



ພຣະຣາຊອານາຈັກລາວ

Kingdom of Laos

1951 - 1975



Kingdom of Laos

Definitive: Laos Landscapes and King Sisavang Vong - 13/Nov/1951



Mekong River - one of the longest rivers in the world, has a length of 4880 km. It runs from the Tibetan plateau through Laos to Vietnam. It is known in Laos as "Ménam Khong" meaning "mother of all rivers".



Wat Xieng Thong – a Buddhist temple in Luang Prabang, Laos. It was built by King Sethathirath in 1560.



Pha That Luang – a Buddhist stupa in Vientiane, Laos. It was built in the 16th century under King Sethathirath on the ruins of an earlier 13th century Khmer temple. The stupa became a symbol of Lao nationalism.

King Sisavang Vong - the last king of Luang Prabang and the first king of Laos. He ruled Laos from 1904 until his death in 1959, one of the longest-serving monarchs. He was succeeded by his son, Savang Vatthana.



Kingdom of Laos

Definitive: Laotian Woman (Femme Lao) - 13/Apr/1952

"Laotian Woman" ("Femme Lao") is the first Lao stamps set designed by the French artist Marc Leguay. It represents his second wife, Nang Sang Vane. The same design appears also on stamp and souvenir sheet issued on October 31, 1971 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Laotian philately and on Royal Laotian 10 Kip banknote.





Kingdom of Laos

Definitive: Weaving - 13/Apr/1952



For centuries Laos has been renowned for the fineness and intricacy of its special silk weaving and cotton fabrics with the use of gold and silver threads. Hmong and Mien people produce embroidery with figures and geometric designs. Whole Laotian villages may specialize in a particular weaving style, especially in the areas of Vientiane, Luang Prabang and Sam Nuea. Clothing and textile products have become a significant export of Laos. Laotians still use traditional ancient loom where they place warp and weft and turning them into cloths or tapestries as shown in this set of definitive stamps. Laotian weaves geometric designs are represented in the stamps margins.

Definitive: Wat Phra Keo – 19/Jul/1952



The Wat Phra Keo ("Image of the Jewel Buddha") temple was built in Vientiane in 1565 by King Setthathirat to house the statue of the Emerald Buddha. This statue was brought from Chiangmai by King Setthathirat after the death of his father, King Phothisarath, when he had to move from Lanna, where he was ruler, to Vientiane.

In 1779, the Siamese army under General Chakri (the future King Rama I) invaded Vientiane, damaged the temple and took and installed the Emerald Buddha statue in Wat Phra Keo, Bangkok. The temple was reconstituted in 1936 and 1942 by Prince Souvana Phouma, the future prime minister of Kingdom of Laos. The Wat Phra Keo houses a museum that exhibits collection of Buddha statues and antiques found in around Vientiane.



Kingdom of Laos

First Anniversary Laotian Philately - 13/Apr/1952

To commemorate the first anniversary of the Laotian stamps emission, the Kingdom of Laos issued a booklet contains 26 souvenir sheets. Each souvenir sheet contains a single stamp from the Laotian sets of stamps issued in the first year of independence: Laotian landscapes and King Sisavang Vong definitive set issued on November 13, 1951, Laotian woman and weaving definitive sets issued on April 13, 1952 and Wat Si Saket library postage due set issued on April 13, 1952.

ພະຮາກຸ່ອນາຈັກລາວ



ROYAUME DU LAOS

ພະຮາກຸ່ອນາຈັກລາວ



ROYAUME DU LAOS



Kingdom of Laos

Laos' Admission to the Universal Postal Union - 7/Dec/1952



Established in 1874, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) with its Headquarters in Berne, Switzerland is the primary forum for cooperation between postal-sector players and helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services.

With 191 member countries, this specialized agency of the United Nations fulfils an advisory, mediating and liaison role, and renders technical assistance where needed. It sets the rules for international mail exchanges and makes recommendations to stimulate growth in mail volumes and to improve the quality of service for customers.

Laos was admitted to the UPU on May 13, 1952. To commemorate this event, Laos issued this set of stamps depicting King Sisavang Vong and the UPU monument in Berne, Switzerland. This monument was unveiled in 1909. It is a work of René de-Saints Marceaux, from Paris Académie des Beaux-Arts. The monument depicting five messengers, who symbolize the five continents, as they pass letters round the globe.



Kingdom of Laos

Definitive: Laotian Folklore - Court of Love – 14/Jul/1953

Since the Laotian society, in general, is a conservative, young Laotians, both boys and girls, don't have a lot of opportunities to meet. Nevertheless, Young people can meet and start courts in events such as Buddhist festivals or events held in the temples as shown in the following stamps.

Once two young peoples like each other, they ask permission from their parents to stabilize their relationships and to get marry. Three formal meeting are held by the families of the couple before the marriage: The first, Khan Thâm, is the acquaintance between the couple relatives, the second, Khan Phâm, the engagement ceremony and in the last, Khan Mark Dèng, the marriage conditions and ceremony as well as the dowry (Kha Dong) are determined between the couple families.



Court of Love, Wat Xieng Thong, Luang Prabang

Semi Postal: Lao Red Cross Day – 14/Jul/1953

The international Red Cross is a humanitarian movement whose stated mission is to protect human life and health, to ensure respect for the human being and to prevent and alleviate human suffering without any discrimination based on nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. To read about the International Red Cross movement please refer to the page shows the "Centenary of International Red Cross Movement" set of stamps issued on October 10, 1963.

The Lao Red Cross (LRC) movement was established on January 1, 1955 and recognized by the International Red Cross Committee on May 23, 1957. It became member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on October 25, 1957. The LRC movement was not independent and was under the supervision of Royal Laotian Ministry of Health. In 1975, after the abolition of the Monarchy and establishment of Lao PDR, the LRC movement became dormant for the next 15 years.

Several health activities and programs were carried out by the LRC movement. Among them were children Immunization, water and sanitation health programs, training village volunteers and youth in basic first-aid and provide relief assistance to villagers affecting by disasters. These activities were carried in the most parts of the Kingdom of Laos and were being implemented by volunteers. The LRC also participated in some flood relief operations.

These semi-postal stamps were issued with surcharge to raise donations to Lao Red Cross movement. They depict Laotian girl carrying her little brother on her hands, a common sight in Laos.





Kingdom of Laos

The Great Oath Ceremony - 18/Nov/1953

The Kingdom of Laos lent annual great oath ceremony in which civil servants and dignitaries pronounced their allegiance and fidelity to the King and to Laotian constitution. The ceremony took place in Wat Ong Tu, Vientiane, the administrative capital of the Kingdom.

This set of stamps was issued to commemorate the annual great oath ceremony. It shows different Laotian Buddha statues, each with different position and gesture (mudrâ).



Mahaparinirvana (Laotian: Say nha) - Lying Buddha Statue in a position of final Nirvana - Buddha fully passing away the world and enter Nirvana state, meaning reaching full enlightenment, peaceful and happiness and will not rebirth. 16th century, Wat Xieng Thong, Luang Prabang.



Dhyânâ mudrâ - Buddha Statue in a gesture of meditating and concentration. 18th century, Wat Phra Keo, Vientiane.



Standing Buddha Statue (Laotian: hiek fone) - "Buddha is calling to the rain". 17-18th century, Wat Phra Keo, Vientiane.



Bûmispârshâ mudrâ - Sitting Buddha Statue - Buddha touches the earth with his right palm and calls it to testify for his spiritual achievements. In Laos, this mudra is considered as the victory of Buddha on Mara (Laotian: Maravixay). Wat Phra Keo, Vientiane.

Abhayâ mudrâ - Standing Buddha Statue - This mudra represents fearlessness or calming floods, quarrel between relatives etc. This specific mudra is intended to calm the ocean.



The left statue represents grandeur Buddha in Bûmispârshâ mudrâ - Buddha attesting the earth or victory of Buddha on Mara.

Wat Mahatâ, Savankhalok, Thailand. The right statue represents Abhayâ mudrâ - Buddha calming quarrel between relatives.

16th century, Wat Si Saket, Vientiane.



Kingdom of Laos

Jubilee of King Sisavang Vong Reign – 4/Mar/1954



*That Luang, Vientiane
That Chom Si, Luang Prabang
Temple in Pakse, Champasak*

King Sisavang Vong, the last king of Luang Prabang and the first king of Laos, was born on July 14, 1885 at Luang Prabang. His father was Zakarine, king of Luang Prabang and his mother was queen Thongsy. He acquired his education in Lycée Chasseloup-Laubat, Saigon and l'École Coloniale, Paris.

King Sisavang Vong succeeded his father, after his death on March 26, 1904, as king of Luang Prabang, French protectorate within French Indochina. Under his kingdom, he had united provinces Houaphan (1931), Houakhong, Xien-Khouang and Vientiane (1942) Champasak and Sainyabuli (1946). He was a supporter of French rule in Laos and refused to cooperate with Lao Issara, an anti French movement that struggle for Laos's independence. In 1945, he was disposed as king, while the Lao Issara declared the country independent.

In April 1946, the French took over Laos again and Sisavang Vong was reinstated as king all over entire Laos. When Laos achieved full independence from France, he became the head of state for the kingdom of Laos.

King Sisavang Vong was succeeded, after his death on October 29, 1959, by the regent, Prince Savang Vatthana, one of his fifty children. King Savang Vatthana ruled Laos until the abolishment of the Laotian Monarchy in 1975.

King Sisavang Vong became one of the longest-servings monarchs, serving for a period of 55 years. In 1954, he celebrated jubilee of his reign. For this occasion, Laos issued this set of stamps shows three different Laotian temples, one from each former Laotian Kingdoms: Vientiane, Luang Prabang and Champasak. The temples represent the unification of these three Laotian Kingdoms to Kingdom of Laos under King Sisavang Vong reign.



Kingdom of Laos

Ramayana Epos Ballet - 28/Oct/1955



Ravana



Hanuman



Ninh Lapat



Sita and Rama



Luci and Friend



Rama

One of the great Buddhist epos is the Ramayana. It tells the adventures of god Rama and his wife, Sita. Shurpanakha, sister of the dreadful demon Ravana, ruler of Lanka (Sri Lanka), fell in love with Rama but he firmly rejected her courting and offered her his brother Lakshman. The furious Shurpanakha pleaded Ravana to marry Sita. Ravana, cunningly and using his enormous power, kidnapped Sita and flew with her to Lanka. Hanuman, the monkey god and monkey's army commander, rescued Sita after a great war. In Buddhist tradition, Hanuman is a symbol of power, strength and loyalty and admired character throughout the Hindu world.

