

# UNCOMMON POSTAL MARKINGS FROM FRENCH INDOCHINA

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NAPEX

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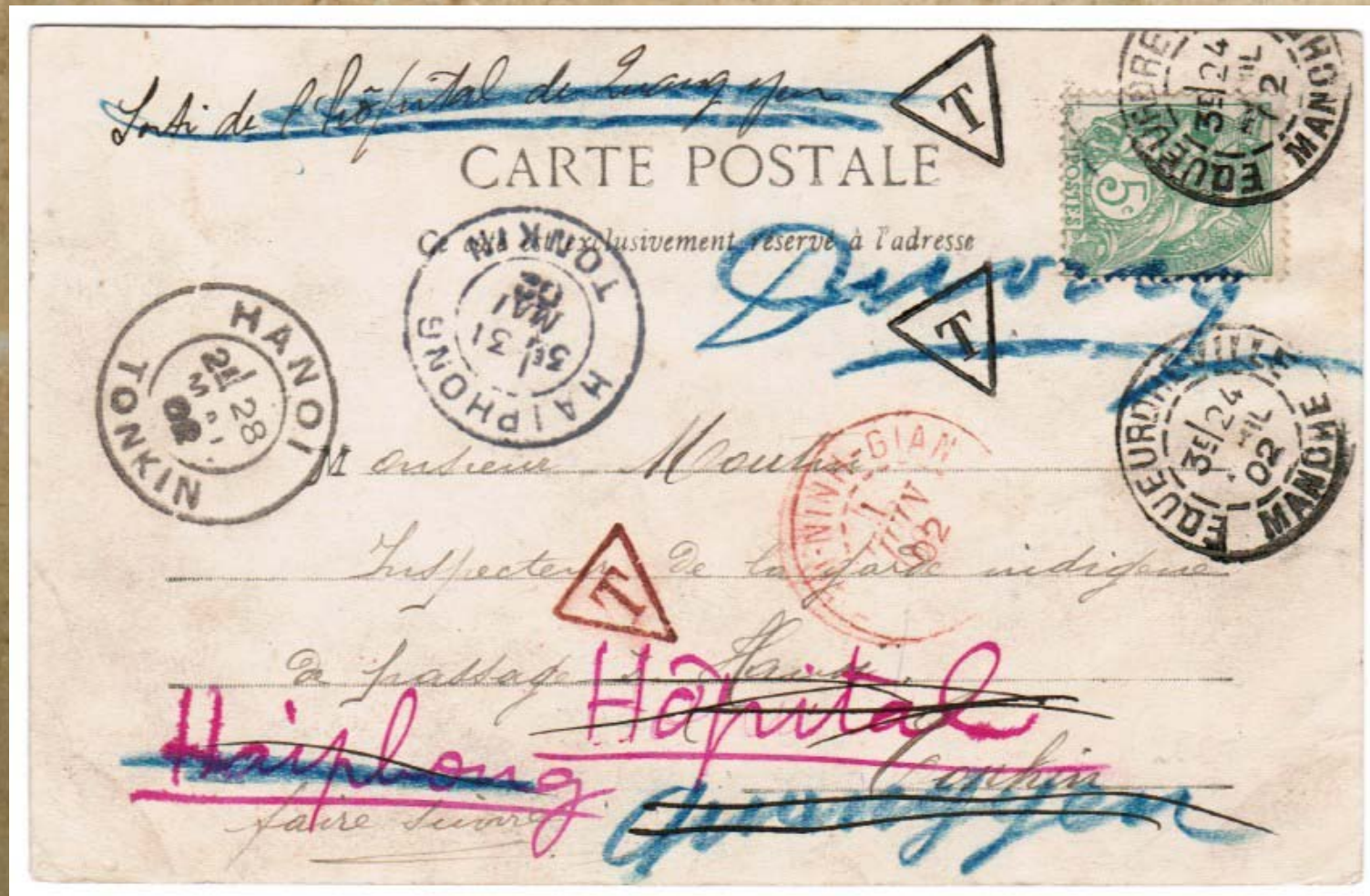
# MARKINGS CAN ROUGHLY BE LUMPED INTO THREE CATEGORIES

- Services
  - Airmail
  - Registration
  - Insurance
  - Expedited Service
  - Express
- Instructional
  - Postage
  - Found in the Box
  - Mobile Box
  - Too Late
  - Customs Inspection
- Slogans

