Admirals

Five sets of stamps were issued to honor French admirals who had contributed to military actions as part of the conquest of Indochina.

Courbet  
Chasseloup-Laubat  
de Genouilly  
de la Grandière  
Charner
Two denominations from the Admirals commemoratives (3-cent Courbet and 5-cent de Genouilly) along with two stamps from the Explorers commemoratives (15-cent Garnier and 20-cent Pavie) were not officially released for sale. Stocks of these stamps were captured by the Viet Minh and found their way to the philatelic marketplace. Here, all four of the unissued denominations were affixed to this registered cover posted internally within Hanoi in 1948.
Admiral Courbet

Admiral Andre Amédée Anatole Prosper Courbet (1827-1885) commanded the 20,000 men of the Annam-Tonkin Expeditionary Corps. In 1883, the force started the systematic conquest of Northern Indochina, which was to take two decades.

COURBET WITH STYLIZED MAP OF FRENCH INDOCHINA
Courbet
Semi-Postal Essay

Admiral Amédée Courbet (1827-1885) assumed control of French Far East forces in 1883 when France sought to bring Annam and Tonkin firmly under its control.

Although proposed, a semi-postal stamp with his likeness was not issued.
Courbet
Varieties

LIGHT SHADE  MEDIUM SHADE  DARK SHADE

UNISSUED DENOMINATION

WHITE PAPER  YELLOW PAPER
Courbet
Postmarks

RURAL POST
Courbet
First Day of Issue

The first day of issue for the Courbet commemorative stamp was 1 September 1943.
For a commercial mailing from Mytho to Saigon in October 1943, the 6-cent Courbet commemorative paid the internal rate. A few months later, the internal letter rate increased from 6 cents to 10 cents effective 1 December 1943.
A single copy of the 6-cent Courbet commemorative paid the internal rate for a letter sent from Hanoi to Hue in 1943.
The postage for an internal letter weighing between 20-50 grams was 16 cents. For the first weight step (up to 10 grams), the postage was 10 cents. Three cents was added for 10-20 grams and another three cents for the third step above 20 grams.

POSTAL MARKINGS
CHOLON COCHINCHINE  22-9 45
François de Chasseloup-Laubat, who held the post of Maritime Minister, was an ardent spokesman for French imperialism. The military campaigns of the early 1860s were conducted under his direction.
Chasseloup-Laubat
Varieties

LIGHT SHADE

DARK SHADE

WHITE PAPER

YELLOW PAPER
Chasseloup-Laubat Varieties

HORIZONTAL CREASE

PARTIAL TRANSFER ON REVERSE
Chasseloup-Laubat
First Day of Issue

The Chasseloup-Laubat commemorative stamp was put on sale the same day as the 6-cent Yersin stamp, 5 October 1943.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 5-10 43
Chasseloup-Laubat
Use of 6 cents

A single copy of the 6-cent Chasseloup-Laubat commemorative paid the postage for an internal letter sent from Vinh-Yen, Tonkin to Hanoi in October 1943. A few months after the letter was posted, the internal letter rate increased from 6 cents to 10 cents effective 1 December 1943.

POSTAL MARKINGS
VINH-YEN TONKIN 18-10 43
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 19-10 43
Admiral de Genouilly

As commander of the French Fleet in the Far East, Admiral Rigault de Genouilly oversaw the first military occupation in Indochina by seizing Tourane and Saigon in 1859.

STATUE ERECTED IN SAIGON TO HONOR DE GENOUILLY

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 3-7 13
de Genouilly
Varieties

LIGHT SHADE

DARK SHADE

LIGHT SHADE

DARK SHADE

WHITE PAPER

YELLOW PAPER

WHITE PAPER

YELLOW PAPER
de Genouilly
Postmarks

HONGAY
TONKIN

NAM-DINH
TONKIN

MYTHO
COCHINCHINE

SAIGON – A
COCHINCHINE

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL
COCHINCHINE

TRANGBANG
TONKIN

TAM-DAO
ANNAM
de Genouilly
Use of 5 cents

After the 5-cent de Genouilly commemorative was issued on 14 January 1946, it was not widely distributed. Here, three copies on an envelope were favor-cancelled at Hanoi on 18 February 1946.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI CHANH-THAU-CUC BUU-TIN 18-2 46
de Genouilly  
First Day of Issue  

The de Genouilly commemorative stamp had the same first day of issue as the Courbet stamp, 1 September 1943.
de Genouilly
Use of 6 cents

In only a day, a letter posted from Phu-Lang-Thuong, Tonkin reached Hanoi. Postage for the governmental communication was paid with a single copy of the 6-cent de Genouilly commemorative.
de Genouilly  
First Day of Issue  

A pair de Genouilly stamps franked a mailing posted at Saigon on the first day of issue, 1 September 1943. With an unsealed flap, the letter would have qualified for the reduced printed matter rate. Even though the internal letter rate was 6 cents until 1 December 1943, the sender affixed two of the new commemoratives to his envelope.
de Genouilly
Usage

Despite the hardships of wartime, the internal postal system continued to function. Here a letter from Hanoi went via Saigon to Dalat in a matter of a few days.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 9-9 43
REVERSE
SAIGON PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 11 SEPT 43
DALAT ANNAM 12-9 43
As the first military administrator over Indochina (1863-68), Admiral Pierre de la Grandière extended France's control by gaining a protectorate over Cambodia and securing authority over all of southern Cochinchina.

