

## From the Stamp Specialist, Part Two:

We continue our study of "Siam-Thailand" by Adolph Klingenstein, from the Stamp Specialist 1943 Green Book. JFD.

# SIAM-THAILAND

In 1910, another new issue came out, but there is nothing of particular moment to report in it. It was followed in 1912 with still another new set of designs, with values up to the 20 bahts. This issue was beautifully printed by the Imperial Printing Works of Vienna and many collectors and even specialists find it hard to differentiate between this issue and the one printed by Waterloo & Sons of London in 1917. There is, however, a slight difference in the perforations as well as in other details. The high values in particular can be told by the pearls over the King's head, which number seven in the 1912 issue and nine in the 1917 issue. In the lower values, there are four lines between the vertical strokes of "M" and only three in the 1917 issue. Once you get into the issue, you will find other differences which are apt to be overlooked by the general collector.



Portrait of king Vajiravudh on the 1b value of the 1912 issue



The 1926 issue pictures the throne room. See color image & information, p. 14

In 1918, following World War I, Siam brought out a patriotic issue, by having the 1917 Waterloo issue surcharged with the word "Victory" in Siamese and English. Many of the counterfeits which exist are overprinted on the 1912 issue, so that they can be easily identified. In 1920, a new permanent set was again issued, in which will be found many varieties not listed in Scott's, such as part perforates and other interesting varieties. In 1926, another beautiful



1910 28s, Sc. 144



1912 3 baht, Vienna Printing  
Sc. 153, 7 Pearls



1917 10b, London Printing  
Sc. 174, 9 Pearls



1918 3 baht, Victory overprint  
Sc. 183



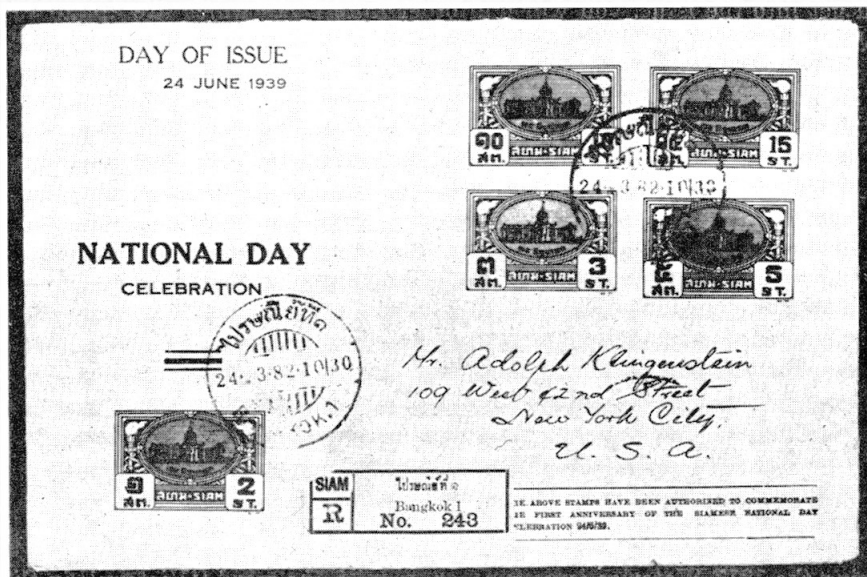
1920 15s, Sc. 194



1920 10s, Sc. 193, bisected horizontally on a small local cover with a Bangkok General Post Office, but the bisect is uncanceled as it was not accepted by postal authorities and is not listed in Scott. The hand-drawn box was applied to indicate invalid usage and the "T" in triangle indicates postage due.



The "Garuda," a mythological figure on the airmail issues of 1925 and 1929-1937.



A First Day Cover celebrating the Revolution.

set running from the 1 Tical to 20 Ticals was brought out to commemorate the 15th year of the reign of King Rama VI. The King, however, had died before this issue was placed on sale, so that it was used as a regular issue instead of as a commemorative, as originally planned. In between these two issues, there were, of course, the usual run of surcharges, and again many interesting varieties exist.

With the exception of a few commemoratives issued in 1928, 1932, 1939 and 1940, there was no other regular issue until 1941, which shows the picture of the new King, Ananda Mahidol. In the meantime, King Prajadhijok resigned due to a coup d'état and the 1939 set was in commemoration of the Revolution.

