

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

Indochinese Receipt Censor on Mail from France to Indochina

Before 1940, the Commission C handstamp was also used occasionally to indicate censoring of inbound letters. This letter was posted on 29 August 1939 — France declared war on Germany on 3 September. By the time the letter was received at Saigon on 29 September, World War II was fully underway in Europe.



POSTAL MARKINGS

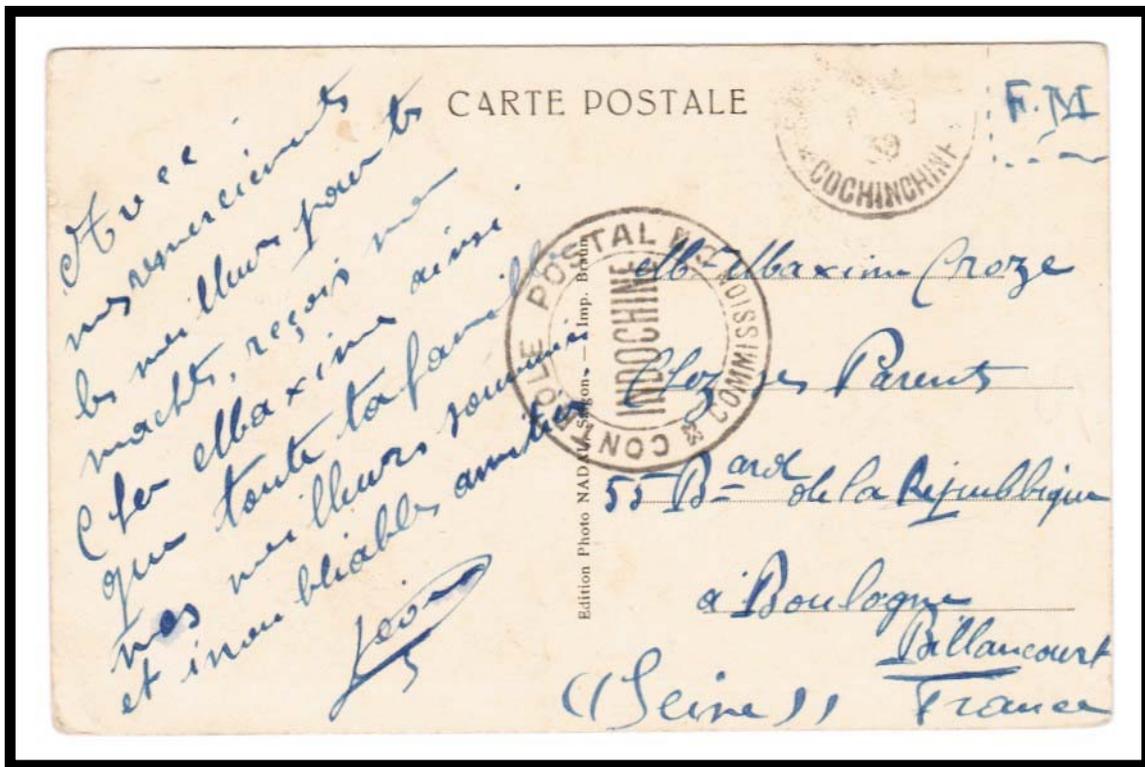
VALROS HERAULT 29-8-39
CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C INDOCHINE

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 29 SEPT 39

Indochinese Origination Censor
on Mail from Indochina to France

All classes of mail were subject to examination by the Indochinese censoring authorities. As indicated by the manuscript "F.M" (= Franchise Militaire) at the upper right, the sender of this postcard was a member of the military.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 8-9 39
CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C INDOCHINE

Indochinese Origination and Transit Censors On Mail from Indochina to France

Posted from Laos, the front of this cover first received a Commission E handstamp. Since the letter had not been postmarked, the censor in Hanoi used his censor mark to cancel the stamps, an unusual occurrence.



Lao Censor Commission



Hanoi censor



POSTAL MARKINGS

CONTROLE POSTALE Commission E INDOCHINE
HANOI R.P BIS TONKIN 8-3 40

REVERSE

SAILLANS DROME 180-3 40

France Receipt Censor on Mail from Indochina to France

It was unusual for a letter to travel the considerable distance from Indochina to France and escape censoring until arrival. Here the signature handstamp of the French censor closely resembled the “football” censor cachet regularly used in Indochina. The code letters “JA” were assigned to Rennes.



censor's signature handstamp (France)



POSTAL MARKINGS

CAMPHA-MINES TONKIN 13-3 40

censor's signature handstamp and censor's resealing label (France)

REVERSE

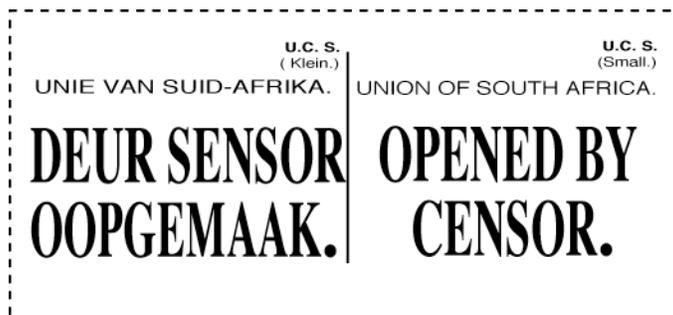
HAIPHONG TONKIN 14-3 40

censor's signature handstamp

LOUVIERS EURE 24-3 40

South African Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to France

Ships carrying mail would sail around Africa when the Suez Canal was closed to traffic. Mail seized by British forces was censored at South Africa and entered Europe via Lisbon. For this mailing to France, the transit time was seven months from Saigon to Lisbon.



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 28-4 40
censor's resealing tape (South Africa)

REVERSE

LISBON-CENTRAL 2ª Secção 21.11.40

South African Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to France to Indochina

Even though this envelope was addressed to a soldier in France, it was not censored on the outbound trip from Indochina. Because the post office could not find the addressee, the letter was marked for return to sender. On its way back to Indochina, a censor in South Africa elected to open it for inspection. The round trip time was seven and a half months.



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 31-5 40
censor's label

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 15 JANV 41
return to sender handstamp

South African Transit Censor
on Mail from France to Indochina

A handwritten note was added that this letter should go via the fastest airmail route. Postmarked on 20 August 1940, the letter did not reach Hanoi until 7 February 1941 – a transit time of almost a half-year.



POSTAL MARKINGS

TOULON SUR MER VAR 20-8 40
South African resealing label

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 7-2 41

French Receipt Censor
on Mail from Indochina to France

A 1940 letter from Saigon to Marseilles shows no evidence of examination by censors until it was received in France. With this format of the censor's signature handstamp, the wording at the bottom was "PAR LES AUTORITÉS DE CONTRÔLE."



censor's signature handstamp (France)



POSTAL MARKINGS

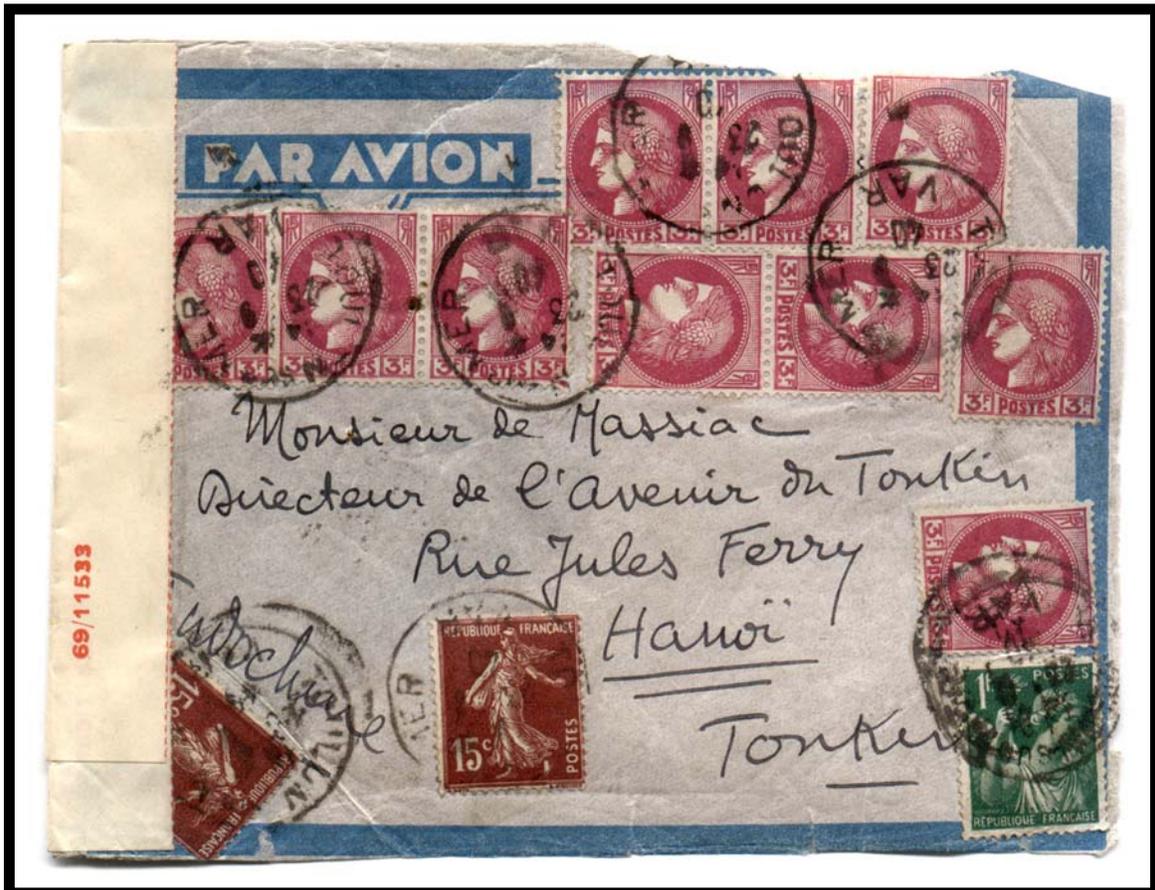
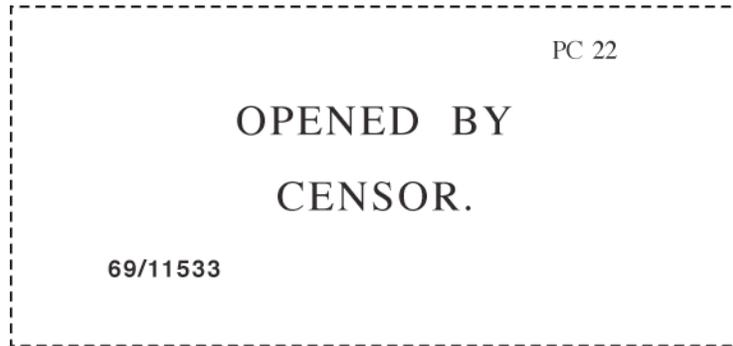
SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 8-9 40

censor's signature handstamp (France)

censor's resealing tape (France)

Palestinian Transit Censor
on Mail from France to Indochina

A 1940 letter that went via the Mediterranean route was censored in Palestine by British authorities. Posted on 23 September 1940, the letter was in transit approximately six weeks arriving at Hanoi on 12 November 1940.



POSTAL MARKINGS

TOULON SUR MER VAR 23-9 40
Palestinian resealing label

REVERSE

PARIS GARE AVION 27-9 40
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 12-11 40

Hong Kong Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to France

In August 1940, a new service began whereby mail was carried by ship to Hong Kong and then onward by air on Pan American Airways. As conditions deteriorated in Europe, it made sense to send mail to France via Pan American's transpacific and transatlantic services.

The envelope was resealed by censor number 45 in Hong Kong. Based on the receipt date from Lyon, the letter was in transit for about 5 weeks.

45

censor's signature (Hong Kong)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 8-10 40
censor's signature handstamp and censor's resealing tape (Hong Kong)

REVERSE

CHATELGUYOR PUY DE DOME 15-11 40
LYON RHONE 16 XI 1940

Indochinese Origination Transit Censor
 Hong Kong Transit Censor
 on Mail from Indochina to France

Censors in Hong Kong would not normally have seen letters sent from Indochina to France. However, letters crossing the Pacific Ocean (and then the Atlantic Ocean), as indicated by the handwritten "Par avion Pan American Airways Transatlantic," were susceptible to examination by the Hong Kong censors. In this case, the letter had already been examined in Annam.



censor's signature (Annam)



censor's signature (Hong Kong)



POSTAL MARKINGS

HUE ANNAM 11-12 40

censor's signature handstamp (Annam), resealing tape and Military Authority football
 censor's signature handstamp (blue) and censor's resealing tapes (Hong Kong)

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. BLS TONKIN 12-12 40

Indian Transit Censor
on Mail from Indochina to France

Mail carried by the British air service from Singapore was sometimes censored in Calcutta as indicated by the censor tape on this cover. Because routings were unfamiliar to the general public, the postal clerk at the counter probably added the manuscript "voie Bagdad".



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 5-2 41
censor's resealing tape (Calcutta)

Hong Kong Transit Censor
German Receipt Censor
on Mail from Indochina to France



Palestinian Transit Censor on Mail from France to Indochina

Mail from France to Indochina was commonly censored in Palestine at the end of the railroad portion of the route. The censor band bore the code letters "PC 22." which identified the censor's location as Palestine.

The rate for airmail was 6 francs and this just covered airmail service beyond the Mid East. Being underpaid by 2 francs, this letter was assessed a double rate postage due of 40 Indochinese cents. Mailed from the train station in Marseille, this letter took less than a month to arrive at Hanoi.



POSTAL MARKINGS

MARSEILLE-GARE DEPART 15-2 41

T in triangle

censor's resealing tape (Palestine)

postage due amount in pencil

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 12 -3 41

REVERSE

LYON RHONE 17.II.41

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 11-3 41

Indian Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to France

Going by combined air and sea service, this letter was marked "via Lydda (Palestine)". From the Mid East, letters would go by rail aboard the "Orient Express" to France. In transit for five weeks, the letter arrived at the Marseille train station less than three weeks after having been posted.



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-TANDINH COCHINCHINE 20-2 41
censor's resealing tape (India)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 20 FEV 41
MARSEILLE-GARE BCHES DU RHONE 11 MARS 41
LEZIGNAN-CORBIERES AUDE 27-3 41

German Transit Censor
on Mail from Indochina to France

The post office marked this letter for routing via the Mid East and Eastern Europe ("voie Bagdad"). When the letter passed through Vienna Austria, German censor 6431 examined it (signature marking at lower right). He resealed the envelope with the Wehrmacht's paper tape having a lower case "g" at the base of the seal, which denoted Vienna.

