



# Longfellow House Bulletin

Volume 14 No. 1

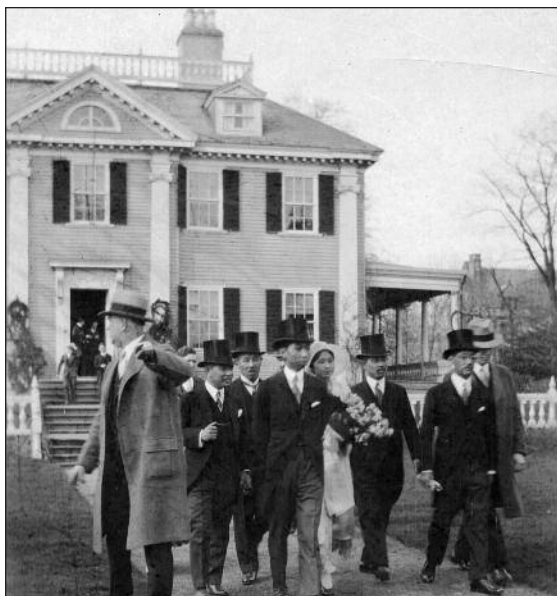
A Newsletter of the Friends of the Longfellow House and the National Park Service

June 2010

## Longfellow House's Connections to Thailand Past & Present

A series of serendipitous events has led to further exploration of yet another aspect of the Longfellow House and archives: its Southeast Asian holdings and connections. As a result, the House has become involved with the King of Thailand Birthplace Trail and will host a celebration in August of Thai heritage and culture.

Last summer Longfellow House museum manager Jim Shea learned that the King of Thailand Birthplace Foundation (KTBF) wished to put a plaque on his apartment building as part of a trail commemorating the Thai royal family's history in eastern Massachusetts. From 1917 to 1927 the building had housed the Siamese Office of Educational Affairs and the first Thai student asso-



ciation in the United States, led by Prince Mahidol. Also, a young Thai student named Sangwan Talapat had stayed there upon her arrival in Boston. Two years later she married Prince Mahidol and would become the Princess Mother of Thailand's present king.

Residents of the building welcomed the historic marker. At the installation ceremony, KTBF's Choltanee Koerajna showed photographs of the Princess Mother in front of the building. The photos inspired Shea to peruse the House's Asian photograph collection, particularly one image (pictured here) labeled "Asian people in front of Longfellow House."

When Koerajna came to the House

*(continued on page 4)*

## House Unveils Unique Collection of Historic Southeast Asian Photographs

To accompany a special celebratory program in August called "Thailand Legacy: The King and Cambridge," many rare photos of Southeast Asia from the House archives will be on display for the first time in the Longfellow House library. Charles (Charley) Appleton Longfellow — an adventurer and the poet's eldest child — brought these images back from his travels in the 1870s.

Having spent more than two years in Japan and China, on February 6, 1874, Charley sailed from Hong Kong to Siam (Thailand) and what are now Vietnam and Cambodia. Accompanied by other Westerners and, at times, local guides, he explored the cities, temples, gardens, rivers, coastal areas, and interior wilderness.

In these countries Charley purchased objets d'art as well as approximately seventy historic

photographs. These unusual images document people, pastimes, architecture, and the landscape of Southeast Asia. He recorded his activities and impressions in a journal, preserved in the House archives, thus adding illuminating information not only about what he saw and the people he met,

but also about the pictures he acquired.

In his journal Charley referred twice to purchasing photographs. On February 11, 1874, in Saigon, he noted: "Tried to buy some Annamese [as Vietnamese was then called] curios in the afternoon but they seem to have none except boxes and furniture inlaid with mother-of-pearl,

very rough work, and a kind of red gold jewelry, like copper. Bought some photos." Then again while in Bangkok on February 22, 1874, he wrote: "Went to photographer's in the afternoon, invested. He is a native Catholic, speaks English well, and is Capt. in the body guard."

The photographer Charley described in Bangkok was most likely Khun Sunthornsathitsalak, also known as Francis Chit. In the first half of the nineteenth cen-

*(continued on page 5)*



Palace of the King of Siam, Bangkok, 1874, probably by Francis Chit



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All images are from the Longfellow National Historic Site collections, unless noted otherwise.

