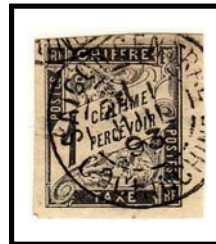


Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks

In 1884, France produced imperforate versions of some of the French postage dues for use in the colonies. Originally, the centime and franc values were both produced in black, which posed obvious identification problems for postal clerks. As a result, the high values were reprinted in brown before the black values could be distributed.

1 centime black



Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks

The central design feature was a ribbon-like banner, which in French is a "banderole." The design is also widely known by its designer, G. Duval.

2 centimes black



Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks

The four lowest values (1 centime through 4 centimes) were added in October 1888. Representing very small amounts, they had limited utility for postal purposes.

3 centimes black



4 centimes black



Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks

5 centimes black



Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks

5 centimes black



Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks

When the Colored Banderole dues began appearing in 1893, they gradually replaced the Black Banderole postage due stamps in Indochinese post offices.

10 centimes black



Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks

15 centimes black



Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks

20 centimes black



Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks

20 centimes black



30 centimes black



Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks

30 centimes black



Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks

30 centimes



40 centimes



Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks

60 centimes black



1 franc brown



Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks

2 francs brown



5 francs brown



Black Banderole Postage Dues Postmarks on Multiples

15 centimes black

30 centimes black



Black Banderole Postage Dues COCHINCHINE Overprints

After starting his stamp business in France, Georges Carion settled in San Francisco in 1894. The following year, he began selling what he described as rare provisional postage due stamps. The stamps were diagonally overprinted "COCHINCHINE" in black.



Black Banderole Postage Dues COCHINCHINE Overprints

At the time, collectors in the United States had no compelling reason to doubt the validity of the stamps. It was well known that French Colonies General Issues had been widely overprinted.

French collectors were more skeptical. An investigation by the Société Française de Timbrologie found no supporting evidence for the overprints. The French philatelic establishment condemned the stamps and labeled Carion a charlatan.

Reaction in the United States was more measured. The American Philatelic Society gave Carion one year to clear himself. Since he failed to do so in the allotted time, he was expelled from the association in 1896. Curiously, Carion chose to wait out this period before mounting his defense.

In October 1896, Carion publicized an account which described how he had communicated with the postmasters in two towns in Indochina: Tayninh and Baclicu. In his letters of inquiry, he asked each postmaster to render an opinion about whether the enclosed stamps had been in use at his post office. He asked that they return the postmarked stamps by registered mail with the envelopes he had enclosed.



Reading from lower left to upper right, the overprint was applied with black ink.



Examples of Carion's signature on the reverse of Indochinese stamps overprinted in 1903.

By return mail, the postmasters stipulated that the stamps were indeed genuine. The original letter from the postmaster at Tayninh is displayed on the following page.

