

Context:

Southeast Asians & other newcomers in California's classrooms
January-February 1995, Volume 15, No. 114

Context is published six times during the academic year as a way to provide staff with information and ideas concerning their newcomer students and parents. While the focus is on Southeast Asians, most articles and resources apply to other newcomer groups as well. This newsletter is developed with Economic Impact Aid funds, and district staff with English learners receive an automatic subscription. Other district staff may request a subscription, at no cost. Outside subscribers pay \$10.00 per year to cover mailing and handling costs.

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Refugee Educators Network

This group of educators meets at the above address 5 times per year to share information and plan an annual conference, the Southeast Asian Education Faire—9:00-11:30, 3rd Thursdays.

Join us!

September 22, 1994
November 17, 1994
January 19, 1995
February 16, 1995
May 18, 1995

Year of the Pig

Pig, hog, sow, piglet, boar...these are not images associated with desirable human characteristics. Accordingly, there are very few stories from our Chinese and Vietnamese resources with stories that feature pigs, other than the table-bound variety.

As a pig, my birth animal is a symbol of filthy personal hygiene and crude eating habits—how can it be? It's true that in villages, the pigs are scavengers, along with mongrel dogs. But they recognize their owner's house and wiggle home when the sun sets. Evidently their propensity for mud-packs predates Elizabeth Arden and the hot springs near Calistoga, but even this foresight doesn't rehabilitate their image.

Even the rat, disease-ridden and filth-feeding, rates higher in the Chinese scheme, as determined by the number of times the rat figures in proverbs and stories. Same for the snake.

Entire races of people despise the pig so much that pork does not have a place in their daily diet.

Americans are ambivalent about pigs. The "three little pigs" are clever and unafraid; "this little piggy" is a cute name for baby's toes; "Porky Pig," "Miss Piggy," and "Charlotte's Pig" are all cult heroes. On the other hand, "pigs" (for some reason) are hostile cops. To be a "pig" is only slightly better than to be a "hog," and who would want to be a "boar" (bore)? Guests on Johnny Carson and David Letterman demonstrate how much smarter pigs are than dogs or horses. The weekend craft show at the mall displayed pigs of all sizes and dress for sale as knick-knacks and children's toys.

The Chinese calendars say that the pig is intelligent, "roots" for knowledge and money, works hard, but is innocent, sensitive, and gullible. (See the Hmong proverb, "Pigs do, dogs eat.")



The Lion and the Boar

ON A SUMMER DAY, when the great heat induced a general thirst among the beasts, a Lion and a Boar came at the same moment to a small well to drink. They fiercely disputed which of them should drink first, and were soon engaged in the agonies of a mortal combat. When they stopped suddenly to catch their breath for a fiercer renewal of the fight, they saw some Vultures waiting in the distance to feast on the one that should fall first. They at once made up their quarrel, saying, "It is better for us to make friends, than to become the food of Crows or Vultures."

Activities

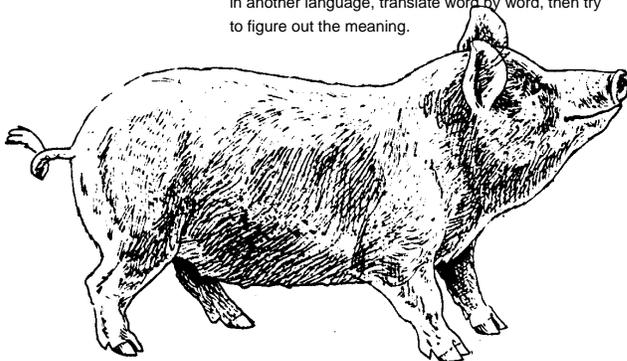
Research the place of the pig in various cultures. Look at stories that contain pigs as characters and analyze their traits. Chart, compare, generalize.

Why do some people not eat pig (pork)?

Why does the animal form have one name (pig) and the meat form have another (pork)? Is this true in other languages? If there are differences, why?

"Pig" is often an insult. How do people in different countries (or cultures) deliver insults? How do different people respond? List all the insults you can think of. Are there themes or common features? What is the relationship between insults and respect? What are examples of unintended insults? How can you tell if someone is insulted?

Pick a proverb. Find as many other ways to express the same idea. Ask parents for help. If the proverb is in another language, translate word by word, then try to figure out the meaning.



