

Postage Labels in Thailand

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Since the year 2000 Thailand Post uses self adhesive postage labels with the picture of one large elephant and two baby elephants. The text is printed on the labels by way of thermo print, which means that the machine more or less burns the text on the heat sensitive paper. The digits on the left hand side are interesting. Easiest to identify is the date of issue on the second line. The number on the first line is the postal code of the post office. For instance, post offices with 10000-codes are located in Bangkok and 83000-codes are related to the well known beach resort Phuket. The remaining digits identify the clerks, the amount of labels per day and the total in a certain period.

During the years several paper and print varieties have emerged.

- from 2000 - 2003 the paper was 52 mm wide (#1). Very thin, grey horizontal lines were preprinted on the paper (#2).

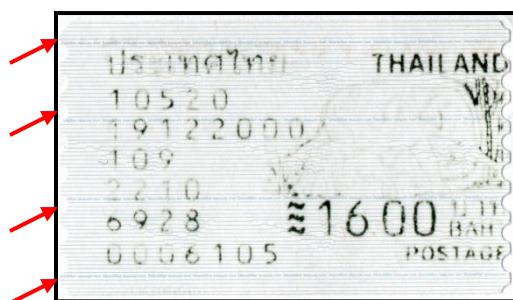


#1: 52 mm wide



#2: horizontal lines

Almost invisible are the four lines (#2a) with an endless repetition of the Thai text “ประเทศไทย THAILAND POST”, enlarged in #2b. This text is also printed on the top of the postage label.



#2a: vier regels in de onderdruk



#2b: THAILAND POST

- In 2001, 2002 and 2003 the upper rim of the labels showed a pink or purple stripe (#3). As of 2004 this stripe was abandoned.

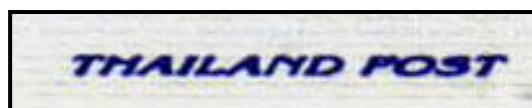


#3: purple rim

- In 2004 postage labels go from 52 to 56 mm width. Label #4 not only is 56 mm wide, it shows a new preprinted text on the lower side: **THAILAND POST** in English (left) and in Thai (right) in a small letter type (#5). In between is the logo of Thailand Post.



#4: 56 mm wide



#5: THAILAND POST small

- In the second half of 2004 new white paper emerged without the horizontal lines (#6 and #7). This paper is still in use in 2010.



#6: white paper



#7: no horizontal lines (compare to #2)

- From 2004 on, the preprinted text **THAILAND POST** in a small letter type was continued, but in 2006 the letter type and the logo have been enlarged a bit (#8 and #9).



#8: white paper



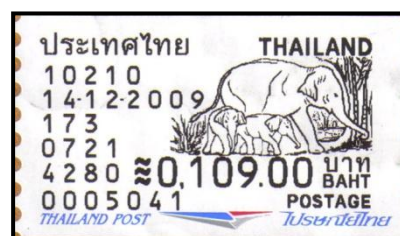
#9: THAILAND POST large (compare to #5)

- In the beginning of 2008 a new, bold print of the amount emerges (#10).

- In 2009 I found a peculiar label on which the amount was not printed as 109.00 as usual, but was preceded by a zero, so **0,109.00** (#11).



#10: bold print



#11: 0,109.00

- Unnoticed by many collectors, ten new automats have been tested since 2006 in the Bangkok area. The print is totally new, as well as the use of a bar code (#12). The automats have been developed by Thailand Post in cooperation with a technical university in Thailand.

These are self service automats with a touch screen and a scale. They accept both coins and a specially developed credit card, which can only be used in this type of machines. Each label comes with a receipt. The date is printed on the labels and they must be used on that same day. See a report by A.G. (Del) Smith in **Autumn 2011 Volume 63 Number 3 (Issue 293) The Meter Stamp Society Quarterly**.



