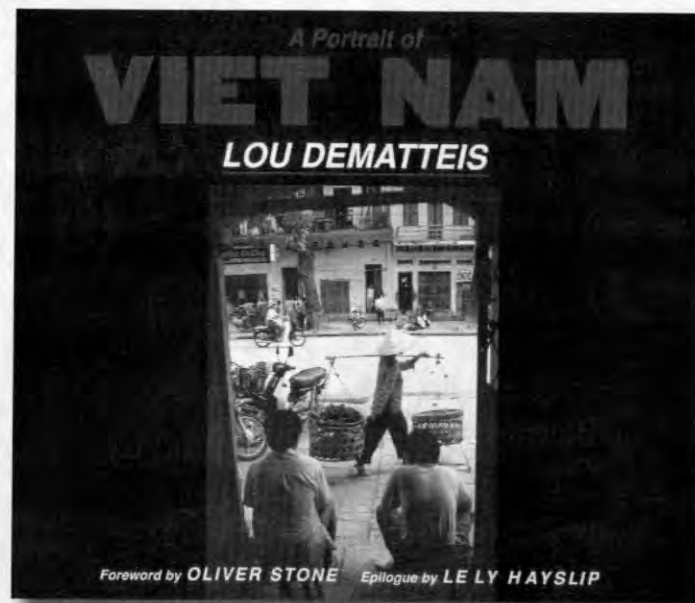




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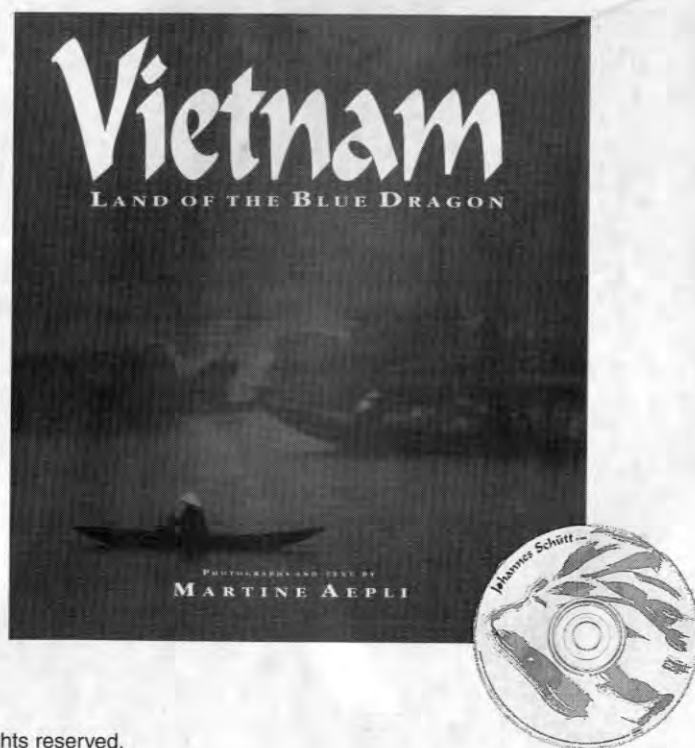
## A Portrait of Viet Nam

Award-winning photographer Lou Dematteis captures the pivotal years from 1992 to 1995 when Vietnam's isolation ended and the larger world began rushing in. One hundred beautiful photographs reveal a country in transition—changing, progressing, healing. Unforgettable images include boats making their way down the Mekong Delta, the Cham towers and the traditional planting of the rice

paddies. There are also ballet classes, rock stars, tourists and traffic jams. A Portrait of Viet Nam is a visual record of a joyous and enduring community, seen against a stunning backdrop of dramatic mountains, rich farmland and shimmering rivers and seas. A Portrait of Viet Nam documents a mysterious nation opening its door to the world.

## Vietnam: Land of the Blue Dragon

The history of Vietnam is shrouded in a rich oral tradition of myth and legend. The country has forged its identity out of a historic duality that continues into the present day. Exquisitely photographed, this book examines all aspects of Vietnamese history and mythology through images, poetry and running commentary. The book is accompanied by original music played on traditional Vietnamese instruments.



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# Books

## ART

### 100 Vietnamese Painters & Sculptors of the 20th Century

Editor: Mai Ly Quang, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1996, 10 3/4" x 13", hardcover and slipcase, 414 pages, color illustrations, \$125.00

This glossy book is intended to introduce readers to one hundred of the best Vietnamese painters and sculptors of the past century. Each artist's photograph and exhibit history accompany two photographs of their artwork.

### Arts and Handicrafts of Vietnam

Text: Nguyen Khac Vien and Le Huy Van, Editor: Do Phuong Quynh, The Gioi, Vietnam Foreign Languages Publishing House, Hanoi 1992, 9 1/4" x 10", paper cover, 84 pages, photos. \$20.00

This beautifully photographed volume provides an excellent introduction and overview of the many handicrafts of Vietnam from puppetry and music to lacquerware and paper making. The accompanying text offers an understanding of the wealth of Vietnamese arts and history.

### Asian Art & Culture Winter 1994

Smithsonian/Oxford University Press, 1994, 96 pages, \$20.00

Published by Oxford University Press in association with the Smithsonian, this issue is dedicated entirely to Vietnam, beginning with the voice of a painter working now in Hanoi. A Hong Kong writer presents contemporary Vietnamese paintings, followed by two authors who studied village centers for ceramics and cloth. An American poet then examines classic poetry and a vital Vietnamese folk style, ca dao, and a Thailand-based writer describes the history and architecture of Hanoi's old quarter.

### Bat Trang Ceramics, 14th - 19th Centuries

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1995, 8 1/4" x 11 1/2", hard cover, 210 pages, maps, diagrams, color plates. \$75.00

Ceramic craft of Vietnam has a long history dating back almost ten thousand years to the end of the Hoa Binh culture and the beginning of the Bac Son culture. During the Ly (1010-1225), the Tran (1226-1400), the Le (1428-1527) and the Mac (1527-1592), Vietnam produced ceramic wares which were rich in form and varied in glaze not only to satisfy domestic demand but also to supply the export market. Of the ceramic villages established Bat Trang was one of the most famous. It developed during this period and production continues today.

### Fifty Years of Painting and Sculpture on Armed Forces and Revolutionary Wars

Fine Arts Press, Hanoi, 10 1/2" x 14" Casebound, 160 pages, color plates \$50.00. (review by Steven Bailey)

In 1994, the People's Army of Vietnam (VPA) marked the 50th anniversary

of its creation on December 12, 1944. To commemorate this milestone, the People's Army Publishing House and the Fine Arts Publishing House jointly reissued Fifty Years of Painting and Sculpture on Armed Forces and Revolutionary Wars. This glossy coffee-table book measures an impressive 10 by 14 inches and contains hundreds of color reproductions of paintings and sculptures created by Vietnamese artists. All the art in the book relates to the VPA in some way, but beyond that, the artwork exhibits a wide diversity of subject and theme. The artists employ a fascinating melange of European and Asian art styles to create watercolor and oil paintings, woodcut and lacquer portraits, and bas relief and three-dimensional sculpture.

The artists featured in the book were directly involved in the events they portray in their artwork; many served in Viet Minh, Viet Cong, or North Vietnamese Army (NVA) combat units. Through their art, much can be learned about the recent history of Vietnam, which so tragically involved virtually continuous military conflict. In fact, this book is as much a military history book as an art book and it is as informative as a collection of wartime news photographs. The art does not concern itself with combat statistics and battleplans; nor does it seek journalistic objectivity. Instead it focuses on the individual people involved in the battles and from these portraits we can learn a great deal.

Much of the art featured has obvious propaganda value. For example, the point of many paintings in the book is to portray the Communist forces as friends of the people. Consider the oil painting titled "Mutual Affection Between Soldiers and the People," by Le Hoang Anh. This painting is one of several that depicts peasants offering food to soldiers, while other paintings in the book show troops helping to harvest rice or repairing civilian homes.

In fact, many paintings blur the distinction between soldier and civilian, suggesting that the army is the people. A woodcut titled "Three Generations" by Hoang Tram shows a father, son and granddaughter serving together in the Viet Cong, while another woodcut by Huy Oanh shows a grandfather and granddaughter holding rifles in the service of their common cause. This art was clearly designed to foster the idea that the Communist Vietnamese were fighting a war of national liberation, and that such a war, by definition, involves men and women of all ages and backgrounds.

Given this view that the entire population must be mobilized for the war effort, it is not surprising that many works of art in Fifty Years of Painting and Sculpture focus on female soldiers and guerrillas. Women are seen as integral to the revolutionary struggle, both as combatants and as mothers raising the future defenders of the nation. "On Duty Hours," an oil painting by Nguyen Tien Chung, shows a young woman suckling her baby with a rifle slung over her shoulder. A bas-relief sculpture by Nguyen Thi Kim portrays an all-female unit defending the city of Hue. Throughout the book women are depicted as mothers, fighters, mourners, heroes and lovers, but above all else, as equals.

Not all the art in this collection has an explicit propaganda objective, however. For example, because the Communist forces were not a highly mechanized army, many artists consistently return to the agony and exhaustion of forced marches. There's no propaganda in these paintings; the artists are speaking from painful experience. These artists served in the armed forces and clearly remember all the time they spent trudging up mountains and through swamps, backs bowed beneath the weight of their weaponry. "Troops Marching in the Rain" by Le Tri Dung shows soldiers leaning into a black gale; other paintings show troops struggling over mountain passes or wading across rivers and streams. There is not one but three paintings titled "Staging a March," and they all portray foot-sore soldiers. The carrying of supplies down the Ho Chi Minh Trail figures in many paintings as well. Though one memorable painting shows an ammunition-hauling elephant, there are few trucks in these paintings—just heavily laden men and women.

Inevitably, much of the art in in this book deals with combat. Interestingly, art portraying battles in progress are relatively rare; most of the art focuses on pre- or post-battle portraits of Vietnamese soldiers and civilians. Those artists who do choose to paint actual combat scenes, however, do so with skill and imagination. Styles vary from folk art to socialist realism; many artists depict battle in stylized portraits of terror and con-

fusion. Nguyen Hiem's "Tam Vu Battle" offers a blurry vision of green and black figures running through a landscape of the same colors that is reminiscent of the chaotic combat footage shot by cameramen covering the war in Vietnam. Night battles are painted with blood red skies; day battles are a smoky mix of faded browns, tans and greens.

An artistic tour-de-force, this book is meant to serve as a memorial to the sacrifices of the forces. Many of the artists fought against the French colonial troops, the various regimes in the South and American forces. Some, such as To Ngoc Van, Hoang Anh, Truong Ngoc, died during their service, as did many of the people—corporals and cooks, mothers and medics—portrayed by these artists. The art contained in this book is a paradoxical tribute to their victory and a resounding reminder that no war, in the end, is worth its cost.

## Les laques du Vietnam

Editor: Quang Viet, Fine Arts Press, Hanoi, 8 1/2" x 12 1/2" Casebound, 138 pages, color plates \$40.00

After a brief introduction in French and Vietnamese, this book brings us 111 color plates of outstanding lacquer works. A wonderful resource for art collectors or students.

## Masters of Vietnamese Painting

Fine Arts Press, Hanoi, 8 1/2" x 12" paper, 116 pages, color plates \$30.00

This title highlights four painters of the first generation of modern Vietnamese artists: Nguyen Gia Tri, To Ngoc Van, Nguyen Sang and Bui Xuan Phai. They were very active in the Ecole des Beaux Arts de l'Indochine in the years 1925 through 1945, a period which is said to have marked the first contact between Vietnamese traditional art and Western art.

## Nguyen Tu Nghiem

Editor: Nguyen Quan, Fine Arts Publishing House, Hanoi, 1994, 12 1/2" x 10 1/2" Casebound, 142 pages, color plates \$45.00

This compilation of work includes lacquers, oils, silks, gouaches, pastels and pencil sketches by one of Vietnam's most respected artists. Nghiem was the first to actually resurrect certain artistic traditions and use them to form the foundation of modern Vietnamese art.

## Silk Paintings of Vietnam

Vietnam Foreign Languages Publishing House, Hanoi 1991, 7 1/2" x 8 1/4" paper cover, 32 pages, 27 color plates. \$10.00.

The Vietnamese art world has long valued silk painting. This album primarily features works done over the last ten years. These pieces reflect changes in aesthetic appreciation throughout each stage of the nation's history.

## The Changing Face of Hanoi

by Suzanne Lecht, Fine Arts Publishing House, 1997, 7 1/2" x 13, hardcover, 50pp, color illustrations, \$60.00.

This serves as the catalog for a show mounted in Hong Kong in early 1997 that highlighted five of the most well known artists working in Hanoi today. They are Nguyen Quan, Thanh Chong, Pham Quang Vinh, Le Quang Ha and Pham Minh Tuan.

Easel painting is still preserved in Vietnam as a genuine original offspring of traditional art and painters have barely opened their doors to exposure until recently. While such a foreign exhibit cannot be said to be the most representative of Vietnamese art, this show is characterized by structured painting and the breaking off of figures and shapes which is almost asymptotic to abstractionism, the concern of human fate and sexual love and the traditional ancient spirit which still lurks somewhere in the everyday life of the Viets.

## Vietnamese Traditional Water Puppetry

Text by Nguyen Huy Hong and Tran Trung Chinh, Second Edition, The Gioi Publishers, 1996, 7 1/2" x 9 1/2", paper, 80 pages with color photos, \$20.00

This beautifully photographed book gives a comprehensive account of the emergence of water puppetry guilds, the illusions created by a stage made of water, puppet characters and traditional stories they enact. The water's surface is in constant motion, absorbing every image, both of natural phenomena and of the puppet characters themselves.

