



PROVISIONAL ISSUES OF SOUTH VIETNAM (1963-1980) PHILATELIC EVOLUTION AND USES



PURPOSE: A study of stamps issued by the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam from 1963-1976 and their period of use between 1975-1980.

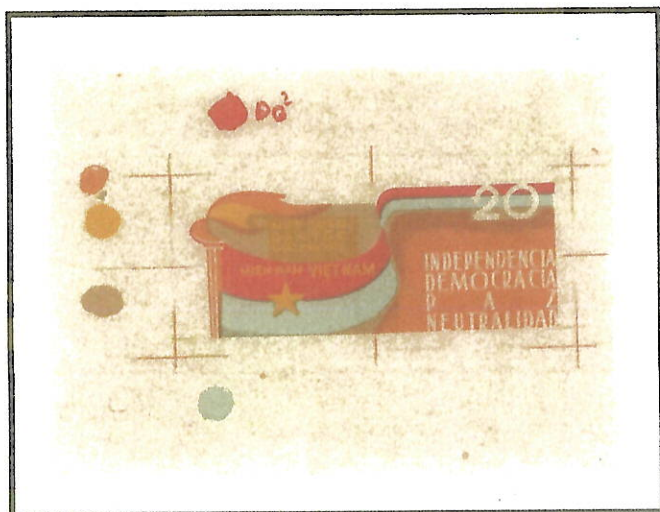
BACKGROUND:

- On 20 December 1960, Communists in South Vietnam formed the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam (NLF). Twenty-two stamps were issued from 1963 to 1969 to raise money and in anticipation of a postal service that never developed.
- On 6 June 1969, the NLF formed the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) of the Republic of South Vietnam to administer areas under their control. From 1970 to 1976, the PRG issued 48 stamps to imply political legitimacy and recognition by other nation-states.
- With the sudden and unexpected collapse of the Republic of Vietnam on 30 April 1975, the PRG used its stamps to restore civilian postal services in the conquered South where mail was a primary means of communication.
- The greatest use of PRG stamps was from 1975 to 1977 although usage continued to 1980.

SCOPE: This exhibit contains all issues of the NLF and PRG along with pre-production material, archival proofs and production errors. Surcharges and fake overprints are also included. Postal use includes covers prepared immediately after "Liberation;" a wide variety of personal mail; and special commemorative/propaganda hand-stamps. Climate, animal life and a culture that considers it bad luck to retain old paper into the New Year affect the survivability of covers from this time period; the condition of covers in this exhibit is well above average. No other exhibit of this kind is known in the US.

IMPORTANCE:

- The NLF/PRG sought to project its image as the actual government of South Vietnam. Stamp issues promoted the legitimacy of an ultimately successful revolution and were later used to restore postal services in the "Republic of South Vietnam."
- From 1975 to 1976, the PRG was the *de jure* government of the conquered South. PRG issues valid emissions for a notionally "independent" state in "association" with North Vietnam.



Proof of First NLF issue,
Third Anniversary of the Founding of the NLF

GLOSSARY

1. *Mat Tran Dan Toc Gia'i Phong Mien Nam Viet Nam* = National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam [NLF]
2. *Cong Hoa Mien Nam Viet Nam* = Republic of South Vietnam [PRG]
3. *Viet Nam Dan Chu Cong Hoa* = Democratic Republic of Vietnam [North Vietnam]

EXHIBIT PLAN

1. National Liberation Front Issues
2. Provisional Revolutionary Government Issues
3. Epilogue

Key Items outlined in Red

Bogus Items outlined in Green

 denotes PRG stamp on mixed franking cover with North Vietnam or unified Vietnam stamps.

Non-philatelic information in italics.

 denotes original research in blue