

Thailand - 1970 Trip Report

My bird watching records indicate that I saw six new bird species in Bangkok on 28 February and 1 March 1970, three each day. Gail and I were continuing our honeymoon trip around the world after our marriage on 21 December 1969. We had spent two months in northern Japan where I studied the snowstorms coming off the Sea of Japan and dumping snow on Hokkaido. For my Ph.D. thesis I was studying the similar lake-effect snowstorms generated by the Great Lakes of North America. Our stop in Bangkok was to visit a family from our Lutheran church in Schenectady, New York, who had been stationed there by the U.S. Air Force. They treated us to a river tour and evening entertainments.

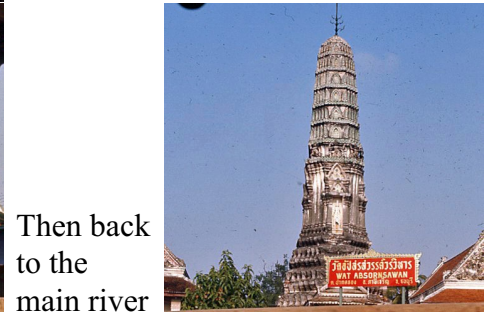


The tour started in the wide part of the Chao Phraya River. Then we went up some side channels.

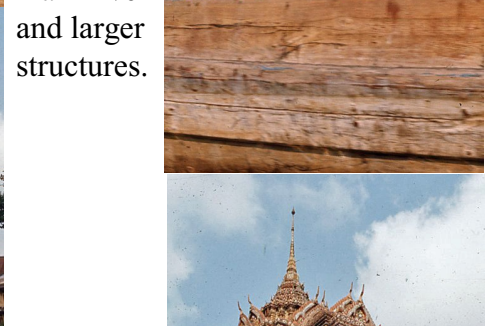


No streets here with motor vehicles, only boat traffic.

Then we passed some small temple sites.

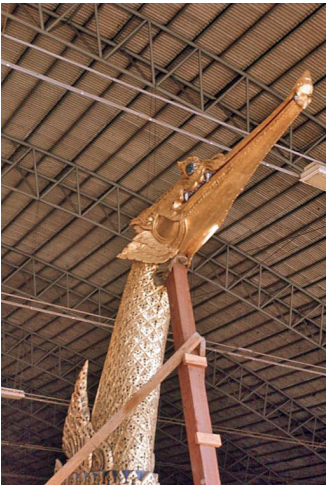


Then back
to the
main river
and larger
structures.



The royal yachts were next.

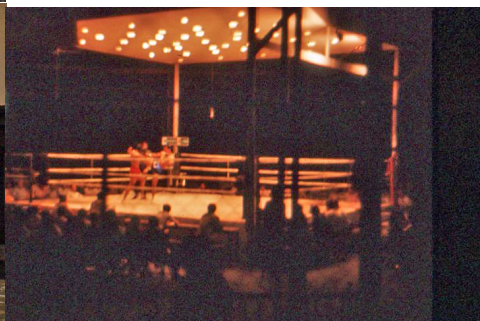




Evening entertainment started with a display of the Thai boxing style.



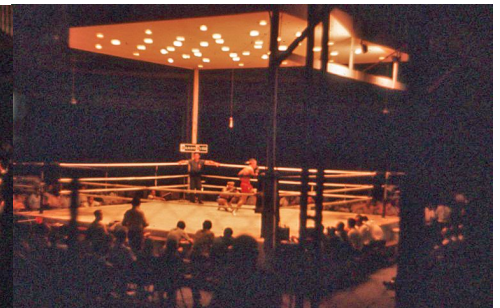
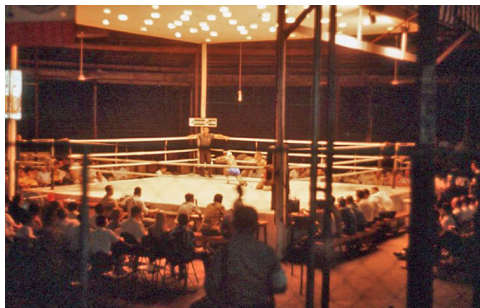
This barge is filled with bones from a meat factory.



Praying before the action

In Thai boxing the feet can be used as well as the hands.

Next we saw some Thai dancing styles. Movements tend to be slow and graceful.





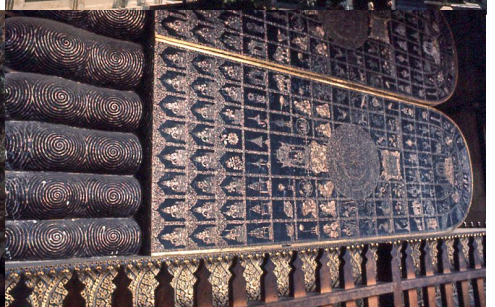
This male dancer was wearing a mask.



The next day, more temples.



This doorway is tapered towards the top to make it look taller than actual.



Though our memories have faded about the details of what we were seeing, this was a good introduction to some parts of Thai culture.