

Bernd Rohrmann

Picture galleries about

~ Thailand ~



August 2019

INTRODUCTION

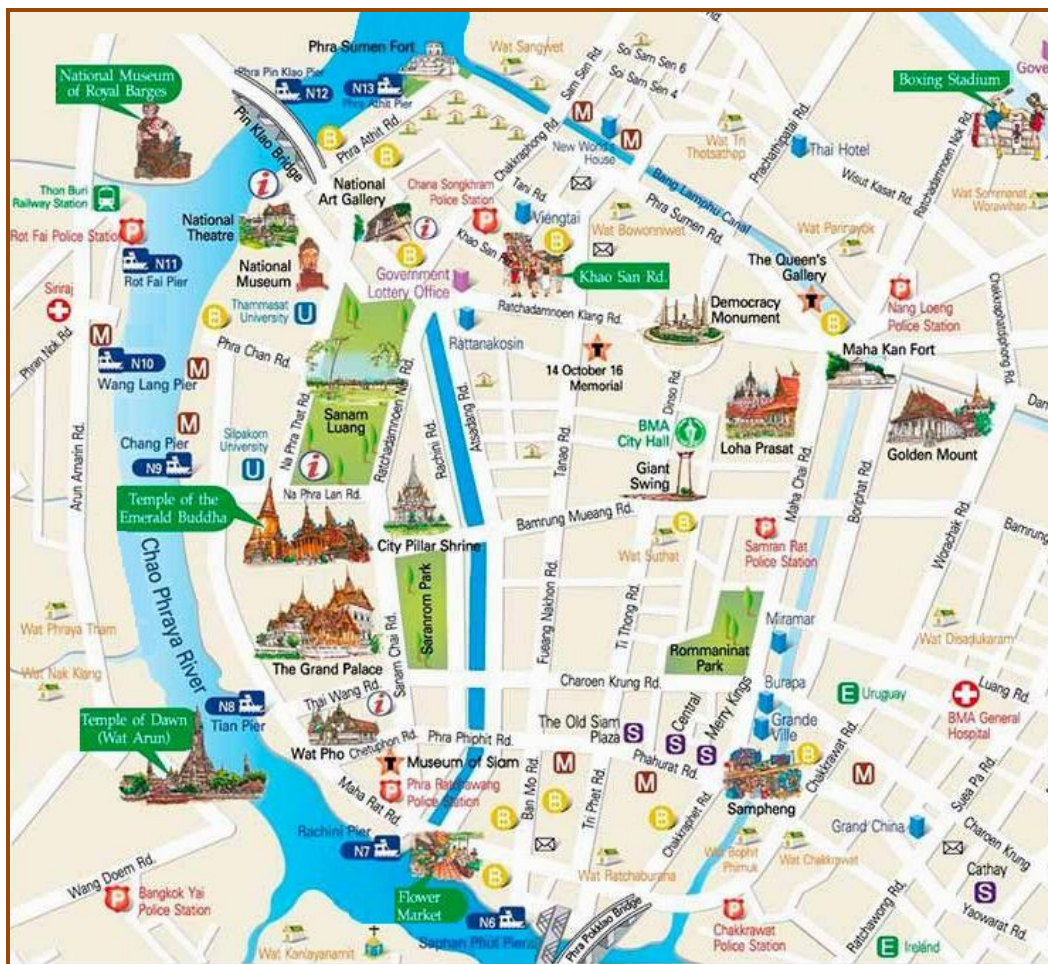
in thailand - in earlier time named "siam" - an enormous variety of 'things' can be visited and mostly admired, such as, countless temples of different types, as well as multifold landscapes ... and the rikshah is still a fun way to explore cities, above all: bangkok.



i have visited thailand twice - 1991/1992: bangkok. plus ayuthaya and the koh samui island; and 1997: bangkok. this was obviously quite some time ago, so i can only present here how i perceived thailand at that time!

