LAOS AND THE LAOTIANS



Laos and The Laotians (Laotian/English) Luangpraseut Khamchong

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LAOS AND THE LAOTIANS





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Summary: In Laos, every Lao is a Laotian but not every Laotian is a Lao. With his heart and soul, the author attempts to address the complex nature of the Laotian multi-ethnic society. The book comes with captivating and sensitive illustrations by Halinka Luangpraseut, an accomplished Polish artist who speaks Lao and has spent many years in the former Kingdom of Laos.

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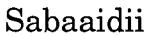
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WELCOME

TO

LAOS







WELCOME TO THE LAND OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY



AND THE GENTLE PEOPLES.



สัງถิ่มริบุรากริบเผิาลาว - A LAOTIAN MULTI-ETHNIC SOCIETY



Hi! My name is Phengsy.

Some people call me

Miss Phengsy.

ສະບາຍດີ! ຂ້ອຍມີຊື່ວ່າ ນາງແພງສີ. ບາງຄົນກໍຮຽກຂ້ອຍວ່າ ຍາເອື້ອຍແພງສີ. ຜູ້ນັ້ນແມ່ນນ້ອງສາວຂອງຂ້ອຍ. ລາວມີຊື່ວ່ານາງພູທອນ. This is
my younger sister.
Her name
is Phouthone.



ໍ້າ<u>ທຸ</u>ນແມ່ນ

ທ້າວທະນິງ. ລາວເປັນຫລານຊາຍຂອງພວກຂ້ອຍ. ລາວມີອາຍຸໄດ້ແປດປີ. ລາວເປັນຄົນ^ດ ເສດແທ້ໆ. ນອກຈາກເປັນຄົນມັກອ່ານແລ້ວ ທະນົງ ຍັງເປັນເດັກທີ່ສິນໃຈກ່ຽວກັບປັ້ມພາສາລາວ ປະເທດລາວແລະຄົນລາວໂດຍທົ່ວໄປ.

And this is



Thanong who is our nephew. He is eight years old. He is very special. He just loves to read. He is most interested in Lao books, the country of Laos and the Laotian people in general.

ຼັດ ອັນນົຄ

ຍາພໍ່ສີລາ ແລະ ຍາແມ່ອຸ່ນເຮືອນ ຫລວງສົມບັດ. ເພິ່ນເປັນພໍ່ແມ່ຂອງພວກຂ້ອຍ.

This is

Mr. Sila and Mrs. Ounheuan Luangsombath.

They are our parents.

ຫລວງສົມບັດ ແມ່ນນາມສະກຸນຂອງພວກຂ້ອຍ. ຕາມທີ່ຈິງແລ້ວພໍ່ແມ່ ຂອງພວກຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຄີຍມີນາມສະກຸນມາກ່ອນປີ ໑໙໔໕ ເລີຍ. ແຕ່ເຖິງຢ່າງໃດກໍດີ ພວກຂ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກເປັນກຽດທີ່ໄດ້ເກີດ ເປັນລຸກເຕົ້າໃນຄອບຄົວຫລວງສົມບັດ.

Luangsombath is our family name. But our father and mother, like most Lao ethnics, did not have a family name before 1945.

Nevertheless, we, all three of us, feel very proud and honored to be born into the Luangsombath family.





ພຶກຂຸ - A BUDDHIST MONK

ພິກຂຸອົງນີ້ແມ່ນຄູບາອາຈານຂອງພວກຂ້ອຍ ເພິ່ນຈຳສີນຢູ່ວັດສີພົມ ເພິ່ນມີນາມວ່າ ພຣະອາຈານ ຜາລີ ພວນມະໂນທັມ ຢູ່ໃນປະຊາຄົມລາວຂອງພວກຂ້ອຍ ມີຄົນເຄົາຣົບນັບຖືພຣະອາຈານຜາລີຫລາຍທີ່ສຸດ.

This is our mentor and spiritual leader.

He is a Buddhist monk. Most people call him

"The Most Reverend Phaly Phouan-Manotham".

But we just call him "Acharn Phaly".

Master Phaly is much revered and respected by every one in our Laotian community.

Now,

all three of us,

my sister, my nephew and I, will do our best

to introduce Laos and the Laotians

to YOU and Your Friends.

We hope we could contribute

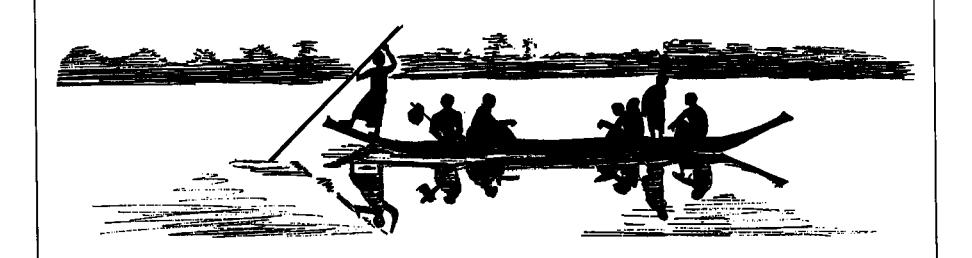
to a better understanding

of the country of

LAOS and

its gentle peoples: The LAOTIANS.

ບັດນີ້, ພວກຂ້ອຍທັງສາມ, ພູທອນ ທະນົງ ແລະ ຂ້ອຍ ເອງ, ຈະພະຍາຍາມສຸດຄວາມສາມາດໃນການແນະນຳ ໃຫ້ເຈົ້າ ພ້ອມດ້ວຍພວກໝູ່ຄູ່ຂອງເຈົ້າເຂົ້າໃຈ ກ່ຽວກັບ ປະເທດລາວແລະຄົນລາວດີຂຶ້ນກວ່າເກົ່າ.

