Southern Vietnam under the Nguyễn
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This paper in the Data Paper Series: Sources for the Economic History of Southeast Asia is published in conjunction with the ASEAN Economic Research Unit of ISEAS. To provide the data necessary for broader economic work, the series will make available in English, and in contemporary metric measures, statistical data, contemporary description, and pioneering scholarship currently inaccessible to most analysts because of the diversity of languages, measures and locations in which they are found. The project welcomes translations of sources and long statistical time series.
Southern Vietnam under the Nguyên

Documents on the Economic History of Cochinchina (Đặng Trọng), 1602–1777

Edited by

Li Tana
Australian National University

Anthony Reid
Australian National University
CONTENTS

List of Figures vii

List of Maps ix

Preface xii

1. Introduction: The Vietnamese Southern Frontier
   By Li Tana and Anthony Reid 1

2. The Trials of a Foreign Merchant
   Letter by Jeronimus Wonderaer from Hôi An, 1602
   Translated by Ruurde Laarhoven 6

3. A Japanese Resident's Account
   Declaration of the Situation of Quinam Kingdom by Fransisco, 1642
   Translated by Ruurde Laarhoven 27

4. The End of Dutch Relations with the Nguyễn State, 1651-2
   Excerpts translated by Anthony Reid

5. Maps of Southern Vietnam, c.1690
   Giáp Ngo Niên Bình Nam Đồ [Maps of the Pacified South
   in the Year of Giáp Ngo]
   Translated and interpreted by David Bulbeck and Li Tana 38

   Hải Wai Ji Shi [Record of Countries Overseas]
   By Da Shan
   Excerpts translated by Li Tana 55

7. Description of Cochinchina, 1749-50
   Voyage de Pierre Poivre en Cochinchine [Pierre Poivre's Journey to
   Cochinchina]
   Translated by Kristine Alilunas-Rodgers 60

8. Miscellaneous Nguyễn Records Seized in 1775-6
   Phủ Biên Tập Lục [Miscellaneous Records of Pacification in the
   Border Area]
   By Lê Quý Đôn
   Excerpts translated by Li Tana 98
9. The Nguyễn Chronicle up to 1777
   Đại Nam Thực Lục Tiện Biên [Veritable Record of Đại Nam’ s Initial Period]
   By Trương Đăng Quế et al.
   Excerpts translated by Li Tana

10. Exchange Rates and Commodity Prices
    By David Bulbeck and Kristine Alilunas-Rodgers

Glossary of General Terms

Glossary of Vietnamese Terms

Chronological List of Nguyễn Rulers

References

Index
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Dutch Map of Vietnamese and Neighbouring Kingdoms, c.1660. Maps of the East Indies, Nos 265 and 269 of the Leupe Catalogue, General Dutch Archive. Reproduced from W.J.M. Buch, De Oost-Indische Compagnie en Quinam, Amsterdam, 1929, Frontispiece

Figure 2 Shipping on the River Faifo (Sông Thu Bôn), 1793. Reproduction of the coloured drawing by W. Alexander in J. Barrow, A Voyage to Cochinchina in the Years 1792 and 1793, London, 1806, facing p. 320, with permission from Oxford University Press (Oxford in Asia Historical Reprints, Kuala Lumpur, 1975)

Figure 3 Vietnamese Map of Quảng Bình, c.1690. Giáp Ngo Niên Binh Nam Đô. Reproduced by Toyo Bunku, Tokyo

Figure 4 Vietnamese Map of Quy Ninh, c.1690. Giáp Ngo Niên Binh Nam Đô. Reproduced by Toyo Bunku, Tokyo

Figure 5 Punishment of an Adulteress (left) and Execution by Elephant (right). Reproduced from P. Huard and H. Durand, Connaissance du Viêt-nam, Hanoi, 1954, p. 114, with permission from Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient

Figure 6 Portrait of Pierre Poivre. Reproduced by the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius from the original portrait in the society's possession

Figure 7 Ghe mành sailboat of Cũa Lò. Reproduced from P. Huard and H. Durand, Connaissance du Viêt-nam, Hanoi, 1954, p. 231, with permission from Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient

Figure 8 Usual Mode of Conveyance of the Cochinchinese Nobility, c.1820. Reproduction of the drawing by an anonymous Chinese in J. Crawfurd, Journal of an Embassy to the Courts of Siam and Cochin China, London, 1828, facing p. 282, with permission from Oxford University Press (Oxford in Asia Historical Reprints, Kuala Lumpur, 1967)
Figure 9  Cochinchinese Lady (left) and Cochinchinese Mandarin (right). Reproduction of the drawing by an anonymous Chinese in J. Crawfurd, *Journal of an Embassy to the Courts of Siam and Cochin China*, London, 1828, facing p. 485, with permission from Oxford University Press (Oxford in Asia Historical Reprints, Kuala Lumpur, 1967)

Cover  Scroll of the Chaya's ship trade to Cochinchina, c.1630.

