

# **SURVEY OF TOWN POSTMARKS: SOUTH VIET-NAM**

1949 – 1977

By John Carroll  
Society of Indo-China Philatelists  
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# Presentation Coverage – Postmarks Used in:

- State of Viet-Nam
  - 1949-1955 (Bao Dai Period)
- Republic of Viet-Nam
  - 1955-1975 (South Viet-Nam)
- Continued Use of Old Postmarks After Regime Change
  - 1956-1958 (North Viet-Nam)
  - 1975-1977 (Mien-Nam Viet-Nam)

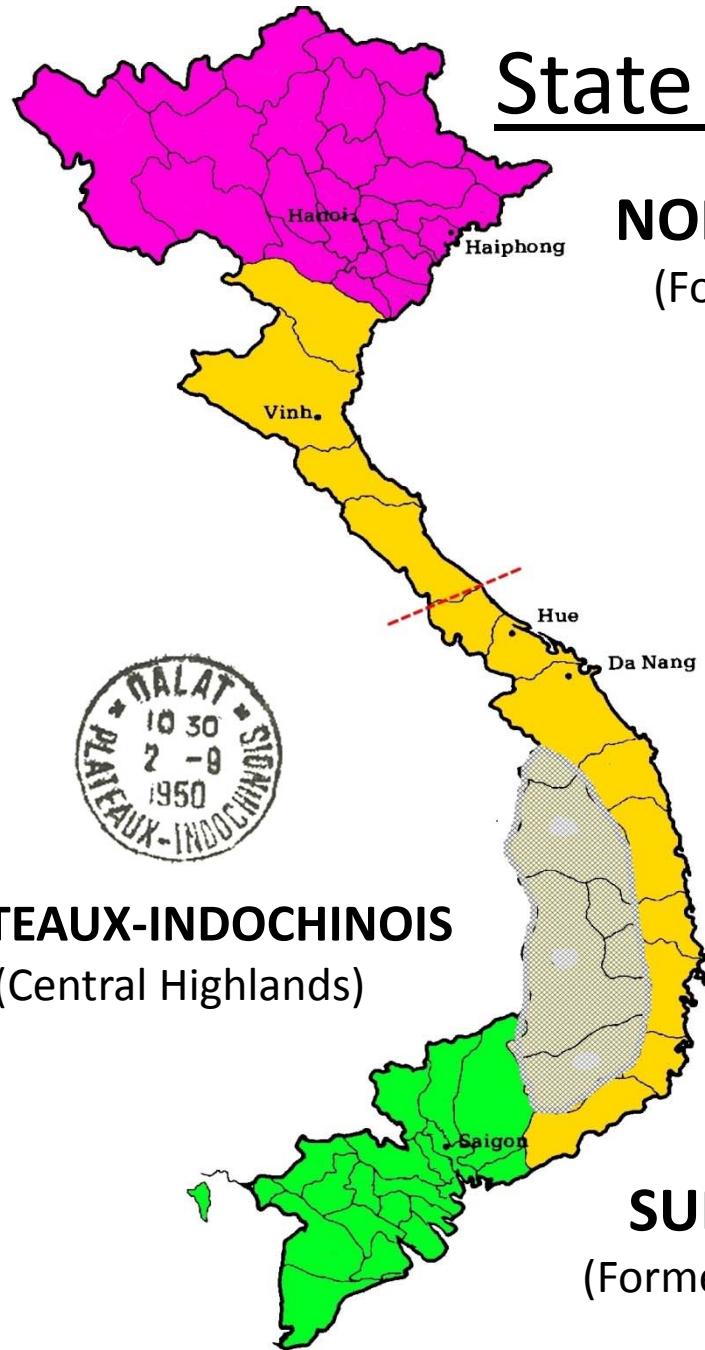
# Presentation Coverage (Continued):

- Postmark types (CDS) and subtypes
- Date range & geography
- Town name changes
- “Unlisted” and unusual postmarks
- Examples of fakes
- Not covering: machine postmarks, agency & hexagonal types

# Reference and Basis for Postmark Listings

- *Les Postes et Courriers Français en Extreme-Orient*, by Jacques Desrousseaux – *Livre 3* et *Livre 7*

# State of Vietnam 1949-1955



**NORD VIET NAM**  
(Formerly TONKIN)



**CENTRE VIET-NAM**  
(Formerly ANNAM)



**PLATEAUX-INDOCHINOIS**  
(Central Highlands)

**SUD VIET-NAM**  
(Formerly COCHINCHINE)



# State of Vietnam – Postmark Types

- The “V” series of postmarks was introduced in 1948-1949
- Base of postmark shows region of origin (NORD, CENTRE, SUD, or PLATEAUX INDOCHINOIS)
- Types classified as: V, V1, V1(t), V2, & V3

# Postmark Types – State of Viet-Nam

Type	Date Range	Used in Region
V	1949-1954	North
Region in base of postmark	 V	 V
V1 w/ fleurons	1949-1955	North, Central, South
 V1-N	(TOURANE)	 V1-C

# Examples – Type V

MON CAY 1950



HAI DUONG 1950

# Examples – Type V1



GOCONG 1950

HAIPHONG 1950



# Postmark Types – State of Viet-Nam (cont'd)

Type	Date Range	Used in Region
V1(t)	1949-1954	South, Central
t = tirets (dashes)	 V1(t)-S	 V1(t)-C
V2 & V3	V2 1948-1951 V3 1950-1951	Central Highlands
V2 "PLATEAUX INDOCHINOIS" V3 same + "VIET-NAM"	 V2	 V3

