

Thai Language Conventions

This book adheres to the phonetic transcription for most Thai words but does not use tonal marks. This practice follows the “General System of Phonetic Transcription of Thai Characters into Roman” devised in 1954 by the Royal Institute in Bangkok. Moreover, because of the constraints of typesetting, the superscript and subscript marks of certain vowels and consonants are not shown. Exceptions are those names that have been transcribed by various other systems or perhaps no system at all. In the case of a name known widely or a name that can be checked, the owner’s transcription will be followed. Otherwise, the spelling follows the system of romanization mentioned above. The English names of certain Thai royals, such as Chulalongkorn, Bhumibol, and Vajiralongkorn, have been adopted rather than the lengthy official titles. The official ranks and positions such as king, prince, prime minister, major general, captain, admiral, and so on are given in the first reference to each but omitted after that. Finally, as in conventional usage, Thai people are referred to by their personal names and Westerners are referred to by their family names. In the bibliography, Thai names are therefore entered by personal (first) name.