## BUSINESS

### Dana Sachs: Vietnam VIR Investment Series

Bound reprints, \$10.00

A series of ten articles intended to introduce foreign business people to the process of investing in Vietnam. These articles were written by Dana Sachs, a reporter for the Hanoi English language weekly Vietnam Investment Review, and published in VIR between September and December, 1993. Articles cover topics such as applying for licenses, setting up an office, arranging a distribution network, and hiring staff. Dana Sachs is a San Francisco-based journalist who spent two years living and working in Hanoi. This special collection, reprinted with permission from VIR, is available only through *Things Asian*.

### Environment and Bioresources of Vietnam: Present Situation and Solutions

Editor in Chief: Cao Van Sung, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1995, 5 1/2" x 8", paper cover, 235 pages, maps, diagrams, photos. \$15.00

In Vietnam, natural resources and environmental policy and design are in the initial stages. This book is written by a group of experts who have chaired research programs in Vietnam related to ecosystems, the status of rare and endangered wild life species, protected areas, environmental pollution, and Vietnam's environmental strategy to the year 2000. The entire text of Vietnam's environmental protection law promulgated in December 1993 is included.

### Formalities: A Guide for Foreign Guests and Overseas Vietnamese

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1994, 4" x 7", paper, 232 pages, \$25.00

This handy guide tells you everything you want to know from the transfer of foreign technology into Vietnam, establishment of foreign banks, guidance on investments to naturalization formalities and regulations on entry, exit, transit, residence and travel in Vietnam.

### Hanoi Business Guide

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1995, 4" x 7 3/4" paper, 160 pages, \$15.00

The Business Guide is required reading for the first time traveler to Hanoi. Everybody who is in the know uses it! Written by an expatriate who emphasizes practical information. Learn about local customs, business etiquette and do's and don'ts. Find the business addresses, phone and fax numbers of many organizations, ministries and embassies. It also offers suggestions for the best hotels, bars and restaurants.

### Ho Chi Minh City Business Guide

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1996, 4" x 7 3/4" paper, 238 pages, \$15.00

The Business Guide, written by an expatriate who emphasizes practical information, is required reading for travelers who visit Ho Chi Minh City. Learn about local customs, business etiquette and do's and don'ts. Find the business addresses, phone and fax numbers of many organizations. It also offers suggestions for the best hotels, bars and restaurants. If you are not using the guide in Ho Chi Minh City, you are wasting money.

### Kick Start Guides for Business Travelers

by Guy and Victoria Brooks, Self-Counsel Press, Bellingham, WA 1995, 4" x 7" paper, 142 pages, \$9.95 each

A new series of handy, pocket-size guides developed for the business traveler. Each guide is researched and written for a specific country and is designed to help readers kick-start themselves into action as soon as they arrive. Essential details are covered, including what to expect from the transportation system, where to get the best rate of exchange, and what to wear as well as information on tax-free zones and local customs and etiquette. The guides are also helpful tools for entrepreneurs on the lookout for overseas business opportunities. Choose from four titles: Hong Kong, Macau, and the Pearl River Delta; Indonesia; Malaysia; Vietnam.

### Latest Legal Documents Concerning Foreign Investment in Vietnam

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1997, 5 3/4" x 8", paper, 188 pages, \$50.00

This collection of decrees and regulations of various details of foreign investment in Vietnam is invaluable for people wishing to do business there.

### Passport Vietnam. Your Pocket Guide to Vietnamese Business, Customs & Etiquette

by Jeffrey Curry & Jim Chinh Nguyen, World Trade Press, 4 1/2" x 7", soft cover, \$6.95

Passport Vietnam tries to help you avoid cultural faux pas, learn about Vietnamese values and beliefs, understand the reason behind the actions and develop an effective negotiating style.

Jeff Curry operates VIEN, a San Francisco-based research and analysis firm specializing in Asian investments. He has worked on a wide range of commercial projects in Vietnam and publishes a weekly report on Asian emerging markets. Jim Nguyen is formerly with the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Commerce and Trade.

### Teaching English in Asia

by Galen Harris Valle, Pacific View Press, Berkeley, CA, 1995, paper, 192

pages, 1995, \$19.95

English teaching is the primary source of employment in Asia for Westerners. This is a book for both travelers wanting to combine their interest in Asian countries with the skills necessary to live and work there, and experienced Asia-bound teachers who want to best utilize their skills with Asian students. The author explains where and how English is taught, how to find jobs, what skills or credentials are necessary or useful and where to get them. He discusses how to apply, interview, obtain enough work to "make a living," and avoid visa troubles. The book then spells out how to teach English successfully, from understanding the expectations of students to adapting teaching techniques to Asian cultural realities. The author shares an extensive selection of practical exercises which work well with students in Asia.

### VIETNAM Business Opportunities and Risks

by Joseph P. Quinlan, Pacific View Press, Berkeley, CA, 1995, paper, 174 pages, \$19.95 (see review in *Far Eastern Economic Review* 8/8/1996)

The following is excerpted from Chapter One, Ten Things Business Should Know About Vietnam.

1. Understanding Vietnam's Turbulent Past. Has Vietnam entered the kind of sustained period of internal and external tranquility that is essential for economic growth?
2. Vietnam Is Poor. Vietnam has a great deal of lost ground to make up.
3. Vietnam Is Rich. Vietnam has an abundance of natural resources and a large and potentially industrious work force.
4. Free Market Reforms Are Taking Root... Vietnam has experienced a boom in economic growth since 1992.
5. ...But Communism Remains The Norm In Vietnam. Can the communist party continue to embrace free market principles?
6. The Infrastructure - A Key Obstacle To Doing Business. The antiquated infrastructure is one of the most formidable obstacles to doing business in Vietnam.
7. Vietnam Is Still Divided. Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City?
8. Non-U.S. Companies Have Stolen The March On Vietnam. US companies have some catching up to do.
9. But Plenty Of Opportunities Await U.S. Firms In Vietnam. The race for business in Vietnam is far from over.
10. Operating Risks Abound. Operating in Vietnam is not for the faint hearted.

### Vietnam: The No BS Business Guide

Edited by Thomas M.F. Timberman, LOI, Inc, Washington DC, 1994, paper, 278 pages, \$15

Written by and for active entrepreneurs dedicated to raising bottom lines through early entry into Asia's next boom economy. No BS means just that—straight answers to tough questions. Why bother? Entry costs? Potential markets? You learn how to penetrate the bureaucracies, to select joint venture partners and to negotiate successful agreements within Vietnam's business culture. (see review in *Far Eastern Economic Review* 8/8/1996)

## CUISINE

### The Best of Vietnamese & Thai Cooking

by Mai Pham, Prima Publishing, 1996, paper, 274 pages, \$19.95

Tangy, sweet and savory traditional dipping sauces. Mouthwatering soups. Innovative stir-fries. *The Best of Vietnamese and Thai Cooking* offers just that—the very best. Weaving a fascinating memoir amidst her splendid recipes, Mai Pham recreates the almost magical reverence with which food was prepared and enjoyed in the Vietnam and Thailand of her childhood. Inside she discloses the secrets to preparing her personal favorites. Mai Pham is chef and owner of the award-winning Lemon Grass Restaurant and Lemon Grass cafes in Sacramento, California.

## A Little Vietnamese Cookbook

by Terry Tan, illustrated by Sherry Tay, Chronicle Books, 1995, hard cover, 60 pages, \$7.95

This small (4 1/2" x 6") cookbook offers a lively introduction to a popular cuisine that incorporates the influences of China, France, Indonesia, and Thailand. Here are over twenty-five classic recipes for such traditional Vietnamese dishes as Crispy Spring Rolls, Sweet and Sour Fish Soup, Grilled Chicken with Five Spices, Crispy Noodles with Prawns, Crab with Asparagus, a variety of rice recipes, and much more, perfect for the home cook.

## CULTURE

### Buddhism in Vietnam: From its origins to the 19th century

by Minh Chi, Ha Van Tan and Nguyen Tai Thu, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1993, 5" x 7 1/2", paper cover, 227 pages. \$15.00

This book explores the history and traditions of Buddhism in Vietnam for the last 2,000 years. Considering that Vietnam is the geographical bridge between India and China, it is not surprising that aspects of these cultures would be assimilated.

### Ethnic Minorities in Vietnam

by Dang Nghiem Van, Chu Thai Son and Luu Hung, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1993, 5 1/2" x 8", paper cover, 260 pages, map, photos. \$15.00

Vietnam is a point of convergence for various ethnic groups and a crossroads of different civilizations. Its rugged topography, with mountainous regions, plains and coastal areas, is another factor in its ethnic complexity. Their languages belong to almost all the language families of Southeast Asia, south of the Yangtze river. Fifty-four ethnic groups have been identified, and hundreds of small local groups are incorporated in to these under different names and dialects. They often have their own indigenous culture and traditions. Each group is described by population, language, area of habitation, life style, family relationships and spiritual life. An ethno-linguistical map of Vietnam (10" by 15") is included.

### Fruit Trees in Vietnam

by Vu Cong Hau, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1995, 5" x 8", paper cover, 111 pages, color plates, illustrations. \$15.00

Much research data is available for the industrial crops such as rubber, tea and coffee. Because fruits are not a major source of income, very little is written about them. This book covers the following fruits: orange, tangerine, grapefruit, banana, pineapple, cashew, mango, Coc, Sau, Giau gia xoan, papaya, persimmon, sapodilla, star-apple, custard apple, jack-fruit, bread-fruit, litchi, longan and rambutan.

## Industrial Crops in Vietnam

by Vu Cong Hau, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1996, 5 1/4" x 7 1/2", paper, 96 pages, \$15.00

This book covers the crops grown for profit in the country, including coffee, tea, rubber and oil-producing trees. It outlines various aspects of agriculture including history and the plants' botanical, physiological and ecological characteristics.

## Kieu (in English and Vietnamese)

by Nguyen Du, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 5 1/4" x 8", paper, 640 pages, \$50.00

This handsomely illustrated book tells one of the oldest folk tales indigenous to Vietnam and known by people all over the world to be a "must read."

## Sketches for a Portrait of Vietnamese Culture

by Huu Ngoc, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1995, 9 3/4" x 9 3/4", 512 pages, color plates. paper cover \$50.00. hard cover \$80.00

An anthology of Huu Ngoc's Vietnamese News Sunday columns, *Sketches for a Portrait of Vietnamese Culture* presents a kaleidoscopic overview of a country steeped in history, mythology and a blend of multi-cultural traditions. Sifting through this book or reading it cover to cover gives one a feeling of eavesdropping on a thoroughly captivating conversation. Here is an example of the different kinds of things Huu Ngoc addresses in this charming 512-page collection.

How Many Incense Sticks Are To Be lit?

One may light, according to ritual, one, three, five or seven incense sticks—always an uneven number. Each number has its own symbolic value. The number one represents unity, the whole, the fusion of the male and the female principles. The Buddhist believer who lights a single stick seeks to release the "incense of the heart" which combines five kinds of incense. The number three suggests the mobility of the uneven number, which tends to move toward evenness, stability, equilibrium. When someone is grappling with difficulties, with something that upsets him, he offers Buddha three incense sticks. It is also customary to light three sticks at Tet and at funerals, but only one stick at ordinary rituals. Five sticks are lit only at the altar of the Holy Mother of the Forest attended by the Five Tiger Lords, to pray for their protection. On the fifth day of the seventh moon, the day of Pardon for all Wandering Souls, seven lighted sticks are planted on their behalf near banyan trees, their habitual haunts. This is a sign of Buddhist compassion. When the sticks burst into flames, this means that some kind of message is coming from the nether world.

## Tet: The Vietnamese Lunar New Year

by Huu Ngoc and Barbara Cohen, The Gioi Publishing House, 1997, 7 x 9 1/2, paper, 92 pages, \$20.00

This is the first English language publication devoted solely to the arts and ceremonies of the most significant holiday of the Vietnamese people. The diverse rites and traditions that mark this important time provide glimpses into the beliefs and arts which are at the core of Vietnamese traditional society.

## The Lands, Peoples, and Cultures Series

Editor: Bobbie Kalman, Crabtree Publishing Company, 1996, 8 1/2" x

11", paper, 32 pages, color photos, glossary, index. \$7.95 each

This series, which covers countries all over the world, includes three titles on Vietnam. They are ideal for teaching and for young adult readers.

### • Vietnam: the land

This book presents the natural beauty of the country, from the dense jungles of the highlands to the scenic beaches of the South China Sea. It examines the history, geography, agriculture, businesses, transportation systems, and wildlife of Vietnam.

### • Vietnam: the people

This book introduces readers to the people of Vietnam, a diverse group that includes small tribes in highland areas, and peoples such as Cham, Chinese, Khmer, and Meo. Find out what life is like in a mountain long-house or along the river in Ho Chi Minh City. Discover how families honor their relatives even after they die by building spirit houses. It looks at the way of life of Vietnamese people, including work, pastimes, families, city and country life, language, and education.

### • Vietnam: the culture

This book celebrates Tet and other festivals that honor Vietnamese beliefs, legends and heroes. Discover their theater, haunting music and fashion from the traditional ao dai to western influenced clothing. Aspects of ancient and modern culture in Vietnam are covered, including music, theater, religion, architecture, clothing, and festivals.

## The Peasant, The Buffalo and The Tiger: Vietnamese Legends and Tales

by Hoa Mai Huu Ngoc, The Gioi Publishers, 1997, 4 1/4" x 7", 119 pages, \$15.00

This is a compilation of eleven time-honored traditional tales.

