

Newsletter credits: Edited by Dan Duffy. Original design by Jonathan Hill continued by Jason Rainey. Literature News is published by Books & Authors: Viet Nam, Inc. d/b/a Viet Nam Literature Project, email: editor@vietnamlit.org © 2008 VNLP.

This issue features *Nhat Linh*

The Viet Nam Literature Project helps the world read, research and teach in English the literature of Viet Nam. Our overall purpose is to improve the opportunities for Americans to gain a serious understanding of our world by listening to people from somewhere else. The difficulties we address are the patchy demand in English for this literature which impedes trade publishing, academic research, and teacher training, and the lasting divisions among Americans as well as Vietnamese caused by the struggle for a free and independent Viet Nam.

Board of Directors

Dan Duffy • Stanley Katz
 Pamela Rosenthal • Daniel Egger
 James Friedlander • Nancy Seybold • Peter Delevett

Advisory Board

Lucy Nguyen, University of Massachusetts
 Lucien Ellington, Education About Asia
 David Thomas, Indochina Arts Partnership
 Linh Dinh

Web Team

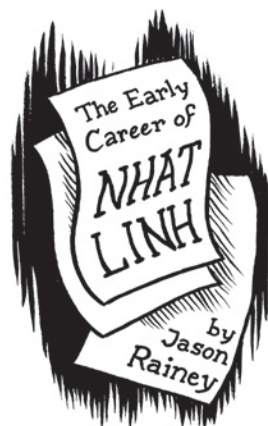
Paulette Stiles • Philip Arthur Moore

Viet Nam Literature Project Programs

Website – teachable extracts by Vietnamese authors, in English translation when necessary, with supporting materials for classroom and research use.

Wikivietlit – online reference to Vietnamese literature, written by experts, edited by poet Linh Dinh

Outreach – newsletter, e-bulletins, and events in major cities



IN 1926, NHAT LINH (NGUYEN TUONG TAM) LEFT HIS BUREAUCRATIC JOB TO STUDY ART IN HANOI.



THE NEXT YEAR, WITH THE HELP OF HIS INSTRUCTOR, HE RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY IN FRANCE.



LINH IMMERSSED HIMSELF IN FRENCH ART CULTURE. AFTER 3 YEARS HE RETURNED TO HANOI CREATIVELY INVIGORATED.



HE PUT THIS ENERGY TO USE WHEN HE WAS MADE EDITOR OF 'CUSTOMS', A STRUGGLING PERIODICAL.



NHAT LINH GATHERED FRIENDS AND LIKE-MINDED WRITERS TO FILL THE MAGAZINE'S STAFF.



THIS LITERARY GROUP TRANSFORMED 'CUSTOMS' INTO A SATIRICAL MAGAZINE - TARGETING OLD TRADITIONS AND POLITICS. THEY ALSO HIGHLIGHTED NEW WRITING, FASHION OTHER TRENDS AND IDEAS.



the comic continues inside...

D E A R F R I E N D S

Dear Friends,

The weather has broken here on the farm. It's cool enough to work outdoors in the afternoon and the edge of a hurricane has filled our pond, grown over with grass which had died in the drought. Now is what the French call the rentree, when students and professors surge back into Paris after hot, empty August.

VNLP has started up again as well. A year ago in August I fell out with mono-nucleosis, which has persisted as hepatitis. My energy began to return at Christmas and I expect to be at full strength in another year's time.

A light schedule at **Open Source Risk Management** paid my bills and let me defend my dissertation in May. With the support of a donation from **David and Betty Jones** in honor of my doctorate I began in August another year of making Vietnamese literature available in English.

Academic year 2008-9 will see another leap toward **Wikivietlit** providing a basic reference to the authors, works, periods and topics of Vietnamese literature. We have cleaned out tens of thousands of spam articles that accumulated in **Wikivietlit** over my sick year, and blocked any future spam.

We have revived the weekly e-bulletin to inform you of new **Wikivietlit** articles. This month I start meeting with the board to raise the money we need to keep them



Dan with Huu Ngoc at Brewster, MA in 1995

coming and to start adding again to the translations on our "author's pages" at the website.

Our goal is to offer a teachable body of Vietnamese literature at the VNLP website, supported by reference articles on **Wikivietlit**, then train and certify teachers in using that literature with students.

