

Bangkok Fortune Of Silk Industrialist Is Left to Nephew

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BANGKOK, Thailand, March 20—The will of James Thompson, the Bangkok silk tycoon who disappeared in March, 1967 while on a holiday in Malaysia; was found this week in the office of the Thai Silk Company, which he started in 1948.

The will, signed and witnessed on Aug. 13, 1964, was found among some old architectural drawings of Mr. Thompson's house in Bangkok. It revokes all previous wills and makes his nephew, a New York broker, Henry B. Thompson, the sole heir. An executive of the Thai Silk Company said that the validity of the will had been certified by the United States Embassy in Bangkok.

The loss of the Thompson will had created a legal problem over the disposal of his famous house here and its antiques, valued at \$200,000.

Under a previous will he left the house and contents to the Siam Society, a learned body under the patronage of the King of Thailand. He was known to have changed his mind in 1964 after the Thai Fine Arts Department confiscated some of his antique Buddha images on the ground that they were national treasures.

After his disappearance the new will could not be found, while the old one remained in the possession of the Siam Society. Last summer the society and Henry B. Thompson lodged claims with the civil court here to administer the estate. The court advised the parties to reach a compromise.

The advice was taken and Henry Thompson and the Siam Society agreed that representatives of the family and of the society should administer the estate jointly. The house was to be kept open to the public, as in James Thompson's life, with visitors' donations continuing to go for charity. The income from James Thompson's shares in the Thai Silk Company would be used to maintain the house and grounds.