Vietnamese Phonology and Graphemic Borrowings from Chinese:
The Book of 3,000 Characters Revisited

NGUYỄN Đình-Hoà
Southern Illinois University
and
San Jose State University

1. Among the textbooks used in traditional Vietnam to teach Chinese as a classical foreign language to schoolchildren, and referred to as "cultural dictionaries," there are *Nhất Thiên Tự* 一千字 "The Book of One Thousand Characters" [Nguyễn Đình-Hoà 1963 & 1989], *Tam Thiên Tự* 三千字 "The Book of Three Thousand Characters", *Ngũ Thiên Tự* 五千字 "The Book of Five Thousand Characters" [Nguyễn Đình-Hoà 1973], *Tự-Đức Thánh-chế Tự-học Giải-nghĩa-ca* 嗣德聖製字學解義歌 [Chen 1971; Nguyễn Hữu Quỳ 1971; Nguyễn Đình-Hoà 1988]. All of these pedagogical tools use Vietnamese verse as a mnemonic device to teach Chinese characters together with their glosses in the vernacular, the latter cited in *nôm*, i.e. "southern or demotic" characters [Nguyễn Đình-Hoà 1959 and 1990].

Whereas the other three books use the typically Vietnamese *lục-bát* "six-eight" meter, *Tam Thiên Tự* uses lines of four words (*tú-tự*) with the following rhyming scheme:

THIÊN giời ĐỊA đất   天 坴 地 坦

CỬ cất TỒN còn   攀 拮 存 群

TỬ con TÔN cháu   子 琨 孫 招

LỤC sáu TAM ba   六 犾 三 叵

GIA nhà QUỐC nước   家 茹 國 渃

TIỀN trước HẬU sau   前 暑 後 數

etc.

In his review of the Nguyễn emperor's Chinese-Vietnamese dictionary entitled *Tự-Đức Thánh-chế Tự-học Giải-nghĩa-ca* [Nguyễn Đình-Hoà 1988],

Nguyễn-Trần Huân mentioned a Haiphong edition of *Tam Thiên Tự* edited by Xuân-Lan in 1911, and a Hanoi edition edited by Ninh-Hà in 1935: Dr. Nguyễn-Trần wrote [1974:366] that the latter editor cited Ngô Thì Sĩ (1726-1780) as the scholar who compiled this word list in 1776 [377].

To my knowledge there are two other editions: one edited by the polyglot scholar Petrus Trương Vĩnh-Ký in Saigon in 1898, and the other edited by Buddhist scholar Đoàn Trung Còn and published by Trí-đức Tòng-thơ in Saigon in 1959. Lê Văn Quán [1981:168-169] disclosed that the Social Sciences Library in Hanoi has as many as six editions with the title *Tam Thiên Tự Giải-dịch Quốc-ngữ*, blockprinted under the reign of Emperor Duy Tân, in addition to an earlier text (found in the back of *Đạo-giáo Nguyên-lưu* by Monk Phúc-Điền). This latter text, he said, is entitled *Tam Thiên Tự Toàn-yếu*, and shows the printing date as the fifth year of the reign of Emperor Thiệu-Trị, i.e. 1845.

For my 1973 paper, I used the manuscript graciously lent to me by Mr. Đỗ Lịnh Thông of Vienna, Virginia, entitled *Tam Thiên Tự Giải-dịch Quốc-ngữ*, edited by Father Vũ Khoa of the Phát-diệm Cathedral in North Vietnam, and published in late summer of the second year of the reign of Emperor Duy-Tân, the Year of the Monkey Mậu-Thân, i.e. 1908. The title page indicates that the book came from a second printing of the woodblock kept at the above cathedral and that it sold for 0.30 piasters.

In his 52-line Preface written in both Chinese and Vietnamese, Father Vũ Khoa confessed [1908: 1-4] that he did not know the identity of the author of this Chinese-Vietnamese dictionary, who must have been "an extremely erudite scholar" [Preface, lines 1-2]. But actually *Tam Thiên Tự* was not the work of an anonymous author. In an article which appeared in Hanoi in the review of the Institute of Historical Studies, the late scholar Trần Văn Giáp, while discussing the ổrigin of *chữ nôm* [Trần 1969: 7-24], revealed that the author of *Tam Thiên Tự* or *Tự-học Toàn-yếu* was the scholar-poet-historian Ngô Thì Nhiệm [Trần 1969: 14-17], and not his father Ngô Thì Sĩ, as mentioned with appropriate reservation in Nguyễn-Trần Huân's book review of 1974. This matter of authorship has been confirmed by Đào Duy Anh in his monograph on *chữ nôm* [1975:123] as well as in Trần 1990 [Entry 215: 14-17]. Ngô Thì Nhiệm (1746-1803), like his father Ngô Thì Sĩ (1726-1780), came from an illustrious family of the Village of Tả Thanh-oai in Hà-đông Province (popularly known as Tó Village and famous for its lichee orchards as well as for its numerous Confucian scholars) [Trần 1984: 324-325].