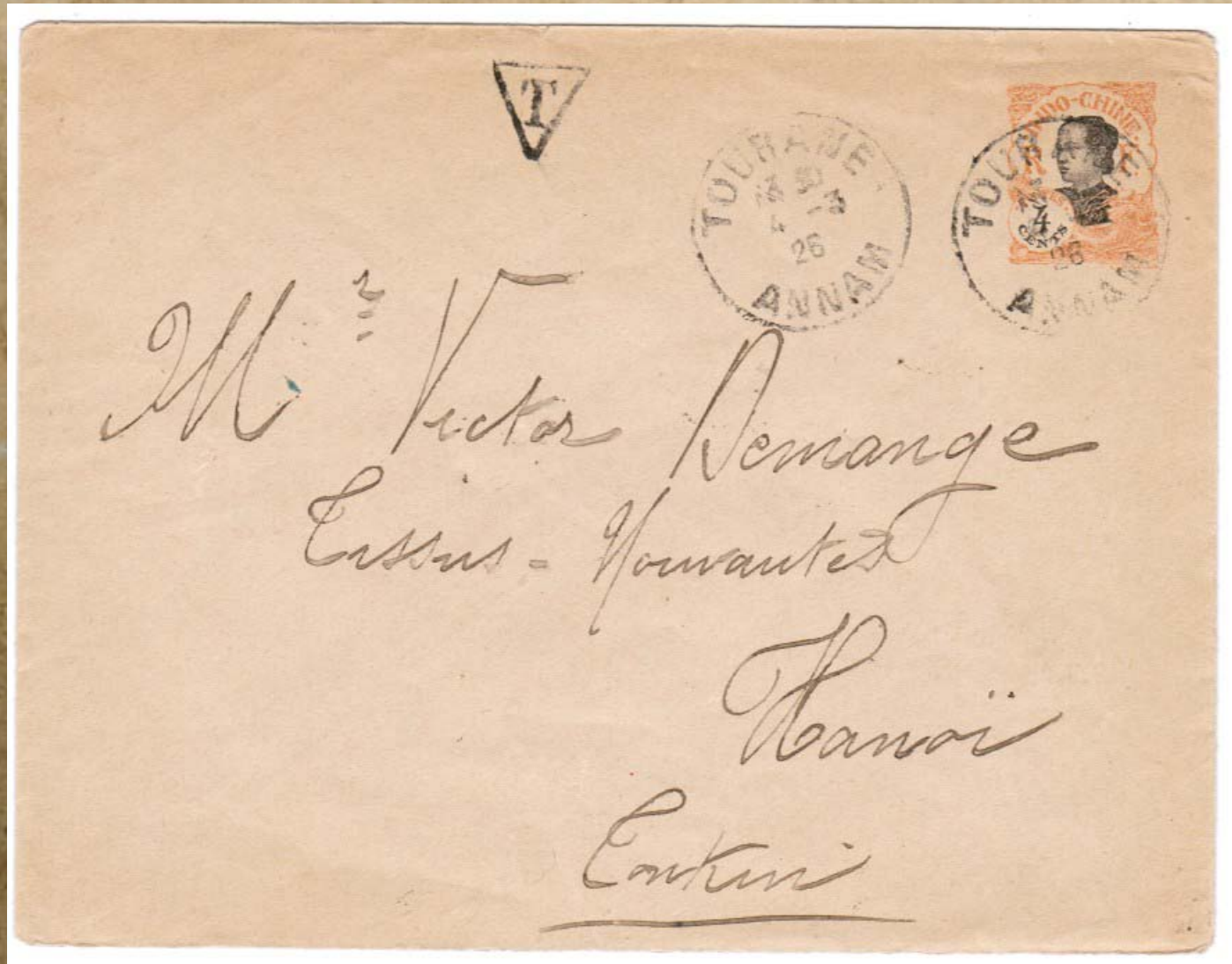
# INDOCHINA HAD A CONSIDERABLE RANGE OF MARKINGS CONCERNED WITH POSTAGE

- Underpaid Postage
- Overpaid Postage
- Postage Paid
- Postage Computation
- Sample Merchandise

# “T” IN TRIANGLE WAS USED IN FRANCE PROPER



# “T” IN TRIANGLE WAS STANDARD FOR FRENCH COLONIES



# ONCE IDENTIFIED FOR POSTAGE DUE, OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD ADD THEIR OWN MARKINGS



# VARIATIONS IN STYLE AND SIZE EXIST



# WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, A PLAIN “T” BECAME THE PREFERRED FORMAT



OFTEN, THE AMOUNT DUE WAS  
INDICATED WITH A HANDWRITTEN NOTE



# BASED ON UPU TREATIES, THE GOLD FRANC WAS THE STANDARD FOR POSTAL RATES



# FRAMED "AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT" WAS AN AMPLIFYING EXPLANATION



PARTIAL STAMP REMAINS  
PROMPTED MANUSCRIPT “A NE  
PAS TAXER”