## Anna and the King of Siam, and the Longfellows

Best remembered for her memoirs, published in the early 1870s, about her years as governess in the Siamese royal court, Anna Leonowens was friends with Henry Longfellow's family and may have met the poet himself since she knew a number of his friends. In 1944 Margaret Landon fictionalized Leonowens's account in her popular book, *Anna and the King of Siam*. Landon's tale was immortalized in film, television, and the Broadway hit musical *The King and I*.

The widow of a British army officer stationed in Southeast Asia, Anna Leonowens started a school in Singapore, but it had financial difficulties. In 1862 she accepted an offer to teach European manners and English to the thirty-nine wives and concubines and eighty-two children of King Mongkut of Siam. Leonowens sent her daughter to school in England, took her son with her to Bangkok, and set to work.

For almost six years Leonowens taught at the court and became a language secretary to the king. Her position carried great respect and even a degree of political influence. She criticized the treatment of women in the Siamese court and opposed slavery, which was still practiced in Siam.

An abolitionist and a feminist, Leonowens had the royal family translate Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* from English into Siamese. The book so moved one of the ladies of the harem that she liberated all 130 of her slaves.

In 1868 Leonowens returned to England to regain her health. She had hoped to resume her position at the court, but Mongkut fell ill and died. The king mentioned Leonowens and her son in his will, though they never received an inheritance. The successor, fifteen-year-old King Chulalongkorn, wrote Leonowens a letter of thanks for her work but did not invite her back.

Chulalongkorn, the chief recipient of Leonowens's academic attentions, made reforms for which his former tutor claimed some credit, such as discontinuing the practice of prostration in front of royal personages. Chulalongkorn began ending slavery in 1868 and abolished it completely in 1905.

In 1869 Leonowens relocated to New York City. She wrote up her experiences in Siam for the *Atlantic Monthly*, a well-respected Boston-based magazine where Henry Longfellow's work often appeared. In a letter on May 7, 1870, to Miss Sarah

Watson Dana (the sister-in-law of Edith Longfellow Dana, Henry Longfellow's daughter), she confided, "I am much obliged to you for the kind interest you express in my coming work. The articles published in the *Atlantic* are mere extracts from different parts selected expressly to attract the notice of ... editors; and the more intelligent class of scholars so as to bring before hand a public curiosity and interest in the subject of the book." Sarah

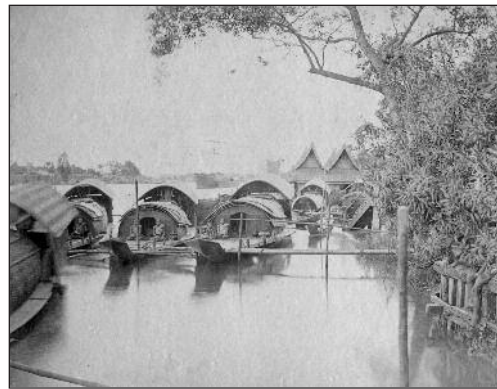
Dana lived in her friend Leonowens's house on Staten Island for a while.

Leonowens's two volumes, *The English Governess at the Siamese Court* (1870) and *The Romance of the Harem* (1872), were the first Western tales from inside the Siamese palace, and

they received great acclaim. Leonowens joined the Boston and New York literary circles and lecture circuit. On March 5, 1872, the *Boston Globe* ran a glowing review of "Mrs. Leonowens's Lecture" with its touching stories of Siam: "In these days when there are so many ladies on the platform, and so few who have much to say there, such a lecturer as Mrs. Leonowens is a most acceptable acquisition...." James T. Fields, Longfellow's close friend and publisher, had introduced her. It would not be surprising if Henry Longfellow or his family attended.



Siamese girls in front of painted scene, 1874



Houseboats on Chao Phraya River in Bangkok, 1874



## Interview with a Friend ... Meet Cholthanee Koerojna, President of KTBF

Having moved from Thailand to the United States in 1980, Cholthanee Koerojna now heads the King of Thailand Birthplace Foundation (KTBF) where she works with her husband, Mana Sanguansook, to bring Thai history and culture to Massachusetts. The foundation hopes one day to establish a museum, library, and cultural center for Thai people and all others to learn about the life of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the present king of Thailand.