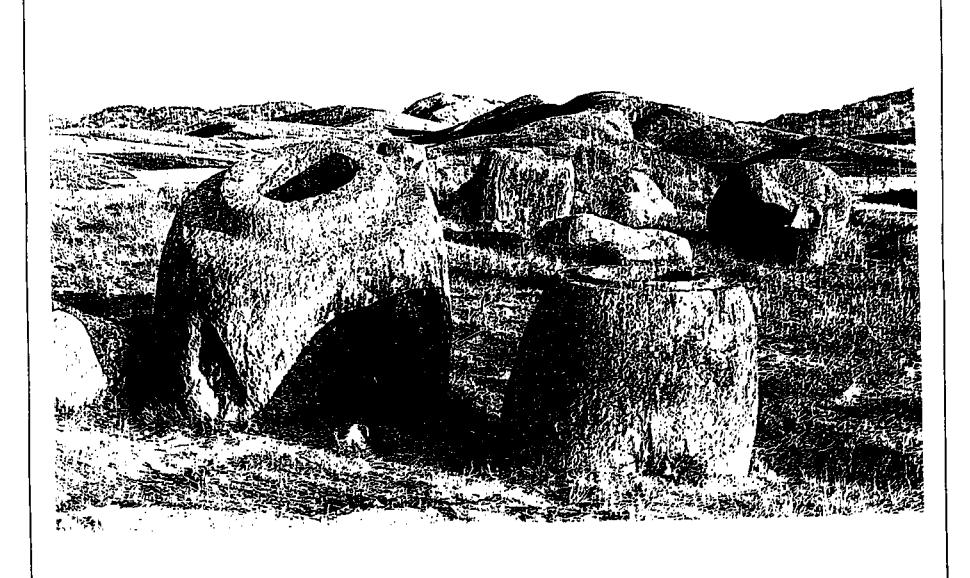


ແມ່ນ້ຳຂອງຈາກຝັ່ງລາວ - THE MEKONG RIVER FROM THE LAOTIAN SIDE



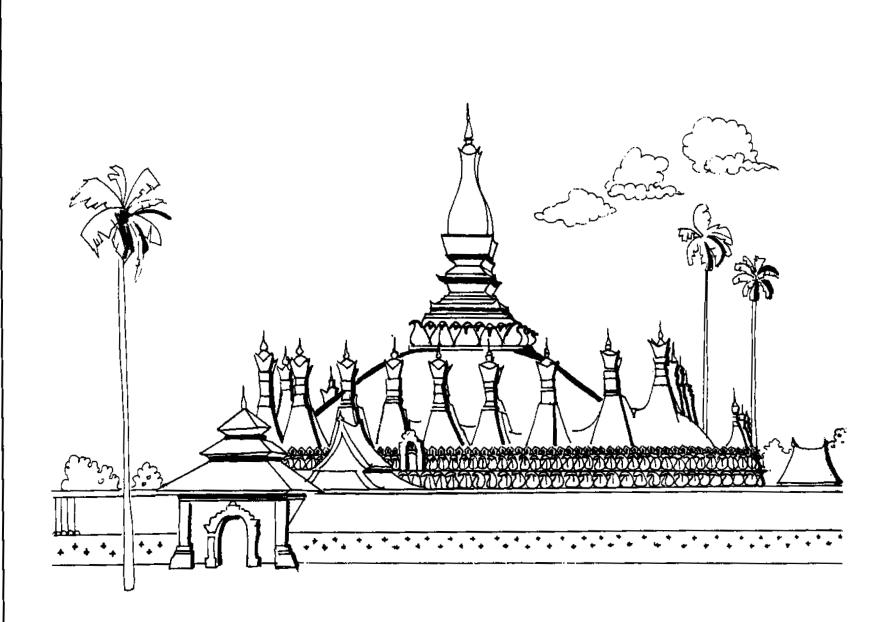
ປະເທດລາວ ເປັນປະເທດໜຶ່ງ ທີ່ເກົ່າແກ່ ໃນພາກພື້ນ ເອເຊັຽອາຄະເນ.

Laos is one of the oldest countries in Southeast Asia.



ทั่วไทซึมในแลวาสุภูลวาว - the plain of Jars in xiengkhouang province

ປະເທດລາວ
ເຄີຍເປັນ ປະເທດເອກຣາດ,
ເຄີຍເປັນ ປະເທດອະນານິຄົມ,
ເຄີຍເປັນ ພຣະຣາຊອານາຈັກ
ແລະ ໄດ້ກາຍມາເປັນ ສາທາຣະນະຣັດ
ໃນວັນທີ ໒ ທັນວາ ປີ ຄ.ສ. ໑໙໗໕.



ທາດຫລວງ - THE THATLUANG STUPA IN VIANGCHAN (Vientiane)

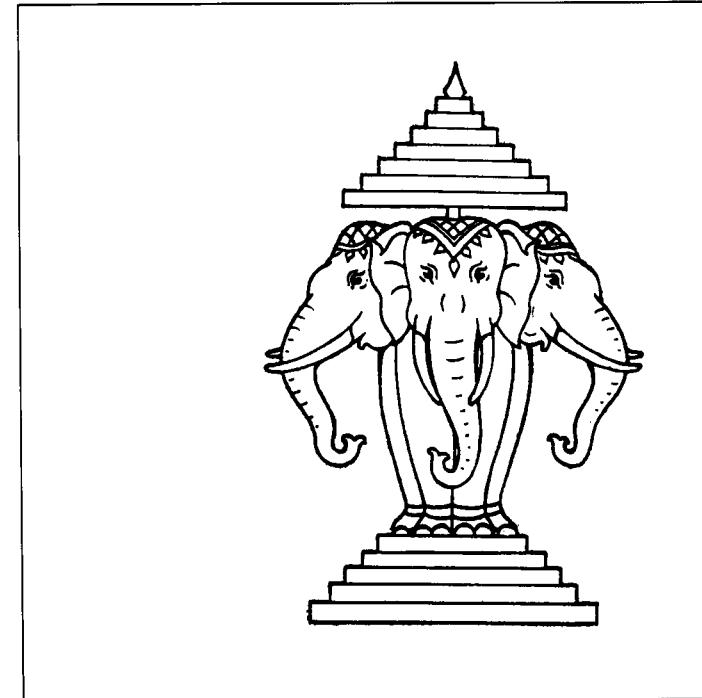
Laos
used to be
an independent country,
a colony,
a kingdom
and has become a republic
since December 2, 1975.



ี่ข้พละไตปิถิกที่วัดสิสะเกด - THE VAT SISAKET PAGODA LIBRARY

ອັນນີ້
ແມ່ນ ທຸງຊາດລາວ
ພາຍໃຕ້
ລະບອບການປົກຄອງ
ຂອງ ພຣະຣາຊອານາຈັກລາວ.

This is
the national flag
of the Kingdom of Laos.



ແລະ ອັນນັ

ແມ່ນທຸງຊາດລາວ

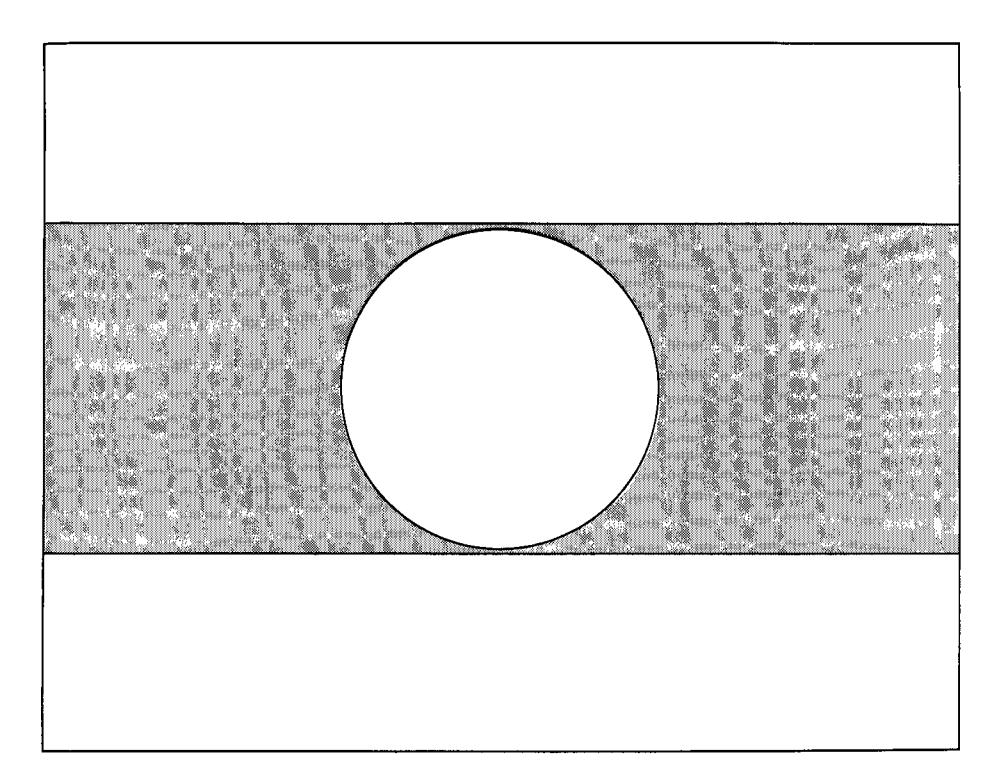
ພາຍໃຕ້ລະບອບການປົກຄອງ

ຂອງ ສາທາຣະນະຣັດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ປະຊາຊົນລາວ.

