

1920 Siam “Scout’s Fund” Overprints

The Collectors Club of New York

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Vajiravudh (Rama VI)

January 1, 1880 –
November 25, 1925

Sixth monarch of Siam under
the House of Chakri, son of
Chulalongkorn, ruled from
1910 until his death.

Studied in England
(photograph by Vandyk,
London, circa 1890s).



Vajiravudh (Rama VI)

Established Wild Tiger Scouts
Corps in 1911

- Royal Wild Tiger Corps
(later renamed The Royal
Body Guard Corps)
- National Guard Wild Tiger
Corps (later renamed The
National Guard Corps)
- Tiger Cubs (Boy Scouts)
- Girl Guides (Girl Scouts)



Vajiravudh (Rama VI) in Uniform as Chief Scout

January-March each year 1911-1925, led Wild Tiger Scouts Corps on field exercises (“Red Side” vs “Blue Side”) at one of six camps:

- Sanam Chan Royal Camp (near King’s summer palace) *
- Ban Pong Royal Camp
- Khlong Takot Royal Camp
- Photharam Royal Camp
- Hat Chao San Ran Royal Camp
- Ban Rai Royal Camp (site in 1920)

* Most frequently used



Type I Overprints Violet Proof

In 1919, it was decided to issue a set of charity labels (overprinted stamps and postal cards) to raise funds for the Wild Tiger Scouts Corps.

There were three overprint types (Types I-III).

The Type I overprint was applied with a rubber handstamp:

- Adult tiger face
- Siamese (Thai) text: “Help raise funds for Scouts.”



Type I Overprints

2s+3s

8,000 issued

Quantities issued for the Types I and II overprints are from notes to the Siam collection of Walter Pears of London, and are believed to have been provided to him in 1920 by J.R. Lyons, a correspondent in Bangkok.



Type I Overprints

3s+2s

8,000 issued



Type I Overprints

5s(on 6s)+5s

6,000 issued



Type I Overprints

10s(on 12s)+5s

6,000 issued



Type I Overprints

15s+5s

4,000 issued



Type I Overprints

1t+25s

2,000 issued



Control Marks

1918 Red Cross Overprints

When the overprints went on sale, they were unpopular with collectors because of the high charity surcharges for the benefit of the Red Cross.