6431
censor's signature
(Vienna)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 11-3 41
censor's signature handstamp and censor's resealing tape (Vienna)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 11 MAI 41

Singapore Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to France

Airmail service Singapore - Manila - United States began in May 1941. Marked for Pan American's (transpacific and) transatlantic service, this letter was opened by censor 220 A in Singapore. The transit time was about 4 weeks which was slightly better than the typical time for this routing.

PASSED BY
CENSOR 220

A

censor's signature
(Singapore)

(K) (15)

sorter's signature
(Singapore)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 17-5 41
censor's signature handstamp and censor's resealing tape (Singapore)
sorter's signature handstamp (Singapore)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 18-5 41
censor's signature handstamp (Singapore)
LYON RHONE 21.VI 1941

Singapore Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to France

By July 1941, airmail service through Singapore connecting with Pan American's transoceanic service had become a regular routing for mail from Indochina. Here the sender had simply indicated "VIA: SINGAPORE-CLIPPER."

PASSED BY
CENSOR 293
A

censor's signature
(Singapore)

B **12**

sorter's signature
(Singapore)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 2-7 41
censor's signature handstamp and censor's resealing tape (Singapore)

REVERSE

censor's signature handstamp (Singapore)

British Transit Censor
on Mail from France to Indochina

The address on this 1944 letter includes “a New York.” The censor, whose resealing label identifier was “EXAMINER 3594,” was known to have been stationed at Bermuda for about a year starting in April 1941. Only a small amount of mail was sent from France to Indochina via transatlantic and transpacific service.



POSTAL MARKINGS

SI VICTURNIEN HIE VIENNE 6-8 41

airmail label

censor's resealing label (Bermuda)

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 22-9 41

HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 22-9 41

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 24-9 41

Indochinese Origination Censor
 Hong Kong Transit Censor
 French Arrival Censor
 on Mail from Indochina to France

A letter sent via Pan American Airline's transpacific service was thoroughly examined by censors. In three separate instances, censors at the origin, in transit and at the destination inspected the contents and resealed the envelope. The censor in France can be located at Toulouse as the code letters for that city were "QA."



(Hong Kong)



(France)



(Indochina)



POSTAL MARKINGS

- GIA-LAM TONKIN 10-10 41
- framed "47" - censor's signature handstamp (Hong Kong)
- censors' signature handstamps (Indochina and France)
- censor's resealing labels (Hong Kong and France)

REVERSE

- HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 10-10 41
- A over 5 in circle – censor's signature handstamp (Indochina)

Singapore Transit Censor
 French Receipt Censor
 on Mail from Indochina to France

First censored and sealed in Singapore, this envelope was reopened and resealed in Marseille. The "WK" code letters in the signature marking indicate the censor section at Marseille that handled mail inbound to and outbound from France.



censor's signature (France)

POSTAL MARKINGS

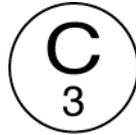
- SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 14-10 41
- sorter's signature (Singapore)
- censor's signature handstamp (France)
- censors' resealing tapes (Singapore and France)

REVERSE

- censor's signature handstamp (Singapore)
- censor's signature handstamp (France)
- P in double circle

Postwar Indochinese Origination Censor on Mail from Indochina to France

After World War II, civilian authorities attempted to reestablish a functioning government. As demonstrated by this mailing from January 1946, censoring of the mail continued as a means to identify threats to security.



POSTAL MARKINGS

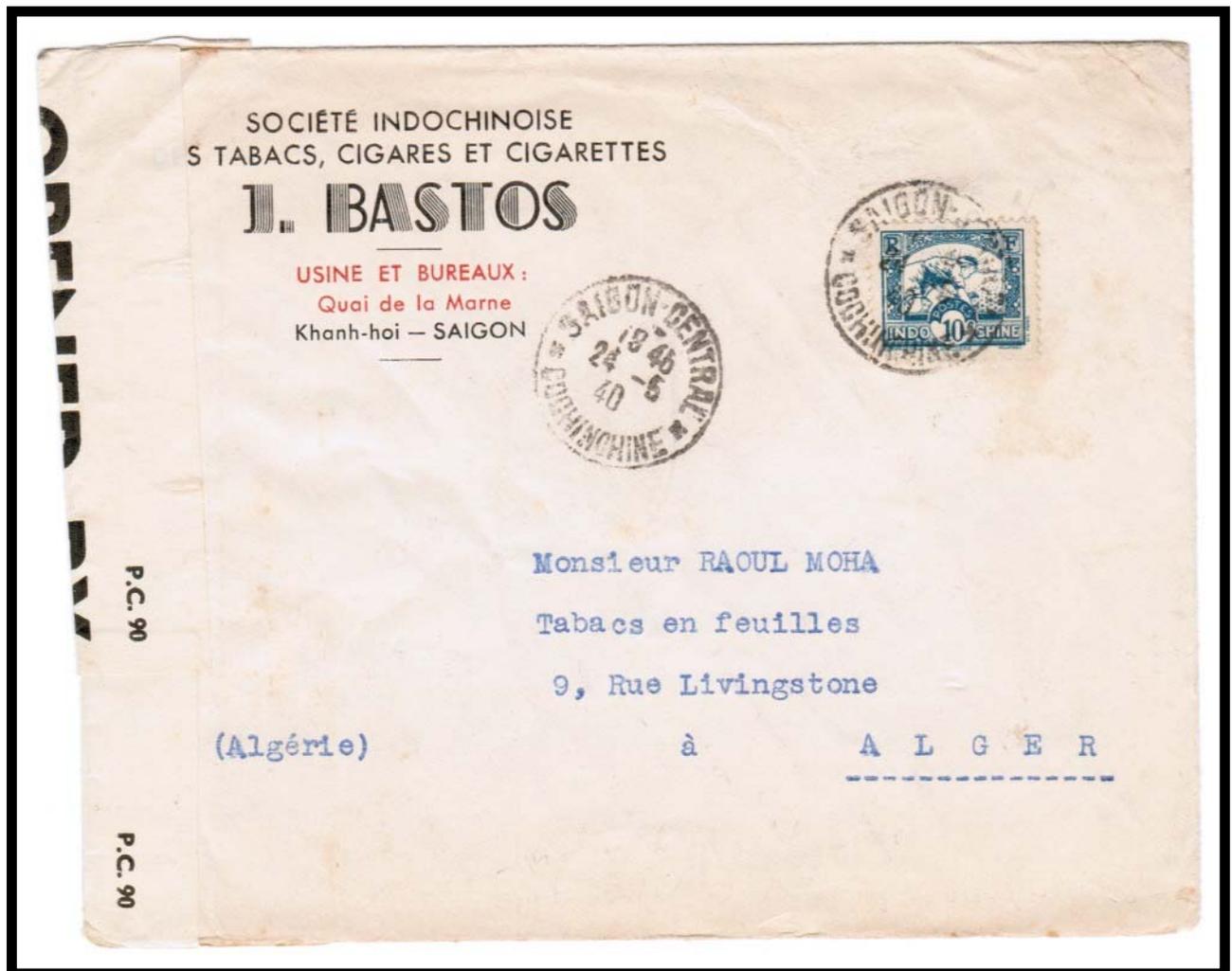
SAIGON PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 9-1 46
C3 in circle - censor's signature handstamp (Indochina)
OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football
plain paper resealing label

Palestinian Transit Censor
on Mail from Indochina to Algeria

The Imperial Censorship Organization in Palestine was part of the British global security effort. Approximately 300 people, most of whom were residents of Palestine, made up the staff. The letters "P.C. 90" identify the resealing label as coming from Palestine.

P.C. 90

**OPENED BY
EXAMINER 5272**



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 24-5 40
censor's resealing label (Palestine)

Egyptian Receipt Censor on Mail from Indochina to Egypt

A 1940 letter sent from Saigon to Alexandria, Egypt apparently escaped censoring in route, but was censored upon arrival in Egypt.



censor's signature (Egypt)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 11-2 40
censor's signature handstamp and censor's resealing label (Egypt)

REVERSE

CAIRO 1 28 FEB 1940
ALEXANDRIA 1MCH 1940

Mauritian Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to Madagascar

Addressed to Madagascar, a mailing by a member of the French Navy in 1940 was examined by British censors in Mauritius. The letter was likely embargoed. Based on the transit postmarks, it took about nine months to reach the addressee.



censor's handstamp (Mauritius)



POSTAL MARKINGS

BANGHOI ANNAM 14-8 40

censor's handstamp (purple) and resealing tape (Mauritius)

REVERSE

NHATRANG ANNAM 14-8 40

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 18 AOUT 40

TAMATAVE MADAGASCAR 7 MAI 41

Indochinese Origination Censor on Mail from Indochina to Madagascar

The sender addressed his surface mail letter to Diego Garcia, Madagascar. Unable to find the addressee, the postal system twice forwarded the mailing: first to Tananarive, and then to Tamatave, Madagascar.



POSTAL MARKINGS

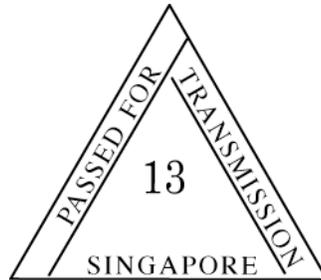
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 3-8 41
military authority football and censor's resealing tape

REVERSE

CONTROLE PÔSTALE Commission A and Ai in circle
DIEGO-SUAREZ MADAGASCAR 30 JUIN 41
TANANARIVE MADAGSACAR 4. VII. 41
TANANARIVE MADAGSACAR 9-7 41

Mauritian Origination Censor
Singaporean Transit Censor
on Mail from Mauritius to Indochina

Sent from the Mauritius Commercial bank to the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, this surface rate letter was examined by censors in Mauritius as well as in transit at Singapore.



POSTAL MARKINGS

CENTRAL POST OFFICE MAURITIUS 2 MR 40
censor handstamps

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 1-4 40

Moroccan Arrival Censor
on Mail from Indochina to Morocco

Sent by airmail to Morocco, an underpaid letter posted from Haiphong in March 1941 went via Marseille before going onward to Morocco.



censor's signature handstamp (Morocco)



POSTAL MARKINGS

HAIPHONG TONKIN 3-3 41

T in triangle

censor's resealing tape and censor's signature handstamp

REVERSE

HAIPHONG TONKIN 3-3 41

HANOI R.P. bis TONKIN 3-3 41

MARSEILLE-GARE B~~CH~~ES DU RHONE 3 • IV 1941

BENI-MELLAL MAROC 7-4 41

South African Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to Senegal

In 1941, a letter mailed to Dakar, Senegal using official stationery was examined by censors in South Africa. The letter was in transit from June till November, approximately five months.



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 14-8 41
slogan handstamp
censor's resealing tape (South Africa)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 18 AOUT 41
DAKAR SENEGAL 11 NOV 41

Egyptian Transit Censor
South African Receipt Censor
on Mail from Indochina to South Africa

Censorship of mails passing through the eastern Mediterranean region was managed by the Director of Middle East Censorship in Cairo, which was part of the global censorship endeavor controlled by the Director General of Imperial Censorship in London.



censor's signature handstamp (Egypt)



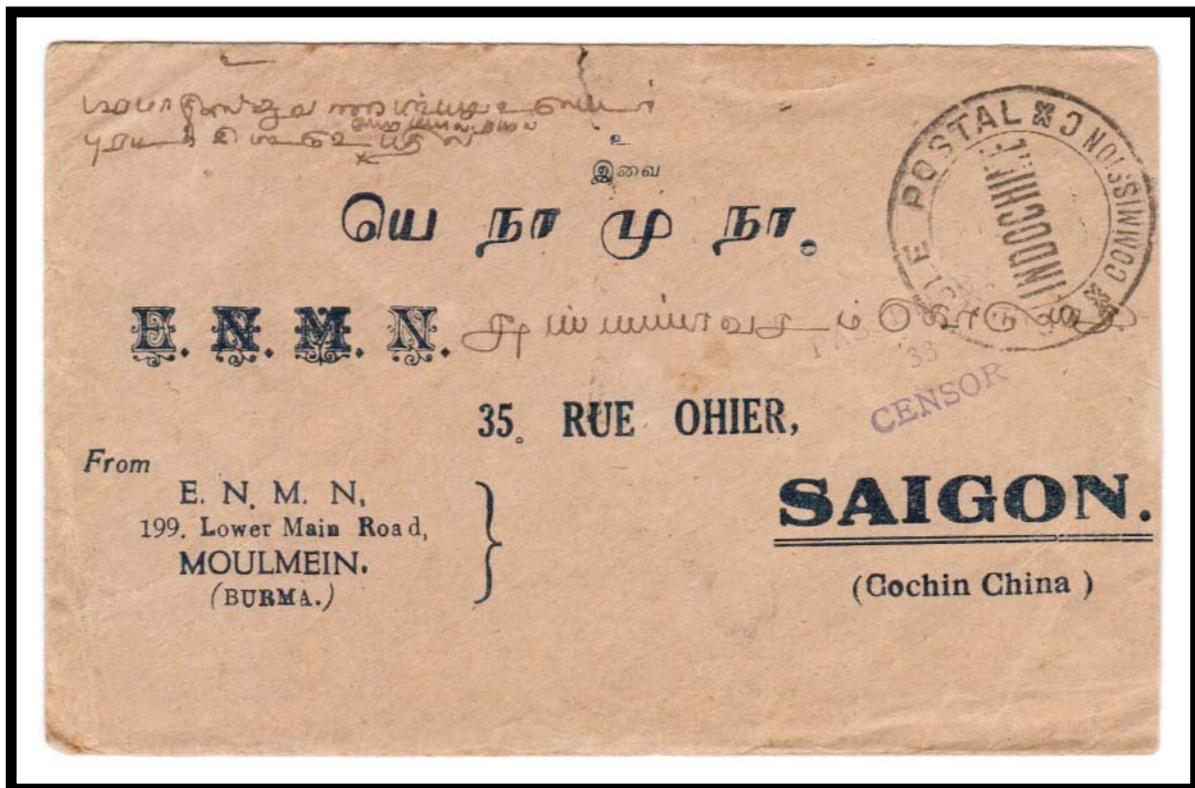
POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 40
censor's signature handstamp(Egypt)
censor's resealing label (South Africa)

Malayan Transit Censor
 Indochina Arrival Censor
 on Mail from Burma to Indochina

Censors en route and upon arrival examined business correspondence posted from Moulmein, Burma to Saigon in September 1939.

