

5. Wihan Phra Mongkon Bopit

The area, where this Wihan is located used to be location of wat in the reign of king Song Tam. He ordered to move a large Buddha Image "Phra Mongkon Bopit" from certain area to this place and to construct a mondop to house it.

Phra Mongkon Bopit is one of the largest bronze images of Buddha in Thailand. It is not know for certain in which reign that the image was made, but the workmanship shows the influence of both Ayuthaya[U-Tong] and Sukhotai style. This Buddha image is in the attitude of subduing Mara. In this attitude the Buddha is seated with the leg crossed, the right hand is on the right knee with the four fingers point to the ground, while the left hand rests in the lap. In addition, there are a lot of small bronze Buddha images, which show in various attitudes inside the chest of Phra Mongkon Bopit.

During the fall of Ayuthaya, 1767 A. D., Burmese invaders destroyed much of the Wihan and damage the image's head and right hand. The image was left open the sky until the reign of king Rama 6th, when it was rebuilt. The last restoration took place in 1990 by the Fine Arts Department.

In the reign of king Sua the pyramidal structure of the mondop was destroyed by a bolt of lightening. In 1742 A.D. king Boromakot commanded to rebuild in Wihan style. The work was completed in two years. Moreover, at that time king Boromakot consisted mainly of the construction the front and the outer row of pillars, which make interior of wihan much darker than before. Beside these there were minor alterations like those to the pedestal of the image and the ornamental project upon the outer walls.

The space in front of the wihan used to be the Phra – Meru ground, the place where the remains of royalty were cremated.