**Longfellow House:** Where in Thailand are you from, and why did you first come to Massachusetts?

**Cholthanee Koerojna:** I was born in the city of Ayutthaya, about fifty miles north of Bangkok. I came to the U.S. to go to college for computer science at U. Mass. Lowell, to get a Doctor of Science, but I didn't finish my thesis. I had a bachelor's degree from Thailand. When I came here, I had to start my bachelor's degree again. I worked for a long time as an Information Technology executive and then retired.

**LH:** How did you find out that the King of Thailand was born in Cambridge?

**CK:** When we lived in Thailand, we didn't know that the king was born here. Even before last year, many people in Thailand didn't know that the king was born in Cambridge. They thought that the king was born in Switzerland because he was brought up there. When I moved here, our American friends told us, "Oh, do you know that the king was born at Mt. Auburn Hospital?" We went to Mt. Auburn and saw the king's picture [and the accompanying information] on the wall there.

After we saw that, we felt we are lucky that we live in this state and in this area, because we are so proud that we live in the place where the king was born.

**LH:** How do other Thai people react when they learn their king was born here?

**CK:** It's the same with many Thai people. When they learn this is the king's birthplace, they are so happy. The other day one Thai family we know came to Cambridge and went to King Bhumibol Square [near Harvard Square]. When our friend saw our monument to the king, she sat down on the ground and prayed and cried. She never expected to get a chance to be in the land where the king was born. This is how Thai people feel about it, and we feel the same way.

**LH:** What gave you the idea to create the KTBF and the Trail of Thai Royalty?

**CK:** At the time the king was six cycles of the year of birth or 72 years old. The people of Thailand feel that is the lucky year. So we felt we should do something for the king since we live here. That's why we started the foundation.

After we established the foundation, our first goal was to build a library of Thai history in Cambridge, but we didn't have enough money. We couldn't get funding to buy or rent a place for a museum. Mana suggested I write a book with all the research I have done, but I didn't have time to



put it together. So we felt instead of waiting for time to get the book going, let's put our material that I researched into a trail, to let people know about the Thai king's history in Cambridge and to preserve Thai history in Massachusetts.

**LH:** Who funds the KTBF?

**CK:** We are a small nonprofit with limited funding. We have never asked for funding from the royal family, but we get moral support from them. The first year when we began the foundation in 1998, we had an audience with the king's sister when she came in June. We had a meeting with her and presented the project. She said, "Don't spend a lot of money. Do something that will benefit your community. Do something sustainable. Do something to educate the people." So that's why we changed our target. Instead of trying to find money to build a museum, I started researching more about why the king was born here.

**LH:** Did you have help with the research for the trail? Or was it just the two of you?

**CK:** We had one person who helped us to edit documents that we want to present. Most things I get from Thai books, especially a book

where the Princess Mother told her story to her daughter in 1982. In my research I have followed the footsteps from the first day that Prince Mahidol came here until the last day that he and the Princess Mother left the country. It's been very exciting. Every place that we went to research people were so pleased because they didn't know about the King of Thailand.

One really exciting thing happened with the last house we put on the trail. In the book, the Princess Mother says after she left Hartford, she came back to Massachusetts to live in Belmont, but we didn't know where. The book tells us the place they vacationed in New Hampshire. Mana and I drove a long way to find the hotel. Although it no longer existed, we found the hotel registration records with their names in her writing, but no address. A few years later we found the letter that the Princess Mother wrote to a friend saying she moved from Hartford to 49 Cedar Road, Belmont.

**LH:** At the House this summer we will celebrate the opening of the trail.

**CK:** On August 15 we would like to show people the relationship between Thailand and Longfellow House. We like to show how the royal family came here, and we want to educate people about beautiful Thai culture. We have games, crafts, storytelling, and in the evening we want to emphasize the king and have a concert. The king was a musician. Before 1945 in Switzerland, his mother bought a saxophone for the older son. He didn't want the lessons and pushed his younger brother to take lessons instead. The king played music for many years. He had his own radio station. People could call in and ask for a song, and the king would play. When he went to New York in the 1960s, he played with Benny Goodman, and when Benny Goodman went to Thailand, he and the king played all night long.

**LH:** Do Thai people know of the Longfellow House and its many Thai connections, such as Charley Longfellow's visit to Thailand in the 1870s?

**CK:** At this point, only our group knows how important Longfellow's House is to the history of Thailand. We like to try to educate Thai students, and we are trying to see how we can educate other Thai people to come to the House to see where Prince Mahidol and the Princess Mother visited. Maybe other Thai people in the past came here because it was a very famous place for people of that time. We want to communicate that to the Thai community.