PASSED BY
 33
 CENSOR



POSTAL MARKINGS

PASSED BY 33 CENSOR censor's signature (Malaya) (purple)
 CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C INDOCHINE (Indochina)

REVERSE

MOULMEIN 30. AUG. 39
 SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 14-9 39

Singaporean Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to Burma

A censor could pass a letter without examination if he felt that no security threat existed as in the case of purely commercial correspondence. Of course, steaming letters open would leave little evidence of inspection.



censor's signature handstamp
(Singapore)

POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 26-3 40
censor's signature handstamp (Singapore)

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 27-3 40
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 27-3 40
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 1 AVR 40
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 2 AVR 40
BIENHOA COCHINCHINE 2-4 40
RANGOON GPO 2 MAY 1940

Indochinese Origination Censor
Burmese Receipt Censor
on Mail from Indochina to Burma

After being censored in Indochina, this envelope was passed by the censor at Rangoon, Burma apparently without being reinspected.



censor's signature handstamp (Burma)



POSTAL MARKINGS

HAIPHONG TONKIN 3-1 40
airmail label

OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football
censor's resealing tape (Indochina)
censor's signature handstamp (Burma)

REVERSE

OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football
RANGOON G.P.O. 4 JAN 40

Burmese Origination Censor on Mail from Burma to Indochina

A commercial mailing with multiple meter impressions was censored at Rangoon in 1940. The letter went via Bangkok to Indochina.



censor's signature handstamp (Burma)



POSTAL MARKINGS

RANGOON G.P.O. S.B.C.L. R-8 23. X. 40
censor's signature handstamp and censor's resealing label (Burma)

REVERSE

BANGKOK G.P.O. 4 • 11 • 40
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 9 NOV 40

Indochinese Origination Censor on Mail from Indochina to China

As with most of Asia, China was largely controlled by the Japanese in 1942. Here a letter sent from Hanoi to an official of the "French police" was accepted for transmission to Shanghai although it was 2 months in transit.



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI D. TONKIN 21-2 42

registration label

OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football

censor's resealing label (Indochina)

SHANGHAI 13 APRIL 1942

"293" in frame (Chinese)

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 21-2 42

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 22-2 42

HAIPHONG TONKIN 22-2 42

A 14 in circle (Indochina)

Hong Kong Transit Censor
on Mail from Indochina to China

Hong Kong used a variety of triangular censor handstamp formats. The numeral in the center identified a specific censor.



censor's signature handstamp (Hong Kong)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 7-5 40
censor's signature handstamp (Hong Kong)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 7-5 40
VICTORIA HONG KONG 8 MY 40
AMOY 18. 5. 50

Indochinese Receipt Censor on Mail from China to Indochina

Posted from Kunming, this envelope was opened during transit by censors in Hanoi. After resealing, the envelope was struck with the "secret" censor's receipt postmark.



"secret" censor's postmark



Military Authority football



POSTAL MARKINGS

date stamp in Chinese

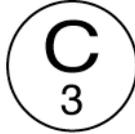
Military Authority football and censor's resealing tape (Hanoi)

HANOI R.P. bis TONKIN 26-1 40

HAIPHONG TONKIN 28-1 40

Indochinese Receipt Censor
on Mail from China to Indochina

Upon arrival, a censor in Saigon examined an underpaid letter posted from Tientsin, China on 29 March 1940. The postage due marking was likely applied in China as Indochina had used the piaster for postal matters since the 1920s.



signature handstamp (Indochina)



POSTAL MARKINGS

TIENTSIN 13 29. 3. 40
censor's signature "C3" in circle (Indochina)
censor's resealing band

REVERSE

TIENTSIN 13 29. 3. 40
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 15-4 40

Indochinese Receipt Censor
on Mail from China to Indochina

Sent from Pingi in Yunnan Province, this letter first went through Hanoi where it was censored before going back to the city of Langson on the China-Indochina border.

POSTAL MARKINGS

- date stamp in Chinese
- registration label
- censor's resealing tape
- Military Authority football

REVERSE

- HANOI R.P. bis TONKIN 30-4 40
- HANOI R.P. TONKIN 30-4 40
- Military Authority football
- LANG-SON TONKIN 30-4 40



Military Authority football



mute
censor's
tape



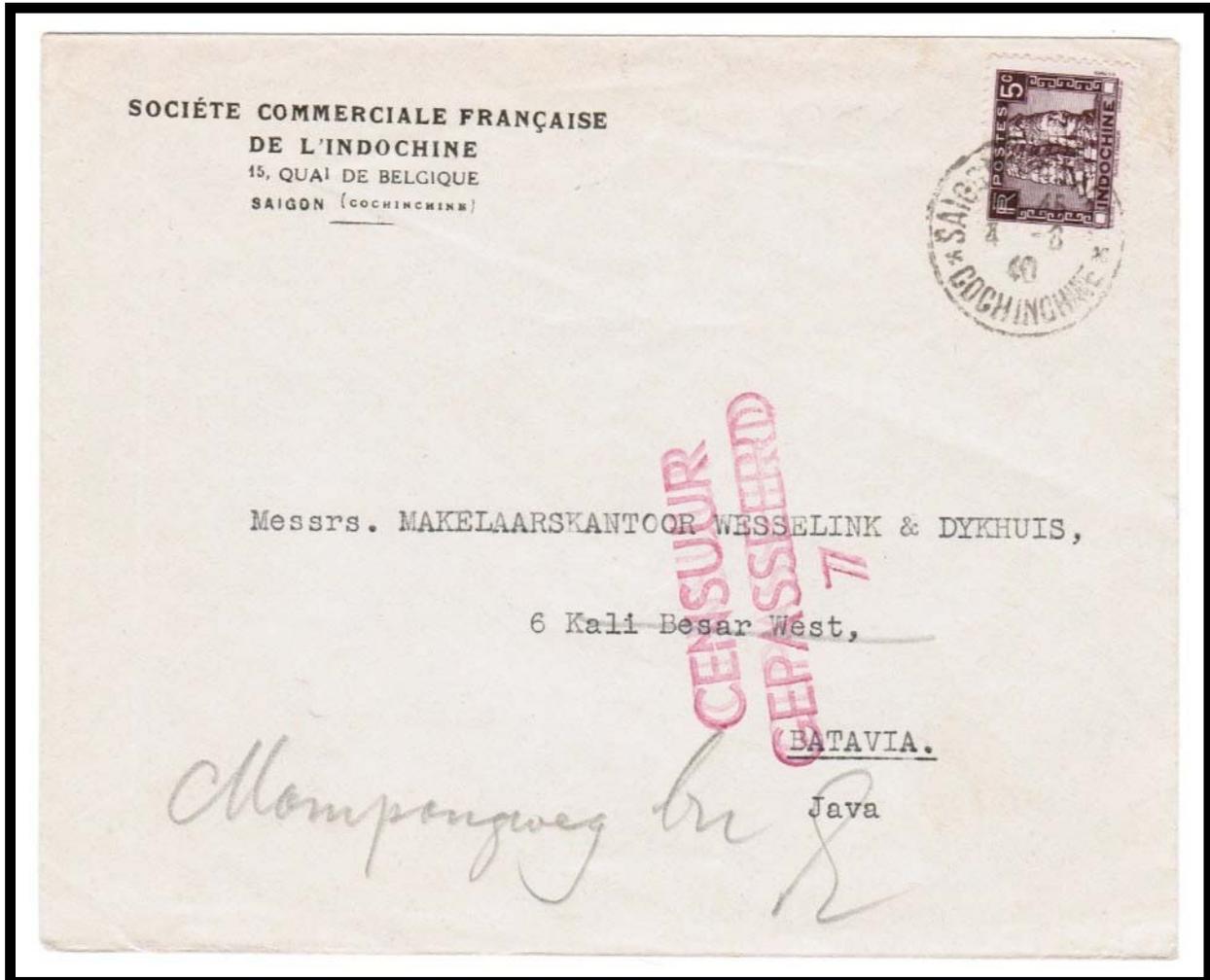
Dutch Indies Receipt Censor
on Mail from Indochina to Dutch Indies

One of the styles for the censor's signature in the Dutch Indies consisted of two lines, meaning "passed by censor," over the censor's identifying number. The censor handstamp applied with red ink.

CENSUUR
GEPASSEERD

7

censor's signature handstamp (Dutch Indies)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 4-8 40
censor's signature handstamp (Dutch Indies) (red)

Singapore Transit Censor
Dutch Indies Receipt Censor
on Mail from Indochina to Dutch Indies

A 1940 mailing from Saigon was inspected at Singapore and later passed by a censor in the Dutch Indies.

PASSED BY
CENSOR 109
SINGAPORE

censor's signature handstamp
(Singapore)

CENSUUR
GEPASSEERD
10

censor's signature handstamp
(Dutch Indies)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 18-6 40
censor signature handstamp (purple) and resealing tape (Singapore)
censor's signature handstamp (Dutch Indies) (red)

REVERSE

censor signature handstamp (Singapore) (purple)

Dutch Indies Receipt Censor on Mail from Indochina to Dutch Indies

Another format for the signature of a censor in the Dutch Indies was a 38-millimeter diameter handstamp with the censor's unique identifying number at the bottom center.



censor's signature handstamp (Dutch Indies)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 18-5 41
slogan handstamp
censor's resealing tape (Dutch Indies)
censor's signature handstamp (Dutch Indies) (red)

Dutch Indies Receipt Censor on Mail from Indochina to Dutch Indies

For one of its censor signatures, the Dutch Indies employed an unusual postmark-like format that included the date in the center as well as the censor's identifying number at the base.



censor's signature handstamp (Dutch Indies)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 10-12 40
various numbered censor and postal sorter's handstamps
censor's resealing tape (Dutch Indies)
censor's signature handstamp (Dutch Indies)

Dutch Indies Origination Censor
Singapore Transit Censor
Indochina Arrival Censor
on Mail from the Dutch Indies to Indochina

The apparently random nature of censorship meant that some letters escaped examination while others were subjected to repetitive investigation. This letter was censored in three countries: Dutch Indies, Singapore and Indochina.



POSTAL MARKINGS

BATAVIA CENTRUM 7.11.40

CENSUR 5 9.11.40 censor signature and resealing tape (Dutch Indies)

DEV.4 in circle (red) and F and 8 in circles

PASSED BY CENSOR SINGAPORE

Opened by Military Authority football and C9 in circle (censor's signature) on resealing tape

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 20-1 40

Indochinese Origination Censor
on Mail from Indochina to Hong Kong

Addressed to:

Mr. Dai Kwo-Lin
Tai-Ku Art Gallery
Ya-Da Street, West Bay
Hong Kong

this letter, addressed in Chinese, was cleared by censors in Saigon before departure.



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 14-10 39
CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C INDOCHINE
8 in circle

Hong Kong Receipt Censor on Mail from Indochina to Hong Kong

Sent from Tourane, Annam, this envelope was opened for inspection by a Hong Kong censor. After examining the contents, he resealed the envelope with a band that reads, on the reverse, "OPENED BY HONG KONG CENSOR." The sealing band is tied by the censor's signature handstamp on the reverse. The circled K30 on the front is a mail sorter's signature marking.

(K30)

sorter's signature
(Hong Kong)

15

censor's signature (reverse)
(Hong Kong)



POSTAL MARKINGS

TOURANE ANNAM 6-11 40
censor's resealing tape (Hong Kong)

REVERSE

HUE ANNAM 6-11 40
censor's signature (Hong Kong)
HAIPHONG TONKIN 8-11 40
VICTORIA HONG KONG 19 NO 40

Indochinese Origination Censor
 Hong Kong Receipt Censor
 on Mail from Indochina to Hong Kong

Examined first by a telegraphy censor in Haiphong (circled G3 marking), this letter was also opened by a censor in Hong Kong before being sent on to the addressee. A mail sorter applied circled "K30" marking. The censor's signature from Hong Kong is on the reverse.



censor's signature (Haiphong)



sorter's signature (Hong Kong)



POSTAL MARKINGS

TOURANE ANNAM 7-1 41
 OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football
 censor's signature handstamp and censor's resealing tape (Haiphong)
 censor's signature handstamp and censor's tape (Hong Kong)
 sorter's signature (Hong Kong)

REVERSE

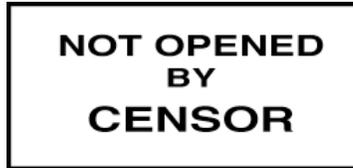
HAIPHONG TONKIN 9-1 41
 80 in rectangle (Hong Kong)
 HONG KONG KOWLOON 15 JAN 41

Hong Kong Origination Censor
Indochinese Receipt Censor
on Mail from Hong Kong to Indochina

Censor markings did not always indicate that an item had been inspected. . The framed "NOT OPENED BY CENSOR" marking was applied in Hong Kong where this letter originated. The letter was also examined in Hanoi on its way to Vinh, Annam



Military Authority football



(Hong Kong)

POSTAL MARKINGS

VICTORIA HONG KONG 14 MY 41
censor's handstamp (Hong Kong)
censor's resealing tape
Military Authority football

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 10-6 41
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 11 6 41
VINH ANNAM 21-6 41
Military Authority football

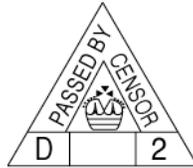


Zone "A"
censor's tape



Indian Transit Censor
on Mail from Indochina to India

Sent via Bangkok by airmail to Pondicherry, this letter was opened by a British censor in Bombay.



censor's signature handstamp (Bombay)



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 3-9 41

censor's signature handstamp and censor's resealing tape (Bombay)

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 3-9 41

PONDICHERY 12 SEP. 41

Indochinese Origination Censor
Singaporean Transit Censor
on Mail from Indochina to India

Examined by a censor before leaving Saigon, this envelope was reopened in Singapore before being sent on to India. Both censors applied their signature handstamps.



censor's signature (Indochina)

PASSED BY
CENSOR 223
A

censor's signature (Singapore)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL. COCHINCHINE 13-11 40

censor's signature handstamp and censor's resealing tape (Indochina)
censor's signature handstamp and censor's resealing tape (Singapore)