# MARKINGS IN ENGLISH HAD TO BE EXTRANEIOUS



# LERALLE CREATED A VARIETY OF UNIQUE DUE MARKINGS



# WHEN RATES CHANGED, LERALLE ADAPTED



# MARKINGS AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT AIRMAIL WERE INTRODUCED



# OVER TIME, THE FORMALITY OF A FRAME WAS ABANDONED



# LATE EXAMPLE OF UNDERPAID AIRMAIL MARKING



SENSITIVE TO ACCUSATIONS OF  
OVERCHARGING, THE POST OFFICE  
IDENTIFIED “SENDER-FRANKED” MAIL



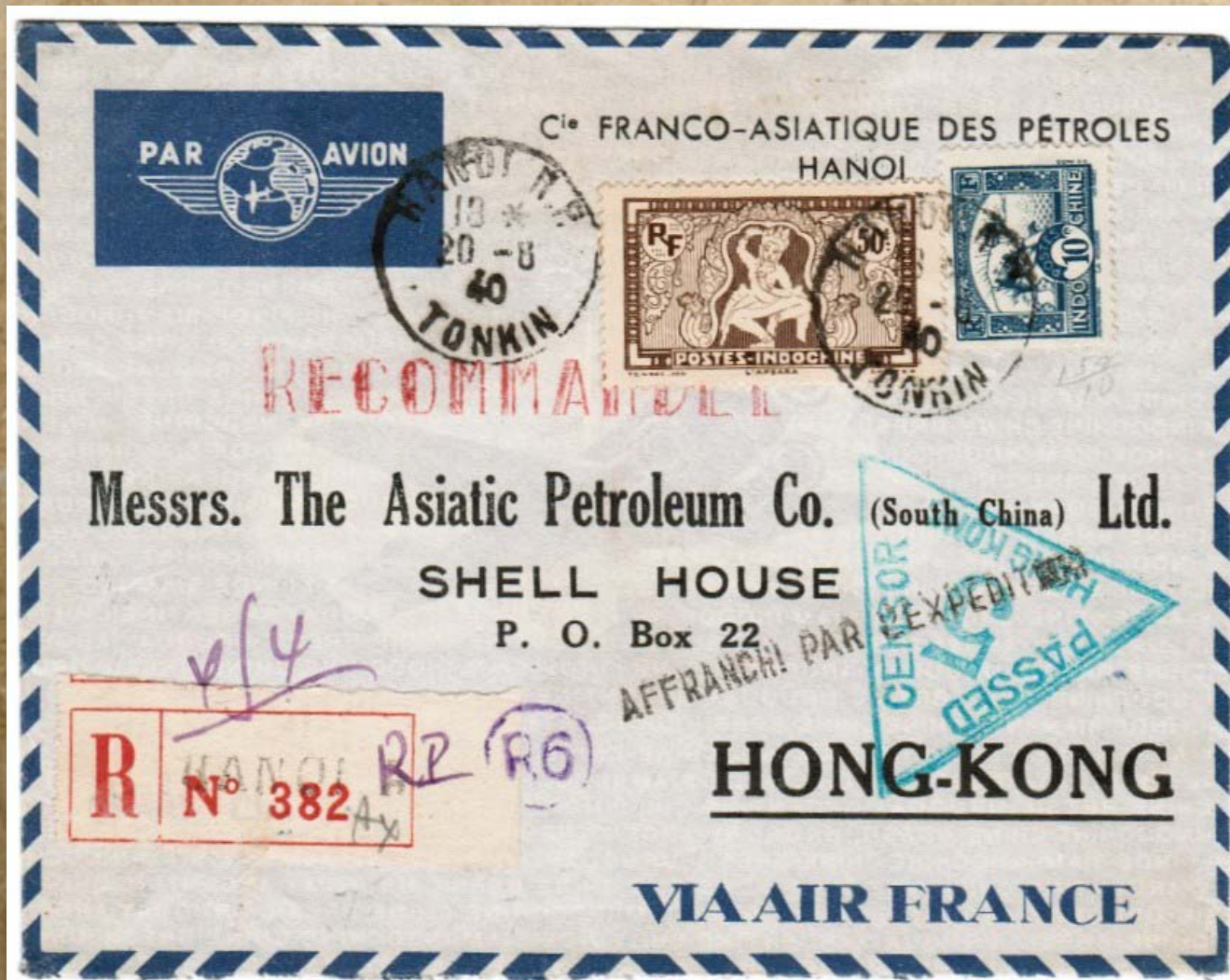
# A VARIATION USED LOWER CASE LETTERS AND LACKED A FRAME



# “FRANKED BY SENDER” STRUCK WITH RED INK



# VARIATION FROM 1940 IN CAPITAL LETTERS



# DOUBLE-FRAMED VARIETY WAS UNIQUE TO HAIPHONG

AFFRANCHI  
PAR  
EXPEDITEUR



# SAME MARKING IN VIETNAMESE

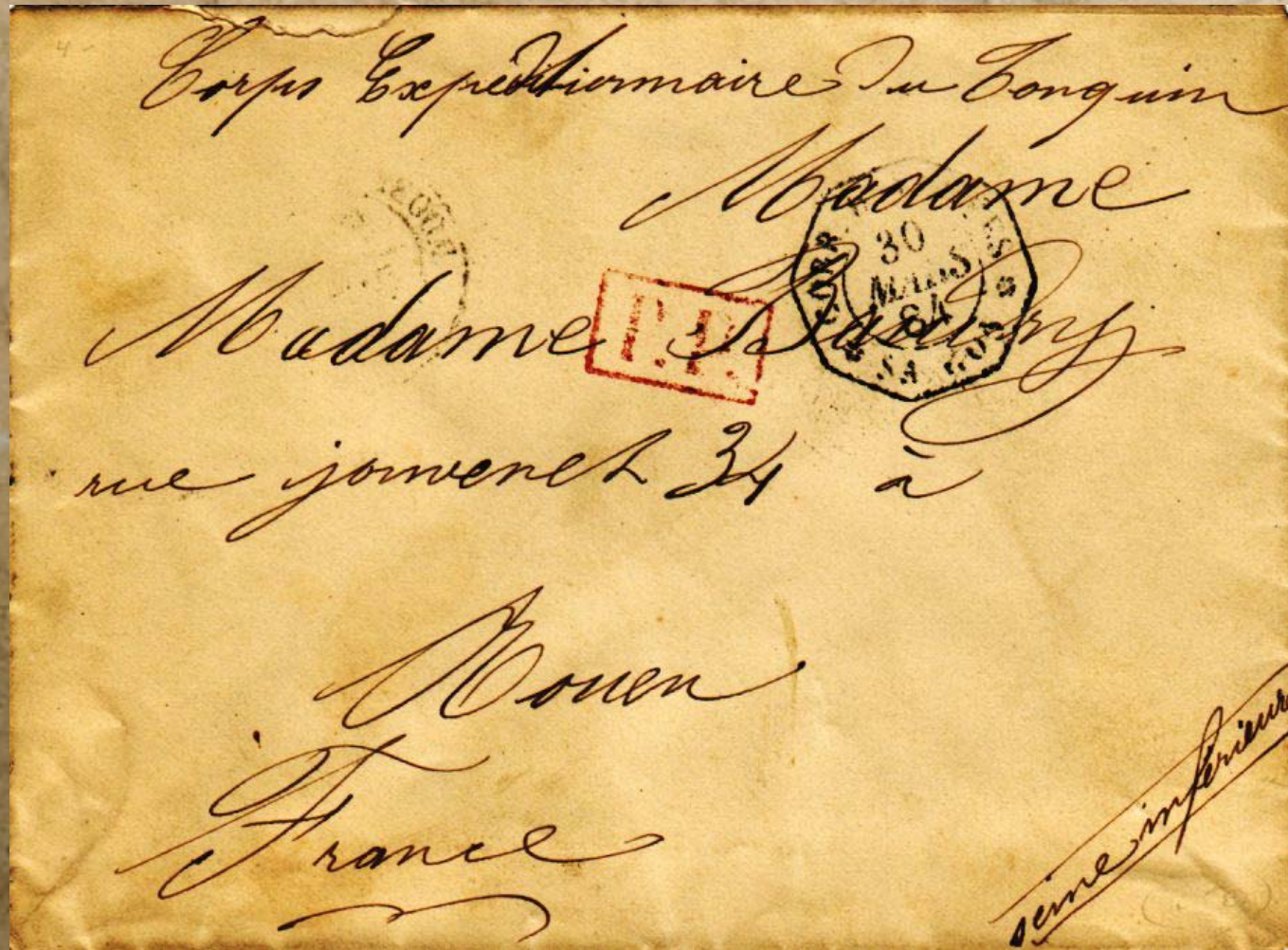
“Người gửi dán tem lấy” =  
“Stamp(s) affixed by the  
sender him/herself”