The Laotian version of the Ramayana Epos called Phra Lak Phra Lam. The stamps depict the Laotian royal ballet actors play the Ramayana epos.



Kingdom of Laos

2500th Anniversary Buddhism - 24/May/1956

Buddhism is a religion, or way of life that attempts to identify the causes of human suffering and offer various ways that are claimed to end or ease suffering. This is formulated through the Four Noble Truths which teach suffering and its cessation through the Eightfold Path*. It is a body of philosophies influenced by the teaching of Siddhartha Gautama., spiritual teacher from India and the founder of Buddhism.

Siddhartha Gautama is recognized by Buddhists as the Supreme Buddha (Samasambuddha) of our age. The precise nature of such a supreme Buddha – whether "merely" human or transcendental, immortal, god-transcending beings – is different constructed in Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism. Theravada Buddhism tends to view him as a super-human personage of supreme teaching skill and wisdom (uncontactable after his physical death), whereas Mahayana Buddhism goes further and tends to see him as projection of an eternal, ultimate principal of Buddha hood, present in all phenomena, immortal and transcendent.

The Buddhism practiced in Laos is the Theravada. The main philosophy of the Theravada says that insight must come from the aspirant's experience, critical investigation and reasoning instead of by blind faith. The Laotian Buddhism is a unique version of the Theravada. It is the basis of Laotian culture and is often tied to animist and ancestral spirits beliefs.

Most historians date Buddha lifetime from 563 to 483 BCE. To commemorate the 2500th anniversary of Buddhism, Laos released this set of stamps. The stamps depict former Laotian Buddha statue from 14th century in Wat Mahathat, Savankhalok, Thailand and monks receiving alms (offertory).



*The eightfold path is the way to the cessation of sufferings. It contains eight parts: right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration, right understanding and right thought.



Kingdom of Laos

1st Anniversary Admission of Laos to the UN - 14/Dec/1956

The United Nations (UN) is an international Organization, founded in 1945, whose aims are to facilitate cooperation in international law, international security, economic development, social progress and human rights issues. The UN divided into administrative bodies, primarily:

The General Assembly, the main deliberative assembly.

The Security Council that deals with peace and security.

The International Court of Justice.

The Economic and Social Council that promotes international economic, social and development cooperation.

The Secretariat that provides studies, information and facilities needed by the UN.

The Economic and Social Council that promotes international economic, social and development cooperation.

Additional bodies deal with the governance of all other UN system agencies such as UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO. Laos was admitted to the UN on December 14, 1955. To commemorate the first anniversary of the admission, Laos issued these stamps depict Garuda, a Mythical bird from Buddhist mythology, holding the UN emblem.



Definitive: Rice Cultivation - 22/Jul/1957

Rice is a staple and the main crop in Laos as in other South-Eastern countries, even more than cereal grains. Rice cultivation is well suited to countries with low labor cost and high rainfall, such as Laos, where most of the total agricultural areas are rice fields. Rice is also a source of other products like beer and other alcoholic beverages. Rice is so important in Laos, so the meaning of the Laotian verb "Kin-Khao" (to eat) is "to absorb rice".



Harvesting

Winnowing

Drying

Polishing



Kingdom of Laos

Rice Cultivation - 22/Jul/1957 - Color Proof-Assay





Kingdom of Laos

Traditional Laotian Music Instruments - 25/Mar/1957

Music in Laos is an important part of the tradition and culture. The most popular music instrument in Laos is the Khene, made from a special kind of bamboo. It contains sets of bamboo and reed pipes of various lengths, which are strapped together, and then blow into by the player. It can be played solo as in traditional Lao music (Mor Lam) or in combination with other musical instruments to accompany modern songs. The Khene is a very ancient instrument, developed more than millennia ago in northern Laos by the Lawa people, the historical predecessors of Lao people.

In Laos, each village has its orchestra, dancers and Khene players that participate in occasions such as national, community and family events and religious processions. The orchestra includes, in addition to Khene, all or part of the following instruments: So violin, Khouy flute, Row Nat xylophone, Kong Thab drum and Khong Wong bells.

The classical form of Laotian music is closely related to that of the Siamese. Ethnomusicologists believe that Laos is a country where the ancient art music of the Khmer people has been best preserved, as well as diverse form of folk music related to the oldest type of Indian music, music that has largely disappeared in India itself.

Music is so important in Laos that the national proverb is: "A person living under a stilted house, eats sticky rice, listens to any music related to Mor Lam, and plays the Khene is likely to be Lao."



Khoy
Flute



Khene
Pipes



Row Nat
Xylophone



Khong Wong
Bells



So
Violin



Kong Thab
Drum



Kingdom of Laos

Buddhism elements - 5/Nov/1957

The main religion in Laos is the Theravada Buddhism. This set of stamps depicts four elements of the Buddhism: The offertory (Dâna), Meditation (Bhâvanâ), Serenity (Passaddhi) and Renunciation (Nekkhamma).

The Offertory (Dâna) – In Buddhism, almsgiving is the respect given by a lay Buddhist to a Buddhist monk or nun. It is a symbolic connection to the spiritual and to show humbleness and respect in the presence of normal society. In Theravada Buddhism monks and nuns go on a daily alms round (pindacara) to collect food. This is often perceived as giving the laypeople the opportunity to make merit. Such giving is one of the elements of the path of practice as formulated by the Buddha for laypeople and the beginning of one's journey to Nirvana.



Meditation (Bhâvanâ) – Buddhist meditation encompasses a variety of meditation techniques that develop mindfulness, concentration, tranquility and insight. Core meditation techniques are preserved in ancient Buddhist texts and have proliferated and diversified through the millennia of teacher student transmissions.

Serenity (Passaddhi) – In Buddhism, Passaddhi refers to tranquility of the body, speech, thoughts and consciousness on the path to enlightenment. As part of cultivated mental factor, passaddhi is preceded by rapture and precedes concentration.

The stamp depicts smiling Buddha Statue from the 16th century located in Wat Phya Vat, Vientiane, Laos.



Renunciation (Nekkhamma) – In Buddhism, Nekkhamma refers to renunciation of worldly pleasures or the virtue of selflessness, which is opposed to attachment, selfishness and possessiveness. Renunciation is one of three "Right Thoughts" (samma-sankappa) which serves the purpose of eliminating evil thoughts and developing pure thoughts.

The stamp depicts Nang Thorani, mother of earth. According to a legend, Buddha sat down under a Bodhi tree and vowed not to get up until attaining enlightenment, but he was tempted by the Mara's (devil) army. Nang Thorani appeared, squeezed water from her hair braid and drowned Mara's army. Buddha overcame his demons, after which he attained enlightenment. The water symbolizes the pure power eliminating the evil.





Kingdom of Laos

Asian Elephant – 17/Mar/1958



The Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is one of the three living species of elephant, and the only living species of the genus *Elephas*. The species found primarily in large parts of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and South-East Asia countries including Laos. It is thought that 200-500 wild Asiatic elephants roam open-canopy forest areas throughout Laos, mainly in Sainyabuli province and in Nakai plateau in central eastern Laos. Around thousand domesticated elephants, used for logging and agriculture, found around the country mainly in Sainyabuli, Udomxai, Champasak and Attapeu. In total number of work elephants, Laos ranks forth in Asia after Myanmar, Thailand and India.

Laos populated in the past by herds of elephants living wild in the forest. Hence, the older name of Laos was "Lane Xang" meaning "Land of million elephants". The Asian elephant has a prominent role in the Laotian culture and tradition. The Lao kingdom emblem was the three headed elephant (god Erawan) that represents the unification of the three former Laotian kingdoms: Vientiane, Luang-Prabang and Champasak. Laotian kings, since king Fa Ngum, used to keep a rare albino elephants because their sacred power and as representatives of war god. The elephant featuring prominently in Laotian mythological legends and also is an important character in Buddhism. Elephants take significant part in many Laotian traditional ceremonies and processions.

The first prize for best French philatelic art in 1958 (Grand prix de l'Art Philatélique Français) was given to the engraver of this set, Jean Pheulpin, for excellent gravure work of one of the stamps from this set.



Kingdom of Laos

3rd Anniversary of Lao Red Cross Movement – 2/May/1958

The international Red Cross is a humanitarian movement whose stated mission is to protect human life and health, to ensure respect for the human being and to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

The Lao Red Cross (LRC) movement was established on January 1, 1955. Several health activities and programs were carried out by the LRC movement. Among them were children Immunization, water and sanitation health programs, training village volunteers and youth in basic first-aid and provide relief assistance to villagers affecting by disasters. The LRC also participated in some flood relief operations. To commemorate the 3rd anniversary of the movement, the Kingdom of Laos issued this set of stamps depict mother nursing her child.



Inauguration of UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France – 3/Nov/1958



The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the UN. Its purpose is to promote international collaboration through education, culture and science in order to further universal respect for justice and human rights and fundamental freedom. UNESCO pursues its objectives through five major programs: education, natural sciences, social sciences, culture and communication and information. The projects include literacy, technical and teacher training programs, promotion of independent media, regional and cultural history projects, and promotion of international cooperation agreements to secure the world cultural and natural heritage.

On November 3, 1958, the new outstanding architectural UNESCO headquarters building in Paris was inaugurated. The Y shape building was designed by three architects: Bernard Zehrfuss, Marcel Breuer and Luigi Nervi, under the direction of international committee. To celebrate the inauguration, this set of stamps was issued. The 0.5K stamp depicts a Laotian goddess and Naga serpent which considered as a protectors. Both symbolize the UNESCO actions for protection of human culture and heritage.



