

WHOLE NO. 159

## Native Scenes 8 cent Lake-Brown Postal Card Ron Bentley

The Higgins \& Gage postal stationery catalog only lists the 1928 printing of the 8 cents Native Scenes postal card depicting the Bay of Along indicium in olive-green. The card was printed again during World War II in a "lake-brown" shade with subtle design changes such as a larger format "8." The latter card is listed as CP24 in the Association des Collectionneurs d'Entiers Postaux (ACEP) catalog. ${ }^{1}$

This example of the postal card had additional postage added for airmail service to France. Posted at Hanoi on 27 September 1941, the mailing failed to reach its destination. A handwritten "Voie Dakar" indicated the wartime routing through Africa to reach France. The card was handstamped "Return to sender. Service suspended." $\infty$


[^0]THE INDO-CHINA PHILATELIST

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Sample copies of the Journal are $\$ 3.00$ including postage. Members may obtain back copies of the Journal at the price of $\$ 3.00$ each, or $\$ 12.00$ per year set including postage. Complete sets of all issues are also available to members; price upon request.

All communication about membership, subscriptions and services of the Society should be sent to the Executive Secretary. Membership is US $\$ 15.00$ per year for residents of the United States, Canada and Mexico, and US\$20.00 per year for other countries. Membership includes a subscription to the Journal and other services of the Society. All contributions to, and questions concerning the content or policy of, the journal should be sent to the Editor. Submission of articles and information is encouraged as a means to share with the membership the many facets of collecting this fascinating area.

Our web site, located at www.sicp-online.org is a convenient way to access the latest information about the society's activities. $\infty$

## Editor/ Executive Secretary's Report

Elsewhere in this issue is a report on the June 2003 meeting at NAPEX. Kudos to Jack Dykhouse for coordinating all the arrangements. The officers are deliberating where to hold the next meeting. If you have a preference, let Jack or one of the other officers know your wishes.

Thanks to Joe Millington, Alain Hurpet, Lu Pham and Matthew Kahane for volunteering to help with translations from French to English. With their assistance a broader array of articles will appear in these pages.

Remember that each member can insert two free classified advertisements in the $I C P$ during the year. Use advertising space here to fill in those holes in your collection.

Along with this issue of The Indo-China Philatelist, you are receiving the 2003 membership roster. If you detect errors in the listing, please notify me so that I can correct the society's records. Hopefully, the roster will foster communications among the members. A number of members declined being listed.

New members to our society are:
771 Cornelius Betten
21 Landmark Crescent
Hamilton, OH 45013
Hans H. Weber
P.O. Box 2680

Riverside, CA 92516-2680

773 Laurence Gibson
775 Passaic Avenue
West Caldwell, NJ 07006
Cary Cochran
P.O. Box 163

Locust, NC 28097

776 J. Michael Hosford
\#10
10 Siverwood Circle
Annapolis, MD 21403
David Wrigley
The Old Presbytery
Castletowndere, Cork
Ireland
James T. Inman
6734 Cardinal Woods Court
Lorton, VA 22079-1354
496 Linden Lane
Lino Lakes, MN 55014-5474
ren
cover dealer
North, South and Unified Vietnam
covers and revenues
dealer

Vietnam War
mint Laos
deal
,

Cambodia, Laos, Republic of Vietnam
Lorton, VA 22079-1354

## Minutes of Annual Meeting <br> Jack Dykhouse

Date and Location: Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m., 7 June 2003 by President Richard K. Aspnes at the McLean Hilton Hotel in Virginia in connection with NAPEX.

