

RESIDUAL CHINESE LOANS IN VIETNAMESE

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This paper is an exploration of Vietnamese words that—while apparently derived from Chinese—stand apart from the two major groups of Chinese loans.

The great bulk of Chinese-derived vocabulary in Vietnamese is in the form of Sino-Vietnamese. The entire lexicon of classical Chinese is in principle on loan to Vietnamese in the Sino-Vietnamese pronunciation—which seems to descend from mid-Tang or later standard imperial usage. From this store comes particularly most scientific or technical vocabulary.

It is the contention of E. G. Pulleyblank that most other Vietnamese words that seem to be of Chinese origin were borrowed from an earlier version of official Chinese which he calls Early Middle Chinese. This he takes to be the standard codified in the *Qièyùn* (Sino-Vietnamese: *Thiệt-vận*) of A.D. 601. Some variant of EEMC would have been the administrative language of Vietnam from approximately A.D. 265 to perhaps 846. A great deal of what looks to be Chinese in the Southern Language can be shown to have pretty consistent correspondences to the *Qièyùn* rhymes.

Words that do not neatly fit either of these patterns are the focus of this survey. They have been sought principally in Paul Schneider's *Dictionnaire historique des ideogrammes vietnamiens*. He labels all entries that he took to be words from Chinese sources.