

This collection, which combines memories, remembrances and stories, is intended
by Françoise and Perrine Do-Huu Chan for the next generation
and the extended family DO HUU in order to bequeath them a family imprint

OUR COCHINCHINA FAMILY



Đỗ văn An (1800-
+ Dặng thị Hạnh (1801-...) 2ème épouse

Đỗ hữu Phương * (1841-1914)+ Trần thị Diệu (1842-1930)

1. Đỗ thị Sang (1886-1919)+Vương Quang Trần

1. Vương thi Lễ **(1900-1918)
2. Vương Quang Nghĩa François + Trần thị Hạnh
1. Vương Quang Trọng
2. Vương thị Nguyệt

* Commander of the Legion of Honor, Governor of the City of Chợ Lớn

2. Đỗ thi Nhàn (1868-1929)+ Hoàng Trọng Phu *** (1860-1945)

1. Hoàng thi Nghiêm (1886-1968) + Nguyễn Bá Chính *** (1887-1946)
1. Nguyễn thi Nguyệt Nga (1928-2000) + Ưng Thị (1913-2001)

*** Advisor to the Emperor Bảo Đại, Governor of Hà Đông, Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor

**** Annam Dragon Officer, Knight of the Legion of Honor

1. Công Tằng tôn nữ Như Ánh (1947) : Phạm văn Bạch (1947-2016)
1. Phạm Hoàng Thị (1976)
2. Phạm Hoàng Thiện (1985) + Nicole Hawkins (1990)

2. Công Tằng tôn nữ Như Mỹ (1948) + Adolph Leuthold (1927-2002)

1. An Mỹ Leuthold (1979)

3. Bùi Hoàng Nguyễn (1950)

4. Bùi Hoàng Nam (1951) + Carol Brugger (1961)

1. Alix Bùi Brugger (1995)

2. Aliana Bùi Brugger (1999)

5. Công Tằng tôn nữ Như Mai (1953)

6. Công Tằng tôn nữ Như Hoa (1956) : John Cheung (1946)

1. Bruce Thierry Cheung (1982) + Jaeh (1980)

1. Luc Vinh Cheung (2017)

2. Jeremy Craig Cheung (1985)

7. Công Tằng tôn nữ Thi Nga (1964) + Douglas Gallagher

2. Hoàng thị Loan Henriette (1900-1994) + Bùi Huy Đức (1898-1983)

1. Bùi Huy Lân (1931-2015) + Phạm Tâm Thanh (1939)

1. Bùi Huy Lân (1962) + Tâm thi Trang

1. Bùi Huy Linh

2. Bùi Huy Tâm

3. Bùi Bảo Châu

4. Bùi Minh Châu

2. Bùi Huy Lam (1964) + Trịnh tường Vi

3. Bùi Tâm Thư (1965) : Nguyễn Ngọc Quán

1. Nguyễn Ly Lan

3. Hoàng thị Đạo + Thân trọng Hậu

4. Hoàng thi Lý + Hồ đặc Biệm ****

***** Governor of Hà Đông, Commander of the Imperial Order of Annam, Knight of the Legion of Honor

1. Hồ thi Tân + Phạm thành Vinh

1. Phạm thi Thế Liên (1952)

1. Phạm vũ Ánh (1979)

2. Phạm thi Như Ánh (1953)

1. Phạm thi Như Ý (1978)

2. Phạm Thành Đại Trí (1988)

3. Phạm thi Như Hoa (1993)

3. Phạm Thành Công (1955)

1. Phạm Thành Hồng Linh (1985)

2. Phạm thi Như Lan (1994)

4. Phạm thi Lam Hương (1956)

1. Lý Linh Thảo (1980)

2. Lý Hoàng Khoa (1983)

5. Phạm Thành Trí (1959)

1. Phạm Thành Thái Linh (1982)

1. Phạm Thành Đại Linh (1989)

2. Hồ đặc Hoài (1936-2018)+ Thủ Đức

1. Hồ thi Thành Hương (1974)

2. Hồ đặc Hiếu (1976)

3. Hồ thi thê Hà (1979)

5. Hoàng Trọng Thành († 1928)

3. Đỗ hữu Chẩn ***** (1872-1955) + Emile Chabert

***** Colonel of the French Army, Commander of the Legion of Honor

1. Đỗ hữu Chẩn André (1896-1954) + Adrienne Guinchan (1894-1970)

1.Đỗ hữu Colette (1920-1997?) + Moïse Le Yaouanc (1917-2001)

1. Anne Le Yaouanc (1943) + Paul Feltz († 1996?)

1. Jean-Pierre Feltz

2. Frédéric Feltz

2. Alain Le Yaouanc + Nadia ...

2. Đỗ hữu Robert (1922-1998) + Micheline Renaud (1927)

1. Đỗ hữu Christine + Atayi ...

1. Griener Maïka (1977)

1. Mattys (1997)

2. Atayi Lucile (1986)

3. Atayi Ludovic (1987)

2. Đỗ hữu Nicole + Jean-Pierre Philippe

1. Anne-Claire Philippe (1977)

2. Cécile Philippe (1981)

3. Đỗ hữu Philippe + Marylène (1955)a+Hélène (1951)b

1a. Đỗ hữu Séverine (1979)

1b. Đỗ hữu Valérie (1981)

3. Đỗ hữu Gérard (1927-1948))

2. Chẩn Georges (1896-1978) + Pottecher Marie-Anne (1892-1980)

1. Chẩn Jean-Louis (1921-1943)

2. Chẩn François (1924-2001)

3. Chẩn Pierre (1929-2004)+ Burger Margot (1943)

1. Chẩn Georges (1985)

2. Chẩn Camille (1985)

3. Chẩn Henry (1903-1973) : 1) Rémion Louiette

1. Chẩn Françoise (1929) + Henri Mulsant

1. Mulsant Guillaume (1953) + Catherine A.

1. Mulsant Elise (1991)

2. Mulsant Ariane (1954) + Lamy Bruno

1. Lamy Marine (1980) + Gabriel

1. Louise (2008)

2. Raphaëlle (2010)

3. François (2013)

4. Éléonore (2016)

2. Lamy Camille (1982) + Moritz

1. Emilie (2012)

2. Henri (2014)

3. Félix (2017)

3. Lamy Quentin (1984)

4. Lamy Benoit (1985)

5. Lamy Clarisse (1987) + Bachy Guillaume

1. Joséphine (2018)

6. Lamy Sixtine (1982)

7. Lamy Flore (1997)

8. Lamy Etienne (1998)

3. Mulsant Martin (1957) : Axelle Frédéric (1954)
 1. Mulsant Pierre (1992)
4. Mulsant Benoit (1960) + Sharon
 1. Mulsant Louise (1997)
 2. Mulsant Sophie (2000)
 3. Mulsant Xavier (2008)
2. Chân Perrine (1932) + Arthur Terry
 1. **Terry Bernard**(1955)
 1. Terry Madeleine (1985)
 2. Terry Elise (1988)
 2. **Terry Matthew** (1958)
 1. Terry Sophia
 2. Terry Juliette
 3. **Terry Alexandre**
 1. Terry Alexandre Ryan
 + 2) De filiquier Jeannette (1903-1998)
4. Đỗ thị Diệu (...-1902) + Pech (sans enfant)
5. Đỗ hữu Trí ***** (Ti) (1876-1957) + Lê thi Kiều ***** Prosecutor, 1st President of the Criminal Chamber, Officer of the Legion of Honor, Counselor of the Court of Appeal of Saigon
6. Đỗ hữu Sứu (Tập) (1877-1903) ***** Governor of Nam Định
7. Đỗ thị Dần (bà Thật) (1878-?) + Lê Nhiếp ***** (sans enfant)
8. Đỗ thị Mẹo (1879)
9. Đỗ hữu Thịnh ***** (1880-1963) ***** 1st Treasurer of Saigon
1. Đỗ hữu Loan Paulette + Chapuis Jean-Pierre
10. Đỗ thị Ngo (1882-1904)
11. Đỗ hữu Vị ***** (Ti) (1883-1916) ***** Captain, Pilot's Certificate No. 78, War Cross, Commander of the Legion of Honor

Posted on **26.06.2017** by hongocan2017- en Vietnamese

Đỗ Hữu Phuong, known as Tông đốc Phuong, was once considered the second richest man in Saigon among the four richest "Nhất Sỹ, nhì Phuong, tam Xường, tứ Trach".

In District 3, behind St. Paul's Ophthalmic Hospital, was a temple dating back more than 100 years. It was called Đỗ Hữu Từ đường, it was a place of worship for the Đỗ Hữu family, also known as the temple of Tông đốc Phuong, or the temple of Bà Lớn because the wife of Tông đốc Phuong was also worshiped there as she had a lot of merit for the people of the area.



outside and inside the temple

Creating no resentment

Knowing Chinese and French, Đỗ Hữu Phuong loved French culture and had therefore tried to cooperate with France. After having seized the citadel of Chi Hoa in 1861, France opened trading posts and expanded its relations with the Chinese of the region in order to develop exchanges. Mr. Phuong had asked his acquaintances to present him to the Administrator of Cholon, the ensign Francis Garnier, and had thus been recruited by him. At the age of 25, he was promoted to chef at Cholon.

Although working for France, Mr. Phuong's policy was not to make enemies or create resentment. So if he could not get the surrender of the revolutionaries and had to fight them, Đỗ Hữu Phuong would have asked the French government to amnesty the Vietnamese who had participated in the uprising.