BANGKOK: CITY FACETS

the capital of thailand, bangkok, is a very large city, located left and right of the chao phraya river, and has 8 mio residents. it was a major city within the ayutthaya kingdom, and became capital after the annihilation of the ayutthaya metropolis, in 1782.



the river very much shapes the setup of bangkok. originally the eastern area was dominating (see the city map above), it contains several small waterways and canals.

any kind of ships and boats cross the river, to connect city areas. most of them operate as ferries for people. "n6" to "n13" are main piers.



there are thousands - or rather tenthousands - of shops everywhere, and so are eateries, lots of them very simple and very cheap.





food markets are not only 'on land' but also on rivers, boats and boats and boats, offering about everything needed for preparing meals.



besides countless temples (see special section) there are also christian churches in bangkok, and even a europe-like clock tower provides a surprising view.



there are also thousands of small boats, especially about everywhere on the so very large chao phraya river.

and conveniently a little english is understood when trying to book a route and to pay in thai currency.



to move around, very local and very simple 'taxis' are there, also tenthousands it seems - yet most fun is a trip with a three-wheel bicycle!





motorbikes and scooters are very frequent as well, and helmets are, unfortunately, not common.

finally - -
if anything is chaotic in bangkok, then it is car traffic. not thousands, not tenthousands, rather hundredthousands of cars & bikes... they produce traffic jams everywhere all the time everywhere all the time everywhere all the time...



so, when visiting all the countless famous places in bangkoks inner city, lots of walking plus commuting with local mini-taxis is a hard yet wise decision...

BANGKOK: TEMPLES

thailand's big capital city, bangkok, is crowded with temples, like the wat phra kaew temple or the wat phro temple, both east of the chao phraya river.

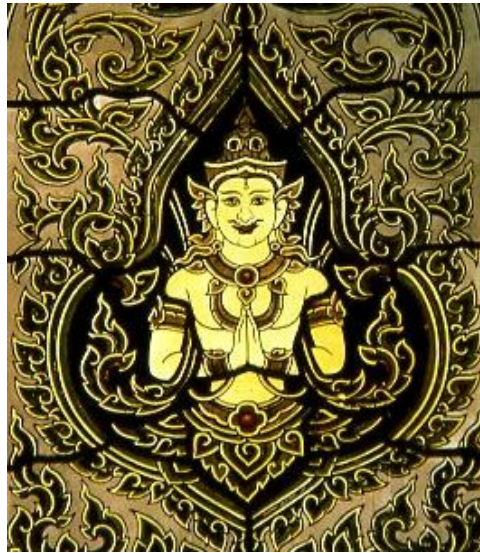
west of the river is the huge wat arun temple.



the rattanakosin royal district - see arial picture above - also contains lots of temples.

