NOMINATION FORM
ASIA/PACIFIC MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

THE ENVOYSHIP JOURNEYS TO CHINA
(The 18th Century)
UNESCO Memory of the World
Regional Committee for Asia/Pacific

Nomination form
Asia/Pacific Memory of the World
Register

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<th>Institution / Owner:</th>
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<td>Ha Tinh Museum</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
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Part A: Essential information

1. Summary

*The Envoyship Journeys to China* (or 皇華使程圖 - Maps of the Envoy Journey, Hoàng hoa sứ trình đồ in Vietnamese) is an atlas recorded with various of images, abundant information - precious for the journey of the Vietnam envoys in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The book compiled, edited and noted by Nguyen Huy Oanh 阮輝ANGER (1713-1789) about *The Envoyship Journey to China* from 1765 to 1768 from many documents of the previous envoys with supplement of details related to the journey 1766-1767 during which he was a Chief envoy.

*The Envoyship Journeys to China* is drawn by three types of color, written on “Đó” (a specific local tree in Vietnam) paper using Sinographs (Chinese script) with its main content being the map of envoyship journey from the Vietnam-China border through prefectures, districts, courier stations to the destination which is Xincheng district in Beijing. This book notes clearly the envoyship journey with regard to time and location at stopovers in accordance with departure and return land and water routes; days of stay and activities of the envoy delegation; length of each courier station, length of entire trip’s land and water route; structure and, time of building palace gates of Yanjing (Beijing). Mountain and river terrain, landscape, people and diplomatic rituals in Chinese and Vietnamese localities in relation with envoyship are also introduced selectively.

*The Envoyship Journeys to China* contains many evidences which prove diplomatic activities between Vietnam and China from the middle of the 10<sup>th</sup> century to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The book itself is a unique artistic work.

*The Envoyship Journeys to China* at present is the only remaining handwritten copy which is preserved by descendants of the Nguyen Huy family at the private house in Truong Luu village, now located in Truong Loc commune, Can Loc district, Ha Tinh province, Vietnam.

2. Nominator

2.1 Name of recommending person or agency

Ha Tinh Museum

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

The State management agency

2.3 Contact person(s)

- Ma Nguyen Tri Son, director of Ha Tinh Museum.
- Prof. Dr. Nguyen Huy My, the 16<sup>th</sup> generation of Nguyen Huy family.

2.4 Contact details
Name: Nguyen Tri Son, Address: 01, Nguyen Huu Thai St., Ha Tinh City, Ha Tinh province, Vietnam.
Tel: +842393.856142, Fax: +842393.856142, Email: Trisonds@gmail.com

- Name: Nguyen Huy My, Address: No. 64 B, Lane 8, Vong Thi St., Tay Ho District, Hanoi, Vietnam.
Tel: +84916570654, Fax: +8424.37537499, Email: nguyenmy49@yahoo.com.vn

3. Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

THE ENVOYSHIP JOURNEYS TO CHINA (the 18th century)

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

The heritage is a 22 cm x 14 cm book bound in the ancient type with 119 sheets (each sheet will be noted 2 page a and b) 238 pages, made of “Do” paper and written Sinographs. One book page has a page border, top of page has a double horizontal line bottom, right and left of page each has a horizontal line. Except the map which is drawn in black ink and highlighted in red ink, all contents are written in black ink.

The Envoyship Journeys to China is an abundant documentary heritage about envoyships to China of Vietnamese envoys, including 7 main contents as follows:

The first part: includes 4 pages from page 1a to page 2b, titled: “皇華驛路圖說” (Explanations on Maps of Routes and Courier Stations on the envoy). This part lists names of districts, prefectures along the road from Nam Quan (Southern Frontier Pass) to Yanjing, from page 1a to the middle of page 1b. In the middle of page 1b is the line: “自北京奉旨回國從良鄉起行陸璐經過縣州至漢口下水程” (From Beijing, obeying the imperial ordinance of returning to the home country, departed from Liangxiang on road, went through districts, and then went by waterway at Hankou, and listed name of mountain districts, districts, courier stations through which the envoys passed. At the middle of page 2a is the line: -“自北京陸璐起行到南京江南合水程”- (From Beijing, going on road, arriving at Nanjing, Jiangnan, combined with waterway), continued listing courier stations through which the envoys passed and specified length of each road. This part lengthens to the middle of the first line of page 2b; the final location which is mentioned is Longhong courier station.