REVERSE

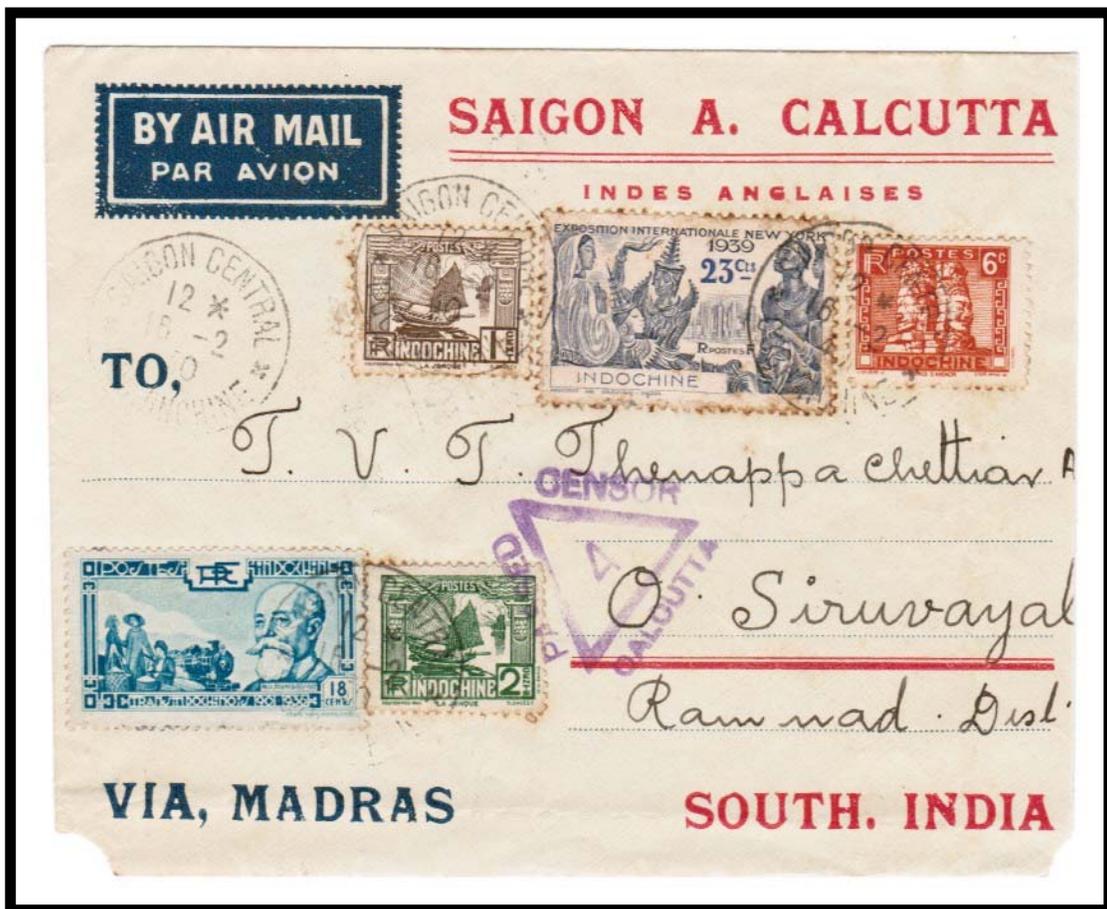
KILASAVLPATTI 27 DEC. 40

Indian Receipt Censor
on Mail from Indochina to India

Calcutta employed, as one of its censor signature markings, the triangular style widely utilized by a number of British Colonies.



censor's signature handstamp
(Calcutta)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 16-2 40
censor's signature handstamp (Calcutta)

REVERSE

CALCUTTA G.P.O. DESP. 21 FEB. 40
OYAKONDAN-SIRUVAYAL 24 FEB 40

Indian Origination Censor
on Mail from India to Indochina

Posted from Calcutta, India to Cantho, Cochinchina in 1940, this mailing was inspected in India but apparently passed without examination upon arrival in Indochina.



censor's signature handstamp
(Calcutta)



POSTAL MARKINGS

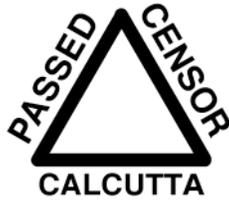
CALCUTTA G.P.O. DESP. 26 MAR. 40
Indian censor's signature handstamp

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 4 AVR 40
CANTHO COCHINCHINE 5-4 40

Indochinese Origination Censor
 Indian Receipt Censor
 on Mail from Indochina to India

Usually, Calcutta's triangular censor handstamp included a numeral in the center that identified a specific censor. In this case, the center of the triangle is empty.



censor's handstamp (Calcutta)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 2-2 40
 censor's signature handstamp (C1 in circle) and resealing band (Indochina)
 censor's handstamp (Calcutta)

REVERSE

ATTANGUDI 9 FEB. 40

Indochinese Origination Censor
 Indian Transit Censor
 on Mail from Indochina to India

An Indochinese censor examined this letter before it left Indochina. When it arrived in India, the local authorities chose not to inspect it and marked the cover "NOT OPENED BY CENSOR."

NOT OPENED BY		
A	CENSOR	5

censor's signature handstamp (India)



POSTAL MARKINGS

- SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 24-5 40
- OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football
- censor's signature handstamp and censor's resealing tape (Indochina)
- censor's signature handstamp (India)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 24-5 40

Indian Receipt Censor
on Mail from Indochina to India

Sent from Phnompenh, Cambodia to French India, this registered letter was examined by the British censors at Madras.



censor's signature handstamp (Madras)



POSTAL MARKINGS

PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 30-12 39
airmail and registration labels
censor's signature handstamp (Madras)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 2-1 40
PONDICHERRY 2 JAN. 40

Indian Origination Censor
on Mail from India to Indochina

After being examined, the censor in India re-closed a 1940 letter and sealed it with his numbered label. A handwritten "c" was added after the label's number with red pencil.

PASSED
BY
CENSOR
89



POSTAL MARKINGS

BOMBAY G.P.O. 21 MAY. 40
Indian censor's resealing label

REVERSE

Indian censor's handstamp

Iraqi Receipt Censor
on Mail from Indochina to Iraq

After receiving a COMMISSION C censor certification at the point of origin, this envelope received a second censor marking upon arrival in Iraq.



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 14-10 39
CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C INDOCHINE
censor's signature handstamp (Iraq)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 14-10 39
BAGHDAD DELY. 26 NOV. 39

Indochinese Origination Censor on Mail from Indochina to Japan

Sent to Japan in April 1941, this envelope was steamed open in Hanoi. There is no indication that censors reopened the envelope upon its arrival in Japan.



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI A TONKIN 21-4 41
registration label

YOKOHAMA .4 28

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 22-4 41

Japanese Receipt Censor on Mail from Indochina to Japan

Even though sent by airmail, this mailing took two weeks to arrive in Japan because of sporadic service. Upon arrival in Japan, it was censored and the envelope was resealed with a censor label. The Japanese wording on the resealing label is "Censored. Great Empire of Japan. Ministry of Communications." It was delivered three weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor.



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 25-10 41
censor's signature handstamp censor's resealing label (Japan)

REVERSE

YOKOHAMA NIPPON 15. 11. 41

Hong Kong Transit Censor
Japanese Receipt Censor
on mail from Indochina to Japan

Sent by surface mail via Hanoi, this letter went to Japan by way of Hong Kong. It was censored first at Hong Kong and then upon receipt in Japan.



POSTAL MARKINGS

DAP-CAU TONKIN 27-10 41
censor's resealing tape (Hong Kong)
censor's resealing label (Japan)

REVERSE

HANOI TONKIN 23-10 41
108 in rectangle -censor's signature handstamp (Hong Kong)

Indochinese Origination Censor
Japanese Receipt Censor
on Mail from Indochina to Japan

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Indochina was essentially cut off from the outside world. The Japanese forces in Indochina did allow mail to go areas that their forces controlled. Here a letter to Yokohama, Japan was censored when it arrived in Japan.



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 25-2 42
3 in oval
censor's resealing tape (Japan)

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 26-2 42
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 26-2 42

Egyptian Transit Censor
on Mail from Indochina to Lebanon

Sent via surface mail at the foreign letter rate of 10 cents, a mailing from Haiphong to Beirut, Lebanon was censored by Egyptian authorities after it had left the ship at the Suez Canal.



POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 5-1 40
censor handstamp (Egypt)
REVERSE
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 9-1 40

Indochinese Origination Censor
 Malayan Receipt Censor
 on Mail from Indochina to Malaya

Stationery from the Langbian Palace Hotel carried a 1939 mailing from Dalat to Malaya. Censors both at the start (Indochina) and end (Malaya) of the letter's journey handstamped the envelope.

PASSED BY
 18
 CENSOR



POSTAL MARKINGS

DALAT ANNAM 27-8 39

slogan handstamp and airmail label

CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C INDOCHINE

censor's signature handstamp (Malaya)

REVERSE

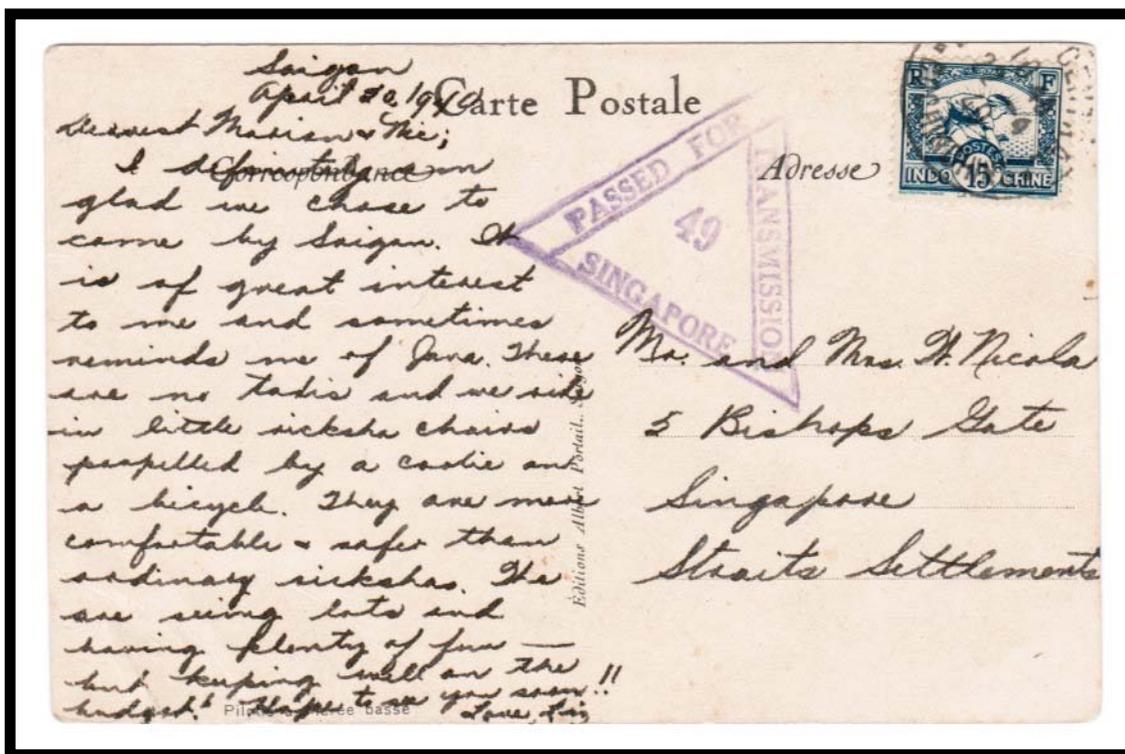
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 28 AOUT 39

Singaporean Receipt Censor on Mail from Indochina to Singapore

Even with their openly displayed message, postcards were still subject to examination by censors. Here, a censor at Singapore passed a picture postcard for transmission in 1940.



censor's signature handstamp (Singapore)



POSTAL MARKINGS

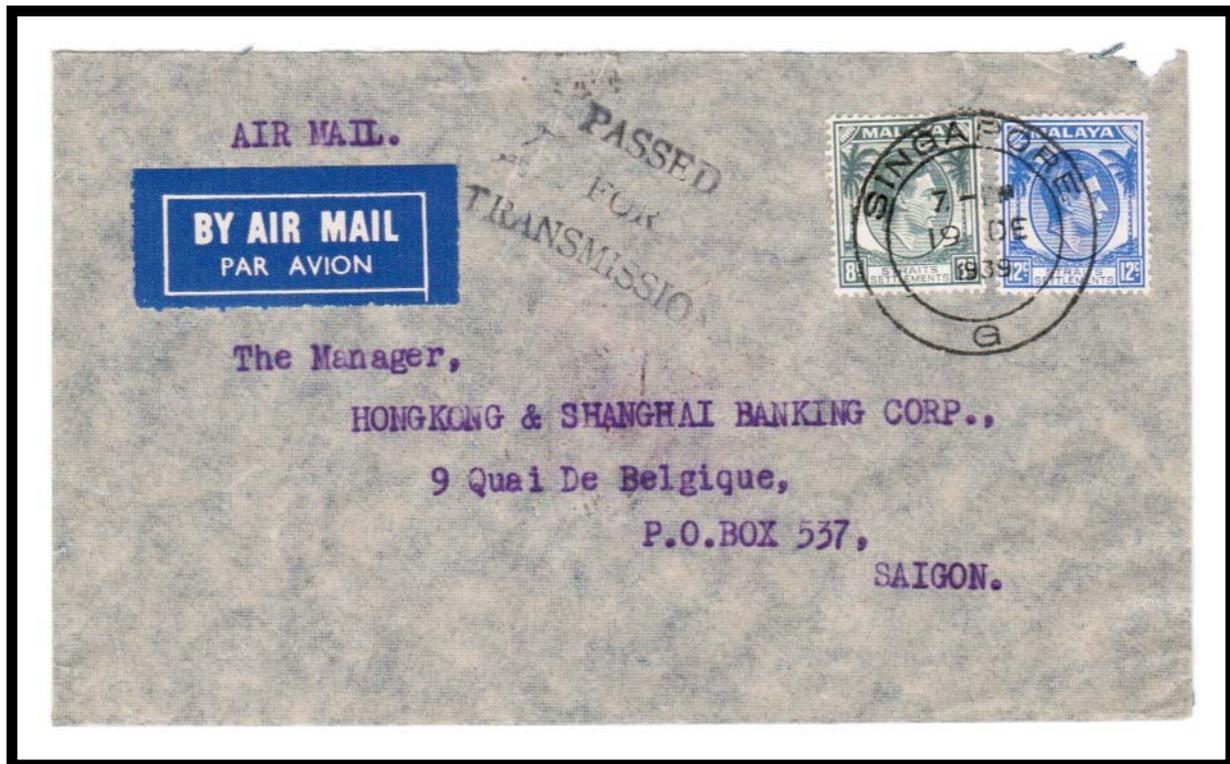
SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 22-4 40

PASSED FOR TRANSMISSION SINGAPORE 49 censor's signature handstamp (Singapore)

Singaporean Origination Censor
on Mail from Singapore to Indochina

Evidently, since there is no sign of opening, Singapore's "PASSED FOR TRANSMISSION" handstamp was the equivalent of "Not opened by censor."

