



TRUONG VINH KY – FROM THE MANAGER OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE PRESS TO THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL JOURNALIST OF VIETNAMⁱ

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Abstract:

Truong Vinh Ky was a famous scholar in Vietnam in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He knows many languages (Latin, English, French, Indian, Indonesian, Chinese, Nom, Quoc Ngu) and works creatively in many different fields: politics, culture, literature, languages. In journalism, he is considered to have laid the first foundations for the Vietnamese national language press at the end of the 19th century as a press manager and private national language newspaper owner and journalist who directly create journalistic works. In particular, he is not only active in the domestic press, but also participates in writing articles in French magazines. This article uses research methods: biographical method, statistical method - classification, analysis method - synthesis, method of synchronism - chronology, method of content analysis, and interdisciplinary research method to clearly show Truong Vinh Ky's contributions to the following roles: the manager of the first national newspaper in the country, the owner of the first private national newspaper, an international journalist of Vietnam at the end of the 19th century. Thereby, showing the merit and stature of Truong Vinh Ky for the history of journalism and the history of the Vietnamese people.

Keywords: Truong Vinh Ky, Gia Dinh newspaper, Vietnamese national language press, international journalist, Southern of Vietnam, Cochinchina

1. Introduction

Truong Vinh Ky (1837 - 1898) is considered a journalist who made a great contribution to the national language press of Vietnam in the late 19th century and early 20th century. The history

ⁱ TRƯƠNG VINH KÝ – TỪ NHÀ QUẢN LÝ BÁO CHÍ QUỐC NGŨ TRONG NƯỚC ĐẾN NHÀ BÁO QUỐC TẾ ĐẦU TIÊN CỦA VIỆT NAM

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of research on Truong Vinh Ky has gone through many years, but research works are still born and controversial because there is no consistency in this historical figure. The common point of most research works is to recognize and praise Truong Vinh Ky's contributions in three areas: language, literature, and journalism. In terms of language, he has contributed to spreading the national language script widely among the people through journalistic and literary activities. Regarding literature, he laid the foundation for the national language literature by collecting, editing, translating Han-Nom works, and composing works in the national language script to popularize among the masses. Regarding journalism, he laid the foundation for the national language press by being the editor-in-chief of the first two national language newspapers, Gia Dinh Bao (1865-1909) and Thong Loai Khoa Trinh (1888-1889).

In particular, he published journalistic works in foreign magazines (France) to introduce and promote Vietnamese customs, handicrafts, products, and languages to the world. This is something that no Vietnamese can do in the second half of the 19th century. Through the research process, up to now, there have been hundreds of large and small research projects related to Truong Vinh Ky. However, much of the work focuses on his literary career and political attitude. For journalistic activities, it can be said that the research works are not worthy of the position of the person who laid the first foundation bricks for the national language journalism of Truong Vinh Ky and has not clearly shown the portrait of the author. What is Truong Vinh Ky newspaper, how are Truong Vinh Ky's journalistic activities?

Gia Dinh newspaper (1865-1909) was the first national language newspaper in Vietnam. Before Gia Dinh newspaper, there existed a number of French and Chinese newspapers in Vietnam, such as *Le Bulletin officiel de l'Expédition de la Cochinchine* (Cochinchina, Expedition of the Congregation, 1861), *Le Bulletin des Communes* (Cochinchina). *Cong Bao* village, 1862), *Courrier de Saigon* (Saigon Letter, 1864). Gia Dinh newspaper was born for the purpose of serving the invasion and assimilation of the Vietnamese people by the French colonialists. Initially, it was aimed at propagating and disseminating official documents related to the administration of the government, and at the same time aimed at eradicating the Sino-Vietnamese culture that had existed for thousands of centuries in Vietnam. However, the value of this newspaper gradually escaped colonial control and brought enormous benefits to the Vietnamese people. Those values are still valid today.

In previous studies, most of them recognized that Truong Vinh Ky played an important role in Gia Dinh newspaper by serving as Chief Financial Officer and editor of this newspaper for a certain period of time. Thanks to that, this newspaper flourished and brought its own style. But is that true? Recently, there is still an opinion that Truong Vinh Ky is not the first national-language journalist, and Gia Dinh's style of newspaper existed before he came to be the Chief Consul. And if true, the proof so far is still unclear, just stopping at general assessments or analyzing a few details. I think to answer this problem, there needs to be a comprehensive and comprehensive study to make it more convincing.

Truong Vinh Ky started working at Gia Dinh newspaper on September 16, 1869 (Gia Dinh newspaper No. 20, September 24, 1869, 5th edition). The salary is 3000 francs a year. That was published in the Decision signed on September 16, 1869, signed by Upper Poet L. Laugier and Marshal G. Ohier. Accordingly, in this DECISION, it is clearly stated that the official part

(including mandarins, papers and recommendations) will be assigned to Truong Vinh Ky to translate into Annam (the original is French). As for the magazine section, it will "put the stories in the story that are either useful, or funny and good about weathering, and about current affairs now...for the national language schools to read, and for the nation's people to enjoy. do and see" (Gia Dinh newspaper No. 20, September 24, 1869, 5th edition).