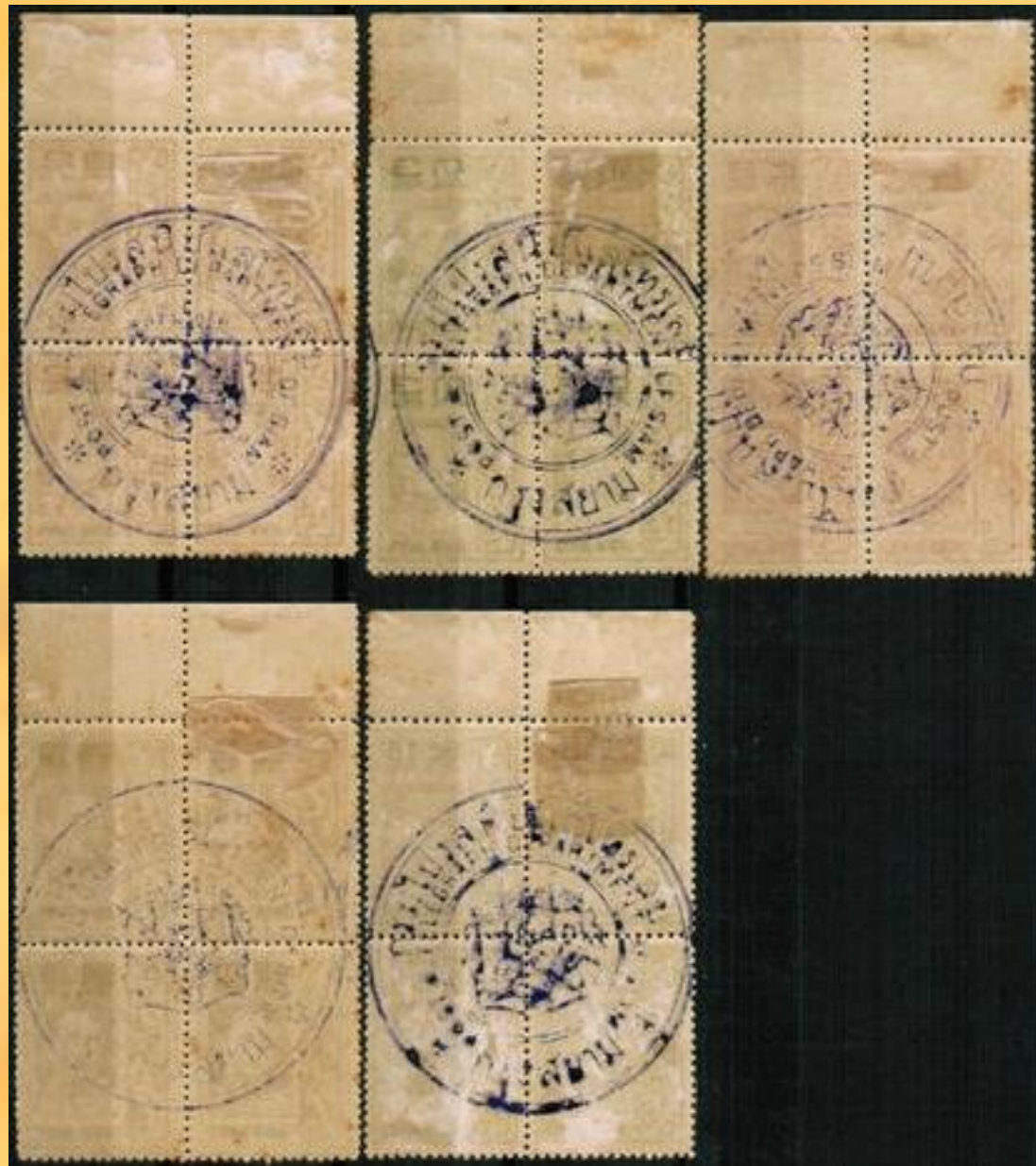
Enterprising stamp dealers sold contemporary-with-issue facsimiles as space fillers for albums.



Control Marks

1918 Red Cross Overprints

The Post Office struck a handstamp of the Post and Telegraph Department on each block of four of the overprints as a control, to authenticate the overprints as genuine.



Control Marks

1918 Red Cross Overprints

Handstamp of the Post and
Telegraph Department used
as a control.



Control Marks

1920 "Scout's Fund"

Types I&II Overprints

Block of 5s(on 6s)+5s Type I overprints, struck with "Treasury Department, Inspected" double-oval handstamp as an inventory control during the surcharging of 5s on 6s stamps in 1918. Also applied to 10s on 12s surcharges.

Not associated with "Scout's Fund" overprints.



Control Marks

1920 “Scout’s Fund”
Types I&II Overprints

“Treasury Department,
Inspected” double-oval
handstamp used as an
inventory control.



Control Marks

1920 "Scout's Fund"

Types I&II Overprints

Overprints were first sold at the six Royal Camps; then, they were authorized for postal use by the King on February 3, 1920.

Block of 5s(on 6s)+5s Type I overprints, struck with February 4, 1920, Ban Pong cancel as a control, to authenticate the overprints as genuine. Note that some stamps were missed.



Control Marks

1920 "Scout's Fund"
Types I&II Overprints

Ban Pong cancel used as a control.



