

PICTURE THIS | GALLERY

HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT PHOTOGRAPH

CHULALONGKORN, King Rama V of Siam
and Entourage at Taplow House, England

on the occasion of the

First Visit of a Reigning Siamese King to Europe

Photograph by Carl Vandyk, hand signed and dated 1897

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**Rare large photograph of Chulalongkorn,
King Rama V of Siam and his entourage
at Taplow House, near Maidenhead, Berkshire, England, 1897.**



The photograph is by Carl Vandyk, Royal photographer, with his pencil signature and date to lower left.

To the right of the King is Crown Prince Vajiravudh, later King Rama VI. There are other younger princes in the photograph too, as well as members of the Siamese legations in London, Paris and New York.



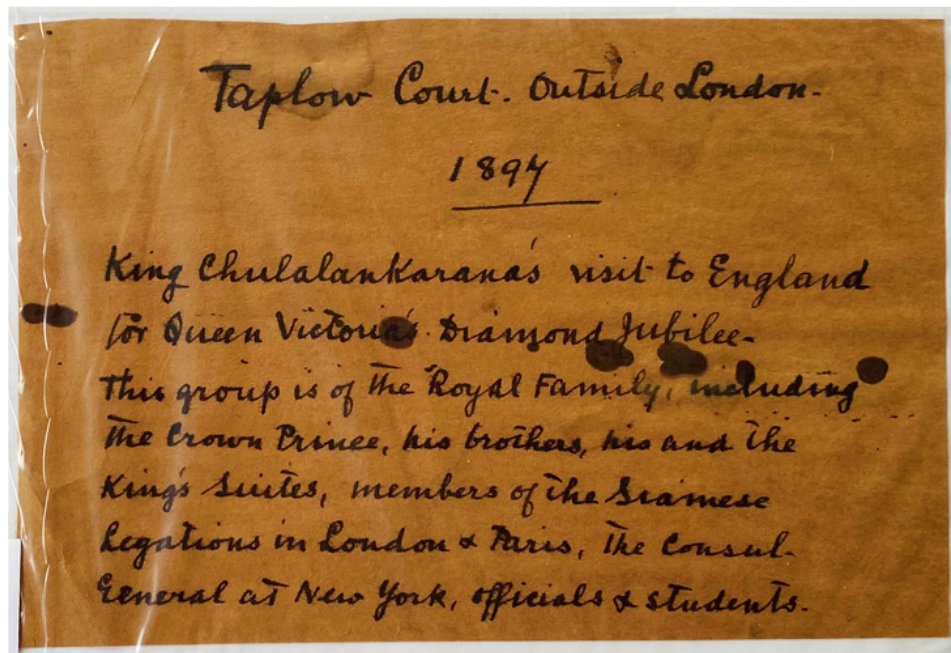
detail of centre section of photograph

Historical Background:

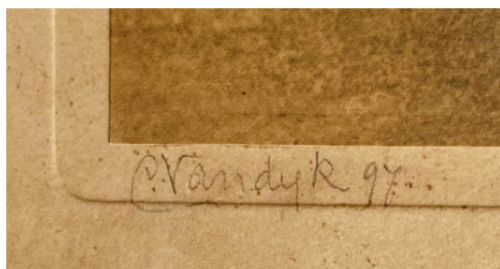
Rama V was the first King of Siam to travel to Europe, visiting for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Queen Victoria in 1897. Before arriving in the UK he visited several other European countries on a significant diplomatic mission to build bridges and protect his country from threatened European aggression, or possible colonisation.

During an extended stay in the U.K., the King and his travelling party based themselves at Taplow House near Maidenhead where this photograph was taken.

A contemporary hand written explanatory note survives with the photograph which provides some background..



The photograph was taken by Carl Vandyk (1851-1931), a German born photographer who ran a studio on Gloucester Road from 1882 taking images of the British Royal Family and many other notable people. A successful photographer and businessman, Vandyk owned and ran three hotels in London, the Rembrandt, the Rubens and the Vandyke, all at prime southwest London addresses. Vandyk's pencilled hand signature is on the backing card at the lower left corner.



We can find other images, photographs and printed images in magazines and journals of Chulalongkorn's visit to the UK, but not such a large formal portrait as this.

The photograph is very large, at 43cm x 27.5cm, backed on the original card with the photographer's signature on the backing card, lower left corner.

There are some applied white paint highlights.

The backing card is somewhat worn and chipped. The photograph has some gentle oxidation, mainly across the top and bottom border areas.



A historically important photograph and an image that we have been unable to find anywhere.

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SOLD

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