Governors General

Four multi-value sets of stamps were issued to honor Frenchmen who had served in the position of Governor General.

van Vollenhoven

Doumer

Pasquier

de Lanessan
van Vollenhoven

Dutch by birth, Joost van Vollenhoven was acting Governor-General of French Indochina from January 1914 to April 1915. In World War I, he rejoined his old regiment as a Captain and was killed in the Second Battle of the Marne.

COMMEMORATIVE LABEL

Postcard depicting memorial to van Vollenhoven in Hanoi’s botanical garden.
van Vollenhoven
Shade Varieties
van Vollenhoven
Impression Varieties
van Vollenhoven
Varieties

“EYEPATCH” VARIETY (LEFT STAMP)

PAPERS

WHITE PAPER

YELLOW PAPER

WHITE PAPER

YELLOW PAPER
van Vollenhoven
Perforation Varieties

IMPERFORATE VERTICALLY

DOUBLY PERFORATED VERTICALLY
van Vollenhoven
Perforation Variety

PERFORATIONS SHIFTED VERTICALLY
van Vollenhoven
Use of 1 cent

Three 1-cent van Vollenhoven commemorative stamps, coupled with three 4-cent Doumer stamps, made up the 15-cent internal letter rate in December 1944.

POSTAL MARKINGS
CANTHO COCHINCHINE 27-12 44
REVERSE
CANTHO COCHINCHINE 27-12 44
van Vollenhoven
First Day of Use

Unlike many of the other Governor General sets, both van Vollenhoven stamps had the same first day of issue - 10 October 1944.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 10-10-44
REVERSE
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 10-10-44
van Vollenhoven
Use of 10 cents

A 10-cent van Vollenhoven stamp augmented a 40-cent de Lagree stamp for the postwar postage on this surface rate letter to the United States.

POSTAL MARKINGS
VINH-LONG COCHINCHINE 22-6 46
REVERSE
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 27-6 46
van Vollenhoven
Use of 10 cents

Effective 8 May 1946, the basic letter rate for internal letters (as well as letters within the French Community) rose to 20 cents. A pair of 10-cent van Vollenhoven commemoratives satisfied the postage requirement for a letter from Saigon to Hanoi in October 1946.

The receiving mark on the reverse was from a military post office, which had been established for civilian use until the postal system could be reconstituted.
van Vollenhoven
Use of 10 cents

Postwar inflation caused postal rates to rapidly escalate. The letter rate rose from 20 cents to 40 cents effective 8 November 1946. Four copies of the 10-cent van Vollenhoven stamp paid for a mailing from Phantiet, Annam to Saigon in September 1947.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PHANTIET ANNAM 17-9 47
REVERSE
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 47
Paul Doumer (1857-1932) was Governor-General of Indochina from February 1897 to March 1902. The culmination of his long political career was the Presidency of France, an office he held from 1931-32. He was assassinated on the eve of the 1932 election.
Doumer
Color Shades
Doumer
Impressions
Doumer
Varieties of 2 cents

HORIZONTAL PAPER FOLD
Doumer
Perforation Varieties

IMPERFORATE PAIR
Doumer Postmarks

HANOI TONKIN

SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE

CAP SAINT. JACQUES COCHINCHINE

HAIPHONG TONKIN

MONCAY TONKIN

HANOI R.P. TONKIN

HANOI NORD VIETNAM

rural

NAM-DINH TONKIN
Doumer Postmarks

CUA-TUNG ANNAM

DAP-CAU TONKIN

DONG-KHE ANNAM

DRAN ANNAM

MYTHO COCHINCHINE

HAI-DUONG TONKIN

NAM-DINH TONKIN
Doumer
Postmarks

MYTHO
COCHINCHINE

PHONG-THO
TONKIN

TAM-DAO
TONKIN

VIENTANE
LAOS

VINH-YEN
TONKIN

RURAL
Doumer
First Day of Issue
Use of 2 cents

The 2-cent value was the second stamp in the set to be put into service. It was issued on 15 May 1944.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE  15-5 44
REVERSE
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE  15-5 44
Doumer
Use of 2 cents