Kingdom of Laos

Definitive: Homeland, Religion, Monarchy and Constitution – 16/Sep/1959 & 5/Jul/1965 (OP)



The Franco-Lao treaty of 1953 gave Laos independence and established the Laotian constitutional monarchy with Sisavang Vong as the king and prince Souvanna Phouma as prime minister. Later, a coalition with Souphanavong, head of the communist party, expands the national unity government. The Laotian Constitutional monarchy exists until 1975, when the communist party, Pathet Lao, took control in Laos, removed the king and established the Lao People Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)

This set of stamps depicts the four basis elements of the Laotian constitutional monarchy: Homeland, Religion, Monarchy and Constitution. Two stamps were reissued in 1965 with surcharge.

Definitive: Education and Fine Arts – 1/Oct/1959

During the French colonial period, relatively few schools were constructed in Laos and the country's elite were trained in Hanoi and Saigon or in France. For the rest of the population, the temples provided the only opportunity for education. However, few people gained education and the majority of the population was noneducated.

After 1955, the Royal government began constructing elementary and secondary schools. In 1958, Sisavang Vong University was established in Vientiane and regional technical colleges were established in Luang Prabang, Pakse and Savannakhet. Formal arts training began in 1959 with the establishment of National School of Fine Arts and National School of Music and Dance in Vientiane under the Ministry of Education.

This set of stamps commemorates the establishment of these schools and the importance of education and art.



*Stage
Performance*

Student

*Key to
Education*

*Stage
Performance*



Kingdom of Laos

Definitive: Buddhist Monuments - 2/Nov/1959

This set of stamps depicts several important Laotian Buddhist monuments

That Ing Hang – a Buddhist stupa near Savannakhet. It was built in the 16th century near the spot where Chao Fa Ngum's forces were based during the takeover of Muang Sawa in the mid 14th century. It is considered the second holiest edifice in southern Laos after Wat Phu Champasak.



Wat Phu Champasak – a Buddhist Khmère temple ruins near the Phu (mountain) Kao, Champasak province, Southern Laos. It was built in 11th to 13th centuries as part of Khmer empire. The Phu (mountain) Kao gained spiritual importance from the linga shaped protuberance on its summit, so, it was considered the home of god Shiva and the Wat Phu dedicated to him.

Wat Phu was a part of the Khmer empire, centered on Angkor, now in Cambodia. The temple now seen was built during the Koh Ker and Baphoun periods of 11th century. In the following two centuries, the temple became a center for Theravada Buddhism worship. This continues after the area came under control of the Lao. This temple considered the holiest religious edifice in southern Laos.

Wat Phu festival is held each year in February in Champasak and includes elephants racing, buffaloes and cocks fighting and performances of Lao traditional music and dance.



Pha That Luang – a Buddhist stupa in Vientiane. It was built in the 16th century by King Sethathirath, King of Lane Xang, on the ruins of 13th century Khmer temple, which in turn, according to Lao legend, was built on Indian temple built by Emperor Ashoka.

Pha That Luang was destroyed by Thai in the 19th century and restored later. The stupa became a symbol of Lao nationalism.



That Chom Si – a Buddhist stupa in Luang Prabang regarded one of the sacred places in the city. The stupa was built in 1804 by King Anurut and restored in 1914 on the summit of mount Phou Si. It clearly visible from almost any ground-level point in the city. This stupa is a starting point for a Lao New Year procession, Boun Pi Mai, held in mid April. Around the stupa, in the Phou Si slope, are several religious sites including temples, caves with Buddha statues and Buddha footprints.



Kingdom of Laos

Semi Postal: World Refugee Year – 7/Apr/1960

The World Refugee Year idea was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization in resolution 1285 adopted on December 5, 1958. The idea of the World Refugee Year was that special humanitarian world-wide activities should be made to bring the world refugee problem, created mainly by World War II and following wars and conflicts, to solution. The resolution has two goals:

- 1) To focus interest on the refugee problem and to encourage additional financial contributions from Governments, voluntary agencies and the general public for its solution.
- 2) To encourage additional opportunities for permanent refugee solutions, through voluntary repatriation, resettlement or integration, on a purely humanitarian basis and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees themselves.

To commemorate the World Refugee Year, the Kingdom of Laos reissued two former stamps overprinted: "World Refugee Year 1959 – 1960" ("Annee Mondiale du Refugie 1959 – 1960") and surcharged 1K to raise revenue for refugees support.



Tourism Promotion – 1/Jul/1960

To promote tourism, the Kingdom of Laos issued this set of stamps depicts Laotian landscapes and scenes.

The Plain of Jars is located in Xieng Khouang Province, Northern Laos. It is a cultural historical site contains thousands of stones jars. Archeologists assume that the jars used 2000 years ago as funeral urns or food storages by the Mon-Khmer.

Local legend tells that once there was a cruel king named Khun Angka. People asked King Khun Cheuang to fight the cruel King. Once Khun Cheuang army had won, he ordered to build huge jars for rice wine for the victory celebration of his army.

In the second Indochina war, the plain of jars was the Pathet Lao main base.



Laotian Scene



Pha Pheng Falls,
Champasak Province.



Laotian Scene



Kingdom of Laos

Funeral of King Sisavang Vong – 29/Apr/1961

King Sisavang Vong ruled Kingdom of Laos in years 1904-1959. He died on October 29, 1959 and was buried in Wat That Luang, Vientiane. He was succeeded by his son, King Savang Vatthana.



Coronation of King Savang Vatthana – 16/Apr/1962



Prince Savang Vatthana was born on November 13, 1907 in Luang Prabang. He was the son of King Sisavang Vong and Queen Kham-Oun I. He educated in Paris Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques, France.

In 1951, he served as Prime Minister and was assigned Regent on August 20, 1959 when his father became ill. On October 29, 1959, after his father death, he informally ascended the throne.

King Savang Vatthana was active in Lao politics, trying to stabilize Laos after the political turmoil started with Geneva conference of July, 1954 which generated full independence for Laos without a solution about the ruling authority in Laos. Three persons, Prince Souvanna Phouma, a neutralist being recognized by USSR, Prince Boun Oum, Pro USA, and Prince Souphanouvong, leader of the Pathet Lao, each claimed to be Laotian Prime Minister. To avoid argument, King Savang Vatthana wanted them to form a coalition government which happened in 1962 but collapsed. In 1964, series of coups and countercoups resulted in final alignment of the Pathet Lao in one side with the neutralist and right wing fractions on the other. From this point the Pathet Lao refused to join any offers of coalition or national elections and continued their efforts to rule the country which happened, finally, in 1975.

On December 2, 1975, King Savang Vatthana was forced to abdicate the throne after the communist revolution. He refused to leave the country. In March 1977, he and his family were arrested and put into an internment camp Sam Neua in Northern Laos. About 1978, He died along with Queen Khamphoui and crown prince Vong Savang. After his death, Prince Sauryavong Savang, the King's youngest son, became the head of the Laotian royal family in exile.



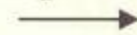
Kingdom of Laos

Makha Bousa Festival - 19/Feb/1962

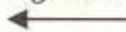
The Makha Bousa (Thai: Maghapuja) festival commemorates the great speech given by Buddha at deer park near Benares to 1250 monks how came to hear him without prior announcement. It was in the full moon day of Magha month of Hindu calendar. In this speech, the Buddha declared himself as Tathagatha (Man how saw the truth) and thought his Four Noble Truths which teach suffering.

The Makha Bousa festival characterizes by a procession of candle-bearing peoples and monks that circumambulate the temples with music and dances, merits ceremonies inside the temples, alms offering, listening to monks teaching and other events that commemorate Buddha first sermon.

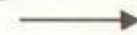
Pou Gneu Nha Gneu Legend – a creation legend that tells about a mythical couple, Pou Gneu and Nha Gneu. This couple created the earth by stamping on the sea that covered the earth planet and planted gourd seeds wherefrom man appeared. They captured and domesticated a lion named Sing Keo Sing Kham, thus they eliminated a beast that terrorized the Luang Prabang region. To commemorate this event and as a protection from destruction of the city, every New Year, people of Luang Prabang hold a procession with characters of the couple and their lion.



Garuda Legend – The Garudas are large mythical birds with intelligence and social organization. They have magical power and capable of creating storms and destructions by flap their wings. In Laotian tradition, Garuda is considered as father of Soudagnou, king of eagles, one of the Phra lak Phra Lam (Ramayana) epos characters.



Hanuman Legend – The monkey god, Hanuman, is one of the important characters in Phra Lak Phra Lam (Ramayana) epos. He is a loyal servant of god Phra Lam and his wife Nang Sida. In Buddhist tradition, Hanuman is a symbol of power, strength and loyalty and admired character throughout the Hindu and Buddhist world. He has unnatural powers and fights against evil powers as shown in this stamp.



Nang Teng One Legend – King Mahavong married with Nang Teng One, a daughter of King of crocodiles. She gave birth while King Mahavong was away. An evil woman took the baby and substituted him by baby crocodile. King Mahavong suspected that the Queen was unfaithful, so she was banished from the court. The boy, at age 12, knowing how he really was, went to steal a sacred horse from the King. A battle between the King army and the boy guardians started as shown in this stamp.





Kingdom of Laos

The World United Against Malaria - 19/Jul/1962

Malaria is an infectious disease caused by Plasmodium parasites, which is transmitted via infected Anopheles mosquitoes. In the human, the parasites infected red blood cells causing fever, headache and vomiting. If not treated, Malaria can become life-threatening by disrupting the blood supply to vital organs. Interventions to control Malaria include treatment with anti-parasites therapies, use of insecticidal nets and spraying with insecticide to control the Anopheles vector.

Malaria disease is widespread in Africa, South America and Asia subtropical regions. Laos, as the rest of South-Asia countries, is infected by Malaria, especially the rural regions. Thousands of Malaria cases, mostly of children under 5 years old, are reported each year in Laos.

On October 21, 1960, at the 26th session of the World Health Organization, it was proposed that countries will issue stamps in order to help fund the "global program for the eradication of Malaria" and increase world-wide publicity and education about the fight against Malaria. 144 postal administrations issued stamps, souvenir sheets and slogans. Among them was the Kingdom of Laos that issued this set of stamps and souvenir sheet. The 10K stamp depicts the Malaria campaign emblem – The World Health Organization logo fights the Anopheles mosquito vector and the slogan: "The world united against Malaria" ("Le monde uni contre le Paludisme").





