Notes on the Anthropological Studies about Vietnam in Russia
Specifically in Moscow

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1. Introduction

The first aim I set before traveling to Russia was the research study and gathering materials on the anthropological studies about Vietnam. Also, I wished to obtain some visual materials (photographs, illustrations) of ethnographic studies before 1990s, which at that time was very difficult, especially for Western anthropologists, to conduct field research. There has been little information about them in Japan. Though I did not obtain many visual and literate materials myself, by receiving generous cooperation from other specialists in this field, I could, to some extent, get information about them.

Physical anthropology and Vietnamese studies are also referred to in these notes, because they were explained as inseparable topics in some sense in Moscow.

In addition, I feel strongly the need to visit some ethnologists and the mu-

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1) In this paper, the term "Anthropological" in the title means so-called "Cultural Anthropology". As for Russian Anthropology, although I am an outsider on this subject, I think Sahni (2000) is also very instructive.
2) Some clues I found before the trip were as follows:
   1. Kurihara (2006). Although this book is historical science, it is different on the point of sphere, but it still gave me a general view on Vietnamese studies in Russia, such as information about the Institute of Oriental Studies.
   2. Tap Chi Dan Toc Hoc (1994) and Vien Nghien Cuu Van Hoa Dan Gian (1999). The latter includes 12 publications, written by Russian scientists. Judging from these two books, it seemed that the most important researcher was Professor Muklinov. The reasons were that there was an article, which referred to him as "the first scientist on Vietnamese Studies in Russia", and that there were two publications (one is in Vietnamese, the other is in Russian) by him, and that is the largest number.
3) After the fall of the USSR, the situation of researchers such as budgets for research study became worse, and in my impression it has still continued, even though researchers had made an effort. Here I would like to emphasize that, in my opinion, they have a strong confidence of their own research and a desire to present it internationally. This is one of the reasons why I wrote this paper in English.
seum in Saint Petersburg. That is one of reasons I put "Moscow" into the sub-heading.

2. Ethnology on Vietnam

2.1 The history of research of ethnological and anthropological studies

Here I will mainly introduce a list made by the two researchers of the Institute of Ethnography and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Science (RAS).

Before that, although it is just an impression, I would like to mention the four researchers on the Kinh Vietnamese and the minorities, who I found the most important.

The ethnologists on the Kinh Vietnamese in question are Professor Muklinov (now deceased) and Professor Leskinen (formerly of the Institute of Ethnography and Anthropology, now of the University of Finland).

I got this impression not only from the list below but also from their works, the explanation by some researchers on Vietnamese Studies at Moscow State University, and "Encyclopedia of Russian Oriental Scientists" (which I shall mention later).

As for the ethnologists on the minorities, they are Professor Shinkaryov (of whom I will speak later) and Professor Samarina Irina (of the Institute of Linguistics in Moscow). For example, I heard of the former from the researchers at Moscow State University. I heard about the latter that she is an expert on the languages of the minorities; she had traveled in many areas inhabited by mountain minorities and had taken many photographs and organized photographic exhibitions on several occasions. Besides that, I got the impression of the need to conduct more investigation on the researchers in Saint Petersburg, comparing with the Kinh Vietnamese, especially in the case of the minorities.

I visited the Institute of Ethnography and Anthropology twice. I obtained the list below on the second occasion. As for the information on the history of research, it contains the nine names of literature of ethnology, the five of
anthropology, the five names of Vietnamese researchers who were awarded doctorates in Moscow, main projects of fieldwork, the research carriers of ten ethnologists and five anthropologists, and so on.

From the point of the content, I will introduce the information obtained at the first visit in chapter 4, "Vietnamese Studies".

The following is a complete translation of the material that was arranged for me jointly by Aksyanova, G.A. and Shinkaryov, B.N. (but only Professor Aksyanova was in the Institute on my second visit). It is three A4 pages in length. It was first translated from Russian into English by Mr. Samakov Aman, a second year student of MGIMO-University (Moscow State Institute of International Relations).

A question mark, "?", means we do not know or do not know exactly, and single parentheses, "( )", are put in by those two researchers. My supplementary comments are in double parentheses, "( ( ) )", and after an asterisk, "*".

