

Who are the members of Tự Lực Văn Đoàn?

A Contribution to Solve the “Tự Lực Văn Đoàn Myth”

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Without any doubt the literary circle Tự Lực Văn Đoàn was an important association in the process of social reforms during the fourth decade of the 20th century. But until today many questions around Tự Lực Văn Đoàn have not yet been answered. The important question, for instance, how many members this literary circle had, is still a mystery, and there are many different opinions about it. This goes as far as in the field of literary history the talk of a so called “Tự Lực Văn Đoàn myth” was born. In this paper, I want to present different sources which have not yet been published inside or outside of Vietnam. I will use different new methodological approaches or develop methods further which partly have already been employed by different researchers, but were up to the present not yet used in a coordinated way. The goal is to disentangle each knot of this problem in order to fully discover the facts shrouded in a mystery. Finally I will come to the conclusion that this literary group had, until February 3, 1940, only seven members: Nhất Linh, Khái Hưng, Hoàng Đạo, Thế Lữ, Thạch Lam, Tú Mỡ and Xuân Diệu.