

LACQUAN
TONKIN

Lacquan's post office opened on 14 December 1905. Its first postmark, a type E1 device, was in service for a decade and a half.



POSTMARK TYPE: E1
PERIOD OF USE: 1906-22



POSTAL MARKINGS
LACQUAN TONKIN 27 JUN 11
REVERSE
NAM-DINH TONKIN 28 JUN 11
HAIPHONG TONKIN 29 JUN 11

LAC-QUANG TONKIN

The only recorded postmark with the hyphenated spelling “LAC-QUAN” was a type G format. Lac-Quang’s type G postmark was in service for over two decades.



POSTMARK TYPE: G
PERIOD OF USE: 1923-45



POSTAL MARKINGS

LAC-QUANG TONKIN 14-5 36
registration label

REVERSE

NAM-DINH TONKIN 15-5 36
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 15-5 36

LAICHAU TONKIN

The Laichau post office opened for business in 1895. Laichau's first recorded postmark was a type D1 device. The type D1 postmark remained in service for a quarter century.



POSTMARK TYPE: D1
PERIOD OF USE: 1902-28



POSTAL MARKINGS
LAICHAU TONKIN 14 FEVR 24
REVERSE
LAOKAY TONKIN 19 FEVR 24

LAI-CHAU
TONKIN

The first postmark with the hyphenated spelling "LAI-CHAU" was a type G device.
Later postmarks reverted to the ono-hyphenated spelling.



POSTMARK TYPE: G
PERIOD OF USE: 1929-44



POSTAL MARKINGS
LAI-CHAU TONKIN 23-11 37
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 28-11 37
PARIS VII RUE CLER 11 • XII 1937

LAICHAU TONKIN

One of several postwar postmarks, Laichau's type G1 postmark has only been reported from a single year.



POSTMARK TYPE: G1
PERIOD OF USE: 1949



POSTAL MARKINGS
LAI-CHAU TONKIN 30-4 1949
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 12-5 1949

LAI CHAU
NORD VIET NAM

When the new style postmark appeared substituting "NORD VIET NAM" for "TONKIN," the town name included a space in its spelling "LAI CHAU."



POSTMARK TYPE: V
PERIOD OF USE: 1950



POSTAL MARKINGS

LAI CHAU NORD VIET NAM 5-10 1950

REVERSE

HANOI RP NORD VIETNAM 7-10 1950
DALAT PLATEAUX-INDOCHINOIS 10-10 1950

LAI-CHAU
VIET-NAM

Lai-Chau's type W2 postmark, which revived the hyphenated spelling, was in service for only two years, 1951-52.



POSTMARK TYPE: W2
PERIOD OF USE: 1951-52



POSTAL MARKINGS
LAI-CHAU VIET-NAM 10-8 1951
REVERSE
HA-NOI VIET-NAM 14-8 1951

LAM TONKIN

The first postmark used by the post office at Lam was a type D1 style. Civilian postmarks were applied when military letters entered the civilian mail stream.



POSTMARK TYPE: D1
PERIOD OF USE: 1886-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

LAM TONKIN 11 MAI 93
TONKIN CORPS EXPEDITRE

REVERSE

SEPT-PAGODES TONKIN 12 MAI 93
HAIPHONG TONKIN 13 MAI 93
BRIOUDE HAUTE LOIRE 17 JUIN 93

LAM
TONKIN

Lam's second postmark was a type E2 cancellation. The lettering was thicker than was typical of the period. Lam's type E2c postmark was in service for a quarter century.



POSTMARK TYPE: E2
PERIOD OF USE: 1896-1924



POSTAL MARKINGS
LAM TONKIN 5 JUN 20
REVERSE
PHU-LANG-THUONG TONKIN 6-6 20

LANG-HIT
TONKIN

Opening on 1 January 1916, the Lang-Hit post office closed on 1 May 1931. The only postmark known from Lang-Hit is a type E1 device.



POSTMARK TYPE: E1
PERIOD OF USE: 1916-28



POSTAL MARKINGS
LANG-HIT TONKIN 11 AVRIL 19
REVERSE
THAINGUYEN TONKIN 12-4 19
HAIPHONG TONKIN 13-4 19

LANG-KEP
TONKIN

The post office at Lang-Kep operated from 1885 to 1894, when its mail operations were transferred to BacLe. Here Lang-Kep's type D1 postmark was struck on a military letter originating with the Tonkin Expeditionary Corps.