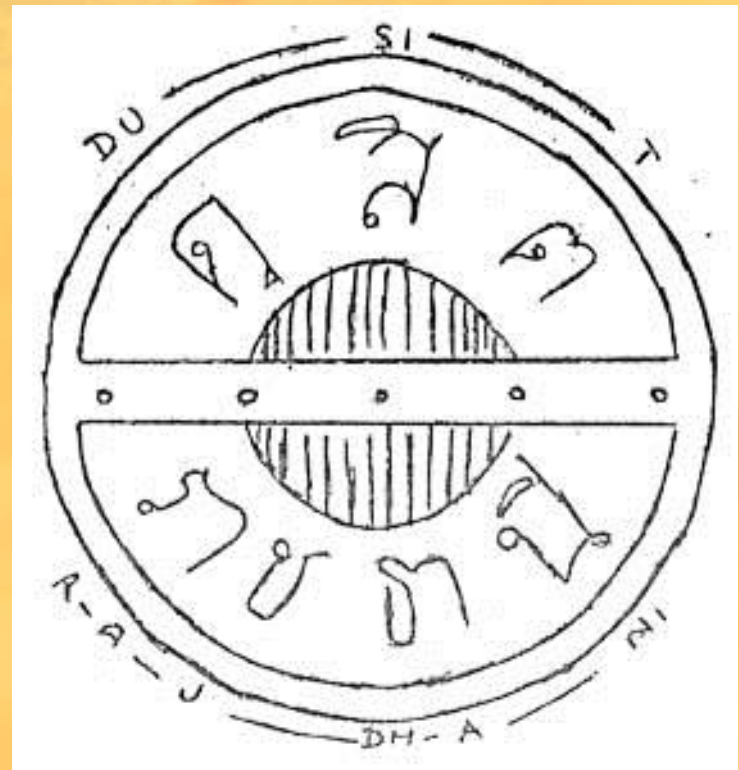
Control Marks

1920 "Scout's Fund" Types I&II Overprints "Dusit Rajdhani" (Royal Palace)

10s(on 12s)+5 Type I overprint
with "Dusit Rajdhani" control.



Used as postal cancel in the
King's 1918 Model City.



Paste-Up Multiple

10s(on 12s)+5s Type I

To facilitate overprinting, multiples (part panes) of source stamps were pasted together with pieces of selvage.

Block of four: three stamps from one part pane and one stamp (bottom right) from another part pane.

Ban Pong control.



Type I Usages

In Period (early 1920s)

February 4, 1920, the first day of postal usage of overprints, from the Ban Pong Royal Camp. The only reported cover for this date.

R.S. leMay, FRPSL was a British civil servant who advised the government of the Kingdom of Siam. In 1925 he wrote the "Descriptive Catalogue of the Postage Stamps and Post-and Letter-Cards of Siam Issued during the years 1883 to 1919" along with W.J.F. Williamson, FRPSL and E. Wyon Smith of the Siam Philatelic Society.



Type I Usages

In Period (early 1920s)

February 13, 1920, registered cover from the Ban Pong Royal Camp. One of three reported registered covers from the Ban Pong Royal Camp franked with Type I overprints.

Endorsed on the back “Do not crumple the envelope.”



Type I Usages

In Period (early 1920s)

The registration receipt.

(๒, ๓๒)

หนังสือโต้ตอบ ภาษี วิจัยเคอร์

หนังสือ ฉบับ ๑ เลข ที่..... มี ชื่อ ถึง.....

ตำบล..... นั้น ได้รับ วันที่..... เดือน..... พ.ศ. ๒๔..... แล้ว

(เขียน ชื่อ เต็มยศ ภาษี)

ตราโรง
ไปรษณีย์



Type I Usages

In Period (early 1920s)

February 26, 1920, cover from the Sanam Chan Royal Camp near the King's summer palace at Nagor Pathom, which was his residence during field exercises.

The Wild Tiger Scouts Corps was allowed the use of one of the Sanam Chan summer palace buildings as a headquarters.



Type I Usages

Air Mail Period

(late 1920s-1930s)

Air mail developed in Siam in the 1930s, and collectors and dealers serviced first flight and commemorative covers, often franked with remaining stocks of low value stamps, including "Scout's Fund" overprints.

December 30, 1930, registered cover from the second round-trip Bangkok-Hanoi Goodwill Flight.



Type I Postal Cards

2s+3s

Scout's Fund" overprinted postal card were issued at the same time as the stamps. Quantities are unknown. Brittle card stock. Only a handful survive today. Most are stained from being in the tropics for lengthy periods of time.

2s was the local post card rate in 1920.



Type I Postal Cards

3s+2s

3s was the inland post card rate
in 1920.



Type I Postal Cards

3s+2s Color
Changling

The bluish color of the indicium resulted from oxidation of the original green color ink, a phenomenon which affects paper products in the tropics.

(Scan does not capture bluish color well. See card in frames.)



Type I Postal Cards

5s+5s

5s was the foreign post card
rate in 1920.



Type I Postal Cards

5s+5s used

In 1937 Henry S. Linnemann arranged for a correspondent in Bangkok to send him a set of all nine "Scout's Fund" overprinted postal cards. Eight of these cards are reported today.

