SECOND EDITION

Laos

OFFICIAL STANDARD NAMES

approved by the

UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Prepared by the
Defense Mapping Agency Topographic Center
Washington, D.C. 20315, May 1973
LAOS

- International boundary
- Province boundary
⊙ National capital
○ Province capital

50 75 100 Miles

50 75 100 Kilometers
This gazetteer contains about 21,000 entries for places and features in Laos.

The names in this gazetteer supersede those in all previous Board lists for the areas concerned.

The entries include standard names approved by the Board on Geographic Names and unapproved variant names, the latter cross-referenced to the standard names. Users of the gazetteer should always refer to main entries for approved names. Cross-references usually have not been provided for variant names which differ from approved names only in the spelling of the following generic terms, some of which may appear at the beginning of a name:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variant spelling</th>
<th>Standardized spelling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>houei, houey, huai, huoi</td>
<td>houay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phu, peu, pu, p’u, pou</td>
<td>phou</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The basic name coverage corresponds to that of maps at the scale of 1:250,000. Entries include the names of first- and second-order administrative divisions, populated places of all sizes, various other cultural entities, and a variety of physical features.

Most of the entities can be identified and located by the approved name or a recognizable variant of the approved name on one or more of the following sources:

1. Joint Operations Graphic (Ground), Series 1501, Army Map Service/U.S. Army Topographic Command, 1967-1969; scale 1:250,000

Evaluation

The quality of the names in this gazetteer varies widely since fewer than fifty percent of the names were available in Laotian script on official source materials, and since many names derive from languages other than Laotian. Normalization of the spellings of particular words has been minimal. Those names which were available in Laotian script were romanized in accordance with the BGN/PCGN 1966 Transliteration System for Laotian [See pp. v through ix] (e.g., Ban Haithôngxóm; Xé Dôn). The remainder, except for a limited number of French and English conventional forms (e.g., Col de Lin Va; Plain of Jars) and names of a few features on or near a border for which Laotian forms were not available (e.g., Ban Woen Khwan; Làng Ap Py), appear in a traditional spelling (e.g., Ban Som Phone; Om Slir).

Interpretation of entries

It has been necessary to express in code numbers and letters some of the information in the gazetteer in order to accommodate it to the machine method of tabulation.

Name.—Approved standard names and unapproved variant names appear in the first column. The variant names are always cross-referenced to the standard names by use of the word “see.” Names containing generic elements preceding the specific term (except names of populated places) are alphabetized by the specific part; thus Nam Heu, the name of a stream, is listed as Heu, Nam. Where part of a name is underlined, the use of the part not underlined is optional. If two or more names are approved for a feature, each is identified in parentheses and any or all may be used. Local names of international features are identified by major-political-entity labels. Where only one country is identified parenthetically, no name is available for the feature in the other country or countries.

When written in both capital and lowercase letters, each separate word and each name element which follows a hyphen should begin with a capital letter, except French and English prepositions and French articles. The apostrophe should be followed by a lowercase letter. In addition to d which may
appear in Vietnamese words, the following diacritical marks may appear on various vowel letters in names of the following types: (The letter v represents a vowel letter.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Romanized Khmer</th>
<th>Romanized Laotian</th>
<th>Romanized Thai</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>Vietnamese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>acute (v), circumflex (v), breve (v)</td>
<td>acute (v), circumflex (v), grave (v)</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>acute (v), circumflex (v), grave (v), dieresis (v)</td>
<td>(v v v v v v v v v v v v v v v)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Designation.—The second column contains designations or abbreviations of designations of the entities to which the names apply, as listed below. Because practically all geographic terms have varied meanings, the senses in which many of the designations are applied in this gazetteer are stated in the list to reduce ambiguity. It should be noted also that the differentiations of terms that can be made in any gazetteer will vary with the quality of the maps of the area and with the nature of the entities that are named. In Laos some of the features do not fit precisely into the categories used to designate them and others could be designated in two or more ways.

