Par Avion Vientiane, Laos

For interior airmail during 1932-34, the Vientiane post office employed a large handstamp with "PAR AVION" printed across stylized wings.





POSTAL MARKINGS
VIENTIANE LAOS 7-2 34
"PAR AVION" handstamp
REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 8 FEV 34 BIENHOA COCHINCHINE 9-2 34

By Dutch Air Saigon, Cochinchina

The first route marking for external mails was used to signify transport to Europe by KLNIM Airlines via Bangkok. The marking was employed for two connecting service flights – one at the beginning of January 1930 and again in mid January. The blue circular date stamp on this cover was overstruck with a penned "X" because the letter missed the mid December flight (which did not employ the route marking).

PAR MALLE AÉRIENNE HOLLANDAISE



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 22-12 29 SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 23-12 29 SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 1-1 30 registration label airmail label framed PAR MALLE AERIENNE HOLLANDAISE handstamp

REVERSE

PARIS VIII DISTRIBUTION 13-1 30 PARIS 43 R. LITTRE 1 4-1 30

By Dutch Air Saigon, Cochinchina

A second handstamp was put into service in Saigon during 1930-31 for letters connecting with the airmail service by the Dutch airline, which had then become known as K.L.M.

PAR AVION SAIGON-MARSEILLE Voie Hollandaise (K.L.M)



G 6

POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 27-4 31 registration and airmail labels framed Voie Hollandaise (K.L.M) handstamp

REVERSE

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 30-4 31 PARIS GARE DU NORD AVION 12-5 31

By Airmail Phongsaly, Laos

Only the Phonsaly post office used this unframed 53 x 10 millimeters "PAR AVION" handstamp to identify airmail letters. Previously reported only from 1932, this is the latest known example of the handstamp.

PAR AVION



G 7

POSTAL MARKINGS

PHONGSALY LAOS 6-4 33 airmail handstamp and label registration label "Saigon-Marseille" routing handstamp

REVERSE

LAI-CHAU TONKIN 13-4 33 HA-NOI R.P. TONKIN 19-4 33

Saigon – Marseille Saigon, Cochinchina

One of the most widely used routing instructions was the framed "Saigon – Marseille" applied at Saigon from 1932 through 1939. The marking was normally applied with black ink.

Saïgon-Marseille



G 10

POSTAL MARKINGS

HUE ANNAM 12-10 32 framed Saigon-Marseille routing instruction

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 14-10 32 PARIS VIII DISTRIBUTION 25•X 1932

Saigon – Marseille Saigon, Cochinchina

For registered letters, the post office used red ink to apply the "Saigon – Marseille" route marking.

Saïgon-Marseille



POSTAL MARKINGS

TAM-KY ANNAM 13-2 32 registration and airmail labels framed Saigon-Marseille routing instruction

REVERSE

QUINHON ANNAM 14-2 32 SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 16-2 32 MARSEILLE-GARE BCHES DU RHONE 29 • II 1932

Saigon – Marseille Cap St. Jacques, Cochinchina

During the period 1939-40, the city of Cap Saint Jacques employed its own route marking for the Saigon to Marseille airmail service. Like the city's circular date stamp, the route marking was usually applied with black ink.

SAIGON-MARSEILLE



G 11

POSTAL MARKINGS

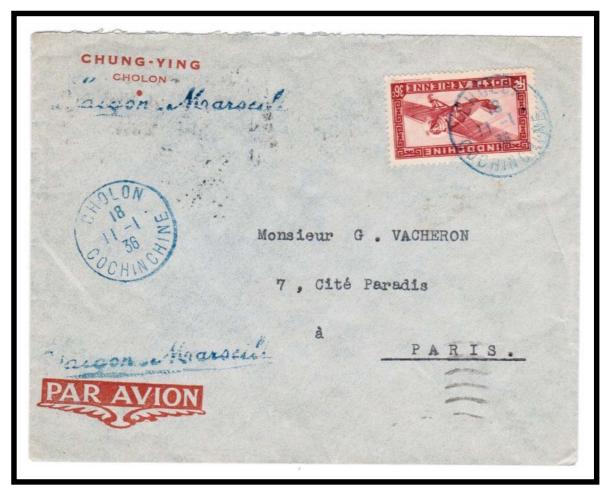
CAP ST. JACQUES COCHINCHINE 9-2 40
SAIGON-MARSEILLE route handstamp
REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 9-2 40