POSTMARK TYPE: D1
PERIOD OF USE: 1886-1893



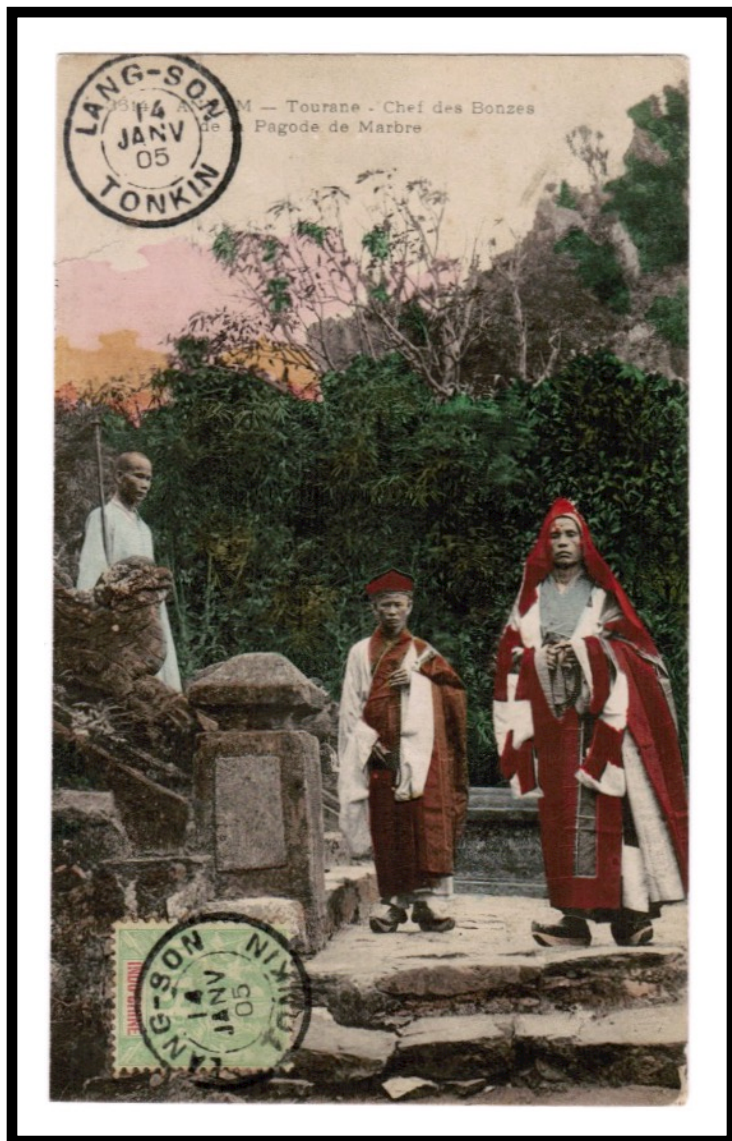
POSTAL MARKINGS
TONKIN CORPS EXPEDITRE
LANG-KEP TONKIN 5 OCT. 89

REVERSE

PHU LANG THUONG TONKIN 5 OCT. 89
10 PARIS 10 DISTRIBUTION 25 NOV 89

LANG-SON TONKIN

The Lang-Son post office operated from 1885 until 1950. Lang-Son's type D1 postmark appeared at the turn of the century. It remained in service for a half a decade.



POSTMARK TYPE: D1
PERIOD OF USE: 1901-05

POSTAL MARKINGS
LANG-SON TONKIN 14 JANV 05

LANG-SON
TONKIN

Lang-Son's type E2 postmark first appeared in 1894 and disappeared after 1922, a period of nearly three decades.



POSTMARK TYPE: E2
PERIOD OF USE: 1894-1922



POSTAL MARKINGS
LANG-SON TONKIN 30 DEC 94
TONKIN CORPS EXPÉDITEUR

LANG-SON
TONKIN

The first year of Lang-Son's type G postmark was 1923. Lang-Son's type G date stamp remained in service for over two decades.



POSTMARK TYPE: G
PERIOD OF USE: 1923-44



POSTAL MARKINGS
LANG-SON TONKIN 10-11 23
framed R with manuscript registration number
REVERSE
HAIPHONG TONKIN 11-11 23

LANGSON TONKIN

The unhyphenated "LANGSON" spelling variety was not previously known in the type E3 format. Another postmark with the unhyphenated spelling did not appear until the 1920s.



POSTMARK TYPE: E3
PERIOD OF USE: 1892



POSTAL MARKINGS
LANGSON TONKIN 12 NOV. 92

LANGSON
TONKIN

Langson's type G1 postmark is only known from a single year, 1948.



POSTMARK TYPE: G1
PERIOD OF USE: 1948



POSTAL MARKINGS
LANGSON TONKIN 6-9 48
REVERSE
LANGSON TONKIN 6-9 48
HA NOI TONKIN 7-9 48

LANG SON
NORD VIET NAM

For a short period of two years when the type V postmark was introduced, the town's spelling included a space "LANG SON."



POSTMARK TYPE: V
PERIOD OF USE: 1949-50



POSTAL MARKINGS

LANG SON NORD VIET NAM 22-8 1949
registration label

REVERSE

LANG SON NORD VIET NAM 22-8 1949
BESANCON DOUBES 29-8 1949

LAO-KAI
TONKIN

Type C2 postmarks partially included the date. The remainder was to be filled-in by hand. Laokay's type C2 postmark, with the "LAO-KAI" spelling, is only know from 1887. Here the day and month ("23-1") and the final digit of the year ("7") were written by hand.



POSTMARK TYPE: C2
PERIOD OF USE: 1887



POSTAL MARKINGS
LAO-KAI TONKIN 23-1 1887

LAO-KAI TONKIN

The only postmark with the “LAO-KAI” spelling appeared at the turn of the century in a type D2 format. This was the town’s first regular postmark and all later versions used “LAOKAY” or “LAO-KAY” spellings.