The Eagle, the Cat, and the Wild Sow

AN EAGLE made her nest at the top of a lofty oak; a Cat, having found a convenient hole, moved into the middle of the trunk; and a Wild Sow, with her young, took shelter in a hollow at its foot. The Cat cunningly resolved to destroy this chance-made colony. To carry out her design, she climbed to the nest of the Eagle, and said, "Destruction is preparing for you, and for me too, unfortunately. The Wild Sow, whom you see daily digging up the earth, wishes to uproot the oak, so she may on its fall seize our families as food for her young." Having thus frightened the Eagle out of her senses, she crept down to the cave of the Sow, and said, "Your children are in great danger; for as soon as you go out with your litter to find food, the Eagle is prepared to pounce upon one of your little pigs." Having instilled these fears into the Sow, she went and pretended to hide herself in the hollow of the tree. When night came she went forth with silent foot and obtained food for herself and her kittens, but feigning to be afraid, she kept a lookout all through the day. Meanwhile, the Eagle, full of fear of the Sow, sat still on the branches, and the Sow, terrified by the Eagle, did not dare to go out from her cave. And thus they both, along with their families, perished from hunger, and afforded ample provision for the Cat and her kittens.

The Wild Boar and the Fox

A WILD BOAR stood under a tree and rubbed his tusks against the trunk. A Fox passing by asked him why he thus sharpened his teeth when there was no danger threatening from either huntsman or hound. He replied, "I do it advisedly; for it would never do to have to sharpen my weapons just at the time I ought to be using them."

The Piglet, the Sheep, and the Goat

A YOUNG PIG was shut up in a fold-yard with a Goat and a Sheep. On one occasion when the shepherd laid hold of him, he grunted and squeaked and resisted violently. The Sheep and the Goat complained of his distressing cries, saying, "He often handles us, and we do not cry out." To this the Pig replied, "Your handling and mine are very different things. He catches you for your wool, or your milk, but he lays hold on me for my very life."

Tseng-Tzu Kills the Pig

Tseng-Tzu's wife wanted to go downtown to go shopping. Her son, crying, and grabbing her clothes, perstered her to let him go with her. He annoyed her to the point that there was nothing she could do except coax him, saying, "You can't come. Be good and stay at home. Wait until Mommy comes home and I'll tell Daddy to kill a pig for you to eat." Once the child heard this, he stopped pestering her.

After a short while, Tseng-tzu's wife came home from shopping. Tseng-tzu caught a pig, took out a knife and prepared to kill the pig, Tseng-tzu's wife rushed to stop him and said, "What are you doing? I was just coaxing the child; I don't really mean to kill the pig. You don't have to be so serious."

Tseng-tzu looked at his wife, sighed, and said, "You can't trick children this way. Children don't know anything. They can't separate what is right from what is wrong. They do whatever they see their parents do. Children learn from their parents' way of doing things. Now, if you trick our child, even though it is unintentional, how can the child know? Doesn't this amount to teaching him how to lie? Moreover, if you trick our child this way now, will he be able to believe what you say later on? We can't have this attitude in disciplining a child."

After Tseng-tzu finished speaking, he took the knife out and killed the pig. Then he cooked the pork and gave it to the child to eat.

Proverbs

Pigs might fly, but they make most unlikely birds. Pigs might fly if they had wings.

Pigs grow fat where lambs would starve.

A hog on trust grunts 'til he's paid.

A pretty pig makes an ugly sow.

A pig that has two owners is sure to die of hunger.

When the butcher dies, do you think we shall eat our pork with the bristles on? (Chinese)

Npua ua rau dev noj. (Hmong)

(Pigs do, dogs eat).

Và-gò lâ mâ chè ve mâ hê. (Lahu)

A tiger will bite even a scrawny pig.

Don't give cherries to pigs, nor advice to fools. (Irish)

The fields are ever frozen for lazy pigs. (Swedish)

The pig, even dressed in silks, is a pig. (Greek)

He who has never seen a castle will admire a pigpen. (Yugoslav)

Lead a pig to the Rhine, it remains a pig.

Chạy xoạc móng heo. (Vietnamese)

Run, then pig's hoof comes off.