PASSED
FOR
TRANSMISSION



POSTAL MARKINGS
SINGAPORE G 19 DE 1939
"PASSED FOR TRANSMISSION" handstamp
REVERSE
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 28-12 39

Lack of Censor Markings on Mail from Indochina to Thailand

From early in World War II, Thailand was effectively under Japanese occupation. (Thailand declared war on the United States on 25 January 1942.) The Japanese restricted mail from Indochina from going to areas outside Japanese control.

A letter from Dalat to Bangkok in 1944 was allowed to pass, evidently without examination by censors, because both areas were under Japanese control.



POSTAL MARKINGS

DALAT ANNAM 6-12 44

framed slogan marking

"T" in triangle and "10" in circle

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 6 DEC 44

Indochinese Arrival Censor
on Mail from Thailand to Indochina

Sent by surface mail from Bangkok to Saigon, this mailing entered Indochina through Cambodia. Upon arrival, a censor in Cambodia examined the letter as evidenced by the number 1 "D" signature handstamp.



POSTAL MARKINGS

BANGKOK. G.P.O. 3.10.39

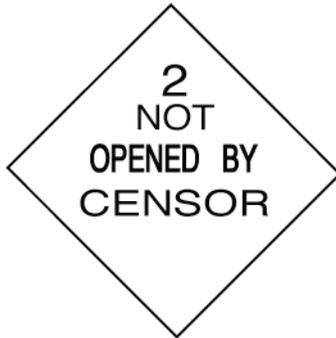
D1 in circle and Military Authority football

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 9 OCT 39

Australian Origination Censor
on Mail from Australia to Indochina

Business correspondence from the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney to the Saigon branch of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation in January 1940 was marked as unopened for censorship.



POSTAL MARKINGS

SYDNEY 3 JAN 1941

censor handstamp

REVERSE

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 15-3 45

Singaporean Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to Australia

While senders typically took advantage of airmail service for its speed, a small amount of mail continued to travel via sea mail even in 1941. Posted at Saigon on 8 March, a letter sent from The Chartered Bank of India to Australia did not reach Sydney until the 28th of April 1941, a transit time of some seven weeks. No doubt, diversion for a censor's examination at Singapore contributed to the delay.

PASSED BY
CENSOR 90
A

Singapore signature handstamp



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 8-3 41
censor's resealing tape and censor's signature handstamp
SYDNEY 9 28 AP 41

REVERSE

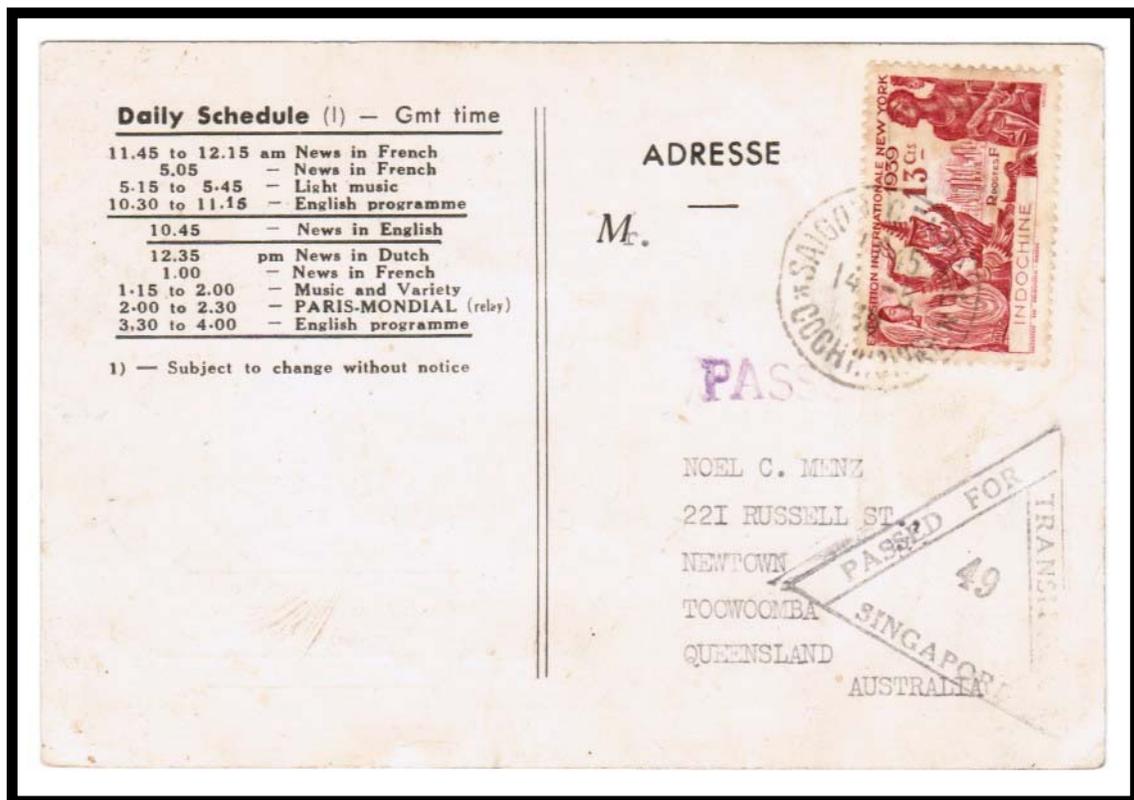
censor's resealing tape and censor's signature handstamp
SYDNEY 22 28 AP 41

Singaporean Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to Australia

A postcard that only carried printed information from Radio Saigon was passed by Singapore censor number 49 on its way to Australia in 1939.



censor's signature handstamp



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 14-5 39
censor's signature handstamp (Singapore)

Singaporean Transit Censor
on Mail from Indochina to Australia

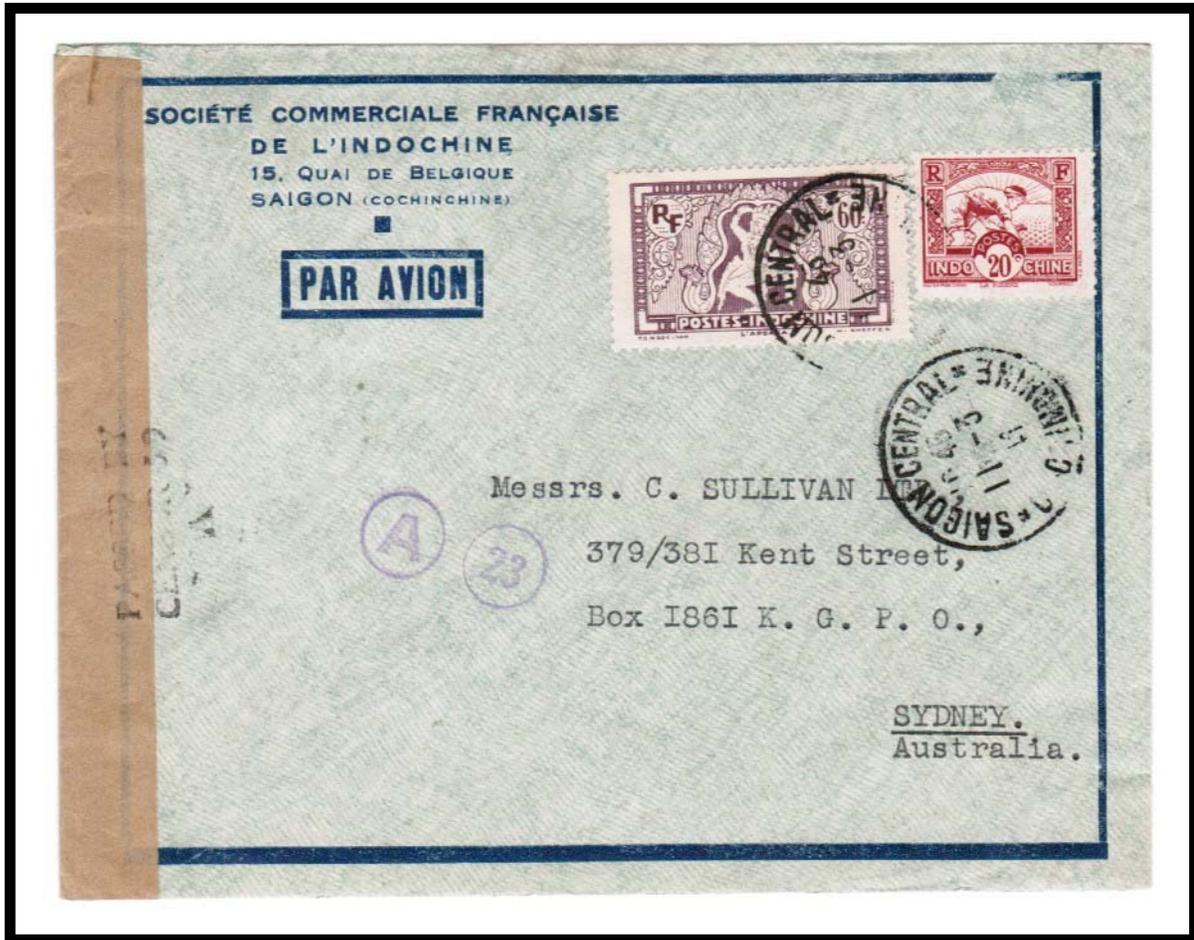
Mail from Indochina to Australia went to the British port of Singapore for forwarding. Of course, censors were located there to examine mail that passed in transit.

PASSED BY
CENSOR 59

A
censor's signature
(Singapore)

A 23

sorter's signature
(Singapore)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 11-3 41
censor's signature handstamp and censor's tape (Singapore)

REVERSE

censor's signature handstamp (Singapore)

Singaporean Transit Censor
on Mail from Indochina to Australia

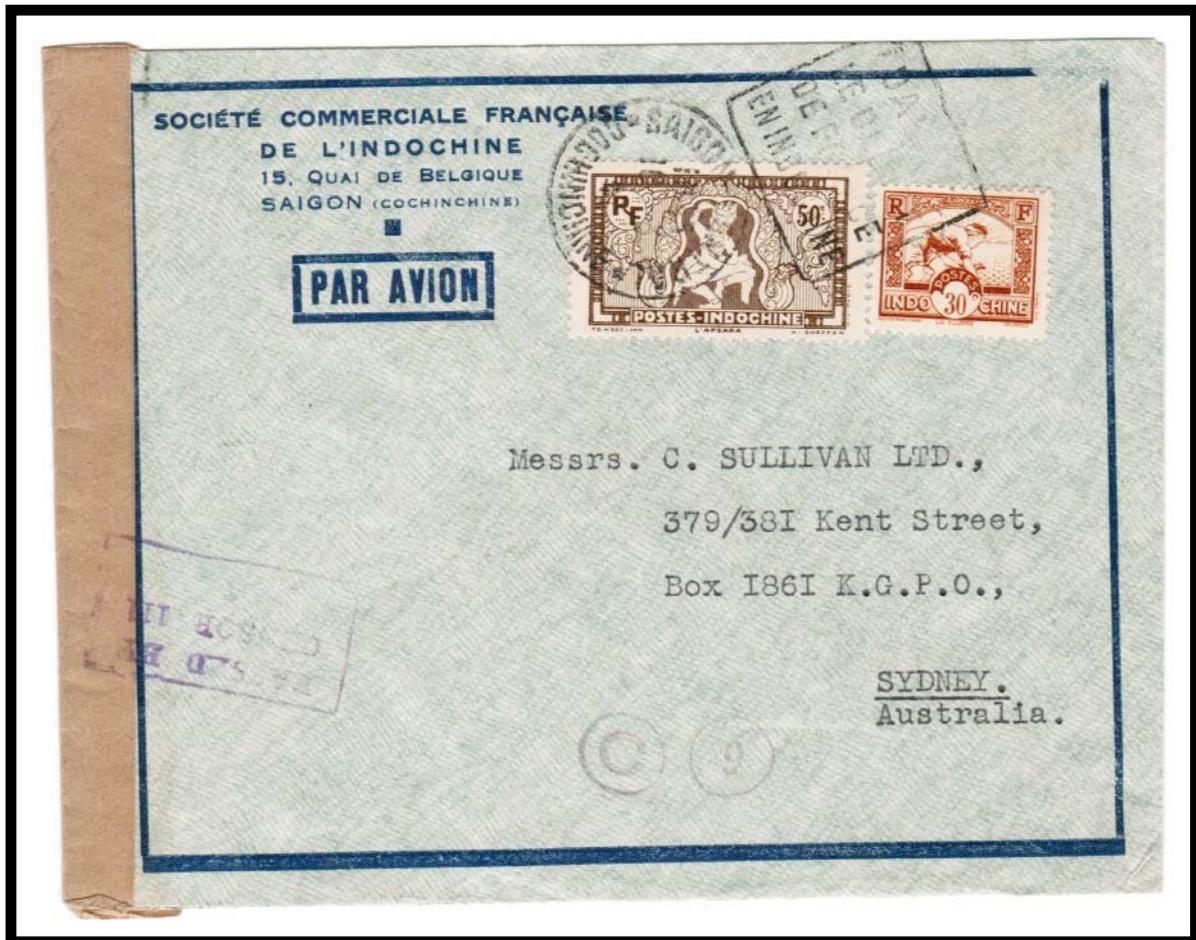
In the case of this mailing from Indochina to Australia, the signature of the Singapore censor is framed within a rectangle.