Professor Aksyanova said that the order of appearance of the literature and researchers just by recalling back does not have special meaning. I will omit the Russian notation in this note. At the end of this chapter, I will put the supplementary comments on the structure of the organization of the Institute that changed after 1991 and the places where one can obtain the literature itself in the following material.

2.2 The list made by the two researchers of the Institute of Ethnography and Anthropology of RAS

Ethnologists
1. (See this reference) Encyclopedia of Russian Oriental Scientists, under the editor: Mildeban. (Institute of Asian and African Studies of Moscow State University or the Institute of Oriental Sciences of Russian Academy of Science Moscow, 1997(?).

*I saw this book for myself. It deals with scientists from 1917 to 1995. There were 55 researcher's names in different spheres in the Vietnam section of the Index. Among them, only two researchers, that is, Professor Muklinov
and Professor Leskinen, were ethnologists. There was also a list of 57 books
and articles written by Professor Muklinov.

2. Collection of Articles: *The culture of the Peoples of Oceania and Southeast
Asia.* Saint Petersburg: Science ((publisher)), 1995. (These articles are from the
XLVI.) *RAS = Russian Academy of Science.*

3. Reshetov, A.M: "Muklinov, A.U - the First Russian Ethnographer of Viet-
nam." 33-41 (includes a summary in English).

*According to Tap Dan Toc Hoc (1994), there is a Vietnamese translation of
this article in "Tap Chi Dan Toc Hoc (Journal of Ethnology)."

-Muklinov was in Vietnam with Arutunov, S.A.

-1. Arutunov, S.A. "Materials on Ethnolinguistic Classification of Vietnamese
Peoples."
In Soviet Ethnography, 1961, no. 1, 72-82.

Group of People Called KSA" ((unsure of exact appellation)) (Democratic Re-
public of Vietnam), Soviet Ethnography, 1963, no. 1, 63-78.

-3. Stratanovich, G.G. *Religions of the People of Indochina*, Moscow, Science,
1978.

-4. Stratanovich, G.G. "Introduction to the Book by Condominas, Y." *Forest of

-5. Chesnov, Y.V. *Historical Ethnography of the Countries of Indochina*, Mos-
cow, Science, 1976 (based on the literature materials of Western researchers).


Vietnamese who were awarded Master of Science degrees in Russia under the guidance of Russian scientists:
Moscow, Institute of Ethnography of Academy of Science of the USSR: Be Viet Dang, Be Cung Nga, Do Thi Binh, Mac Duong, Ngo Duc Thinh, Khong Dien, Nguyen Cuc? Vok?, Pham Cuong Hoan, Phan Huy Huu, Nguyen van Manh.

Publications:
1. Cao The Chinh, Traditional Types of Home in Mountain Plateau Tay Nguyen’s People, Moscow, Institute of Ethnography and Anthropology of RAS, 1994?

2. (See this journal) "Soviet Ethnography," Moscow State University (MGU): Tran Manh Cat. Saint Petersburg (Leningrad), The University and Institute of Ethnography of Academy of Sciences of the USSR. (Leningrad Campus) - now the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography of RAS = Kunstkamera: Luy Van An, Le Thi Dao?, Nguyen van Tiep, Thanh Phan.
Physical anthropologists

Publications:


Anthropologist participants of fieldtrips in the territory of Vietnam:

Part of the huge program was carried out by Vietnamese anthropologists. These teeth prints were examined in Moscow by Zubov, A.A.

1977-1978. Aksyanova, G.A. The description of appearance of Thai men and
women of Thanh Hoa province, also Cham and Chu Ru. Teeth of the collection of skulls in the Institute of Archeology of Hanoi were examined.

Part of the task was carried out by Vietnamese anthropologists.


1985: Alekseev, V.P. Description of physical appearance of the peoples of Tay Nguyen plateau. These materials were not published.

The Collaboration between anthropologists at Moscow and Hanoi University:

In 1970, Nguyen Dinh Khoa studied in a postgraduate course under the guidance of Roginskiy, Y.Y. He was awarded a doctorate in anthropology on the peoples of North Vietnam. In 1983 he was awarded a doctorate degree in anthropology of Vietnamese people in connection with their origin.

The place of award - scientific - research institute and the museum of anthropology named after Anuchin, D.N. (under Moscow State University)

1) Between the years of 1980-1990(?), the research assistant of the Department of Anthropology of the Biological Faculty of Moscow State University, Sheremet'eva, V.A., cooperated with the Vietnamese and went on a fieldtrip to Vietnam.