The second part: following Part 1, starting from the first line of page 2b to the end of page 2b. This part is titled: “兩京程路歌” (The Song about the Route between Two Capitals). The entire part includes 26 lines of seven-character poetry written in Sinographs, generalizing the route through which the diplomatic corps passed. The last two sentences wrote “以上驛名四十六, 一路往來記須熟” (Above are 46 names of courier stations recording the travelling stretch of road to remember). Thus, in the 26 lines of poetry, the authors do not list all locations but mentions some typical geographic names among the total 46 courier stations through which the diplomatic corps passed.
The third part: located within page 3a, titled “使程備考”- (An Entire Investigation of the Envoy Route). This part generalizes time and location of the stretch of road from Thang Long capital to Nam Quan pass in Vietnam from Kien Nghia communal temple as the first location to Nguong Duc station as the last location. Each journey also noted the date of stay or the ceremonial activities at that location.

The fourth part: The main part is the maps of journey, includes 104 pages, from page 3b to page 106a. The first page is the map of the border between Vietnam and China, and time when some diplomatic corps passing through the border. Next is the map of the journey through, prefectures, districts. The last location is Xincheng district.

Pages of the map specify particularly the nature, people, citadels, villages, relics, charms of nature, and communication activities of the diplomatic corps with local people and the government, etc.

The fifth part: this part is right after the map, located in page 105b, “本國自神京進行陸路”- (Road from the capital of Vietnam). This part records locations through which the diplomatic corps passes on the road from the capital to the border. This part is merely the list of stations of Kinh Bac routes and Lang Son routes, belonging to Vietnam territory.

The sixth part, from page 105b, titled “北使水陸路程里數”- (Length of road and waterway route of the envoyship journey to the North). This part includes 22 pages particularly recording name, length of road from Nam Quan pass to Yanjing capital with total 9838 miles.

The seventh part is titled “國初建宮殿”- (The first days of constructing the palace), including 2 pages. This part lists name of palaces, palace doors and their positions within Yanjing capital. The end of page 118a specifies years of constructing of palaces: “Duannmen was constructed in the 6th year of Kangxi dynasty, Taihe temple and Qiangqing palace were re-constructed in the 8th year of Kangxi reign, etc....”

At the end of the book is Afterword by Nguyen Huy Trien (1852-1909) who is the descendant of the 5th generation of Nguyen Huy Oanh and the person reproducing this version of the book in 1887.

3.3. Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage (At least three digital photographs of the documentary heritage should be provided to be used by MOWCAP for the purposes of promoting Memory of the World e.g. newsletters, website etc.)
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- Back of the book before re-binding
- Bound back of the book
- The first page
- Two pages at the middle
- Two pages at the end of the map
- Two pages at the end of book
The map of the border between Vietnam and China

1. From border pass to Gui district, Kangxi currency is used for trading.
2. Stream
3. Residential area
4. Bingyan soil mountain with rock in the middle.
5. Two temporary residences which are newly constructed: Xibu prefecture
7. Soil mountain with rocks on two sides
8. Where envoys chiefs stays
9. Where guard officers stays
10. Yangde stage where tributes are placed.
11. Native land [Vietnam]
12. Border pass
13. Border pass defending flag
14. On the 22\textsuperscript{nd} of lunar January, the diplomatic corps in Jiachen year passed through the border pass
15. Northern land [China]
16. Border pass
17. On the 27\textsuperscript{th} of lunar January, the diplomatic corps in Wuchen year passed through the border pass
18. Zhaode stage.
Describe Yangzhou tower and citadel.

1. Yangzhou citadel. In the citadel, there were Defence command lieutenant governor, provincial governor, grand coordinator and chief of Jangdu district.

2. Only met the grand coordinator. The wall of Yangzhou citadel was about one or two miles in length. Sui dynasty constructed the scene of the citadel. Streets on the two sides are beautiful.