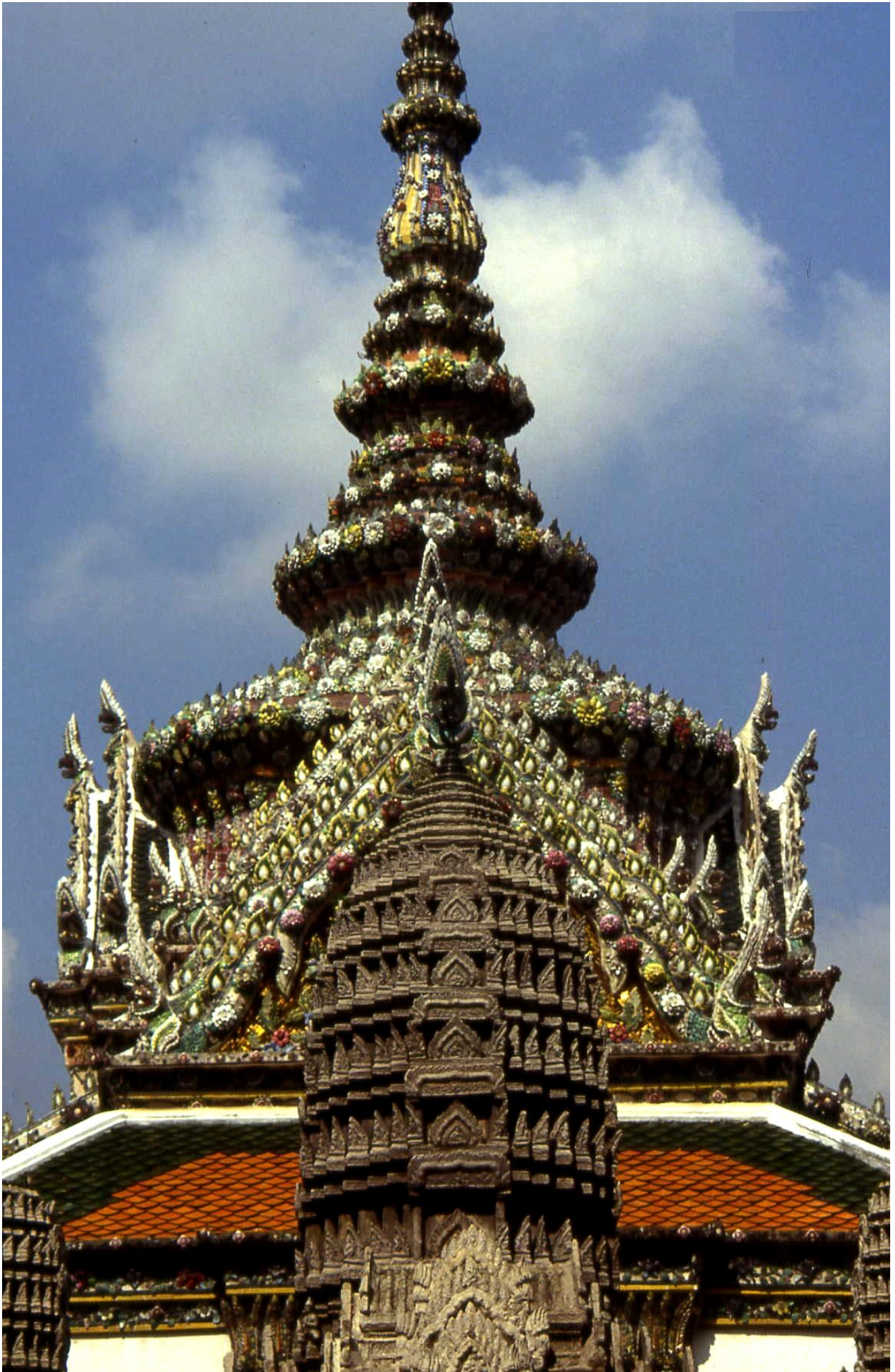
all these buildings, and the statues, and the decorations, are the finest art works, and their vigour and beauty is almost overwhelming.

