



Laos - Thailand - Myanmar - China - Vietnam
Akha Literature

Preserving and Publishing Akha Literature

September 2011

Vol.1 No. 16

Recording Akha Literature
The History of a People is Their Literature

The Project

We are working to record, transcribe and publish Akha traditional oral literature as a means of protecting it for the young people to be able to read. While the Akha number some 600,000 they have few books in their own language.

This year we have made a number of trips into SE Asia to improve this Akha literature project and improve our contacts with writers and editors. We are soon picking up new manuscripts as a result of this recent effort.

Akha literature holds valuable cultural information useful to both the Akha and the rest of the world. There is very little information about this old culture available. Our goal is to first record as much of the Akha language as used in oral literature as possible and then translate this knowledge into English as well.

We already have manuscripts on culture, law, poetry, music and medicine. We need the funds to edit and publish this material as well as record many more parts of the Akha story.

The People

The Akha live in Laos, Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), China and Vietnam. The Akha are mountain people who farm an amazing number of grains and vegetables near their villages. They also farm tea, coffee, mangos and avocados. The Akha live in five countries and as a result struggle to maintain their identities under the assimilation pressures from some governments, war in some countries and overall rapid change in the region. New highways from Thailand to Laos to China increase the pressures and the opportunities. Unfortunately large areas of the environment that the Akha are dependent on are being destroyed for mono crops needed for export.

Literacy

While the Akha cope with many languages that surround them they don't have many books in their own language. They are in need of alphabet workbooks, children's reading and writing books, books on their own history, law and culture. With a well established variety of books the Akha will be able to build their own written literature tradition. We hope to be able to offer these books in published form as well as make some of them available on line.

What You Can Do

If you have an interest in literature, history or travel this is a project that you can help support. Your valuable support can help us record and publish Akha traditional literature. Your support will also help us to print children's books that promote literacy in the Akha language.

The Akha Heritage Foundation is a 501-c(3)(e) Non Profit

VOLUNTEER!

- Activism
- Fundraising
- Host a Presentation
- Help with a Video
- Photographers
- Writers
- Teachers
- Observers
- Researchers
- Publishing

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Send us an E-mail or call us at any time. Visit our website. We have many documents, publications and videos for you to see.



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