In the French archives, under the SL classification 312 at State Department II, Đỗ Hữu Phuong was congratulated: "He tried to avoid bloodshed while extinguishing many recent riots." He asked the French government to pardon a large number of his compatriots who were taking the weapons against us ..."

Thanks to such behaviour, although being hated for following the French, many people still think that Đỗ Hữu Phuong was a fundamentally good man.

A strange friendship story

Nguyễn Hữu Huân, was awarded the first prize of the Mandarin competitions, in 1852, hence his name of Thủ Khoa (Valedictorian) Huan. He was a close friend of Đỗ Hữu Phuong since childhood. Later they chose two different routes. In 1864, Nguyễn Hữu Huân was arrested in An Giang, sentenced to 10 years in prison by France, and exiled to the French colony of Guyana, Cayenne, South America.

After spending five years in prison, Đỗ Hữu Phuong pledged to ask the French government to pardon Thủ Khoa Huân. In addition, Mr. Phuong hosted Thủ Khoa Huân at his home and hired him, as a former teacher, to educate Cholon students.

Taking advantage of this post, Thủ Khoa Huân secretly contacted many patriots and the Chinese secret lodge to buy weapons to prepare a rebellion. Thủ Khoa Huân fled Đỗ Hữu Phuong's home and joined Âu Dương Lân in Mỹ Tho to rebel. This third revolt, being supported by many farmers and landowners, was very much followed.

It was not until two years later that the French troops were able to attack, by surprise, the Bình Cách base. Thủ Khoa Huân was able to escape, but the following year, while trying to raise an army to revolt, he was ambushed by the French. After being arrested at Mỹ Tho and summoned by Governor Gailland for a surrender that Thủ Khoa Huân still refused, France decided to execute him.

Reaching the second rank of the four richest

During his career, Đỗ Hữu Phuong was promoted to Governor of Vinh Long, Honorary Governor, and later to Chợ Lớn Town Hall, he was then called Tống đốc Phuong. This position was not too high, but people said that it helped Mr. Phuong become an intermediary allowing Chinese merchants to bribe French officials, enriching themselves in these commercial exchanges.

However, another source said that through extensive communication and rapid collaboration with companies, Mr. Phuong had established and developed business relationships through shops in the Chợ Lớn area.

Mr. Phuong had a wife named Trần thị Điệu, daughter of an Annam government officer. She was very good at managing real estate and commerce. The house had more than 2200 hectares of land to be owned by Governor General Doumer. The wife was not only responsible for the management and exploitation of the land but also the trading system and distribution of thousands of regional stores. The husband, a fine diplomat, broadened his relations outside, the wife, at home, made fruitful achievements, raising funds, so much, that according to the rumor, the family had to have recourse to some of its members just to count the money as the income was high, and that Ms. Phuong could not calculate everything.

Remembering his origin Minh Hương, Đỗ Hữu Phuong built Nghĩa Nhuận, a temple located in Gò Công Street. Mr. Phuong also spent money on the construction of the Native Girls College, which will later be called Trường Áo Tím, then Gia Long, and today Nguyễn Thị Minh Khai High School.

In addition, he also spent a lot of money repairing many temples and pagodas in the area; this is still appreciated by the current population. On the Chợ Lớn's arroyo there was a bridge called "cầu Ông Lớn". "Ông Lớn" (Great Mandarin) refers to Đỗ Hữu Phuong, according to historian Vương Hồng Sển. At the time, public figures were not called by their real names. As later, the temple built in memory of Mrs. Phuong, became temple of the family Đỗ Hữu, was called temple Bà Lớn (woman of great mandarin or grande dame).

End of life

With fame and fortune, Đỗ Hữu Phuong lived in affluence and pleasure. He travelled several times to France, visited many European capitals and toured the world.

On the list of passengers travelling by the steamer Anadyr from Saigon to Marseilles on April 29, 1889, Đỗ Hữu Phuong was present with his two sons. This proved that he had attended the fair celebrating the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution and had subsequently contributed to the organization of the Indochina exhibition at the Paris International Fair in 1900.

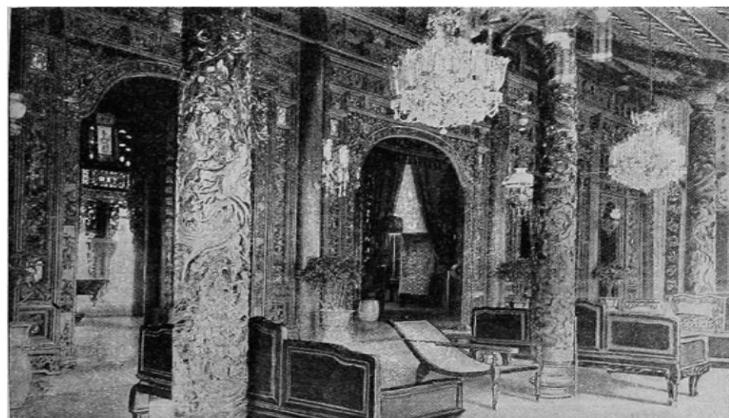


Tổng đốc Phuong Street, today
Châu Văn Liêm seen from the post of
Cholon

Đỗ Hữu Phượng lived in a residence, considered one of the largest in Saigon, located on the banks of the Xép Canal (which, once backfilled, became the street Đỗ Hữu Phượng, today Châu Văn Liêm).

The exterior of the house was Western-style but the interior was Vietnamese and Chinese in style.

Count Pierre Barthélémy said during his visit: "His home is a strange mixture of Europe and Asia. The courtyard is designed in a Chinese style, around the courtyard are rooms An Nam style where a living room deserves a special attention and in front of this living room is an European-style villa.



The altar in the living room An Nam is a beautiful and famous work, it is encrusted with mother-of-pearl. The teak wood columns are very precious, the ceiling of this living room is very elegant and bottles of absinthe, Amer Picon and other French products are placed on a precious wooden table. Mr. Phuong enjoys treating guests with special food and also appreciates our wines. If I have to describe all the richness of this interior, I will have to write many pages ...".

Count Pierre Barthélémy had also spoken of a special meal with Western, Vietnamese and Chinese dishes, during which he was presented with an impressive coconut worm.

Đỗ Hữu Phượng was also known as a great communicator, hospitable, generous and sophisticated that even Governor General Paul Doumer had to tell in his memoirs about Indochina: "Mr. the administrator of Cholon received guests from Europe in his house, served them champagne and butter cookies from Nantes, showed the guests unusual products of the Annamese people and organized, according to the wishes of the guests, the production of classical plays with songs and gestures ...".

At home, Mr. Phuong had a small theater built to entertain the guests. He often went to restaurants, to the Continental Hotel in Saigon and to the Café de la Paix, a privileged meeting place for the French-Vietnamese elite. (according to Dân Việt)

Excerpt from: <https://vnexpress.net/thoi-su/nguoi-vo-giup-quan-tong-doc-thanh-de-nhi-phu-ho-sai-gon-xua-3319257.html>

Extremely intelligent and a good manager, the person who helped Tống đốc Phuong to reach the level of the richest man in Saigon was his wife, Trần thị Điều. She was the daughter of a great mandarin of the Nguyễn court, in Quảng Nam.

After their marriage, Mr. Phuong and his wife lived in the second largest residence in Saigon at that time.

The governor's wife lived in wealth and silk, but she did not act like the ladies of the upper class, she managed the family's businesses. She was famous for her resources in the Saigon of yesteryear.

The family had more than 2,200 hectares of land. At each harvest, Mrs. Phuong took care of everything from pricing to collecting and organizing workers. With a commercial system that could handle thousands of installations, she focused on connecting small businesses and creating a separate trading system.

At that time, Mr. Phuong's family also controlled some of the commercial transactions in the ports of Saigon.

Having too much land to manage, Mrs. Phuong rented to sharecroppers. During the harvest season, the governor's wife urged the payment of taxes. It also brought huge income. The rice piled up everywhere, like mountains, in Mr. Phuong's house, making everything unmanageable. To solve this problem, Mrs. Phuong cleverly sold this rice at a good price to collect money, while avoiding unnecessary losses.

Historian Vương Hồng Sển, when he wrote about Tống đốc Phuong in the book "Sài Gòn năm xưa" (the Saigon of the past), criticized his allegiance to the French army, but for Mrs. Trần thị Địệu, he had done her justice in a respectful way: "If Mr. Phuong's career has become one of the largest in the country, it was built largely by Lady Trần. If she took care of her interior, she was a good manager outside to make their assets grow; she lived to old age, well after the death of her husband..."

As for the fortune of the Phuong couple, legend has it that they had their own money-counting team secretly installed in a room behind the house. In the harvest season or when collecting money from traders or small businesses, these people ate and slept on the spot to count the money. The money was tied up, stored in a double-locked room. The only key to the room was kept by Mrs. Phuong; she never left it, even when she slept, she held it firmly in her hand...

It was the wife of Tống đốc Phuong who financed the construction of the Native Girls College, which became Trường Áo tím (Gia Long) and is now known as the Nguyễn Thị Minh Khai School (Điện Biên Phủ Street, District 3).

