

Leica M6 His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand 50th Anniversary of His Coronation
GOLD Edition with matching Gold-plated Summicron-M 1:2.0/50mm, 1996



Credit :- Mr.Liu Zan Digifancn@EBAY®™
 http://stores.ebay.com/Digifancn
 Image Copyright 2008.All Rights Reserved



Thailand has a very much loved Monarch in King Bhumibol Adulyadej (affectionately call as "Nai Luang" or "Chao Yu Hua" by Thai folks or referred as **RAMA IX** by foreigners as the Ninth Reign successor of the **Chakri dynasty** which began ruling of Thailand back in 1782 during the Rattanakosin era.

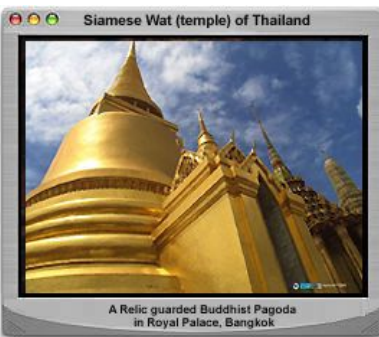
Born in 5th December, 1927 and at current age approx. 80 years old, His Majesty King of Thailand had his Coronation held back in 6th May, 1950 and is the cuurent world's longest-serving monarch in the world. However, not many people would know the King was actually born in Massachusetts, US and educated primarily in Switzerland. The King has implemented many Royally-initiated projects to look after the poor and underdeveloped remote regions in Thailand over the last few decades. He even had gave up living in luxuriously decorated Royal Palace and converted converted royal garden in the premises as a agricultural research centre. One known favorite residence of His Majesty was a simple 2 storeyed beach front wooden pavilion, **Maruekatayawan Palace** which is located in a small seaside town of **Hua Hin**. During recent years, due to old age related issues, the King is spending most of this time there.



Trust me, you can ignore whatever slightest negative remarks western media had on the King, His Majesty is immensely popular and hugely respected figure in the Buddhist dominated Kingdom to an extend that, he is revered as a semi-divine figure by the people of Thailand. On the other hand, the Thai King is also an accomplished musician, artist, as well as long known to be a keen photographer. Whether he is at field work supervising rural development projects or damage control on any sudden occurring natural disaster and/or travels, he always has a camera with him, recording places, events and happenings within his Kingdom for personal interest and/or as official project references.



Holiest Shrine with Emerald Buddha
Wat Phra Keao, Royal Palace, Bangkok



A Relic guarded Buddhist Pagoda
in Royal Palace, Bangkok

King Bhumibol ascended to the throne following the death of his brother, King Ananda Mahidol, on 9 June 1946 (but Official Coronation was held later at 6th May, 1950). In 1996, it marked as the 50th anniversary of his coronation. Although the more recent Diamond Jubilee 60th Anniversary was more publicized ; the special occasion back in 1996 was equally memorable (as Internet was not as popular at that stage, sad to read not too many information was recorded via the medium). The Thai probably understood well with interest of the King, one of the many events held by the Thai public for their beloved King was a special edition of a LEICA M6 with a gold outfit.

Thailand is just next to Malaysia. I have been to this Buddhist Kingdom numerous times over the last 30 years and was quite well verse with this Nation with strong, proud in raw oriental culture and custom. It was absolutely wrong perception to relate King Bhumibol himself had ordered the make of a special edition of LEICA as part of celebration held back in 1996. In many ways, photography has a very huge following among Thai public, in fact the *Royal Photographic Society of Thailand (RPST)* has the King as Royal patronage. In 1997, Thailand, along with many other Asian Nations had experienced the worst financial crises ever due to excessive foreign debt exposure; I was given a news clip of the mentioned edition during that period but had not took notice of the details. All I can recall was the issued of a Limited Edition of 700 units gold plated finishing LEICA M6 which came with a matching SUMMICRON-M 1:2/50mm also in gold plated finish and they were being auctioned in a community welfare fund raising dinner held and has the The King as patronage. I remembered it has three categories but not sure if there were three separate configured editions or the same edition auctioned out and/or auctioned via by special Serial Number appeared in the series. (I have written to RPST as well as Bangkok Post editorial section had asked for assistance, awaiting for a reply).

