1 Title of Documentary Heritage Item or Collection (max 10 words)

SINO-NOM DOCUMENTS IN TRUONG LUU VILLAGE, HA TINH PROVINCE (1689-1943)

2 Summary (max 200 words)

"Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943)" is a collection that consists of: (1) 26 royal edicts issued by the Kings of the Le and Nguyen dynasties, honouring or conferring titles or posts upon people from Truong Luu Village; (2) 19 documents sent to/from the Nguyen authorities from/to people in Truong Luu Village; and, 3 laudatory hanging scrolls written in Chinese and Nom characters on special dó paper or silk during a period from 1689 to 1943.

They are rare, valuable, and unique documents issued by the royal court and the local authorities/community to some people in Truong Luu Village, praising them for their contributions to social, cultural and educational activities as well as other documents, which were popular in the Northeast Asian monarchies.

These materials provide authentic evidence for the studies relating to history, education, politics, culture, celebrities, gender equality and praise of women, the learning tradition, and the respect for the elderly. Each of the documents is seen as an original work of art.

"Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943)" is now preserved Truong Luu Village, Kim Song Truong Commune, Can Loc District, Ha Tinh Province.

3 Nominator/s Contact details

3.1 Name of nominator/s (person/s or organisation/s)

TRUONG LUU CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION MANAGEMENT BOARD

3.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

State management agency

3.3 Contact person/s

Nguyen Thi Hue, Director

3.4 Contact details

Name: Nguyen Thi Hue	Address: Kim Song Truong Commune, Can Loc District, Ha Tinh Province, Viet Nam
Telephone: +84913294607	Email: nguyenminhhue1703@gmail.com

4 Declaration of Authority

I certify that I have the authority to nominate the documentary heritage described in this document to the Asia Pacific Regional Memory of the World Register.

Name Nguyen Thi Hue	Position Director
Address Kim Song Truong Commune, Can Loc District, Ha Tinh Province, Viet Nam	Email nguyenminhhue1703@gmail.com

Signature of nominator

5 Legal Information

5.1 Owner/s of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different from the nominator/s)

Three families Nguyen Huy, Tran Van and Hoang Van, represented by Mr. Nguyen Huy My.

Name: Nguyen Huy My	Address: Kim Song Truong Commune, Can Loc District, Ha Tinh Province, Viet Nam
Telephone: +84916570654	Email: nguyenmy49@yahoo.com.vn

5.2 Custodian/s of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner/s)

Name: Nguyen Thi Hue	Address: Kim Song Truong Commune, Can Loc Dis Ha Tinh Province, Viet Nam
Telephone: +84913294607	Email: nguyenminhhue1703@gmail.com

Written permission for nomination of this item from the Owner, different from the nominator, attached to this Nomination Form.

5.3 Legal status

The heritage is of private ownership

5.4 Accessibility

Direct: Everyone can come to see, read and copy.

Indirect: Via the mass media, the printed and published newspapers and books (*See 6.6)*

5.5 Copyright status

Copyright belongs to four families in Truong Luu Village, including: The Nguyen Huy, the Tran Van, and the Hoang Van (represented by Mr. Nguyen Huy My). All use, copying, printing from the database and the original data must be approved by the representatives of those three families and must comply with the regulations on procedures for exploitation and use of documents promulgated by the Government of Viet Nam.

6 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

6.1 Exact title of the documentary heritage

Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943)

TRUONG LUU CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION MANAGEMENT BOARD

6.2 Type of documentary heritage

The Sino-Nom documentary heritage includes royal title - or post-conferring edicts; administrative documents such as warrants, reports...., and laudatory hanging scrolls. The edicts and administrative documents were issued by the governments to confer a title, a post, or assignments. Herein, they are generally called "administrative documents". They were written in Chinese script on special *dó* paper (also called *Long Đang Paper)*. Meanwhile, *trướng* or laudatory hanging scrolls were written in Chinese or Nôm script on a sheet of silk.

6.3 Catalogue or registration details

Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943) isa collection of 48 original documents divided into 3 groups as follows:

1. 26 royal edicts (*sắc phong*) conferred by Kings of the Le and Nguyen dynasties from 1689 to 1943, including: (1) 22 ones which date back to the period from 1689 to 1783 under the Le Dynasty and have a size of 50x120 cm; (2) 2 others which date back to the period from 1824 to 1943 and have a size of 45 x 120 cm; all the edicts were written beautifully in Chinese on a special type of *dó* paper; on one side of the edicts, there is a drawing of a dragon that symbolizes the power of the King; the other side shows the content, including names of the recipients, previous and new titles and posts, and the reasons for the conferring and bears dates, names of the Kings who conferred the edicts as well as the King's seal "*Sắc mệnh chi bảo* - 敕命之寶"; and (3) the rest 2 which were inscribed in Chinese on a wooden board of a size of 45x100cm. These edicts were issued to honour the role of women.

2. 19 administrative documents exchanged between local authorities and people in the village of the Nguyen Dynasty during a period from 1803 to 1943, including: warrants, reports, dispatches, orders, and copies of instructions. They were written by hand in Chinese on a piece of *dó* paper, of which the size ranges from 40x60 cm to 60x80 cm. They bear the date of issue and the seal of the central or provincial government.

3. 03 laudatory hanging scrolls (*trướng)* written in Chinese or Nom script on a silk banner with a size of 97x197 cm, 121.5x177 cm and 70x127cm respectively. They date back to the period of the Le and the Nguyen dynasties.