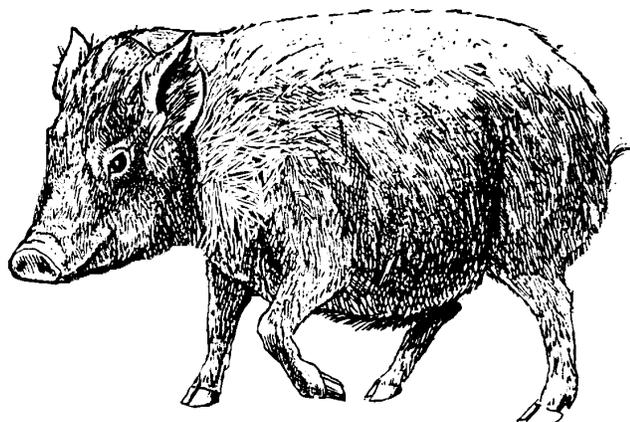
You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

A hog that's bemired endeavours to bemire others.

Better my hog dirty my home than no hog at all.

Lợn lành chữa thành lợn què (Vietnamese)

Fix a pig that's still good you get a lame pig.



Foreign-born, 1990

In 1990, according to the US Census, 21,631,601 persons were foreign born, 8.7% of the total population. (This includes 1,864,285 who were born abroad of American parents.) The birth country for some of these immigrants follows:

Soviet Union	336,889
Germany	1,163,004
Italy	639,518
Poland	397,014
Portugal	218,525
United KgdM	764,627
Cambodia	119,581
China	543,208
HongKong	152,263
India	463,132
Iran	216,963
Japan	421,921
Korea	663,465
Laos	172,925
Philippines	997,745
Taiwan	253,719
Thailand	119,862
Vietnam	556,311
Canada	870,850
Cuba	750,609
Dominican R.	356,971
Haiti	229,108
Jamaica	343,458
El Salvador	472,885
Guatemala	232,977
Mexico	4,447,439
Nicaragua	171,950
Colombia	303,918
Ecuador	147,867
Peru	152,315
Africa	400,691
Oceania	122,137

By region, the percentages were:

Europe	22.2%
Soviet Union	1.6%
Asia	25.0%
North America	39.4%
South America	5.1%
Africa	1.9%
Oceania	0.6%
Not reported	4.2%

Source: US Census, as reported in *The Universal Almanac 1995* (J.W. Wright, ed., Kansas City: Andrews & McMeel, 1995: 341).

Immigration in a nutshell

In 1993, 904,292 immigrants came to the U.S. (including 24,278 legalized under the Immigration Reform and Control Act). 127,343 came as refugees and asylees, and 147,012 came because they had occupations "in need" in the US. The others joined relatives. (Source: US Dept of Justice, 1993 *Statistical Yearbook of the INS*, 1994).

Prior to 1875 anyone from any foreign country could enter the US freely and take up permanent residence here. Over the next 60 years, Congress passed laws restricting immigration on the basis of morality (no prostitutes or convicts), race (the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first), and national origin (immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe as well as Asia were severely limited during the 1920s). In 1952, Congress passed the Immigration and Nationality Act, which reaffirmed national origin as the central criterion for eligibility and established a preference system for skilled workers and relatives of US citizens. In 1965, regional quotas were removed, making immigration

from Latin America and Asia less restrictive.

For many years the US restricted the total number of immigrants to 270,000 each year. However the number of exceptions was far greater than the 270,000 limit. An average of more than 700,000 immigrants legally entered the US each year during the 1980s (not counting those legalized under the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act).

In 1992, the 270,000 cap was replaced with a sliding cap that is less restrictive than previous immigration laws. The 1990 Immigration Act limits the total number of immigrants to 700,000 from 1992 to 1995, and to 675,000 thereafter. The act increases the openings for those with valuable employment skills from 54,000 to 140,000 per year, and reserves 55,000 slots each year for immigrants from underrepresented countries. In addition the new law introduces a sliding scale for admitting family-sponsored immigrants. As in previous years, there is no limit to the number of immediate family members admitted, but beginning in 1992, the number of immediate family members admitted in the previous year is subtracted from 465,000 (480,000 in 1995), to determine the number of family-sponsored immigrants eligible for admission. The family-sponsored limit may not go below 226,000.

The 1990 act also abolished the provision that prohibited communists from visiting the US.