## The Sculpture of Funeral Houses in Tay Nguyen

by Phan Cam Thuong and Nguyen Tan Cu, Fine Arts Publishing House, Hanoi 1995, 8 1/4" x 12" paper cover, 160 pages, color plates, \$30.00

This book covers religious beliefs, the tomb abandonment ceremony, the architecture of the funeral house, symbolic pillars and funeral statues. Drawings, photographs and charts support the text which includes the Vietnamese, French and English translations.

## The Stone Stelae at the Temple of Literature

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1993, 5" x 7 1/2", paper, 52 pages, \$15.00

The doctors' stelae at the Temple of Literature are historical, cultural and educational documents engraved on stone. They have rich value in many aspects and deserve thorough study.

## The Traditional Village in Vietnam

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1993, 5 1/2" x 8", paper cover, 458 pages, tables. \$15.00

Without an adequate knowledge of the village, one cannot understand the structure of Vietnamese society or the national traditions which were carefully preserved in village life. This book offers the history and communal aspects of cultural life. Many scholars contribute information covering

subjects such as the traditional Vietnamese village in Bac Bo, an analysis of the land register in Kien My (Binh Dinh), land distribution in the Tu Liem district, a survey of the foundation of villages in Ha Nam, Tien Hai and Kim Son districts early in the 19th century, the economic basis of the Tonkin community in villages and communes prior to 1945, the social relationships between traditional Viet villages, markets, sideline occupations of peasant households, and education in the villages.

## Traditional Festivals in Vietnam

Do Phuong Quynh, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1995, 5" x 8", paper cover, 220 pages, color plates. \$20.00

As is common in agricultural economies, traditional festivals in Vietnam are linked to the growth cycles of crops and centered on the villages. *Traditional Festivals in Vietnam* takes the reader to 30 traditional Vietnamese festivals as well as nine festivals of Ethnic minorities. For each festival, the author gives directions on how to get to the village, the history and meaning of the festival, and comprehensive description of the celebration activities. The book ends with a calendar of Vietnamese festivals.

## Van Mieu, The Temple of Literature, A Walking Tour

Text: Diane Niblack Fox and Nora A. Taylor, The Gioi Publishers, 1994, 6 1/2" x 9 3/4", paper cover, 40 pages, diagrams and color plates. \$10.00

Van Mieu (literally "Temple of Literature") in the middle of Hanoi, is a quiet place where scholars come to read, artists come to paint and travelers come to see traces of nearly a thousand years of Vietnamese culture and history. This guidebook takes the reader step by step through Van Mieu's five courtyards, explaining their symbolism and inscriptions.

## Viet Nam Forum 14: A Review of Vietnamese Culture and Society

by Dan Duffy, Editor, Yale University Council on Southeast Asia Studies, 7" x 10", paper cover, 358 pages. \$25.00

In this anthology, there are three stories by Nguyen Huy Thiep, who retells stories about the old kings of Vietnam. An essay by an American historian explains why new tales about national heroes sparked heated debate when they appeared at the beginning of economic renovation. Other essays examine Thiep and Duong Thu Huong. Two stories by the German Vietnamese, The Giang, present Hanoi as it was in the early eighties, when there wasn't much food and no reliable electricity. A translation of "The Prophecy Fulfilled," is accompanied by one of the first good historical studies of the already legendary Ho. Stories from the 1920s about life under the French by authors Thach Lam and Pham Duy Ton, are gentler. The collection closes with work from overseas Vietnamese—travel essays like Chuong Nguyen's "Power from the Heart." Andrew Lam contributes a ghost story from his childhood in the old country. "Dark Wind and Shadows." The humorist Khoi Luu pokes fun at a famous and sad study of the refugees, Dr. James Freeman's "Heart of Sorrow: Vietnamese-American Lives."

## Vietnam: From Rice Paddies and Temple Yards: Traditional Music of Vietnam

by Phong Nguyen, Ph.D. and Patricia Shehan Campbell, Ph.D., World Music Press, 1995, Book: 8 1/2" x 11" paper, 88 pages, photos. Book and CD, \$40.00

This book and CD package represents the first complete English-language introduction to Vietnamese traditional music and culture. While the book

offers an intellectual understanding of Vietnamese traditions, the heart of the culture is found in the music. The performers are all Vietnamese living in the United States.

## Vietnamese Folk Tales: Satire and Humor

*The Gioi Publishers, 1990, 4 1/2" x 7 1/2", paper, 88 pages, \$15.00*

The best way to describe this little gem is to cite one of its stories entitled What Difference? A miser sold everything he owned and bought a large ingot of gold and buried it in his garden. From time to time, he would sneak out to the hiding place and feast his eyes on the treasure. Alas, some rascal who had been spying on him found out about the buried gold and stole it. On his next visit, the miser discovered the theft and burst into tears. "Why are you so sad?" asked his neighbor, "Just bury a stone in the same place—it's exactly the same." "How can it be the same? Mine's an ingot of gold!"

"Your gold was buried underground and you never did anything with it nor will you ever put it to any use. So what difference is there between your gold and a stone?"

## Vietnamese Legends and Folk Tales

*The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1997, 4 1/2" x 8", paper, 190 pages, \$25.00*

A collection of 38 tales and legends. Includes popular tales such as The Twelve Midwives, The Sun Goddess and The Moon Goddess, The Buffalo Boy and The Banyan Tree, The Tailor and The Mandarin, The Betel and The Areca Tree and The Story of Tam and Cam.

## Vietnamese Traditional Medicine

*The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1993, 5 1/2" x 8", paper, 268 pages, \$45.00*

Vietnamese traditional medicine is made up of ancient health care practices related to Vietnamese culture before European medicine arrived in the 20th century. This book covers medicinal plants, traditional medicines of animal origin, acupuncture, burns treatment and traditional pharmaceutical activities.

## HISTORY

## Ancient Town of Hoi An

*by National Committee for the International Symposium on the Ancient Town of Hoi An, International Symposium held in Danang on 22-23 March, 1990, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1993, second impression, 7 1/2" x 10 1/4", paper cover, 239 pages, photos. \$30.00*

Proceedings from the Symposium which included Vietnamese scholars and representatives from Japan, the Netherlands, USSR, Poland, France, USA, Thailand, and Australia. Hoi An (Faifo) was a famous port town of Vietnam in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which had trade relations with Japan and China in the North, with Southeast Asian countries such as Cambodia, Siam, Malacca, Java, Manila and European countries such as Portugal, Holland, France and England. Hoi An was also a center of extensive cultural interaction which was reflected in the unique outlook and cultural mosaic in the town. Historically speaking, Hoi An inherited the cultural heritage of the ancient Sa Huynh and Champa. The symposium covered the history and archaeology of the region, the methods of conservation and restoration, and discussed at length the characteristics and values of the remains of the ancient town.

## Cham Ruins: Journey in Search of an Ancient Civilization

*by Tran Ky Phuong, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1993, 4 1/2" x 8 1/4", paper cover, 115 pages, maps and photos. \$10.00*

Tran Ky Phuong, curator of the Cham museum of Danang, introduces Cham civilization and architecture, with descriptions of Cham sites and relics at My Son, Dong Duong, Tra Kieu, Bang An, Chien Dan, Khuong My, The Bac (Silver) Tower, Binh Lam Tower, Thi Nai Citadel, Canh Tien and Cha Ban Citadel, Thoc Loc, Thu Thien, Duong Long, Hung Thanh, The Nhan (Swallow) Tower, Po Nagar (Nha Trang), Hoa Lai, Po Kloong Garai, Po Rome, The Po Rome Style and the Kuts, Po Dam, Phu Hai, Museum of Cham Sculpture - Danang, Hue Museum of Antiquities (Cham Sculpture Pavilion), and the History Museum of Ho Chi Minh City (Cham Sculpture Pavilion).

## Dien Bien Phu

*by General Vo Nguyen Giap, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1994, 5" x 7 1/2", paper cover, 166 pages, maps. \$15.00*

*Dien Bien Phu* is a detailed story of one of the most infamous battles in the country's recent history. In 1953-54, the Vietnamese engineered and mounted a winning strategy against the French. Complete with maps illustrating the progress of the campaign, this book offers insights into history.

## Dien Bien Phu, The Most Difficult Decision

*by General Vo Nguyen Giap, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1992, 5" x 7 1/2", paper, 76 pages, \$15.00*

General Giap spent many years by the side of Ho Chi Minh and this book's focus is on his impressions and recollections.

## Highway 4: The Border Campaign 1947-1950

*by Colonel Dang Van Viet, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1990, 5 1/4" x 7 1/2", paper, 170 pages, \$20.00*

## Ho Chi Minh: A Man, A Nation, An Age, A Cause

*by Pham Van Dong, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1996, second edition, 5" x 7 1/2", paper, 80 pages, \$15.00*

This is a quick survey of Ho Chi Minh's cause, theory and action during the revolution.

## Ho Chi Minh: The Man Who Made a Nation

*The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1996, 5" x 7 1/2", paper, 246 pages, \$25.00*

This is an overview of Ho Chi Minh's life and how it was shaped by his political and ideological growth.

## Ho Chi Minh's Testament

*The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1995, 5 1/2" x 8", paper, 64 pages, \$10.00*

The last will and testaments of Ho Chi Minh, reproduced here in type as well as his own handwriting.

## How South Vietnam Was Liberated

*by General Hoang Van Thai, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1996, 5" x 7 1/2", paper, 268 pages, \$25.00*

These are the memoirs of General Thai and focus primarily on the rapid development of the Party's war strategy and tactics over the years 1973-75.

## Le Duc Tho - Kissinger: Negotiations in Paris

*by Luu Van Loi and Nguyen Anh Vu, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1996, 5 1/4" x 8 1/2", paper, 572 pages, \$60.00*

This is a book which details the negotiations between the two statesmen from their first to last meeting which led to the signing of the 1973 Paris Agreement for the cessation of war and restoration of peace in Vietnam.

## Pho Hien: The Center of International Commerce in the XVIIth - XVIIIth centuries

*by the Association of Vietnamese Historians, People's Administrative Committee of Hai Hung Province, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1994, 5 1/2" x 7 3/4", paper cover, 262 pages, map, charts, color plates. \$10.00*

In its heyday in the 17th century, Pho Hien, in the Hai Hung province, ranked with major city centers like Thang Long and Hoi An. Hai Hung lies at the center of the Red River Delta, between Hanoi and Haiphong. Pho Hien was a foreign trade center, actively trading with countries in Southeast Asia and East Asia, as well as Holland, England, France and Portugal.

This book is a compilation of reports given at a seminar held in December 1992 in Hung Yen town, Hai Hung province. It focuses on the birth, growth and gradual decline of the area from the 13th through the 17th centuries. At this two day seminar 30 reports were presented by scientists from Vietnam and foreign countries dealing with Pho Hien from different angles including historical, archeological, ethnological, cultural, and research in archives and conservation. The reports are classified in four chapters: the birth of Pho Hien, the socio-economic foundation of Pho Hien and its populations structure and cultural life, the relations of Pho Hien with the other areas in Vietnam and with foreign countries, the process of decline of Pho Hien and the preservation of existing vestiges.

## Prison Diary

*by Ho Chi Minh, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 9th edition, 1994, 4" x 7", paper, 256 pages, \$25.00*

Ho Chi Minh spent August 1942 through September 1943 as a prisoner of war by the Chinese. This 'diary' is a record of the poems he wrote while there.

## Saigon: Twenty Years After Liberation

*The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1995, 5" x 7 1/2", paper, 124 pages, \$15.00*

For those interested in Saigon's past, present and future, this collection of speeches, interviews and research work provides insights into the positive developments of the city.

## The Ancient Civilization of Vietnam

*by Nguyen Van Huyen, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1995, 5 1/2" x 8", paper cover, 304 pages, maps. \$15.00*

Author Nguyen Van Huyen was a native of Luu Xa Village, Hoai Duc District, Ha Tay Province. He studied in France from 1936-1945 and is well known for his studies on village institutions, popular festivals and folkloric songs and dances. *The Ancient Civilization of Vietnam*, conceived as a school book for secondary education, constitutes an excellent introduction to the traditional culture of Vietnam. There are chapters on: The Family (Nha), The Commune (Lang), The State (Nuoc), The House, The Village, Clothes, Food and Medicine, Economic Production, Religious Life, and Intellectual and Artistic Life. Originally titled: "*La Civilization Annamite*", this work has been re-edited on its 50th anniversary.

## The Sino-Vietnamese Difference on the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes

*by Luu Van Loi, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1996, 6 1/4" x 9 3/4", paper, 158 pages, \$50.00*

This study is aimed at examining the respective positions of Vietnam and China to assess the eventual likelihood of successful negotiations between the two countries and to suggest an advisable orientation.

## Unforgettable Days

*by General Vo Nguyen Giap, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1994, 5 1/2" x 8", paper, 404 pages, \$50.00*

From August 1945 through December 1946, from the victory of the 1945 revolution to the start of the resistance to French colonial aggression, Vietnam went through a crucial period.

## Vietnam: A Long History

*by Nguyen Khac Vien, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1993, hardcover, 6" x 8 1/4", 472 pages, \$55.00*

This extensive history of Vietnam begins in the Stone Age and takes one through feudal periods, colonialism, socialism and reunification while giving an historical overview of the Indochinese peninsula.

