**Stucco Sculptures at Wat Phra Si Rattana Mahathat, Lop Buri**

The stuccos decorated Wat Phra Si Rattana Mahathat during the early Ayutthaya period include human figures, animals, and decorative motifs. Some stuccos display the Khmer influence such as the decorative stuccos of the principal stupa, particularly the cone-shaped stuccos around the lower part and bouquet motifs on the upper part of the stupa. Other sculptures show distinctive local style which subsequently influenced the Ayutthaya art.

Stucco lintels are the important local craft that had previously not appeared in the Khmer art in which stone carvings predominated. They are regarded as a model of craft work in the early Ayutthaya period.

Wat Phra Si Rattana Mahathat was presumably built prior to the establishment of Ayutthaya as the kingdom capital. The temple is east-west oriented, with the prang-shaped principal stupa encircled by two galleries. The central hall is located in the eastern area where as the sermon hall is in the western area of the temple ground. This is a typical temple plan during the early Ayutthaya period which influenced prang-shaped stupas of later periods.

-----------------------