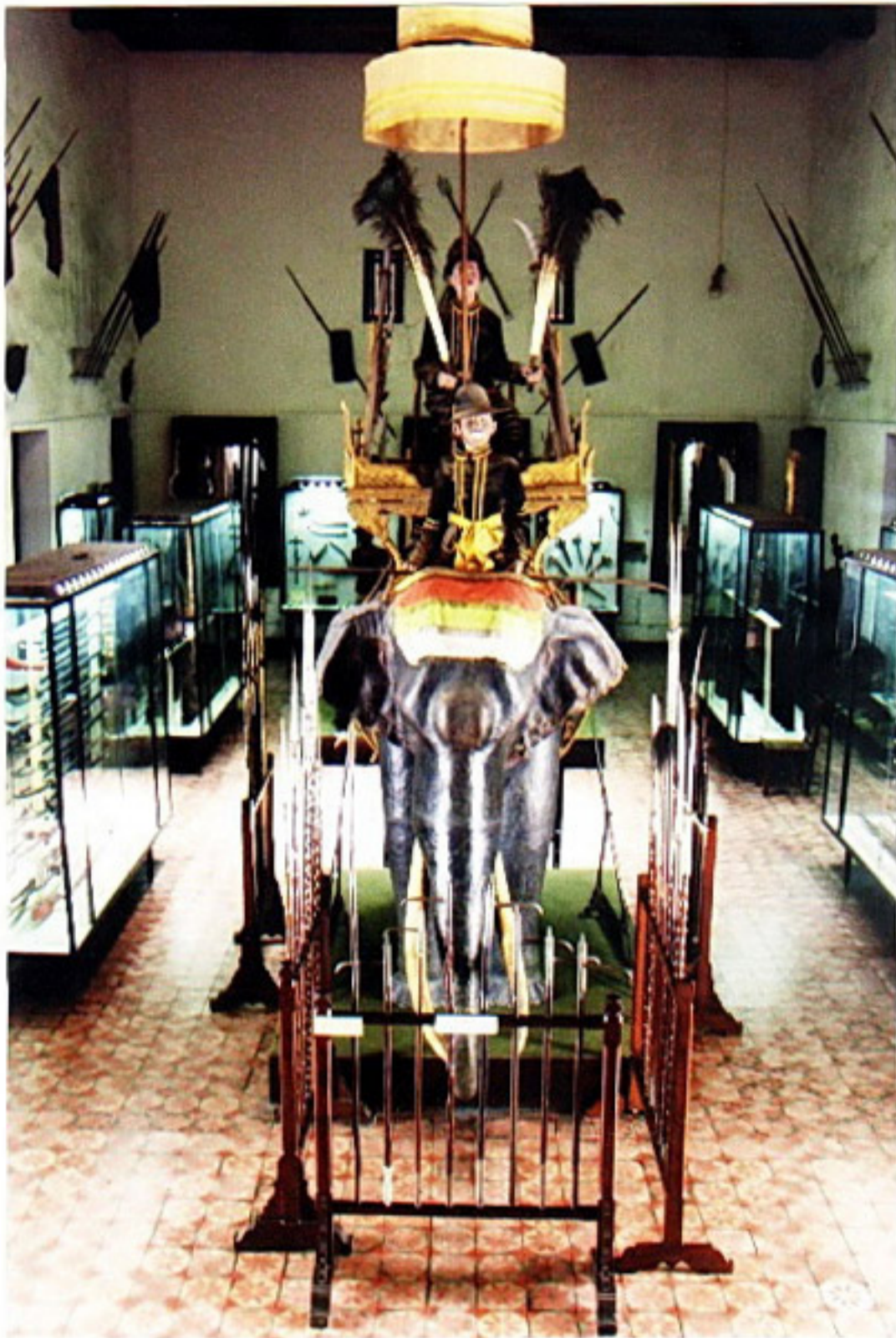


Old weapons room at national museum.



The early weapons were made of natural material such as, stone, wood, and animal bones. Later, metal was used to make swords, lances, spears. In the past, wars had mostly been for the defense of the country from invasion and colonization, as well as to annex new land. In this room, there are many kinds of weapons which used it in the past, during Ayutthaya and Bangkok periods. The ancient weapons room is dominated by a life-size model of a war elephant. The king or commanding officer was seated on the elephant's neck and give order to the signaler seated in the howdah, who used peacock feathers to transmit the orders behind sat the mahout or elephant trainer.

The old weapons

1. This is **long hooks** used by a mahout for controlling an elephant. (picture 1)

2. Stabbing Weapons

Stabbing weapons were used in hand-to-hand combat and differed in form and materials according to the status and position of the owner.

- Sword (picture 2)

The Thai sword had become intricately decorated and streamlined for powerful use. It comprised three parts - blade, hilt, and handle.

- Spear (picture 3)

There were two types of spear, with or without hilt. The length was 2 meters and up. A commonly used spear was the short spear, used for throwing.

- Lance (picture 3)

This was a long spear used by the cavalry. There was no hilt but a tassel was usually tied to the lance to provide decoration. One with a hook at the end was used for controlling elephants.

3. Guns and cannons (picture 4)

This is cannon on the elephant's back late Ayutthaya to early Bangkok period. **Khean chang** is the weapon use on elephant.

4. The Model of soldier in old military uniforms (picture 5)

5. Drums : **Suk drum** used to call the guards for daylight watch in war. (picture 6)



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 4



Picture 4



Picture 5



Stone inscription room at national museum



The stone inscriptions are a kind of document that be the cultural heritage. It memorizes history each country. The stone inscriptions were met in several areas and made from stone that was written the letter on it. There are different periods. They are significant as archaeological and historical evidence. In this room, there are a lot of stone inscriptions in Ayutthaya and Bangkok periods.

- This is stone Inscription, The Kingdom of Sukhothai. The third King of Sukhothai, *Phorkhun Ramkhamhaeng*, regarded by Thais as the father of the nation and creator of the Thai alphabet, records on his 1292 inscription the abundant prosperity and religious piety of the people. The stone inscription has 4-sided, 109 cm high of the 13th century. This obelisk was found at Sukhothai in 1833 by the then prince-monk who was to become *KingMongkut (King Rama IV)*. (picture 1)

- Sanskrit inscription in ancient Khmer (picture 2)

- The other stone inscriptions were founded at many temples, for example *wat Kama, wat Hua Muang Chaiya* etc.

Picture 1



Picture 2



The stone inscription was founded in wat Kema

