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UNDER THE WHITE PARASOL CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN LAOS

THE WILLIAM W. SAGE COLLECTION OF LAOTIAN ETHNOGRAPHICA

Opening Reception
Monday, March 30, 1992
4:30 - 7:00 PM

Laos for centuries has been known as the *Kingdom of a Million Elephants Under a White Parasol*. This exhibit borrows from that imagery to present Laos as a country of diverse cultural groups drawn together as a nation *Under the White Parasol*.

Clothing, household items, and religious artifacts from twelve ethnic groups are on display.

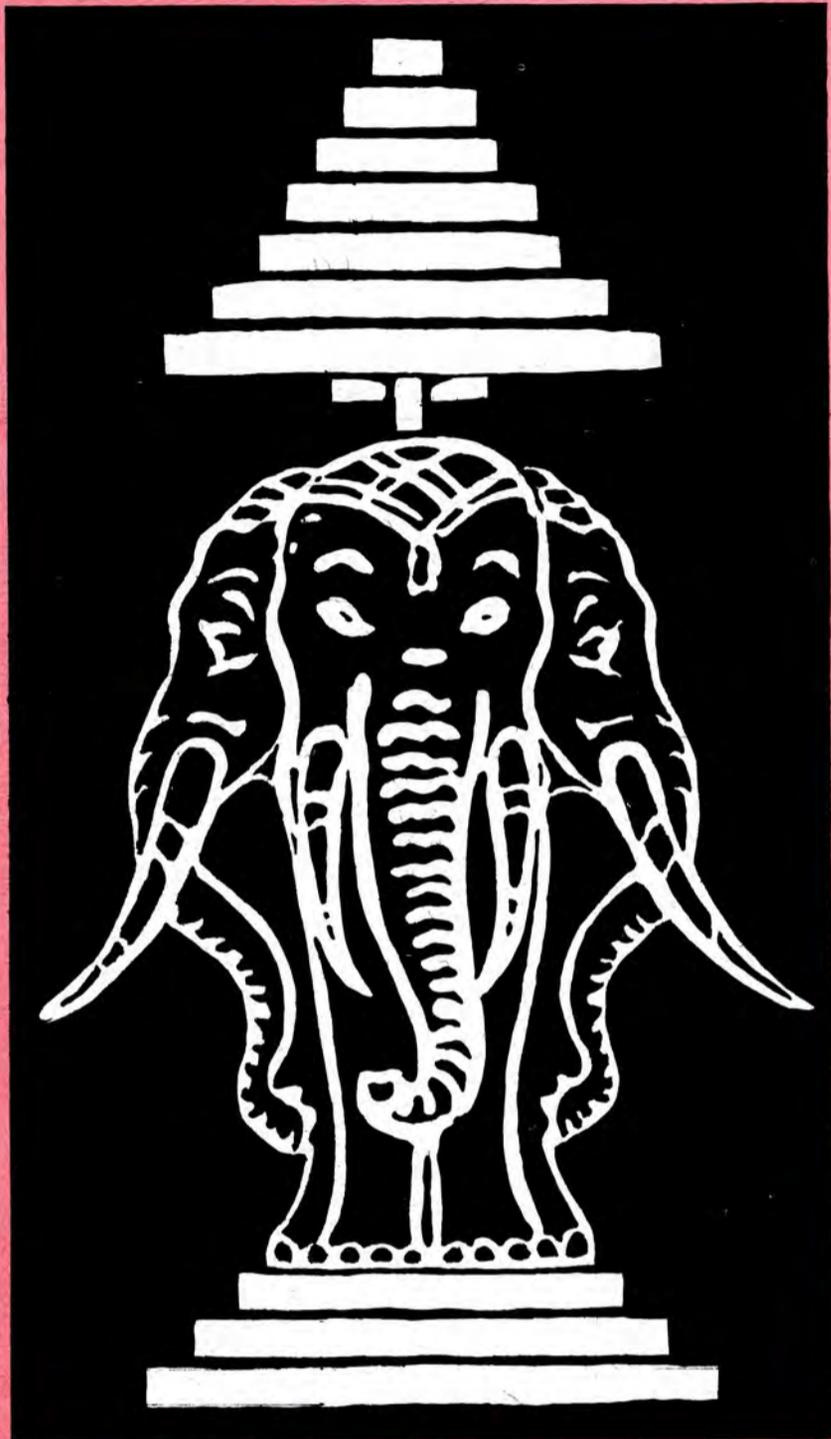
Together with photographs of Laotian people and places, the objects illustrate ways that groups express differences through:

- language
- craft production
- clothing and fabrics

and ways they interact through:

- multilingualism
- trade relations
- intermarriage and adoption
- shared ceremonies

The exhibit continues through January 29, 1993. Museum hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free.



Lecture Series • 7:00 PM • Monday Evenings in April • Free Admission
Kerr Cultural Center • 6110 N. Scottsdale Road • Scottsdale

**April 6 Royal and Rural Performances:
Music Dance and Ritual in Laos**
Dr. Amy Catlin, Ethnomusicologist
University of California-Los Angeles

What roles do music and dance play in Laotian society? Dr. Catlin discusses temple carvings and cultural performances. A video illustrates a *baci* ritual, dance and music by *Lao Natasin* (the Laotian National School of the Arts), Hmong villagers and *lamluang* (a popular musical theater). Kesara Vilai, Laotian-American classical dancer, will perform.

**April 13 Clothing, Coins, and Jewelry in
Courtship and Marriage: Views from
Lao Literature**
Dr. Carol Compton, Anthropologist
Wisconsin Center for Educational
Research, University of Wisconsin

How is jewelry worn and used in Lao courtship? Dr. Compton uses translations from Lao literature to discuss courtship traditions. She illustrates her lecture with slides from the William W. Sage Collection of Laotian Ethnographica.

**April 20 Heritage of a Nation: The
Textiles of Laos**
Dr. Charles Keyes, Anthropologist
University of Washington

How do textiles reflect the multi-ethnic character of modern Laos? Dr. Keyes, sharing insights from his recent trips to Southeast Asia, discusses the multi-ethnic character of Laos and how costume has become a contested subject in the debate of ethnic versus national identity.

**April 27 FILM—Rebirth of a Culture: A
Buddhist Temple in the Midwest**
Dr. Juliane Schober, Anthropologist
Department of Religious Studies
Arizona State University

What does it mean to be Laotian and Buddhist in the United States? Dr. Schober introduces this video of the first formal consecration of a Lao temple in the United States, ordination of monks, and the consecration of a Buddha image. The film notes the continuity and change in the process of religious adaptation by Laotians in their American environment.



Arizona Humanities Council



Program for Southeast
Asian Studies



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EXHIBIT AND LECTURE SERIES

Laos, a Southeast Asian country with at least sixty ethnic groups in an area smaller than the state of Oregon, offers an important lesson in living with cultural diversity. "We all owed each other something," recalls Tormsorn Nompraseurt, one of the first refugees from Laos to arrive in the United States in 1975. His statement refers to cooperation that traditionally existed between ethnic groups in Laos. This sharing between different peoples will be explored in this exhibit and lecture series.

William W. Sage created a public resource at the Arizona State University Museum of Anthropology by donating Laotian ethnographica collected while he worked on educational development projects in Laos from 1969 to 1975. Since 1975, over 200,000 Laotian refugees have immigrated to the United States. Because few brought possessions from their homeland, Sage hopes the collection will help to connect American-born Laotians with their heritage while sharing their cultural richness with others.

For further information, contact the Arizona State University Department of Anthropology,
Tempe, Arizona 85287-2402, phone (602) 965-6213.

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