And this is

the national flag

of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

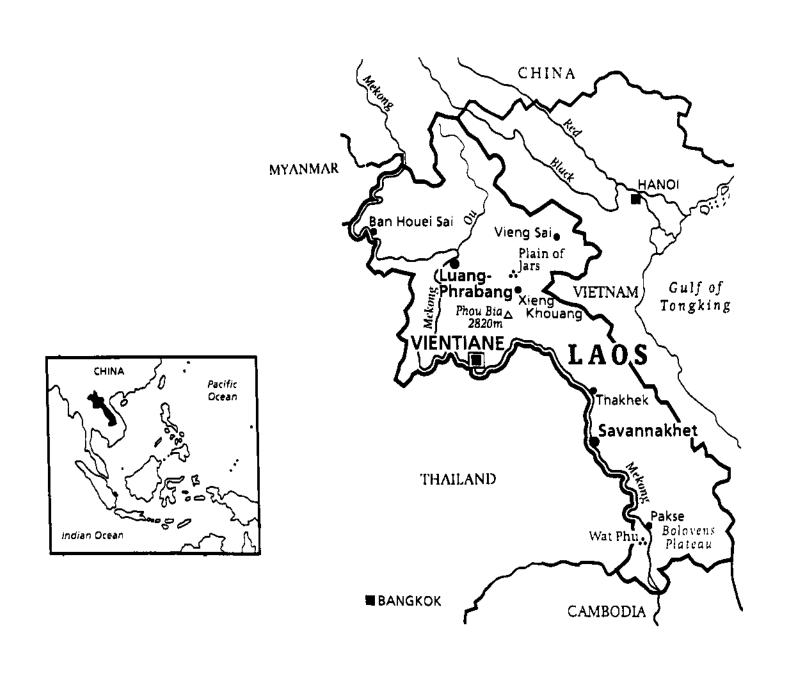


ລາວມີເພື່ອນບ້ານໃກ້ຄຽງ ໕ ປະເທດ:

ປະເທດຈີນ ຢູ່ທິດເໜືອ, ປະເທດຫວຽດນາມ ຢູ່ທິດຕາເວັນອອກ, ປະເທດໄທ ຢູ່ທິດຕາເວັນຕົກ, ປະເທດກັມພູເຈ້ຽ ຢູ່ທິດໃຕ້ ແລະ ປະເທດມຽນມາຣ໌ (ພະມ້າ) ຢູ່ທິດຕາເວັນຕົກສ່ຽງເໜືອ.

Laos

has 5 immediate neighboring countries:
China to the North, Vietnam to the East,
Thailand to the West, Cambodia to the South
and Myanmar(Burma) to the Northwest.



ຄົນລາວ ມີເຄົ້າກຳເນີດ ມາຈາກຊົນຊາດຊົນເຜົ່າ.

Laotians are made of many peoples.



ຄົນລາວສ່ວນຫລາຍ ເຊື່ອຖື ພທສາສນາ

Most Laotians are Buddhist.





The Khmu
and other
Lao-Theung groups
were the first settlers
in the land of
today's
Laos.



ຫລາຍສັຕວັດຕໍ່ມາ,
ເຜົ່າລາວ
ແລະຊົນຊາດລາວລຸ່ມຕ່າງໆທັງຫລາຍ
ໄດ້ຍົກຍ້າຍເຂົ້າດຳອົງຊີວິດ
ໃນເຂດນ້ຳແດນດິນ
ດັ່ງກ່າວ.

Centuries later,

came the Lao and other Lao-Loum groups.



พายลุม ปี ถ.ส. ๑ฐฬ๐ ฃลิ ๑ฐ๔๐ ขับกาลิบลากลาวสูๆ,

ໂດຍສະເພາະ

ເຜົ່າມັ້ງ ແລະ ເຜົ່າມ່ຽນ,

ກໍໄດ້ຍົກຍ້າຍຈາກປະເທດຈີນເຂົ້າມາສ້າງຊີວິດໃໝ່

ໃນຜືນແຜ່ນດິນລາວປັດຈຸບັນ.



And most recently, after 1830 or 1840 the Hmong, the Iu-Mien and other Lao-Sung groups migrated from China and have started a new life in today's Laos.



ม่ชุบ (ชิ้วม่ชุบ) ซลิ ลาวสูา - mien (iu-mien) or LAO-sung

ຄົນລາວເປັນຄົນມັກຍິ້ມແລະມັກຍິ້ມຢູ່ບໍ່ເຊົາ. ຄົນລາວມັກຍິ້ມເວລາຮູ້ສຶກມ່ວນຊື່ນເບີກບານໃຈ ແລະກໍມັກຍິ້ມເວລາໂສກເສົ້າເຫງົາໃຈ. ແຕ່ໂດຍທົ່ວໄປແລ້ວ, ຄົນລາວເປັນຄົນມ່ວນຊື່ນເບີກບານໃຈ.

Laotians love to smile.

They smile a lot.

They smile when they are happy and they smile when they are sad.

But basically, Laotians are a bunch of friendly and happy people.



ຄວາມຮັກແພງ

ແລະ

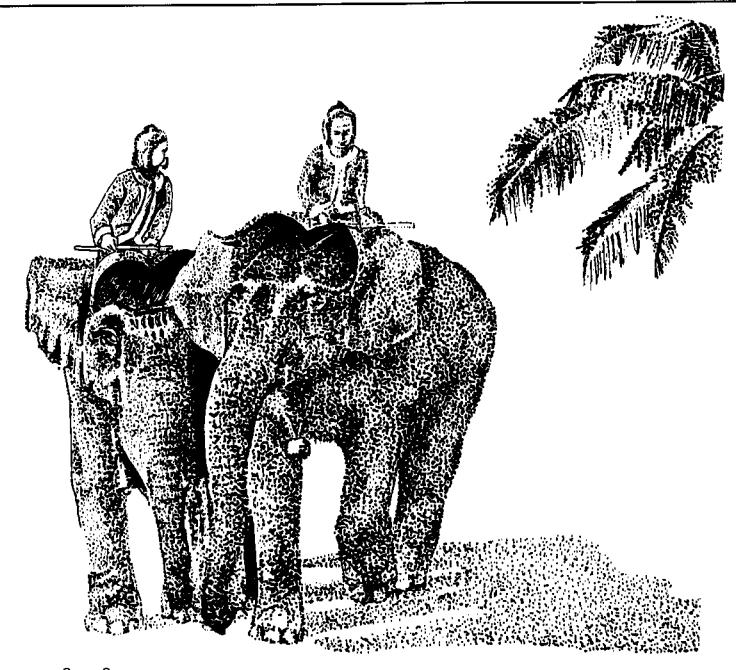
ການຜ່ອນສັ້ນຜ່ອນຍາວ ເປັນຄຸນຄ່າທີ່ສູງສິ່ງໃນສັງຄົມລາວ.

Friendship and Moderation are held in high esteem in the Laotian society.



ປະຊາຊົນລາວ ຮັກຊ້າງ

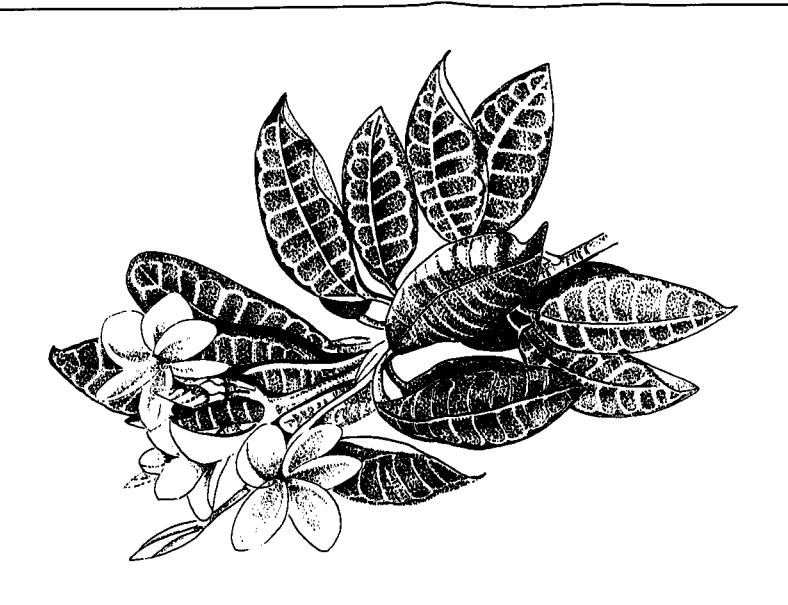
The Laotian people loves the elephants



ช้าว - ขมายเท็วสะที่ปั้นยา THE ELEPHANT - A SYMBOL OF WISDOM AND REMOVER OF OBSTACLES

ແລະຮັກ ດອກຈຳປາ

and
Champa (blue plumeria) flowers.



กอกจำปาเป็นกอกไม้ปะจำลาดลอງลาว- DOK CHAMPA (Blue Plumeria) A NATIONAL FLOWER OF LAOS

ອີງຕາມຮີດຄອງປະເພນີລາວມາແຕ່ເດິກດຳບັນ ຊ້າງແລະດອກຈຳປາ ມີຄວາມໝາຍສຳຄັນພິເສດໃນຂວັນໃຈລາວ.