Through the research process, the statistical results showed that from the day Truong Vinh Ky became the Chief Financial Officer of Gia Dinh newspaper to the last issue of 1871 that the researcher collected (No. 17 dated September 15, 1871), Truong. Vinh Ky has a total of 72 articles in the Journals section and is responsible for translating the entire Acts section. Therefore, it can be said that although the number of newspapers collected is not complete, it shows that Truong Vinh Ky's contribution to Gia Dinh newspaper in this period is great because it has created a different impression of Gia Dinh newspaper from the previous and subsequent periods.

From research practice, it is really necessary to study the concept and characteristics of the journalistic works of Truong Vinh Ky. That is an indisputable and completely convincing factual basis to affirm Truong Vinh Ky's merits and contributions to Gia Dinh newspaper as well as the Vietnamese national language press in general. At the same time, it also shows how the portrait of journalist Truong Vinh Ky is compared to other journalists of the same time.



Figure 1: Some images of Gia Dinh newspapers (in Quoc Ngu-Vietnamese and Chinese)

2. Research methods

The study used a combination of the following methods in the literary fields:

- *Statistical - categorical methods* were used to collect, make statistics and classify documents, articles, and research works according to defined research scopes.
- *Analytical-synthetic methods* were to analyze research works to show the views, views, and

critical thinking of researchers, thereby synthesizing them into general issues according to each research trend.

- *Synchronic and diachronic comparative methods* were to summarize towards the research scopes. The research was to be compared and contrasted with historical and modern perspectives to show the change in progress while doing research on Truong Vinh Ky and Gia Dinh newspaper in the direction of becoming more and more objective and public widely.
- *Biographical method* was used to pose Truong Vinh Ky's life as extremely complicated. Therefore, the study of the background and background of this character makes an important contribution to the assessment of his attitude, stance, and point of view.
- *Interdisciplinary research method* was explored to analyze aspects of Truong Vinh Ky's person from history, literature, language, and religion to journalism. Thereby contributing to clarifying comments on activities and contributions of Truong Vinh Ky and Gia Dinh newspapers.

Content analysis method was also to analyze the content of primary documents - the issues of Gia Dinh newspapers to show the characteristics of journalistic works and the journalistic writing style of Truong Vinh Ky.

3.1 Research findings

3.2 Contribution of Truong Vinh Ky as the manager of Vietnam's first national language press on Gia Dinh newspapers

3.2.1 Highlighting and clearly stating the role of the press in the dissemination of the national language scripts and the development of people's lives

First of all, Truong Vinh Ky stated that the purpose of the newspaper was to propagate and popularize the national language script so that the masses could "*understand each other's ideas*" better: "*What is the intention of the Gia Dinh newspaper; How useful, advise people to buy and watch and teach people how to buy. Quan-Nguyen-Soai knew that the Annam people were often wrong, because they did not know clearly what he said and what he did, if only everyone knew what he wanted, there would not be many bad things, so he taught the daily process. occurred several times in a month, so that the people of the same people understood each other. The teachers of the national language school are late, or do not read the diary to their students or the villagers, or sometimes do not understand it clearly, or tell it or explain it to people*" (Gia Dinh newspaper, Issue No 20. September 24, 1869).

Accordingly, it is undeniable that the first purpose of Gia Dinh newspapers was to serve the invasion of the French colonialists in order to assimilate the Vietnamese people through the construction of a scripting system. write new articles for the people of Annam, and at the same time spread information about the ruling policy of the colonial government apparatus. That is the inevitable goal of any colonial regime when implementing its colonial rule. It was also done in other Southeast Asian countries: Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand under British imperial rule, Indonesia under Dutch rule, and the Philippines under Spanish rule to establish a series of national newspapers in the colony to spread their language. However, for Truong Vinh Ky, that is not his top goal when working as a journalist.

For him, the dissemination of the national language script through the press aimed at the noble goal of teaching letters and effectively teaching the Vietnamese people at that time. At this time, the national language script for the Vietnamese people was a strange, hybrid script because the common scripts in Vietnam at that time were Chinese and Nom. The number of literate people is not much. Therefore, the purpose of Truong Vinh Ky comes from the heart of a new intellectual who wishes to bring knowledge to his people, eliminating the problem of illiteracy thousands of years ago. Specifically, he considered the role of interpreters, trainers, and scribes to be the first to propagate and teach the national language script. They will be the ones who read newspapers and interpret words for generations of students to listen, understand and learn from. From there, expressing the mind and reach of Truong Vinh Ky in the field of education and culture.