2. The several *quốc-ngữ* editions of this popular primer which Lê Văn Quán mentioned in his 1981 monograph and which I have seen in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, were all published after the Trương Vĩnh-Ký edition of 1898, and before the more recent Trí-đức Tòng-thơ edition of 1959. Like the one translated and edited by Trương Vĩnh-Ký, the Trí-đức Tòng-thơ edition does not cite the *nôm* characters but gives only French glosses and Vietnamese definitions transcribed in *quốc-ngữ*. I was therefore

very happy to find a 1939 edition of the book at the Fu Ssu-nien Library of the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, Republic of China, upon my arrival at Nankang, Taipei, in January 1989.

No editor's name appears on the cover of this book, printed at Thuy-Ký Press and sold at Quảng-Thịnh Bookstore (115 Hemp Street, Phố Hàng Gai, in Hanoi). The price was listed as one Indochinese piaster. Each of its 150 pages accommodates twenty Chinese characters lined up in four columns to be read from top to bottom, but the columns started from the lefthand side of each page. In each column, each entry consists of (1) a Chinese character, e.g.天, (2) its Sino-Vietnamese reading, in this case *thiên*, followed by (3) the *nôm* character 𡗶 used to write down its Vietnamese meaning, (4) the quốc-ngữ romanization, *giời*, and (5) the French equivalent *ciel*, thus:

天　　Thiên

𡗶　　Giời　ciel

地　　Địa

坦　　Dất　terre

My comparison between that 1939 edition and the 1908 edition concentrates on the *nôm* characters used in each of them to transcribe the Vietnamese glosses and pertinent explanations.

3. We will, however, examine first the Preface by Ngô Thì Nhiệm in order to see what he had in mind when he started his compilation.

"In my childhood I had the opportunity to study literature. Now while serving as an official in the imperial court, each time I have some doubt about the meaning of a character, I ask the eminent scholars and we discuss and consult one another regarding the matter. Lately in carrying out my duties in the Prime Minister's office I have been able to read interesting books, so I looked up the words in various documents; those which I understood, I collected them and filed them away, then transcribed them and gave explanations, each meaning listed next to the word, with rhyming characters. I have called this total corpus of three thousand characters *Tự-học Toản-yếu*, and after completing the book I had the woodblocks made and the volume printed." [Trần 1969:16; 1990:14-16]

Although this word list "is only a tree branch amidst the forest and a spoonful of water from the sea," as Ngô Thì Nhiệm modestly put it [Trần 1969:16; 1990:16], this distinctly Vietnamese creation differs from both the Chinese *San ch'ien tzǔ* "Three Thousand Characters" by Su Kun Yue [Từ Côn Ngọc] and the Chinese *Ch'ien tzǔ wên* "One Thousand Characters" by Chou Hing Tsu [Chu Hưng-Tự] in that it uses medial rimes, with the fourth syllable of a line rhyming with the second syllable of the following line, and so forth

throughout 750 lines.

4.1. First of all, the book shows several archaic words that are either no longer used nowadays or used only in compounds. Examples are:

bợm 妦 'prostitute' 28b

bui 憴 'only' 36a

chiêu 昭 'left--opp. of right' 61b

chỉn 参 'very, really' 37a

chưng 丞 'at, because' 26a

đả 乜 'to recover [from illness]' 53b

đẳng 荨 'stool' 13a

đau-đáu 叨喇 'worried' 50a

dùm 撢 'sac, package' 27a

ghẽ 技 'to distinguish' 64a

ghín 謹 'cautious, polite' 12b

gìn 屡 'to hold, keep' 51a

hen 嗐 'to cough' 56b

kín 謹 'to carry [water]' 28a

lét 眲 'to glance casually' 13a

luống 㾕 'to waste [efforts]' 38a

mảng 嗒 'to hear' 48b

náu 鬧 'to hide' 27b

nhà trò 茹 路 'actor, clown' 29b

níp 籋 'basket' 23b

tỏi 撮 'to look for' 51b

thày mo 柴 謨 'fortune teller' 24b

thừa 所 'its..., his...' 25b

va 墇 'to walk a long distance' 33a

vai 捶 'to sow [seeds], broadcast' 38b; etc.