Officers Present: Richard K. Aspnes - President, Jack Dykhouse - Vice President, John Carroll Director, Ron Bentley - Editor/Executive Secretary, Joe Cartafalsa - Executive Director

Quorum Present? Yes
Members Present: Andrew Crenshaw, Robert Palladino, Shean Wu, Edward Grabowski, Laurence Gibson, Larry Fillion

Mr. Aspnes opened the meeting with a discussion of SICP publications. Mr. Cartafalsa said that The Revenues of Viet-Nam Catalog will be revised in early 2004. Mr. Bentley said the fall ICP will include the Membership Directory. The ICP index for 1971 thru 1999 is now on the SICP website. A future goal is to get the past journals on the website. The ICP has been entered in the 2003 Literature Competition for periodicals at the APS Stampshow in Columbus in August of 2003. The Commemorative Postal Markings catalog has been entered in the catalogues competition.

The location for the 2004 SICP Annual Meeting was discussed. Locations mentioned were :

- APS Winter Stampshow in Norfolk, Virginia,
- Either the Spring or Fall Mega Stamp Shows in New York City,
- 2004 NAPEX Show in Virginia in June or
- Philadelphia National Show in the fall of 2004.

Mr. Bentley announced that beginning in 2004, SICP dues will be reduced for members who get the ICP online. Currently, about a third of the membership gets the ICP online. The online version of the ICP is in color.

The need to have scans available for SICP auctions was discussed. Mr. Aspnes will discuss this with Mr. Davis, SICP Auction Manager. A motion was made that no auctions be held until a remedial plan is submitted to the SICP Board. A second motion was made that the auction be dropped if no action is taken by the next Board Meeting. Both motions were seconded and passed.

The formal meeting was adjourned at $2: 10 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. It was followed by a talk by Laurence Gibson on the results of the April, 2003 PhilaChina auction held in Hong Kong. Despite the SARS scare, the auction was a success. Prices for material from Viet-Nam were very strong. Prices were almost as strong for material from Laos and Cambodia.

Most of the members then gave short presentations of items from their collections. This was followed by much buying, selling and trading that continued until about 6 p.m. when the event was continued at a local Vietnamese restaurant.

The SICP had a table at NAPEX for all three days of the show. Publications were sold, new members were signed up and a good time was had by all. $\infty$

## Every Indo-China Specialist Should Know This:

 When selling, there is never a need to go elsewhere. Mitivationica

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& \text { Here are } 3 \text { ways to sell to us: } \\
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\end{aligned}
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## THE INDO-CHINA PHILATELIST

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Military Units and Regions
Joe Cartafalsa
The illustrated cover is sent from Gia Dinh (Saigon suburb) to a soldier. The stamps and postmarks are not the focus of this article. Rather, it is the addressee that is of interest.


The enlarged view shows the address as "Dai Doi 3, TD (Tieu Doan) 444/DP" meaning " 3 rd Company, $444^{\text {th }}$ Battalion/Regional Forces." "DP" is short for "Dai Phuong Quan" which is found in military addresses as either "DPQ" or more commonly just "DP." DPQ units usually have a KBC designation beginning with a " 6 " as in "6880." Towards the end of the war, DP units began to also start with " 7 ."

The first number of the battalion corresponds
 to the Military Region (1, 2, 3, or 4). Eventually, units began to appear with unit numbers in the low 500s without regard to Military Region.

The list of locations and unit numbers (Table I.) is from Insignia of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces by Cecil B Smyth, Jr., 1986. In general, most information about South Vietnamese military units and locations comes from the collectors of military insignia.

The listing presented here is anything but complete as demonstrated by the illustrated cover bearing a battalion number of " 444 ." But it is a start. And it adds a little more postal history information to your write-ups. $\infty$

