

Bringing Southeast Asian Digital Archives to Life

A Digital Humanities exhibit featuring publications from French colonial Indochina



CARI AN COE, MLIS (SPRING 2024)

PROJECT SPONSOR: DR. JUDITH HENCHY-

Head of the Southeast Asia Section,
Distinctive Collections,
University of Washington Libraries

Introductions

Cari An Coe



- MLIS candidate, UW, Spring 2024
- Graduate Assistant to Judith Henchy
- Ph.D. (Political Science, UCLA)

Judith Henchy



- Head, Southeast Asian Studies Section, UW Libraries
- MLIS (UC Berkeley)
- Ph.D. (History, UW)

The Problem: Archival Discovery and Access



- European colonial era archives are spread throughout the world in different collections
- Often uncatalogued and unprocessed
- Often under poor preservation conditions
- In a variety of languages

= Difficult researcher access

= Lack of interest by those who lack background historical or linguistic knowledge

= Challenges for encouraging international and area studies and work with non-English language sources

Curated digital humanities exhibits can help introduce library users and researchers to international archival materials, many of which are not in English, providing the context needed to appreciate their intellectual value.

THE INDOCHINA COLLECTION OF ROBERT JONES III

4

- UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES -

- **ROBERT JONES III (1942-2011)**
 - Foreign Service Officer, Saigon, Vietnam, U.S. Embassy (1966-1975)
 - Civilian Officer, U.S. CORDS (Civilian Operations and Revolutionary Development) Administration, southern Vietnam
 - Book Collector:
 - Rare French and Vietnamese-language books from 1920s-1960s
 - Classic works by Vietnamese literati in French colonial Indochina

COLLECTION ACQUIRED BY UW LIBRARIES'
SOUTHEAST ASIA SECTION IN 2013

- **4,000 MONOGRAPHS IN VIETNAMESE, FRENCH AND ENGLISH**
- **~200 SERIALS TITLES**
- **PHOTOGRAPHS**
- **CORDS WORK OFFICE FILES**

THE INDOCHINA COLLECTION OF ROBERT JONES III

5

- UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES -

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- TO BRING THIS COLLECTION 'TO LIFE' BY TELLING A STORY ABOUT THE MATERIAL
- TO CREATE A DISPLAY OF A HISTORIC ARCHIVAL COLLECTION THAT WILL INTEREST USERS WHO MIGHT NOT HAVE OTHERWISE KNOWN WHAT IT WAS
- TO INSPIRE ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS TO ENGAGE MORE DEEPLY WITH THIS COLLECTION
- TO SITUATE THE COLLECTION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE LARGER SPECTRUM OF OTHER LIBRARIES' COLLECTIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

***USING ARCGIS STORYMAPS TO SITUATE THE STORY
AROUND THE VIETNAMESE
PUBLISHING HOUSES AND PEOPLE THAT
PRODUCED THESE WORKS***

DIGITIZED SELECTION FROM THE INDOCHINA COLLECTION OF ROBERT JONES III

6

- UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES -

DIỆP VĂN CƯƠNG. 1920. RECUEIL DE MORALE ANNAMITE. SAIGON
IMPRIMERIE DE L'UNION NGUYỄN-VAN-CUA, 1920.

HỒ BIỂU CHÁNH. 1923. THẦY THÔNG NGÔN. [SAIGON]: BON PHƯƠNG.
SAIGON: IMPRIMERIE DE L'UNION.

MỸ, MICHEL. 1925. LE TONKIN PITTORESQUE. SOUVENIRS ET IMPRESSIONS DE
VOYAGE. 1921-1922. T. I. HAÏPHONG-HANOÏ. LA "VIE INDIGÈNE".
OUVRAGE ILLUSTRÉ DE 30 PHOTOGRAPHIES / MICHEL MY. SAIGON:
IMPRIMERIE J. VIET.
[HTTPS://GALLICA.BNF.FR/ARK:/12148/BPT6K5844489D](https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/BPT6K5844489D).

NGUYỄN CÔNG HOAN. 1934. HAI THẰNG KHỐN NẠN. HẢI PHÒNG: HIỆU
SÁCH MAI LĨNH. [HTTPS://GALLICA.BNF.FR/ARK:/12148/BPT6K4241364N](https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/BPT6K4241364N)

NGUYỄN KHẮC HIẾU. 1932. GIẤC MỘNG CON. HANOI: HƯƠNG SƠN.
[HTTP://SACH.NLV.GOV.VN/SACH/CGI-BIN/SACH?A=D&D=BDBWEIX1932](http://sach.nl.gov.vn/sach/cgi-bin/sach?a=d&d=bdbweix1932)

NGUYỄN PHAN LONG. 1921. LE ROMAN DE MADEMOISELLE LYS : JOURNAL
D'UNE JEUNE FILLE COCHINCHINOISE MODERNE : ESSAI SUR
L'ÉVOLUTION DES MOEURS ANNAMITES CONTEMPORAINES. HANOI:
IMPRIMERIE TONKINOISE, 1921.