4.2.   The 1908 edition contains some words that could be lexical localisms peculiar to the Catholic communities of Phát-diệm and Bùi-chu. Examples are:

把 *lả* (3b, Preface: 字册吏把册 *chử sách lại lả sách*) with   *lả* meaning 'to pay back' under 報 *báo* (15b); 'to return [object]' under   *hoàn* 還 (19a), and 'to return [hospitality]' under   *thù* 酬 [49b]. This verb is obviously the same as *blả* [De Rhodes 1651];

果賴 *lái* (28a) 'fruit' under *quả* 菓 [cf. *blái* in De Rhodes 1651]

貝 *vuối* (3a, 4b, 49a) 'together with'

4.3. All words beginning with /r-/ are transcribed with characters that contain a Sino-Vietnamese character pronounced with /l-/:

ra 喫 'to exit' 2b, 4a;

rau 荽 'vegetable' 15b, 17a;

rau 膝 'placenta' 27b;

(rở) ràng 烘燶 'radiant' 25a;

răn 嚙 'to admonish' 30b;

răng 齒夌 'tooth' 29b;

rất 懍 'very' 49a;

râu 髮婆 'beard' 15a;

rét 洌 'cold' 49b;

rễ 礼 'root' 11b, 12b;

rêu 藜 'moss' 64a;

rình 伶 'to watch' 35b;

ri̇u 㪬 'axe' 13a;

rỏ 爌 'clear' 2b, 4a;

roi 櫃 'whip' 40b;

rỏm 瞻 'to look' 13a;

rỏi 耒 'idle(ness)' 34a;

rồng 蝩 'dragon' 16b;

rộng 礦 'spacious, roomy' 21b, 27a, 53a;

rơi 捒 'to drop' 24b;

ruồi 蛛 'fly' 17b;

ruộng 畽 'ricefield' 11b, 28b;

ruột 脺 'intestine' 14a;

rừng 崨 'forest' 14a;

4.4. Next, one notices that there was an alternation between initials /l-/ and /n-/: thus, the editor Vũ Khoa has *loãn* for the Sino-Vietnamese entry *noãn* 卵 (page 27b) glossed as *trứng* 𡞕).

5. The Sino-Vietnamese entries themselves are interesting because in several cases, including those of rare characters, the meaning(s) in Vietnamese are broader than the original meaning in Chinese. For examples,

虹丿 *hàng* 'species of silkworm' (52b) is glossed as *thằn-lằn* 'lizard';   蚰蛉

砭 *biêm* 'stone needle used in acupuncture' (53a) is glossed as *mài* 'to polish, whet [blade]';   石埋

狒 *phất* 'orang utang, *cynocephalus hamadryas*' (55b) is glossed as *lợn lòi* 猪豩   'boar';

朿 *thích* 'thorn' (62b) is glossed as *bướu cây* 癗 核   'boss, excrescence on tree';

絸 *tương* 'light yellow silk' (64b) is glossed as *vàng* 鐄 'yellow'.

6. Next, the shape of a *nôm* character in *Tam Thiên Tự* is different from forms found in earlier writings. Whereas earlier forms seem to reflect

the pronunciation of the time, using the 假借 *giả-tá* "loan characters" method, characters in *Tam Thiên Tự* often use the 形聲 *hình-thanh* "phonetic compounds" method by adding a signific element, usually a radical:

踵 *chân* 'foot'(16b),cf.眞 in *BV* [*Bạch-vân-am Quốc-ngữ Thi-tập* by Nguyễn Bỉnh Khiêm];

猑 *con* 'child, offspring' (11a), cf. 昆 in *BV*, or in *TKML* [*Truyền-kỳ Mạn-lục*];

愧 *dại* 'unwise' (15a), cf. 曳 in *BV*;

赤覩 *đỏ* 'red' (17a), cf.覩 in *BV*;

覩是 *đủ* 'sufficient' (11a), cf.堵 in *TKML;*

嗉逐 *giục* 'to urge' (33b), cf.逐 in *TKML;*

嗜看 *khen* 'to praise' (19b), cf.看 in *TKML;*

晨你 *mai* 'morning' (13b), cf 埋 in *BV;*

語 *ngửa* 'to raise one's head'(13b), cf.語 in Taberd's dictionary, or *TKML;*

恩 *nhịn* 'to abstain' (28a), cf.忍 in *TKML;*

飯奴 *no* 'full [from eating]'(21a), cf.奴 in *BV;*

嗿探 *thăm* 'to visit' (30a), cf.探 in *TKML;*

覓体 *thấy* 'to see' (23b), cf.体 in *TKML;*

詩疎 *thơ* 'poetry' (25b), cf.疎 in *BV;*

試此 *thử* 'to try' (42b), cf.此 in *TKML;*

撐青 *xanh* 'blue, green', cf.青 in *BV;* etc.

