

泰国丝绸

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摘要: 泰国丝绸历史悠久。泰国丝绸行业发展始于 1902 年,在朱拉隆功国王的赞助下建立了丝绸研究中心和技工学校,主要涉及蚕桑、蚕茧、织造和服装加工等方面。泰国丝绸由泰国本土蚕茧生产,不均匀的蚕丝线有利于织造独特的丝绸织物。泰国丝绸对全球丝绸贸易的贡献较小,丝绸面料约占泰国丝绸出口的一半,其主要市场是美国和英国。泰国丝绸一直不是经济意义上的产物,传统上由于成本高昂而被保留在特殊场合,当地的消费量也较低。曼谷诗丽吉王后纺织品博物馆的建立推动了泰国丝绸的研究和展示,从而提高公众对泰国文化和泰国传统纺织品的认知。

关键词: 泰国丝绸; 丝绸产业; 传统; 历史发展; 推广; 贸易

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Thai silk

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Abstract: Silk industry in Thailand has a long history. The actual development of Thai silk started from 1902 when a research center and silk technical school for silk were established under the patronage of the King Chulalongkorn, mainly involving the sericulture, cocoon growing, fabrics weaving, garment making, and so on. Thai silk is produced from the cocoons of Thai indigenous silkworms, and the uneven silk yarns are good for weaving unique commercial silk fabrics. Thailand is a small contributor to the global trade in silk and silk fabric accounts for about half of the silk exported from Thailand. The predominant markets are the US and the UK. Thai silk has not been an economic product, and it is reserved on special occasions due to high cost. Local consumption for it is low. The founding of the Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles in Bangkok has promoted the research and demonstration of Thai silk and improved the public awareness of Thai culture, and the traditional textiles in Thailand.

Key words: Thai silk; silk industry; tradition; historical development; promotion; trade

1 泰国丝绸业的概况

1 Overview of Thai silk industry

1.1 泰国丝绸业的历史发展

1.1 Historical development of silk industry in Thailand

Silk industry in Thailand has a long history. It started from 1902 when the actual development under the patronage of the King Chulalongkorn (King Rama 5th) was undertaken towards the sericulture, cocoon grow-

ing, fabrics weaving, garment making, and so forth. At that time, Dr. Kametaro Toyama, an associate professor of Tokyo University, was hired to give advice as to how to raise cocoons to get silk yarns with the best quality. Then, a research center for silk which led to building Thai silk expert groups in the country was established, focusing on the development of good sericulture in particular^[1].

On September 30, 1903, King Chulalongkorn established the Thai Silk Technical Bureau as a part of the ministry of agriculture. His majesty also assigned the prince of the first class pichai mahindarodom (a Royal Prince Penpatthanaphong) as the director of this

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bureau. Furthermore, a school called ‘a Silk Technical School’ was also established to educate Thai people about silk. The school was set up as a replacement for the center set up by the Japanese professor who retired one year later. The assistance from the Japanese on silk was not available until 1969. Thailand received technical support again from the Japanese government during 1969 and 1988 under the Colombo Plan. Under the Plan, 6 Thai silk experts were sent to Japan to conduct a research on the cocoon production, pesticide usage and right methods of yarn pulling under the Japanese supervision. Through such assistance, Thailand ultimately succeeded in producing warp yarns, i. e. 3A quality, as a substitution for those imported yarns.

On July 21, 1976, Queen Sirikit decided to establish the foundation for the promotion of supplementary occupations and related techniques in order to help generate additional income for the poor in the remote areas. Thai silk was not only part of job creation. This foundation aimed to perform, but the foundation also promoted Thai custom and tradition through other Thai traditional handicrafts. This foundation is located throughout the country, representing the generosity of her majesty the Queen having been extended to all poor Thais, who could then make extra income in addition to their income from rice farming, etc.

1.2 泰国丝绸的种类

1.2 Types of Thai silk

Thai silk is produced from the cocoons of Thai indigenous silkworms. Thailand’s silkworm farmers cultivate both types of the indigenous silkworms that give irregular and uneven silk yarns (Fig. 1 - 4), good for weaving unique commercial silk fabrics, and the *Bombyx Mori*, 3A quality, smooth and even, used mainly as warp yarns, glossy mulberry silk yarns.

