

Indochina Update - 2010

Postal History of the French
Colonial Allegorical Group Type

Ed Grabowski

Buy or Not Buy – What's a Philatelist to do?



The Law of June 25, 1856

- Printed matter rate of 5c from Saigon on July 17, 1900 to Hatien
- At Saigon or Hatien a manuscript **Art. 9 de la loi du 25 Juin 1856**
- On arrival at Hatien the item was charged 60c due
- What is going on here?





Law of June 25, 1856 applicable to manuscript enclosures on printed matter. If 5 or more similar items sent with manuscript enclosures, the items were considered unfranked local letters at a 30c rate (double the franked rate of 15c), and charged double that rate – i.e. 60c – due as a severe penalty.

Only colonial example recorded

French Community Registered Rate
of 40c Effective January 1899
15c Postage + 25c Registration

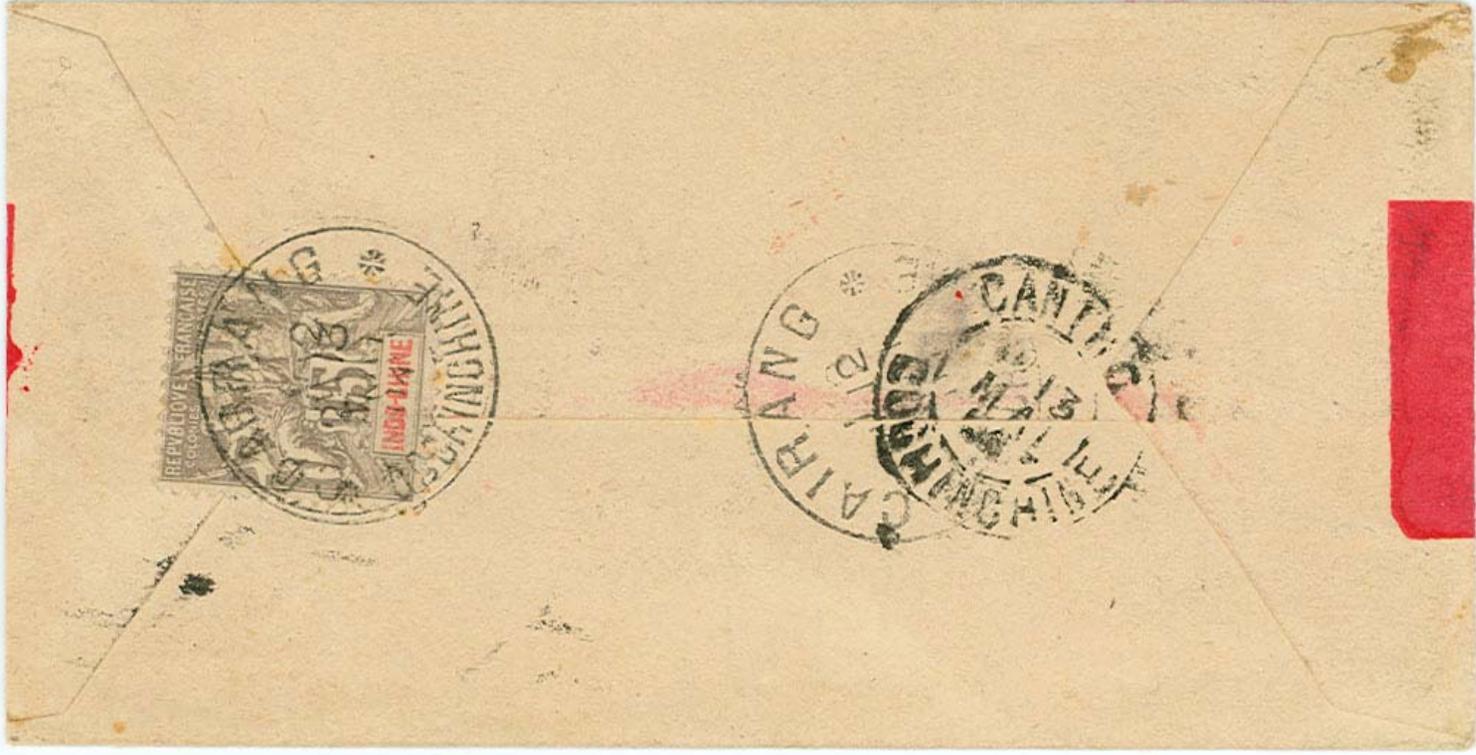


Daingai – very rare small village
Locally fabricated **R** for registration

Cairang to Cholon-Binhthay

- Local rate of 15c posted from Cairang on May 12, 1904
- Transit vis Cantho and Cholon
- Arrival in Cholon-Binhthay on May 14, 1904
- Cairang-Cantho-Cholon-Cholon Binhthay