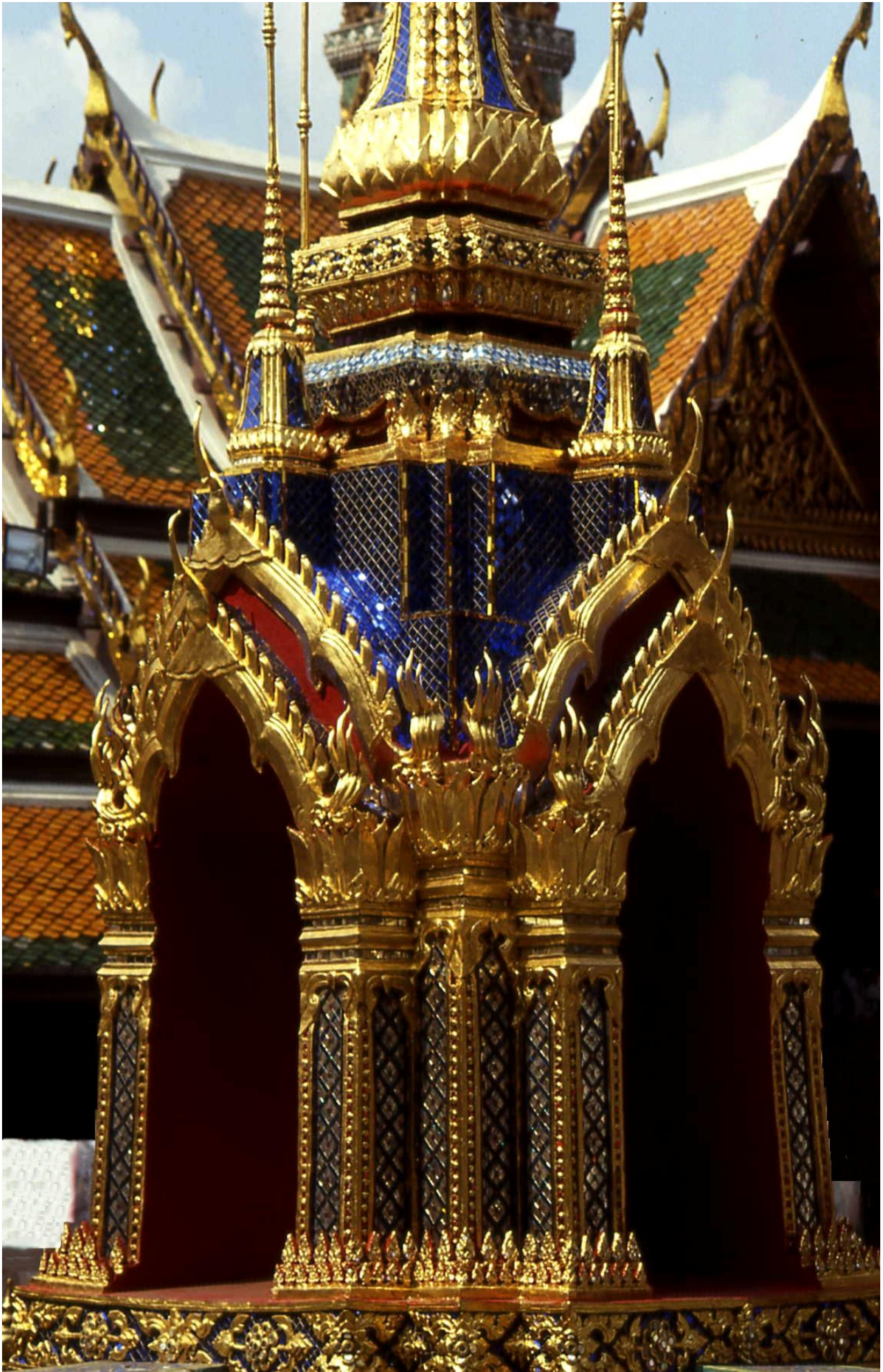
unfortunately my diary from the bangkok visits, including my notes about the inspected and photographed monuments, has gone lost. therefore this gallery will just show pictures, without any information about the items, sorry!













