

ดุษฎีนิพนธ์

THESIS ABSTRACTS

EXTENSION OF POSTAL SERVICES TO RURAL AREAS IN THAILAND

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The initial chapters describe the development of the mails; the initiation of postal services, and the establishment of the Post and Telegraph Department.

Prior to the establishment of the Post and Telegraph Department, there was no formal organization doing the business of carrying correspondence from one person to another. Official letters which were classified into two categories, ordinary messages and urgent messages, were conveyed in the following manner. An ordinary message was forwarded from one province to another until it reached its destination. An urgent message was forwarded by special courier. The courier was provided with means of conveyance by the governor through whatever provinces he passed.

For individual correspondence, the sender had to entrust a trader who happened to be travelling in the desired direction to carry the message to the person addressed. Or the sender had to hire his own messenger to do the job.

The Post and Telegraph Department was established on the 4th of August 1883, with offices situated at a building near the mouth of Ong Ang canal. In the first two years of business, activities were limited to a restricted area, that is to only the people of Bangkok and Dhonburi. Subsequently postal services were extended to significant towns in the north, south, east and west.

Chapter III described the various categories and classes of the post offices; how and why they are divided, and the kinds of services available in each category and class.

The railway station post office is one of the categories. District licensed post offices are another category. These number second only to railway station post offices. They support the extension of postal services to rural areas that are faraway from the railway stations, or to districts where there are no railway lines.

The main category of post office is the Post Office managed by the officials of the Post and Telegraph Department through which all kinds of postal services are available. They are located only in town areas and in the large inhabited areas.

Chapter IV concerns the methods of controlling accounts and cash kept at various post offices. The Accounts and Finance Bureau is responsible for checking and verifying the accounts of all post offices. Under the rules and regulations of the Post and Telegraph Department, all post offices must send their statements of accounts, including supporting vouchers which show all cash transactions to the Accounts and Finance Bureau.

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