## Vo Nguyen Giap - Selected Writings

*by General Vo Nguyen Giap, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1994, 5 1/2" x 8 1/4", hardcover, 618 pages, \$60.00*

This is a collection of the most important speeches and writings of General Giap in the period between 1969 and 1991 and explains the general line, strategy and tactics of the national liberation war.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

## A Portrait of Viet Nam

*by Lou Dematteis, W.W. Norton & Company, New York, 1996. 128 pages, hard cover \$35.00*

Award-winning photographer Lou Dematteis captures the pivotal years from 1992 to 1995 when Vietnam's isolation ended and the larger world began rushing in. One hundred beautiful photographs reveal a country in transition—changing, progressing, healing. Unforgettable images include boats making their way down the Mekong Delta, the Cham towers and the

traditional planting of the rice paddies. There are also ballet classes, rock stars, tourists and traffic jams. *A Portrait of Viet Nam* is a visual record of a joyous and enduring community, seen against a stunning backdrop of dramatic mountains, rich farmland and shimmering rivers and seas. *A Portrait of Viet Nam* documents a mysterious nation opening its door to the world.

## Mekong: A Journey on the Mother of Waters

by Michael Yamashita, Takarajima Books, 1995, 11 x 11, 132 pages, \$39.95

"For more than 25 years it has been my dream to follow the 2,600 miles of the Mekong River. Mike Yamashita has not only lived that dream, he has photographed it—beautifully. For the time being, that will have to do. As substitutes go, it's a great one." Ted Koppel ABC News/Nightline

## Passage to Vietnam

Rick Smolan and Jennifer Erwit, Against All Odds Productions, 1994, Hard cover, 224 pages, list price \$50.00, our price \$35.00

Rick Smolan created *From Alice to Ocean* and the famous *Day in the Life* photography series. In the spring of 1994, Smolan and 70 award-winning photojournalists embarked on a week-long assignment; to create the most intimate portrait ever of Vietnam. With the twentieth anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War approaching, Smolan wanted to document a country just now beginning to re-emerge from decades of turmoil and isolation. Granted unprecedented access by the Vietnamese government, the project team spread throughout Vietnam, visiting many areas never before open to foreigners. Over the 7-day period, the team shot over 200,000 photographs. From this, 200 photographs were selected for this gorgeous book.

## Vietnam Album

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1991, 8" x 8 1/2", hardcover, 136 pages, \$30.00

Over 100 photographs (color and black and white) illustrate classical images of Vietnam, its peoples and rituals.

## Vietnam: Land of the Blue Dragon

by Martine Aepli, Hong Kong 1995, 12 1/4" x 13 1/4" Casebound, 168 pages, color plates. Book and CD \$60.00

The history of Vietnam is shrouded in a rich oral tradition of myth and legend. The country has forged its identity out of a historic duality that continues into the present day. Exquisitely photographed, this book examines all aspects of Vietnamese history and mythology through images, poetry and running commentary. The book is accompanied by original music played on traditional Vietnamese instruments.

## REFERENCE

## Civil Code

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1996, 5 1/2" x 8 1/4", paper, 376 pages, \$35.00

The civil code of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

## Labour Code

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1994, 3 1/2" x 5", paper, 158 pages, \$15.00  
The labour code of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

## Oriental Philosophy Fundamentals and Fuzzy Set East and West

by Nguyen Hoang Phuong, The Gioi Publishers, 1994, 7 1/2" x 10 1/2", paper, 206 pages, \$100.00

Dr. Nguyen Hoang Phuong was born on March 27, 1927 in South Vietnam. From 1954, he taught Mathematics, Theoretical Physics, especially Theory of Groups, Theoretical Mechanics, Theory of Relativity, Quantum Mechanics, Theory of Elementary Particles at the Hanoi State University (now Vietnam National University).

## Selected Writings by Truong-Chinh

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1994, 5 3/4 x 7, 778 pages, hardcover, \$ 35.00

This book, written in 1946, is a collection of articles published in the newspaper Su That on the occasion of the August Revolution. The text is written from a perspective that emphasizes the French colonists. The August Revolution was analyzed from a Marxist-Leninist viewpoint and viewed as the first victory in the national liberation movement.

## Selected Writings by Pham Van Dong

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1994, 5 3/4 x 7, 410 pages, hardcover, \$ 35.00

This is a collection of reports and speeches from the period of 1945 to 1975 by a former member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and Prime Minister. This book is written from a Marxist-Leninist viewpoint and emphasizes the struggle against US intervention in Vietnam.

## Selected Writings by Le Duan

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1994, 4 3/4 x 7, 540 pages, hardcover, \$ 35.00

Le Duan writes from a Communist viewpoint and excerpts include parts of speeches made at events such as the 1960 Communist Workers Party Central Committee Meeting, on the anniversary of the 80th birthday of Karl Marx and at the Women's Congress and Trade Union Congress.

## The Constitution of 1992

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1993, 3 1/2" x 5, paper, 80 pages, \$10.00

## The Constitutions of Vietnam: 1946, 1959, 1980, and 1992

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1995, 5" x 7 1/2", paper, 216 pages, \$25.00

## VIIIth National Congress Documents

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1996, 5 1/4" x 7 1/2", paper, 208 pages, \$25.00

The political report of the Central Committee at the end of 1996.

## Vietnam: 1996-1997

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1997, 5 1/4" x 7 1/2", paper, 98 pages, \$15.00

This is an excerpt of the report made by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet on October 15, 1996 in Hanoi.

## TRAVEL

## A Phoenix Rising - Impressions of Vietnam

by Zoë Schramm-Evans, HarperCollins Publishers, 1996, 6 1/4" x 9 1/2", hard cover, 207 pages, \$20.00

In this thoughtful, informative and very personal account of a journey from Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta to Hanoi and Halong Bay, Zoë Schramm-Evans delves behind the cliché-ridden images of Vietnam, to discover a country poised on the brink of the most remarkable political and social change. Throughout her travels she observes with humour, and occasional despair, the energy, the excitement, the struggles and the sometimes surreal juxtapositions of old and new, East and West, which are Vietnam.

## Fielding's Vietnam including Cambodia and Laos

by Wink Dulles, Fielding Worldwide, Redondo Beach, CA, 1997, 5" x 7", paper, 764 pages, \$19.95

Your ticket to adventure along Southeast Asia's new frontier. Your guide Wink Dulles has spent the better part of five years in Southeast Asia, the last four as Southeast Asia correspondent for Fielding Worldwide. He's traversed Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand by motorcycle, his favorite means of transportation. He co-led the first American motorcycle tour of Vietnam in February 1996.

## Hanoi Atlas

Editor: Tran Viet Anh, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1996, 7 1/2" x 11", paper cover, 63 pages, color maps. \$20.00

A must if you are staying more than a few days or want to explore Hanoi beyond the central tourist area. The atlas's 15 color maps (15" x 11", 1:10 000 scale) give detailed information on Hanoi. 22 pages of index of locations and 3 pages of street index make it easy to find destination.

## Hanoi: Off the Beaten Path

by Barbara Cohen, Global Directions Incorporated, 1994, 1995, 8 1/2" x 11", bound photocopies, volume 1=1993; volume 2=1994, \$10.00 each

A unique collection of reprinted articles that Barbara Cohen wrote for Vietnam News while living in Hanoi. Cohen captures the heart of Hanoi through her detailed descriptions of the city and Vietnamese culture.

## Hanoi: Past and Present

by Nguyen Vinh Phuc, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1995, 4 1/2" x 8", paper cover, 303 pages, map (20" by 29" tourist map of Hanoi), color plates. \$20.00.

This is a versatile, multipurpose book that falls somewhere between a his-

tory of Hanoi and a guidebook for foreign visitors. *Hanoi: Past and Present* recounts the history of Hanoi and explains the culture, economy, geography and weather of the city in great detail. A selection of photos provides a visual overview of the 1000-year-old city. A wealth of more practical information can be found in the section devoted to tourism which describes the sights worth seeing in Hanoi, including pagodas, temples, parks, lakes and museums.

## Hue: Monuments of an Ancient Capital

by Mai Ung and Dao Hung, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1993, 4 1/4" x 7 1/4", paper cover, 100 pages, maps, diagrams, photos. \$10.00

A very good addition to Vietnam guidebooks, with detailed description of relics in and around Hue. Sites included are: the Imperial Capital, the Nam Giao altar, Van Thanh temple, Long An Temple — the Hue Museum of Antiquities, the Royal Tombs, the Amphitheater, well known pagodas, and the Pham Boi Chau memorial site.

## Map of Hanoi's Old Quarter

by Barbara Cohen, Global Directions Incorporated, 1994, 11" x 15", color, annotated, \$10.00

Illustrated by a local Hanoi artist and full of hand-written notes by Barbara Cohen, this map is the ideal companion for a self-guided tour of the old quarter. This map will enable you to find well-known and not so well-known historical sites within the 36 streets of Hanoi.

## Rough Guide to Vietnam

by Jan Dodd and Mark Lewis, Rough Guides, London, 1996, 5" x 8", paper, 480 pages, \$15.95

A superb, up-to-date guidebook, the Rough Guide stands out in its organization and truly useful index.

## Rough Guide Vietnamese Phrasebook

Rough Guides, London, 1996, 4" x 5 1/2", paper, 232 pages, \$5.00

Our reviewer praised this as the most easy-to-use phrasebook made all the more accessible by its Vietnamese-English dictionary.

## Sapa

Edited by Leigh Stubblefield, The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1994, 5 1/2" x 8", 68 pages, \$25.00

This splendid little resource book on Sapa gives a greater understanding of the regional history, culture and biology of the area.

## The Province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi, 1994, 4 1/2" x 8", paper, 116 pages, \$20.00

Not only does this book give you what you want in a guidebook to the area, it also spotlights the growing industries there. You'll discover where the best beaches and sights are as well as learn about the ways that the harbor and oil businesses are booming.

## The Vietnam Guidebook

by Barbara Cohen, Houghton Mifflin, 1994, third edition, 464 pages, paper cover, \$19.95

The Vietnam Guidebook, in its third edition, is a necessary resource for the first-time traveler to Vietnam. The author, Barbara Cohen, served as a psychiatrist during the Vietnam War and now lives in Hanoi. In this insightful guidebook, she provides information regarding visa and entry requirements, health precautions, tips on traveling and accommodations, the historical background of Vietnam, as well as the culture, climate, government, economy and language of the Vietnamese people. If you plan a trip to Vietnam, this practical book is an excellent investment.

## Van Mieu, The Temple of Literature, A Walking Tour

Text: Diane Niblack Fox and Nora A. Taylor, The Gioi Publishers, 1994, 6 1/2" x 9 3/4", paper cover, 40 pages, diagrams and color plates. \$10.00

Van Mieu (literally "Temple of Literature") in the middle of Hanoi, is a quiet place where scholars come to read, artists come to paint and travelers come to see traces of nearly a thousand years of Vietnamese culture and history. This guidebook takes the reader step by step through Van Mieu's five courtyards, explaining their symbolism and inscriptions.

## Vietnam

The Gioi Publishers, Hanoi 1995, 5 1/4" x 8", paper cover, 287 pages, map, photos, color plates. \$15.00. Review by Steven Bailey (excerpt from "Through Vietnamese Eyes: New Guidebooks to Vietnam", Destination: Vietnam, May/June 1996.)

When you board your flight to Vietnam, you ought to consider bringing along two kinds of guidebooks. The first sort of guidebook to include in your travel kit is one written by a Western traveler who has visited Vietnam and knows the country well. This kind of book is useful because the author shares your culture. He or she will have a pretty good idea of what you want to know about Vietnam, and will be able to explain these things in terms you can easily understand.

The second kind of guidebook worth taking with you is one by a Vietnamese author. This sort of book is valuable for its insider's view. Such a book will tell you about Vietnam through the words of a knowledgeable local. You will not just learn about Vietnam; you will learn what the Vietnamese think about Vietnam. Some good examples of this kind of book are printed by The Gioi Publishers of Hanoi. All their guidebooks have Vietnamese authors.

One particularly useful book from The Gioi Publishers carries the straightforward title of *Vietnam*. This book provides a complete overview of Vietnam, and is meant to be more of a compendium of information about the country than a how-to travel guide. This book makes for good pre-trip reading. Everything you ever wanted to know about Vietnam, from annual rice production to the nomenclature of ethnic minorities, can be found in one of the book's five subsections. These are titled The Vietnamese Nation, The Economy, Education,

Health, Sciences, Sports, and Culture, International Relations, and Tourist Information. The book is all the more interesting because it contains things a travel guide would never have, such as the Vietnamese national anthem and a portrait of Ho Chi Minh. Color and black-and-white photos and a detachable fold-out map of Vietnam supplement the text.

If you are going there, *Vietnam* will prove to be an invaluable source of reference. It will not only provide you with factual information about Vietnam—weather patterns, transport networks, political history—but also insight into the Vietnamese themselves.

## Vietnam Country Map

Periplus Edition, Hong Kong, 4 1/4 x 10 1/4, \$7.95

Fold-out map includes Hanoi area and city plans of Saigon, Hanoi, Da Lat, Hue, Nha Trang, Da Nang, and Vung Tau.

## Vietnam Guide

by Judy Moore, Open Road Publishing, 1997, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", 288 pages, \$14.95

A comprehensive overview of a journey to Vietnam including tips on preparation, suggested itineraries, tips on getting around, ambitious side trips and interesting places to stay.

## Voices & Visions

A Journey through Vietnam Today, by Carolijn Visser, Paladin Press, Colorado, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", hard cover, 264 pages, \$19.95

Voices and Visions sweeps the reader along on Carolijn Visser's four-month journey through Vietnam and gives voice to the remarkable cast of characters - from prostitutes to princesses, from soldiers to singers, from peasants to priests -- that inhabit Vietnam today.

Caroije Visser arrived in Vietnam seventeen years after the end of the Vietnam war, anxious to reconcile her war-time images with the realities of today. She roamed the Mekong Delta, wandered through Saigon and Hanoi, ventured into the Central Highlands and explored the old imperial capital of Hue. She discovered a country ravaged by decades of war but also fortified by its history, its culture, its geography, its vision for the future and especially its people.

