



# Context:

## Southeast Asians in California

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Folsom Cordova Unified School District  
2460 Cordova Lane,  
Rancho Cordova CA 95670  
(916) 635-6815  
Judy Lewis, Editor

### SELECTED RESOURCES: VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, LAOS

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LAC-VIET SERIES. Series of publications about Vietnamese history, politics, language, literature, folklore, and economy. Editor, Huynh Sanh Thong. Order from Yale Southeast Asia Studies, Box 13A, Yale Station, New Haven CT 06520.

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## FILMS AND VIDEOS

*THE EFFECTS OF WAR: THE INDOCHINA REFUGEE EXPERIENCE*. 58 minutes. Insight Multi-Cultural Communication, Inc., 122 Princeton, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. VHS, \$150, includes manual.

*ANOTHER CHANCE*. Video. 1986, color, 29 min. UNHCR (Mollard, JB.) Pulau Bidong vocational training center is the setting, where refugee youth denied resettlement learn new skills that will make them acceptable to receiving 3rd countries. UNHCR Branch Office of the US, 1718 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20009, (202) 387-8546, attn Teri Krativol, Information Ass't.

*BEN DA, U.S.A.* 16 mm, color, \$85 rent. David Hogoboom, 338 Flax Rd, Norwalk, CT 06854. (203) 866-8197. (old address) Documentary film showing the the Vietnamese lifestyle in transition, against the backdrop of the fishing grounds of Rockport, TX.

*BAMBOO CITY*. color, 28 minutes, 1980. Video (purchase) Public Information Service, UNHCR. Beginning of Khao I Dang refugee camp on the Thai-Cambodia border. UNHCR Branch Office of the US, 1718 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20009, (202) 387-8546, attn Teri Krativol, Information Ass't.

*BECOMING AMERICAN*. Iris Films and Video, 1982, 59 minutes, color, 16mm and video. Excellent introduction to the Hmong, both background and

refugee experiences; follows a family from Nam Yao to Seattle, WA. Also available in 30 minute version. University Film and Video, U of MN, 1313 Fifth St. SE Suite 108, Mnpls, MN 55414, phone (800) 847-8251.

**BEST PLACE TO LIVE.** Ralph Rugoff and Peter O'Neill, Best Place Video, 1982, 55 minutes, color, video. Rental/purchase: Interlock Media Associates, 221 Massachusetts Avenue, PO Box 603, Boston, M (old address). A look at life in the United States for Hmong refugees, and the conflicts encountered in adjusting.

**BETWEEN TWO WORLDS: THE HMONG SHAMAN IN AMERICA.** Taggart Siegel and Kati Johnston, Siegel Productions, 1985, color, video, 28 minutes. Documentary video about the ancient traditions and rituals which the Hmong have brought with them to America. Shows beliefs and practices of people caught between two worlds: rural Laos and downtown Chicago. Siegel Productions, PO Box 6123, Evanston, IL 60202, (312) 528-6563.

**BITTERSWEET SURVIVAL.** Third World Newsreel. 16 mm or 3/4" video for rent, \$65. Purchase, specify 1/2" video size. 335 West 38th Street, 5th floor, New York, NY 10018, (212)947-9277 (old address).

**BLUE COLLAR AND BUDDHA.** 1987. Taggart Siegel and Kati Johnston, Siegel Productions, PO Box 6123, Evanston, IL 60202, (312) 528-6563. \$200 purchase, \$40 rental. Juxtaposes the Lao refugee community, building a Buddhist temple in Rockford, Illinois, with the locals at a neighborhood drinking establishment. Contains unedited language, possibly too profane for classroom use, but brings forth all the usual stereotyped and derogatory statements.

**CBS REPORTS: THE BOAT PEOPLE.** CBS News, January 1979. 50 minutes, video, color. Neil Waldman, Director of Archives, CBS News, 524 West 57th St, New York, NY 10019. Fax: (212) 975-5442.

**CA DAO, THE FOLK POETRY OF VIETNAM,** 9 min, 1984, color, video, Penn State University, AV Services, Special Services Bldg, University Park, PA 16802. \$90 buy, \$11 rent. (814) 865-6314. Traditional scenes, girl playing musical instruments.

**CAMBODIA, THIS SHATTERED LAND.** ABC-TV documentary, 60 minutes. Rental \$50 from Asia Resource Center, PO Box 15275, Washington, DC 20003. (202) 547-1114.

**CAMBODIA: YEAR ZERO and CAMBODIA: YEAR**

**ONE.** Commercially available video reprint of British TV documentaries filmed in 1979 and 1980 geared towards public awareness and donations. The first, 60 minutes, recaps the holocaust, starvation, and flight. The second shows the progress after international relief efforts, and examines the political issues surrounding the status of Cambodian refugees, including the involvement of China and the US with the Khmer Rouge and the other freedom fighters. Interviews in a refugee camp with the rebel leaders. An outsider's view of the U.S. involvement and motives. Recently completed: **CAMBODIA: YEAR TEN.**

**CAMP ON LANTAU ISLAND.** 1984, color, 37 minutes. UNHCR (Singer, A.) Hong Kong refugee camps in 1982, after the closed camp policy was instituted. In addition to refugees from Vietnam, illegal immigrants from mainland China are the focus of this film. UNHCR Branch Office of the US, 1718 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20009, (202) 387-8546, attn Teri Krativol, Information Ass't.