Đỗ Hữu Phuong died in 1914. Historian Vương Hồng Sển wrote that the funeral of the governor was solemnly celebrated. "Đỗ Hữu Phuong's body was exposed for two weeks before being buried. Every day, hundreds of visitors came to show their respect. At his funeral, buffaloes, cows and pigs were sacrificed and served as offerings and to feed the guests." "Sài Gòn năm xưa" (the Saigon of the past).



Đỗ Hữu Phuong 1841-1914



Trần thị Địệu 1842 - 1930

Dinner with “Tong Doc” Do Huu Phuong

Posted on 17/05/2014 by timdolinghcmc@gmail.com



Đỗ Hữu Phuong (1841-1914) pictured in the late 1890s after his retirement

One of the most famous mandarins of the early French period, Đỗ Hữu Phuong (1841-1914) became the second richest man in Cochinchina.... and dinner at his palatial residence in Chợ Lớn was once one of the most sought-after invites of the day.



Đỗ Hữu Phuong (1841-1914) pictured in the early 1880s (from Charles Lemire, l'Indochine, Paris, 1884)

Born in 1841 at Chợ Đũi (Saigon), Đỗ Hữu Phuong was the eldest son of a regional government mandarin from the mixed-race (Vietnamese-Chinese) Minh Hương community and grew up speaking fluent Vietnamese and Chinese. His early education at a French mission school also gave him a grounding in French which served him well in his later career.

When French forces attacked Saigon in 1859, Phuong initially participated in the resistance, but following the decisive 1861 French victory at the “Lignes de Khi-Hoa” (Chí Hòa), he “rallied to the French cause” and became a colonial militia leader.

In subsequent years, Phuong took part in a number of key engagements as the French extended their control over the six provinces of the south, including the retaking of Rạch Giá from Nguyễn Trung Trực in June 1868.

Phuong’s career as a colonial mandarin began in earnest in 1865, when he was rewarded for his loyalty with the post of Hộ trưởng and made responsible for law and order in Chợ Lớn. In 1872 he became a member of the Chợ Lớn Municipal Council and later that year he was appointed Đốc phủ (governor). Promotion to Đốc phủ sứ (provincial governor) followed.



The palatial residence of “Tổng đốc” Đỗ Hữu Phuong, pictured at the turn of the century

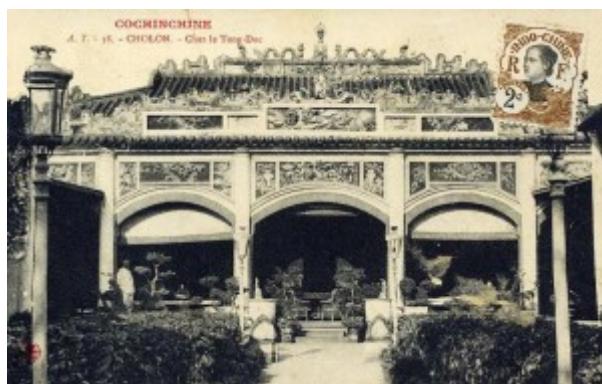
It was during this period, according to the popular late 19th-century saying Nhất Sỹ, nhì Phuong, tam Xưởng, tứ Hòa – “First Sỹ, second Phuong; third Xưởng and fourth Hòa” – that Phuong became the second richest man in the south. His wealth was accumulated, not from trade and commerce, but by skilfully exploiting his close links with senior colonial administrators to function as an intermediary between Chợ Lớn’s leading Chinese merchant houses and the French civil service.

During this period he is said to have amassed large tracts of land in what is now District 8 – the Ông (Mr) in the names rạch Ông Lớn, cầu Rạch Ông and chợ Rạch Ông is believed to refer deferentially to Đỗ Hữu Phuong, the former landlord of that area.

In subsequent years, Phuong eagerly adopted a quasi-French lifestyle, assiduously cultivating the image of a man who “moved at ease and confidence through a life that was half Vietnamese and half French.”



When the colonial authorities issued a decree in 1881 permitting the naturalisation of Vietnamese citizens, Phuong was one of the first to apply. In 1883, following the establishment of the Société des études indochinoises in Saigon, Phuong was elected as its first president and for several years acted as the editor of its French-language journal. Phuong made extended visits to France on no less than four occasions (1878, 1884, 1889 and 1894), prompting the scholar Truong Minh Ký (1855-1900) to write a satirical poem in Vietnamese which described Phuong sitting in the Café de la paix in Paris, chatting with leading colonial personages such as Bonnet, Blanchy and Morin. Today, Đỗ Hữu Phuong is remembered above all as the genial host who invited many high-ranking French colonial settlers into his home and introduced them to the joys of Vietnamese cuisine. In the late 1870s or early 1880s, Phuong built himself a palatial home on quai Testard (the former Phố Xép canal, now Châu Văn Liêm street). Comprising buildings of both colonial and traditional design surrounding a central courtyard, this subsequently became a must-see destination for many French visitors and expatriates.



The family temple of “Tổng đốc” Đỗ Hữu Phuong’s residence

Several French writers of the period wax lyrical about the beauty of Phuong’s “princely residence,” in particular the family temple, an “incomparable work” which “surpasses the imagination” with its intricately carved and inlaid wooden panels and “beautifully decorated roof supported by columns of hard black wood, each formed from a single tree trunk and carved with scenes featuring characters of the greatest fineness.” Apart from the family shrine, the temple building is said to have housed “a real museum of antiques,” including large quantities of “old and very beautiful inlaid furniture.”

By the 1890s, however, the real attraction here was not the residence itself, but the lavish Vietnamese banquets hosted in it. After 1893, an invitation to dine with Phuong seems to have become one of the hottest tickets in colonial Saigon-Chợ Lớn – his dinner guests included all the great and the good of colonial society, including Governor General Paul Doumer (1897-1902), who became a close family friend. Phuong’s banquets became the stuff of legend and were described in numerous French travel books and journals of the period, including the review *Tour du Monde* (1893), Alfred Coussot’s *Douze mois chez les sauvages du Laos* (1898) and George Dürrwell’s *Ma chère Cochinchine, trente années d’impressions et de souvenirs, 1881-1910*.

In her *Appetites and Aspirations in Vietnam: Food and Drink in the Long Nineteenth Century* (2012), Erica Peters argues that by introducing his high-ranking guests to Vietnamese cuisine, Đỗ Hữu Phuong “shook up colonial assumptions, pushing his French guests to reconsider their obsession with eating French food in the colony.”



Đỗ Hữu Phuong (1841-1914) pictured in the late 1890s after his retirement

Writing in 1897, Alfred Coussot describes in slightly shocked tones how he and his fellow diners were encouraged to eat their “first ever exclusively Annamite [Vietnamese] meal” with “no cutlery and no bread,” but with “traditional chopsticks and rice bowls” – something hitherto regarded as unthinkable for most colonial settlers. Contemporary French accounts of the cuisine offered at Phuong’s table not surprisingly focus on the more exotic dishes offered, such as “grilled palm tree grubs” and “still-born pig,” noting, nonetheless, that Phuong would take pity on those with a less adventurous palate by serving them huge steaks cooked in the western style, thereby ensuring that everyone left his home satisfied.

Đỗ Hữu Phuong was made a Chevalier de la Légion d’honneur in 1872, an Officier de la Légion d’honneur in 1881 and a Commandeur de la Légion d’honneur in 1890. However, perhaps the apotheosis of his career as a colonial mandarin was the honorific post of Tông đốc (general governor), bestowed on him by the French authorities to mark his retirement in 1897. At this time, the boulevard on which his residence was located was named rue Tong-Doc-Phuong, a name it retained right down to 1955.

Throughout his life, “Tông đốc” Phuong spent much of his time engaged in charitable work. One of his particular interests was the establishment of a school for Vietnamese girls in Saigon, and it was largely thanks to Phuong’s influence and philanthropy that the Collège de jeunes filles indigènes (later the Lycée Gia Long, now the Nguyễn Thị Minh Khai Secondary School on Điện Biên Phủ street) was founded in 1915.

Đỗ Hữu Phuong also funded the 1879 construction work which transformed an old communal house into the Nghĩa Nhuận Assembly Hall, one of Chợ Lớn’s most elegant Minh Hương temples at 27 quai de la Distillerie (now 27 Phan Văn Khôle). His sons would later continue to make regular donations towards its upkeep throughout the colonial period.



*Nguyễn Thị Minh Khai Secondary School
owes its existence to Đỗ Hữu Phuong*

Đỗ Hữu Phuong died of pleurisy on 3 April 1914. His grand public funeral on 19 April was attended by “almost the entire European settlement and a huge Asian crowd”.... “all Annamite dignitaries and notables were present” and an address was given by Joost van Vollenhoven, Secretary general of the Cochinchina government.

Đỗ Hữu Phuong and his wife Trần Thị Điều (1842-1921) had four sons and two daughters. Two of his sons remained in Cochinchina – Đỗ Hữu Trí became a magistrate, while Đỗ Hữu Tỉnh worked in the colonial Treasury. Meanwhile, Phuong’s two daughters, who were both well educated and spoke fluent French, are said to have mixed widely in colonial society. One, Đỗ Thị Nhàn, later married the Hà Đông governor Hoàng Trọng Phu (1872-1946). However, his other two sons, Đỗ Hữu Chấn (1872-1955) and Đỗ Hữu Vị (1883-1916), are best remembered today. Both were educated at private schools in France and both graduated from the famous Saint-Cyr military academy.

