

THE VIETNAMESE HISTORICAL SOURCES PROJECT

- A PROPOSAL -

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## I. Vietnamese Historical Sources - Definition and Characteristics

The term "Vietnamese Historical Sources" mentioned here refers only to the work compiled by the Vietnamese dynastic governments and Vietnamese scholars. It does not include materials on Vietnamese history which come from China, Japan, Europe and other sources. Chinese and Japanese scholars usually refer to the Vietnamese historical sources as "Annamese Books" 安南本, while the Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient (Hanoi) classified them as "Fonds Annamites".

Vietnamese Historical Sources can generally be classified into the following three categories:

1. Official dynastic histories, biographies, topographical records, law codes, collected statutes, dictionaries and collected essays and poems compiled and published by the various dynastic governments of Vietnam.

2. Works written by Vietnamese people in Chinese or in Chu Nom (demotic Vietnamese writing). These include history, geography, historical dissertations, collected legends, essays, travels, family registers or genealogical records, religious records and collected literary works.

3. The Imperial Archives of the Nguyen dynasty, popularly known as Chau-Ban Trieu Nguyen 阮朝 硃本.

A common virtue of the various categories of Vietnamese historical sources is that most of them are rich in on-the-spot records collected by local writers. Such first hand records came into view after the emergence of the independent dynasties starting from the 10th century A.D. In particular, since the Tran dynasty (1225-1414), the successive dynastic governments have compiled their respective dynastic histories on the basis of their archives. Sometimes, owing to their national sentiments and the possibility that official historiographers of the different dynasties might tend to conceal the misdeeds of their rulers, historical facts might be distorted. However, these historical works were compiled as a rule on the basis of reliable sources and so they are comparatively credible. It can be said that in the study of ancient Vietnamese history (when Vietnam was under Chinese rule), Chinese historical works are the only reliable sources. For this period, nearly all Vietnamese historical sources are but manuscript copies of Chinese works and hence of low historical value. On the other hand, in the study of middle age and modern history of Vietnam, Vietnamese historical materials should be taken as basic sources, and Chinese ones only serve as secondary and supplementary sources.

Generally speaking, Vietnamese historical sources have the following defects:

1. Some of the Vietnamese historical works have inherited the

pattern of Chinese historical works, and that is, they lack fresh contemporary informations for each period concerned and have copied too much from traditional records. On the one hand, some Vietnamese historians tend to copy much from Chinese historical works, and on the other, they copy much from older Vietnamese records in the writing of their works. The earlier the period concerned, the more they copy from Chinese sources.

2. Historical works compiled in Vietnam and which have been preserved to this day are mainly manuscript copies and the printed ones are quite few. Since there are usually a number of such copies of the same book, errors in transcription are inevitable and the texts may not be identical.

3. Since the 13th and 14th centuries A.D., numerous literary works and popular records in Vietnam have been compiled and written in Chu Nom which ordinary Vietnamese and foreign historians may not be able to read.

To sum up, the portion of Vietnamese historical sources which is really of value to the study of Vietnamese history is that part which concerns the middle ages and the modern period. In future, when the sources written in Chu Nom have been thoroughly and systematically organized, there will be a valuable addition of first-hand materials for the study of Vietnamese social history in the different periods.

## II. The Introduction and Publication of Vietnamese Historical Sources

It seems that Japanese scholars were the first group of people to show any interest in Vietnamese historical works. In 1884, Kishida Ginko 岸田吟香 published in Shanghai Le Tac's An-nam Chi-luoc 安南志略 on the basis of the manuscript of Chien Ta-hsin 錢大昕, an eminent scholar of the Ch'ing dynasty. In the same year, Hikida Toshiaki 引田利章 published in Tokyo the Dai-viet Su-ky Toan-thu 大越史記全書. But these had not aroused the interest of the academic world. Not until 1904, after the initial introduction of the various kinds of Vietnamese historical works and documents by L. Cadiere and P. Pelliot (1), did scholars begin to take interest in Vietnamese historical materials. For example, Prof. Matsumoto Nobuhiro had successively introduced the list of Annamese books possessed by the Ecole Francaise d' Extreme-Orient in Hanoi (Shigaku, Vol. 13, No. 4), the list of Annamese books collected by the Imperial Library in Hue (Shigaku, Vol. 14 No. 2) and general catalogue of the Dai-nam Thuc-luc (Shigaku, Vol. 15, No. 1). Prof. Yamamoto Tatsuro introduced the list of Chu Nom books and Annamese editions of Chinese books possessed by the EFEO (Shigaku, Vol. 16, No. 4,) the list of Annamese books possessed by the Societe Asiatique de Paris (Toyo Bunka Kenkyusho Kiyo, Vol.5), the list of Annamese books possessed by the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris (Toyo Gakuho, Vol. 36, No. 1) and the supplementary list of Annamese books possessed by EFEO.