In 1938 he wrote "The Postal Stationery of Siam 1883-1935" which was published by the APS.



Type II Overprints

2s+3s

When the Type I rubber handstamp wore out, it was replaced with a copper handstamp which applied the Type II overprints:

- Siamese (Thai) text: “Help raise funds for Scouts”
- Tiger cub face
- English text: “Scout’s Fund”

8,000 issued



Type II Overprints

3s+2s

8,000 issued



Type II Overprints

5s+5s

The Type II overprints were a split issue. *

- Five values (except 5s+5s) were issued in February 1920.
- Source stamp for 5s+5s – from 1920-1926 Vajiravudh definitive series – was not issued until March 11, 1920.

* Original research

6,000 issued



Type II Overprints

10s(on 12s)+5s

6,000 issued



Type II Overprints

15s+5s

6,000 issued



Type II Overprints

1t+25s

3,000 issued

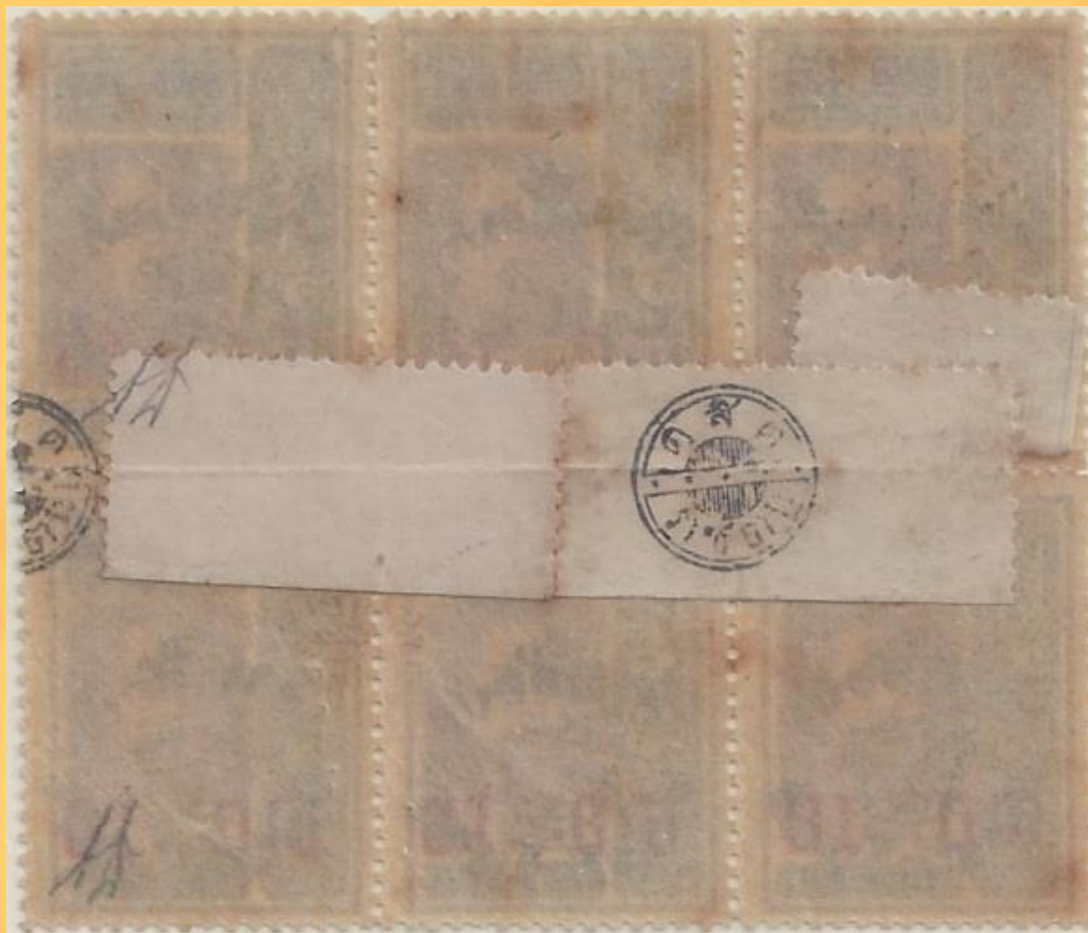


Paste-Up Multiple

10s(on 12s)+5s Type II

Block of six: three stamps (top) from one part pane and three stamps (bottom) from another part pane.

