

# World War II Censorship and the Mails of French Indochina

This presentation explores censorship during World War II as it affected correspondence between Indochina and the rest of the world as well as within Indochina itself. What mails were censored depended on routes, which were frequently changing over time as the ravages of war ebbed and flowed in various regions.

The presentation is organized as follows:

## Part 1. Censorship Markings of Indochina

Bank Exemption to Censorship

Services Interrupted due to Hostilities

Family News Postal Cards

Censorship of Internal Mails

    Under Indochinese Authority

    Under Japanese Authority

## Part 2. Censorship of External Mails between Indochina and     France

    Continents arranged alphabetically (countries alphabetically under  
continent)

        Africa

        Asia

        Australia and Oceania

        Europe

        North America

        South America

Postal Commission C  
Type 1

Each political unit of Indochina had its own censor commission. The commission for Cochinchina was given the designation "C". By far, Saigon handled the greatest amount of mail in Indochina. Consequently, code "C" markings are the most common of the commission handstamps.

Several varieties of the marking exist. The variety with 4.5 millimeter lettering for "INDOCHINE" in the center is also distinct in that only the first letter of the word "Commission" is capitalized.



POSTAL MARKINGS  
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 8-9 39  
CONTROLE POSTAL Commission C INDOCHINE  
REVERSE  
DINARD ILLE ET VILAINE 19 SEPT 39

Type 1 Commission C



Postal Commission C  
Type 2

For the second type of CONTROL POSTAL marking, the word "COMMISSION" was in all capital letters and the lettering for the word "INDOCHINE" was 5.5 millimeters tall.



Type 2 Commission C



POSTAL MARKINGS  
SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 25-8 39  
CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C INDOCHINE

Postal Commission C  
Type 3

Commission C employed a third type of CONTROLE POSTAL marking with 6 millimeter lettering for the word "INDOCHINE". Like the 5.5 millimeter variety, the word "COMMISSION" was entirely in capital letters.



POSTAL MARKINGS  
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 19-10 39  
CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C INDOCHINE

Type 3 Commission C



Postal Commission A  
Tonkin

Control Commission A, based in Hanoi, used the handstamp for only a very short period in 1939. Hanoi quickly dropped it in favor of the "secret" "BIS" postmarks for marking censored letters.



POSTAL MARKINGS  
DAUOLAS FINISTERE 6-11 39  
CONTRÔLE POSTAL Commission A INDOCHINE  
REVERSE  
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 15-11 39

Postal Commission B  
Annam

Commission B had responsibility for Annam. Here, the Commission B making was applied to the resealing tape of a letter that had been opened for inspection. Application of commission handstamps on resealed letters was an exceptional occurrence.



POSTAL MARKINGS  
HUE ANNAM 15-12 39  
CONTRÔLE POSTAL Commission B INDOCHINE  
"B3" censor's signature  
REVERSE  
Military Authority football  
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 12 DEC 39

Postal Commission D  
Cambodia

Pnompenh, Cambodia was assigned the code letter "D." Its Commission marking for censored letters was similar to the 4.5 millimeter Type 1 lettering version for Cochinchina except that the Commission's identifying letter was changed to "D."



POSTAL MARKINGS  
PNOM-PENH CAMBODGE 13-10 39  
CONTRÔLE POSTAL Commission D INDOCHINE



## Postal Commission E

The code letter "E" was assigned to Laos. Vientiane's censor cachet employed same large circle format used by Indochina's other political subdivisions.



### POSTAL MARKINGS

VIENTIANE LAOS 6-2 40

CONTRÔLE POSTAL Commission E INDOCHINE

### REVERSE

HANOI R.P. bis TONKIN 9-2 40

SI ETIENNE LOIRE 16.II.40



# Telegraph Commission K Saigon

Commission K was responsible for telegrams at Saigon. However, when demand warranted it, Commission K personnel reviewed letters and applied the commission's handstamp. The framed marking at the top, left of this piece reads "COMMISSION REGIONALE DE CONTROLE TELEGRAPHIQUE."



## POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 21-7 42  
CONTROLE TELEGRAPHIQUE Commission K INDOCHINE

## Postal Commission C Postcard Censorship

Censors faced the same problem with postcards that they had with letters – namely, identifying which items had been examined and judged safe for passage onward. Here, the type 2 CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C handstamp had been applied to a postcard sent from Saigon to Sweden in 1939.



Type 2 Commission C



### POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 27-8 39  
CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C INDOCHINE

Postal Commission C  
Use as an Cancellor

The CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C handstamp served to alert authorities on which pieces of mail had been examined. In rare instances as with this example, it served as a means of canceling the postage stamps on examined envelopes.



Type 2 Commission C



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 26-10 39  
CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C INDOCHINE



## OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE

Opened letters were resealed with paper tape and given the "OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE" marking signifying that the item was officially opened for inspection. For security, the football-shaped marking was normally struck in black across both the tape and the envelope. This marking was used throughout Indochina.



Military Authority football

### POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 28-8 40

Military Authority football  
censor's resealing tape

### REVERSE

HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 29-8 40

Military Authority football

CONTROLE POSTAL  
MILITAIRE

censor's paper  
tape (Hanoi)



Mailed from Hanoi, this letter also bears the HANOI R.P. BIS circular date stamp on the reverse indicating that it had been seen by the censors in the main Hanoi post office.

OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE  
Purple Ink Variation

Except for Saigon, the "OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE" marking was usually applied in black ink. In Saigon, the marking was normally struck in purple ink. Here a mailing from Saigon received the Military Authority "football" as well as a censor signature handstamp in purple.



Military Authority football

POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 26-2 40  
censor's resealing tape  
Military Authority football  
C3 in circle - censor's signature handstamp

REVERSE

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 26 FEV 40  
C3 in circle - censor's signature handstamp



## Code A Signature Handstamp Tonkin

Each administrative area was assigned a code letter for its associated censor markings. Ultimately, the censors were given a individual numbers. Thus, the censor's "signature" was encoded as a letter over a number within a circle.

The code letter for Hanoi was "A". Censor A5 applied his marking with blue ink to this envelope mailed from Haiphong to France in 1941.



censor's signature (Hanoi)



### POSTAL MARKINGS

- HAIPHONG TONKIN 27-6 41
- A over 5 in circle – censor's signature handstamp (Tonkin) (blue)
- censor' resealing tape (Indochina)
- Military Authority football
- censor's signature handstamp and censor's resealing tape (Singapore)

### REVERSE

- HAIPHONG TONKIN 27-6 41
- HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 28-6 41
- Military Authority football
- SI CERQUES HIE SAVOIE 16-9 41



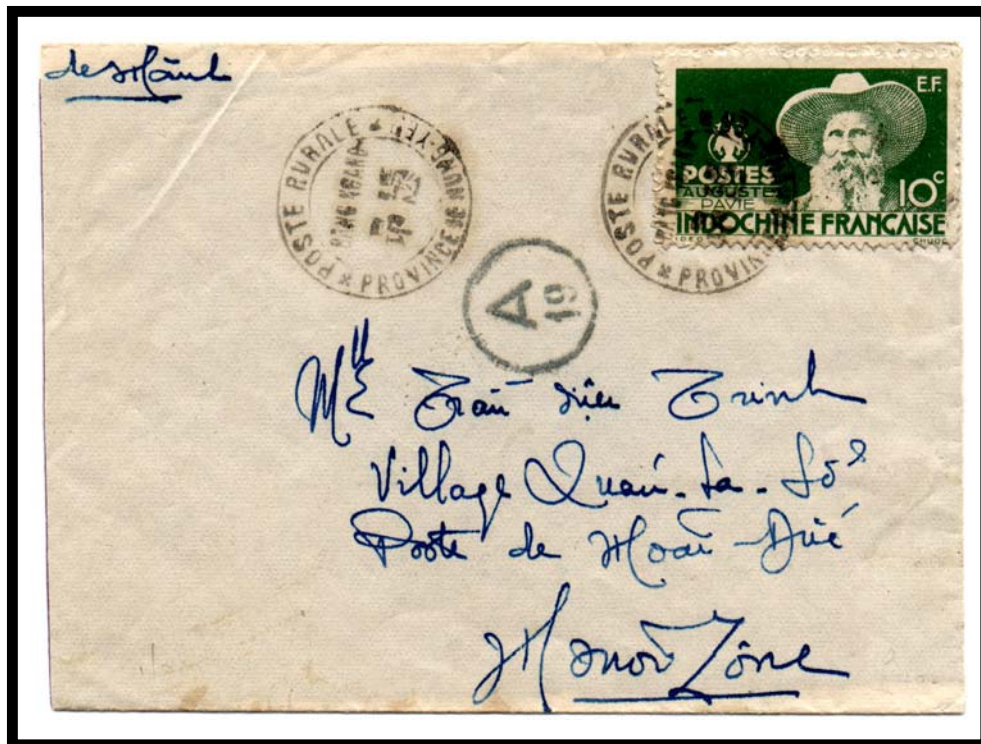
Code A Signature Handstamp  
Tonkin  
Late Usage

Hanoi, location of the seat of Indochina's government, soon abandoned the circular censor signatures in favor of "secret" censor markings that mimicked the design of postmarks but bore the identifier "HANOI BIS" or "HANOI R.P. BIS." Since virtually all of Tonkin's mail funneled through Hanoi, the "A signatures" are not common.

The cover shown here has several unusual aspects. In 1944, it was mailed at a rural post office (Bang Ngang) in Hung-Yen Province with the rural postmark canceling the 10 cent Pavié stamp, an uncommon occurrence. The censor signature, "A 19" in a circle, is plainly struck above the address. On the reverse, dated postmarks establish the late usage of the "A" censor signature.