After the death of Đỗ Hữu Phuong’s wife in 1921, the family decided to sell the palatial mansion on rue Tong-Doc-Phuong in Chợ Lớn and in subsequent years it was demolished so that the whole block could be redeveloped. Today there is little to suggest that this extraordinary complex ever existed, apart from one of the former out-houses which may still be seen in an alley off Trần Hưng Đạo B street.



A map (left) showing the location of Đỗ Hữu Phuong's residence on quai Testard in the 1890s and a Google map (right) showing the same location today



S.E. Tổng đốc Phương and his wife, Trần thị Điều,
With four of their eleven children, from left to right
Đỗ Hữu Trí, Colonel Đỗ Hữu Chẩn, Đỗ Hữu Thịnh,
Captain Đỗ Hữu Vị

Đỗ Hữu Chân
3rd child of Đỗ Hữu Phương
Eldest son
Known as Colonel Chan



1872 - 1955

Đỗ văn An (1800 + Đặng thị Hạnh (1801-...) 2ème épouse**Đỗ hữu Phương * (1841-1914)+ Trần thị Diệu (1842-1930)****3. Đỗ hữu Chấn ***** (1872-1955) + Emilie Chabert**

* Commander of the Legion of Honor, Governor of the City of Chợ Lớn

***** Colonel of the French Army, Commander of the Legion of Honor

1.Đỗ hữu Chấn André (1896-1954) + Adrienne Guinchan (1894-1970)**1.Đỗ hữu Colette (1920-1997?) + Moïse Le Yaouanc (1917-2001)****1. Anne Le Yaouanc (1943) + Paul Feltz († 1996?)**

1. Jean-Pierre Feltz

2. Frédéric Feltz

2. Alain Le Yaouanc + Nadia ...**2. Đỗ hữu Robert (1922-1998) + Micheline Renaud (1927)****1. Đỗ hữu Christine + Atayi ...**

1. Griener Maïka (1977)

1. Mattys (1997)

2. Atayi Lucile (1986)

3. Atayi Ludovic (1987)

2. Đỗ hữu Nicole + Jean-Pierre Philippe

1. Anne-Claire Philippe (1977)

2. Cécile Philippe (1981)

3. Đỗ hữu Philippe + Marylène (1955)a+Hélène (1951)b

1a. Đỗ hữu Séverine (1979)

1b. Đỗ hữu Valérie (1981)

3. Đỗ hữu Gérard (1927-1948))**2. Chấn Georges (1896-1978) + Pottecher Marie-Anne (1892-1980)**

1. Chấn Jean-Louis (1921-1943)

2. Chấn François (1924-2001)

3. Chấn Pierre (1929-2004)+ Burger Margot (1943)

1. Chấn Georges (1985)

2. Chấn Camille (1985)

3. Chấn Henry (1903-1973) : 1) Rémy Louisette

1. Chấn Françoise (1929) + Henri Mulsant

1. Mulsant Guillaume (1953) + Catherine A.

1. Mulsant Elise (1991)

2. Mulsant Ariane (1954) + Lamy Bruno

1. Lamy Marine (1980) + Gabriel

1. Louise (2008)

2. Raphaëlle (2010)

3. François (2013)

4. Éléonore (2016)

2. Lamy Camille (1982) + Moritz

1. Emilie (2012)

2. Henri (2014)

3. Félix (2017)

3. Lamy Quentin (1984)

4. Lamy Benoit (1985)

5. Lamy Clarisse (1987) + Bachy Guillaume

1. Joséphine (2018)

6. Lamy Sixtine (1982)

7. Lamy Flore (1997)

8. Lamy Etienne (1998)

3. Mulsant Martin (1957) : Axelle Frédéric (1954)

1. Mulsant Pierre (1992)

4. Mulsant Benoît (1960) + Sharon

1. Mulsant Louise (1997)

2. Mulsant Sophie (2000)

3. Mulsant Xavier (2008)

2. Chấn Perrine (1932) + Arthur Terry**1. Terry Bernard(1955)**

1. Terry Madeleine (1985)

2. Terry Elise (1988)

2. Terry Matthew (1958)

1. Terry Sophia

2. Terry Juliette

3. Terry Alexandre

1. Terry Alexandre Ryan

+ 2) De filiquer Jeannette (1903-1998)

Souvenirs de Grand-Père DHChan_ENG

Lt-Colonel at 363rd Infantry Regiment in Nice in April 1914

Death of Grandfather of Cholon April 14, 1914

Head of the 583rd Corps at War from 2 August 1914 to 2 April 1915.

Death in the field of honor of my brother Taï in July 1916.

Deputy Chief of Staff of the 3rd Reg., in Rouen from June 10th to February 15th 1919.

Chief of Staff of this region the last six months.

Back to Cholon with the body of my brother Taï on April 26, 1920.

Back to France in November 1921.

Death of my wife at Golfe-Juan on February 7, 1927.

André's wedding to Pau early 1919.

George's wedding in Paris September 1919.

Henry's wedding in Paris March 1927.

Paris Nov. 1938.

My retirement in Nice.

The 1939-1940 war

*

These memories are for my three sons, I outlined the important events of my life, at least those that my sons, too young, could not know in detail, therefore could not appreciated at their fair value, but I will not to touch other events, as important, because my sons were already old enough to appreciate them and make them known to their children later.

Written after the facts, these memories have not been improved for the sake of the cause, but I affirm that they reflect my thought and my conscience. As for the brothers, sisters, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces of history, my children know them well and I will say nothing about their qualities or their flaws.

Youth in Cholon,
1872 à 1884 ;

Born in Cholon on July 14th, 1872, there was no civil register in Cochinchina at my birth, so the date of July 14, 1872 was calculated by the statements of notables and friends of my family.

My father and my mother lived at that time at Mytho Pier in Cholon.

This quay located on the Chinese arroyo so called because filled with junks of rice and rice fields. My parents belong to a family of modest Annamese bourgeois, living between Saigon and Cholon, not very wealthy, but of a respectability and absolute probity.

At the arrival of the French expedition in Cochinchina, around 1858-59, my father understood the benefits of this arrival for his country and immediately began to practice the loyal Franco-Annamese collaboration which will remain the constant goal of his life. This attitude could have been fatal to him, for his compatriots would have seen him as a traitor to his country, he was not, because his conduct seemed so loyal, and his explanations seemed so logical that many compatriots were not long in following him in this way. My father had the good fortune to obtain immediately the benevolence and confidence of the French authorities. He was appointed chief of district to Cholon, then sub-prefect, prefect, assistant to the chiefs of the mixed columns (French forces and native militias) charged with restoring order in the provinces of Cochinchina; in his military and civil functions, my father succeeded everywhere, so he crossed all ranks, and, by exceptional favour, at the time of his retirement, at his request in 1898, - he was appointed honorary Tông-Dôc, dignity which did not exist in Cochinchina, but in Tonkin and Annam only for the governors of the great provinces.

Knight of the Legion of Honor in 1872, officer in 1884, and commander in 1889, at the request of the Governor General of Indochina, Mr. Piquot, who gave up his tie of commander of the Legion of Honor to be awarded to my father (because there was only one tie of commander granted to Indochina in 1889).

My mother was an admirable woman from all points of view, it is a duty of deep and respectful gratitude that I am happy to give her, and I am sure that all my brothers and sisters think like I do. Not very wealthy at her marriage with my father, she was for my father an incomparable companion. Raised at dawn and last slept, she directed all her interior, home, etc. ... There were more than thirty servants, reception from the French and Annamese

authorities. Little by little, she took care of the acquisitions of rice fields, the construction of compartments in Cholon, but in all, she never accepted the smallest compromise, no enemy of the family, and they are numerous, could not blame my father and my mother for the smallest compromise, the least fault.

In the whole world, I do not believe that one can find a mother like mine, mother of 24 children, and having qualities of intelligence, work, method, perseverance like mine. My mother completed my father and both of them must be granted equal share of all the prosperity, the greatness of our family, the success of all sons and daughters.

My mother raised 24 sons and daughters, but, personally, I only knew 6 sisters and 4 brothers.

My sisters:

Chi Hai, married to the son of a bourgeois of Cholon and mother of Nghiā and a lovely girl, Lê, who died very young.

Chi Ba, wife of his Excellency Hoang-Trong-Phu, Tông-Dôc of Hadong, second column of the Empire, Grand Croix of the Legion of Honor, who still lives in Hanoi, the first mandarin of Tonkin, respected by all French and Annamite, perfect brother-in-law for me (his son, the charming Thanh, said Leon, died in Aix-en-Provence in October 1928, he had too many qualities to live on this earth, his 4 sisters are married and very well married to high mandarins and Tonkin manufacturers)

Dien, younger than I, married a lawyer Louis Pech, died young in 1900.

Dân (Aunt Marie), Tông-Dôc Lê Nhiêp's wife in retirement, officer of the Legion of Honor at Nam Dinh (Tonkin).

Meo, Ngo, both of whom died very young.

The 4 brothers:

Try, counsellor at the Saigon Court of Appeal, officer of the Legion of Honor, retired in Saigon.

Thinh, treasury clerk, retired in Saigon,

Ti, the aviator captain Do Huu Vi, fell on the field of honor on July 9, 1916 in the Somme offensive.

Suu, Paris hospital intern, died on Jan. 4th 1903 at the Leysin sanatorium (Switzerland) in connection with the line of his duties. He used to live in Paris, 3 rue de Condé, VIè.

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I will speak later in detail about my brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, during my memories.