“P.P.” IN CIRCLE INDICATED THAT  
CORRECT POSTAGE HAD BEEN PAID



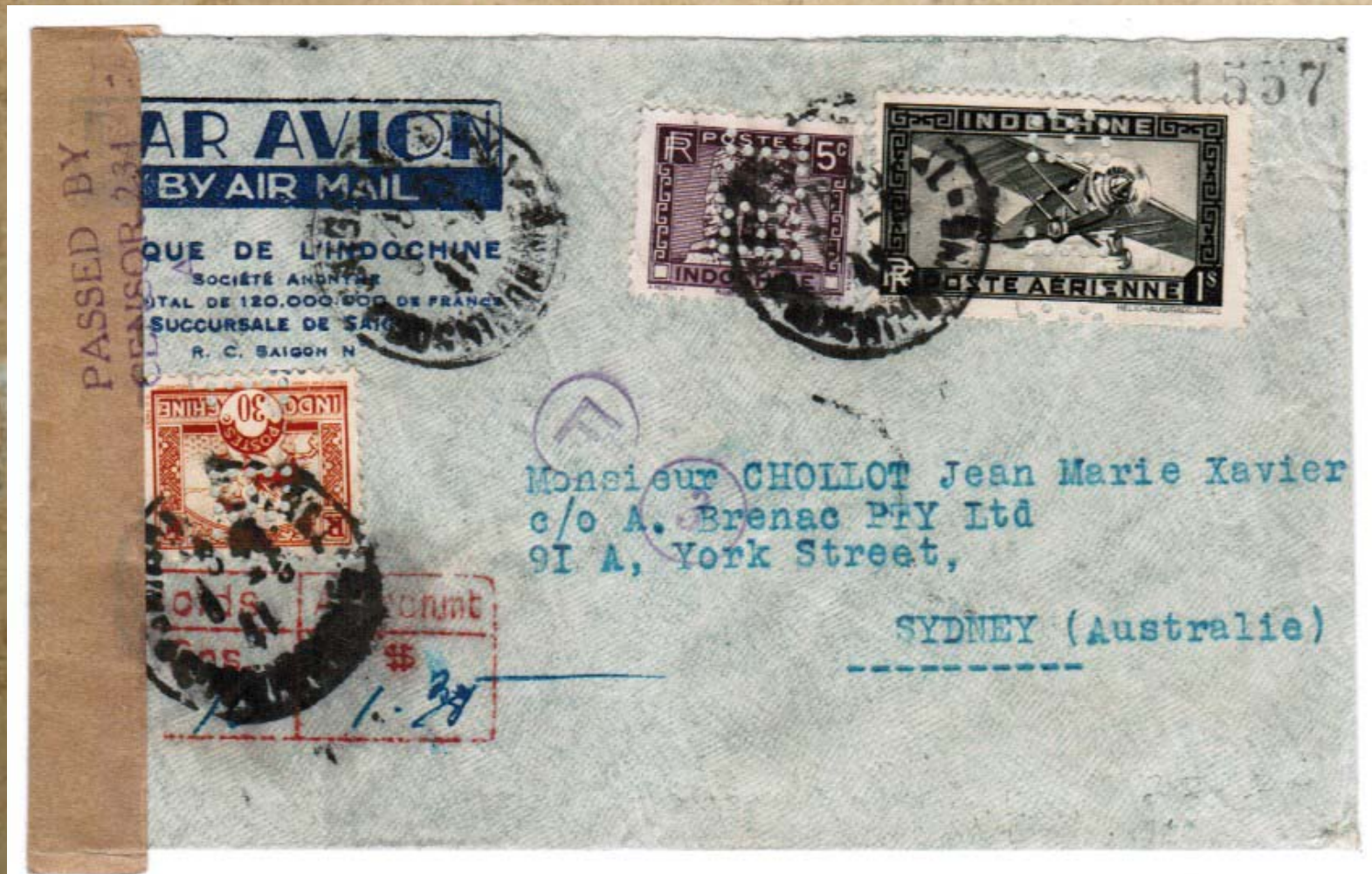
ANOTHER VARIATION WAS "P.P." IN  
A RECTANGULAR FRAME (RED)