POSTMARK TYPE: D2
PERIOD OF USE: 1888-1905



POSTAL MARKINGS
LAO-KAI TONKIN 1 JANV 04
VICTORIA HONG-KONG 15 JA 04
NEW YORK, N.Y. STA. S FEB 20 1904

LAO-KAY
TONKIN

Type E2 postmarks utilized both the hyphenated “LAO-KAY” and non-hyphenated “LAOKAY” spellings for the town’s name. The hyphenated version appeared first in 1893.



POSTMARK TYPE: E2
PERIOD OF USE: 1893-1917



POSTAL MARKINGS
LAO-KAY TONKIN 9 JANV 08

LAOKAY
TONKIN

Although it appeared later, the non-hyphenated "LAOKAY" type E2 postmark persisted longer. It was taken out of service in 1924.



POSTMARK TYPE: E2
PERIOD OF USE: 1896-1924



POSTAL MARKINGS
LAOKAY TONKIN 14 JANV 02

LAOKAY
TONKIN

Laokay's type E2 postmark remained in service for a quarter century. This example stuck on an Expeditionary Corps cover in 1896 is from the postmark's initial year of use.



POSTMARK TYPE: E2
PERIOD OF USE: 1896-1924



POSTAL MARKINGS
CORPS EXPÉDITIONNAIRE -TONKIN-
LAOKAY TONKIN 27 DEC 96
REVERSE
YEN-BAI TONKIN 2 JANV 97
HANOI TONKIN 5 JANV 97
HAIPHONG TONKIN 9 JANV. 97

LAOKAY
TONKIN

The first year of use for the non-hyphenated "LAOKAY" type G postmark was 1936.
This is the earliest known use of Laokay's type G postmark.



POSTMARK TYPE: G
PERIOD OF USE: 1936-40



POSTAL MARKINGS

LAOKAY TONKIN 25-9 36
airmail and registration labels

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 24-9 36

LAO-KAY
TONKIN

The type G postmark with the hyphenated "LAO-KAY" spelling remained in service for nearly two decades.



POSTMARK TYPE: G
PERIOD OF USE: 1925-43



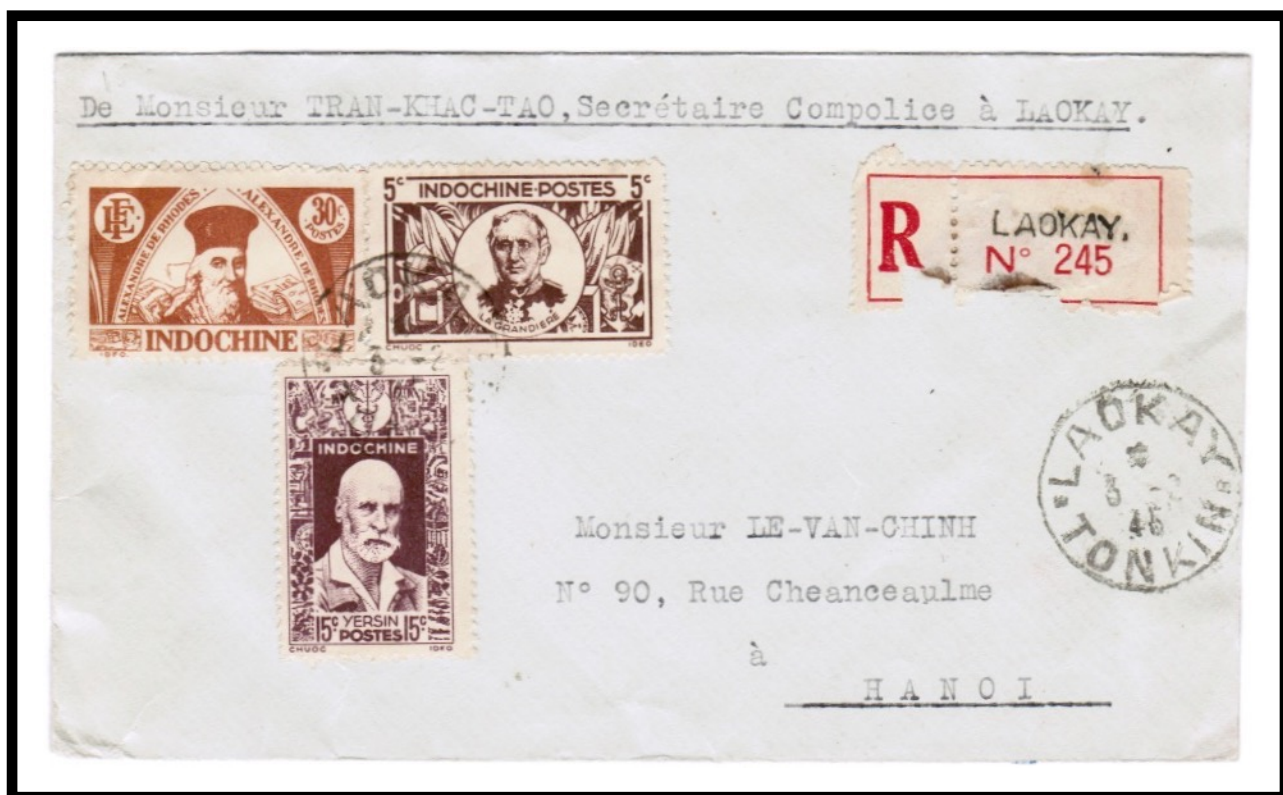
POSTAL MARKINGS
LAO-KAY TONKIN 28-9 38
REVERSE
HA-NOI R.P. TONKIN 28-9 38
LONGJUMEAU SEINE ET OISE 8-10 38

