Missionaries

Two missionaries who worked to spread Christianity in Indochina were honored with commemorative stamps during World War II.

Bishop of Adran

de Rhodes
Bishop of Adran

Pignéau de Behaine (1741-1799), a French missionary, helped young Prince Nguyen Anh escape a massacre of the royal family and earned his undying gratitude. As a statesman, de Behaine negotiated an aid agreement with France, which was later cited as the basis for French territorial claims in Indochina.

TOMB FOR THE BISHOP OF ADRAN IN SAIGON SUBURBS
Bishop of Adran

In 1767, Pigneau de Behaine (1741-1719) was sent to the Far East by the Society of Foreign Missionaries. Although he raised an army and negotiated diplomatic agreements, his aim was always spreading Christianity rather than French colonialism.

Photographic reduction of essay for postage stamp.  
Statue of the Bishop of Adran in Saigon.
An essay for Pigneau de Behaine with a value of 0$20 + 0$40 was struck in greenish-blue ink. Below and to the right, the engraver signed the essay.
A semi-postal with a face value of 0$18 + 0$32 was never issued. The central design is not unlike the commemorative stamps, which were issued.
Bishop of Adran
Varieties

IMPERFORATE

COLOR SHADES
de Rhodes
Color Shades

[Images of postage stamps]
de Rhodes
Varieties

Impressions

Papers

WHITE
YELLOW
de Rhodes
15 cents Perforation Varieties

BLIND HORIZONTAL PERFORATIONS

DOUBLY PERFORATED VERTICALLY

DOUBLY PERFORATED HORIZONTALLY
de Rhodes
15 cents Perforation Varieties

PARTIALLY IMPERFORATE HORIZONTALLY

SHIFTED PERFORATIONS

IMPERFORATE VERTICALLY
de Rhodes
30 cents Perforation Varieties

IMPERFORATE

PERFORATED 12

PERFORATED 14

PERFORATED 12 x 13 1/2
Missionaries
Postmarks

CHOLON-BINHTAY
COCHINCHINE

SAIGON-PRINCIPLE
COCHINCHINE

DALAT
ANNAM

THAKHEK
CAMBODGE

CHOLON
COCHINCHINE

DALAT
ANNAM
Missionaries
Postmarks

HA-NOI
TONKIN

HANOI B
TONKIN

HAI-DUONG
TONKIN

HATINH
ANNAM

NINH-BINH
TONKIN

NINH-GIANG
TONKIN

PHUC-YEN
TONKIN

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL
COCHINCHINE

RURAL POST
Bishop of Adran
First Day of Use

The 20-cent Bishop of Adran stamp was released on 10 June 1943. Here an example was favor canceled at Hanoi on the day of release.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI A. TONKIN 10-6 43
Although the 20-cent Bishop of Adran commemorative was issued in June 1943, the internal letter rate only reached 20 cents in May 1946. A single example of the stamp paid for delivery of bank correspondence from Saigon-Principle to Hanoi in 1946.
Bishop of Adran
Usage

A pair or 20-cent Bishop of Adran commemorative stamps franked a registered mailing within Saigon in 1944. Postage was calculated as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>internal letter rate</td>
<td>10 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registration fee</td>
<td>30 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>40 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE  28-4 44
registration label
REVERSE
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE  29-4 44
Bishop of Adran
Usage

Evidently, the sender had intended to send his mailing via registered mail as he franked the cover with a pair of 20-cent stamps. The cover was handstamped with one of the calls for revolution messages “Down with the Oppressors.”

國 隸 奴 為 再 不 死 寧
A BAS LES OPPRESSEURS

POSTAL MARKINGS
CHOLON COCHINCHINE 31-8 47
slogan handstamp
“Down with the Oppressors” handstamp
REVERSE
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 31 AOUT 47
Bishop of Adran
Usage

A single copy of the 20-cent Bishop of Adran contributed to the franking for a wartime registered letter sent from Tourane to Hue in 1943. Despite wartime difficulties, registry service remained available to postal patrons.

POSTAL MARKINGS
TOURANE ANNAM 15-9 43
registration label
REVERSE
HUE ANNAM 15-9 43
Bishop of Adran
Usage

The 20-cent Bishop of Adran denomination did not conform to any common prevailing postal rate in World War II. Consequently, the stamp was most often used as a make-up value for postage on more complex mailings.

In this example, a registered letter was sent to a local Commissioner of Customs in China.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAM-SON ANNAM 17-1 43
registration label
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. BIŠ TONKIN 18-7 43
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 19-7 43
DONG-DANG TONKIN 21-7 43

Recommandé
Via Langres et Longchim.

Maurice Hopstock
Commissaire des Domaines Chinoises
118 China Travel Service
Watlam (Province of Kwang
(Chine)

R
SAM-SON
N° 107
Bishop of Adran
Usage

With two copies of the 20-cent Bishop of Adran stamp on the reverse along with two copies on the front, this cover was properly franked for the postwar foreign letter rate of 1$50.

