**H6600** HON VONG PHU (FRANCE/VIETNAM, 1983)

(Other titles: Dust of empire; Poussiere d’empire)

**Credits:** director, Lam Le; writer, Henry Colomer, Lam Le.

**Cast:** Dominique Sanda, Jean-Francois Stevenin, Thang Long.

**Summary:** War film set in Vietnam in 1954 after the fall of Dien Bien Phu and Paris and Vietnam thirty years later. The title refers to several empires that have collapsed in Vietnam, but its literal translation is ‘Waiting Stone,’ a meteoric formation in the mountains of Thanh-Hoa. It has a myth attached to it, marking both the separation point of lovers and friends and the point to which they must one day return, dead or alive. The film is an amalgam of several stories including that of a French missionary nun escorted by an Army sergeant (both are eventually killed by the Viet Minh) and that of a small boy carrying a poem written on his kite from a wounded Viet Minh soldier to his wife at the Villa des Roses in Saigon. The woman takes ship for France. The poem/kite, folded into a fan, travels to Paris where it turns up thirty years later at a Vietnamese reunion, strikes fear and longing in those who read it, and is finally laid to rest in a hole in the Waiting Stone by the daughter of the woman from the Villa des Roses.

Dauphin, Laurent. “Poussiere d’empire” Vietnam war feature filmography (1992 draft) [GB] (p. 306-7) and Vietnam war films [GB] (Entry 462)