# CACHET ALLOWED CLERK TO INDICATE THE WEIGHT BASIS FOR POSTAGE



# CACHET STRUCK WITH RED INK



“PREPAID IN CASH” WAS MEANT TO  
AVOID POSTAGE DUE CITATIONS



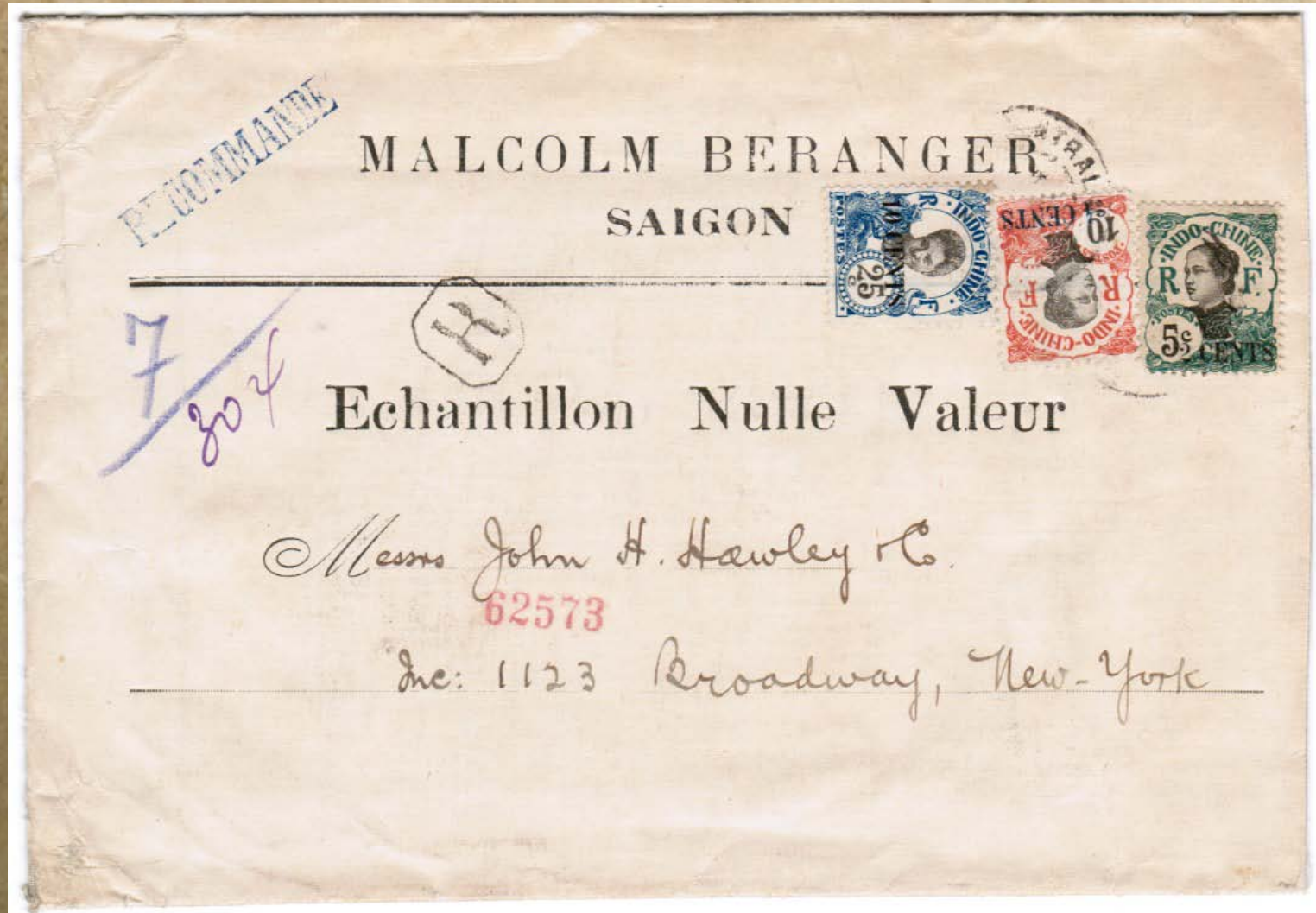
CIRCULAR HANDSTAMP VERIFIED THAT  
CORRECT AIRMAIL POSTAGE HAD BEEN  
PAID



DESPITE HANDSTAMP, ERRORS WERE  
MADE AND LETTERS INCURRED  
POSTAGE DUE



# SAMPLES OF MERCHANDISE HAD REDUCED POSTAL RATES



# TYPEWRITTEN INDICATION OF “SAMPLES WITHOUT VALUE”



# CURSIVE "FOUND IN THE BOX" WAS INTENDED TO DEFLECT CRITICISMS



# MARKED MAIL WAS NOT ALWAYS POSTAGE DUE



# THREE-LINE MARKING IS A LESS COMMON VARIANT



# LACKING A HANDSTAMP, A MANUSCRIPT NOTE WOULD SUFFICE



# A RANGE OF ISSUES COULD STYMIE DELIVERY OF THE MAIL

- UNCLAIMED
- REFUSED
- UNDELIVERABLE
  - INCOMPLETE ADDRESS
  - NO FORWARDING ADDRESS
  - COMMON NAME
  - UNKNOWN
- RETURN TO SENDER