LAOKAY TONKIN

Large lettering much cruder than typically seen indicates that this Laokay postmark was fabricated locally because of wartime restrictions. Although type G1 postmarks were widely used across Tonkin, Laokay's is only known from a short period. This example is the latest known use of the postmark.



POSTMARK TYPE: G1
PERIOD OF USE: 1944-45



POSTAL MARKINGS
LAOKAY TONKIN 3-2 45
registration label
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 5-2 45

LAO KAY
NORD VIETNAM

With the new style postmarks substituting "NORD VIETNAM" for "TONKIN," the town name added a space in its spelling yielding "LAO KAY."



POSTMARK TYPE: V
PERIOD OF USE: 1950



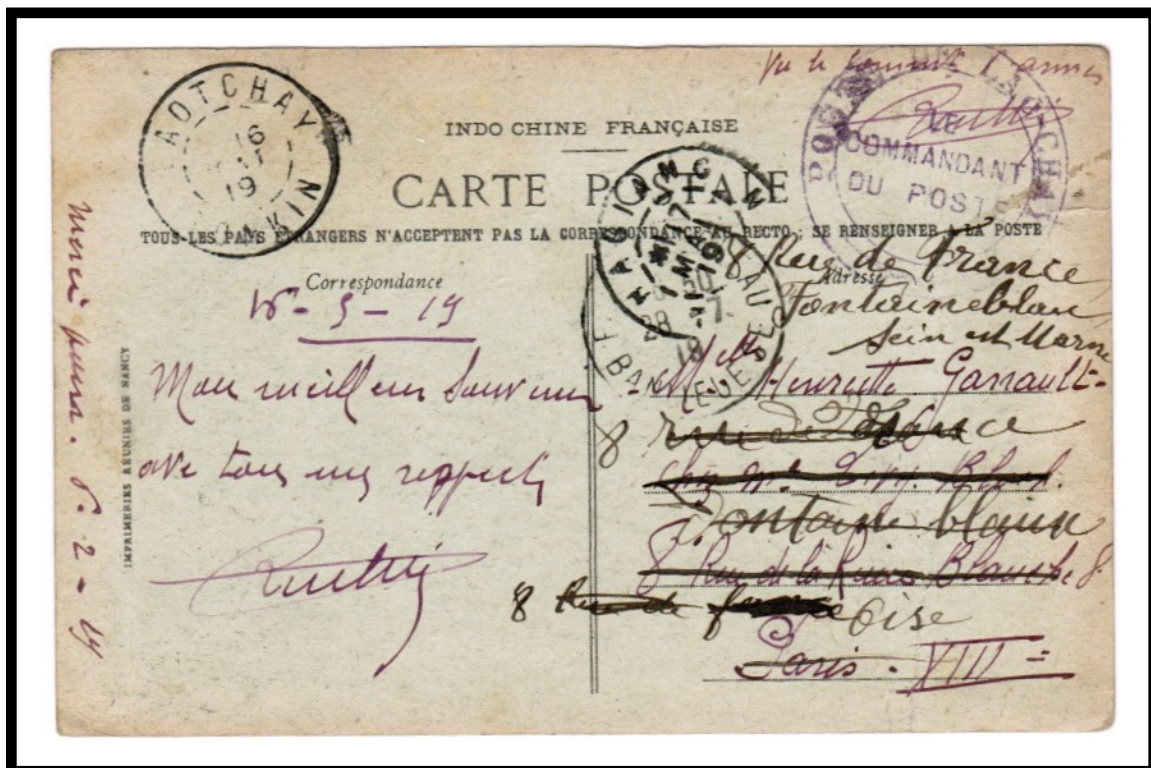
POSTAL MARKINGS
LAO KAY NORD VIETNAM
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. NORD VIETNAM 28-17 1950

LAOTCHAY TONKIN

The Laotchay post office operated from 1911 until 1928. The only postmark that ever used the non-hyphenated “LAOTCHAY” spelling was a type E2 device. Laotchay’s type E2 postmark first entered service in 1919.



POSTMARK TYPE: E2
PERIOD OF USE: 1919-32



POSTAL MARKINGS

LAOTCHAY TONKIN 16 MAI 19
HAGIANG TONKIN 17 MAI 19

LOC-BINH TONKIN

The secondary post office at Loc-Binh opened in 1908 and closed after World War II. Its first postmark was a type D device that was only used for two years.