Secondly, the press is a place to provide real and useful information. Information in Gia Dinh newspaper was clearly and specifically explained by Truong Vinh Ky. In which, the "Citizens" section (Cong vu) will translate the "recommendations", "commands", and information about the policies and regulations of the French government from French into the national language. Truong Vinh Ky bluntly asserted that: *"The marshal, who wants people to stop doing this, then he endowed me to set this schedule lest people say that I don't understand, and also for people. know that what is known in the journal is true and useful"* (Gia Dinh reported No. 20 on September 24, 1886). The second part is the "Reports" section (Tap vu). Under Truong Vinh Ky as Chief Consul, the content in this section of Gia Dinh newspaper became rich and really brought good and useful information to readers. Accordingly, the magazine section will cover all issues outside of politics: from weathering stories to teach *"how to be human"* to farming and trading activities, to cases and news. immediately here and there: *"This journal is useful to everyone because it contains all kinds of things about the people, the orders of the marshals, the way people do things later on; in it one learns about the trade; Up there, Chau-doc Ha-tien knew the price of goods at Saigon Cho-Lon, but sat in one place and didn't go anywhere, so if he wanted to buy and sell, he also met with adoration, and knew even the individual prices of the goods of the big markets"* (Gia Dinh newspaper, Issued No. 20 on September 24, 1869).

As a result, compared to the role of the press in Vietnamese society today, the information function is considered the most important function of the press, Truong Vinh Ky has put the educational function on top to help the newspaper. gradually escaped from the spread of the arid policy of the colonial government. Many researchers think that Gia Dinh newspaper gradually escaped the shadow of the French colonialist policy of chemical aggression under Truong Vinh Ky as Chief Consul.

3.2.2 Mentioning measures to build a large team of journalists

Truong Vinh Ky has a very progressive concept of how to build a team of journalists: calling and building a large number of collaborators. These are people who know the national language (teachers, interpreters) from all over the world: *"From this moment on, I hope there will be many things people see: because thanks to the flyer for teachers to practice the national language, and the interpreters in all six provinces every week or fortnight would run a leaflet and re-learn the stories of the provinces to do homeless Gia intend to report to the world."* (Gia Dinh newspaper, No. 6, February

24, 1870). Right from the first day of taking office as Chief Financial Officer of Gia Dinh newspaper, Truong Vinh Ky immediately wrote the invitation to this collaborator.

On the 6th on February 24, 1870, he repeated it again, and on the 7th April 15, 1871, Truong Vinh Ky continued to mention this when he saw that the number of collaborators gradually decreased. This time he specifically stated: *"I don't understand why the teachers in the static places did not send the leaflets about the places as before. Resting, perhaps no one forbids it, or is it because of the boring or discouraged nature, being a head-scratcher like a price and then going all the way together. Please keep in mind that all of these are also taught by officials, and are also good for teachers because the more people know their names and their ages, the more people who manage the schedule are grateful that they have something for themselves. think I know. The more the superiors see the name, the more they consider themselves to be industrious. All of these are also useful, there is no harm to be jealous of"*. Up to this point, Truong Vinh Ky used sharper words to encourage collaborators. It's no longer just entertaining a few drumsticks, but it's also a responsibility, a duty to help people know more. Is that Truong Vinh Ky referring to the journalist's mind? At the same time, he also mentioned the establishment of the journalist's name. It is the progressive spirit of a person who lives by words.

Such rich and diverse team building serves a variety of purposes. First of all, help the newspaper have more diverse information, and avoid being poor and boring about the subject and content reflected. Secondly, it helps to expand the scope of life, helping newspaper readers know the news here and there, from far and near to expand people's knowledge. Third, create cultural exchanges between places and regions throughout the provinces and cities at that time, from rural to urban, from Saigon to secondary, from political events to minor events... the vitality and attractiveness of the newspaper.

Through research, there are some Gia Dinh newspapers that attract a large number of collaborators, such as the 7th issue, dated March 1, 1870. Nine articles by collaborators (Rumors about French troops capturing women and girls (Teacher Cho Lon – Do Huu Than), Trang Bang (Interpreter in Trang Bang, J.B. Trang), Bien Hoa (Teacher Kim) signed), Thu Duc (Minh Michel), Thu Dau Mot (Interpreter of Thu Dau Mot, P. Vien), The case of killing his wife and mother-in-law because of jealousy (Thaddeur Muoi), A bright story thanks to praying to Our Lady (Teacher Nguyen Nghi Vinh), 2 stories about Chau Doc (Montpellier)); Or No. 9 dated March 24, 1870 also has 9 lessons (Cho Lon (Teacher Cho Lon Do Huu Than), Long Thanh (Teacher Tran Van Kim), Go Cong (Andreas Minh), Trang Bang (Teacher at Trang Bang – Nguyen Van De), 02 articles on Phuoc Loc (Do Dang Vi), Bien Hoa (Binh Interpreter), Thu Dau Mot (second class teacher Nguyen Van Gia, My Tho (Teacher Nguyen Van Van), My Tho (Antonie Hanh)), or No. 13 dated April 28, 1870 has 12 articles by collaborators (Cho Lon (teacher) Cho Lon Do Huu Than), Long Thanh (Teacher Tran Van Kim), Go Cong (Andreas Minh), Trang Bang (Teacher at Trang Bang – Nguyen Van De), 2 articles on Phuoc Loc (Do Dang Vi)). Gia Dinh reported that there was no issue in the periods before and after Truong Vinh Ky had such a large team of collaborators.