# Longfellow House's Connections to Thailand Past & Present

(continued from page 1)

to view the vintage photo, she identified the middle top-hatted figure as young Prince Mahidol in the 1920s, but neither she nor the NPS staff have determined the occasion or its precise date.

After combing journals in the House archives and period newspapers, NPS staff speculate that the prince may have been present at the wedding of two Siamese students whose intent to wed was the subject of a *Boston Globe* article on March 21, 1925.

Born in 1892, Prince Mahidol Songkla of Thailand was the sixty-ninth child of King Chulalongkorn by one of his wives, Queen Savang Vadhana. The prince attended a prestigious boarding school in England before going to university in Germany. On August 27, 1916, he and his party arrived in Gloucester, Massachusetts. He had come to study at the School of Public Health, part of Harvard Medical School and the Institute of Technology. At the time, he was among many Siamese students in America, but the first Thai royal to study in the U.S.

According to the *Boston Globe* on February 23, 1919, Prince Mahidol told his father: "When I marry, it will be to one wife and to no more, and she shall be the one queen of my heart..." On September 21, 1918, Sangwan Talapat arrived in Boston with eight other students. Thanks to a scholarship from the queen, she had come to study nursing at Simmons College. Prince Mahidol met the students at the train station and accompanied them to Cambridge, where Sangwan would take up residence. On September 10, 1920, Prince Mahidol married Sangwan Talapat in a royal wedding ceremony in Bangkok.

"The fact of Prince Songkla's royal connections," the *Boston Globe* reported on December 20, 1920, "had always been kept more or less secret by him and his friends here, and it was not until ... his return to this country, that his royal lineage has been made public. Apparently, he like so many other foreign students with royal blood,

preferred to secure his education as a common citizen of his home country."

In 1921 Prince Mahidol earned a Certificate of Public Health but stayed at Harvard to pursue another degree. In 1923, he and his wife had a daughter. A son arrived two years later. Their third child, Prince Bhumibol Adulyadej, was born on December 5, 1927 at Mount Auburn Hospital, not far from the Longfellow House. The two sons were in line to succeed to the throne.

The couple and their children traveled back and forth to Siam where Prince Mahidol dedicated himself to improving medicine and medical education.

In 1928, after graduating from Harvard with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, he returned to Siam with his family for good. Tragically, he died from severe kidney and liver illness the next year at the age of thirty-seven. His work had such a large impact that he was honored with the title of "Father of Modern Medicine and Public Health of Thailand."

In 1946, upon the mysterious death of his older brother, Ananda Mahidol, the young Prince Bhumibol ascended to the Thai throne. The longest reigning king in Thai history, King Bhumibol Adulyadej still wears the crown today. In 1997 at the intersection of Eliot and Bennett Streets near Harvard Square in Cambridge, the KTBF erected a monument celebrating King Bhumibol and naming the square in his honor, King Bhumibol Adulyadej Square. As emblazoned on the plaque, the

## PRINCE AND PRINCESS ARE BACK IN BOSTON TO STUDY



PRINCE AND PRINCESS MAHIDOL SONGKLA OF SIAM.  
From the *Boston Globe* January 4, 1921

square also "shall serve as a reminder of the close ties between the people of Cambridge and the people of Thailand."

A map on the back of the monument marks the beginning of the Trail of Thai Royalty, following the footsteps of the king's parents while they lived in Massachusetts off and on from 1916 to 1928. The trail includes the homes and places in which the family stayed. One site is in Gloucester, five are in Cambridge, one each in Belmont and Brookline, and two on Martha's Vineyard,



Thai Royalty Trail: 44 Langdon St., Cambridge, 2010. 1910's and 20's Siamese Office of Educational Affairs.

a vacation spot for Prince Mahidol Songkla and his family.

The KTBF did not know of the photograph of Prince Mahidol's visit to the Longfellow House when they mapped the trail, but they have forged strong ties with NPS staff and recognize the significance of the House's Thai connections. Last December for the king's birthday, Pinitkarn Tulachom, who lives in Bangkok, produced several videos from Cambridge for Thailand TV (through Voice of America) with images from the House archives.

