathipPrabandhabongse was invited to teach the dance drama, for example, Sung Silp Chai, Krai Thong andNitrachakrit. In addition, Teacher Long was sent by the King's consort, PhraRajachayaRasami, to teach Northern dance-drama called NoiJaiya and MarnMui Chiang Tai dance to Princess Adorndibyanibha'speople. The troupe became well-known as the dance-drama of Sunandha Garden Palace and was theorigin of Lakorn Wang SuanSunandha.

Keywords— The Origin of Wang Suansunandha's Dance – Drama, Sunandha Palace.

I. INTRODUCTION

In 1898, King Chulalongkorn) Rama V (had desired to purchase the land from the farmer with funds of his Privy Pursein order to build the new 32 royal residences for the Queens, his consorts and his daughters .He gave this place name "Dusit Garden Palace "SuanSunandha Palace has been attached into Dusit Palace either .The Person who encouraged to establish the academic institutions in SuanSunandha Palace was Her Highness Princess SaisavaliBhiromya, the royal consort of King Rama V .Later, in 1924 HH Princess ordered to build Nibhakarn School in order to provide education to the members of royal family and the courtiers in SuanSunandha Palace .This school, afterward, became SuanSunandhaVittayalai, SuanSunandha Teacher College, SuanSunandhaRajabhat and SuanSunandhaRajabhat University respectively .The history of Lakhon)drama performance (production was emerged in the residence of Her Royal Highness Princess Adorndibyanibha .To begin with, she started the famous female full string band in SuanSunandha Palace then, she managed dancing –drama practice in order to join the activity with the band .She asked Chao ChomMandaKhien, mother of His Royal Highness Prince Voravarnakara Krom Phra Narathip Prabandhabongse to teach dancing –drama and established the courses which classified by the age of the learners into 5 –12 years old and 13 –20 years old .They played Sangsinchai, Kraithong and Nitrachakrit .Moreover, Princess Dara Rasmi sent the Teacher Long from Chiang Mai to teach Northern Drama, stories called NoiJaiya and FonManmuiChiangta in SuanSunandha Palace)BenjaphaKrairiksh, 2006 :122 .(It could be said that the emergence of Lakhon in SuanSunandha Palace

was the significant foundation for the Lakhon SuanSunandha development.

II. OBJECTIVES

- 1 .To study the emergence ofLakhon Wang SuanSunandha.
- 2 .To study the background of the founder of LakhonWang SuanSunandha.

III. THE CONTENT

In ancient Thai royal tradition which had been carried on for years, after the King of Thailand had reigned the kingdom, the very first task to be initiated was to build the spacious complex of palaces, royal mansions and throne halls in the area of the Grand Palace .The palace should be settle in the midst of the capital city where the king and his royal family including the ladies of the court reside within, and the said royal tradition still has been done by the kings)KittipongVirojthammakorn, 2012 .p(37. During the reign of King Chulalongkorn)Rama V(, the Grand Palace was extremely overcrowded with massive buildings and additions being made including the spacious complex of palaces, the Inner Court)residential buildings (royal mansions and throne halls .Owing to this King Rama V had considered that the Grand Palace was unpleasant and could be the causes of his illness .Also in this reign, there were many queens, royal consorts and the princess who still were not married which the royal mansions and the royal servants were required to serve all of them . Consequently, the new palace had been constructed by the king's command. In 1898, King Rama V began to purchase farmlands and orchards between Padung Krung Kasem and Samsen canals from the funds of his Privy Purse .The

land that was totally 122 rais) Thai area measurement (and composed of 32 residential houses including private garden called SuanSunandha was also attached to the court .This palace was built in order that the king could pay occasional visits instead of going upcountries .He gave this garden name that 'SuanSunandha' with the 3 purposes in the palace construction as:

1. Occasional visits of the king instead of going upcountry, as the king preferred the forest environment with peaceful and private place, he specifically ordered the residence construction in the theme 'country style in the palace' inside SuanSunandha, the royal garden.
2. The residential houses preparation for the queens and king's royal consorts after he passed away.
3. The royal memorable place of love for H.M . Queen SunandaKumariratana who died in a shipwreck at Bangphut Sub-district, Pak kert District, Nonthaburi Province on May 31, 1880 .This accident was the great tragic to the king that he had never forgotten .Princess)Chao Chom (SadabLaddawan, the royal consort in the court of King Chulalongkorn once mentioned that

...Owing to H.M .Queen SunandaKumariratana was the first queen consort that the most preferable consort of the king as well . When she passed away, The grief-stricken Chulalongkorn later created a memorial to her .He named Rajini School that Sunandalai School and also SuanSunandha which was acknowledged by everyone .Sometimes he used to say 'Mae Yai')Yai, my dear (or Ying Yai or missed Ying Yai so much!...