"The richness of Vietnam lies in its people who are natural storytellers. In Vietnam you can walk up to one on the streets and he or she will have a story to tell," she says.

Here, then, are their stories: A penniless father who sided with the Americans during the war; a singer in a Saigon hotel who dreams of Paris and sings of snow in her nightly show; an American GI who is curious to discover more about the country he was once sent to defend; a dissident writer who is grappling with his past as a Viet Cong soldier; a romantic poet who has befriended a princess descended from one of Vietnam's former emperors.

Ever since a 1973 trip to Eastern Europe, Carolijn Visser has been unable to shake the travel dust from her feet. In 1981 Visser arrived in China just as it was opening its doors to individual travelers. Since then, she has continued to criss-cross the globe, regaling her readers with tales of sailing upriver on a Chinese junk, trekking on horseback through Mongolia and sojourning among Costa Rica's gold diggers.

## Lonely Planet travel guides

### • Bali and Lombok, Sixth edition

by James Lyon, Lonely Planet, 1996, 448 pages, 49 maps, \$15.95

Full of everything you'll need to know, this title also includes a 32-page section on arts and crafts.

### • Cambodia: A travel survival kit

by Chris Taylor, Tony Wheeler and Daniel Robinson, Lonely Planet, 1996, 5" x 6 1/4", 170 pages, \$15.95

Fully revised and updated, this kit is an invaluable companion for your trip to Cambodia. The only English language guide devoted solely to Cambodia, it contains full details on the magnificent ruins of Angkor Wat, the resurgent capital city of Phnom Penh and the latest information on safe and affordable travel.

### • Indonesia, Fifth edition

by Brendan Delahunty, et al., Lonely Planet, 1996, 5" x 7 1/4", 1056 pages, \$25.95

This completely updated edition contains over 200 maps and lists hundred of places to stay for all budgets from huts to high-class hideaways.

### • Java: A travel survival kit

by Peter Turner, Lonely Planet, 1995, 5" x 7 1/4", 378 pages, \$14.95

Full details on trekking, national parks, relaxing hill resorts, shopping, bargaining, hundreds of places to eat and stay, whatever your budget.

### • Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei: A travel survival kit

by Peter Turner, Chris Taylor and Hugh Finlay, Lonely Planet, 1996, 5" x 7 1/4", 602 pages, \$17.95

This is the authoritative guide to where to stay and eat and how to get around with listings for all budgets and offers the lowdown on the best beaches, hill stations, national parks and jungle treks, from the peninsula to Borneo.

### • Myanmar (Burma)—A travel survival kit

by Tony Wheeler & Joe Cummings, Lonely Planet, 1996, Sixth Edition, 400 pages, 49 maps, \$13.95

"This is Burma, and it will be quite unlike any land you know." So said Kipling in 1898, and a hundred years later you'll say the same about Myanmar. This thoroughly revised edition, doubled in size, is the most comprehensive guide available to the 'Golden Land'.

### • Nepal, Third edition

by Hugh Finlay, Lonely Planet, 1996, 5" x 7 1/4", 416 pages, \$17.95

The kingdom of Nepal is a fascinating blend of cultures and religions—a fertile land cradled by the world's highest mountains. The book includes comprehensive introductory sections on the people and cultures of Nepal.

### • Shopping for Buddhas

by Jeff Greenwald, Lonely Planet, 1998, 5" x 8", 208 pages, \$10.95

This is an engaging mix of travel narrative and cultural musings—including spiritual materialism, the nature of contemporary travel and the quest for enlightenment. Set against the backdrop of the spectacular Himalayas, the book introduces the reader to the sights, sounds and smells of Katmandu and presents a kaleidoscopic array of characters and images. Greenwald offers an irreverent but illuminating look at the panoply of Hindu deities and the many forms taken by the Buddha. He also includes an electric list of individuals, past and present, whom he believes to be Bodhisattvas—nominating people as diverse as Pablo Picasso, Mother Teresa and Gene Roddenberry.

### • Southeast Asia on a shoestring, Ninth edition

by Peter Turner, et al., Lonely Planet, 1997, 5" x 7 1/4", 1024 pages, 164 maps, \$21.95

This comprehensive guide to Southeast Asia contains all of the informa-

tion you'll need for independent travel throughout the region.

### • Taiwan—A travel survival kit

by Robert Storey, Lonely Planet, 1994, Third Edition, 360 pages, with 12 pages color, 70 maps, \$14.95

Early Portuguese traders called Taiwan 'Ihla Formosa' or Beautiful Island. Today, amid its flourishing traditional Chinese culture, Taiwan has built one of the world's most dynamic trade-oriented economies. Explore the treasures of China's emperors, try snake soup in a Taipei night market, stay overnight in a Buddhist monastery, explore remote aboriginal villages or just relax in therapeutic hot springs. From the chaotic boom town of Taipei to remote Buddhist temples and spectacular mountain scenery, this practical guidebook is the perfect companion whether you're travelling to Taiwan for business or pleasure.

### • Thailand—A travel survival kit

by Joe Cummings, Lonely Planet, 1995, Sixth Edition, 764 pages with 16 pages color, 128 maps, \$18.95

This award-winning guidebook is the essential resource for independent travellers. It's full of down-to-earth information and reliable advice for every budget. And there are hundreds of tips on pitfalls to avoid and highlights that shouldn't be missed.

### • Thailand's Islands and Beaches

by Joe Cummings and Nicko Goncharoff, Lonely Planet, 1997, 5" x 7 1/4", 456 pages, 67 maps, \$15.95

The alluring islands and beaches of Thailand abound in wildlife, coral reefs, limestone cliffs and hidden lagoons. This guide will help travelers on any budget discover the secrets of this breathtaking region.

### • Vietnam—A travel survival kit, Fourth edition

by Robert Storey and Daniel Robinson, Lonely Planet, 1997, 5" x 7 1/4", 552 pages, \$16.95

This fully updated guide to Vietnam gives you the lowdown on trekking in the highlands, taking a boat trip in the Mekong Delta or sailing on Halong Bay, this book will tell you how to do it.

- > 77 maps, including color country maps with highlights
- > recommended places to stay and eat for all budgets
- > useful language section and glossary
- > information on visiting hill tribes

## Lonely Planet travel atlases

Full color maps with locator maps, comprehensive index, information on getting around. All maps are checked by Lonely Planet authors on the road.

### • Laos travel atlas

by Joe Cummings, Lonely Planet, 1997, 6 3/8" x 9", soft cover, 45 pages, color maps, \$12.95

Two locator country maps, 7 two-page route maps, 1:1,000,000 scale. 12-page location index.

### • Thailand travel atlas

by Joe Cummings and Richard Nebesky, Lonely Planet, 1995, 6 3/8" x 9", soft cover, 44 pages, \$8.95

Eleven route maps in 1:1,000,000 scale cover the whole country, to

accompany the Lonely Planet *Thailand* guidebook. Maps were checked by Lonely Planet's writers for accuracy.

### • Vietnam travel atlas

by Robert Storey, *Lonely Planet*, 1996, 6 3/8" x 9", soft cover, 50 pages, color maps, \$9.95

A locator country map leads you to 14 two-page route maps covering the whole country in 1:1,000,000 scale. The atlas is designed to be a companion to the Lonely Planet *Vietnam* guidebook. A comprehensive index ensures easy location-finding and includes a separate listing of cultural features.

## Lonely Planet phrasebooks

For many travelers, learning a little of the language of the country they are in is the most enjoyable part of a trip. These handy little books (fit easily into a shirt pocket) will certainly help.

### • Burmese phrasebook, Second edition

*Lonely Planet*, 1996, 3 1/2" x 5", 176 pages, \$5.95

### • Lao phrasebook

*Lonely Planet*, 1996, 3 1/2" x 5", 176 pages, \$5.95

### • Malay phrasebook

*Lonely Planet*, 1997, 3 1/2" x 5", 130 pages, \$5.95

### • Mandarin phrasebook, Third edition

*Lonely Planet*, 1997, 3 1/2" x 5", 192 pages, \$5.95

### • Tagalog (Pilipino) phrasebook (Second edition)

*Lonely Planet*, 1998, 3 1/2" x 5", 240 pages, \$5.95

### • Thai Hill Tribes phrasebook

by David Bradley, *Lonely Planet*, 3 1/2" x 5", 184 pages, \$4.95

### • Thai phrasebook

by Joe Cummings, *Lonely Planet*, 3 1/2" x 5", 208 pages, \$5.95

### • Tibetan phrasebook (Second edition)

*Lonely Planet*, 1997, 3 1/2" x 5", 160 pages, \$4.95

### • Vietnamese phrasebook

*Lonely Planet*, 1996, 3 3/4" x 5", soft cover, 172 pages, \$5.95

## Lonely Planet city guides

### • Bangkok city guide

by Joe Cummings, *Lonely Planet*, 1995, 332 pages with color throughout,

11 maps, \$9.95

Bangkok is one of the world's most exciting - and overwhelming - cities. This indispensable guide is packed with suggestions and insider tips on how to get the most out of your visit. This guide provides practical information for independent travelers; accommodation suggestions from five star to five dollars; restaurant recommendations for every budget; walking tours, river boat trips and all the city sights; a shopping guide to stretch your imagination; a language section, including Thai script; and 11 color maps.

### • Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) guide

by Robert Storey, *Lonely Planet*, 1995, 260 pages, 12 maps, \$9.95

An up-to-date guide to the largest city in Vietnam. If you are staying more than a day and want to get to know Saigon a little better, this is the guide for you.

### • Hong Kong city guide

by Nicko Goncharoff, *Lonely Planet*, 1996, 352 pages, 16 maps, \$12.95

This book will help travelers discover the essence of Asia's most dynamic city as it races towards an exciting new era. In an easy-to-use, pocket-sized format, Lonely Planet's Hong Kong city guide contains practical information for both leisure and business travelers, comprehensive listings of hotels, bars and restaurants for all budgets and tastes and full details on cultural, historic and scenic sights. In addition there are suggestions for day trips to the Outlying Islands and Macau, concise language sections with Chinese script, sample menus as well as an eight-page full-color map section.

### • Jakarta city guide

by Peter Turner, *Lonely Planet*, 1995, 3 1/4" x 7 1/4", 280 pages, 16 maps, \$9.95

A handy guide to exploring the ins and outs of Jakarta, the focal point of Indonesia. Get suggestions for things to see and do, excursions and an overview of this city's rich past.

### • Seoul city guide

by Robert Storey, *Lonely Planet*, 1996, 256 pages, 6 maps, \$11.95

This pocket-sized guide is indispensable for visitors, whether they are business people or backpackers or both. It contains map keys with Korean script for easy place-name identification, loads of entertainment options from karaoke to traditional theater, comprehensive transportation information including a subway map, a full-color map section and suggestions for hundreds of places to stay and eat for every budget.

### • Singapore city guide, Third edition

by Peter Turner, *Lonely Planet*, 3 1/4" x 7 1/4", 288 pages, \$9.95

Exotic Singapore is a melting pot of cultures, cuisine and unexpected pleasures and this guide comes with 12 maps and practical tips to make sure you enjoy your stay in this bustling island republic.

### • Tokyo city guide, Second edition

by Chris Rowthorn, *Lonely Planet*, 1996, 224 pages, \$14.95

Soaring skyscrapers, elaborate Buddhist temples, trendy boutiques and splendid museums make Tokyo a fascinating city to explore.

## Moon Publications

For your trips around Asia, these guides will come in handy. Handbooks are available for: Bangkok (\$13.95), Hong Kong (\$15.95), Indonesia (\$25.00), Southeast Asia (\$21.95), Thailand (\$19.95) and Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos (\$18.95).

### • Staying Healthy

*Moon Publications*, \$11.95

Whether you are just traveling through the region or staying a while, this book is a powerful tool to help you maintain good health. Author Dr. Schroeder offers a comprehensive overview of the most common health problems travelers encounter, along with tips on how to avoid them. Detailed sections on immunization, nutrition, first aid, and mental attitude will give you the knowledge you need to keep your travels healthy, safe, and enjoyable.

### • The Practical Nomad: How to Travel Around the World

by Edward Hasbrouck, *Moon Travel Handbooks*, Chico, CA, 1997, 5" x 8", paper, 566 pages, \$17.95

The Internet's best-known authority on international airfares provides business and pleasure seekers with insider secrets that airlines and tour operators don't want you to know.

### • Thailand Handbook

by Carl Parkes, *Moon*, 1997, 5" x 7 1/4", 828 pages, \$19.95

Comprehensive coverage of Thailand's major cultural festivals, arts, dances, symbology and religion. Insightful essays on such topics as monsters of the Mekong and the fate of the Thai elephant.

## Destination:Vietnam

published by Global Directions Incorporated, San Francisco, California since 1994, bi-monthly, 8 3/8" x 10 7/8", back issues \$5 per copy

*Destination:Vietnam* is a bi-monthly 64 page color magazine designed for the American traveler and business-person headed for Vietnam. *Destination:Vietnam* includes articles on when and how to travel to Vietnam, as well as what to do when you get there, complete with itineraries and maps. *Destination:Vietnam* offers stories of local culture, art, cuisine, music, history, tips on shopping and travel essays with beautiful pictures.

