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# **Southern Vietnam under the Nguyễn**

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DATA PAPER SERIES

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# Southern Vietnam under the Nguyễn

*Documents on the Economic History  
of Cochinchina (Đàng Trong),  
1602–1777*

Edited by

***Li Tana***

Australian National University

***Anthony Reid***

Australian National University



ECONOMIC HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA PROJECT  
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Australian National University  
Canberra



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- 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 Hôï 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 Hôï 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.

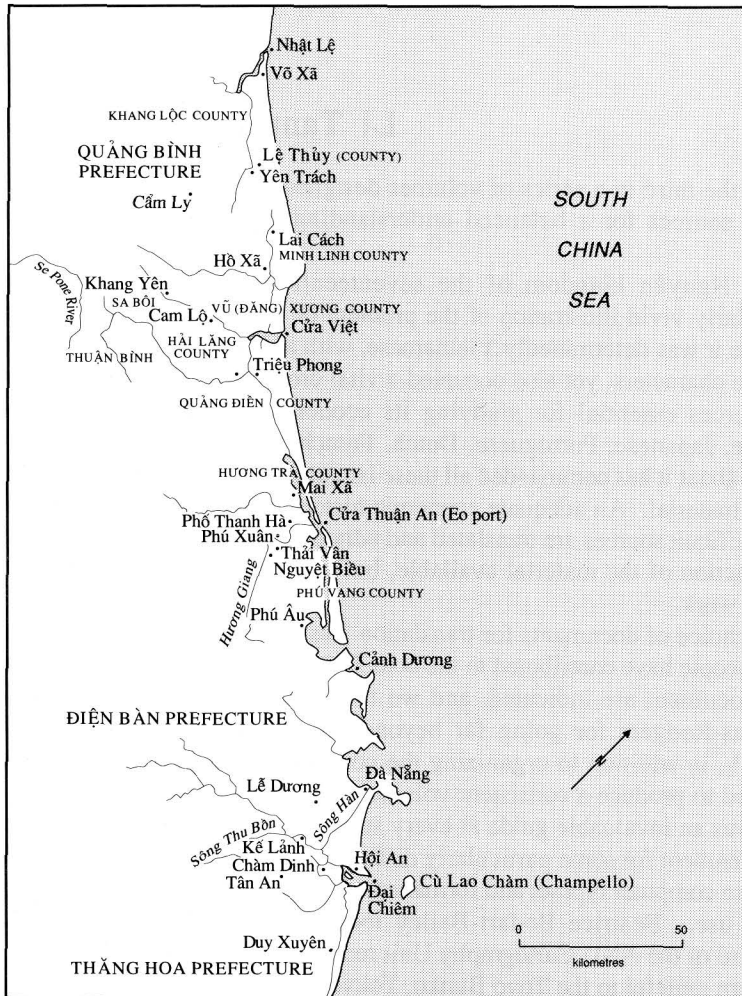


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Map 1. Indochina: Main Places Mentioned in the Texts



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.

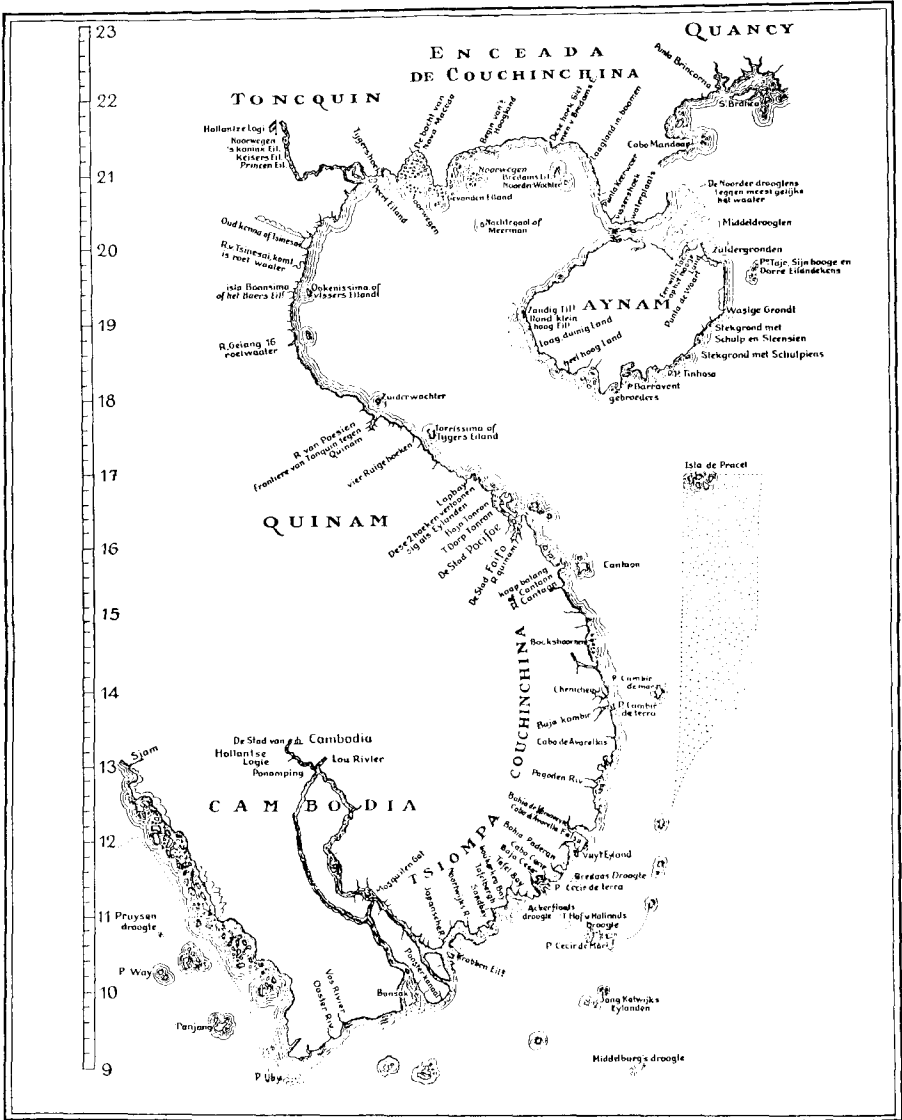


Figure 1. Dutch Map of Vietnamese and Neighbouring Kingdoms, c.1660. Maps of the East Indies, Nos 265 and 269 of the Leupe Catalogue, General Dutch Archive.