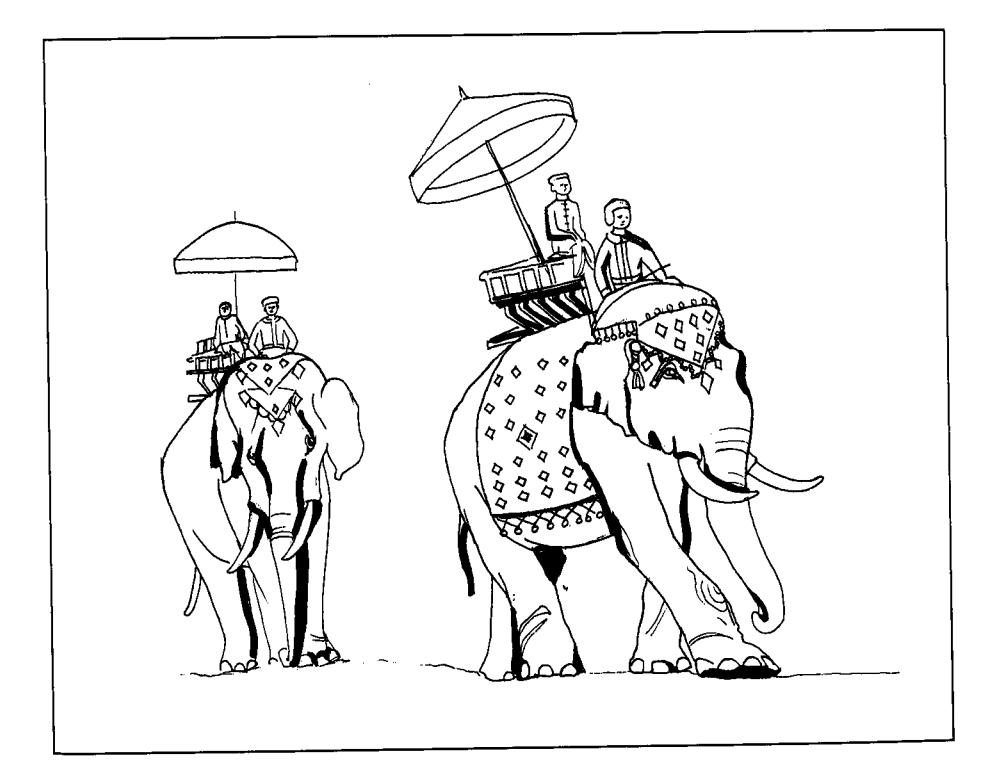
ຊ້າງ

ໝາຍເຖິງສະຕິປັນຍາ

ແລະຄວາມສາມາດຜ່ານຜ່າອຸປສັກຕ່າງໆນາໆ.

ດອກຈຳປາ

ໝາຍເຖິງຄວາມຮັກໄຄ່ໄມຕຣີຈິດແລະ ຄວາມຊື່ນຊົມຍິນດີ ໃນສະຖານຍອດບໍຣິສດ.



The elephant and the champa flower have very special meanings for Laotians. They are parts of the Laotian traditional heart and soul.

According to Laotian ancient beliefs, the ELEPHANT

represents wisdom and is depended on as a remover of all obstacles,

while

the CHAMPA flower represents the spirit of purity and sincerity in friendship and joy.



ປະເທດລາວ

ເປັນປະເທດໝື່ນບ້ານສິບເມືອງ.

ຊົນນະບົດລາວ

ເປັນທິວທັດທີ່ເຕັມໄປດ້ວຍຄວາມສົງບາງຽບ.

Laos

is a country of ten cities and ten thousand villages.

The Laotian countryside is a very peaceful and quiet place.



ที่วบาและฤชูวบาลาว - A TYPICAL LAOTIAN RICE FIELD

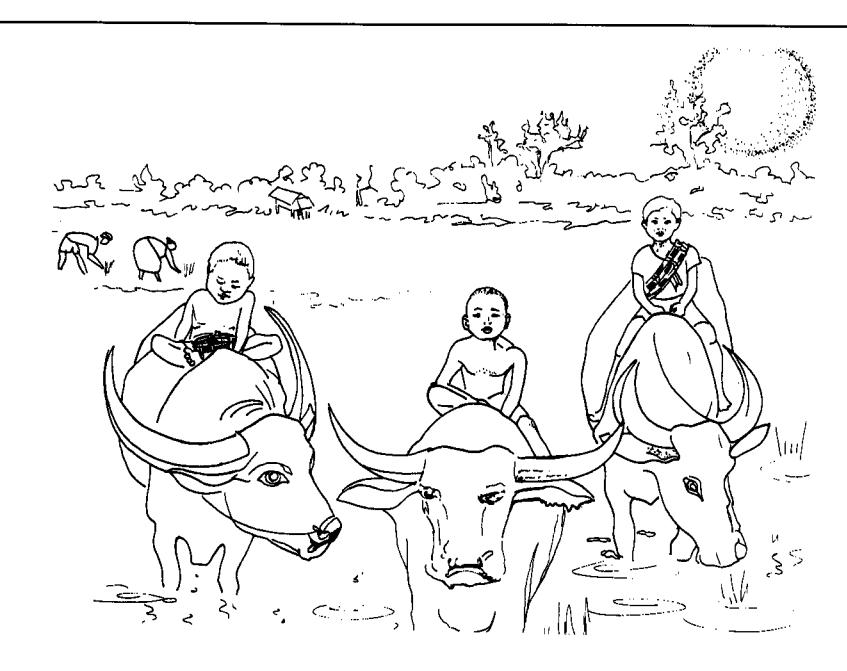
ຄວາຍ ເປັນເພື່ອນຮ່ວມງານທີ່ດີເລີດ ຂອງຊາວນາລາວ.

The water buffalo is a special friend of the Laotian peasants.



ເດັກແລະຄວາຍ ຈະຕ້ອງຢູ່ເປັນຄູ່ຄຽງກັນຕລອດໄປ ໃນທົ່ງນາລາວ.

Laotian children and water buffaloes are inseparable.



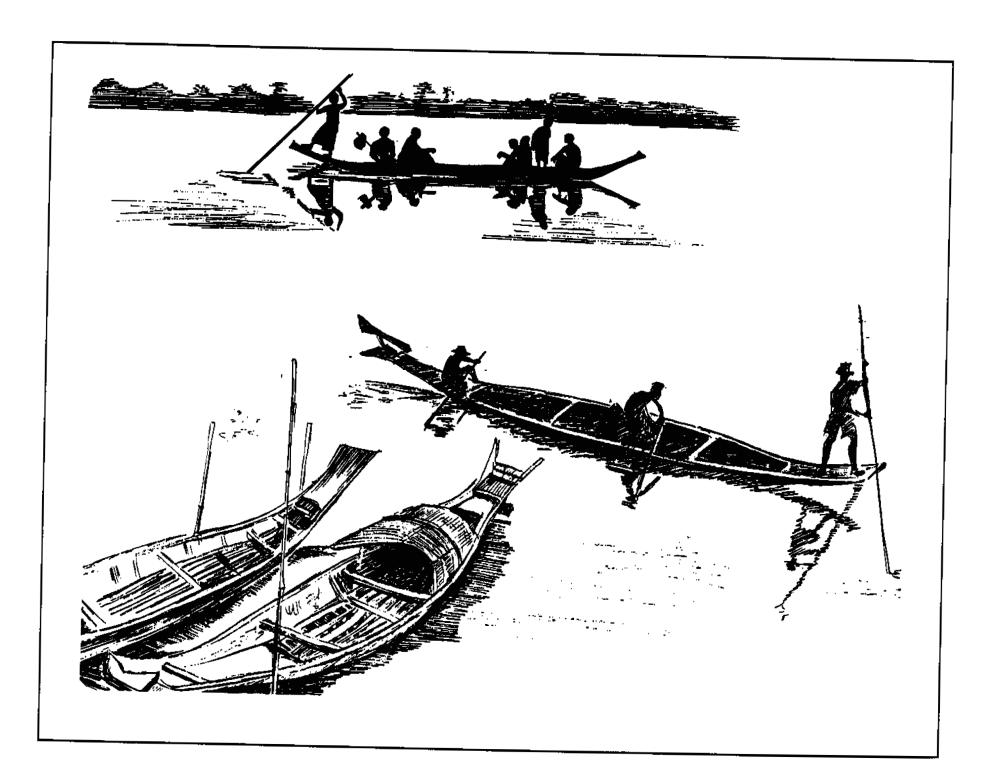
เก็ทลัฐากอาย - the buffalo care takers

LAOS is

the only land-locked country in Southeast Asia.

