Indochinese Culture

Begun in 1931, the Indochinese Culture issues were the last definitive stamps for Indochina. Additional values and color changes were added over the following years to meet new postal requirements. Use of the series continued for two decades until replaced by the stamps of the newly independent countries of Southeast Asia.

JUNK
Indochinese Culture

ANGKOR THOM

[Images of postage stamps]
Indochinese Culture

RICE FARMER

APSARAS
Indochinese Culture
Essay

The Indochinese Culture series featured scenes from various aspects of Indochinese life. For one its formats, the previous definitive series used a farmer plowing with an ox. A variation was proposed for this issue but was ultimately rejected. The drawing was photographically reduced at the bottom to convey how the finished stamp might look.
Indochinese Culture
Junk Design

The central aspect of the lowest values of the Indochinese Culture series was a junk. Ships of all types were integral to the lives of Indochinese citizens living near the coastline or along Indochina's many rivers.
Indochinese Culture
Junk Maximum Card

A drawing of the central design element of the low value stamps was printed on a postcard with the caption “JONQUE CHINOISE” on this maximum card. On the stamp itself, the caption is simply “LA JONQUE.”
Indochinese Culture
Junk Design

This artist’s ink sketch contains the same central design features in a similar horizontal format as the accepted design.
Beneath the junk stamp depicted on this proof are six of the seven values that employed this design. The 1/2 cent stamp was also one of the junk denominations. The 5-cent value shown in the stamp image was not one of the junk stamp values.
Indochinese Culture
Junk Essay

Printed in sepia, this essay shows the junk design with a 5-cent denomination. As issued, the 5-cent stamp actually employed the Angkor Thom format.
Indochinese Culture
Angkor Thom Design

A recurring design feature of the Bayon, the last great temple built at Angkor, was the many four-sided towers with faces looking outward in the four cardinal directions. Each statue had the same enigmatic expression called the “smile of Angkor.”
Indochinese Culture
Angkor Thom Design

Because of its historical and cultural importance, the Angkor Thom complex was a major tourist attraction.

Tourist Souvenir Labels

Postcard Depicting “Les Tours a 4 Visages”

POSTAL MARKINGS
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 27 NOV 06
Indochinese Culture
Angkor Thom Maximum Card

Affixing two 5-cent Angkor Thom stamps on the front of this postcard created a “maximum card” that tied the stamp images to the scene depicted on the card.
Indochinese Culture
Angkor Thom Proof

The Angkor Thom design was ultimately used for seven values. The four original values are depicted on this proof printing.
Indochinese Culture
7-cent Angkor Thom Proof

The 7-cent stamp was printed with black ink. Also printed in black, this proof provides an especially crisp depiction of the Angkor Thom design.
Indochinese Culture
Rice Planter Design

For centuries, rice farming has been a central part of life in Indochina. Relying primarily on their own manual labor, the lives of peasant families revolved around the rice growing cycle. While most of the rice kernels were used for food, the remainder was made into beer, wine and flour. Other uses of the rice plant were for fuel, straw mats, garments and furniture.
Indochinese Culture
Rice Planter Proof

Eight denominations were based on the rice farmer design. Several variations from the numerals depicted on this proof appeared with the many printings of the rice planter values from the Indochinese Culture series.
Indochinese Culture
Color Rice Planter Proof

To investigate color choices, proofs were prepared employing a range of colors. Of all the stamps in the series, the 30-cent rice farmer was the one that was printed in a shade closest to that used for this color proof.
Indochinese Culture
Color Rice Planter Proof

Several shades of brown were used for different values of the series. The 3-cent brown Angkor Thom denomination was printed in a brown shade similar to this proof.