7. All the words beginning with the retroflex *tr-* in modern Vietnamese are represented by characters that contain the /l-/ element, which scholars agree is the second member of a consonant cluster in Middle Vietnamese, as recorded in De Rhodes' dictionary of 1651 [Gregerson 1969; Nguyễn 1986]:

虫來 for *(con) trai* 'oyster' (16b)

礼心 for *trẻ* 'young' (11b)

撩   for *treo* 'to hang' (27b)

撩   for *trêu* 'to tease' (30b)

圝   for *tròn* 'round' (21b)

竜中   for *trong* 'inside' (12b)

濡   for *trôi* 'to drift' (20a, 20b)

味   for *trối* 'to leave last wishes' (51a)

鞁   for *trống* 'drum' (13b)

撞   for *trồng* 'to plant' (22b)

瀾   for *trơn* 'slippery' (33b)

墨   for *trước* 'in front, before' (48a), etc.

8.   Moreover, many words whose initial is /s-/ in Hanoi and /ʃ-/ in Saigon are transcribed by means of combinations which contain an /l/ element, attesting to the earlier cluster /sl-/, as in:

涯   for *sạch* 'clean' (27a)

塌   for *sân* 'courtyard' (20b)

溇   for *sâu* 'deep' (15b, 66a)

蝼   for *sâu* 'insect' (22a)

爝   for *soi* 'to light up' (19b, 37b)

礌   for *sỏi* 'pebble' (51b)

涛   for *sóng* 'wave' (21b, 45b)

爝   for *sôi* 'to boil' (34b)

滝   for *sông* 'river' (18a, 24a)

鞁生   for *sống* 'alive, living' (20a, 39a)

劍   for *sớm* 'early' (23a, 29b)

凌   for *sưng* 'swollen' (29a), etc.

In the case of 𡗶 for *sáng* 'bright' (25a, 30b), one can posit a cluster /kl-/, being a diacritic just like 个 巴 車 麻 〱 个 司 [Nguyễn 1989:19-21].

9. Regarding reduplicative forms, of which the book lists many, we can say that, in addition to the complete reduplications such as *ầm ầm* 喑 𠃣 (64a), *đa đa* 多 𠃣 (56b), *mành mành* 綳 𠃣 (66a), *le le* 離 𠃣 (58b), *mờ mờ* 目麻 (59b), *ồ ồ* (61b), etc., a number of forms (a) reflect their respective tone registers, the level tone *ngang/bằng* occurring with *hỏi, sắc,* and the falling tone *huyền* occurring with *ngã, nặng;* (b) show alternance between homorganic stops and nasals; or (c) show parallelism of vowel height (*u - i, ô - ê, o - e*):

(a) *chăm chăm* < *chắm chắm* (55b) 占〱 占〱

    đau đáu < *đáu đáu* (60b) 叨 㕭

    năm nắm < *nắm nắm* (55b) 甉五 捻

    ong óng < *óng óng* (64a) 𢞕 𠃣

    phơi phới < *phới phới* (64a) 派 𠃣

    rầy rẫy < *rẫy rẫy* (60b) 氾 𠃣

    vò vơ < *vơ vơ* (55b) 宇 𠃣

    vòi vọi < *vọi vọi* (55a) 岊 𠃣

(b) *cun-cút* < *cút-cút* (56b) 𪋿 舅

(c) *thùng-thỉnh* (58b, 62a) 春 請

    mông mênh (56b) 濛 溟

10. The 1908 and 1939 editions represent the Phát-diệm and the Hanoi dialects respectively, as shown in the following pairs of *chữ nôm*:

短問 *vắn* vs. 短艮 *ngắn,* under   ĐOẢN 短豆

把丿 *lả/trả* vs 者 *giả,* under   BẢO 報

鈴 *lọn* vs. 畕 *trọn,* under ·TOẢN 全

須 *tua* vs. 鞭 *nên,* under   TU 須

閞 *náu* vs. 跑 *dáu* [i.e. *giấu*], under   ẨN 隐

黑頼 *lái* vs. 鞋 *trái,* under   QUẢ 菓

培 *vạ* vs. 步 *bộ*, under   LỤC 陸

櫃 縩 *máy rối* vs. 檞縩 *máy dối*, under   LỖI. 儡

11.   The 1908 edition shows more rigorous editing than the 1939 edition, which at times does not obey the rhyme scheme.   Thus, under 遲 *trì*, misspelled as *chì* [p. 22], it gives the gloss 遲 *chậm* , which would not fit into the rhyme -*ây:*

速 TÓC 摓 *chóng* 遲 TRÌ 遲 *chày*

雲 VÂN 潭 *mây* 火 HOẢ 焇 *lửa* (1908:18b)

Elsewhere, in the sequence

必 TẤT   乙 *ắt*   須 TU   須 *tua*

寺 TỤ   厨 *chùa*   垂 BƯU   驛 *dịch,*

the 1908 edition (22b) uses for TU the gloss *tua*, an archaic form which is more tolerable than the gloss *nên* 𦓨 in 1939:32.

