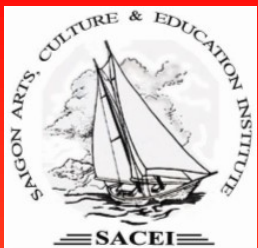




To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese Culture

NEWSLETTER # 3

JANUARY 2009



www.sacei07.org

A COUNTRY STAYS ALIVE WHEN ITS CULTURE IS ALIVE.

- SACEI Newsletter updates you on the latest news about Vietnamese-America.
- It serves as a link between SACEI members and those who are interested in the Vietnamese or Vietnamese-American culture.

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Happy New Year 2009

MAY YOU HAVE A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

We are glad to report to you that 2008 has been a hectic and good year for SACEI.

We have published:

- Remembering Saigon (Forum #1)
- The Sorrows of War and Peace (Forum #2)
- The Women of Vietnam (Forum #3)
- The Men of Vietnam (Forum #4)

Next year, because of the economic downturn, we plan to publish only three FORUMS (# 5, 6, and 7).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you our *writers, readers, donors, and supporters* for helping us to achieve our goals.

A special thanks to **Chat** and **Hien** for editing the articles.

Thanks to tow of our best promoters (who do not want their names listed) for having sold more than 20 FORUMS # 4 each.

Thanks to **Thong**, our Webmaster who has tirelessly input all the new features on our webpage.

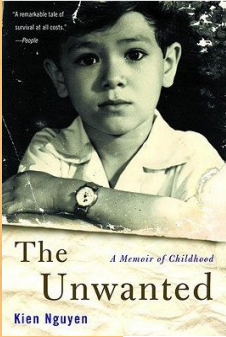
Congratulations to Minh Tran Huy



On December 22, 2008, Ms Minh Tran Huy, a Vietnamese-French was awarded the Gironde literary Prize reserved for new writers in 2008. Born in 1979 in Paris, she is currently the assistant-editor of the Literary Magazine. According to Aqui news, her book "The Princess and the Fisherman" weaves the legend of My Nuong and Truong Chi and her true love story with a Vietnamese male some 14 years earlier. Although the real-life love story was transient, she uses all the feelings she had experienced to build a fictitious story and to dig deeper into a Vietnam she would like to understand. The Gironde Prize, established in 1989, has a value of 7,600 Euros.



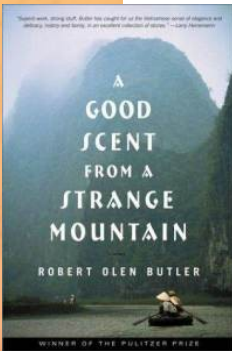
Available on Amazon



Kiem Nguyen - The Unwanted: A Memoir of Childhood

The son of a wealthy Vietnamese woman and an American businessman, Nguyen was nearly eight when Saigon fell to the Vietcong. For the next decade he and his family endured hardships brought on by the privileged lives they had enjoyed under the capitalist regime. Although his writing lacks the lyricism of recent memoirs like *The Liar's Club* or *Angela's Ashes*, Nguyen's voice is clear and strong, and he is adept at capturing both the broad sweep of life under the Vietcong and the peculiarities of growing up in a colorful and emotionally dysfunctional family during a jarring and vicious revolution. Perhaps the most engaging aspect of his memoir is its portrayal of the ironies that ensue when the old order collapses and the social hierarchy is turned upside down.

[Available on Amazon](#)



Robert Olen Butler: A Good Scent From a Strange Mountain

The Vietnam War continues to play itself out in fiction, autobiography, and history books, but no American author has captured the experiences of the Vietnamese themselves--and caught their voices --more tellingly than Robert Olen Butler, who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for *A Good Scent From a Strange Mountain*. The 15 stories collected here, all written in the first person, blend Vietnamese folklore, the terrible, lingering memories of war, American pop culture and family drama.

[Available on Amazon](#)

Poetry: Tears for My Country

Twenty-years of war and infamy,
 In the name of freedom and equality,
 Dear God,
 What has been left of my country?
 Craters on our motherland's face,
 Bleeding rivers from her womb,
 A land bare of crops,
 A land of burning fields and forests,
 A land piled with unburied bodies,
 Paths of landmines,
 Rivers of blood,
 Skies of fire,
 Showers of ashes,
 Seas floating with corpses,
 Mountains crimson from body parts,
 In the streets children fled in terror,
 By the trenches, mothers mourn their departed sons,
 Twenty-years of sorrows and heartbreaks,
 Twenty-years of relentless self-killing,
 The day the guns went down,

On both sides of the seventeenth parallel
 The day the river Ben Hai,
 Reunified both side of the country,
 On this bare land,
 On those scarred souls,
 On this nation scattered through the world,
 So alien as we become,
 O my brothers and sisters,
 From the North and the South.

Huynh Anh Schroeder

