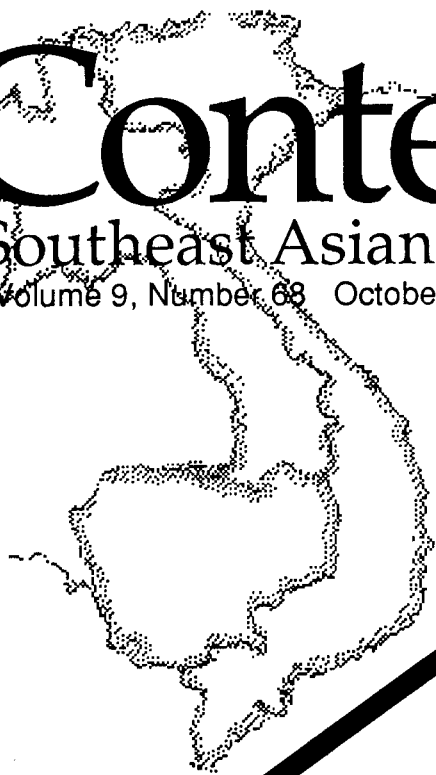


Context:

Southeast Asians in California

Volume 9, Number 68 October, 1988



(formerly "Refugee Update")

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

Special showing until November 9

Two Vietnamese Artists

Two traditional Vietnamese art forms are watercolor-on-silk painting and lacquered panels. A local artist, Nguyen Thi Thanh Tri, is skilled at both. Thanh Tri arrived with her family a little more than a year ago via the Orderly Departure Program. During the first months of English classes, she found a powerful way to communicate to those around her: paintings of women who, like the bamboo, bend and bend, but do not break. Thanh Tri admires all women, but she knows Vietnamese women best. Her silk paintings depict misty, flowing images, with details of Vietnamese life in the backgrounds, expressing loss and survival, the suffering and resilience of women, and the mother-child relationship.

Thanh Tri learned the techniques she uses at the national school of fine arts in Hue (her father had wanted her to study medicine, not art). She taught art in high school, and was little aware of the political realities of life in Vietnam. She says that she didn't paint very



Thanh Tri Nguyen.

much then, because there was nothing to draw upon, no hardships to drive expression of her ideas and emotions in art.

All that changed with the incarceration of her husband for re-education. He was imprisoned for eight years, and during that time Thanh Tri became aware of all the women and children around her who also had much to bear. She looked at the people of her country, and how they had to cope with forces they could not control. (Thanh

(continued page 5)

CULTURAL LITERACY

Given that the national language of the United States is English, just what are the critical elements of our "national culture"? As newcomers learn English vocabulary, what tidbits from the past and present should they learn? What is it that the "educated" know, the associations that are assumed to be common knowledge?

A man named E. D. Hirsch has written a book called Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know (Houghton Mifflin, 1987). He proposes a basic dictionary of cultural knowledge, admitting that the act of writing down certain items freezes them, reflecting the situation at the time of the compilation. He likens this to the way in which the first English language dictionaries froze certain kinds of usage, such as 'doubt' (with the 'b' to recall its Latin origins, even though the 'b' has never been pronounced in English) and 'am', 'are', and 'is', even though the oral usage would eventually have evolved to a single form, as in 'I be', 'you be', 'he be'. Regardless, Hirsch points out that language evolution still readily takes place, with new words entering the language and new usages becoming acceptable; in a similar way, a dictionary of cultural items would continue to reflect changes in the national culture.

It's an interesting idea. What items would constitute a basic list of necessary cultural knowledge for newcomers to the American scene? Each issue of this year's *Context*: will carry a portion of his list. All 5,000 items will not appear (the book is available, after all); rather we will skim off the idioms, proverbs, names of a few people, and assorted other items. Those of us who have grown up in the American language and culture may simply assume that "everybody knows" these. Not so!