Youth in Cholon :

Until I was 7 years old, I took classes at the Cholon Municipal School, behind the offices of the Native Affairs Administrator, 2 kilometers from my father's house. Then, with my sisters, Chinese characters from a professor, of which I have not kept the slightest trace. After school hours, it was absolute freedom at home and time passed quickly with visits to cages of tigers, panthers, monkeys, snakes, elephants, huge aviaries filled with rare birds from Cochinchina and even India. My father loved to surround himself with a real zoological garden, two servants were dedicated to the service of animals. I remember that one afternoon, a Chinese visitor who wanted to pass between two cages occupied by a tiger and a panther, had indeed his arm lacerated by the two animals. I think that after this accident, the governor of Cochinchina had forbidden to raise wild cats at home, it was after elephant, tigers and snakes had gone to join their cousins in the zoo of Saigon. The birds and monkeys continued their life as pashas in Cholon. Every evening, after dinner, in the moonlight, which in the Far East illuminates as in broad daylight, sisters, brothers and servants and neighbours gathered in front of the house, and sat on mats, humming and arresting all the street vendors. These were my childhood distractions in Cholon.

I was sent to the Taberd Institute in Saigon, led by the missionaries, worthy and venerated masters for whom I have kept the most grateful remembrance. I was a boarder, going out on Saturday night until Monday morning, I was a good student, uneventful, my other brothers followed the same path as I in school or high school until they left for France.

In May 1884, I left Saigon with my father aboard the State Transatlantic "Mytho", specially built for the transport of troops to Tonkin and also to serve as a hospital for the sick and wounded evacuated from Tonkin to France. Thanks to my father's rank, I travelled in 1st class with him on the Mytho. We were the only 6 passengers: Colonel Outré, acting superior commander of the troops in Cochinchina, the engineer Taton, some one from the Saigon arsenal and from the High Magistracy meanwhile the other passengers, all civil servants, were in 2nd class including Mr. Thénieur, our friend since. Discipline was very severe on this State boat: salute to the flag every morning and evening, public prayer in the evening.

Usual stops in Singapore, Colombo, Port Said, and arrival in Toulon. What struck me the most in Toulon is the size of the horses, because in Cochinchina our horses do not measure more than 1m50. Upon arrival to Paris, we were greeted by the brave Monsieur Le Rouvillois, tailor, 65 Fg. Montmartre, who took care of me as a true parent until his death. We stayed at the Hotel Bergère, rue Bergère, and my father, who knew already Paris in 1878, soon returned to frequent the cafes at the entrance to the Jouffroy passage. I had forgotten to say that the day after we left Saigon, my father had his hair cut and dressed in a European style. We were then introduced to Mr. Alfred Ancelot, notorious tradesman (lacework) of the rue de Cléry, who knew a French merchant from Saigon, who recommended him my father. Monsieur Ancelot was good enough to serve as my correspondent. During his stay in Paris, my father was introduced to Admiral Peyron, Minister of the Navy, and to Mr. Felix Faure, (the future President of the Republic), then Secretary of State Colonies at the Ministry of the Navy. Admiral Peyron immediately awarded the Rosette of the Legion of Honor to my father, and Mr. Felix Faure immediately showed a lot of friendship to my father, friendship that did not end until the death President Félix Faure, who kindly took me out to his friends, Mr. and Mrs. Dorchery, Nogent / Marne, during my first college vacation in Paris in 1884. It was due to my fault, my thoughtlessness, or rather my shyness that I neglected my relationship with Mr. Felix Faure and the Dorchery family. After three months of Paris, my father left me to spend a few days with his friend in Brest, Mr. Salesne de Champeaux, once a high French personality in Hué, Cochinchina. My father then embarked for America and returned in Saigon via Japan. Thanks to his knowledge of Chinese characters, my father was able to manage his journey around the world by writing on simple sheets of paper all his requests: hotels, outings, etc. ..

Ste Barbe des Champs :

At Fontenay-aux-Roses, after my father's departure for America, I was admitted to 6th grade at Ste-Barbe-des-Champs. Having fallen ill (typhoid fever), I was admirably treated in the infirmary by Madame Cloust, a vice-admiral's relative. The Ste-Barbe-des-Champs director, Mr. Morlet, showed me a lot of friendship and his wife consoled me of my father's departure. Mr. Dubief, director of St. Barbe of Paris, mayor of the 5th arrondissement, had promised my father to take care of me; he kept his promise, and later I found in Cochinchina,

as administrator of the province of Giadinh on which Saigon depends, his grandson Lamarre, whom I frequented forty years before at St Barbe of Paris.

Two years later, I was moved to the Paris St. Barbe where I stayed from 4th grade until my entry to St-Cyr in 1890. I knew, in St-Cyr, as a comrade, Eugene Peiransier, later Minister of Justice, Conrat, Honorary Prefect, François Carnot, the son of the President of the Republic. Peiransier and Carnot have since been great friends for me, as well as Félix Gozagnaire, attorney in Cannes and son of its former mayor. Mr. Ancelot and his wife, the mother of Marthe Gravereaux, were perfect for me, unfortunately Mrs. Ancelot died in 1888 in Croissy. I spent, on sundays and holidays, and long vacations, at Garches, property of Monsieur Ancelot's mother. Marthe Gravereaux was my youth friend; her governess, Madame Woods, took me for a walk with her pupil to Saint-Cloud, and once a week, driven by the brave cousin James to Croissy, to Madame Caillaux, grandmother of Martha. In winter, I went out to Monsieur Ancelot's brother, 12 rue de la Victoire. Mr. Eugene Ancelot, brother of Mr. Ancelot, and later his wife and children, then Yvonne, Mrs. Fontaz and Gilberte were for me true parents. I will always have the most grateful memory of the whole Ancelot family, who did their best to replace my family from Cochinchina. In 1887, during 4th grade, I obtained almost all the prizes, and, as a reward, I went back to Cholon for my summer holidays, from July to November 1887.

I'm fixing now an oversight: in addition to my correspondent, Mr. Ancelot, a Parisian family has been very, very good for me: the Geffroys; a not wealthy family who lived in a small apartment, 9 rue Vicq d'Azir near Canal St Martin, their second son Felix was my classmate at Ste Barbe, while the elder, Jules, prepared Centrale (and was later professor of my son André in Centrale). On Sundays at 8am Mr. Geffroy Sr. came to pick up his son. at Ste Barbe and took me out with him; I often had lunch at home, a meal always hearty and well prepared by the mother; we ate our meals in the eldest son's bedroom; after lunch, walked to the Bois de Boulogne, back and forth from the canal St Martin. Well, that was my best memory of Paris, because the Geffroys loved me as their son, in a completely disinterested way, could they find here my most heartfelt gratitude, my unalterable affection for all their marks of goodness to me for more than five years. I sought, after the war of 1914-1918 traces of this family, I had news of my friend Félix only once in 1906, and, in spite of my researches, I did not hear any

more from him. My son André had as a teacher in Centrale, Jules the eldest Geffroys' son, in 1917-20 and I had the joy of hearing from the Geffroys by André.

Some thoughts on my life as a boarding schoolboy in Paris: it left me sad memories, lonely and timid as I was, I was unhappy both in Ste Barbe and at my correspondent's, not daring to disturb anyone, or to claim the necessary. This has greatly influenced my character in the future. Later on, I did not want my children to suffer the boarding school life, in Marseilles or in Paris; we lived as close as possible to their high school so they had all the well-being and no loss of time for their meals at home and allowing them to get up as late as possible.

Let's talk about St-Cyr, I kept the best memory of St-Cyr. But before, I forgot to talk about my return to Cholon on vacation from July to November 1887 and return to France on the State transportation, the "Shamrock", which ran aground on the coast the day before she arrived in Colombo, and we were forced to stay there for a month while waiting for her repair. Back to Paris, to reward me for my success in the 4th grade, I was allowed to skip the 5th.

High school graduate in 1889, coinciding with the trip to France of my father accompanied by my brothers Try and Suu; and, in the winter, the 1889 Exhibition in Paris bringing together many compatriots from Cochinchina, even a detachment of Annamite infantrymen (commanded by an Annamite second lieutenant, the first officer of Annamite origin) I believed that the sight of a fellow officer greatly influenced my desire to enter St. Cyr while the family wanted to make me a doctor, and that I felt no disposition for this career.

By preparing St-Cyr at Ste-Barbe (I had, at the preparatory school, as fellow in the study room Edouard Herriot, the future President of the Chamber of Deputies, who, very good in Arts, followed the Louis-le-Grand's course. I have not kept any relations with Herriot since Ste Barbe, but I have the memory of a pretty and very fine boy.

During St-Cyr course, in Ste-Barbe, my best friend and neighbour was Auguste de Colbert Laplace, son of the deputy of Calvados. He has remained my friend since and always, and this day, July 1942, he has again given news of him. The family affectionately received me at their mansion, 60 rue des Sts Pères in Paris, and in their Castle Mailloc (Calvados), but alas! entirely destroyed by a fire a few years ago (and not insured). This fire completely ruined my dear friend Auguste.

Let's talk about St-Cyr. I was admitted to St-Cyr in November 1920, and there I found the most affectionate welcome of all, teachers, military leaders and comrades, both elders and current classmates...