Some prominent and visionary Laotians call it
a LAND-LINK COUNTRY.

Also, Laos has more rivers than any other Southeast Asian countries. Boats are used for everything: fishing, riding and entertainment.



ຄົນລາວ ເປັນຄົນມັກສັງຄົມ

Laotians are very social.



ผู้ที่ สู่ขวับ ชาลี - A LAO STYLE BASI or BACI CEREMONY

ໃນຊີວິດສັງຄົມລາວ ມັນມີການຈັດບຸນຈັດງານຢູ່ບໍ່ຂາດ. ບັນດາໜຸ່ມຊົນຊາວລາວມີໂອກາດຫາຄວາມມ່ວນຊື່ນ ແລະສ້າງຄວາມຮັກແພງລົງແກ່ນເຊິ່ງກັນແລະກັນໄດ້ຕລອດປີ.

In the Laotian social life,
there are so many opportunities throughout the year
for young people to make friends
and enjoy themselves.



ไปบุม - GOING TO THE "BOON", ONE OF MANY LAOTIAN FESTIVITIES

ຄົນລາວ ເປັນຄົນທີ່ມັກການຟ້ອນລຳທຳເພງ

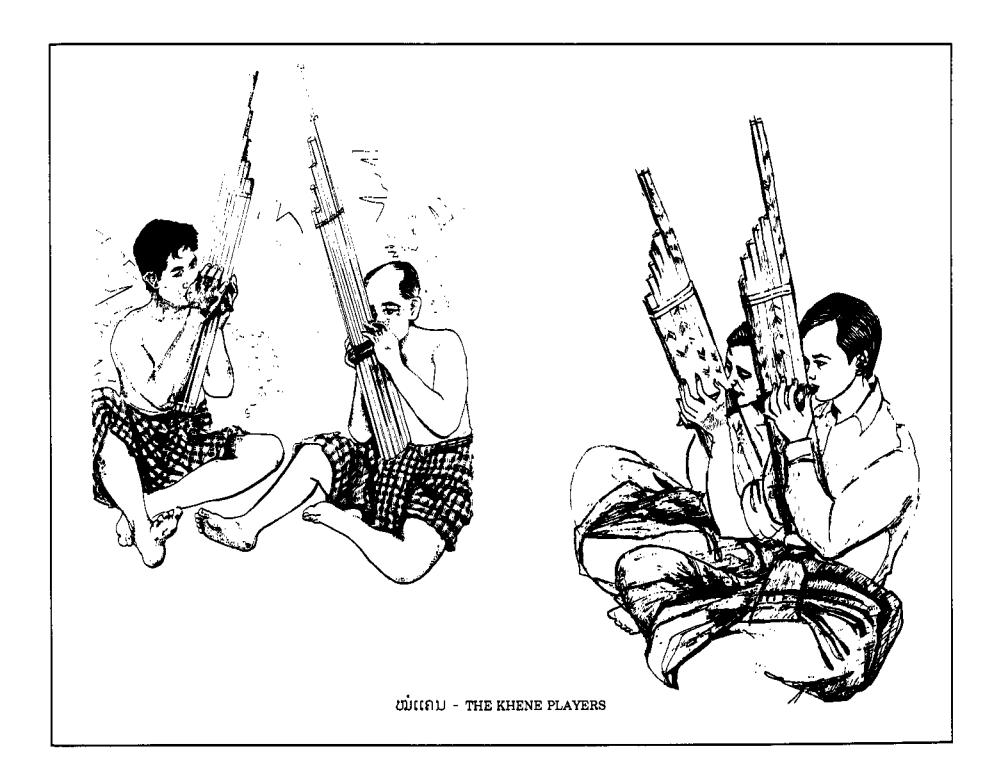
Laotians love music and dance.



วิวูกิบทธิลาวเกิม - a LAOTIAN CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA

ສຽງແຄນ ເປັນສຽງຍອດນິຍົມຂອງຄົນລາວ.

The sound of the "Khene" is their beloved melody.

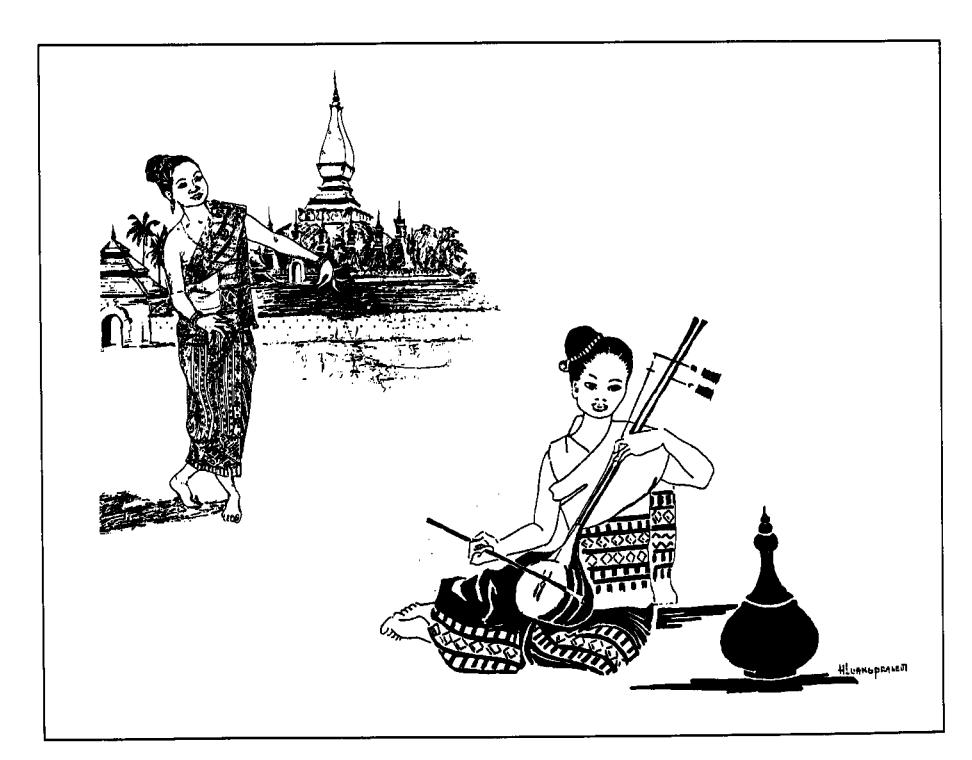


ສັດຕຣີລາວ ເປັນຄົນທີ່ມີພອນສວັນຫລາຍທີ່ສຸດ, ເປັນທັງນັກເສບແລະນັກຟ້ອນ,

Laotian women are very talented.

They are excellent dancers

and great musicians.



.

ທັງເປັນຄົນ ຄ່ຽມຄົມນັ້ມນວນສຸດຂນາດ ແລະ

The Laotian woman is very graceful and ...



ສົມສງວັນ ງາມເລິກສວາດຕາ.

absolutely elegant.





ປະຊາຊົນພົລເມືອງ ส่ล้านข้าแสนถิ่น ຂອງປະເທດລາວ ใบปักจุบับ ได้มีตั้นทำเนิด บาจาท ๑ฦ๐ มว่าเผ็า ແລະກິ່ງເຜົ່າ. Today's 4.5 million
Laotians
are made of
more than 130
ethnic groups
and sub-groups.

