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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.

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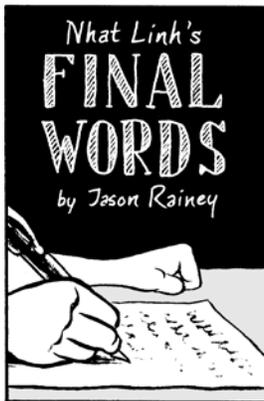
Website – teachable extracts by Vietnamese authors, in English translation when necessary, with supporting materials for classroom and research use.

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

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

VIET NAM LITERATURE PROJECT
VNLP
Spring 2009

Literature News
The Viet Nam Literature Project Newsletter
Number Seven



A FREQUENT SUBJECT OF CRITICISM WAS PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM.



IN THE EARLY FIFTIES, NHAT LINH MOVED TO SOUTHERN VIETNAM WITH HIS FAMILY.



DISILLUSIONED WITH LIFE AS A POLITICIAN, HE RETURNED HIS FOCUS TO WRITING AND PUBLISHING.



1960 - A COUP WAS LAUNCHED AGAINST DIEM. SOME OF LINH'S ASSOCIATES OFFERED SUPPORT TO THE REBELS.



STILL, NHAT LINH COULD BE FOUND DISCUSSING POLITICS WITH HIS PEERS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS.



HOWEVER, THE COUP FAILED AND KNOWN CONSPIRATORS WERE ROUNDED UP.



the comic continues inside...

DEAR FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

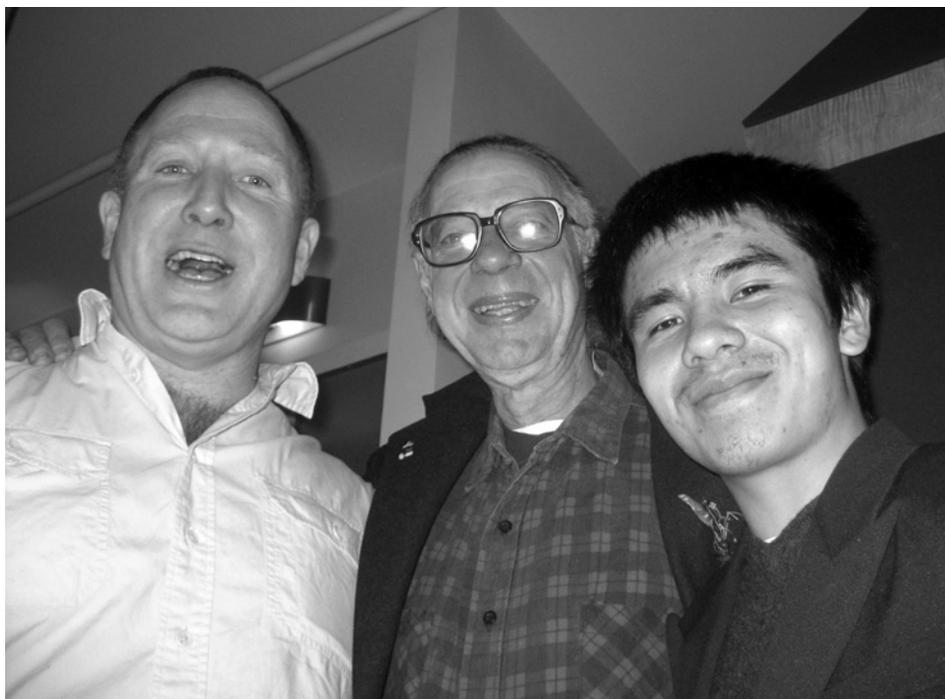
Spring is about done in Orange County, North Carolina. On the morning of the last snow in early March I stumbled after **Bob** through a drift and uncovered daffodils blooming on the bottom land by the old homesite.

Then came days of pulling both dogs off rabbit nests, losing two foals and a mare in birth, the weeks of heavy pollen, and now the Canada goslings at the neighbors' pond are big enough to wander off from their mother. I'll jump out to stack the first hay any day.

Summer here is the season that builds character. This week working on the porch is heavenly bright and cool but next month I'll be inside with the thermal blinds and curtains down.

I'll be writing entries for Wikivietlit about scholars of Vietnamese literature and starting to follow a development plan drafted over a year's parties and meetings with VNLN supporters. Here is a picture of me at the January party with **Robert Anderson** and **Ocean Vuong**.

