



## Mom Tri's Boathouse Writer's Night with S. Tsow Thursday 16 July from 19:00 – 21:00 hrs

S. Tsow: A Thumbnail Biography

By Himself

S. Tsow is the pen name of a ne'er-do-well from Massachusetts named William Page, who washed up on Thailand's sunny shores in May 1986. His initial reaction: "Why did it take me 48 years to discover this place?"

While his main occupation was teaching English at Thammasat University in Bangkok, during the ensuing decade he contributed numerous humor and travel articles to the old Sunday Leisure Extra section of the *Bangkok Post*. In this effort he was abetted by its editor, the immortal Roger Crutchley.

After the Sunday Leisure Extra section was discontinued, Tsow wrote a biweekly humor column for *The Nation Weekend* from its inception in 1997 to its demise in 2008. This resulted in over 300 columns, some of which were included in two collections: *Thai Lite*, published by Asia Books in 2000, and *Thai Lite 2*, published by Bangkok Books in 2005.

Tsow began writing his "Tsowndings" column (motto: "How Low Can You Go?") in the *Phuket Gazette* in October 1998, and is now approaching his 200<sup>th</sup> column for that noble journal. Critics have grumbled, "Somebody ought to tell this guy it's time to quit." But Tsow, who is now a senile 71, responds by checking his defibrillator, turning off his hearing aid, thumping his cane on the floor, and croaking in a wheezy voice, "I'm going to keep inflicting literary atrocities upon the reading public till they pry the keyboard from my cold, dead hands."

In his earlier days, Tsow was a Chinese Mandarin translator with the U.S. Army in Taiwan, a Peace Corps volunteer in the foothills of Nepal, and a writer/editor of training materials in Saudi Arabia. But he spent most of his life teaching English in overseas American schools: in Taipei, Singapore, Isfahan (Iran), and Luxembourg.

During school vacations, he traveled widely on the rim of Asia, backpacking to such exotic spots as Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, China, and Tibet. A Sinophile and an Indiophile, he retains an enduring fascination with Eastern religions, but still upholds his motto: "Anybody who takes anything seriously in this world doesn't understand the situation."

The Boathouse literary evening with S. Tsow is open to all. As is custom, drinks at the Boathouse Island Lounge will be available at special scribbler rates.

***Mom Tri's Boathouse*, Phuket Thailand, is a creation of famous Thai Architect, entrepreneur and artist Mom Luang Tridhosyuth Devakul known as Mom Tri. Built in 1989, it quickly became a favourite with discriminating visitors and appears on numerous lists of the world's best small hotels. The Boathouse has been distinguished with the first and only Wine Spectator "Best of Award of Excellence" in the Kingdom of Thailand since 2006.**

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