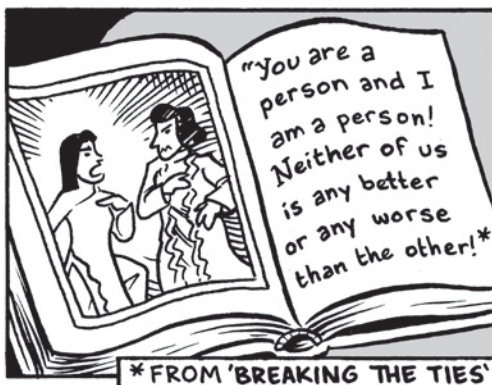
The photograph here is of me in 1995 with **Huu Ngoc**, the Ha Noi scholar who worked over decades to present Vietnamese literature in English while educating his country about the outside world. I worked with **Ngoc** in Viet Nam and was able to host him around the United States.

VNLP is inspired by **Ngoc's** work, and by dozens of other devoted scholars such as **Wikivietlit** editor **Linh Dinh** and the translators represented on our website. We want to make their passion available to teachers and students throughout the United States.

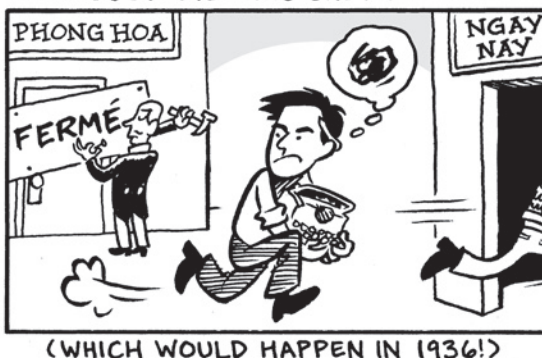
Such a program will require an alliance with a university and foundation support. But right now individuals support our basic activity. Please consider throwing in with us as we start up again.

Dan
Editor, **Viet Nam Literature Project**
Literature News Fall 2008

THE POETRY AND WRITING OF THESE AUTHORS FURTHER ADVOCATED INDIVIDUALISM AND CHALLENGING SOCIAL MORES.



OVER TIME, FRENCH COLONISTS SAW THE GROUP'S WORK AS "POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE". LINH STARTED UP A SECOND, Milder MAGAZINE IN CASE 'CUSTOMS' WAS SHUT DOWN.



IN 1939, NHAT LINH WOULD BRIEFLY QUIT WRITING TO FOCUS ON POLITICS - FIGHTING FOR VIETNAMESE INDEPENDENCE.



T H A N K S

In the second and third quarter of 2007, **Dan** fell ill, convalescing through the fourth quarter and then the first and second quarter of 2008. **Charlie Hunter**, **Kim & Larry Berger**, and **Lucy Duffy** sent checks anyways. **Daniel Egger** and **Linda Sue Hall** at **Open Source Risk Management**, **Infinity Farm**, the bakery and front-end crews at **Weaver Street Market** and the entire **University of North Carolina Faculty Working Group on the Global South** as well as **Music Maker Relief Foundation** provided practical and moral support through this time. **Jim Peacock** called for a defense of **Dan's** doctoral dissertation, "Self-Reliance: Ethnography of Literature Outside Viet Nam" in May. **Carole Crumley**, **Eric Henry**, **John McGowan**, and **Patricia Sawin** read and accepted it time for an August graduation. **David & Betty Jones** made a gift to **VNLP** in honor of the degree, which supported work through the fall. In the third quarter of 2008, board member **James Friedlander** invited **Dan** to relax on a cruise with potential supporters. **Jonathan Hill** recruited studio-mate **Jason Rainey** as the new **VNLP** cartoonist. **Linh Dinh** alerted **Dan** to spam infesting **Wikivietlit**, **Paulette Stiles** and members of the **Viet Nam Studies Group** listserv suggested solutions, **Josh Glasser** removed hundreds of spam articles manually and **Philip Arthur Moore** cleaned all traces of fake articles and spamming users from **Wikivietlit** and blocked any future spam. **Linh Dinh** began writing new articles. **Giftworks** sold us a heavily discounted update to our donor database. The Charlotte law firm of **Tin Nguyen** employed **Dan** as an expert witness. Board members **Tom Enders** and **Pamela Rosenthal** reviewed plans for the next three years. **Lucy Duffy** sent the photo of **Huu Ngoc**. Thanks!

VNLP Legal Status and Funding

VNLP is a d/b/a for **Books & Authors: Viet Nam, Inc.**, a federally recognized 501.c.3 non-profit corporation in North Carolina. **VNLP** has established its editorial program with private funding alone over the first three years 2005-2007

Nine friends have sponsored events to develop support in New York, Washington, DC and North Carolina: **Valerie Asher** in Bethesda, Maryland; **Pamela Rosenthal & Samuel Wertheimer**, **Tom Enders & Elise Thoron**, **Sam Duffy**, and **Carol Irving** in New York City; and **Anna & Steve Wilson** in Durham.