“Dusit Rajdhani” control.



Type II Usages

In Period (early 1920s)

February 20, 1920, registered cover front from the Ban Pong Royal Camp.

Earliest reported usage of the first five of the split-issue Type II overprints.



Type II Usages In Period (early 1920s)

February 26, 1920, cover from the Sanam Chan Royal Camp near the King's summer palace at Nagor Pathom with the first five of the split-issue Type II overprints.

Companion to the Type I cover.

“guaranteed genuine”

- K.B. Sieng, The Borneo Co., Ltd., Bangkok, Siam
- H.G. Hamaty, Port-Said, Egypt



Type II Usages In Period (early 1920s)

May 5, 1920, miniature envelope addressed to the Royal Palace, Bangkok, to return RSVP replies to invitations to a Wild Tiger Scouts Corps special event.

Earliest reported usage of the 5s+5s of the split-issue Type II overprints.

Horizontal envelope.



Type II Usages In Period (early 1920s)

Vertical envelope.



Type II Usages

In Period (early 1920s)

March 9, 1925, handstamp of the Royal Court Office (Royal Household), probably by favor.

This handstamp was used as a postal cancel on Palace mail when the King traveled outside of Bangkok.



Type II Usages

Air Mail Period

(late 1920s-1930s)

October 3, 1934, registered acknowledgement requested (A.R.) air mail cover from Bangkok to Batavia, Java (Dutch East Indies).

13 Type II overprints with other stamps. 1b 20s (120s) total franking.



Type II Postal Cards

2s+3s

2s was the local post card rate
in 1920.



Type II Postal Cards

2s+3s

“Completely missing head”
error.



2s+3s used

“Double overprint” error.



Type II Postal Cards

3s+2s

3s was the inland post card rate
in 1920.



Type II Postal Cards

3s+2s Color
Changling

(Scan does not capture bluish
color well. See card in frames.)



Type II Postal Cards

3s+2s Color
Changling

“Double overprint” and “almost
completely missing head” errors.

(Scan does not capture bluish
color well. See card in frames.)



Type II Postal Cards

5s+5s

5s was the foreign post card
rate in 1920.



Type II Postal Cards

5s+5s used

February 22, 1920, postal card from Rajaburi to London.

Rajaburi is on the rail line west and then south from Bangkok into the Malay peninsula, and is the exchange station for mail to and from nearby Ban Pong.



Type III Overprints Unadopted Handstamp

Later in 1920 a rubber handstamp was created, but not adopted for a third overprint:

- Siamese (Thai) text: “Help raise funds for Scouts”
- Tiger cub face
- English text: “Scout’s Fund”

One pane of 100 2s stamps was overprinted in black.



Type III Overprints Unadopted Handstamp

One pane of 100 3s stamps was overprinted:

- 40 in red
- 60 in black



Type III Overprints

2s+3s

Seven stamps from 1920-1926 Vajiravudh definitive series were overprinted by lithography by K. Oyama & Co., Bangkok:

- Siamese (Thai) text: “Help raise funds for Scouts”
- Adult tiger face
- English text: “Scout’s Fund”

Placed on sale in Bangkok on December 17 or 21, 1920. *

Quantities not known.

* Sources differ



Type III Overprints

3s+2s



Type III Overprints

5s+5s



Type III Overprints

10s+5s



Type III Overprints

15s+5s



Type III Overprints

25s+25s



Type III Overprints

50s+30s



Type III Overprints Varieties *

Broken "D" in FUND.

* Kiss prints or set-offs
from overprinting by
lithography



Type III Overprints Varieties

Double "S" in SCOUT'S.



Type III Overprints Varieties

Missing stop (.) after
FUND.



Missing
stop (.)
after FUND.



Type III Overprints Varieties

Double "S FUN" in
SCOUT'S FUND.

Double "F" in FUND.



Type III Overprints Varieties

Double "D." in FUND.



Double "D."
in FUND.



