

# A Phrasebook of Vietnamese Walls

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## Romanized Vietnamese (Quốc Ngữ)

Wall posters are generally about:

- loan services (yellow captions),
- house maintenance (green captions),
- construction services (blue captions),
- real estate services (red captions).

**Cho vay trả góp:** loan, repay by instalments

**Sửa nhà:** house repair

**A Lô là có tiền:** You phone and get money!

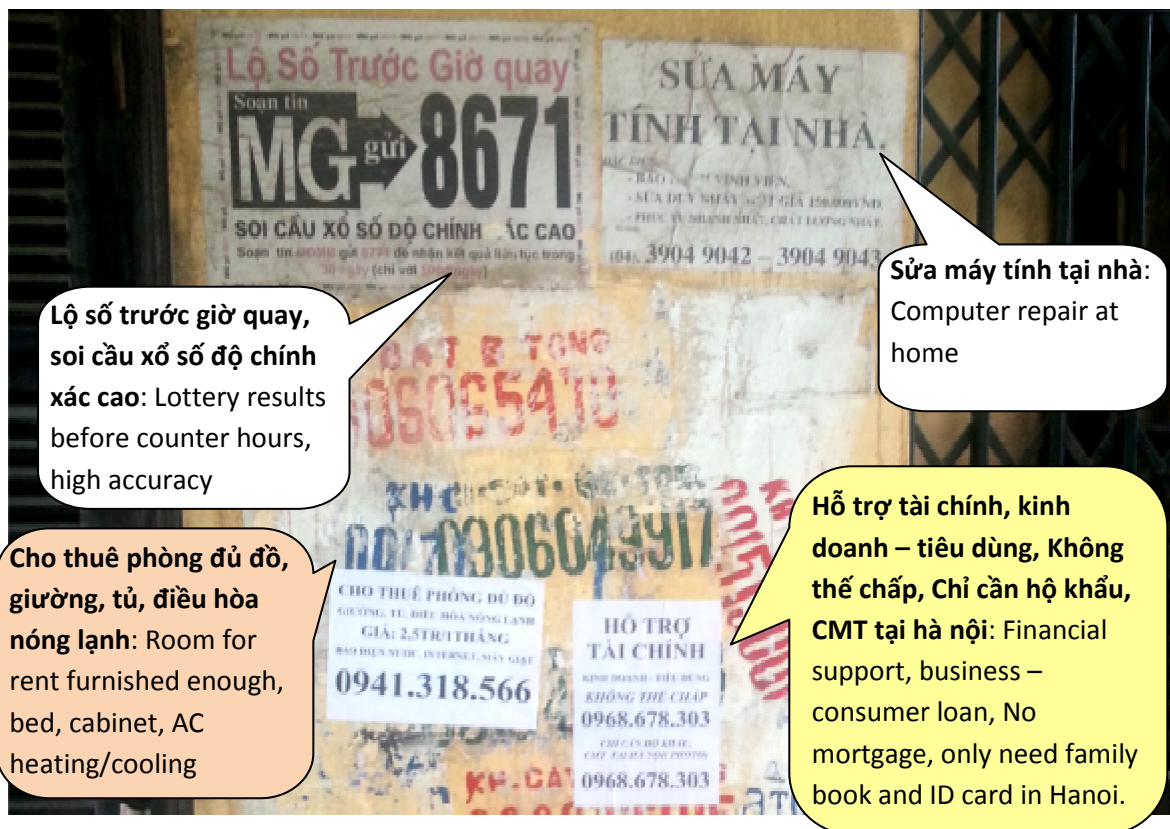
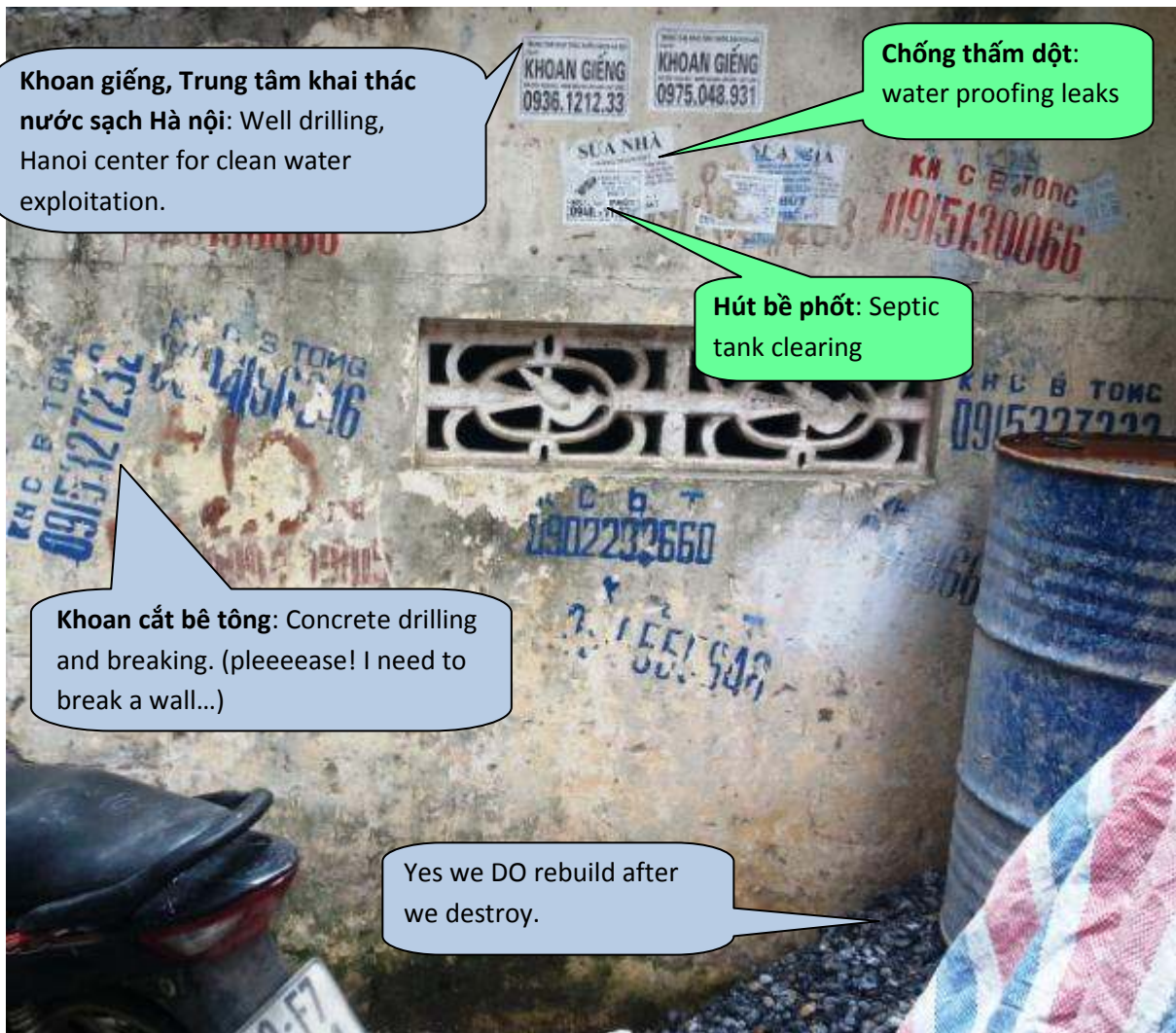
**Hỗ trợ tài chính:** financial support

