



and



1946 Viet Minh Overprints, Japan Occupation of Indochina

Figure 1 is a mint group of Viet Minh North Vietnam locals (without gum as issued). These were stamps issued by the Japan occupation government in French Indochine during WWII. They were overprinted by the Viet Minh communist insurgents.

The group includes the yellow Olympic salute stamp of 1944. Most Olympics collectors include this stamp in their collection as one of the only Olympics stamps issued in 1944, the year a second Olympics games had to be cancelled due to WWII. This group also includes a MNH pair of surcharged French Indochina from before WWII.

The Viet Minh, the Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh [League for the Independence of Vietnam], was a coalition of Communist and nationalist groups that opposed the French and the Japanese during World War II. The Viet Minh spearheaded Vietnamese resistance to French rule in the French Indochina War (1946-54). The organization was soon dominated by Communists, and in 1951 its Communist elements were absorbed by the Communist party of North Vietnam. French Indochina comprised the French colony of Cochin China and the French protectorates of Tonkin, Annam, Laos, and Cambodia (Cochin China, Tonkin, and Annam were later united to form Vietnam).

The capital was Hanoi. The federation formed the easternmost region of the Indochinese peninsula (which it shared with Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaya) and faced East on the South China Sea.

The cultures of Indochina were influenced by China and

India. The centuries before European intervention saw the growth and decline of the Khmer Empire in Cambodia, the rise and fall of Champa, and the steady expansion of Annam. European penetration began in the 16th century.. In the 19th-century in a race for a colonial empire, the French took (1862, 1867) Cochin China as a colony and gained protectorates over Cambodia (1863), Annam (1884), and Tonkin (1884). In 1887 they formed those four states into a union of Indochina, with a governor-general at its head; Laos was added to the union in 1893. In World War II, France was forced to accept Japanese intervention in N Indochina in 1940; the subsequent Japanese move into South Indochina (July, 1941) was viewed by the United States as a threat to the Philippines; it prompted the freezing of all Japanese assets in the United States and precipitated the diplomatic exchanges cut short by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.



Figure 1

"Swedish Postal History & Postmarks"

Jack Urish, 7:30pm, 11 Feb 2004, Northway Christian Church

Minutes February 11, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President **Rick Houghland**.

No urgent business was discussed.

Tom Koch of the Collectors Club gave a presentation about "*The Creation of the Chester Nimitz Definitive*" with accompanying files of correspondence with the USPS, initial sketches, trial designs etc. Tom detailed the timeline from inception to the actual stamp as well as the politics behind the scenes to get a stamp design approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9: pm.

Minutes February 25, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 by President Houghland.

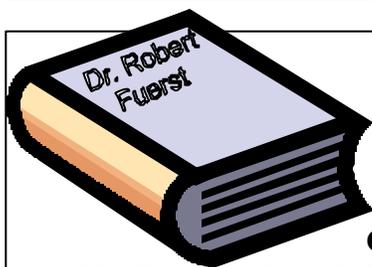
No urgent business was discussed.

The short program was presented by **Winnie Dickson**. Winnie answered questions about her complete collection of Bureau of Engraving Souvenir cards. The cards began in 1939 and are still produced today with an average cost of \$8-10 each.

The rest of the night was spent with the "MINI" auction and then member sales and philatelic discussions.

The winners of the door prize drawing for a \$2.50 credit from club circuit books were **Walter Burton** and **Winnie Dickson**.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

**DPCPS CLOSED ALBUM**

The Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society would like to acknowledge the passing of **Dr. Robert Fuerst** (member #11) one of the Clubs' initial members. Ours Thoughts and Prayers are with his Family.

Membership Status

Membership as of January 31, 2003 78

New members in 2004 1

Total membership year 2002 76

ATTENDANCE LAST MONTH

1st MTG

2nd MTG

22

17

**D-PCPS
UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mar 10 DPCPS Regular Meeting 7:30PM NORTHWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH The program will be an APS program about "*Swedish Postmarks and Postal History*". A stamp swap & trade will follow. Club Circuit Books will also be available.

Mar 15 DPCPS BOARD MEETING 7:30PM HALF-PRICE BOOKS to discuss future club actions.

Mar 24 DPCPS Regular Meeting The short program will be presented by **Manny Marx** "*the Italian Social Republic 1943-1945*" and the club will host the monthly "mini auction". A stamp swap & trade will precede the meeting & Club Circuit Books will also be available.

Apr 2-4 TEXPEX 2004 DoubleTree Hotel, 4099 Valley View Lane at LBJ Freeway; take Midway exit north.

Stamp and Tongs**APS GOLD AWARD****Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society Newsletter**

Rick Houghland, Editor

Stamp & Tongs is published monthly. Material in this newsletter may be reproduced in other philatelic publications if the sources are acknowledged.

