

# Important Books

The popularity of books grew in proportion with the country. Most people believe that books are an indicator of a developed society. This interest was diversified into different fields, thereby leading to a quest for knowledge and research. Different kinds of books began to appear, each with its own readership. Essentially, two distinct categories existed books and periodicals each with its own format to suit its use.

Thailand started printing its own books during the reign of King Rama III. Since then, interesting works have included books on Buddhism such as the guide to the Ariyaka symbols of Wat Bowonniwet and books on general knowledge that people were not yet aware of such as *Nang Sue Sadaeng Kitchanukit*, which provided information on geography, astronomy, science, and linguistics by using Buddhist scriptures to explain the content. Even King Rama IV wrote about various topics and lessons, and his works were printed for the public to read. These included notices during the reign of King Rama IV and the *Royal Gazette* of King Rama IV. Additionally, a book chronicled the king's 1868 trip to the Wa Ko subdistrict to observe the solar eclipse.

During the reign of King Rama V, the number of books that were printed increased greatly as a result of the number of new printing presses. Numerous interesting books were created including many written by the king, members of the royal family, government officials, monks, and contemporary authors. Book competitions were held, and some of the prize-winning works included *King Rama V's critique of Krom Luang Narindhorn Devi's memoirs*, which received the mark from the Boran Khadi Samosorn [Archeological Association]. *Phra Ratcha Phithi Sibsong Duen* [Royal Ceremonies of the Twelve Months] was written by King Rama V but received the mark from the Boran Khadi Samosorn during the subsequent reign.