1. Beauty scenery of Yangzhou tower and streets on the two sides. Incalculable small and big boats of merchants.

2. People living on the two sides and plantation, embankment and green trees.
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Nguyen Huy Oanh’s envoyship journey: Red color indicate the route, numbers indicate the station, and places performing diplomatic activities etc.
3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

Diplomatic activities with China were usual and top works for the old state of Vietnam. In each stage, from time to time, in spite of typical tasks, missions, it always focused on the two purposes: to maintain the beneficial friendliness for the dynasty, the nation and to protect the sovereignty and honour of the country. This was both honour and heavy responsibility for the selected people – especially the leader of envoyship.

In about the middle of the 18th century, the activity of sending envoys between China and other countries in general and between China and Vietnam in particular reached its peak. During this time, envoys must comply with journeys and rites stipulated by the state of China. For Vietnam, in addition to “beseech investiture” trips, discussion about territorial border, in the period Le Trung Hung (the Restored Le dynasty), it was stipulated to tribute “one tribute every three years, contribute every six years”; therefore, about every 5 to 6 years, there were at least one diplomatic corps from Vietnam to Yanjing; it took Vietnamese diplomatic corps about two years to go and return.

Since 1758, Nguyen Huy Oanh was listed as the Vice Chief Envoy for the intended diplomatic trip in 1760; and in 1764, he was selected as the Chief Envoy to Beijing from 1766 to 1767. To well prepare for the diplomatic trip, first of all, he collected all documentations of previous diplomatic corps, especially documentation of the most recent diplomatic trips including one of his teacher, compile, edit, and note to provide his delegation with favourable documentation and instructions.

Nguyen Huy Oanh's diplomatic corps left from Hanoi on 9th January 1766, passed the border on 29th January and arrived to Ningming by roadway, then went by ships to Nanjing; after arriving to Jining, walked to outside of Beijing citadel. After nearly two month staying Beijing, performed diplomatic activities, on 16th February 1767, the corps returned to Vietnam by the same way. On 8th November 1767, they arrived in Hanoi. The both departure and return trips lasting nearly 2 years with such numerous events were noted carefully as activities on the routes, visiting audience with Emperor Qianlong, meeting Korean and Japanese envoys. He wrote two poems of Present Offered to Korean Envoys (贈高麗使) and Seeing Japanese Envoys Off to Japan (餞日本使回程).

During his diplomatic trips, he obtained prior works on diplomatic journey, referred to various Chinese books, edited and summarized big Chinese books on landscape and, gazetteers, ect… to disseminate in the homeland, simultaneously compared his voyages with previous documentations, after returning from the
diplomatic trip, he completed *The Envoyship Journeys to China*. This book has not been wood-blocked by Nguyen Huy Oanh and not disseminated widely.

Nearly one century later, Nguyen Huy Trien (1852-1909), the descendant of the 5th generation of Nguyen Huy Oanh, the author of Nguyen Huy literary line, listened to his teachers talking about books of Nguyen Huy Oanh including *The Envoyship Journeys* to China during his school days, after 20 years of seeking, he found the original book and reproduced it by himself.

The book was carefully kept by the family, in 1989 Nguyen Huy But (1916-2011) the descendant of the 15th generation of the Nguyen Huy clan, handed over to the representative of the family.

In 1993, the book was introduced during at the scientific conference on the 250th birthday anniversary of the Vietnamese Great Man of Culture Nguyen Huy Tu (Nguyen Huy Oanh’s son).

### 3.5 Bibliography

- **Publications**:


- **Articles**

  3. Dinh Khac Thuan, “Nguyen Huy Oanh and his works written in the diplomatic trip to Quing dynasty in 1765,” in the summary record of the international conference of *See China from outside*, Fudan University's Institute of Literature and History, Shanghai (China), November 2007. 丁克順，《阮輝偕和1765年作為出使清朝官員時的寫作》，《從周邊看中國》國際學術研討會論文，上海復旦大學文史研究院2007年11月。


6. Hoang Phuong Mai, “Map for Diplomatic Missions: A Special Type of Sino-Nom Documents”, in conference: *Engaging with Vietnam - An Interdisciplinary Dialogue* with the subject “Engaging with Vietnam through Scholarship and the Arts”, held at University of Hawaii at Manoa, the U.S from 04th - 10th October 2016, (being issued).