Registered Business Papers

- Special rates for business papers – legal and commercial documents – to facilitate French business interests
- Registration was 25c
- Postage rates comparable to printed matter – 5c per 50g
- Only two examples seen from Indochina with Group Type





50c Rate = 25c registration + 25c postage for 200 – 250 grams

Registered Military Correspondence

- **CORR D ARMEES SAIGON** octagonal datestamp – May 20, 1894
- Military concession rate of 15c + 25c registration
- Seldom seen rate from any of the colonies



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Monsieur Pierre Mabre
21, rue de Valenciennes
Paris



COCHINCHINA – Military Mail

Military Concession Rate of 15c

Saigon

A reduced military concession rate of 15c existed until 1899 throughout the French Community in lieu of the 25c UPU. It applied to occupation forces as opposed to those engaged in combat. This rate required validation via use of unit cachets, and/or manuscript endorsements with commander's signatures. Special military town and packet datestamps (CORR D ARMEES) were often created in support of this service, with Cochinchina the foremost amongst the French areas in illustrating the use of military datestamps.



Letters from Saigon illustrating the concession rate and the CORR D ARMEES SAIGON datestamp showing the registered concession rate, the concession rate with a Packet Line N military transit and the concession rate employing low value stamps – all reflecting rarer combinations.

Travinh – APRES LE DEPART

- Registered French community rate of 40c
- Small village of Travinh
- Rare colonial **APRES LE DEPART** (Too Late) handstamp – posted too late to catch connection to Saigon



CABINET
DU
JUGE D'INSTRUCTION
DE
TRAVINH

SERVICE JUDICIAIRE



999
B

APRÈS LE DÉPART



Monsieur Riant, fils.

110. Boulevard de Grenelle

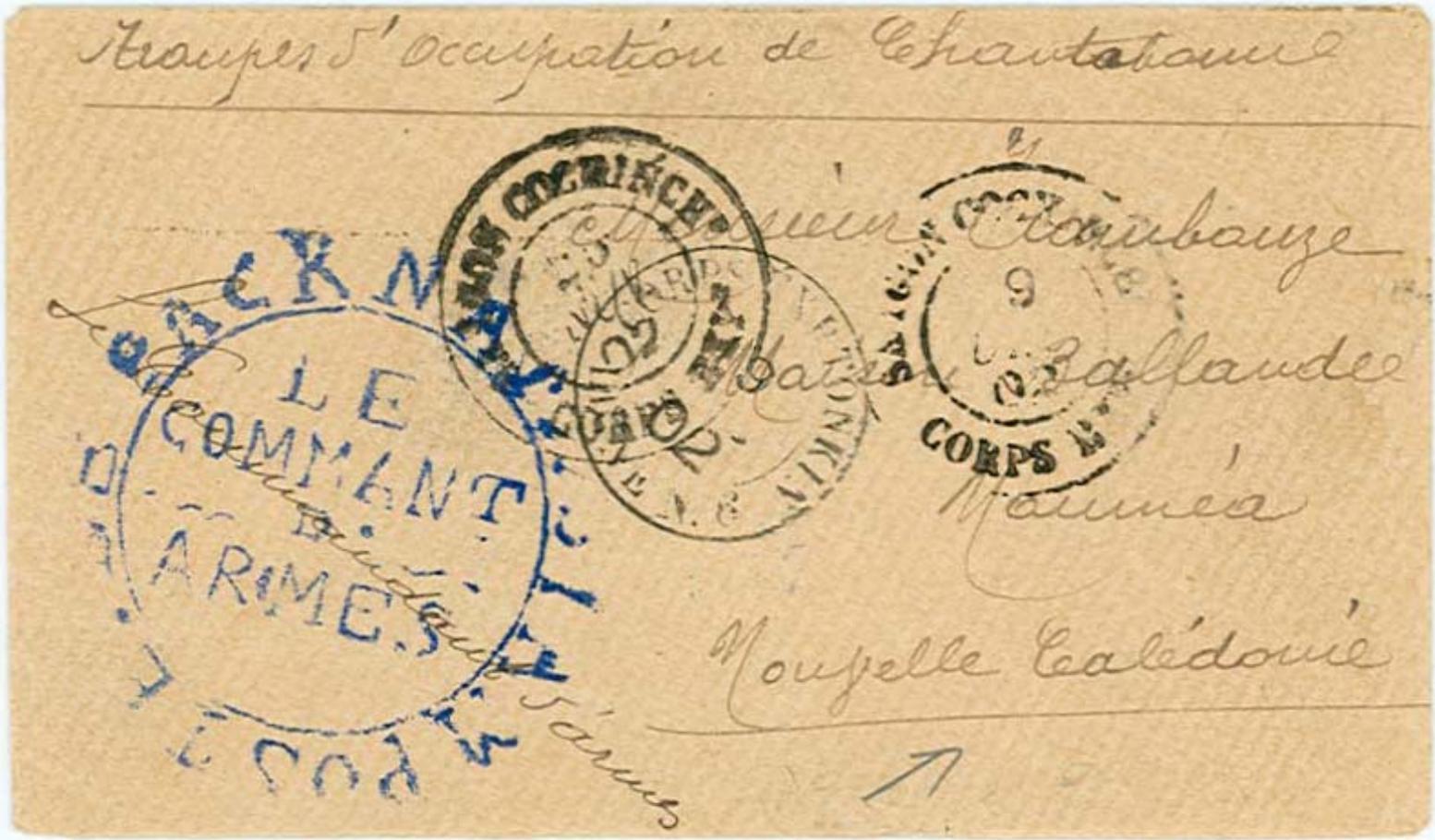
Paris. (XV^e)