Kingdom of Laos

The World United Against Malaria - 19/Jul/1962 - Imperforate Set





Kingdom of Laos

Vientiane Stamps Exhibition and Stamp Day – 15/Nov /1962



Modern Mail Service



Stamp Day



Ancient Mail Service



Royal Messenger

To commemorate the Vientiane stamps exhibition and celebrate the stamp day, the Kingdom of Laos issued this set of stamps. The stamps depict traditional and modern post carriers. The 1.5K stamp depicts the Royal messenger carries bamboo tube with letters on his back. He used to carry urgent letters with orders from the persons in charge to the villagers.

Freedom from Hunger Campaign – 21/Mar/1963



Fisherman



Threshing Rice



Planting Rice



Harvesting Rice

Hunger has been a worldwide problem that people have combated forever. It caused by several factors such as climate conditions as drought, biological hazards, political events as wars and conflicts and others.

In year 1960, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the anti-hunger campaign under the control and supervision of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The FAO was established after World War II, in October 1945, to combat hunger in several areas of the world. The "freedom from hunger" campaign, launched by FAO, had two goals: To bring the hunger problem that threatens the world peace to the attention of the world and to establish national and international organizations to combat hunger.

In June 1963, the World Food Congress was held in Washington, USA with participation of politicians, scientists, sociologists and other representatives. Its aim was to organize the activities, operations and co-operations which should be held by the UN and the nations to combat hunger. As part of the campaign, 140 postal authorities were issued stamps. Among them the Kingdom of Laos that issued this set of stamps shows traditional Laotian agriculture.



Kingdom of Laos

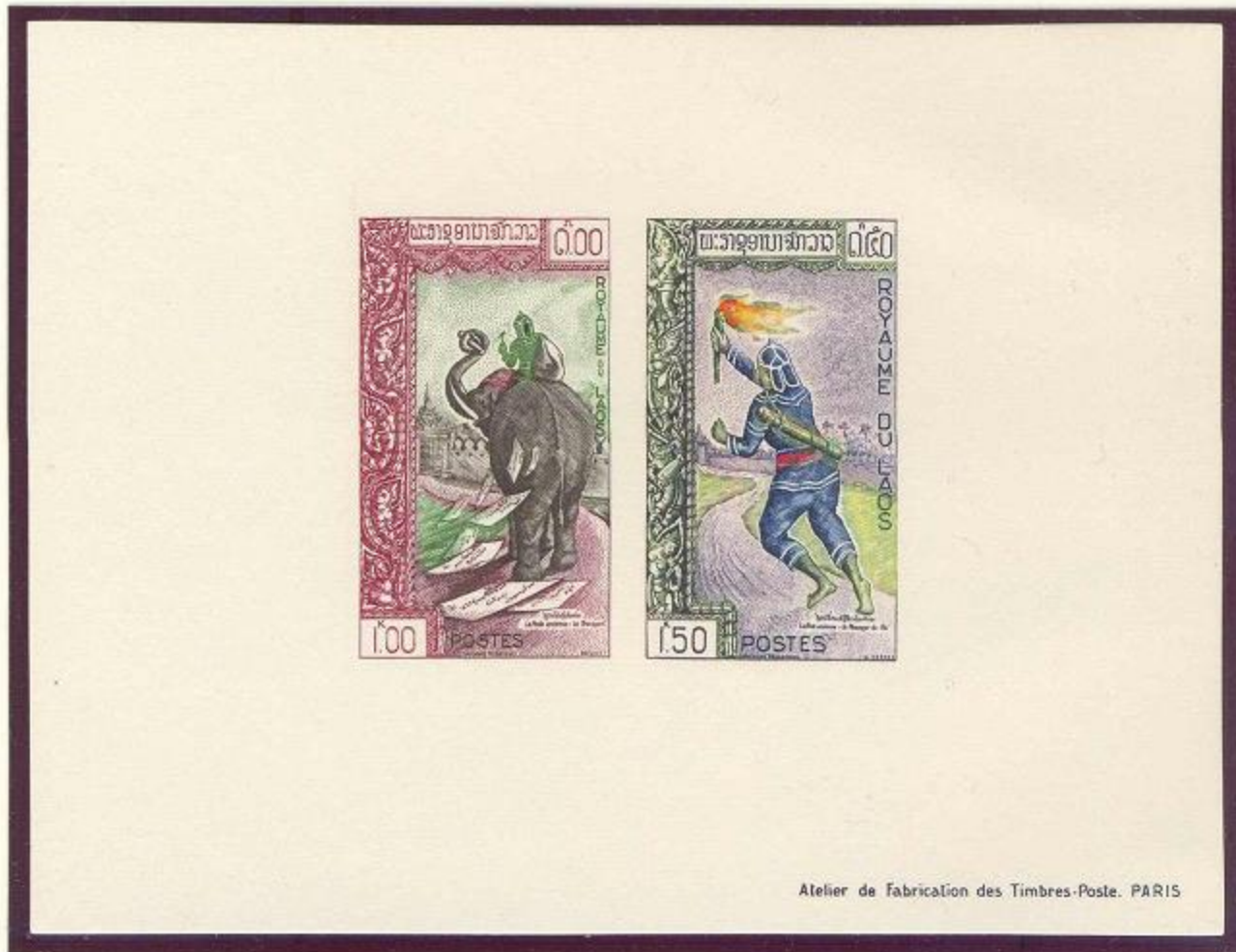
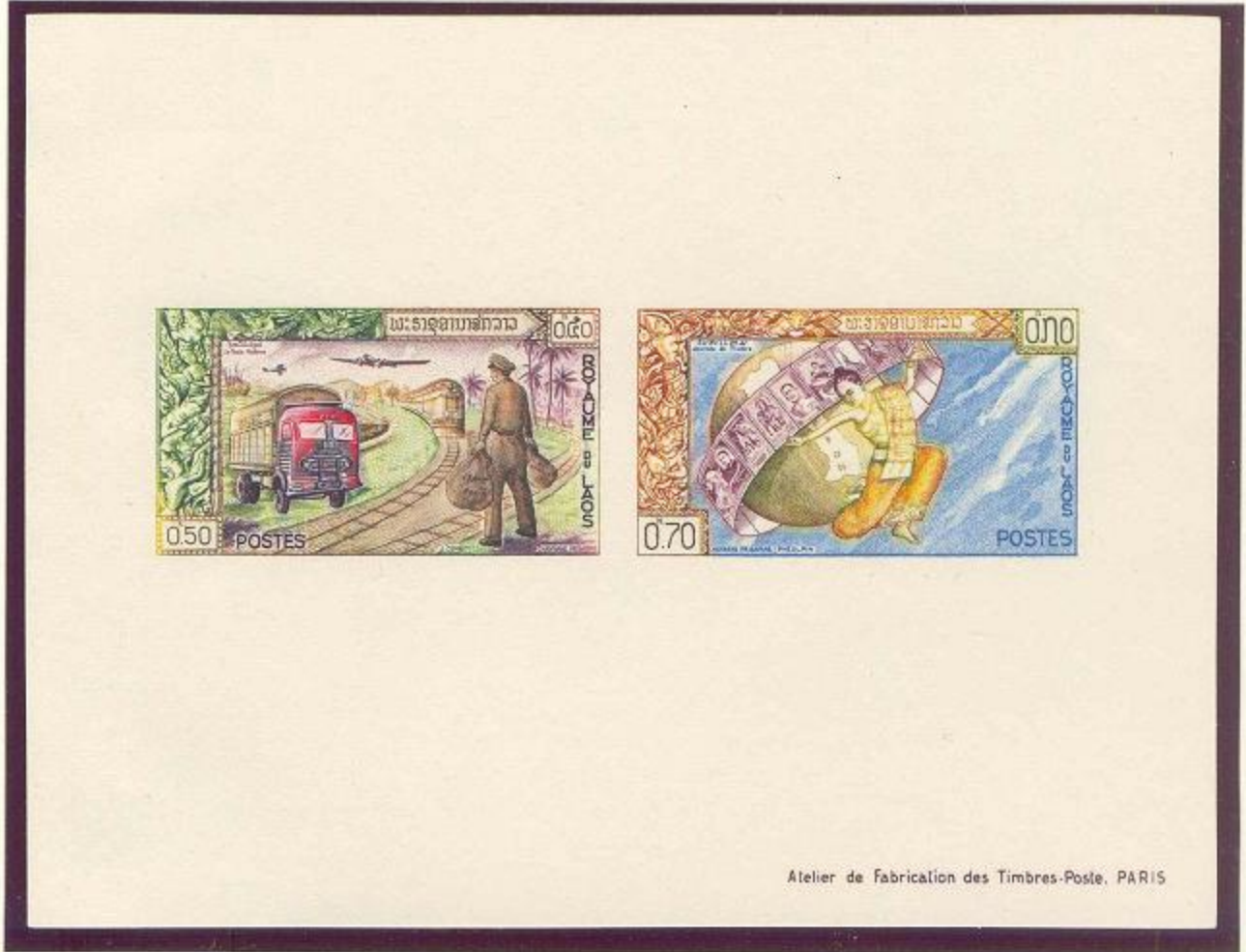
Vientiane Stamps Exhibition and Stamp Day - 15/Nov/1962





Kingdom of Laos

Vientiane Stamps Exhibition and Stamp Day - 15/Nov/1962 – Imperforated SS





Kingdom of Laos

Freedom from Hunger Campaign - 21/Mar/1963



Atelier de fabrication des Timbres-Poste, PARIS



Kingdom of Laos

Centenary of International Red Cross Movement – 10/Oct/1963

The international Red Cross is a humanitarian movement whose stated mission is to protect human life and health, to ensure respect for the human being and to prevent and alleviate human suffering without any discrimination based on nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.

The history of this movement began when, in 1859, Henry Dunant, Swiss businessman, witnessed the Battle of Solferino in Austro-Sardinian War. He was shocked by the terrible aftermath of the battle, the suffering of the wounded soldiers and the lack of medical attendance. Dunant advocated the formation of relief organizations to help nurse wounded soldiers and called for the development of international treaties to protect those wounded on the battlefields as well as medics and field hospital. In 1863, The Red Cross Movement was established (was called than "International Committee for Relief to the Wounded") based on his vision.

Since than, the movement expanded and included several independent organizations. Among them is the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which has a unique authority under international humanitarian law to protect the life and dignity of the victims of international and internal armed conflicts.

