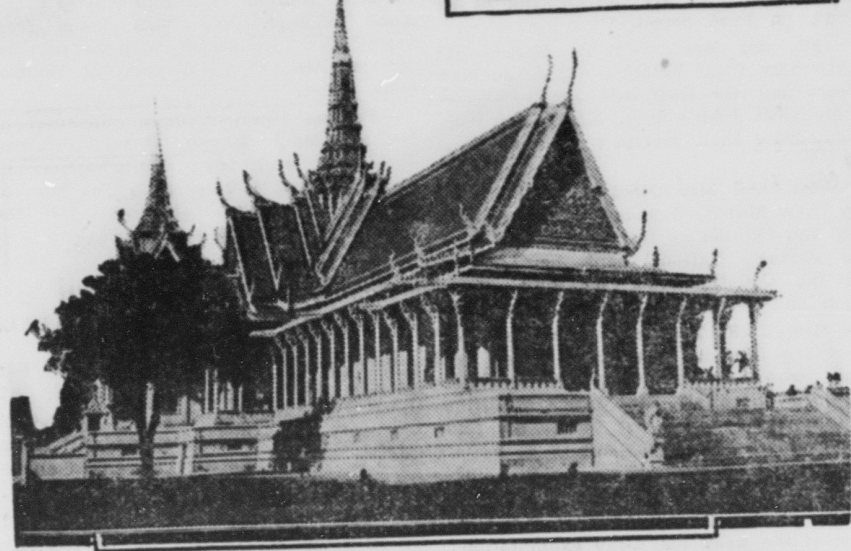


# FRENCH INDO-CHINA



Throne Room Building of King of Cambodia at Phnompenh.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

FRANCE has recently found it necessary to send a punitive expedition across the border that lies between Indo-China and China because of the activities of Chinese Communists along the frontier.

The expedition operated from Tongking, northernmost of the French coastal colonies, but the step was taken as a protection for the whole of French Indo-China, that stretches from the southeastern corner of Asia some 800 miles to the north and northwest. It is a sizable empire which France controls there in Asia, either by outright possession or protectorate—265,000 square miles, an area almost exactly the size of the state of Texas. The region is, however, much closer to the equator than Texas, occupying a position corresponding to that of southern Mexico and Central America. Thus the French Asiatic empire is wholly within the tropics and in a region of heavy rainfall.

The units of French Asia are Cochinchina, in the extreme south; Cambodia, in the southwest; Annam, stretching along most of the eastern coast; Laos, inland and to the northwest; and Tongking, filling the northern end of the elongated territory and extending from the coast inland for 200 miles.

Annam is less completely under French control, officially, than any of the other states with which it is associated in the territorial group known as French Indo-China. It has its own emperor and is listed as a protectorate. But Annam and the twelve million people of Annamese blood really constitute the chief factor in this region of French influence. In few places are the old forms of oriental magnificence maintained as completely as in the imperial establishment at Hue, in the capital of Annam. Until recently the palace was forbidden ground, and it is still far from easy to obtain access.

Inside the palace walls is a richness and an elaborateness seldom encountered outside fairy tales and the settings of extravagant stage presentations. There are picturesque gardens; paved courts, where on occasion the ten thousand mandarins of Annam strike their foreheads in unison on the ground before the emperor; dim corridors of countless columns with their huge perfume burners sending up continual clouds of incense; and exquisite rooms of intricately wrought ceramics and gold and silver. Opening into the emperor's state rooms is the great Golden Door, through which, in addition to the sovereign, only the extraordinary ambassadors may pass.

Lavish festivals and displays take place within this fairland of luxury. The most charming and characteristic, perhaps, are the children's ballets, in which scores of dainty, costumed youngsters go through elaborate steps and postures with bright fans in their hands and a lighted colored lantern attached to each youthful shoulder.

**Hue Itself Not Beautiful.**  
Outside the palace enclosure Hue is less appealing. The "metropolitan area" of the city is in large part a collection of native villages clustered in the shadow of the great palatial walls. Across the river is the French residency with its Gallic-western atmosphere. For a long time Hue was little known, and as the seat of an important country its size was exaggerated. Its population is only about 60,000.