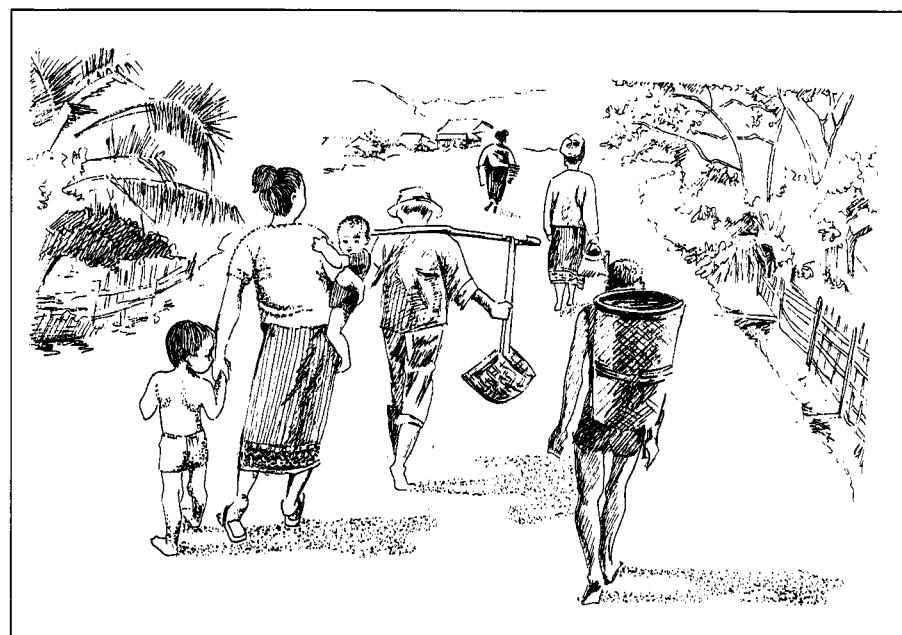




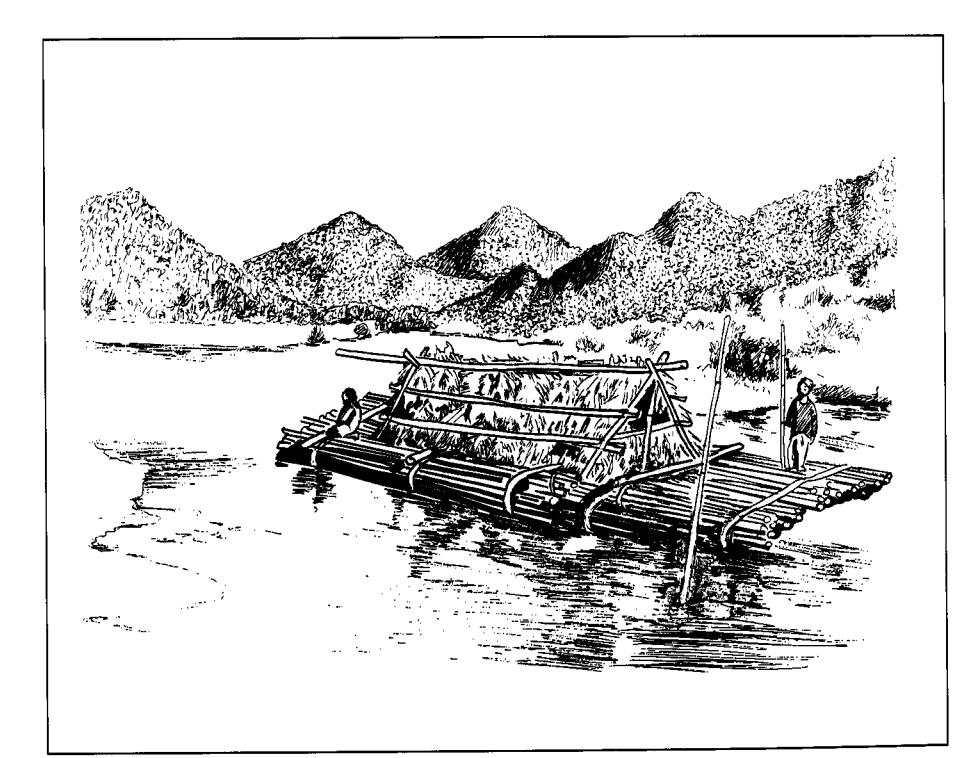
ขั้นถา ລກຫລານລາວ ໄດ້ເກີດ ແລະໃຫຍ່ นายใน ຄອບຄົວ ແລະ ^ໄສ່ງແວດລ້ອມ ແຕກຕ່າງກັນ.

Laotian Children and youngsters were born and raised under very different conditions.





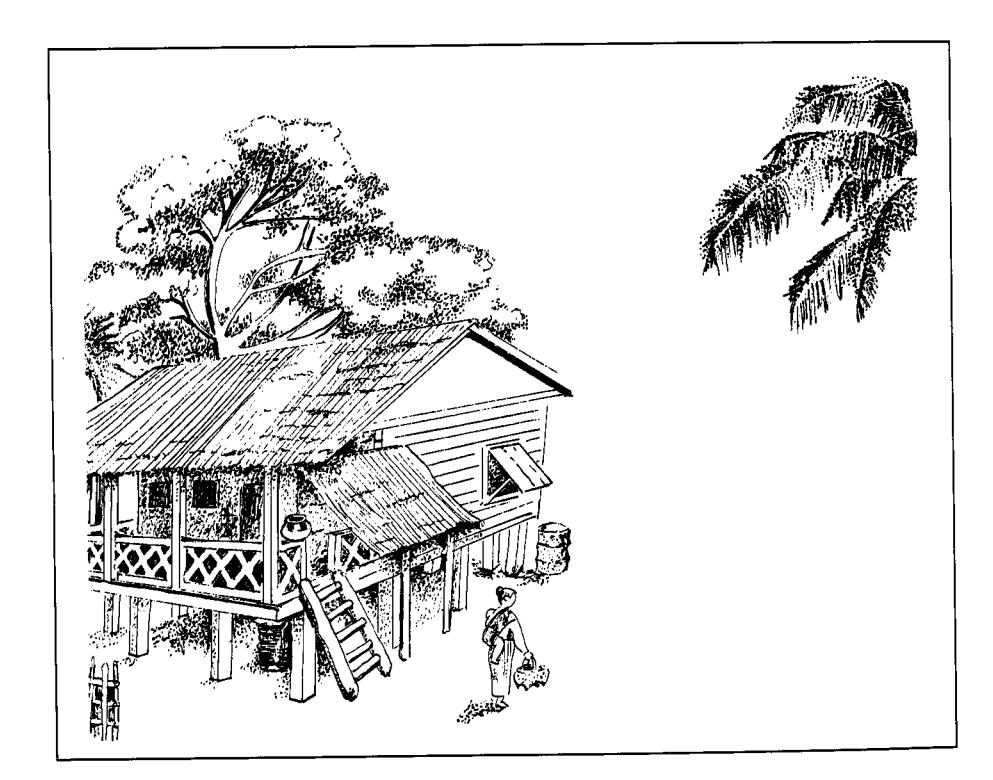
ຊີວິດພາກສ່ວນຂອງຄອບຄົວລາວใນຊົນນະບົດ - AN ASPECT OF A LAOTIAN VILLAGE LIFE



ເຮືອນລາວເປັນເຮືອນທັມມະດາສາມັນ. ຄົນລາວບໍ່ແມ່ນຄົນຮັ່ງ.

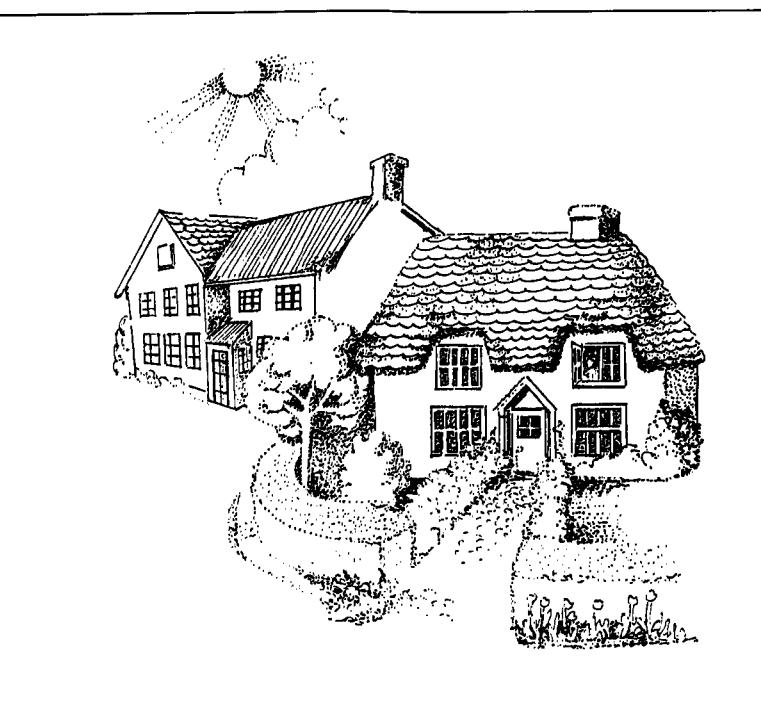
Most Laotian houses are simple.

