Angkor Wat

In 1941, along with other French colonies, Indochina issued stamps with the likeness of Marshall Petain inserted in the upper right-hand corner, a format reminiscent of British Empire stamps. The central portion of the design featured the ruins of the temple at Angkor Wat.





In 1944, stamps were overprinted to benefit colonial relief efforts.





Following World War II, remaining stocks of the Angkor Wat stamps were locally overprinted with the letters "RF" (Republique Française) obliterating the face of Petain.





Angkor Wat Design

The design of the stamp was based on Angkor Wat viewed from below.





TOURISM LABELS







Angkor Wat Essay 10 cents

An essay in the color of the 10 cent denomination was printed on cardstock, but lacked the denomination.



Angkor Wat Essay 25 cents

An essay lacking any value was printed in the eventual color of the 25 cent value.



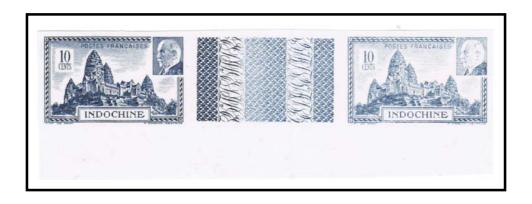
Angkor Wat Proof 10 cents

The 10 cent value was imprinted on thick paper to serve as a proof of the final design.



Angkor Wat Color Trials







Angkor Wat Color Trial

A blue color trial of the 10 cent value was pasted to cardstock embossed at the lower left with a logo that reads "INSTITUTE DE GRAVURE E. D'I. D. P. V. PARIS."





Angkor Wat Shades

While not as prominent as many of the wartime stamps printed in Hanoi, the Paris-printed stamps do exhibit color variations.

















Angkor Wat Colonial Relief Overprints Varieties

SHADES









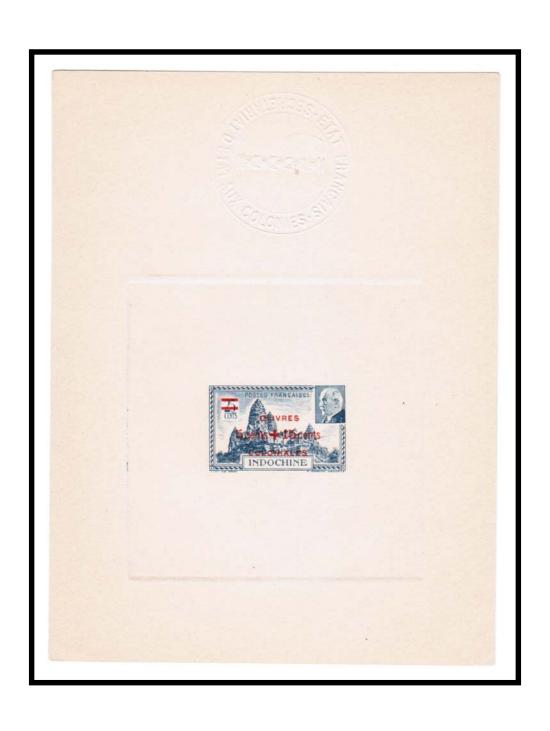
SHIFTED OVERPRINTS





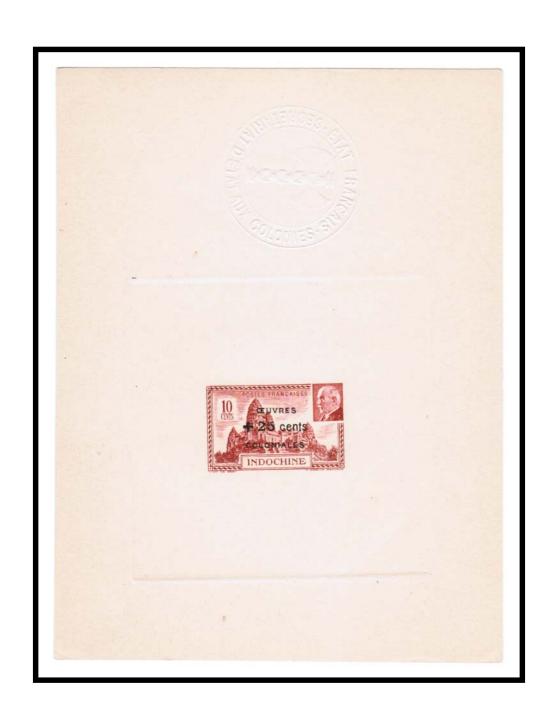
Angkor Wat ŒUVRES COLONIALES Overprint Proof 5 + 15 cents

Printed on cardstock, the 25-cent value was revalued to 5 + 15 cents with red ink.



Angkor Wat ŒUVRES COLONIALES Overprint Proof 10 + 25 cents

A proof of the revalued stamp shows the "ŒUVRES COLONIALES + 25 cents" in black. The card is impressed with the seal of "SECRETARIAT D'ETATAUX COLONIES."



Kouang Tcheou Wan Angkor Wat ŒUVRES COLONIALES Overprint Proof 5 + 15 cents

Both the "KOUANG TCHEOU" and "ŒUVRES COLONIALES 5 cents + 15 cents" were applied in red to the revalued 25-cent value.



Kouang Tcheou Wan Angkor Wat ŒUVRES COLONIALES Overprint Proof 10 + 25 cents

First overprinted in blue "KOUANG TCHEOU," this essay shows the "ŒUVRES COLONIALES + 25 cents" in black.



Angkor Wat RF Overprints Early Usage

This cover had one example of each overprinted stamp affixed to it. The stamps were canceled on 16 July 1946, a day after the reported first day of issue.



POSTAL MARKINGS SAIGON-PRINCIPAL 16-7 46

Angkor Wat RF Overprints Use of 10 cents

A pair of the low value Angkor Wat Overprints paid the postage for bank correspondence. The 20-cent rate was in effect for only a half a year until the end of 1946.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 4-10 46

Angkor Wat RF Overprints Use of 10 cents

After World War II, air links to neighboring countries were gradually reestablished. Here four overprinted stamps paid for a letter traveling on the first flight to reopen Air France's Saigon-to-Bangkok route.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 9-6 47
flight cachet
REVERSE
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 10-6 47

Angkor Wat RF Overprints Usage

A registered cover with multiple copies of the Angkor Wat stamps was postmarked five days after the fist day of issue on 15 July 1946.



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 20-7 46
registration label

REVERSE

"28" in rectangle

Angkor Wat RF Overprints Usage

A combination of overprinted commemorative stamps paid for airmail service from Saigon to France in October 1946. Postage was determined as follows:

letter rate to France	0.20 piasters
airmail surcharge (second step)	1.30 piasters
total	1.50 piasters



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 12-10 46