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'The Tragedy of Wanit': A Japanese Account of Wartime Thai Politics

By Benjamin A. Batson (Senior Lecturer, Department of History, National University of Singapore) and Shimizu Hajime (Senior Researcher, Area Studies Department, Institute of Developing Economies, Tokyo, Japan)

'The Tragedy of Wanit' is a memoir of Thai politics at the outbreak of the Pacific War, written in the 1950s by Asada Shunsuke, a senior Japanese diplomat serving in Bangkok during the critical pre-war period. The central figure is Wanit Pananon, a confidant of Thai Prime Minister Phibun and, until his arrest and death in mysterious circumstances in early 1944, a key figure in Thai-Japanese relations. Asada's memoir is published both in Japanese and in an edited English translation, together with an introduction by Benjamin A. Batson and Shimizu Hajime which explains the historical context and discusses some of the implications of Asada's work.

1990, hardcover and paperback, bibliography, index, text in English and Japanese, 148 pages

A Vietnamese Scholar in Anguish: Nguyễn Khuyễn and the Decline of Confucian Tradition, 1884-1909

By Tran My Van (University of South Australia)

Nguyễn Khuyễn was a senior Mandarin in Vietnam when the French established colonial control over the country. Around 1884 he withdrew from public life, returning to his ancestral village where he worked as a farmer and wrote trenchant poetry commenting on social life in Vietnam. This literary work reflects his feeling of anguish as he watched the decline of traditional mores, and it provides poignant insights into Vietnamese life during this period of change. The text provides translations of a number of Nguyễn Khuyễn's poems, and appendices reproduce his work both in the Romanized Vietnamese script and in Chinese.

Available July 1991. Approx. 150 pages

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TECHNICAL DATA

- Publisher** : Antiquarianbooksellers 'GEMILANG', The Nederlands, 1990.
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- Size** : Folio, 43 x 33 cms. Sheets measuring in double-spread 42 x 62,5 cms.
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