# Examples – Type V2

BANMETHUOT  
1949



DALAT 1950  
local cover

# Example – Type V3



# State of Vietnam – Postmark Types

- The “W” series was introduced in 1951 and generally replaced the “V” series by 1954
- Base of postmark consists of “VIET-NAM” only
- Types classified during this period as: W1 & W2

# Postmark Types (continued)

Type	Date Range	Used in Region
W1 (w/ short fat lettering)	1951-1955	North
Examples:	 W1	 W1
W2 (normal lettering)	1951-1955 (State of VN) 1955-1977 (Republic)	North, Central, South, & Central Highlands
 W2	 W2	 W2

# Example – Type W1



HA-NOI 1951 First Day Cover

# State of Vietnam – Type W2



HAI-DUONG  
1954



# State of Vietnam – Scarce Postal Region: Northern Central Vietnam\*



Coastal town of DONGHOI, type W2 1952

\*Most areas north of Quang Tri & south of Nam Dinh were under Viet Minh control during this period

# Continued Use of Old Postmarks in the North After 1955



HA-NOI type W2 was used until ~1958



# Republic of Vietnam

## 1955-1975

### (Viet-Nam Cong-Hoa)

# Republic of Vietnam – Postmark Types

- Type “W” series postmarks continued in use throughout this period
- Types classified as: W2 (most common and previously classified), W3, & W4

# Postmark Types – Republic of Viet-Nam

Type	Date Range	Used in Region
W3	1963-1977	South VN
Base = “VIETNAM”	 W3	 W3
W4 (proposed), [or Desrousseaux type W2(p)]	1967-1977	South VN
Base appears as “VIET.NAM” or “VIET_NAM”	 W4	 W4

# Example – Type W3



CHAUDOC 1959



# Example – Type W4



CAI.LAY 1974

# Republic of Vietnam Town Name Changes

- Many towns changed names under the Ngo Dinh Diem administration, plus a few later
- Some provinces were also renamed and boundaries redefined
- Reasons for changes:
  - French names changed to Vietnamese
  - Local / political considerations
- Majority of name changes occurred in 1959-60
- Many of these towns were changed back to the original Vietnamese names after 1975

# Town Name Changes



In 1959, TOURANE on the central coast became...

# DA-NANG



1964 cover to Dalat

# Town Name Changes



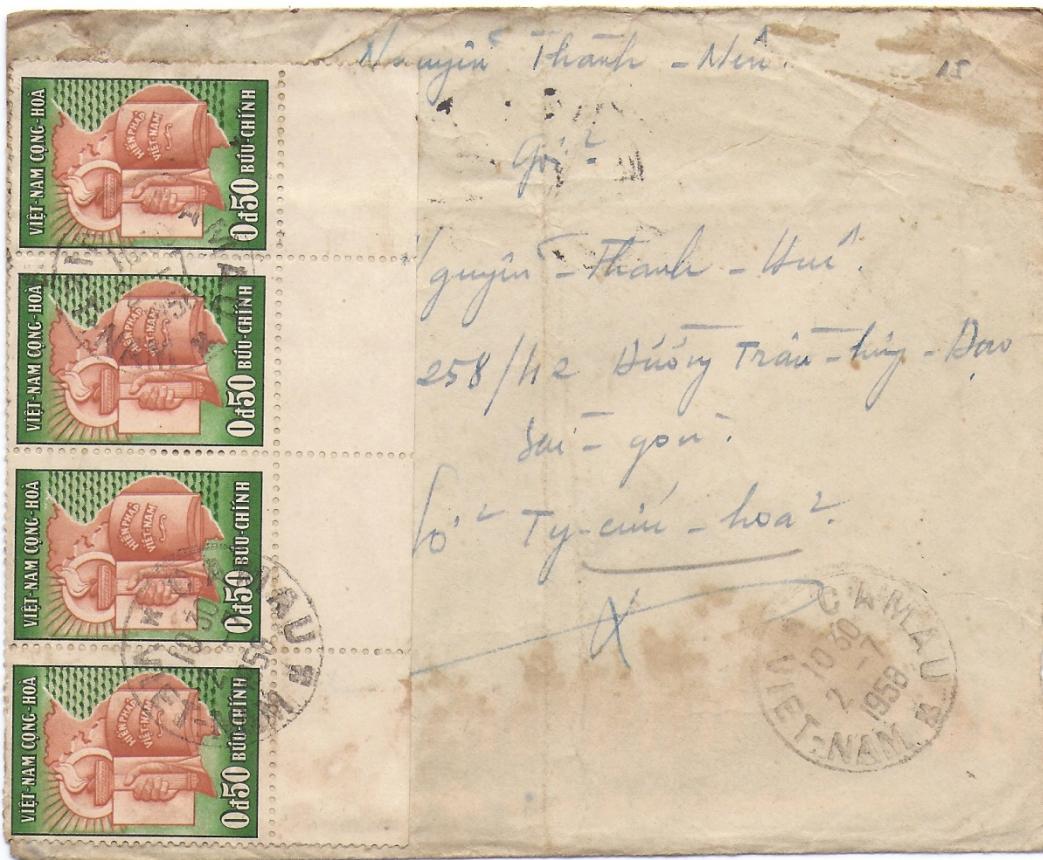
In 1960, BLAO in the south-central highlands  
became...