Tonkin Censor Signature



POSTAL MARKINGS

BANG NGANG POSTE RURALE PROVINCE DE HUNG-YEN

A19 in circle

REVERSE

HANOI RP BIS TONKIN 5-2 44

QUANG-YEN TONKIN 6-2 44

Code B Signature Handstamp  
Annam

The code letter for Annam was "B". Censor B1 examined this mailing from Hue to the United States. Besides the distinctive censor signatures, different political subdivisions used paper sealing tape with different printing.



censor's tape  
(Annam)



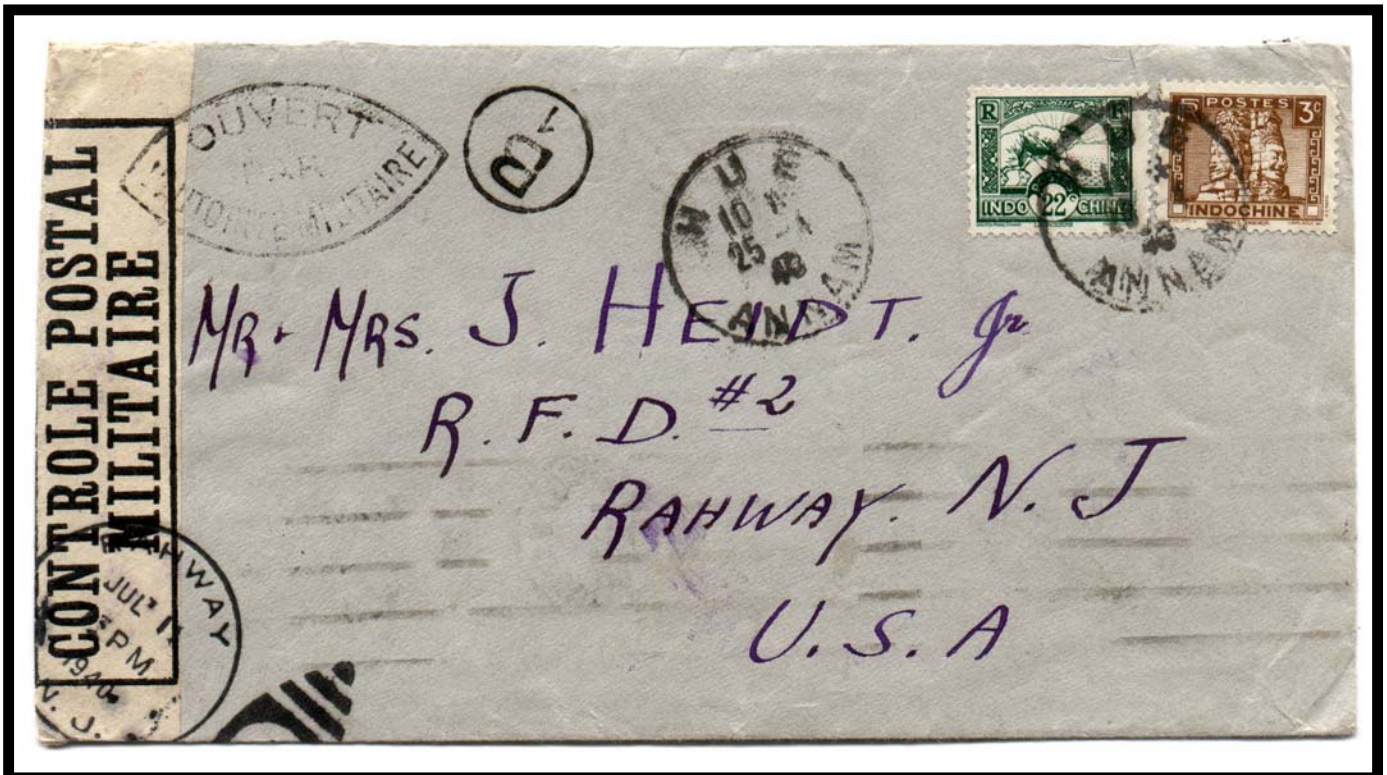
censor's  
signature  
(Annam)

POSTAL MARKINGS

HUE ANNAM 25-4 40  
censor's resealing tape (Annam)  
Military Authority football  
B1 in circle - censor's signature handstamp  
RAHWAY N.J. JUL 11 1940

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 27 AVR 40  
Military Authority football



Code C Signature Handstamp  
Cochinchina

Saigon was assigned the letter code "C". Here the censor's signature was applied in purple ink as was the military authority "football" marking.



censor's signature  
(Cochinchina)



Military Authority football

POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 12-7 40  
censor's resealing tape (Saigon)  
censor's signature handstamp (purple)  
Military Authority football (purple)



## Code D Signature Handstamp Cambodia

The censor code letter for Pnompenh, Cambodia was "D". Here, censor D1 applied his signature mark with black ink on a missionary's envelope after his examination of the contents.



censor's signature  
(Cambodia)



### POSTAL MARKINGS

PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 13-10 39

censor's resealing tape (Pnompenh)

Military Authority football

D1 in circle – censor's signature handstamp

### REVERSE

Military Authority football

D1 in circle – censor's signature handstamp

Code F Signature Handstamp  
Kouang Cho Wan

The letter "F" was given to the leased territory of Kouang Cho Wan. The censor markings were applied in purple ink to this letter sent from Tchekam, Kouang Cho Wan to Saigon. Like other areas, Kouang Cho Wan had its own distinctive censor's tape.



censor's resealing tape (Kouang Cho Wan)



censor's signature  
(Kouang Cho Wan)



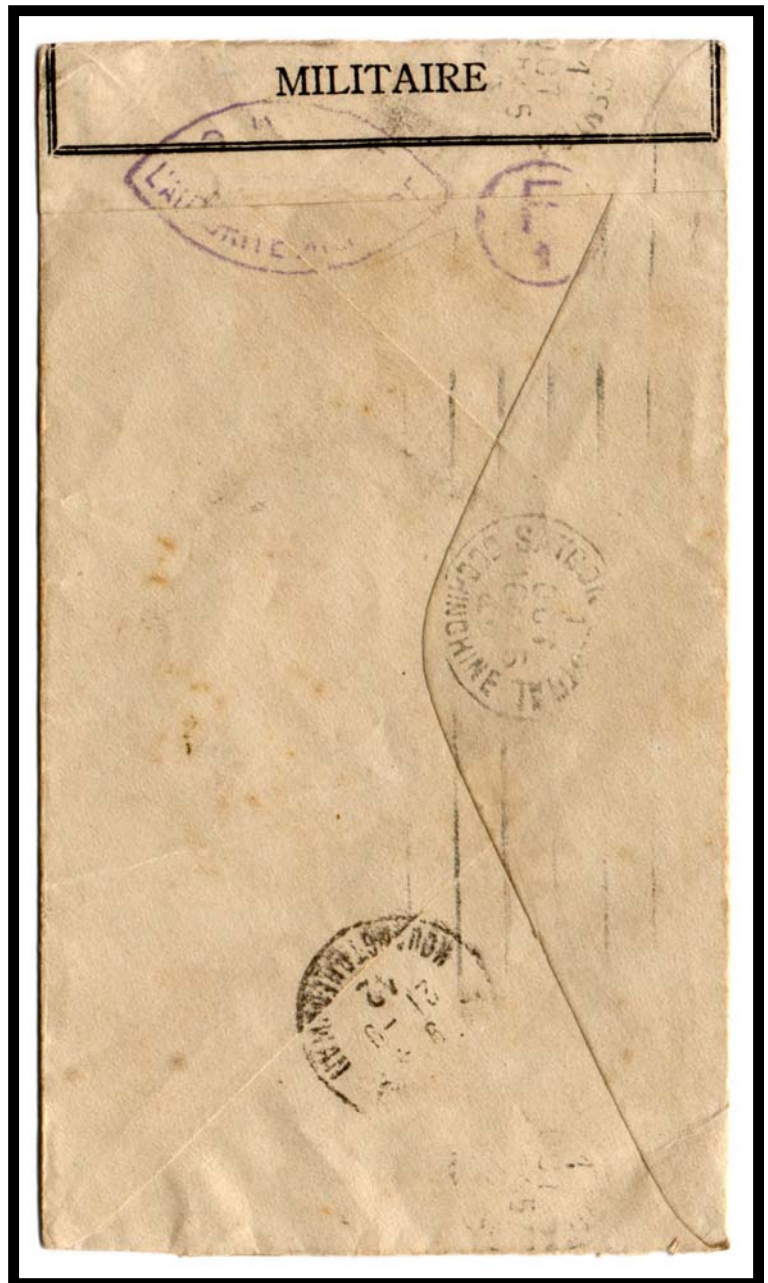
Military Authority football

POSTAL MARKINGS

TCHEKAM KOUANGTCHEOUWAN 21-9 42  
SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 1 OCT 42

REVERSE

TCHEKAM KOUANGTCHEOUWAN 21-9 42  
Military Authority football





## Code G Signature Handstamp Haiphong

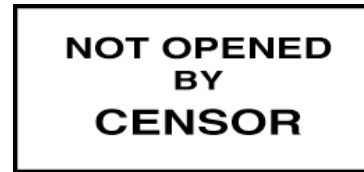
Telegraphy censors would sometimes assist postal censors. The code letter for the telegraph censors at Haiphong was "G". Originating at Tourane in Annam, this letter was censored at Haiphong before leaving Indochina.



censor's signature  
(Haiphong)



sorter's signature  
(Hong Kong)



(Hong Kong)



### POSTAL MARKINGS

TOURANE ANNAM 25-3 41  
 censor's resealing tape  
 censor's signature handstamp (Haiphong)  
 Military Authority football  
 Censor's handstamp (Hong Kong) sorter's  
 handstamp (Hong Kong)

### REVERSE

HUE ANNAM 26-3 41  
 HAIPHONG TONKIN 28-3 41  
 Military Authority football  
 HONG KONG 9 AP 41  
 15 in rectangle