However, Truong Vinh Ky was not the first to come up with the idea of inviting collaborators to write articles. Before and after the period of Truong Vinh Ky, there were scattered articles of collaborators in Gia Dinh newspaper, such as the 12 issues of December 15,

1866, there was a collaborative article by Paul Thoi (a story about a band of robbers). tamarind shop in Phu Hoa village), Phu Ba Tuong (Xa ma story). However, in the period after Truong Vinh Ky, the number of collaborators was very rare, especially after 1881 because the nature of the newspaper was changed at this time and the management was stricter according to the nature of the newspaper of the French government at that time. Maybe there are some regular posts by some editors like Truong Minh Ky, Huynh Mai Lieu (No. 24, April 24, 1889) (mainly translated works). From that, it can be seen that, before and after Truong Vinh Ky, the newspaper no longer gathered a large number of collaborators like when Truong Vinh Ky was the editor. Therefore, the content of the newspaper also changed a lot, especially at a later stage, focusing only on the political part.

In addition to building a strong team of collaborators, Truong Vinh Ky is also interested in the issue of "copyright" of the author associated with the sense of responsibility and obligation for his product: *"like any teacher who has If you want to bring it to the journal, but let your name sign it, please say in the return sheet for clarity: Because if someone signs it, it's his or hers; After that, if there is anything or not, people will argue or argue, they will have to accept it."* (Gia Dinh reported No. 6, February 24, 1870). This does not show that Truong Vinh Ky wants to avoid the responsibility of the editor, on the contrary, he enhances the role and sense of responsibility of the journalist. Because press news is written for others to read, if it is wrong, others will misunderstand. That is the principle that ensures the objectivity and truthfulness of today's press. Thereby, it shows that Truong Vinh Ky already understands the nature of creative activities in journalism.

On the other hand, Truong Vinh Ky did not hesitate to express his views on the strengths and weaknesses of the journalist. He boldly expressed that: *"To say that something is not well spoken, or repeated, is not meant to criticize teachers who do not know how to speak clearly, but it is because there are many times. either write in haste or don't have enough time to watch it over and over again; so, in the whole story there is a place where there is an unpleasant voice; the former was put to the back, and the latter was brought to the front, it turned out to be not very clear"* (Gia Dinh newspapers, 6th issue, February 24, 1870). Here, Truong Vinh Ky has pointed out some limitations of journalists such as language limitations, expressive ability, carelessness, time constraints, etc. so that journalists can identify them. limitations of his writing. At the same time, I do not feel self-deprecating or shy when my article is edited by the editorial board. This explanation helps the collaborators better understand how the newspaper works and manages its articles. At the same time, it also helps the collaborators to improve their skills to have better quality products.

3.2.2 Specifying how the newspaper is managed and disseminated

Regarding how to manage the newspaper, Truong Vinh Ky first clearly defined the structure of the newspaper. The structure of the newspaper consists of two main parts: public service and magazine service. Some numbers also have the "additional" part (Executive No. 5, February 16, 1870), later sometimes called "additional", that is, the part that adds the content of the sections in the public service or the magazine (add page numbers). In it, the Acts section deals with issues *"about mandarins, leaflets, proposals, and regulations of our state. These words will be made into Phu Lang-sa language, which Lai will give to Mr. P. Truong Vinh-Ky to translate into Annam language and bring it in."* The magazine section will *"put stories in that are either useful, or funny and good about*

weathering, and about current affairs...for the national language schools to read, and for the native people to do or need. Let's see". The Gia Dinh issues that foreshadowed Truong Vinh Ky's time were also divided into Acts, Journals (or Episodes), but it was almost unclear what kind of news each section would have. what it means to the public. Only when Truong Vinh Ky explains clearly will readers and viewers understand clearly. That is also the reason why the articles of the collaborators are only included in the Journal section. After the period of Truong Vinh Ky, the newspaper was also divided into sections Outside the public service and the secondary service, but in general, there was no clear explanation. And the nature of these sections is not the same as that of the Journal of the Truong Vinh Ky period because it also conveys the public affairs of the state, with the difference that there are some more advertisements for some products.