(Toyo Gakuho, Vol. 36, No. 2). Prof. Iwai Taikei introduced the list of Annamese books collected by Nagata Yashukichi and possessed by the Toyo Bunko (Shigaku, Vol. 14, No. 2). Prof. Kunie Kawamoto of Keio University, returning from his recent visit to Hanoi (in August 1970), published a catalogue of the Chinese and Chu Nom materials possessed in the Thu-vien Khoa-hoc Xa-hoi (Social Science Library, i.e. former Bibliothéque of EFEO.), in which some new acquisitions of the institution was listed (Reports of the Keio Institute of Cultural and Linguistic Studies No.2, 1971). Meanwhile, in 1932, Prof. E. Gaspardone carried out extensive bibliographical studies on the various kinds of Vietnamese historical books and documents (2) by referring to the Van-tich-chi 文指志 of Phan Huy-chu's Lich-trieu Hien-chuong Loai-chi (Vol.34) 歷朝憲章類誌 and the Nghe-van-chi 藝文志 of Le Quy-don's Dai-viet Thong-su 大越通史. Tran Van Giap 陳文岬 of EFEO. had translated into French the selected contents of the above-mentioned Van-tich-chi and Nghe-van-chi (3). Dr. John K. Whitmore of Yale University in his article: "A Note on the Location of Sources Materials for Early Vietnamese History", discussed the nature of Collections in which the materials are located and the ways in which these collections came to be formed. At the end of his Note, he also listed the locations of each text mentioned in the article as well as the name of the libraries which hold the collections (4).

Concerning the organization and utilization of Vietnamese historical Sources, apart from the transcription into Chu Quoc-ngu (Romanized characters) by Vietnamese scholars of literary works written in Chu Nom for the past three or four decades, the collection, revision, transcription and publication of the other categories of Vietnamese historical sources had not been carried out in a thorough and systematic manner. Some major examples may be quoted here: Since 1908, R. Deloustal had started to translate into French the Hinh-luat-chi 刑律志 and the Quoc-dung-chi 國用志 of Lich-trieu Hien-chuong Loai-chi with his own explanatory notes (5). In 1932, Prof. E. Gaspardone published the An-nam Chi-nguyen (6) 安南志原 and again in 1935, he published the collection of inscriptions found in the Imperial tombs of Lam-son (7) 藍山碑文集錄 for the purpose of supplying historical materials for the study of the history of the early period of the Le dynasty and the history of Vietnam during Ming occupation. In Japan in 1941, the Indoshina Kenkyukai under the direction of Prof. Matsumoto Nobuhiro published two volumes of the Dai-nam Nhat-thong-chi (the part of Central Vietnam only) 大南一統志. In 1943, Prof. Yamato Tatsuro published through the Toyo Bunko the two volumes of Dong-khanh Ngu-lam Dia-du Chi-do 同慶御覽地輿誌圖.

After World War II, the Faculty of Law of the University of Saigon published the original text and the Quoc-ngu translation of the Quoc-trieu Hinh-luat 國朝刑律 (in 1956), the Quan-chuc-chi 官職志, Quoc-dung-chi and Hinh-luat-chi of the Lich-trieu Hien-chuong Loai-chi (in 1957) and the Hong-duc Thien-chinh 洪德善政 (in 1959).