Years of lifetime and places of work:

Ethnologists:


-Areetuyonov, Sergey Aleksandrovich - Born: 1932 (Moscow, Institute of Biology of RAS).

-Kruykov, Mihail Basil'evich - Born: 1932 (Moscow, Institute of the Far East of RAS). Ex-research assistant of the Institute of Ethnography of the
Academy of Sciences of the USSR.
-Leskinen, Antonina Nikalaeuna - Born: 1938 (original surname - Dement'eva), Moscow, Institute of Ethnology of RAS - now no longer working there. Living in Helsinki, Finland, with her husband. In 1960s studied at Hanoi University as an exchange student. The Vietnamese call her " Ti Tonya."
E-mail: (omitted for personal reasons)
-Chesnov, Lan? Veniaminovich (Date of birth unknown). Former research assistant of the Institute of Ethnology of RAS, Moscow.
-Shinkaryov Vladimir Nikolaevich - Born: 1957. Moscow, Institute of Ethnology of RAS.
-Guboglo, Mihail Nikolaevich (Date of birth unknown). Moscow, Institute of RAS.
-Coudrat'ev Valerii Semenovich, The Institute of Ethnography of Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Moscow.
-Its, Rudolf Ferdinandovich (Date of birth unknown). The Institute of Ethnography of Academy of Sciences of the USSR (Saint Petersburg Campus - now MAE of RAS = Kunstkamera) also: Leningrad (Saint Petersburg) State University, Historical Faculty.

**Physical Anthropologists:**
-Aksyanova Galina Audreevna - Born 1949. Moscow, Institute of Ethnology of RAS.
E-mail: ((omitted for personal reasons))
-Sheremet'ev, Valentina Alekseevna. Born 1946? Moscow, Moscow State
University named after Lomonosov, Biology Faculty, Anthropology Faculty.

27 of March, 2006 Moscow, 
Aksyanova

2.3 Supplementary comments by Professor Aksyanova

(1) On the change of the structure of the organization of the Institute:
Before Saint Petersburg and Moscow, there was one organization, which was
called the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, named after N. Miklouho
Maclay, who was a pioneering ethnologist. After the fall of the USSR, the
same organization was divided into two. Moscow became the Institute of Ethnology
and Anthropology of N. Miklouho Maclay of RAS. Saint Petersburg
came the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of Peter the Great =
Kunstkamera (this is the name from the era of the Russian Empire).

(2) On the places where one can obtain the literature in Moscow:
I asked for places where I could obtain the literature that was mentioned
above. Firstly it was impossible to photocopy at the Institute of Ethnology
and Anthropology. It is possible at some of the following places:

① Russian State Library (commonly called Lenin Library), Moscow.
② INION, Moscow. Cooperative library shared by various universities and
   institutes. 4)
③ Humanities Library, Moscow.

Besides that, Mr. Aman added it to the ISSA (Institute of Asian and African
Studies) of Moscow State University.

2.4 The literature I obtained and short explanatory notes on these

In the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, on the same floor as the

4) On the characteristics of this library, I was instructed by Professor Shimada.
office where I received the explanation by the two researchers, there is a
bookstore selling literature about ethnology and anthropology. I went there
on my first visit and bought three books on the basis of advice given to me
by Professor Shinkaryov and the esteemed lady shopkeeper. Moreover, I was
given one book each, written by the two researchers themselves.

(1) Shinkaryov, V.N. *Quartz, Blood, Possession: Essays on the Traditional
World Outlook (Weltanschauung) of the Highlanders of Southern Vietnam*,
Moscow: Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology Press, 2002, 197 pages in
length.

Among the literature I obtained, only this book has an English summary
(26 pages in length). According to this book, it is a research study on the in-
terrelations between religion and social organization of the Mon-Khmer
mountain groups of South Vietnam, based on the joint fieldwork conducted
with the Institute of Ethnology and the Institute of Social Sciences in Ho Chi
Minh City for about a month each time in 1987, 1989 and 1990.

As for the material in the Appendix, it includes the outline on the taboo of
the ethnic Ma, which was written in the language of Ma and Vietnamese. The
Bibliography is extensive. Literature in French, English, Vietnamese and Rus-
sian is available there; for example, it contains G. Condominas, Salemink, Ngo
Duc Thinh, etc.