POSTMARK TYPE: D1
PERIOD OF USE: 1910-12



POSTAL MARKINGS

LOC-BINH TONKIN 11 JUIN 11
LANG-SON TONKIN 11 JUIN 11
THAN-HOI TONKIN 2 JUIN 11

LOCBINH
TONKIN

The only postmark that ever used the non-hyphenated "LOCBINH" spelling was a type G device.



POSTMARK TYPE: G
PERIOD OF USE: 1923-25



POSTAL MARKINGS

LOCBINH TONKIN 1-12 23

REVERSE

LANG-SON TONKIN 1-12 23

HANOI TONKIN 2-12 23

LONGPO TONKIN

The Longpo post office existed for only a short period of time from 1900 until 11 July 1905. During its existence, the Longpo post office used a single postmark of the E1 style. To commemorate the new century, Longpo like other post offices used four digits, 1900, to represent the new year.



POSTMARK TYPE: E1
PERIOD OF USE: 1900-03



POSTAL MARKINGS
LONGPO TONKIN 17 AOUT 1901

LUCANCHAU
TONKIN

The only postmark that ever used the non-hyphenated "LUCANCHAU" spelling was a type E2 device. The postmark was first put into service in 1924 and removed from service the following year.



POSTMARK TYPE: E2
PERIOD OF USE: 1924-25



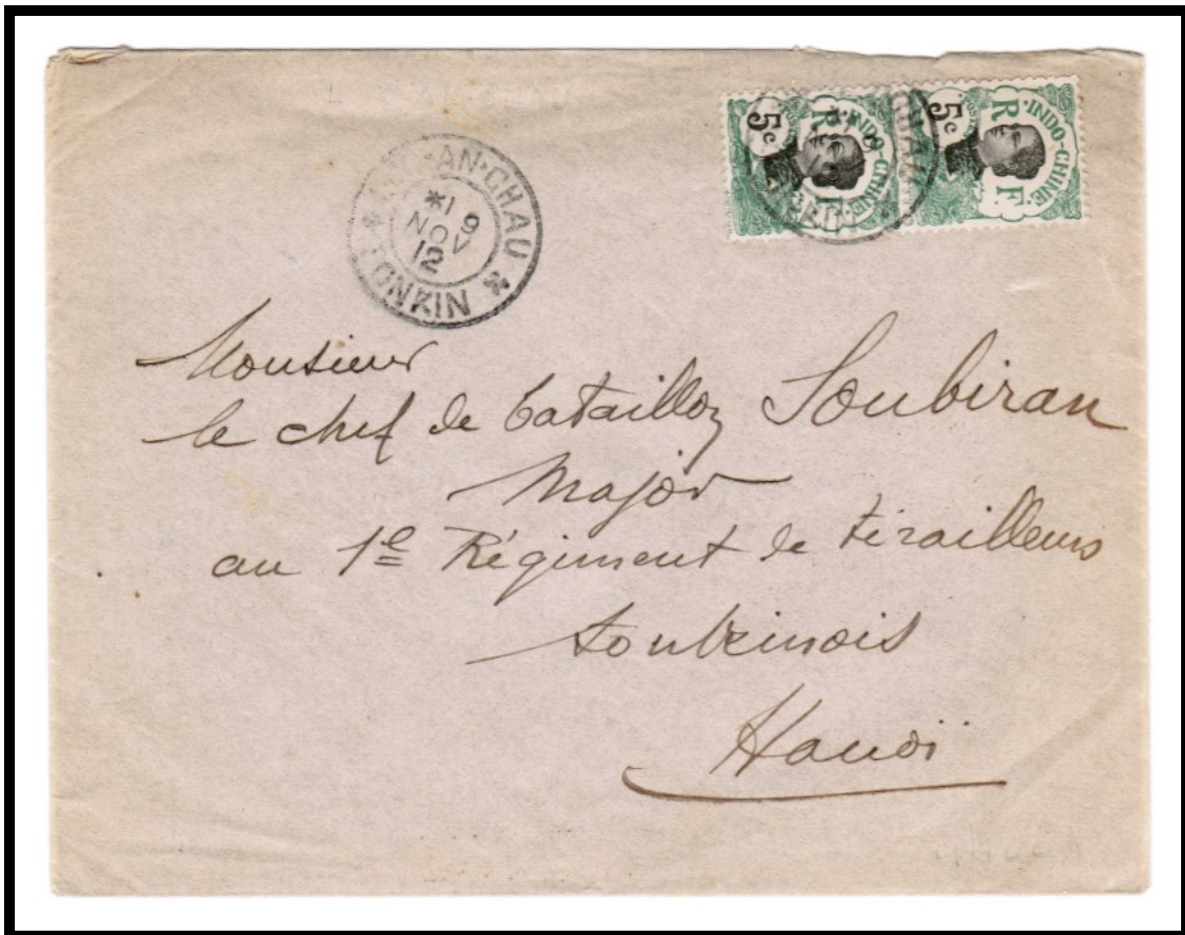
POSTAL MARKINGS
LUCANCHAU TONKIN 4 MARS 24

LUC-AN-CHAU
TONKIN

For three years, Luc-An-Chau employed the seldom seen type F1 postmark.