With an additional 1.04 piasters worth of postage on the reverse, a 2-cent Doumer stamp contributed to the franking for an airmail letter to France in 1947. 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>40 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airmail surcharge</td>
<td>65 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>1.05 piasters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 25-3 47
REVERSE
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 25-3 47
Doumer
Use of 2 cents

After the war, internal letters cost 40 cents. Two 2-cent stamps contributed to the postage for a mailing from the government’s French School of the Far East in Hanoi to Phnom Penh.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN 14-10 47
REVERSE
SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 16-10 47
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 17-10 47
Five copies of the 2-cent Governor-General Doumer commemorative stamp paid the local letter rate in 1944.
With rapid inflation following the war, the 4-cent stamp lost much of its utility. Here it was used with a Viet Minh stamp for an internal postcard of Hanoi in 1946.
Doumer
Use of 4 cents

Effective 8 November 1946, internal and French Community postal rates rose substantially. A printed calling card sent in an unsealed envelope such as that shown here required 15 cents postage. Here the sender had only affixed a pair of 4-cent Doumer commemorative stamps for a mailing to France. Evidently, based on the absence of any indications to the contrary, the letter escaped citation for postage due.
With an additional 1$12 worth of stamps on the reverse, the two 4-cent Doumer stamps on the front made the total postage 1$20 on this envelope. Postage was computed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>letter rate to France</td>
<td>40 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airmail supplement</td>
<td>80 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>1.20 piasters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Doumer
Use of 4 cents

A block of 10 4-cent Doumer commemorative stamps paid for a local mailing in 1948. Effective 8 November 1946, the rate for letters within Indochina and within the French Community rose to 40 cents.
Although the first day of sale for the 10-cent stamp was 5 January in Saigon, it was very possibly a day later in Pnompenh.
Doumer
Use of 10 cents

The top value Doumer stamp satisfied the internal letter rate of 10 cents, which was in effect from December 1943 through October 1944.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 1-3 44
REVERSE
HANOI BIS TONKIN 2-3 44
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 2-3 44
The overprint consisting of Cambodian characters applied to a 10-cent Doumer stamp was a pure fantasy. Likewise, the postmark was a private creation. The combination was undoubtedly motivated by a desire to attract collectors of postcards and postage stamps.
A pair of 10-cent Doumer commemorative stamps paid the postage for an internal letter posted from Saigon to Nhatrang in June 1946. A month earlier on 5 May 1946, the internal letter rate had risen from 15 cents to 20 cents.
Effective 8 November 1946, the internal letter rate rose from 20 cents to 40 cents. Here four copies of the 10-cent Doumer commemorative paid the postage for a mailing from Kompongcham, Cambodia to Saigon in December 1946.
Pasquier

Pierre Marie Antoine Pasquier served as the Governor-General of Indochina from 1928 to 1934. Born in 1877, he lost his father at eleven months of age and was raised by his mother and grandmother. In 1902, he married his niece, Elise Pasquier.

Before being appointed to the position of Governor-General, Pasquier served as Director of Civil Services of Indochina and Resident Superior of Annam (1921). While on a promotional trip for Air France from Indochina to France, he died the crash of the Dewoitine D.332 named The Emerald.
Pasquier
Color Shades
Pasquier
Printing Varieties

MISSING INK

PAPER INCLUSION
Pasquier
Perforation Varieties

IMPERFORATE VERTICALLY

PERFORATIONS SHIFTED VERTICALLY
Pasquier
Perforation Varieties

DUBLY PERFORATED HORIZONTALLY

PERFORATIONS SHIFTED VERTICALLY
Pasquier
Postmarks

TOURANE ANNAM
CAMPHA-MINE TONKIN
Issued on 10 November 1944, the 5-cent stamp was released shortly after postal rates increased by 5 cents.
Pasquier
Use of 5 cents

With the introduction of the 15-cent basic letter rate in October 1944, the low value Pasquier stamp was convenient for supplementing older 10-cent stamps.