FRAMED “NON RECLAMÉ” MEANT THE ADDRESSEE FAILED TO RETRIEVE THE LETTER



# POST OFFICES USED VARIOUS FORMATS FOR “UNCLAIMED”



IF SENDER DID NOT CLAIM THE LETTER,  
IT WAS RETURNED TO THE SENDER



EVEN IF THE POST OFFICE LOCATED  
THE ADDRESSEE, THE LETTER COULD  
STILL BE REFUSED



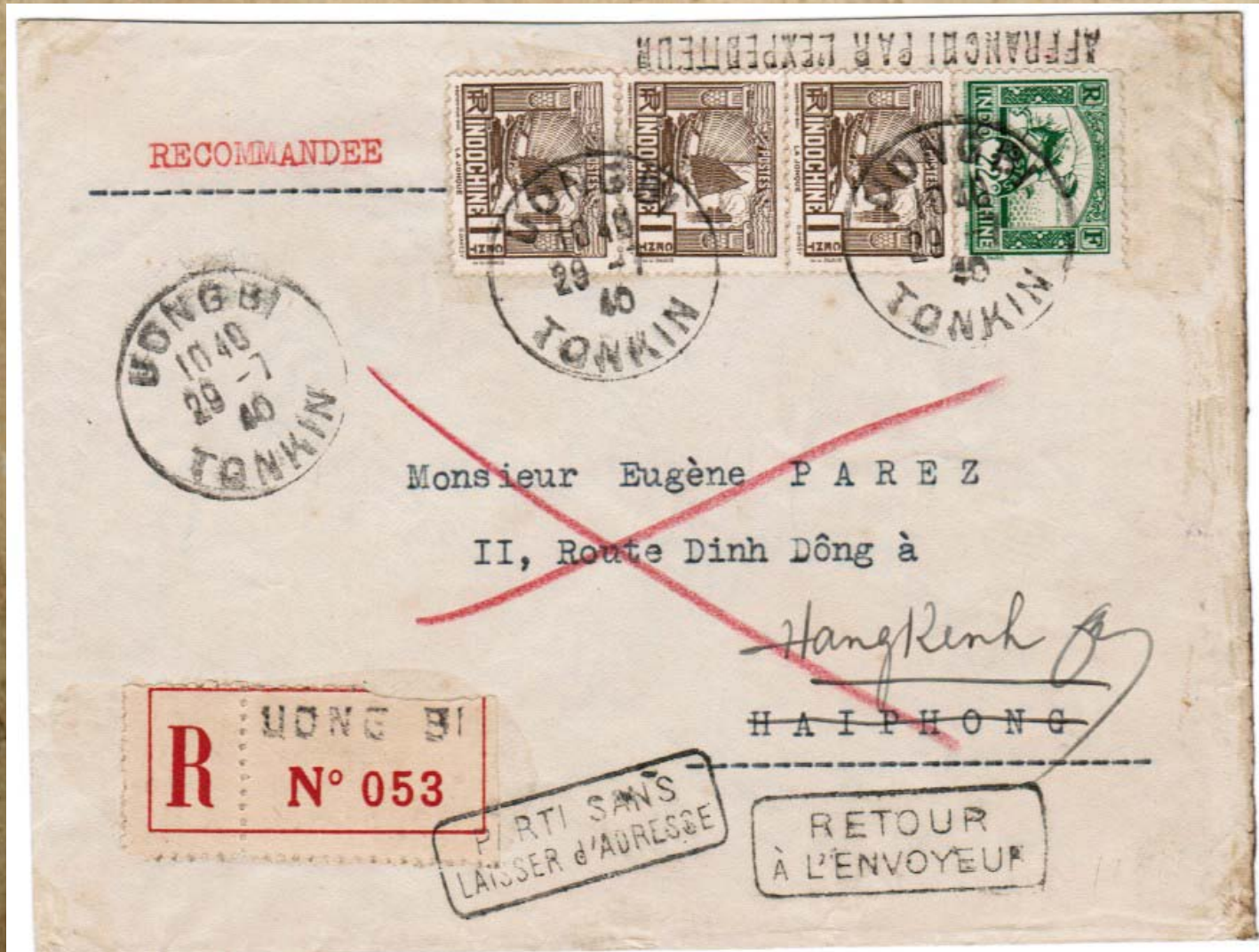
# AN INCOMPLETE ADDRESS WOULD PREVENT DELIVERY