**CHILDREN OF CHANGE.** University of Washington, 1983, color, video, 26 minutes/52 minutes. Rental: University of WA, Instructional Media Services, attn Scheduling, 35D Kane Hall, Seattle WA 98195. Purchase: Univ of WA, Attn Sandra Wells, 39 Kane Hall, Seattle, WA 98195, (206) 543-9906. (old address)

**THE CITY OF REFUGE.** Iowa Refugee Service Center, 1980, 30 minutes, color, 16 mm and video. Rental: IRSC, Communications and Publications, 4626 West 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50315. (old address)

**THE COMMON THREAD.** 28 minutes, color, video, 1981, Toledo Public Television, WGTE-TV. Rental: University Film and Video, U of MN, 1313 Fifth St. SE Suite 108, Mnpls, MN 55414, phone (800) 847-8251.

**THE CUTTING EDGE.** Video, color, 29 minutes. Southeast Asian adolescents during the acculturation process: Hmong shaman's son, Lao classical musician, and a Vietnamese Buddhist monk. Rental: University Film and Video, U of MN, 1313 Fifth St. SE Suite 108, Mnpls, MN 55414, phone (800) 847-8251.

**DANCE OF TEARS.** National Council for the Traditional Arts, 1320 Fenwick Lane, Suite 200, Silver Spring MD 20910, (301) 565-0654. 3/4" \$500, rental \$100-150. 90 minutes. Story of the Khmer Classical Dance Troupe and its survival.

**END OF THE ROAD.** U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, 1979, 20 minutes. Hmong in refugee camps, especially Ban Vinai. UNHCR Branch Office of the

US, 1718 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20009, (202) 387-8546, attn Teri Krativol, Information Ass't.

**FAREWELL TO FREEDOM: THE MOORE REPORT.**

WCCO-TV, 1981, 60 minutes, color, video. Rental: Indiana University Audio-Visual Center, Bloomington, IN 47405-5901, (812) 855-2103 (#35 + 1.50 s/h). Purchase (812) 855-8087 (\$225 + 5.00 s/h). Opens with scenery much like Laos, with Hmong playing the qeej; contains original CIA footage from Laos. Contrasts Hmong family in the U.S. with family still in the camp.

**FOR OUR TIMES: CAMBODIA, A NATION IN PERIL.**

CBS News, November 1979. 30 minutes, video, color, \$325. Neil Waldman, Director of Archives, CBS News, 524 West 57th St, New York, NY 10019. Fax: (212) 975-5442.

**GIRL WHO SPELLED FREEDOM.** Disney Movie, about 2 hours, story of Cambodian mother and six children who were sponsored by a Kentucky family; Lin Yann went on to be the national spelling bee winner.

**GREAT BRANCHES, NEW ROOTS: THE HMONG FAMILY.**

Rita LeDoux, Kathleen Laughlin, Nancy Haley, 1983, 42 minutes, color, 16 mm and video. Rental/purchase: Hmong Film Project, 2258 Commonwealth Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. (Old address). Opens with an animation of the "Flood" folktale; explains and documents the Hmong concept of "family", and how the family is faring in the U.S.

**GUNS, DRUGS, AND THE CIA ("Frontline with Judy Woodruff", PBS).** 60 minutes. Traces the involvement of the CIA with drug movement in Laos and later in Central America.

**HEART OF THE DRAGON.** PBS 12-part series, and book. The first four segments are especially interesting as they relate to the Chinese background of many of the Vietnamese refugees.

**HMONG NEW YEAR.** Dick Terry, Lao Family Community, Sacramento, and Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, 1985. Color, VHS, 25 minutes. Order from Lue Vang, PO Box 423, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. \$50. Contains footage of traditional home ceremonies during the New Year, scenes from Sacramento New Year, 1985.

**THE HMONG: HILL TRIBE PEOPLE OF LAOS.** 58 min. Insight Multi-Cultural Communication, Inc., 122 Princeton, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. VHS, \$100, includes manual.

**THE HMONG: TRADITIONAL TEXTILES AND MUSIC OF THE MOUNTAIN PEOPLE OF LAOS.** Nancy

Haley et al., 1981, 7 minutes, color, 16 mm.

**HOMELAND AROUND THE WORLD.** 28 minutes.

Insight Multi-Cultural Communication, Inc., 122 Princeton, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. VHS, \$100, includes manual.

**HOUSE OF THE SPIRIT.** 42 minutes, video, color. American Friends Service Committee, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003, (212) 598-0968.