As for Japanese researchers, only Mabuchi, in 1976, Miyamoto, in 1988 on
Hnunoo Mangyan, are included.

Among the Russian literature, which was explained to me by Professor
Shinkaryov, of importance were several papers by Professor Kryukov from
1988 to 1997, on kinship terms, ethnicity, genealogy, etc. of the Mon-Khmer
in the central highland (p. 131 in that book).

Besides that, it gave us the information that the International Conferences,
"Traditional Vietnam" (1997, 1999 and 2000), were organized by some research-
erers from the Center for Vietnamese Studies of ISSA of Moscow State Un-
iversity. However, I could not research those conferences in detail at that time.

Professor Shinkaryov spoke English and also Vietnamese, while apologizing
to me many times, "I'm very sorry for speaking so poorly, because I mainly just read materials." He said that he also studied the languages of the Mon-Khmer.

This book is about the Kinh Vietnamese. Once, when Mr. Arkadi (of whom I will speak later) searched for her name on the Internet, an article on Tet (New Year of the Lunar Calendar) of the Kinh Vietnamese was found.


(4) The Anthology of Literature, published during the 70th anniversary of the Foundation of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Moscow (2005). It covers literature from about 1992 to 2003. Professor Shinkaryov specifically marked the three publications on Vietnam as follows:


(5) Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of RAS, Calendar Customs and Rituals of Asia: Traditions and Innovations, Moscow, 1997.
Only the title is translated in English. According to Professor Shinkaryov, this book contains the following three papers on Vietnam:

① On the Culture of the Calendar of Holidays of Khomu, by Egorunin, O. B.
② On the Rituals at the Temple and Shrine, and Ancestor Worship of the Vietnamese, by Nikulin.
③ On the Traditional Holidays in Vietnam, by Be Huynh Nga.

2.5 Museum
I also went to visit the museum within the Institute. My guide was provided, at no additional expense, by the person in charge. The size of the museum is small. The exhibits were donated by various countries to researchers, not gathered by researchers themselves. There are several exhibits from Vietnam in this museum, but the Oriental Museum in Moscow has a more important collection of Vietnamese exhibits.

3. Vietnamese Studies

This chapter will constitute 2 parts. That is the explanation I got at the Institute of Ethnography and Anthropology and at the Moscow State University (MGU).

3.1 At the Institute of Ethnography and Anthropology

The following is an oral explanation by Professor Aksyanova. Mr. Aman recorded it then translated from Russian into English.

"After a Soviet regime had been established in Vietnam, the USSR began to cooperate with this country in all spheres including the scientific sphere. There was a lot of research work between the two countries then. The USSR had good relations with Vietnam, as both of these countries were socialist. There were collaborations in the following spheres: since 1960's exchange students and Vietnamese scientists came to the most scientific cities of the USSR: Moscow, Leningrad (Saint Petersburg) in order to receive education there, because the Soviet educational system was known to be one of the best in the world. There were several scientific spheres Russians and Vietnamese cooperated in. These were: 1) Ethnology (Ethnography) 2) Physical Anthropology 3) Linguistic 4) Mythology 5) Archeology 6) Sociology, and others. The main centre, where Vietnamese Ethnographical research was held was in Leningrad (Saint Petersburg) at the university, which is now called Kunstkamera (MAE RAN SPB) by such scientists as Leskinen and Kryukova. Physical Anthropology was researched, mainly by Aksyanova, G.A. and Zolotareva in Moscow. Mythology was researched by Nikulin, N.I. Sociology, by the
Russian Academy of Sciences, Guboglo, M.N. and also by Condra'tev Shamakyrov. Russian scientists, as a matter of fact, went to Vietnam to make research, while their Vietnamese colleagues went to Russia to study at Russian universities, and this exists even in this day and age.

3.2 At MGU

Mr. Arcady accompanied me. He was a 5th year student of the Institute of Asian and African Studies (ISSA) of MGU. He spoke Vietnamese fluently.

Entering the room, two venerable Professors were waiting. Professor Remarchuk Vladislav, a linguist but, according to Mr. Arcady, he also knew much about history. He is the Course Head of Regional Languages, including Vietnamese.

