Royalty

Commemorative stamps honoring the royalty of Annam, Cambodia and Laos were issued in the 1942-44 period. The stamps promoted the theme of national identity.

BAO-DAI
EMPEROR OF ANNAM

NAM-PHUONG
EMPRESS OF ANNAM

NORODOM SIHANOUK
KING OF CAMBODIA

SISAVANG-VONG
KING OF LAOS
Royalty
Imperforate Varieties
Royalty
Shades
Nam Phuong
Design

On 20 March 1934, at the imperial city of Hue, Bao Dai married Jeanne Marie-Thérèse (Mariette) Nguyen Huu-Hao Thi Lan (1914-1963), who was renamed Hoang Hau Nam Phuong, or Empress "Perfume of the South." She gave birth to two princes, Bao-Long, the crown prince and Bao-Thang, and three princesses: Phuong-Mai, Phuong-Lien, and Phuong-Dung. Empress Nam-Phuong died in France on 19 September 1963.

Trade card picturing the Nam-Phuong in ceremonial garb.

Period postcard showing Nam-Phuong, Empress of Annam, in similar pose to that depicted on her commemorative stamp.
Nam Phuong
Design

The commemorative stamp on this photographic postcard of an older Nam Phuong was tied with a North Vietnam postmark in 1949.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI R.P. NORD VIET NAM 8-3 49
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. NORD VIET NAM 8-3 49
Nam-Phuong
Varieties

NORMAL

DOUBLE IMPRESSION

WATERMARK IN SELVEDGE
Nam Phuong  
Postmarks

**ANNAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BLAO</th>
<th>HA-TINH</th>
<th>HUE</th>
<th>NHATRANG</th>
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<td><img src="image2.png" alt="HA-TINH" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="HUE" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="NHATRANG" /></td>
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<td><img src="image6.png" alt="QUINHON A HANOI" /></td>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="TOURANE" /></td>
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Nam Phuong
Postmarks

COCHINCHINA

CAITAUTHUONG  CAMAU  CAP SĪ JACQUES  LONGTHANH

SAIGON-CENTRAL  TRANGBOM  VINHLONG

SLOGANS
Nam Phuong
Postmarks

TONKIN

BAC-NINH

HANOI

HANOI ENTREPOT P.T.T.

CAO-BANG

HAI-PHONG

NAM-DINH

THAI-NGUYEN

RURAL
Nam-Phuong
Usage

During World War II, censors within the postal service randomly opened internal mail. After examination, envelopes were resealed with paper tape and handstamped so that inspectors knew when an envelope had already been checked.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 27-12 42
OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football
censor's resealing tape
G# in circle
REVERSE
HAI-PHONG TONKIN 28-12 42
Nam-Phuong
Usage

An underpaid bank mailing from Dalat to Tokyo was apparently accepted with only 6 cents postage in 1943. A handwritten note indicates that the letter was in transit for over two months.

POSTAL MARKINGS
DALAT ANNAM 10-4 43
bank censorship exemption handstamp
REVERSE
HAI-PHONG TONKIN 13-4 43
Bao Dai

After assuming the throne in 1926, Bao Dai ruled in the shadow of his French masters. In 1945, he was forced to abdicate in the face of rebellion led by the Viet Minh. In 1949, with the support of Western governments, he was restored to the throne only to abdicate again in 1955. He died at a military hospital in Paris in 1997.

Trade card depicting Bao-Dai in ceremonial garb.

Period postcard shows Bao-Dai, the French Governor-General and the mayor of Haiphong reviewing the troops.
Bao Dai
Design

Bao Dai was a pivotal player in the independence of Vietnam. Interestingly, the Bao Dai stamp on this photographic postcard with his image was tied with handstamp commemorating Vietnam’s independence.
Bao-Dai
1/2 cent Bao-Dai Varieties

Doubly perforated horizontally

Doubly perforated vertically
Bao-Dai Varieties

LIGHT SHADE

DARK SHADE

DOUBLY PERFORATED HORIZONTALLY
Bao-Dai
Postmarks on ½ cent

HANOI D.

HANOI R. P.
Bao-Dai
Postmarks on 6 cents

BAC-NINH  BANMETHUOT  DO-LUONG  HAGIANG

HOA-BINH  HANOI ENTREPO'T PTT  HUE  KON-TUM

NAM DINH  NINH-BINH  PAKSE  PHANTIET
Bao-Dai
Postmarks on 6 cents

PHAT-DIEM
PHU-LY
QUANG-NGAI A HANOI
THUDUC

TOURANE
TRACU
VIENTIANE

MO-CAY
HANOI A
VIET-TRI
Bao-Dai
Postmarks on 6 cents

SLOGANS
Bao-Dai
Use of 1/2 cent

A pair of ½-cent Bao-Dai stamps was favor canceled on 9 March 1945, the day of the Japanese military takeover of Indochina.
Indochinese stamps were demonetized at the end of April 1952. Nonetheless, a 1/2-cent Bao-Dai stamp was combined with a 40-cent Vietnamese stamp also commemorating Bao-Dai to create a philatelic souvenir in 1954.
Bao-Dai
Faked Cover with ½ cent

In the 1960s, covers in the style of American first day covers, with a printed image, stamp-related image on the left-hand side, were sold to soldiers serving in Vietnam as well as to other collectors.
Bao-Dai
Use of 6 cents

During most of World War II, the local letter rate was 6 cents. For that reason, at least one value from each part of the royalty stamp series was printed with a 6-cent denomination.
Bao Dai
Use of 6 cents

A block of six 6-cent Bao Dai commemoratives contributed to the postage on a 1942 mailing from a rural post office at Yenphonghuyen via Bac-Ninh to Shanghai, China.