1.3 泰国丝绸的历史推广

1.3 Historical development of Thai silk

After silk originated in ancient China where the practice of weaving silk began around 2,640 BCE, Chinese merchants spread the use of silk throughout Asia through trade. Some accounts indicate that archaeologists found the first fibers of silk in Thailand was over 3,000 years



图 1 本土蚕茧剥茧抽丝形成的独特的、不均匀丝线
Fig. 1 Unique and uneven silk yarns reeled from indigenous silk cocoons

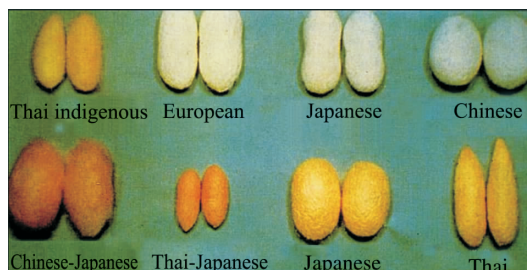


图 2 实验室研究得到的不同类型的蚕茧
Fig. 2 Different types of silk cocoons gained from the research in the laboratory



图 3 用于卷经纱的白色蚕茧(产地中国、日本)

Fig. 3 Chinese and Japanese white cocoons for reeling warp yarns old in the ruins of Baan Chiang. The site is considered by many to be the oldest civilization in Southeast Asia. After World War II, an American CIA officer named Jim Thompson decided that silk would be popular in the United States, and through his connections in New York the product began to be sold as a traditional Siamese fabric. In fact, the material he created had little relationship with what had previously been produced in the country. But through clever branding and by developing a range of ‘Thai’ patterns, he managed to establish Thai silk as a recognizable brand.



图4 用手卷丝工艺

Fig.4 Process of silk reeling by hand

Writing on the Bangkok Post in 1949, Alexander MacDonald noted that, ‘... out of a number of scattered remains of history, from cultures borrowed from Siam’s neighbors, and from colonies of fat and lazy Siamese silk worms, Jim Thompson was trying to build a modest business.’ Throughout the 1950s, Thais remained little interested in Thai silk, considering it generally suitable only for fancy dress. However, it was American tourists who sustained the local development of a silk industry in Thailand. In 1951, ‘The King and I’, a classical musical play, was opened on Broadway, featuring a depiction of the Thai high-class costumes in the mid-19th century in which the costumes were all made of Thai silk (Fig. 5). Created by Irene Sharaff, the production served to promote the material among the American audience, and fueled the interest in the country.



图5 泰国王后诗丽吉

Fig.5 Thai Queen Sirikit

Throughout the 1950s, silk shops opened up across Bangkok. But the silk was sold almost entirely to the tourist trade. Tourists bought a large amount of the fabrics and then took them home where they would make the silk into a piece of clothing. Locally, Thais showed little interest in the product as it remained expensive, and unsuitable for the hot climate^[2-3].

2 泰国丝绸产业市场

2 Market of Thai silk industry

2.1 泰国丝绸产量

2.1 Output of Thai silk

The Queen Sirikit Department of Sericulture estimated that in 2016, 73,690 small landholders raised mulberry silkworms on 39,570 rai, producing 287,771 kg of silk cocoons. Another 2,552 farmers grew mulberry silkworms on an industrial scale, producing 145,072 kg of silk on 15,520 rai of land. Indigenous silk production, on the other hand, amounts to only a fraction of these quantities, grown by a small network of 600 families scattered throughout 28 provinces in north, north-east, and central Thailand^[4]. The Queen of Thailand supported the Thai silk industry in such a way that her priority objective was that farmers spent their spare time when they were free from rice farming activities to have some extra incomes from selling silk yarns and weaving silk fabrics (Fig. 6 - 7). In order to promote these activities, efforts were also made to the teaching of degumming, dyeing, and weaving of Thai silk fabrics^[5]. Marketing on the other hand is concentrated in the local market.



图6 泰国手工艺纺织绸缎方法

Fig.6 Hand-weaving method in Thailand



图 7 手工织布机上的提花

Fig. 7 Jacquard weaving on handlooms

2.2 泰国丝绸出口贸易

2.2 Export trade of Thai silk

In her majesty's view, there is no desire to promote silk as the goods that may generate income through export. The industry was meant to serve as local demand, for use in special events. In 2016, the silk worth US\$14.6 million was exported from Thailand. The predominant markets are the US and the UK. Silk fabric accounts for about half of the silk exported from Thailand (the rest is raw silk, yarn, cocoons, and silk waste). However, Thailand is still a small contributor to the global trade in silk. Thai silk exports account for just 0.1 percent of global production, with most Thai silk used locally.

However, silk fabrics and garments consumed by tourists have been recorded in 2016 over 50 million US dollars.

2.3 泰国丝绸的应用

2.3 Application of Thai silk

Thai silk has traditionally been reserved for special occasions due to its high cost, so its local consumption is relatively low. One can see more contributions to Thai silk in the Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles in Bangkok. Its founding in 2003 was to create public awareness of Thai identity and culture, and the beauty of Thai traditional textiles, through research, exhibition, and interpretation (Fig. 8).

3 结 语

3 Conclusion

Thai silk has never been a product in the economic

sense. As shown below, it does not matter as an economic contributor. It is more treated as a traditional heritage, and it remains as such even today.



图 8 诗丽吉王后纺织品博物馆

Fig. 8 Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles

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