Grasset
Use of 1 centime

Around the turn of the century, picture postcard collectors favored cards with stamps postmarked on the image side. Here a single 1-centimetre stamp is tied with a Caobang postmark dated 1905.

POSTAL MARKINGS
CAOBAANG TONKIN 30 SEPT. 05
Grasset
Use of 1 centime

Postcards with messages of less than five words enjoyed a postal rate of only 5 centimes. Here the postcard rate was paid in 1906 with a strip of five 1-centime Grasset stamps.
Grasset
Use of 1 and 2 centimes

A picture postcard was posted from a rural post office in Moncay Province in 1909. The stamps were struck with the postmark of the rural post office - an unusual occurrence. The postcard took a month to reach its destination France.

POSTAL MARKINGS
rural post office postmark
MONCAY TONKIN 2 JUIN 09
BESANCON DOUBS 6-7 09
Grasset
Use of 1 and 2 centimes

The regular postcard rate was 10 centimes. Here the eight stamps used for postage cover a significant portion of the picture. While placing stamps on the picture side was common practice, the use of so many stamps was not.
Grasset
Mixed Use of 1 and 4 centimes

The imprinted information on an envelope for returning an election ballot indicates that it is “post-free.” Nevertheless, a combination of French and Indochinese stamps totaling 10-centimes were affixed, presumably by the sender, who used the envelope for other than the intended purpose.
Grasset
Use of 1 and 5 centimes

Because this postcard was addressed to Belgium, 10 centimes postage was required. Following the practice of the period, stamps were affixed on the view side of the postcard.
Grasset
Use of 2 centimes

In 1905, a single 2 cent Grasset stamp was favor-canceled on the front of a picture postcard. The postmark, not a genuine post office marking, had been created by a postcard dealer to improve the appearance of his wares.
The 2-centime stamp did not correspond to any common postal rate. With an additional 11 centimes on the reverse, the total franking of 15 centimes overpaid the necessary postage for this postal card to France.
Grasset
Use of 2 centimes

Even though the 2-centime value would not pay any common postal rate by itself, a combination of 5 stamps paid the regular letter rate to France.
Grasset
Use of 2 centimes

Five copies of the 2-centime Grasset stamp paid the local letter rate for this early folding letter sheet type of stationery.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN 17 MARS 08
REVERSE
HAIPHONG TONKIN 17 MARS 08
HONGAY TONKIN 19 MARS 09
In 1905, eight 2-centimestamps overpaid the letter rate to France by 1 centime. The rate to France was reduced to 10 centimes in 1907.
Grasset
Mixed Use of 2 centimes

Affixed to a picture postcard, a 2-centime Grasset stamp had been cancelled with a postcard dealer's device to make his product more appealing to collectors. Subsequently, on 28 April 1913, the card was franked with a Sower stamp and posted from Algeria to Switzerland. The French stamp covers a portion of the original cancellation.
Grasset
Use of 4 centimes

A 4-centime Grasset stamp, which had been applied to the face of a picture postcard, was favor canceled with a Saigon "A" postmark in 1910. Auxiliary post offices were assigned sequential letters starting with "A." In another departure from the norm, auxiliary post offices often employed hexagonal postmarks.
Grasset
Use of 4 centimes

Periodicals sent with wrappers enjoyed reduced postal rates. Here a 4-centime Grasset stamp paid for delivering a business journal to Paris in 1913.
Grasset
Use of 4 centimes

Evidently, long-duration subscriptions warranted printing individual wrappers for subscribers. In this case, the recipient of *Le Courrier d Haiphong* was the Emperor of Annam.
Grasset
Use of 4 centimes

The letter rates to French colonies were the same as those to France proper. For this simple letter to Algeria, the postage was overpaid by two centimes.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN 16 FEVR 11
REVERSE
ALGER ALGER 20 MARS 11
Grasset
Use of 5 centimes

Small calling cards mailed in unsealed envelopes required only 5 centimes for postage. The special rate applied to mailings sent locally as well as to France, as this example demonstrates.
Grasset
Use of 5 centimes