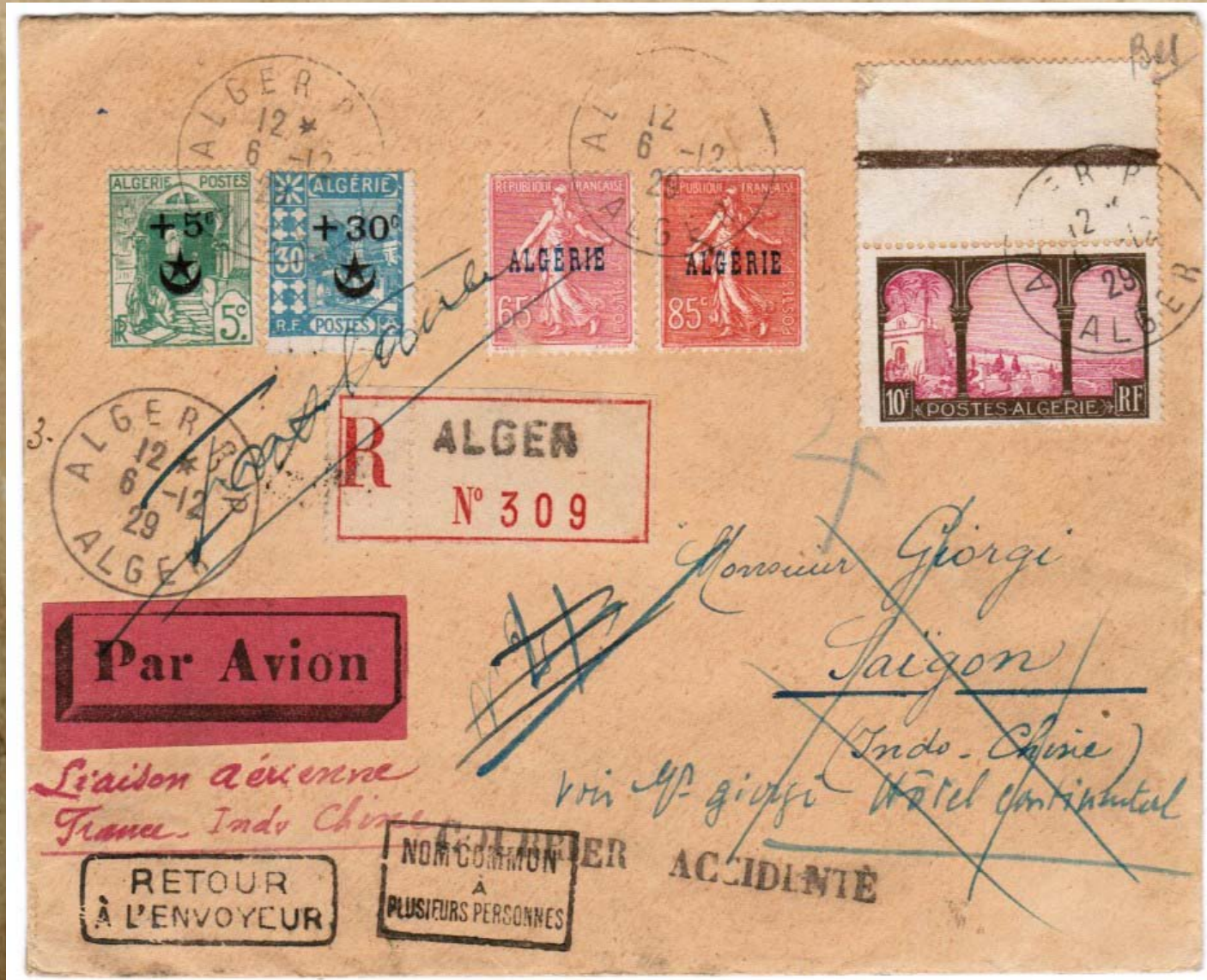
# WITHOUT A FORWARDING ADDRESS, DELIVERY WAS IMPEDED



# ABSENCE OF A FORWARDING ADDRESS MEANT “RETURN TO SENDER”



# A PARTIAL ADDRESS AND A COMMON NAME PREVENTED DELIVERY



SOMETIMES AN ADDRESSEE WAS  
UNKNOWN, BUT THE LETTER COULD BE  
FORWARDED



# OFTEN THE LETTER WAS RETURNED TO THE SENDER BY THE POST OFFICE



THOUGH NOT COMMON, THE POST OFFICE  
SOMETIMES CREATED BILINGUAL MARKINGS



# EVERY MAILMAN WAS SOLICITED TO FIND AN UNKNOWN ADDRESSEE



- HANDSTAMP ON REVERSE IDENTIFIED DELIVERY ROUTES BY NUMBER
- EACH MAILMAN SIGNED OFF CONFIRMING THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE ADDRESSEE