From September 1994 to December 1997, 20 issues of *Destination:Vietnam* were printed. As of January 1998, *Destination:Vietnam* became an online magazine available at [www.destinationvietnam.com](http://www.destinationvietnam.com)

### Back Issues

### • September/October 94

Hanoi's Old Quarter: The 36 streets ~ Barbara Cohen • The Spirit of Hanoi ~ Dana Sachs • A City in Flux ~ Dick Pirozzolo • Nice Finds: Vientiane Detour • Culture: Van Mieu: The Temple of Literature • Travel Tips • Arts: The Oldest Embroidery Shop in Hanoi • Cuisine: A Long and Flavorful History • Touring: Cycling Vietnam: A Personal View • Books: The Making of A Passage to Vietnam • Books: A Review of Susan Brownmiller's Seeing Vietnam • Directory: Galleries/Hotels/Restaurants

### • November/December 94

On the Road to Dien Bien Phu ~ Michael McDonell • We'll Get There When We Get There ~ Robert A. Hanes & Lynne Watenpaugh • A Culinary Tour of the Land of the Ascending Dragon ~ Richard Sterling • Nice Finds: Cafe 252 • Side Trips: Riding the Eastern & Oriental Express • Arts: Woodblocks • Touring: Golfing Vietnam • Cuisine: Pizza Comes to Hanoi. Review of A Little Italian & Sunset Pub • Books: Going with the Right Guidebook • Directory: Galleries / Hotels / Restaurants

### • January/February 95

Tet ~ Dana Sachs • Traditional Festivals of Vietnam ~ Barbara Cohen • Driving Highway One ~ Lisa Spivey and Albert Wen • Nice Finds: A View from the Rex • Travel Tips • Cuisine: Recipes. Pho Bo (Beef Soup); Banh Cuon Tom Viet Nam (Shrimp Crystal Spring Rolls); Goi Du Du (Green Papaya Salad) • Books: Early Travelers' Tales • Culture: Prayer Flags • Directory: Tours / Travel Agents / Galleries / Hotels / Restaurants

### • March/April 95

Life on the Mekong, Photography ~ Lou Dematteis, Text ~ Sarah Tilton • Cruising Vietnam ~ Lisa Spivey and Albert Wen • The Bun Cha Obsession ~ Nguyen Qui Duc • Nice Finds: Hanging out in Ho Chi Minh City. Review of Le P'tit Bistrot & Q-Bar • Culture: The Exotic Sounds of Ca Tru • Travel Tips • Books/Movies: Vietnam on Video. Review of Vietnam: Land of the Ascending Dragon • Directory: Cruise Companies / Vietnamese Tour Operators / Travel Agents

### • May/June 95

Rice, Photography ~ Lou Dematteis, Text ~ Sarah Tilton • Bat Trang ~ Dana Sachs • Cham Museum ~ Tran Ky Phuong • Nice Finds: Cafe Lam • An Artist and Her Work: Dinh Y Nhi • Books: Culture Briefing: Vietnam • Culture: Shuttlecock • Travel Tips • Happenings: Hanoi Marathon • Directory: International Air Service to Vietnam

### • July/August 95

Escape to Vung Tau, Photography ~ Lou Dematteis, Text ~ Sarah Tilton • Motorcycling in Vietnam ~ Robert Strauss • Burmese Days ~ A.R. West • Nice Finds: Vung Tau Ferry • Art: Nguyen Quan's Apotheosis • Backseat Driving • An Artist and His Work: Vien Thuc • Traveling on Business • Online: Destination:Vietnam is on the Web • Travel Tips: Getting Around Ho Chi Minh City • Water Puppets

### • September/October 95

Haiphong, Photography ~ Lou Dematteis, Text ~ Sarah Tilton • Honeymooning in Vietnam ~ Robert Strauss • Chua Mia and Chua Thay ~ Dana Sachs • An Artist and His Work: Le Doi • Culture: Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Children's Festival • Underwater: Scuba Diving in Nha Trang • Online: Destination:Vietnam is on the Web • Nice Finds: A Perfect Evening in Hanoi

### • November/December 95

Do Son, Photography ~ Lisa Spivey & Albert Wen • Golfing in Vietnam ~ Robert Strauss • Bicycling Vietnam ~ Bill Fridl • Dalat Tapestry ~ Kim Fay • Nice Finds: Maxim's • Culture: White Horse Temple • Markets: Leaning over the Woks • Lodging: Spider Web, Tree House, Hotel • Cafe: A Poet's Corner in Dalat • Cuisine: Vietnamese Restaurant Reviews • An Artist and Her Work: Tran Tuyet-Mai • Travel Tips

### • January/February 96

360 Days a Year ~ Robert Strauss • My Passage to Vietnam, Photography

~ Denise Rocco • River Dreams ~ Scott Wild • Tet Paintings ~ Jim Sweeney • Nice Finds: Continental Drift • Art: Indochina Arts Project • Sidetrips: Laos • Culture: Music • Books: After Sorrow & Mekong • Directory: Hanoi Hotels

• **March/April 96**

Taking the Hue Train ~ Ira Barrows • Vietnam in Black and White, Photography ~ Peter Steinhauer • Global Volunteers ~ Sarah Tilton • Nice Finds: Bookstores of Saigon • An Artist and His Work: Le Thanh Minh • Sidetrips: Bangkok • Culture: Ao Dai • Books: Sketches for a Portrait of Vietnamese Culture • Directory: Ho Chi Minh City Hotels

• **May/June 96**

Escape to Cat Ba Island ~ Robert Strauss • Exploring Cambodia, Photography ~ Thomas Gettelfinger • A Musical Odyssey ~ Joyce Gregory • Nice Finds: The Majestic Hotel • Art: An American Artist in Hanoi • Sidetrips: Hong Kong • Culture: Eating Your Way Through Vietnam • Books: Travel Guides

• **July/August 96**

Changing Fortunes ~ Robert Strauss • Walking Hanoi's Old Quarter ~ Lisa Spivey and Albert Wen • Fansipan and Sapa ~ Jeremy Finn and Stanley Klein • Nice Finds: My Khe Beach • Traditional Festivals in Vietnam • Cuisine: Vegetarian Food in Hanoi • Culture: The Hanoi Women's Museum • Books: Past and Present Vietnam

• **September/October 96**

Tam Dao Hill Station ~ Robert Strauss • Vietnam, Land of the Blue Dragon, Photography ~ Martine Aepli • Making Silk in Lam Dong ~ Ann R. Braun • Books: The Traditional Village in Vietnam and Ancient Town of Hoi An • Cuisine: Hanoi's Hoa Sua • Culture: Sketches for a Portrait of Vietnamese Culture • Shopping for Silk in Hanoi • Sidetrips: Indonesia

• **November/December 96**

Chau Doc ~ Think Le • Visit to Hoi An ~ Jacquelin Sonderling • A Portrait of Vietnam ~ Lou Dematteis • Sidetrips: The Charm of Distance • Books: Arts, Hue and Ethnic Minorities in Vietnam • Cruising: Andrew Pham does Vietnam on a shoe-string • Christmas in Ho Chi Minh City • Circus! Circus!

• **January/February 97**

Customs and Culture of Vietnam ~ Steven Bailey • A Visit with the Hill Tribes ~ Alison Wright • Vietnam ~ Mitch Epstein • The Meaning of Tet • Cuisine: Review of Dining with Headhunters • Nice Finds: Coco Beach • A Tet Celebration • Books: Environment and Bioresources of Vietnam and Battle of Dien Bien Phu • Cruising: Jacquelin Sonderling cycles to Nha Trang • Culture: Vietnamese Table Etiquette • Football!

• **March/April 97**

Life Along the Mekong ~ Fritz Nordengren • My Duc ~ Graham Simmons • Festival ~ Lisa Spivey & Albert Wen • Art: Truong Dinh Hao • Side Trips: Kuala Lumpur • Culture: Ancestors • Culture: Paper Street • Making the film "Burning Incense"

• **May/June 97**

Traveling to Tra Vinh ~ Fritz Nordengren • Return to Vietnam ~ Mai Pham • Portraits of Vietnam ~ Mark Harris • Mekong ~ Michael Yamashita • Side

Trips: Singapore • First person: From Both Sides Now • A Place to Call Home • Book Reviews

• **July/August 97**

Travels with T.S. Ernie ~ Fritz Nordengren • In Search of a Hmong King ~ Leslie Nevison • Portraits of Indochina ~ Dana Kress • The Story of Nom ~ Sarah Tilton • The History and Mystery of Ceramics • Vietnamese Sayings • An Artist and his Work: Dao Hai Phong • Book Reviews

• **September/October 97**

Hoi An Interlude ~ Kim Fay • Theatre ~ Photography by Joseph McNally • Rise of the Resort ~ Annabel Jackson • Travel Tips: Obtaining your visa to Vietnam • Hoi An's Tam Tam Cafe • The Tran family home in Hoi An • Phu Quoc for the weekend • Tam and Cam • Diving in Danang • An Artist and his Work: Hoang An • Video Review

• **November/December 97**

Vietnamese Art: A Passion for Painting ~ Nora Taylor • Shopping in Ho Chi Minh City ~ Annabel Jackson • Butterflies on Wheels ~ Tom Cockrem • Non Hat ~ Steven Bailey • A Month of Smiles ~ Julian Cabrera with sketches by Jane Cabrera • Nice Finds: Morning on the Banana Boat Canal • Art: The Changing Face of Hanoi • Side Trips: Buon Ma Thuot • Monkey Island • Dalat • Culture: How the Tiger got his Stripes • Book Review: Lonely Planet's Vietnamese Phrasebook

# Gift Items

## Cyclo

desktop model, 3 3/4" H x 5 1/2" W, \$10.00

The cyclo (*xich lo*), short for the French *cyclo-pousse*, is the most convenient way to get around the cities of Vietnam. It is the best way to wander around the city, especially when it is too hot to walk any distance. Stop anywhere you like, as frequently as your whim dictates. You can hire your own private cyclo for as little as US\$1 per hour. Just remember to negotiate before you start your journey.

## Cyclo Watch

comes in women's and men's models, \$25.00 each

The Gallery Cyclo logo watch makes a perfect gift for that special person interested in Vietnam.

## Dong Ho prints

various images, from Dong Ho village, Ha Bac province, 10" x 14", shrinkwrapped, \$75.00 each. see our web site for full selection.

Multicolored Tet paintings from the village of Dong Ho, near Hanoi, are synonymous throughout Vietnam with the Tet festival. They have long been an indispensable element for bringing in the new year in Vietnam. The paintings, actually prints produced on engraved wooden blocks, are noted for their bright colors and luminous backgrounds.

In an article in the winter 1994 issue of the journal *Asian Art & Culture*, art critic Jeffrey Hantover said "the path to Vietnamese modernism went through the village."

Hantover, an expert on contemporary Vietnamese art, said that in Tet woodblock prints from Dong Ho, as well as other traditional crafts, "northern artists discovered the affinity between their indigenous aesthetic and that of early modernism: multiple perspectives, flatness, picture plane tilted forward, asymmetry, lyrical distortion of reality, color chosen for its expressive power."

Tet prints, sometimes called woodblock paintings, are bought at the time of the Lunar New Year festival. They have varied subject matter, depicting scenes of rural life, Vietnamese history and legends. The prints also depict religious scenes, good-luck signs, popular allegories, landscapes and recreational activities. The most popular prints display themes and messages that would be common in almost any society: wishes for prosperity, good health, many children, good crops.

Certain scenes and themes have become very popular for Dong Ho prints. One of the most popular is called *Dai Cat*, or "great luck." This scene shows a rooster, symbolic of a good start to the day as well as of peace and courage. Another scene, *Ga Dan*, shows a flock of chickens. The meaning is a wish to have numerous children and grandchildren.

## Lacquer Boxes

made in Vietnam, set of three, \$30 per set

The Vietnamese have known the techniques of lacquer work since ancient times when it was used for the waterproofing of barges. Under the reign of Le Nhan Ton (1443-1460) the technique also became used for decorative items.

Lacquerware is an incredibly time consuming art form. Lacquer itself is a natural resin that is found by tapping the *cay son* tree. It is milky-white in its natural state, and is made black by mixing with resin for over forty hours in an iron container. The iron oxide blackens the lacquer, and the resin gives it a gloss.

The process begins after finding the correct wood which is then coated, filled and sanded over several weeks time. The lacquering art itself requires ten base coats, and each coat takes one week to dry and then must be sanded before the next coat is applied. A specially prepared fine lacquer which has been blackened by the iron-oxide is required for the eleventh coat. During this stage, no dust may touch the object, and the final sanding coat is done with fine coal powder and whitewash. The workers polish the surface with their palms until it becomes shiny.

## Land of the Ascending Dragon postcard book

30 Postcards selected from the book *Vietnam: Land of the Blue Dragon* by Martine Aepli. \$9.95 per postcard book

## Vietnam Art Posters

Global Directions Incorporated specially commissioned San Francisco artists Arnold Iger and Paul Kwan to create a series of paintings for *Destination: Vietnam* magazine.

Arnold and Paul embody the union of East and West in art and in life. Arnold, originally from New York, and Paul, an ethnic Chinese who immigrated from Vietnam in 1973, produced these paintings using rich, luminous oil paints to depict the country's long history.

Both artists found Vietnam an interesting artistic subject and strove to capture a sense of timelessness. "We want people to enjoy this," explains Iger. "Vietnam is changing. These paintings acknowledge the past and keep hope open for the future."

Arnold and Paul are involved in a variety of projects and recently received an award for their video "Anatomy of a Springroll" which uses food as a metaphor for culture. Among their works-in-progress is a PBS special "Pins and Noodles," an hour long show about food as medicine in the Chinese tradition (pins refers to acupuncture needles).

These paintings have been used as covers for *Destination: Vietnam* magazine.

