

LAO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
Vientiane

Unofficial, abridged translation of the 1970  
PROGRAM OF THE THAT LUANG FAIR  
from Lao Presse of November 6, 1970

PROGRAM OF THE FESTIVALS OF WAT SIMUONG, THE CEREMONY OF THE GREAT OATH-TAKING,  
THAT LUANG, WAT INPENG AND WAT ONGTU, NOVEMBER 11, 12, 13 AND 14, 1970

Wednesday, November 11

(13th day of the waxing moon of the 12th month)

Festival of Wat Simuong

[Wat Simuong is at the downriver junction of Setthathirat and Samsenthai]

1900 Assembly at the Prefecture [near LAA] to form the procession of the Phrasat  
Pheung to go to Wat Simuong. Departure at 1930.

2000 Religious procession at Wat Simuong. Festivities.

Thursday, November 12

(14th day of the waxing moon of the 12th month)

Great Oath-taking at Wat Ongtu

[the middle one of the three wats on downtown Setthathirat]

0800 Arrival of the monks at Wat Ongtu.

0830 Procession departs from Prefecture for Wat Ongtu.

0900 Members of the Government arrive at Wat Ongtu.

0910 Royal Procession arrives at Wat Ongtu. Military honors. National anthem.  
- Ceremony of the taking of the oath. Note: During the ceremony of oath-  
taking, entry into the sanctuary is strictly prohibited to all persons  
not invited.

Procession to That Luang

1440 Assembly at the Prefecture to form the procession to That Luang. Departure  
by car at 1500.

1540 Royal Procession leaves for official stand (by car).

1555 Royal Procession regroups and proceeds to the Phra That Luang on foot.

1610 Royal Procession arrives at Phra That Luang. Military honors at the entry  
gate. Religious ceremony at Phra That Luang.

1930 Festivities at Phra That Luang.

Friday, November 13

(15th day of the waxing moon of the 12th month)

Ceremonies and Festivities at That Luang

0620 Assembly at the official stand to form the procession to Phra That Luang  
for the ceremony of Tak Bath (offerings to the monks).

0640 Royal Procession leaves for the official stand. At 0700, Royal Procession  
regroups and proceeds on foot to the Phra That Luang. Ceremony of Tak Bath.

Friday, November 13, continued

- 0910 Arrival at the official stand at That Luang of representatives of the diplomatic and consular corps, the UN Mission and the ICC, guests of honor, and Members of the Government.
- 0920 Royal Procession leaves by automobile for the official stand at That Luang. Military honors, salute to the Colors, review of the troops, awards of decorations.  
- Fanfare by the band of the 3rd Brigade of the Royal British Navy.
- 1400 Arrival at the official stand at That Luang of the same categories as at 0910.
- 1420 Royal Procession leaves by car for the official stand.
- 1430 Traditional tikhi games /a kind of field hockey, once played on horseback and considered an ancestor of polo/.
- 1500 Horse races.
- 1600 Visits to the displays by His Majesty the King.
- 1930 Religious procession at Phra That Luang, presided over by the Prefect of the City. Illumination of the That Luang. Fireworks, festivities.

Saturday, November 14

(1st day of the waning moon of the 12th month)

Festival of Wat Inpeng and Wat Ongtu

- 2000 Religious procession from Wat Ongtu to Wat Inpeng and back. Fireworks, festivities.

Note: For more on these festivals, see the article beginning on page 287 of Kingdom of Laos.