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This issue features **LUCY NGUYEN-HONG-NHIEM**

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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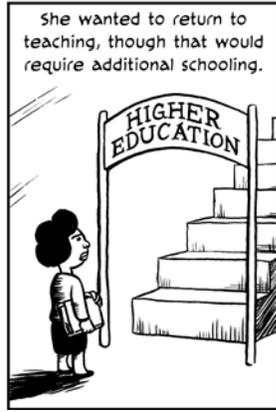
Paulette Stiles • Philip Arthur Moore

**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



*the comic continues inside...*

DEAR FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

It's been a long hot summer of work, one of the happiest of my life. This academic year we're publishing our first comic book, *Two Beauties*, by **Jason Rainey** from his **Nhat Linh** comic strips in last year's newsletters. See the announcement on page 4.

We're offering the book as a premium to all donors until we launch it commercially on the anniversary of **Nhat Linh's** death next July. A donor has stepped up anonymously to support Jason's comics in this year's newsletters from the memoirs of **Lucy Nguyen**, and to make another book of them next summer.

The same anonymous donor is also paying the costs of publishing a selection from **Lucy's** memoirs on our site, with her generous consent. We have as well support from historian **Mart Stewart** and novelist **Robert Anderson** to publish **Qui-Phiet Tran's** introduction to Saigon literary critic **Le Ngoc Tra** with selected essays.

The comic books are one way we've developed this summer to ask our membership and the general public to support bringing Vietnamese literature to the United States. This academic year we will also make the more usual applications to civic organizations, foundations and corporations.

The time to develop our case, our asks, and our targets has been paid from generous gifts in honor of my dissertation



Denise Duffy roasting Dan and Adolphus Bell smiling, at Katharine Walton's party for his dissertation at Efland, May 2009

and the continuing support of our membership. This year and next, we'll see what comes of it.

we need your support to do it. Please help -

Saturday mornings, the end of each week, I feed the mares before dawn and go unload the bakery trucks and load the bread case at the co-op, then walk over to the farmers' market. It's ecstasy to see their work meet the desires of the customers.

Dan

We're bringing the Viet Nam Literature Project to market this year and next, and

Editor, Viet Nam Literature Project  
Literature News, Fall 2009

So, while still acclimating to her new home, Lucy began her graduate studies at the UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS at AMHERST.

Besides earning her teaching credentials, a Ph.D. was important to Lucy.

She chose to write her dissertation on Francophone novelist PHAM VAN KY.

After many years of study, Lucy achieved her DOCTORATE.

Lucy taught classes in Vietnamese literature and Southeast Asian culture at UMASS, and French classes at Mount Holyoke College.

PROJECTS

**Le Ngoc Tra Project  
Partially Funded**



Qui-Phiet Tran

Qui-Phiet Tran is at work with Viet Nam Literature Project to publish his essay "Literature and Criticism: an Introduction to Le Ngoc Tra's Critical Writings" at the website, accompanying his translation of Tra's social critique "Contribution to Building a Strategy for Developing Vietnamese Culture", his literary theory, "Art and Man's Voice", as well as practical criticism of his contemporaries in doi moi literature. Qui-Phiet, a Faulkner scholar, focuses on Tra's broad view of his society and emphasis on humane ideals.

"He is not only a scholar and a critic but an artist," writes Qui-Phiet. Two donors, the environmental historian Mart Stewart, a former Fulbright colleague of Tra in Saigon, and the United States Marine Corps veteran novelist Robert Anderson have both stepped up with support toward the \$500 direct costs of the publication, honoraria for the authors and our webmaster's time. We have already completed entries on both the translator and the critic at Wikivietlit. As we move toward publishing Qui-Phiet's introduction and Tra's essays, please consider a gift to supply the balance.