1066	Allen, Woody
1492	All roads lead to Rome.
1776	All's fair in love and war.
1861-1865	All's well that ends well.
1914-1918	All that glitters is not gold.
1939-1945	all the news that's fit to print
1984 (title)	All the world's a stage.
Aaron, Hank	all things to all men
abominable snowman	All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
Absence makes the heart grow fonder.	Amazing Grace (song)
AC/DC	Amazon River
Achilles' heel	American Gothic (image)
Acropolis	American Revolution
Actions speak louder than words.	American Stock Exchange
A.D.	America the Beautiful (song)
Adam and Eve	An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
Adeste Fideles (song)	And thereby hangs a tale.
AEC (Atomic Energy Commission)	Anglican Church
Aesop's fables	Anthony, Susan B.
AFL-CIO	any port in a storm
Ahab, Captain	Apollo program
AIDS	Apostles, the Twelve
Aladdin's lamp	Appleseed, Johnny
Alamo	April showers bring May flowers.
Alaskan pipeline	Arab-Israeli conflict
albatross around one's neck	Arctic Circle
Alexander the Great	Aristotle
Alger, Horatio	Armageddon
Alice in Wonderland (title)	Armstrong, Louis
Ali, Muhammad	Arnold, Benedict
Allah	art for art's sake
All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.	Articles of Confederation
	Ask not what your country can do for you, but

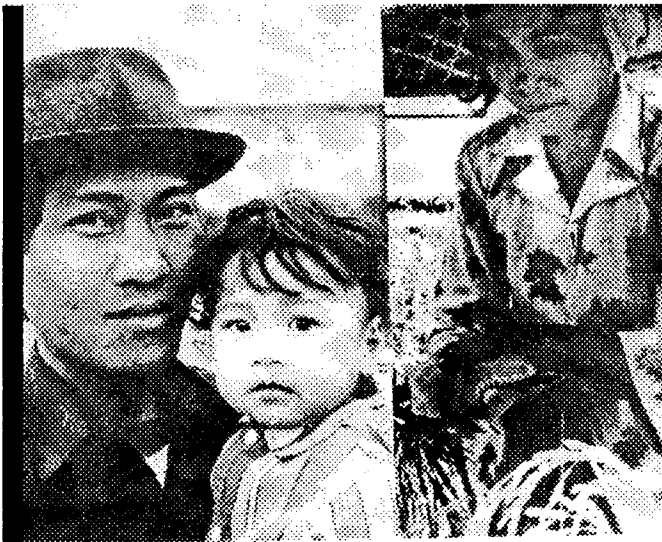
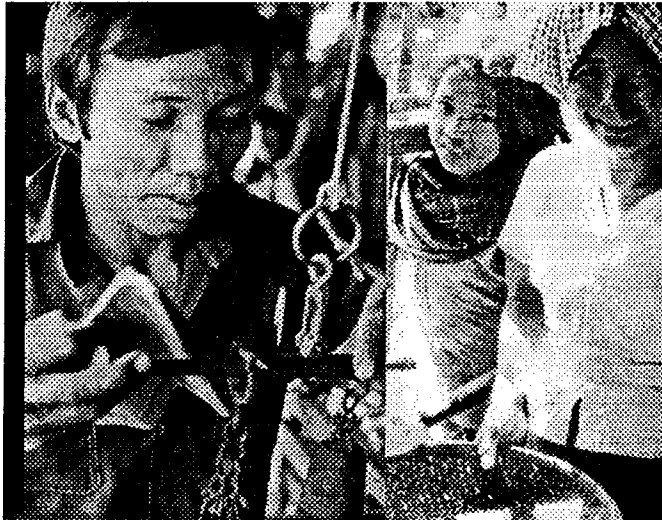
what you can do for your
 country.
 as the crow flies
 As you make your bed, so must
 you lie in it.
 A thing of beauty is a joy for-
 ever.
 Atlas
 AT&T
 Attila the Hun
 Audubon
 Augustus Caesar
 Auld Lang Syne (song)
 Auschwitz
 A word to the wise is sufficient.
 Aztecs
 Baa, Baa, Black Sheep (nursery
 rhyme)
 Babel, Tower of
 Back to the drawing board.
 Bad news travels fast.
 Bad penny always turns up., A
 bad workman always blames
 his tools., The
 Baez, Joan
 baker's dozen
 Bakke case
 bark is worse than his bite., His
 Barnum, P.T.
 Bastille, fall of the
 Battle of Britain
 Bay of Pigs
 beat around the bush
 Beatles
 Beauty and the Beast (title)
 Beauty is but skin deep.
 bee in your bonnet
 Beethoven, Ludwig von
 Beggars can't be choosers.
 Bell, Alexander Graham
 Berlin Wall
 best-laid plans of mice and men
 oft' go awry., The
 best of friends must part
 best things in life are free., The
 Bethlehem
 Better late than never.
 Better safe than sorry.
 between a rock and a hard place
 Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.
 Beware the Ides of March.
 Big Ben
 Big brother is watching you.
 Big Dipper, the
 bigger they come, the harder