(See Appendix 1 – List of items)

6.4 Images of the documentary heritage.

Edicts written in Chinese on special *dó* paper or wood (*Lunar calendar date*)

Picture 1. Royal edict conferring a title upon Mother Goddess Nguyen Thi Ho

June 1,1898, Stamped with the King's seal "*Sắc Mệnh Chi Bảo*"

This edict was conferred by King Thanh Thai and written in Chinese on *dó* paper. The title "Authentic Mother Goddess" was bestowed upon Nguyen Thi Ho, a woman who deserved the great credit for her contribution to the village. It was very rare that a woman was deified. It shows the viewpoint of gender equality. Nguyen Thi Ho was the third daughter of Nguyen Cong Ban. She was often called "*Đức Bà"* (Mother Goddess) with the fine "***Dực Bảo Trung Hưng Linh Phù".*** She usually turned out magically to give prescriptions to patients and advise peopleto do good.

Picture 2. Royal edict conferring a post upon Nguyen Cong Ban.

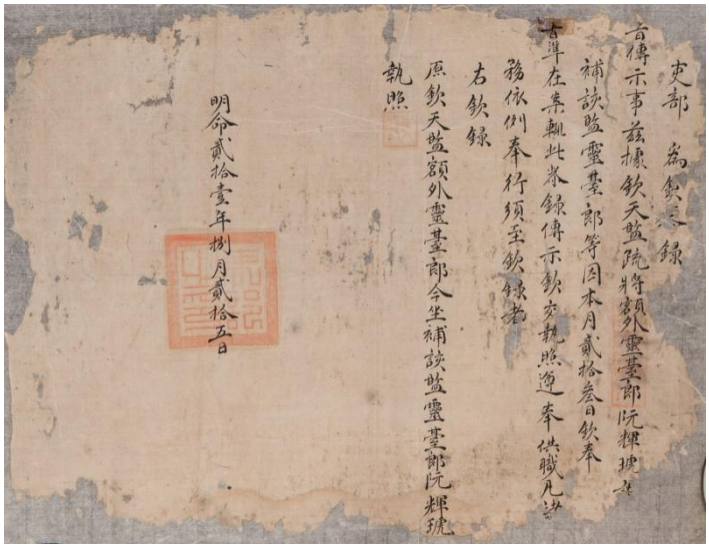
December 6, 1989, Stamped with the King's seal "*Sắc Mệnh Chi Bảo*"

This is an edict conferring he post "General-Commander Assistant in Cao Bang Army Corps" with the titles "*Gia hạnh đại phu", "Tư Chính khanh"* and "*Trung ban"* (the titles bestowed upon a civil mandarin ranked third in the hierarchy) upon Nguyen Cong Ban. It wss issued on the 6th of the 12th lunar month in 1689 by King Le Hy Tong. It was written in Chinese on *Long Đằng* paper and stamped with the King's seal "*Sắc Mệnh Chi Bảo*". Nguyen Cong Ban used to work under the administration of Trinh Binh in the era of Lord Trinh Can.

Picture 3. Royal edict conferring a title upon Mother Goddess Phan Thi Trang,

A good day in December1831.

This is a royal edict conferring the title "Perfect Example of Faithfulness" upon Phan Thi Trang. It was inscribed in Chinese on a wooden board under the era of King Minh Mang, expressing praise for her virtue and contribution to the family traditional preservation (gender equality).

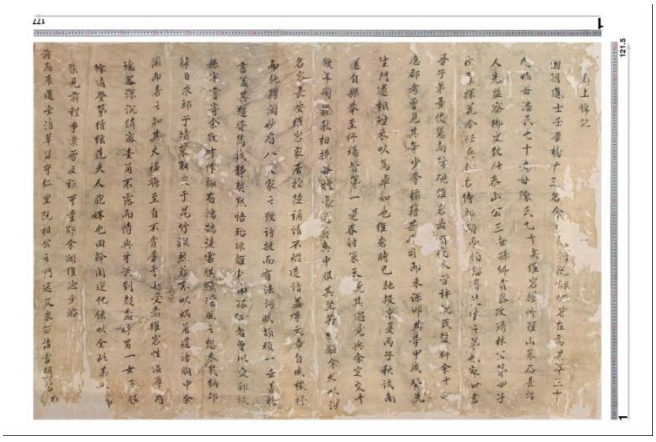


Picture 4: A copy [of the Royal Instructions] to Nguyen Huy Ho
August 25, 1840 [stamped with the seal of the Ministry of Personnel]

This is an administrative document. The royal instruction was given to Nguyen Huy Ho on August 25, 1840, appointing him to the post "Overseer of the Forecasting Bureau". It was stamped with the seal of the Ministry of Personnel.

Picture 5. Laudatory hanging scroll on the birthday anniversary of Phan Thi Truu, Spring 1772

This is a laudatory hanging scroll on the occasion of the 80th birthday anniversary of Phan Thi Truu, mother of Nguyen Huy Oanh, in 1772. It was written in Chinese on a sheet of silk of a size of 197cm x 50.8cm. Chancellor Nguyen Nghiem, who was retired and residing in Tien Dien, offered this laudatory hanging scroll containing a congratulatory poem and a line of additional information on the time as well as his title and relationship. The laudatory scroll expresses praise for women and honours Mrs. Truu for her role in education of children. It shows the viewpoint of gender equality and highly appreciates women's role in bringing up children.



Picture 6. Laudatory hanging scroll congratulating Nguyen Huy Quynh on his success at the exam, 1772.