PASSED BY
CENSOR 111
A

censor's signature
(Singapore)

© 9

sorter's signature
(Singapore)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 10-3 41
slogan handstamp

censor's signature handstamp and censor's tape (Singapore)

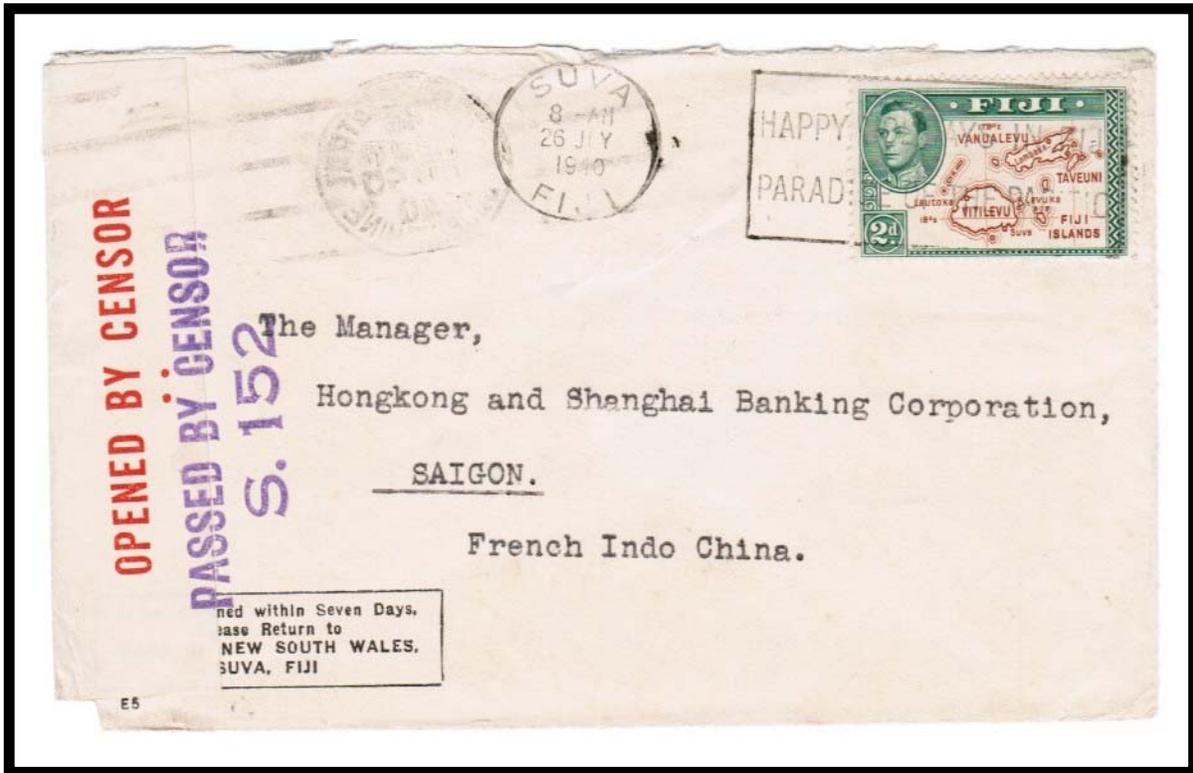
REVERSE

censor's signature handstamp (Singapore)

Fijian Origination Censor
on Mail from Fiji to Indochina

Posted from Fiji in July 1940, before the outbreak of the War in the Pacific, this surface rate letter did not reach Saigon until September 1940.

PASSED BY CENSOR
S. 152



POSTAL MARKINGS

SUVA FIJI 26 JULY 1940

censor's resealing tape and censor's signature handstamp

REVERSE

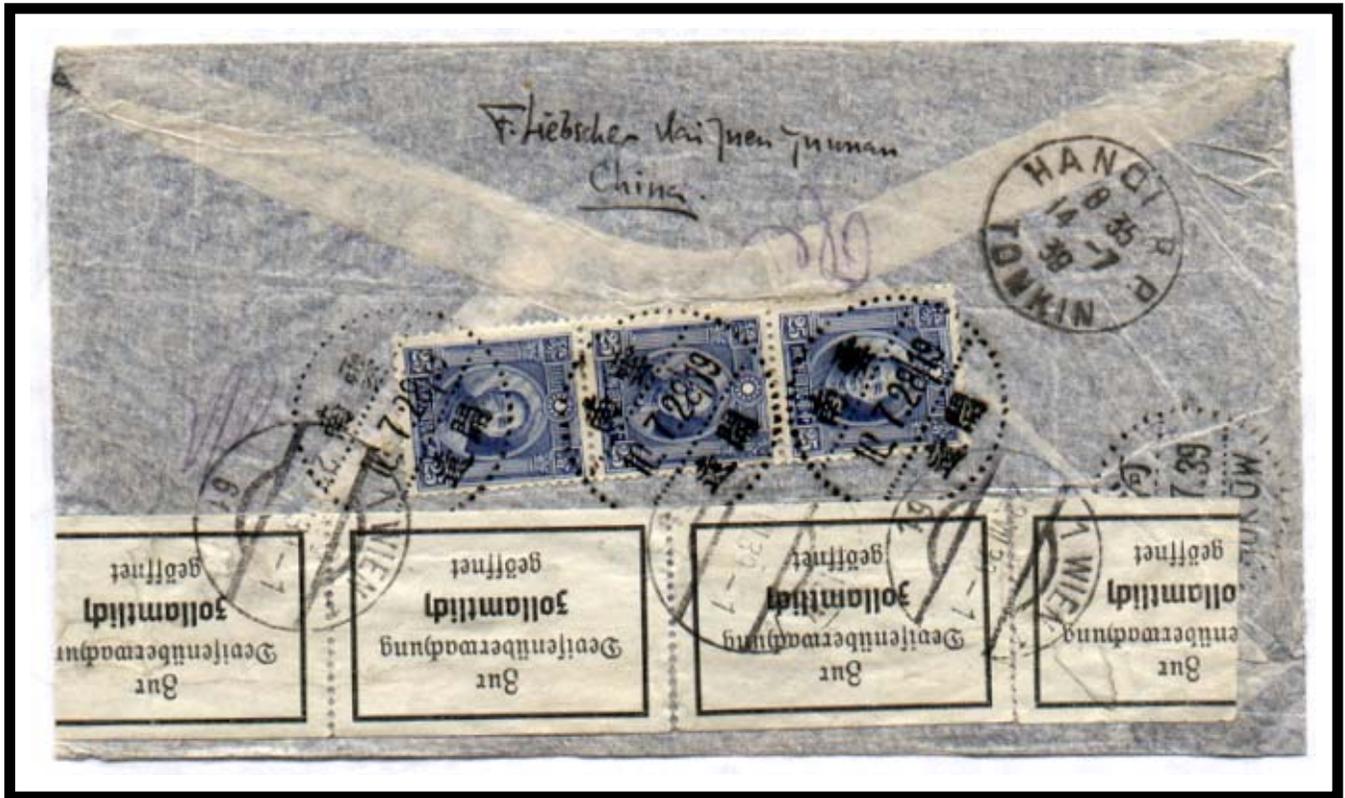
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 14 SEPT 40

Austrian Receipt Customs Inspection
on Mail from China via Indochina to Austria

In 1939, a letter posted in China traveled via Indochina to Austria, which had been annexed by Germany on 13 March 1938. In Vienna, customs inspectors examined the mailing before allowing delivery to the addressee. Perhaps this was an early predecessor to wide-scale censoring.



“opened by Customs for control of exchange” (Austria)



POSTAL MARKINGS

HOKOW 10. 7.39

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 14-7 39

customs inspector's resealing tape (Austria)

1 WIEN 1 61 22. VII. 39

REVERSE

Hanoi Marseille routing instruction

Austrian Receipt Censor on Mail from Indochina to Austria

After Allied troops liberated Vienna at the end of World War II, they continued to occupy Vienna and the surrounding area until 1955. During the early part of this period, mail continued to be inspected as a precaution against a resurgence of activity among Nazi sympathizers.



censor's signature handstamp (Austria)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON R.P. COCHINCHINE 30-5 48

"V4" in circle (purple)

censor's signature handstamp (Austria) (purple)

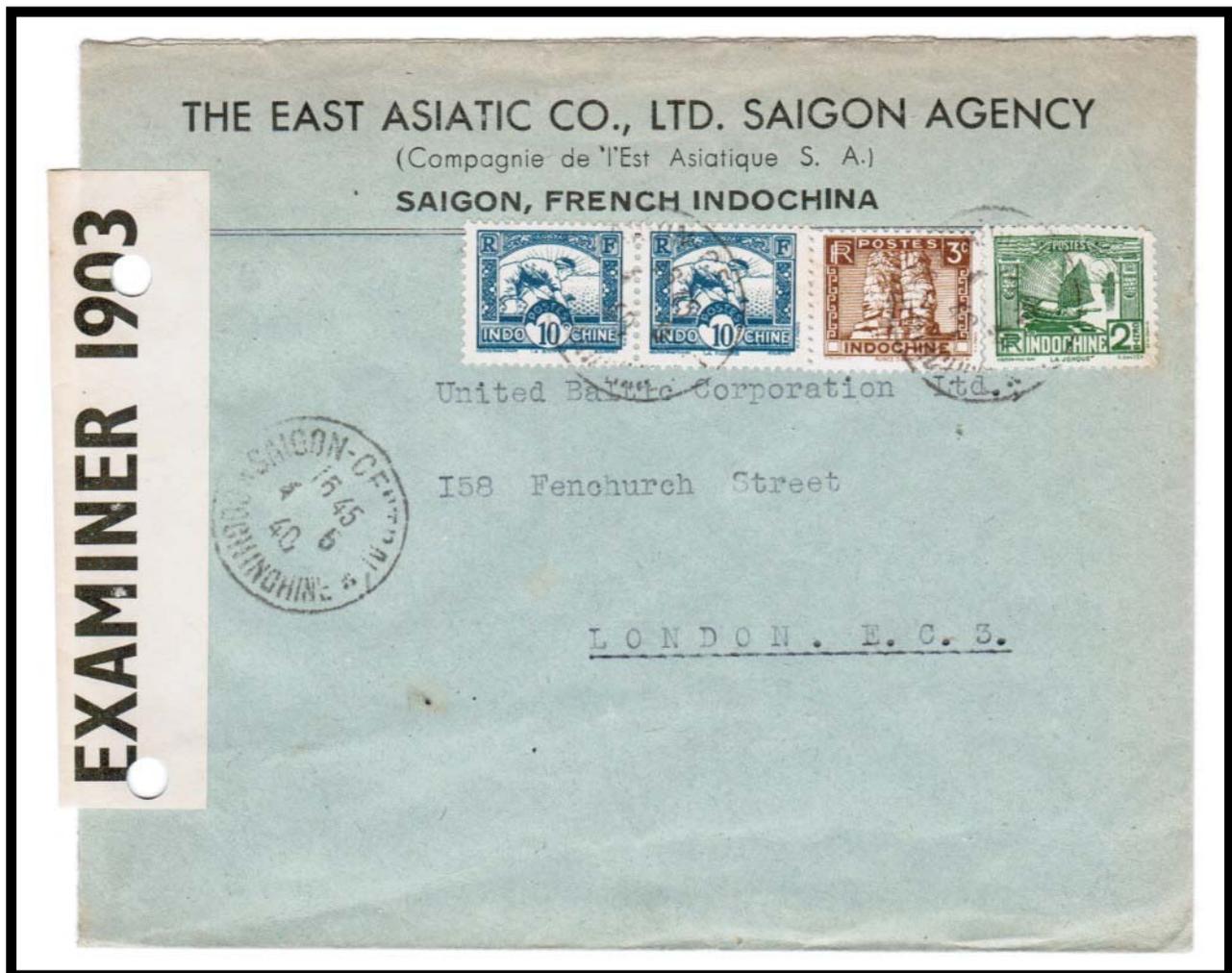
censor's resealing tape

Palestine Transit Censor
on Mail from Indochina to England

British censors located in Palestine censored this surface rate mailing to England in 1940.

P.C. 90

**OPENED BY
EXAMINER 1903**



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 4-5 40
censor's resealing tape (Palestine)

Indian Transit Censor
on Mail from England to Indochina

P.C. 66

**OPENED BY
CENSOR
1675**



POSTAL MARKINGS

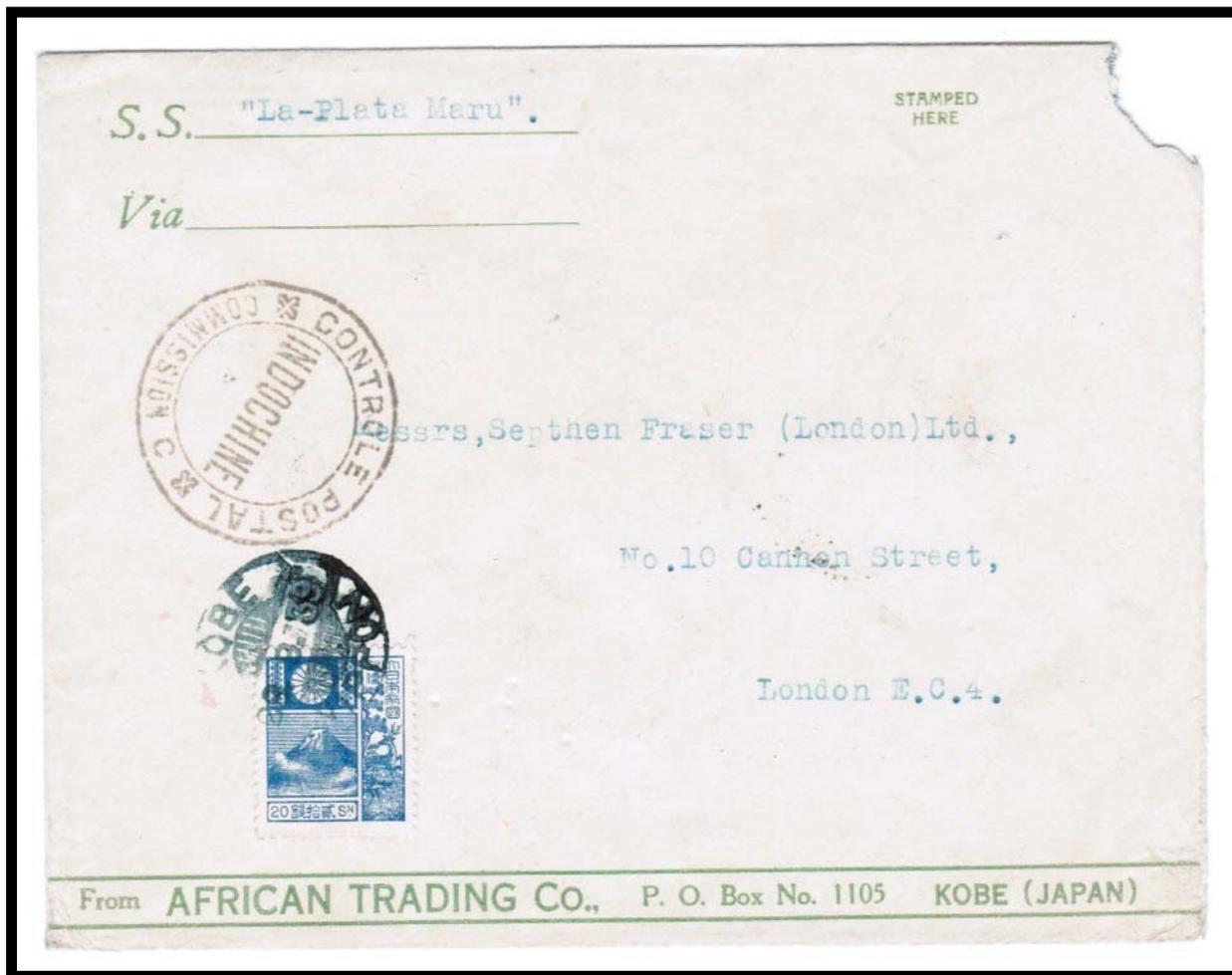
LONDON E.C. 52 25 AP 40
airmail label
censor's resealing label (India)

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 6-5 40
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 6-5 40
HAIPHONG TONKIN 7-5 40

Indochina Transit Censor on Mail from Japan to England

Originating from Kobe, Japan, this cover went via Saigon on its way to London. The censor in Indochina applied the large circular marking signifying that the mailing had been in the possession of the censors. Since envelopes were frequently steamed open, there is no way to be certain whether the contents were actually inspected. While normally used on outgoing mail, the "CONTROLE" marking was also occasionally applied to letters in transit.