**Cho vay:** loan

**Khoan cắt bê tông:** Concrete drilling and breaking. (you've got a house to destroy? Here's my number!

Blackboard to publish information to the neighbourhood





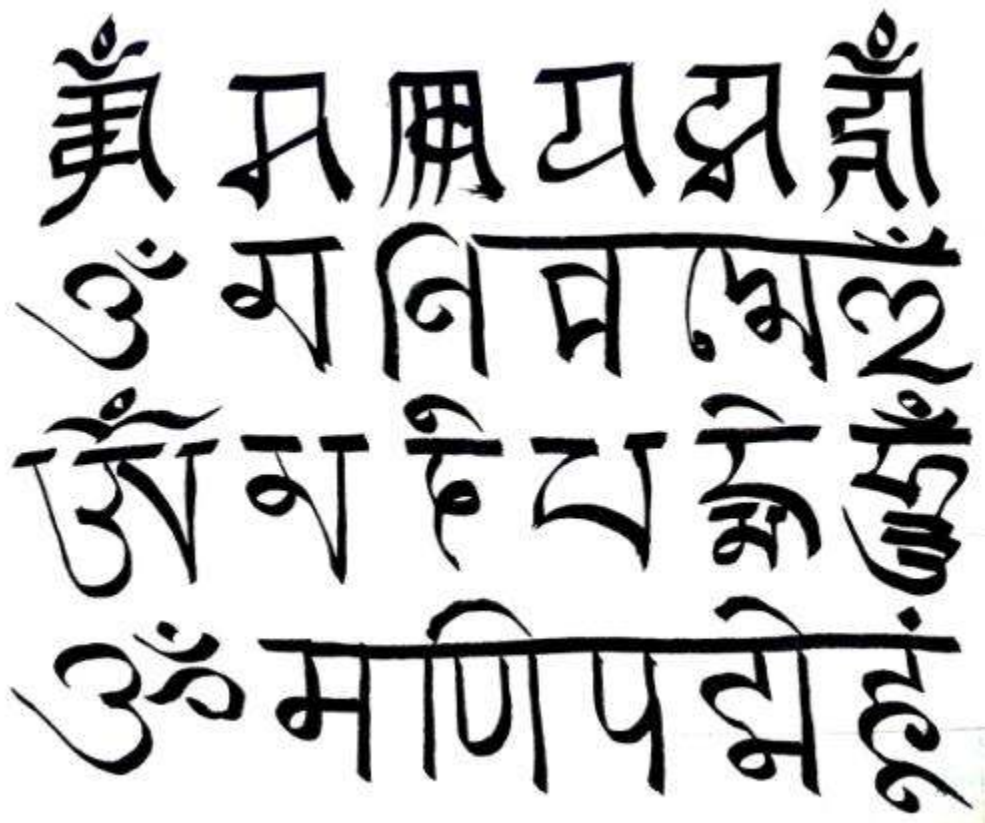
## Vietnamese Ranjana

This script is one of the most puzzling in Vietnam. To be honest, I don't know its exact name, but I can clearly compare it to the Nepalese Ranjana, which in turns comes from the Indian script Devanagari .

It seems to be used only for mantras, each glyph representing a syllable.



Below is a comparison of the scripts with the mantra  
“Om ma-ṇi pa-dme hum” between, from top down: “Vietnamese  
Ranjana”, Bengali, Tibetan, and Devanagari:



Below is a list of various glyphs and their reading.


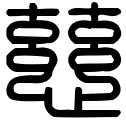




| Glyphs   | Reading and Nepalese Ranjana   |
|--|--|
|    | om<br>    |
|     | ma<br>    |
|   | ni<br>  |
|   | pa<br>  |
|   | dme<br> |
|  | hum<br> |

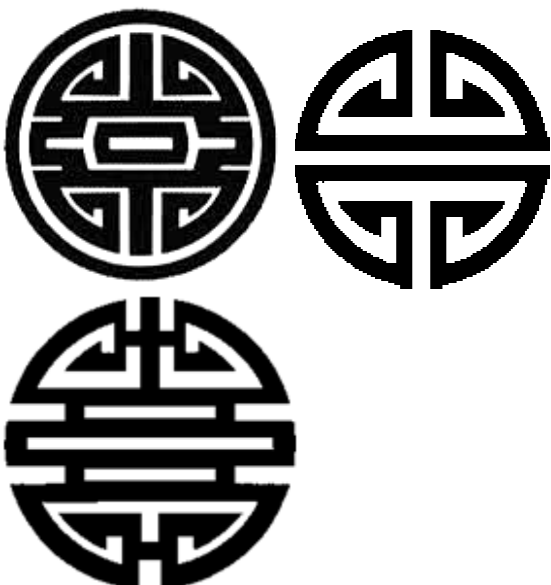
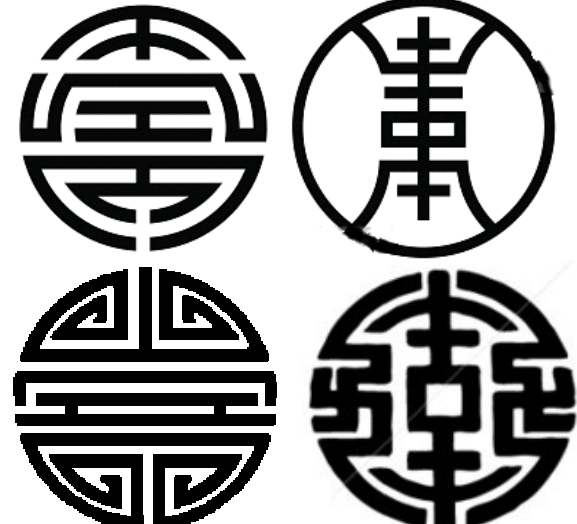

| Glyphs  | Reading and Nepalese Ranjana  |
|---|---|
|    | hu<br>     |
|    | ah<br>     |
|   | ?   |
|  | di?<br>  |
|  | nin?<br> |
|  | pam<br>  |

## Chinese Characters

It would take countless books to discuss the inscriptions in the pagoda, the vast majority of which is classical Chinese. Vietnamese Chữ Nôm is very rare.

Let's focus here on a few characters, heavily stylized with some aspects of seal script.

| Glyphs  | Explanation   |
|---|---|
|   |  <p>慈 as in 慈悲, compassion</p>   |
|  |  <p>悲 as in 慈悲, compassion</p> |
|  |  <p>古, ancient</p>             |

| Glyphs  | Explanation                  |
|---|------------------------------|
|    | <p>幸</p> <p>幸, happiness</p> |
|   | <p>壽</p> <p>壽, longevity</p> |
|  | <p>祿</p> <p>祿, riches</p>    |