This is a laudatory hanging scroll written by the Confucian scholars in La Son District to congratulate Nguyen Huy Quynh on his success at the national final exam and became a doctoral laureate in 1772. After taking the *Đình* exam (national final exam) six times, he won the fifth place among the third group of successful candidate (Doctoral Laureates). Thus, the association of Confucian scholars in La Son District offered the laudatory scroll compiled by Pham Vi Khiem. As usual, whenever someone got success at the national

exam, the association of Confucian scholars in La Son District offered a laudatory hanging scroll. In the heritage of the Nguyen Huy family in Truong Luu, there is also a laudatory hanging scroll congratulating Nguyen Huy Oanh on his title "*Thám hoa"* (The third place in the first-ranked group consisting of three best candidates at the national final exam at the royal ground) in 1748 and a laudatory hanging scroll congratulating Phan Nhu Khue on his title "*Tiến sĩ*" (Doctoral laureate) in 1731 kept currently at the Shrine of Phan Nhu Khue. The laudatory hanging scrolls often narrate or sing the praise of the family tradition and education, especially of those who were teachers.

6.5 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

In the monarchical period in many countries, especially China, Korea, Japan, and Viet Nam, kings often issued edicts to confer titles/posts upon those who contributed to the protection, pacification, stabilisation, education or development of the country as well as those who got success at exams (including both male and female). Governmental agencies communicated with citizens by administrative documents. In community activities of celebration such as congratulations on the longevity or the success at exams..., people often wrote poems or articles to those who were involved.

In the mid-15th Century, Nguyen Uyen Hau, the progenitor of the Nguyen Huy lineage in Truong Luu Village, who held the post of Master of Five Classics (*Ngũ kinh Bác sĩ*) and gave lectures on Five Classics in the Imperial Academy (*Quốc Tử Giám*), moved to the area of Trang Village, Vac Village, and Trai Hamlet and worked together with local people to establish a village named Trang Luu, called later as Truong Luu, which is the present-day Truong Luu Village in Kim Song Truong Commune of Can Loc District, Ha Tinh Province.

By the end of the 17th Century, some people of the village started to work as mandarins in the feudal apparatus such as: Nguyen Nhu Thach (1579-1662) who worked as Bureau Director of the Department of Justice with the title "Viscount of My Luong"; Nguyen Cong Ban (1630-1711), Judge and Commander of Cao Bang Army with the title "Duke of Thai Son"; Nguyen Cong Chat, who got the first prize at the inter-provincial exam in 1675 and then worked as Prefect of Thach Ha District; and, Nguyen Cong Tran (1654-1706) who worked as the District Administration Commissioner... In the early18th Century, many people of the Ho, Le Van, Trinh, Nguyen Van, and Tran Van lineages moved to Truong Luu village and large lineages were step by step in the village. Truong Luu Village became a big cultural centre of Viet Nam. It was famous for Phuc Giang School, where thousands of learners attended, eight beautiful sites, the traditional folk music style called "*Hát Phường vải"*, and Ky Phuc Festival. It was a place for cultural exchange between people from different families and areas. Those activities continued to take place until the mid-20th Century.

It was also a period, when many people in the village gained high academic achievements such as: the title "*Hương cống"* (successful candidates of the inter-provincial exam) and"*Tiến sĩ"* (doctoral laureates, who passed the national final exam) and took part in the governmental apparatus such as Minister and Manager of the Imperial Academy. Some worked as the envoy of the royal court to China; some took the army to the border to collaborate with Chinese mandarins in wiping out rebels and pacifying those areas; for

example, Tran Xuan Mau (1685-1736) who worked as the prefect; Nguyen Huy Tuu (1690-1750), who worked as Deputy Chancellor; Tran Huy Bau, who worked as District Prefect; Nguyen Huy Oanh (1713-1789), who was a doctoral laureate; Nguyen Huy Cu (1717-1775), who was a successful candidate at the inter-provincial exam; Nguyen Huy Quynh (1734-1785), who was a doctoral laureate etc... Many people of the village contributed significantly to the education of the country. Nguyen Huy Oanh worked as Principal and Manager of the Imperial Academy for many years. Nguyen Huy Quynh, Nguyen Huy Cu, Nguyen Huy Tu and some others took part in teaching at Phuc Giang School and the Imperial Academy as well.

Many of them achieved important feats in battles and education. Consequently, the Kings of the Le and the Nguyen dynasties bestowed titles and posts upon them.

At that time, families in Truong Luu Village had bloodline and cultural relations with other famous families and villages in the country, including the Nguyen in Tien Dien Village, the Phan Huy in Thach Chau - Sai Son, the Ngo Thi in Thanh Oai, the Duong in Yen Huy Village, the Phan in Vinh Gia Village, and the Nguyen in Mat Thiet Village…Cultural exchange, such as congratulations on the longevity or the success at exams, was held frequently among the families.

Under the Nguyen Dynasty, from 1802 to 1945, none of people in the village passed important exams and very few took part in the governmental apparatus. In addition to the royal edicts, other administrative documents such as warrants, reports, dispatches, and orders etc. relating to the participation in cultural and social activities of a number of people in the village, including Nguyen Xuan Pho, Hoang Do, Nguyen Huy Hao (1770-?), Nguyen Huy Ho (1783-1841), Nguyen Huy Giap (1810-?) etc. have been preserved in the village.

In addition to the royal edicts and administrative documents, other documents relating to the community activities such as congratulations on the longevity or the success at exams have been also kept carefully in Truong Luu Village.

Those 45 administrative documents and 3 laudatory hanging scrolls, which date back to the period from 1689 to 1943 under the Le and the Nguyen dynasties is a collection nominated to the UNESCO Memory of the World Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP).

"Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943)" has been introduced continuously since 1993, in anniversaries, festivals, conferences, and exhibitions…, for example, the Scientific Conference on the occasion of the 250th Birth Anniversary of Nguyen Huy Tu, Viet Nam's Cultural Celebrity, held in 1993; 7 conferences [1-7]; 10 documentary reportages on the famous people of the village in a series entitled "Renowned Persons of Viet Nam" (*Danh nhân đất Việt*) shown on the VTV1 channel of the Viet Nam Television; and,other documentaries such as "*Tìm về cội nguồn" (Searching for one's origin), "Dấu xưa tích cũ" (Ancient traces and tales), "Hành trình di sản" (Itinerary across Heritage)…* on the channels of VTV1, VTV3, and the Ha Tinh Provincial Radio and Television Station.

The Institute of Sino-Nom Studies, an institution of Viet Nam Academy of Social Sciences, carried out a research project in 2018-2019 in collaboration with the

Department of Science and Technology of Ha Tinh Province. As a result, the international scientific conference "*Values of Sino-Nom Heritage of the Nguyen Huy Lineage in Can Loc District, Ha Tinh Province from the 17th to the 20th Century"* was successfully held on May 9-10, 2019 in Ha Tinh Province. At the conference, many scholars coming from China, Japan, Taiwan, Russia, and Viet Nam made presentations and comments, affirming scientific grounds for nominating "*Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943)*" to the Documentary Heritage of the UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme.

6.6 Bibliography

- Proceedings of scientific conferences

1. Proceedings of the conference on the occasion of the 200th Birth Anniversary (1990) and the 250th Death Anniversary (1993), *"*Nguyen Huy Tu and Story of the Flower-Letter*"* (*Nguyễn Huy Tự và Truyện Hoa Tiên*), Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi, 1997, 404 pages.

2. Proceedings of the international conference "*Values of the Sino-Nom Heritage of the Nguyen Huy Family from the 17th to the 20th Century"* held on9-10 May 2019 in Ha Tinh Province, Vinh University Publishing House, 2022.

- Books:

3. Collection of Sino-Nom Documents in Ha Tinh (*Hà Tĩnh tập biên*), Library of the Institute of Sino-Nom Studies, Coded A.3118, collected by EFEO in 1944,Nghe An Publishing House, 2019.

4. Ha Tinh Brief Monography (*Hà Tĩnh địa chí lược*), Library of the Institute of Sino-Nom Studies, collected by EFEO in 1944,Nghe An Publishing House, 2019, 536 pages.

5. Nguyen Huy Oanh (2014), Posthumous Manuscript of Thac Dinh (*Thạc Đình di cảo*), translated and edited by Lai Van Hung, Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi, 620 pages.

6. Nguyen Huy My (Editor) (2022), *Administrative documents and Laudatory Scrolls in Truong Luu Village (1689-1943)*, Nghe An Publishing House.

7. Hoang Ngoc Cuong (Editor), *Ha Tinh Sino-Nom Documents: Studied, Selected, and Translated,* NgheAn Publishing House, 2019.

8. Ha Tinh Provincial Museum, *Ha Tinh Royal Edicts*, 2013.

- Papers:

9. Dinh Quang Hai, *Values of the Sino-Nom Heritage of the Nguyen Huy Family in Truong Luu to Historical Study*. Proceedings of the International Conference "*Values of the Sino-Nom Heritage of the Nguyen Huy Family from the 17th to the 20th Century"* held on 9-10 May 2019 in Ha Tinh Province, Vinh University Publishing House, pp 11-22.

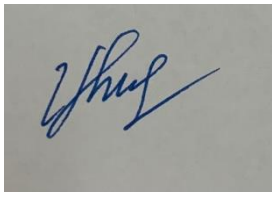
10. Do Bich Tuyen, *Sino-Nom Certificates and Edicts of the Nguyen Huy Family in Truong Luu: Study of Administrative Documents in the Medieval Period,* Proceedings of the International Conference "*Values of the Sino-Nom Heritage of the Nguyen Huy Family from the 17th to the 20th Century"* held on 9-10 May 2019 in Ha Tinh Province, Vinh University Publishing House, pp 169-185.

6.7 Names, qualifications and contact details of experts

[redacted]	Qualifications Professor	[redacted]
[redacted]	Qualifications Professor	[redacted]
[redacted]	Qualifications Professor	[redacted]
[redacted]	Qualifications Professor, Ph.D. in Sino-Nom	[redacted]
[redacted]	Qualifications PhD in History and Sino-Nom	[redacted]
[redacted]	Qualifications M.A. in Sino-Nom	[redacted]

I certify that the above named experts have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination to the Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Register.

Signature NGUYEN THI HUE



Date 09. 06, 2022

7 Authenticity and Integrity

7.1 Authenticity and Integrity

Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? For example, has its identity and provenance been reliably established; are supplementary parts being kept elsewhere and not included in the nomination; has it been altered or damaged; are sections or pages missing; is part of the documentary heritage lost?

Authenticity:

Since the ancestral shrines of the families were built in Truong Luu Village, the Sino-Nom documents have been preserved and kept carefully, being placed in the most important positions. They are reviewed and cleaned frequently, especially on the occasion of the death anniversaries and other ceremonies. The authenticity is demonstrated by the traditional preservation so that none of other things can be mixed up with the documents.

The information in every document is highly authentic, as it was used in practice according to the instructions of the Kings or the governmental agencies under the Le or the Nguyen dynasties as well as the local people in Truong Luu Village.