The town is in a tropical region in a latitude corresponding to the southern extremity of Mexico. It lies near the mid-point of the long double-curving coast of French Indo-China, a few miles from the sea on the Hue river. Built on a flat, the city itself has little beauty of form or setting; but it would be difficult to find in the tropics more beautiful environs than it possesses. Only a few miles away rise the mountains from which the Hue river flows, and even closer are lower wooded hills and valleys. Numerous villages are all but hidden in a mantle of green: palms, bamboos, and scores of tropical vines and shrubs. Carefully kept paddy fields alternate with wild regions of underbush, and scattered about the countryside are innumerable graceful pagodas.

The most remarkable feature of Hue are the famous tombs of the kings, which lie in the charming pine and banyan-covered valleys and hills a few miles from the city—true cities of the dead, far more attractive in setting than that of the living. For each departed ruler of the past several centuries a large area has been developed as a resting place and memorial

for himself, his wives, children and servants. These developed areas are in two parts. One is a beautiful group of gardens, lakes, summer-houses and a memorial hall. The latter is fitted with the furniture from the departed emperor's apartments. The second part is a vast enclosure near-by, usually a series of terraces above the gardens, in some unmarked spot of which the body of the emperor lies. The reigning emperor visits each of these garden-tombs of his ancestors annually and makes obeisance to their spirits.

The notable structures and gardens extend from the end of the Eighteenth century to the present. The earlier of these are exceedingly elaborate and have much in them to remind one of Fontainebleau and Versailles.

## Cambodia's Capital.

Strikingly different from Hue is Phnompenh, capital of Cambodia. It lies on the route to the famous ruins of Angkor and is better known to tourists than some of the larger capitals of Indo-China.

The palace of the kings of Cambodia is not elaborate. The royal dwelling place, in fact, is a series of rather modest buildings, not richly adorned without or within. Greatest of the palace sights is a life-size gold statue of Buddha in a room whose floor is of silver tiles.

Five or six hundred female retainers occupy the royal colony, among whom are the dancing girls. They, in their golden gowns, royal jewels, and tiaras that resemble miniature carved steeples, have become famous for their charm and grace.

Near-by is the Khmer museum with a collection of sculptured stones, implements of war and jewelry; the weather-beaten royal pagoda, and an ancient temple approached by a long flight of steps with a stone railing representing Naga, the sacred seven-headed cobra. Tails of the sacred reptile adorning the roofs of some of Phnompenh's buildings resemble crooked lightning rods on American farm houses.

The one thoroughfare of Phnompenh, that has a right to be called an avenue leads from the palace to the public park. Two hotels bordering it offer excellent accommodations for a small Eastern city save for their orchestras that dispense impossible nocturnal jazz. The rest of the street is cluttered up with open-front native shops, some of which make an attempt to duplicate French pastry. Now and then through a vacant space one gets a glimpse of a garden spot a block or two in the background where a French colonial official lives in a palatial home amid broad lawns and flowering trees.

## Hanoi, the "Paris of Asia."

The administrative center of all French Indo-China, and the capital as well of Tongking, is Hanoi which has been dubbed "the Paris of Asia." It bears many of the earmarks of the European capital.

A modern train brings you into a modern railway station at Hanoi. There you may hail a shiny new French-made automobile with a French chauffeur. In a tour of the city you ride along wide streets and boulevards bearing French names and pass imposing French buildings, and spacious parks where stroll French women and men; some of the latter dressed in the natty blue uniforms of the French army.

In the business district, Parisian gowns are displayed behind plate-glass show windows. French theater fronts blaze with gaudy signs to attract patrons. Paris-like sidewalk cafes invite passersby to imbibe their favorite beverage while melodious strains from a French orchestra filter through the open windows of a French restaurant.

Now and then you bump over street-car tracks. You notice the absence of peculiar oriental city odors because of Hanoi's modern sewage system; you feel free to drink the city water because of the excellent water supply system; and at night the streets are bathed in light from thousands of electric bulbs. The Botanical gardens and Zoological park are additional reminders of the French capital about 7,000 miles away.