The cover is part of the 'Scroll of the Chaya's ship trade to Cochinchina', a painting on silk probably dated to between the late 1620s and early 1630s. The work depicts the journey from Nagasaki to Hội An of a red-seal ship owned by the family of Chaya, one of the three richest merchants in Kyoto during the seventeenth century. Notes on the scroll explain that the journey of 1,800 ri (72,000 kilometres) from Nagasaki to Cochinchina lasted 40 days; the ship carried the red seal from the Japanese government which bestowed permission to trade in Southeast Asia; it measured 8.1 metres in width and 45 metres in length, and carried 300 passengers, etc. The panel reproduced here depicts the Hội An customs house and watchtower immediately behind it. The figure dressed in blue is Chaya, the captain and owner of the ship, seen here presenting his gifts to the customs officer sitting at the back. An interpreter stands on Chaya's left-hand side, while an entourage of three Japanese warriors await their captain outside the house. The cannons at the right flank the front gate which is guarded by 15 soldiers in all. The note above the galley outside the customs house reads 'pleasure boat.'

The panel is reproduced from Asao Naohiro, *Nihon No Kinsei*, Tokyo, 1991, p. 14, published by Chuo Koronsha, by courtesy of the publisher, Shogakukan Inc., and Jyomyo-ji. The Jyomyo Temple was built in 1646 in Nagoya, Japan, through a donation by the Chaya family.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map 1</td>
<td>Indochina: Main Places Mentioned in the Texts</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 2</td>
<td>Central Vietnam: Places Mentioned in the Texts</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 3</td>
<td>Southern Vietnam in c.1690: Offices and Forts. As Extracted from <em>Giáp Ngo Niên Binh Nam Đô</em></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 4</td>
<td>Southern Vietnam in c.1690: Granaries and Toll-booths. As Extracted from <em>Giáp Ngo Niên Binh Nam Đô</em></td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 5</td>
<td>Southern Vietnam in c.1690: Markets, Guesthouses and Harbours. As Extracted from <em>Giáp Ngo Niên Binh Nam Đô</em></td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 6</td>
<td>Quảng Bình Prefecture, Thuận Hóa Protectorate, c.1690</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 7</td>
<td>Triệu Phong Prefecture, Thuận Hóa Protectorate, c.1690</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 8</td>
<td>Thăng Hoa Prefecture, Quảng Nam Protectorate, c.1690</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 9</td>
<td>Quảng Ngãi Prefecture, Quảng Nam Protectorate, c.1690</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 10</td>
<td>Quy Ninh Prefecture, Quảng Nam Protectorate, c.1690</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 11</td>
<td>Phú Yên and Thái Khang Prefectures, Quảng Nam Protectorate, c.1690</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 12</td>
<td>Đồng Nai Region and Điện Ninh Prefecture, Quảng Nam Protectorate, c.1690</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Map 1. Indochina: Main Places Mentioned in the Texts
Map 2. Central Vietnam: Places Mentioned in the Texts
PREFACE

Li Tana and Anthony Reid

This is the third in a series of volumes designed to make available some of the crucial sources for a balanced understanding of Southeast Asian economic history.

The Nguyễn kingdom of the seventeenth and eighteenth century is a particularly vivid illustration of the problem of sources in this complex region. Because it was determinedly Vietnamese, with a vigorous tradition of writing in Chinese characters, yet also occupied a vital crossroads of the South China Sea, the sources essential for studying its economic history are in Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Dutch, French and English. Nobody who has written about it has commanded all these languages and controlled all the scattered source material. An adequate economic history cannot be written until more of these difficult sources are translated and edited. This volume can only embrace a tiny fraction of the material available, but we hope it will act as a stimulus to further work.

The choice of documents for translation was essentially that of the editors, but many people have contributed to the completion of the volume. The translators of each document are indicated, and we thank Ruurdje Laarhoven and Kristine Alilunas-Rodgers for going far beyond the call of translation duty. David Bulbeck, in addition to organizing the complex maps, glossary and index, has laboured to produce a consistent volume from very inconsistent sources. David Marr was an invaluable guide at every step, while Brigitte d'Ozouville provided enlightenment for some particularly difficult cases of French translation. Evelyn Winburn computer typeset and formatted the book, and devised a Vietnamese font for its use. Beatrice Bodart-Bailey located our cover illustration, and Ian Heyward of the ANU Cartography Unit redrew our maps for publication.

We are grateful to the Toyo Bunko, Tokyo, for reproduction of the Vietnamese maps, and to Madeleine Ly Tio-Fane and the Royal Society of Arts and Science of Mauritius for reproduction of the portrait of Poivre. We also thank Chuo Koronsha, Tokyo, for allowing us to reproduce the cover illustration; Oxford
University Press, Kuala Lumpur, for permission to reproduce our Figures 2, 8 and 9; and the Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris, for permission to reproduce our Figures 5 and 7.
Figure 1. Dutch Map of Vietnamese and Neighbouring Kingdoms, c.1660. Maps of the East Indies, Nos 265 and 269 of the Leupe Catalogue, General Dutch Archive.