This set of stamps and Souvenir Sheet were issued by Laos to commemorate the centenary of the Red Cross Movement. They depict Queen Khamphoui, wife of King Savang Vatthana, handing out cloths to Laotians.





Kingdom of Laos

15th Anniversary Universal Declaration of Human Rights - 10/Dec/1963

On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration contains 30 articles which outline the view of the General Assembly on the human rights guaranteed to all people.

The second article of the declaration states: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty".

This stamp, issued as perforate and imperforate, commemorates the 15th anniversary of declaration of human rights. The stamp depicts man holding the UN emblem and scale of justice.





Kingdom of Laos

UNESCO campaign for Nubia Monuments Preservation - 8/Mar/1964

The archeological site of Nubia, Egypt contains the temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel and the temples at Philae. Abu Simbel comprises two massive rock temples in Southern Egypt. The temples were carved out of the mountainside during the reign of Pharaoh Ramses II in the 13th century B.C. as a monument to himself and queen Nefertari to commemorate his victory at the Kadesh battle. The island temple at Philae was constructed by the Greek Ptolemaic dynasty. The principal deity of the temple complex was Isis (who was associated with the Greek goddess Aphrodite), but other temples and shrines were dedicated to her son Horus and the goddess Hathor.

In 1959, the construction work of Aswan dam began. The Nubian monuments were under threat from the rising water of the Nile. On 8 March 1960, UNESCO launched an international appeal, calling the world to give financial and technical assistance for the safeguarding of the monuments. Rescue operation was begun, archeological sites were surveyed and excavated and 24 major monuments were moved to safer locations.

To promote publicity of the preservation campaign, several countries issued stamps, among them was the Kingdom of Laos. The Laotian stamps and souvenir sheet depict monument from Ramses II temple at Abu-Simbel, Pha That Luang at Vientiane and map of Nubia between them as well as the UNESCO emblem.



Prix de vente: 25[¢]

IMPRIMERIE DES TIMBRES-POSTE - PARIS





Kingdom of Laos

Laotian Constitutional Monarchy - 19/Jul/1964 – Imperforate SS



A constitutional monarchy is a form of government which a king reigns with limits to his power along with a governing body as parliament. In constitutional monarchies the position of the monarch may be hereditary or elected.

Constitutional monarchs, even when they have little power in government, generally play active role in maintaining constitutional government in time of crisis of administration. Furthermore, they discuss issues with the head of government and have large informal power. The prime minister is the head of the government, appoints the ministers and consults with the king.

The Franco-Lao treaty of 1953 gave Laos independence and established the Laotian constitutional monarchy with Sisavang Vong as the king and prince Souvanna Phouma as prime minister. Later, a coalition with Souphanavong, head of the communist party, expands the national unity government. The Laotian Constitutional monarchy exists until 1975, when the communist party, Pathet Lao, took control in Laos, removed the king and established the Lao People Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)

This set of stamps depicts the four basis elements of the Laotian constitutional monarchy: Homeland, Religion, Monarchy and Constitution (Patrie, Religion, Monarchie et Constitution). The Kingdom of Laos map appears when the four stamps are arranged together as shown in the souvenir sheet.



Kingdom of Laos

Laotian Constitutional Monarchy - 19/Jul/1964



Constitution



Religion



*Homeland
Patrie*



*Monarchy
Monarchie*



Kingdom of Laos

Phra Wetsandon Buddhist Legend (I) - 17/Nov/1964



Prince Phra Wetsandon and Nang Matsee.



God of the skies sending his son to earth.



Xuxouk, the Brahman and his young wife.



Arresting Xuxouk, the Brahman.

Xadouk (Pali: Jātaka) refer to legends concerning the previous births (jāti) of the Buddha as were told by the Buddha himself in his sermons to emphasize certain moral ways of life. One of the important Xadouk is Phra Wetsandon legend telling about the Buddha life prior to his incarnation:

The prince Phra Wetsandon was son of King Sanxai and Queen Phoutsadee. He and his wife, Nang Matsee, had a son named Thao Xalee and a daughter named Nang Kanha.

One day, Prince Wetsandon gave the Kingdom's white elephant to nearby country that suffered from dryness. This white elephant causes good luck that can bring rain. Indeed, rain came soon to the country but, unfortunately, stop to come to Sanxai's Kingdom and people could not begin their planting.

When King Sanxai heard about the gift, he sent Phra Wetsandon Prince and his family into exile to a forest. While in their way to forest, Prince Wetsandon gave all his properties, including his carriage, to people. Finally, they arrived to Khao Wongkot Mountain, their the prince vowed to accumulate merits to be reborn as Buddha.

One day, a Brahman named Xuxouk, how was married to a young wife, asked the Prince to give him his children to be his servants. Prince Wetsandon, without hesitation, gave the Brahman his two children. Nang Matsee, the Prince wife, collapsed when hearing the news about her children.

god Indra heard about the Prince merits and decided to test him. He came to earth as a Brahman and asked from the Prince his wife. When the Prince gave his wife, all celestial beings rejoiced, god Indra resumed his human image and returned Nang Matsee back to Prince Wetsandon.

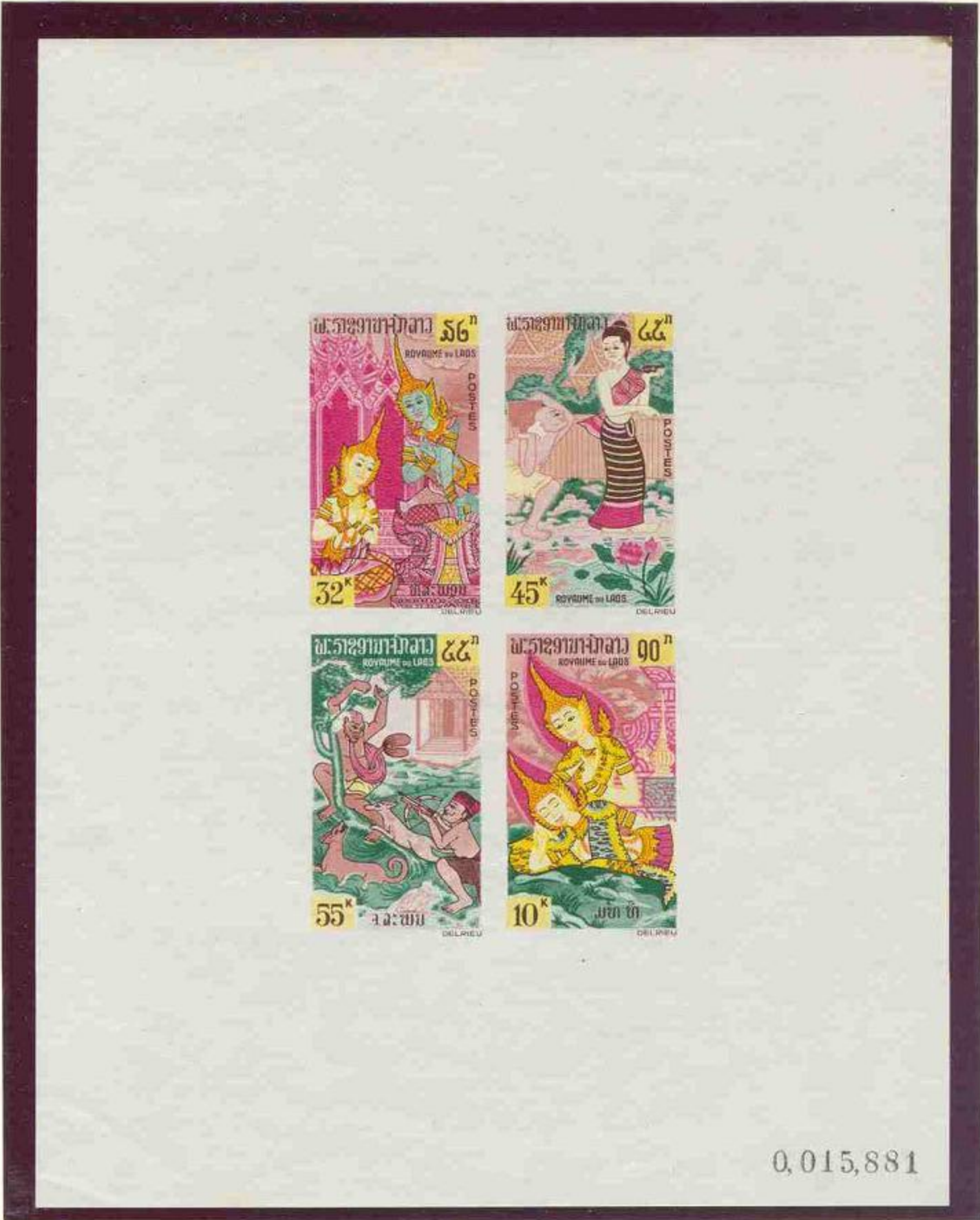
Meanwhile, the Brahman Xuxouk and the Prince children accidentally arrived at King Sanxai's Kingdom. The King recognized them and understood that it is one of his son merits. He ordered to arrest Xuxouk and sent a grand procession to bring back Prince Wetsandon and Nang Matsee from exile to rule the Kingdom.

The Phra Wetsandon legend teaches us about important elements in Buddhism – Renunciation and giving. These elements are much resembled to Tsdaqkah in Judaism.



Kingdom of Laos

Phra Wetsandon Buddhist Legend - 17/Nov/1964



0,015,881



Kingdom of Laos

Laotian Ethnics - 15/Dec/1964 – Imperforated SS

There are 68 official ethnic groups in Laos, belonging to three main groups: Lao Loum, Lao Sung and Lao Theung.

Lao Loum - About two thirds of the Laotian population is ethnic Lao, the principal lowland inhabitants and the politically and culturally dominant group. The Lao belong to the Thai linguistic group who began migrating southward from China in the first millennium AD. A further ten percents of the population belong to other lowland groups such as Lao Thai, which together with the Lao people make up the Lao Loum (Low Lao).

Lao Sung - Hill people and minority cultures of Laos such as the Hmong (Meo), Yaho (Mien), Thai Damm, Dao Shan and several Tibeto-Burmen speaking peoples have lived in isolated regions for many years. Mountains and Hill tribes of mixed ethno cultural linguistic heritage are found in northern Laos which include the Lua people. Collectively, all these groups are known as Lao Sung (High Lao).