On August 15, 2010, following the dedication of the trail with special guests, a program called "Thailand Legacy: The King and Cambridge" will take place at the House. Highlights will include an exhibition of historic Siamese photographs, a traditional Thai wedding ceremony, Thai crafts and games, and a performance of King Bhumibol's own jazz compositions. The king is an accomplished saxophonist who sat in with jazz greats Benny Goodman, Lionel Hampton, and Stan Getz.



Thai Royalty Trail: 15 Berkeley St., Cambridge, 2010. Sangwan Talapat lived here in 1919-1920.



## House Unveils Historic Southeast Asian Photos

(continued from page 1)

ture, Siamese people never allowed themselves to be photographed for fear the camera would capture their souls. Siam's King Mongkut, who came to power in 1851, was fascinated by photography and allowed visiting foreigners to take his picture. In 1856 he hired Chit, a Thai Christian who in his twenties had learned the art of photography from French missionaries in the 1850s. He was known for his panoramic views of Bangkok.

For King Mongkut, Chit recorded images of the kings, royal consorts and their children, courtiers, royal dancers, religious events, and architecture. With support from the king, Chit opened a commercial studio in Bangkok in 1863. Charley purchased several of his photographs.

At the outset of his trip to Southeast Asia, on board the U.S.S. *Monocacy* between Hong Kong and Saigon, Charley prepared to speak with the local people. He jotted in his journal on February 6, 1874: "We are off the eastern coast of Cochin China [now South Vietnam]. I read 'Mademoiselle Cleopatre' all day to get up my French for Saigon."

As they neared Saigon, on February 9, Charley observed a village like the one in the photo below: "... a small village among palm trees nearby. A great place for tigers and deer. Annamese boats beating down the river quite different from Chinese, being round bottomed, sharp at both ends and carrying two, three, or four lateen sails. They have eyes painted on the bows and look very like a shovel nosed shark."

When they landed in Saigon the next

day, Charley described his route and the people he encountered: "Drove out to Choolon, a good-sized town four miles off,



Queen of Cambodia with children.  
Photo by Emile Gsell, 1873

principally inhabited by Chinese. Visited an Annamese house. Some of the inmates of it spoke French, particularly Miss Kitam [pictured at right]. They seem a dirty people and wear a most unbecoming dress — loose black trousers and a long black gown or coat split up each side to the waist and light sleeves. The women wear their hair tied up in a large knot on the side and back of the head and seem very fond

of necklaces and bracelets of large amber beads. The men wear their hair much in the same way as the women, and at first sight it is difficult to tell them apart.

"The conveyances are 'garries' like the Indian ones, driven by Madrassis mostly, but the Chinese seem to predominate in the population. Plenty of low French cafes kept by women. Dined with Mr. Hale and spent evening on board. No mosquitoes."

Two days later Charley acquired more photos. NPS staff have identified seventeen of the photographs that he brought back from Southeast Asia as the work of Emile Gsell. Born in France, Gsell learned photography in the French military and in 1866 became the first professional photographer to set up shop in Saigon, producing hundreds of images in a dozen years. On an expedition to Angkor Wat in Cambodia, he took the first photographs of the massive ancient temple. Gsell received a medal of merit at the 1873 Vienna International Exhibition for his Cambodian pictures.

On February 16, 1874, Charley and his party headed into Bangkok: "The river up to the city is very

pretty but the country flat.... Aseka palms and the nepa palms predominating. Lots of little nepa cottages along the shores, others floating on rafts of bamboo. Small and large canoes paddling about, with half naked occupants anchored below.... In afternoon and evening visited native town. Queer place. Like it. Amiable people with fine physique."

A week later Charley ventured out of the main city:

"Started early and visited the three principal 'wats' [temples] of Bangkok: Wat Chiang (called the elephant wat by foreigners) Wat Po and Wat Saket, never



Miss Kitam, a Vietnamese woman.  
Photo by Emile Gsell, 1873

finished but from the top of which has a good bird's eye view of the city.... They are picturesque looking structures as they glisten in the sun, but don't bear close inspection. They seem to be built of brick covered



Angkor Wat, early 12th-century temple in Cambodia.  
Photo by Emile Gsell, 1874

with plaster in which bits of shiny porcelain are stuck so as to form regular figures and with a profusion of gilding. The effect is very gorgeous. It is a lucky thing they have no

earthquakes here." After three more days in Bangkok, on February 27, Charley sailed for Singapore: "All hands seem glad to leave Bangkok. I certainly am. The officers had too much king 'functioning' to suit them."