## Military Units and Regions

Table I. List of Number Regional Forces and Locations

| MILITARY REGION 1 | MILITARY REGION 2 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Quang Nam: 101, 102, 146 <br> Quang Tri: $105,110,112,119,120,121,122,123$, <br> 126, 127 <br> Quang Ngai: 118, 137, 521 <br> Quang Tin: $115,116,134,135$ <br> Thua Thien: 106, 111, 129, 130, 131 | Binh Dinh: 210, 207, 209, 215, 216, 218, 233, 244, <br> 263, 264, 265 <br> Binh Thuan: 202, 212, 274, 275 <br> Cam Ranh City: 230 <br> Darlac: 211, 224, 225, 242, 243, 269, 270 <br> Khanh Hoa: 224, 246, 247 <br> Kontum: 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254 <br> Lam Dong: 260, 261, 276 <br> Ninh Thuan: 231, 250, 273, 280 <br> Phu Bon: 255 <br> Phu Yen: 217, 218 <br> Pleiku: 205, 213, 222, 223, 239, 240, 241, 242 <br> Quang Duc: 259 <br> Tuyen Duc: 201, 204, 208 |
| MILITARY REGION 3 | MILITARY REGION 4 |
| Binh Duong: 318, 321 | Bac Lieu: 489 |
| Binh Hoa: 315, 316, 317 | Chau Doc: 448, 494, 495 |
| Gia Dinh: 358 | Chuong Thien: 406, 431 |
| Hau Ngia: 319, 327, 328, 329 | Dinh Tuong: 432 |
| Long Khanh: 347 | Kien Hoa: 446 |
| Phuoc Long: 340, 362 | Kien Phong: 417, 423 |
| Phuoc Tuy: 355 | Phuong Dinh: 407, 416 |
| Tay Ninh: 312, 314, 322 | Sa Dec: 440, 442 |
| Vung Tau City: 356 | Vinh Binh: 445 |

Vietnam 1978 10xu Sunflower Stamp Varieties

## Lucian Lu

On 20 March 1978, the Vietnam Authority issued the second series of regular stamps featuring cultivated flowers. The series comprised of four stamps: 5xu and 10xu of a sunflower, and 6 xu and 12 xu of pansy. Scott lists the series as 921-924. Stamps were printed on ordinary paper except the 10xu sunflower was printed on glossy paper. The sunflower stamps were designed by artist Nguyen-Thi-Sam and printed in offset tricolor by Tien-Bo Printing House in sheets of 100 stamps. The original designs of the sunflower stamps were in face values of 6 xu and 12 xu as indicated by essay proofs (Figure 1). But when the stamps were printed, the Authority changed the face values to 5 xu and 10 xu .


Figure 1. Essay-proofs carried 6xu and 12xu denominations.

## Vietnam 1978 10xu Sunflower Stamp Varieties

For both the first series (issued in 1977) and the second series of cultivated flowers, collectors seldom heard of varieties except some minor varieties such as color shifts double perforations and color shades with the $10 x u$ sunflower stamp. Fortunately, one day when I went to the Tran-Hung Dao Post Office (a small branch of Ho-Chi-Minh Central Post Office located in the second district on Tran-Hung Dao Boulevard between Saigon and Cholon) to mail a letter, I saw a block of 20 stamps (upper two horizontal rows) of the sunflower 10 xu with its red color missing. I bought them right away and asked the clerk if there were more like it. The clerk showed me some more full sheets to examine, but they were all normal. A few days later, I went to Cholon's main post office to mail a letter. (Cholon is the 5th district of Ho-Chi-Minh City where almost $90 \%$ of the local Chinese reside as a Chinatown). While I was there, I asked the postal clerk. to show me all the sunflower 10xu stamps they had to offer. I found nothing among several full sheets. There was also a partial sheet of 50 and some stamps ( 5 horizontal rows and part of another horizontal row). At the bottom two horizontal rows of that partial sheet, the yellow color on the sunflower was printed double, one was inverted. Because the postal clerks always tore off all sheet margins before they sold them to customers, I could not tell the position of that partial sheet. Nonetheless, they were very distinctive varieties. Of course, I bought that partial sheet right away.


Figure 2. Upper right stamp is missing the blue portion of the design.

Besides visiting the post office every morning, I also visited the stamp market to look for something unusual. At that time, the stamp market was a subsidiary of some roadside book kiosks on the street where a small street may contain almost 100 book kiosks selling used books. Some book kiosks sold collectable stamps too. One day, when I visited stamp dealer acquaintance looking for some unusual items, he showed me two upper left corner blocks of four of the sunflower 10xu stamps. The upper right stamp of each block was missing the blue color, which struck me as quite strange. After negotiating the price, I bought both of them. I offered one block to a collector friend in West Germany and kept one block in my own collection (Figure 2).