- **Cross-check materials**


3. Le Quy Don, *Bac su thong luc (Records of Diplomatic Trip to China)*, translated by Trinh Ngu (edited by Ngo The Long), the Institute of Sino-Nom Studies Library, code Bt 19 and Bt 85.


- **Proceedings of conferences**

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2. *About geographical and historical records of Nguyen Huy Literary Line*, Summary Record of the Scientific Conference, Hanoi, 21/04/2017 (Being issued)


3.6 Name, qualification and contacts details of up to three independent people or organizations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vo Hong Hai</td>
<td>PhD. in Cultural Studies</td>
<td>No. 294, Nguyen Du Road, Ha Tinh City</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel: +84913294039</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:vohonghai_ht@yahoo.com">vohonghai_ht@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assoc.Prof. Nguyen Thanh Tung</td>
<td>PhD. in Philology</td>
<td>Hanoi University of Education. No 136, Xuan Thuy, Cau Giay, Hanoi</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assoc.Prof. Dinh Khac Thuan</td>
<td>PhD. in Han-Nom Studies</td>
<td>Han-Nom Institute, 183, Dang Tien Dong, Hanoi</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tel: +8424.38574956</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:thuanhanoi@yahoo.com">thuanhanoi@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I assert that the above named referees have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination for the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register, and their names to appear on the website. (Contact details will not appear on the website or be disclosed by the MOWCAP to any third party).

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NGUYEN TRI SON</td>
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</table>

| Date | 08. 2017 |
4 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)
Name: The Nguyen Huy Family
Representative: Nguyen Huy My
Address: Truong Loc Commune, Can Loc District, Ha Tinh Province, Vietnam
Telephone: +84916570654
Facsimile: +8424.37537499
Email: nguyenmy49@yahoo.com.vn

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)
Name: Ha Tinh Museum
Address: No. 1 Nguyen Huu Thai St., Ha Tinh City, Ha Tinh province, Vietnam.
Telephone: +842393.856142
Facsimile: +842393.856142
Email: trisonds@gmail.com

4.3 Legal status
Details of legal and administrative powers for the preservation of the documentary heritage
This is the Nguyen Huy’s family heritage

4.4 Accessibility
Direct access: The book is open to all who want to read or copy them.
Indirect access: through the mass media, publications, e-books, CD-Roms, etc.

4.5 Copyright status
The copyright on the book is owned by the Nguyen Huy family. Any utilization, copying or reproduction from the database and originals must be permitted by the representative of the family and in accordance with the Vietnamese law.

5 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 First criterion: authenticity. Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Has its identity and origin been reliably established?

After being appointed to a diplomatic trip in 1758, Nguyen Huy Oanh had sense of thorough preparation for his trip; he selected documentation from the
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previous diplomatic corps, of which was from his master Nguyen Tong Quai, compiled, edited and annotated to serve his trip. Then he compared with his trip, revised in order to store and serve following diplomatic corps, as well as disseminated knowledge on China. His traditional works affirms authenticity of the original text.

Collecting documentation of our ancestors, editing and filling are traditional working way with the next generations of the Nguyen Huy family. Respectfully admired sentiment toward ancestors of the reproducer also confirms the authenticity of copies.

Authenticity of the heritage is also reflected through:
- in two pages 1a and 116b there are two parts in which the year of edition is 1765 by Nguyen Huy Oanh.
- The material of “Đỗ” paper with longevity/chronology and stylistic signs, bookbinding techniques confirms the authenticity of the heritage.