Indochinese Forces in Siam

- Early 1900's French attempted to add territory to Indochina by confronting Siamese forces
- Military franchise mail from these forces is very rare
- Cachet: **POSTE DE PACKNAM SIAM – LE COMMANT D ARMES**
- Via Saigon to New Caledonia!





Crude locally prepared cachet from 1902



Same area – new cachet from 1903

Hue, Annam

- No material from Hue present in original exhibit
- Now corrected with a few franked letters, and.....
- A government franchise wrapper



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BULLETIN ADMINISTRATIF

DE L'ANNAM

Monsieur le Directeur des Douanes
et Régie



Henri

Declared Value Letter from the Small Village of Binh-Dinh, Annam





Rate of 25c postage on 13.5 gm of weight; 25c registration; and 20c insurance on 100 francs

Quinhone, Annam to Meester-Cornelis, Java Mail between two small colonial villages



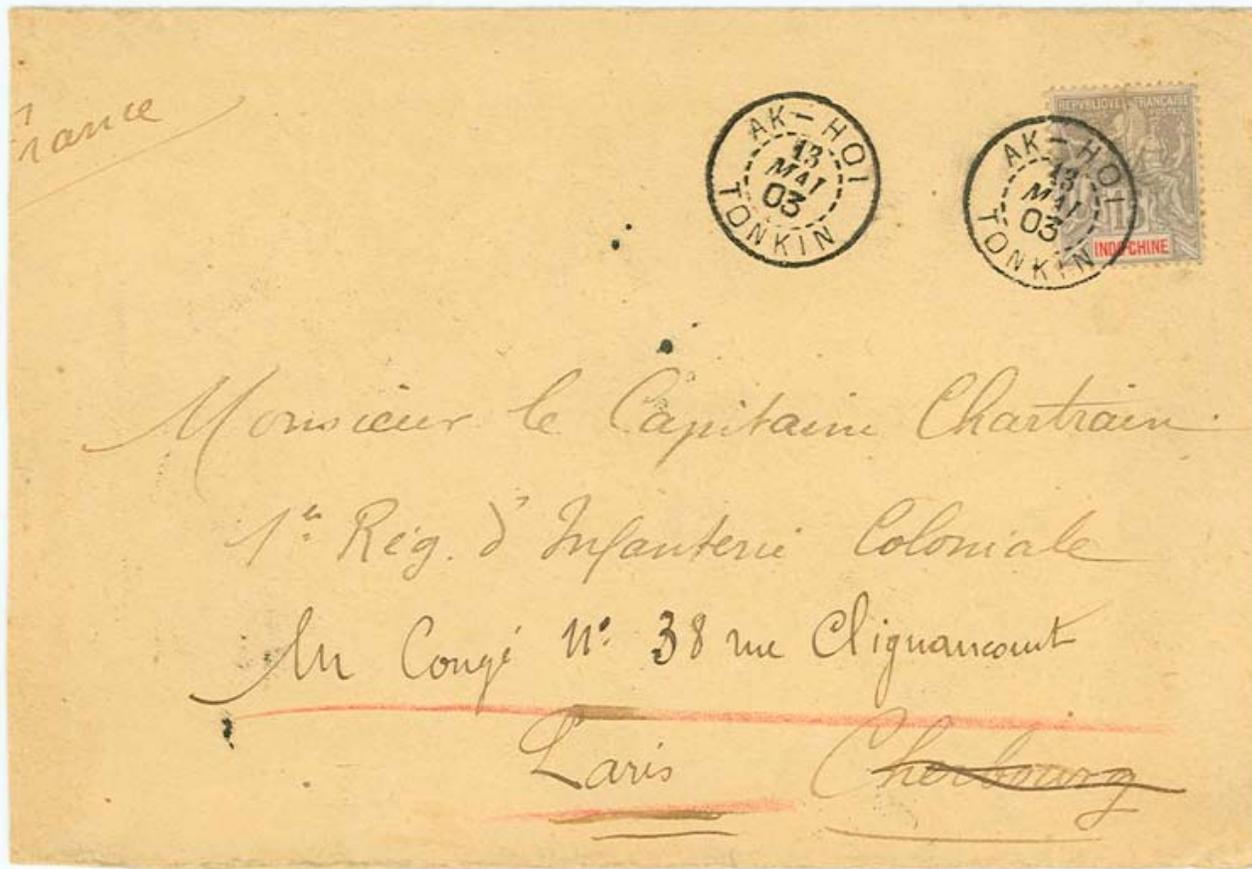
Backstamped in
Batavia and
Meester-Cornelis