Somewhat later, another stamp dealer at the stamp market showed me two blocks of 20 (two horizontal rows of ten) of the sunflower 10xu stamp. Each block had an additional row of the yellow color printed diagonally and inverted. The inverted yellow color of one block was quite sharp but the other one was not as sharp. I bought them both and sent the latter to my collector friend in West Germany. I kept the sharper color block in my own collection.

Figure 3 is a registered letter I sent to France on which I affixed ten different varieties of the sunflower 10xu stamp including missing red color, yellow color printed double, one being inverted on the left side. and some with color shades or color shifts. $\infty$

## Vietnam 1978 Sunflower 10 xu Stamp Varieties



Figure 3. A registered cover bears a mix of errors and varieties of the 10 xu sunflower stamp.

## In Search of Information



Cochinchina B1 ("Impot Personnel" meaning Personal Tax/Head Tax). The basic stamp is an Indochina Connaissement stamp overprinted "COCHINCHINA/1931/IMPOT/PERSONNEL with no value indicated.

Duston states: "Only one copy is known of No. 1. The value of the stamp differed according to each person's classification (militiaman, disabled person, etc.), or to the province. The contribution was paid in cash to the treasury and the stamp issued as a receipt. The editor has no explanation as to why the name Cochinchina was used during this period."

## In Search of Information

The explanation was that Indochina was divided into separate "states." They were Laos, Cambodia, Annam, Tonkin and Cochinchina. Each state issued their own revenue stamps as well as using the national Indochina revenues.

There are many interesting revenues from all three states that comprised "Viet-Nam." A very comprehensive listing is contained in the Society's CD-Rom The Revenues Of Viet-Nam/An Electronic Catalog of Local and National Issues. This is available from the Executive Secretary.

For those that do not have the out-of-print Duston catalogue, the CD-Rom catalogue lists this stamp as CO/IP1 and prices it as "RRR."

I have been asked if the selling price was a "fluke." Actually, I think that this is but evidence of a growing trend, i.e., high prices for revenues that exist in very small quantities. Over the past year, Viet Nam Dan Chu Cong Hoa overprints on Indochina revenues have brought over $\$ 100$ in private sales between friends. Who knows what they will bring in a public auction?

Another potential record breaker could be the Interzone revenues from 1946-1954. These are the issues of Lien Khu Bac, Lien Khu 4 and Lien Khu 5. There are only a few known stamps. There is one known hand stamped revenue on document, possibly unique. Duston reported only one stamp, a $1 \$ 00$ yellow \& black issue as known. It is illustrated on the last page of his catalogue.

There are as yet no other catalogue listings or even articles. The potential for another record breaker is out there! $\infty$

## New Southeast Asia Column in Global Stamp News Joe Cartafalsa

Global Stamp News, a monthly philatelic newspaper devoted mainly to foreign stamps, now has a column entitled "SOUTH EAST ASIA" as of the May, 2003 issue. Did I mention that I write the column? They call me an "Associate Editor" which would thrill my late college journalism professor. And I get paid a little bit. After 38 years, I am making some money from something I studied in college.

The May column dealt with the basics, such as available literature (and unavailable literature). The June column featured a mention about the record price for a Vietnam revenue on eBay (as above) and other potential record breaking revenues such as Lien Khu (LK) issues. It illustrated every known example. The July issue had a column on Laos. The August edition had a column on Southeast Asian stamps in topical/thematic exhibits.

So what advantage is there to subscribe to GSN as opposed to our own ICP? Well it is inexpensive and in some cases the information is written and printed before the ICP uses it. The subscription cost for GSN is $\$ 9.95$ for a one year ( 12 issues) or $\$ 18.89$ for a two year subscription ( 24 issues).