In the issues of the Truong Vinh Ky period, most of the volume of the Public Service section accounted for a relatively small proportion, usually accounting for no more than a quarter of the volume of the issue (Appendix 3 – Gia Dinh issues of the Truong Vinh period. Sign as administrator). It shows that, in this period, the "political" nature of the newspaper was still quite gentle, mainly stopping at announcing news. The content of the errands section occupies a fairly large capacity with a lot of rich content in many different fields. From there, it is easy to create attraction for readers because it conveys simple stories, close to people's daily lives.

Regarding the object of control (censorship) of the newspaper before printing: Truong Vinh Ky raised two main subjects: Individuals: The head of the newspaper (Truong Vinh Ky) would translate from French to Vietnamese to publish the news, news, announcements in the public affairs section, and the editorial section of the magazine. Agency: The publication department would review it and then print it out. In particular, the responsibility of the head of the newspaper is quite heavy: both in charge of the translation from French to Vietnamese in the official section, and at same time writing news and editing files in the magazine section. Thus, the head of the newspaper is both the manager, the reporter, and the editor of the newspaper. The management agency clearly shows the acquisition and management of the newspaper with respect to the direction and policies of colonial rule.

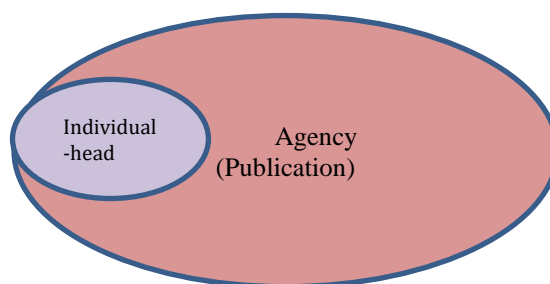


Figure 2: Diagram illustrating the management level of Gia Dinh newspaper

About the number of periodicals: Before Truong Vinh Ky was the editor (1865-1868), Gia Dinh newspapers were mostly only monthly periodicals, published once a month. From the 3rd issue in 1869 until Truong Vinh Ky was the Chief Consul, Gia Dinh newspaper was a weekly

newspaper, printed once a week. The number of pages ranges from 2 - 4 newspaper pages (4 pages are common). And this number of publications is fixed on a specific day of the month: the 1st, 8th, 10th, and 21st. This is always announced at the top of the first page of the newspaper for readers to know and follow. At the same time, the first part of the newspaper also provides instructions on how to order the newspaper and the purchase price so that the public can easily access the newspaper. This periodical publication makes it easy for the public to follow the newspaper's news, and also shows the stability of the newspaper's operation.



Figure 3: Introduction to the number of periodicals and how to buy Gia Dinh newspapers

About how to buy newspapers: Truong Vinh Ky has very detailed and specific instructions to help readers easily access the newspaper page. He is very clear about the price and explains the benefits of reading newspapers. At the same time, he gave detailed instructions on how to buy newspapers: *"I advise everyone to buy this journal and see, a month a month, sixty-four dong or a seven, it's not much to use for other things. when it's no use. But like in a village where people are not very rich, the three owners will pool the money for one person to buy. Those who want to buy a journal must come and buy it or send someone to the high manor house to tell the interpreter the name of the border, then get the paper, go to the warehouse to pay the money, and go home, no need to worry anymore, both and the year will be reported to people to remove it and consider it not wrong. People living in different provinces and cities also do the same at the residence hall of their local government."*

The above can be diagrammed as follows:

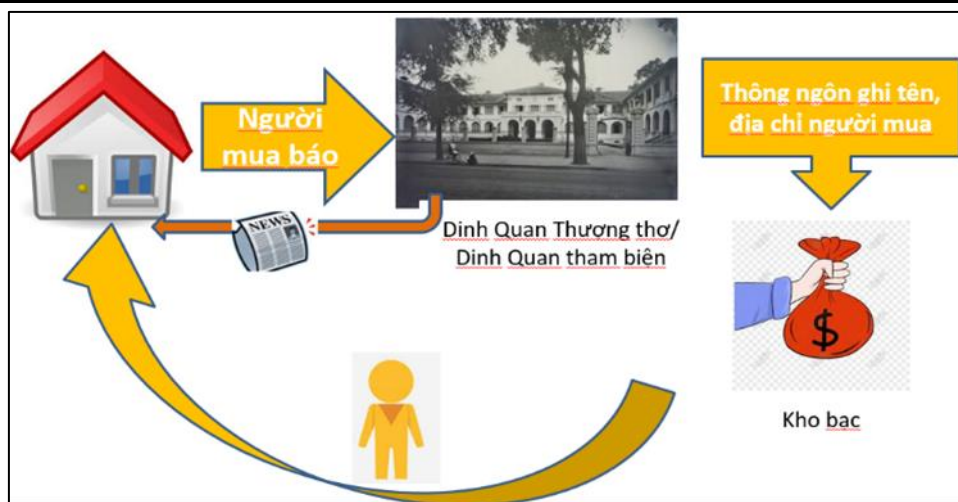


Figure 4: Diagram of how to buy Gia Dinh newspaper (A buyer goes to High Priest's Palace and an interpreter writes buyer's name and address and then the buyer pays the price at treasury)

With specific instructions as above, Truong Vinh Ky contributes to introducing and promoting the newspaper to the public easily and conveniently.