NOTE: 1996 was the 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Year; the more recent and well publicized event in 2006 was the Diamond Jubilee year in commemoration of 60th year of King Bhumibol Adulyadej in succession to the throne as RAMA IX of the Chakri Dynasty. A good reference to the 2006 event was recorded via [Bangkok Post](#) dedicated section for this special Royal occasion. Off the record, I also had developed a personal [Thai Buddhist Amulet](#) site.



previous | [Next](#) | 1/3

A little information in regards to the King's interest in photography

Part One | [Part Two](#) | [Part Three](#)

Relative: [Leica M6 Sultan of Brunei Darussalam Silver Jubilee Gold/Platinum Edition, 1992](#)
[Leica M6 Sultan of Brunei Darussalam 50th Birthday Edition\(s\), 1995](#)

Relative: Gold cameras (SLRs) outfit

[Leica M3 Gold, 1957](#) | [Leica M4-2 Gold](#) | [Nikon F Gold outfit](#) | [Canon F1 GOLD](#) | [Nikon F2 GOLD](#) | [Nikon FM GOLD](#) | [Nikon FA Limited Edition GOLD](#)
[Pentax LX Limited Edition GOLD](#) | [Olympus OM2N Limited Edition GOLD](#) | for others please refer to the [Main Index Page](#)

[Main Index Page](#) - [Leica M6-series models](#) / [Main Index Page](#) - [Leica-M Rangefinder camera Models](#)

Nomenclature / Main Reference Map for [Leica M6 Standard Model\(s\)](#) applicable to this M6 Gold Edition | Others:- [Leica M6 TTL Model\(s\)](#)

Instruction Manuals:- [Leica M6 Classic](#) in PDF (3.8mb) applicable to this Gold Edition by Niels H. S. Nielsen; Others:- [Leica M6 TTL 3.6 Mb PDF](#) by Joe Chan

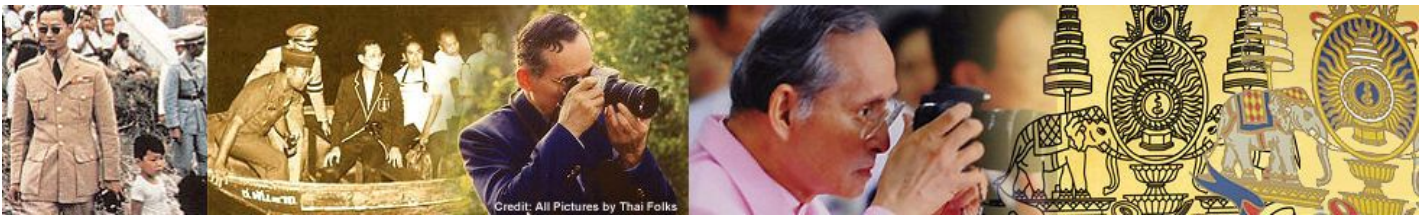


| [Message Board](#) | [lenses](#) | [Message Board](#) | [RF cameras](#)

[about this site](#)

Credit: Credit: Image(s) courtesy of some nice folks from [DigifanCN®](#). The group also operates their own active, popular [EBAY STORE](#), trading for many major camera brands and collectibles. Image Copyright © 2008. All rights reserved. Please respect the visual property of the contributing photographer. Image Copyright © 2008. All rights reserved. Please respect the visual property of the contributing photographer.

Leica M6 His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand 50th Anniversary of His Coronation
GOLD Edition with matching Gold-plated Summicron-M 1:2.0/50mm, 1996 - Part II



His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is widely known for his interest in the field of photography. Some of these composite images appeared herein this site were old pictures extracted from various sources (beat me if you like .. for not able to provide appropriate credit to the respective sources as most of the originals only had their names written in Thai).



Back in the '70-'80, for Single Lens Reflex System, His Majesty was noted to have Canon system where many of the early days photos indicated he has used both [Canon A1/Canon AE-1 Program](#) as well as the [autofocus Canon EOS bodies](#) at later stage. Leica was quoted in some reading references but I had not* seen a public photo of His Majesty carrying any rangefinder body. Neither any public images shown he was using medium format cameras. I guess one of the reason probably was due to mobility and portability, the SLR well suit for the King's personal requirement while on the move. Even within the EOS series, I have noticed the highest spec model His Majesty uses** was a EOS 5 rather than the more cumbersome, heavy pro-oriented models such as [Canon EOS1N](#) or [EOS-1N RS](#) during the '90.



Anyway, other than the LEICA Gold Edition issued in conjunction with the royal celebration; I am not sure if any of you are aware there was also a Hasselblad special edition in commemoration with the special occasion in 1996. The medium format Hasselblad King Bhumibol Adulyadej Golden Jubilee Year special edition was comprised in an issue of 9 units of Hasselblad 203FE, 24 carat gold-plated in blue vinyl leather and another was using Hasselblad 503CW with an issued quantity of 50 units only. All the cameras were sold by auction with all proceeds arose being donated to various organization as charity. I heard the highest bidder got hold of one of the earlier mentioned unit for USD \$50,000-00 !

