

# The Development of the Thai Folio

## Exhibition introduction

The origin of Thailand's literary tradition was the fact that Thailand had the "lai sue thai" alphabet to record and share stories from the past to the present. With the advent of the alphabet, it was used as a tool to communicate in the Thai language through the ages. Then, when the Thai typograph was invented during the early Rattanakosin period, and printed books in the Thai language appeared, Thai books changed from script to printed type. The number of printing publisher also grew all around Bangkok and upcountry. This allowed for the wide distribution of important Thai books.

As the world spun into the age of globalisation, numerous titles of literary significance, particularly fiction, were recreated into other forms of entertainment such as television dramas and film. From silent letters on a page, the stories took on a new life on the silver screen and small screen. When you refer to the treasure trove for intellectual property, you cannot overlook the National Library, which has been the guardian of the nation's literary heritage for 113 years, and will continue to do so for years to come. The Royal Coronation Ceremony, which will take place in May 2019, will be observed by the entire Thai nation. The ancient rites of this royal court tradition have all been recorded for posterity's sake.

All this is part of "The Development of the the Thai Folio".