People are not rich.



ຄົນສັນຊາດລາວໜ້ອຍຄົນ ມີເຮືອນປະເພດນີ້.

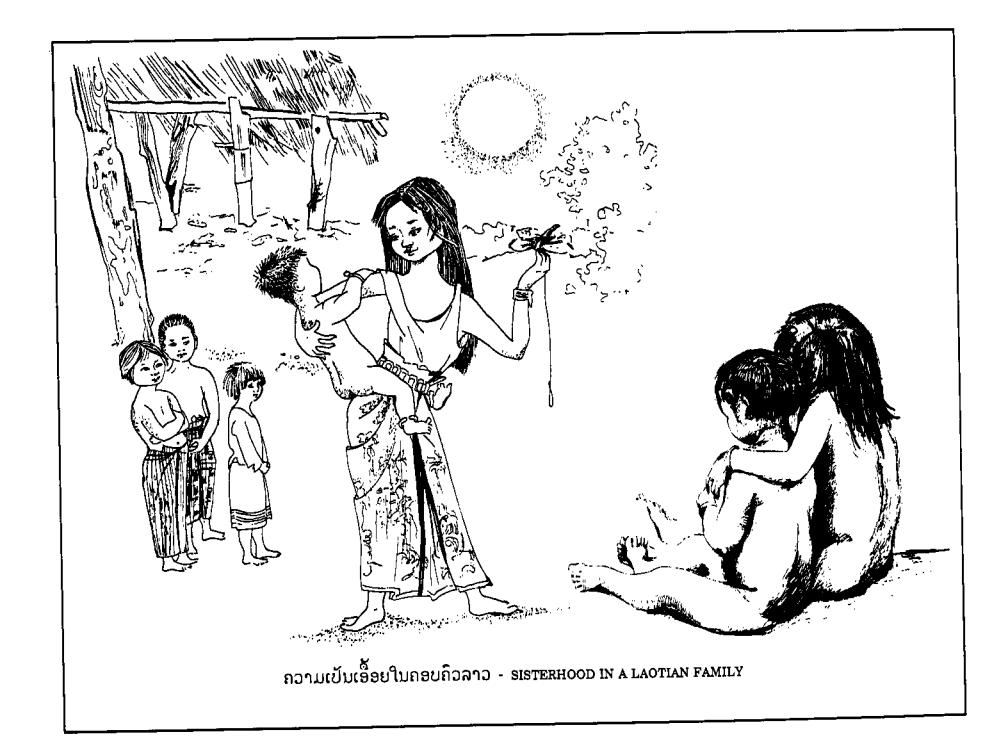
Very few
Laotian citizens
have a house like these.



ຢ່າງໃດກໍດີ,

ເຖິງຈະມີຂໍ້ຫຍຸ້ງຍາກດ້ານຄອງຊີບບີບບັງຄັບແສນໜັກໜ່ວງປານໃດ ກໍຕາມ, ແຕ່ກໍປາກົດວ່າຄວາມດູແລເບິ່ງແຍງແລະຮັກແພງເຊິ່ງກັນ ແລະກັນລະຫວ່າງອ້າຍເອື້ອຍນ້ອງກໍຍັງມີຢູ່ຕລອດມາ ພາຍໃນຄອບຄົວລາວຈາກທຸກຊົນເຊື້ອເຜົ່າພັນ.

But nevertheless, in spite of the tremendous economic hardship, there is always much love and friendship among brothers and sisters in the Laotian families across all ethnic groups.



ການພົວພັນລະຫວ່າງແມ່ແລະລູກ ເປັນເງື່ອນໄຂທີ່ສຳຄັນກວ່າໝູ່ໃນການປະກອບຊີວິດສັງຄົມ ແລະ

ໃນການປຸງປັ້ນຈິດໃຈຂອງເດັກນ້ອຍລາວ.

The Laotian mother and child relationship is the most important relationship in the social and emotional life of the Laotian children.



ภอามรักผลาแม่ (ละมุ) - MOTHERLY LOVE (Traditional Khmu)





ถวามรักลองแม่ (ม่งบ) - MOTHERLY LOVE (Traditional Iu-Mien)





กวามรักออาแม่ (ลาวปะเพนิ) - MOTHERLY LOVE (Traditional Lao)





ປະເທດລາວເປັນປະເທດທີ່ສວຍງາມ ເດັກນ້ອຍລາວມີຄວາມສລຽວສລາດ ແຕ່ໜ້າເສັຽໃຈອີຫລີເຊິ່ງວ່າບໍ່ມີໂຮງ ຮຽນຫລາຍພຽງພໍເພື່ອການສຶກສາ ຂອງເຂົາເຈົ້າ.

Laos is beautiful and Laotian children are smart. But, the sad reality is that there are not enough schools in Laos for all of our kids.



โຮງຮຽນใบเมื่อวูใชย่ - A TYPICAL LAOTIAN URBAN SCHOOL

ເດັກນ້ອຍຜູ້ໂຊກດີ ຈຶ່ງໄດ້ມີໂອກາດເຂົ້າໂຮງຮຽນລະດັບມາຕຖານ.

Only
the lucky ones
can attend good schools.



To Our Young Laotian American Readers A special message from the author

I know how proud you are. So am I. We all know how smart Laotian children can be. Of course it's not funny to be a Laotian American and to hear all over the places again and again, that "Laos is one of the poorest countries in the world." But you know what? We can change that. Let's work harder, longer and smarter. Let's find out some more about Laos, about its history, wisdom, traditions and cultures. Learn to read Lao as fast as you can so you may join Thanong in reading his many books. And don't forget to perfect your English. Then, you and I and all of our friends around the world can go to Laos and see the situation for ourselves. And who knows? Maybe we will find out how best we can help to bring about some positive and necessary changes. What about that?

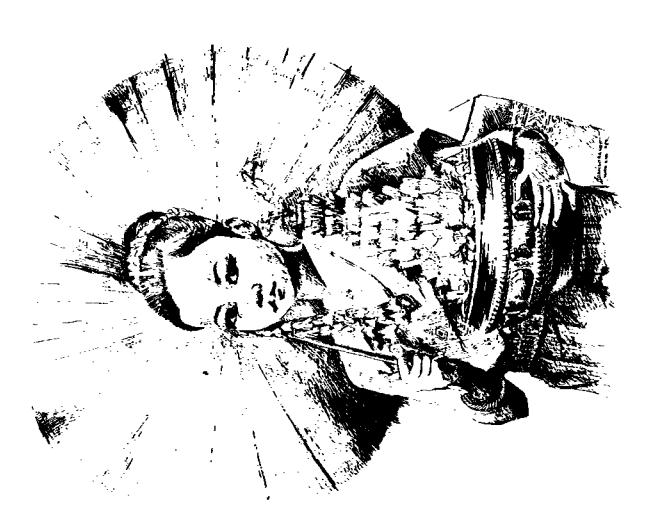
ບໍ່ຕ້ອງໂສກເສົ້າເຫົງາໃຈ, ນັດຖິປັນຍາຊະມາອາພາ !!! Don't be too sad, OK?

So long, ลาที่อบ (Laakon) and thank you ຂອບใจ(Khobchai)

very much ขาลายๆ(Laai-laai) for being with us.



