

**IN MEMORIAM:
HER MAJESTY QUEEN SIRIKIT, THE QUEEN MOTHER (1932–2025)**



**FIGURE 1: HM Queen Sirikit; portrait painted by Piriya Krairiksh
(original in color), 1964 © The Siam Society**

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother, born Mom Rajawongse Sirikit Kitiyakara (ม.ร.ว. สิริกิติ์ กิติยากร), passed away on 24 October 2025 at the age of 93, at Chulalongkorn Hospital. His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn (Rama X) graciously presided over the royal arrangements, having Her Majesty's royal urn enshrined at the Dusit Mahaprasat Throne Hall in the Grand Palace beneath a nine-tiered umbrella, in accordance with the highest royal funerary honors.

Throughout her life, HM Queen Sirikit dedicated herself wholeheartedly to the Thai people. During the reign of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (1950–2016), she accompanied him on numerous visits to remote areas across the kingdom. HM Queen Sirikit provided assistance that enabled people to improve their livelihoods and quality of life. She founded the Sinlapachip Foundation (มูลนิธิส่งเสริมศิลปาชีพ)—*The Foundation for the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Techniques of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother* (SUPPORT)—which promotes regional arts and crafts. Through this initiative, people earn supplementary income to support themselves. HM Queen Sirikit also played a vital role in stimulating interest in Thai traditional culture and performance, notably by modernizing the classical *khon* (โขน) performance to make it more accessible and appealing to younger generations.

HM Queen Sirikit was a strong advocate for the conservation of natural resources, particularly trees and forests. These efforts contributed to the preservation of waterways

and their tributaries and helped enhance the fertility of the land.

In recognition of her lifelong dedication to projects essential to Thailand's development, HM Queen Sirikit received numerous international honors and awards. In 1979, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) awarded her the Ceres Medal in recognition of her tireless efforts to improve the lives of her subjects, especially her work in rural development and in supporting Thai women. The Queen also received honorary degrees from many universities and academic institutions.

HM Queen Sirikit served as Vice-Patron of the Siam Society Under Royal Patronage and accompanied HM King Bhumibol to the Society on several occasions. To commemorate HM Queen Sirikit's 60th birthday anniversary in 1992,¹ the Siam Society commissioned a gold Buddha footprint, which was later installed at the Temple of the Emerald Buddha in the Grand Palace.

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's kindness and compassion will forever remain in the hearts of the Thai people.

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Arthid Sheravanichkul³

¹ See Bonnie Davis, "Her Majesty Queen Sirikit", *Journal of the Siam Society*, Vol. 80, Pt. 1, pp. 10–12. **FIGURE 1** illustrated the cover of that issue. It is here reprinted in black and white with permission.

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