Saigon-Marseille Cholon, Cochinchina

The post office at Cholon indicated airmail routing with its own distinctive handstamp. Cholon's "Saigon-Marseille" handstamp employed cursive writing. In this case, the marking was applied twice with blue ink, the same as the Cholon postmarks.

Saigon-Marseille



POSTAL MARKINGS

CHOLON COCHINCHINE 11-1 36 cursive Saigon-Marseille route marking

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 11-1 36 PARIS R.P. AVION 20 • I 1936 PARIS - X DISTRIBUTION 20 • I 1936

Saigon-Marseille Cholon, Cochinchina

The clerk at the Cholon post office applied the cursive handstamp such that it "tied" the airmail label to the cover. After being canceled at Cholon, a stamp fell off in transit resulting in the letter being charged postage due in the amount of 0.36 gold francs.

Saigon_Marseille



(INIC C

POSTAL MARKINGS

CHOLON COCHINCHINE 4-2 33
blue airmail label with black "X
cursive Saigon-Marseille route marking (blue)
manuscript postage due indications

REVERSE

MARSEILLE-GARE-AVION BCHES DU RHONE 13 • II 1933

By Air as Far as Marseille Pnompenh, Cambodia

In use during 1931-36, Pnompenh's first marking indicated that the fees for airmail service had been paid only as far as Marseille.

PAR AVION JUSQU'A MARSEILLE



G 13

POSTAL MARKINGS

PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 26-10 33 PAR AVION JUSQU'A MARSEILLE route handstamp

REVERSE

MARSEILLE-GARE-AVION BCHES DU RHONE 6-11 1933

By Airmail Vinh, Annam

Clerks at the Vinh Annam post office handstamped letters with a framed "Par Avion" to signify airmail service. The marking was normally applied with black ink.

Par avion



G 15 var

POSTAL MARKINGS

VINH ANNAM 20-12 33 Par Avion handstamp airmail label

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 23 DEC 33 PARIS VIII DISTRIBUTION 2•1 1934

By Airmail Vinh, Annam

Occasionally, Vinh's framed Par Avion marking was struck with blue ink. The marking was in service at Vinh during 1933-1934.

Par avion



G 15 var

POSTAL MARKINGS

VINH ANNAM 27-12 33 Par Avion handstamp (blue) Saigon-Marseille handstamp

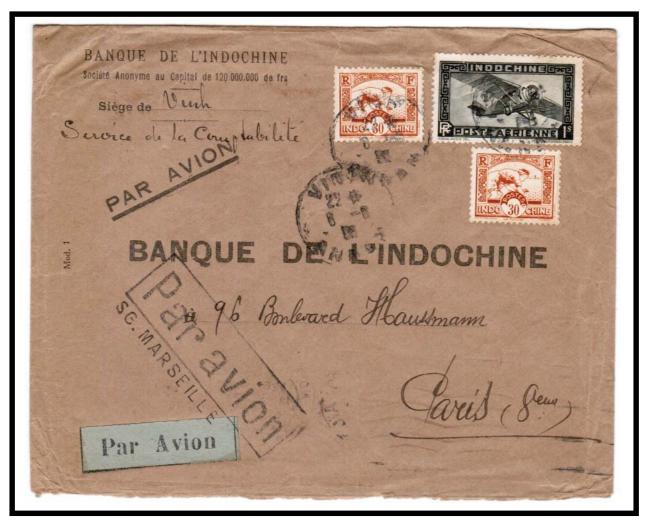
REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 30 DEC 33

By Airmail Vinh, Annam

A variety of Vinh's airmail marking included "SG. MARSEILLE" below the rectangular frame. "SG." was an abbreviation for "Saigon."