Professor Kobelev Evgeny, already retired, is now teaching Vietnamese as a part-time lecturer at MGU. When he gave me his name card, he wrote on it, "Leading researcher on Vietnam" of the Institute of Oriental Studies of RAS. He is a famous journalist, because of his biography about Ho Chi Minh. They graduated in the second and the first year of the Vietnamese course at MGU respectively. They speak splendid Vietnamese. I will itemize below just on the explanation about Ethnology and Vietnamese Studies; the explanation about the education of Vietnamese language will be noted in another article. This is Professor Remarchuk Vladislav's recommendation.

- As for Ethnology research, there is a lot in Saint Petersburg. At the University of Saint Petersburg, there is a world-famous museum, namely Kunstkamera. The center of Ethnology is also there. When Nikolai II dropped in on Saigon on the way to Japan, he was given a god statue (?) of the minorities of South Vietnam. Now it is exhibited at the museum.
- The Professor recommended that I meet Professor Mazyrin of the center of Vietnamese Studies of MGU.
- In MGU, there is also a researcher who studies Gia Pha (genealogies). His

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5) I was not clear who was being discussed, but after returning, I was instructed by Professor Shimada that "It must be Nikolai II".
name is Antoshenko, V.I.

- In MGU now, about 20 specialists on Vietnam teach there. (According to Mr. Arcady, 2 or 3 graduate students were also included. Graduate students also teach there.)
- In MGU, the Institute of Ethnology is also there. It is world famous. It has a collection beyond compare.
- As for photographic materials, Professor Sarina Irina is in the Institute of Linguistics. She has walked in the broad mountain areas. She has held more exhibitions of her photographs than she has published. She has a lot of photographs.
- I could study at MGU for long period of time. They were prepared to accept me there.

After that, we moved to the storehouse of collections. I met Professor Arsen L. Purundjan, Vice Head of Research, Institute & Museum of Anthropology. The Museum owned a collection, dating back 200 years. They will be exhibited in two years time. "Materials from Vietnam are also splendid, etc.," he said, but I could not see them for myself, because they were all still inside boxes.

On another day, I visited Professor Mazyrin of the Center for Vietnamese Studies. I asked him mainly about the studies on Vietnamese people living in Moscow, but I also heard as follows: For more than a year ago, we, the researchers of MGU, have founded the Asia-Pacific Center. We have had cooperative relationship with the Center for Study of South-East Asia in Singapore and the University of Canberra in Australia. We would like to introduce more widely what we are doing. Every year we have published a report of Studies on the Relationship between Russia and Asia-Pacific, but, because of the lack of budget, it has not been in English. We have one page of information on the homepage of MGU.

Moreover, even though not at MGU, I could hear from Mrs. Erina, who once studied Vietnamese at MGU. After she graduated, she has continually engaged in work using her Vietnamese (for example, reviser of the complete
works of Lenin in Vietnamese for many years at Progress Press, and now the staff of a radio broadcasting station in Moscow called the "Voice of Vietnam"). Every year a gathering of Vietnamese study scientists has been held. Researchers from Saint Petersburg and even from Vladivostok (when possible) used to participate, and this year will be ISSA of MGU's 50th anniversary.

Also, at MGIMO, I was given a photo book, "Vietnam" (1986), written in Russian, by Professor Gladunova Svetlana, a teacher of Vietnamese. It was supervised by his father, who had long engaged in his role as the Head of the Friendship Association between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. I believe this to be a very rare book.

4. Acknowledgement

The research was realized by the foreign studies program of the University of Shizuoka (US). The period was 17/3/2006 - 30/3/2006. I stayed at a dormitory at Moscow State Institute of International Relations of the Russian Federation Ministry for Foreign Affairs(MGIMO-University), with which we, University of Shizuoka have an agreement on cooperation. This was my first trip to Russia. Especially, before and after my trip, Professor Shimada Takao (a specialist on Russia) of US and Mrs. Yokoyama Minori (a graduate student of US, who went to study at MGIMO for 4 months before my trip) gave me very useful information. I would like to express my personal thanks here.

Entrance procedure is necessary at both the University and the Institute. Therefore, before visiting, one has to make an appointment with a cooperative researcher. I heard of the e-mail addresses and telephone numbers from some researchers above, but I have omitted them on personal grounds. I would like to express my most profound gratitude to the following organization:

1) The Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology
2) The ISSA of MUG
3) The Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO-University)
References


