

INFORMATION

“Practices related to the Vietnamese belief in the Mother Goddesses of Three Realms” - the representative intangible cultural heritage of humanity

Rooted in the belief in goddess, Vietnamese belief in the Mother Goddesses of Three Realms (a mode of worship of mother metamorphosed into heaven, water, and mountains and forests) has a special value due to fact that this heritage is associated with spiritual life and cultural customs of people, respected by community and continuously passed from generations long before.

Vietnamese belief in the Mother Goddesses of Three Realms is closely connected with many Vietnamese woman images who are historical or historicized personalities such as Holy Mother Liễu Hạnh, Country Mother Âu Cơ, Royal Mother (this by legend was the mother of Thánh Gióng), and Holy Mountain Mother... The Mother Goddesses in the temples of three realms have the origin not only in Kinh people but also in other minorities of Vietnam like Mường, Tày, Nùng, Dao..., expressing the cultural exchanges, the equal relation and the close connection between the peoples of Vietnam. Since 16th century, the practice of this belief became a belief culture activity impacting deeply and widely on social life and consciousness of people.

Vietnamese belief in the Mother Goddesses of Three Realms is the local religious mixture of the Vietnamese with some imported religious elements from Taoism and Buddhism. It was distributed in

various regions of country like the North-West, North-East, Tonkin Delta, North of Central Region, and Ho Chi Minh City, among which Nam Định province is considered as the centre with nearly 400 places of worshipping the Mother Goddesses. The basic practices of Vietnamese belief in the Mother Goddesses of Three Realms consist of the worship, trance, trance singing (hát văn), and festivities, among which Festivities of Phủ Dầy (in Nam Định) on 3rd March by lunar calendar (the death date of Holy Mother Liễu Hạnh) is the most representative.

With the artistic combination of folk cultural elements (clothes, music, trance singing and dancing, and festivities), practices of belief in the Mother Goddesses of Three Realms are like a “living museum” preserving the history and cultural identity of Vietnamese people. By these practices, Vietnamese people express their conception of history, culture, role of gender and ethnic identity. The power and significance of the belief in Mother Goddesses of Three Realms are just the satisfaction of the daily life needs of people: praying for moneys, for gifts and for health.

In December 2016, *practices of belief in the Mother Goddesses of Three Realms* has been honoured by UNESCO as the representative intangible cultural heritage of humanity, being the 11th humanity intangible cultural heritage of Vietnam.

MINH MINH

The article about Library of Social Sciences under Institute of Social Sciences Information on the website of Asian Studies Library under University of Tokyo^(*)

In recent years, the library cooperation between Institute of Social Sciences Information and Japanese universities and research bodies were more and more given importance. Since 2010, the two sides have made many missions of professional exchanges, studying activity patterns, information resources and development orientation...

By 2013, Institute of Social Sciences Information received the missions of exchanges and study by various Japanese universities such as: University of Tokyo, University of Kokugakuin, University of Waseda, University of Kyoto... Since the early 2015 up to now, Institute of Social Sciences Information has also sent several missions to study the activity model of great libraries of Japan, among which there was a person who made a short time study in Centre for South-East Asian Studies under University of Kyoto. The missions of Institute of Social Sciences Information made contacts and exchanges with the specialists in library and the scholars of Japanese Congress Library, of Library of University of Tokyo, and of Library of University of Kyoto... By early 2016, the leadership of Institute of Social Sciences Information made a mission to great universities and libraries of Japan to promote the cooperation relation. One of the interests of Japanese scholars is the cooperation in preservation of old document fonds being stored and served in Library of Social Sciences under

Institute of Social Sciences Information, and sharing the information about Vietnamese and South-East Asian history and culture.

Institute of Social Sciences Information has received the aid from the Library of Asian Studies (belonging to Universal Library under University of Tokyo) for presentation of great valuable documents of Library of Social Sciences under Institute of Social Sciences Information to Japanese readers and researchers. One of these actions is the article "On the Library of Social Sciences" on the website of Library of Asian Studies, dated 20th January 2017.

Three parts of the article generalized the history of foundation and development stages of Library of Social Sciences, showing that now the Library of Social Sciences is possessing rich information resources of 1 million documents, among which there are 500 thousand books, more than 2,000 newspapers and journals in Vietnamese and foreign language; 24 document fonds; and intrinsic documents valuable for training and scientific studies;... Beside this, the article also presented the useful instructions for readers when they have the need for information exploitation in Library of Social Sciences, such as the application for library card, the working timetable of the Library, the instruction on traffic, seeking the online documents...

This is a noteworthy result of the effort in cooperation and exchanges of study of library activities between Institute of Social Sciences Information and Library of Asian Studies. The fact that Japanese specialists chose to present the Library of Social Sciences on the website of Library of Asian Studies under the famous University

(*) <http://u-parl.lib.u-tokyo.ac.jp/archives/japanese/world-library34>

of Tokyo, after their careful and expert study and evaluation, is a confirmation of value and status of Library of Social Sciences in the network of important and great libraries in Japan and the world. This fact proves not only the increasing interest

of Japanese scholars in the Library of Social Sciences, but also the increasing attraction of the Library image on international scope.

NGUYỄN VĂN THỊNH

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Chapter 3 analyses the *features of national identity* of Vietnamese culture based on cultural characteristics (material culture, spiritual culture, community culture,...), and presents the culture of various nationalities in Vietnam from the view of cultural space to demonstrate the diversity and unity of Vietnamese culture.

Chapter 4 discusses *some problems of modern culture* in the epoch of globalization such as: cultural dialogue, culture and sustainable development.

TV.

DR. CAO XUÂN LONG (2016), **Philosophical Thoughts of Đặng Huy Trứ**, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 179 pages.

In the nineteenth century and early twentieth century, the history of Vietnam had tremendous upheavals. The most pressing issue at the time was to find a way to help the nation escape the threat of foreign invader powers. The Vietnamese patriots were concerned to find many different ways. In terms of ideology, the ways to save the country according to nationalist tendencies, in which Đặng Huy Trứ ideology was a typical representative, although were not enough to become a flag of uprising, but they raised some new problems with real meanings.

Đặng Huy Trứ is the pioneer flag in the Duy Tân movement for national liberation, is "one of the firsts who sowed the seeds of civilizing in Vietnam". His philosophical thoughts were quite rich, distinct and relatively systematic in many aspects: from the economy, military, human education, to the human essence, creed and religion... The philosophical thoughts of Đặng Huy Trứ are not only the reflection of socio-historical conditions of contemporary Vietnam, but they also rooted in the cultural traditions of Vietnamese nation and acquired the ideas and innovatory achievements of the countries in the world, in order to be applied in historical social conditions of Vietnam at that time.

In a long time, for many reasons, Đặng Huy Trứ's thoughts were almost forgotten, but despite this, their values were not lost.

These main contents are clarified in the book with two main chapters: Chapter 1 - The conditions, the premise and the process of formation and development of Đặng Huy Trứ's philosophical thoughts; Chapter 2 - Main contents, characteristics, values and limitations in the philosophical thoughts of Đặng Huy Trứ.

LÊ HỮU