Wikivietlit is our most visible accomplishment so far, a free online encyclopedia to Vietnamese literature. This summer I will also write an article for it on teaching the war through translations, the first of four essays – on teaching Vietnamese America,



Dan with vet novelist Robert Anderson and poet Ocean Vuong at the New York party for VNLN

Vietnamese national history, and contemporary Viet Nam, in addition to the war – that will guide our translation program.

I will also be circulating the development plan for suggestions. Our goal is to join a university in training teachers who will develop a public in the United States for the literature of Viet Nam, one of the other countries that a wide range of Americans - because of the war, immigration, adoption and travel – take an interest in.

That will take organization, which will take time, which takes money. Please help us get there.

Dan

Editor, Viet Nam Literature Project
Literature News, Spring 2009

1963 - DIEM RECEIVED MORE SCRUTINY AFTER THICH QUANG DUC'S FATAL PROTEST AGAINST HIS TREATMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S BUDDHISTS.

EAGER TO QUELL FURTHER DISSENT, DIEM WENT AFTER MORE SUSPECTED CONSPIRATORS IN THE 1960 COUP. NHAT LINH WAS AMONG THOSE TO BE TRIED.

LATER, AT HIS HOME...

Let history be my judge. I refuse to accept any other judgement.

The arrest and detention of nationalist opposition is a serious crime, and will cause the country to be lost into the hands of the Communists.

E V E N T S

North Carolina Party

Legendary book publicist **Katharine Walton**, her husband **Jaimey Easler**, and **Tim & Denise Duffy** hosted a VNLP party on Saturday, May 16 at **Katherine & Jaimey's** home in Efland, North Carolina. **Adolphus Bell** of Birmingham, Alabama, played blues hits. Sister-in-law **Denise** roasted **Dan**, who read the Paris arrival scene from his dissertation, "Self-Reliance: Ethnography of Literature Outside Viet Nam" that **Elise Thoron** rehearsed for the New York party in January. Folklorist **Cece Conway**, OSRM's niece **Lilla** and nephew **Lucas**, OSRM colleague **Linda Sue Hall & Bill Hall**, neighbors **Nick, Noah, & Regina Long**, dissertation chair **Jim Peacock**, short story writer **Jack Raper**, celebrated book

editor **Shannon Ravenel & Dale Purves**, Dan's physician **Jennifer Rioux** with **Alonso** and **Eva**, Katharine's cousin **Sydney Du Pre**, her friend **George Payne**, **Jaimey's** colleagues and Viet Nam travelers **Paul Corbett & Alicia Miller**, WUNC reporter **Leoneda Inge** with her sons **Teemer** and **Jean Christian Barry**, novelist **Jill McCorkle & Tom Rankin** all seemed to have a good time.



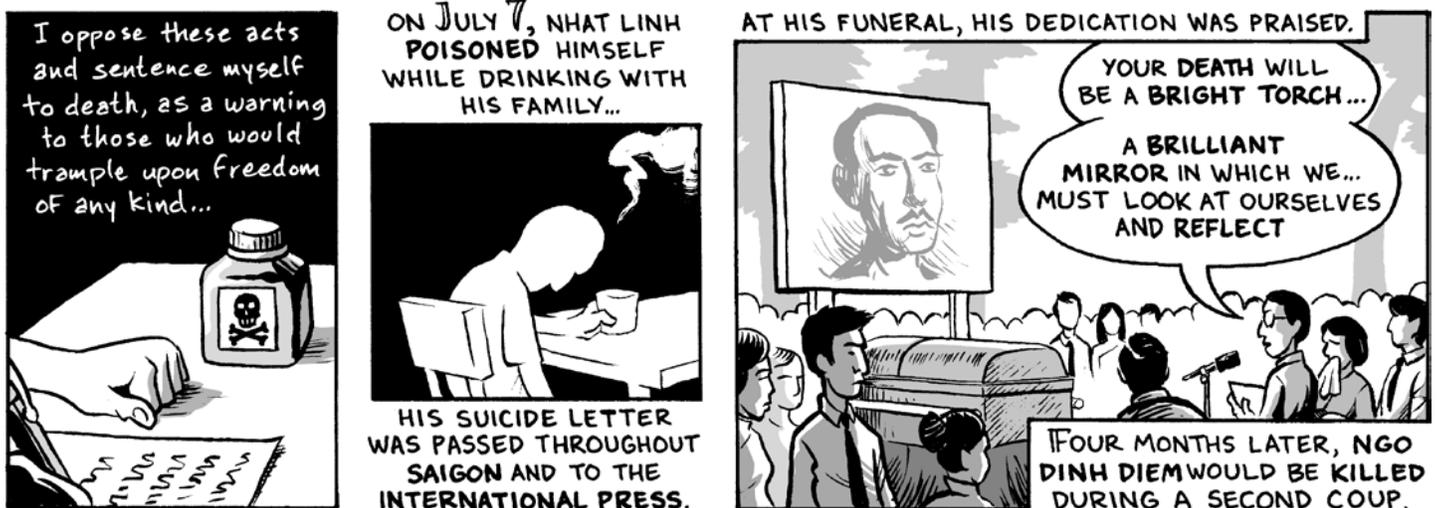
Half of **Jacques Lezra**, **Michele Lowrie**, **Andrew Knox**, **Lisa Brainerd**, **Donna Dennis**, **Pamela Rosenthal**, **Elise Thoron** sitting, **Jenny Young**, **Pharibe Wise** and **Tom Enders**, *Phillips Exeter Academy contemporaries at Dan's reading of his dissertation at Oz and Elise's loft in New York on January 15, 2009*; **Christine Burgin**, **Vladimir Klimenko**, **Michael Lynton** and **Lydia Rhodes Petty** missing; **Jim Friedlander**, **Zan Ottaway** and **Cindy Prescott** came to rehearsal the night before