For items mailed aboard ships while underway, senders could use for postage stamps from the last port or stamps from the country of the ship’s registry. This postcard was franked with the 5-centimeGrasset stamp and was posted aboard ship. The Singapore post office canceled the stamp when the postcard came ashore there in 1906.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SINGAPORE OC 13 1906
Grasset
Use of 5 centimes

If the written message on a postcard exceeded five words, 10 centimes postage was required. Because this postcard was underfranked with a single 5-centime Grasset stamp, it was charged postage due.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HA-DONG TONKIN 15 MARS 06
T in triangle
boxed AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT
Grasset
Use of 5 centimes

The sender affixed a previously use 5-centime Grasset stamp on his postcard addressed to Bordeaux, France. The post office marked it postage due with a “T” in a triangle. At Bordeaux, the postcard was charged 10 centimes postage due, twice the underpayment for a postal card with a message less than five words.
Grasset
Use of 5 centimes

At the turn of the century, it was a popular practice to affix postage stamps to the view side of picture postcards. When the message exceeded five words, 10 centimes postage was required for postcards to France and colonies.
Grasset
Use of 5 centimes

Unlike letters, which had a completely different rate structure, postcards had the same rate for foreign countries as for France and colonies.
Grasset
Use of 5 centimes

When postcards carried lengthy messages, they required the same postage as letters. Here the sender affixed a pair of 5-centime Grasset stamps on a postcard sent from Baria, Cochinchina to France in 1909.
Grasset
Use of 5 centimes

With another 5-centimetre stamp on the reverse, this postcard was sent to Peking, China in 1909. It was subsequently forwarded to Shanghai.

POSTAL MARKINGS
TAYNINH COCHinchINE 11 JUIN 09
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHinchINE 12 JUIN 09
PEKIN CHINE 30 JUIN 09
TIEN-TSIN CHINE POSTE FRANCAISE 30 JUIN 09
TIEN-TSIN CHINE POSTE FRANCAISE 2 JUIL 09
Grasset
Use of 5 centimes

Most postage rates were multiples of 5 centimes. Here two 5-centimestamps paid the new rate of 10 centimes, established in 1907, for mailing a regular letter to France.
Grasset
Use of 5 centimes

Three 5-centime Grasset stamps paid the letter rate postage from Saigon-Port to Nice, France in 1905.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PORT COCHINCHINE 3 NOV 05
REVERSE
NICE-ARRIVÉE ALPES-MINES 30 NOV 05
Grasset
Use of 5 centimes

Five copies of the 5-centime Grasset stamp paid the foreign letter rate in 1906. Based on the transit markings, the letter went via the French post office at Constantinople.

POSTAL MARKINGS
LAO-KAY TONKIN 24 SEPT 06
REVERSE
HAIPHONG TONKIN 26 SEPT 06
PORT-SAID EGYPT 24-10 06
CONSTANTINOPLE-GALATA POSTE-FRANCE 5-11 06
Grasset
Use of 5 centimes

Multiple copies of low values could be used to pay complicated rates. In this case of this registered letter, seven 5-centime stamps paid for service to Marseille in 1907.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN 5 JUIL 07
boxed R with manuscript registration number
REVERSE
HANOI TONKIN 5 JUIL 07
Grasset
Use of 5 and 10 centimes

Senders who addressed their mail in Chinese were obliged to use specially marked covers. The broad red stripe identified the envelope as one to be sorted by a clerk who read Chinese.
Grasset
Use of 5 and 10 centimes

This letter originated at Nhatrang on 9 July 1907. After arriving at the indicated address in the Philippines, it was forded to Hawaii where it was marked received. The year date in the Hawaii datestamp (1910) is in error.