In another sequence,

剚 UÝ   官剚 *(quan) uý*   丞 THĂNG   官丞 *(quan) thăng*

齒 XỈ   齯 *răng*   眸 MÂU   相 *mắt,*

the 1939 edition (p. 50) gives the reading *thừa* for the Chinese character 丞, to which Vũ Khoa gives the reading *thừng*, i.e. *thăng*, rhyming with *răng* (29b).

As for the Chinese character 炒 *sao*, the gloss 炡 *rang*   (1939:68) although accurate is not so good as the gloss *thui* 㷇(1908:36a) because the latter word rhymes with *dôi* in the following 4-word line:

燎 LIÊU   炪 *đốt*   炒 SAO   㷇 *thui*

巖 NHAM   顩 *dôi*   穴 HUYỆT 魯 *lỗ.*

12.   It is well known that the *nôm* script allowed an individual scribe to choose the first variant form of a character that came to his mind.   However, the anonymous editor of the 1939 book, despite the initiative of providing French glosses, shows many inconsistencies and certainly lacks rigor -- on page 61, the third and the fourth columns have the ten Chinese characters and their *nôm* equivalents all mixed up -- so it can be said that this printed edition does not do justice to   Ngô Thì Nhiệm's great contribution, and that the earlier book, with its scholarly apparatus, including its front matter, is more

valuable both as a teaching tool and as a research tool.

REFERENCES

Anonymous, ed. 1939. *Tam Thiên Tự,*三千字. Hanoi: Quảng-Thịnh.
Cao Hữu Lạng. 1982. "Hán-Nôm books in Vietnam until the end of the Nguyễn dynasty," *Vietnam Courier* 18.8 (Aug). 26-29.
Chen Ching-Ho, ed. 1971. *Tự-Đức Thánh-chế Tự-học Giải-nghĩa-ca*. Original text and transcription in chữ quốc-ngữ with introduction and annotation. Hongkong: The Chinese University of Hongkong.
Đào Duy Anh. 1975. *Chữ Nôm: Nguồn-gốc, Cấu-tạo, Diễn-biến*. Hanoi: Khoa-học Xã-hội.
De Rhodes, Alexandre. 1651. *Dictionarium Annamiticum Lusitanum et Latinum*. Rome: Sacrae Congregationis de Propaganda Fide.
Đoàn Trung Còn, ed. 1959. *Tam Thiên Tự*. Quyển Nhứt. Saigon: Trí-đức Tòng-thơ.
Gregerson, Kenneth J. 1969. "A study of Middle Vietnamese phonology," *Bulletin de la Société des Etudes Indochinoises*, Nouvelle série, Tome XLIV, No. 2 (Deuxième trimestre), 131-193.
Lê Văn Quán. 1981. *Nghiên-cứu về Chữ Nôm*. Hanoi: Khoa-học Xã-hội.
Mineya, Toru. 1972. *Etsunan Kanjion no kenkyu. Studies on the Sino-Vietnamese*. Tokyo: Toyo Bunko.
Ngô Thì Nhiệm. (1778?) 1831. *Tam Thiên Tự Giải-âm (Tự-học Toản-yếu)*. Hanoi: Phú Văn Đường.
Ngô Thì Nhiệm. 1908. *Tam Thiên Tự Giải-dịch Quốc-ngữ*. Vũ Khoa, ed. Phát-diệm: Tổng-đường.
Nguyễn Binh-Khiêm. (15??) 1974. *Bạch-vân-am Quốc-ngữ Thi-tập*. Annotated translation by Xuân-Phúc (P. Schneider) in "Nguyễn Bình-Khiêm, porte-parole de la sagesse populaire: Le Bạch-vân-am Quốc-ngữ Thi-tập (Recueil des poèmes en langue natiionale de la Retraite du Nuage Blanc," *Bulletin de la Société des Etudes Indochinoises*, Nouvelle série, Tome XLIX, No. 4 (Quatrième trimestre 1974), 607-850.
Nguyễn Dữ. (15??) 1962. *Truyền-kỳ Mạn-lục*. Annotated translation by Nguyễn-Trần Huân as *Vaste recueil de légendes merveilleuses*. Paris: Gallimard. [Collection UNESCO d'oeuvres représentatives, Série vietnamienne]
Nguyễn Đình-Hoà. 1959. "Chữ Nôm: the demotic system of writing in Vietnam," *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 79.4.270-274.
----------. 1963. "The Book of One Thousand Characters," *Văn-hóa Nguyệt-san* 12.10 (Oct).1665-1678.
----------. 1973. *The Book of Three Thousand Characters: An 18th-century Chinese-Vietnamese Dictionary*. Paper presented at the 183rd meeting of the American Oriental Society.
----------. 1986. "De Rhodes' Dictionary (1651)," *Papers in Linguistics* 19.1.1-18.
----------. 1987a. *Bishop Taberd's Vietnamese-Latin Dictionary (1838)*. Paper