Huynh Sanh Thong Memorial

Battell Chapel at Yale University held a memorial service for **Huynh Sanh Thong** on Saturday, May 2 at 1 PM. A crew from Yale AV videotaped the speakers. **Joe Errington** of the Yale Council on Southeast Asia Studies welcomed the crowd. Daughter **Thanh Nguyen** introduced the Jasper Quartet (**J. Freivogl**, violin; **Sae Niwa**, violin; **Sam Quintal**, viola; and **Rachel Henderson**, cello), who played from the *Beethoven String Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 37*. **Paul Tran** read **Thong's** translation from Dao Duy Tu, "Where Gather Mists and Clouds." **Quynh Do**, **Mark Longhurst**, **Vi Nguyen**, **Ha Bui**, **Yen Truong**, **Adrian Latortue**, **Khai-Hoan Huynh**, **Robert Bailey**, and **Lee Nguyen**,

students of **Quang Phu Van**, joined **Paul** in reading excerpts from **Thong's** translation of the *Tale of Kieu*. **Jim Scott** and **Ben Kiernan** of Yale, **Michele Thompson** on behalf of the Vietnamese Studies Group (Association for Asian Studies), **Ngo Nhu Binh** of Harvard, **Thomas C. Fox** of the *National Catholic Reporter* who studied *Kieu* with **Thong** after working with the International Voluntary Services in Viet Nam during the war, and **Dan** spoke. The Jasper Quartet played from the *Haydn String Quartet in D Major, Op. 76*. Poet **Nguyen Chi Thien**, librarian **Edith Baradi**, **Lee Nguyen** of the Yale Vietnamese Student Association, friend **Nguyen Duc Linh**, and **Yen's** niece **Elizabeth Dulong Galaznik** spoke. **Robert Bailey** read **Thong's** translation from **Nguyen Trai**,

"You Seek no Fortune and Desire no Fame." **Elizabeth's** son **Thomas Galaznik** concluded the service. The Jasper Quartet played a postlude, to which **Thong's** old friend **Eve Benda** listened deeply. The family welcomed those attending to a reception just after the service at the Graduate Club. **Quang Phu Van**, Yale's Vietnamese instructor who helped organize the event, **Rich Richie**, curator of the Sterling Library Southeast Asia collection, where **Thong** donated his Viet Nam library, **Thong's** old neighbors **Larry & Kim Berger**, colleague **Eric Henry**, and Yale's new Viet Nam anthropologist **Erik Harms** were among them. Condolences to **Van-Yen Huynh**, 46 Glendower Road, Hamden, CT 06517-1201.