Charley's travels in Japan have been well documented in *Charles Appleton Longfellow: Twenty Months in Japan, 1871-1873*, edited by Christine Laidlaw, but few people know about his trip to Southeast Asia. Thanks to Frances Ackerly's painstaking transcription of Charley's journals with his indecipherable handwriting, misspellings, and lack of punctuation, we have a clearer insight into his journey and information on the artifacts he obtained. (For clarity's sake, journal excerpts presented here have minor corrections.)



A village in central Vietnam with grass houses, 1873

## Charley Longfellow & Second King “George Washington” of Siam

Towards the end of his month in Siam in 1874, Charley Longfellow paid a visit in Bangkok to one of the country's two kings. In addition to the name Vichaichan, the second king had another most unusual name for any Siamese monarch: King George Washington.

Some of the Western members of Charley's party had already visited the first king. Charley's journal on February 18, 1874 stated: “Mr. Fuller and I took our traps on shore and went to Falk's hotel, as we were in the way on board. The officers of the *Monocacy* [ship] were received by the king. F[uller] & I were not asked so didn't go...”

Six days later Charley wrote more about the king: “The first king is only 21 and is entirely in the hands of the Regent. The king's health is very bad. All gone inside like all his family.”

Although in his journal Charley omitted the name of the first king, he mentioned the name of the second. On February 25, 1874, he wrote “In the afternoon visited the second king, George Washington ... with [Sir Thomas George] Knox,

English Consul-General. Jolly good fellow”

George Bragden Bacon's 1873 book of travel essays, *Siam, The Land of the White Elephant, As It Was and Is*, offers some insights into the unlikely name choice. Bacon, an American

who journeyed throughout Siam in 1857, was present at the ratification of the new Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation between Siam and the United States in 1856. His descriptions of his experience at a Siamese palace reveal the Siamese fascination with American presidents: “... spent a most agreeable evening, socially, enlivened with music by the band, and broadsword and musket exercise by a squad of troops, and refreshed by a handsome supper in the dining room of the palace, on the walls of which hung

engravings of all the American Presidents from Washington down to Jackson.”

“The second king,” he continued, “seeking a significant name for his son, chose one which had been borne, not by an Asiatic, not by a European, but by the greatest of Americans – George Washington. ... I own that it moved me with something more

than merely patriotic pride to hear the name of Washington honored in the remotest corner of the old world.”

American travel writer Frank Vincent [see article on page 7] also had an “audience with the Second King.” In his 1874 book, Vincent clarified: “His Majesty has been named after our great General and first President, for preceding half a dozen Siamese titles is that of ‘George Washington,’ and the King previous to mounting the throne was generally known among the European residents of Bangkok as ‘Prince George.’” He further explained the role of second king: “He is generally a brother or near relation of the King.... His palace is nearly of the same extent as that of the First King ... and the same marks of honour and prostration are paid to his person. He ... is supposed to take a more active part in the wars of the country than does the First King. It is usual to consult him on all important affairs of State. He is expected to pay visits of ceremony to the First King.”



Second King of Siam. Engraving from Frank Vincent's book, 1874

### Henry W. Longfellow's journal

May 29, 1874:

*“A lovely morning, just suited to the work I am doing; that is, selecting from various writers poems of places, to make a kind of poetic guide-book.”*

### Recent Visitors & Events at the House

People from all walks of life have always come to the Longfellow House for cultural activities. Today the House continues to host numerous people and events. The following items represent only a small portion of what has taken place here recently.

**Professor Yu Youxue** and **Professor Li Ling**, both from Beijing Language and Culture University, with several other guests from China toured the house and archives finding many surprising connections with China. Prof. Yu Youxue is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University.

Eight executives from the **Nanyang Technical University** in Singapore visited the House. They hail from many parts of Asia, including Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, and Singapore. As part of the Nanyang Fellows Program “Transforming the Next Generation of Leaders,” the executives spend several weeks studying at MIT.

Twenty-five members of the **Cambridge Plant and Garden Club** attended a pruning workshop at the House given by Hartney Greymont arborist **Dave Anderson**.

In celebration of National Poetry Month, every Thursday in April, Longfellow NHS staff member **Rob Velella** hosted a discussion of Longfellow's poetry. Over fifty people participated in these weekly lunchtime conversations in the carriage house.