POSTAL MARKINGS
Nhatrang Tonkin 9 Juil 07
Haiphong Tonkin 10 Juil 07
Victoria Hong Kong 22 Jy 07
Manila, P.I. Rec’d Jul 27 7
BoncaboN, Rec’d Nuevaecija, P.I. Jul 28 07
Honolulu, H Isls. Rec’d Aug 20 1910
Reverse
Nhatrang Tonkin 9 Juil 07
The foreign letter rate remained at 25 centimes until World War I. Here the foreign letter rate postage was paid with a combination of smaller values.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PHULY TONKIN 22 AVRIL 08
REVERSE
HAIPHONG TONKIN 23 AVRIL 08
VICTORIA HONG KONG 29 AP 08
Grasset
Use of 5 and 10 centimes

A combination of common denominations paid the foreign registered letter rate to the Philippine Islands in 1906. Postage was calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>foreign letter rate</td>
<td>25 centimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registration fee</td>
<td>25 centimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>50 centimes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 6 DEC 06
boxed R with manuscript registration number
REVERSE
REGISTERED G.P.O. HONG KONG DE 11 06
REGISTERED MANILA, P.I. DEC 14 1906
Grasset
Mixed Use of 5 centimes

A 4-cent Filipino stamp was combined with a 5-centime Grasset stamp for a mailing posted aboard ship.

POSTMARK TYPE: 1.926/1
PERIOD OF USE: 1902-10

POSTAL MARKINGS
YOKOHAMA A MARSEILLE L.N. № 1 17 MARS 08
REVERSE
YOKOHAMA A MARSEILLE L.N. № 1 17 MARS 08
Grasset
Use 10 centimes

Here a 10-centime Grasset stamp paid the foreign postcard rate in 1906. Based on the postmark dates, the postcard was in transit for 46 days.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN 27 MARS 06
VICTORIA HONG KONG 3 AP 06
PLAINFIELD, N. J. MAY 11 1906
Grasset
Use of 10 centimes

A 10-centime Grasset stamp paid the foreign postcard rate to the Dutch East Indies for a picture postcard posted at Hanoi on the day after Christmas in 1907. Multiple postmarks trace its three-week journey to the destination.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN 26 DEC. 07
LIGNE N PAQ. FR. NO 4 11 JANV 08
No 1 AGENT SINGAPORE 13 I 1908
BATAVIA 16 I 1908
SOERABAJA 18 I 1908
BUITENZORG 17 I 1908
Grasset
Use 10 centimes

Postage rates were based geopolitical divisions and not on distance. A postcard sent to India required the same 10 centimes postage as a postcard sent to Europe or North America.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PORT COCHINCHINE 6 NOV 06
TUTICORIN 25 NO. 06
TELLICHERRY 27 NO. 06
Grasset
Use of 10 centimes

Franked with a 10-centime Grasset stamp, this picture postcard was posted aboard a ship returning from the Far East. Mail addressed to Paris or northern France was offloaded at Naples, Italy and then transferred to Modane by rail. Modane, a small French village in the Savoy Alps, is situated at the western side of Mount Cenis. A tunnel through the mountain was completed in 1870 allowing a rail connection between Modane and Italy. Traveling via this route, mail could reach its destination faster than going all the way to Marseille by ship.

Since the stamp had not been cancelled before, a clerk on the railway applied the postmark.
Grasset
Use 10 centimes

Established in 1907 at 10 centimes, the basic letter rate to France and colonies remained unchanged until World War I.
Grasset
Use of 10 centimes

During this time, government agencies used the same stamps as the general public. Later in its history, Indochina introduced separate stamps for official correspondence.
Two 10-centime Grasset stamps were used for a heavy letter containing photographs. Posted at Tchong-King, the mailing went initially to Han-Keou and then to Peking. Routed on the Trans-Siberian Railroad, the letter reached Paris after a month’s travel.
Grasset
Use of 15 centimes

At the time the Grasset series was issued in 1904, the basic letter rate to France and colonies was 15 centimes.
Grasset
Use of 15 and 50 centimes