PHAN KHÔI. 1936. CHƯƠNG DÂN THI THOẠI, NGUYÊN DANH "NAM ÂM THI
THOẠI." HUẾ: NHÀ IN ĐẮC LẬP (ĐẮC LẬP PUBLISHING HOUSE).
[HTTPS://GALLICA.BNF.FR/ARK:/12148/BPT6K4241147F](https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/BPT6K4241147F).

THẾ LỬ. LÊ PHONG. 1937 I. PHÓNG VIÊN TRINH THÁM. II. NHỮNG NÉT CHỮ.
HANOI: ĐỜI NAY PUBLISHERS.
[HTTPS://GALLICA.BNF.FR/ARK:/12148/BPT6K4238828D](https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/BPT6K4238828D).

DIGITIZED SELECTION FROM THE INDOCHINA COLLECTION OF ROBERT JONES III

7

- UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES -



= Location of Publishing Houses in Digital Exhibit

A digital humanities exhibit:

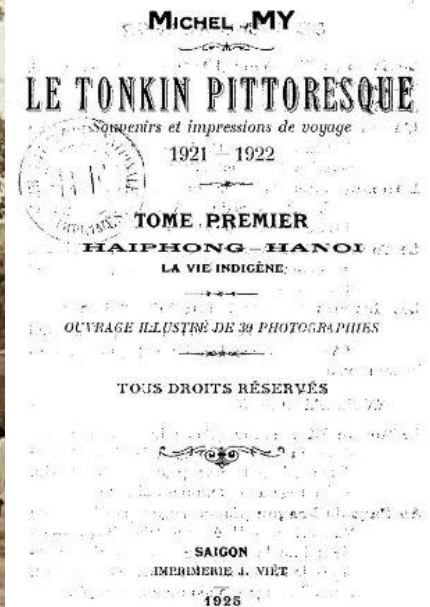
8

“A VIBRANT PUBLIC SPHERE- VIETNAMESE INTELLECTUALS AND PUBLISHERS IN THE 1920S-1930S FRENCH COLONIAL ERA”

— 9 —
Espérons que M. Michel MY choisira un sujet plus sympathique pour son prochain ouvrage et le traitera avec plus de bienveillance. C'est la grâce que je souhaite à l'auteur et à ses lecteurs, dont je suis.

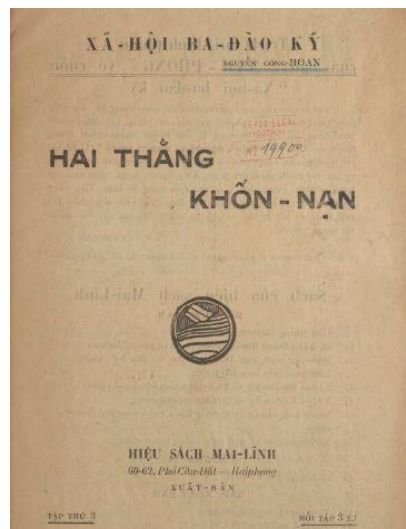
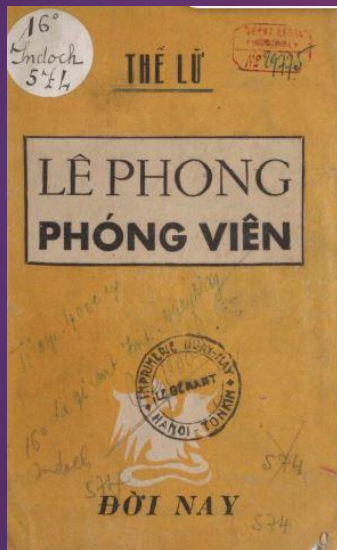
Une Tonkinoise,
NGUYEN-THI-NHUNG.

(De l'Écho Annamite du 16 Juin 1924),



The Self-Reliant Literary Movement in Việt Nam (Tự Lực Văn Đoàn):