About how to edit the article: Truong Vinh Ky mentioned there are two types of editing: keeping the collaborator's article or editing it for better. In case the author's article is good, good and the words are clear and coherent, it will be approved by the editorial office and published and the copyright will be preserved. On the contrary, the article will be edited in different length and short form: *"Other things that are either unspeakable, or repeated that are difficult to hear will be shortened for better listening. There are also times when there are too many things, if we let him follow the teachers back, those who read the diary will find it unspeakable, but if they become boring, we will combine it and make a long story to make it easier to see."* (Gia Dinh newspaper, No. 6, 24.02.1870) At that time, the article no longer had the author's name, defaulted to the article of the Chief of Staff (Truong Vinh Ky).

Regarding the correction of information in the press: Truong Vinh Ky stated very clearly: *"if there is an error in the previous issue, a notice must be posted to correct the mistake in the following issue, such as: Before number 21 in the proposal of the Yuan-Soai about counterfeiting money to take medicine at the Cho-Quan school, there is an hour wrong in the sentence before the second, because it was translated into Langsa indigents by mistake. is the native of the country, whose name is indigents, which means the poor"* (Gia Dinh newspaper, No. 23, October 24, 1869).

3.2 Truong Vinh Ky's contribution as the owner of a private national language newspaper

Firstly, Truong Vinh Ky self-published his own private newspaper, the "Miscellanésées". This newspaper was published for less than 2 years from 5/1888 - 10.1889. This newspaper is also known as the first newspaper or literary newspaper in Vietnamese script. The newspaper published 18 issues but closed due to a lack of printing funds.

Regarding the purpose of the newspaper's birth, Truong Vinh Ky stated clearly on the first page of the first issue: *"Looking at the book, it's also boring, so there must be something fun to mix in once or twice when it's interesting. So, we plan to make a month, two or three periods, a thin episode*

of talk on the side, the story of the triad, the story of the three emperors, the mix-and-match mix-and-sell to let the students watch the game for fun. But it's not that it's not in vain: it's also the things that people in life should know. If there is a will, it will take a long time to absorb."

About the characteristics of the newspaper: the newspaper is presented as a 16 x 23.5 cm book. The first three issues have 12 pages each, and the remaining issues have 16 pages each. Regarding language: the newspaper uses both French, Quoc Ngu, Han and Nom characters; In terms of structure, it consists of the following parts: a list of articles in one issue, a section on scholarly literature, a section on folklore (popular) and many different genres (story, chant, verse, couplets, and verses- riddles. Truong Vinh Ky also invited a number of collaborators to participate in writing articles such as Truong Minh Ky, Huynh Tinh Cua, Tran Chanh Chieu, Leon Truong Vinh Viet, Tran Huu Hanh. This can be called a specialized literary journal in words. Vietnam's first national language. These include works that are newly composed, translated, or recorded from oral stories. Therefore, this newspaper performs the main educational function, while the information function is very limited, only occasionally when Truong Vinh Ky publishes an announcement related to the newspaper's activities, there news in the form of announcements.

In addition, for Gia Dinh newspaper, after the period when Truong Vinh Ky was no longer the Chief Financial Officer, it is possible that Truong Vinh Ky was still writing articles for Gia Dinh newspaper. However, most of the posts after Truong Vinh Ky as chief financial officer do not have the author's name anymore, so it is difficult to determine which works are by Truong Vinh Ky. Just found that some of Truong Vinh Ky's comments are still shown on the newspaper structure.