**I AM A REFUGEE.** color, 34 minutes, video. First person account of escaping as a refugee to a neighboring country (in Europe). One never sees the narrator, and the conflict revolves around whether or not he can bring himself to admit betraying his friends, key to determining his status on grounds of "well grounded fear of persecution.....". First prize, Cork Film Festival, 1978. UNHCR Branch Office of the US, 1718 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20009, (202) 387-8546, attn Teri Krativol, Information Ass't.

**IMAGES THAT SPEAK: THE CROSS-CULTURAL WORKSHOP.** 28 minutes. Insight Multi-Cultural Communication, Inc., 122 Princeton, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. VHS, \$100, includes manual.

**THE JEWEL RECLAIMED.** Church World Services, 16 mm, color, 30 minutes. ECUFILM, 810 12th Ave South, Nashville, TN 37203. (800) 251-4091. (old address) Free loan. Documentary about the destruction and gradual rebuilding of Cambodia; emphasizes the role of the world community, including church relief.

**JOURNEY FROM PHA DONG.** CIA footage from 1967, filmed in Laos, shows the "secret army's" training and organization. VHS, color, 60 minutes. Available from University Film and Video, U of MN, 1313 Fifth St. SE Suite 108, Mnpls, MN 55414, phone (800) 847-8251. \$15 rental.

**JOURNEY TO LAOS.** 45 minutes, VHS, filmed by Jacqui Chagnon and Roger Rumpf, American Friends Service Committee, Jan 86, purchase \$50, from Asia Resource Center, PO Box 15275, Washington, DC, 20003, phone (202) 547-1114. Rental \$25.

**THE KHMER HISTORICAL MURAL OF KHAO-I-DANG.**

Insight Multi-Cultural Communication, Inc., 122 Princeton, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. 28 minutes, 9/86, VHS, \$100, includes manual. Video of slides and artwork of youth in Khao I Dang holding center in early 1985, documenting the creation of a mural showing the past, present, and future of the Khmer people. Uses bilingual script, interviews, songs with voice over to tell the story of Cambodia and the Khmer.

**KILLING FIELDS.** Commercial video about the experi-

ences of NY Times reporter and his Cambodian friend-coworker.

**THE LAST PERFORMANCE.** Lao court dancers. 1320 Fenwick Lane, Suite 200, Silver Spring MD 20910, (301) 565-0654. 3/4" rental \$75, purchase \$600.

**A LEGACY OF TEARS.** video, 54 minutes, 1987. History of the Hmong and issues of resettlement, including racism. University Film and Video, U of MN, 1313 Fifth St. SE Suite 108, Mnpls, MN 55414, phone (800) 847-8251.

**MIAO YEAR.** CRM McGraw Hill Films, 1971, 61 minutes, color, 16 mm. Rental: University Film and Video, U of MN, 1313 Fifth St. SE Suite 109, Mnpls, MN 55414, phone (612) 627-4270. Producer: William Geddes. Also available at UC Extension Media Service, 2176 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704. This is the film from which footage is clipped for use in other films and videos. It's the only full-length film that shows village life as it would have been before the war (Thai Hmong village).

**MONTEREY BOAT PEOPLE.** 29 minutes, color video, 3/4" and 1/2" format, purchase \$200, rent \$65. 2nd place winner at the American Film Festival, NY. Vincent DiGirolamo, 1800 Prince St, Berkeley, CA 94703. (415)845-2733. (old address) Racial, economic, and environmental controversies surrounding the Vietnamese fishermen in Monterey Bay; historical context of Chinese and Japanese fishermen before.

**MOVING MOUNTAINS: THE STORY OF THE YIU-MIEN.** 58 minute video, Ellen Vasquez. \$450 purchase, Feather and Fin Productions, 2818 SW First Avenue, Portland OR 97201. (503) 294-0321.

**NEITHER HERE NOR THERE.** 24 minutes, 1979. Refugees' flight from Vietnam by sea to Pilau Bidong; UNHCR efforts to resolve the crisis. UNHCR Branch Office of the US, 1718 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20009, (202) 387-8546, Attn Teri Krativol, Information Ass't.

**A NEW YEAR FOR THE MIEN.** 1986, video, color 55 minutes. Adjustment and efforts by the Iu-Mien people from Laos to begin a new life in the United States.

**NEWCOMERS TO AMERICA,** 18-program, video-based educational package, in 15 languages. Pacific Standard Television, 1610 SW Jefferson, Portland, OR 97201, 503-224-9821. \$52 each tape.

**NO MAN'S LAND.** Video VHS, color, 26 min, 1983. Cambodia. Granada Television Internatl/ Filmmakers Library. Rent from University Films & Video, Mnpls, MN. 612-627-4270. \$16.50.

**NIGHT SONGS.** PBS presentation set in New York's Chinatown, and their cousin who arrives from Vietnam. Most interesting are the images of conflict between the teen-aged boy, his father, and his peers; includes footage of Dragon (Lion) Dance at the New Year.