G 15

POSTAL MARKINGS

VINH ANNAM 8-6 34
Par Avion SG. MARSEILLE handstamp
airmail label

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 9-6 34 PARIS VIII DISTRIBUTION 18•VI 1934

SG. MARSEILLE Vinh, Annam

One variation on Vinh's airmail markings consisted of a plain "SG. MARSEILLE" routing instruction applied without the framed "Par Avion." "SG." was an abbreviation for Saigon.

SG. MARSEILLE.



G 15 var

POSTAL MARKINGS

VINH ANNAM 7-6 33 airmail label and "SG. MARSEILLE" routing instruction handstamp **REVERSE**

> SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 27-1 34 PARIS - VIII R. CLER 20 • VI 1933

By Air, Hanoi-Paris Hanoi, Tonkin

For the special flight by Codos and Robida, which left Hanoi on 20 January 1932, the post office used two special markings.

Par AVION Hanoi Paris.

LIAISON HANOI-PARIS AVION CODOS ROBIDA Janvier 1932.



POSTAL MARKINGS

DAP-CAU TONKIN 19-1 32 airmail label PAR AVION HANOI PARIS handstamp flight cachet

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 19-1 32 TULLE CORREZE 24.1.32

SAIGON MARSEILLE – Hanoi, Tonkin

The Hanoi post office employed a rather crude handstamp reading "SAIGON MARSEILLE –" for only a few days around the 18th of January 1932. This handstamp was soon replaced with conventional, framed routing instructions.

SAIGON MARSEILLE-



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 18-1 32 airmail label and "SAIGON MARSEILLE—" handstamp

REVERSE
MARSEILLE-GARE BCHES DU RHONE 1 • II 1932
VESINET BANLIEU 2-2 32

SAIGON MARSEILLE – MARSEILLE – PARIS Hanoi, Tonkin

In addition to the Saigon-Marseille routing handstamp, around 18 January 1932, the Hanoi post office also employed a Marseille routing instruction for those letters that had paid the airmail surcharge for transport from Marseilles to Paris via airmail. Few airmail letters allowed for this additional charge. This is the only known example of this marking.

SAIGON MARSEILLE-PARIS



G17 var

POSTAL MARKINGS

TONG TONKIN 18-1 32
airmail label and routing instruction handstamps

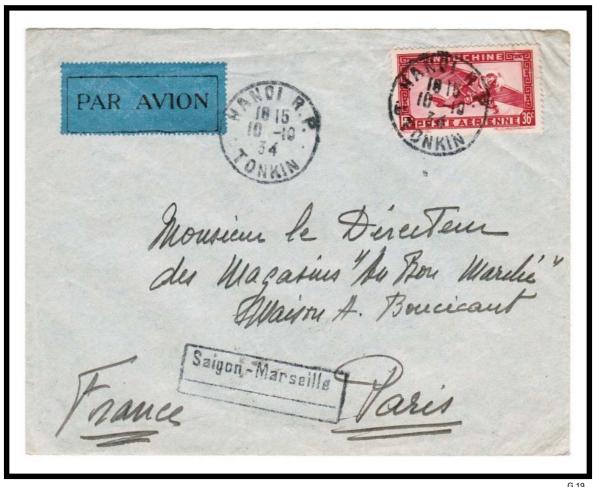
REVERSE

NEMOURS SEINE ET MARNE 3-2 32

Saigon – Marseille Hanoi, Tonkin

The Hanoi post office employed a series of route markings on letters to indicate which airmail services had been properly paid. Before 1935, the only external service available originated from Saigon. The "Saigon-Marseille" route marking was underlined and framed.

Saigon - Marseille



Hanoi – Marseille Hanoi, Tonkin

Starting in February 1935, the Hanoi post office began using a marking for the newly inaugurated airmail service from Hanoi to Marseille. At first, the underline was a solid line.