# BAO-LOC



1962 cover to Saigon

# Town Name Changes



In 1960, CAMAU in the far south became...

# QUAN-LONG



1971 surface mail cover to Saigon

# Town Name Changes



In 1960, the old coastal resort town of CAP SAINT JACQUES became...

# VUNG-TAU



April 1975 type W4 cover to Saigon

# Town Name Changes



CHOLON type W3

In 1960, the urban district of CHOLON became...

# SAIGON-CHOLON



1964 airmail cover to France

# Town Name Changes



In 1960, the CHOLON-BINHTAY market post office became...

# SAIGON-BINHTAY



1961 cover to Saigon

# Town Name Changes

DRAN  
Type V2



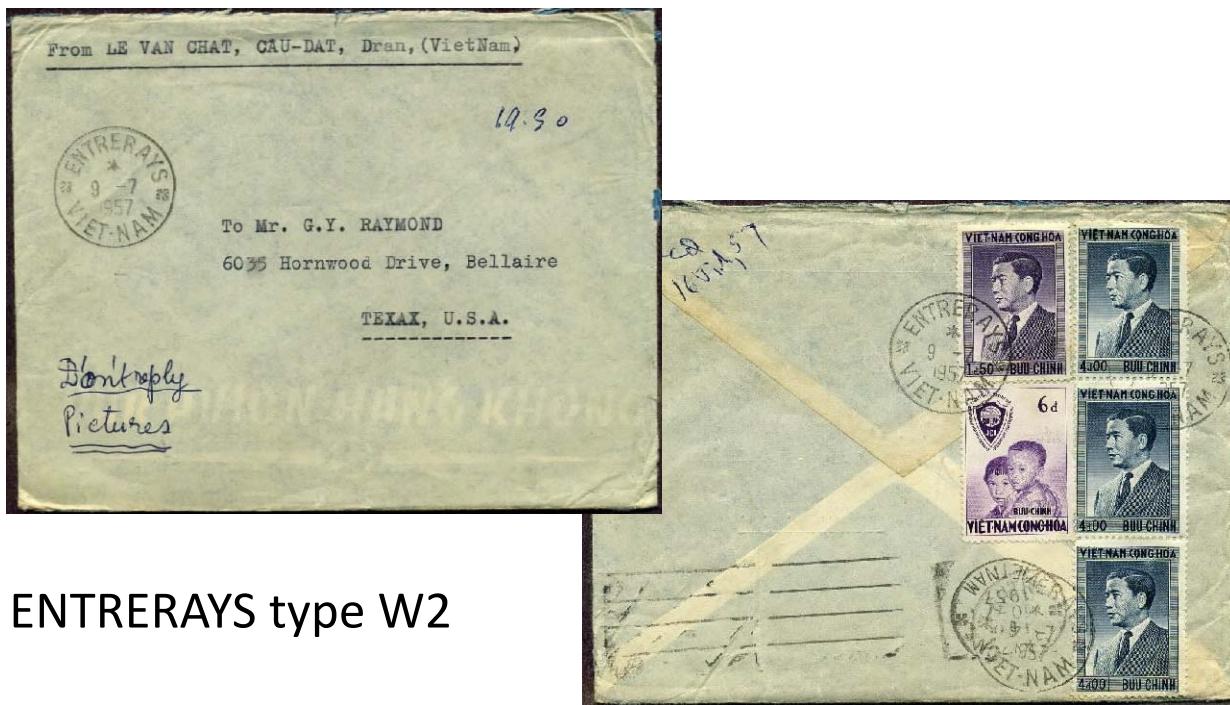
In 1960, DRAN in the central highlands became...

# DON-DUONG



DON-DUONG 1962 missionary cover to USA

# Town Name Changes



ENTRERAYS type W2

In 1960, the village of ENTRERAYS in the central highlands became...

# CAU-DAT (no cover)



ENTRERAYS was a station on the cog railway between Thap-Cham on the coast and Dalat in the mountains – changed to CAU-DAT in 1960

# Town Name Changes



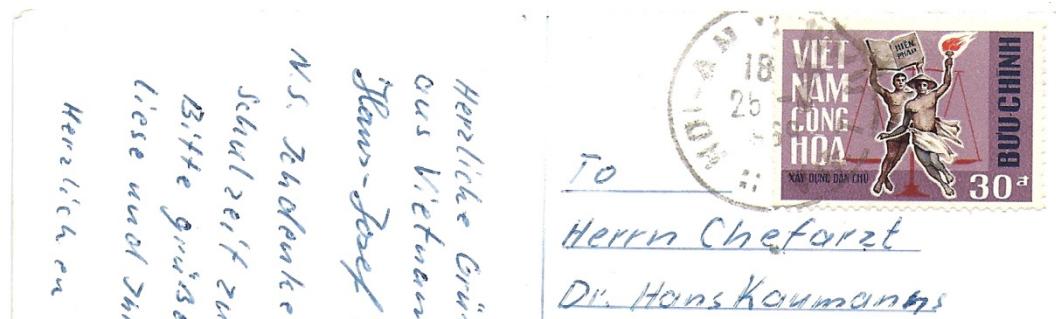
In 1960, the ancient port town of FAIFOO  
on the central coast became...

# 1969 postcard to Germany

# HOI-AN



Offizieller Ersttagsbrief des Malteser Hilfsdienstes



& philatelic souvenir

# Town Name Changes

HONQUAN  
type W2 on  
money order  
receipt



In 1960, HONQUAN north of Saigon near the  
Cambodian border became...