POSTMARK TYPE: F1
PERIOD OF USE: 1910-13



POSTAL MARKINGS
LUC-AN-CHAU TONKIN 9 NOV 12
REVERSE
HANOI TONKIN NOV 12

LUCNAM
TONKIN

The only postmark to have employed the non-hyphenated "LUCNAM" spelling was in a type D2 format.



POSTMARK TYPE: D2
PERIOD OF USE: 1901-22



POSTAL MARKINGS

LUCNAM TONKIN 16 MARS 03

REVERSE

PHU-LANG-THUONG TONKIN 16 MARS 03

HAIPHONG TONKIN 17 MARS 03

MAILLEBOIS EURE ET LOIRE 21-4 03

LUC-NAM
TONKIN

The last recorded postmark for Luc-Nam was a type G format. The type G device entered service in 1923 and remained in use for a decade and a half.



POSTMARK TYPE: G
PERIOD OF USE: 1923-37



POSTAL MARKINGS
LUC-NAM TONKIN 16-11 23
REVERSE
PHU-LANG-THUONG TONKIN 16-11 23

LUC NAM
TONKIN

Postmarks with the hyphenated "LUC-NAM" spelling are recorded up through 1937. This is the only known example of "LUC NAM" lacking the hyphen.



POSTMARK TYPE: G
PERIOD OF USE: 1925



POSTAL MARKINGS
LUC NAM TONKIN 20-5 25
REVERSE
HANOI TONKIN 20-5 25

MAN-MEI TONKIN

The Man-Mei post office operated from 1909 until 1946. Its first postmark was a type E1 device and this is the earliest known example of the E1 postmark.



POSTMARK TYPE: E1
PERIOD OF USE: 1913-29



POSTAL MARKINGS

MAN-MEI TONKIN 18 MAI 13
PHOLU TONKIN 22-5 13
SAINT-MARCEL INDRE 7-7 13

MAOKHE
TONKIN

The new spelling of the small town formerly known as "Mao-Ke" became "Maokhe." The first and only postmark that used the "MAOKHE" spelling was a type G device that was in service for a decade.



POSTMARK TYPE: G
PERIOD OF USE: 1925-34



POSTAL MARKINGS

MAOKHE TONKIN 5-2 31 (blue)

REVERSE

HAI-PHONG TONKIN 5-2 31

HAI-DUONG TONKIN 6-2 31

MAO-KHE
TONKIN

The only postmark with the "MAO-KHE" spelling was a type G device. The Mao-Khe post office closed in 1946.



POSTMARK TYPE: G
PERIOD OF USE: 1931-39



POSTAL MARKINGS

MAO-KHE TONKIN 6-11 36

REVERSE

HAI-PHONG TONKIN 6-11 36

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 7-11 36

MON-CAY
TONKIN

First appearing in 1890, Mon-Cay's long-lived type E2 postmark remained in service for 35 years. It was the first postmark with the hyphenated "MON-CAY" spelling.



POSTMARK TYPE: E2
PERIOD OF USE: 1890-1924



POSTAL MARKINGS

MON-CAY TONKIN 19 MAI 03
CORPS EXPRE ANNAM-TONKIN

REVERSE

HAIPHONG TONKIN 20 MAI 03
NANTES LOIRE INFRE 26-6 03

MON-CAY TONKIN

At the upper left of the inside circle, it was common practice to indicate which mail pickup of the day applied to the postmark. For example: 1^E meant first mail pickup, 2^E meant second mail pickup, etc. The letter "T" meant that the postmark was applied at the telegraph office.



POSTMARK TYPE: E2 (T)
PERIOD OF USE: 1890-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXP^{RE} ANNAM-TONKIN
MON-CAY TONKIN 20 AOUT 91
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N. 8 29 AOUT. 91 (red)