### Longfellow House in the Media

In her new book launched in February at the House, *Ten Hills Farm: The Forgotten History of Slavery in the North*, Catherine S. Manegold includes a section on Henry Vassall's slaves. Before the Revolutionary War, Vassall built the large yellow house at 105 Brattle Street in Cambridge. Manegold found Harry Dana's collection of secondary materials and the *Longfellow House Bulletin* June 2003 to be valuable resources.

*The Craftsman and the Critic: Defining Usefulness and Beauty in Arts and Crafts-Era Boston* by Beverly K. Brandt investigates the relationship between craftspeople in the Society of Arts and Crafts and design critics in turn-of-the-century Boston. In the House archives Brandt researched the papers of architect Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow Jr., Henry's nephew and a founder and active member of the society.



## Henry Longfellow's Interest in Southeast Asia & His Asian Book Collection

Master of ten modern and two ancient languages and a connoisseur of cultures, Henry W. Longfellow, not surprisingly, collected books and edited volumes which encompassed Southeast Asia.

Between 1876 and 1878 Houghton Mifflin published Longfellow's compilation *Poems of Places*, a thirty-one volume anthology of poems in English that served as – in Longfellow's words – “a kind of poetic guide-book.” He devoted three volumes to poems pertaining to Asia. Organized by country, each of the Asian volumes contained numerous verses about China, Japan, and India, two about Siam, and one about Cambodia.

Several of the poems on Japan were translated from Japanese. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Friedrich Schiller, and Longfellow himself contributed poems on China. Longfellow chose two works by a sixteenth-century Portuguese poet, Luis de Camoens, who traveled in Asia: One verse was called “The River Mecon” (in Cambodia), the other “Siam.” W. J. Mickle translated both.

In addition to seventeenth-century atlases, travel books about India, books of oriental poems, and children's books about China and India, Longfellow's library con-



Cambodian woman with musical instruments, Photo by Emile Gsell. Engraved version in Vincent book.

tains an 1874 book bearing the inscription “With compliments from the author” and signed by Longfellow, the recipient. The gold-stamped tome *Land of the White Elephant: Sights and Scenes in Southeast Asia: A Personal Narrative and Adventure in Farther India, Embracing the*

*Countries of Burma, Siam, Cambodia, and Cochinchina* set forth author Frank Vincent Jr.'s impressions of the lands “between the Bay of Bengal and the China Sea.” Perhaps Vincent knew of the poet's interest in these places or Charley Longfellow's journey there.

“Within the past five years especially,” Vincent began his book, “the attention of the western world has been earnestly and anxiously directed to ... Burma, Siam, Cambodia, and Cochinchina amongst others – where unusual and extraordinary innovations have been introduced, where encouraging social and religious revolutions have been initiated, and where ‘modern progress’ is now so rapid as almost to raise fears of dangerous reaction or collapse.... Opinions, laws, customs, even religions, which have been rooted and established for ages, are gradually undergoing change, and a change on the whole for the better.”

Vincent included a number of engravings based on the same Emile Gsell photos Charley brought back from Southeast Asia.

### Research Fellowships

The Friends of the Longfellow House awarded the Korzenik Fellowship to Jennifer Vaughn, a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of California, Riverside, and the Paterson Fellowship to Elissa Zellinger, Ph.D. candidate and teaching fellow in English and comparative literature, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

To study the social and economic benefits of higher education in the African American community during the late 1800s and early 1900s, Vaughn will explore the backgrounds and careers of scholarship students from Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, and Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute with whom Alice Longfellow corresponded. Vaughn titles her project “Dear Benefactor: Alice Longfellow and the Students Whose Lives She Changed.”

In her study “The Lyric Strain: 1890-1920,” Zellinger will analyze Henry Wadsworth Longfellow as both backdrop and counterpoint for four late nineteenth-century American poets: Edwin Arlington Robinson, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Stephen Crane, and Edna St. Vincent Millay. Zellinger hypothesizes that Longfellow established the values of American poetry and remained a key poetic presence, prevailing over the cultural moment within which these four poets composed.