Each of the royal edict bears a specific date of issue and the seal of the King or the governmental agency. The procedures of drafting, issuing, circulating, and handling the documents as well as the use of seals were strictly stipulated regarding the authority, the form, and the type. This affirms the authenticity of the documents and the strict legality of the collection. On the laudatory hanging scrolls, there is also clear information on the date, the related events, the compiler, the writer, and the recipient.

Being original and unique, these administrative documents and laudatory scrolls have a clear origin and relations to specific events. They have been used as the source of documentation to compile books. Thus, a lot of the information therein can be cross-checked referring to Viet Nam's books of history such as "Sequel to the Historical Records of Dai Viet"(*Đại Việt sử ký tục biên) and "*Imperially Ordered Annotated Text Completely Reflecting the History of Viet*" (Khâm định Việt sử thong giám cương mục*)

The authenticity of the documents can be cross-checked by the date of the material such as *dó* paper, special *dó* paper, and silk.

The events recorded in the documents can be verified by the biographies and recorded activities of the personages of Truong Luu village.

Integrity: In spite of having undergone many ups and downs such as warfare and natural disasters, including typhoons and floods, over a long period of time, the integrity of "*Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943)"* still maintained; an absolute majority of the characters are clear to be read. Some characters have been too blurred, but the whole contents are still demonstrated.

The autheticity can be seen in "*lạc khoản" (a line of additional information on the titles, names, and time written at the bottom of the document)* as bellows:

Seal and date of the edict	**Seal and date of the certificate**	**Date of the laudatory scroll**	
 勅命之寶/正和九年十二月初六日/ Seal of the King "*SắcMệnh Chi Bảo*"/ on the 6th of the 12th lunar month in the 9th year of ChinhHoa Era (1688).	 公同之印 Seal of the Commission for Public Affairs in Gia Long Era.	 肯皇朝景興三十四載癸巳孟春穀旦/ On a good day in the 1st lunar month of the year of "QuýTị", the 34th year of Canh Hung Era (1773).	

8 Primary criteria: Regional Significance

More details on what is required for each criterion are provided in the MOWCAP Register Process document available on the MOWCAP website

You only need to provide information for criteria that are relevant to your nomination

8.1 Historical Significance

What does the documentary heritage tell us in relation to the history of the Asia Pacific region as a whole, or to a sub-region such as Central, South, Southeast, East Asia or Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, Australasia?

In the history of many countries, the officials who deserved credit for something were often rewarded with promotion, titles, land… by the heads of the State or the government. In the Northeast Asian countries of the Sino sphere, those who made significant social contributions were usually honoured by the Kings and the royal institutions or appointed to a position in the hierarchy of mandarins; besides being rewarded in kind, they received a royal edict or an administrative document recording the reward. In community, the congratulation on exam results or longevity was shown in the laudatory hanging scrolls. Those artefacts are very significant to the research on historical issues and personages, contributing information to the national history.

This is a source of rare, unique and valuable materials that can give supplementation to the national history. This nominated heritage is a documentary source for Viet Nam's history, which is seen as a part of the world history, as well as the research on similar phenomena in other countries in the region.

Edicts, certificates, and laudatory scrolls were administrative documents in the monarchical period. They were early and popularly used in the countries in the Sinosphere such as China, Japan, and Viet Nam... Kings and administrative authorities often issued edicts to honour or bestow a post/title upon those who got success at exams or contributed to the country. At the same time, ordinary people could submit their proposals to the local government. In local communities, many cultural activities were held, such as the meetings for congratulations on longevity, success at exams, or promotion at work. These are original and rare documents which can be used to contribute to the materials on the national history. This documentary heritage is considered as a source of documents relating to the history of Viet Nam as a part of the world history in respect of the following aspects:

- Social, cultural, and educational activities of the personages in Truong Luu Village and their contribution to the community and the country;

- The system and arrangement of mandarins in the monarchical period in Viet Nam;

- The relationship between the governmental agencies and those who were assigned to do a task; it is quite significant for the research on the administrative documents in the medieval period;

- The rewards granted by the feudal dynasties: Bestowing titles and "golden words" upon

those who had merits;

- Honouring those who contributed to the cultural and educational development;

- Remarkable activities such as: building family traditions, promoting the passion for learning, upholding the gender equality, and respecting the elderly;

- Geography and changes in administrative units;

- Religious and ritual activities.

8.2 Form and Style Significance

Is the document an outstanding example of its type?

This criterion refers to the physical nature of the documentary heritage. Is the documentary heritage a particularly fine exemplar of its type; does it have outstanding qualities of beauty and craftsmanship; is it a new or unusual type of carrier or is it an example of a type of document that is now obsolete or superseded?

The materials are diverse, including *dó* paper, special *dó* paper, and silk.

The writings are beautiful and clear, which can be easily read.

Three basic colours were used in those documents: black characters, red seals, yellow *dó* paper of the Nguyen Dynasty. The papers were decorated with beautiful patterns, which demonstrated the power of the government.

There are diverse forms and styles of presentation with concrete notes/annotations on the date and the reasons for the issuance of the documents as well as the writers/issuers.

Each of the documents can be seen as a unique work of art.

8.3 Social Community or Spiritual Significance

Is the documentary heritage attached to a specific existing community and demonstrably significant? Information should be provided on what the nominated item represents and how this attachment is expressed.

Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943) have been preserved carefully and disseminated widely for the purpose of promoting the learning tradition, family-building, and cultural exchange. The village people and students at schools held a festival to pray for blessings called "*Lễ Kỳ phúc"* on every 13th of the 6th lunar month for the purpose of honouring deities and those who got success at exams as well as the deity-worshipping rite at Phuc Giang School according to the spirit of the royal edicts. Many Vietnamese and international specialists have visited and carried out research on Truong Luu Village. This demonstrates the everlasting cultural significance of the rural community and families.

9 Regional Significance: Comparative criteria

The item or collection should be compared to similar items or collections, whether on any of the Memory of the World registers or not. The comparison should outline the similarities between the nominated documentary heritage has with others as well as the differences, and the reasons that make the nominated documentary heritage stand out. The comparative analysis should aim to explain the importance of the nominated documentary heritage in its national, regional and even international context (if applicable).

The purpose of the comparative analysis is to show that the nominator has tried to find any existing duplicates or other similar examples of the item or collection, and to demonstrate that there is room for this item or collection to be included on the MOWCAP Regional Register.

9.1 Uniqueness or Rarity

Provide the results of the comparative analysis. Can the documentary heritage be described as unique (the only one of its kind ever created) or rare (one of a few survivors from a larger number)?

Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943) are precious and rare documents on the education and culture of a village in central Viet Nam, which have been preserved for a long period of time with many ups and downs. They are original documents which can help the studies of the social relationships and the village development history in the past, especially during the period from the late 17th to the mid-20th century.

In addition to the valuable information, the materials which has undergone nearly 250 years with multiple vicissitudes, warfare and natural disasters have become important antiquities.

*Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943)*are unique and written manually without any duplicate copies. Thus, it will be extremely hard to restore them, if they are lost or damaged.

10 Gender

Gender equality is one of two global priorities of UNESCO. If there are any specific aspects of the nomination that relate to gender equality, please describe them in detail, explaining what the nominated documentary heritage tells us about the lives of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific, and any impacts on women and girls or on gender equality in the region.

Of 48 items of the collection, six ones are related to gender equality, including five edicts that honour the role of women as follows:

1. Royal edict conferring the title “Mother Goddess” upon Nguyen Thi Ho on October 01, 1898. Like highly accredited men, she was deified for her kindness in curing local people.

2. Royal edict conferring the title “Upright Madam” upon Phan Thị Truu in Canh Hung

Era. As Nguyen Huy Tuu, her husband, gained promotion, the title "Chính phu nhân" (Upright Madam) was bestowed upon her.

3. Royal edict conferring the title "Upright Madam" upon Nguyen Thi Khoat on the 15th of the 5thlunar month in 1778. As Nguyen Huy Oanh, her husband, gained promotion, the title "Upright Madam' was bestowed upon her.

4. Royal edict conferring the title "Perfect Example of Faithfulness" upon Phan Thi Trang in 1831) for her contribution to the family. The title was bestowed by King Ming Mang.

5. Royal edict conferring the title "Example of Virtue" upon Tran Thi Ba, in October 1935 for her contribution to the family. The title was bestowed by King Bao Dai.

6. Laudatory hanging scroll of Chancellor Nguyen Nghiem (1708-1775) celebrating Phan Thi Truu (1693-1775) in the spring of 1772. It is a special event, when Chancellor Nguyen Nghiem (1705 – 1775) congratulated Mrs. Truu on her longevity and honoured her role in bringing up her successful children.

11 Statement of Significance

Provide a summary of the points made under theprimary and comparative criteria, and the test of authenticity and integrity. Why is the documentary heritage important to the world and what has its impact been beyond the boundaries of a single Asia Pacific state?

(The summary should beabout 300-600 words)

Edicts, certificates, and laudatory scrolls were fairly popular documents in the monarchical period in China, Korea, Japan, Viet Nam and some other countries in the world. A majority of those documents are kept at homes of families, villages, pagodas, and the State agencies. By now, however, there have been very few such documents which have been recognised and nominated. Of all 56 items of heritage approved by MOWCAP, only one is of this type (the item of nomination approved by MOWCAP in 2012 and by MOW in 2013 is the original records of Tibet from the Yuan Dynasty, China (1304-1367). Meanwhile, such documents, which have been preserved carefully, are very valuable for the research on history, personages, relationships between the State and institutions as well as the research on the learning tradition, the praise for women's contributions, and the respect for the elderly.

Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943) are original documents of high authenticity shown by the seals and dates of issue and the integrity shown by the content and styles which have remained quite intact.

The uniqueness of the documents is shown by the prominence given to learning activities. In the royal edicts, a post/title was conferred upon a person for his success at exams. When someone passed an exam, his father deserved honouring. When someone contributed significantly to education such as a teacher or a school owner, he would be deified regardless of being alive. It is very rare in the history of education in Viet Nam. In addition, students were exempted from going into the army and the elderly were highly respected.

Thedocuments were written in Chinese or Nom script. Chinese script is internationally popular and was used as the official script in the administrative documents in the Sinosphere countries at that time.

Regarding gender equality, women received appropriate titles bestowed by Kings, like men. They were also deified or considered "Upright Madam".

Of all the 48 items, 6 ones are in praise of the women's role (5 edicts and 1 laudatory hanging scroll); 4 ones are related to study and educational contribution (2 edicts, 1 laudatory hanging scroll, and 1 report); and, 2 ones are related to the respect for the elderly (2 laudatory hanging scrolls on the ceremony for the longevity congratulation). They are seen as issues of global priority by UNESCO.

These documents are artefacts valuable for research on some issues in the monarchical period such as the conferment of titles and posts, the hierarchy of mandarins, the biography of some personages as well as cultural and geographical issues.

