

HENRY ALABASTER OF SIAM

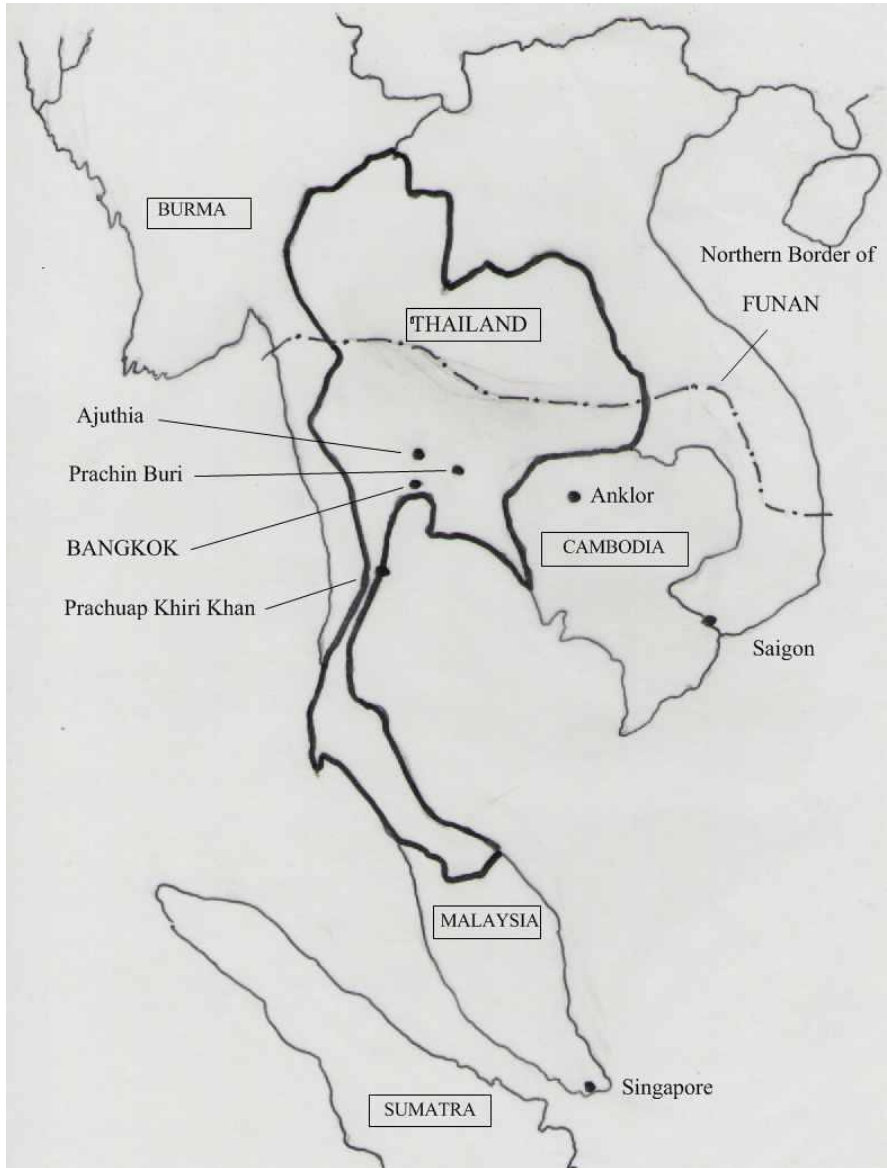
Serving Two Masters



JOHN S. ALABASTER

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General map of Thailand
Showing a few places mentioned in the text

The Alabaster Society

The Alabaster Society was established in 1992 and twice a year since 1993 has published a regular journal, the *Alabaster Chronicle*, details of which are available on the Society's website, www.alabaster.org.uk. Several books on the family have been published by members of the Society, including:

A Quintet of Alabasters by Adrian Alabaster (1997) Able Publishing, Knebworth. 259 pp. and

Hadleigh and the Alabaster Family: The Story of a Suffolk Town during the Tudor and Stuart Periods by Sue Andrews and Tony Springall (2005), 360 pp.

Earlier volumes in this Series of Occasional Monographs published by The Alabaster Society are:

1) *A Closer Look at William Alabaster (1568-1640): Poet, Theologian, and Spy?* by John S. Alabaster (2003), Occasional Monograph No. 1. 159 pp.

(A postscript and an Index were later published in The Alabaster Chronicle No. 22 (2004) pp. 14-18 and a further note, *William Alabaster's Stolen Letter and the Earl of Essex* was published in The Alabaster Chronicle No. 23 (2004) pp.19-22).

2) *Sir Chaloner Alabaster Correspondence (1840-1880)* by John S. Alabaster (2005), Occasional Monograph No. 2. 46 pp.

(A synopsis of the letters; the Originals are deposited at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London; Reference No. MS 380823).

3) *Henry Alabaster of Siam: Correspondence 1856-1884 and Career.* John S. Alabaster (2009), Occasional Monograph No. 3. 63 pp.

(Original or copies of documents and transcripts are deposited at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London; Reference No. MS 380824).

4) *An Alabaster Quest.* John S. Alabaster (2011), Occasional Monograph No. 4. 116 pp.

(Based on documents concerning **James Chaloner Alabaster** of 58 Piccadilly, London (1760-1853) relating particularly to his visit to North America in 1837 in pursuit of a claim to Indian land. These are deposited at the City of Westminster Archives, Accession No. 2369).

Further information can be obtained from either the website or the Secretary, Laraine Hake, Tollgate Cottage, The Turnpike, Bunwell, Norfolk, NR16 1SR

About the Book

The results of the examination of Foreign Office records researched by Angela Alabaster and of family correspondence, including newly found items are brought together to fill in some of the gaps in Henry Alabaster's life, particularly the situation that led to his transfer in mid-career from employment at the British Consulate in Bangkok to direct service for the King of Siam. This centres round his personal relationships with the Consul, George Knox and the Royal household, especially the King and the Prime Minister.

Also highlighted is Henry's special friendship with his young cousin, Percy Criddle which developed into a collaborative import business of goods into Bangkok.

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