Wartime shortages prompted conservation measures. The sender reused this envelope by writing directly over the original typewritten address.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 28-2 45
REVERSE
VINHLONG COCHINCHINE 2-3 45
Pasquier
Use of 5 cents

The 40-cent Petain stamp satisfied the internal registered letter rate until the letter rate increased by 5 cents in 1944. Postage for this postwar mailing from Mytho to Gocong in September 1945 was determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rate</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>
Pasquier
Use of 5 cents

Even though the letter rate increased in 1944, registration remained fixed at 30 cents until 1946. Here the 5-cent value provided the correct additional amount of postage for a registered letter in 1945.

POSTAL MARKINGS
CANTHO COCHINCHINE 17-1 45
registration label
REVERSE
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 18-1 45
Pasquier
Use of 5 cents

Three 5-cent Pasquier stamps exactly paid the internal postage for mailing a letter from Mytho, Cochinchina to Stungtreng, Cambodia in 1945.
Pasquier
Use of 5 cents

Although the letter rate to France had been 15 cents since 1942, postal communication during the war was virtually impossible. After the end of hostilities, the letter rate remained at 15 cents through 4 May 1946. Here, three 5-cent Pasquier commemorative stamps paid the postage a letter addressed to Paris in February 1946.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 16-2 46
REVERSE
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 21-2 46
The utility of the 10-cent stamp was small because the 10-cent letter rate disappeared the following month.
A postwar internal letter was franked with the 10-cent Pasquier stamp. Although the internal letter rate was 20 cents at the time, there is no indication that there was any attempt to collect postage due.
Jean Marie Antoine de Lanessan, a French statesman and naturalist, was Governor-General of Indochina during the period 1891-94. In connection with the approaching Paris exhibition, he traveled to the French colonies on a government mission in 1886-1887. This experience gave him the opportunity of studying colonial questions. Upon his return, he published three works having to do with colonial issues. While in control of the territory, he consolidated French influence in Annam and Cambodia, and secured a large accession of territory on the Mekong River from the kingdom of Siam. Later, he was president of the French Colonization Society, and authored various works on political and biological questions.
de Lanessan
Color Shades
de Lanessan
Varieties

IMPRESSIONS

STRONG IMPRESSION

WEAK IMPRESSION

PAPERS

WHITE PAPER

YELLOW PAPER

WHITE PAPER

YELLOW PAPER
de Lanessan Perforation Varieties

Doubly perforated horizontally

Imperforate vertically

Perforations shifted vertically

Doubly perforated vertically
de Lanessan
Postmarks

SAIGON R.P.
COCHINCHINE

HANOI RP
TONKIN
de Lanessan
First Day of Issue
Use of 1 cent

The first day of issue for the 1-cent de Lanessan stamp was 10 December 1944.
de Lanessan
Use of 1 cent

The 1-cent de Lanessan commemorative did not correspond to any common postage rate at the time of its release in 1944. Here five copies of the 1-cent stamp contributed to the postage on an airmail letter sent from Camau, Cochinchina to France in 1946.

POSTAL MARKINGS
CAMAU COCHINCHINE 22-8 46
REVERSE
BAELIEU COCHINCHINE 22-8 46
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 29-8 46
On 15 October 1944, the day before the 15-cent stamp was released, the rate for simple letters rose to 15 cents.
de Lanessan
Use of 15 cents

The internal letter rate had remained at 10 cents for approximately 10 months. Effective 16 October 1944, the letter rate rose to 15 cents.

The 15-cent de Lanessan commemorative paid for a letter from the small town of Dong-Hoi to the small town of Lethuy in January 1945.
de Lanessan
Use of 15 cents

Immediately after World War II, the surface rate to foreign destinations was 40 cents. It was common practice to use combinations of lower values laid out in symmetrical patterns to make mailings appear more visually interesting.
de Lanessan
Use of 15 cents

Typical of items prepared for sale to American servicemen in the 1960s, this card features the likeness of Governor General de Lanessan in blue ink. The postmark from Christmas Day 1944 is bogus.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI B TONKIN 25-12 44 (fake)