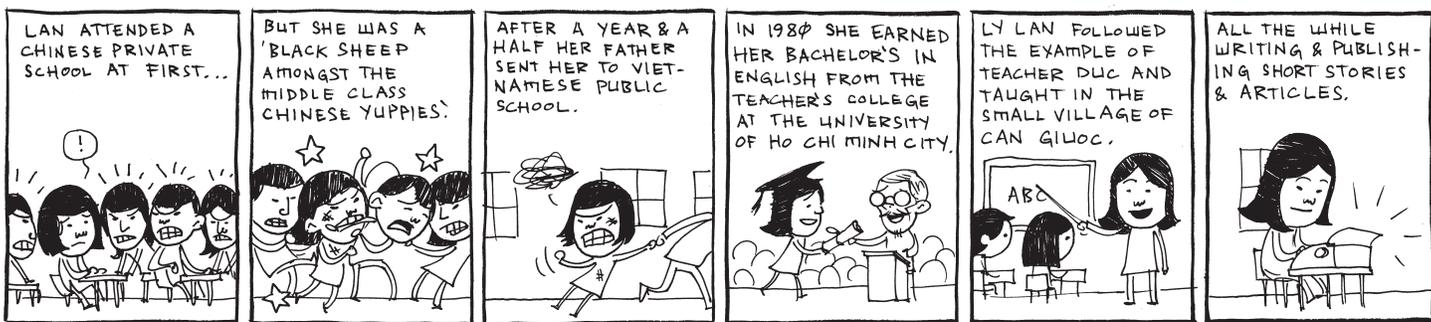
Biographical info and quotes in this comic come from "Understanding Vietnam" by Neil Jamieson.

Ly Lan Update

Author **Ly Lan** has been busy since **Lily Chiu** prepared her page on the VNLP website, publishing a book a year for the last five years, free at last of translating new Harry Potter novels. In 2005, her selected poems, *La Minh* (Her Own) won the poetry award from the Writers' Union of Ho Chi Minh City. She published the short stories *Nguoi Dan Ba Ke Chuyen* (A Woman Tells Her Story) in 2006, the essays *Mien Man Tuy But* (Freestyle Writing) in 2007, the novel *Tieu Tuyet Dan Ba* (Woman Novel) in 2008, and just launched the short story collection *Hoi Xuan* (Menopause) in 2009. It did so well the publisher is bringing out new editions of two of her collections for children, including *Ba Nguoi va Ba Con Vat* (Three Children, Three Pets, 2002). Her current project is "about Vietnamese women's literature."



Ly Lan with fans



Excerpt from a biographical comic strip by Jonathan Hill

Next VNLP author Le Ngoc Tra



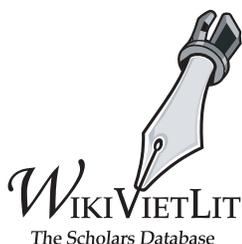
"Protecting poetic nature to the point of hindering reason and the development of science and technology or, by contrast, sacrificing it for immediate political and economic purposes results in crippling human nature; either option brings about similar disastrous consequences."

Le Ngoc Tra

Tran Qui Phiet, who translated the stories of **Tran Dieu Hang** for the VNLP website, is now polishing his translations of essays by **Le Ngoc Tra**, the literary critic. **Tra**, one of the few

doctorates in literary theory in Viet Nam, came to prominence both in explaining the new authors of the doi moi period and in presenting his own criticism as a form of literature. **Phiet** has translated **Tra's** theoretical essay, "Art and Man's Voice", his advocacy for social change, "Contribution to Developing Vietnamese Culture", and appreciations of specific books to illustrate his own introductory essay on **Tra**. Please consider donating toward the \$500 remaining costs of the **Le Ngoc Tra** page on the VNLP site by check or at our website.

WIKIVIETLIT AUTHOR



Wikivietlit makes Vietnamese literature intellectually accessible with more than 200 articles on authors, works, periods and topics written and revised by subject experts. Editor **Linh Dinh** assures the quality and importance of articles ranging throughout the national literature and diaspora. A **Rockefeller** grant from the **William Joiner Center** funded the launch of Wikivietlit.



Linh Dinh, Wikivietlit editor

Nguyen Huy Thiep, Featured Wikivietlit author Spring 2009

He was born in Hanoi, but spent most of his first ten years in the rural areas of northwestern Vietnam. Returning to Hanoi in 1960, he graduated from the Teachers' College in 1970, then taught remedial education to Communist Party officials in a remote province, Son La, a post which dragged on for years after unification. Poverty drove him back to Hanoi, where he traded in the black market and worked as a laborer. The more liberal policies of doi moi, or Renovation, initiated at the end of 1987, provided **Thiep** with an opportunity to showcase his talent.