Authenticity of the heritage can also be compared with Chinese historical documents on manner, welcome rites of diplomatic corps and with the national historical books of Vietnam like Dai Viet su ky tuc biên (Supplementary Edition of the Annals of Dai Viet); Kham dinh Viet su thong giai cuong muc (Imperially Commissioned Itemized Summaries of the Comprehensive Mirror of Viet History), and monographs like Bac su thong luc (Records of Diplomatic Trip to China) by Le Quy Don, Lich trieu hien chuong loai chi (Categorized Records of Dynasties’ Decrees and Regulations) by Phan Huy Chu, Nghe An ky (Nghean Chronicle) by Bui Duong Lich.

Authenticity of the indirect heritage is also affirmed with documentations as follows:
- Documentations on Nguyen Huy Oanh's communicating and compiling poems to present Korean and Japanese diplomatic agents;
- Documentations dedicated to present by Chinese imperial officials to Nguyen Huy Oanh in the diplomatic trips.

Especially, the heritage's authenticity is also verified through the diary of diplomatic trips of Nguyen Huy Oanh, A General Song of the Envoy to Yanjing, which records his diplomatic trips, times of travelling across areas, diplomatic rites in sub-districts, districts and cities, etc. of China. This book has been wood-blocked in the end of the 18th century, and translated into Vietnamese and published in 2014 ([3]- Publications).

5.2 Second criterion: world significance. Is the documentary heritage unique and irreplaceable, something whose disappearance or deterioration would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created a great
impact over a span of time and/or within a particular supra-national cultural area of the region? Is it representative of a type, but it has no direct equal? Has it had great influence – whether positive or negative – on the course of history?

*The Envoyship Journeys to China* is an original existing documentation that summarizes all diplomatic trips valuably in many aspects: geography to history, ethnology and literary arts. It is also a filed documentation of a family on the diplomatic relation between Vietnam and China, a diplomatic manner that no longer exist. Maps and meticulous annotations on districts, pathways, ferry stations, mountains and rivers, fields, edifices, yards, streets, bridges and dams, etc., are very hardly for fabrication.

Unique and sole feature of this documentation is also reflected at the following points:

- layout of books: waterway and roadway roads, distance, diplomatic rites, etc., are arranged into a summarization on diplomatic trips.
- The script on the woodblock are Sinographs which are international and used officially in the government systems in the then shared-script countries in East Asia.
- documentary contents of *The Envoyship Journeys to China* are extracted from geographical, cultural and historical materials, etc.

The documentation's spreading in Vietnam and global scope is expressed through:

- reference and compilation of documentation from previous diplomatic corps and realities of the very trips of Nguyen Huy Oanh were compiled into a very useful documentation for next diplomatic corps to archive at their families.
- after 1765, there were five pupils of Nguyen Huy Oanh participating in Vietnamese diplomatic corps to visit China: Nguyen Duy Hoanh (1737-?), Ngo Thi Nham (1746-1803), Le Huu Dung (1745-?), Do Huy Dien (1746-1828) and Nguyen Duong (1746-?). They contributed to the diplomatic career between Vietnam and China. Particularly the diplomatic corps of Ngo Thi Nham brought about the peace of Vietnam and China after the war in 1789.
- the very documentation helped Nguyen Huy Oanh to successfully complete his diplomatic trip and to enhance Vietnam position that was formerly after Korean envoy in Qing Emperor's audience. Nguyen Huy Oanh argued and interpreted the status of Vietnam, then Qing Emperor accepted to permit two envoys of Vietnam and Korea to be the same level in the audience.
- Nguyen Huy Oanh was one of two envoys of Vietnam in the Restored Le dynasty who communicated with both Korean and Japanese envoys.
- at present, *The Envoyship Journeys to China* attracts various international researchers, especially in similar-culture countries.
- the method is to compile books into documentation in service of diplomatic works in the 18th century and it remains empirically meaningful for the present compilation of diplomatic documentation.

- it is a precious artifact enabling researchers to learn various fields such as culture, history, socio-economic life of Chinese society in the 18th century.

- it is a material for research, assessment and comparison of Qing dynasty's diplomatic rites toward Vietnam and other shared-script countries as well as other countries like India, Pakistan, etc.

