



PBIC PRIDI BANOMYONG
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Area Studies for the People of all Nations

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Dear Achan Pramaha Chiravat Kantawanno พระมหาจิรวัดน์ กนฺตวณฺโณ, and Achan Aphichet Somkhamsri อภิเชษฐ์ สมคำศรี,

We are writing to express our deep gratitude and appreciation for your collaboration in the organizing of the International Conference on Amulet Cultures in Thailand.

The conference was a huge success and has generated a lot of interest and potential future research collaborations. I personally have rarely been to a conference which has actually made substantial progress in the development of a field.

Our aims of forging cooperation and a sharing of view-points between the academic, the monastic, and the amulet community were realized and were fruitful.

The papers contributed by the monastic community, the extra activities, the amulet collection exhibition and amulet minting and consecration ceremony, and the special lecture given by the venerable พระครูวิลาศกาญจนธรรม (อาจารย์ เล็ก สุขุมมปณ โณ) were well received and gave our conference a substance that such a conference needed.

As you say, there seems to have been some sort of heavenly hand behind the event, and the fact that it fell on such an auspicious day, a day which we had not considered when selecting a date, was an indication of that. The ashes of the Buddha were a starting point for the dissemination of the Buddha's message. We hope that this conference will also serve as a starting point, not only for the development of the field of Thai amulet studies, but for future collaborations between academic institutions and the groups, and individuals that they study.

On behalf of my colleagues at PBIC, on the organizing committee, Asst. Prof. Dr. Monthinee Rattanaprichavej, Vice-Dean for Research and International Affairs, Dr. Ornthicha Duangratana, Dr. Paul McBain, and Dr. John Johnston, I want to thank you for your kind collaboration and harbour the hope that there will be more such collaborations between us in future.

With my best wishes,

Thomas Bruce, PhD (SOAS, University of London)