Khun Ying SuraphanSeni)NingBunnag (maiden name "Krairiksh "wrote in the book "At the horizon "that when I was 12 years old, Her Royal Highness Princess Adornbibanibha had moved to reside at SuanSunandha Palace)SuanSunandhaRajabhat University in present time .(The year before SuanSunandha Palace was just a large orchard located on the west of Dusit palace surrounded with the ponds and canals irrigated from the Chao Prayariver .In the end of King Chulalongkorn's reign, he divided those lands into small size and constructed the royal mansions in order to give away to his children and consorts .He thought that when the next king accessed to the throne, the Dusit palace would be changed belongingness to the next king as well . King Chulalongkorn divided the lands for members of the Royal family in advance in order to prevent any problem occurred after his death .Until 1922, in the reign of King Vajiravudh)Rama VI (all the royal family had moved to reside in SuanSunandha, since then this place has been called SuanSunandha Palace)KhunyingSuraphanSeni, 2011 :43 -44(

SuanSunandha was beautiful as same as Sunandha royal park as the King Chulalongkorn's intention because of H.H .Princess SaisavaliBhiromya, the royal consort of King Rama V .She moved from the Dusit palace to reside with her son, HRH Prince YugalaDighambara , Prince of Lopburi, at Ladawan Palace)now the site of the Crown Property Bureau (After she had recovered from her sickness, she went to SuanSunandha Garden for her recreation. She loved to plant the flowers so much and she persuaded the royal consorts in King Rama V and the ladies of the court to do gardening and planting the flowers . SuanSunandha Garden became more alive and spectacular landscape filled with green grass, small hill and canals including varieties of flowers such as bed of roses and orchids .She ordered to build the house by the pool in SuanSunandha Palace and the large nursery house of orchids because she collected very best families of orchid both domestic and international species .Once M.R . SaengsoonLaddawan)or Mom RajawongseSaengsoonLaddawan (wrote to the garden that "It was so magnificent that I had lost my word to truly describe) "SuanSunandha Teacher College, 1986 .p.27(

Today royal houses in SuanSunandha Palace area have remained only 10 houses .There are 2 houses located in SuanSunandhaRajabhat University which are the royal house of Her Majesty The Queen Sri Savarindira and the royal house of Her Royal Highness Princess Abbantripaja and Her Royal Highness Princess Dibyalangkarn .The other two royal houses are located in the Institute of Administration Development which are the royal house of Her Majesty The Queen SukhumalaMarasri and NongKranSamosorn Residential Hall)KittipongVirojthammakorn, 2012 .p .(45. Additionally, there are 6 royal houses located in SuanSunandhaRajabhatUniversity which are the followings:

4. The royal house of Her Highness Princess SaisavaliBhiromya and HRH Princess NipanopadolWimonphrapa
5. The royal house of Her Royal Highness Princess ChudharatanaRajakumari
6. The royal house of Her Royal Highness Princess BismaiBimalasataya
7. The royal house of Her Royal Highness Princess Adornbibanibha
8. The royal house of Her Royal Highness Princess SasibongsePrabai
9. The house of Chao ChomUenBunnag and Chao ChomThaemBunnag

The royal houses histories related to the emergence of Lakhonin SuanSunandha Palace or so called the birth place of "SuanSunandhaLakhon "was The royal house of Her Royal Highness Princess Adornbibanibha with the following evidences.

M.R .BenjaphaKrairiksh mentioned to "the first Thai female classical music band in SuanSunandha Palace "that Her Royal Highness Princess Adornbibanibha, the 61th daughter of King Chulalongkorn and Chao ChomManda Chum Krairiksh who adored in Thai classical music, was closed to Chao ChomArb in music because both of them were very talented in "Chakhe) "Thai string music instrument .(After the reign of King Rama V had ended, they were more closer than ever and they usually played music together at a time.