Hanoi-Marseille



G 20

POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 19-4 35
Hanoi-Marseille routing instruction
REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 20-4 35 PARIS R.P. AVION 23 • IV 1935

Hanoi – Marseille Hanoi, Tonkin

After May 1935, Hanoi's marking changed in several ways. First the lettering became italic and the underline was changed from solid to dashed.

Hanoï Marseille



By Airmail as Far as Destination Hanoi, Tonkin

When the sender had franked an envelope with sufficient postage for airmail service beyond France, the Hanoi post office stamped it "by airmail as far as the destination."

Par avion jusqu'à destination



G 13 Hanoi

POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 21-8 40
"By Airmail as Far as Destination" handstamp
OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football
censor's tape

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. ^{BIS} TONKIN 22-8 40 OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE football

Saigon_Marseille Tong, Tonkin

A major military airport was established at Tong, Tonkin. From 1934 through February 1935, the post office handstamped airmail letters with a plain, framed "Saigon-Marseille" route marking.

Saigon_Marseille



G 22

POSTAL MARKINGS

TONG TONKIN 28-12 34
framed Saigon-Marseille routing instruction

REVERSE

PARIS R.P. AVION 10 • I 1935

Hanoi – Marseille Tong, Tonkin

Starting in 1935, when Hanoi became the terminus of the France-Indochina air route, the Tong post office handstamped airmail envelopes with a simple "Hanoi-Marseille." Careful examination reveals that the spelling is actually "Marseiile."

Hanoi-Marseiiie



G 23 var

POSTAL MARKINGS

TONG TONKIN 31-5 35 Hanoi-Marseille route routing instruction

REVERSE

HANOI R-P TONKIN 31 MAI 35 PARIS R.P. AVION 9 • VI 1935

Hanoi – Marseille Tong, Tonkin

Starting in 1936, Tong's "Hanoi-Marseille" route marking was underlined and placed in a 12 by 47 millimeter frame.

Hanoï - Marseille



G 24

POSTAL MARKINGS
TONG TONKIN 31-7 36
Hanoi-Marseille routing instruction
REVERSE
PARIS R.P. AVION 9 • VIII 1936

Hanoi – Marseille Tong, Tonkin

After a few years, the bottom frame line wore away and the underline became the bottom frame so that the Tong marking appeared to be in a smaller rectangle.

Hanoï - Marseille



G 24 var

POSTAL MARKINGS
TONG TONKIN 28-12 39
Hanoi-Marseille routing instruction
REVERSE

HANOI R.P. ^{BIS} TONKIN 28-12 39 PÉZENAS HERAULT 7-1 40

By Airmail Hue

A commercial letter from the "Annam-Laos" Company, which sold a variety of merchandise including radios and wine, was handstamped with a framed "PAR AVION" airmail marking. This may have been a private handstamp belonging to the company or it may have been a Hue post office handstamp.

PAR AVION



UNL

POSTAL MARKINGS
HUE ANNAM 28-4 38
framed "PAR AVION" handstamp
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 29-4 38

By Airmail Vinhlong, Cochinchina

The Vinhlong post office's marking for airmail service was the simple, one-word "AVION" marking. The handstamp was normally applied with black ink. This marking, only used at Vinhlong, is known from 1933 to 1936.

AVION



UNL

POSTAL MARKINGS

VINHLONG COCHINCHINE 21-3 36 airmail handstamp registration label

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 21-3 36

By Airmail Vinhlong, Cochinchina

The Vinhlong post office's marking for airmail service was the simple, one-word "AVION" marking. The handstamp was normally applied with black ink.

AVION



UNL

POSTAL MARKINGS
VINHLONG COCHINCHINE 17-11 34
airmail handstamp

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 17-11 34 PARIS R.P. 2 DISTRIBUTION 27 • XI 1934

Pan American Route Haiphong, Tonkin

Sending letters via Pan American's service across the Pacific Ocean and then onward to Europe could avoid blockades and choke points along the traditional westward routes. To clarify the sender's intentions, the Haiphong post office employed a handstamp that explicitly spelled out the routing instructions.