His 1987 short story, "The General Retires", generated hundreds of articles, with some heatedly denouncing its author on moral grounds. It also established him as a major force in Vietnamese literature. Editions of his stories have appeared in French and English translations, including *The General Retires and Other Stories* (Oxford University Press, USA, 1993), translated by Greg Lockhart, excerpted below. For complete **Nguyen Huy Thiep** article with citations to print and Web resources, consult <www.wikivietlit.com>.

from "The Water Nymph"

Once, Mr Chung, who had been digging a well, reported that he had dug up a bronze drum. People from the District Cultural Office came down and asked him if they could take the drum away. As they crossed the river, thunder and lightning suddenly crashed in the sky. Without warning, the waves rose and the wind blew up in a gale. "Throw the drum down here," called Me Ca, who was swimming in the river. With the boat rolling dangerously, the people from the Cultural Office had to throw the drum down to Me Ca who sat on it and proceeded to beat it: 'Tung, tung.' With that the storm stopped. Me Ca took the

drum in her arms and dived to the bottom of the river.

These were the kind of stories – half myth, half reality – that multiplied about Me Ca. But since my childhood was such a somber routine of backbreaking work, I did not have time to pay attention to all of them.

My family worked the fields, dug laterite, and also made bamboo hats. As everyone knows, there is nothing easy about working the fields. At fourteen I was the main ploughman in the co-operative. At 4 a.m. Mr Hai Thin the head of the ploughing unit called from the gate with instructions:

'Hey Chuong, today plough the field down at the foot of Ma Nguyn hill, OK!'

I crawled out of bed, ate a bowl of cold rice, and left. It was still dark. Field rats rustled in the strip of maize along the edge of the field. I was half asleep, stumbling behind the buffalo as I drove it towards the shining disc of electric light that hovered like a halo over the town.

From The General Retires and Other Stories, by Nguyen Huy Thiep, translated with an introduction by Greg Lockhart (Oxford in Asia, 1992), excerpt reprinted with permission of the translator and under fair use with regard to the author

Support Wikivietlit

Wikivietlit expenses, including fees for technical support and honoraria to **Linh Dinh** for editorial supervision, are major items in the VNLP budget. Wikivietlit also needs honoraria to new reference authors to review and extend our coverage on topics such as authors of the Republic of Viet Nam, Vietnamese authors in French, Roman Catholic and Buddhist authors. Please consider donating toward the \$250 honorarium to a Wikivietlit reference author, by check or at our website.

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Rockefeller Presentation at Joiner

Dan presented Wikivietlit to the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences, at the University of Massachusetts, Boston on Saturday, May 25.

It was the final meeting of the Rockefeller Fellows program, "Culture, Art, Trauma, Survival, Development: Vietnamese Contexts", which funded Wikivietlit for coverage of foreign scholars of Vietnamese literature. **Dan** was joined by **Viet Le** of the University of Southern California and

the Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network (DVAN), the musician **Nguyen Thuyet Phong**, scholars **Nguyen Lien** and **Phan Cam Thuong**, and prison novelist **Bui Ngoc Tan**, with Saigon writer **Tran Thi Hong Hanh** and educator **Phan Ton Tinh Hai** in the audience.



VNLP supporter **Anh Do** of the *Nguoi Viet Daily News* spoke at a Master's Tea at Davenport College, Yale, on Thursday, April 2, on "Chasing News Across Culture and Generations." She took questions on such achievements as founding the English-language *Nguoi Viet 2* weekly section for younger readers, and covering Asian cultures and communities for eight years as columnist for the Orange County Register.

Photo by **Quang Phu Van**

Write for Father Ly

VNLP translator **Jean Libby** is the Amnesty International (AI) case coordinator for Prisoner of Conscience Reverend **Nguyen Van Ly**, who was imprisoned with VNLP author **Nguyen Chi Thien** at Ba Sao prison in 1990 and 1991. **Thien** was released in 1991 after a Prisoner of Conscience campaign by AI, who also adopted **Father Ly**, then serving a ten-year sentence for leading an illegal religious pilgrimage.

Ly was released in 1992, but imprisoned again in 2001 for 'failure to abide by the decisions on his probation issued by authorized State agencies' and for 'sabotaging the policy of uniting the whole people.' Released in a general amnesty in 2005, **Ly** was one of the architects of the online petition signed by 118 Vietnamese

citizens made public on the Internet on 8 April 2006.

The originators, known as Bloc 8406, call for multi-party democracy in Viet Nam. **Thien** was one of the first to sign the petition when it left Viet Nam. **Jean** was among the first 100 supporting names.



The Reverend Nguyen Van Ly

Ly was arrested again in February 2007. At his March trial, **Ly**, his hands tied to a chair, was gagged, carried from the courtroom, and sentenced to eight years on the charge of violating Article 88 of the Vietnamese penal code, 'propaganda against the government.' In commemoration of the second anniversary of the current imprisonment of **Ly**, now in solitary confinement for two years, Amnesty International Group 19 in Palo Alto is producing petitions and leaflets in Vietnamese as well as English.