Lao Theung - The predominate people in the central and southern mountains of Laos are the Mon-Khmer tribes that include the Khammu, Lawa, Katu, Katan and other small tribes. They are known as Lao Theung (Upland Lao) or Kha. Both groups, The Khammu and Lawa, are thought to have been in Laos long before the arrival of the lowland Lao, tribal Thai or Lao Sung. Many Lao people consider them as their historical predecessors.

These souvenir sheets and the following stamps, depict Laotian peoples from the three major groups of Laos.





Kingdom of Laos

Laotian Ethnics - 15/Dec/1964



Yaho Hunter



Kha Hunter



Lao Women



Meo Woman



Kingdom of Laos

Laotian Butterflies – 13/Mar/1965

Butterflies are a group of insects belongs to the order *Lepidoptera*. They are notable for their unusual life cycle with a larval caterpillar stage, pupal stage and familiar and colorful winged adult form. Butterflies can be found in almost all habitats. They feed on plants, fungi and other insects. Some butterflies are prey of various birds and mammals. Laos is a habitat of several South-Eastern Asian endemic butterflies as shown in this set of stamps. Butterflies became a symbol of freedom and are popular motif in the visual and literary art as well as in Buddhism literature.

Red Lacewing
Cethosia biblis



Atlas Moth
Attacus atlas



Inchworm Moth
Dysphania militaris



Yellow Pansy
Precis hierta cebrene



Foreign Aid – 30/Mar/1965

The Kingdom of Laos Royal government had close relations with the western countries especially USA, Great Britain, France, Japan and Australia. These countries supported and assisted the Kingdom both military and economically. This set of stamps commemorates the nations how support Laos. Each stamp depicts a project that financed and assisted by these nations: Wattay airport construction in Vientiane by France, Water supply systems improvement by Japan, Radio station foundation by Great Britain and Laotian Educational system improvement by United States.

Aid by France



Aid by Japan



Aid by Great Britain



Aid by USA





Kingdom of Laos

Laotian New Year – Wat Ho Pha Bang – 23/Apr/1965



This stamp, issued for the new Laotian year, depicts the Wat Ho Pha Bang. It located at the Royal Palace garden, Luang Prabang. The Wat has a relatively bow structure built in traditional style as the shrine for the Pha Bang Buddha statue, the most sacred image of Luang Prabang how gave its name to the city. According to a legend, the statue was cast around 1st century A.D. in Sri Lanka and later presented to Khmer King Phaya Sirichantha, how in turn gave it to Fa Ngum, King of Lane Xang, in 1359. The Siamese took the statue to Thailand but it was restored to Lao hands by King Mongkut (Rama IV) in 1867.

6th Anniversary of Declaration of the Rights of the Child by UN – 1/Sep/1965



In 1959, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. The declaration appeals to parents, voluntary organizations, local authorities and national Governments to recognize the rights of the child and strive for their observance by legislative and other measures taken in accordance with the declaration principles.

The declaration devotes special attention to the protection of the child and his mother. Principle 4 of the declaration states: "The child shall enjoy the benefits of social security. He shall be entitled to grow and develop in health; to this end, special care and protection shall be provided both to him and to his mother, including adequate pre-natal and post-natal care. The child shall have the right to adequate nutrition, housing, recreation and medical services".

To commemorate the 6th anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the protection of his mother, the Kingdom of Laos issued these stamp and souvenir sheet. They depict the emblems of WHO and UNICEF, two organizations that are responsible for the health, security and welfare of the child.



Kingdom of Laos

Centenary of the International Telecommunication Union - 15/Jun/1965

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the leading United Nations agency for information and communication technologies. It established to standardize and regulate international radio and telecommunication. Its main tasks include standardization, allocation of the radio spectrum and organizing arrangements between different countries to allow international telephone calls. TELECOM is part of ITU and organizes major events which provide a unique global networking platform where companies, inventors of new technologies and business men connect.

The ITU was founded as the International Telegraph Union in Paris on May 17, 1865. The ITU headquarter is based in Geneva, Switzerland and its membership includes 191 member states and more than 700 sector members and associates. Laos was admitted to the ITU on April 13, 1952. The stamps commemorate the centenary of the ITU.





Kingdom of Laos

Laotian Wild Animals – 7/Oct/1965

Laos is one of few places on earth where forest area covers 80% of the country. It is popular for its forests, mountains, rivers and scenic beauty. It is a land of beautiful dense green hills, tropical monsoon climate, glittering rivers and vast unexplored wild life. Some of the animal populations are endangered; some have been hunted by the hunters and by the poachers, who steal uncommon animals for sale live in Vietnam or, as "medicinal" body parts or food, in China, Thailand and Vietnam. These stamps depict five endangers wild mammals living in Laos: Leopard Cat, Squirrel, Mongoose, Porcupine and Binturong.



Leopard Cat
Felis bengalensis



Flying Squirrel
Hylopetes phayrel



Javan Mongoose
Herpestes javanicus



Chinese Porcupine
Hystrix higgsoni



Binturong
Arctictis binturong

20th Anniversary of the United Nations Organization / International Cooperation Year – 24/Oct/1965

The United Nations Organization was established on June 25, 1945. To read about the UNO, please refer to the page shows the "Admission to UN" set of stamps issued on December 14, 1956. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of UN organization, the Kingdom of Laos issued this set of stamps depicts the UN emblem on the background of the map of the Kingdom.



Note: some stamps catalogues mark this set of stamps as issued to commemorates the "International Cooperation Year 1965".

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 1965 as International Cooperation Year. The idea of the International Cooperation Year was that cooperation between countries and nations would facilitate the solutions of most of the international problems and will improve the dialogue between them. Many international projects and activities were launched during the year in several fields such as communication, education, agricultural and others for the benefits of the mankind.



Kingdom of Laos

Laotian Folklore – 23/Dec/1965

Tikhee game - a form of hockey played with bamboo sticks (Maikhee) and ball (Lookhee). This game is held in the last day of That Luang festival. Tikhee used to be played between the local inhabitants and the civil servants and aimed to decrease the tension between the two groups.

Buffalo fighting – This competition event is held in Wat Phu festival and by the Hmong and Lao Sung during the New Year festival. Buffalo fighting are organized in fields near the villages for entertainments and competitions. Prizes are given to winners buffalos.



Laotian rocket festival - Boun Bang Fai – In this festival, people request from rain god Phaya Thaen to bring rain. They launch bamboo rocket to symbolically fertilize the clouds. The festival is held in the sixth month of the lunar calendar before the rice cultivation season.

Boat Racing - boat racing is an important part of different Laotians festivals. One of them is the Boun Haw Khao Padap Din, a Buddhist festival held in Luang Prabang during the 9th month aimed to remember and respect the spirits of the dead ancestors.

Laotian Birds – 10/Feb/1966

More than 700 species of birds are comprised the avifauna of Laos. Some of them are endemic to Southern-Asian region like the Slaty-headed Parakeet and some are found in all continents like the Osprey. Four of Laotian birds are depicted in this set of stamps.

Birds used to be hunted by Laotians and, together with their eggs, are eminent source of food in Laos. Birds are also important characters in Buddhism and Laotian culture. Many mythological figures have shape of bird or part of it such as the Garuda, mythical bird in the Hindu and Buddhist mythologies and Soudagnou, king of eagles, one of the Ramayana epos character.



Slaty-headed Parakeet
Psittacula himalayana

White-crested Laughingthrush
Garrulax leucolophus

Osprey
Pandion haliaetus

Indian Roller
Coracias benghalensis



Kingdom of Laos

Inauguration of the WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland - 3/May/1966



The World Health Organization (WHO) is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

Many projects such as tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases prevention, sanitation and access to water are carried out by the World Health Organization in Laos.

The new WHO headquarters was inaugurated in Geneva, Switzerland in 1966.



Kingdom of Laos

Laotian Folklore – 20/May/1966

Several elements from the Laotian folklore are shown in this set of stamps

Ordination of Monks – In Theravada Buddhism, ceremonies are held each rainy season, to bring young men into the Wat to practice Buddhism. Most of them enter for one rainy season period but some enter for their entire life. During the ceremony, water is poured on the monks from Hang Lin, Bamboo tube shaped as Naga serpent. —→



Sand Stupas building ceremony – One of the Boun Pi Mai (or Boun Songkhane), New Year festival, ceremonies is building of sand stupas. They symbolize Mount Sumeru, where King Kabinlaphom's head was kept by his seven daughters according to the legend "Nang Sangkaan".

The sand stupas are built in front of Wats. They are sprinkled with scented water, decorated with flags and banners and covered with yellow cloths symbolizing Buddhism. Candles and flowers are stuck around. The stupas, with their offerings, are than offered to the monks, thus people gain merits. ←



Phassad Pheng – In some Buddhist festivals, such as Boun That Luang and Boun Khatin, a procession of people holding a Phassad Pheng, wax stupa model, is held. The Phassad Pheng covered with flowers, money and offerings and it offered to the monks in the end of the procession. The Phassad Pheng is built to venerate Buddha and his teachings. —→



Sou-Khouane (Baci) – An important Laotian social ceremony. It held in different events such as marriage, voyage, birth of a baby, birthday, buying new house, crops harvest, New Year Pi Mai festival and other family and community celebrations during the year.

The meaning of "Sou" is "Unity" or "Binding" and "Khouane" refers to "Guardian Spirits". The Laotians believe that when the Khouane leave the person body, he became ill or misfortune. This can be cured only if the Khouane will be called and unite again with the person body by the Sou-Khouane ceremony. The ceremony performed sitting around a table which has a bowl of flower and candles called Phakhhouane. Food and drinks are placed near the Phakhhouane as symbolic gifts to the Khouane. The Phakhhouane tied with blessed cotton strings. The strings used for the Phai Phoukkhene, tying the string on a person wrist while calling and blessing the Khouane. This act symbolizes the unity of the Khouane with the person.

The same act of tying a blessed cotton string on a person wrist is held by different Jewish ethnic groups, especially Moroccan Jews. The string is blessed near holy tombs such as tomb of Mother Rachel in Bethlehem, Israel.





Kingdom of Laos

20th Anniversary of UNESCO - 7/Jul/1966

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the UN. Its stated purpose is to contribute to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through education, science and culture.