Black Banderole Postage Dues
COCHINCHINE Overprints

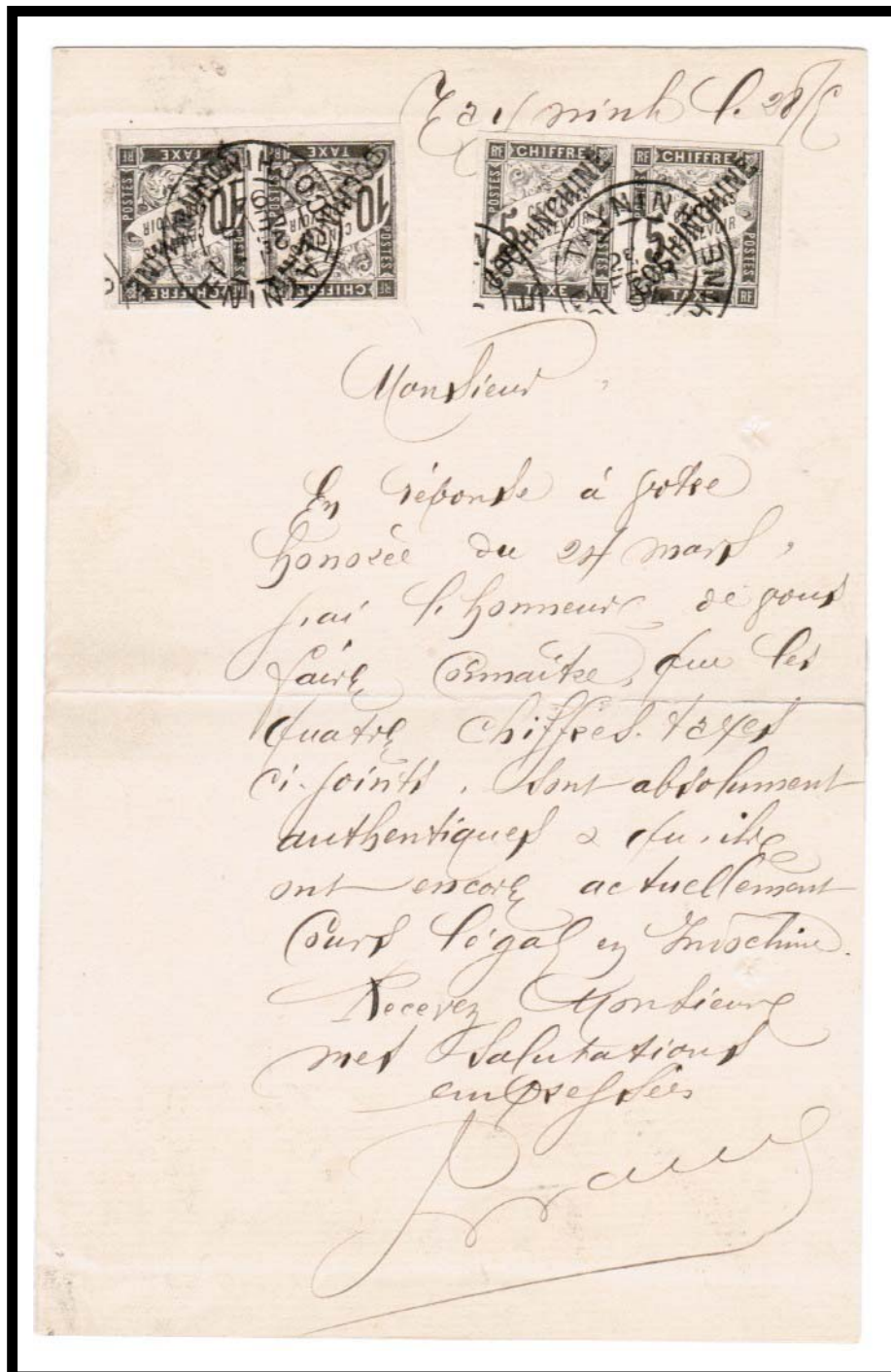
The letter from the postmaster at Tayninh reads:

"Tayninh, May 28, 1896

Sir:

In answer to your favor of March 24th, I have the honor to let you know that the four unpaid letter stamps annexed are absolutely genuine, and that they yet have legal circulation in Indochina. Receive, Sir, my salutations.

Prams "



Black Banderole Postage Dues COCHINCHINE Overprints

The stunned Société Française de Timbrologie pressed a follow-up investigation. *Revue Philatelque* published a letter from the Minister of Colonies stating that the stamps examined by the Indochinese postmasters were without overprint.

Thus, it appears that Carion had steamed the letters open, applied the overprints and resealed the letters. Later, in front of the local philatelic fraternity, he opened the letters to prove his case.

Carion's friends, loyal to the end, issued a statement that condemned the French society and was signed by twenty prominent collectors. Included was a notarized statement from the registry clerk, who certified that the letters opened in front of him had the diagonal overprints. The clerk's declaration does not say that the letters were opened upon arrival. Presumably, Carion presented them later once he had had time to apply the overprints and assemble a suitable audience.

Carion returned to France and continued to sell exotic philatelic material for several more decades.

Ironically, Carion chose a 40-centime General Issue stamp as part of the postage on his pre-paid envelope that he had sent to the Tayninh postmaster.