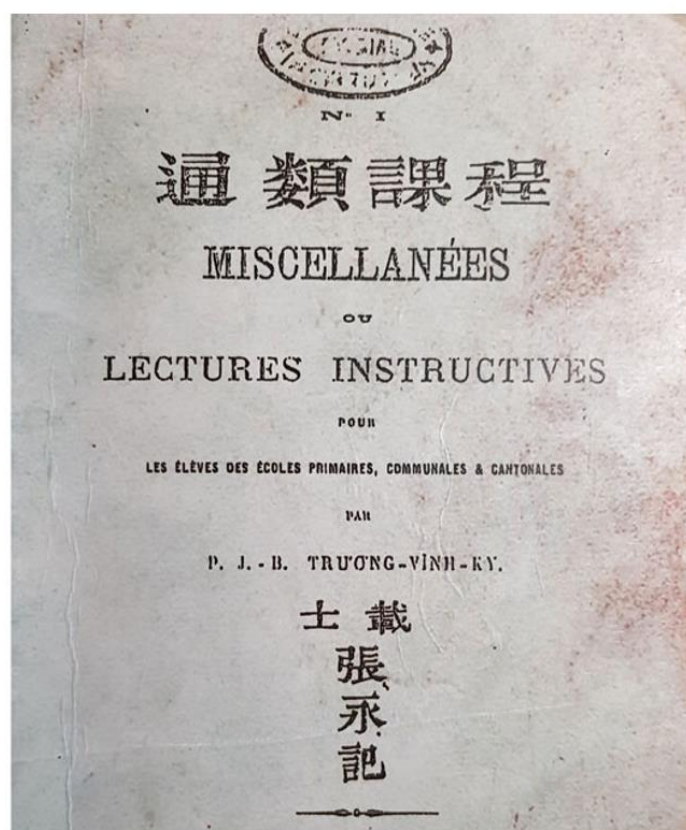


Figure 5: Illustration of the cover photo of Truong Vinh Ky's magazine -Thong Vinh Ky

For example, the summary at the beginning of each issue, the advertisement, and the classifieds are still there, the corrections still appear from time to time, and the layout of the main sub-sections is still there, only changing more or less (office, magazine, outside) duties, extra...). That shows that Truong Vinh Ky's influence on the newspaper is quite profound.

In general, the journalistic activities outside Gia Dinh newspaper of Truong Vinh Ky have clearly shown that Truong Vinh Ky is a multi-talented and erudite journalist in many fields, from management to direct journalism, in various genres. rich, diverse languages. Thereby showing that he is a journalist who is constantly learning and creating in order to develop national language journalism as well as contribute to spreading information from small to large about his people, country, and nation to target audiences. known to the public.

3. Truong Vinh Ky – Vietnam's first international journalist

Truong Vinh Ky is a great cultural writer, so he has published a number of journalistic works not only in the country but also abroad. Through the process of researching documents at the National Library of France, some works of Truong Vinh Ky were found in some French newspapers at that time (Nguyen Dinh Dau, 2017, p.193-229):

Table 1: Statistics of journalistic works of Truong Vinh Ky published in French magazines

No	Date Submitted/Magazine/Book	Titles of Works	Contents
1	January 1863, Journal of the Geographical Society of Paris (Bullentin de la Société de Géographie de Paris)	A report of the Khmer or Cambodian kingdoms	Introduction to geographical location, products, palaces, people (character, spirit), land, scenery, customs, and practices of Cambodia
2	Bullentin du Commite agricole et industriel de la Cochinchine, No. XI, 1870, pp.134-139	Graines et bois de teinrure	Instructions on how to mix colors and use materials
3	Bullentin du Commite agricole et industriel de la Cochinchine, 1873	Bamboo and rattan in Cochinchina (South Vietnam)	Introduction to the types of bamboos and rattans found in Cochinchina and in China, notes on usage, properties, and methods of protection from termites, and introducing of more types of bamboo trees (dusi) as urban landscape
4	Bullentin du Commite agricole et industriel de la Cochinchine 2e série, volume 1, no. IV, 1875, pp.222-226	Notes sur les diverses espèces de bateaux annamites	Name different types of ships and boats in Annam: sea-going boats, river-going boats (merchant boats, state-owned boats). Types of wood for ships and boats
5	Bullentin du Commite agricole et industriel de la Cochinchine, volume 1, issue V, 1876, pp.271-272	About the seaweeds	Origins, how to use, how to sell to the market
6	1878, book The Situation of Cochinchina in 1878 (La Cochinchine Francais en 1878, Chalamel Ainé, Libraire – Editeur, Paris 1878, pp.85-87)	Canton et Commune	Introduction of organizational structure of some administrative units: canton, commune, Annam village: structure, functions, tasks, names in each level, and the last part mentions the purpose of dividing the village structure like that for

			the sake of divide and conquer (just saying it lightly).
7	La Cochinchine Francais en 1878, Chalamel Ainé, Libraire – Editeur, Paris 1878, pp.193-204	Moeurs et Coutumes des Annamites	Introduction to language, clothing, food, housing, civil rites (birth, marriage, end of life), weighing and measuring, religion)
8	Journal of the Cochinchina Agricultural Commission (Bullentin du Commite agricole et industriel de la Cochinchine, 1886)	Yellow ants and foul ants	Stating the effects of weaver ants and the harmful effects of foul ants on fruit trees and crops; how to cure them
9	Bullentin de la Société de Etudes Indichinoisé, 1888, No. 10, pp.10-11	Brief history of Annam	An introduction to writing in Annam: Chinese characters, Nom characters, and Quoc Ngu characters and a description of the characteristics of each type of letter. The advantages and disadvantages of each type

As for the message, these works all have the same message of introducing and promoting the products, cultural characteristics, customs, and habits of the Annamites (the Vietnamese) to the world (mainly France). Thereby, it shows that Truong Vinh Ky has a clear sense of nationalism. He always wanted to bring the image of the nation and country far out on the world stage.