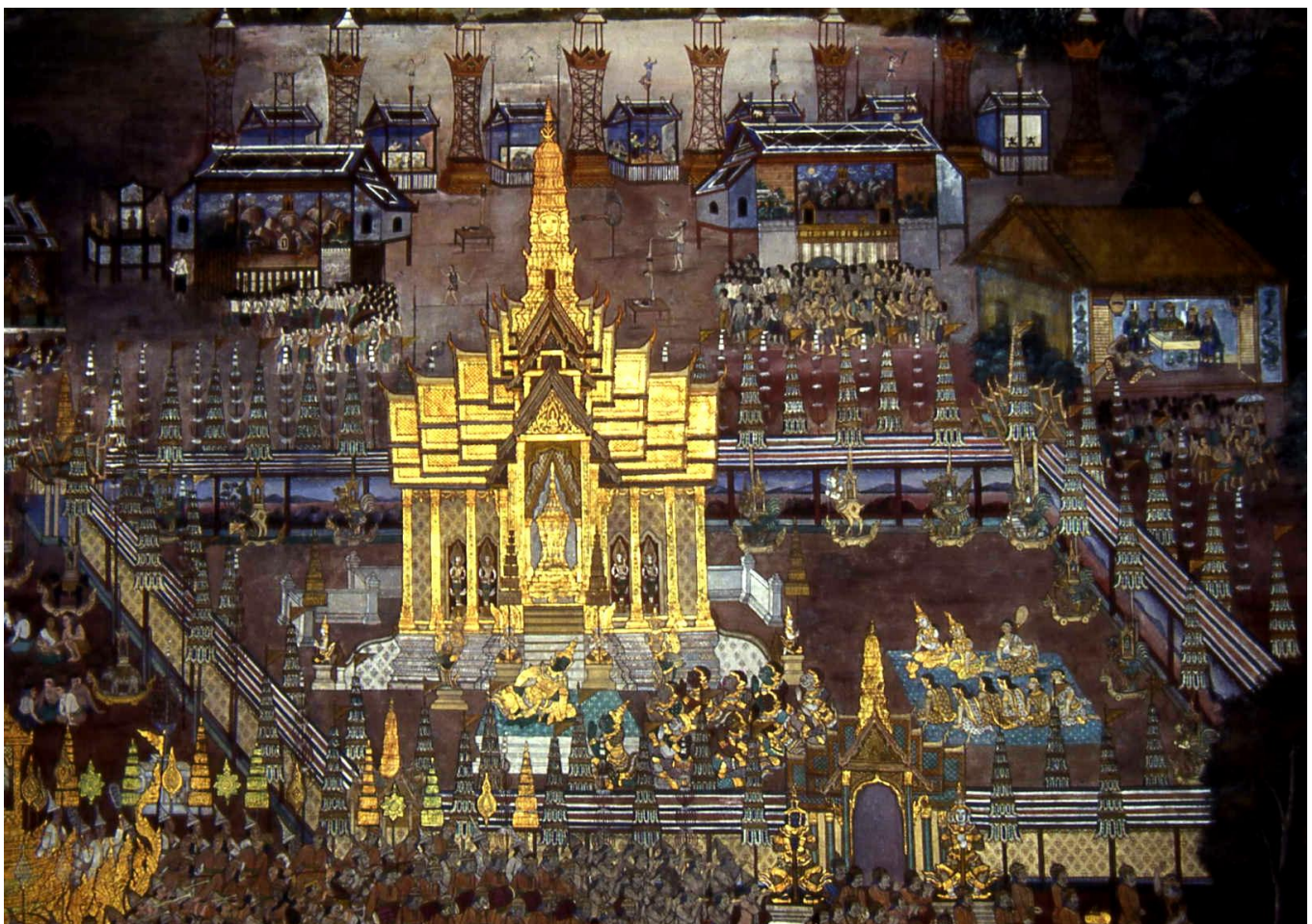


the last three photographs of this "bangkok temples" series show the enormous wat arun temple, including the cute entrance building.



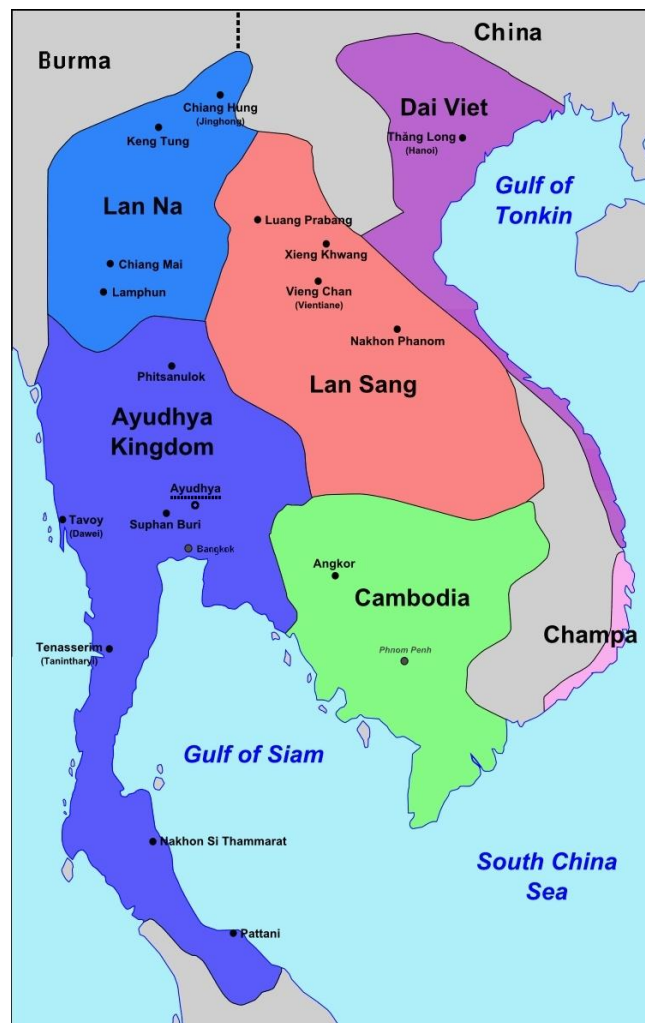


finally - here is a nice painting of one section of the royal area and an essential temple.