**NO MORE MOUNTAINS.** WBGH-TV Novacom, 1981, 60 minutes, color, video. Rental: University Film and Video, U of MN, 1313 Fifth St. SE Suite 108, Mnpls, MN 55414, phone (800) 847-8251.

**NOT IN VAIN (REFUGEES YESTERDAY AND TODAY).** 16 mm, color, 31 minutes. UNHCR. Free loan. Footage shot in various parts of the world, showing what it means to be a refugee in 1980. UNHCR Branch Office of the US, 1718 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20009, (202) 387-8546, Attn Teri Krativol, Information Ass't.

**NOVA: THE MYSTERY OF YELLOW RAIN.** 1985, 60 minutes, color, video. Evidence for and against yellow rain; presents issues involved in the controversy.

**ONE OF MANY: DR. NHAN.** Lucerne Films, 1984. 16 minutes, 16 mm and video.

**ONLY WHEN IT RAINS.** color, 11 minutes, 1980. video available from UNHCR Headquarters, Public Information Service. Plight of unaccompanied minors in a Thai refugee camp.

**OUR SECRET ARMY.** 60 Minutes, CBS News, 1980, 25 minutes, color, video. Neil Waldman, Director of Archives, CBS News, 524 West 57th St, New York, NY 10019. Fax: (212) 975-5442.

**PAIN AND PROMISE & FITTING IN.** Two videos, booklet. Video, free loan. Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, Bilingual Ed., PO Box 7841, Madison WI 53707. (608) 267-9234.

**PAPER ANGEL.** PBS play about Angel Island and Chinese immigration.

**PEACE HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE: A CASE HISTORY OF A HMONG FAMILY'S ENCOUNTER WITH A HOSPITAL.** John Finck and Doua Yang, 1983, 25 minutes, color, video. A young Hmong boy requires emergency treatment for a cut wrist; the medical treatment and ensuing problems are examined from both points of view, the family's and the hospital's. Useful for any non-Hmong who hope to work cooperatively with parents of Hmong children via interpreters.

**REFUGEES: A HISTORIC VIEW.** color, 22 minutes, 1981. Historical look at refugees, from ancient civilizations up to 1951, the beginning of the UNHCR. UNHCR Branch Office of the US, 1718 Connecticut Ave NW,

Washington DC 20009, (202) 387-8546, Attn Teri Krativol, Information Ass't.

Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20009, (202) 387-8546, attn Teri Krativol, Information Ass't.

REFUGEES FROM LAOS (The Mien). Eric Crystal, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Bldg T9 Room 116, Univ of CA, Berkeley, 94720, (415) 642-3609.

THE RESTLESS WAVE. color, 16 minutes, 1979. Adaptation of a Dutch TV documentary on the boat people, their journey and arrival at countries of first asylum. UNHCR Branch Office of the US, 1718 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20009, (202) 387-8546, Attn Teri Krativol, Information Ass't.

RIVER JOURNEYS: THE MEKONG. PBS series, book. One of the segments is on the Mekong, from Vietnam, through Cambodia, to the Golden Triangle where Laos, Thailand and Cambodia meet.

ROOM FOR A STRANGER. Harvey Kopel Films, 1979. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. 16 mm, color, 25 minutes.

SAMSARA. Ellen Bruno, 163 Fairmont St., San Francisco CA 94131, (415) 641-4491. 29 minute video about the Khmer people and their world view.

SITUATION ZERO. Stanley Harper, director. Cambodian refugees on the Thai border.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: THE LAND, THE PEOPLE, AND THE CULTURES. Video, purchase \$60 from Southeast Asia Genetics Educ Program, KW Dumars, Dept of Pediatrics, Bldg 27, Univ of CA Irvine, 101 The City Drive South, Orange, CA 92668. Make check to UC Regents.)

SOUTHEAST ASIA: THE OTHER WAR. 16 mm film, b&w, 60 min, 1965. Rent from University Film and Video, U of MN, 1313 Fifth St. SE Suite 108, Mnpls, MN 55414, phone (800) 847-8251. \$19.05.

SURVIVAL OF SONTHEARY SOU. Daniel Barnett Co, Video, 53 minutes, 1984. Rent from University Film and Video, U of MN, 1313 Fifth St. SE Suite 108, Mnpls, MN 55414, phone (800) 847-8251.

VIETNAM TODAY. Sierra World Films, 1975. 16 mm, color.

VIET NAM: WHEN NIGHT COMES. 30 minutes, filmed by International Voluntary Service workers who returned to Viet Nam for two weeks in 1986. \$50 (\$45 for refugee groups). Asia Resource Center, PO Box 15275, Washington DC 20003. (202) 547-1114.

WAY OF THE WILLOW. Available for rent from University Film and Video, U of MN, 1313 Fifth St. SE Suite 108, Mnpls, MN 55414, phone (800) 847-8251.

WOMEN REFUGEES. UNHCR, 1980, 32 minutes, video and 16 mm. UNHCR Branch Office of the US, 1718

## CENTERS OF STUDY, RESOURCE CENTERS & SOURCES OF MATERIALS

Asia Resource Center. PO box 15275, Washington DC 20003, (202) 547-1114.