presented at the biannual meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA.
----------. 1987b. "On 'cultural' dictionaries in Vietnamese," *Lexicographica* (Tubingen) 3/1987.142-157
----------. 1988. *Tự-Đức Thánh-chế Tự-học Giải-nghĩa-ca: A 19th-Century Chinese-Vietnamese Dictionary.* Paper presented at the 21st International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics, University of Lund, Lund, Sweden.
----------. 1989. *The Book of One Thousand Characters. Nhất Thiên Tự.* Carbondale, IL: Asia Books. [Vietnam Culture Series, No. 2]
----------. 1990. "Graphemic borrowings from Chinese: The case of chữ nôm--Vietnam's demotic script," *Bulletin of the Institute of History and Philology* (Academia Sinica, Taiwan, ROC) 61.2.383-432.
Nguyễn Hữu Quỳ (Phương Thủ), ed. 1971. *Tự-Đức Thánh-chế Tự-học Giải-nghĩa-ca.* Tập I, Quyển 1-2, Kham-du-loại, Quyển 3-5, Nhân-sự-loại. Saigon: Phủ Quốc-vu-khanh Đặc-trách Văn-hoá.
Nguyễn Khắc Kham. 1974. "Chữ nôm or the former Vietnamese script and its past contributions to Vietnamese culture," *Area and Culture Series* (Tokyo, Japan) 24.171-189.
Nguyễn Ngọc San. 1987. "Chữ nôm và văn-bản chữ nôm," in *Cơ-sở Ngữ-văn Hán-Nôm*, Tập IV, Phần 2, 184-335 (Lê Trí Viễn, Editor-in-chief). Hanoi: Giáo-dục.
Nguyễn Phú Phong. 1978. "A propos du Nôm, écriture démotique vietnamienne," *Cahiers de Linguistique Asie Orientale* 4 (Sept).43-55.
Nguyễn Quang Xỹ and Vũ Văn Kính. 1971. *Tự-điển chữ nôm.* Saigon: Trung-tâm Học-liệu.
Nguyễn Tài Cẩn. 1979. *Nguồn-gốc và quá-trình hình-thành cách đọc Hán-Việt.* Hanoi: Khoa-học Xã-hội.
Nguyễn Tài Cẩn and N. V. Xtankevich. 1985. *Một số vấn-đề về chữ nôm.* Hanoi: Đại-học và Trung-học Chuyên-nghiệp.
Nguyễn-Trần Huân, transl. and ed. 1962. *Vaste recueil de légendes merveilleuses (Truyền-kỳ Mạn-lục)* by Nguyễn Dữ. Paris: Gallimard.
----------. 1974. Review of Chen Ching-Ho, ed., Tự-Đức Thánh-chế Tự-học Giải-nghĩa-ca, *Bulletin de l'Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient* 61.365-371.
Schneider, Paul. 1979. *Les idéogrammes vietnamiens: étude sur l'écriture nôm au XVIème siècle.* Nice: Approches Asie. [Cahier du CERAC]
----------. 1988. "Son et signification dans les idéogrammes vietnamiens," *The Vietnam Forum* 12 (Summer-Fall).1-19.
Taberd, Jean Louis. 1838. *Dictionarium Anamitico-Latinum. Nam-Việt Dương-hiệp Tự-vị.* Serampore: J. C. Marshman.
Takéuchi, Yonosuké. 1988. 字喃字典 *Tự-điển Chữ Nôm.* Tokyo: Daigakusyorin.
Tomita, Kenji. 1979. "Chữ Nôm, the former Vietnamese demotic script--Its structure and origin," *Southeast Asian Studies* (Osaka, Japan) 17.1 (June).85-98.
Trần Văn Giáp. 1969. "Lược-khảo về nguồn-gốc chữ nôm," *Nghiên-cứu Lịch-sử* 127.7-25.
Trần Văn Giáp. (1971) 1984. *Tìm hiểu kho sách Hán-Nôm: Nguồn tư-liệu*

văn-học sử-học Việt-Nam, Tập I. Second printing. Hanoi: Văn-hoá.