they fall., The
 Bill of Rights
 Billy the Kid
 bird in the hand is worth two in
 the bush.,
 Birds of a feather flock together.
 bite the bullet
 bite the dust
 biting the hand that feeds you
 Blarney Stone
 blind leading the blind
 Blood is thicker than water.
 blood, sweat, and tears
 blow hot and cold
 Blue-tailed Fly (song)
 bolt from the blue
 Boone, Daniel
 Booth, John Wilkes
 born with a silver spoon in one's
 mouth
 Boston Tea Party
 Boy Scouts of America
 Boys will be boys.
 Boy Who Cried "Wolf", The
 (title)
 Braille
 brainwashing
 break the ice
 Brer Rabbit
 Brevity is the soul of wit.
 Bronx
 Bronze Age
 Brooklyn Bridge
 Brutus
 buck stops here., The
 Buddha
 Buffalo Bill
 building castles in the air
 bull in a china shop
 Bunyan, Paul
 burning the candle at both ends
 burning the midnight oil
 bury the hatchet
 business before pleasure
 Butter wouldn't melt in her
 mouth.
 buying a pig in a poke
 Caesar, Julius
 Cain and Abel
 calling a spade a spade
 calls the tune
 Camptown Races (song)
 can't fit a round peg in a square
 hole
 can't have your cake and eat it
 too

can't hold a candle to
 can't make a silk purse from a
 sow's ear
 can't see the forest for the trees
 Capone, Al
 carry a torch for
 carrying coals to Newcastle
 cast pearls before swine
 Central America
 Central Intelligence Agency
 (CIA)
 C'est la vie.
 checks and balances
 chickens come home to roost
 chip on one's shoulder
 civil rights movement
 clean bill of health
 Cleanliness is next to godliness.
 clean slate
 cold hands, warm heart
 cold shoulder, the
 cold war
 come full circle
 conflict of interest
 cool your heels
 critical mass
 crocodile tears
 Cross that bridge when you
 come to it.
 cross to bear
 Custer's last stand
 cut off your nose to spite your
 face

BACK ISSUES

Interested in back issues of the
Refugee Update/Context? We
 have assembled 26 packages; #1
 has 39 of the 67 issues from 1980
 to June 1988; #3 has one or two
 fewer, and so on; #26 has 25
 issues. Prices vary from a high
 of \$15.00 to a low of \$8.00.
 Interested persons should call
 Lue Vang at 916-635-6815 to
 reserve a package and find out
 the amount. First come, first
 serve! Buying back issues will
 support the purchase of a few
 more items for the Southeast
 Asia Community Resource
 Center.



**VILLAGE TO VALLEY:
S.E. ASIAN REFUGEE CULTURES IN TRANSITION**

A Lecture Series Presented by The Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, in conjunction with Lodi Unified School District, Multilingual/Multicultural Office.

Monday, November 7, 1988
Clairmont School Library, Lodi, 3:30-5:00 P.M.

Duc Nguyen
Emergent Vietnamese-American Culture

Monday, November 14, 1988
Clairmont School Library, Lodi, 3:30-5:00 P.M.