#12: bar code label

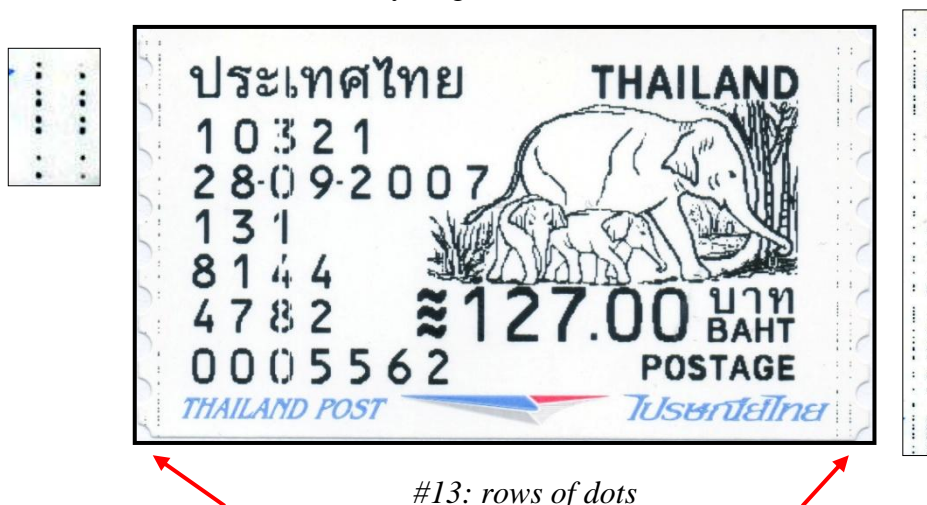
#12a: BATH instead of BAHT.

The capital letters in the lower left corner stand for: CZ = Certified; RZ = Registered; PZ = Parcel; EZ = express.

Interesting is the wrong text BATH instead of BAHT (#12a).

■ 2007

The label dated 28-09-2007 is the only one I have seen with two rows of dots with irregular intervals (#13). It is unclear to me how they originated.



#13: rows of dots

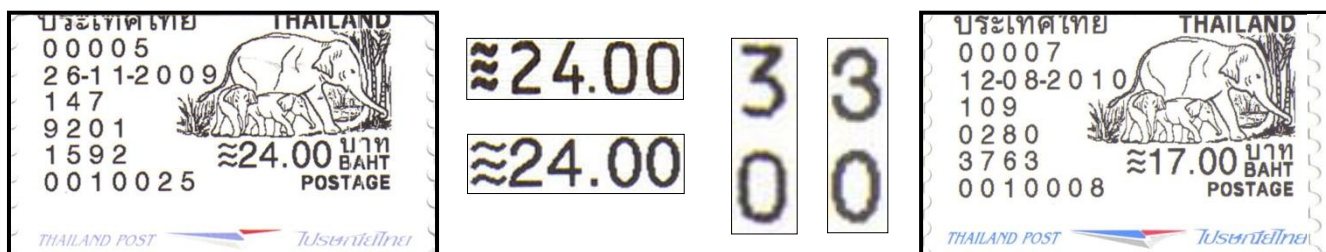
■ 2009

In general the label paper is white or greyish white. In that respect I found the pink label dated 26-05-2009 a bit remarkable (#14)



#14: pink paper

- On the label dated **26-11-2009** the letter type of the print has been changed. The hyphens in the date are more prominent than the dots on previous labels. The three waves in front of the value are wider than previously (#15).



#15: new print

The labels come out of the printer on liner paper. Between each label the liner paper is perforated (#16).



#16: liner paper

- Another new letter type emerged on a label dated **19-08-2010** (#17a). The elephants on this postage label are slightly larger: 30x15 mm instead of 28x14 mm. Notice that on a similar label dated **16-03-2011** there are five zero's in line three (#17b).



#17a: new letter type



#17b: 00000 in line three

- On a label dated **13-12-2011** in #18 a variety of the bold print in #10 emerged. For the first time since the introduction of the labels in the year 2000 the three waves in front of the value have been deleted.