UNESCO was established in 1945. These stamps and souvenir sheet were issued by the Kingdom of Laos to commemorate the 20th anniversary of this organization,



Prix de vente: 250^K

IMPRIMERIE DES TIMBRES-POSTE - PARIS



Kingdom of Laos

International Letter Writing Week - 7/Sep/1966

International Letter Writing Week was established at the 14th Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress held in Ottawa, Canada in 1957 with the aim of contributing to world peace by encouraging cultural exchange among the people of the world, especially young people, through letter writing. Letter Writing Week spans the one week period that includes 9 October, the anniversary of the inauguration of the Universal Postal Union. Among the activities during this week, the UPU introduces a letter writing competition among young people from all over the world. These series of stamps and souvenir sheet, depict the "International Letter Writing Week" emblem, were issued by Laos to help promote letter writing.





Kingdom of Laos

Semi Postal – Mekong Delta Flood Relief - 18/Jan/1967

Laos, as other South-East Asia countries, is affected by tropical disturbances as Monsoon and Typhoon and other natural disasters. Among the main natural hazards are floods from the Mekong River that occur frequently in Laos. In 1966, one of the largest devastating Mekong floods struck several areas along the river including the city of Vientiane and the Wat Tay airport. Many peoples lost their home and property. Young Laotian scouts were among the rescue teams. These semi-postal stamps and souvenir sheet were issued to raise revenue for the relief of the 1966 Mekong River flood victims.



Flooded Village



Flooded Market



Flooded Wat Tay Airport



Kingdom of Laos

Buddhist Carvings Art from the 16-18th Centuries – 21/Feb/1967

Buddhist temples are well known for their delicate wood carvings. Most of the carvings show mythological and legendary characters from the Buddhist pantheon. Four carvings from Laotian Buddhist temples from the 16-18th centuries are shown.



Wood carving from
Siprapouthbat –
god Shiva

god Shiva together with Vishnu and Brahma forms the Trimurti, a triad of great gods. He regarded as god of creation and fertility, but also as destroyer and brings death. In the carving, he depicted as carrying a trident, which represents creation, protection and destruction of the universe.



Wood carving from
Wat Vixoun –
Buddha holding lotus

Buddha holding lotus flowers is a well known motive in Buddhist art. The lotus symbolizes complete purification of body, speech and mind. The white flowers symbolize purity and enlightenment and the stem stands for the practice of Buddhist teaching which gives rise to purity of mind of the person.



Wood carving from
Wat Xiengthong –
god Agni

Agni is both the protective god of the earth and the god of sacrificial fire. He mediates between deities and human being by taking sacrifices to the gods. Agni can grant immortality and purify people of their sins after death. In the carving, he depicted riding on Garuda, a mythological bird.



Wood carving from
Wat Vixoun –
Dancing Apsara

The Apsaras, "daughters of joy", are heavenly nymphs. According to a legend, their origin can be trace to the churning of the ocean. They are charming and beautiful dancers in Indra's heaven and are said to be fond of games of chance but can also cause madness. They are invoked at wedding to bring good fortune.

Inauguration of the New Post and Telegraph Office Building, Vientiane – 6/Apr/1967



This set was issued to commemorate the inauguration of the new general post and telegraph office building in Vientiane. It is the main and the large post office in Laos. Among its services, the office offers a philatelic service.



Kingdom of Laos

Fishes of the Mekong – 8/Jun/1967

The Mekong River has a rich biodiversity. Among the fauna found in the river are more than 1200 species of fish have been identified. Some of the Mekong fish species have very large size. The biggest include the endemic Mekong Giant Fish, represents on the 35K stamp, which can grow up to 1.5 m in length and weigh 300 kg. Four of these fish species are represented in this set of stamps.

Fishing is a very important part of the economic activities in Laos and fishes are a vital source of food in the local diet. Some traditional Lao foods are made of fish such as Tom Pa (fish soup) and Mork Pa Noy (steamed fish). Fish are important creatures in Buddhism and in Laotian tradition. They symbolize happiness as they have complete freedom of movement in the water.



Snakehead

Ophicephalus micropeltes



Giant Catfish

Pangasianodon gigas



Spiny Eel

Mastacembelus armatus



Knifefish

Notopterus notopterus

Laotian Flowers – 10/Aug/1967

About 80% of Laos are covered by natural unmanaged vegetation include natural forests or savanna. Many flowering species found in all the vegetation areas of Laos. Flowering plants are also found in urban areas especially, in monasteries and temples gardens where they are grown by monks. In some Laotian festivals, such as New Year (Pi Mai), people are decorating their homes and Buddha images inside temples with flowers.

Four of these flowers are represented in this set of stamps. Among them, the 80K stamp depicts a Frangipane flower, called in Lao Dork Champa. This flower can be found all over Laos especially around temples hence, one of its names is "Pagoda tree". The Dork Champa became a national symbol of Laos and many Laotian songs glorify it.



Drumstick Flower

Cassia fistula



Turmeric Flower

Curcuma singularis



Peacock Flower

Poinciana regia



Frangipane Flower

Plumeria acutifolia



Kingdom of Laos

Semi-Postal: 10th Anniversary of Lao Red Cross Movement – 5/Oct/1967

The international Red Cross is a humanitarian movement whose stated mission is to protect human life and health, to ensure respect for the human being and to prevent and alleviate human suffering without any discrimination based on nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. To read about the International Red Cross movement please refer to the page shows the "Centenary of International Red Cross Movement" set of stamps issued on October 10, 1963.

The Lao Red Cross (LRC) movement was established on January 1, 1955 and recognized by the International Red Cross Committee on May 23, 1957. It became member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on October 25, 1957. The LRC movement was not independent and worked under the supervision of Royal Laotian Ministry of Health. In 1975, after the abolition of the Monarchy by the Pathet-Lao, the LRC movement became dormant for the next 15 years.

Several health activities and programs were carried out by the LRC movement. Among them were children Immunization, water and sanitation health programs, training volunteers and youth in basic first-aid and provide relief assistance to villagers affecting by disasters. These activities were carried in the most parts of the Kingdom of Laos and were being implemented by volunteers. The LRC also participated in some flood relief operations.

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Lao Red Cross movement, the Kingdom of Laos issued these stamps and souvenir sheet depict scene from Laotian rural life. The stamps are surcharged to raise revenue to the movement.



ROYAUME DU LAOS



10^e ANNIVERSAIRE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE LAO

Prix de vente: 250K-30K

IMPRIMERIE des TIMBRES-POSTE - PARIS



Kingdom of Laos

Laotian Reptiles - 7/Dec/1967

Reptiles are air-breathing, cold-blooded vertebrates that have skin covered in scales as opposed to hair and feathers. They are tetrapods (having or having descended from vertebrates with four limbs) and their embryos are surrounded by an amniotic membrane. The majority of reptile species are egg-laying although certain species of lizards and snakes are capable of giving live birth.

Reptiles inhabit every continent with the exception of Antarctica. The reptiles are represented by four living orders: Crocodilia that include crocodiles, gharials, caimans and alligators, Sphenodontia that include tuatara, Squamata that include lizards, snakes and amphisbaenids and Testudines that include turtles and tortoises.

Many reptile species inhabit Laos, most of them are endemic to Indo-Chinese sub region. Four of these reptile species are represented in this set of stamps. Reptiles, such as snakes, turtles and lizards, are important food resources in Laos and some traditional Lao foods are made of them. Reptiles featuring in Buddhism tradition and in Laotian legends such as the Naga snake which considered by the Laotians as Mekong river ruler.



Banded Krait Snake
Bungarus fasciatus



Muger Crocodile
Crocodylus palustris



Malayan Pit Viper Snake
Agkistrodon rhodostoma



Water Monitor Lizard
Varanus salvator



Kingdom of Laos

International Year of Human Rights - 8/Feb/1968



ROYAUME DU LAOS



ANNÉE INTERNATIONALE
DES
DROITS DE L'HOMME

Prix de vente: 250K

IMPRIMERIE DES TIMBRES-POSTE - PARIS

The United Nations has designated 1968 as the International Year of Human Rights. The first article of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood". This declaration, adopted by the UN general assembly in 1948, urges nations to promote human, civil, economic and social rights. The UN is the only agency with universally accepted international jurisdiction for universal human rights legislation and has responsibilities for safeguarding different human rights treaties. These stamps and souvenir sheet were issued by Laos to commemorate the international year. They depict the UN International Year of Human Rights emblem.



Kingdom of Laos

Laotian Army Day - 15/May/1968



The Laotian army was split into three branches: The Royal Lao army, The Royal Lao navy and the Royal Lao airforce. All three branches were placed under the control of Ministry of Defence.

During the 60's and beginning of the 70's, The Royal Laotian army was supported by USA as part of its efforts to reduce communist influence and expansion in south-east Asia. The USA provided Laotian army financial support as well as equipping and training military and paramilitary forces.



Kingdom of Laos

20th Anniversary of World Health Organization - 5/Jul/1968



The World Health Organization is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

Many projects such as tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases prevention, immunization, sanitation and access to water are carried out by the World Health Organization in Laos.



Kingdom of Laos

Beetles - 28/Aug/1968

Beetles are a group of insects which have the largest number of species. They belong to the order Coleoptera which means "sheathed wing" that contains more described species than in any other order of animals. Forty percents of all described insects are beetles. Beetles can be found in almost all habitats, except in the sea or in the polars regions. They feed on plants, fungi and other insects. Some beetles are prey of various birds and mammals.

Laos is a habitat of several South-Eastern Asian endemic beetles. Beetles, like other insects, are food resources in Laos especially in rural areas close to the forests.



Jewel Beetle
Chrysochroa mnizechi



Aristobia Beetle
Aristobia approximator



Longhorn Beetle
Eutaenia corbeti



Longhorn Beetle
Dorysthenes baldeva walkeri



Jewel Beetle
Megaloxantha bicolor

Laotian Fruits - 3/Oct/1968

Laos's flora, as other South-East Asian countries flora, is rich in tropical fruits trees. Part of them, like palm trees, is grown wildly in the forest and open areas of Laos which cover 80% of the country. Other tropical fruits trees, such as Mangoes, Bananas and Watermelons, are grown and cultivated by farmers and comprised part of Laotian Kingdom agriculture productions. Some Laotian natural beverages and spices are made of tropical fruits like Tamarind as well as many Laotian recipes includes them. In many Laotian religious festivals, peoples used to decorate Buddha statues inside temples with flowers and fruits.