# AN-LOC



LOCNINH 1960 with AN-LOC transit mark

# Town Name Changes



POULOCONDORE type V1(t)

In 1960, the island of POULOCONDORE became...

# CONSON



CONSON 1968 cover to Saigon

# Town Name Changes



In 1960, the SAIGON AEROPORT became...

# SAIGON-PHICANG



1968 airmail cover to USA

# Town Name Changes



In 1960, SOCTRANG in the south became...

# KHANH-HUNG



1960 cover with slogan marking to Dalat

# Town Name Changes



In 1960, TOURCHAM on the south-central coast became...

# THAP CHAM



1960 cover to Long Xuyen

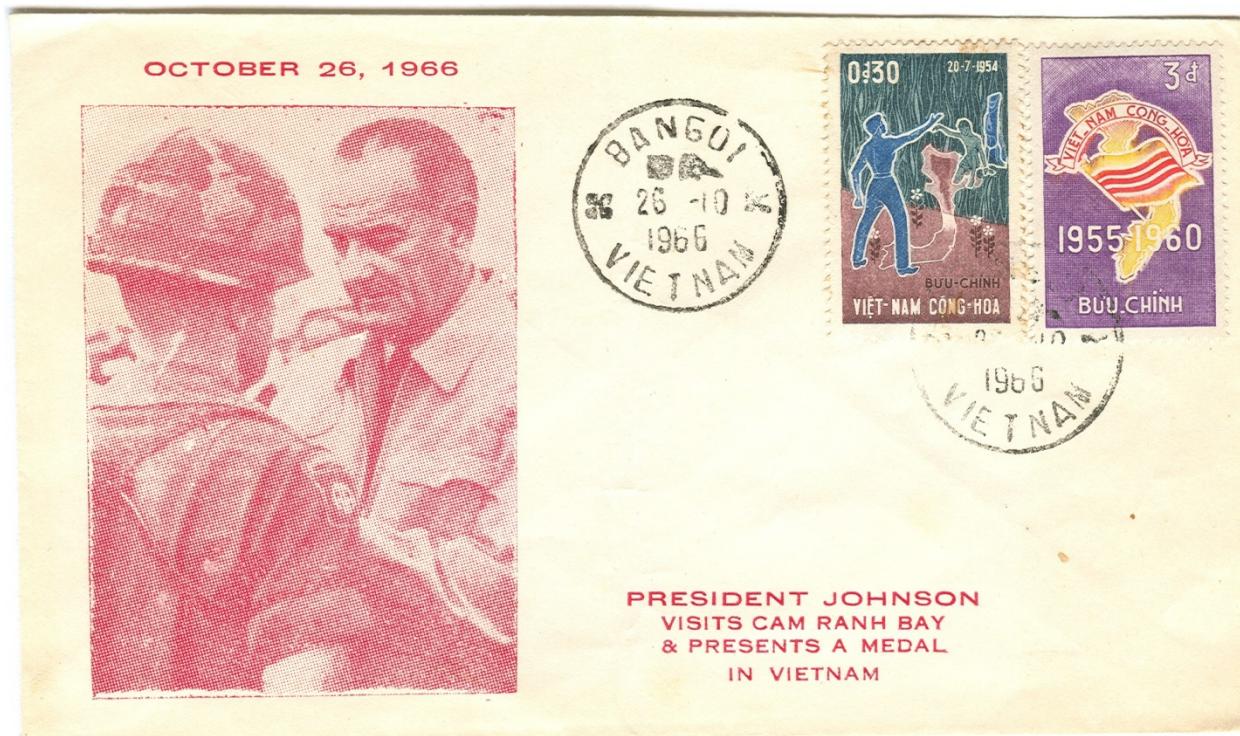
# Town Name Changes



BANGOI type W2 (1956)

Circa 1967 BANGOI port on the central coast became...

# Town Name Changes



BANGOI type W3

1966 philatelic cover – visit of President Johnson to...