About the structure of the article: usually follow the layout of introduction - detailed explanation - conclusion - assessment of benefits - harms, losses - more. This point is similar to the characteristic journalistic style that Truong Vinh Ky has shown on Gia Dinh newspapers. For example, in the article General and communes under the early colonial period, at the end of the article, Truong Vinh Ky analyzes to show the effect of such a division of the village structure for the purpose of "*dividing and conquering*" for ease. Each village isolated itself, unrelated to each others, thereby preventing the solidarity between the villages together and unable to carry out uprisings against the French government. Or at the end of the article Writing in Annam, he clearly explained the characteristics of the original national language transcription: "*To avoid confusion between single or dual or complex languages, we use (-) in words. their dictionaries, grammars and publications, dash (-) for compound and compound sounds; we also duplicated some letters to give the sound a softer tone. For example: slurs, lies. Deck, buung, coong, goong, the sound of gongs*" (Nguyen Dinh Dau, 2017, p.213).

Regarding language: these works are all written in French skillfully and professionally (Figure 6). About information content: there is a much more elaborate investment than the works on Gia Dinh newspaper. Issues are presented from general to specific, providing a comprehensive understanding of the problem. For example, in the article General and communes under the early colonial period, the article has the distribution of sections in order of content: introducing the organizational structure of several administrative levels: cantons, communes, and villages. Annam: structure, functions, tasks, names in each rank. The last part mentions the purpose of dividing the village structure like that for the purpose of dividing and conquering the French colonial regime of the purpose of dividing and conquering with Vietnamese villages at that time.

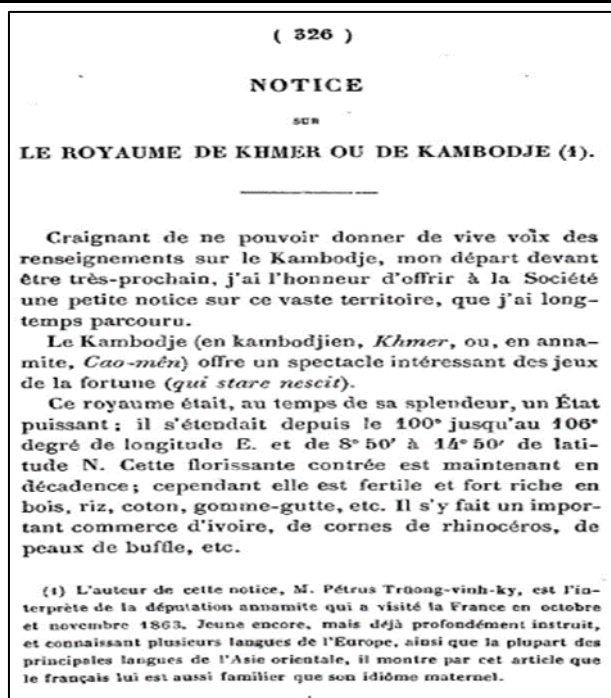


Figure 6: The French works of Truong Vinh Ky's report on the Khmer or Cambodian kingdoms

About the genre: it is mainly in the form of articles, not news. If called, according to today's journalistic trend, these works are in the form of introductory and promotional articles. Thereby, helping the world know about a small Annam country (formerly Vietnam) but also rich in products and has its own traditional culture. At the same time, with these works, Truong Vinh Ky has supplemented the limited part of journalistic works in Gia Dinh newspaper. Because Gia Dinh newspapers are written in the national language script, they would limit the French public, and vice versa. Thus, these two types of works have supported and complemented each other for the purpose of spreading information widely to a large audience of Vietnamese newspapers in the late 19th century and early 20th century.

Thus, with journalistic works published in French Magazines, Truong Vinh Ky became the first journalist in Vietnam to have articles in foreign magazines. This confirms Truong Vinh Ky's very progressive contribution not only in the field of journalism but also in promoting the image of Vietnam and Southeast Asian countries to the world. That was something that no Vietnamese people could do at that time.

4. Conclusion

Truong Vinh Ky is a journalist who has both a heart and a mind, both as a press manager and as a journalist. He does not passively absorb but always innovates and innovates the newspaper in the direction of easier access to the public, creating closeness and understanding to the public. Since then, putting the interests of the public first when setting goals for journalism is to provide information and education to the public. Truong Vinh Ky deserves the title of a scholar because of his rich knowledge and ability to create journalistic works: knowledge of languages,

expertise, diversity of fields, and competence. and management power. For him, knowledge is always new horizons to be explored, from Asia to Europe, from East to West. A soul with an open vision to welcome new winds has made Truong Vinh Ky have abilities ahead of his time. Therefore, in addition to journalistic activities at Gia Dinh newspaper, Truong Vinh Ky continued to be active and constantly strived to produce journalistic works that are diverse in genres, fields, scope, and scope. language. Since then, contributing to the press life in South Vietnam in the late 19th century and early 20th century became exciting and contributed to building a solid foundation for the development of national language journalism in the future.

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Conflict of Interest Statement

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

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