

Note on the *Tra Suriya* Crest

The snuff bottle on the cover has a crest, called ตราสุริยะ, *tra suriya*, the sun mark, associated with the Bunnag family.



Chuang Bunnag's chop



An emblem from Versailles

When elevating Chuang Bunnag to the rank of Somdet Chaophraya Borom Maha Si Suriyawong in 1868, King Chulalongkorn bestowed on him the ตรามหาสุริยมณฑล, *tra mahasuriya monthon*, the seal of the great sun circle, previously held by his father, Dit. Chuang

used a variant, known as *tra suriya*, as his personal seal and crest. The sunburst motif, referencing *suriya* in his official title, and the face of Apollo, god of the sun, were adapted from forms used by King Louis XIV, the “Sun King” of France (r. 1643–1715).



Besides his personal chop, the design was used on notepaper, silverware, porcelain, glassware, table-tops and elsewhere. The rendering of the sunburst and Apollo's face and ringlets varied at the hands of different artists and craftsmen. Sometimes the crest was combined with his official title in English, “Chow Phya Sri Sury Wongse Regent of Siam”.



The design was passed down to his descendants. The snuff bottle is inscribed on the back: ที่ระลึก ในการศพ เจ้าพระยา สุรวงษ์วัฒนศักดิ์ ร.ศ. ๑๒๙, Memento of the cremation of Chaophraya Surawong Wathanasak, RS 129 (1911).