Recruits who became senior leaders later: Hamelin, Duffieux. I am still astonished at having been able to resist the so severe regime of St-Cyr, but once again, my good morale, my ardent desire to do honor to Cochinchina made me triumph over all the little physical miseries. I was fortunate to often get the grades 19 and 20 in exams and to receive congratulations from the commanding general of the school, with the report read at the end of the lunch. Ranked 114bis at the end of the year, I left in November 1892 ranking 136bis out of 450 students, meaning in the first third. I owe much to St-Cyr, who, apart from the cordial relations with all the classes of French society (represented by the pupils who, in short, belong to the elite of the youth of France), allowed me to know the descrambling of life, i.e. to be able to take care of oneself in any situation, to make one's bed, one's room, to sew, in a word able to do one's housework and without any help; later, at the Legion, as chef of meals (duties which were taken in turn by young officers), I became also a fair cook; all this to tell you, my dear children, that you must teach your little ones to do without servants, a luxury rarer and rarer. I establish as a principle to do for myself what I can do and not to impose it on a servant, and, if one has means of fortune, to consider then the employment of servants, being less favoured than you, as a means for them to profit from your fortune and your well-being, and not to regard them as inferior beings, and only good to serve you. These two years at St-Cyr are for me the best of my youth: good comrades, no jealousy, no desire, work only, that is our comfort to all.

Written by Françoise Do Huu Chan

The Tông Đốc Đỗ Hữu Phuong, by the marriage of one of his daughters with the second son of Hoàng cao Khai, was thus allied to the Vice King of Tonkin. Their descendants - a few of them - live today in Paris and France. It is also, for them, our mutual pride, that these archives have been updated: our common heritage of Indochina.

The Tông Đốc raised his twenty-four children in his palace at Cholon, renown for its beauty, the quality of life, and its receptions. The culture that bathed there, the education of the children, the exchanges of the mandarin with France and the French occupants of the colony. We ate with chopsticks, but we spoke a pure and sought-after French, served by about forty servants. Do-Huu Phuong is the second fortune of Cochinchina and offered himself, adjacent to the Palace, a zoo. His family supported the French to conquer Indochina and received compensation: tours around the world for Tông Đốc, the Legion of Honor and free education in Paris for his three sons: the elder Chan and his brothers, Tri and Suu.

DO HUU CHAN

Known as Colonel CHAN

or Grandfather of Nice

3rd child, eldest son of Tông Đốc Đỗ Hữu Phuong

The Đỗ Hữu were a great Annamese family (* Kingdom of Annam, now Vietnam.) Under the French colonization, Annam was divided into 3 parts: in the North: Tonkin, capital: Hanoi, in the centre Annam, capital: Huê and to the South, Cochinchine, capital: Saigon).

At the age of 12, Chan had to leave the Palace, Cholon, his golden childhood. It was a very long voyage and the beginning of a life of adventures and heroic moments, the heart inhabited by two homelands, two cultures, two or three languages - Chinese Mandarin - and a faithful ideal of an entire life: "to serve". The "Nobility forces" of yellow blood!

"I owe myself twice as much as another: to my country and to France," said Chan. It was in France that he died in 1955, in Nice.

First the tearing away. Raised by his boy, Chan was bathed, fed by him. Companion games and walks, daily visits to tigers, monkeys, an elephant, the zoo attached to the house. Clothes, games, toys ... languages ... as one breeds and rears: it was the boy who rocked and raised Chan. His mother, was expecting another child. She ran this princely household, its receptions, the taste and comfort of each. Chan was twelve years old ... crossing the seas, becoming an orphan ... a little pupil abandoned in Paris with its grey and cold winters. The pension, anonymity, Ste Barbe.

He ate with chopsticks, spoke little French, and wrote his diary. He was unhappy, mended his own socks, he was cold. Reserved, he did not claim anything. Felt the difference - A break.

He missed his mother.

Chan, brilliant, amusing, dignified, and courteous, will make friends over time, some until the end of his life.

He met Marthe Ancelot at school. And her family greeted my grandfather on his days off. They will become my grandfather's second family: Marthe wife Jules Gravereaux, will have

nine children. Philippe, the eldest, is the unwavering friend of my father Henry Chan, born in 1902.

* Parenthesis on Jules Gravereaux:

He was an extraordinary man. Who had his dream come true, thanks to luck.

Paris had a novelty, LE BON MARCHÉ, the first department store with 3 floors, on the left bank, at the corner of the rue de Sèvres. In front, a garden named Boucicaut, after its owner and founder. The Rue de Sèvres was populated by monasteries and religious houses, seminaries, chapels which, curiously, provided the first customers (special discounts on prices) and those from the aristocracy of the seventh district, its embassies and mansions. The Bon Marché was an awesome success.

Jules Gravereaux, Martha's husband, of whom Chan was almost a brother, became chief salesman of the fan and umbrella department at Le Bon Marché. He excelled in his suit and his hard collar. Before his death, Mr. Boucicaut who had no offspring, divided his shares of the Bon Marché between his employees, in proportion to their seniority.

Fairy tale ... Jules found himself rich, quitted his job ... fulfilled his dream: To have, to create a Rose Garden, next to Paris, at L'Häye-les-Roses! It still exists. I visited it with Perrine.

Jules went to Turkey, Persia for tea roses - He studied, hired horticulturists, nurserymen, traded, created hybrids / crosses, participated in competitions. The garden of Bagatelle and its rose garden received many gifts of roses for their collections, donated by Jules. Roses had a name, were classified. A vegetable pedigree that crosses the seas, travel, replant, overcoming storms, frosts, wars, hatreds, ignorance of the magic of roses and their longevity.

He settled his family in a mansion, Blvd des Invalides, gave sumptuous balls to marry his daughters. They also have a property in Croissy-sur-Seine with a tennis court, a luxury at the time.

The eldest son is Raymond, architect, the second Philippe, HEC, entrepreneur, are inseparable from my father. Philippe, his wife Jeanine, their four children remain 51 rue Spontini, close to 171 avenue Victor Hugo where Françoise lives. This family remained friends with my mother as well as my father. Philippe shared my father's passion with golf and bridge. They had a great time at the Saint Cloud golf course, with each other, winter in Megève, summer at the Hotel de Valescure, near Saint Raphael ... Christmas and Easter celebrations.

The Gravereaux remained our intimate friends for four generations, now, Philip almost brother of Henry, our father, is Françoise's godfather, and his son Thierry, Perrine's godson.

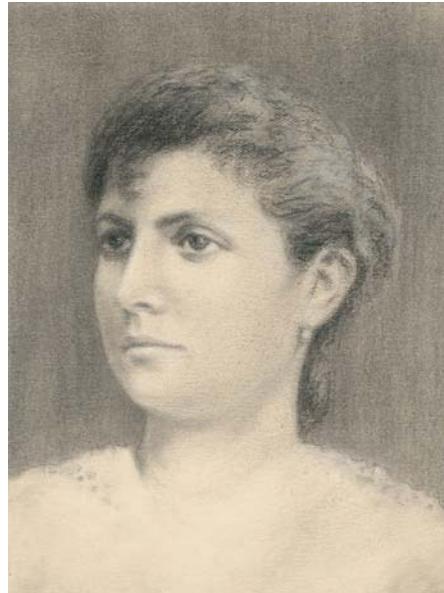
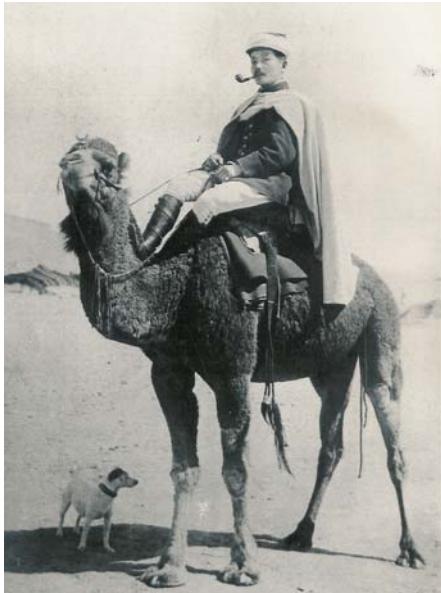
It is with the Gravereaux, in the mansion of Jules and Marthe, that our parents Henry and Louisette Rémion met at a ball. They were married at St Augustine Church in the presence of Emperor Bao Dai and his suite (in 1927, Françoise was born in 1929).

Let's close this parenthesis and go back to my grandfather. He integrated Saint-Cyr, adored this school and left as officer.

He went to Algeria, as a native lieutenant, adored by his peers and soldiers, until the end of his career in the Army.

Emilie Chabert, raised in Aups, near Brignoles in Haute Provence, is 33 years old. She must collect rents from her lands - those of her family - in Algeria. Without a chaperon, she crossed lands and seas and ... in long dress, white, big hat, gloves, she landed at the French officers' mess - colonizers - where a girl of good family, travelling alone, incredible - will be safe.

There, she met a young officer of yellow race, thin, a little smaller than she - different, charming, Buddhist, she thought ... thinking of converting him ... She married him. In fact, Chan was not a Buddhist, but his religion - the Cult of the Ancestors combined with Catholicism, practiced by his wife and children, have since become ours.



Emilie was soon disillusioned, Chan was relocated "in the bush", in his country. The crossing lasted six weeks, with two six months old twins: it was hard. On arrival, the twins were virtually confiscated. In the bush - no comfort - native officers were not entitled to furniture. Emilie became neurasthenic, she remained so for years. She saw little of her husband, had lost the sweetness of her provincial life, missed Aups, her friends. Chan was authoritarian, accustomed to command, angry when she could not accompany him. Emilie had fortune, she had a house built in the south where she received friends and frequented nobles. Henry, my father, her third son was brought up by his brothers, especially by André, they spoiled him.

