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Die Hamburger Gesellschaft für Thaiistik e.V.
in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Arbeitsbereich Thaiistik
der Abteilung Sprachen und Kulturen Südostasiens des AAI
lädt Sie zu folgendem Online-Vortrag ein:

The State of Northern Thai Manuscripts (1970–2025)



The Upper North of Thailand was once the core of the Lan Na Kingdom, which used the Lan Na script for writing literary texts. Long-sized palm-leaf manuscripts were commonly used to record Buddhist teachings, copied for the purposes of study, preaching, and extending the life of Buddhism, and were then offered and preserved in monastic repositories. Shorter-sized palm-leaf manuscripts and mulberry paper folded books (*papsa*) were commonly used to record non-religious texts, such as chants for rituals, astrological treatises, white magic, medicinal recipes, and other bodies of knowledge. As they were considered private property, they were found in both monasteries and private households.

Various individuals and organizations have recognized the cultural significance of Northern Thai manuscripts, as is evident in the surveys

carried out by Dr. Harald Hundius and Achan Singha Wannasai (1971–1974), Sommai Premjit (1975), The Siam Society under Royal Patronage (1975–1978), and the Thai National Library (1976–1978). Later, the Social Research Institute, Chiang Mai University (1979–1990), and the Office of Arts and Culture Promotion, Chiang Mai University (1987–1991), supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, conducted detailed surveys and registries of temple manuscripts throughout the northern region, selecting some for microfilming (later organized into an online database). Currently, many other organizations continue the survey, documentation, preservation, and digitization of Lan Na manuscripts.



Source: Direk Injan

Online-Lecture *via Zoom & in Thai*



Dr. Direk Inchan completed his Bachelor's degree in Buddhist Studies (Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, 1997), a Master's degree in Lan Na Language and Literature (Chiang Mai University, 2003), and a Ph.D. in Mekong and Salween River Basin Studies (Chiang Mai Rajabhat University, 2017). Currently, he is a senior researcher at the Office of Art and Culture, Chiang Mai Rajabhat University. His work involves surveying, registering, photographing, and creating digital databases of manuscripts from Northern Thailand and the Shan State, Myanmar. He also transliterates and translates manuscripts written in the Dhamma script (*tua tham*) into Thai script and language. His current research focuses on studying community histories through the lens of manuscripts. Additionally, he has been leading several projects documenting and digitizing endangered manuscript collections, funded by the DREAMSEA program.

Friday, 14 February 2025

14h–16h (CET)

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