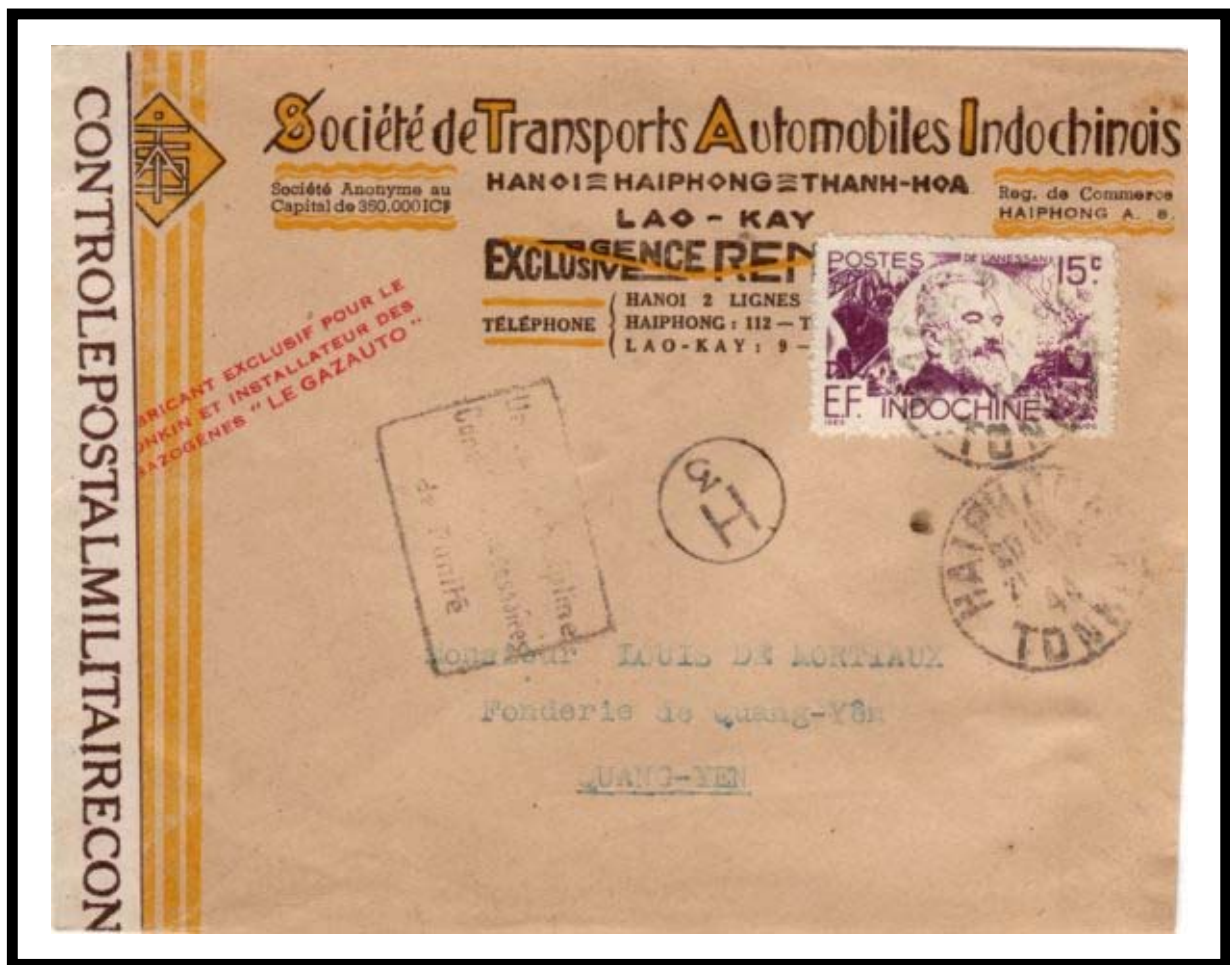


## Code H Signature Handstamp

A 1944 local letter was handstamped with a censor signature using the letter "H." Censor signatures with the letter "H" have not been previously reported.



censor's signature  
(Haiphong)



### POSTAL MARKINGS

HAIPHONG TONKIN 21-12 44  
slogan handstamp

H3 censor signature and censor's resealing tape

### REVERSE

QUANG-YEN TONKIN 22-12 44

Censor Code K  
Saigon

The letter "K" was the code for Saigon's telegraph censors. Here censor K4 applied his mark to a letter posted in 1946, well after World War II was officially ended.



censor's signature handstamp  
(Saigon)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 24-2 46

censor's resealing tape (Saigon)

Military Authority football

K4 in circle - censor's signature handstamp

REVERSE

K4 in circle - censor's signature handstamp

Military Authority football

HANOI R.P. bis  
TONKIN

Specially coded date postmarks were used at the Main Hanoi post office (Recette Principal = R.P.). The marking, which was almost always applied to the back of covers, signified that the post office had turned the letter over to the censors.

The circular date stamps exhibit variations in the spelling of the word "bis". This letter was sent from Hue, Annam to Paris in January 1940. The date stamp on the back of the cover includes "bis" in lower case letters.



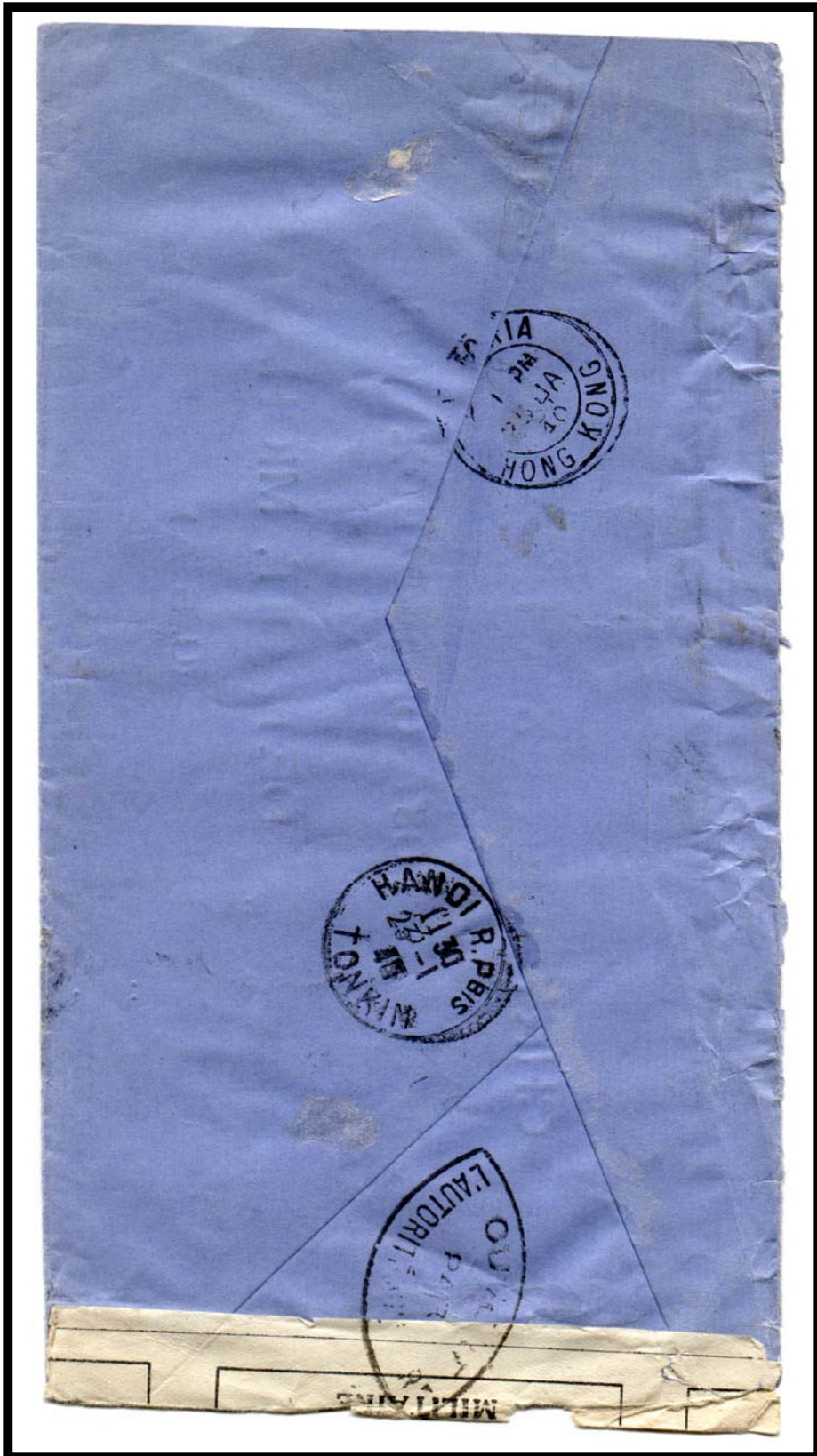
POSTMARK TYPE: G  
PERIOD OF USE: 1939-41



POSTAL MARKINGS  
HANOI R.P. bis TONKIN 26-1 40  
REVERSE  
HUE ANNAM 25-1 40



HANOI R.P. BIS  
TONKIN



A second variety has "BIS " in capital letters but they are only 2.5 millimeters tall. The receipt stamp was applied to this letter to Hong Kong that originated in Haiphong. In this case, the censor definitely examined the contents as evidenced by the paper resealing tape.



POSTMARK TYPE: G  
PERIOD OF USE: 1939-41

POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P.BIS TONKIN 23-1 40  
MILITARY AUTHORITY football  
censor's resealing tape (Indochina)  
VICTORIA HONG KONG 25 JA 40

REVERSE

HAIPHONG TONKIN 22-1 40  
airmail label

Par avion jusqu'a destination handstamp  
MILITARY AUTHORITY football

HANOI R.P. BIS  
TONKIN

The third variation of this marking has the last two letters of "BIS" in 2.5 millimeter type and doubly underlined.

In this instance the letter originated in Shanghai and was addressed to Saigon. The letter was turned over to the censors in Hanoi before going south to Saigon. By the difference in dates, the censors had the letter for one day (30 April until 1 May).



