

This thesis reports a survey of the inner Chiang Mai Wall's condition in order to analyze current problems and provide resolutions towards conservation and promotion of its interpretation. According to the information gathered, there are indications that the Chiang Mai Wall is very meaningful to local people. Ancient remains seem, however, to have deteriorated due to weathering, old bricks, weeds and stands of trees. The subsidence of the walls and humidity from rain and water in the moats also affect what has become a dangerous condition. Besides, there are some factors stimulating the wall's ruin, for instance, crowded traffic, vehicles running near the walls, street expansion, growth of Chiang Mai City itself, waste and activities promoting mass tourism. Neighboring development around the walls is destroying the beautiful scenery of this significant archaeological site. Large advertising boards, contrasting and overly-colorful buildings and decorating of constructions surrounding the moats become obstacles overshadowing the landscape and any uninhibited view of the ancient remains. Meanwhile, the interpretation of this area to the observer is quite poor and it is necessary to improve both the quality and the efficiency of communication as well.

The results are obtained from direct fieldwork by the author with several government agencies related to the management of the Chiang Mai walls and to participation in issues relating to the walls. There are two primary suggestions which will briefly be explained here in regards to the conservation of the Chiang Mai city wall: reconstruction and retention. By reconstruction, it is meant that a section (and not more than a single section) of the city walls should be reconstructed to their original specifications, accretions to the inside of the walls removed, and the walls made to look exactly as they did during some specific time period. Retention refers to making an effort to retain the walls in their present condition for as long as is practically possible before taking steps to either modify the composition of the walls themselves or the surrounding environment (for example, sheltering the walls from wind and rain or injecting glue into the interior portions of the wall and surrounding soil, so that soil erosion does not affect the structural integrity of the walls. For the better interpretation of the Chiang Mai walls. First, that an effort at actual interpretation be made, because no such effort worth acknowledging has yet been made. Second, that an effort be made to help outsiders understand at least some of the context of the historical Thai culture that shaped the walls and colored the events surrounding them. Third, and finally, that an effort be made to leverage the increasing variety of communication technology in order to not only transmit information about the walls themselves, but to also make the walls more well known.

From literature reviews, comparisons of archeological sites and their management in foreign countries, it is crucial to provide effective management and suitable plans for the Chiang Mai Wall whose outcomes can be monitored and measured. The local people must attend to the management at all levels to build the people's awareness. The interpretation needs to be developed for better effective communication and an information center should be established. Furthermore, modern technologies are also very important for both the interpretation and development of the site. Therefore, the progress of both conservation and interpretation of the Chiang Mai Wall requires the participation of advanced technology to address the ancient remains.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature *Ross King*

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