The publisher, Jan Brandewie, states that advertisers pay all of the production costs, so the subscription cost is basically the cost of postage. For more information, contact $G S N$ at:

Global Stamp News
P.O. Box 97

Sidney, Ohio 45365-0097

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email: jbrandewie@woh.rr.com> $\infty$ THE INDO-CHINA PHILATELIST

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WHOLE NO. 159

## Airmail Rates from French Indochina to France Prior to World War II <br> Robert E. Picirilli

I have three purposes for this article: (1) to provide information that will be helpful in analyzing the franking on airmail covers from French Indochina to France during the pre-war period 1929-40; (2) to introduce readers to current research on the subject; and (3) to appeal for help.

There were flights within French Indochina as early as 1910 or so, and even to France as early as 1927. ${ }^{1}$ But apparently the first airmail surtaxe from French Indochina to France-80 cents per 10 grams-applied to the return flight by Bailly, Reginensi, and Marsot on 12 April 1929, increasing to 1 piaster for the return flight of Costes and Bellonte, 17-21 November 1929 and for the three "MALLES HOLLANDAISES" of 18 December 1929 and 2 and 16 January 1930. ${ }^{2}$ In February 1930, this was reduced to 60 cents per 10 grams, then changed to 30 cents per 5 grams in July 1932, staying at that amount until the war.

Knowing this, however, is not enough for precise analysis of the franking on airmail covers from Indochina to France. The total franking on an airmail cover in French possessions is generally the sum of the "basic" letter rate plus the airmail fee, plus any other applicable charges-most often, for registration.

The constituent rates are shown in the following table:
Table I. Summary of Pre-World War II Postage Rate Information

| Beginning Date | Basic Letter, 0-20 grams | Registry | Airmail |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 12 April 1929 | 6 cents | 15 cents | 80 cents per 10 grams |
| November 1929 | 6 cents | 15 cents | 1 piaster per 10 grams |
| February 1930 | 6 cents | 15 cents | 60 cents per 10 grams |
| July 1932 | 6 cents | 15 cents | 30 cents per 5 grams |
| early 1938 | 7 cents | 15 cents | 30 cents per 5 grams |
| 16 June 1939 | 9 cents | 15 cents | 30 cents per 5 grams |
| 1 December 1939 | 10 cents | 20 cents | 30 cents per 5 grams |

Examples of representative covers are shown below as Figures 1 through 7.3
I am writing on behalf of an informal study group devoted to researching airmail rates in use in any and all French areas, to anywhere in the world, prior to 1946. This group consists of some two dozen collectors in the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and France. Most of them are members of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society (U.S.) or of a society by the same name in the U.K. Much of the information in this article, for

[^1]
# Airmail Rates from French Indochina to France Prior to World War II 

example, was gleaned, by Ian McQueen, from archives of the Journal officiel de l'Indochine Française in Aix-en-Provence (France). We have been working since 1996 and have accomplished much; however, there remains much more information to be gained about various rates from the colonies to many destinations and during various periods of time.

I have an appeal to make to all readers. Our methodology involves work on two major fronts: in addition to research of official sources, we also are amassing a file (and corresponding computer database) of covers that fit the parameters of our study. At present the database is approaching some 4,000 covers, but many more are needed to assist our study.

I would ask, therefore, that any readers who have airmail covers from French Indochina or any other French colonies, dated prior to 1946 and addressed to any destination, please send me photocopies, front and back. I will respond by providing an analysis of the franking on those covers insofar as we are able at present. If desired, I am willing to reimburse the cost of photocopying and postage-though of course I hope that the information you gain will make the effort more than worthwhile to you.

Finally, if there are any readers who can contribute information or are willing to engage in active research in this area, I would welcome inquiries about membership in our group. My mailing address is Bob Picirilli, 301 Greenway Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205. $\infty$


Figure 1. The 12 April 1929 first-flight to France, postmarked 10 April and 12 April in Saigon. $1 \$ 01$ postage on the back $=6$ cents basic +15 cents registry +80 cents airmail. (At this time, the overprinted stamps were valid for one half of their face value.)