POSTAL MARKINGS
KOBE JAPAN 28.9.39
CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C INDOCHINE
REVERSE
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 20-10 39

American Receipt Censor on Mail from Indochina to Germany

A letter posted by a soldier serving in post-World War II Indochina went first to Paris where a 10-franc postage stamp was added. Upon receipt in Germany, a censor working for the US military authority examined the letter and approved it for delivery.



censor'

erican)



POSTAL MARKINGS

POSTE AUX ARMEES T.O. E. 29-10 46

POSTE AUX ARMEES B.C.M. C 7-11 46

censor's signature handstamp (purple) and resealing tape (American)

Indochinese Origination Censor on Mail from Indochina to Holland

A letter to the head office of KLM, the Dutch airline, in Amsterdam was examined in Saigon before departing Indochina.



censor's signature



military authority "football"



POSTAL MARKINGS

CHOLON COCHINCHINE 14-12 39

censor's resealing label

military authority football (violet) and censor's signature handstamp (violet)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 14-12 39

Indochinese Arrival Censor on Mail from Portugal to Indochina

During World War II, Portugal remained a neutral country. As such, the Portuguese were able to correspond with people in occupied lands. Posted from Portugal in the middle of the war in July 1943, this letter eventually reached Indochina in November of that year, spending some 4 months in transit.



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 5-11 43

MYTHO COCHINCHINE 6-11 43

censor's resealing tape with signature handstamp and Military authority football

REVERSE

indistinct Portuguese postmark 29-6-43

Indochinese Origination Censor
 South African Transit Censor
 on Mail from China to Sweden

Posted in China at Kunming in June 1940, this letter went via Hanoi where censors opened it for inspection. Later in its journey, it was opened and again resealed in South Africa.

U.C.S. (Small)	U.C.S. (Small)
UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
DEUR SENSOR OOGEMAAK.	OPENED BY CENSOR.

censor's resealing band (South Africa)



POSTAL MARKINGS

KUNMING YUNNAN FOU 4. 6. 29

HANOI R.P. TONKIN -5 40

OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football (Indochina)
 censor's resealing bands (Indochina and South Africa)

REVERSE

OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football (Indochina)
 "s" in triangle

South African Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to Switzerland

Near South Africa, British forces seized the last French mail boat from Indochina. All of the captured mail was examined by censors in South Africa and resealed with their censor bands. The mail was interred in London for a prolonged period before being released. The date stamp from Geneva on the reverse of this envelope shows that the letter was in transit about 15 months.

<p style="font-size: small;">U.C.S. (Main.)</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.</p> <p style="font-size: x-large; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">DEUR SENSOR OOGEMAAK.</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">U.C.S. (Small.)</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.</p> <p style="font-size: x-large; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">OPENED BY CENSOR.</p>
--	--

censor's resealing band (South Africa)



POSTAL MARKINGS

DALAT ANNAM 19-8 41
registration label

censor's resealing band (South Africa)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 20-6 41
GENEVE 1 DISTR. LETTRES 3.IX.42

Indochinese Transit Censor on Mail from Kouang Cho Wan to Switzerland

A letter originating in the leased territory of Kouang Cho Wan addressed to Switzerland was censored when it passed through Hanoi. Although the letter had been handstamped "Airmail as far as destination," black lines obliterated the indication of airmail service after the letter arrived in France.



POSTAL MARKINGS

FORT BAYARD KOUANGTCHEOUWAN 6-6 40

"Par avion jusqu'à destination" handstamp
censor's resealing tape (Indochina)

OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE football (Indochina)
double black lines obliterating airmail indication

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. bis TONKIN 7-6 40

American Transit Censor
on Mail from Indochina to Canada

A 1941 letter from Haiphong to British Columbia, Canada was examined en route by an American censor. Curiously, no American postal markings are present to indicate where the censorship might have occurred.

EXAMINED BY

C. 260



POSTAL MARKINGS

HAIPHONG TONKIN 1-6 41
T in triangle with manuscript amount due
censor's resealing tape (United States)

REVERSE

HAIPHONG TONKIN 2-6 41
HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 3-6 41

Indochinese Transit Censor on Mail from China to the United States

Sent from Kiulungkiang in Yunnan Province, China, this letter went by normal routing through Indochina. A censor in Haiphong examined the letter and applied his marking. A previously canceled 5 cent postage due stamp was affixed in New York City as a part of normal collection procedures.



censor's signature handstamp (Haiphong)



Opened by Military Authority football

POSTAL MARKINGS

- circular date stamp (China)
- "G" over "1" in circle (Indochina)
- censor's tape (Indochina)
- MILITARY AUTHORITY football
- POSTAGE DUE 5 CENTS.
- canceled postage due stamp

REVERSE

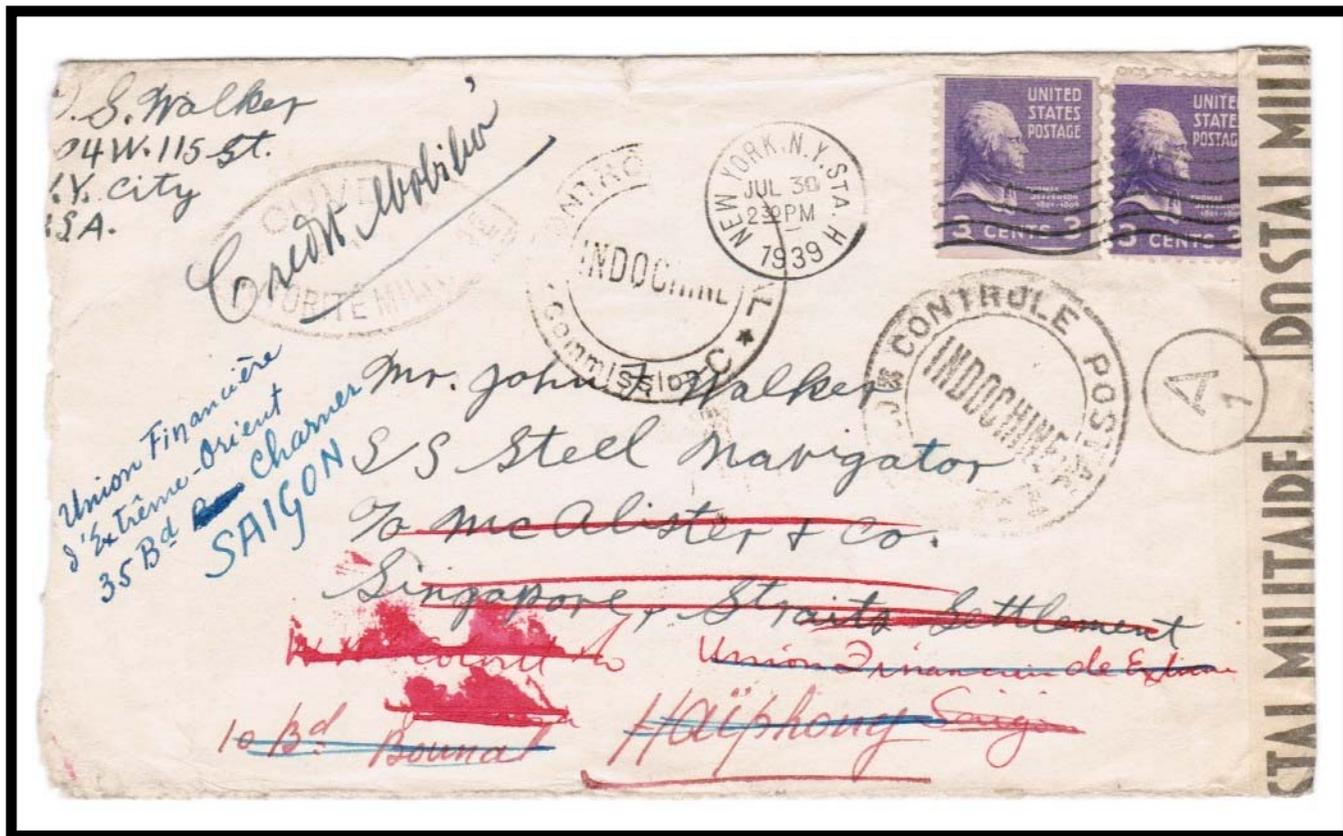
- HAIPHONG TONKIN 19-11 39
- MILITARY AUTHORITY football
- "G" over "1" in circle (Indochina)

Indochinese Receipt Censor
on Mail from the United States to Indochina

Sent to Singapore, a 1939 letter was redirected to Haiphong. The mailing apparently escaped examination by a censor until it arrived at Haiphong. Once again, the letter was redirected, this time to Saigon, where it received the Commission C handstamp.



censor's signature
(Annam)



POSTAL MARKINGS

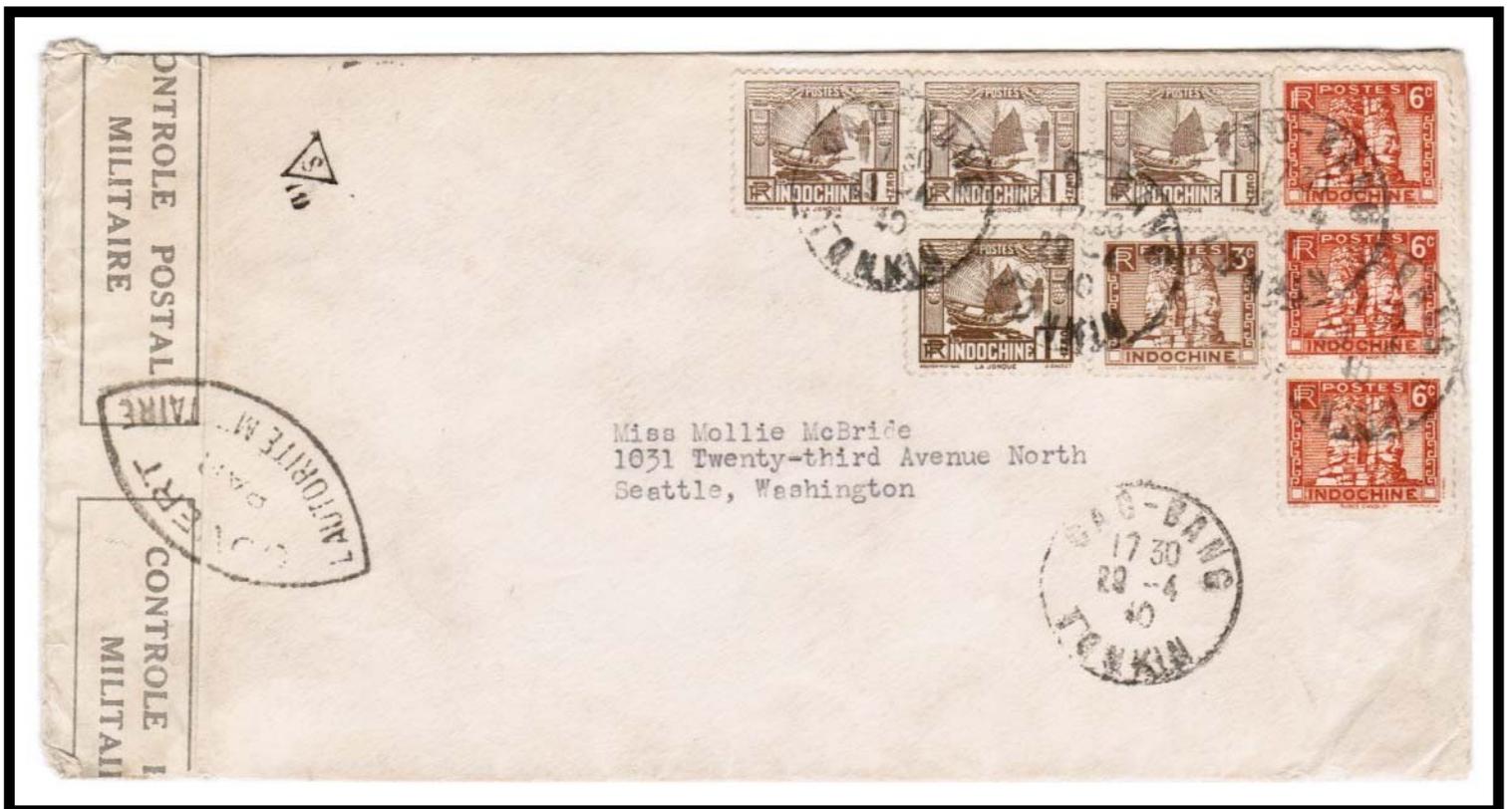
NEW YORK, N.Y. STA. Jul 30 1939
CONTROLE POSTAL COMMISSION C INDOCHINE
A1 in circle – censor's signature handstamp and resealing tape
Military Authority football

REVERSE

SINGAPORE F 2 SP 1939
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 12-9 39

Indochinese Origination Censor on Mail from Indochina to the United States

Sent to the United States in 1940, this letter was first inspected by censors in Hanoi. The small "s" in a triangle is likely another censor signature handstamp, but its origin is unknown.