Three of these paintings are available as art posters, ready-to-frame. They are titled "Vietnam", "Hanoi" and "Ho Chi Minh City". The posters are printed in full color, on #1 grade 80 lb cover stock, and measure approximately 20" by 24". (\$25.00 each)

## Vietnam notecards

15 notecards, made from vignettes of the three paintings above by Arnold Iger and Paul Kwan. The set of 15 cards is ideal for sending off a quick note with a touch of Vietnam. (\$3.75 per set of 15)

## Vietnamese Pottery

The production of ceramics in Vietnam dates back to the reign of Emperor Trieu Vu De (207-137 B.C.). Throughout time, evidence of these art objects has been discovered during the excavations of tombs, and while digging the irrigation canals which are found throughout the country.

The most well known ceramics have come from Bat Trang (outside of Hanoi), where they have adopted the use of molds and lathes and more elaborate glazes. Long ago, the inhabitants of this village erected a temple in memory of the teacher and his students which introduced the art to the village.

The pottery featured here is from the countryside. It was not envisioned as decorative art, but as part and parcel of the total environment in daily life. Each piece is unique because they are made by hand by people who work in the fields the rest of the day. These vessels are used for practical purposes, and are found in the homes of the villagers. During our travels we became convinced that their simplicity would make for beautiful decorative art in our homes in America.

Vietnamese art has traditionally adjusted the scale of each piece to strive for unity and harmony by blending with their natural surroundings. These pots reflect that harmony, and we hope you enjoy them as much as we do.

• **Kitchen Jar**

jar, 13" by 10", \$25 + \$10 s/h

An everyday kitchen jar used for storing liquids such as water, rice wine or oil, this jar would look great on any shelf and can be used as a vase.

• **Pickle jar**

jar, 20" tall, \$50 + \$15 s/h

The pickle jar is used locally to store food throughout the year. This 20" tall jar would be beautiful in an entryway, a stair landing or by the fireplace.

• **Sticky rice pot**

pot, 14" by 15", \$25 + \$10 s/h

Designed for making a staple cuisine of the area, this pot has holes in the bottom to allow for steam to come through. Works very well as a container for plants.

• **Teapots**

teapots, approximately 6" by 5", \$20 + \$10 s/h

Locally used for brewing herb tea, these teapots are ideal for decoration.

## Water Puppets

each one of these unique original water puppets from one of the oldest water puppet troupes in Vietnam is individually priced. Price range: \$250 to \$1,000. See our web site for selection and availability.

The art of water puppetry, or mua roi nuoc, has roots that date back to the tenth century when it originated in the Red River Delta area of northern Vietnam. The farmers in the region celebrated festivals and harvests by performing this unique art form. Over the years, different villages have developed their own personal water puppet plays to mark certain battles or events.

Originally, the puppetry was always performed on a stage built in ponds. Wires were strung between stakes and as many as 200 scenes about village life and legends could be acted out. Today a show usually only incorporates about twenty five scenes. Some of the stages were permanent, but most were temporary wooden or bamboo structures in the shape of a temple which would be put up on special occasions.

The puppets are made of wood and usually stand sixteen inches high, but can be as tall as three feet. The puppet always has two parts: the body which is seen above the water, and the base which is under the water. The head and the arms are usually movable and are sometimes attached with cloth. The strings or wires used to connect the different parts of the puppets body can be made out of many things - even twisted hair covered with a layer of wax. The puppets may take on a lacquered look after being painted many times with a vegetable-based paint.

There are three ways of operating the puppets. Some puppets are attached to a long bamboo pole and dipped in and out of the water by a person behind a rattan curtain. The larger puppets are often attached to a round wooden disc which can serve as a floating attachment to the poles. Some puppets use a combination of both and may have a rudder to help guide them.

Learning to manipulate the puppets is usually a tradition that is passed on as a family secret. It takes a great deal of skill and because the puppeteers hands are underwater it is easy for them to hide their methods. Up to three poles are used with the puppets attached to the middle pole and the other rods supporting the puppet's. The legs don't move. Behind the stage, there is usually a central place to rest the puppets not in motion, and some puppeteers operate more than one figure at a time.

The technique has not changed much since water puppets were first created, although natural ponds have been replaced by nine-foot-long portable water basins. The stage is actually rectangular and is broken up into three areas. The puppets are kept on the floor above the two side rooms and the musicians play from one side.

The fascinating part is that the central room is below the water line, and the puppeteers stand in the waist-deep water. A rattan curtain hides them, but they can see the stage and the audience through the bamboo slats.

Water has always played a central role in Vietnamese culture. And the word for water, nuoc, also means country or nation. The puppets advance and retreat in the water with the wave sound always being an important factor. The water must be a little muddy just like the ponds were so that the poles and mechanics can be obscured.

People who have seen water puppet performances often remember the music that goes along with the show. The drum beats more and more quickly as the show is about to begin. There is a drummer and gong and chants and songs to help animate the story, and the percussion instruments accompany the gestures to keep up the rhythm of a performance. The music also often introduces the theme of the play. No performance is complete without firecrackers which add to the excitement.

In the past, the puppeteers were peasants and belonged to a guild. As time went on, permission to enter the guild was more and more selective and the head of the guild, or ong trum, was responsible for many things including finances because the performances were free. Today the puppeteers in the Central Troupe are professionals who receive a monthly salary from the

Direction of the Central Troupe of Vietnamese Puppets, a government agency, and they receive special grants when they perform outside the country.

## Wood Block prints by Dinh Luc

various images, by Dinh Luc, approximately 7" x 7", shrinkwrapped, \$75.00 each. see our web site for full selection.

Woodblock craft is a time-honored art that holds a special place in Vietnam's cultural history. By the late 11th or early 12th century, the Vietnamese were already producing collections of Buddhist sutras through woodblock printing. The use of woodblocks for decorative purposes evolved later—in the late 18th century. Historically, creativity in the carving of woodblocks was discouraged. Instead, their primary purpose was to relate a well-loved and known story or theme. Since the emphasis was on recognition rather than artistry, older Vietnamese prints rarely carried the name of the artist. Instead, they bore the name of the location where they were produced.

Two separate styles of woodblock printing evolved at two locations in the Red River Delta. The village of Dong Ho in the Ha Bac province near Hanoi is well-known even today for its production of woodblock prints. The prints from this village reflect daily country life, and are executed with a coarse but fresh technique in bold, clear outlines. In Hanoi, Hang Trong Street produced a more urbane type of print. Dating from the 17th to 18th centuries, the subject matter in these prints was more elegant and the lines more subtle than those of Dong Ho village.

In the woodblock printing process, the design is first painted on a wooden board which is then carved. After the artist engraves the pattern on the woodblock, he prints it on paper covered with a paste of ground sea shells. He then colors the picture with natural materials—black from charcoal, red from ochre, brown from yams, yellow from day lilies.

Painter Dinh Luc, whose woodblock prints are featured here, captures Hanoi's historic charm. From traditional festivals and temples to folklore and the 36 Streets, Luc's subjects evoke the Vietnam of his childhood. Luc creates his works in strong black ink on traditional thin paper. All his works are square. Luc says that this is "a way to focus the viewer's attention for a deeper look at details." His pictures of old Hanoi life are conceived in modern settings with touches that evoke the past.

Luc's woodblock depicting Hang Mam, a street historically known for its fish sauce, includes four little fish drying on a roof. In his print of Hang Thiec (Tinsmith Street), Luc shows tinsmiths squatting over their work in a tribute to the street's tradition. In other prints, he shows the familiar xoan tree which typically shades Hanoi's sloping tile roofs and women vendors in ba tam hats—the old style wheel shaped hats.

A native Hanoian, Dinh Luc aims to preserve the past heritage of his motherland. His works are truly Vietnamese in inspiration and execution.

## Your very own Cyclo

You won't find this one at the Sharper Image or in the Neiman Marcus Christmas catalogue. Imported from Vietnam by Global Directions Incorporated, this cyclo (or *xich lo*) is one made specially for us. Very few cyclos are in this country and you will probably be the only one in your town to have one.

Some assembly required, no battery needed, easy to operate, strong muscles helpful. \$3,000.00 fob San Francisco.

for recent additions, see our web site  
[www.destinationvietnam.com](http://www.destinationvietnam.com)

# Music

Music CDs are \$25.00 each

## Music from Vietnam

The Phong Long (Orchid) Group, consisting of musicians from the traditional section of the Hanoi Conservatory, bases its "new traditional music" on earlier folk and traditional music forms, using both arrangements and new compositions in the traditional idiom. The vocalist Quy Bon, together with accompanists, performs some examples of Hat Cheo, the repertoire of the traditional popular music dramas, and Hat Chau van - ritual music linked with the typically Vietnamese adoration of saints. Folk singers of both sexes from Ha Bac province contribute specimens of its typical style of folk singing, Hat Quan ho, and singer and instrumentalist Kim Sinh performs songs and music from the exciting world of "opera renewed".

## Music from Vietnam 2: The City of Hue

This music is known for its distinctive melodic beauty, with a typical dash of melancholy. Many believe that the origins are found in the kingdom of Champa for many centuries before and after 100 AD. Doan Nghe That Truyen Thong Hue carries back to the days of the Vietnamese imperial court. The Doan Ca Hue represents a still more ancient musical tradition, typical of Hue. Together with singer Ai Hoa, they also perform the rhythmic music connected with the distinctive Vietnamese "cult of the saints", chau van. The third group, Doan Ca Kich Hue, with a number of vocalists, performs a repertoire based on the romantic songs inspired by the Perfume River which flows through Hue.

## Music from Vietnam 3: Ethnic Minorities

This is a musical voyage of discovery among fifty or more ethnic minorities. Languages, melodies, rhythms, voices, instruments and ensembles present a diversity of cultural traditions. The contents include a number of examples of the fantastic rhythmic music played on tuned gongs by the E-de people in the Central Highlands. The Muong, one of the biggest minorities, presents vocal music for achieving direct contact with various deities. This ethnic group is also represented by love songs and instrumental music. The Hmong, who live in the mountains in the north, have provided several tracks featuring the fantastic hmong flute which is absolutely unique in tone. There are also a couple of vocal items from the Nung minority, known among other things for their strong poetic tradition.

## Vietnam: Instruments et ensembles de musique traditionnelle

In 1984, on the occasion of the National Theater of Vietnam's European tour, Western audiences were given the opportunity of hearing a wide variety of traditional Vietnamese instruments and ensembles which are presented in this recording.

## Vietnam: Dreams and Reality

Trang Quang Hai and Bach Yen perform traditional Vietnamese music. Trang Quang Hai comes from a family who have been traditional musi-

cians for five generations. He was a former student at the National Conservatory of Music in Saigon. Bach Yen was born in the Mekong Delta and started her artistic career as a pop singer in Saigon. In 1965 she went on a world tour and met Tran Quang Hai and since then they have given more than 1,000 concerts in five continents.

## Vietnamese Zither: The Water and the Wind

Tran Quang Hai has composed ten new pieces for the sixteen string zither, dan tranh. He studied at the Music School in Saigon before going to France in 1961 where he studied the theory and practice of music with his father, Tran Van Khe. He plays fifteen instruments and since 1966 has given over 2,500 concerts in 45 countries. The dan tranh zither came into existence towards the beginning of the 13th century and measures about 39 inches by 8 inches at the broad end, with a convex resonator. The sixteen strings are stretched along rounded wooden sound board made of oleococca wood and are divided into two sections by a series of movable wooden uhan. At the end the strings are wound round sixteen wooden or plastic pegs. The base of the instrument is flat with three holes. In Vietnam, instruments are often hung on the walls for decoration. For playing, the dan tranh is placed on the table, on the ground or else it rests aslant across the musician's knees.

## Vietnam: Reviving a Tradition

This disc comprises very popular traditional pieces from the different regions of Vietnam, melodies inspired by the folk culture of certain ethnic minorities, but also recent works. Four groups of musicians have been recorded. The first three groups come from the Music School in Hanoi. Two similar pieces are performed by two groups on different instruments in order to draw attention to these similarities. The fourth group comes from Cao Bang. In interprets a repertory inspired by the folk culture of the ethnic minorities of this region. Several styles are presented in the recording, in particular, songs of the Bac Ninh region, the Hat Cheo theater of the north, love songs and lullabies.

## A Journey to Vietnam

The instruments and ensembles heard on this recording include the dan tranh zither, the dan doc huyen, the dan co fiddle, the dan kim lute, the dan tam thap luc struck box zither, the sao transverse bamboo flute, the dai nhac to perform court music and the nha nhac elegant music. A great diversity of genres and instruments are represented in the twenty three selections.

## Stilling Time. Traditional Musics of Vietnam

Compiled by Philip Blackburn in the course of the first musical exchange between Vietnam and the United States since the war, this pioneering, lavishly produced CD documents rare musics of the hill peoples of Vietnam as well as exceptional performances of traditional Vietnamese music.

## Song of the Banyan: Folk Music of Vietnam

This recording features folk songs performed by renowned musician Phong Nguyen and his ensemble. The fourteen tracks feature vocal and instrumental pieces, and use a variety of Vietnamese lutes, zithers and percussion.

## Landscape of the Highlands: String Music from Vietnam

Tran Quang Hai, a talented and well-known musician, comes from a family of five generations of musicians. In this recording, he performs five original compositions for the sixteen-string zither dan tranh. Each composition, based on a specific pentatonic scale, reflects part of the total musical picture specially created for this recording.

## Northern Viet-nam: Possession Songs

Possession songs or *chau van* (also called "medium songs" or "female diviner incantations") are sung during the trance sessions (*len dong*) of the *dong bong* ritual ceremonies. The *chau van* is extremely rich in both melody and rhythm, borrowing from almost all the other popular arts of North Vietnam, like *ca tru*, *quan ho*, or the songs from Central Vietnam, like *ho Hue* and the songs of the minorities. Today *van chau* is a medium song sung in temples or other places dedicated to ritual ceremonies.