# HEAD MAILMAN CONFIRMED THAT THE ADDRESSEE WAS UNKNOWN IN HANOI



# A LOCAL GOVERNING OFFICIAL COULD HELP LOCATE AN ADDRESSEE

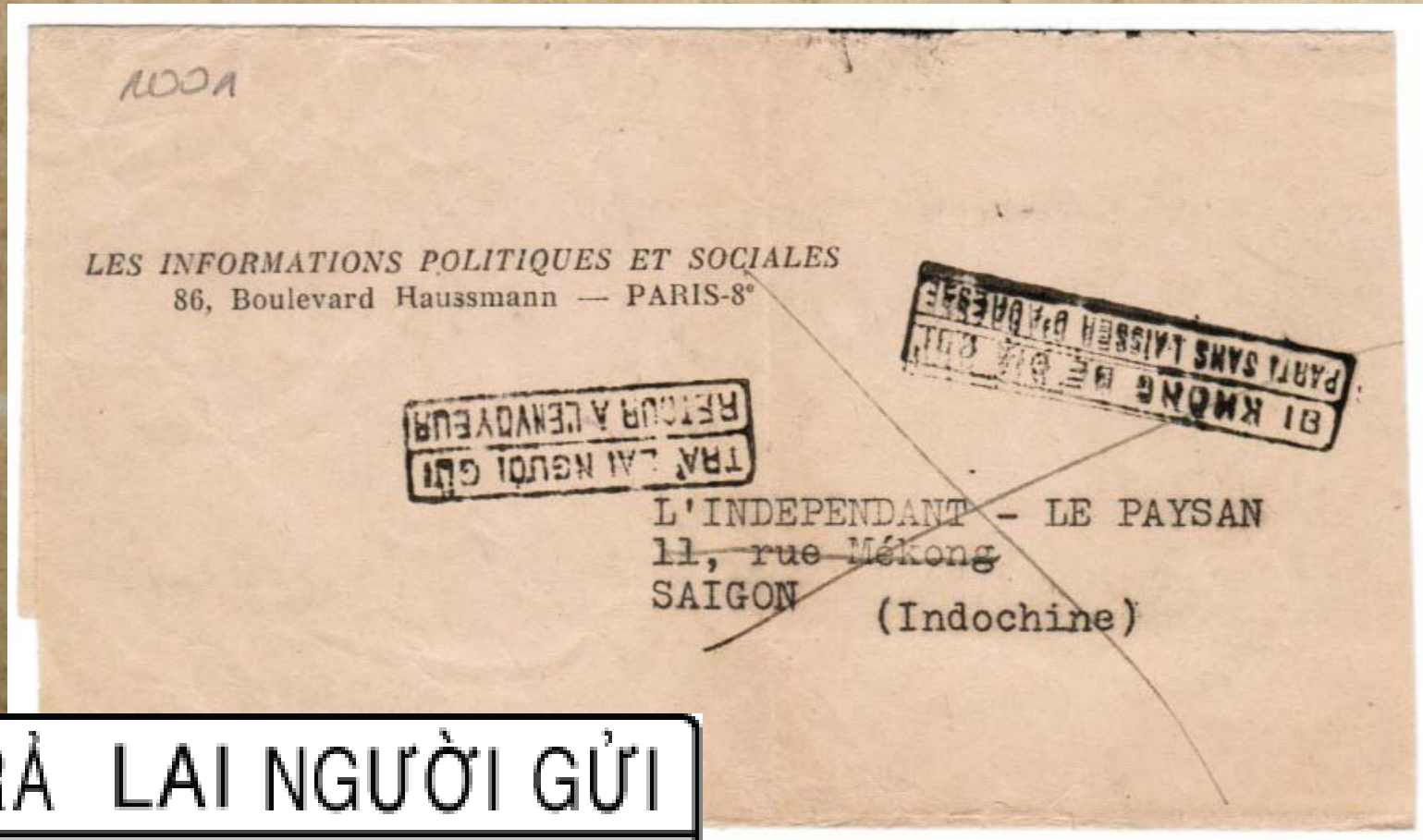


Vu à l'arrivée à Nacham  
le..... 19..... et au  
départ le..... 19.....  
Le Trichau.

# FAILURE TO DELIVER ULTIMATELY LED TO “RETURN TO SENDER”



# BILINGUAL “RETURN TO SENDER” WAS APPLIED TO WRAPPER



TRẢ LẠI NGƯỜI GỬI  
RETOUR À L'ENVOYEUR

# THE ULTIMATE DELIVERY OBSTACLE

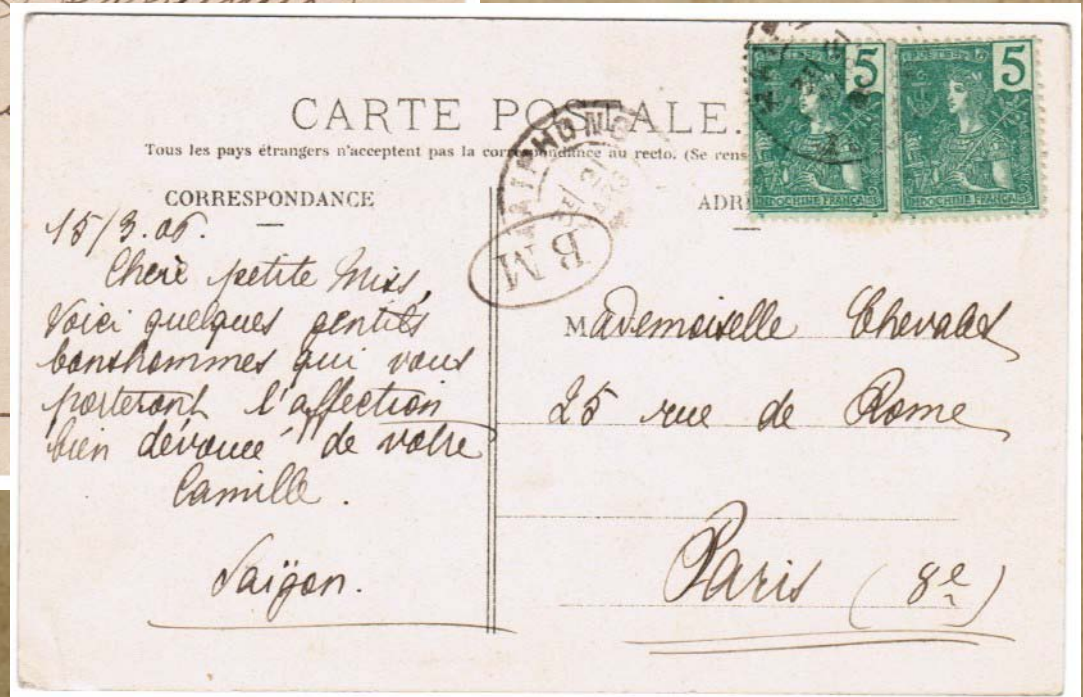


DÉCÉDÉ

# MOBILE BOXES (BOITE MOBILE) WERE ON POSTAL VEHICLES



# MOBILE BOX MARKINGS CAME IN A RANGE OF FORMATS



“APRES LE DEPART” MEANT “TOO LATE” TO  
MAKE A POSTAL CONNECTION



# “TOO LATE” MARKINGS WERE USED WITH SHIPS AND PLANES



# HIGHLY INDIVIDUALIZED “TOO LATE” MARKINGS ARE KNOWN



# LATER MARKINGS WERE PLAIN STRAIGHT-LINE HANDSTAMPS



# EXAMINE EVERY ITEM TO FIND SUBTLE EXAMPLES OF POSTAL MARKINGS