When the sender wanted a return receipt, indicated by the boxed “AR,” the fee was paid with postage stamps. Here, 65 centimes was charged for a return receipt, registered letter to Spain.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 18 AVRIL 10
boxed R with manuscript registration number
framed AR
REVERSE
CERTIFICADO MADRID 12 MAY 10
CERTIFICADO MALAGA 13 MAY 10
Grasset
Use of 15 centimes and 1 franc

The charge for insured mail was based on the insurance amount. Here the total postage cost was 1.15 franc for a letter to France with a declared value of 800 francs. The declaration was handwritten across the top of the cover.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PORT COCHINCHINE 6 AVRIL 06
CHARGE cachet
YOKOHAMA A MARSEILLE 6 AVRIL 06
Grasset
Use of 20 centimes

A 20-centime Grasset stamp overpaid the postage for a postcard posted from Doson, Tonkin to Paris in 1912. Perhaps it was simply a matter of convenience for the sender to use a stamp that was immediately available, although the 20-centime value does not correspond to any common postal rate.
Grasset
Use of 25 centimes

Letters addressed to foreign destinations required 25 centimes postage. Here a letter to Singapore was franked with a 25-centime Grasset stamp.
Grasset
Use of 25 centimes

Registration fees for foreign letters was the same as for internal letters. For a registered letter sent to the United States in 1908, postage was computed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>foreign letter rate</td>
<td>25 centimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registration fee</td>
<td>25 centimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>50 centimes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
SOCTRANG COCHINCHINE 24 AOUT 08
boxed R with manuscript registration number
stamped registration numbers

REVERSE
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 25 AOUT 08
REGISTERED G.P.O. HONG-KONG 31 AU 08
SEATTLE, WASH. REGISTERED. SEP 27 1908
DETROIT, MICH. REGISTERED. OCT 2 1908
Grasset
Use of 25 centimes

A strip of four 25-centime stamps was used for a heavy mailing from Saigon in 1908.

Addressed on the reverse to “Yuan Yuan Dai Store” in Saigon, the sender indicated that the letter originated in Hong Kong. Likely, it was hand carried to Saigon and posted from there. On the franked side, the sender wrote the date as “September 20.”
Grasset
Use of 30 centimes

A wrapper for a 1908 mailing of a surgical medicine journal to Brussels, Belgium was franked with a 30-centime Grasset stamp. As mailing rates for periodicals were typically very small, the journal must have been quite heavy to require twice the prevailing letter rate for postage.
Grasset
Use of 30 centimes

In May 1910, postage for a tourist’s postcard to Paris was considerably overpaid with a 30-centime Grasset stamp.
Postage for a heavy, foreign letter was paid with a 30-centime Grasset stamp in combination with a 35-centime Native Woman stamp.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 9 NOV 08
framed R with manuscript registration number
REVERSE
RECEPTION BRUSSELS 8 DECE 08
Grasset
Use of 35 centimes

After the letter rate to France was reduced to 10 centimes in 1907, the 35-centime Grasset stamp paid for registered letters. Postage was calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>letter rate to France</td>
<td>10 centimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registration fee</td>
<td>25 centimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>35 centimes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 6 JUIL 08
boxed R with manuscript registration number
Grasset
Use of 35 centimes

Postcards were sent as registered items only rarely. Here postal fees for a registered postcard sent to Germany were paid with a single 35-centimes Grasset stamp.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 14 DEC 09
framed R with manuscript registration number
WILMERSDORF Berlin 1 19.1.10
Grasset
Use of 40 centimes

Before the letter rate was lowered to 10 centimes, a 40-centime stamp paid postage (15 centimes) and the registry charge (25 centimes).