### Recent Research at the House

*The Longfellow House archives contain over 700,000 manuscripts, letters, and signed documents and are used extensively by researchers from around the world. Here are a few recent researchers from among the several hundred who use the archives annually.*

For her book about her father, Italian-American architect and civil engineer Silvis Anthony Minoli, Giselle Minoli examined five letters he wrote to Harry Dana, the poet's grandson. Silvis Minoli met Dana at Columbia University and, like Dana, was a Communist interested in travelling to the U.S.S.R. Written between 1923 and 1938, the letters all mention a desire to see Dana. One addresses him as “Dear Comrade.” Minoli was blacklisted in 1951 and consequently could not get work in his field.

Professor Emeritus of English at UCLA Thomas Wortham inquired about a letter from Ralph Waldo Emerson to Samuel Longfellow dated May 13, 1846, in which Emerson enclosed a manuscript copy of his poem “Hymn Sung at the Second Church, at the Ordination of the Rev. Chandler Robbins.” Wortham is editing Emerson's collected works, volume IX, for Harvard University Press and would like to include this copy as an important manuscript in the textual history of the Robbins Hymn.

Kathryn Mudgett, Professor of Humanities at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, sought illustrations for her article on the legal and literary aspects of the maritime works of Richard Henry Dana Jr., Herman Melville, and Justice Joseph Story to be published by AMS Press. She was looking for images of the young Richard Henry Dana Jr. and his drawings of ships' riggings.

For a talk about Moses Bowness, poet Susan Talbot Premru requested a scan of Henry Longfellow's *The Prince of Wales Hotel Guide Book to Grasmere*, which he acquired in 1868 in England's Lake District. A Westmoreland photographer, Bowness had photographed, in 1857, the young Prince of Wales for whom the hotel was named.

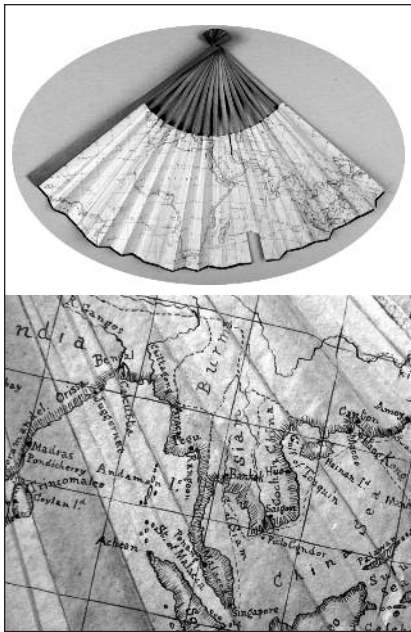
## Spotlight on an Object

In each issue of the newsletter, we focus on a particular object of interest in the Longfellow House collection. This time our spotlight shines on the 1874 folding “map fan” that Charley Longfellow brought back from Japan depicting his journey to Southeast Asia.

The fan is comprised of sixteen thin flat bamboo sticks covered with shiny translucent rice paper. On one side is a hand-drawn map in black and purple ink, with carefully rendered portions of the westernmost Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, and the southern Atlantic Ocean. Superimposed on the map, dashed lines trace Charley's entire trip from 1871 to 1874, beginning in Japan, where he stayed longest, through China, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Saigon, Bangkok, and Singapore, where he sailed for home.

Labeled in Charley's handwriting, the lines show each segment of the trip and the number of days he traveled along each route. One end stick is inscribed with ancient Japanese characters spelling "Mamie," the nickname of Charley's cousin Mary King Longfellow, probably for whom the fan was a gift.

Fan with detail below:



Longfellow National Historic Site, National Park Service

Longfellow National Historic Site joined the national park system in 1972. Its many layers of history, distinguished architecture, gardens and grounds, and extensive museum collections represent the birth and flowering of our nation and continue to inspire school children and scholars alike. The Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House most notably served as headquarters for General George Washington in the early months of the Revolutionary War. It was later the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, one of America's foremost poets, and his family from 1837 to 1950.

*For information about the Longfellow House and a virtual tour, visit:*

[www.nps.gov/long](http://www.nps.gov/long)



## Friends of the Longfellow House

Since 1996, the Friends of the Longfellow House, a not-for-profit voluntary group, has worked with the National Park Service to support Longfellow National Historic Site by promoting scholarly access to collections, publications about site history, educational visitor programs, and advocacy for the highest quality preservation.

*To find out more about the Friends of the Longfellow House, visit:*

[www.longfellowfriends.org](http://www.longfellowfriends.org)

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