POSTAL MARKINGS
POSTE RURALE PROVINCE DE BAC-NINH YENPHONGHUYEN
BAC-NINH TONKIN  21-9 42
REVERSE
BAC-NINH TONKIN  21-9 42
Annamite Royalty
State Visit Envelope

Specially printed envelopes were prepared to commemorate the first official visit of Bao-Dai and Nam-Phuong to Phnompenh on 22 November 1942.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PHNOM-PENH CAMBODGE 22-11 42
REVERSE
PHNOM-PENH CAMBODGE 22-11 42
Annamite Royalty
State Visit Handstamp

In addition to printed stationery, commemorative envelopes were also prepared with a handstamp marking that recognized the first official visit by the titular rulers of Annam.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PNOM-PENH CAMBODGE 22-11 42
REVERSE
PNOM-PENH CAMBODGE 22-11 42
Annamite Royalty
First Day of Issue

The first day of issue for the stamps honoring Annamite royalty was 1 September 1942.
Sisavang Vong

Sisavang Vong (1885 - 1959) was the twelfth and last king of Luang Prabang (1904-1945) and first king of the Kingdom of Laos (1945-1959). Sisavang Vong was born in Luang Prabang, son of Zakarine, the King of Luang Prabang. He fathered 27 children by 15 wives. His son, Sri Savang Vatthanana, succeeded him as ruler of Laos, but was never crowned.

Imperforate essay in trial color.

As-issued stamp.

POSTCARD SHOWS SISAVANG VONG SITTING ON THE THRONE OF LUANG-PRABANG SOON AFTER BEING CROWNED KING.
Sisavang-Vong
Variety of 1 cent

Accent above "C" in "INDOCHINE"
(bottom right)
Sisavang-Vong
Postmarks on 1 cent

HANOI-CHANH-THAU-CUC

LUANG-PRABANG

PAKSANE

SAIGON-CENTRAL
Sisavang-Vong
Postmarks on 6 cents
Even for the same monarch, the Royalty commemoratives were issued on different dates. The 1-cent Sisavang-Vong stamp was issued on 10 March 1943, the same day as the 1-cent Sihanouk stamp.
Sisavang-Vong  
First Day of Issue of 1-cent

A cover with a mixture of 1-cent Sisavang-Vong and 1-cent Sihanouk stamps were postmarked on 10 March 1943, the first day of issue for both stamps. The internal letter rate was 6 cents until 1 December 1943.

POSTAL MARKINGS  
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 10-3 43  
REVERSE  
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 11-3 43
Sisavang-Vong  
First Day of Issue of 6 cents

The 6-cent Sisavang-Vong stamp was issued on 1 June 1943. It was the last stamp from the royalty series to have been released for sale to the public.

POSTAL MARKINGS  
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 1-6 43  
REVERSE  
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 1-6 43
Sisavang-Vong
Use of 6 cents

The internal postcard rate remained at 6 cents throughout World War II. Here a 6-cent Sisavang-Vong commemorative paid the postage for mailing a postcard from Luang-Pra-Bang, Laos to Haiphong in 1943.

POSTAL MARKINGS
LUANG-PRA-BANG LAOS  29-11 43
HAIPHONG TONKIN  17-12 43
Sisavang-Vong
Use of 6 cents

The 6-cent Sisavang-Vong commemorative contributed to the postage for a postwar registered airmail letter sent from Saigon to Auckland, New Zealand in 1947.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 5-8 47
registration label
REVERSE
SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 5-8 47
The faked cover for the Sisavang-Vong issue bears a “VIENTIANE R.” postmark. Presumably, the creator forgot to include the “P.” for the abbreviation of “Recette Principal.”
Sihanouk
Perforation Variety

DOUBLY PERFORATED HORIZONTALLY
Sihanouk Postmarks

SAIGON-CENTRAL

CHOLONBINHTAY  CUCHI
Sihanouk
First Day of Issue

A block of four 1-cent Sihanouk commemorative stamps was favor-canceled at Phnom Penh on the first day of issue, 10 March 1943.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 10-3 43
REVERSE
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 10-3 43
Sihanouk
Use of 1 cent

Two 1-cent Sihanouk commemorative stamps contributed to the franking for an internal letter sent from Kompongcham, Cambodia to Saigon in July 1943. Effective 1 December 1943, the internal letter rate rose to 10 cents.
Sihanouk
Use of 1 cent

In combination with a 4-cent definitive stamp, a strip of six 1-cent Sihanouk commemorative stamps paid the postage for internal letter rate at the end of 1943.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 21-12 43
REVERSE
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 29 DEC 43
QUANG-TRI ANNAM 2-1 44
Sihanouk
Use of 6 cents

The 6-cent Sihanouk stamp franks an internal letter from Kampot, Cambodia to Saigon, Cochinchina in 1943. Upon arrival in Saigon, the letter was opened and examined by censor “C5.”

POSTAL MARKINGS
KAMPOT CAMBODGE 17-7 43
censor’s resealing tape with C5 censor’s signature stamp
military authority football
REVERSE
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 18-7 43
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 19 JUIL 43
Sihanouk
Use of 6 cents

Originally issued to serve the internal letter rate, a pair of 6-cent Sihanouk commemoratives paid the foreign postcard rate to Belgium in 1948.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 21-2 48
Sihanouk
Faked Cover

The creator of this faked cover for the Sihanouk issue adorned it with “PHNOMPENH R.P.” postmarks. This postmark did not appear until the early 1950s, well after the 1944 date on the cover.