

The Problem of Authorial Attribution  
A Study of the Nôm Poems of Hà Tiên  
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**Abstract**

*In the eighteenth century, Mạc Thiên Tứ, a second-generation Ming -loyalist, composed a well-known suite of ten landscape poems about the scenic port of Hà Tiên, situated on the Mekong delta; these verses were written in the Chinese script. In the twentieth century, landscape poems bearing the exact same titles, but written in the Vietnamese vernacular script, chữ Nôm, were introduced to the public. To date, the consensus among scholars is that Mạc Thiên Tứ was the author of both the classical and the vernacular poems. Challenging this dominant interpretation, this article delves more deeply into the question of the authorship of the vernacular poems and argues that a closer analysis of the poems reveals that they were not actually composed by Mạc Thiên Tứ. Examining the complex filiation of these poems, it explores the nationalist appropriations of them and advances a surprising alternative genealogy for them.*

**Keywords:** Hà Tiên; Mạc Thiên Tứ; landscape poetry; authorship; vernacular literature; Nôm poetry; *song-thất lục-bát*; regulated verse.