They will ask the American Embassy in Hanoi to visit **Ly** and inform him of the strong support among Americans for his release, as well as that of two co-defendants, **Nguyen Phong** and **Nguyen Binh Thanh**. To join in the effort contact **Jean Libby** at jalibby@pacbell.net.

George Mangan Gone

George Herbert Mangan died on February 25, 2009 after a long illness. Many VNLP supporters were among the more than 4,000 students he taught at Exeter after service as a linguist in Naval Security. His engagement with Christian existentialism made reading **Dostoevsky** and **Greene** or watching **Coppola** lasting influences on those so fortunate as to

study with him. Send condolences to his wife **Jane** at 47 Main Street, Exeter, NH 03833.

Lucy Nguyen

Former VNLP advisory committee member **Lucy Nguyen** is housebound. Old friends can call her at (413) 665-0370, write to 4 Pine Court, Sunderland, MA 01375-9424, or send email to lnguyen@acad.umass.edu.

Ken Chen wins Yale Younger Poets

Ken Chen, the new executive director of the Asian American Writers Workshop in New York and friend of VNLP, has won this manuscript competition, the oldest literary prize in the United States. We can look forward to his first book *Juvenilia* from Yale University Press.

Credit and Debit Card Donations

VNLP now accepts debit and credit card donations at www.vietnamlit.org, thanks to the Giftworks online donations program. The page suggests contributions from \$25, \$50 or \$100 to help cover the costs of printing and mailing Literature News, to \$250, which will support a batch of reference articles at Wikivietlit, or \$500 to support a new VNLP author page.

T H A N K S

In the first quarter of 2009, **Ken Chen** met **Dan** for breakfast the day before and **Mitch Bradbury** took him out to lunch the day of the New York party, hosted by **Oz Enders**, **Elise Thoron**, **Pamela Rosenthal** and **Donna Dennis**, where **David Moore**, **Jeff Ratner**, and **Sam Duffy** played music and **Dan** read from his dissertation to **Robert Anderson**, **Kim**, **Larry & Alicia Berger**, **Lisa Brainerd**, **Emily Clarke-Pearson**, **Dana Doan**, **Jenny Young Dupont**, **Seth Fagen**, **Samantha Gillison**, **Pharibe Wise Hannan**, **Carol Irving**, **Vlad Klimenko**, **Kathy Klyce**, **Andrew Knox**, **Jacques Lezra & Susanne Wofford**, **Michele Lowrie**, **Michael Lynton**, **David Norris**, **Lydia Rhodes Petty**, **Janeth Thoron**, and **Ocean Vuong**. **Elise Thoron** rehearsed **Dan** the night before, in front of **Oz**, **Desaix Anderson**, **Jim Friedlander**, **Cindy Prescott Kuster**, **Zan Ottaway**, and **Joanna Wissinger**. **Oz** followed up with **Larry Berger** for lunch to discuss their mutual interest in health care administration and VNLN. **Julie Rasmussen** hosted **Stu Swanson** and **Dan** in Virginia for the **Obama** inauguration, which we enjoyed from the Iwo Jima memorial. **Fred Brown** wrote to invite **Dan** to speak to his Viet Nam students at the School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington and when time and strength did not permit offered to hook us up with another instructor in the fall. **John & Margaret Wise** hosted **Dan** on a visit to their Virginia farm to discuss **John's** life, joined by **Peyton Wise**, **Carl Johnston** and **Steady Hinckley**, and **Pharibe Wise Hannan** and **Dan** discussed the VNLN business development plan. **Peyton** offered to come when **Dan** speaks at SAIS and **Steady** asked him to visit in Maryland. **Pharibe**, **Haun Saussy**, and **Sam Duffy** accompanied **Dan**, **Elise & Oz** to see **Randy Burns** sing in New Haven on a trip to discuss the VNLN business development plan. **Jean Libby** sent out a mailing of *Literature News* which brought in a new project donor. When **Miriam Cooke** had to decline our invitation for the May party, she offered to host another one in July. **Paula Duffy** put **Dan** up in Chicago for the Association for Asian Studies meetings, hosting a dinner with **Wendy Doniger** and **Marshall Sahlins**. **Michele Thompson** put VNLN on the agenda of the Vietnamese Studies Group, advisory committee **Lucien Ellington** put VNLN on the agenda of his *Education About Asia*, and **Lucien** commissioned a resource essay for *EAA* on teaching the war through Vietnamese literature in translation which will begin life as a Wikivietlit article. **Kevin Davis** and **Barry Ragin** had **Dan** talk about VNLN on their *Shooting the Bull* radio show. **Mai Elliott**, **Victor J. Croizat**, **Michele**, **Margaret**, and **Peyton** tried to nail down when **John Wise** might have witnessed a helicopter evacuation from northwestern Viet Nam to US ships in the late 1940s or early 1950s. **David Willson** sent ongoing editions of his "REMF Diary of Dying and Bureaucratic Complexity" and **Robert Anderson** sent drafts of his Pershing and Seymour mss. **Ocean Vuong** updated and expanded Wikivietlit coverage of Vietnamese American writers working in English, and **Catherine Cole**, **Linh Dinh**, **Wendy Duong**, **David & Mai Elliott**, **Alan Farrell**, **Viet Le**, **Greg Lockhart**, **Isabelle Thuy Pelaud**, **Cong Huyen Ton Nhu Nha Trang & Larry Pensinger**, **Quang X. Pham**, and **David Willson** reviewed Wikivietlit entries.