Center for Refugee Ethnography, Division of Graduate & Continuing Studies, Hamline University, 1536 Hewitt Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104, (612) 641-2900.

Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies, 104 Lane Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Center for Southeast Asian Studies, 260 Stephens Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720

CEDOREK (*Centre de Documentation et de Recherche sur la Civilisation Khmère*). 218, rue Saint-Jacques, 75005 Paris France. Source of materials in Khmer and French, including: Culture Khmère, Kaun Khmer, Seksa Khmer, 16 titles of Khmer literature, 6 titles of Khmer literature in French, 7 titles about arts and tradition in Khmer, and a bilingual collection in Khmer and French.

Council on Southeast Asia Studies, Yale Center for International & Area Studies, Box 13A Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520

Cellar Bookshop, 18090 Wyoming, Detroit, MI 48221

Claudia's Caravan, PO Box 1582, Alameda CA 94501, (415) 521-7871.

Dalley Book Service, 90 Kimball Lane, Christianburg, VA 24073. 703-382-8949. Specializes in Southeast Asia, particularly Laos; does reprints of out-of-print monographs, etc. A great place!

Greenshower Corp., 10937 Klingerman St., So. El Monte CA 91733, (818) 575-1000.

International Association of Yao Studies, Anthropology Dept, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, New Territories, Hong Kong (Dr. Nicholas Tapp).

John M. Echols Collection on Southeast Asia, Olin Graduate Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

JACP Inc., 414 East 3rd Ave., San Mateo, CA 94401, (415) 343-9408.

John Randall, 47 Moreton St., London, SW1V2NY, England.  
Fine and rare books of and from SEAsia, especially those authored, gathered during the French colonial period.

MN Publications (Vy Do), 5300 La Fiesta, Yorba Linda CA 92686, (714) 692-2101.

REIM Refugee Materials Center, NCBE, George Washington University, 1118 22nd St NW, Washington DC 20037, (202) 467-0867, (800) 321-NCBE.

Southeast Asian Refugee Studies Project (SARS), Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), 330 Hubert H. Humphrey Ctr, University of Minnesota, 301 19th Avenue S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455

Southeast Asia Community Resource Center, Folsom Cordova Unified SD, 2460 Cordova Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, (916) 635-6815.

Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University, 120 Uris Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853

University Film and Video, University of Minnesota, 1313 Fifth Street, S.E., Suite 108, Minneapolis, MN 55455, 1-800-847-8251.

Univeristy of MN Refugee Assistance Program, Mental Health—Technical Assistance Center. Box 392 Mayo, University of MN Hospital, Minneapolis, MN 55455.



# WHAT LANGUAGE DOES HE SPEAK? THE LAST NAME GIVES A CLUE (revised February 1990)

## IU MIEN

Mien clan names usually carry the Thai prefix "sae" before them; some people are dropping the "Sae". The Iu-Mien were a minority group in Laos (there, as in China and Thailand, they are known as "Yao"), and lived in the remote high mountain villages until the war drove them to the lowlands. Schools can often communicate with men who were adults in Laos in Lao, but for the older and younger generations, oral Mien must be used. Chinese characters are used to write Mien ritual books, and a romanization exists in several forms. Currently, Iu-Mien from America, Thailand, and China are trying to arrive at a standard romanized form to be used by all. Below are the Mien names in one of the current romanized forms, with variations of English spelling in parentheses. (In this romanization, the final letter represents tone, not a consonant sound—*x* is a rising tone; *h* is a high falling tone, *c* is a low glottalized tone, *z* is a rising and falling tone, and *q* is a high short tone).

Zeux (Sae chao)	Lioh (Sae liew, Saeleo, Saelio)
Yangh (Sae yang, Sae wang)	Leiz (Sae lee)
Dangc (Sae teurn, Sae tern, Tang)	Zanh (Sae chin)
Bungc (Sae fong, Pum, Pun)	Siouh (Sae sio)
Bienh (Sae phan, Saepharn)	Zuaq (Sae chou)
Lorh (Sae lo, Sae law)	Tong (Sae tong)

According to Lemoine (*Yao Ceremonial Paintings*, 1983), the original Yao Charter named twelve clans, but those most frequently found in Laos and Thailand are: *Pien, Pung, Tang, Tsiou, Tsan, Yang, Liou, Lei*.

## HMONG

Hmong clan names are also pronounced on specific tones. These are the most common clan names, with the Hmong spelling and the common English spelling. Most Hmong had very little schooling in Laos, and are not literate in any language, while they may speak two or three. Lao translation/interpretation may work for adult men, but for the older generation, the women and the young children, oral Hmong must be used. Hmong spelling comes first, then the English spellings.

