AN INTRODUCTION TO A REVISED NÔM TEXTBOOK:  
三千字觧譯國語  
*TAM THIÊN TỤ GIẢI DỊCH QUỐC NGỮ 1915*  
IN THREE SCRIPTS HÁN, NÔM, AND QUỐC NGỮ

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Abstract

This paper introduces the 1915 pronunciation, spelling and textual analysis of 三千字觧譯國語 *Tam Thiên Tụ Giải dịch Quốc ngữ* “Three thousand ideograms with their pronunciation and translation into romanized national script.” This is an important edition of the original 三千字解音 *Tam thiên tự giải âm* “Three thousand ideograms with their pronunciation” in 1831 by Ngô Thời Nhâm (1746-1803). The edition consists of 2,996 entries of Hán, Nôm and romanized quốc ngữ (compared to 3,012 ideograms in the 1831 edition). The new edition maintains a poetic glossary in 4-syllable verses. Each Hán ideogram is followed by one or more Nôm ideograms of the same meaning, and a translation into romanized national quốc ngữ. This paper also compares this edition to the first edition in 1831 and the 1959 edition by Đoàn Trung Còn. The book helps to give a glimpse of the ideograms, their meanings, and for the first time, the sound of Nôm and Hán ideograms in native and Hán-Việt at the beginning of the XXth Century. They are now available online at NLV HN R.1667 (see also NLV HN R.0468 1831, as well as ISSI Octo 22713, 1913).

Short Biography:

Lê Mai Phượng got her bachelor at the Sàigòn College of Education in 1978. She taught literature at Suối Đá Middle School in Tây Ninh, Vietnam from 1978 to 1981. She worked with Dr. Ngô Thanh Nhàn in Nôm studies since 1999. She joined the team of designers in the first edition of the Nôm Lookup Tool in 2002, and began working with Dr. Nhàn since August 2011 in the upgraded Nôm Ideogram Lookup (in par with UniHan 6.3.0) with binary decomposition of ideograms. She is currently an advisor of the Vietnamese Nôm Preservation Foundation.

Mai Phượng has been conducting research on three different versions of 三千字 *Tam Thiên Tự* [Three Thousand Ideograms]: 三千字解音 *Tam Thiên Tự giải âm* [“Three Thousand Ideograms” with Pronunciation Guide in Nôm] (1831), 三千字演音 *Tam thiện tự diễn âm* [Three thousand ideograms with pronunciation], by Xuân Lan, edited by Nguyễn...