POSTMARK TYPE: G  
PERIOD OF USE: 1941-43



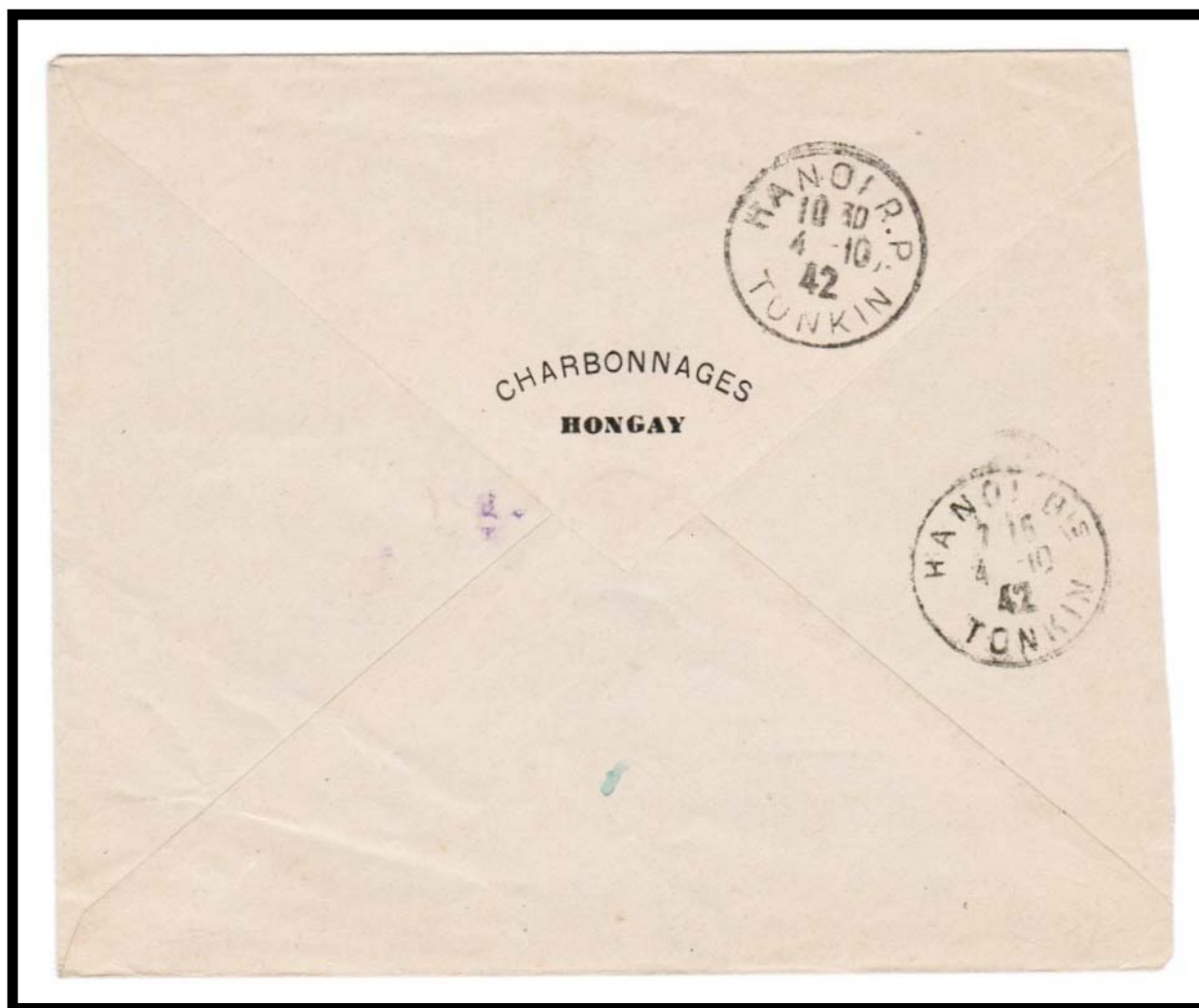
POSTAL MARKINGS  
CANTON 28.4.41  
HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 30-4 41  
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 1-5 41  
REVERSE  
SHANGHAI 14.4.41

HANOI B<sup>IS</sup>  
TONKIN

Two varieties of censor markings that simply use "HANOI" instead of "HANOI R. P." are recorded. One format has a single line under the letters "IS" in the word "B<sup>IS</sup>."



POSTMARK TYPE: G  
PERIOD OF USE: 1942-44



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI B<sup>IS</sup> TONKIN 4-10 42  
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 4-10 42

REVERSE

HON-GAY TONKIN 2-10 42



HANOI BIS  
TONKIN

The double underline of "IS" characterizes the second variety of the dated "HANOI BIS" censor marking. Also, the lettering is larger than the single underline variety.



POSTMARK TYPE: G  
PERIOD OF USE: 1943-44



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI BIS TONKIN 21 6 43  
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 22-6 43

REVERSE

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 18 -6 43

## HANOI BIS TONKIN

During most of World War II, the "HANOI R.P ." designation was the dominant spelling employed for postmarks. Although some Hanoi censorship marks incorporated "HANOI BIS" as opposed to HANOI R.P. BIS," these were only seen in the latter part of the conflict.



POSTMARK TYPE: G  
PERIOD OF USE: 1943-44

### POSTAL MARKINGS

SAM-SON ANNAM 18-9 43  
HANOI BIS TONKIN 20-9 43  
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 20-9 43  
DONG-DANG TONKIN 22-8 43  
CHUNGKING  
PINGSIANG

### REVERSE

SAM-SON ANNAM 18-9 43  
registration label

HANOI R.P. BIS Censor Postmark  
Used as Conventional Postmark

Hanoi's "secret" censor postmarks were almost always applied to the reverse of envelopes. Perhaps because this 1940 mailing was official government correspondence to France, the censor postmark was used to cancel the stamps on the front side of the envelope.



POSTMARK TYPE: G  
PERIOD OF USE: 1939-41

POSTAL MARKINGS  
HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 12-9 40  
airmail label  
Indian censor's signature handstamp and resealing  
tape

REVERSE  
"24" in double lined rectangle



## Coordination between Censors and Post Office

Handling within the Hanoi post office can be traced by the times recorded in the postmarks. On the front, the stamp was canceled with a Hanoi R.P. postmark at 13:10 on 15 July 1940. The Hanoi R.P. BIS postmark shows that the letter was turned over to the censors at 15:30 and was returned to postal personnel at 17:00.



### POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 15 7 40  
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 15-7 40  
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 18-7 40  
CHOLON COCHINCHINE 19-7 40

### REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 15-7 40

## Sealed by Customs

During the war, sending money or other valuables through the mail was prohibited. This registered letter from Saigon to New York City was examined by the Customs service before leaving Indochina. The "VISE PAR LA DOUANE" marking means "Sealed by Customs". It was always applied on the backs of envelopes with manuscript date and initials of the inspector.

## VISÉ PAR LA DOUANE

("Sealed by Customs ")



### POSTAL MARKINGS

HONOLULU, HAWAII REGISTERED NOV 27 1940  
 NEW YORK, N.Y. REG'Y. DIV. 11-30 1940  
 NEW YORK, N.Y. (STA. F) REGISTERED. DEC 2 1940  
 censor's resealing tape (Saigon)  
 "Sealed by Customs" with manuscript date and initials  
 "Sealed by Customs"

### REVERSE

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 7-11 40  
 registration label  
 C8 in circle – censor's signature (Saigon)  
 MILITARY AUTHORITY football  
 REGISTERED handstamp

## Seen by Customs

The second marking that the Customs Service used to certify that an envelope contained no prohibited valuables means "seen by Customs". Like the other marking, it was applied on the back of the envelope and it was supplemented by the inspector's handwritten date and initials.

## Vu par la douane

("Seen by Customs")



### POSTAL MARKINGS

"Seen by Customs" with manuscript date and initials  
censor's resealing tape (Saigon)  
C8 in circle – censor's signature handstamp (Indochina)  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. REG. SEC. JUL 14 1941  
NEW YORK, N.Y. REG'Y. DIV. 7-18 41  
NEW YORK, N.Y. (MORRIS HEIGHTS STA.)  
REGISTERED JUL 18 1941

### REVERSE

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 3-6-41  
C8 in circle  
MILITARY AUTHORITY football



## Seen by Customs

The "seen by Customs" marking was normally applied to the reverse of envelopes. In exceptional instances, it was applied to the front as shown here. In this case, the Customs agent had opened the envelope and then resealed it with brown paper.

## Vu par la douane

"Seen by Customs"



### POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 28-9 40  
registration and airmail labels

"Seen by Customs" handstamp on resealing tape

### REVERSE

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 30-9 40

## Forwarding Authorized President of Censor Commission

In addition to the normal censor markings, the back of this 1941 cover bears a rectangular handstamp applied at Saigon. It translates: "Forwarding Authorized. Postal Control Office, Saigon. The President of the Censor Commission."

ACHEMINEMENT AUTORISÉ  
CONTRÔLE POSTAL SAIGON  
Le President de Commission



### POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 16 SEPT 41  
C10 censor signature and resealing tape  
forwarding authorization handstamp  
"PASSED BY CENSOR 223 A" (Singapore) and resealing tape  
INDE FRANCAISE PONDICHERRY 21 • 10 • 1941

### REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 16 SEPT 41  
military authority football



## Seized by the Military Authority

Censors took possession of letters that they considered to posing a risk to security. To prevent these letters from reentering the mail stream, they were handstamped with a distinction indication. In this case, the large hexagonal marking reads "SEIZED BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITY."



POSTAL MARKINGS  
PHANRANG ANNAM 9-11 43  
"SEIZED BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITY"



## Bank Censor Exemption Tourane

By agreement with the government, several official and semi-official organizations were granted exemptions from censoring. Naturally, it was important to its business that the Bank of Indochina avoid delays in processing financial transactions. Accordingly, the bank instructed its branch offices to prepare special markings to indicate the exemption for their mailings.

The Tourane branch office employed at least two markings. One was a small exemption marking with a frame 5 centimeters wide by 2 centimeters high. A range of sizes was necessary for different size covers. Here Tourane's censor exemption marking was applied with violet ink.

COURRIER DE LA BANQUE PRIVILIGIÉE  
A EXPÉDIER SANS DELAI  
EXEMPT DE CENSURE



### POSTAL MARKINGS

TOURANE ANNAM 5-2 40  
airmail label

### REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 7-2 40  
HANOI R.P. bis TONKIN 7-4 40

## Bank Censor Exemption Tourane

Tourane's branch office of the Bank of Indochina also had a bold marking with 6 millimeter lettering in a large rectangular frame. Here the exemption marking was struck in red ink.

COURRIER DE LA BANQUE PRIVILEGIEE  
A EXPÉDIER SANS DELAI  
EXEMPT DE CENSURE



POSTAL MARKINGS  
TOURANE ANNAM 6-1 40  
REVERSE  
HAIPHONG TONKIN 7-1 40

Bank Censor Exemption  
Cantho

At Cantho, the bank used the same wording as the Qui-Nhon branch office. However, in a departure from usual practice, the marking was applied with blue ink.

SERVICE DE LA  
BANQUE PRIVILEGIEE  
DE L'INDOCHINE



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CANTHO COCHINCHINE 23-1 40  
REVERSE  
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 23-1 40  
HAIPHONG TONKIN 26-1 40



Bank Censor Exemption  
Dalat

The Dalat branch's marking was similar to that used by the Saigon branch except that it included a second line, which read "EXEMPT DE CENSURE."

S<sup>C</sup>E DE LA BANQUE PRIVILEGIEE DE L'INDOCHINE  
EXEMPT DE CENSURE



POSTAL MARKINGS  
DALAT ANNAM 1-6 40  
slogan handstamp

Bank Censor Exemption  
Haiphong

The bank's exemption marking for Haiphong consisted of large, unframed lettering. The handstamp was applied with red ink.

COURRIER DE LA BANQUE  
PRIVILÉGIÉE A EXPÉDIER SANS DÉLAI/  
EXEMPT DE CENSURE



POSTAL MARKINGS  
HAIPHONG TONKIN 7-10 39  
REVERSE  
HANOI R. P. TONKIN 8-10 39

## Bank Censor Exemption Haiphong

Posted in 1943 from Haiphong to Tokyo without an exemption handstamp, the sender likely recognized that it was futile to claim immunity from censoring by the Japanese authorities.