Airmail Rates from French Indochina to France Prior to World War II


Figure 2. An airmail cover to Lyon was postmarked both 11 and 18 December 1929 at Saigon.
Total postage of $1 \$ 21=6$ cents letter rate +15 cents registry +1 piaster airmail fee.


Figure 3. Airmail letter from Saigon to Mouilles 26 December 1930 franked with 66 cents $=6$ cents basic letter rate +60 cent airmail fee.

Airmail Rates from French Indochina to France Prior to World War II


Figure 4. Airmail letter Cauke to Paris 9 October 1936 franked with 36 cents $=6$ cents basic +30 cents airmail.


Figure 5. Airmail letter from Bienhoa to Chateuau Queyrières 16 April 1939 franked with 37 cents $=7$ cents basic +30 cents airmail.

Airmail Rates from French Indochina to France Prior to World War II


Figure 6. Airmail letter from Locninh to Paris 26 October 1939 franked with 39 cents $=9$ cents basic +30 cents airmail.


Figure 7. Airmail letter from Doluong to Marseilles 20 June 1940, franked with 40 cents $=10$ cents basic +30 cents airmail.

## Borobudur Temple Preservation Spelling Error

Kenneth R. Thompson
While doing some verification of engraver's names for the stamps of Laos, I came across an error that an engraver made while engraving his own name-Pheulpin. I have not checked the regular-issue stamps of this issue, so for now this error is reported as applying only to the souvenir sheet of this issue-the 22 August 1975 UNESCO issue for the preservation of the Borobudo Temple in Java.


Figure 1. Two stamps from the souvenir sheet carry the engraver's name.
The "se-tenant" strip from the souvenir sheet shown above shows the two stamps in question. The artist's name, Thao Touan, is shown on the first stamp and the engraver's name is engraved in the lower right-hand corner of each stamp as shown below:


Figure 2. Close-up views show the engraver's name on the two stamps.
As is easily seen on the first stamp, Jean Pheulpin has spelled his name 'PEULPIN' while spelling it correctly on the second stamp.

Since the die for the sheet was prepared separate from that used for the individual stamps, the error may not occur on the individual stamps. Further, this error in no way impacts the value of the sheet, since the error should occur on all sheets printed. $\infty$

## Closed Albums

Silvio Steinmann, an active seller of unusual philatelic material from Southeast Asia on eBay under the pseudonym "silviopaulfritz," passed away in mid-August. Silvio had suffered an accident in Viet-Nam and was later moved to Amsterdam where he died after a series of heart attacks. He was a former member of SICP. $\infty$

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## Classified Advertisements

This section is provided for members to post notices to buy, sell or exchange philatelic material. Advertisements of 30 words or less may be sent to the editor for consideration for publication. Current members are allowed two free classified advertisements per calendar year.

For SALE: Laos Artist's Die Proof B1 in dark brown, signed by the engraver Jean Pheulpin. \$110.00. Ronald Sulyma, 85-10 34th Avenue, Apt.422, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

BUY or TRADE: Seeking imperforate pairs or blocks of the following Indochina stamps from the Indochinese Culture series : Scott 154A 5c green, 158A 10c ultramarine, 164 22c, 166 30c, 168 60c, 169 1P, 170 2P. Ron Bentley, 2600 North $24^{\text {th }}$ Street, Arlington. Virginia 22207. $\infty$

## Siamese-Franco Goodwill Flight

## Ron Bentley

In the first half of the last century, spurred by the growth in aviation, exchanging airplanes and their passengers became a political tool used by countries in conducting their foreign relations. In this regard, connections by air between the neighboring countries of Siam and Indochina occurred occasionally during the 1920s.

To promote friendship between the two countries, a visit by Siamese aviators to Hanoi was planned at the end of 1930. At 8:00 AM, 31 December 1930, three Siamese planes left Bangkok. The planes were piloted by Commander Luang-Bhasa, Captain Luang-Saine and Lieutenant Khun-Lafa. In the first plane was the Director of Siamese Aviation, General Phya-Chalemkakas. After a stop at the border town of Lakhone, the group landed at Bach-Mai, near Hanoi, at 17:00 the same day.

