Explorers

Three sets of stamps were issued to honor Frenchmen who had explored Southeast Asia and had, as a result, helped secure the French presence in Indochina.

Francis Garnier

Auguste Pavie

Doudart de Lagree
Francis Garnier (1839-1873) developed the 1866 plan for exploring the upper Mekong River in order to find a gateway to the southern and western provinces of China. Garnier was killed while commanding a military mission in Tonkin.

FAMOUS SAILORS ON TRADE CARD

POSTCARD DEPICTING STATUE OF FRANCIS GARNIER IN SAIGON.
Garnier
Varieties

Only the 1-cent value of the Garnier commemorative was regularly issued. When the Viet Minh captured stocks of stamps during the Franco-Viet Conflict, copies of 15-cent value reached the philatelic marketplace. The Viet Minh also overprinted both stamps.
Garnier
Varieties

WHITE PAPER    YELLOW PAPER

HANGING PERFORATIONS
Garnier
Postmarks

HANOI R.P.
TONKIN

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL
COCHINCHINE
The 1-cent Garnier stamp was favor-canceled at the Hanoi A post office on 16 September 1943, the stamp’s first day of use.
A block of four 1-cent stamps was postmarked at Saigon on 16 September 1943, the first day of issue for the Garnier commemorative. Since the flap was not sealed and there were likely no contents, the envelope qualified for the reduced printed matter postal rate.
Garnier
First Day of Issue

The first day that the Garnier stamp was used in Pnompenh was 16 September 1943.
Combined with three 1-cent Petain stamps, three 1-cent Garnier commemoratives made up the 6-cent internal letter rate for a mailing from Hanoi to Saigon in 1943.
Doudart de Lagree (1823-1868) commanded the Mekong River exploration party that started out from Saigon in 1866. He died two days before the group reached the Yangtze River in 1868.

Although proposed, a semi-postal stamp with his likeness was not issued.
de Lagree
Color Shades
de Lagree
Varieties

WHITE PAPER

YELLOW PAPER

PERFORATION SHIFT

VERTICALLY IMPERFORATE

PERFORATION SHIFT

WHITE PAPER

YELLOW PAPER
de Lagree
Perforation Varieties

DOUBLE PERFORATION

PARTIAL DOUBLE PERFORATION
de Lagree
Variety

PAPER FOLDS
de Lagree
Postmarks

HANOI R.P.
TONKIN

MYTHO
COCHINCHINE

VIETTRI
TONKIN

DALAT
ANNAM

PNOMPENH
CAMBODGE

POSTE
NAVALE

THAKHEK
LAOS

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL
COCHINCHINE
de Lagree
Postmarks

HANOI R.P.
TONKIN
De Lagree
Use of 1 cent

A block of four 1-cent values were affixed to a souvenir envelope and postmarked (likely on a “hand back” basis) on 10 January 1945, the first day of issue for the 1-cent commemorative stamp.

POSTAL MARKINGS
CHOLON-BINHTAY COCHINCHINE 10-1 45
de Lagree
Use of 1 cent

Starting 8 November 1946, the internal letter rate rose to 40 cents. A 1-cent de Lagree commemorative stamp in combination with a 39-cent Monoplane airmail made up the postage for a governmental mailing from Rachgia to Saigon in 1948.

POSTAL MARKINGS
RACHGIA COCHINCHINE 19-2 48
REVERSE
SAIGONR.P. COCHINCHINE 23-2 48
When issued, the 1-cent de Lagree stamp by itself had no postal utility. However, the low value could add to higher value stamps to attain necessary postal values. In this case, three 1-cent stamps helped make up the postage calculated as follows:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>letter rate to France</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airmail surcharge</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The vertical perforations on this stamp are shifted to the right so much that the denomination appears to be “5c” instead of “15c”.
de Lagree
Use of 15 cents

Items sent through the mail did not have to be put in envelopes. Here the 15-cent de Lagree stamp was affixed to a report card from the Sisowath Lycee for the first semester of the 1944-45 school year. The report card was simply folded, addressed and stamped for mailing to the student's father.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 21-2 45
In October 1944, the Indochinese post office raised the internal letter rate from 10 cents to 15 cents. The cost of an internal, registered letter was then:

<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
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 10-11 44
registration label
REVERSE
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 11-11 44

Monsieur Chalumeau
29 Rue Michi
Saigon
A combination of de Lagree commemoratives paid the airmail postage for a very early postwar mailing to France. Postage was calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>letter rate to France</td>
<td>20 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airmail surcharge</td>
<td>65 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>85 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
NHA-TRANG ANNAM 14-12 45 (blue)
REVERSE
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 24-12 45
Whereas internal letters had cost only 6 cents in 1942, postage rates escalated sharply after World War II. The letter rate became 40 cents in 1946. Here a 40c stamp was affixed to an envelope mailed from Phnom Penh to Saigon in 1947.

POSTAL MARKINGS
BATTAMBANG CAMBODGE 25-3 47
REVERSE
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 27-3 47
SAIGON R. P. COCHINCHINE 29-3 47
Issued during World War II, the 40-cent de Lagree stamp was a “high value.” However, as postal rates increased dramatically as a result of postwar inflation, the role of the stamp changed. In 1946, the surface rate to France increased to 40 cents for the first 20 grams. Here the 40-cent de Lagree stamp paid for a mailing from Cantho to Paris in May 1947.
Here a postwar surface rate mailing to New York in 1946 was franked with a single copy of the 40-cent de Lagree commemorative stamp.
de Lagree
Use of 40 cents

Two examples of the 40-cent de Lagree stamp paid for airmail service on a postwar letter to France in 1946.
An early postwar letter to France was franked with a pair of the 40–cent de Lagree commemorative stamps. Postage was calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>letter rate to France</td>
<td>15 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airmail supplement</td>
<td>65 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>80 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
MIMOT CAMBODGE  9-4 46
REVERSE
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE  13-4 46
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE  18-4 46
de Lagree
Use of 40 cents

The internal letter rate was 1.20 piaster from April 1949 till October 1951. Here three 40 cent de Lagree stamps paid the postage.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON R P SUD VIETNAM 6-1 1951
REVERSE
DALAT PLATEAUX-INDOCHINOIS 8-1 1951
de Lagree
Use of 40 cents

Three copies of the 40-cent de Lagree stamp paid for airmail service on a postwar letter from Saigon to France in 1948. Postage was calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>letter rate to France</td>
<td>$0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airmail surcharge</td>
<td>$0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
de Lagree
Use of 40 cents

Five 40-cent de Lagree commemorative stamps franked an airmail letter to France in 1948. Postage was calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>letter rate to France</td>
<td>0.60 piasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airmail surcharge</td>
<td>1.20 piasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>convenience fee</td>
<td>0.20 piasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.00 piasters</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 27-11 48 (blue)
amail label
REVERSE
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 27-11 48
A 40-cent de Lagree stamp had its cancellation erased. The stamp was reused on a 1950 mailing to France.
August Pavie (1847-1925) explored the upper reaches of the Mekong River and virtually single-handedly brought Laos under French control.

POSTCARD DEPICTING STATUE OF AUGUSTE PAVIE IN VIENTIANE.
Pavie Varieties

LIGHT SHADE

DARK SHADE

IMPERFORATE

SHIFTED PERFORATIONS

PARTIAL PERFORATIONS

DOUBLY PERFORATED VERTICALLY
Pavie
Perforation Varieties

DOUBLE PERFORATIONS

PERFORATIONS SHIFTED HORIZONTALLY
Pavie
Missing Impressions

MISSING "c" in "4c"

DARK SHADE

LIGHT SHADE

MISSING "F" in "E.F."
Pavie
Use of Missing "c" Variety

Six 4-cent Pavie stamps totaled 24 cents postage on a local letter posted in 1944. In April 1944, the local letter rate was only 10 cents. The sender had used extra stamps to create an attractive franking surrounding a stamp variety. The middle stamp in the bottom row is the missing “c” variety.
A block of twelve 4-cent Pavie stamps significantly overpaid the internal letter rate for a local mailing within Hanoi in 1944. The middle row of stamps includes the "partial c" (center stamp in middle row) and the "missing c" (right stamp in the middle row) varieties.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI • A TONKIN 23-9-44
REVERSE
HANOI • A TONKIN 23-9-44
Pavie
Perforation Varieties