Chan was appointed to Marseille, which was convenient to welcome compatriots. Then in Paris, and my father went to Lycée Henry IV.

The Philomathique des Vosges magazine asked me to write a biography of my grandfather. They published it without changing a comma.



Georges et André 9 mois

The twins André and Georges, at
nine months old



Emilie and her three sons

The DO HUU brothers, Annamites, officers of the French army

Alain Ruscio

Communication

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Was the French army, in the era of colonialism, a place of racial discrimination? Without a doubt; but either more or less racist than the other sectors of colonial society, as formerly said Georges Balandier. Because there were some exceptions. There were non-commissioned officers and officers from the Magreb, Africa and Annam (today Vietnam) that made brilliant careers – even if not in the high spheres of the hierarchy.

During the First World war, two Vietnamese, brothers, lived times of glory: Do Huu Chan, the elder brother, and Do Huu Vi, the younger, descendants of a well respected Christian and French-speaking family.

Before the First World War, Do Huu Chan was the youngest superior officer of the French army. He was promised a great future when the war began. Unfortunately, he was confronted with hostility of the general Joffre. The cause for that was unarguably the “matter of origin”, as Chanh himself has written. After only some months of brilliant behaviour on the war front, he was called back. Upset, he decided to quit the army in 1919. All his life, he felt justified resentment for this discrimination which cannot be conceived other than racist. The younger brother Do Huu Vi, the first Vietnamese aviator in history, had a heroic conduct. His plane was hit in August 1915 but he survived miraculously. Just recuperated from his serious injuries, he asked to return to the front, this time in the infantry. He died in July 1916.

These two destinies illustrate the ambiguity of the membership of indigenous people in the army in colonial times, even when they were officers.

I can not begin such a presentation without paying the necessary, well-deserved tribute to Colonel Rives, a retired officer who had and has, for a long time, been carrying out a fight of high humanist value for the respect due to the memory of all the colonised, during world conflicts, within the French army. Without his work in particular, it is quite likely that the stories of brothers Do Huu Chan, the eldest and Vi, the youngest - would have sunked in oblivion.

These brothers were the first Vietnamese, or Annamites, as they were then called, to become officers in the French army.

Can one be a native and an officer of the French army?

The vulgate of a certain historiography would like the French army to be, in the colonial era, the place of incessant racial discriminations. It is part of the truth, no more, no less, than other sectors of society in a colonial situation, as Georges Balandier used to say. No more, no less: that means there were exceptions.

During World War I, there was not only Senegalese, Moroccan or Annamite infantrymen, poor souls, illiterate peasants thrown into a war which they did not understand much. In 1917, there are 250 Maghreb officers and 6 African officers in the French army – though it is rarely found in the upper echelons of the hierarchy.

And Indochinese? Error or omission excepted, we do not know the overall figure of those who became officers. But there were several cases of officers who participated in the fighting at various levels of responsibility, One can think of Captain Pham Cong Binh, entered Saint-Cyr in 1908, wounded on the front on September 13, 1916, the future general - and Prime Minister of the ephemeral Republic of Cochinchina in 1947 - Nguyen Van Xuan, entered Polytechnique at the age of 20, in 1912, mobilized in 1914, who completed the war with the rank of captain. Or corporals Nguyen Xuan Nha, killed in an air fight on March 6, 1918, and Cao Dac Minh, etc.

But the most renowned, before and during the First World War, were the two Do Huu brothers.

Their background proves that the social question could, in some cases, overtake the racial question ... at least up to a certain stage. Chan and Vi were descendants of a very prominent family, francophile, christian, sons of Do Huu Phuong, a wealthy land owner, dignitaire, for a while mayor of Cholon, then tông đốc (prefect, governor) of Cochinchina. His home in Cholon was sumptuous, permanently open to receptions, described then by the French travellers Alfred Coussot and Henri Ruel, as a "palace (...) really wonderful", with so many rooms that were considered as museums. One of the first French naturalized, Do Huu Phuong, was soon among those close to the powerful of that time, especially Paul Doumer.

Phuong had 11 children, all of whom made bright careers. Two of them, Chan, the eldest, and Vi, turned to soldiering.

Before 1914, they were already beginning to be known. Their situation was cited during a controversy between partisans (rare) and opponents of the thesis of General Pennequin, who wanted to set up a Yellow Army, likely to support French forces in Indochina against a seemingly threatening Japan. In an article in Le Figaro which opposed this thesis, Albert de Poumourville, then famous chronicler of the matters of French Indochina, refused to see "a yellow" being brought "to command a white man" on the territory of the colony. But, he added, in metropolitan France or in other places than Indochina, why not? "An Annamite, taken young and solidly educated in French" is certainly able to become "a French officer, that is to say the best of all". "And, he continued, there are examples." He quoted the brothers, "two Annamites of pure race and unmixed blood".

The most obtuse of the colonialists, however, were fearful. A short article published in the specialized media said a lot about certain states of mind. Hearing that the eldest, Chan, had requested a transfer to Cochin China, the author of the article protested against this "risky measure" (title of the article): "we have indicated the dangers of such a measure, and while recognizing the high value of the officer who requests its application, expressed the real inconveniences it presents. Nothing is more serious in these kinds of matters than the precedents: will we create a new one? ".

A frustrated career: Do Huu Chan

Do Huu Chan, born July 14, 1872 in Cholon, entered Saint-Cyr on November 5, 1890 but, despite his protests, and while a French citizen since 1881, was admitted as a foreign student. First confrontation with a certain colonial spirit. After Saint-Cyr (136th out of 454), he was assigned to Algeria (3 stays), then to Tonkin (2 stays). He progressed quickly in the hierarchy: lieutenant in October 1892, lieutenant in October 1894, captain in 1901, battalion commander in 1906. At 34, he became the youngest senior officer of the French army, as the press

remarks "Yes, the youngest senior officer in the French army is an Annamite. It sounds like a joke. Nothing, however, is more accurate. Captain Do Huu Chan, of the 1st Foreign Regiment, has been appointed battalion commander". His impressive climb continues. He is lieutenant-colonel on March 2nd, 1913, at 41 years old. This progression was undoubtedly the cause of the setback that followed later. This setback has a name: Joseph Joffre, then Chief of Staff.

In 1913, General Maunoury, military governor of Paris, who has Chan among his valued collaborators, put him forward to follow the courses of the Centre of High Military Studies, prelude to the highest positions. Joffre's categorical rejection, with this unambiguous assessment: "Given his origin, Lieutenant-Colonel Do Huu Chan must not reach the top of the hierarchy, so it is not essential to give him the superior military instruction".

Joffre, we would recall, had made a large part of his career in the colonies (Tonkin, from 1885 to 1888, French Sudan in 1892-1893, conquest of Timbuktu in 1894 ...) - and had probably retained many colonial prejudices. He was particularly suspicious to the Annamites, a well known fact. Had he not replied in 1914 to the governor general of Indochina, Van Vollenholen, who proposed to recruit infantrymen for the front that "the Annamites do not possess the physical qualities to be used in a European war"? It was only on April 1, 1915 that the mobilization was decreed in Indochina. It should also be noted that the recruits were, at least initially, assigned to earthmoving works or auxiliary duties for health services (stretcher bearers).

In the absence of any other clue, we would consider this explanation as due to his firmness ... and his closed-mindedness.

The war began a year later. Chan commanded the 363rd Infantry Regiment on the Vosges front, from September. He was quoted as: "An active and intelligent corps leader (...), very energetic in action", responsible "of operations and helps that contributed to clear a significant part of the national territory", west of Senones.

That is when the second great trauma happened - the one he will never recover from. Colonel Bruté de Remur, his superior, had with him conflicting relationships from the start. Chan himself, in his subsequent letters, will resume the phrases of the colonel: it is necessary to march the soldiers "with sticks", Chan retorting him that he will never accept to use "the Prussian way" ... Somehow, was Bruté de Rémur on a mission from Joffre, to whom he could refuse nothing? Still, it was from Joffre's office that, on April 18, 1915, a note of extreme violence was sent to Chan. He who had always been well noted - his whole file was teeming with praiseworthy appreciations - the one who had been the youngest senior officer in France, was now blamed for his "lack of authority, firmness," to suffer "the influence his subordinates", to be too sensitive ... Four days later, on the 22nd, he was relieved and put at the disposal of the Minister, sent to General Drude, commander of the 3rd Region, in Rouen.

Do Huu Chan, then started a fight. With astonishing tenacity, without apparently fearing the wrath of a sanction, he addressed the Minister of War, in a letter dated March 14, 1916, from Rouen. The mutation of April 1915, he explained, was felt by me as a "kind of licence of professional incapacity", which was, given the climate of the time, the strict truth: an officer who, for 23 years (1892-1915), had been trained to fight, was deprived of his command after 8 months of fighting (September 1914-April 1915). He was in action in the Vosges, he found himself in Normandy to fill papers ... He did not hesitate to place the debate on the ground of

the symbol: "My compatriots would be entitled to ask for the true reason of this exclusion which could seem systematic to them". Significantly, his letter was supported by his superior (illegible signature, perhaps General Drude) with this formula: "I understand it". There was only three days between this letter and a new one, still to the Minister of War. On March 17, 1916, Chan cited for the first time Joffre's appreciation of 1913 (above mentioned). He went on: I ask for the "exact reasons" (this last word underlined by him in the text) of my eviction. The following sentence was murderous: "I have every reason to believe that the question pf origin was the only cause of my disgrace".