2004 DPCPS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President **Rick Houghland**
 Vice President **Jack Urish**
 Secretary **Deborah Kempston**
 Treasurer **Paul Rozewicz**
 Directors **George Kempston, Rod Gabel, Winnie Dickson, Ron G. Sala**

Membership is \$12 online; \$15 mailed, available to anyone of good character interested in philately. Membership applications, call (214) 742-7252 or write

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A POSTMARK MYSTERY



T04 through T06

This postmark is very scarce on stamps, uncommon on postal stationery, and very rare or none existent on cover.

Literature: In *The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Volume 1*, it is illustrated along with the comment: "Traveling Post Office?" Explanations for this Postmark have been handled conservatively by specialists, each proposing a theory of the postmark's function, but cautioning that their ideas are inconclusive and not based on any certain evidence.

In their handbook, *The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland*, Alcock and Holland propose the following: "The resemblance [of this postmark] to the "1844" English provincial series of numbered obliterations will be noticed at once. There is another variety with horizontal bars also forming an upright oval. These numbered "T.O." stamps probably belong to the group which Hendy says were impressed at the inland section of the London G.P.O. on letters sent to the Traveling Post Offices which could not be included in the regular mail bags, owing to the late hour at which they were posted." The word to focus on here is "probably." The connection of this postmark with the TPO based upon the "TO" has since fallen out of favor.

In H.C. Westley's detailed study, *The Postal Cancellations of London 1840-1890*, the postmark is placed in the chapter on the Foreign Branch cancellations. He explains: "On 30 April 1860, six stamps were issued showing T.O.1 to T.O.6. These are frequently found on W.H. Smith & Son's wrappers.

A Journal article proposed that the postmarks "were issued on 30 April 1860 for use in the Foreign Branch of the Circulation Department at St. Martin's le Grand. They were possibly used for ship or naval letters, or both, passing through the Circulation Department. All Royal Navy letters went to St. Martin's le Grand for redirection."

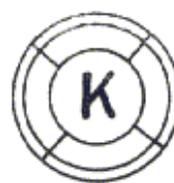
Wrappers: Many of the examples of these postmarks appear on stationery. Most examples exist on wrapper cut squares with W.H. Smith & Sons advertisement collars. There are examples of "T.O.2" and "T.O.6" on the two pence embossed wrapper in blue with collars stating "W.H. Smith & Sons, 186, Strand, London." For obvious reasons, a great many of the wrappers are canceled with the "pre-cancels of Smith, Elder & Co., Henry S. King & Co., and William Dawson & Sons. The fact that they appear with some regularity on the wrappers along with the pre-cancels would lead one to the possible idea that they were used somehow as a substitute pre-cancel for any of the above firms or perhaps for a firm, which remains unrecorded. The pre-cancels are shown below:



T01-T06 Series



W.H. Smith & Sons



Henry S King & Co.



W.H. Smith & Sons

Even before the end of the war, the French announced plans for a federation of Indochina within the French Union, with greater self-government for the various states. The federation was accepted in Cambodia and Laos. Vietnamese nationalists, however, demanded (1945) the complete independence of Annam, Tonkin, and Cochin China as Vietnam, and after Dec., 1946, these regions were plunged into bitter fighting between the French and the extreme nationalists, often times led by Communists. The war in Vietnam dragged on for years, culminating in the French defeat at Dienbienphu. The Geneva Conference in 1954 effectively ended French control of Indochina.



TexPex 2004

Opening day ceremonies on 2 April will include a 2nd Day Dedication of the U.S. Postal Service Air Force Academy stamp with the new Dallas postmaster J. Eric Martinez. (Cover below)

MEMBER CLASSIFIED

FREE ADS: Free classified bourse ads of up to 35 words are available to all DPCPS members in good standing. Ads will run for as long as there is room on the Classifieds (longest running ads will be removed 1st to make room for new "different" ads) and must be received by the last Wednesday of the month. Bring ads to a meeting, call 972.681.0816 or e-mail hougy@ev1.net.

WANTED

Mexico Export a Series on and off paper, collect your duplicates and let me make you an offer. **Rick Houghland** 972-681-0816. or see me at a meeting—hougy@ev1.net.

Uk Obliterators (numerical cancels) used 1846-1904. Will pay up to 25¢ for cheap stamps, (straight edges or missing perfs or okay) with legible cancellations. **George Kempston** 972-783-7116.

Dominican Republic or Cuba Official Covers contact **Gerald Vaiser**, 214-696-2578 or gvaiser@netzero.net.

Hungary Specialist seeks old Hungarian stamps for cancellations as well as covers contact **Jack Urish**, 214-349-6372.

FOR SALE

100 Flora & Fauna Face different \$9.95. **Harold Boehning**, 214-368-0047.

