

SECTION 2

STATE OF VIET-NAM

1949 – 1955



**Richard K. Aspnes
Garuda Philatelics
P.O. Box 471898
Aurora, CO 80047-1898**

e-mail: catalog@garuda.com

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INTRODUCTION TO SECTION 2

This section contains items that date from the return, from self-imposed exile, of Bao-Dai and the establishment of the State of Viet-Nam in 1949 (**Quốc-Gia Việt-Nam**) within the French Union. It ends with the revolution and overthrow of Chief of State Bao-Dai in October 1955 and the referendum that established the Republic of Viet-Nam (**Việt-Nam Cộng-Hòa**). Other sections will include items preceding 1949, and those of the Ho Chi Minh government. The transition from French to Vietnamese administration is evident in the gradual replacement, in 1949, from the use of date stamps with Annam, Tonkin, and Cochinchina, to Nord Viet-Nam and Sud Viet-Nam.

I freely solicit comments, of whatever nature, to add in the revision of this Section, and for application to future Sections.

Short Political Review – not to make a thesis (there are many) but just a rationalization of what is listed in this section. After the surrender of the Japanese on 14 August 1945, Ho-Chi-Minh declared the “Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam” (on 2 September) with the capital at Ha-Noi (in Tonkin). At that time the administrative areas of Viet-Nam were at least four – Cochin China was a French colony (declared to be the Republic of Cochin China in 1945), Annam (the seat of Bao-Dai) was a French protectorate, as was Tonkin. There was a special administration for the “highlands”.

Philatelic commemorative events during this period were, in the very large majority, memorialized by means of handstamps applied to covers without commemorative cancellations; standard circular date stamps (CDS) were used to cancel the stamps. Several specially printed covers with **cachets**, both for first flights and for charity events, are known. There are several exceptions, one of which is the “Prince Bao-Long” issue on first day covers with printed cachet.

Circular date stamps are illustrated separately when possible, based on the original cover and the quality of the impression.

Cities Listed – I solicit information and material to be included in this catalog, as I freely recognize that my collection is incomplete in several areas of importance. This Section contains commemorative entries from several major cities of Viet-Nam – Saigon, Ha-Noi, Hai-Phong, and Dalat. Others are known, but lacking in my collection. I welcome additional information.

Reference Material and Publications

1. Hoàng Long , Vietnamese Postage Stamp Catalog, 1974, Philatelic Publishing Co., Vietnam, P.O. Box 62, Saigon/Cholon, Republic of Viet-Nam
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3. Franck Muller, Catalog des Aérograms du Monde Entire, Editions Bertrand Sinas, 1991, reprint of original 1950 edition (courtesy of Ron Bentley)
4. Nguyen Bao Tung, Buu-Hoa Viet-Nam 1951-1971, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Saigon, Republic of Viet-Nam