| ADMD | CAVE | CMPM | CULT | DAM | FRST | GLD | HLL | HLLS | ISL | LCTY | LK | LKI | MNQR | MRSH | MT | MTS | PASS | PCLI | PK | PLAT | PLN | PND | PNDI | PPL | PPLQ | PPLW | RDGE | RGN | RH | ROAD | RPD | RSV | RUIN | SINK |
|------|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|------|------|----|-----|------|------|----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| first-order administrative division (khoueng); second-order administrative division (muang) | cave (underground cavity, usually in soluble rock) | military camp | cultivated area (includes rice fields) | dam (barrier constructed across a stream to impound water) | forest | glade (natural opening in a forest or woods) | hill (landform with moderate relief, moderate to low elevation, and small summit area) | hills | island | locality (minor area or place of unspecified or mixed character and indefinite boundaries) | lake | intermittent lake (seasonal water body which becomes a lake during periods of rain but which dries up or becomes a marsh or waterhole during the dry season) | quarry | marsh (wetland characterized by grasses or bush vegetation and few or no trees) | mountain (landform with conspicuous relief, moderate to high elevation, and small summit area) | mountains; mountain range | pass (way over or between mountains or other high land) | independent political entity (kingdom) | peak (separately named summit on a more extensive elevation) | plateau (extensive elevated area of flat to rolling surface; may exhibit considerable local relief due to dissection or the presence of hills or mountains rising above the general surface level) | plane (landform of low relief, slope, and elevation) | pond (small standing water body) | intermittent pond | populated place (city, town, village, settlement) | abandoned village | destroyed village | ridge (elongated, relatively narrow relief feature with a more or less continuous crest) | region (large area recognized as an entity by reason of the unity of its history, people, landscape, or other condition or a combination of conditions) | resthouse (structure for the rest and shelter of travelers) | road | rapids | reservoir (large artificially impounded body of water) | ruins (structure in a state of ruin, but not necessarily of great antiquity or archeological interest) | sinkhole (hole, cavern, or funnel-shaped cavity made in the earth by the action of water on the soil, rock, or underlying strata) |
SLP  slope (gradient on the side or end of a mountain or other relief feature, less steep than a cliff)
SPUR spur (short sloping ridge extending laterally from a mountain or other elevation)
STM stream (river or other running fresh water body, perennial in all or a part of its course)
STMI intermittent stream (stream, no part of which is indicated as perennial)
STMX section of stream (separately named part of a stream, not delimited by significant confluences)
SWMP swamp (wetland, generally with trees)
TMPL temple
TNL natural tunnel
WTLD wetland (marsh, swamp, or other poorly drained area with a mixture of tree and grass vegetation or with unspecified vegetation)

The general number (46700) is used for international features and for features in two or more first-order administrative divisions.

Glossary of generic terms
The following terms appear in the generic parts of standard names in the gazetteer. The English term or terms which correspond to each local term were applied after objective study of cartographic and other source materials, and do not necessarily reflect dictionary or other normalized usages. The parenthetical abbreviations (Ch), (Fr), (Kh), (L), (Th), (UKh), (V), and (?) designate respectively, Chinese, French, Khmer, Laotian, Thai, Upland Mon-Khmer (which comprises a number of related languages and dialects), Vietnamese, and uncertain. Those not so designated are Laotian.

bung .............. pond, marsh
chaine (Fr) ........ mountain range
chang (Ch) ...... mountain
ching (Ch ?) ...... stream
chong (Th) ...... pass
co (UKh) ......... mountains(s), spur
col (Fr) .......... pass
dak (UKh) ........ stream
dan (UKh) ...... hill
déo (V) .......... pass
doi (Th) .......... hill, mountain
doi phu (Th) ...... mountain
don ............... island
dông ............. forest
dông (UKh & L) .... hill, mountain
doy ............... hill, mountain
hat ................ rapids
ho, hō (Ch ?) ...... stream
hong (UKh ?) .... stream, intermittent stream
hou ............... cave
houay ............. stream, intermittent stream, stream section
huai (Th) ........ stream
kaeng (Th) ...... rapids

Latitude and longitude.—The third and fourth columns list geographic coordinates, with longitude based on Greenwich. Coordinates were generally read to the nearest minute and are for finding purposes only. For precise location, large-scale maps should be used.

Coordinates were read at the map symbol for populated places and other entities occupying limited sites, at the mouths or lower ends of streams, at the summits of mountains and hills, and near the centers or midpoints of most other features.