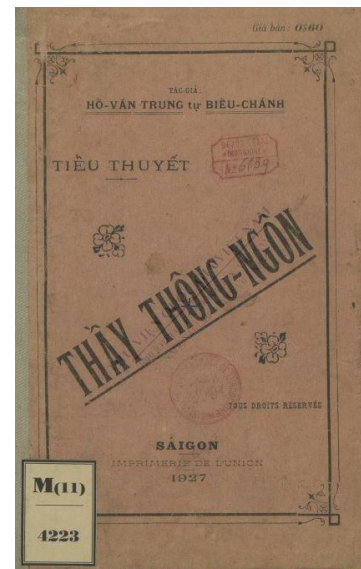
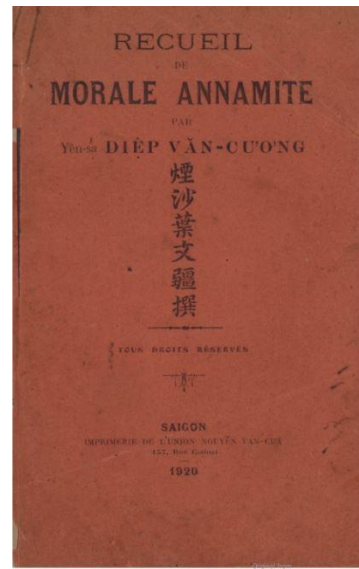
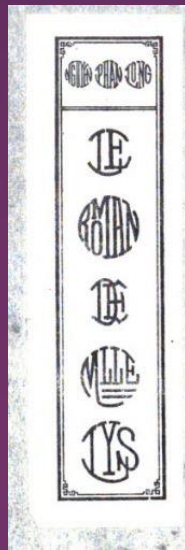
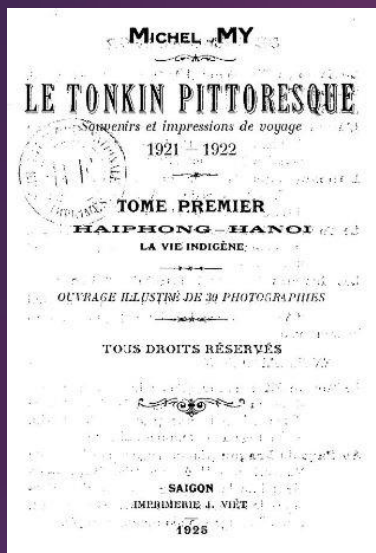
saw literature as a vehicle for modernization and equality



The Constitutionalist Party of Cochinchina

(southern Vietnam, founded ca. 1917)

conservative, French
collaborationist, Confucian



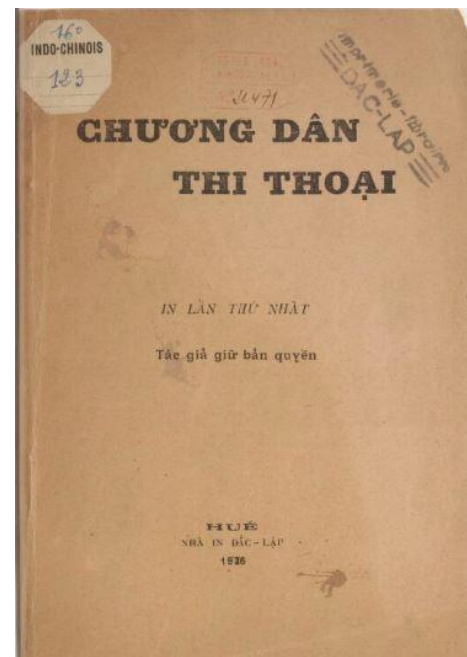
The Nhân Văn-Giai Phẩm Affair (1956-1958)

critical of repressive Vietnam
Workers' Party policies;
supported free speech and
individual liberties

and

The Tonkin Free School (Đông Kinh Nghĩa Thục (1906-1907)

supported free education for all,
quốc ngữ romanized Vietnamese
script, women's rights



BRINGING SOUTHEAST ASIAN DIGITAL ARCHIVES TO LIFE

11

A DIGITAL HUMANITIES EXHIBIT FEATURING PUBLICATIONS FROM FRENCH COLONIAL INDOCHINA

KEY PROJECT INSIGHTS

- VIBRANT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEBATES OCCURRING IN VIETNAM IN 1920S-1950S
- LED BY THE LITERATI: NEWSPAPERS, AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS
- BOTH INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMUNITY ARCHIVES DOCUMENT THESE MOVEMENTS AND DIGITIZED WORKS
- CURATED DIGITAL HUMANITIES EXHIBITS CAN BRING THESE COLLECTIONS TOGETHER AND PROVIDE CONTEXT TO IMPROVE ACCESS

NEXT STEPS

- PUBLISHING THE ARCGIS STORYMAP AND HANDOVER TO UW LIBRARIES' SOUTHEAST ASIA SECTION TO POST ON **SOUTHEAST ASIA LIBGUIDE**
- SHARING WITH **SOUTHEAST ASIA DIGITAL LIBRARY (SEADL)** AND THE **COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH MATERIALS ON SOUTHEAST ASIA (CORMOSEA)**

THANK YOU...

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- Professor Celia Lowe -
- Professor Geoffrey Turnovsky -
- The Southeast Asia Digital Library (SEADL) -
- CORMOSEA – The Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia -
- The Vietnam Studies Group -
- Luce Foundation -
- My Family and Friends -



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