French Revolution Anniversary

A colonial omnibus series was issued in 1939 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the French Revolution. The design depicts the storming of the Bastille.
A “maximum card” reproduced the image used on the French Revolution Anniversary semi-postal stamps.
French Revolution Anniversary
Saigon-Central Postmarks
French Revolution Anniversary
Saigon-Central Postmarks
French Revolution
Use of 6 + 2 cents

Public spirited organizations occasionally used semi-postal stamps on their mail as in the case of this letter from Adventist missionaries sent internally from Cantho to Tourane.

POSTAL MARKINGS
CANTHO COCHINCHINE 22-10 39
CONTROLE POSTAL Commission C INDOCHINE
REVERSE
SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 22 OCT 39
French Revolution
Use of 7 + 3 cents

French Revolution semi-postal stamps were most often used philatelically. Here the 7 + 3 cent value from French Revolution Anniversary series was combined with a similar stamp from Kouang Cho Wan as well as the New York World's Fair issue on an internal registered cover.
French Revolution Anniversary
Use of 9 + 4 cents

Effective 16 June 1939, the letter rate to France rose to 9 cents. It was somewhat unusual for a government office to use semi-postal stamps. In this case, the addressee, likely a stamp dealer, may have influenced the choice of the postage stamp.

Monsieur A. Kurkjian
Timbres-Poste
62 Boulevard Pasteur, 62
AMIENS - (Somme) - France

POSTAL MARKINGS
HUE ANNAM 20-11 39
REVERSE
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 22 NOV 39
French Revolution
Use of 13 + 10 cents

With the French Revolution Anniversary semi-postal contributing 13 cents, the airmail postage to France was fully paid for this cover posted from the Hanoi B auxiliary post office.
French Revolution
Use of 39 + 40 cents

A single 39 + 40-cent semi-postal stamp paid for a wartime mailing from Saigon to Shanghai.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 11-12 39
censor signature handstamp (Hong Kong)
REVERSE
VICTORIA HONG KONG 13 DE 39
SHANGHAI 18 DEC 39
French Revolution
Use of 39 + 40 cents

When postage was overpaid by the sender, the post office would sometimes apply the "AFFRANCHI PAR L' EXPEDITEUR" (franked by sender) handstamp to avoid being accused of gouging the public.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHIN 16-2 40
AFFRANCHI PAR L'EXPEDITEUR ("franked by sender")
registration label
G8 handstamp
French Revolution
Usage

Three of the semi-postal stamps frank this 1939 mailing from Hanoi to Delle, France. Ignoring the non-postal portion of the denominations, the total value of all the postage stamps was 39 cents, the prevailing airmail letter rate.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI R. P. TONKIN 6-9 39
REVERSE
DELE TERRITRÉE DE BELFORT 19-9 39
French Revolution Anniversary
Usage

The five lower values of the French Revolution Anniversary series frank an internal letter sent by registered mail.
French Revolution Anniversary
Kouang Cho Wan

With the French Revolution Anniversary, the Indochinese Office at Kouang Cho Wan issued its first semi-postal stamps.
French Revolution
Kouang Cho Wan
Use of 7 + 3 cents

A block of four 7c + 3c stamps significantly overpaid the internal letter rate of 10 cents in mid-1944.