Area number.—The number in the fifth column indicates the first-order administrative division (khouëng) in which the place or feature is located, as listed below:

46700 Laos (general)
46701 Houakhong
46702 Phongsali
46703 Louangprabang
46704 Houaphan
46705 Xaignabouri
46706 Vientiane
46707 Xiangkhoang
46708 Khammouan
46709 Savannakhet
46710 Saravan
46711 Attapu
46712 Champasak
46713 Borikhan
46714 Vapikhamthong
46715 Xêdôn
46716 Sithandon
kêng .................. rapids
khao .................. mountain
kho (Ch ?) .......... stream
khong (UKh ?) ...... mountain, spur, hill
khoueng .............. first-order administrative division
kiou .................. pass
ko (UKh) ............. mountain, spur, mountain range
kông (UKh) .......... mountain
kouan (UKh) ......... hill, mountain
lêng (Ch ?) .......... mountain
liang (Ch) .......... mountain
massif (Fr) ........... mountain(s), mountain range
mênam ............... stream
mộc, mộc (UKh) .... mountain, hill
muang ................ second-order administrative division
na ................... cultivated area
nam .................. stream, intermittent stream, stream
section
ngọc, ngok (UKh) .... peak, mountain
nong .................. lake, pond, intermittent lake, intermittent
pond, marsh
núi (V) ............... mountain
ơ (Kh) ................ stream
pha ................... hill(s), mountain, peak, ridge
phnom (Kh) .......... mountain
phou ................... hill(s), mountain, peak, ridge, spur,
slope, mountain range
phu (Th) .............. hill, mountain
plateau (Fr) .......... plateau
sala .................. resthouse
san .................... mountain, peak
sayphou .............. ridge, mountain range
sông (V) ............. stream
suối (V) ............. stream
tam (UKh) .......... stream
tham .................. cave, natural tunnel
thiu khao (Th) ...... mountain range
thông ............... plain, wetland
tôm, tôm (UKh) .... stream, intermittent stream
tonlé (Kh) .......... stream
vang .................. pond
vat ................... temple
xé ..................... stream, intermittent stream

Reporting of errors
It is requested that all who use this gazetteer aid in its cor­rection for future printings by reporting errors to the Board on
Geographic Names, Department of the Interior, Washington,
D.C. 20240. A statement of the source of the correct information
will be helpful.

Geographic names or their spellings do not necessarily reflect
recognition of the political status of an area by the United States
Government.
The BGN/PCGN 1966 System for the transliteration of Laotian is that adopted by the Commission Nationale de Toponymie (CNT), but with the Vowel Table filled out and the Notes added. These additions make it possible for those who have little or no knowledge of Laotian to apply the system.

### A. Consonants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laotian Script</th>
<th>Latin Script&lt;br&gt;Initial</th>
<th>Latin Script&lt;br&gt;Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ꜡</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Ꜣ</td>
<td>kh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. ꜣ</td>
<td>kh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ꜥ</td>
<td>ng</td>
<td>ng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. ꜥ</td>
<td>ch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Ꜧ</td>
<td>s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. ꜧ</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Ꜩ</td>
<td>gn</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. ꜩ</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Ꜫ</td>
<td>t</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. ꜫ</td>
<td>th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Ꜭ</td>
<td>th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. ꜭ</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Ꜯ</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>p</td>
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<td>15. ꜯ</td>
<td>p</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. ꜰ</td>
<td>ph</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. ꜱ</td>
<td>f</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Ꜳ</td>
<td>ph</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. ꜳ</td>
<td>f</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Ꜵ</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. ꜵ</td>
<td>y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### B. Vowels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laotian Script</th>
<th>Latin Script</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
<td>Final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. s</td>
<td>r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. o</td>
<td>l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. v</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. h</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Note 6.