Between 1959 and 1962, I was Chairman of the Committee for the

Translation of the Historical Records of Vietnam in the University of Hue which published in 1961 the revised edition and the Quoc-ngu edition of Le Tac's An-nam Chi-luoc. The main task of the Committee was to systematize the Imperial Archives of the Nguyen dynasty and to compile a comprehensive catalogue of these archives. At the end of 1962, for this catalogue, two volumes, one of the Gia-long era (1802-19) and the other of the early reign of Minh-mang (1820-40) were compiled and published. (8) In 1963, the Committee published the Vietnamese translation of Shih Ta-shan's Hai-wai Chi-shih 海外紀事 which had been published with annotation in Taipei by myself in 1960. In late 1963, the cataloguing work of the Imperial archives of the Nguyen was nearly half-finished. But to my regret, owing to the tense situation in Vietnam, the project was discontinued.

Since early 60s, the Vien Khao-Co in Saigon has planned to publish the Vietnamese edition of the Kham-dinh Viet-su Thong-giam Cuong-muc (52 volumes) 欽定越史通鑑綱目, but until now, only the first several volumes have been published. Other important transcribed or translated works by the VKC were Hong-duc Ban-do 洪德版圖 (published in 1963) and Ban-trieu Ban-nghich Liet-truyen 本朝叛逆列傳 (published in 1963). In 1965, VKC published the portion of the Kham-dinh Dai-nam Hoi-dien Su-le 欽定大南會典事例 that deals with foreign relations (Vol. 132-133, Nhu Vien 彙遠).

In the translation of Vietnamese Historical Sources, the Vien Su-hoc 史學院 of North Vietnam has made considerable contributions. Over the past ten years, the Vien Su-hoc has published the Vietnamese edition of Viet Su-luoc 越史略, the complete set of the Kham-dinh Viet-su Thong-giam Cuong-muc, the whole set of Dai-Viet Su-ky Toan-thu and Le Quy-Don's Phu-bien Tap-luc 撫邊雜錄. At the same time, Vien Su-hoc has carried out the translation work of Dai-nam Thuc-luc. Up to the present, more than ten volumes have been published, including Dai-nam Thuc-luc Tien-bien 大南史錄前編, Dai-nam Thuc-luc Chinh-bien De-nhat-ky 大南史錄正編第一紀 (the reign of Gia-long, 1802-19) and the first half of the De-nhi-ky 第二紀 (the reign of Minh-mang, 1820-40).

Since 1961, Prof. N. Matsumoto has started to reprint the complete set of the Dai-nam Thuc-luc. Four volumes of the work have been published (Vol. I: Dai-nam Thuc-luc Tien-bien and Dai-nam Liet-truyen Trien-bien; Vol. II: Dai-nam Chinh-bien Liet-truyen So-tap; Vols. III & IV: Dai-nam Thuc-luc Chinh-bien De-nhat-ky).

During my stay in Hong Kong, I have successively reprinted Trinh Hoai-duc's Can-trai Thi-tap 艮齋詩集 (in 1962), Phan Thuc-truc's Quoc-su Di-bien 國史遺編 (in 1965) and the Xiem-la-quoc Lo-trinh Tap-luc 暹羅國路程集錄 jointly compiled by Tong Phuc-ngoan and Duong Van-chau 崇福琬, 楊文珠 (in 1966). In 1964, Dr. Nguyen Tran-huan translated Nguyen Du's Truyen-ky Man-luc 傳奇漫錄 into French. Scholars of Keio University in Japan have

also started to compile indexes to some important Vietnamese historical works and documents. Prof. Ryoji Takeda compiled the Index to Notes appeared in the Kham-dinh Viet-su Thong-giam Cuong-muc (Part of Place Names, Shigaku, vol. 33, Nos. 3 & 4) and Mr. Kazuo Ohsawa compiled the Index to the Dai-nam Thuc-luc Tien-bien (Part of personal names) in 1964.