Trần Văn Giáp. 1990. *Tìm hiểu kho sách Hán-Nôm: Nguồn tư-liệu văn-học sử-học Việt-Nam, The Hán-Nôm Treasury, Tập II*. Hanoi: Khoa-học Xã-hội.

Trương-Vĩnh-Ký, P. J. B. 1883. *Grammaire de la Langue Annamite*. Saigon: Guilland et Martinon.

Trương Vĩnh Ký, P.-J.-B., ed. (1887) 1898. *Tam Thiên Tự Giải-âm. Tự-học Toản-yếu*. Livre élémentaire de 3,000 caractères usuels, avec traduction en annamite vulgaire, transcrit en quốc-ngữ et traduit en francais. Saigon: Rey et Curiol. [mentioned in Henri Cordier, *Bibliotheca Indosinica*, Vol. III, p. 2301 (Paris: Ernest Leroux, 1914)]

Trương Petrus Vĩnh-Ký. 1888. "Ecriture en Annam," *Bulletin de la Société des Etudes Indochinoises de Saigon*, Premier semestre, pp. 5-9. [Extrait de *L'Annam Politique et Social* de Petrus Ky]

Tự-Đức. (1898) 1971. 嗣德 聖制 字學 解義 歌
Tự-đức Thánh-chế Tự-học Giải-nghĩa-ca Vol. 1, Books 1-5, ed. by Nguyễn Hữu Quỳ (Saigon: Phủ Quốc-vụ-khanh Đặc-trách Văn-hoá, 1971); Books 1-13, ed. by Chen Ching-Ho (Hongkong: The Chinese University of Hongkong, 1971).

Viện Ngôn-ngữ-học. 1976. *Bảng tra chữ nôm*. Hanoi: Khoa-học Xã-hội.

Vũ Khoa, ed. 1908. *Tam Thiên Tự Giải-dịch Quốc-ngữ.* Phát-diệm: Phát-diệm Tổng-đường.

Vũ Văn Kính and Nguyễn Văn Khánh. 1970. *Tự-vị Nôm*. Saigon: Đại-học Văn-khoa .

Wen Yu. 1933. "The formation of the 'Chữ Nôm' and its relation to Chinese characters," *Yenching Journal of Chinese Studies* 14 (Dec).201-242.

Xuân-Phúc [Paul Schneider], ed. 1974. "Nguyễn Bỉnh-Khiêm, porte parole de la sagesse populaire: Le 'Bạch-vân-am Quốc-ngữ Thi-tập' (Recueil des poèmes en langue nationale de la Retraite du Nuage Blanc)," *Bulletin de la Société des Etudes Indochinoises*, Nouvelle série, Tome XLIX, No 4 (Quatrième trimestre), 607-850.

----------. 1979. "Vấn-đề đặt thời-điểm cho các tác-phẩm viết bằng chữ nôm: Nói về cuốn Tam Thiên Tự," *Diệu-Pháp* (Nice, France). 18pp.

Nha / răng / dent (牙)	Vô / chẳng / non (無)	Hữu / có / oui (有)	Khuyển / chó / chien (犬)	Dương / dê / chèvre (羊)
Tiền / trước / devant (前)	Hậu / sau / derrière (後)	Ngưu / trâu / buffle (牛)	Mã / ngựa / cheval (馬)	Cư / cửa / ergot (距)
Tôn / cháu / petit-fils (孫)	Lục / sáu / six (六)	Tam / ba / trois (三)	Gia / nhà / famille (家)	Quốc / nước / nation (國)
Thiên / Giời / ciel (天)	Địa / đất / terre (地)	Cử / cất / élever (舉)	Tồn / còn / encore (存)	Tử / con / fils (子)

TAM THIÊN TỰ

TAM THIÊN TỰ
MỘT CUỐN TRỌN BỘ
Giá 1$00

1939
Bán tại hiệu
QUẢNG . THỊNH
115, phố hàng Gai
HANOI

Imp. Thụy Ký — Hanoi

三千字解譯國語

維新弍年戊申季夏 重印

發艷總堂藏板 出售每 本三角

Title page of the 1908 edition
Tam Thiên Tự giải-dịch quốc-ngữ

Dặn riêng mấy điều cần trước.