Just imagine this exceptional situation: a simple lieutenant-colonel, suspected of lack of zeal in the face of the enemy - in 1916! - attacked namely the all-powerful generalissimo, allied commander-in-chief, then at the peak of his power (he would be smoothly removed in December 1916). And what an attack! The "question of origin" evoked by Chan was, in other words, that of race.

There was no doubt that the death of his brother, at the front, against the enemy, July 9, 1916, had accentuated his bitterness, to say the least. How can one imagine that this man, raised in the notion of honour, would accept that his family received, almost simultaneously, the news of his eviction from the front, then that of the heroic death of the younger brother?

However, Chan would never go back to the front. On November 10, 1917, he was appointed to the rank of Colonel "on a temporary basis", which must be a very slight consolation.

The war was over. On July 2, 1919, finally, Chan asked to be removed from the controls of activities starting the coming November 15.

But his fight would not stop. His file was filled with other letters, which carried the same requirement: constitution of a commission of inquiry. On November 12, 1921, he wrote to the President of the Council, Minister of War, Georges Clemenceau; on February 12, 1929, to Colonial Minister Albert Sarraut; on September 24, 1924, to the direction of the Colonial Troops; on March 10, 1925, to the Minister of Defense, Charles Nollet. In his letter of September 1924, he dropped a strong word: "The question of race concerns only the government, and in no way the High Command; and the French government, in admitting myself to the ranks of its Army, more than 30 years ago, has certainly considered all the consequences of its decision, which should not harm anyone, neither those who took it, nor to the ones in whose favour it had been taken. He concluded - ironically? sincerely? - the country "which teaches Law and Justice in the world" can not allow that.

Chan would never get satisfaction. He would certainly receive polite answers, even cordial, to his letters, but always with the same argument: the constitution of a commission of inquiry is not necessary.

He was, however, honoured with a distinction which would have been the object of pride in other circumstances, but which must have been received with some hard feelings. Following an umpteenth letter, the head of the Colonial Troops, after having once again refuted the idea of a commission of inquiry, proposed to appoint him Commander of the Legion of Honour. A typewritten note said: It would be "likely to appease the resentment of Colonel Chan," another officer added by hand "it would be somehow a measure for native policy." This note would be accepted.

Despite his troubles, Chan would not join the legion of embittered and protestors. Living in Nice, married to a Frenchwoman, he remained, on the contrary, very attached to the Franco-Annamite collaboration. His membership, in 1924, of the Academy of Colonial Sciences, one of the main circles of reflection of the colonial Party, where few natives were accepted, acquired symbolic value. Shortly after, he took to write an open letter to the Annamites (June 2, 1926) to dissuade them from choosing the path of confrontation with the tutelary power. At that time the excitement was strong. Nguyen Ai Quoc (Ho Chi Minh) had just published his pamphlet, *The Trial of French Colonization*, which was known to some nationalist circles. The great patriot Phan Chau Trinh's funeral (March 1926) was marked by massive demonstrations. Why revolt, asked Chan, while we know that France "will sacrifice until its last soldier if his flag is threatened in Indochina"? On the other hand, he pleaded, there are in France generous souls who ask for the elevation of "our race". And, on our side, have we made the necessary efforts? "I am afraid that our recent protests and threats will wrong us (...). There are in the colony there and here in France a very large number of French and Annamites who think that it is in a spirit of cooperation and not in a spirit of division that all desirable political and social reforms must be done promptly. What reforms? Chan asked that natives be attached to the French at certain positions, Annamites sit on the Higher Council of Colonies or be integrated into the entourage of the Colonial Secretary. They "would create, in France, an atmosphere favorable to the realization of our aspirations". He concluded: "Our interest is to continue our evolution under the protection and guardianship of France, the only possible indigenous policy is that of Franco-Annamite collaboration in all fields, without ulterior motive on both sides with respect for the national dignity of both races".

His letter was poorly received by nationalist circles in Vietnam. How could this man, living in peace, on the Côte d'Azur, give advice to a suffering young generation in the country?

Do Huu Chan, would finally be removed from the army, reached by the age limit, on July 18, 1936. He died in Nice in May 1955. To our knowledge, there was no archive regarding his views on the evolution of his native country, especially during the Indochina War (1945-1954).

Đỗ Hữu Vi
11th child of Đỗ Hữu Phương



**Captain, Pilot's Certificate No. 78, War Cross, Commander
of the Legion of Honour
1883 – 1916**

ĐỖ HỮU VỊ - the first Vietnamese pilot



Đỗ Hữu Vị, 1st Vietnamese pilot



Stamp with Đỗ Hữu Vị's effigy

From the first decades of the twentieth century, Vietnam already had its pilot recognized by the aviation history, it was "Đỗ Hữu Vị." "He was Vietnamese from Saigon, he was a soldier in France and became an officer of the 'Air Force during the First World War' said historian Nguyễn Đình Đầu ...

On the occasion of the centenary of the First World War, French television had published rare photos and documents about Vietnamese soldiers participating in the battlefields.

The image of Đỗ Hữu Vị with a mustache appeared several times, in the photographs with French officers at the air training school and those where he was in a plane or mounted on horseback. Postcards had also printed images with his name.

Đỗ Hữu Vị was the fifth son of 11 children of Đỗ Hữu Phuong, the most famous and rich governor of the South in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Born in 1881, Mr. Vị and his brothers were deeply influenced by their father's French culture and attended the French School of Saigon. Subsequently, the brothers continued their studies at the Lycée Janson de Sailly, in Paris. Like their father, they quickly became "more French" than the French. Mr. Vị left this school in October 1904, and enrolled at the Military Academy of Saint-Cyr - an extremely prestigious training school for the officers of France, from which many French generals, including the general Leclerc, commander-in-chief of the French expeditionary army in Indochina. After two years in Saint-Cyr, in 1906, Đỗ Hữu Vị obtained his diploma of second lieutenant in the foreign legion, he fought on the battlefields of Oujda in Morocco, Casablanca, Algeria ... After a long period of combats, in the late 1910s, Vị enrolled in the military flying school and became one of the pioneers of military aviation in Morocco - to this day, a street in Casablanca still bears his name.



Đỗ Hữu Vị piloted a Caudron G.3, French single-engine biplane, during World War I

It was the time when world aviation was at the dawn of its development, especially the air force, and his choice had aroused the admiration of many people.

In November 1911, he obtained his pilot's license from the Aéroclub de France and passed to the rank of lieutenant. In February 1920, Nam Phong Tạp Chí had published an article according to which Đỗ Hữu Vị was the first Vietnamese pilot to fly around France.

But in 1914, he returned to Vietnam and became one of the first Vietnamese to learn to drive a seaplane on the Mekong, powered by an airplane propeller engine built by Charles de Lambert.

This was the moment when world aeronautical science had just appeared in Vietnam. Đỗ Hữu Vị gave demonstrations in the air with foreign pilots in Saigon and Hanoi. He also joined the first aviation club founded by the French in Indochina.

However, Đỗ Hữu Vị did not stay long in his country. In 1914, the Great World War broke out violently. He rushed to France with his brother Đỗ Hữu Chân to re-join the Air Force unit on the battlefield. He volunteered to participate in many dangerous battles and was appointed deputy squadron commander of a bomber squadron.



The famous aviator son of Đỗ Hữu Phuong, Đỗ Hữu Vị (on the right), photographed in France at the beginning of 1915

In 1915, the First World War was at its peak, the French army suffered heavy losses against the Germans. It was also during this year that Đỗ Hữu Vị crashed his plane after a battle, because of a big storm. The fighter was seriously injured, in a coma for nine days with his arm, jaw and skull base fractured, but once again he escaped death ...

Đỗ Hữu Vị's courage earned the respect of the French when he refused to withdraw and volunteered to remain in the unit even if he could no longer fly. Promoted to the rank of captain, he undertook ground support for air combat. He then joined the 1st Corps Legionnaire and was assigned to the command of the 7th company with about 300 soldiers on the front of the Somme, in the north of France.

In an assault on the enemy, he was hit by many German bullets and was mortally wounded on the battlefield in July 1916. His French comrades buried the Vietnamese soldier Đỗ Hữu Vị, with this epitaph: "Killed in the line of duty, for his country Annam, for his homeland, France", in the field of the village of Dampierre, on the banks of the Somme.

Four years later, his brother Đỗ Hữu Chân, also an officer of the French Army, brought him back to their country aboard a transoceanic boat. Tống đốc Phuong was already dead but the family members had organized for Đỗ Hữu Vị, the largest burial of Saigon at that time.

The general government and the French army, to mark their gratitude, also took care of the funeral of the first officer of the Vietnamese Air Force. The respect of the French government for the soldier who fought and courageously sacrificed his life for France resulted in the printing of postcards of Indochina and stamps bearing his effigy.

In the cities of Casablanca, Morocco and the village of Lafaux, in Picardy, France, roads were named "Đỗ Hữu Vị". In Vietnam, during the French colonial era, many roads and schools of big cities like Saigon, Hanoi and Danang were named in his honour.