Notes:

1. L. Cadiere et P. Pelliot, Premiere etude sur les sources annamites, BEFEO., IV, pp. 617-671.
2. E. Gaspardone, Bibliographie Annamite, BEFEO., XXXIV, 1934, pp. 1-174.
3. Tran-Van-Giap, Les chapitres bibliographiques de Le-Quy-Don et Phan-Huy-Chu, BSEI., Serie XIII, No. 1.
4. John K. Whitmore's article was published in the Journal of Asian Studies, Vol. XXIX, No. 3, pp. 657-662, 1970.
5. R. Deloustal, La justice dans l'ancien Annam, BEFEO., VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII; Ibid., Resources financieres et economiques de l'etat dans l'ancien Annam, Rev. Indoch., 1924, 1925; BAVH., 1932.
6. E. Gaspardone, Collection de textes et documents sur l'Indochine, I. Ngan-nan Tche-yuan, 1932.
7. E. Gaspardone, Les steles royales de Lam-son, 1935.
8. Cf. R.B. Smith, Sino-Vietnamese sources for the Nguyen period: An Introduction, Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies. University of London, vol. XXX, part 3, pp. 600-621, 1967

### III. The Aim, Requirements and Financing of the Project

#### 1. The Aim:

From the above description on the work of introducing and publishing Vietnamese historical materials, we can see that the works done in Vietnam mainly concerned the translation and transcription into the Chu Quoc-ngu (Romanized characters) of the sources originally written in Chinese or Chu Nom. The reason is that the majority of contemporary Vietnamese scholars have difficulties in reading Chinese and Chu Nom. After World War II, both the Hanoi government and the South Vietnamese Ministry of National Education have paid much attention to this kind of translation work, and have encouraged Vietnamese scholars to transcribe or translate Vietnamese classics and historical sources from Chu Nom into Chu Quoc-ngu. Many translated or transcribed editions of Vietnamese classics have been published under the title "Tu Sach Dich Thuat" 談述叢書 or "Van Hoa Tung Thu" 文化叢書. However, the translators and transcribers of these works generally lack bibliographical training and experience in compiling and editing historical materials, so the translated or the transcribed editions published tend to be of minor importance. Moreover, these editions were prepared mainly for the reference of Vietnamese scholars. Some of these had the original text attached to them, while some included only part of the original texts. Even those which had the original texts attached have not undergone serious revision and therefore cannot be effectively used by specialized scholars. On the contrary, foreign scholars have published and reprinted Vietnamese historical works which have attached carefully studied bibliography and revised original texts. They are mainly designed to supplement official Vietnamese dynastic histories and to supply rare historical materials. But between each individual work, there is not any connection or relation, so it has not developed into an overall and systematic disposition of Vietnamese historical materials.

With the above account in mind, and in order to meet the increasing demand of foreign scholars for Vietnamese historical materials, I propose the establishment of an internationally cooperative "Vietnamese Historical Sources Project" for the overall collection, revision and publication of Vietnamese historical source materials.

#### 2. Requirements

(a) Personnel: In order to carry out with efficiency the actual work of the project, the following number of staff will be required.

(i) Director: The Director of the project will be responsible for the implementation of the project, and giving instructions to the editing and compiling staff members. The director must be an expert in Vietnamese history, well-versed in Sino-Vietnamese sources written in Chinese and Chu Nom, and have a good knowledge of English, French, Vietnamese, Chinese and Vietnamese languages.

(ii) Editing and Compiling Staff: For the staff of this categories, three specialists are needed. They might be selected from among young



scholars (preferably University lecturer level) specializing in the study of Far Eastern or Vietnamese history. The editor(s) or compiler(s) must be well-versed in Chinese, Vietnamese and English languages.

(iii) Secretary cum typist: This personnel will be responsible for handling correspondencies, public relations and preparing the budget for the project.

(iv) Advisory Board: Scholars and specialists of universal renown will be invited to constitute an Advisory Board, acting advisers to the project so that the director may consult them regularly.

(b) Equipment

(i) The project requires two/three office rooms.

(ii) The working office will be equipped with 1 Vietnamese typewriter, 2 English typewriters and two microfilm readers, in addition to the ordinary equipments and stationery.

3. The Financing and Supporting of the Project:

(a) The project might be co-sponsored by the Center for Vietnamese Studies at SIU, The Department of Oriental History at Keio University (Tokyo) and the University of Hue (Hue, Vietnam).

(b) Keio University and University of Hue will provide the Project one of their faculty members to be compiler or editor, and one representative to be member of the Advisory Board of the Project.