# CAM-RANH



CAM-RANH type W2

Small local cover likely contained a greeting card for “Tet” 1973

# Some Unusual Postmarks

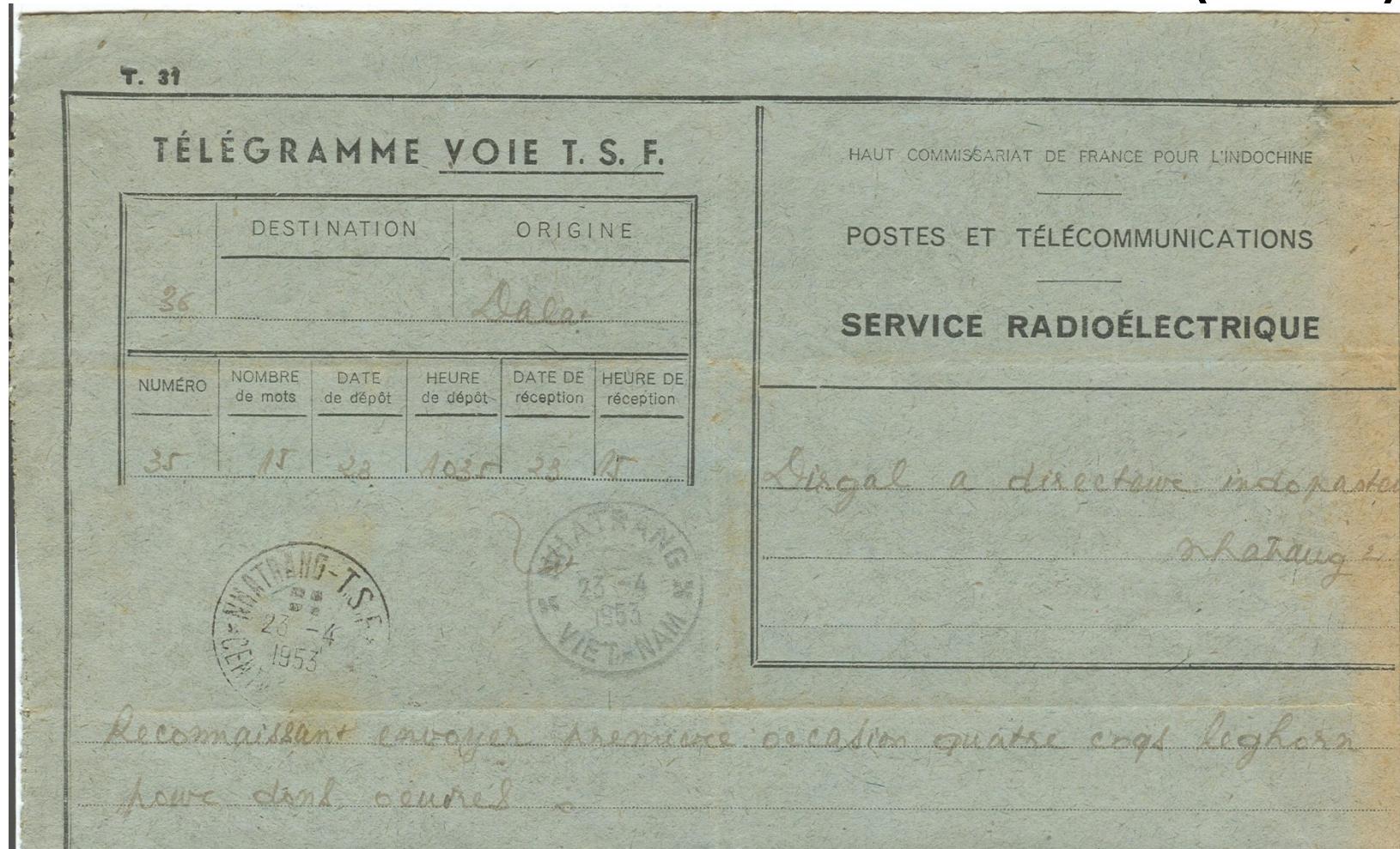
- Towns Unlisted by Desrousseaux
- Unique Types
- Late Usages