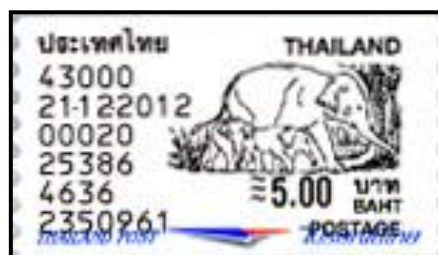
#18: without waves

- Only a couple of weeks later I found a postage label dated **04-01-2012** with another new print (#19). Up to that moment the distance between the Thai text in the upper left and THAILAND in the upper right was 10mm, but on this label it was 14mm. The rows of numbers on the left hand side of the label stand therefore further away from the elephants. Moreover the grass behind the elephants is gone. Finally there is a space between BAHT and POSTAGE in the lower right.



#19: new text 2012

- The end of the year 2012 came with yet another new letter type on the labels, as shown on the label dated 21-12-2012 in #20. The paper has a shade of bluish grey. The picture of the elephants is 1 mm smaller than the one in #17a. This minimal difference shows in the little white space to the upper right between THAILAND and the elephants.



#20: new text 2012

The highest value that I have found on a Thai postage label is 1350.00 baht (= about US\$ 37,00) (#21).



#21: high value.

■ 2015

In 2015 a print, shown in #23, was released with the traditional three elephants in a very elongated form. In case a barcode is used such as on the RR-label (= Registered), the first name of the addressee is printed (**richard**) (#24).



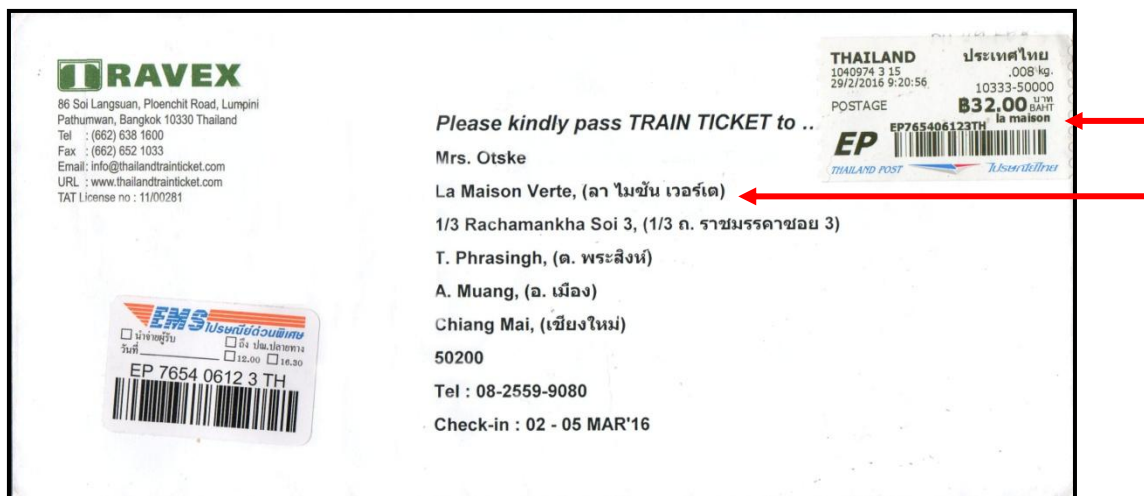
#23: elongated elephants



#24: barcode label

■ 2016

On the label dated 29/2/2016 (#25) a barcode with the letters **EP** (= Express Post) was printed. Again the addressee appears to the right: **la maison**. This is La Maison Verte in Chiang Mai, see envelope. Notice that the codes on the EMS-sticker and the postage label are identical: EP765406123TH



#25: ExpressPost

On a label dated 6/12/2016 a slightly different letter type of THAILAND POST appears. Up to then the letters slant front a bit, but in the new type the letters stand straighter (#26).