Kao Ta Saepharn
*Tribal Village to U.C. Campus:
A Personal Reflection*

**UNITY AND DIVERSITY:
EXPLORING SOUTHEAST ASIAN CULTURE**

A Lecture Series Presented by The Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, in conjunction with Bilingual Education & Special Projects, Stockton Unified School District

Monday, November 7, 1988, 3:30-5:00 P.M.
Stagg High School, Rooms G7 and G9

Kao Ta Saepharn
From Mien Village to Berkeley Campus

Lecture Series Comes to Sacramento

The Center for Pacific Asian Studies, CSUS Visiting Scholars Program and the Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies (CSSEAS), U.C. Berkeley are sponsoring a Fall Lecture Series on **ASIAN IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**. The lectures will be given on four successive Wednesday evenings from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in Room Anthropology 108 on the CSUS campus. All the lectures will be illustrated with slides.

October 26

Eric Crystal: *Mien Refugees—Transition and Tradition of a Highland Minority People.*

Anthropologist Eric Crystal conducts research in village southeast Asia (Indonesia) and with Khmer and highland Laotian refugees in California.

November 2

Wendy Walker: *Hmong Educational Challenge*

Wendy Walker is fluent in Thai and has carried out research in Thai government schools and in refugee communities in Thailand and the United States.

from page 1

Tri's lacquer of a woman's conical hat, blown off by the wind, just beyond her reach, portrays this idea.)

Some of Thanh Tri's works will be on display at the State Capitol Building, 6th floor cafeteria, until November 9. The exhibition was arranged by Mr. Chan Lam of the Southeast Asia Community Resource Center, courtesy of Assemblyman Phil Isenberg.

Also in the exhibition are works of Pham Bach Phi from San Jose. Bach Phi and his works provide interesting contrasts to Thanh Tri's. Bach Phi arrived thirteen years ago, trained in Vietnam as an architect but employed in the Navy. His study in the United States led him to develop a new tech-

nique using epoxy resin, which he calls "Thuy Thach", 'water clear stone', or in English 'resin lacquer'.

Bach Phi's subjects are traditional, his technique modern. Thanh Tri's methods are traditional, her subjects contemporary. Come see the exhibit.

Nguyen Thi Thanh Tri
3447 Jupiter Drive
Sacramento, CA
95827

Pham Bach Phi
Phi Design Art Studio
1199 Blazingwood Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94089
(408) 746-2861



Pham Bach Phi (The Scholar Returns to the Village After Passing the Examination)

November 9

Peter Rainer: *Refugee Education Emergency—Meeting Basic Needs on the Thai-Cambodian Border*

Peter Rainer flew from his native Australia to Thailand in 1979 to assist in meeting the needs of 300,000 Khmer refugees escaping from Cambodia to Thai Refugee Centers. He was instrumental in building the first schools at Khao-I-Dang refugee camp in 1979-80.

November 16, 1988

Jane Singh: *People of South Asia in California*

Jane Singh is South Asia Outreach Coordinator at the CSSEAS at UC Berkeley. She has organized national exhibits and lecture series depicting the history of South Asian-Americans.

For information, call 278-6452.

Native Language Periodicals

Often it is difficult to find reading material for students who have learned to read their own languages, particularly for Lao, Hmong, Mien, and Cambodian. The following periodicals (magazines and newspapers) are politically neutral.

The Quilting Bee

Refugee Women in Development (RefWID)
Twenty F Street, N.W., 4th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 628-9600
Vietnamese, Spanish, Cambodian, Hmong, Amharic, Lao, Farsi

Lao Samphanh Newspaper

1413 Meriday Lane,
Santa Ana, CA 92706
(714) 541-4533
Subscription: \$20 per year (12 issues)
Covers current events, community and cultural events, education.

Hai V Hmoob

PO Box 11314
Minneapolis, MN 55411
\$3.00 each, published twice per year.
Hmong
Current events, informational items, achievements of Hmong nationwide, culture, fiction serial, explanation of "American ways".

5th ANNUAL SOUTHEAST ASIA EDUCATION FAIRE 1989

Date: February 25, 1989
Place: Delta College, Stockton CA
Time: 8:00-4:30
Cost: \$30.00 (includes lunch)

Partial list of topic-questions:

Backgrounds, cultures, and languages:

What steps can educators take to help children from rural Cambodian families finish high school successfully?

