

**Historical Records of Rare Natural Phenomena
In Thailand**

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ABSTRACT

Thailand, like all other countries in Asia, has had long-term traditional records in various rare natural phenomena. Many geological and astronomical phenomena have been recorded in many forms such as stone's inscriptions, palm leaves, papers etc. for more than a thousand years ago. In Yonok chronicle, it was recorded that Yonok Kingdom, which was a prosperous kingdom since the beginning of Buddhist's Era, was suffered from several earthquakes. Yonok Kingdom was situated at a latitude of $20^{\circ}.25$ North and a longitude of $100^{\circ}.08$ East, which at present is in Chiang Saen District, Chiang Rai Province, Thailand. The most destructive in the recorded history of Yonok Kingdom was occurred on 2003 B.E. on Saturday of the 7th lunar month at 7th day after the full moon. This mother's earthquake destroyed the whole Yonok Kingdom which was appeared now only a wide swamp in Chiang Saen District.

In the stone's inscriptions of Sukhothai Kingdom, two significant earthquakes were recorded. Seven events of earthquake were recorded in Ayudhya Chronicle and four records of earthquake were also recorded in Chiang Mai Chronicle several hundred years ago. The most significant event of earthquake in Chiang Mai was in 2088 B.E. which its effect destroyed down the top of the main stupa of Chedi Luang Temple^[1] as shown in figure below.



Figure: The top of the main stupa in Chedi Luang temple which was destroyed down by the earthquake in 2088 B.E.

Other rare natural phenomena were also records especially several astronomical phenomena^[2] such as eclipses, appearance of comets, meteor showers etc. There were several events of solar eclipse recorded in the history of Thailand. The first significant one was the partial solar eclipse observed by King Nara the Great on 30th April of 2231 B.E. and the second was the total solar eclipse calculated and observed by King Rama IV, the father of Thai Science, on 18th August of 2411 B.E.

Appearance of comets were recorded in the history of Thailand especially during the reign of King Rama IV. Many more astronomical phenomena of the appearance of comets and the alignment of planets, sun and moon were also mentioned in Chiang Mai Chronicle.

Keywords : Earthquakes ; Yonok Chronicle ; Ayudhya Chronicle ; Chiang Mai Chronicle ;
Astronomical Phenomena.

References

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