POSTAL MARKINGS

CAO-BANG TONKIN 29-4 40
OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football
censors resealing tape (Indochina)
"s" in triangle

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 30-4 40
HANOI R.P. bis TONKIN 30-4 40
HAIPHONG TONKIN 1-5 40

Indochinese Origination Censor
 Hong Kong Transit Censor
 on Mail from Indochina to the United States

Censored in Annam (circular B1 marking), this letter was passed by the Hong Kong censor. With this version of the Hong Kong censor marking, the wording is outside of the triangle.



censor's signature handstamp
 (Hong Kong)



censor's signature handstamp
 (Annam)



POSTAL MARKINGS

TOURANE ANNAM 30-4 40

censor's signature handstamp and resealing tape (Annam)

censor's signature handstamp (Hong Kong)

REVERSE

HUE ANNAM 1-5 40

VICTORIA HONG KONG 5 MY 40

Indochina Origination
 Censor
 on Diplomatic Mail from
 Indochina
 to the United States

Correspondence certified by a signature to be of a diplomatic nature was placed in the regular mail stream. As evidenced by the markings on the reverse, the letter was examined by censors in Hanoi.



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 15-5 40
 registration label

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. BIS TONKIN 18-3 40
 HANOI R.P. TONKIN 18-3 40
 HAI-PHONG TONKIN 18-3 30
 SEATTLE WASH. REGISTERED
 APR 14 1940
 WASHINGTON, D.C. (DIP. SEC.)
 APR 18 1940

Hong Kong Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to the United States

This example shows that a letter that escaped censoring — probably because the firm of Denis Freres was considered reliable by the censors in Hong Kong. If the letter had been opened, a paper band would have been applied to reseal the envelope.



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 26-6 40
censor's signature handstamp (Hong Kong)

REVERSE

VICTORIA HONG KONG 10 MY 40

Hong Kong Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to the United States

Airmail sent the United States would likely go by transpacific airplane via Hong Kong. In this case, censor number 47 examined the envelope and then applied his signature marking tying the censor band to the envelope.

47

censor's signature handstamp
(Hong Kong)

POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 11-2 41
censor's signature handstamp and censor's band (Hong Kong)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 11-2 41



Hong Kong Transit Censor on Mail from Indochina to the United States

The signature of the Hong Kong censor was a number in a rectangle normally applied in a color other than black. The signature handstamp tied the censor band to the envelope acting a means of preventing tampering with the official resealing of censored mail.

Surface mail to the United States took considerably longer than airmail. In this example, a registered letter was en route for about three and one half months.

64

censor's signature
handstamp
(Hong Kong)

POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 29-4 41
registration label

censor's signature handstamp and censor's band (Hong Kong)

REVERSE

WISE PAR LA DOUANE handstamp with initials and date
censor's signature handstamp (Hong Kong)
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. REG. SEC. JUL 14 1941
NEW YORK, N.Y. REG'Y. DIV. 7-18 1941
NEW YORK, N.Y. (MORRIS HEIGHTS STA.) REGISTERED JUL 18 1941



Hong Kong Transit Censor
on Mail from Kouang Cho Wan to the United States

Even in 1941, censors still were letting many letters pass without inspection. At Hong Kong, a handstamp let others know that censoring status of the letter.

NOT OPENED
BY
CENSOR

censor's handstamp(Hong Kong)



POSTAL MARKINGS

TCHEKAM KOUANG TCHEOU WAN 4-6 41
framed NOT OPENED BY CENSOR (Hong Kong) (purple)

REVERSE

VICTORIA HONG KONG 13 JU 41

Indochinese Origination Censor
Hong Kong Transit Censor
on Mail from Indochina to the United States

First censored in Hanoi at the point of origin, this registered airmail letter was again censored in Hong Kong.



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI-A TONKIN 20-6 41
registration label

OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football
censor's resealing tape (Hanoi)
censor's resealing labels (Hong Kong)

REVERSE

HANOI R.P. B15 TONKIN 20-6 41
"A" over "7" in circle - censor's signature handstamp (Hanoi)
"41" in rectangle - censor's signature handstamp (Hong Kong)
REGISTERED handstamp

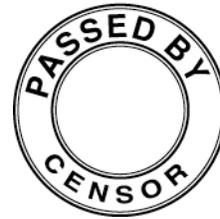
HONOLULU, HAWAII REGISTERED JUL 16 1941
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. REG. SEC. JUL 18 1941

Singaporean Transit Censor
American Receipt Censor
on Mail from Indochina to the United States

While there is no evidence on this cover of censoring in Indochina, there are markings showing that it was examined en route as well as upon arrival. The handwritten "1554" in the American censor mark identifies the location as the San Francisco censor station, which had responsibility for Pacific area mails.

PASSED BY
CENSOR 98
A

censor's signature handstamp
(Singapore)



(United States)

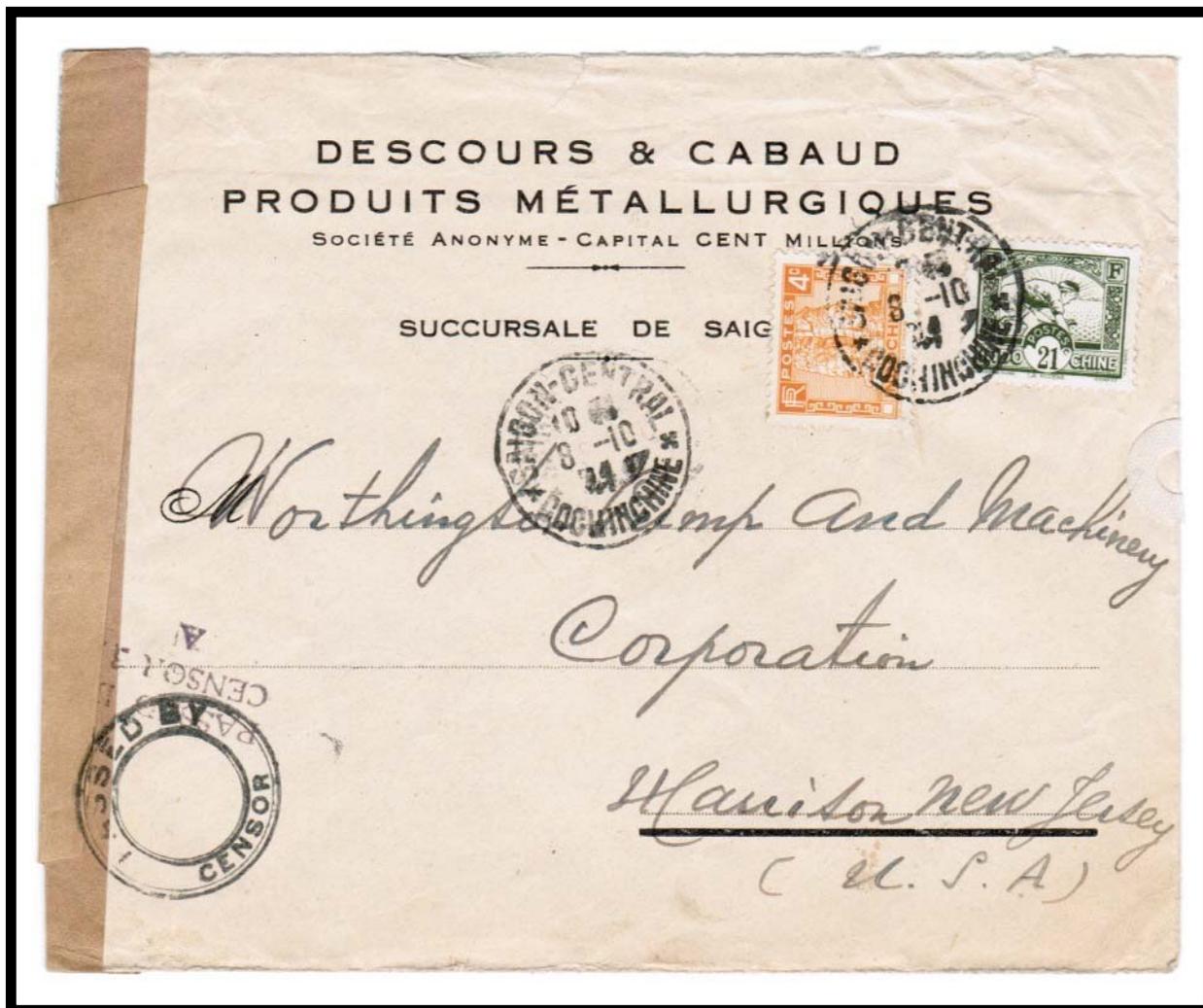


POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 2-10 41
censor's signature handstamp and resealing tape (Singapore)
censor's handstamp and resealing tape (United States)

Singaporean Transit Censor
 American Receipt Censor
 on Mail from Indochina to the United States

While there is no evidence on this cover of censoring within Indochina, there are markings showing that it was examined en route at Singapore as well as upon arrival in the United States. Since it was sent by sea mail in October 1941, the letter likely arrived around the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor.



censor's handstamp
 (United States)

POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 8-10 41
 censor's signature handstamp and resealing tape
 (Singapore)
 censor's handstamp (United States)

REVERSE

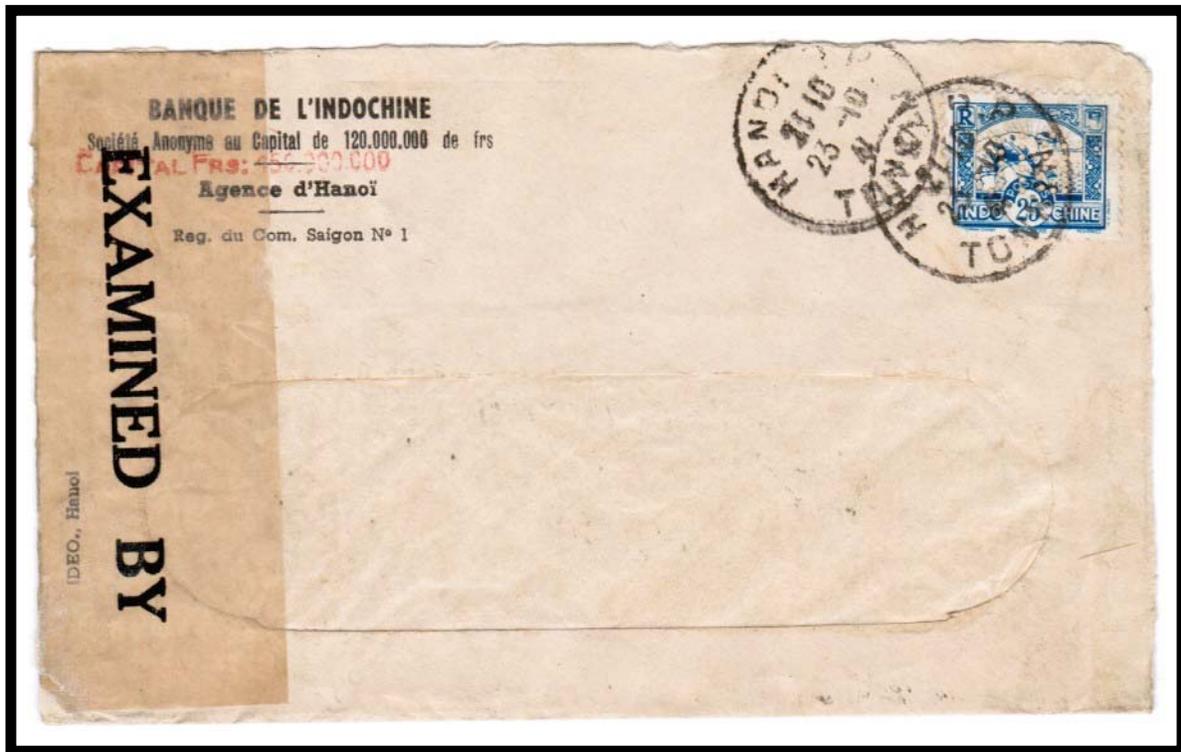
censor's signature handstamp (Singapore)

American Receipt Censor
on Mail from Indochina to the United States

Sent by surface mail, the probable destination of this widowed envelope can be determined by the transparent resealing tape used by censors in the United States. The postage stamp bears the perforated initials "BIC" for the Hanoi branch office of the Bank of Indochina.

EXAMINED BY

C. 284



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI R.P. TONKIN 23-10 41
censor's resealing tape (United States)

REVERSE

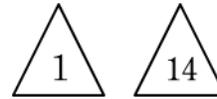
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 23-10 41
HANOI R.P. B^S TONKIN 24-10 41
HAIPHONG TONKIN 24-10 41

Singaporean Transit Censor
on Mail from Indochina to the United States

Typically, the signature for a sorter in Singapore's postal system consisted of two circles—one with a letter and one with a number. In this case, the signature took the form of two triangles with numbers inside.

PASSED BY
CENSOR 165
A

censor's signature handstamp
(Singapore)



sorter's signature handstamp
(Singapore)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 11 NOV 41
censor's signature handstamp (Singapore)
sorter's signature handstamp (Singapore)

Indochinese Origination Censor on Mail from Indochina to the United States

A 1946 letter from Indochina to New York was examined and resealed by censor K4 in Saigon. World War II had concluded in August 1945, almost a half a year earlier.



censor's signature handstamp (Indochina)



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 24-2 46
"K" over "4" in circle - censor's signature handstamp (Indochina)
scrap paper used as censor's resealing tape (Indochina)
OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football

REVERSE

"K" over "4" in circle - censor's signature handstamp (Indochina)

French Guyana Receipt Censor on Mail from Indochina to French Guyana

The format of the large, circular censor marking employed in French Guyana was very similar to those used in Indochina.



POSTAL MARKINGS

PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 1-11-39

censor's resealing tape with "CONTROL POSTAL GUYANE FRANÇAISE" censor handstamp

REVERSE

"CONTROL POSTAL GUYANE FRANÇAISE" censor handstamp

OUVERT PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE football

A-1 in circle

CAYENNE GUYANE FR