In the beginning of the second quarter of 2009, **Alan Farrell** introduced **Dan** and **Lewis "Bob" Sorley** over lunch near the Virginia Military Institute. **Bob** offered to come when **Dan** speaks at SAIS. **Chung Nguyen** and the William Joiner Center invited **Dan** to speak about Wikivietlit at the University of Massachusetts campus, **Regina Abrami** went out for dinner the night before, and **Lucy Duffy** and **Ruth Shapiro** drove up from the Cape to listen and then have dinner. **Pharibe** picked **Dan** up at the Hartford airport and drove to Ernie's in New Haven where **Ben Kiernan**, **Michele Thompson**, and **Rich Richie** celebrated the dissertation with pizza then drinks on **Michele's** breezeway the evening before the memorial service for **Huynh Sanh Thong**. His wife **Van-Yen Huynh** included **Dan** in the service, which is reported on page 3. **Quang Phu Van** invited poet **Nguyen Chi Thien** and others back to his house after the reception. **Charlie Hunter** hosted **Dan** and **Sam** and **Oz Enders** on a visit to clear a treeline and dig **Charlie's** mom's garden in Vermont so we could further discuss the VNLN business plan. **Katherine Walton & Jaimey Eisler** and **Tim & Denise Duffy** threw a VNLN party for **Dan's** dissertation in Efland, North Carolina. **Adolphus Bell** entertained. Guests are listed in the article on page 3. **Katherine** wrote the next morning to thank **Dan** for having a party thrown for him. **Denise Duffy** sent out an email of her party toast which brought in a new donor. Thanks!

VNLN Legal Status and Funding

VNLN is a d/b/a for **Books & Authors: Viet Nam, Inc.**, a federally recognized 501.c.3 non-profit corporation in North Carolina. VNLN has established its editorial program with private funding. VNLN recognizes its authors and editors with modest honoraria and pays contractors and vendors their going rate.

Seventeen friends have sponsored events to develop support in New York, Washington, DC and North Carolina: **Valerie Asher** in Bethesda, Maryland; **Donna Dennis & Nancy Loudon**, **Sam Duffy**, **Nina & Hal Drooker**, **Tom Enders & Elise Thoron**, **Carol Irving**, **Pamela Rosenthal & Samuel Wertheimer** in New York; **Anna & Steve Wilson** in Durham, **Tim & Denise Duffy** and **Katharine Walton & Jaimey Eisler** in Efland.