5.3 Third, world significance must be demonstrated in meeting one or more of the following criteria.

**Time:** Is it especially evocative of its time (which may have been one of crisis, or significant social or cultural change; it may represent a new discovery or be the “first of its kind”)

The Envoyship Journeys to China was compiled within 1765 to 1768, mentioning the diplomatic trips to China of diplomatic corps in the 18th century; was preserved in Nguyen Huy family and used consecutively to the middle of the 20th century.

The 18th century is a period in which the diplomatic relation between Vietnam and China was rather stable with cross access by various diplomatic corps and high development in culture and education. From 1702 to 1783, 15 diplomatic corps under the Le dynasty with famous envoys like Ha Tong Muc (1653-1707) made diplomatic trip in 1703, Nguyen Cong Hang (1686-1732) in 1718, Ho Phi Tich (1665-1734) in 1728, Le Quy Don (1726-1784) in 1760, etc. They were all academics whose names were engraved on the inscriptions in the Directorate of Education (國子監, literally ‘School for Sons of State’), politicians and culturists who were holding significant positions in the governments. They were also teachers and authors leaving behind various literary works and poems on their diplomatic trips which were mostly lost. Such envoys contributed to the stable peace of Vietnam and China in particular and the East Asian region in general.

Also in this period, various envoys from Korea and Japan also visited China and took chance to exchange with Vietnamese envoys.

**Place:** Does it contain crucial information about a locality important in the history of the region and its cultures? Or did the location have an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the documentary heritage? Or is it descriptive of physical environments, cities or institutions since vanished?

The Envoyship Journeys to China was compiled by Nguyen Huy Oanh from 1765 to 1768, the existing copy was reproduced at Truong Luu village, Truong Loc commune, Can Loc district, Ha Tinh province, Vietnam.
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*People:* Is it related to people in a social and cultural context that reflects significant aspects of human behaviour, or social, industrial, artistic or political development. It may reflect the important roles and impact of key or certain individuals or groups.

*The Envoyship Journeys to China* was compiled by Nguyen Huy Oanh 阮輝儼 (1713-1789) who was the first-ranked local laureate in the 1732 examination, then also first-ranked metropolitan laureate in the 1748 examination. He worked as Ministers of Ministry of Works (工部尚書) and Ministry of Rites (禮部尚書), also Chancellor of the Directorate of Education (國子監祭酒- the highest mandarin in the field of state education), in the title Marquis of Thac Linh. He was a diplomat who used to welcome Qing envoys in 1761, then leaded the diplomatic corps to China in 1766-1767 and communicated with Korean and Japanese envoys. He founded and became the owner of Phuc Giang Academy (福江書院) – the most renown private school in the premodern history of Vietnam which brought Confucian education to the Central Vietnam in the 18th century. Thirty of his students were metropolitan laureates. He left behind more than 40 books on various fields like history, geography, literature, traditional medicine, diplomacy, etc.

The reproducer of this book was Nguyen Huy Trien (1852-1909), the fifth generation nephew of Nguyen Huy Oanh, who used to work at the Hall of Confucian Circle and participated in the Writers' Association of La Son District.

About other related figures:

Nguyen Tong Quai (1693-1767), metropolitan laureate, a master of Nguyen Huy Oanh, visited as an envoy in the Qing dynasty twice in 1741 and 1748.

Ngo Thi Nham (1746-1803), metropolitan laureate, a student of Nguyen Huy Oanh, was appointed to be Chief Envoy to come to the Qing dynasty in 1793.

*Subject and theme:* The subject matter may represent particular historical or intellectual developments in natural, social and human sciences, politics, ideology, sports and the arts.

Subjects and topics of documentation from *The Envoyship Journeys to China* are plentiful in fields of history, geography, literature, language, architecture, landscape, welcome rites, which are always concerned and studied at various aspects by Vietnamese and international academic circle.

Compiling international relation documentation is important for any age during the successfully construction and development of prosperous country and "international integration".

*Form and style:* The item(s) may have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value, be a typical or key exemplar of a type or presentation, custom or medium, or of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format.
The book is bound in traditional style, each sheet is folded into two pages, reflecting the form of traditional books in East Asian shared-script region.

Handwritten Sinographs in the book are good-looking, clear and legible. The drawings are coherent.