Via Pan American airways & transatlantic



POSTAL MARKINGS

HAIPHONG TONKIN 3-11 41

censor's resealing tape with military authority football and A1 in circle signature stamp
Pan American routing instruction
censor resealing tape (Hong Kong)

REVERSE

HAIPHONG TONKIN 3-11 41 HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN -11 41 MARSEILLE-GARE BCHES DU RHONE 5 • XII 1941 UNL

Airmail from Hong Kong Onward Saigon, Cochinchina

For air transport across the Pacific Ocean, the Saigon post office utilized a handstamp with a blank where the extent of airmail service could be indicated. In this case, with a manuscript entry, airmail service was indicated as far as Lisbon.

PAR AVION

de HONG KONG A Seulement



UNL

POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 5-9 41 airmail routing handstamp (purple) censor's resealing tape

REVERSE

LISBOA CENTRAL 3ª SECOA 17.11.41

By Airmail Vientiane, Laos

After World War II, the post office at Vientiane, Laos put into use a framed airmail handstamp. The marking was usually applied with purple ink.



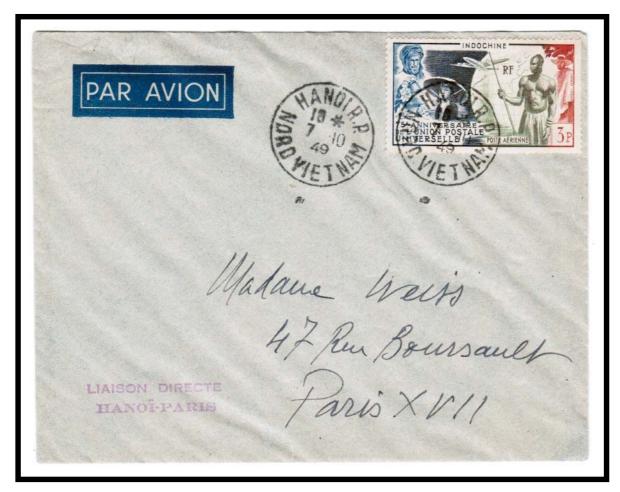


UNL

Hanoi-Paris Direct Service Hanoi, Tonkin

After direct airmail service was reestablished to Hanoi after World War II, a new handstamp was put into use. The direct service marking was normally applied with purple ink.

LIAISON DIRECTE HANOÏ-PARIS



UNL

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI NORD VIETNAM 7-10 49
Hanoi-Paris direct service handstamp

Air Transport Completed Marseilles, France

Usually letters from Indochina were franked for airmail service to Marseille – not for onward airmail transport. To ensure that there was no confusion, postal clerks at Marseille after confirming that the amount of franking only covered inward airmail service from outside France, obliterated the airmail labels with a large "X".





G 3

POSTAL MARKINGS
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 31-10 31
airmail label
"X" obliterator

REVERSE

AIX EN PROVENCE BOUCHES DU RHONE 17-11 31

Air Transport Completed Marseilles, France

In the case of this mailing from Can-Tho to Paris, the black cross consisted of thinner lines, but they were longer than usual.





POSTAL MARKINGS

CAN-THO COCHINCHINE 21-1 31 airmail label and registration label black cross

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 22-1 31 MARSEILLE-GARE BCHES DU RHONE 2 • II 1931

Air Transport Completed Marseilles, France

Franked with 66 cents postage, the airmail rate to France had been properly prepaid. Upon arrival in Marseilles, a postal clerk determined that onward transport would be via surface mail. Consequently, the clerk obliterated the airmail label with a black "X."