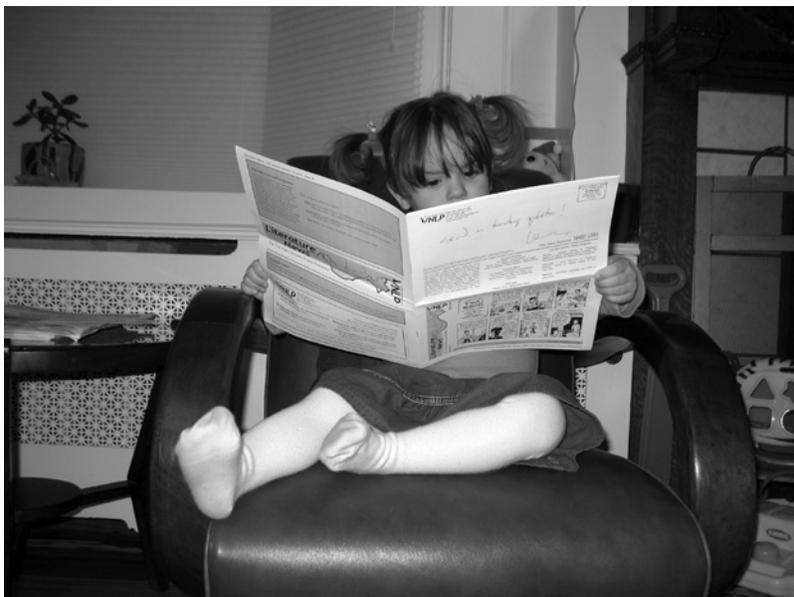
Major gifts from **Anonymous**, **Lucy Duffy**, **Tom Enders & Elise Thoron**, and **Pamela Rosenthal & Samuel Wertheimer** started the work. Over 2005-7, **Philip Alperson**, **Anne Asher**, **Valerie Asher**, **Kim & Larry Berger**, **Pete & Kim Delevett**, **Donna Dennis**, **Paul Dionne & Jenn Esperanza**, **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 Senser**, **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** made a major gift and **Charlie Hunter** joined at the project level. 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 VNLN website, launched in March 2007 as Wikivietlit.

Major gifts from **David & Betty Jones** and **Oz Enders** allowed VNLN to take steps towards professionalization in 2008. **Valerie Asher**, **Kim & Larry Berger**, **Pete & Kim Delevett**, **Paul Dionne & Jenn Esperanza**, **Nina & Hal Drooker**, **Lucy Duffy**, **Anne Frank**, **Jean Libby**, **Sandy Mills**, **Mart Stewart & Ly Lan** all renewed their support in 2008. **Tin Nguyen** joined as a new donor. **Anh Do** renewed the corporate support of the *Nguoi Viet* newspaper at the project level. So far in 2009, **Lisa Brainerd**, **Jessica Hughes**, **Andrew Knox**, **Martha Moore**, **Lucy Nguyen**, **Alexandra Ottaway**, **Ruth Shapiro** and **Margaret Wise** have joined as new donors. **Penny & Bernard Snow** and **Michele Thompson** have renewed their support. New donors **Pharibe Wise Hannan**, **Ngai Nguyen**, and **Anonymous** have provided support at the project level. **Le Phuong Anh**, **Donna Dennis & Nancy Loudon**, **Lucy Duffy**, and **Charlie Hunter** have repeated their support at the project level. Renewed major gifts from **David & Betty Jones** and **Tom Enders & Elise Thoron** have supported our development in 2009.

M I S S I O N

Activity

The Viet Nam Literature Project makes Vietnamese literature intellectually accessible in English. We now offer a free online English-language encyclopedia to Vietnamese literature, Wikivietlit, and now publish translations of key authors at our website accompanied by teaching materials such as lesson plans and study materials such as bibliography and interviews.



Lena Marie Harms reading Literature News, photo by Erik Harms

We will recruit a university partner to offer certification in teaching Vietnamese literature through a low-residency, distance-learning, project-based program bringing instructors together with one another and with master teachers, research scholars, and living authors. We will publish the mastery products of our student teachers for widespread use.

Rationale

The long American war in Viet Nam and the subsequent Vietnamese immigration here have fed a persistent interest in Viet Nam among a variety of Americans. By addressing this interest, Vietnamese literature can educate Americans in the

views of others, to promote intelligent engagement in world affairs.

The interest in Vietnamese literature in the United States is local and contextual, scattered and diffuse. It is best addressed by individual teachers responding to a particular situation, whether in home school, charter school, community college, liberal arts college, research university, community center, continuing education, or prison.

Whether they are teaching vets or immigrants, their children or grandchildren, adoptive parents of Vietnamese, adoptees, or some other group entirely, teachers know their students' needs best.

However, most teachers lack expertise on Viet Nam.

The global network of Vietnamese literature specialists working in English can educate those dedicated to teaching the literature, whose teaching materials can in turn serve the wide public of teachers and students with a more glancing interest.

Plan

Viet Nam Literature Project will provide teachers with subject expertise through reference publishing, curricular publishing, and formal instruction. Wikivietlit already provides reference assistance on 200 Vietnamese authors. We have already published such translations as instructor **Lily Chiu's** presentation of Saigon author **Ly Lan**, with interview and discussion questions.

Our certification program will bring our experts and authors together with teachers, to improve their grasp of their chosen material, and subsequently to add the teachers' mastery projects to our online offerings of translations with curricular materials, sharing their pedagogy widely.

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