

## **Kawilorot, Chao (1800-1870)**

Chao Kawilorot Suriyawong was the sixth Prince (*chao luang*) of Chiang Mai after Chiang Mai was freed from Burmese rule and Chao Kawila, his father, became the Prince of Chiang Mai in 1781. Chao Kawilorot ruled from 1856 to 1870. Before his accession, he was the *chao muang kaeo* of Chiang Mai, one of the chief administrators of the state, from 1827 to 1856. Chao Kawilorot is often called the "last king of Chiang Mai," meaning that he was the last *chao luang* to exercise virtually full, independent rule over Chiang Mai. He was a strong, at time ruthless ruler who was widely respected and feared by the people of Chiang Mai. He played a key role in the early history of the [Laos Mission](#), first by giving permission for the mission to be established and, second, for his attempt to suppress it by the execution of Noi Sunya and Nan Chai, two of the first seven Christian converts.