# “Unlisted” Type W2 – HANG-KENH (1952)



Small PO in the  
North – Stamps cancelled by HAI-PHONG cds

# “Unlisted” Pmk – NHATRANG T.S.F. (1953)



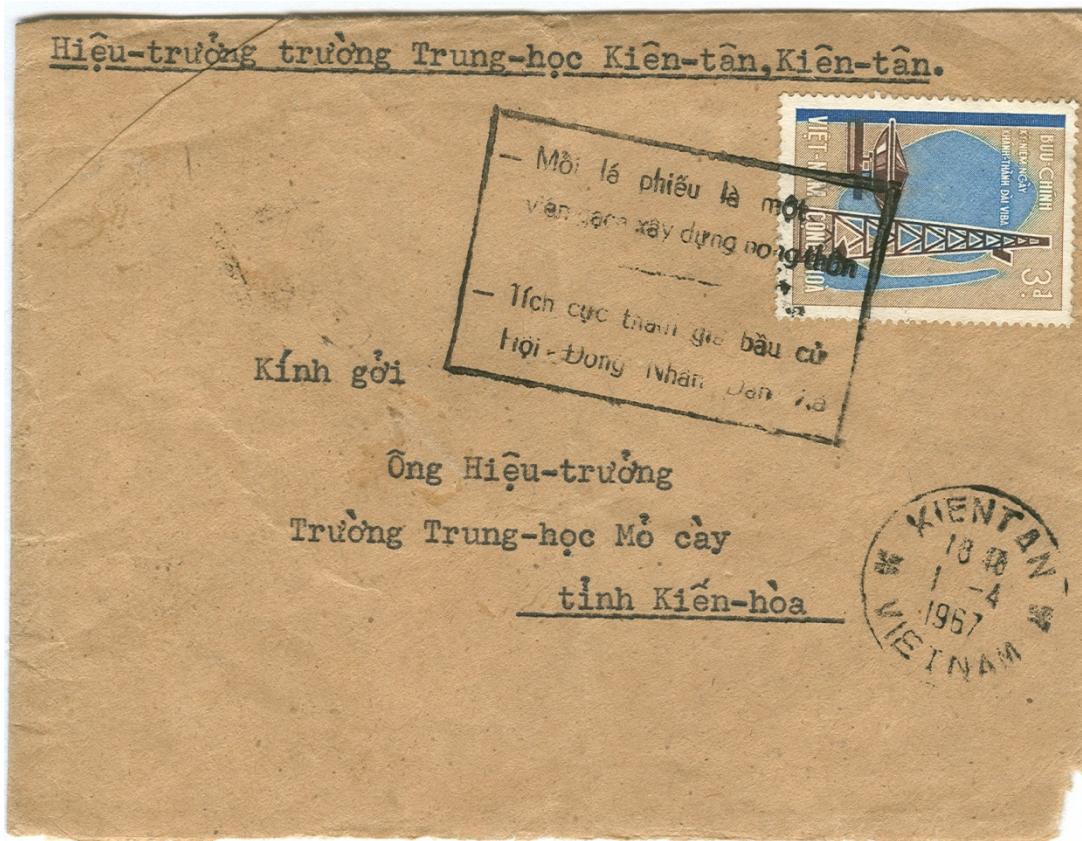
Type V1-C telegraph cancel

# “Unlisted” Town – TAMQUAN (1962)



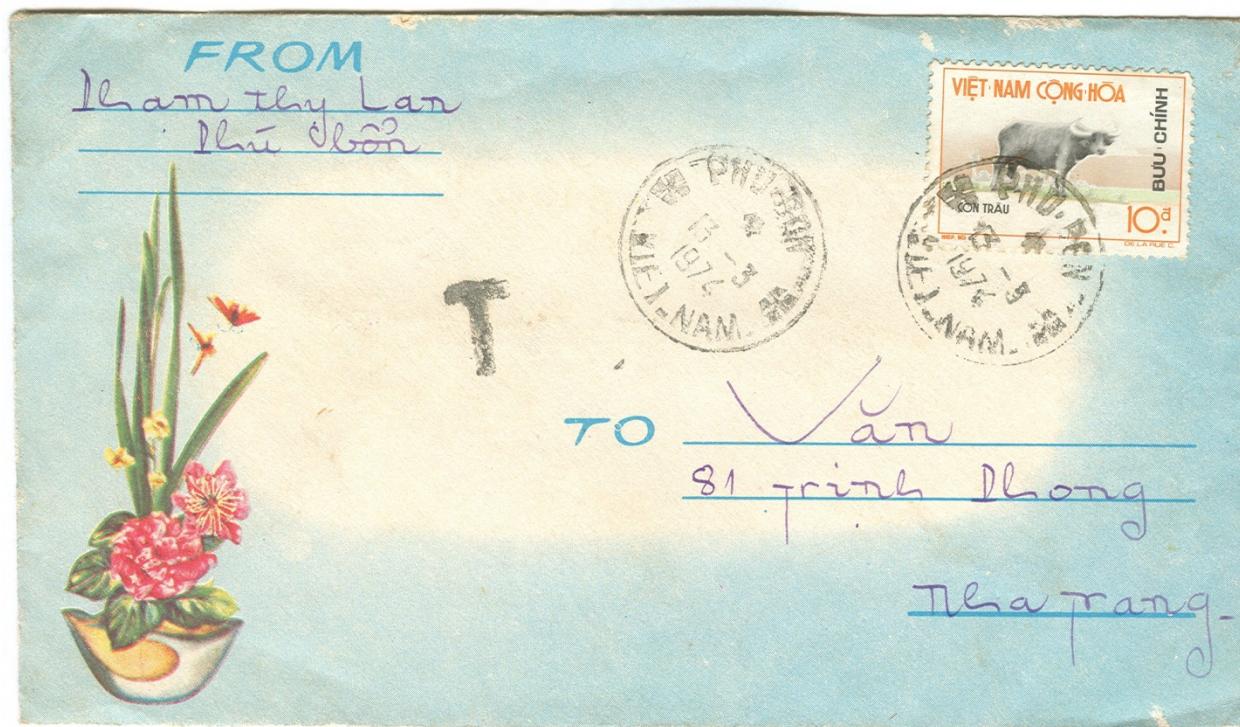
Located near Quy Nhon on the Central coast

# “Unlisted” Town – KIENTAN (1967)



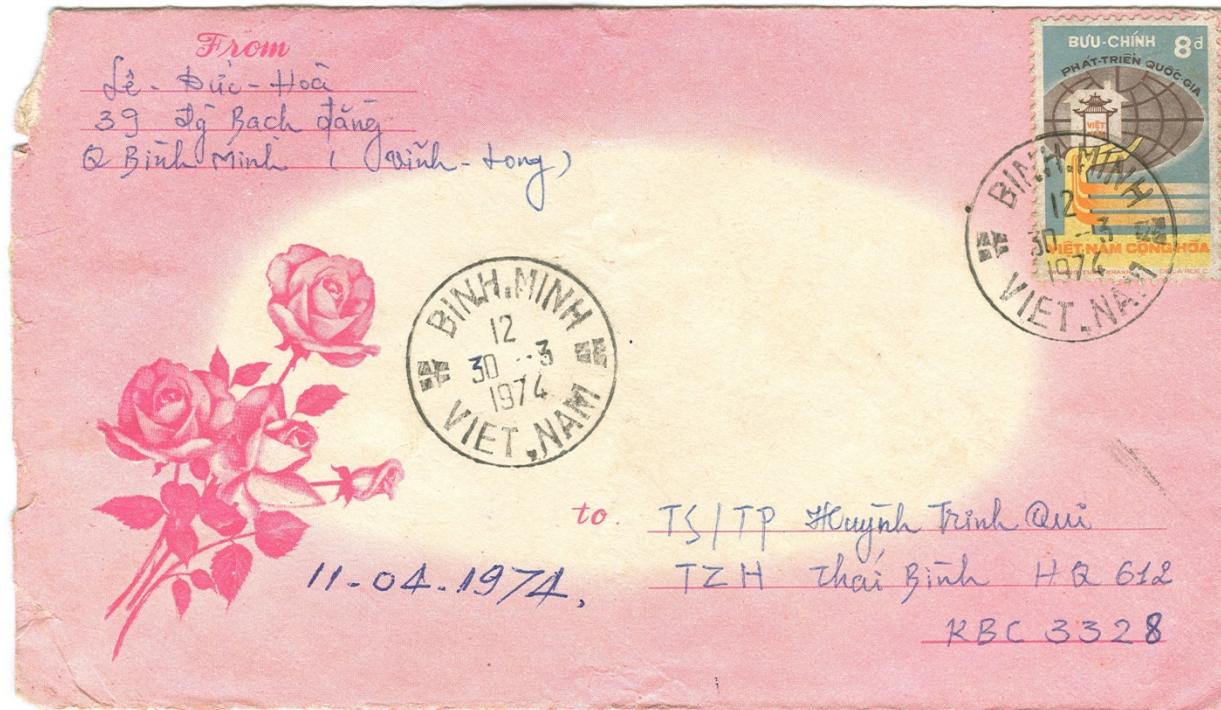
Former district of Kien Giang province in south-west Vietnam – Type W3 postmark