POSTAL MARKINGS

TAYNINH COCHINCHINE 28 MAI 96
framed R with manuscript registration number + stamped tracking number
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 31 JUIL 05
LIGNE N PAQ. FR. N° 10 31 MAI 96

Black Banderole Postage Dues
Use of 5 and 15 centimes black

A sender in France had mailed his letter to the "receveur des postes et telegraphes" (i.e., postmaster) in Chaudoc, Indochina with 15-centimes postage. Underpaid by 10 centimes, the mailing was charged 20 centimes postage due.



POSTAL MARKINGS

MONTPELIER HERAULT 16 JUIL 92
"T" in triangle with manuscript due amount
CHAUDOC COCHINCHINE 17 JUIN 93

REVERSE

MARSEILLE ETRANGER 17 JUIL 92
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 19 AOUT 92
TAYNINH COCHINCHINE 20 AOUT 92

Black Banderole Postage Dues Use of 5, 10 and 15 centimes black

An unfranked letter sent to Longxuyen, Cochinchina in 1893 was charged 30 centimes postage due. Since the postage due amount was twice the underpayment, the mailing must have been a local letter which would have incurred a 15 centime postage charge.



POSTAL MARKINGS

LONGXUYEN COCHINCHINE 31 AOUT 93
plain "T"

REVERSE

LONGXUYEN COCHINCHINE 31 AOUT 93

Black Banderole Postage Dues Use of 10 and 30 centimes black

In 1899, an unfranked letter posted from India was charged 50 cents postage due upon arrival at Saigon (twice the foreign letter rate of 25 centimes).



POSTAL MARKINGS

large "8"

SINGAPORE AP 5 99

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 13 AVRIL 99

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 14 AVRIL 99

REVERSE

"T" in circle with framed POSTAGE DUE __ ANNAS

Black Banderole Postage Dues
Use of 10 and 40 centimes black

The postage due amount for an unfranked foreign letter was twice the prepaid letter rate of 25 centimes or 50 centimes. Here the amount was specified with a 10-centimes stamp and a 40-centimes stamp applied when the letter arrived at Saigon.



POSTAL MARKINGS

"T" in circle

semi-circular DYAKONDANSIRUVAYAL DUE ONE ANNA
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 31 JUIL 02

REVERSE

SINGAPORE MY 26 02
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 31 JUIL 02

Black Banderole Postage Dues
Use of 20 and 30 centimes black

An unfranked letter posted from Germany in 1890 and addressed to Saigon was assessed 50 centimes postage due. Either the addressee refused the letter or the post office could not find him. The letter was returned to the sender.



POSTAL MARKINGS

HALLE (SAALE) 1a 20.6.90
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 13 AVRIL 99
Return to Sender (two types)

REVERSE

BRINDISI (A) 22 SIU 90
SINGAPORE MY 25 90
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 19 JUIN 90
HALLE A.S.P.A. N° 2 4 9 90

Black Banderole Postage Dues Use of 30 centimes black

In part, a local letter was addressed "En Ville" meaning "in the city." However, since no postage had been affixed, the letter was cited for postage due in the amount of 30 centimes.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON COCHINCHINE 17 MARS 88

Black Banderole Postage Dues Use of 40 centimes black

With a ½ anna Indian postage stamp on the reverse, the postage due amount for this underpaid foreign letter was 40 centimes. The clerk responsible for determining postage due amounts in the Saigon post office calculated the amount due as 40 centimes. To let others know that he had calculated the amount, he wrote his signature ("V2") on the front of the cover .



POSTAL MARKINGS

"T" in circle

manuscript "V2" due amount verification signature
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 27 AVRIL 03

Black Banderole Postage Dues Use of 40 centimes black

A one-half anna envelope was insufficient for a mailing sent from India to Indochina in 1904. The due amount of 40 centimes indicated with a 40-centime Banderole stamp.



POSTAL MARKINGS

KANDRAMANIKAM MADURA 25 NOV 04
large "T" in circle
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 8 DEC 04

REVERSE

SINGAPORE DE 2 1904
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 8 DEC 04