Despite the large number of surcharges that appear on the stamps of Siam, they are still exceedingly interesting and in comparison with the stamps of other countries they are quoted at very reasonable prices. With the present quotations, I consider the stamps of Siam one of the soundest investments to be had anywhere, and the student who likes new problems to tackle will find it fascinating. I have personally specialized in the stamps of Siam for many years



*Waterlow die proof for 1925 airmail Garuda design, Sc. C1-C6*



*1926 20t, Sc. 204, the high value in the set intended to commemorate the 15th year of the reign of King Vajirahudh, but used as regular postage when he died before they were issued.*



*1928 2b, Sc. 217, picturing his successor, King Prajadhipok*



Postal Stationery from the collection of the late A. Eugene Michel.

and am constantly finding new things which make the search exceedingly interesting.

I have not included the postage stamps of the Straights Settlements surcharged with "B" for use in Bangkok, although I believe they should be included in a specialized collection, for they were used to prepay packages of letters coming from the country districts to Bangkok for foreign countries, and were carried from Bangkok by the Royal Mail Steamers. The revenue however went to the British Colonial Government and not to the Siamese Government. Prior to 1881 there was no postal system of any kind in the country, and anyone wishing to send a letter from one place to another had to devise means of his own for the delivery.



1883 cover to Trieste, Austria, 10c Straits Settlement issue with B overprint tied by Bangkok c.d.s., with Singapore Paid c.d.s. alongside.

## Supplement to the original coverage

Much of what I found in the way of the images presented on previous pages came from two sources:

The Siam First Issue Collection formed by Dr Prakob Chirakiti.

The Award-Winning Thailand Collection formed by Dr. Pichai Buranasombati

The latter collection was a wide ranging study and included areas not covered by Adolph Kligenstein—and which I present here. JFD.

### Early Semi-Postals



1918 2s Red Cross  
semi-postal, Sc. B1



1920 Wild Tiger Corps  
"Scout's" Fund 1t +  
25s semi-postal, Sc. B21

### The Palace Locals

Per the Feldman lot description, "These were the first stamps printed for Siam and were used for distribution of the "Court" circular. Subscribers to the circular were allowed to purchase these stamps and use them on their own mail. To send mail outside the city moat two stamps were required. However, the despatcher could refuse to take correspondence to places too far out. The sender was required to cancel adhesives by signing his name across it. A cancelling device was introduced on April 10 1876 due to non-compliance with this regulation."



Left, The First Printing

Below The Second "Rising P" Printing [note the P in the frame] in the strip, which is the largest known strip. Per the Chirakiti Collection description: "The Local stamps known as the 'Rising P' were introduced on 25 March 1876. The usage of the 'Rising P' came abruptly to an end in July 1876 when the publication of the 'Court Journal' was discontinued."



The stamp images are from the Feldman auction. The Chirakiti Collection provided a more informative description, explaining that The “Rajakumara” (Royal Children) Palace Local stamps were introduced and used as an educational device for the Postal Services for the Royal Palace school by Mr. Rolfe, the English teacher of H.R.H. Crown Prince Vajirunahis in 1893. The One Att pictures King Chulalongkorn, the One Slo (Two Atts) the Royal Monogram, and the One Sik (Four Atts) pictures the Prakiew—the Royal Hair Dressing,



*One Att*



*One Att, canceled*



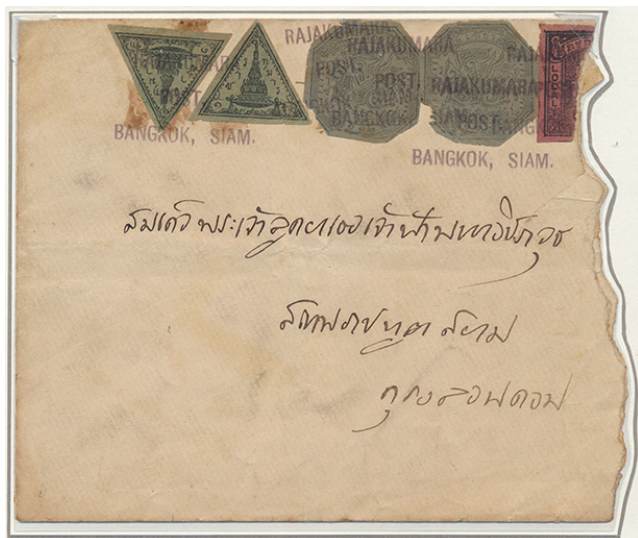
*One Slo*



*One Slo, canceled*



*One Sik, used, on piece*



From the Chirakiti Collection, a cover franked with (right to left) one 1 Att (torn at right), two 1 Slo and two 1 Sik, cancelled by strikes of a three-line “Rajkumar/Post/Bangkok, Siam” with date stamp “27 Jan 94” on the flap—the only recorded usage to the Crown Prince.