(c) The money needed for implementation of the project, including staff salary, purchase of historical materials, research tour expenses and others will be paid for by the Center for Vietnamese Studies.

(d) The following items of expenses are requested for the accomplishment of the Project:

Director's salary per year .....	US\$20,000
Three compilers (or editors) salary per year (700x3x12).....	US\$25,200
One secretary cum typist's salary per year .....	US\$ 6,000
Travel expenses for Director per year .....	US\$ 1,200
Travel expenses for staff per year .....	US\$ 800
Research materials (microfilm, xerox copies & photocopies).....	US\$ 1,000
Books & Stationery .....	US\$ 200

For one year .....US\$ 53,400  
For three years .....US\$163,200

(e) The Center for Vietnamese Studies (SIU) will provide the office of the Project together with all necessary equipments.

(f) It is suggested that the Project will be launched in July 1972. The time needed for the implementation of the Project will be three years.

#### IV. Work Schedule

The basic task of the Project is to collect, revise and publish Vietnamese historical source materials. In materializing the Project, priority will be given to the revision and publication of the kind of historical sources which deal with the general history of Vietnam and which cover comparatively longer periods of Vietnamese history. Secondly, historical sources which are helpful to the study of modern Vietnamese history will be revised in the order of their importance. On this basis, the work of systematic organization of the historical sources may be divided into the following two phases:

##### (a) Phase I

At this stage, work will be centered on the systematic disposition of large-sized historical works which deal with comparatively longer periods of Vietnamese history. The order of the work will be as follows:

##### (1) Publication of the revised edition of the Dai-viet Su-ky Toan-thu (Ngoai-ky, Ban-ky and Tuc-bien)

This official dynastic history was compiled in succession by official historiographers of the various dynasties in the history of Vietnam. They include Le-Van-Huu 黎文休, Phan-Phu-Tien 潘孚先, Ngo-Si-Lien 吳士連, Vu Quynh 武琮, Pham-Cong-Tru 范公著, Le Hi 黎俔, Nguyen-Quy-Duc, etc. The work covers the history of Vietnam from the legendary period of Hong-bang to the end of the Le dynasty in 1789 A.D. It is a first-hand source-book for the study of Vietnamese history. At present, there are three printed versions of the work:

(i) The Quoc-tu-giam of Hue 國子監 version, based on the 1697 edition of the Le dynasty.

(ii) The version published by the Bac-thanh Hoc-duong 北城學堂, compiled and edited by the historians of the Tay-son regime in 1800.

(iii) The version published by Hikida Toshiaki of Japan in 1884.

The texts of these three versions are not identical in its contents, and it is suggested that the Project will collect these three versions and other manuscript copies of the book so as to compile a more reliable revised edition of the official dynastic history of Pre-Nguyen Vietnam.

(2) Compilation of historical source materials on the foreign relations of the Nguyen dynasty

The basic historical sources for the study of the 19th century history of Vietnam is the Imperial Archives of the Nguyen which contain memorials from central and local officials, Imperial decrees, official appointments and dismissals, records and reports on military mobilization and deployment, laws, records on internal administration and foreign relations. This group of historical materials which had never been publicized was classified and arranged into 611 volumes by myself under the financial assistance of the Harvard-Yenching Institute from 1959 through 1962. The whole volumes of these precious sources are now possessed by the National Archives and Library of Vietnam, and stored in Dalat branch of this organization. Because of its extensive scope and its length, it is not easy to publish them all, so I propose to extract the part of this group of materials which deal with foreign relations, external trade and missionary activities during the four reigns of Gia-long, Minh-mang, Thieu-tri and Tu-duc (1802-1883), in order to compile them into a collected edition of historical materials on the foreign relations of the Nguyen, so as to promote the study of modern Vietnamese history.

