

Royal Appointments on Golden Leaves  
*Suphannabat* as an Epigraphic Tradition of  
the Siamese Royal Court

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**Abstract**

*This article explores suphannabat, golden-plate inscriptions of the Siamese royal court, as an epigraphic tradition dating back to the fifteenth century. The Siamese royal court produced these golden plates to bestow royal, noble, and monastic titles, to record the regnal title at coronations (suphannabat chaloem phra pòramaphithai), and as diplomatic letters sent to foreign sovereigns (phra ratchasan suphannabat). The suphannabat inscriptions were produced to perform ritual and symbolic functions, representing the authority of the king and of the persons upon whom royal titles were bestowed. The epigraphic tradition of suphannabat continues in twenty-first-century Thailand.*

**Keywords:** *suphannabat*; golden-plate inscriptions; Thai epigraphy; royal court inscriptions.