<i>High, short</i>	<i>High falling</i>	<i>Mid, level</i>	<i>Low, level</i>	<i>Low, abrupt end</i>
Khab (Kha, Khang)	Faj (Fang)	Koo/Soom	Lis (Lee, Ly)	Ham (Ha, Hang)
Phab (Pha)	Hawj (Her)	(Kong/Song)	Muas (Moua)	Kwm (Kue)
Tsab (Cha, Chang)	Hwj (Heu)			
Tswb (Chue)	Lauj (Lo, Lor)			
	Thoj (Thao, Thor)			
	Tsheej (Cheng)			
	Vaj (Va, Vang)			
	Vwj (Vue)			
	Xyooj (Xiong)			
	Yaj (Ya, Yang)			

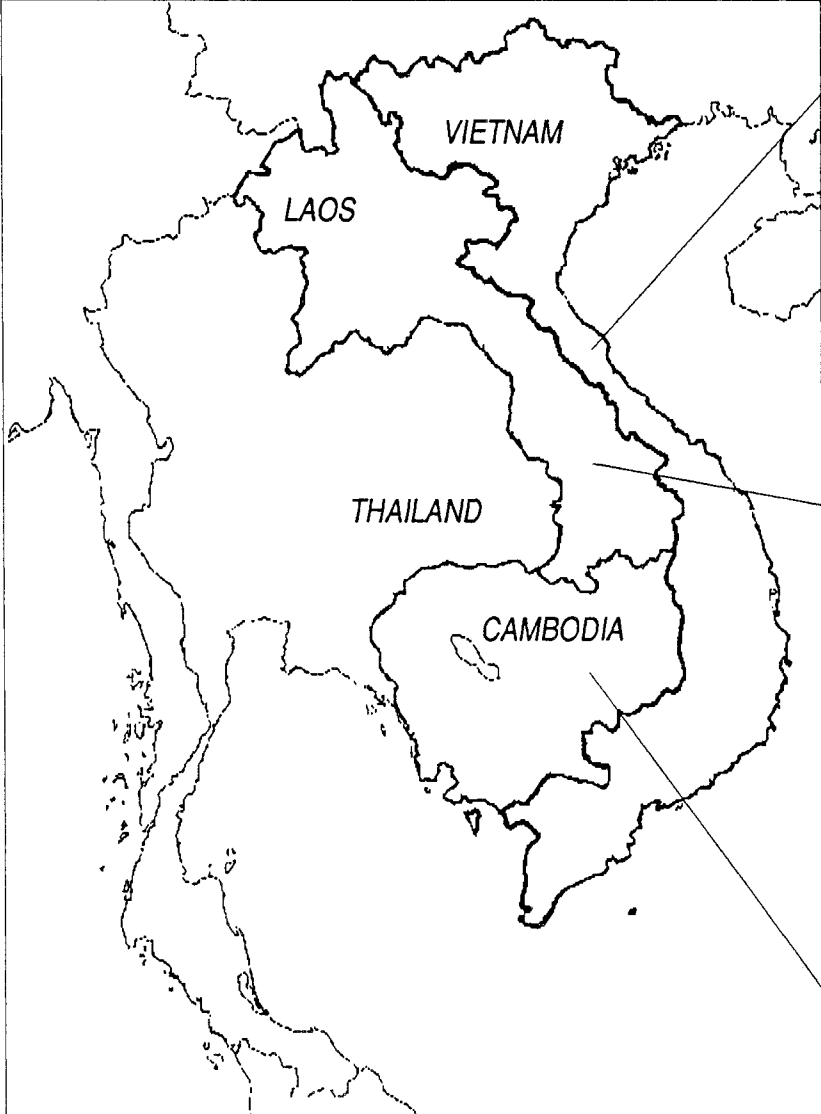
## KHMU, KAMMU, KMHMU

The Khmu people from the highlands of Laos are from the same large language family as Khmer and Vietnamese. There are two types of written language in published form, and each one represents a regional dialect better than the other. There is no agreement yet on which one will become the standard. The system developed by the Swedish team uses symbols close to the International Phonetic Alphabet and diacritics to show tone (Kàm Ràw; Kammu). The other, used by Frank Proschan in his thesis, does not use tone marks; the result is "Kmhmu", for the name of the people.

Khmu did not have last names; each person belongs to a "totem group", which is important to know for marriage and other interactions. The naming system goes like this, for our good friend Kàm Ràw:

Grandfather:	Laang
Father:	Ràw (son of) Laang
	Kàm (son of) Ràw
Son:	Danny (son of) Kàm

Normally, a person takes a name from the mainstream society as well, either Lao or Thai; this is probably the legal school name for most Khmu children.