Control Marks

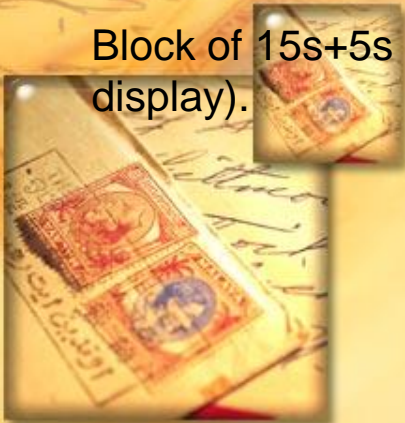
1920 "Scout's Fund"

Type III Overprints

"Treasury Department, Inspected" double-oval handstamp [as on 5s(on 6s) and 10s(on 12s) surcharges] as an inventory control during the Type III overprinting.

Struck once on each pane during inspection after overprinting.

Block of 15s+5s (not shown in display).



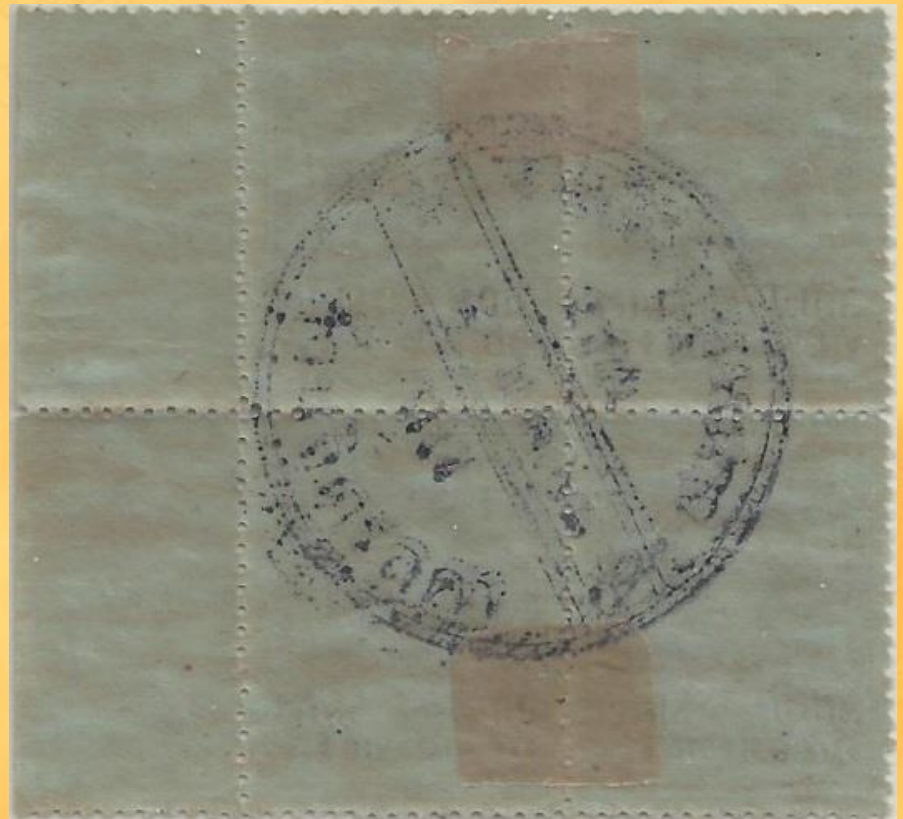
Control Marks

1920 "Scout's Fund" Type III Overprints
"Winter Fair" Cancel (January 6-8, 1921)

Block of 2s+3s



Block of 15s+5s



Control Marks

1920 "Scout's Fund" Type III Overprints

"Enjoy Winter Fair at
Chitralada Garden" cancel
used as a control.



Type III Usages

In Period (early 1920s)

January 7, 1921, picture post card from Winter Fair at Chitralada Garden to USA.

Earliest reported usage of the Type III overprints.



Type III Usages In Period (early 1920s)

January 28, 1921, registered
cover from Bangkok to England.

When "Scout's Fund" overprints
were first issued, they were not
cataloged by Stanley Gibbons.
Walter Pears ask J.R. Lyons, a
correspondent in Bangkok, about
their status. Lyons' reply was
forwarded in this entire. When it
was shown to Gibbons, he gave
the overprints catalog status.



Type III Usages In Period (early 1920s)

Early August, 1922, registered
cover from Bangplasoi to
Switzerland.

