

VOLUME I / OCTOBER 2026

THE ROYAL PATTAYA REVIEW

The Gulf, the escapement and the people in between

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVE · ILLUSTRATED FICTION

01 / THE COAST

Where the Bay Meets the Balance

An unlikely university, a real coast.



Fictional reconstruction for the Royal Pattaya story world

Along Pattaya Bay, sunlight disappears behind water that has watched generations of residents and visitors come and go. Our invented university begins here, in the changing coastline of the late 1960s. Its fictional stories belong to a real place whose living history deserves respect.

No map coordinates are supplied for the campus because there is no real campus. The photographs in this book are artistic reconstructions of imagined buildings, people, and events. The enthusiasm for careful watchmaking is genuine.

02 / FOUNDING BENCH

Three Craftsmen, One Workshop

Pattaya, 1967: the founding legend.



Fictional reconstruction for the Royal Pattaya story world

Khun Prasert Wattanakul repaired local watches and knew exactly what people expected to pay. Matthias Borel, a Swiss-trained regulator, expected exact numbers. Kenji Arakawa brought a precision mechanic’s notebooks, tolerance tables and quiet determination. None intended to establish a university.

The story insists they began teaching because customers kept asking questions. By 1971, the lessons had acquired a proper workbench, several chairs, a sign, and enough paperwork to suggest an institution.

03 / THE WATCH

Measurement and Memory

When technique meets a lived experience.



Fictional reconstruction for the Royal Pattaya story world

A balance oscillates; the escapement releases the gear train in measured increments. A watch transforms stored mechanical energy into a legible indication. That is extraordinary engineering, but it does not guarantee the owner a well-lived afternoon.

We build our fictional academic life around the collision between the precise mechanism and the less precise reasons people treasure objects. The dial, case and movement can be examined. The memory attached to them must be handled more gently.

04 / THE GURUS

Professor Theo Mercer

Temporal Philosophy & Expeditionary Studies.



Fictional reconstruction for the Royal Pattaya story world

Theo Mercer is a warm storyteller, a skilled hands-on watchmaker, and an unrepentant explorer of ideas. He came to Pattaya in 1974 with field notebooks from India and Nepal. He was meant to stay three days; the registrar is still waiting for a check-out form.

“The clock repeats,” he tells his students. “Reality does not.” He is interested in cycles, nature, consciousness and the elegant mechanical limits of an escapement. His most important lesson is practical: a metaphor may inspire the question, but measurement must answer it.

05 / THE GURUS

Dr. Celeste Maren

Human Nature & Perception.



Fictional reconstruction for the Royal Pattaya story world

Celeste Maren remembers names, listens beautifully, and seems genuinely delighted to discover what matters most to a student. Her vivid green eyes have become famous across the school’s fictional alumni circles. She is also an extraordinarily shrewd business strategist.

She believes people rarely buy an object for its mechanism alone. They buy a feeling, an aspiration, sometimes permission to become someone else. Her seminars are thoughtful. Her contracts are impeccable. People leaving her office tend to feel understood, and occasionally somewhat poorer.

06 / ADMINISTRATION

The Registrar Is Not a Guru

Dr. Helen Waite, Pattaya, Thailand.



Fictional reconstruction for the Royal Pattaya story world

Dr. Helen Waite is the Thai Dean of Financial Reconsideration & Refund Prevention. She has little patience for mysticism when an invoice is unpaid, and no interest in being mistaken for one of the Gurus of Time. She knows the institution’s finances, its alumni, and several facts everyone else has forgotten.

Mercer can philosophize about the nature of a moment; Celeste may persuade a donor to sponsor it. Helen remains the person who has to file the receipt. Her usual response: “I already handled it.”

07 / THE TERM

The Next Advertised Courses

A fictional timetable for November 2026.



Fictional reconstruction for the Royal Pattaya story world

MOV 101: Movements and Methods, November 2. CAS 112: Cases, Crowns and Other Boundaries, November 5. HOR 204: Watch Theory, November 9. REG 301: Regulation and Gentle Persuasion, November 12.

Theo leads a field seminar on escapement mechanics and the experience of being late. Celeste offers a seminar on identity, watch collecting and persuasive decision-making. None of these announcements refers to real enrollment or accredited classes.

08 / CORRESPONDENCE

The Letters That Arrived Late

Alumni, travelers and an unreliable concert desk.



Fictional reconstruction for the Royal Pattaya story world

The alumni remember a courtyard, a pool, a distant sea, and an alarming number of paperwork forms. One letter describes an ambulance in Delaware being used to repair wristwatches. Another announces that a band called The Fifth Hand played in Pattaya last Thursday. Unfortunately, the announcement arrived on Monday.

The university’s fictional archive invites visitors to trace a disputed minute through a Japanese import specimen register, a university lecture and a broker’s correspondence. History and narrative clues remain carefully separated.

09 / COLOPHON

The Last Page

Once a Royal Pattayian, always a Royal Pattayian.



Fictional reconstruction for the Royal Pattaya story world

Our university, faculty, student letters, reconstructed photographs and archive mysteries are invented for the Barrel & Coil story world. The history of Japanese watchmaking, real Pattaya, and the mechanical principles referenced in the essays are subjects for careful, independently sourced research.

A free honorary diploma is a keepsake rather than an academic qualification. Real watches enter the Nurse Station database; fictional clues belong only to the storytelling layer. And if you discover a missing minute, kindly return it to the registrar without requesting a refund.