The World Holiday Book, Celebrations for Every Day of the Year

(Rufus, HarperSanFrancisco, 1994)

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 2 *Kakizome* (First Writing). Japan. Favorite proverb or poem on a long strip of paper, written beautifully.
- 5• *Kalanda*. Cyprus. *Kalikandjari* (evil spirits of deceased unbaptized children) depart.
- 7• Ukrainian Christmas (*Rizdvo*). *Koliadki* (caroling), *svyata vechera* (supper of 12 dishes: *kutia* (wheat berry, dried fruits, nuts, poppy seeds), mushrooms, grains, fish (salmon, pike, carp in aspic), cabbage, potatoes, sauerkraut, horseradish), *kolach*—loaves of braided bread, *perekladenets*—Christmas cake (four layers, poppy seed, date, and pureed walnuts).
- 8• Midwives' Day (St. Domenika's Day). Greek Macedonia.
- 9• Feast of the Black Nazarene. Philippines.
- 10 *Ebisu Matsuri*. Japan. Business God's Day.
- 11• *Carmentalia*. Rome. Observance for goddess of prophecy and childbirth.
15. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday. United States.
- 16• *San Antonio Abad* (St. Anthony's Day). Mexico. Animals (scrubbed and dressed up) are blessed by the priest. Traditional dinner in pork.
- 19 Robert E. Lee's Birthday. Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Arkansas, South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi,

North Carolina, Alabama, Virginia, Texas.

- 26 *Basant Panchmi* (Republic Day). India. Independence from Britain.

February

- 1 Lunar New Year (China, Vietnam, Iu-Mien). Year of the Pig. Firecrackers, red—dispel demons, red dates—*hong zao* sounds like "prosperity comes soon," tangerines (*kat* sounds like "lucky"), avoid using words like "death" or "disaster."
- 3• St. Blaise's Day. Armenia. Patron saint of those suffering from throat ailments.
- 4 *Setsubun* (Dividing the Seasons). Japan.
- 6 Bob Marley's Birthday. Jamaica.
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday. United States.
- 13 *Parentalia*. Rome. Honoring deceased ancestors.
- 14 Valentine's Day. United States. From a medieval folk belief that on this day wild birds began

their spring mating.

- 15 *Lupercalia*. Rome. Romulus and Remus, raised by a wolf (*lupa*) founded Rome. Sacrifices to Lupa; fertility rite.
 - 21 *Feralia*. Rome. Day of the Dead, propitiating the ghosts.
 - 22 *Caristia*. Rome. Day of family reunions.
 - 23 *Terminalia*. Rome. Day for neighbors to feast with neighbors.
 - 26 *Bale Zamboanga* (Zamboanga Festival). Mindanao, Philippines. Celebrates Spanish (Catholic) and Moslem heritage of the people.
 - 29 Ladies' Day. Europe. Women can propose marriage to men (reversing the "natural" order).
- Purim*. Jewish. Honors Queen Esther (who with Mordecai thwarted a massacre). Carnivals, song, dance, games, *hamentaschen* (triangular filled cookie that represent the plotter's three-cornered hat).

These decoated eggs are folk art traditions from Ukraine, Slovenia, and Croatia.

Can any of your students tell which ones are which? Can their parents? How can they tell?

These eggs celebrated rebirth, or the arrival of spring.



Resources

LAOS INTERNET NODE

National Polytechnic Institute in Laos is now reachable via E-mail on a dialup basis to Permanet, an Internet Services provider. We hope this will speed up the processes that will enable a more permanent link. Laos' domain is @laos.permanet.org.

pan@cc.monash.edu.au (Houmphanh Thongvilu)

Browsing through the newsgroups on Internet groups for Lao culture (including Hmong), Vietnamese culture (you download a font for the text), Cambodian culture, Russian, Ukrainian, etc. If you're on America Online, click on the "Internet" icon, and then the "Newsgroups" icon. Browse through all the newsgroups, and click on the button to subscribe. It's that easy. One exchange in the Lao newsgroup had a Lao from France encouraging a Lao educator in Vientiane, and these messages were routed through a university in the midwest United States.



ISPAS

International Studies Program At Sacramento
Cross Cultural Resource Center
CSU Sacramento
6000 J Street, TJJ, Room 1
Sacramento CA 95819-6107
(916) 278-4964
Fax (916) 278-4980

John McFadden, Director
Betty DeMarco, Education Coordinator

The International Studies Program at Sacramento (ISPAS) is a new regional resource center for the California International Studies Project (CISP). CISP is one of the California Subject Matter Projects. ISPAS is a curriculum and staff development program designed to improve international studies education in Sacramento area schools.