ມີຊື່ເປັນລາວ ເກີດຊາດນັ້ ใจต้อๆยาว ເຈຕນາສອາດ ฝับใบย่ไปสูา ຫົວສລາດ ຊາຕາປະເທດ ท่านชุบจุก ລອດພົນເຂດ ถวามตุทอับจิบ ນຳຄົນມັກງ່າຍ ย่าไปสิบ ຫນ້າທີ່ຕົນເອງ ຢ່າຫລືກພ່າຍ ເພງຫຍ້ຫຍັນເຜົ່າ <u>ຢ່າບັນເລງ</u> ย่าถ่าเว็า ຕົວະຍົວະປວງຊົນ ປອງດອງຢ່າຂາດ ຕ້ອງອິດທິນ ໂອກາດຮ່ວມຫວັງ ปาใຫ้มาถ จิ๋ามิຊาดไว้ ຊື່ລາວຍັງ ກໍ່ສຸດແລ້ວແຕ່ເຮົາ ແມ່ນບໍ?



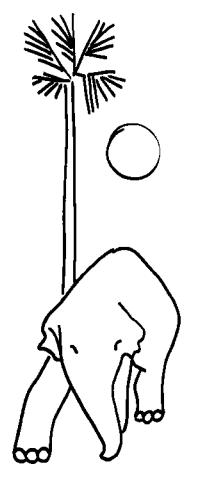
ສ້າງຄວາມຕີ ຢ່າໝີຄວາມຍາກ ຫາກລຳປາກ ຢ່າຂາດຄວາມຫວັງ ຊິວາຍັງ ໃຫ້ຢູ່ໃນທັມ ຄວາມສັນໂດດ ໃຫ້ຢູ່ໃນທັມ ເປັນຜູ້ນຳ ຢ່າເຂີນຄວາມເຊື່ອ ແນວເປັນເຫື່ອ ເຫັນເເລັວຢ່າຊວນ ຄວນບໍ່ຄວນ ໃຫ້ຮູ້ສາຍເຫດ ເື່ອງປະເທດ ຕ້ອງໃຫຢ່ກວ່າຄົນ

ເນນເປນເດເອສ ເດເນແລວຍໆຊວນ ຄວນບໍ່ຄວນ ໃຫ້ຮູ້ສາຍເຫດ ເຮື່ອງປະເທດ ຕ້ອງໃຫຍ່ກວ່າຄົນ ໃຈສັບສົນ ຢ່າຟ້າວອອກປາກ ເຫັນດິນດາກ ຢ່າປະບໃສ່ຫິນ ໃຫ້ບິນເປັນ ຢາກເຮັດຕ້ອງຮະນ ແນວບໍ່ຊ່າງ ຢາກເຮັດຕ້ອງຮະນ ມີໃຈພຽນ ຊ່າໃກກັນ ດອກເນີ ເ

ປັງວ່າ... ແຕ່ງໂດຍ ອາຈານ ຄຳຈົງ ຫລວງປຣະເສີດ

ใต้ล่มฝ้า ฝัมว่า ຄົນກິນທານ ฝัมอ่า ສິມບນແລ້ວ ฝัมว่า ลาวฒบพ้า ฝัมอ่า ລູກເກ່ງກ້າ ฝัมอ่า ฝัมอ่า ລຸງຕາຈູງ ເປັນນາຍແລ້ວ ฝัมว่า ลำบาดเส็า ฝับว่า

ກວກກະກັບປູ່ສູກ ບໍ່ຕັນຫາຕົວະຕົ້ມ ຄົນເຮົາບໍ່ຢ້ານລິ້ນ ປະສິງດ້າມດັ່ງຈາ ສແວງຮ່ຳຮຽນສູງ ຫລຶກພະນັ້ນພານຮ້າຍ ຄົນເຮົາບໍ່ຄຸດຕ່ຳ ເມື່ອໜ້າຫາກໜຶ່ນໝອງ. ထ



นแม่รอย

ພໍ່ແມ່ຂ້ອຍ ຄຸນຄວາມດີ ສອນຂ້ອຍນັ່ງ ສອນປົງສຽງ ສອນຂ້ອຍເລົ່າ ສອນວາຈາ ສອນຮັກໃຄ່

ຮັກຂ້ອຍອີຫລີ ດ່ ເພນສອນເພນສັງ ຫລັງຊື່ບ່າພຽງ ເຊີດຊູຄວາມເວົ້າ ຈໍ່ຂໍ່ ຈໍຊີລຸງຕາ ลิมนำผู้ใชย่ ໝູ່ຄູ່ຄົນດີ





ສອນວິທີ ສອນນ້ອງອ້າຍ ສອນແບ່ງປັນ ສອນປະກອບ ພໍ່ແມ່ເຕືອນ ຂ້ອຍຍູ້ຄຽດ ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ດີ ຫລີກລຽງຄົນຮ້າຍ
ຮູ້ຮັກແພງກັນ
ຄວາມຮັບຜິດຊອບ
ວຽກບ້ານການເຮືອນ
ຂ້ອຍຟັງລະອຽດ
ຖຽງຈົ່ມຊູຊີ





อาจาน ลำจิ๋ว ซาลอาประเสิ๊ก, ปะทามสะทาบันลาอใชน่อีสธะ Khamchong Luangpraseut, President of the Lao Mai Issara Institute

ອາຈານ ຄຳຈິງ ຫລວງປຣະເສີດ ເກີດທີ່ບ້ານລາດບວກຕາແສງປຽງແຂວງຊຽງຂວາງເມື່ອວັນທີ ໒໒ ເດືອນເມສາ ໑໙໔໑ ເປັນລູກຄົນແຽວຂອງທ້າວລິນທອງ ແລະສາວກິດ ຫລວງປຣະເສີດທີ່ໄດ້ລ່ວງລັບໄປແລ້ວ. ອາຈານຄຳຈິງເຄີຍຮັບໜ້າທີ່ການເປັນອະທິບໍດີແລະບັນນາທິການ ສັງກັດຢູ່ກະຊວງຖແລງຂ່າວແລະໂຄສະ ນາການກ່ອນເຫດການໃນ໑໙໗໕ ແລະ ໄດ້ຮັບປຣິນຍາໂທຝ່າຍເສຖສາດການເມືອງຈາກມະຫາວິທຍາລັບວ່ຊທີ່ປະເທດໂປແລນ. ປັດຈຸບັນມີໜ້າທີ່ເປັນນັກປົກ ກອງວາງແຜນແລະຄວບຄຸມນະໂຍບາຍການສຶກສາໃຫ້ຊາວນັກຮຽນຫລາຍພັນຄົນຈາກພາກພື້ນເອເຊັຍອາຄະເນທີ່ເມືອງແຊນຕາແອນນາຢູ່ຮັດແຄລິຝ່ເນັຍ.



Khamchong Luangpraseut was born April 22, 1941, in the village of Lat-Boua in Xiengkhouang province, just a few miles from the world famous Plain of Jars. Where he grew up literacy was luxury and electricity and paved roads were non-existent. He is the only child of Mr. Linthong and Sao Kith Luangpraseut. After his parents were killed in 1961 during the conflicts between the neutralist, communist and conservative factions, Khamchong was sent to study abroad on an academic scholarship. He lived in Poland for 11 years, earned a master's degree in economics with honors from Warsaw University in 1971.

Khamchong believes education plays a key role in the progress of refugees and immigrant in American society. He further believes that quality mainstreaming in America is possible and necessary. While maintaining dynamic relationships with Laotian communities in many states, Khamchong has worked closely and successfully with other Indochinese community leaders. In fact, he is the first non-Vietnamese elected president of the National Association for Vietnamese American Education(NAVAE). During Khamchong's presidency, from 1988 to 1990, in order to reflect more accurately the make up of the organization as well as its broader mission NAVAE was changed to NAFEA: the National Association for the Education and Advancement of Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese American.

Khamchong's leadership is widely esteemed, domestically and internationally. In the early seventies, he was a special guest of the governments of the United States and Japan. More recently, on January 1, 1990 the Orange County Register featured Khamchong as one of the "TEN PEOPLE TO WATCH IN THE '90". A prestigious Thai business bi-weekly magazine in Bangkok, the MANAGER, published a full page profile entitled "Khamchong Who?" in its Southeast Asian section in July, 1990.

Khamchong is a well known lecturer on Indochinese cultures and languages. He speaks Lao, Polish, French, English, Vietnamese, Thai, Yunnanese, Hmong and some Spanish. He is currently the Coordinator of the Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander Student Programs for the Santa Ana Unified School District. He is married to Halinka Luangpraseut, a Polish accomplished artist-painter, for 29 years. They have two children: one daughter, Dara, 28; and one son, Santi, 21.