POSTCARD DEPICTS THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS' PALACE ON LAGRANDIÈRE STREET IN SAIGON.
An essay for a semi-postal stamp honoring Admiral de la Grandière has a confusing denomination of “0$05 + $1.”
de la Grandière
Color Shades
de la Grandière
Paper Varieties

WHITE PAPER

YELLOW PAPER

WHITE PAPER

YELLOW PAPER
de la Grandière
Perforation Varieties

IMPERFORATE

DOUBLY PERFORATED HORIZONTALLY
de la Grandière
Perforation Variety

DOUBLY PERFORATED VERTICALLY
de la Grandière
Perforation Variety

DOUBLY PERFORATED HORIZONTALLY
de la Grandière
Postmarks

BENTRE
COCHINCHINE

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL
COCHINCHINE

TANAN
COCHINCHINE

VUNGLIEM
COCHINCHINE

HANOI R.P.
TONKIN
de la Grandière
First Day of Use of 1 cent

A single copy of the 1-cent de la Grandière commemorative stamp was favor-cancelled at Hanoi on 16 August 1943, one day after the official release date for sale.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI A. TONKIN 16-8 43
A block of four 1-cent stamps was postmarked at Saigon on 16 August 1943, one after the official first day of issue for the 1-cent de la Grandière commemorative. Since the flap was not sealed and there were likely no contents, the envelope qualified for the reduced printed matter postal rate.
On Christmas Eve 1943, the 1-cent de la Grandière stamp contributed to the 10 cents postage for an internal wartime letter from Saigon to Dalat.
The 6-cent domestic letter rate was in effect from 1939 through 30 November 1943. Posted on 26 November, this letter franked with low-value stamps just missed the impending rate increase scheduled within a few days.
de la Grandière
Use of 1 cent

Effective 1 December 1943, the post office raised the internal letter rate to 10 cents. Previously, the letter rate was 6 cents. Here the postage for a local letter was paid with a block of six 1-cent de la Grandière commemorative stamps.
de la Grandière
Use of 5 cents

The internal letter rate was 15 cents from 16 October 1944 through 4 May 1946. In this case, postage for a mailing from Haiphong to Hanoi in 1944 was paid with a strip of three 5-cent de la Grandière commemorative stamps.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 18-4 45
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 20-4 458
de la Grandière
Use of 5 cents

Effective 16 October 1944, the internal letter rate increased from 10 cents to 15 cents. Even though a number of 15-cent stamps were issued to accommodate the new rate, patrons used up smaller values as in this case of three 5-cent de la Grandière commemorative stamps to pay the letter rate for internal mail.

POSTAL MARKINGS
CHAPA TONKIN 17-2 45
slogan handstamp
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 220-2 45
de la Grandière
Use of 5 cents

Three copies of the 5-cent de la Grandière commemorative paid the internal letter rate for commercial correspondence in March 1946.
de la Grandière
Use of 5 cents

Effective 5 May 1946, the internal letter rate increased from 15 cents to 20 cents. Posted on 26 May 1946 from Dalat to Hanoi, the postage for this mailing was paid with four 5-cent de la Grandière commemorative stamps.
For a postwar airmail letter to France, the 5-cent de la Grandière commemorative was combined with two 70-cent definitive stamps.
Here the 5-cent de la Grandière stamp contributed to the 1$05 postage for airmail service to the United States in 1946.
Admiral L, V. J. Charner, who was the commander of French forces in the Far East, relieved the garrison at Saigon in 1861. Continuing on with a number of bloody battles, his task force took control of key points from Saigon to the Cambodian border.
Charner
Color Shades
Charner
Varieties of 10 cents

HEAVY INKING
NORMAL
LIGHT IMPRESSION

DOUBLY PERFORATED HORIZONTALLY
Charner Postmarks

HANOI A TONKIN

CAP ST. JACQUES COCHINCHINE
DALAT ANNAM
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE

DALAT ANNAM
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE
Charner
Use of 10 cents

The internal letter rate rose from 6 cents to 10 cents on 1 December 1943. Here a 10-cent Charner commemorative paid for a mailing from Hai-Duong to Hanoi in September 1944.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HAI-DUONG TONKIN 6-9 44
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 7-9 44
A pair of 10-cent Charner commemorative stamps paid the postage for a surface-rate letter to France in 1946. Effective 5 May 1946, the rate for the first weight step (20 grams) has risen to 20 cents.
Charner
Use of 20 cents

From October 1944 until May 1946, internal registered letters required 45 cents postage. Postage costs were calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>internal letter rate</td>
<td>15 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registration fee</td>
<td>30 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>45 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
SOCTRANG COCHINCHINE 5-3 45
registration label
REVERSE
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 6-3 45
Charner
Use of 20 cents

Three 20 cent Charner stamps paid for local delivery within Saigon in 1948. The envelope had been posted on 17 April 1948, the opening day of the South Vietnam Exposition Fair in Saigon.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 17-4 48
Saigon Fair cachet
REVERSE
SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 17-4 48
Charner
Use of 1 piaster

A 1946 airmail letter from Indochina to Western Australia was franked with 1$50 worth of commemorative stamps. The high value Charner stamp gained utility as a result of inflation after World War II.
Charner Usage

Three pairs of Admiral Charner commemoratives were employed on a philatelic mailing within Saigon in 1944.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 20-12 44
REVERSE
SAIGON PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 20-12 44