REVERSE

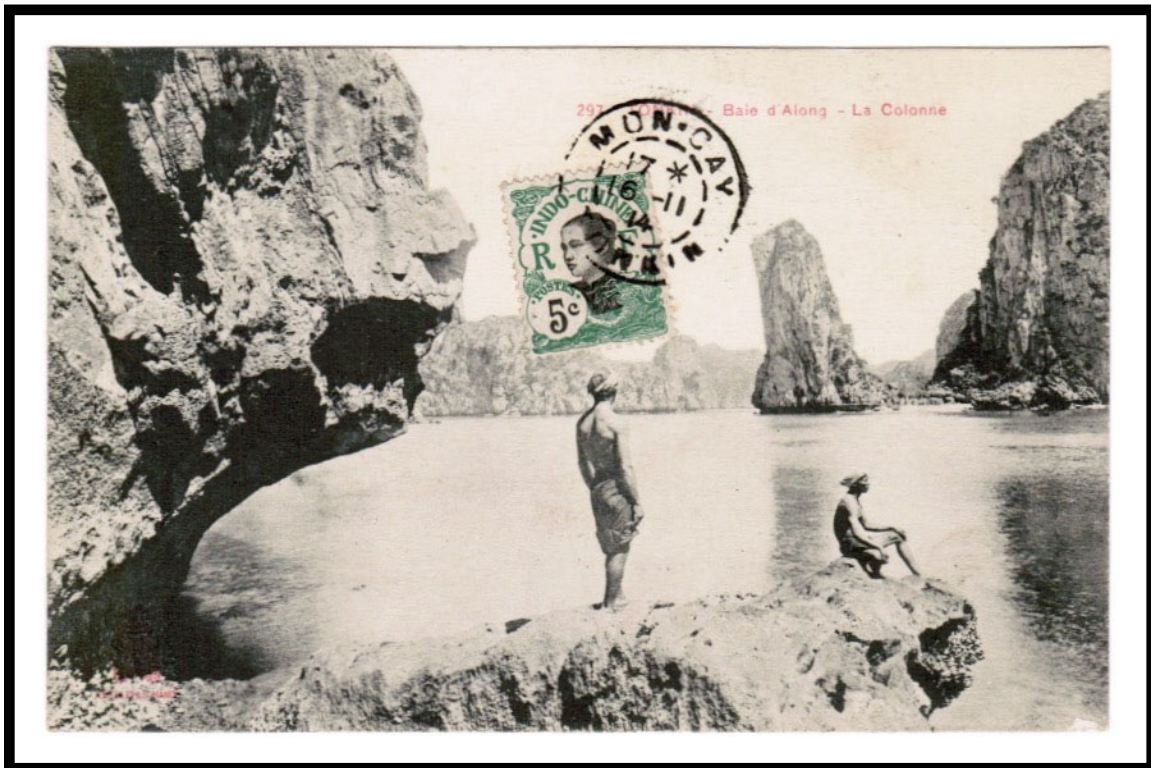
BAYONNE PYRENNE 25 SEPT 91
SERMIZELLES YONNE 29 SEPT 91

MON-CAY TONKIN

The type E2(ch) postmark replaced the abbreviation for the month with numerals representing the month. At Mon-Cay, the type E2(ch) postmark was in service for a decade.



POSTMARK TYPE E2(ch)
PERIOD OF USE: 1913-22



POSTAL MARKINGS
MON-CAY TONKIN 16-11 14

MONCAY
TONKIN

Based on an announcement of 18 April 1889, the short-lived post office at Haininh was transferred Moncay. One of earliest postmarks that used the non-hyphenated "MONCAY" spelling was a type D2 device that was in service for about a decade at the beginning of the twentieth century.



POSTMARK TYPE: D2
PERIOD OF USE: 1904-16



POSTAL MARKINGS
MONCAY TONKIN 25 OCT. 09

MONCAY
TONKIN

Moncay's type D2 postmark appeared at the conclusion of the free mail franchise for members of the Annam-Tonkin Expeditionary Corps. The D2 postmark's first year of use was 1904.



POSTMARK TYPE: D2
PERIOD OF USE: 1904-16



POSTAL MARKINGS
CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE TONKIN
MONCAY TONKIN 22 MARS 04
REVERSE
HAIPHONG TONKIN 23 MARS 04

MONCAY
TONKIN

After replacing the type E2 cancel, the type G postmark remained in service through World War II.



POSTMARK TYPE: G
PERIOD OF USE: 1922-45



POSTAL MARKINGS

MONCAY TONKIN 27-11 33
framed Saigon-Marseille route handstamp

REVERSE

HANOI R-P TONKIN 9 NOV 33
MARSEILLE-GARE-AVION ~~BCHES~~ DU RHONE 11 • XII 1933

A circular postmark from Tonkin. The text "MON - DAY" is curved along the top inner edge, "10 - 7" is curved along the bottom inner edge, and "TONKIN" is curved along the outer edge. In the center, the date "14" is at the top, "33" is in the middle, and "10" is at the bottom.

POSTMARK TYPE: G
PERIOD OF USE: 1931-33



HANOI R.P. TONKIN 12-7 33
MARSEILLE-GARE-AVION BCHES DU RHONE 23 • VI 1933

MON CAY
TONKIN

When new style type V postmarks were introduced replacing "TONKIN" with "NORD VIETNAM," yet another spelling variation appeared, now with a space instead of a hyphen.



POSTMARK TYPE: V
PERIOD OF USE: 1949-50



POSTAL MARKINGS

MON CAY NORD VIETNAM 11-8 1950

REVERSE

HAIPHONG NORD VIET NAM 12-8 1950

DALAT PLATEAUX-INDOCHINOIS 18-8 1950

MON-CAY
VIET-NAM

Only the postmark with the hyphenated "MON-CAY" spelling appeared in the type W2 format. It was in service for only two years. The post office at Mon-Cay closed soon afterward around 1953.



