

## NOTE ON TRANSCRIPTION

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English-language studies of Thailand have been historically inconsistent in their transcription of Thai words. This book is no exception, since it makes use of vocabulary from not only Thai (Th.) but also Pali (P.), Sanskrit (Skt.), Chinese, and architecture. Although it endeavors to conform to the Royal Thai General System of transcription, it defers to commonly accepted usage for proper names (e.g., Vajiravudh rather than Wachirawut). It makes use of Pali terms for scriptural references (e.g., *Nibbānasutta*), but for terms like *devaraja*, *chakravartin*, and “mandala,” which are part of the political vocabulary of Southeast Asian studies, I have deferred to the more widely used Sanskrit terms. Chinese names and terms are rendered in pinyin except for certain historical proper names (e.g., Sun Yat-sen instead of Sun Yixian).