## Northern Vietnam: Music and Songs of the Minorities

Vietnam counts 54 ethnic minority spread out over the whole nation. The minorities presented on this record include the Dao, Giay, Hmong, Kinh, Muong, Nung, Thai and Tay. The recording and editing were done by Patrick Kersale and include: Giay - wedding music, Giay - welcome song, Muong - funeral music, Muong - lullaby, Muong - courting music, Nung An - love song, Tay - rural song, Dao - celebration music, Dao - a sung popular tale, Thai - pi pap solo, Thai - pi tam lay solo, Thai - celebration drum, Thai - wedding music, Thai - funeral music, Hmong - love song, Black Hmong - khen solo, Kinh- funeral music. In the northern minorities presented on this CD, one distinguishes three linguistic groups.

## Vietnam: Music of the Truong Son Mountains

Nestled along the Truong Son mountain range, the Central Highlands have long been a safe haven for some twenty non-Viet minority ethnic groups speaking both Mon-Khmer and Malayo-Polynesian languages. Their habitat stretches from Song Be province in the south to Quang Binh province in the center of Vietnam throughout the mountains and even crossing into eastern Laos and Cambodia. Music in the Central Highlands encompasses both vocal and instrumental types, many exhibiting characteristics likely of ancient origin. Recordings made in the 1950s and 1960s, principally by French anthropologists, remain valuable as historical documents, but none include as great a variety of song types or musical instruments as can now be offered resulting from through new research. The following selection includes: Gong ensemble of the Jarai, Bamboo flute ensemble of the Ede, Antiphonal wedding song of the Trieng, Responsorial song of the Trieng, Instrumental love song of the Trieng, Gong ensemble of the Trieng, Pair of gongs of the Brau, Lute of Bahnar, Free-reed pip of the Bahnar, Bundled flute of the Bahnar, Tube zither improvisation with the bamboo tube accompaniment of the Bahnar, Bamboo flute ensemble of the Trieng, Gong ensemble of the upland Cham, Gong and drum ensemble of the upland Cham and Bahnar, Matchmaker's Song of the upland Cham, Song of the Jarai, Courting music for bowed stick zither of the Jarai, Gourd-resonated free-reed pipe of the Ede, Free-reed buffalo horn of the Ede, Free-reed gourd mouth organ of the Ede, Song with free-reed gourd mouth organ of the Ede, Gong ensemble of the Mnong Non, Gong ensemble of the Ede, Love song of the Pacao, Repartee song of the Pacao, Lullaby of the Ta Oi, Lute improvisation of the Ta Oi, Ensemble music for the harvest played by the Pacao, and Song accompanied by gong ensemble of the Jarai. Produced by Dr. Phong Nguyen and Dr. Terry E. Miller in 1997.

## VIETNAM: From Rice Paddies and Temple Yards: Traditional Music of Vietnam

by Phong Nguyen, Ph.D. and Patricia Shehan Campbell, Ph.D., World Music Press, 1995, Book: 8 1/2" x 11" paper, 88 pages, photos. Book and CD, \$40.00

This book and CD package represents the first complete English-language introduction to Vietnamese traditional music and culture. While the book offers an intellectual understanding of Vietnamese traditions, the heart of the culture is found in the music. The performers are all Vietnamese living in the United States.

## Video

### Burning Incense: "Huong"

by Nora Taylor, 23 minutes, 1994, \$25.00

An independently produced video on art and spiritual life in contemporary Vietnam is a collaboration of Nora Taylor, PhD in Art History from Cornell University, cinematographer Mac Van Chung and painter and art historian Bui Hoai Mai. Filmed and edited entirely in Vietnam, the production was supported by the Ministry for Culture and Information and the Institute for Art Historical Research in Hanoi.

With footage of the beautiful northern Vietnamese landscape, Buddhist pagodas, altars to ancestors and paintings by old masters hanging in the National Museum of Art in Hanoi, the video illustrates the many layers of juxtaposition between art and life in contemporary Vietnam. Rather than focus on historical or political issues, the video provides newcomers to Vietnamese culture with a visual representation of themes and symbols in daily spiritual and artistic life.

"Art in Vietnam is found in daily life and daily life becomes art that is as fragrant and ephemeral as a stick of burning incense." Nora Taylor

### Lonely Planet Video: The Vietnam Experience

Lonely Planet, 47 minutes, \$19.95

This video translates the approach and style of Lonely Planet guidebooks into video. The program captures the unplanned exploits of adventurous independent travelers. The only thing to expect is the unexpected. Descend into subterranean tunnels, light fireworks to ring in the new year, drink the juice of a snake to ward off sickness, and ride the Reunification Express.

### Raise the Bamboo Curtain: Viet Nam, Cambodia and Burma.

by Rick Ray, Vagabond Productions, 95 minutes, \$29.95

Join Rick as he journeys from Saigon to Hanoi on Vietnam's Highway One, with stops in Dalat, Nha Trang, China Beach, Danang, the DMZ, Halong Bay and Hanoi.

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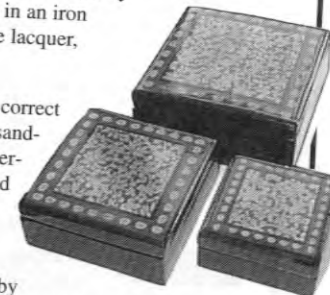
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## Lacquer Boxes

The Vietnamese have known the techniques of lacquer work since ancient times when it was used for the waterproofing of barges. Under the reign of Le Nhan Ton (1443-1460) the technique also became used for decorative items.

Lacquerware is an incredibly time consuming art form. Lacquer itself is a natural resin that is found by tapping the cay son tree. It is milky-white in its natural state, and is made black by mixing with resin for over forty hours in an iron container. The iron oxide blackens the lacquer, and the resin gives it a gloss.

The process begins after finding the correct wood which is then coated, filled and sanded over several weeks time. The lacquering art itself requires ten base coats, and each coat takes one week to dry and then must be sanded before the next coat is applied. A specially prepared fine lacquer which has been blackened by the iron-oxide is required for the eleventh coat. During this stage, no dust may touch the object, and the final sanding coat is done with fine coal powder and whitewash. The workers polish the surface with their palms until it becomes shiny.



Over the years, we purchased these beautiful nesting sets for our friends when we were traveling in Vietnam. They were so well liked that we decided to work with the crafts people and import enough for others to buy too. (\$30.00 per set of three.)

- From Vagabond Productions -

## Raise the Bamboo Curtain: Viet Nam, Cambodia and Burma.

### A Video Journey with Rick Ray

When most people think of Vietnam, Burma, and Cambodia, they think of them as sites of war and suffering. Indeed, these three countries have languished for many years behind the "Bamboo Curtain", and their recent emergence has given tourists the opportunity to explore lands which have changed little in decades.

No country has been more hidden from the modern world than Burma. Since the 1950's tourists have been restricted to between 24 hours and 7 days to see the country. Called the "Albania of Asia", Burma has only recently begun to open its doors to travelers, and I was there on the "Road to Mandalay" to film the wonders of Inle Lake, the colonial decay of Rangoon, the "long neck women" hill tribes and the temple studded plains of Pagan.

Join me as I journey from Saigon to Hanoi on Vietnam's Highway One, with stops in Dalat, Nha Trang, China Beach, Danang, the DMZ, Halong Bay and Hanoi.

Finally, venture into the land of Cambodia, for a look at a country still coming to terms with the ravages of war. From the killing fields of Phnom Penh to the magnificence of Angkor Wat, our journey explores the heights and depths of human achievement and suffering in the homeland of Khmer culture.

Running time: 95 minutes. Price: \$29.95. Order with form on pg. 21.

Raise the Bamboo Curtain:  
**VIET NAM**  
Cambodia and Burma

A Personal Journey with Rick Ray

## "Burning Incense: Huong"

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23 minutes, 1994, \$25.00, see order form on page 21.

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# Water Puppets

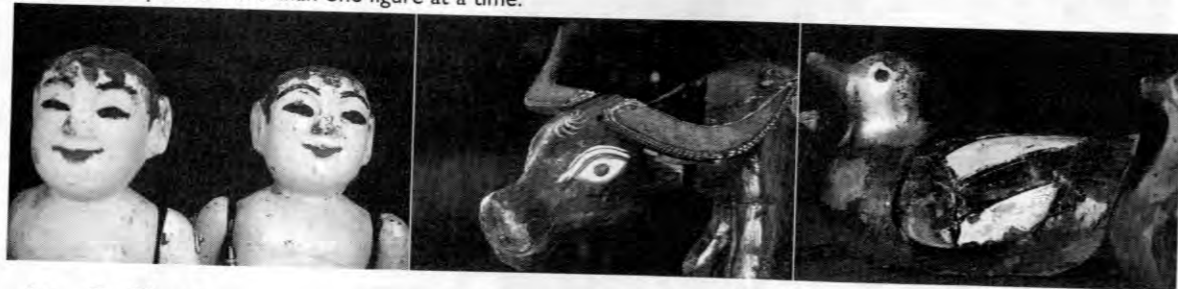
The art of water puppetry, or *mua roi nuoc*, has roots that date back to the tenth century when it originated in the Red River Delta area of northern Vietnam. The farmers in the region celebrated festivals and harvests by performing this unique art form. Over the years, different villages have developed their own personal water puppet plays to mark certain battles or events.

Originally, the puppetry was always performed on a stage built in ponds. Wires were strung between stakes and as many as 200 scenes about village life and legends could be acted out. Today a show usually only incorporates about twenty five scenes. Some of the stages were permanent, but most were temporary wooden or bamboo structures in the shape of a temple which would be put up on special occasions.

The puppets are made of wood and usually stand sixteen inches high, but can be as tall as three feet. The puppet always has two parts: the body which is seen above the water, and the base which is under the water. The head and the arms are usually movable and are sometimes attached with cloth. The strings or wires used to connect the different parts of the puppets body can be made out of many things - even twisted hair covered with a layer of wax. The puppets may take on a lacquered look after being painted many times with a vegetable-based paint.

There are three ways of operating the puppets. Some puppets are attached to a long bamboo pole and dipped in and out of the water by a person behind a rattan curtain. The larger puppets are often attached to a round wooden disc which can serve as a floating attachment to the poles. Some puppets use a combination of both and may have a rudder to help guide them.

Learning to manipulate the puppets is usually a tradition that is passed on as a family secret. It takes a great deal of skill and because the puppeteers hands are underwater it is easy for them to hide their methods. Up to three poles are used with the puppets attached to the middle pole and the other rods supporting the puppet's. The legs don't move. Behind the stage, there is usually a central place to rest the puppets not in motion, and some puppeteers operate more than one figure at a time.



Original Water Puppets (price range: \$250 to \$1,000), Imported by:  
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116 Maiden Lane, San Francisco, California 94108. Telephone: 415-98cyclo.  
Email: cyclo88@aol.com. Internet: <http://www.destinationvietnam.com/cyclo>

Things Asian

The technique has not changed much since water puppets were first created, although natural ponds have been replaced by nine-foot-long portable water basins. The stage is actually rectangular and is broken up into three areas. The puppets are kept on the floor above the two side rooms and the musicians play from one side.

The fascinating part is that the central room is below the water line, and the puppeteers stand in the waist-deep water. A rattan curtain hides them, but they can see the stage and the audience through the bamboo slats

Water has always played a central role in Vietnamese culture. And the word for water, *nuoc*, also means country or nation. The puppets advance and retreat in the water with the wave sound always being an important factor. The water must be a little muddy just like the ponds were so that the poles and mechanics can be obscured.

People who have seen water puppet performances often remember the music that goes along with the show. The drum beats more and more quickly as the show is about to begin. There is a drummer and gong and

chants and songs to help animate the story, and the percussion instruments accompany the gestures to keep up the rhythm of a performance. The music also often introduces the theme of the play. No performance is complete without firecrackers which add to the excitement.

In the past, the puppeteers were peasants and belonged to a guild. As time went on, permission to enter the guild was more and more selective and the head of the guild, or *ong trum*, was responsible for many things including finances because the performances were free. Today the puppeteers in the Central Troupe are professionals who receive a monthly salary from the Direction of the Central Troupe of Vietnamese Puppets, a government agency, and they receive special grants when they perform outside the country.

## Vietnam Art Poster



San Francisco artists Arnold Iger and Paul Kwan created this painting entitled Vietnam. This multi-media painting combines oil paint, glazing and drawing to create a highly textured and original look. The painting depicts a layering of historical monuments and rural scenes that show the long and rich history of the country.

Both artists found Vietnam an interesting subject and strove to capture a sense of timelessness. "We want people to enjoy this," explains Iger. "Vietnam is changing. These paintings acknowledge the past and keep hope open for the future."

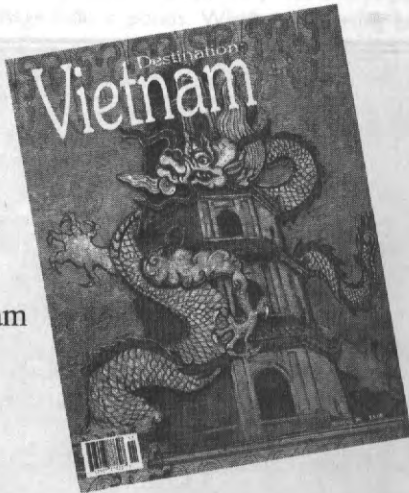
Vietnam is available as an art poster. It is printed in full color, on #1 grade 80 lb cover stock, and measures approximately 20" by 24".

(Use order form on page 21)

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