(Sách nầy in lần trước thợ làm sai nhiều; lần nầy đã khảo lại kỹ hơn và in lần thứ hai.) 1° Các chữ nho thường dùng hằng ngày độ tám trăm hay là một nghìn là cùng mà sách nầy những ba nghìn chữ, ắt là sách nầy như bột cho dễ xem nhiều sách khác; song ai muốn được ích thì chẳng những phải học thuộc lòng, lại cần phải ý tứ nhận lấy từng chữ từng nghĩa cho minh bạch, rồi thì viết ám tả nghĩa là viết thuộc lòng, chữ nào nghĩa ấy một hai lượt, hễ mà nhận và nhớ hết các chữ mới thôi, dù có tốn mất năm bảy tháng, thì chẳng mất công vô ích đâu: vì tập chữ một thể; đến khi học sách khác, thấy nhẹ mình lắm: vì không phải hỏi mấy chữ nữa, bằng chẳng chỉ thử như thế, chỉ học thuộc lòng không, thì chữ sách lại là sách chẳng được ích là bao nhiêu.

2° Về phần con trẻ mới vỡ lòng, thì càng nên cứ cách ấy: mỗi ngày cho nó

Introduction to the 1908 edition by Vũ Khoa
(in quốc-ngữ)

吲盈佘調勤暑。

（冊尼印音暑僭少差叇吝尼迱攺吏技欣吧印音次㐌）

次一、各咹儒常用恒㖞只度糁森咍哭沒矧哭窮麻冊尼仍𠸍𥚄、

乙哭冊尼如勃朱易眵�冊恪㐌埃悶特益辰庄仍沛学属悉吏勤

沛意思認祕曽咹曽羙朱明白未辰日暗寫羙哭日属悉咹帀羙㐌

㵒㐌辣係麻認吧妓歇各咹買催油固損𥚄魚罷朐辰庄𥚄功無益

樂為習咹㵒体旦欺学冊恪寛弍㐱凜為空沛嗨佘咹女平庄志趣

如竗只学属悉空辰咹冊吏把冊庄特益哭包㵒、

次㐌衛分昆祕買破悉辰強蛾拠恪氽每㖞朱奴𢤏㐌叇隨飭奴共

Introduction to the 1908 edition by Vũ Khoa
(in Nôm)

三 tam 千 thiên 字 tự 解 giải 譯 dịch 附 phụ 序 tự

一 此 Thử 書 thư 成 thành 自 tự

二 古 Cổ 士 sĩ 聰 thông 明 minh

三 甚 Thậm 姓 tính 誰 thùy 名 danh

四 我 Ngã 所 sở 不 bất 識 thức

几 厄 少 铖 册 尼 — Kẻ đã làm nên sách này ni

奯 敊 通 太 坤 育 茷 初 — Là người thông thái khôn tầy đời xưa

四 低 些 空 体 考 查 — Đây ta không thể khảo tra

三 遌 嫌 遌 户 噲 哭 之 之 — Bên hèm tên họ gọi là chi chi

Preface in Chinese and in Vietnamese by Rev. Vũ Khoa

西歷 tây
壹 lịch
千 nhất
玖 thiên
百 cửu
捌 bách
年 bát

niên

五十 祈 Hi 勿 vật 笑 tiếu 訧 thoa

五一 靈 Linh 牧 mục 武 vũ 科 Khoa

五二 特 Đặc 筆 bút 私 tư 篆 triện

二五 Bút 筆 biên 編 triện 篆 áp 押 đè 底 mà 麻 làm 少 tin 信

一五 Phát 發 đường 堂 linh 靈 mục 牧 vũ 武 Khoa 科

十五 Phụ 附 thêm 添 biện 辦 bác 博 xin 吁 dừng 仃 cười 嘆 chê 吱

End of preface by Rev. Vũ Khoa in Chinese and Vietnamese

去 Khứ / đi	犬 Khuyển / chó	牛 Ngưu / trâu	六 Lục / sáu	天 Thiên / giời (ngày)
來 Lai / lại	羊 Dương / dê	馬 Mã / ngựa	三 Tam / ba	地 Địa / đất
女 Nữ / gái	歸 Qui / về	距 Cự / cựa	家 Gia / nhà	舉 Cử / cất
男 Nam / giai	走 Tẩu / chạy	牙 Nha / răng	國 Cuốc / nước	存 Tồn / còn
帶 Đới / đai	拜 Bái / lạy	無 Vô / chẳng	前 Tiền / trước	子 Tử / con
冠 Quan / mũ	跪 Qui / quì	有 Hữu / có	後 Hậu / sau	孫 Tôn / cháu

First page of Tam Thiên Tự (1908) edition by Vũ Khoa