Hanoi, Tonkin Registered Military Concession Rate – 40c from 1897



Military concession rate mail from Tonkin reasonably rare as most of the military mail was via the franchise rate (free) because troops considered to be involved in combat

As with Cochinchine, small villages abound in Tonkin: **AK-HOI 1903**



Tonkin Franchise Mail

- Early 1893 franchise letter via Tuyen-Quang to Albi
- Unusual negative military cachet of unit in the Vinh Tuy area
- Mail traveled via Haiphong to French Packet Line N: **CORR EXP TONKIN LIGNE N, 12 FEVR 93**



France
Troups de l'Indo Chine



Mademoiselle Lectois
sur la Ecole Normale

Albi



Carn



le post. de

Military Franchise Mail Issue

- There is enough military franchise mail from the 1893 – 1910 period to easily make a 10 frame exhibit
- It is getting crowded out of the Indochina Group Type exhibit because of lack of space
- Just the most important items are being included in the exhibit

COCHINCHINA – Military Mail
Military Franchise Letters
 Siam via Saigon

Military franchise letters (postage-free mail for troops engaged in combat) are rarely seen from Cochinchina during the period of the Group Type's use. French control was well-established at this time and there was little combat, as opposed to the situation in the other provinces. However, some military mail was channeled through Saigon as a means of getting it into the regular postal system.



Shown above are military franchise letters from the Indochinese troops engaged in combat in Siam during the 1902-1903 period when the French were attempting to control additional territory in the overall area. Three different cachets from the forces in Siam are shown: one from Chantaboun and two from Pak-Nam. All transited via Saigon. The first letter was posted to New Caledonia – a remarkable destination .

Pnompenh, Cambodia

- Small format 15c envelope revalued to 10c as part of 1912 overprinting of the Group Type issue
- Posted Pnompenh on July 21, 1913 to Vinlong, Cochinchine
- Not frequently seen – 7 examples recorded in collection of 2400 Group Type covers: Gabon; French India; French Oceania; and Indochina



Vinhlong



Cochinchine

Monsieur Desrieux
Greffier - Notaire

ATTOPEU, LAOS (Small Village)



MUONG-NGOI, LAOS (Small Village)



Packet Mail – **LIGNE N**



INDOCHINA - PAQUEBOT MAIL



Limited PAQUEBOT mail exists from Indochina because of the highly developed Packet system. Shown are three PAQUEBOT datestamp/handstamps used on mail carried by three east coast commercial ships, and a card arriving by local ship at Singapore enroute to Bangkok.

Tchongking – 7th Weight Registered Letter – 1904
2F Postage – 7 x 25c + 25c (90 - 105 gm)



THAT'S ALL FOLKS!