THAILAND POST



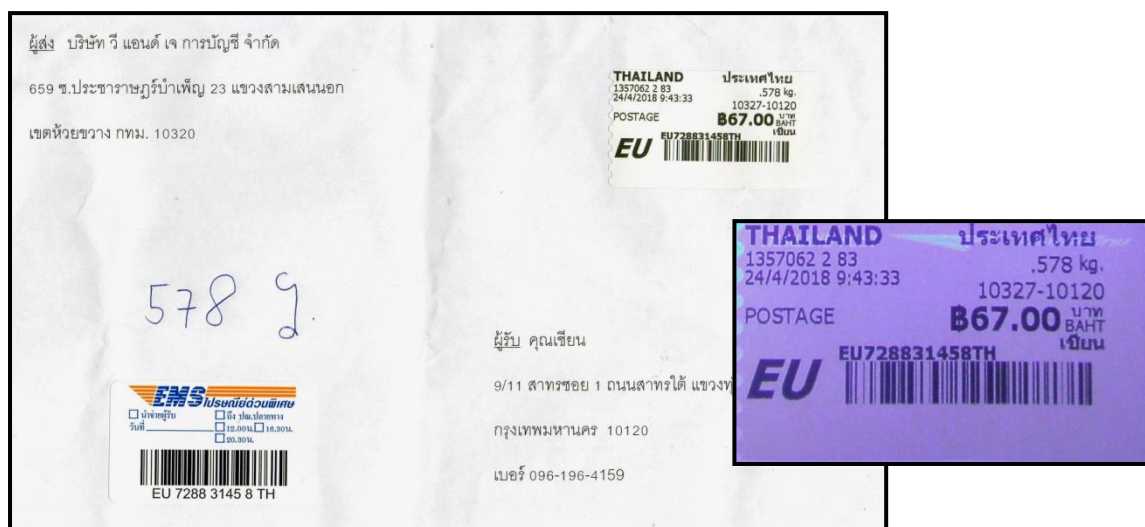
■ 2018

On a label dated 29/01/2018 several novelties appear (#27):

- Previously, January was printed as 1, now it is 01;
- New is the big R for Recommandé;
- The THAILAND POST logo is not visible to the naked eye anymore, but it appears with ultra violet light, upside down (*afb. 28*).



Three months later I found a label dated 24/4/2018 on a large domestic envelope with barcode EU. In this case the invisible THAILAND POST logo is printed at the upper side of the label in the normal straight position. (#29).



This is still not as it should be. We need to look out for labels with the invisible logo in a straight position at the lower end of the label.....

Finally, it took some guessing to understand the significance of the line right above POSTAGE to the left of the label. It turned out to be the amount 5.00 Baht of the pre-affixed stamp on the envelope. The accompanying receipt shows PREPAID B 5.00 and the total amount due B 24.00, resulting in the additional label of B 19.00 (#30).



#30: prepaid amount

บริษัท ไปรษณีย์ไทย จำกัด			
พ.ศ. 2561			
สาขาที่ 0238 Tel. 0-3842-9341			
TAX ID. 0105546095724			
ใบรับเงิน			
POS IDB05202000203814	RCPT#1061025		
25/04/2018 11:03:42	USER#TUKTA		
RC#307035 W5	TR#4931712		
น้ำหนัก .012 Kg. NL	เงินโอน	เงินโอน	
น้ำหนัก .008 Kg. NL	เงินโอน	เงินโอน	
น้ำหนัก .01 Kg. NL	เงินโอน	เงินโอน	
PREPAID 5.00	24.00		
รวมทั้งสิ้น	33.00		
เงินสด	40.00		
เงินทอน	-8.00		
ขอบคุณที่ใช้บริการ			

Also notice the date in the cancel PATTAYA. 25 4 61. According to the Buddhist calendar it was 25 April 2561 on that day.