### POSTAL MARKINGS

HAIPHONG TONKIN 27-1 43  
airmail label

### REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 28-1 43  
HANOI B<sup>is</sup> TONKIN 28-1 43  
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 30-1 43



Bank Censor Exemption  
Hanoi

The format for Hanoi's censor exemption marking closely resembled that employed by the Nam-Dinh branch office.

COURRIER DE LA BANQUE  
PRIVILÉGIÉE À EXPÉDIER SANS  
DELAÏ/ EXEMPT DE CENSURE



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI-A TONKIN 11-1 40  
registration label

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 11-1 40  
HAI-PHONG TONKIN 12-1 40

Bank Censor Exemption  
Hue

The Hue branch office of the Bank of Indochina used the same exemption making that the Tourane branch office used. As was typical, the exemption marking was struck in red ink.

COURRIER DE LA BANQUE PRIVILEGIEE  
A EXPÉDIER SANS DELAI  
EXEMPT DE CENSURE



POSTAL MARKINGS

HUE ANNAM 11-4 40  
registration label

REVERSE

HAIPHONG TONKIN 13-1 40

## Bank Censor Exemption Nam-Dinh

Nam-Dinh's version of an exemption marking used 3-millimeter capital letters meaning "Privileged bank mail to be sent on without delay. Exempt from censoring."

COURRIER DE LA BANQUE  
PRIVILÉGIÉE À EXPÉDIER SANS  
DELAI/ EXEMPT DE CENSURE



POSTAL MARKINGS  
NAM-DINH TONKIN 1-2 40  
REVERSE  
HAIPHONG TONKIN 1-2 40



Bank Censor Exemption  
Pnompenh



BANQUE DE L'INDOCHINE

Société Anonyme au Capital de 120.000.000 de Frs

Agence de Pnom-Penh

R. C. Pnom-Penh N° 14

Recommandé

COUREUR DE LA  
BANQUE DE L'INDOCHINE  
A EXEMPTER LE CAS DELAI  
EXEMPT DE CENSURE

R N° 9  
Pnom-Penh

PNOMPENH  
12-10-1917  
CAMBODGE



Banque de l'Indochine  
Bureau de

Dalat

Bank Censor Exemption  
Qui-Nhon

The Qui-Nhon branch office employed different wording for its marking meaning "Business of the Privileged Bank of Indochina." As was typical, the marking was applied with red ink.

SERVICE DE LA  
BANQUE PRIVILEGIEE  
DE L'INDOCHINE



POSTAL MARKINGS  
QUI-NHON ANNAM 13-1 40  
REVERSE  
HAIPHONG TONKIN 15-1 40

Bank Censor Exemption  
Saigon

The exemption marking used by the Saigon branch office ("Succursale de Saigon") was struck in blue ink and did not explicitly mention censorship. It simply noted, "Privileged mail."

S<sup>CE</sup> DE LA BANQUE PRIVILEGIEE DE L'INDOCHINE



POSTAL MARKINGS  
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 7 FEV 40  
REVERSE

HANOI R.P<sup>BIS</sup> TONKIN 9-2 40  
HAIPHONG TONKIN 9-2 40



Bank Censor Exemption  
Saigon

Like many other locations, the Saigon branch office used red ink to apply its "privileged mail" handstamp.

SCÉ DE LA BANQUE PRIVILEGIEÉ DE L'INDOCHINE



POSTAL MARKINGS  
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 6-7 40  
REVERSE  
DALAT ANNAM 7-7 40

## Bank Censor Exemption Saigon

The handstamp claiming "Privileged Mail" was evidently not honored by the censor in Singapore, who opened the bank's letter to the Royal Bank of Canada to examine it.

S<sup>CE</sup> DE LA BANQUE PRIVILEGIEE DE L'INDOCHINE



### POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 4-7 41  
"PASSED BY CENSOR 243" and resealing tape (Singapore)

Bank Censor Exemption  
Vinh

The bank's branch office in Vinh used an unframed, three-line handstamp. The marking was applied using red ink.

Courrier **BANQUE PRIVILEGIEE**  
à expédier sans délai  
**EXEMPT DE CENSURE**



POSTAL MARKINGS  
VINH ANNAM 11-3 40  
REVERSE  
HAIPHONG TONKIN 13-3 40



Bank Censor Exemption  
Fort Bayard

The practice of marking bank mail for exemption from censoring extended to the leased territory of Kouang Cho Wan.



POSTAL MARKINGS

FORT BAYARD KOUANG TCHEOU WAN 24-2 40  
slogan hanstamp

REVERSE

HAIPHONG TONKIN 4-3 40

Bank Censor Exemption  
Yunnanfou

Like the branches of the Bank of Indochina located in Indochina proper, the satellite branch in Yunnanfou, China used its own censor exemption marking. Consistent with bank practice, the marking was applied with red ink.

COURRIER DE LA BANQUE  
PRIVILEGIEE A EXPEDIER SANS DELAI  
EXEMPT DE CENSURE



POSTAL MARKINGS  
KUNMING YUNNANFOU 7. 5. 40  
REVERSE  
HAI-PHONG TONKIN 11-5 40

Entry Refused  
Return to Sender

Upon arrival at Tinh Tuc Tonkin in May 1940, this envelope was marked for forwarding to Paris. However, in the interim, because the Germans had occupied the northern part of France in June 1940, the cover was handstamped "Not to be admitted. Return to Sender."

# “INADMIS” RETOUR À L'ENVOYEUR



## POSTAL MARKINGS

AIX EN PROVENCE B. DU R. 6-5 40

airmail label

OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE football and censor's resealing tape

"INADMIS" RETOUR À L'ENVOYEUR handstamp

## REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 15-5 40

TINH TUC TONKIN 17-5 40



## Interrupted Service on Mail from China to England

Normally, mail from China to Europe would be carried westward on Air France from Indochina. When Air France ceased operations in June 1940, alternate routes had to be found. In this case, after several months delay, a registered letter posted at Shanghai, was sent via transpacific service through the United States to England. A handstamp offered an explanation to the recipient.

Diverted by air via U. S. A. owing to  
suspension of Air France Service.



### POSTAL MARKINGS

SHANGHAI 19.6.40

registration label and "REGISTERED" (purple) handstamp

"Diverted by air via U.S.A. owing to suspension of Air France Service." (purple)

cancelor's resealing tape

### REVERSE

SHANGHAI 19.6.40

HONOLULU, HAWAII REGISTERED SEP 6 1940

NEW YORK, U.S.A. FOREIGN 9-9 1940

Indochina – France Interrupted Service  
17 May 1940

The *Felix Roussel* was the last French ship to depart Indochina at the beginning of World War II in France. Arriving at the Suez Canal, she was seized and interned by the British.

This letter was posted 26 July 1940 aboard the *Duguay-Trouin*, a French cruiser. After the French defeat, this ship, along with others in Alexandria, were likewise seized by the British to prevent them from joining the German Fleet. At some point, British censors in Egypt examined the letter and judged it free to pass.

But, as the Nazis extended their control over France, mail remained stuck in Egypt. Ultimately, the British decided to send the mail from the *Felix Roussel* back to Indochina. A large handstamp explained that the service had been interrupted ostensibly on 17 May 1940. To cope with letters from various places addressed to France that had been stuck in Egypt, the British also sent this mail to Indochina.



POSTAL MARKINGS

CROISEUR-DUGUAY-TROUIN 26-7 40  
censor's resealing tape  
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 22 JANV 41

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 18-1 41



Indochina – France Interrupted Service  
17 May 1940

British authorities employed two types of handstamps, framed and unframed, to notify senders that the mail connection between Indochina and France had been severed. In this case, a returned letter originally mailed from Laos in April 1940 reached Hanoi in January 1941 before getting to Laos in February 1941.

Retour à l'expéditeur  
Voyage Indochine-France  
du 17 Mai 1940 Interrompu



POSTAL MARKINGS

PAKLAY LAOS 29-4 40

expéditeur's resealing tape and return to sender handstamp

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 18-1 41

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 25 JANV 41

VIENTIANE LAOS 28-2 41



Return to Sender  
Correspondence Prohibited to the Occupied Zone

After the German military authorities sealed the borders of Occupied France in July 1940, incoming letters were refused. Limoges was one of the cities where mail was collected for return. Mailed in August 1940, this cover was finally returned to its sender from Indochina in November 1941, fifteen months later.

RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR  
RELATIONS POSTALES  
INTERROMPUES

RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR -  
CORRESPONDANCE INADMISE  
POUR LA ZONE OCCUPEE



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 16-8 40

LIMOGES R.P. HTE VIENNE 18-5 41

Military Authority football and censor resealing tape  
Return to Sender handstamps

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 5-11 41

Return to Sender  
Correspondence Prohibited to the Occupied Zone

After the German military authorities sealed the borders of Occupied France in July 1940, incoming letters were refused. Limoges was one of the cities where mail was collected for return. Mailed in October 1940, this cover was finally returned to its sender from Indochina in November 1941.

RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR -  
CORRESPONDANCE INADMISE  
POUR LA ZONE OCCUPEE

RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR  
RELATIONS POSTALES  
INTERROMPUES



POSTAL MARKINGS

UONGBI TONKIN 24-10 40  
Suspended Service handstamps  
LIMOGES RP HAUTE-VIENNE 10-5 41

REVERSE

HAI-PHONG TONKIN 24-10 40  
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 5-11 41  
UONGBI TONKIN 7-11 41

Return to Sender  
Postal Relations Interrupted

Sent by airmail to France, this letter was returned because it was addressed to occupied France. The "Return to Sender. Postal Relations Interrupted" handstamp was applied with purple ink at Marseilles.

The postmark on the reverse indicates that the letter took over a year to make the round trip from Indochina to France and back.

RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR  
RELATIONS POSTALES  
INTERROMPUES



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 24-10 40  
Return to Sender. Postal Relations Interrupted handstamp

REVERSE

BUDOP COCHINCHINE 18-11 41



## Refused Mail

First censored in Indochina, this letter was sent from Haiphong in November 1940 via combined transpacific/ transatlantic airmail service. Arriving in Europe, it was diverted to Berlin where it was inspected for a second time and resealed with a label (reverse). It was marked for return to sender first in red, which was later struck out. Black handstamps in French were also applied. Inspected for a third time by the Allies, the envelope was resealed with transparent tape.

Retour      Inadmis  
Postverkehr nicht zugelassen.

RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR  
RELATIONS POSTALES  
INTERROMPUES



### POSTAL MARKINGS

HAI-PHONG TONKIN 16-11 40  
censor resealing label (Indochina) and tape  
"refused" and "return to sender" handstamps

### REVERSE

HANOI R.P. bis TONKIN 18-11 40  
censor's handstamp and censor's resealing label (Germany)

Return to Sender  
Postal Relations Interrupted

A letter mailed from Indochina to Paris in January 1941 was refused and handstamped with an unframed marking which said "Return to sender. Postal relations interrupted." The mailing had made it as far as France, but could not be processed for entry into occupied France and hence was returned.

RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR  
RELATIONS POSTALES  
INTERROMPUES



POSTAL MARKINGS

GIADINH COCHINCHINE 22-1 41

"Return to sender Postal relations interrupted" (purple)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 23 JANV 41



Mail Service Suspended  
by Military Authority

Addressed to Papeete Tahiti, this cover was directed to go via Sydney by Dutch KNILM service. The handstamped marking indicates that the military had closed the route. Lacking any other markings, it is likely that the envelope remained in Saigon until after the war.

Acheminement Suspendu  
PAR L'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 17-2 41  
Suspended Service handstamp (purple)



Impounded Letter  
on Mail from Indochina to France

Sent by dual ocean service from Saigon to Lyon, this letter was censored in Bermuda and impounded. The manuscript "R.CL" with number on the resealing label is believed to stand for "registry of censored letters" and served as a means for retrieving seized letters. Held till the closing of the station in Bermuda on 1 May 1944, the impounded mail was moved to Britain. After the war, when the courts allowed mail to be sent onward, letters were stamped with "RELEASED" with three wavy lines above.

~~~~~  
RELEASED



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 15-4 41  
registration label  
censor's resealing label (Bermuda) and "RELEASED" handstamp

REVERSE

"Seen by Customs" handstamp with signature

Impounded Letter  
on Mail from Indochina to France

Sent from Hanoi to an official of the national government in Vichy in June 1941, this mailing was censored and then impounded by the Allied forces. After the war, when the courts had released them, embargoed letters received a handstamp on the censor's band. This letter was delivered nearly five years after it was originally posted.

~~~~~  
RELEASED



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI TONKIN 4-8 41

registration label

censor's resealing label (Bermuda or Britain)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 10-8 41

PARIS VII SERVICES PUBLICS 28-1 46



Mail Service Suspended  
by Military Authority

First marked "via Lydda", this airmail cover to Hanoi was redirected to go by air as far as Dakar ("Voie aeriene jusqu'a Dakar"). The last ship for Saigon left Dakar on 1 August 1941. After that, military authorities suspended mail services. The letter remained in Africa until after the end of the war.

Acheminement Suspendu  
PAR L'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE



POSTAL MARKINGS

VALENCE DROME 20-8 41  
OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE NF208 football (France)  
Suspended Service handstamp (red)  
censor's resealing tapes (France)

REVERSE

OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE NF208 football (France)  
Suspended Service handstamp  
TAMATAVIE MADAGASCAR 3 NOV 41  
TANANARIVE MADAGASCAR 30-8 45  
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 10-11 45



Return to Sender  
Service Suspended

The last ship going to Marseille around the Cape of Good Hope left Saigon on 6 September 1941. After waiting unsuccessfully for another ship, this cover was marked "Return to Sender Service Suspended" at Saigon. The letter arrived back in Hanoi nearly 4 months after being mailed.

Retour à l'envoyeur  
Service suspendu



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 2-10-41

"Retour à l'envoyeur Service suspendu" handstamp

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 3-10-41

HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 3-10-41

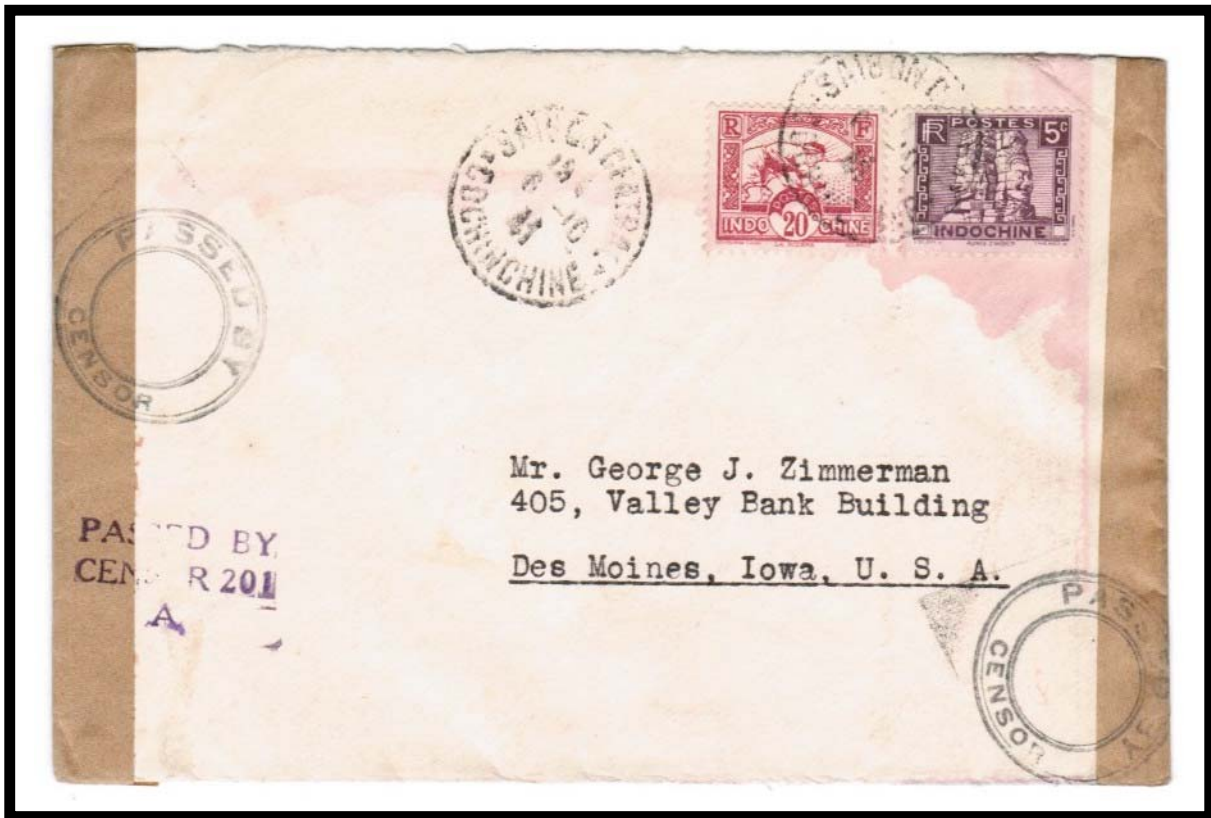
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 5-10-41

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 27-1-42

## Pearl Harbor Interruption

A sender posted his letter on 6 October 1941 from Saigon to Des Moines, Iowa. Rather than paying extra for airmail service across the Pacific Ocean, he elected to send it via surface mail. The mailing was censored first in Singapore ("PASSED BY CENSOR 201 A") and again upon entering the United States (circular "PASSED BY CENSOR").

The 7 December attack on Pearl Harbor, which opened the Pacific Theater of the war, severely restricted the free movement of mails. Usually, one can not determine the transit time for mailings that were not registered. However, in this case, a backstamp shows that this letter arrived on 31 January 1942. By saving the airmail surcharge, the sender's letter spent almost four months in transit after the original posting. It was probably fortunate to have arrived at all!

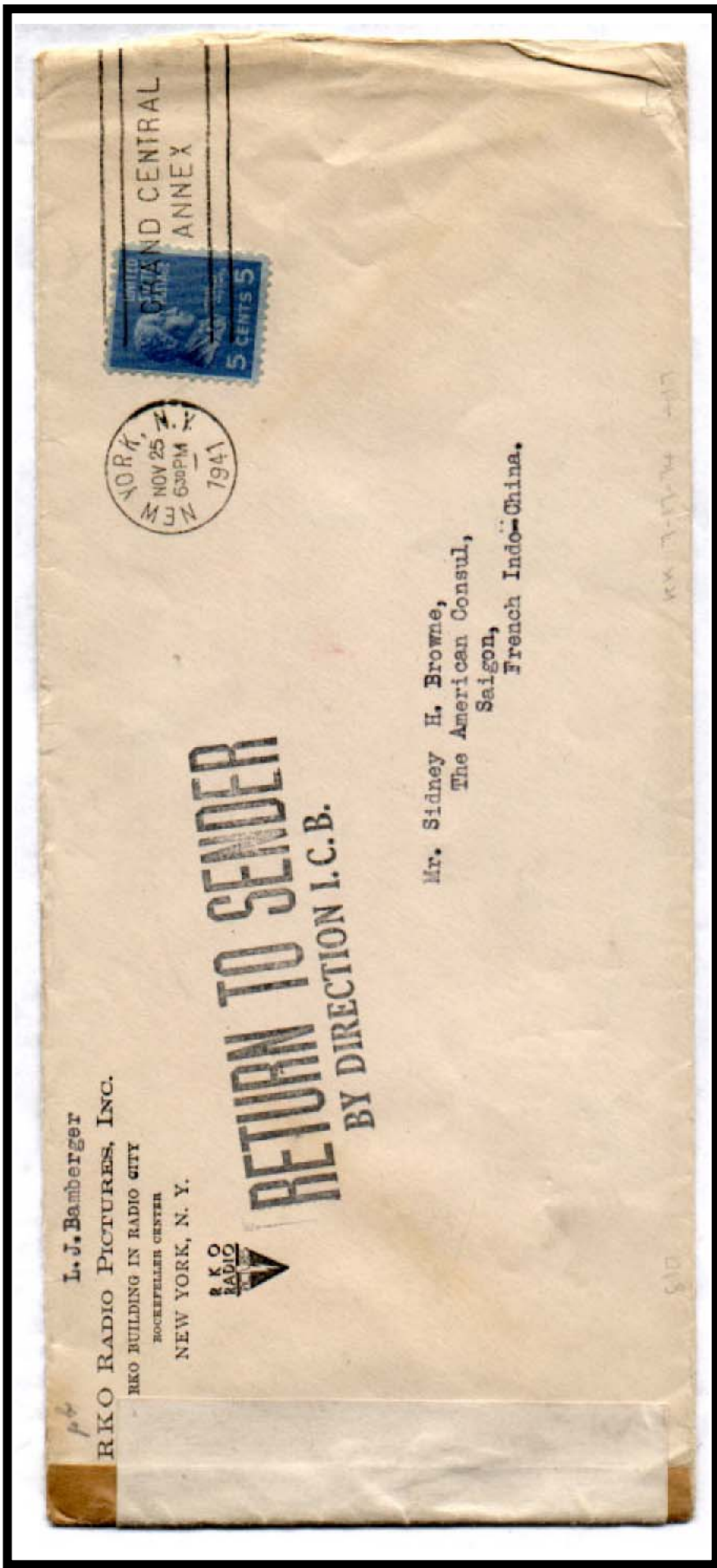


### POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 6-10 41  
censor resealing tape and censor handstamps (Singapore and United States)

REVERSE

DES MOINES, IOWA REC'D JAN 21 1942



Return to Sender on Mail from  
the United States  
to Indochina

This cover was posted from New York City by sea mail on 25 November 1941, two weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor. The letter was marked to be returned, no doubt as a result of America's entry into World War II. "I.C.B." stood for "Information Control Branch," an American agency.