The program goals are to:

- provide professional growth experiences for K-12 teachers to assist them in expanding the cultural and international knowledge and skills of their students.
- develop and support teacher leadership.
- address the obstacles which restrict the academic performance of under-represented students.

ISPAS offers

- assistance with implementing an international and multicultural dimension to existing curriculum (history, literature, foreign language, art).
- a thematic organization of subject matter, a problem-solving orientation, and exploration of topics from interdisciplinary perspectives.

- opportunities for teacher collaboration.
- leadership and staff development training through participation in workshops and summer institutes on international and multicultural education.
- a resource center located at CSU, Sacramento, with a free-loan collection of instructional materials including curriculum units, videotapes, and lesson plans.

Destination: Vietnam

Travel magazine, published by Ilsa Spivey and Albert Wen.

58 Genebern Way,
San Francisco CA 94112
(415) 333-3800
Fax (415) 333-6888
E-mail gdist@aol.com

Annual subscription (6 issues) is \$20.00, payable to Global Directions Incorporated. The premiere issue included the following articles:

- Hanoi's old quarter
- The spirit of Hanoi
- A city in flux
- Halong Bay
- Vientiane detour
- Arts: The oldest embroidery shop in Hanoi
- Culture: The temple of literature.
- Cuisine: A long and flavorful history
- Touring: Cycling Vietnam
- Books: *A Passage to Vietnam* (Smolan & Erwit, Against All Odds Productions & Melcher Media, 1994); *Seeing Vietnam: Encounters of the Road and Heart*

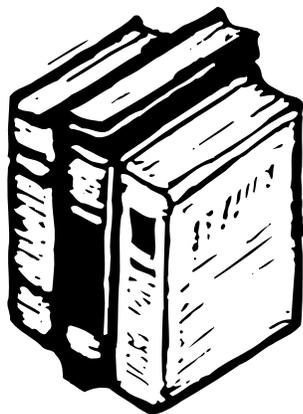
(Brownmiller, Harper Collins, 1992).

- Directory: Galleries/hotels/restaurants

The cover art is available as a poster. It is a multimedia painting created by artistic team Arnold Iger and Paul Kwan, who created the video "Anatomy of a Spring Roll." The poster is \$25.00 (20" x 24" on 80 pound cover stock) from Global Directions Inc., at the above address. Also available from the same:

- Asian Art & Culture (Oxford University Press, Winter 1994), \$15.95.
 - Hanoi visitor's map, \$10.00.
 - Barbara Cohen's map of Hanoi's Old Quarter, \$5.00.
 - Hanoi, off the beaten path, \$10.00.
 - 1994 U.S.-Vietnam business guide, \$34.95.
 - Vietnam: The no BS business guide, \$28.95.
- Add 8.5% tax and \$5.00 s/h.

January/February '95 issue contains an article on Tet, Traditional Festivals of Vietnam, and Driving Highway One.



Vietnam Today

Magazine with a business orientation, 50,000 circulation. Annual subscription (12 issues): Vietnam Today, PO Box 471553, San Francisco CA 94147-1553.

The Rubber Tree

Memoir of a Vietnamese woman who was an anti-French guerrilla, publisher, and peace activist. Nguyen Thi Tuyet Mai. \$29.95. McFarland & Company, Inc.

Children of the Enemy

Oral histories of Vietnamese Amerasians and their mothers. Steve DeBonis. \$36.50.

McFarland & Company, Inc., PO Box 611, Jefferson NC 28640 (910) 246-4460 Fax (910) 246-5018

Sky Legends of Vietnam

Lynette Dyer Vuong, Illustrated by Vo-Dinh Mai HarperCollins, 1993.

Six folktales from Vietnam about the sun, moon, and other skybound phenomena.

Passage to Vietnam

Through the eyes of seventy photographers.

Created by Rick Smolan and Jennifer Erwit, designed by Thomas Walker. Published by Against All Odds Productions & Melcher Media.

Rick Smolan closes his introduction to this book of beautiful photos with: "Vietnam is a country in transition, a nation that is emerging from a long isolation and making up fast for lost time. As you turn the pages of this book, I hope you will find yourself on your own

passage of understanding. And, like the 70 photographers who spread across Vietnam for one week, I hope you will be changed by what you see."