The French quarter is farthest from the right bank of the Red river on which Hanoi lies about 80 miles from the sea. A lake, surrounded by promenades, separates this quarter from the native quarter which begins on the congested riverside. Once inside the narrow byways of the native quarter, it is easy to forget the westernized portion of the city.

## HOW

NATURE HAS ARRANGED TO DRAW BEES TO FLOWERS.—Nature has good reasons, recent English investigations indicate, for having provided most flowers, both with bright colors and with pleasing smells. Visits by insects are necessary to the pollination of most flowers and to the production of seeds. Some insects turn out to be attracted by the flowers' color; other insects by the smells. Thus the flower has a chance of being served by either or both of the insect groups.

So reports G. Fox-Wilson, entomologist of the Royal Horticultural Society, who has been counting the visits of bees and other insects to fruit trees. One of the experiments was to tie artificial apple flowers to the trees and see what the bees did about it. Most of them did nothing, ignoring the imitation flowers completely. Natural apple nectar from a real flower was then placed at the bottom of the artificial blossoms. Promptly the bees visited these nectar-filled flowers precisely as though they were real ones.

The evident conclusion is that this kind of bees, mostly ordinary hive bees, were attracted by the odor of the nectar instead of the colors of the flower; a conclusion reinforced by the fact that these same kind of bees freely visit flowers from which the colored petals have been removed but which still contain the odoriferous nectar. Other kinds of bees, however, were found to visit artificial, nectarless flowers; apparently attracted by the colors.

## How "Meander" Has Come to Denote Wandering

When you speak of a person who "meanders" you use a word coined from the name of an old river. In ancient times there was a celebrated river in Asia Minor which had no fewer than 600 turns and twists. Travelers who followed it went miles out of their way, only to find, when they reached one of the towns upon its banks, that they had made scarcely any headway, for the river had only wandered up into a great loop and come down again quite close to the last town in which they had spent the night. The name of this river was Meander, from which our word, meaning to wander aimlessly, is derived.

## How Soap Is Manufactured

In the manufacture of soap, after the mass has been reduced to a semi-solid, the 1,000 pound cake of soap is forced through a framework across which are strung horizontal a number of fine piano wires arranged at a distance equal to the thickness of a cake of soap. Thus the soap is cut into horizontal slabs. These are placed on another cutting machine which divides the slabs into long sticks, which are then cut into cakes on the same machine by an other cross motion, wires being employed in both operations. The cakes after being dried in an air-chamber are stamped into the exact shape. The capacity of a stamping machine is 100,000 cakes a day. The cakes are carefully inspected before being put into the boxes.

## How Static Gets Into Radio

Static is audio-frequency-group oscillation discharge between clouds, or clouds and earth. It travels in all directions from disturbance. Static probably impresses its varying frequencies upon the electric waves carrying broadcast signals while they are proceeding from transmitting to receiving station, something like the mix-up of waves that would occur if one were to throw a large rock into a lake upon the surface of which there were previously some moderate waves. The latter would be broken up and changed in shape, but their frequency would probably continue the same as before. Static waves will penetrate any substance that radio waves can penetrate.

## How "Poker" Got Name

The game of poker is evidently an adaptation of the Persian game of *As nas*, as it was originally played, with only 20 cards, dealt to four players, and went to the United States by way of New Orleans. Owing to its resemblance to the French game of *poque* and the German game of *pochen*, the French colonists called it "poque," and this spelling was mispronounced by the English-speaking players as "po-que," easily converted into "poker."

## Early Railroads Cared

### Little for the Humble

The shades of early third-class travelers ought to smile with satisfaction on hearing the report that first class railway travel is "doomed." The railways were planned for the wealthy. Down to 1845 the third-class passenger had no legal status at all, many companies refused to carry him in any price, while others put him in an open goods truck with movable seats placed across it and charged him 1½ pence a mile for the privilege.

He was conveyed with other unclean animals by cattle-trains, he was shunted about in his bufferless box for hours, and when at last he reached his destination, covered with dust and cinders, it was to see a notice that "the company's servants are strictly ordered not to porter for wagon passengers."

Third-class passengers, nevertheless, persisted in traveling. The companies introduced the "Stanhope." This consisted of a box about 18 feet long, divided into four compartments by two wooden bars crossing each other in the middle. There was a door to each compartment, but no seats, so that the number of passengers it could contain depended upon the bulk of the "Stanhopes." Usually 65 passengers were crowded into a wagon!—Manchester (Eng.) Guardian.

