

Acknowledgements

I had a chance to enjoyably celebrate Songkran, a traditional New Year festival, in Luang Prabang, in my fieldwork, during 12-19 April 2001. As an anthropologist, it is a profound pleasure to have the opportunity to conduct research during fieldwork. My assignment was to explore the essence of the Lao New Year. I have discovered the Lao worldview and personality by using some anthropological methods including participant-observation and interviews in particular. The library research was also useful for my paper. The study of Lao history and folklore helped to give me a better understanding of Lao culture and helped to construct the whole picture of its past and present.

My heartfelt thanks to my informants, Luang Ta Kaew Punya, Si pang Sangtachidra, Po Sayphet Khamphasit and Ms. Prathana Boupha, who kindly answered all my questions with great patience.

Also I am grateful to my co-workers, Pichet and Damrongphon. It was indeed a great experience to work with them as a team and to share the blessing moments of Songkran in Lao together.

Finally, I am thankful to my professor Sumitr Pitipat for his support and advice in the fieldwork as well as on this paper due on his birthday, May 19th 2001. Please allow me to wish you a very Happy Birthday, prof. Sumitr!

Thararat Chareonsonthichai