On the reverse, the censor's resealing label is imprinted "EXAMINED BY 1705." San Francisco was allocated numbers 1461-1740. The main activity of this censor station was mail to and from the Pacific area. Hence, it seems certain that the I.C.B. handstamp was applied in San Francisco and the cover never left the mainland of the United States.

POSTAL MARKINGS  
NEW YORK, N.Y. NOV 25 1941  
censor's resealing label  
"RETURN TO SENDER BY  
DIRECTION I.C.B." handstamp



## Pearl Harbor Day Letter

This cover was posted on 6 December 1941 from Tinhbien to a post office box, but the sender had neglected to indicate the city. A postal clerk had written "Voi Saigon" in pencil.

Ultimately, the cover appears to have reached the sender on 8 December according to the handwritten notation at the top, left. Students of history will recall that the attack on Pearl Harbor had occurred on a Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of December. As Indochina was on the other side of the International Dateline, it was already the 8<sup>th</sup> when the attack took place. The transit time was typical of the period, but all things normal would change dramatically with the opening of war in the Pacific.



### POSTAL MARKINGS

TINHBIEN COCHINCHINE 6-12 41

### REVERSE

TINHBIEN COCHINCHINE 6-12 41

CHAUDOC COCHINCHINE 8 DEC 41

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 8 DEC 41

Return to Sender  
Service Suspended

The attack on Pearl Harbor led to the rapid constriction of postal services in Asia. Posted from Saigon, two days before Christmas, this mailing was addressed (in Chinese) to Hong Kong. The British surrendered Hong Kong to the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941. The envelope was marked for return to sender.

Retour à l'envoyeur  
Service suspendu



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 23-12 41  
"Retour à l'envoyeur Service suspendu" handstamp  
blue crayon cross-outs

Interrupted Service  
Indochina to China

A wartime mailing within Japanese controlled territory from Nam-Dinh, Tonkin to Shanghai, China was posted as airmail. Since airmail via civilian aviation was extremely limited in 1943, the letter was transmitted by land. A handstamp in Chinese and English provided an explanation as "Diverted to be sent by surface route."



POSTAL MARKINGS

NAM-DINH TONKIN 1-2 43  
explanatory handstamp (purple)  
manuscript notations written in Chinese

REVERSE

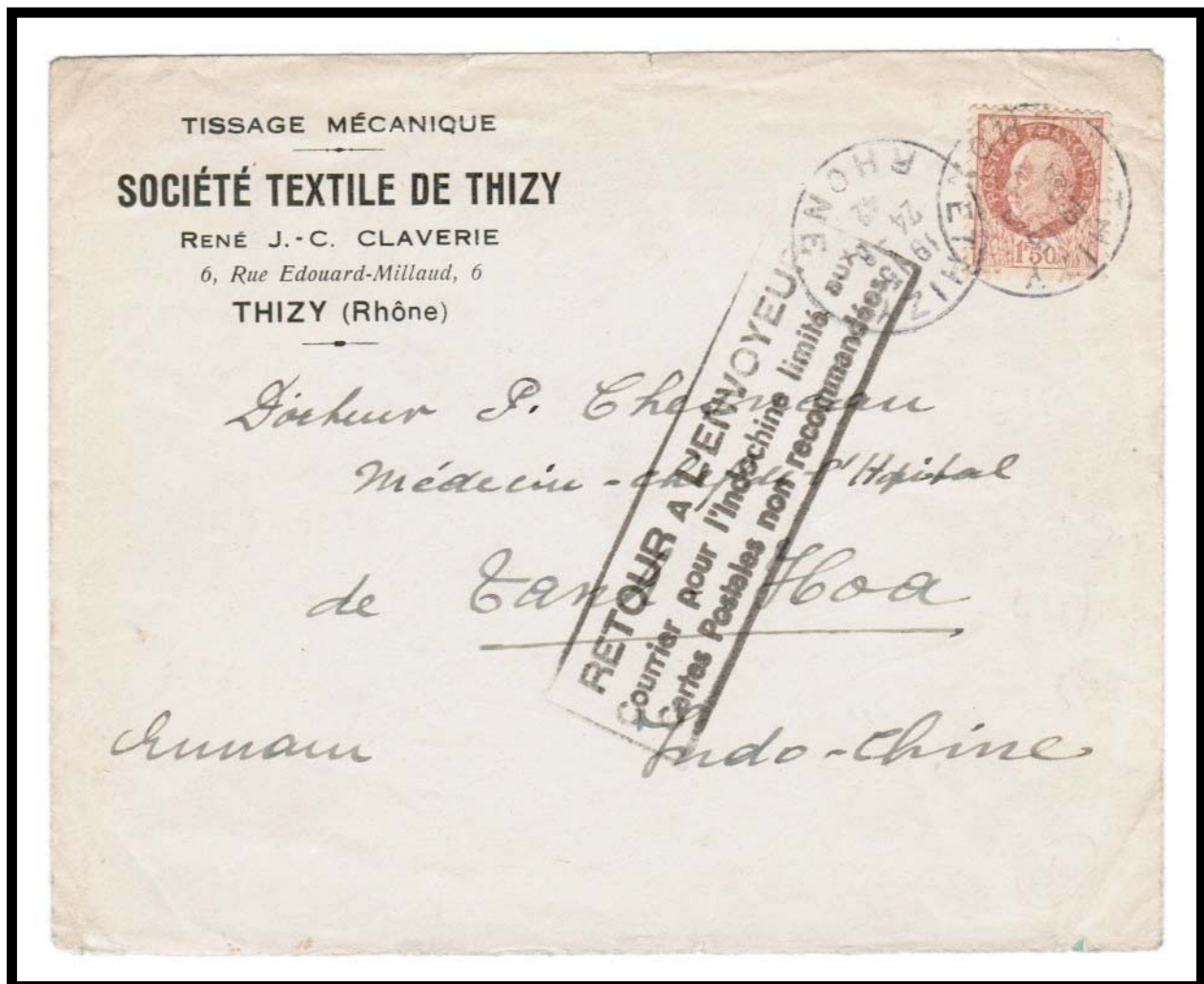
HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 2-2 43



## Restrictions on Mail to Indochina

A letter posted from France in August 1942 was returned to sender with a handstamp that advised mail to Indochina was limited to unregistered postcards.

**RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR**  
Courrier pour l'Indochine limité aux  
Cartes Postales non recommandées



POSTAL MARKINGS  
ETHIZY RHONE 24-6 42  
return to sender handstamp

## Family News Postal Card

Following the Franco-German armistice, the German Army established military control over an occupied zone of northern and western France. Starting on 1 August 1940, mail out of the occupied portion was prohibited except for postal cards that contained only "family news" on one side of the card. Messages could not contain comments on conditions in the occupied area.

Not surprisingly, communications were slowed considerably by wartime conditions. This postal card, sent on 13 November 1940 to a civilian connected with the Far East Naval Forces, did not arrive at Saigon until 10 February 1941.

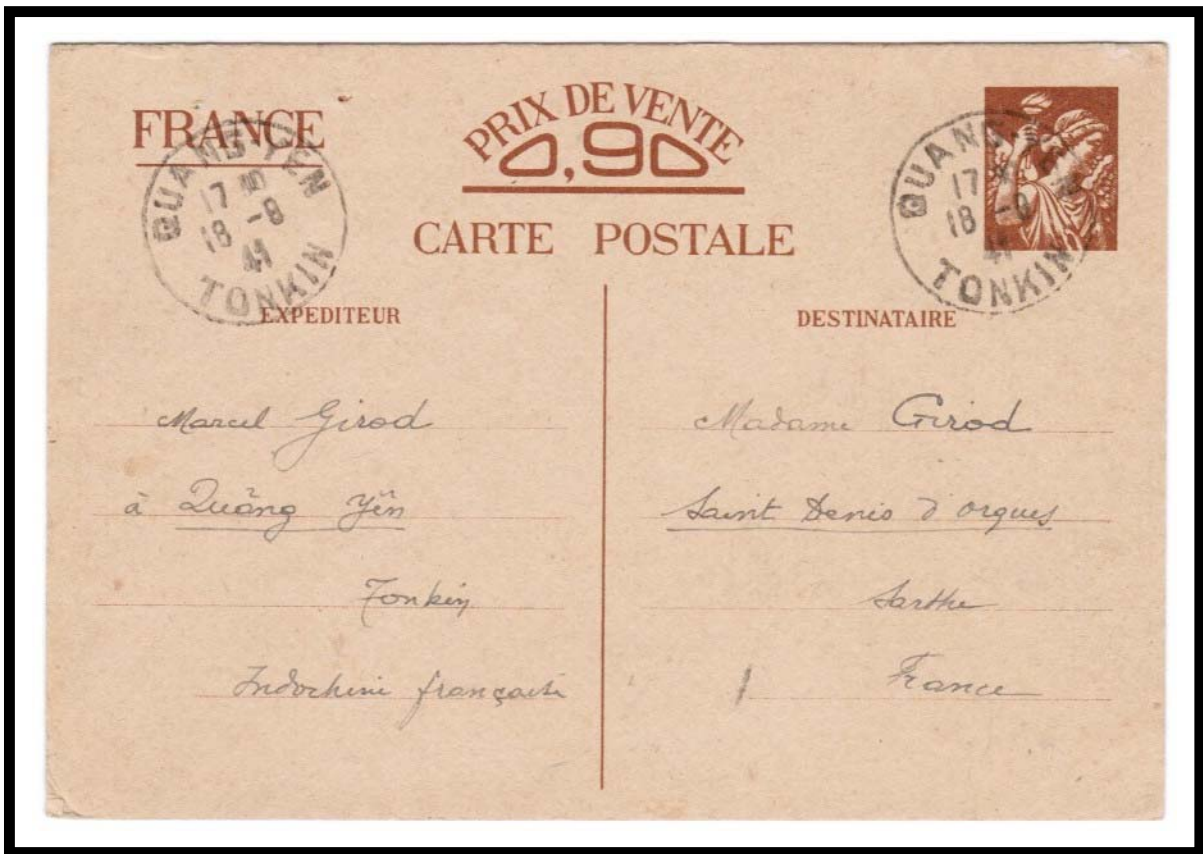


### POSTAL MARKINGS

VIRE CALAVADOS 13-11 40  
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 10 FEVR 41

# Family News Postal Card

Going westward in August 1941, this postal card was sent from Quang-Yen, Annam to Sarthe in occupied France. To be accepted, both the sender and addressee had to be clearly identified. The reverse of the postal card allowed only seven lines for the message.