## Great Mission Pioneers

### Revered in California

The mission of Carmel stands as a memorial to Father Ramon Mestres as well as to the great Padre Junipero Serra. Products of different epochs, Padre Serra and Father Mestres were both pioneers, the one in mission founding, the other in rebuilding. Perhaps it was partly due to the fact that Father Mestres' birthplace in Spain was nearby that of Padre Serra that, finding himself pastor of San Carlos at Monterey, he was inspired with the zeal that restored the neighboring Carmel mission from the wreck into which neglect had let it fall. By this restoration Father Mestres served the traditions of his church and the welfare of the state to which he brought back the reminders of the great age of romance of early California.

With every earmark of the aristocrat Father Mestres walked with humility in the footsteps of his great predecessor. Passing on, he leaves a memory of character and achievement as his monument.—San Francisco Chronicle.

## South American Languages

Spanish is spoken in Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Salvador, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay. Portuguese is spoken in Brazil.

In British Honduras English is the official language, but some Spanish is spoken in the interior and along the border of Mexico and Guatemala. On the north coast of Honduras English is spoken. English is also spoken in Guatemala, Panama, Salvador and Dutch Guiana. In British Guiana English is spoken exclusively. Dutch is spoken in Dutch Guiana, and French exclusively in French Guiana and to some extent in Salvador. In Ecuador Quichua is also spoken, and this and other native dialects in Peru.

## \$200.00 Paid For One Copper Cent

J. D. Martin of Richmond, Va., is the proud possessor of a check for \$200.00 paid him for an old copper cent. The Numismatic Company Dept. 650, Fort Worth, Texas, who purchased this penny from Mr. Martin, says there are numerous old coins, bills and stamps in circulation for which they will gladly pay big cash premiums. So that you will know the value of old coins and stamps and what to watch for in your change, the Numismatic Company will send for only 4 cents to any reader of this paper who writes them, a large illustrated coin folder describing some of these wanted articles and the big profits to be made. Better write them today for this large folder so you can post yourself and know just what to look for. Remember that Mr. Martin's knowing the value of his penny meant a difference of \$199.99 to him. Without knowing its value that penny might still be in circulation, passing through the hands of thousands until someone like Mr. Martin, who knows old coins, recognized its value. It pays to be posted. Send 4c now for the illustrated coin folder. You have nothing to lose, everything to gain. 76-3-12

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## TWO MORE PRISONERS ESCAPE FROM ROCKVIEW.

Two prisoners made their escape from Rockview penitentiary some time on Sunday afternoon. They were Chester McCue, of Huntingdon county, serving a two to four year sentence for assault and battery with intent to kill, and Theodore Markal, of Clearfield county, doing a two to four year sentence for arson. Both men were employed at the creamery. They were present at a check-up of prisoners at 2:30

o'clock but were not to be found at milking time, about five o'clock. Shortly before noon, on Monday, two suspicious looking men were seen in the vicinity of Warriorsmark and penitentiary officials were notified. Deputy warden W. J. McFarland and two guards went to Warriorsmark and found the men to be the two escaped prisoners. When they saw the deputy they made an effort to run away but were captured about one o'clock and brought to the Centre county jail.

## Condensed Statement First National Bank, Bellefonte, Pa. December 31, 1930

Assets	
Time Loans and Investments	\$1,092,944.84
Time Loans on Collateral	220,736.95
U. S. Bonds Circulation	100,000.00
Real Estate, Banking House, etc.,	91,135.00
	\$1,504,816.79

Quick Assets	
U. S. and other marketable bonds	\$ 834,319.50
Demand Loans	86,552.00
Cash and Reserve	246,460.01
	\$1,167,331.51
	\$2,672,148.30

Liabilities	
Capital	\$ 200,000.00
Surplus and Profits	344,288.65
Circulation	98,200.00
Dividends Unpaid	10,018.00
Reserve for taxes and depreciation	13,000.00
Due Federal Reserve Bank	50,000.00
Deposits	1,956,641.65
	\$2,672,148.30

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