After Her Royal Highness Princess Adornbibanibha had moved from the Dusit Palace to reside at SuanSunandha, she began to establish the Thai female classical music strings band .This band was set up at the royal residence of her during the reign of King Rama VI .Chao Dhebsukanya)princess Dhebsukanya (who had just come back from Chiang Mai, taught music to the family and the ladies –in – waiting of Her Royal Highness Princess Adornbibanibha .Moreover, Chao Dhebsukanya was the one who created the rising star in Saw Sam Sai player)Thai musical instrument literally called three stringed fiddle (KhunBunphongVisetphan who Chao ChomManda Chum was raised since she was a child . As soon as the first Thai female classical music band in SuanSunandha Palace of HRH Princess Adornbibanibha had established, Thai classical music band became popular among the members of the royal family including the members from the royal house of Her Royal Highness Princess NibhaNobhadol, the Princess of Uthong .HRH Princess NibhaNobhadol was a talented person as she could play Saw, Khim and others .She was well educated and she could read and write fluently .She served as the personal secretary of her father, King Chulalongkorn, while he was travelling abroad .She also wrote her novel called Klai Baan or Far from home .Furthermore, she was pleased to make Thai style flower garlands which she was excellent in weaving a beautiful garland .Most of all she was the most beautiful and generous person for every one.

The first Thai female classical music band was later expanded into large 2 bands .However, it could be divided into 2 bands or included into one band .She usually set a pair of musicians for each kind of musical instrument .The musical instruments, apart from the Chakhe and Saw Sam Sai, there were Saw Duang, Saw Au, violin, flute, Thon, Rammana and Ching Chap.

The royal house of Her Royal Highness Princess Adornbibanibha was located next to the royal house Her Royal Highness Princess ChudharatanaRajakumari .Both of them were quite much different in her age, HRH Princess ChudharatanaRajakumari was older than HRH Princess Adornbibanibha 16 years; however, loving in music led them to see each other a lot and finally they were very close friend .HRH Princess Adornbibanibha had several cousins and royal

servants living in SuanSunandha Palace under her patronage therefore she realized to the importance of education but it was difficult to send them to school located outside the palace .Consequently, she established a school on the empty space under her royal house in SuanSunandha Palace area)Adornbibanibha building in present time .(The school was set up in order to give a chance in education to her family members and servants who were in school age .Students could learn without stepping out of the palace .This school was called "Under the royal house school " KhunyingPhermKuwanen, Phraya KasetRaksa's wife, was the head master teaching Thai language and mathematics during 08.00 –12.00 a.m .If the head master was busy, her sister, KruPhoon would teach for her .In the afternoon, it was English course during 02.00 –04.00 p.m .by Kru Ob Jaturongkakul, KruThanom, KruSaatjitRitthakanee .The teacher who taught embroidery was Kru Yong)later she was KhunyingPrayongThongdikijchakarn(

Apart from the study of cognitive thinking)intellectualism(, Her Royal Highness Princess Adornbibanibha was naturally excellent in education as well .She managed physical education and liberal arts for children under her patronage which led to outside classroom activities which was Thai classical dancing drama .As she established the famous large female stringed band in SuanSunandha Palace, she managed dancing drama practice in order that it could be some activities performing with the band .In 1917, she askedChao ChomMandaKhian, the royal consort in King Rama IV who was 75 years old at that time and mother of His Royal Highness Prince VoravarnakaraKromPhraNarathipPrabandhabongse to teach dancing drama .Chao ChomMandaKhian had resided at SuanSunandha Palace for months to teach drama .The statement said that the teachers who came to teach at the school were honorary teachers such as Chao ChomMandaKhian, the royal consort in King Mongkut, who was mother of His Royal Highness Prince

VoravarnakaraKromPhraNarathipPrabandhabongse and the ancestor of family "Voravan "The prince also supported drama performing at the palace, he had often written poetry and melody for the troupe.Chao ChomMandaKhian or so called by the students that Than Khien .She was an expert artist and she could teach several kinds of art such as speaking drama, dancing drama and singing drama .Moreover, Princess Dara Rasmi sent the Teacher Long from Chiang Mai to teach Northern Drama at HRH Princess Adornbibanibha's school such as the stories of NoiJaiya and FonManmuiChiangta in SuanSunandha Palace)BenjaphaKrairiksh, 2006 :121 -122.(

The drama teaching course at the royal house of Her Royal Highness Princess Adornbibanibha was composed of original dance practice, slow dance and quick dance .Teaching method was ancient style

which were included bending fingers and disciple practice .The groups of students were divided by their age as followings.

Age 5 –12 years, dancing drama practice such as Ngor pa, Phra Law, Phraya Kraeg, Sangsinchai and Kraithong.

Age 13 –20 years, singing drama practice such as TonraiPlaydee written by His Royal Highness Prince VoravarnakaraKromPhraNarathipPrabandhabongse . This practice part focused on speaking and clearly singing to the audiences.