	ETHNICITY	LANGUAGE(S)
	From Vietnam	
	VIETNAMESE	Vietnamese
	CHINESE	Cantonese, Vietnamese
	Vietnamese Montagnard	
	SRE	Sre, vietnamese
	JARAI	Jarai, Vietnamese
	RHADE	Rhade, Vietnamese
	BAHNAR	Bahnar, Vietnamese
	CHRU	Chru, vietnamese
	From Laos	
	LAO	Lao
	Laotian minority groups	
	HMONG	Hmong, Lao
	IU-MIEN	Mien, Lao
	KHMU	Khmu, Lao
	LAHU	Lahu, Lao
	T'IN	T'in, Lao
	From Cambodia	
	KHMER (Cambodian)	Khmer

## LAO

The most striking feature of Lao names is that they are long, and appear unpronounceable. The usual order is the same as English, given name followed by family name. The given name often falls into two parts, a common prefix followed by any of a number of common suffixes (Kham<sup>sy</sup>, Kham<sup>say</sup>, Kham<sup>phanh</sup>). Close friends may drop the prefix, and simply use the suffix: Sy, Say, Phanh, etc.

Examples of Lao surnames (created after 1943)

Souk-som-boun	ສຸຂສົມບູນ	health, prosperity
Vieng-kham	ວຽງຄຳ	golden city
Souk-ban-dith	ສຸຂບັນດິດ	mature pundit
Vong-kham-keaw	ວົງຄຳແກ້ວ	gold lineage
Vong-sa-wat	ວົງສາວັດ	prosperous lineage
Vong-pra-chan	ວົງພຣະຈັນທ'	moon lineage
Va-tha-na-tham	ວັທນະທັມ	culture
Luang-pra-seut	ຫລວງປຣະເສີດ	very precious

The given name, which, like the surname, appears very long and unpronounceable to English speakers, can be broken apart into component parts. These components are often common prefixes followed by one of several common suffixes. For example:

<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>In Lao</i>
Kham	sy	Kham <sup>sy</sup>	ຄຳສີ
Kham	say	Kham <sup>say</sup>	ຄຳໃສ
Kham	phanh	Kham <sup>phanh</sup>	ຄຳພັນ

Often close friends drop the prefix, and call a person by the last part of the given name, alone. Word parts that are often seen in Lao given names include

thong ທອງ	boun ບູນ	kham ຄຳ
sy ສີ	pheng ເພັງ	bang ບາງ
say ໃສ	phone ພອນ	bone ບອນ
sone ສອນ	phanh ພັນ	my ໄມ
souk ສຸກ	phoun ພູນ	ma ມາ
dang ດັງ	phouang ພວງ	manh ຫມັນ
vong ວົງ		

## CAMBODIAN

Names with two "h"s are definitely Cambodian. Cambodian names, like the language, are not tonal; this is different from the other languages described here. The alphabet is non-Roman, so the transliteration (English spelling) varies from writer to writer. There are a great variety of family names; they tend to be short one syllable words (*Chhom*). Given names tend to be two or three syllables (*Rattana*, or *Rat ta na*). The usual order in Cambodia was family name followed by given name.

<i>Given names</i>	<i>Family names</i>
Sokha សុខា	Chea ជ័រ
Neary នារី	Chhom ឆ័រ
Bona បូណា	Pok ពុក
Chantha ចន្ទថា	Hem ហែម
Rattana រត្ននា	Som សម

Other examples of Cambodian family names:

Ang	Hang	Koeuh	Mon	Phen	Som
Ay	Hean	Lim	Moun	Phoeun	Sous
Boeun	Heng	Loeum	Moung	Phuon	Ta
Buon	Hoeum	Loeun	Nay	Poeun	Thoun
Chham	Hoeun	Loeuth	Nem	Pok	Vann
Chhan	Hoeung	Lon	O	Ra	Voeun
Chhay	Hong	Loun	Oeu	Ram	Voeuth
Chhem	Hok	Luom	Ok	Roeun	Vuy
Chheng	Huon	Luy	On	Roeung	Vy
Chhoeum	Keo	Ma	Ou	Sam	Yam
Chhuon	Kheung	Mai	Ouk	San	Yan
Choeun	Khlok	Mee	Oum	Sat	Yang
Chuon	Khoeung	Men	Oun	Seng	Yay
Chuop	Khoy	Moeun	Ouy	Soeum	Ye
Doeun	Khuong	Moeung	Pek	Soeun	Yo
Dok	Kiev	Mom	Phar	Soeung	Yoeung

## OVERSEAS CHINESE (VIETNAM)

Most of the Chinese speak the Cantonese dialect of Chinese, but it has a Vietnamese 'flavor' and local vocabulary. The Chinese family names, written in characters, have been Vietnamized—put into the closest Vietnamese equivalent, either by sound or meaning—after 1954 or when processing out of refugee camps. There is a tremendous variation in spelling. What is given here is the character, a Cantonese romanization, and the usual Vietnamese equivalent. The most common names are at the beginning of the list.