What should educators know about child-rearing in Cambodian and Lao families, especially those from the villages?

Who are the new Amerasian students, where have they resettled, what are the problems and suggestions for success?

Adjustment conflicts and strategies

What factors influence Southeast Asian students'

performance in school?

How do Southeast Asians in Minneapolis differ in their aspirations?

What role conflicts face Vietnamese girls in adjusting to life in the U.S.?

Technical workshops for schools

What are the changes in coordinated compliance reviews for services to limited English students?

How did Stockton USD organize and run classes for primary language literacy?

What is in the new History and Social Sciences framework?

Local ideas

How can teachers use "cooperative learning" in classes with limited English speakers?

How can schools teach the content areas to Southeast Asian LEP students?

The new site—Delta College—is beautiful and well designed for our conference. We worry that those of you who have faithfully attended the past years in Rancho Cordova will be discouraged by the drive....don't be! It's well worth the time.

You can order tickets now. Make PO payable to Refugee Educators' Network, mail to 2460 Cordova Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Call 635-6815 for information.

New at the Center

Videos:

- Southeast Asia: The Land, The People and the Culture* (SEAGenetics Program, UC Irvine, 25 minutes)
Buddha and Blue Collar (Kati Johnson and Taggart Siegel, 57 minutes)
When Night Comes (Asia Resource Center, 24 minutes)

Print Media:

- #1455 Huffman, F.E. *Modern Spoken Cambodian*
 #1456 Huffman, F.E. & Im Proum. *English for Speakers of Khmer*
 #1457 Headley, R. *Cambodian-English Dictionary Vol. 1*
 #1458 Headley, R. *Cambodian-English Dictionary Vol. 2*
 #1459 Luong Quynh Nhi (Jackie Sumner). *Background of the Ethnic Chinese from North Vietnam* (MA thesis CSUS)
 #1461 *Pol Pot: Could He Come Back?* *Asiaweek* 14/31 July 29, 88.
 #1462 *Trail of Shame (Ivory Poaching)*. *Asiaweek* 14/32 August 5, 88
 #1466 *Gorbachev & Asia*. *Asiaweek* 14/24, June 10, 88.
 #1473 Kerr, A. *Lao-English Dictionary vol 1*.
 #1474 Kerr A. *Lao-English Dictionary vol 2*.
 #1475 Simon, J. *How Do Immigrants Affect Us Economically?* (1985)
 #1482 Jorgensen-Esmaili, K. *New Faces of Liberty: A Curriculum for Teaching About Today's Refugees and Immigrants* (Zellerbach, UC Berkeley, 1988).
 #1491-92 *Haiv Hmoob* 4/1 May 88.
 Jefferson Parker, T. *Little Saigon* (St. Martin's Press, NY, 1988). Fiction set in Westminster.

Ordered (will arrive soon):

- Ablin, D. & M. Hood. *The Cambodian Agony* (Armonk, 1987).
 Archaimbault, C. *La Fete du T'at (Trois Essais sur les Rites Laotiens)*. (np, about 1960).
 Carney, T. *Kampuchea: Balance of Survival* (Bangkok 1983).
 deBerval, R. *Kingdom of Laos: The Land of the Million Elephants and the White Parasol*. (Saigon, 1959).
 Groslier, B. & J. Arthaud. *Angkor: Art and Civilization* (NY 1967).
 Halpern, J. *Aspects of Village Life and Culture Change in Laos* (NY 1958).
 Foreign Service Institute, Yates W & Sayasithsena. *Lao Basic Course vol 1*. (1970)
 FSI, Jorden et al. *Vietnamese Basic Course*. (1967)

National Geographic (Oct 88) has a feature on the Hmong in the US.

Community
 Resource
 Center

New location:

2460 Cordova Lane,

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, 916-635-6815

New hours: Open daily 1:15 to 6:00 pm

Also, most mornings (call first).

Context:

Folsom CordovaUSD
Transitional English Programs Office
2460 Cordova Lane
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 635-6815

Subscription is 20 stamps per year. The district's EIA funds subsidize the printing of this newsletter. Contributions—extra stamps or material—are eagerly accepted.