The creator has to his credit the "Day in the Life" series of books as well as the multimedia "From Alice to Ocean."

Amnesty Interactive

Voyager, \$10.00, One Bridge Street, Irvington NY 10533. (800) 33SIXTY. Fax (914) 591-6481. E-mail: 3SIXTY@VOYAGERCO.COM

CD-ROM for Macintosh that's beautiful, and almost free. Produced for free for Amnesty International by a company called Ignition, this CD is distributed for cost by Voyager. Stories about people and ideas introduce users to the basics of human rights. Includes the Human Bill of Rights, an atlas of human rights conditions around the world, "what you can do" suggestions, and loads of other references for students and teachers. At the very least, it contains up-to-date information on the countries from which our newest refugee arrivals have come.

Conference

Creating an Inclusive Society: Challenging Personal and Institutional Barriers

June 1-4, 1995
National MultiCultural Institute
3000 Connecticut Avenue NW, Ste 438
Washington DC 20008
(202) 483-0700 Fax (202) 483-5233



#S9999 *Context: Southeast Asians & other newcomers in California.*
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(Sept-June).

***Grandmother's Path,
Grandfather's Way***
(Vang & Lewis, ©1984 r. 1990)

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Make payable to Lue Vang, PO Box 423, Rancho Cordova CA95741-0423.

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For disk version (Macintosh, Pagemaker 4.2), add \$10.00. Previous purchasers: send proof of purchase or original title page from book for set of masters.

Make payable to Folsom Cordova USD/SEACRC—

- #9412 *Vietnamese Literature: A Brief Survey*, Nguyen Dinh Hoa (San Diego State University, 1994). \$12.00. No carton discount.
- #9411 *Parent Involvement in School: A Handbook for Language Minority Parents & School Personnel (Vietnamese Glossary & Summary)*, Huynh Dinh Te, 1994. \$5.00. No carton discount.
- #9410 *Amerasians from Vietnam: A California Study*, Chung & Le, 1994. \$7.00. No carton discount.
- #9409 *Proceedings on the Conference on Champa*, 1994. \$7.00. No carton discount.
- #9308 *Selected Resources: People from Cambodia, Laos & Vietnam*. Lewis, ed. \$5.00. No carton discount.
- #9207 *Minority Cultures of Laos: Kammu, Lua', Lahu, Hmong, and Mien*. Lewis; Kam Raw, Vang, Elliott, Matisoff, Yang, Crystal, Saepharn. 1992. 402 pages \$15.00 (carton discount \$12.00, 16 per carton)
- #S8801 *Handbook for Teaching Hmong-Speaking Students* Bliatout, Downing, Lewis, Yang, 1988. \$4.50 (carton discount for lots of 58: \$3.50)
- #S8802 *Handbook for Teaching Khmer-Speaking Students* Ouk, Huffman, Lewis, 1988. \$5.50 (carton discount for lots of 40: \$4.50)
- #S8903 *Handbook for Teaching Lao-Speaking Students* Luangpraseut, Lewis 1989. \$5.50 (carton discount for lots of 42: \$4.50)
- #S8904 *Introduction to the Indochinese and their Cultures* Chhim, Luangpraseut, Te, 1989, 1994. \$9.00. Carton discount (26): \$7.00.
- #S8805 *English-Hmong Bilingual Dictionary of School Terminology* Cov Lus Mis Kuj Txhais ua Lus Hmoob Huynh D Te, translated by Lue Vang, 1988. \$2.00 (no carton price)
- #S9006 *Vietnamese Language Materials Sourcebook* Huynh Dinh Te, 1990. \$2.00 (no carton discount)

Add California tax if applicable. For orders under \$30.00 add \$2.00 per copy shipping and handling. For orders over \$30.00, add 10% shipping/handling. If you wish UPS for quantity orders, please request it.

Make payable to Refugee Educators' Network (94-2822746)—

- | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|--------|-------|---|---------|
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| #R002 | Lao Primer | \$4.00 | #R007 | Hmong dictionary, Xiong, (Hmoob Ntsuab) | \$30.00 |
| #R003 | Lao 1st Gr. Reader | \$5.00 | | | |
| #R004 | Lao 2nd Gr. Reader | \$5.50 | | | |
| #R005 | Lao 3rd Gr. Reader | \$6.50 | | | |

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