<<--- The Hasselblad camera shown at the left was very similar with the Hasselblad Golden Blue Model. I did a bad scan of it back in 1997. It has a gold-plated royal crest located at the flip up viewfinder. * As I am not residing in Thailand and only made such assumption with the limited publication I can access from. ** via personal observation/assessment through many PR photos published of His Majesty appeared in the public events, you may update or correct me if I am wrong here.



The 1996's LEICA M6 King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand Golden Jubilee Edition with matching gold plated SUMMICRON-M 1:2/50mm was the second Leica M6 in the Series which carried a 24-carat Gold-plated finishing (after the [1992's Silver Jubilee GOLD Edition for Sultan of Brunei Darussalam](#) model). Both almost has identical basic configuration except for the lens supplied where the latter came with a faster lens speed SUMMILUX 1:1.4/50mm lens in gold-plated finishing as the companion optic. The S/N for this edition was beleieved to be started from 2000000 and the 1st unit could had been given to the King. The remaining units could had been started from:- 2176001~2176700 for the the entire 700 units. Ref: [Stephan Gandy](#).



Credit: FOTO CANADA@Ebay.com
http://stores.ebay.com/FOTO-CAN
Image Copyright © 2008. All rights reserved.



As illustrated by the Certificate of Authentication came along with the camera kit, the camera was supplied as a kit in a white corrugated box, imprinted with a very prominent / colorful Crest. It contains a lovely wooden presentation box within which has the same emblem engraved on a metal plate. The nature of the case looks like a Teak wood rather than mahogany which was not entirely surprising as Thailand has always been famous for this temperate nature hardwood. The display wooden case uses a newer type of push-n-lock mechanism as opposed to older simpler designs. The plate with special engraving couldn't be in 24 carat gold but it looks more like using 14k gold plating.

[previous](#) | [Next](#) | 2/3

Mini Showcase on the edition with other information that relates

[Part One](#) | [Part Two](#) | [Part Three](#)

Relative: [Leica M6 Sultan of Brunei Darussalam Silver Jubilee Gold/Platinum Edition, 1992](#)
[Leica M6 Sultan of Brunei Darussalam 50th Birthday Edition\(s\), 1995](#)

Relative: [Gold cameras \(SLRs\) outfit](#)

[Leica M3 Gold, 1957](#) | [Leica M4-2 Gold](#) | [Nikon F Gold outfit](#) | [Canon F1 GOLD](#) | [Nikon F2 GOLD](#) | [Nikon FM GOLD](#) | [Nikon FA Limited Edition GOLD](#)
[Pentax LX Limited Edition GOLD](#) | [Olympus OM2N Limited Edition GOLD](#) | for others please refer to the [Main Index Page](#)

[Main Index Page](#) - [Leica M6-series models](#) / [Main Index Page](#) - [Leica-M Rangefinder camera Models](#)

Nomenclature / Main Reference Map for [Leica M6 Standard Model\(s\)](#) applicable to this M6 Gold Edition | Others:- [Leica M6 TTL Model\(s\)](#)
Instruction Manuals:- [Leica M6 Classic](#) in PDF (3.8mb) applicable to this Gold Edition by Niels H. S. Nielsen; Others:- [Leica M6 TTL 3.6 Mb PDF](#) by Joe Chan



[Message Board](#) | [lenses](#) | [Message Board](#) | [RF cameras](#)

[about this site](#)

Leica M6 His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand 50th Anniversary of His Coronation
GOLD Edition with matching Gold-plated Summicron-M 1:2.0/50mm, 1996 - Part III



Each of the LEICA M6 Gold-plated Limited Edition camera kit featured here has three serial numbers encoded. A dedicated HM-xxx specifically for this series is engraved at one section of the accessory shoe, while another was the usual Leica production number at the opposite. There is another matching same HM-xxx coding is printed on the lens data ring w/ usual Leica lens production tracking S/N. (The Leica numberings marked on the lens doesn't matches with the Leica production serial marked on the accessory shoe). The beginning "HM" before the numbers letter can simply interpreted as "His Majesty". Similarly, the unique crest which has some symbolic features of a comparing Royal Crest has been repeated on few places. First, the white corrugated box which has it in full colored display, 2nd location was at the top plate on the presentation box and last location of the crest appears at the camera's top plate. This particular crest has been prominently pained in red over the engraved outlines. Adding the crest on the left section of the top plate adds a classy look or "Royal"-class flavor to the camera body.

Overall, I couldn't find fault in the camera configuration as well as in its top class built quality and finishing. The golden camera and the lens can be very eye arresting in a public area. Alternate usage if you feel it is too precious for normal photography: The kit should make as a great prestigious decorative presentation in your living room and/or corporate office.

