1. Execution of MEP Bishop Pierre Borie (1808-1838) in Don-hoi (Tonkin), September 24, 1838. This colour painting is shown in the Martyr Room at the MEP Seminary in Paris, and is exemplary of the 19th century movement for the emulation of young recruits.
2. The Pavie Mission team in Xieng-Hung, c1891. The picture includes Auguste Pavie himself in the center under the flag, his protégé Pierre Lefèvre-Pontalis in a white shirt on the right, and White Thai leader Deo-van-tri, second left from Pavie. Source: Lefèvre-Pontalis, 1902.

4. Missionaries of the West Tonkin vicariate at their annual retreat. Undated, c.1885. 1- Paul-Marie Ramond (1855-1944), who will become the first Vicar Apostolic of Upper Tonkin in 1895; 2- Pierre Gendreau (1850-1935), who will take over the West Tonkin vicariate at the death of Bishop Puginier in 1892; and 3- Léon Girod. Source: MEP Archives.

6. 1895 – P.-M. Ramond photographed in Hanoi when he was ordained Évêque de Linoë in partibus, Vicar Apostolic of Upper Tonkin from 1895 to his resignation in 1938. Source: MEP Archives.
7. “État des Missions du Tonkin Occidental et du Haut-Tonkin depuis le 15 juin 1894 jusqu’au 15 juin 1895” – Statistics on the state of the West and Upper Tonkin vicariates, dated October 27, 1895. These two vicariates are listed here as having respectively 2 Bishops for 43 missionaries, and 1 Bishop for 12 missionaries. This list was part of the first annual *comptes-rendus* from the newly established Upper Tonkin.

Source: MEP Archives.
9. Paul-Marie Ramond (1881), Léon Girod (1879), Antoine Bourlet (1898), Alfred Liétard (1896), and François-Marie Savina (1901) each photographed in Paris just prior to their departure to Asia. Source: MEP Archives.
10. Father Aloys Schotter (1857-1924), top centre in the back row, smoking a long pipe, in his boys’ school of Lanlong, western Guizhou. This picture was taken the year of his death. Fung Yut Hin, photographer. Source: MEP archives.


16. First page of an article on the Lolo of Yunnan by Paul Vial in *Les Missions Catholiques*, 21 September, 1888. The picture is also from China but is not connected with the article.
17. Peu-méo (Hmong) girls in upland Tonkin in the late 1910s, from Maurice Abadie’s *Les races du Haut Tonkin de Phong Tho à Lang-Son*, 1924. Photographer unknown.
The 1901 ship. Representative group photograph taken in the gardens of the MEP Seminary in Paris, with the 45 recruits (a very successful year) about to board a ship to Asia. In circle is François-Marie Savina (1876-1941), the future author of *Histoire des Miao* (1924). Source: MEP Archives.

21. 1920 – F.-M. Savina at age 44 in Xieng-Khouang (Tranninh), northeast Laos, during the two years he was detached to the colonial troops sent to tame a Méo rebellion. Savina stands with his Nung personal assistant (centre) and a Miao leader (left). Source: Savina 1924.
22. The missionaries of Upper Tonkin meeting in Hung Hoa on June 30, 1924, for their yearly retreat. 1- Bishop Ramond; 2- Léon Girod (who fell ill the night this picture was taken and died 9 days later); 3- F.-M. Savina (age 48) the same year he published *Histoire des Miao*; 4- G. Vandaële, who would succeed Ramond in 1938 as Vicar Apostolic of Upper Tonkin.

23. F.-M. Savina (top left), at age 58, with colleagues in Hong Kong, 1934 (fragment). Just back from a year in France, Savina was starting a 5 year stay in Hong Kong to put together his *Guide linguistique de l’Indochine française* (1939). Source: MEP Archives.

24. 1938 – F.M. Savina (circled) still at the MEP house in Hong Kong writing his multilingual dictionary. Source: MEP Archives.
25. North face of the MEP St-Joseph Minor Seminary in Ha-thach, Upper Tonkin vicariate. The seminary was destroyed, along with the buildings of the vicariate’s see in Hung Hoa, during the First Indochina War (1945-1954). Undated. Source: MEP Archives.
Map 1 – General area of interest
Map 2 – Principal locations today
Map 3 – Northern Vietnam – Provinces and topography, 2006

Adapted from De Koninck 2005 by F. Fortin-Deschênes & J. Michaud

1 Ha Noi
2 Vinh Phuc
3 Ha Tay
4 Hung Yen
5 Bac Ninh
6 Hai Duong
7 Hai Phong
8 Thai Binh
9 Ha Nam
10 Nam Dinh
11 Ninh Binh

ALTITUDE (meters)
- 2000 and up
- 1000
- 500
- 200
- 0

International border
Provincial border

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Map 4 – Tonkin: Military Territories (1903) and Vicariates (1896)
Map 5 – Mission du Tong-King occidental (fragment) by Adrien Launay, 1889
Map 6 – Carte schématique pour l'histoire des Miao, F.-M. Savina, 1924