There are three basic colors used in the material, of which black color is used to draw lines, the red color used to show the river bed, the road bed, the flag, the wall, etc. The dark blue color is used to paint the mountains. The drawing is simple but sharp, subtle, making the picture beautiful, lively. The pages when assembled will be a continuous painting from Hanoi to Beijing along the way of the Envoyship journey to China.

The format and style of presentation are diverse and abundant with specific notes on mountainous terrain, residential areas, fields, citadel, diplomatic rites, etc.

6 Other matters taken into account: rarity, integrity and threat

**Rarity** Does the content or physical nature of the documentary heritage make it a rare surviving example of its type or time?

*The Envoyship Journeys to China* is a rare document on diplomatic trips which is now kept in a family the the envoy in the past. It is an original documentation for studying diplomatic relation in the past, especially in the middle period of the 18th century.

Apart from information value, the book has undergone about 150 years with events of time, war, natural disaster, etc., and now become a precious antique.

The present copy is a unique book which is manually written and drawn. There exists no duplication, so it is hardly to restore if any loss or damage.

**Integrity** Within the natural physical limitations of carrier survival, is the documentary heritage complete or partial? Has it been altered or damaged?

The documentation is bound with ordinary pink stained cover paper, with four slightly worn corners; the head and foot of the book back are both torn about 3-4cm, revealing the book’s inner pages. The book has been restored by the Vietnam National Archives Center I. All of the pages are complete and manifest the work as a whole.

**Threat** Is its survival in danger? If it is secure, must vigilance be applied to maintain that security? Detail the nature and scope of threats.

This book is a heritage on the diplomatic trips to China, that are maintained at long-term cultural traditional family in a village of the Central of Vietnam. Truong Luu village is a place where the weather is quite severe, the storm and wet
season lasts from October to April of the next year with damages from microorganism and fungus; heat is up to 38-40°C in summer time, all could cause damage to the book. Though the Nguyen Huy family generations have been trying to protect and preserve the book, damage risk may always happen.

7 Preservation and Access Management Plan
Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? Are there strategies to preserve and provide access to it?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

7.1 Management status

_The Envoyship Journeys to China_ has recently been digitalized and duplicated. The digital version is sent to agencies like the National Library, the National Archives Center I, the Institute of Sino-Nom Studies, the Nghe An Library, the Ho Chi Minh City Library. The book has been translated into Vietnamese, prepared for publishing in 2017, with an English Introduction.

_The Envoyship Journeys to China_ has been disseminated and introduced on various mass media such as newspapers, televisions and conferences.

7.2 Preservation plan

Formerly, the book was kept, naturally as it is, at the family's premises, now restored, re-bound and digitalized. At present, studies on method and materials for preserving and extending life of _Envoyship Journeys to China_ are implemented by the Ha Tinh Museum and the family; and cooperation with various publication agencies are planned specifically in various manners such as translation, publishing, making documentary films, etc.

8 Any other information

The file to be submitted includes:
- the Nomination form
- the selected photos
- VCD-ROM
- the translations of some samples.
Nomination form

International Memory of the World Register

1.0 Checklist
☐ Summary completed (section 1)
☐ Nomination and contact details completed (section 2)
☐ Declaration of Authority signed and dated (section 2)
☐ If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified, and all Declarations of Authority obtained
☐ Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3)
☐ History/provenance completed (section 3.4)
☐ Bibliography completed (section 3.5)
☐ Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6)
☐ Details of owner completed (section 4.1)
☐ Details of custodian – if different from owner – completed (section 4.2)
☐ Details of legal status completed (section 4.3)
☐ Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4)
☐ Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5)
☐ Evidence presented to support fulfilment of the criteria? (section 5)
☐ Additional information provided (section 6)
☐ Details of consultation with stakeholders completed (section 7)
☐ Assessment of risk completed (section 8)
☐ Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan attach details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 9)
☐ Any other information provided – if applicable (section 10)
☐ Suitable reproduction quality photographs identified to illustrate the documentary heritage. (300dpi, jpg format, full-colour preferred).
☐ Copyright permissions forms signed and attached. Agreement to propose item(s) for inclusion on the World Digital Library if inscribed