AYUTTHAYA

the kingdom of ayutthaya existed from 1350 to 1767. together with the state lan na (which was linked, and controlled for some time) it covered an area similar to modern thailand. its capital was ayutthaya (same name).



this city flourished between 1550 and 1750, in both trade and culture, and its population was near to a million in its prime time. here is a dutch painting from 1560.

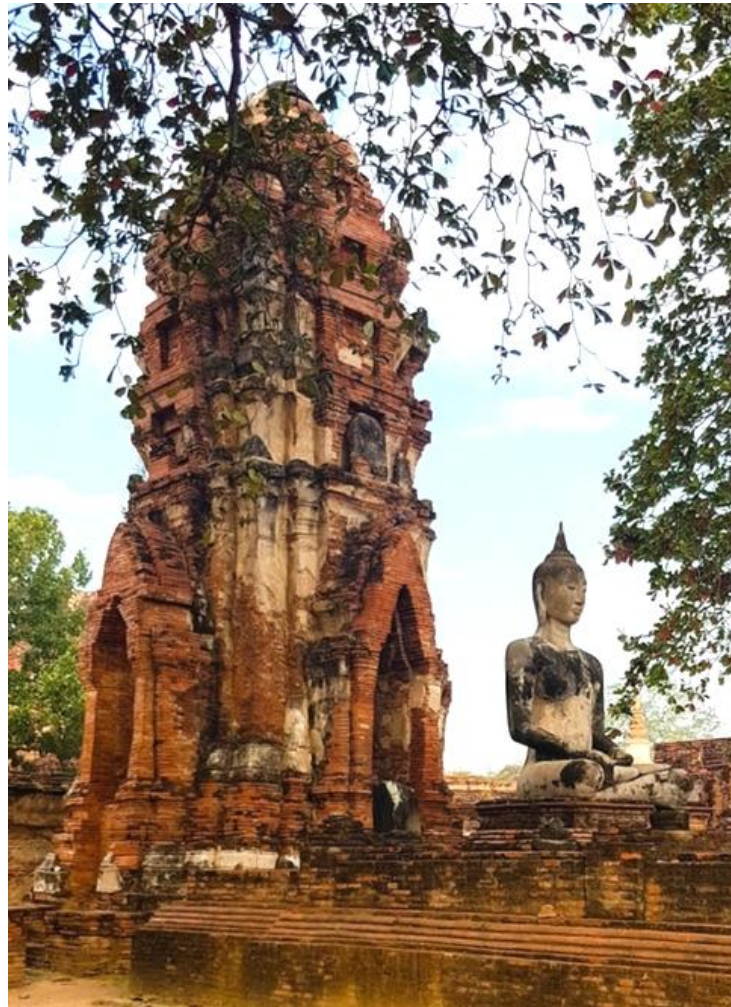


the kingdom of ayutthaya had several wars with burma (the "burma-siam" wars), and it was burma which in 1767 beat the ayutthayan army and burned the metropolis down. all that remained were ruins. much later modern ayutthaya was founded, a small town 10 km east of the old city.



some of the ruins have been restored, and the "ayutthaya historical park" is now an unesco world heritage area. four of the historic buildings, all large ones, are shown below.







near to all the ruins is one rather modern temple.

and right beside it is an almost pompous high-score restaurant - to please the wealthy visitors of ayutthaya!



KOH SAMUI

this is one of the islands liked by travellers - koh samui is less overrun and less expensive than bangkok, partly because a ship trip is necessary to reach it.



the photographs below show local boats, beaches, religious buildings, and a plain yet functional house where i stayed (for a rather low amount of money), with decent cafes nearby...





this is the last gallery - and thus the end of my essay about my thailand voyages. cheers!

