French influence in Laos did not materialize until the 1890’s. Thus, any correspondence from this province during the Group Type’s use is extremely difficult to find, even material from the capitol at Vientiane, as Group Type letters represent the first material to emanate from this philatelically popular area.

Vientiane

Single and double weight overseas commercial letters from Vientiane in 1901 to Switzerland, both via Saigon with Basel receivers.
French community rate letters from Attopeu to Noves in 1903 and Ban-Nam-Bac to Paris in 1900 with an unusual routing for the latter via Dien-bien-phu, Tonkin (April 7th), Van-bu, Tonkin (April 12th) and Hanoi (April 20th) reflecting its origins in the remote area of Haut Laos. Below a short message post card from the village of Bassac to Bordeaux via Saigon.
Postal card from Khong in 1897 to Paris via Saigon, and a remarkable triple weight registered letter (3 x 15c postage on a weight of 30 – 45g plus 25c registration) from Khone in 1901 under the Laos administration – see Cambodia section for material from Khone under Cambodia. This letter traveled via Saigon to Marseille.
Postal stationery items from Houei Sai, a small village in northwestern Laos, and Luang-Prabang in the center of the territory. The 5c printed matter rate from Houei Sai on May 30, 1905 is remarkable in that it was posted to Chiang Mai in northern Siam, and the most direct route is via the impassable mountains to the west. However, this envelope traveled south via Luang-Prabang (June 10th) and Vientiane (June 20th) to Bangkok (May 13th) and then north through Siam arriving in Chiang Mai on August 10th. Based on the manuscript endorsement on the front, this unsealed envelope had lost its contents enroute.
LAOS – Small Village Use

Muong-Ngoi
Savan-Nakhet
Vientouka
Pak-Se-Don

INDO-CHINE FRANÇAISE
CARTE POSTALE
(Ce côté est exclusivement réservé à l'adresse)

INDO-CHINE FRANÇAISE
CARTE POSTALE

Union Indochinoise
ancien bureau Godard & Cie
Hanoi

INDO-CHINE FRANÇAISE
CARTE POSTALE

Henriette Dubernet
4 Rue Des Montenardes
Paris
Possibly the first recorded example of military mail from the province of Laos, this letter was written by an officer of the troops fighting in Moung-Sen, Laos in early 1895. Such can be established by the manuscript endorsement: *Troupes du Mékong* at the top, and the manuscript endorsement at the bottom left: *Le capitaine comm. & le poste de Moung-Sen – Brosset-Heckel*. As an officer, Brosset-Heckel was not entitled to a reduced rate, so this registered letter to his wife bears the full 50c postage (25c postage for <15g and 25c registration). It originated in the military post office at Moung-Sen and was brought to the nearest established post office – that of Khong, Cambodia which was close-by for entry into the regular mails. The letter was postmarked at Khong on January 9, 1895, transited via Saigon on January 17th and traveled via the Modane - Paris rail line enroute to Lyon where it was received on February 16th. This letter has been listed on the Tricot French Colonial Military mail web site since 2003 as the earliest recorded example of military mail from Laos, and not been challenged by an earlier example.