**Lucy Nguyen-Hong-Nhiem  
Project Fully Funded**

This newsletter carries the first of four comics by Jason Rainey from Lucy Nguyen-Hong-Nhiem's *A Dragon Child: Reflections of a Daughter of Annam in America*. Jason will give an overview, as he did with Nhat Linh's career, then focus on Lucy's work with the Francophone novelist Pham Van Ky, and conclude with her pioneering as an educator in Massachusetts. While Jason's comics come out in the newsletter Lucy has granted VNLP permission to publish the relevant excerpts on our website. Next summer Jason will gather his strips as

our second comic book, which we will offer to supporters this time next year, before bringing to market in 2011. An anonymous donor has already committed to pay not only the direct costs of the website and book publications but also has contributed to the costs of the daily operations which make this coordinated effort possible. Start reading about Lucy in this issue's comic and follow up at Wikivietlit, where her entry also links to her research subject Pham Van Ky and such collaborators as anthropologist Joel Martin Halpern. If you might be interested in supporting a similar project, contact Dan at editor@vietnamlit.org.



Lucy Nguyen-Hong-Nhiem

**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.

Her educational career would extend outside of the classroom...

She also worked as a counselor, providing academic help to Asian-American students.

Lucy also organized Asian New Year celebrations and cultural festivals within the college community.

In one of her courses, Asian students wrote about their own experiences in coming to America. She would eventually co-edit an anthology that shared their stories.

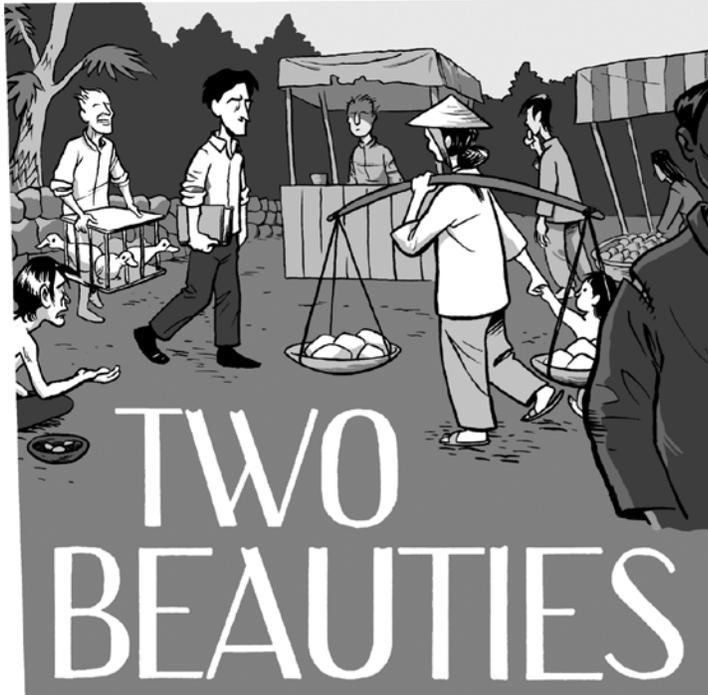
Details for this story came from the following:

Lucy Nguyen-Hong-Nhiem's memoir, *A Dragon Child: Reflections of a Daughter of Annam in America*

Charles C. Smith's article "Between Two Cultures: Southeast Asian Tradition Meets Campus Life" published in the June 1985 issue of *Contact*.

Special thanks to Lucy Nguyen-Hong-Nhiem for providing some of the visual reference for this comic.

OUR FIRST BOOK



# TWO BEAUTIES

the Life and Art of **NHAT LINH**

Until commercial publication in July, 2010, Viet Nam Literature Project offers *Two Beauties* by Jason Rainey only as a gift to supporters.

Send a donation in any amount to  
VNLP, 5600 Buck Quarter Road,  
Hillsborough, NC 27278  
or donate online at [www.vietnamlit.org](http://www.vietnamlit.org).

*Two Beauties* tells the story of the novelist and revolutionary Nhat Linh, adapts his classic fiction of the artist's duty to society, and recounts his heroic suicide.

Jason Rainey has designed the 20-page book from his comics for *Literature News*, the newsletter of the Viet Nam Literature Project, which works to make Vietnamese literature accessible in English.



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*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 (\$500)** pays the honoraria, production, and promotion costs of a new author page on the VNLP website.