



The Kingdom and People of Siam: with a Narrative of the Mission to That Country in 1855

By Sir John Bowring

Cambridge Library Collection, United Kingdom, 2013.
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 Published in two volumes in 1857, this was the most successful work of the linguist and politician Sir John Bowring (1792-1872). His varied career included work as an editor and translator, service as an MP in Britain and as a consul in China, and the controversial governorship of Hong Kong. His appointment to this last post in 1854 saw him aggressively assert British interests with little regard for Asian sensibilities. The following year he travelled to Siam (Thailand) to negotiate a treaty with that country which became a model for future agreements, giving the Siamese government an insight into Western diplomacy which would be invaluable. Volume 2 covers the political make-up of the nation, containing chapters on its dependencies and diplomatic relations, including an account of the work done by Bowring and his party. Also featured are personal accounts from long-term foreign residents of Siam and writings by its king, Mongkut (1804-68).



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