(3) Publication of the Dai-nam Nhat-thong-chi (Bac-ky and Nam-ky)

This collection of geographical records was compiled by the Quoc-su-quan 國史館 (Bureau of Historiography) of the Nguyen dynasty. The compilation started in 1865 and finished in 1882. At every province, it records boundaries, tradition and innovations, relief, administrative divisions, climates, citadels, schools, population, cultivated land, sceneries (mountains, streams, marshes, etc.), relics, tombs, mausoleums, Buddhist and Taoist temples, passes, ferries, courier transport stations, markets, drains and dykes, etc. It is thus a Fang-chih 方志 of a national character. In 1909, the Vietnamese Minister of Education (Hoc-bo Thuong-thu) Cao-Xuan-Duc 高存育 extracted the portion that deals with Trung-ky (Central Vietnam) and published it under the title of "Dai-nam Nhat-thong-chi". But the portions that deal with Bac-ky (North Vietnam) and Nam-ky (South Vietnam) are still circulated in manuscript form without any printed edition. It is suggested that the Project will collect and revise all manuscript copies of the above work and publish a combined edition of the Dai-Nam Nhat-Thong-Chi (including Bac-ky and Nam-ky) to facilitate scholars in their historio-geographical study of Vietnam.

(4) Publication of Phan-Huy-Chu's Lich-trieu Hien-chuong Loai-chi (in 49 volumes)

This voluminous work was compiled originally by Phan-Huy-Chu (1782-1840), an eminent scholar in the reign of Minh-mang. The contents are divided into ten monographs, namely, Dia-du-chi 地理志 (Vol. 1-5), Nhan-vat-chi 人物志 (Vol. 6-12), Quan-chuc-chi (Vol. 13-19),

Le-nghia-chi 礼儀志 (Vol. 20-25), Khoa-muc-chi 科目志 (Vol. 26-28), Quoc-dung-chi (Vol. 29-32), Hinh-luat-chi (Vol. 33-38), Binh-che-chi 兵制志 (Vol. 39-41), Van-tich-chi (Vol. 42-45) and Bang-giao-chi 邦交志 (Vol. 46-49). Each of the Chi or Monograph has as its reference ancient Chinese and Vietnamese historical works. Historical events from the time when independent dynasties emerged in Vietnam to the end of the Le dynasty have been recorded and systematically edited. It may be regarded as a guide to the study of the cultural, institutional and social history of Vietnam. However, until now there has been no printed edition and only manuscript copies are in circulation. Among the ten monographs, the Quan-chuc-chi, Quoc-dung-chi, Hinh-luat-chi and Van-tich-chi have already been studied and introduced by Deloustal, Gaspardone, and Tran-Van-Giap respectively, but foreign scholars are still not easily accessible to the other 6 monographs. Therefore, it is suggested that all manuscript copies of the work be collected and revised, and have the whole texts properly published.

(5) Revision and Publication of Trinh-Hoai-Duc's Gia-dinh Thong-chi

This work is a geographical record of Gia-dinh-phu (Nowadays South Vietnam). The author Trinh Hoai-duc (1765-1825) was a native of Minh-huong (Sino-Vietnamese metis) in Nam-ky, and was one of the "meritorious statesmen" in the founding of the Nguyen dynasty. He had twice been the Vice-Governor of Gia-dinh-phu in 1805-1808 and in 1816-1820, and so he knew everything well about Nam-ky. The book was compiled in 1820 and dedicated to Emperor Minh-mang. It was divided into 6 Chi or monographs, namely, Tinh-da 地形, Son-xuyen 山川, Phong-tuc 風俗, Cuong-vuc 疆域, Vat-san 物產 and Thanh-tri 城池, recording the traditions and innovations of the three dynasties, the Le, Tay-son and Nguyen, and the activities of the Chinese immigrants there. It is said that after the reign of Minh-mang, all those Vietnamese officials who were to serve in Nam-ky had to first read Trinh-Hoai-Duc's book before they took up their post there. From this, we can see how the Nguyen officials valued the book. One more point worth noting: this work was an important source for the official Nguyen dynastical history: Dai-nam Tuc-luc Tien-bien, Dai-nam Liet-truyen Tien-bien and Dai-nam Nhat-thong-chi (the part of Nam-ky). The work is therefore a first-hand source book for the study of history and geography of Nam-ky. But until now there has been no printed edition of the original text, only manuscript copies are in circulation. As early as 1863, G. Aubaret translated the work into French and had it published in Paris. But his translation was not very faithful to the original, and it is more regrettable that he did not translate the Thanh-tri-chi, thus depriving scholars of getting a whole picture of the book. I myself had extracted the text of the Thanh-tri-chi and published it with explanatory notes in the Journal of South Seas Society (Vol. 12, No.2) in Singapore. It is suggested that the Project should collect all the manuscript editions of the work and publish the whole texts after careful revision.