This example is signed by the engraver, E. Hourriez
Indochinese Culture
Apsaras Design

Heavenly dancers, called “apsaras,” promise a joyful existence for Khmer royalty after the last reincarnation. Over 1,700 intricately carved apsaras grace the walls of Angkor Wat with many thousands elsewhere in the Angkor complex.
Indochinese Culture
Apsaras Proof

The original issue of high values consisted of the three denominations shown on this proof. Later, two other denominations, 60 and 70 cents, were added to meet evolving postal needs.
Indochinese Culture
Imperforate Varieties
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Imperforate Varieties
Indochinese Culture
5 cents violet and 6 cents Booklet Panes

Booklets with 5 panes, each containing 5 stamps and a label were sold as part of the original issue of 1931.
Indochinese Culture
Use of 5 cents violet from Booklet Pane

A large “X” was located at the upper right location of each booklet pane. Having no value, the labels were usually discarded by the user. In rare instances, the sender affixed the label to his envelope along with the 5-cent postage stamp.

POSTAL MARKINGS
CANTHO COCHINCHINE 24-7 32
REVERSE
CANTHO COCHINCHINE 24-7 32
SAIGON CENTRAL C • CHINCHINE 24-7 32
Indochinese Culture
Use of 5 cents violet from Booklet Pane

Three stamps from the 5-cent booklet were used to pay the 15 cents postage for a mailing to India in 1933.
Indochinese Culture
Color Essays

9 cents black on blue background

9 cents black on yellow background

10 cents blue on blue background

10 cents blue on yellow background

18 cents in the color of 22 cents
Indochinese Culture
Color Essays

25 cents in color of 15 cents

21 cents in the color of 20 cents on rose paper
Indochinese Culture
Printing Varieties

Double Impression
2 and 6 cents

9 cents Normal

3 cents brown
Perforations Shifted Vertically

9 cents
Lacking Yellow Background

Imperforate
Partial Impression
Indochinese Culture
20 cents Rice Farmer

Because of its widespread utility, the 20-cent rice farmer saw many printings. Three basic types exist.

**TYPE I**

![Type I stamp](image)

**TYPE II**

![Type II stamp](image)

Large Die (21 mm wide)  
Figures 3.2 mm  
Large Die (21 mm wide)  
Figures 3.0 mm

**TYPE III**

Shades

![Type III stamp](image)

Small Die (20.5 mm wide)  
Figures 3.1 mm
Indochinese Culture
25 cents violet Rice Farmer

Multiple printings of the 25-cent violet Indochinese Culture stamp resulted in three types based on the characteristics of the numerals used for the denomination.

**TYPE I**
Large Numerals

**TYPE II**
Small Numerals

**TYPE III**
Flag Top on “5”

Block of Type III
Indochinese Culture
Varieties Lacking “RF”

In general, stamps printed under the Vichy regime for Indochina replaced the letters “RF” which stood for “Republique Française” with the letters “EF,” which stood for “Etat Française.” In the case of the Indochinese Culture definitive stamps, the panels were simply left blank.
Indochinese Culture
30 cents Lacking “RF” Rice Farmer Pane
Indochinese Culture
Imperforate Varieties Lacking “RF”

When the Vichy regime reprinted the Indochinese Culture stamps, they removed the letters "RF" which stood for “Republique Française.” Because many of these imperforate stamps were only regularly issued with overprints, many stamp catalogs classify them under Kouang Cho Wan.
Indochinese Culture
1/10 cent Junk Pane
Indochinese Culture
1/5 cent Junk Pane
Indochinese Culture
4/5 cent Junk Pane
Indochinese Culture
2 cents Junk Pane
Indochinese Culture
3 cents brown Angkor Thom Pane
Indochinese Culture
3 cents green Angkor Thom Pane
Indochinese Culture
4 cents blue Angkor Thom Pane
Indochinese Culture
4 cents green Angkor Thom Pane
Indochinese Culture
5 cents green Angkor Thom Pane
Indochinese Culture
6 cents Angkor Thom Pane
Indochinese Culture
10 cents blue Rice Farmer Pane
Indochinese Culture
10 cents ultramarine Rice Farmer Pane
Indochinese Culture
18 cents Rice Farmer Pane
Indochinese Culture
20 cents Type III Rice Farmer Pane
Indochinese Culture
22 cents Rice Farmer Pane
Indochinese Culture
30 cents Rice Farmer Pane