

# SECTION 3

## REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

1955 – 1975



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## INTRODUCTION TO SECTION 3

This Section covers the period after 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**) until 1975 and the collapse of South Viet Nam. Other sections will include items preceding 1948, and those of the Ho-Chi-Minh government

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

**Philatelic commemorative events** during this period were, in the very large majority, memorialized by means of large circular commemorative cancellations applied to covers without standard circular date stamps (CDS). The colors and variety of preprinted cachets on both and “Carte Souvenir” is staggering! Some issues are known with as many 26 different cachet designs, not counting the color varieties! I list different cachet designs and will indicate color varieties. It is doubtful that all cachets will ever be known.



**Commemorative cancellations** are illustrated separately when possible, based on the original cover and the quality of the impression.

**Carte Souvenir** – These are generally bi-fold pre-printed “cards”, smaller than postal covers, with a commemorative postmark tying the postage stamp(s) on the inside, with a cachet on the face cover. Both vertical and horizontal formats are known. They include design elements very similar to cachets on FDCs, and also include, in some instances, names of the printing companies and censor markings.

**‘Commercializing of Cachets’** – I use this phrase to indicate the transition of preprinted cachets prepared for FDCs from what might be described as ‘hobby’ to full mass production. In each country of Indo-China this occurs at a different year in the countries philatelic history; in S. Viet-Nam, the year is 1959 in which there is an initial production of multiple cachets for an event, in varying colors and designs, using sophisticated printed techniques, including silk screening.



The issues of S. Viet-Nam, in common with those of Laos, and Cambodia, are found on what are termed “Van Dahl” pre-printed cacheted FDC envelopes, as illustrated. These envelopes were readily available in the United States (believed produced by Van Dahl Publishing, a philatelic publisher of the Western Stamp Collector) and were clearly available to the stamp dealers in the several countries. These FDCs are listed when know.

**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, and Dalat. Others are known, but lacking in my collection. I welcome additional information.

**Censor Markings** – Starting in 1959 (earliest seen) FDCs and Carte Souvenir's are marked, usually on the reverse, with 'Censor Office' license number and approval date. The practice apparently was to obtain Censor Office approval for any printed matter, even philatelic covers. See note in ICP, Vol. XVII, No. 2, page 34. Given that the cover design and wording was the subject of the approval process, it follows that different designs should have different license numbers. The first line contains the license number and the second the date issued. In these examples the meaning of the abbreviations 'BTT/XB' and 'BTT/NA' are not known and vary from license to license. Examples are:

Kiểm duyệt số 2601 BTT/XB  
ngày 17-12-1959

Kiểm duyệt số 1782 BTT/NA  
ngày 7-12-1959



**Official FDCs** – In 1973, the Directorate General of Posts, Republic of Vietnam, started to issue officially printed first day covers (FDCs) with cachets. See note in ICP, Vol. XVII, No. 2, page 34. These covers can readily be identified by the legend, as shown below, on the reverse of the cover. Generally, a cachet exists for each stamp design of the specific issue. Privately prepared covers with cachets also continued to be printed.



Phát hành bởi : Tổng Cục Bưu Chính  
Issued by : Directorate General of Posts, Saigon, Republic of Vietnam  
Emis par : Direction Générale des Postes, Saigon, République du Vietnam

## Reference Material and Public tons

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4. Tran Anh-Tuan, 1994 Vietnam Guide [a guide to special event markings], P.O. Box 1413, Alameda, CA 94501
5. Vietnam Postage Stamps, Directorate General of Posts, Republic of Vietnam, 1975