# “Unlisted” Town – PHU-BON (1974)



Phu Bon was a former province, split from Pleiku, in the central highlands (1962-1976)

# “Unlisted” Town – BINH-MINH (1974)



Located in Vinh Long province in the South –  
Type W4 postmarks seen 1974-1976

# Unusual Postmark – Unlisted Subtype



1953 CAM PHA MINES type V missing circle

# Unusual Postmark – Late Usage



Latest known usage of type V1 postmark –  
HONQUAN 1958

# Unusual Postmark – Unique Subtype



Type W2(t) is only known from DALAT (1951-1964)

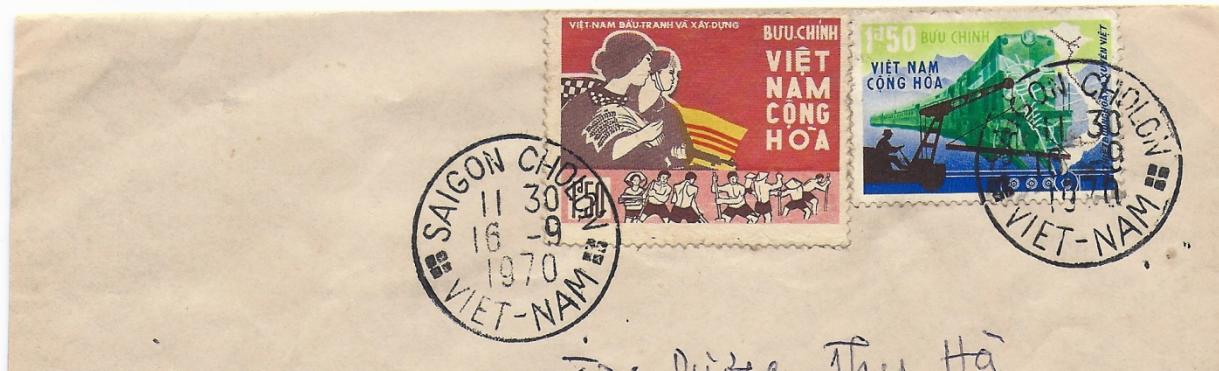
# Fake Postmarks - Example



Strange BUU-CUC SAI-GON (unknown) & SAIGON W2 fake

# Fake Postmarks - Examples

SAIGON CHOLON  
1970 fake



VI-THANH  
1971 fake

# Old Postmarks Used After 30-4-1975

- Major areas along the central coast were “liberated” in late March 1975. Saigon fell on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Saigon PO reopened May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- In Saigon, all of the old regime’s cds were replaced with “M.N. VIET-NAM” postmarks. The same occurred in most southern towns.
- But postmarks of the old regime continued to be used in some post offices...