They were met with full military honors. The band of the $9^{\text {th }}$ Colonial Infantry Regiment played the national anthems of both countries. For the next several days, the Siamese aviators were treated to a series of banquets and sightseeing excursions in the Hanoi region.

On 6 January 1931, the three Siamese planes left Bach-Mai for the return trip to Bangkok. Following the custom of the day, the planes made a low altitude circle around the airfield before departing.


Figure 1. The special cachet was written in Thai and English.

Mail was carried both ways on the promotional flights. Letters from Thailand were struck with a cachet that read: " BANGKOKHANOI GOODWILL FLIGHT / December 31. 1930." A total of 142 letters were carried from Thailand. For the 116 registered letters, the cachet was struck with red ink. For the other 26 letters, deep purple ink was used.

Letters on the return flight had no special handstamps, though a typewritten or handwritten notation is usually found on outbound letters. $\infty$

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## Siamese-Franco Goodwill Flight



Figure 2. A registered letter from the goodwill flight carries autographs from the lead pilot and the Director of Siamese Aviation.


Figure 3. The commemorative cachet was struck in deep purple on unregistered letters (only 26 of the 142 total).

Siamese-Franco Goodwill Flight


Figure 4. No official markings were applied to covers on the return flight from Hanoi to Bangkok.

## International Year of Mountains with "PRD" Error Kenneth R. Thompson

Maurizio Fumagalli recently informed me of an error on the Lao International Year of Mountains issue. Some of these stamps were printed with "PRD" in the lower left corner instead of "PDR" as they should have been. These stamps were issued on 30 March 2002.


## International Year of Mountains with "PRD" Error

When Maurizio informed me, I immediately got two sets of the error stamps. He said that only a few had been sold at the Post Office, since a buyer had informed postal officials of the error soon after their release. All remaining sheets were subsequently removed from sale.

While the Lao stamps of the early 1980's exhibit numerous errors as a result of having been printed locally in Vientiane, no such excuse can be given for these errors. These stamps were produced in Thailand and 50,000 were issued.

Maurizio may still have some sets left if you would like to contact him, or find out more information. If you would like to contact him, his address is: Maurizio Fumagalli, P.O. Box 9685, Vientiane 0100, Lao PDR, Laos. His web site address is: http://www.100megsfree4.com/paboukham/index.htm. $\infty$

## Vietnamese Military Cover from Cambodia

## Howard A. Daniel III

I was immediately attracted to this cover when I spotted "Kampuchia" in the return address at the upper left. There is also "Thanh Binh" and "Tien Phuong" in two lines above "Kampuchia." Do these two lines translate to "Peace Front Area" or something along those lines?

The face is postmarked at 1000 hours ( 10 AM) on 25 January 1980 at 15000 (zip code) for the main post office in downtown Ho Chi Minh City. The stamp has no value, so it is a free postage stamp for someone in the military, and it is addressed to someone in district (Quan) 5 of Ho Chi Minh City. On the reverse, there appears to be two reverse images of the same postmark on the face side as well as a postmark for 27 January 1980 at 15250 (zip code), which is likely the post office for district (Quan) 5 in Ho Chi Minh City. $\infty$



[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ In the ACEP catalog, the date of 8 cent lake-brown card is listed as 1946. This example demonstrates that the card was available as early as 1941.

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ See Pierre Saulgrain, Le Service Postal Aerien dans les Pays d'Expression Française, pages 115-122, for a list of some 69 "first flights" before the 12 April 1929 flight mentioned here.
    ${ }^{2}$ This information was supplied to me by Ron Bentley from Ligne Nogues: histoire aerophiltélique, Air Orient, Air France, 1911-1941 by Collot and Cornu.
    ${ }^{3}$ Covers shown in the article are from the editor's collection.