This nominated heritage is beyond the border of a nation, characterizing the activities aimed to honour those who contributed to the national development, those who got success

in education, and women in the East Asian monarchies. It is therefore can be seen as an important item of heritage for the Memory of the World.

If the collection of *Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943)* is recognized by the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP), it will inspire other individuals, families, and villages… to submit their nominations, enriching the heritage of MOWCAP.

12 Risk Assessment

12.1 Condition

Describe the physical condition of the documentary heritage.

The collection of "*Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943)"* is the documentary heritage on cultural and educational activities in a village in Central Viet Nam.

The original documents used to be preserved in the ancestral shrines in the past, but they are now preserved in appropriate rooms equipped with fans, air-conditioners, fire alarms, and supervisory cameras… Their copies are shown in the exhibitions.

12.2 Threat/Risk

Detail the nature and scope of threats to the nominated documentary heritage. For example, poor storage, climate, control of access.

Truong Luu Village is a place of severe climate, where rains and storms come frequently over 6 months (from October to April of the subsequent year). Microorganisms and fungi grow fast in the season. The temperature can be as high as 38-40ºC in summer. Such weather conditions can damage the heritage. Though the villagers and the communal, district administrations and the management agencies have made every effort to protect and preserve the documents, risks of damage remain.

13 Preservation and Access Management Plan

Management Plan

Are there management plans to preserve and provide access to the nominated documentary heritage?

YES NO

If YES, describe or attach a summary of the plan or plans.

In the past, all the 48 documents and laudatory scrolls were kept simply at ancestral shrines or homes. They have been, however, recovered and digitalized. At the moment, the Management Board, the families, and the Commune People's Committee are collaborating in making copies of those documents, which will be kept at the shrines and the homes. The original documents will be preserved at the Truong Luu Heritage Preservation Centre to serve visitors. At the same time, cooperation between many institutions will be carried out to introduce the heritage by translating it into other languages, publishing it in form of a book, and making documentaries…

Ha Tinh Provincial People's Council promulgated the Resolution No. 93/2018/NQ-HĐND dated 18 July 2018 on "Preservation and Promotion of the Values of Cultural Heritage", mentioning a plan to build Truong Luu Cultural Village and establish Truong Luu Cultural Heritage Management Board.

The establishment of Truong Luu Cultural Heritage Management Board as a governmental management body under Can Loc District People's Committee will make it more favourable to preserve and introduce the values of the heritage.

Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943) is the heritage associated closely with 4 national cultural and historical relics, 3 provincial cultural and historical relics, and 4 potential cultural and historical relics. As a result, it is directly supervised by the Truong Luu Cultural Heritage Management Board and professionally administered by the Ha Tinh Provincial Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

In the first quarter of 2022, Nghe An Publishing House released a book titled "*Văn bằng và trướng ở làng Trường Lưu*" (Administrative Documents and Laudatory Scrolls in Truong Luu Village) containing transcriptions and translations from Sino-Nom script and English translations as well as photos of the documents and keeping places. The book has been delivered to a number of Vietnamese and international libraries, institutions and experts.

In addition to other documents in Truong Luu Village, the People's Committee of Can Loc District has a plan to introduce the administrative documents and laudatory scrolls in Truong Luu Village in the teaching curriculum at schools in the district.

14 Consultation with Stakeholders

Provide details of consultation with stakeholders about this nomination. Stakeholders include communities with an involvement in the documentary heritage, owners and custodians of the documentary heritage and scholars who research the documentary

heritage

Owners: Three families, including the Nguyen Huy, the Tran Van, and the Hoang Van, who have protected and preserved the administrative documents and laudatory scrolls carefully. In cooperation with local people in Kim Song Truong Commune and local governments, we have tried our best to disseminate the values of these documents. Many visitors and scholars have come from China, Japan, Korea, Russia, and USA to our village to see the heritage. We hope to get more and more international visitors in future. All heads of the UNESCO Office in Hanoi paid special attention to these documents of heritage and came to see and work with the Nguyen Huy, the owner of the documents, as well as the provincial authorities in Ha Tinh Province, where the documents are preserved and honoured.

Custodian: The People's Committee of Can Loc District issued the Decision No. 2713/QĐ-UBND dated 15 October 2020 on the establishment of the "Truong Luu Cultural Heritage Preservation Management Board". On 18 May 2021, the People's Committee of Can Loc District issued the decision No. 1733/QĐ-UBND on the regulations for organising and activities of the Truong Luu Cultural Heritage Preservation Management Board. Since then, it has had an office and a legal status under the administration of the People's Committee.

"People in Kim Song Truong Commune are very proud of these documents and other items of heritage in Truong Luu Village. Collaborating with the families, the Commune People's Committee will introduce them to students and people in the commune and protect all the items of heritage of the Nguyen Huy generally and these documents particularly" – a speech made by Nguyen Quoc Son, Vice Chairman of the Kim Song Truong Commune People's Committee, on 2 April 2021.

According to a tentative plan, lessons on the heritage recognised by UNESCO, including the collection of these documents, will be added to the curriculum at schools in Ha Tinh Province. We give priority to the introduction of them to students.