In a typical complete camera kit package, the LEICA M6 GOLD THAI KING Limited Edition model should be having the two packaging of corrugated box in white/emblem; teakwood presentation case, proper documentation such as Instruction manuals, guarantee card as well as the certificate of authentication. Losing the latter could cause slight depreciation of its collectible value and it is advisable to keep it aside for safekeeping. Let us face the fact, I seriously doubt any collector would put such a beauty to test for frequent abuse on the field; although I don't thoroughly write off there are user who only uses the camera for normal usage but overall, it is more like a collectable piece rather than as an active tool for day to day photography (I know it is sinful...but when it relates directly to depreciation of personal wealth or in an investment, most people would change their mentality and behave like a collector, hehe...)





Credit: Mr. Peter Coeln www.leicashop.com
http://www.westlicht-auction.com
Image Copyright © 2008. All rights reserved.

Credit: Mr. Peter Coeln www.leicashop.com
http://www.westlicht-auction.com
Image Copyright © 2008. All rights reserved.

Credit: All images of this Thai King gold Leica body views courtesy of Mr. Peter Coeln from LEICA Shop®, Austria who also operates a popular Westlicht Auction House®. Images Copyright © 2008. All rights reserved. Please respect the visual property of the contributing photographer.

Download PDF files for Summicron-M 1:2/50mm literature(s): 1994 version or instruction manual for 2001- version via [Summilux.net](http://www.summilux.net) (both in German; 2) [Leica AG site](http://www.leica.com) (current non-ASPH, classic version in English)

If you are observant enough or has been quite active in all those popular online trading places on collectible photographic equipment, this Leica M6 Gold Edition has quite a high turnaround rate in trading as well as exchanges. Personally most of these are occurred among the foreigners, and in a big proportion, among the Chinese community LEICA users group around the globe. To local Thai folks, this Thai King may mean something else and leaning more to sentimental, respect and preserving local heritage and in remembrance of a major event held for their beloved King.

For others, esp. the fellow Chinese LEICA users resides in mainland China; it may not be as sentimental to them on its origin of debut but I still would think this Limited Edition LEICA M6 Gold Edition kit has good potential for appreciation in value. So, whether from a perspective of investment, love for German mechanical and optical excellence it is a Leica in and out. Regardless you are treating it as a photographic imaging tool or a play toy, precious metal encased LEICA cameras always have its basis in preservation of core value. It may not be as other form of investment tool in seeing extreme in trading values, but it will always appreciate slowly but steadily - which may be an alternate way to hedge inflation.



Probably Thailand can easily rank itself as one of the world's top 5 consumers of gold behind the Indian and Chinese. This is PARTLY related to their deeply rooted religious belief in [Buddhist Votive amulets](#) where best of personal collection should be encased in best of presentation. Other than Gold as a traditional investment channel, for hundred of years, consumable usage such as Jewelry and others such as [Gold amulet casings](#) makes gold usage grow steadily over the years. A Gold camera with association to the most respectable icon in this Kingdom will always form as basis of preservation of its collectible value.

[previous](#) | 3/3

[Part One](#) | [Part Two](#) | [Part Three](#)

[Main Index Page](#) - [Leica M6-series models](#) / [Main Index Page](#) - [Leica-M Rangefinder camera Models](#)

Relative: [Leica M6 Sultan of Brunei Darussalam Silver Jubilee Gold/Platinum Edition, 1992](#)
[Leica M6 Sultan of Brunei Darussalam 50th Birthday Edition\(s\), 1995](#)

Relative: [Gold cameras \(SLRs\) outfit](#)

[Leica M3 Gold, 1957](#) | [Leica M4-2 Gold](#) | [Nikon F Gold outfit](#) | [Canon F1 GOLD](#) | [Nikon F2 GOLD](#) | [Nikon FM GOLD](#) | [Nikon FA Limited Edition GOLD](#)
[Pentax LX Limited Edition GOLD](#) | [Olympus OM2N Limited Edition GOLD](#) | for others please refer to the [Main Index Page](#)

Nomenclature / Main Reference Map for [Leica M6 Standard Model\(s\)](#) applicable to this M6 Gold Edition | Others:- [Leica M6 TTL Model\(s\)](#)
Instruction Manuals:- [Leica M6 Classic](#) in PDF (3.8mb) applicable to this Gold Edition by Niels H. S. Nielsen; Others:- [Leica M6 TTL 3.6 Mb PDF](#) by Joe Chan



[Message Board](#) | [lenses](#) | [Message Board](#) | [RF cameras](#)