Major gifts from **Anonymous**, **Lucy Duffy**, **Tom Enders & Elise Thoron**, and **Pamela Rosenthal & Samuel Wertheimer** started the work. Over 2005-7, **Philip Alperson**, **Anne Asher**, **Valerie Asher**, **Kim & Larry Berger**, **Pete & Kim Delevett**, **Donna Dennis**, **Paul Dionne & Jenn Esperanza**, **Tran Do**, **Harold & Nina Drooker**, **Tim & Denise Duffy**, **Dennis Dunivan**, **Lan Duong & Viet Nguyen**, **Anne Frank**, **Kimloan Hill**, **Robert Jones III**, **Chan Khuong**, **Kim Vu**, **Ly Lan & Mart Stewart**, **Khoa Le**, **Phuong Anh Le**, **Jean Libby**, **Noah Long**, **Sandy Mills**, **Terri Moore**, **Yen Ngo**, and **Dana Sachs**, **Dzung Sensor**, **Penny & Bernard Snow**, **Wee-Teng Soh**, **Jeneva Stone**, **C. Michele Thompson**, **Truong Anh Thuy**, **Son Truong**, **Jun Wang** and **David Yin** contributed. In 2007, **Anh Do** of **Nguoi Viet** newspaper made the first corporate contribution, and **David & Betty Jones** and **Charlie Hunter** made major gifts.

The **William Joiner Center** of the **University of Massachusetts, Boston** awarded **Dan** a **Rockefeller** fellowship for academic year 2006-7 to build a reference for and about Vietnamese literature scholars on the **VNLP** website, launched in March 2007 as **Wikivietlit**.

The **VNLP** editor served until August, 2008 largely as a volunteer, supporting himself caring for livestock at **Infinity Farm** in Hillsborough, doing general labor at **Highfield Farm** in Rougemont, and managing audits of intellectual property for **Open Source Risk Management** in Durham. In September, 2008 he began additional work as an expert witness for the Charlotte law firm of **Tin Nguyen**. A second major gift from **David & Betty Jones** in honor of **Dan's** dissertation allowed **VNLP** to pay him for work in August and September, 2008.

VNLP recognizes its authors and editors with modest honoraria and pays contractors and vendors their going rate.

"Our nation, for better or worse, is a place where Eastern and Western cultures have met..."



*FROM 'CUSTOMS', OCT. '32

Following either path has advantages and disadvantages, and it is not yet certain where the truth lies...



We can only place our hope in Western civilization, although we do not yet know where that civilization will lead us...



Our only destiny is to go into the unknown, to keep changing and progress."

TEXT EXCERPTS AND BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FROM UNDERSTANDING VIETNAM by NEIL L. JAMIESON, AS WELL AS GREG LOCKHART'S INTRODUCTORY ESSAY TO NHAT LINH'S GOING TO FRANCE. WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT VIETNAMLIT.ORG

VNLP Mission and Programs

Viet Nam Literature Project promotes Vietnamese literature and supporting materials in English translation, when necessary, in America and to the world. We do this to help teachers, students, and readers understand the social realities of the nation that has played so great a role in the life of the modern world, and to develop Vietnamese literature as a field of study in the United States. We further support the freedom and influence of Vietnamese writers by working for their public recognition.

Three programs fulfill these goals:

Website • teachable extracts by Vietnamese authors, in English translation when necessary, with supporting materials for classroom and research use.

Wikivietlit • online reference to Vietnamese literature, written by experts, edited by poet Linh Dinh

Outreach • newsletter, e-bulletins, and events in major cities

Literature News

The Viet Nam Literature Project Newsletter



Support VNLP

VNLP accepts donations by **Paypal** at our website, www.vietnamlit.org/donations.html and by check to Viet Nam Literature Project, 5600 Buck Quarter Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278. All donations are tax-deductible under relevant US law.



VIET NAM LITERATURE PROJECT 5600 Buck Quarter Rd.
Hillsborough, NC 27278
tel. 919 383 7274
email - editor@vietnamlit.org
www.vietnamlit.org

*Please consider supporting
the Viet Nam Literature Project.*

☐ **Member (\$25)** covers the cost of preparing and sending you *Literature News*.

☐ **Impresario (\$250)** provides honoraria for a **Wikivietlit** author of reference articles.

☐ **Supporter (\$50)** or ☐ **Lit Lover (\$100)** helps us send *Literature News* to those who have not yet joined.

☐ **Patron (\$2000)** pays the honoraria, production, and promotion costs of new author page on the VNLP website.