KhunBenjaphaKrairiksh said that Chao ChomMandaKhien was 75 years old and very aged but when she danced, suddenly her personality changed .She turned to young woman who could dance beautifully .Her students insisted that she could dance without a doubt of her age)BenjaphaKrairiksh, 2006 .P .107.(

Khun Ying SuraphanSeni)NingBunnag (maiden name "Krairiksh "wrote in the book "At the horizon "about Lakhon in SuanSunandha Palace that the most important activity which could not help to mentioned was dancing drama practice which was done in the evening after school .HRH Princess Adornbibanibha loved drama very much and she established Lakhon or drama troupe in her royal house .The teachers in this school was Chao ChomMandaKhien, the royal consort in King Mongkut, who was mother of His Royal Highness Prince VoravarnakaraKromPhraNarathipPrabandhabongse) the ancestor of Voravan family (While Chao ChomMandaKhien was teaching here, she was almost 80 years old .Even she was very old, she was totally the artist .She could teach both speaking drama and dancing drama .Every time she showed her performance, her dance routines were perfect, smooth and charming as if she was a young lady .The actors in this troupe were royal family members and royal servants age from 5 year to 20 years .Most of them were hard working in practice causing them could remember all dance routines by their heart .Even though the actors perhaps were talented, they were lack of the opportunity to perform in significant occasion because it was during the reign of King Rama VII which many royal family members were continuously dead and this was the reason why the shows had to be cancelled .There were only 2 shows that were performed in special occasion which were Sangsinchai .This show was performed in front of Her Highness Princess SaisavaliBhiromya at the royal house of HRH Princess Noi .The other show was Kraithong that students had an opportunity to perform in the 4th circle of Chao KhunAr)Phraya PrasertSupbhakij (at his house so called SuanNok)exterior garden .(This show caused the actors received intensive practice .At that time, I was almost 18 years old .I sang Sepha and performed prelude dance with Ram Narai which was to pay homage to King Rama V .I performed as leading

actor with KhunBussabachanPhaengsapha performed as leading actress.

For Krai thong, young actors about 6-7 years old were played .KhunNilubon played Krai thong part, while KhunJairakKrairiksh played Chalawan . Moreover, there were many other actors who were the member of my father and my uncle)KhunyingSuraphanSeni, 2011 .P .57 –58(

This troupe had been underway dance teaching and rehearsal until Princess Adornbibanibha moved from SuanSunandha Palace .After The Siamese Revolution of 1932, many royal family members in the palace moved to stay with cousins .Some traveled abroad such as Indonesia .The troupe also moved with her to perform at Phraya PrasertSupbhakij's house or SuanNok .Finally when Chao ChomMandaKhien passed away, the troupe also was at the end)KhunyingSuraphanSeni, 2011 :57-58 .(Lakhon in SuanSunandha Palace was ended because of political crisis at the time.

CONCLUSIONS

Lakhon in SuanSunandha Palace had been emerged in the royal house of Her Royal Highness Princess Adornbibanibha for the first time and had performed continuously until the Siamese Revolution of 1932 . Many royal family members in the palace moved from the palace to reside at Sam Sen road, Sukhothai road, Radjavithi road and Pichai road where the lands were once given away by King Chulalongkorn .Some of them stay at their family or travelled aboard such as Indonesia and others .This caused SuanSunandha Palace became being abandoned and members of the troupe were separated.

Until 1937, under the government administration of Phraya Phahonphonphayuhasena)PhotPhahonyothin (had made a resolution to give SuanSunandha Palace to Ministry of Education to establish school called "SuanSunandhavidhayalai .Lakhon in SuanSunandha Palace had re-opened again .During the time KhunyingKrongkaewPathumanon, the head master who urged the policy to promote Lakhon, brought the royal novel written by King Vajiravudh which was proper to play in drama style .The show was managed every year; as a result of this, LakhonSuanSunandha became popular and being accepted by several educational institutions and people .In 1973, The Council of Teacher Education approved to open the Higher Graduate Diploma Program in Thai Classical Dance and Drama at SuanSunandha Teacher College and has been constantly developed the curriculum since the institution was teacher college to SuanSunandhaRajabhat, and today was SuanSunandhaRajabhat University .Lakhon in SuanSunandha Palace was first established by Her Royal Highness Princess Adornbibanibha at her royal house in 1917 which was considered that that foundation of the development of Lakhon in

Lakhonin SuanSunandha Palace from years ago to the present over than 98 years.

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