

CHARACTERISTICS OF HÁT XẨM IN *NAM PHONG* MAGAZINE

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Hát Xẩm was a column in *Nam Phong* magazine, which published 29 Xẩm songs by different authors over a 17 year period. Discussions of Hát Xẩm appeared in the “Văn Uyển,” (literature) section, one of the fixed segments of the *Nam Phong* magazine, along with old poetry, prose, phú (Chinese rhymed prose), văn tế (funeral oration), từ (word), phong dao (proverb), and hát ả đào (ca trù).

This essay provides research into all 29 songs which appeared in the magazine from 1917 to 1934 and uses statistical studies, synthesis, analysis, and nghệ thuật học (artistic research) methods to uncover the characteristics and roles of these Xẩm songs. The essay analyzes the content and literary linguistic forms of Xẩm song that reflect not only everyday life and bad habits in the community but also changes in society generally. Hopefully, this article will contribute to the movement of promoting Hát Xẩm, formerly only associated with visually impaired artists and transforming it into a unique intellectual performing art.

Keywords: characteristics, Hát Xẩm, *Nam Phong* magazine.