Carried by boat from Bangplasoi
to Bangkok harbor.

Negative bamboo cancel is
extremely scarce.



Type III Usages

Air Mail Period (late 1920s-1930s)

October 18, 1930, registered cover from Bangkok-Amsterdam stage of inauguration of KLM Dutch East Indies-Amsterdam service.

Privately printed air mail label and handstamp cachet of dealer M. Savat Konchanath.

Overpaid 5s.



Type III Usages

Air Mail Period

(late 1920s-1930s)

May 21, 1931, registered cover from the French Bangkok-to-Marseilles air mail service.

Largest multiple of 50s+30s
Type III overprint on cover.

Blacked-out addressee was
E.C. Monod, President of the
Siam Philatelic Society.



Type III Postal Cards

2s+3s

2s was the local post card rate
in 1920.



Type III Postal Cards

3s+2s

3s was the inland post card
rate in 1920.



Type III Postal Cards

5s+5s

5s was the foreign post card
rate in 1920.



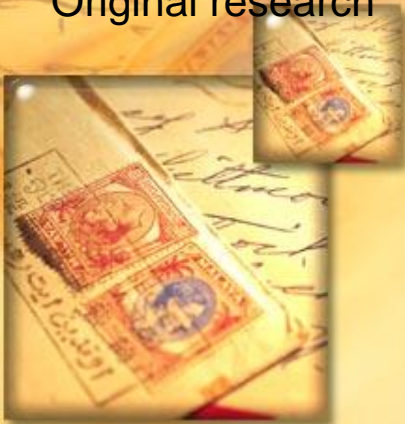
Type III Postal Cards

3s+2s used

August 9, 1943, provisional postal card with "SIAM" obliterated on 3s definitive:

- "Provisional Post-Card No. 5 (PPC5)" in the Siam Philatelic Society listing.
- "SIAM" should have been obliterated on the "Scout's Fund" Type III postal card. *

* Original research



Nongenuine Overprints

Majority of “Scout’s Fund” overprints are not genuine:

- Contemporary-with-issue facsimiles (on mint stamps)
- Forgeries to deceive collectors (on mint and used stamps)

On mint stamps, difficult to distinguish between facsimiles and forgeries.

36 different nongenuine overprints shown here.



Nongenuine Overprints on Cover

Originally genuine first return flight cover.

Altered by addition of forged
"Scout's Fund" Type I
overprints on two stamps.

Two APEX certificates (1981
and 1997) that the overprints
are forged.



End of the 1920 “Scout’s Fund” Overprints

- Withdrawn from sale June 14, 1926.
- Remaining stamps and postal cards were recalled from post offices, but overprints remained valid for postal use.
- Total proceeds from surcharges for benefit of the Wild Tiger Scouts Corps: 2,939b 55s, less 470b paid for Type III overprinting.
 - \$1,302 in 1926
 - \$17,747 in 2015
- These funds, together with additional donations, were spent to purchase Lee-Enfield Mach III rifles (“Rama VI Rifles”).



Legacy of the Overprints

1993 Guinea (black)

Two 1987 WWF stamps (one shown) overprinted in 1993:

- World Philatelic Exhibition BANGKOK 1993
- World Chess Championship London 1993
- 50th anniversary of the death of Lord Baden Powell (in 1991, so 2 years late)

Gold overprint includes image of 1920 "Scout's Fund" Type II overprint.



Legacy of the Overprints

1993 Guinea (red)

Often we see older issues commemorated as stamps-on-stamps on modern issues, but

...

when have you see an overprint on an older issue commemorated as an overprint-in-overprint on a modern issue?



Continuing Interest in the 1920 “Scout’s Fund” Overprints ...

- Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI) [in US] [<http://www.sossi.org/>]
- Scout and Guide Stamp Club (SGSC) [in UK] [<http://sgsc.org.uk/>]
- Society for Thai Philately (STP) [in US] [<http://www.thaiphilately.org/>]
- Thailand Philatelic Society [in UK] [<http://www.thailandphilsoc.org.uk/>]
- Philatelic Association of Thailand (PAT)
- Study Group for 1920 Siam “Scout’s Fund” Overprints [rfrank@sossi.org]
- Frederick P. Lawrence [ieconsulting@cox.net]