POSTAL MARKINGS  
QUANG-YEN ANNAM 18-8 41



## Family News Postal Card Interrupted Service

This postal card was sent from Hanoi to Paris in occupied France. Curiously, the card was postmarked at Saigon in October 1941. To be accepted, both the sender and addressee had to be clearly identified. The reverse of the postal card allowed only seven lines for the message.

Despite meeting these requirements, a handstamp indicates that postal service had been suspended and that the item was to be returned to sender.

Retour à l'expéditeur  
Service suspendu



### POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 2-10 41  
Service Suspended handstamp

Family News Postal Card  
Airmail Surcharge

To provide speedier service via airmail, the post office introduced a supplementary surcharge, which was indicated with a handstamp. Details were filled in by the postal clerk who accepted the postal card.

PARIS R.P AVION  
Surtaxe Aérienne Perçue  
le..... frs



POSTAL MARKINGS

PARIS R.P. DEPART 5-4 41  
airmail surcharge handstamp

## Family News Postal Card Interrupted Service

Later versions of Family News Postal cards were blank on the reverse allowing much longer messages to be composed. Posted on 12 May 1944 to Hue, Annam, this card failed to reach the destination. The address was crossed out with blue crayon and it was handstamped with a small "Retour à l'expéditeur Inadmis" in purple ink at the upper left and a larger "Relations Suspendues" below the indicium.

Retour à l'expéditeur  
Inadmis

**Relations Suspendues**



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CHATEAU-THIERRY 12-5 44



## Family News Postal Card Interrupted Service

A shortage of envelopes used for transporting cards to the airport led the French post office to handstamping interzone cards with the airmail surcharge in November 1942. But with the Allied invasion of North Africa, all airmail service ceased and cards posted after 8 November, such as this example addressed to Dalat, were marked for return to sender.

Relations  
suspendues



### POSTAL MARKINGS

BORDEAUX R.P. GIRONDE 29-12 42  
TAXE PERCUE BORDEAUX R.P. 1f20  
framed "Relations Suspendu" and framed "Return to Sender"

# Family News Postal Card Interrupted Service

Sent from an orphanage near Mornant in occupied France to the Plei-Ku Mission in Annam, this card was marked with a "Relations suspended" handstamp in purple. A postal clerk struck out the address with blue crayon and marked the card to be returned to the sender.

RETOUR  
À L'ENVOYEUR

Relations suspendues



## POSTAL MARKINGS

"Relations suspended"  
framed "Return to Sender"

## Indochinese Receipt Censor on Internal Mail

Presumably censors could examine all mail including official letters. Here a registered, insured (CHARGÉ) letter from the Resident Superior of Laos to the Director of the Bank of Indochina received a censor's handstamp upon arrival in Saigon.



POSTAL MARKINGS

VIENTIANE LAOS 1-9 39  
registration label

CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C INDOCHINE

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 8-9 39



## Indochinese Receipt Censor on Internal Mail

Registration did not prevent examination by censors. This registered letter was posted from Dalat, Annam in 1942. While there is no evidence of censoring at the origin or en route, the letter was examined by censor D3 upon arrival in Pnompenh, Cambodia.



censor's signature  
(Cambodia)



Military Authority football

### POSTAL MARKINGS

DALAT ANNAM 10-11 42

registration label

censor's resealing tape (Cambodia)

D3 in circle - censor's signature (Cambodia)

Military Authority football

### REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 13-11 42

PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 14-11 42

Military Authority football

D3 in circle - censor's signature (Cambodia)

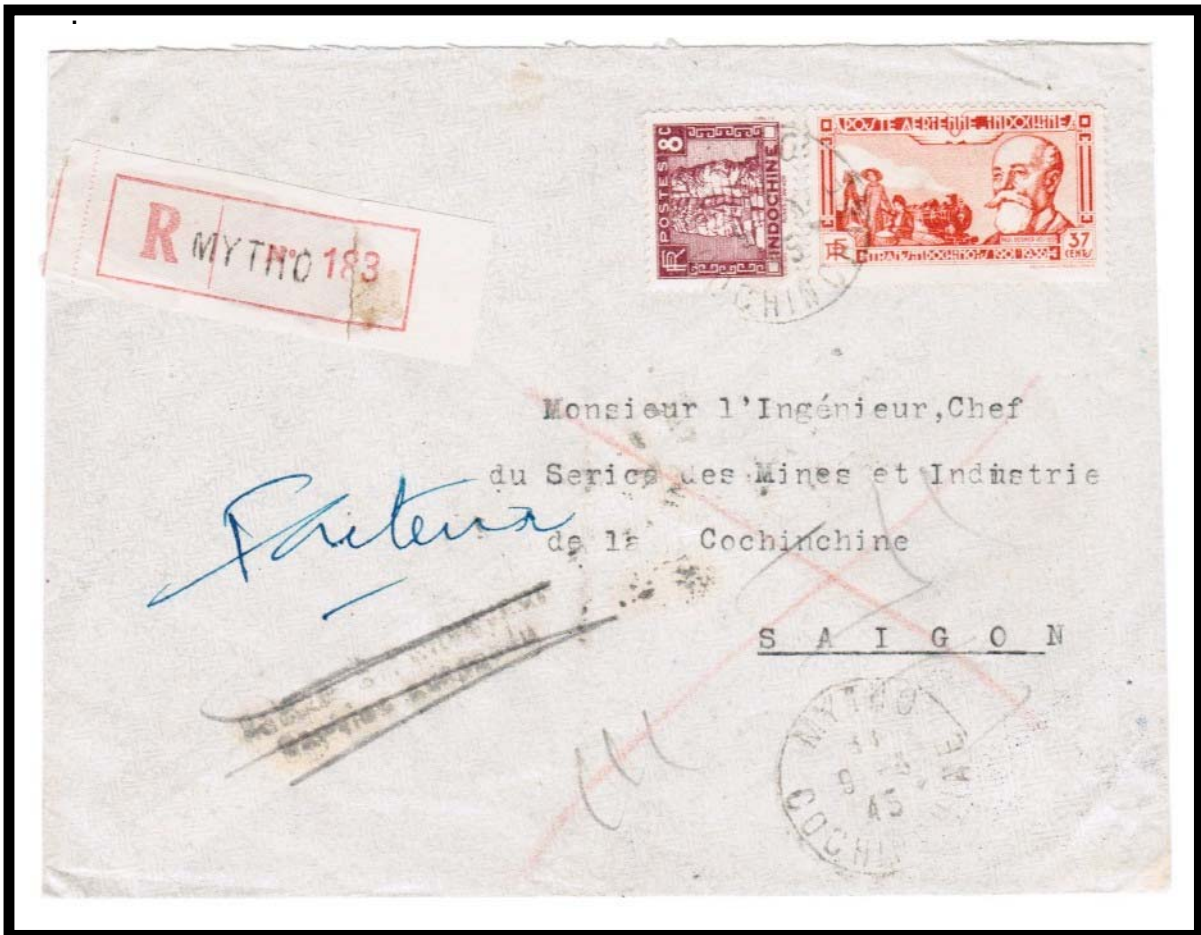


## Japanese Coup d'Etat

On 9 March 1945, Japanese troops seized control of Indochina. Almost 12,000 French were captured and 3,000 were killed in the days immediately following.

This registered cover was posted from Mytho to Saigon on 9 March 1945, the day of the Japanese coup d'etat. The addressee was the Chief Engineer of the Mines and Industry Service, Jacques Desrousseau. Desrousseau and his family were interred following the Japanese seizure.

Normally, a letter from Mytho to Saigon would take a day or so. However, under these extraordinary circumstances, even a registered letter could not be delivered. The address was crossed out. A handstamp that appears to read "Retour à l'envoyeur / Service suspendu" (Return to sender/ Service suspended) was applied but then struck through. Above the lined-out handstamp, the word "Facteur" (Mailman) was handwritten. The purpose is unclear. Two postmarks on the reverse are from Saigon-Principal and are dated 12 and 25 April, some six weeks after the initial posting.



### POSTAL MARKINGS

MYTHO COCHINCHINE 9-3 45  
registration label

lined out "Return to sender. Service suspended" and handwritten "Facteur"

### REVERSE

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 18-4 25



## Japanese Censor on Internal Mail

This registered cover was posted from Vientiane on 24 February 1945. Shortly thereafter, on 9 March 1945, Japanese forces stationed in Indochina overthrew the government. In the aftermath, Japanese authorities rounded up all French citizens and imprisoned many who were officials.

This letter sent by a military doctor at the Vientiane Hospital to an addressee at Phantiet, got caught in the turmoil. At the time, the Japanese censored all registered mail. In this case, a large block marking with Japanese characters meaning "censorship" was applied with red ink to the front of the cover. Additionally, the censor applied a "CONTROLÉ" handstamp in black ink. Previously, used primarily on telegrams, the Japanese censors adopted this French marking and always applied it to the registration label.



### POSTAL MARKINGS

VIENTIANE LAOS 24-2 45  
registration label

CONTROLÉ and censor handstamp (Japanese)

### REVERSE

VIENTIANE LAOS 24-2 45  
HUE ANNAM 8-3 45

PHANTHET ANNAM 19 4 45

SAIGON PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 8-5 45



## Japanese Censor on Internal Mail

The manuscript notation “*Phở bảo đảm*” means “registered letter” on a local mailing in March 1945. Japanese censors examined all registered letters and marked those that passed muster with a straight-line “*CONTROLÉ*” on the registration label.



### POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 15-3 45  
CONTROLÉ on registration label

### REVERSE

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 15-3 45