

NGUYEN TRONG THUAT (1883-1940). Vietnamese novelist in the early twentieth century. Born in 1883 in a scholar-gentry family, Nguyen Trong Thuat received a Confucian education, and remained all his life an admirer of Confucianism and Buddhism. A frequent contributor to Pham Quynh's literary journal Nam Phong, he wrote a novel entitled Qua Dua Do (The Watermelon) in 1926 that achieved a widespread if brief popularity. Based loosely on Daniel Defoe's Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, it was an escapist adventure novel exemplifying the traditional Confucian virtues of loyalty and self-sacrifice and was understandably praised by the colonial regime. In 1932 Nguyen Trong Thuat replaced Pham Quynh as editor of Nam Phong. (See Literature; Nam Phong; Pham Quynh)