Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints

Indochina created its first series of official stamps by overprinting the Indochinese Culture stamps in 1933.
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Varieties

INVERTED OVERPRINTS

OVERPRINT SHIFTED LEFT
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Imperforate Varieties
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Postmarks

HAIPHONG
TONKIN

HANOI R.P.
TONKIN

SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE

BACLIEU
COCHINCHINE

BIEHHOA
COCHINCHINE

HAIPHONG DOCKS
TONKIN

HAIPHONG
TONKIN

HANOI R.P.
TONKIN

FORT-BAYARD
KOUANG TCHEOU WAN

KAMPOT
CAMBODGE

MAO-KHE
TONKIN

NINHCHU
ANNAM

PHNOM-PENH
CAMBODGE

QUANG-YEN
TONKIN

SADEC
COCHINCHINE
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Postmarks

SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE

SAM-NUA
LAOS

SAVANNAKHET
LAOS

THANH-HOA
ANNAM

TUYEN-QUANG
TONKIN

UONGI-BE
TONKIN

TUY-HOA
ANNAM
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Use of 1 and 5 cents

In 1933, two official stamps were added to a return envelope pre-franked with a 50 centime French stamp. Lest there be any doubt about the official nature of the correspondence, the envelope was handstamped in blue at the lower left “PLI DE SERVICE.” It also bears the seal of the mayor of Hanoi, likewise in blue.
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Use of 1 and 10 cents

The address label affixed to a French-Vietnamese dual-language publication bears 30 cents worth of postage composed of 1-cent and 10-cent official stamps.

POSTAL MARKINGS
BACLIEU COCHINCHINE 8-5 33
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Use of 5 cents

When official stamps are used on plain envelopes, they are easy to overlook. Here, a letter sent on the day after Christmas to an engineer with the French Tramways Company was franked with a 5cent official postage stamp.

POSTAL MARKINGS
BENCAT COCHINCHINE 26-12 33
REVERSE
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 26-12 33
Indochnese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Use of 6 cents

Until 1937, the letter rate to France was 6 cents. In 1934, a staff member at the Cancer Prevention Agency, employing the organization’s privilege as part of the colonial government, mailed a letter to Paris using an official 6 cent stamp.
The sender in the Cochininese Treasurer’s office affixed a 6-cent official stamp on a letter to Pondicherry, French India in 1934. Letters anywhere within the French Community were charged 6 cents.
The sender in the Tonkin Resident Superior’s office affixed a 6-cent official stamp on a letter to Germany ion 1935. Although the foreign letter rate was 15 cents at the time, the governmental cover exhibits no indication of any attempt to collect postage due.
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Use of 6 and 10 cents

Sent by a member of the Cambodian Resident Superior’s cabinet, this letter carried 36 cents worth of official postage for an airmail service to Marseille in 1935.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 26-11 35
airmail label
two-line PAR AVION JUSQU’A MARSEILLE
REVERSE
MARSEILLE-GARE-AVION BChEs DU RHONE 9 • XII 1935
MARSEILLE ARIVEE BChEs DU RHONE 9 • XII 1935
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Use of 6 and 10 cents

Effective 19 March 1930, the surcharge for airmail service was set at 60 centimes per 10 grams. The same fee applied to official mail. In the case of this 1934 airmail letter from the Head of Marine Services in Saigon to Marseilles, 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>6 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airmail surcharge</td>
<td>60 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>66 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 19-5-34
airmail rate certification handstamp
REVERSE
MARSEILLE ARRIVEE BACHES DU RHONE 27 • V 1934
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Use of 6 and 60 cents

Effective 19 March 1930, the surcharge for airmail service was set at 60 centimes per 10 grams. The same fee applied to official mail. In the case of this 1934 airmail letter from the Head of Marine Services in Saigon to Marseilles, 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>6 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airmail surcharge</td>
<td>60 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>66 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 19-5 34
airmail rate certification handstamp
REVERSE
MARSEILLE ARRIVÉE BÔCHES DU RHONE 27 • V 1934
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Use of 10 cents

The cachet and signature at the lower left certify the official nature of the mailing. Because the letter was double weight, a 10 cent stamp was affixed for postage.

POSTAL MARKINGS
LONGXUYEN COCHINCHINE 22-4 33
REVERSE
CAN-THO COCHINCHINE 23-4 33
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Use of 15 cents

A single 15-cent brown official overprint was used along with two regular definitives to pay the 36-cent rate to France in 1933. One of the definitive stamps was the basic 15-cent brown of the Indochinese Culture series.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 15-7 33
airmail rate certification handstamp
REVERSE
PARIS -R.P. DISTRIBUTION 24 • VII 1933
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Use of 21 cents

Postage for a registered letter from the Annam Treasury to France was calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>letter rate to France</td>
<td>6 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registration fee</td>
<td>15 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>21 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
HUE ANAM 23-5 34
registration label
REVERSE
PERIGUEUX DORDOGNE 1-7 34
BERGERAC DORDOGNE 2-7 34
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Use of 60 cents

While official stamps were supposed to be limited to governmental use exclusively, occasionally stamps that found their way into private hands were put to use for commercial mailings.
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Use of 60 cents

This small card was provided to a ship passenger by the "Messageries Maritimes" Company in 1953. Space was provided for entering the passenger’s name, travel class, dining room table and seating for dinner. Also, two spaces were provided for police and customs officials to enter handstamps. The official stamps no doubt served to verify that entry fees had been properly paid.

[Image of the card with postal markings and stamps]
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Usage

The supplementary fee for airmail service was 30 cents per 10 grams. Here a heavy letter from the Merchant Marine Service was franked with official stamps for a triple airmail charge.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 3-6 33
airmail label
airmail rate certification handstamp
REVERSE
MARSEILLE-GARE-AVION BŒFS DU RHONE 11 • VI 1933
Indochinese Culture
Official Use Overprints
Usage

A 1934 envelope from the Agronomic Research Institute was franked with five different denominations of official stamps representing all four designs from the Indochinese Culture series: Junk, Angkor Thom, Rice Farmer and Apsaras.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 21-4 34
airmail label
airmail rate certification handstamp
REVERSE
MARSEILLE-GARE-AVION 29-4 34