阮	Nguyen	鄭	Cheng (Trinh)
陳	Chan (Tran)	彭	Pang (Banh)
李	Lee (Ly)	文	Man (Van)
張	Cheung (Truong)	羅	Lo (La)
黃	Wong (Hoang, Huynh)	鄧	Deng (Dang)
何	Ho (Ha)	蘇	Su (To)
王	Wong (Vuong)	馬	Ma (Ma)
林	Lum (Lam)	石	Sek (Thach)
余	Yee (Dui)	曾	Jung (Tang)
吳	Ng (Ngo)	廖	Liew (Lieu)
劉	Lau (Luu)	溫	Won (On)
朱	Chu (Chu)	白	Bach (Bach)
周	Chau (Chau)	金	Kam (Tuyen)
方	Fong (Phuong)	沈	Sum (Sam, Tham)
鄺	Kong (Phuong)	高	Ko (Cao)
江	Gong (Giang)	莫	Mok (Mac)
楊	Yeung (Duong)	宋	Soong (Tong)
范	Fan (Pham)	譚	Tan (Dam)
趙	Chiu (Trieu)	鍾	Choong (Chung)
胡	Fu (Ho)	許	Hee (Hy)
馮	Fung (Phung)	孫	Seen (Ton)
陸	Luk (Luc)		
梁	Leung (Luong)		

Chinese who came from Saigon/Cholon often went to Chinese school and Vietnamese school; they are bilingual and biliterate. Chinese from the north had less opportunity for education because education was reserved for the Vietnamese party members' children. Those from the urban areas like Haiphong probably had ten years of school, achieving fluency and literacy in Vietnamese, but not in Chinese. Those from the remote areas of the north had little or no education, and are probably not literate in any language; to communicate with parents, oral Cantonese will be necessary.

## VIETNAMESE

There are 12-13 very common family names for the Vietnamese people; *Nguyen* is the most common. Confusion between who is Vietnamese or Chinese arises when an ethnic Chinese family uses its Vietnamized name (which were required after the 1950's). Usually Vietnamese speak only Vietnamese (or French or English); Chinese often speak Vietnamese as well as Cantonese (and possibly Mandarin). The names below are grouped by tone:

<i>Mid-level</i>	<i>Low, abrupt</i>	<i>Low falling</i>	<i>Broken</i>	<i>High</i>
Châu (jow)	Đặng (dahng)	Hòang (hwong)	Lữ (lu-u)	Lý (lee)
Đinh (ding)	Phạm (fahm)	Hùynh (hwen)	Nguyễn (nwe-en)	
Lê (lay)	Trịnh (ching)	Trần (chun)	Võ (vo-o)	
Ngô (no)			Vũ (vu-u)	
Trương (chu ong)				
Vương (vu ong)				

The 'ng' sound is difficult for English speakers when it comes at the beginnings of words. Train your tongue by running two words together, then dropping the first sounds off: 'sing-oh' becomes 'ng-oh', and now you've pronounced the family name Ngô. Likewise, the ư and the ơ are difficult at first. For ơ think of the sound of hesitation, like you aren't sure of the answer to a question: "uh". For ư try the same sound with your teeth together and your lips apart (looks like a grimace).

## VIETNAMESE MONTAGNARD

The minority groups living in the Central highlands of Vietnam were closely allied with the Green Berets, and recently 200 families entered the U.S. after escaping Vietnam through Cambodia to Thailand.

Ethnic groups include Rhade, Jarai, Sre, Mnong, Chru, Bahnar, Bru, Lat, Sedang, Rengao; they, taken together, can be called "ana chu", or 'sons of the mountains'. Listed below are names of prominent minority leaders. The underlined individuals studied in the U.S.

Y Thih Eban, Y Ju Eban, Y Klong Adrong, Y Jut Buon To (Rhade)  
 Rcom Anhot, Nay Blim, Nay Luett, Rcom Plol, Slu Nay (Jarai)  
 Hiup, Ber, Paul Nur (Bahnar)  
 Touneh Yoh, Touneh Ton, Touneh Han Tho (Chru)  
Toplui Pierre K'Briuh, Toplui K'Broi (Sre)

Note: this NAMES handout began several years ago, and is updated each year, as more and more people make suggestions and corrections. There may well be many errors—spelling, diacritics, etc—but we hope for greater and greater refinement at the years go by. Major contributors: Porter Reed, Illinois State Board of Education, Appendix A; Donna Hwang, Sacramento City College, Dept of Languages; Lue Vang, Folsom Cordova USD; Sheryl Raumann and staff, Lodi USD; Hung Le, Phil Isenberg's aide; Xuong Luong, FCUSD; Sin Phin SaeChao, Lao Family Community; So Seng SaeChao, Summer Language Institute, CSUS 1987, Sam Leung of Folsom Cordova, Konthal Cheng and Bisa Cheng of Lincoln USD in Stockton; Frank Proshan; Kâm Râw (Damrong Tayanin), Jonathon Saeteurn, the Indochinese Assistance Center. 1991.



Lao "ba-si" ceremony used at important times—birth, marriage, for highly respected individuals who come to visit, leaving on a long trip, graduating from school, getting a new job or a promotion, moving to a new house, etc.

Drawings by Halinka Luangpraseut. These and hundreds of other drawings will be available in book form for teachers to use in class. More info on publishing date and ordering address in later issues of *Context*.



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