

## DOCTORAL THESIS IN BRIEF

**YE SHAO FEI. Studying the History Writing Method by Vietnamese Historians through the *Complete Annals of Dai Viet* of the Le Dynasty***Major:* Sino-Nom Studies*Code:* 9.22.01.04

*Complete Annals of Dai Viet* (*Đại Việt sử ký toàn thư*) is a critical national history book in Vietnam and has great significance in studying the history writing method of Vietnamese historians. The thesis analyzes and clarifies the editions of *Complete Annals of Dai Viet*, the views and ideas of historians involved in compiling, editing, and completing this book, as well as the perspectives by historians in the Le dynasty in particular and by Vietnamese historians in general. The drafting processes and compilation forms of the book are also revealed. Thereby, the thesis explores the compiling process of *Complete Annals of Dai Viet*, as well as the development theory of Vietnamese history.

The main content of the thesis is presented in 4 chapters: Chapter 1- A literature review; Chapter 2- A survey of texts and versions of *Complete Annals of Dai Viet*; Chapter 3- The compilation forms of the book; Chapter 4- Thoughts of history writing in *Complete Annals of Dai Viet*. Some prominent contents are as follows.

Regarding text surveys and versions of *Complete Annals of Dai Viet*: After Vietnam's independence, the compilation of history books was interested among Vietnamese historians and politicians quite early. National consciousness in those books was recognized and had a great influence on later generations. Le Van Huu compiled a 30-volume *Annals of Đại Việt* (*Đại Việt*

*sử ký*) in 1270 during the Tran Dynasty, recording history from Emperor Trieu Vu/Trieu Đa (Zhao Tuo) to Ly Chieu Hoang. Phan Phu Tien under Le Thai Tong's time compiled the history of the Tran Dynasty and kept the title of *Đại Việt sử ký* or *Việt sử tục biên*. Ngo Si Lien compiled 15 volumes of the chronicle of *Complete Annals of Dai Viet*, writing about the history from Hong Bang to Emperor Le Thai To in 1479 during the Early Le dynasty. Vu Quynh compiled 26 volumes of *Đại Việt thông giám thông khảo*, completed in 1511, and then Le Tung, based on this book, composed an essay of *Việt giám thông khảo tổng luận* in 1514. In 1665, Pham Cong Tru embraced Vu Quynh's point of view and content into Ngo Si Lien's *Complete Annals of Dai Viet* and compiled eight more books on the history of Early and Revival Le dynasties, titled the same as *Complete Annals of Dai Viet*. In 1697, Le Hy compiled a volume and merged it with those by Ngo Si Lien, carved and archived in the country, which was a 24-volume *Complete Annals of Dai Viet*, *Nội các quan bản* edition, printed in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Chinh Hoa reign.

*Complete Annals of Dai Viet*, *Nội các quan bản* edition (1697), was the most complete national history book of the Le dynasty, indicating the views and national consciousness of Vietnamese historians through the periods. Therefore, it was handed down, revised, and reprinted several times from the end of the Le dynasty to the Nguyen dynasty, which left many problems arising from the times of book carving and printing.

The works of Le Van Huu, Phan Phu Tien, and Vu Quynh have all been lost. The *Complete Annals of Dai Viet*, *Nội các quan bản* edition kept in France (Démiville

version) has been studied, translated, and popularized in Vietnam. While this edition is highly appreciated, there are many debates about the year of carving, some say that it belongs to the Revival Le period, while others think that it belongs to the Nguyen dynasty.

The survey results of the compiling methods of *Complete Annals of Dai Viet* and its existing editions show that the *Nội các quan bản* edition is the earliest and most important version currently preserved, which is made up of *Complete Annals of Dai Viet* and *Việt sử*, because the chapter titles and layout of the Démiville version is different from that in *Phạm lệ tục biên* by Le Hy.

*Đăng gia phả hệ tục biên* compiled by Dang Dinh Quynh in 1763 shows that the records of Dang Huan are the same as those in the *Complete Annals of Dai Viet*, *Nội các quan bản* edition, so it can be concluded that the *Nội các quan bản* edition was printed before 1763. After the Démiville version was completed, an unknown figure in the Revival Le period based on this version re-engraved and printed a new version of *Việt sử*, keeping the same chapter titles and layout, which is the version with the call number VHHv 2330-2336 archived at the Institute of Sino-Nom Studies. The Nguyen dynasty reprinted and changed the cover of the book and the taboo letter of the Nguyen dynasty, that is, the *Complete Annals of Dai Viet*, *Quốc tử giám* edition.

In terms of compiling forms, Le Van Huu compiled *Đại Việt sử ký* according to the chronicle form and created his method of history records (Records). Based on the two sets of *Đại Việt sử ký* by Le Van Huu and *Sử ký tục biên* by Phan Phu Tien, Ngo Si Lien used the method of history records to compile 15 volumes of *Complete Annals of Dai Viet*. Ngo Si Lien further divided

the method of Records into *Ngoại kỷ* (*Peripheral Records*) and *Bản kỷ* (*Basic Records*), which had great influence later and was inherited by historians Vu Quynh and Pham Cong Tru. Besides, Ngo Si Lien also made use of the writing styles of *Bản kỷ thực lục* (veritable basic historical records) and *Bản kỷ tục biên* (continued compilation). Lê Hy, when editing 24 volumes of *Complete Annals of Dai Viet*, also inherited Ngo Si Lien's method of compiling. In the process of compiling these national history books, Vietnamese historians applied several compiling styles of many historical works.

About the historians' thoughts on writing history, *Complete Annals of Dai Viet* conveyed the thoughts of many generations of historians. Le Van Huu followed the Confucius views to assess Vietnamese history, and the concept of national unity had a profound influence on later generations. Ngo Si Lien absorbed the ideas of two previous historians, Le Van Huu and Phan Phu Tien, and compiled one more separate book titled *Hồng Bàng Kỷ* and *Thục Kỷ*, to present the great culture of Vietnam. Pham Cong Tru took *Đại Việt thông giám thông khảo* by Vu Quynh as a reference and took the idea of *great unity* to divide Ngo Si Lien's book into chapters. He also referred to Phan Phu Tien's work, recorded from the great resistance of Le Thai To to the time determined by Ngo Si Lien. Le Hy inherited the work of Pham Cong Tru to compile one more book based on Pham Cong Tru's ideas. In *Nội các quan bản* edition, while there were several ideas and views of historians of different generations, they all delivered unity in the historical records compiled by Pham Cong Tru.

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