After the cessation of hostilities in September, mail service was quickly restored. Posted on 1 December 1945, this cover is evidence that even foreign mail connections were quickly reestablished.
Bishop of Adran
Usage

After World War II, postage rates and airmail surcharges rose rapidly. Here three 20-cent Bishop of Adran commemoratives contributed to the total of 1.70 piasters for an airmail letter from Saigon to Denmark in August 1946.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 21-8 46
de Rhodes  
First Day of Issue  
Use of 15 cents

The 15-cent de Rhodes value was the only one of the wartime stamps issued by the Japanese after their takeover of the government on 9 March 1945.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE  27-3 45
REVERSE
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE  27-3 45
A single 15 cent de Rhodes stamp paid for delivery of a local letter in September 1945. Revolutionary sentiment is reflected in the bilingual handstamp that reads "DOWN WITH THE OPPRESSORS!" Curiously, the marking is written in Chinese and French but not in Vietnamese.

国非奴為再不死寧
A BAS LES OPPRESSEURS

POSTAL MARKINGS
TAYNINH COCHINHINE 18-9 45
slogan handstamp
REVERSE
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINHINE 21 SEPT 45
In May 1946, the 15-cent de Rhodes commemorative franked a letter sent to an employee of the Mines Service. After being forwarded to France, the post office was unable to locate the addressee and the letter was ultimately returned to the sender in Indochina.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 6-5 46
multiple redirection instructions
RETURN TO SENDER handstamp
REVERSE
SAIGON•PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 5-8 46
de Rhodes
Use of 15 cents

The letter rate to France had been 15 cents since 16 April 1942, even though postal communication was virtually impossible during the war. The letter rate remained at 15 cents through 4 May 1946. Here, a 15-cent de Rhodes commemorative stamps paid the postage a letter addressed to Paris in March 1946, shortly before the increase in rates.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 13-3 46
Because of paper shortages, the sender constructed an envelope from previously used notepaper by turning the unused side outward. Two 15-cent de Rhodes stamps overpaid the internal letter rate of 15 cents, which was in effect from October 1944 through May 1946.
de Rhodes
Use of 15 cents

After August 1948, the internal letter rate became 60 cents. Here, one of the 15 cent de Rhodes stamps is tied by a propaganda marking meaning “All patriots must participate in civics education.” Coincidentally, the handstamp promoting study was applied to stationery of the Department of Public Education.

HÃŸTHAM GIA
DÂN HUẨN VỤ

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN 12-10 48
slogan handstamp
REVERSE
HAIPHONG TONKIN 15-10 48
de Rhodes
Use of 15 cents

Five copies on the front and six copies of the 15-cent de Rhodes commemorative on the reverse paid for airmail service to France for a letter posted during the 1948 Saigon Fair.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 17-4 48
Saigon Fair handstamp
REVERSE
SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 19-4 48
de Rhodes
Use of 15 cents

With another four copies on the reverse, a total of twelve 15-cent stamps paid postage computed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>letter rate to France</td>
<td>0.60 piasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airmail surcharge</td>
<td>1.20 piasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>1.80 piasters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 6-4 48
REVERSE
SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 6-4 48
de Rhodes
Use of 15 cents

A block consisting of eight copies of the 15-cent de Rhodes commemorative stamp paid $20 postage for airmail service to France in 1948.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 14-1 48
SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 17-1 48
REVERSE
HAIPHONG TONKIN 14-1 48
de Rhodes
Use of 15 and 30 cents

Effective 16 October 1944, the internal letter rate had become 15 cents and effective 16 April 1942, the registration fee had become 30 cents. The 45 cents postage for an internal, registered letter was paid with two examples of de Rhodes commemorative stamps.

Hoc Tieng
VIET NAM
Buroc Dau
TUS LAP

“Study Vietnamese to start making it on your own.”

POSTAL MARKINGS
CANTHO COCHINCHINE 21-9 45
registration label
slogan handstamp
de Rhodes
First Day of Issue
Use of 30 cents

The second printing of the 30-cent de Rhodes value was released six months after the first printing.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 16-12 43
REVERSE
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 16-12 43
de Rhodes
Use of 30 cents

Effective 16 April 1942, the registration fee for internal letters rose to 30 cents. The 30-cent de Rhodes stamp was issued to satisfy the additional postage requirement for registered letters. Here the 30-cent de Rhodes stamp was used on a registered official mailing in 1944. The envelope consisted of a “turned cover” created from a government form.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PHANRANG ANNAM 23-11 44
registration label and framed AR
REVERSE
PHANRANG ANNAM 23-11 44
de Rhodes
Use of 30 cents

The internal airmail surcharge was 15 cents per 20 grams from October 1944 through May 1946. Unless this example of bank correspondence was very heavy, postage for the mailing was significantly overpaid with a strip of three 30-cent de Rhodes stamps.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 16-3 46
de Rhodes
Use of 30 cents

A postwar airmail letter to France was franked with four 30-cent de Rhodes stamps. Postage was computed as follows:

- letter rate to France: 40 cents
- airmail supplement: 80 cents
- total: 1.20 piasters

The top two stamps are the lighter shade while the bottom two are the darker shade.
de Rhodes
Use of 30 cents

Four 30-cent de Rhodes stamps were affixed to the reverse of an airmail letter from Rachgia to Paris in 1947.

POSTAL MARKINGS
RACHGIA COCHINCHINE 29-12 47
SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 6-1 48
REVERSE
RACHGIA COCHINCHINE 29-12 47
de Rhodes
Use of 30 cents

During World War II, the registry surcharge was 30 cents. The high value de Rhodes stamp exactly paid the registration fee.

POSTAL MARKINGS
NAM-DINH TONKIN 8-7 43
registration label
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 97-43