#### Short Final | Short Medial | Long Final | Long Medial | Latin Script
1. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | x\(\ddot{y}\) | x\(\ddot{y}\y\) | a
2. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | \(\ddot{x}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | i
3. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | \(\ddot{x}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | u
4. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | x | x\(\ddot{y}\) | ou
5. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | x | x\(\ddot{y}\) | é
6. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | x | x\(\ddot{y}\) | è
7. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | x | x\(\ddot{y}\) | o
8. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | x | x\(\ddot{y}\) | oua
9. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | x | x\(\ddot{y}\) | ia
10. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | x | x\(\ddot{y}\) | ua
11. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | x | x\(\ddot{y}\) | eu
12. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | x | x\(\ddot{y}\) | ai
13. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | x | x\(\ddot{y}\) | ao
14. x\(\ddot{y}\) | \(\ddot{x}\y\) | x | x\(\ddot{y}\) | am
C. Notes

1. In the Vowel-Table, x stands for any consonant, and y stands for any permitted syllable-final consonant (ŋ k, ŋ ng, ơ y, ơ t, ŏ n, ŏ p, ŏ m, ŏ o).

2. ŏ y, in non-initial position, is often found written in a secondary form, ŏ.

3. ŏ r, occurs in syllable-final position only in a few foreign words. It is then written ŏ, and although unpronounced, is transcribed ŏ, thus: ơû.".

4. ŏ is transcribed with the letter v only in syllable-initial position, thus: ơõ vat, ơûû thanva, ơûû ravang. When medial ŏ is followed by a syllable-final consonant, it is transcribed oua, thus: ơûõ bouak, ơûû douay. When medial ŏ is followed in the same syllable by a vowel, it is transcribed o, thus: ơûõ khoa, ơûû khoam, ơûû soay, ơûû khoêng. When ŏ is in syllable-final position, it is transcribed o, thus: ơûõ nao, ơûõ këo, ơûõ diao. The sequences ŏû and ŏû, however, are transcribed iou.

5. ŏ h, before ŏgn, ŏn, ŏm, ŏr, ŏl, and ŏv, is not transcribed, thus: ơûõõnõgû Louangphrabang, ơûõgnã. ơûn, ơûm, and ơûl are often written as ligatures, thus: ơûn, ơûm, ơûl respectively.

6. ŏ, the "vowel-bearer", is used in initial position for syllables beginning with a vowel. When at the beginning of a word, it is not transcribed, thus: ơû ik. When syllable-initial, but
within a word, it is transcribed by means of a hyphen, thus: บันเทิง Ban Kèng-I.

7. Clusters other than those already mentioned are transcribed in full, even though the second element is silent, thus: ปัณฑุลกิจ  Ban Vatphrakai, ติวสุข khlitsatian.

8. The only consonants which can end a syllable have been listed in Note 1. When a consonant other than these occurs in syllable-final position, it is transcribed as though preceded by its permitted homorganic syllable-final and followed by the vowel ə a, thus: จัตุว chatava (as though written จัตุว ), วิทกกน vesitthagnasat (as though written วิทกกน ).

The permitted homorganic final corresponding to ʔ kh
and ʔ kh is ʔ k.

The permitted homorganic final corresponding to ʔ ch,
ʔ s, ʔ x, ʔ t, ʔ th, and ʔ th is ʔ t.

The permitted homorganic final corresponding to ʔ r
and ʔ l is ʔ n.

The permitted homorganic final corresponding to ʔ p,
ʔ ph, and ʔ f is ʔ p.

Graphic syllable-final ʔ, however, is transcribed tsa (not txa), thus: ที่เที่ยว kharatsakan.

9. The tone-marks are not indicated in transcription, thus: ข, ฎ, ฏ, ฑ, ฏ, and ฏ are all transcribed simply _na.
10. The specific element in a geographic name is written, in transcription, as one word, no matter how many meaningful elements it may contain. Generic terms and other distinguishing words modifying the specific element are written separately, and capitalized, thus: บริบูลกีกช่วยใน แปลว่า Ban Kêngmavo. In one-word name-elements, non-initial syllables beginning with the "vowel-bearer" ə are transcribed preceded by a hyphen, the syllable-initial vowel being capitalized, thus: บริบูลกีกช่วย แปลว่า Ban Kêng-I.

11. Certain obsolete letters, such as ฐ s, ฎ t, ฏ t, ฏ tsa, and ฌ l have been omitted from the Table. So also obsolete ligatures of the type ฎ th-n, ฏ th-m, and the diacritic-mark ง (historically an l) written beneath certain words in order to distinguish them from words otherwise of identical spelling (ฏ pa 'fish', ฏ pa 'forest').