POSTMARK TYPE: W2
PERIOD OF USE: 1951-52

POSTAL MARKINGS

MON-CAY VIET-NAM 24-7 1951
registration label

REVERSE

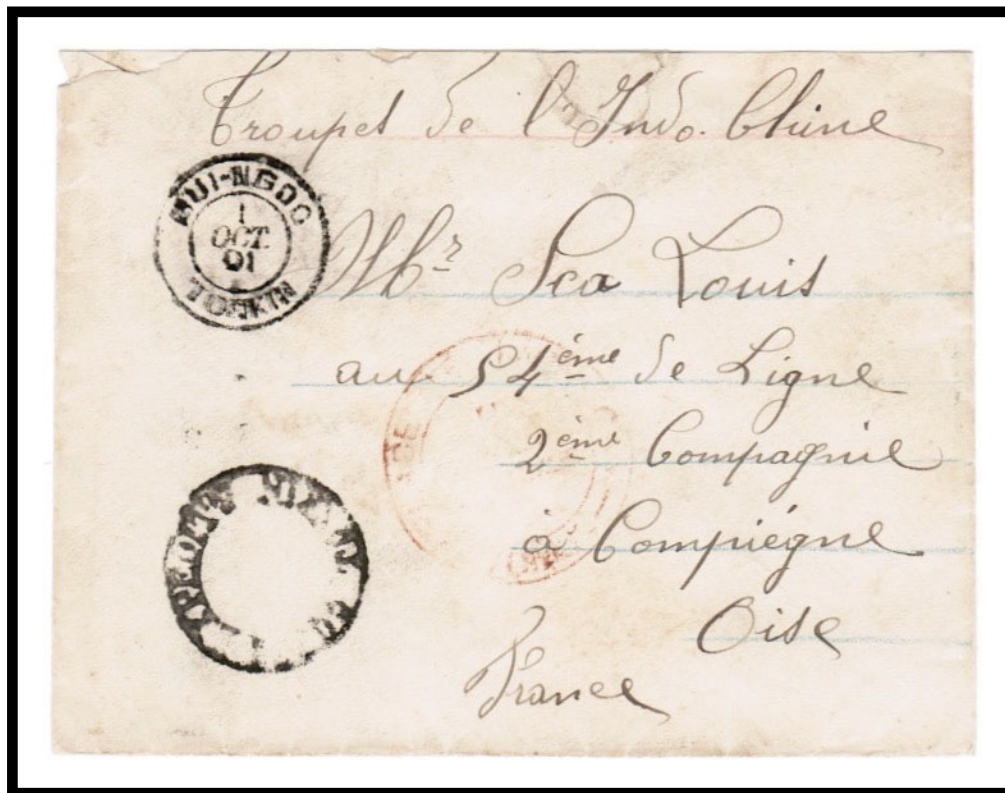
HAI-PHONG VIET-NAM 28-7 1951
SAIGON RP SUD VIETNAM 30-7 1951
DALAT PLATEAU INDOCHINOIS 31-7 1951

MUI-NGOC
TONKIN

The post office at Mui-Ngoc opened in 1897 and closed on 1 April 1932. Mui-Ngoc's only postmark was a type D1 device that remained in service for nearly three decades.



POSTMARK TYPE: D1
PERIOD OF USE: 1900-28



POSTAL MARKINGS
MUI-NGOC TONKIN 1 OCT 01
CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN
REVERSE
COMPIEGNE OISE 6-11 01

MUI-NGOC
TONKIN

To celebrate the new century, post offices switched from two digits to four digits to designate the year. This example uses "1900" to report the year and is the earliest known use of the D1 postmark.



POSTMARK TYPE: D1
PERIOD OF USE: 1900-28



POSTAL MARKINGS
CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN
MUI-NGOC TONKIN 16 SEPT. 1900
REVERSE

LYON-GARE RHONE 24 OCT 00
LA CLAYETTE SAONE ET LOIRE 25 OCT 00

MUI-NGOC
TONKIN

While postal clerks normally used black ink for marking the mail, occasionally they opted for blue ink as in the case of both the military and civilian postmarks on this 1904 mailing to France.



POSTMARK TYPE: D1
PERIOD OF USE: 1900-28



POSTAL MARKINGS
CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN (blue)
MUI-NGOC TONKIN 31 MARS 04 (blue)
REVERSE
NICE ARRIVEE ALPES M^{MES} 3-5 94

MUI-NGOC TONKIN

The Mui-Ngoc post office was in operation from 1897 until 1 April 1932. This is the only known example of a type G postmark from Mui-Ngoc.



POSTMARK TYPE: G
PERIOD OF USE: 1931



POSTAL MARKINGS

MUI-NGOC TONKIN 21-3 31
TRA-CO, PROVINCE DE MONCAY (rural)

REVERSE

HAI-PHONG TONKIN 22-3 31
PARENTIGNAT PUY-DE-DOME 31-331

MUONG-HOUM
TONKIN

The only postmark that utilized the hyphenated "MUONG-HOUM" spelling was a type E1 device.



POSTMARK TYPE: E1
PERIOD OF USE: 1919-28



POSTAL MARKINGS
MUONG-HOUM TONKIN 9 JANV 24
REVERSE
LAOKAY TONKIN 10 JANV 24
HA NOI TONKIN 11-I 24

MUONG-KHUONG TONKIN

Located in Laokay Province, Muong-Khuong had a secondary post office which opened on 1 August 1907. The first postmark was a type E2 device.



POSTMARK TYPE: E2
PERIOD OF USE: 1909-26



POSTAL MARKINGS
MUONG-KHUONG TONKIN 8 MARS 23