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN  6 JANV 05
boxed R with manuscript registration number
REVERSE
MONTAUBAN TARN-ET-GARONNE  11-2 05
Grasset
Use of 40 centimes

Stationery from the Haiphong branch office of Chargeurs Réunis shipping company carried a registered mailing from Haiphong to Paris at the end of 1905. Based on the dated arrival handstamp, the letter was in transit for a month. 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 centimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registration fee</td>
<td>25 centimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>40 centimes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 5 DEC 05
framed R and manuscript registration number
Grasset

Use of 40 centimes

Before the decrease in the letter rate to France from 15 centimes in 1906, the rate for this registered letter to Algeria was calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>letter rate to French colony</td>
<td>15 centimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registration fee</td>
<td>25 centimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>40 centimes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
PHU-DOAN TONKIN 5 MARS 05
framed R with manuscript registration number
REVERSE
HANOI TONKIN 9 MARS 05
Grasset
Use of 40 centimes

A 40-centime stamp would have significantly overpaid the postcard rate. In this case, after the stamp had been affixed to the card, the preparer applied a bogus “HAIPHONG TONKIN” postmark several times to make the item more attractive to postcard collectors.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN (bogus)
REVERSE
HAIPHONG TONKIN (bogus)
Grasset
Use of 50 centimes

Fifty centimes paid the foreign mail rate and the registration fee, each 25 centimes.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 6 JANV 09
boxed R with manuscript registration number
stamped registration numbers
REVERSE
REGISTERED G.P.O. HONG-KONG 14 JA 09
SEATTLE, WASH. REG. DIV. FEB 6 1909
CLEVELAND, OHIO REG. DIV. FEB 11 1909
STA. A. CLEVELAND, OHIO REGISTERED FEB 12 1909
Grasset
Use of 50 centimes

The Grasset definitive stamps were replaced by the Native Women series in 1907. This cover demonstrates a late usage in 1911 of the 50-centime Grasset stamp to pay for a registered letter to Hong Kong.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIHONG TONKIN  29 MARS 11
boxed R with manuscript registration number
REVERSE
REGISTERED G.P.O. HONG KONG  5 AP 11
Grasset
Use of 2 francs

With a value of 5,000 francs, this insured (CHARGÉ) letter bears several high denomination stamps including the 2 franc Grasset stamp.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN  24 MAI 07
CHARGÉ with manuscript record number
blue crayon check mark
REVERSE
weight and options handstamp
PARIS POSTE RESTANTE  27-6 07
Grasset
Usage

The letter rate to France was 15 centimes throughout the period of the Grasset definitives. A combination of three lower values made up the postage for a mailing from Hon-Gay to France in 1906.
Grasset

Usage

The lowest values did not correspond to any common postal rates. Naturally, mixtures of small denominations could be combined to make up virtually any rate. Here four low value stamps were combined for the postage on a postcard to Canada in 1908.
Grasset
Usage

A mixture of low value Grasset definitive stamps paid the postage for a picture postcard sent to California in 1908. The card was in transit for approximately six weeks.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 5 FEVR 08
VICTORIA HONG KONG 15 FB 08
BERKELEY CAL MAR 21 1908
Grasset
Usage

Five different denominations from the Grasset issue frank a registered mailing to France in 1906.

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 centimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registration fee</td>
<td>25 centimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>40 centimes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN 3 AVRIL 06
framed R with manuscript registration number
framed AR (accusé de réception)
REVERSE
NANCY MTHE ET MLE 6-5 08
Grasset
Usage

A mixture of values, including a 4 cent Navigation and Commerce stamp, made up the 80 centimes postage on a registered letter to Germany at the end of 1908.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 30 DEC 08
boxed R with manuscript registration numbers
REVERSE
WIESBADEN 1b 25.1.09
Grasset
Usage

Stamps from the previous definitive series, Navigation and Commerce, were combined with Grasset stamps to compose the franking for a registered letter to Japan in 1905.
Grasset
Usage

Seven different Grasset denominations are represented by the fifteen stamps on the front and single stamp on the reverse of this 1907 cover to France.

POSTAL MARKINGS
TAYNINH COCHINCHINE 31 JUL 07
boxed R with manuscript registration number
REVERSE
TAYNINH COCHINCHINE 31 JUL 07
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 30 AOUT 08
BREST FINISTERE 5-9 07