# Continued Use of Old Postmarks

Early Example



HUE THANH  
type W4  
2-May-1975

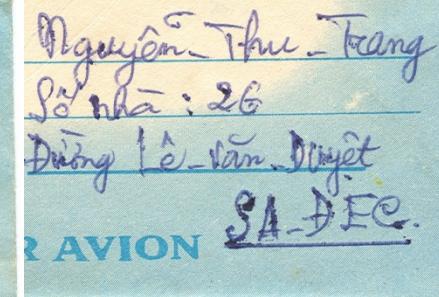
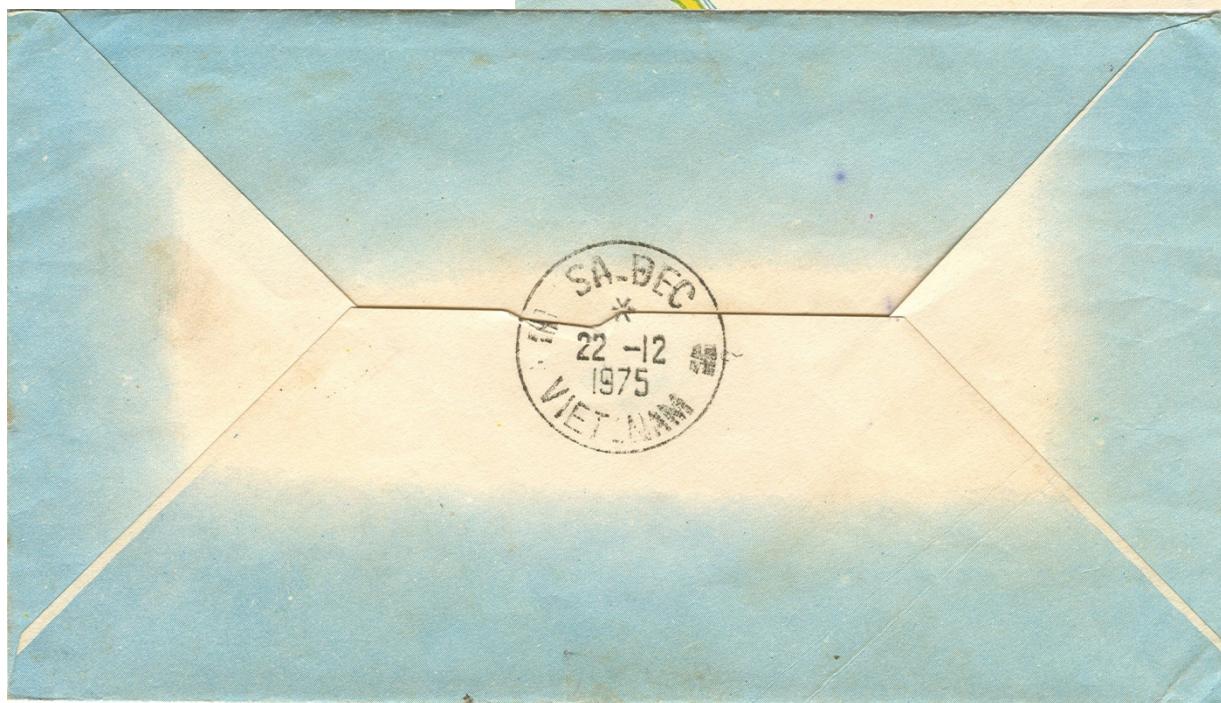
# Continued Use of Old Postmarks



DA-LAT type W4, September 1975

# Continued Use of Old Postmarks

Stampless, from  
Re-Education  
Camp



To SA.DEC  
type W4  
December 1975

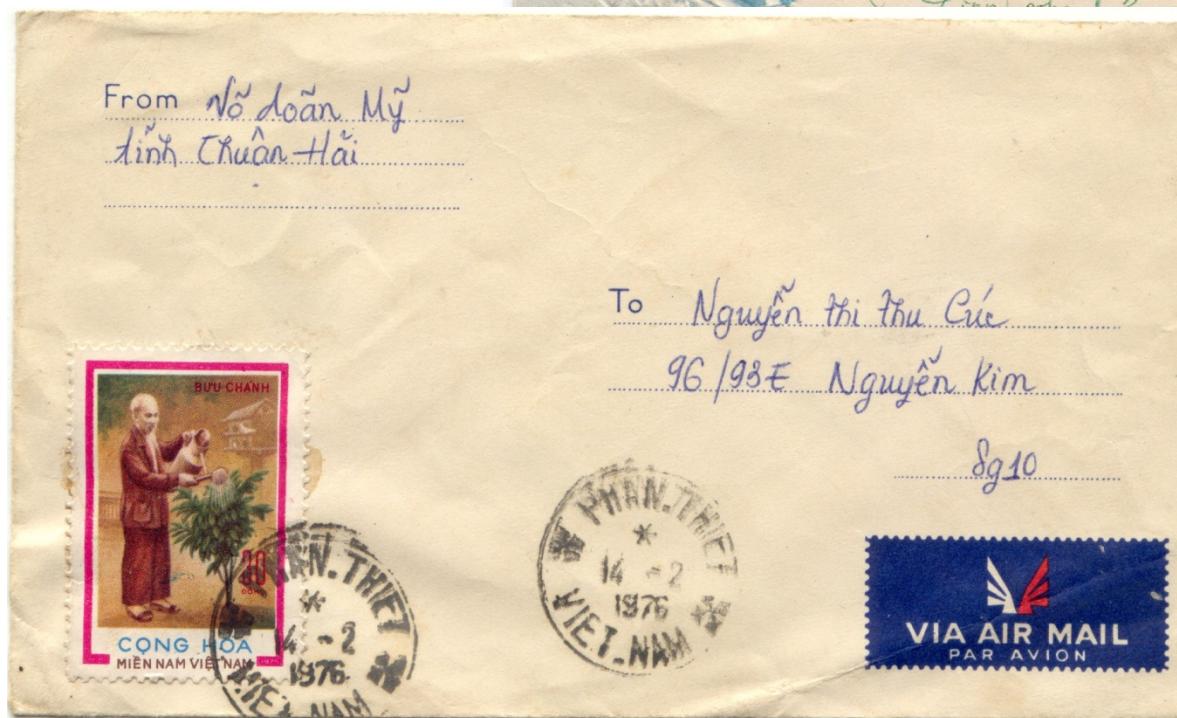
# Continued Use of Old Postmarks



TAN-AN type W2, April 1976

# Continued Use of Old Postmarks

PHAN-RANG  
type W4, Jan-76



AIR MAIL PAR AVION

PHAN-THIET  
type W4, Feb-76

# Continued Use of Old Postmarks



“Unlisted” HOA-DONG type W2, April 1977

# Transition to Postal Codes in the South

All postmarks were replaced with new types by late 1977 (w/ 5-digit post code no.)



Rare BAO-LOC W2  
with postal code  
61.200, April 1977



END