PERFORATED 12 X 11

IMPERFORATE

PERFORATED 11

PERFORATED 12
Pavie
Postmarks on 4 cents

BENTHUY ANNAM
CANGIOU COCHINCHINE
HAI-DUONG TONKIN

HANOI ENTREPO'T P.T.T.
TONKIN
HANOI R.P.
TONKIN

HANOI TONKIN
HIEPHOA COCHINCHINE

HUE ANNAM
LAITHIEU COCHINCHINE
MONCAY TONKIN
Pavie
Postmarks on 4 cents

NUI-DEO
TONKIN

PNOM-PENH
CAMBODGE

THUY LOI
COCHINCHINE

TRANGBANG
COCHINCHINE

rural post
rural post
Pavie
Postmarks on 10 cents

CANTHO
COCHINCHINE

CHOLON BINHTAY
COCHINCHINE

HAIDUONG
TONKIN

PAKSANE
LAOS

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL
COCHINCHINE

rural post  rural post  rural post
Pavie
Use of 4 cents
First Day of Issue

The reported first day of issue for the 4-cent stamp, at least in Saigon, was 10 February 1944. First availability in Pnompenh could have been two days later as represented by this philatelic usage.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 12-2 44
Pavie
Use of 4 cents

The 10-cent internal letter rate came into effect on 1 December 1943 and lasted less than a year ending on 15 October 1944. Here the 4-cent Pavie stamp paid the incremental increase in postage from 6 cents to 10 cents.
Pavie
Use of 4 cents

The 4-cent value did not correspond to any common postal rate. Here three 4 cent Pavie stamps were combined with Monoplane airmail stamps to make up the 1$20 postage for a letter to France in 1948.
Pavie
Use of 4 cents

In October 1944, the Indochinese post office increased the internal letter rate to 15 cents. Here, four examples of the 4-cent Pavie commemorative paid for mailing from Sam-Son, Annam to Quang-Yen, Tonkin.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAM-SON ANNAM 29-10 44
REVERSE
QUANG-YEN TONKIN 1-11 44
Pavie
Use of 4 cents

A block of twelve 4-cent Pavie stamps significantly overpaid the internal letter rate for a local mailing within Hanoi in 1944.
Pavie
Use of 10 cents
First Day of Issue

The 10-cent Pavie stamp was issued on 5 January 1944. The presumed first day of sale in Pnompenh was a day later.
Pavie
Use of 10 cents

The internal letter rate had become 10 cents on 1 December 1943. Here the 10-cent Pavie commemorative stamp paid the postage for mailing a letter from the small town of Dong-Hoi, Annam to the small town of Lethuy, Annam.
Pavie
Use of 10 cents

Because of wartime paper shortages, envelopes were made by hand from available materials. In this case, the sender had constructed his envelope from lined notepaper.
Pavie
Use of 10 cents

In 1944, a government form from Travinh Province with a typed "notice to appear" was folded in half and franked with a 10 cent Pavie stamp. Brown glue used to affix the commemorative stamp is apparent around its edges.

POSTAL MARKINGS
TRAVINH COCHINCHINE 19-4 44
Pavie
Use of 10 cents

In 1944, external mails were limited to areas controlled by the Japanese. With another block of four on the reverse, postage was computed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>foreign postal rate</td>
<td>40 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registration fee</td>
<td>40 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>80 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 18-6 44
registration label
"6" in circle (Thailand)

REVERSE
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 18-6 44
Seen by Customs handstamp
BANGKOK G.P.O. 21 • 6 • 44
Pavie
Use of 10 cents

Effective 8 November 1946, the internal letter rate rose to 40 cents. A block of four 10-cent Pavie stamps paid for a commercial mailing from the Bank of Indochina in 1947.
Pavie
Use of 20 cents

Although the 20-cent Pavie stamp was never officially issued, the Viet Minh released stocks captured in Hanoi early in their revolution.

Evidence of scarcities is demonstrated by this previously addressed envelope, which had been turned inside out in order to be readdressed.