(b) Phase II

After the above-mentioned historical source materials have been properly established, the Project will consider the following three kinds of work.

(1) To collect and revise the legends, geographies, travels, collected essays etc. so as to supplement materials for the study of modern Vietnamese history. The following works will be the main targets of the task:

- (i) Du-dia-chi 輿地志 (also known as An-nam Vu-cong), compiled by Nguyen Trai (1380-1442) in 1435.
- (ii) Nguyen Trai's Uc-trai-tap 抑齋集 (Six volumes).
- (iii) Duong-Van-An's O-chau Can-luc 烏州近錄 (Six volumes).
- (iv) Lam-son Thuc-luc 藍山實錄, compiled in 1676 by Ho Si-duong (1621-1681), 3 volumes.
- (v) Ho Si-duong's Le-trieu De-vuong Trung-hung Cong-nghiep Thuc-luc 黎朝帝王中興功業實錄 compiled in 1677, 3 volumes.
- (vi) Cong-du Tiep-ky 公館提記 compiled by Vu-Phuong-de (1698-?), prefaced in 1775, 43 volumes.
- (vii) Viet-su Tieu-an 越史標集 by Ngo-thoi-Si (1726-1780).
- (viii) Ngo-Thoi-Si's Hai-duong Chi-luc 海陽志略.
- (ix) Van-dai Loai-ngu 芸台類語 compiled in 1773 by Le-Quy-Don (1726-1784), 40 volumes.
- (x) Le-Quy-Don's Phu-bien Tap-luc 撫邊雜錄, compiled in 1776, 6 Volumes
- (xi) Le-Quy-Don's Kien-van Tieu-luc 見聞小錄, compiled in 1777, 12 volumes.
- (xii) Vu-trung Tuy-but 雨中隨筆, compiled by Pham-Dinh-Ho (1768-1839), 2 volumes.
- (xiii) Tang-thuong Ngau-luc 桑滄偶錄 compiled by Nguyen An (1770-1815), published in 1896, 2 volumes.
- (xiv) Duong-trinh Khoi-kien 洋程起見, compiled by Phan-Huy-Chu (1782-1840), 1 volume.
- (xv) Phuong-dinh Dia-chi-loai 方亭地志類, compiled by Nguyen-Van-Sieu (1807-72), prefaced in 1862, 5 volumes.

(2) Transcription and exploration for more Vietnamese historical materials written in Chu Nom.

There are many kinds of Vietnamese historical sources written in Chu Nom. In addition to such literary works as Truyen 傳, Ngam 吟, Dien-ca 演歌 and Dien-truyen 演傳, there are also Gia-pha (family registers) 家譜, various records on the Dinh 亭 - Than-tich and Than-sac -, Dieu-uoc 條約, Tuc-le 俗例, Dia-ba 地簿, Dien-che 田制 and Khe-uoc 契約 of the village community. They contain abundant materials for the study of local Vietnamese customs and the literary, social and economic history of Vietnam. It is suggested that the Project should collect and transcribe into the popular Vietnamese Chu Quoc-ngu (Romanized characters) as much as possible all historical materials which are written in Chu Nom and which are of historical value.

(3) When the above have been carried out to some extent, the Project will consider to compile in English a "Biographies of Eminent Persons in Modern Vietnam." The biographies of eminent people in the three dynasties of the Le, Tay-son and Nguyen (from early 15th century A.D. until the later part of the 19th century when French domination actually began) should be widely collected and included into the collected work which will be published with the sources and explanatory notes attached.

Remarks:

(1) The above procedure set for the implementation of the Project is only one in principle. In practice, it is not strictly necessary to follow the steps suggested. The order of the work to be done depends on the size of the staff, the finance and the needs of scholars.

(2) The Project will become a document center, so as to speak, for the study of Vietnamese history through the collection of source materials written in Chinese, Chu Nom and Chu Quoc-ngu.

(3) The results of the work carried out by the Project will be published by the sponsoring organization or its publishing section.

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