Scholars who research the documentary heritage:

Prof.Dr. Dinh Khac Thuan "*These are very valuable historical documents, which are necessary for those who pay attention to the country's history in that period. These documents provide specific events to the official historical records to some extent. Moreover, the details in the royal edicts conferred by the Kings are of high authenticity and reliability",* Ha Tinh Provincial Museum, *Royal Edicts in Ha Tinh,* p.17 [8]

Associate Prof. Dr, Dinh Quang Hai, Member of the Viet Nam Cultural Heritage Committee, Former Director of the Institute of History: "... *It is an important source of historical materials for the research on Viet Nam's history under the Le Kings and Trinh lords".*

"*The royal edicts kept by the Nguyen Huy family in Truong Luu Village are original materials which provide supplementary information for the official historical documents. Furthermore, the royal edicts were conferred by the Kings, so they are of high authenticity. The royal edicts are also seen as a source of materials for the research on the changes in the administrative units. According to the edict conferred upon Nguyen Huy Trac in the 39th year of Canh Hung Era, Lai Thach Commune belonged to La Son District, but it*

belonged to Can Loc District according to the edict conferred in the 9th year of Khai Dinh Era".

Proceedings of the International Conference [2], pp 11-22.

Dr. Do Thi Bich Tuyen, Secretary of the Academic Council of the Institute of Sino-Nom Studies:

"...the royal edicts and administrative documents kept by the Nguyen Huy family complied strictly with the administrative regulations in the monarchical period. This demonstrates the authenticity of the Sino-Nom materials preserved in the family, helpful for the research on issues relating to the administration, the mandarin system, and the customs... based on those authentic evidence regarding date of issue. In addition to the significance for the research on the rule of promotion, the rewards granted by the feudal dynasty, these original edicts and certificates of the Nguyen Huy family also carry literary values in form of original versions. They are very valuable materials of the family which contribute to the cultural heritage of Truong Luu Village"

Proceedings of the International Conference [2], pp 169-185

M.A. Hoang Ngoc Cuong, Independent Sino-Nom Researcher:

"*...We see that in history, many personages in Ha Tinh Province were deified such as Third-Prize Winner (Thám hoa) Nguyen Huy Oanh, who was deified as the Deity of Blessing (Great Wang), Second-Prize Winner (Bảng nhãn) Le Quang Chi (Than Dau Commune, Ky Hoa District, the present-day Ky Phuong Commune, Ky Anh District), who was deified as the Deity of Blessing, and Duke of Xuan Nguyen Nghiem (Tien Dien Commune, Nghi Xuan District), who was deified as the Deity of Blessing etc..."*

Ha Tinh Sino-Nom Materials: Study, Selection and Translation, pp. 31-32 [9].

"*Ha Tinh is one of the provinces, where Sino-Nom documents are abundant and valuable. Many of those documents are considered especially rare and precious, significant to not only Ha Tinh Province but also the whole country and even the whole region (Sino-Nom documents of the Nguyen Huy Family – Truong Luu) and the world (The Tale of Kieu by Nguyen Du)"*

Ha Tinh Sino-Nom Materials: Study, Selection and Translation, p. 150 [7].

Prof.耿慧玲 GENG Hui-Ling "*In the history of Viet Nam, the Nguyen Huy in Ha Tinh Province was an important family, which was well-known for successes in the competition-examinations. At present, it is still considered as an influential family in the local area"*

"How to collect and compile those documents systematically is also very important for research in Viet Nam in the coming time".

Proceedings of the International Conference [2], pp 169-185

15 Other Information to Support the Nomination

Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this documentary heritage collection on the Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Register.

Five royal edicts and one laudatory hanging scroll on the role of women were introduced by the Communication and Information Unit of UNESCO Bangkok at the exhibition

"*Women in History - Telling HERstory through Memory of the World*" on 8 March 2021.

Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943) are considered as a rare and valuable collection that has drawn a lot of attention from local and international researchers as well as other people. In the past, they were used as a source of materials for research works, exhibitions, documentaries, and television reportage etc. In 2018 and 2019, a research project was carried out and an international conference was held on the values of the Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province. If this nomination is successful, it will get opportunity to be introduced widely to researchers and other people in the world; local people in Truong Luu will strengthen the introduction of the Sino-Nom administrative documents and laudatory hanging scrolls in various forms so that both Vietnamese and foreign people can access and benefit from the values of the heritage. At the same time, the introduction of the "*Sino-Nom Documents in Truong Luu Village, Ha Tinh Province (1689-1943)"*particularly and other items of heritage generally will contribute to enhancing the people's awareness of the importance of historical materials and improving the community responsibility for preservation of valuable heritage.

Royal edicts, administrative documents, and laudatory scrolls preserved from the monarchical period are now kept in many families, communities, and pagodas as well as State institutions such as museums and libraries. We, however, can rarely see the same collection of such documents like the heritage in Truong Luu Village. Researchers of the French School of Far East (EFEO) paid attention to such documents and tried to make records about them, but they did not do it completely.

We would like to nominate this collection to the items of heritage of MOWCAP and MOW, as there have been very few such documents. Of all items of heritage approved by MOW and MOWCAP, the original records of Tibet from the Yuan Dynasty, China (1304-1367) is the only one of this type.

Check List

☐	MOWCAP website reviewed
☐	MOWCAP register process document read
☐	Short title provided (section 1)
☐	Summary completed (maximum200 word) (section 2)
☐	Name and contact details of nominator/s completed (section 3)
☐	Authority to nominate completed (section 4)
☐	Authority provided by each National Commission when the nomination is from two or more Member States (section 5)
☐	Name and contact details of Owner/s or Custodian/s completed (section 5.1, 5.2)
☐	Details of legal status completed (section 5.3)
☐	Details of accessibility and any limitations completed (section 5.4)
☐	Details of copyright status completed (section 5.5)
☐	Identity of documentary heritage recorded (6.1-6.5)