

## *In Memoriam*



### SOME MEMORIES OF SOOD SANGVICHIEH

I FIRST MET DR. SOOD in the summer of 1970 at his laboratory located at the Siriraj Hospital in Dhonburi. With the assistance of a graduate student, Jean Kennedy, I had arrived in Thailand to examine the human skeletal remains from the 1966 excavation at Non Nok Tha in northeast Thailand. I can only imagine what Dr. Sood's initial impressions were of this brash young American, only a year out of graduate school, who suddenly appeared that summer to work with remains that he had intended to describe himself one day. This was my first visit to Southeast Asia and my first research project in this region of the world. I owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Sood for allowing me to examine this material and make use of his research facilities throughout our stay. To ensure that we could maximize our time with this collection, Dr. Sood very graciously arranged that lunch be brought to the faculty dining room every day even though he often could not be present himself. These lunches were our first introduction to the spicy and exotic cuisine of Thailand, and we looked forward with much anticipation to each day's fare. Thus began my love for, and long-term commitment to, this region of the world, my appreciation for which started with the generosity and kindness extended to me and my students by Dr. Sood.

Over the years, I kept in touch with Dr. Sood, and I made every effort to visit him when I was in Bangkok. In 1993–1994, Dr. Sood once again very graciously made the Non Nok Tha skeletal remains available to one of my graduate students, Michele T. Douglas, whose research eventually led to her being awarded a Ph.D. from the University of Hawai'i in 1996. His colleagues and friends will deeply miss the presence of Dr. Sood, but we will always cherish the very special bonds he engendered. The field of Thai physical anthropology and prehistory has lost a great scholar, but our memories of his kindness and humility will linger forever.

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