G 31

POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON COMMERCE COCHINCHINE 16-7 31 airmail label and black cross

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 18-7 31 MARSEILLE-GARE BCHES DU RHONE 27 • VII 1931

Airmail Fee Paid, Air Transport Completed Saigon, Cochinchina and Marseilles, France

In the second half of 1931, the black cross was being phased out. The round rate certification handstamp indicated that the correct postage had been paid for air transport from Indochina to France. The black "X" on the label indicated that airmail services ceased upon arrival in Marseilles.







G 31, G 32

POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 22-10 31 airmail label black cross and airmail fee certification handstamps

REVERSE

MARSEILLE-GARE BCHES DU RHONE 2 • II 1931 SAINTS SEINE-ET-MARNE 4-11 31

Airmail service required additional fees. When a clerk at Saigon's main post office verified that the postage was correct on an envelope, he handstamped it with a marking that certified the proper fees had been paid. The handstamped marking was usually applied with red ink. Until 1 July 1932, the supplementary fee for airmail service was 60 cents.



G 32

POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 28-5 31 airmail label airmail fee certification handstamp

REVERSE

PARIS GARE DU NORD AVION 3 • VI 1931 NEUILLY-SUR-SEINE SEINE 5 JUIN 31

In 1934, the airmail fee certification marking was applied with purple ink on a commercial landowner's preprinted business envelope.





G 32

POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 28-5 34 airmail label airmail fee certification handstamp

REVERSE

MARSEILLE-GARE-AVION BCHES DU RHONE 3 • VI 1934

The certifying mark was struck with crimson ink on this 1934 airmail letter to France. The envelope was one of several styles distributed by Air Orient for use by the public.





POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 27-1 34 Saigon-Marseille routing instruction airmail fee certification handstamp

REVERSE

MARSEILLE-GARE-AVION B<u>CHES</u> DU RHONE 6 • II 1934 FREJUS VAR 7-2 34

In 1932, a postal clerk chose pink ink when he applied the certification mark on this small airmail cover to Bordeaux.





G 32

POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 16-9 32 airmail label airmail fee certification handstamp

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 16-9 32 BORDEAUX GIRONDE 26 • IX 1932

Erroneous Use of Airmail Fee Correctly Paid Saigon, Cochinchina

The rate certification handstamp was mistakenly applied to an airmail letter addressed to Denmark franked with only 38 cents (2 cents on the reverse). In route, a postal clerk crossed out the validation marking. Nonetheless, a receiving postmark indicates that the letter did indeed travel via air arriving in nine days. The mailing shows no evidence of an attempt to collect postage due.





G 32

POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 6-7 35 rate certification handstamp crossed out with pen

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 6-7 35 KOBENHAVN LUFTPOST 15. 7. 35

Erroneous Use of Airmail Fee Correctly Paid Saigon, Cochinchina

Occasionally, the clerk validating that the airmail postage was correct would commit an error. Even though this cover bears the certification handstamp, it was later checked and, because airmail service through to Germany was indicated, it was cited for postage due in the amount of 1.12 gold francs.





G 32

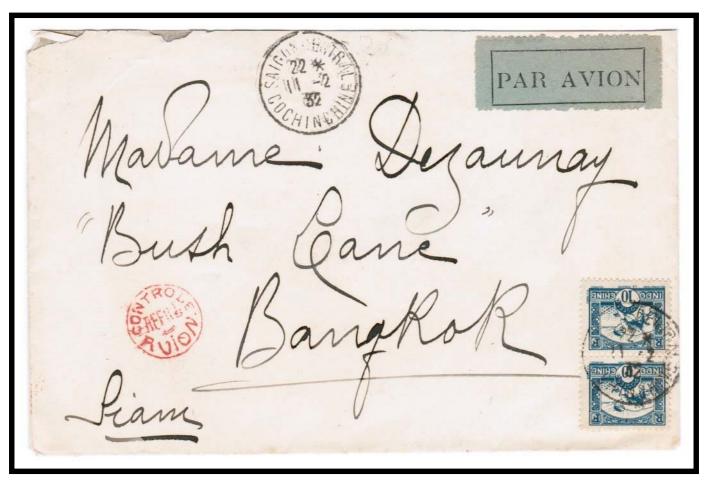
POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 25-8 34
airmail fee certification handstamp
T due marking with manuscript amount

Erroneous Use of Airmail Fee Correctly Paid Saigon, Cochinchina

This example demonstrates a gross error with the rate validation handstamp. The surface rate for foreign letters was 10 cents at the time this double weight mailing was franked with only 20 cents postage. Nonetheless, since the envelope had been given the certification marking, it went by airmail and arrived at Bangkok the next day.





POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 11-2 32 airmail label airmail fee certification handstamp REVERSE

BANGKOK G.P.O. 12.2.32

Air Transport Completed Marseille, France

In later years, clerks at the Marseille post office used a handstamp with two bold parallel lines to obliterate the airmail markings when the postage was insufficient for onward airmail service.





POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON COMMERCE COCHINCHINE 1-6 35 framed Saigon-Marseille route handstamp double line obliterator

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 1-6 35
MARSEILLE-GARE-AVION BCHES DU RHONE 9 • VI 1935

Air Transport Completed Marseilles, France

Senders were supposed to indicate the routing for air transport. If routing instructions were missing when a cover arrived in France, the post office would try to determine if the proper fees had been paid for onward transport by air. If adequate postage had not been affixed, the cover was handstamped with a straight-line marking meaning "transport by airmail completed." As an additional measure in this case, two blue crayon lines were drawn through the airmail label.

TRANSPORT PAR AVION EFFECTUÉ



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 5-5 48
airmail label
Air Transport Completed handstamp

Air Transport Completed Marseilles, France

Usually, the completed airmail service handstamp was applied was applied on a portion of the cover away from the franking. For this letter from someone serving in the American Consulate, there was little open space on the envelope. Consequently, the handstamp tied one of the stamps to the cover.

TRANSPORT PAR AVION EFFECTUÉ



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 12-7 46
Air Transport Completed handstamp
REVERSE
NEW YORK, N.Y. AUG 7 1946

Air Transport Completed Marseilles, France

With 1\$70 in postage, this commercial cover lacked sufficient postage for onward transmission by airmail from France to Switzerland in 1947. Consequently, it traveled by surface mail within Europe.

TRANSPORT PAR AVION EFFECTUÉ



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 18-11 47
Air Transport Completed handstamp

Promotion of Airmail Service France

To encourage use of airmail service between France and Indochina, the post office would sometimes select letters posted by regular mail and carry them by air. The selected letters were handstamped with a framed marking noting that the mailing received special service. Here a letter to Saigon was handstamped with the promotional marking in 1932.

LETTRE TRANSPORTÉE Exceptionnellement PARAVION À TITRE DE PROPAGANDE



POSTAL MARKINGS

ST. JEAN DES VIRGNES SAONE ET LOIRE 20-1 33 airmail label airmail promotion handstamp

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 3-2 33 CAN-THO COCHINCHINE 4-2 33

Promotion of Airmail Service France

Like letters, postcards franked for regular surface mail were randomly selected for transport by airmail. In this case, a picture postcard was sent from Paris to a doctor at the Pasteur Institute in Saigon. The marking says "By exception, letter carried by airmail for promotional purposes."

LETTRE TRANSPORTÉE EXCEPTIONNELLEMENT PAR AVION À TITRE DE PROPAGANDE



POSTAL MARKINGS

PARIS XV DEPART 3 • VII 1933

airmail promotion handstamp

Promotion of Airmail Service Saigon, Cochinchina

As with external mails, the Indochinese post office would send regular internal letters by airplane in order to demonstrate the benefits of airmail service to the public. Here an envelope was handstamped with a promotional marking. The letter reached its destination in 3 days.

TRANSPORTÉ EXCEPTIONNELLEMENT PAR AVION DE SAIGON à HANOI



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 12-10 37 airmail promotion handstamp

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 14-10 37 HAIPHONG TONKIN 15-10 37 UONG-BI TONKIN 15-10 37