Mangoes
Mangifera indica



Tamarind
Tamarindus indica



Jack fruit
Artocarpus integra



Watermelon
Citrullus lanatus



Kingdom of Laos

Olympic Games – Mexico 1968 - 15/Nov/1968



The Olympic Games is an international multi-sport event held every four years and subdivided into summer and winter sporting events.

The original Olympic Games were first recorded in 776 BC in Olympia, Greece, and were celebrated until 393 AD. Wars and conflicts between nations were ceased during the Olympic Games and the Olympiad became a symbol of peace.

The modern Olympic Games renewed by the initiative of a French nobleman, Pierre Frédy, Baron de Coubertin, which founded the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894. The First IOC's Olympic Games held in Athens, Greece in 1896 with 14 nations participants. Participation in the Olympic Games has increased with the years to include athletes from nearly all nations worldwide.

The 1968 Summer Olympic Games, the XIX Olympiad, were celebrated in Mexico City, Mexico, with 112 nations participated in them. This set of stamps was issued by Kingdom of Laos to commemorate the Games although Laos was not one of the participant's nations. Each stamp depicts the five rings Olympic Games symbol that represents the unity of the five inhabited continents.



Kingdom of Laos

Wat Ongtu Doors Art - 7/Mar/1969

The Wat Ongtu Mahawihan is located in Vientiane and its name comes from its famous inhabitant, a huge (Ongtu) bronze Buddha sculpture. The Wat was built in the mid 16th century by King Setthathirat, destroyed in the war with Siamese and rebuilt in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Wat is famous also for its carved wooden doors that represent scenes from Thao Khatanam legend. The eastern door of the Wat, shown on the 150K stamp, depicts the wedding of Thao Khatanam with Nang Sida, after he rescued her from the giant ogre. The central door, on the 200K stamp, depicts Thao Khatanam fighting against Ngou Xouang, the great serpent that came from sky to destroy the city of Khouang Thavadi.

The Eastern Door



The Central Door



50th Anniversary International Labor Organization – 7/May/1969



Handicraft Workshop,
Vientiane



Timber Industry,
Pak Sane, Bolikhamxai

The International Labor Organization (ILO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that deals with labor issues. The primary goal of the ILO is to promote opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work, in freedom conditions, equity, security and human dignity. To achieve this goal, the organization seeks to promote employment creation, strengthen fundamental principles and rights at work, improve social protection, promote social dialogue and provide relevant information, training and technical assistance.

The ILO established in 1919 as an agency of the League of Nations in the treaty of Versailles which ended World War I. These stamps were issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of this organization.



Kingdom of Laos

Ramayana Epos Royal Ballet - 26/Mar/1969 & 24/Jul/1969

The Hindu myths are a rich collection of stories that evolved at different places and times. The abundance and cultural diversity, the diversified society and the mutual influence between the neighboring peoples created a mythology rich in beauty and style with plenitude of characters. The happenings of the Gods in the Indian mythology that were told orally for many generations were compiled by Maharsi Valmiki in a collection that is regarded the largest epos of the Indian mythology – the Ramayana.

The Ramayana tells the adventures of god Rama and his wife, Sita. Shurpanakha, sister of the dreadful demon Ravana, ruler of Lanka (Sri Lanka), fell in love with Rama but he firmly rejected her courting and offered her his brother Lakshman. The furious Shurpanakha pleaded Ravana to marry Sita. Ravana, cunningly and using his enormous power, kidnapped Sita and flew with her to Lanka. Jatayu, king of eagles, tried to stop the demon but he attacked and severely wounded him. Sugriva, king of monkeys, made a pact with Rama and recruited the monkeys and bears armies, headed by Hanuman, monkey god and a minister in the court of Sugriva, and Jambawhan, king of bears. The monkeys and bears armies crossed to Lanka using Hanuman's enlarged body as a bridge. A great war started between both armies and Ravana army. Finally, Ravana was defeated and Sita was rescued and reunited with Rama. In Buddhist tradition, Hanuman is a symbol of power, strength and loyalty and admired character throughout the Hindu and Buddhist world.

The Ramayana epos was spread all over the Buddhist world and different versions of it were evolved. Phra Lak Phra Lam is the Lao version of the Ramayana. Each Ramayana character has also Laotian version: god Rama known as Phra Lam. Rama wife, Sita, known as Nang Sida. Lakshmana, Rama brother, known as Phra Lak. Ravana, king of the demons, known as Thotsakan. Jatayu, king of eagles and son of Garuda, known as Soudagnou and Sugriva, king of monkeys, known as Soukhib.



Soukhib



Thotsakan



Nang Sida



Phra Lak



Phra Lam



Hanuman



Soudagnou &
Thotsakan



Phra Lam
& Thotsakan



Kingdom of Laos

Ramayana Epos Royal Ballet - 26/Mar/1969 & 24/Jul/1969

ROYAUME DU LAOS

BALLET ROYAL 1^{ère} SERIE



10949

MARS, 1969

THOMAS DE LA RUE

PRIX : 650 KIPS

ROYAUME DU LAOS

BALLET ROYAL 2^{ème} SERIE



001262

JUIN, 1969

THOMAS DE LA RUE

PRIX : 480 KIPS



Kingdom of Laos

Endangered Wild Animals – 6/Nov/1969 (1st series)



Chinese Pangolin – *Manis pentadactyla*



Sun Bear
Selenarctos thibetanus



Common Gibbon
Hylobates concolor



Tiger – *Panthera tigris*

Laos is one of few places on earth where forest area covers 80% of the country. It is popular for its forests, mountains, rivers and scenic beauty. It is a land of beautiful dense green hills, tropical monsoon climate, glittering rivers and vast unexplored wild life. Some of the animal populations are endangered; some have been hunted by the hunters and by the poachers, who steal uncommon animals for sale live in Vietnam or, as "medicinal" body parts or food, in China, Thailand and Vietnam.

These stamps depict four endangers wild mammals living in Laos: Chinese Pangolin, Sun Bear, Common Gibbon and Tiger. All these wild mammals became rare in Laos and under threat of extinction, especially the Indo-Chinese Tiger, as their beautiful bodies are taken to feed the Chinese folk medicine trade.



Kingdom of Laos

10th Anniversary Death of King Sisavang Vong – 19/Nov/1969

King Sisavang Vong ruled Kingdom of Laos in years 1904-1959. He died on October 29, 1959 and was buried in That Luang, Vientiane. He was succeeded by his son, King Savang Vatthana, that ruled Laos until the abolishment of the Laotian Monarchy in 1975.

The funeral of the King, which took place 18 months after his death, had been delayed because unfavorable omens and untoward political and military events. To commemorate the 10th anniversary death of King Sisavang Vong, Laos issued this set of stamps shows King's medal and the royal palace in Luang Prabang. The caption on tab between the stamps says: "1959 - 1969 X^e Anniversaire de la mort de S. M. SISAVANGVONG"





Kingdom of Laos

Paintings by Marc Leguay - 25/Dec/1969 (1st set), 8/Apr/1970 (2nd set), 21/Dec/1970 (3rd set)



Women been Groomed



Village Market



Bank of Mekong



Village Track



Paddy-Field in Rainy Season



Village Elder

The painter Marc Leguay was born in 1910 in Charleville, France and educated at Evreux high school. In his young youth he exhibited his art works in France and later in Spain, where he met Salvador Dali and Esteban Vicente. During one of these exhibitions he met the governor of Cochinchina, and accepted his invitation for stay in Laos.

In 1936, at the age of 26, Leguay left France for Indo-China and stayed in Khong Island in southern Laos. He continues to paint, in general the landscapes of south Laos and in particular those of Khong Island. Leguay stayed in Khong Island for 10 years, where he founded the Laotian Academy of Art (L'Ecole d'Arts Lao).

Later in his life, he settled permanently in the town of Sala, close to the Cambodian border. In 1945, during the World War II, he was arrested by the Japanese and kept in prison. Returning to his village after the war, he found his house plundered, probably by the Japanese. In 1947, He decided to go to Vientiane, where he works as an art teacher at "Lycée de Vientiane". At this period he changed completely his style, now painting nudes with his Thai girl friend as sitter. In 1976, after the overthrow of the Laotian monarchy, he moved, together with his girlfriend, to a small Thai village, where he remained until his death in 2001 at age 91.



Kingdom of Laos

Laotian Architecture - 10/Jan/1970

The *Wat Si Saket* located in *Vientiane*. It was built in 1818 by King Anouvong in Siamese style and restored by French in 1924 and again in 1930. The temple contains museum and the former library where the palm leaf manuscripts documenting Buddhist philosophy were once held. The stamp depicts the square building of the library.

The *Wat Xieng Thong* located in *Luang Phrabang*, Laos. It was built in 1560 by King Sethathirath and was completely remodeled and redecorated During the 1960s. The *Xieng Thong* was a royal temple, supported by the royal family. It was the place where the former kings of Laos were crowned and granted their power. The 70K stamp depicts capital from *Wat Xieng Thong* carved with scenes from the *Ramayana* epos.



Carved Capital,
Wat Xieng Thong



Wat Si Saket,
Vientiane



Wat Xieng Thong,
Luang Prabang

Traditional Drums – 30/Mar/1970

Drums are used in temples and villages. In temples, drums are used to announce the monks their schedule like awakening and going to *Takbat* (gathering food), prayers and meals times. The temple drums like the *Kong Pheng* are kept in a special small building as depicted in the 30K stamp.

In villages, drums are used to announce the villagers the time of midday and remind them certain special days of the calendar and events like festival. They are also used to alert the people from coming dangers such as flood and fire.

Drums, especially the bronze drums, are used by certain minorities in religious ceremonies and festivals, in wedding or mourning and other family events. The bronze drums are decorated with drawings symbolize events from the minority life. The *Kong Thong* drums that were used by the Kings of Laos are exhibited in King Palace in *Luang Prabang*.



Kong Phene
Midday Drum



Kong Thong
Bronze Drum



Pong
Wood Drum