Around the turn of the century, picture postcard collectors favored cards with stamps postmarked on the image side. Here a single 1-centimestamp is tied with a Caobang postmark dated 1905.



POSTAL MARKINGS
CAOBANG TONKIN 30 SEPT. 05

Postcards with messages of less than five words enjoyed a postal rate of only 5 centimes. Here the postcard rate was paid in 1906 with a strip of five 1-centime Grasset stamps.



POSTAL MARKINGS HANOI TONKIN 17 JUIL 06 SOISSONS AISNE 24-8 06

A picture postcard was posted from a rural post office in Moncay Province in 1909. The stamps were struck with the postmark of the rural post office - an unusual occurrence. The postcard took a month to reach its destination France.



**POSTAL MARKINGS** 

rural post office postmark MONCAY TONKIN 2 JUIN 09 BESANCON DOUBS 6-7 09

The regular postcard rate was 10 centimes. Here the eight stamps used for postage cover a significant portion of the picture. While placing stamps on the picture side was common practice, the use of so many stamps was not.

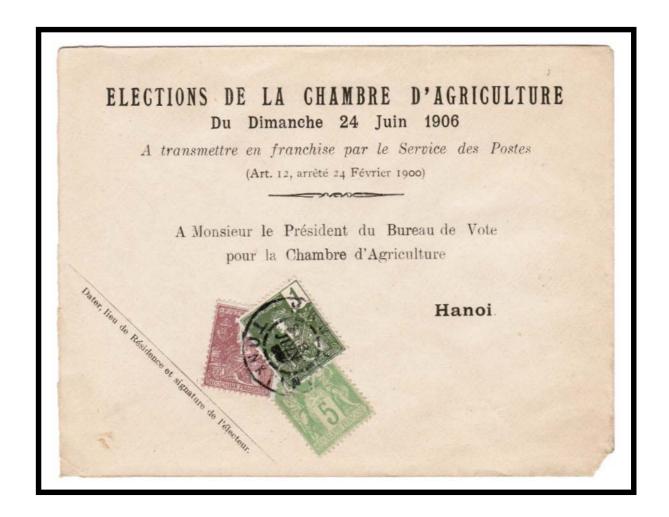


POSTAL MARKINGS
PHANTIET ANNAM 13 FEVR 08
REVERSE

PHANTIET ANNAM 13 FEVR 08 BARIA COCHINCHINE 16 FEVR 08 GONFARON VAR 16 MARS 08

### Grasset Mixed Use of 1 and 4 centimes

The imprinted information on an envelope for returning an election ballot indicates that it is "post-free." Nevertheless, a combination of French and Indochinese stamps totaling 10-centimes were affixed, presumably by the sender, who used the envelope for other than the intended purpose.



POSTAL MARKINGS HANOI TONKIN 8 JUIN 06

Because this postcard was addressed to Belgium, 10 centimes postage was required. Following the practice of the period, stamps were affixed on the view side of the postcard.



POSTAL MARKINGS

DAPCAU TONKIN 26 JUIN 07

REVERSE

ANGERS ARRIVEE 8 AOUT 07

In 1905, a single 2 cent Grasset stamp was favor-canceled on the front of a picture postcard. The postmark, not a genuine post office marking, had been created by a postcard dealer to improve the appearance of his wares.



POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 7 JUIL 05 (bogus)

The 2-centime stamp did not correspond to any common postal rate. With an additional 11 centimes on the reverse, the total franking of 15 centimes overpaid the necessary postage for this postal card to France.



**POSTAL MARKINGS** 

SAIGON-PORT COCHINCHINE 1 DEC 05 SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 1 DEC 05

**REVERSE** 

SAIGON-PORT COCHINCHINE 1 DEC 05

Even though the 2-centime value would not pay any common postal rate by itself, a combination of 5 stamps paid the regular letter rate to France.



POSTAL MARKINGS
POULO-CONDORE COCHINCHINE 3 JUIN 09

Five copies of the 2-centime Grasset stamp paid the local letter rate for this early folding letter sheet type of stationery.



POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN 17 MARS 08
REVERSE
HAIPHONG TONKIN 17 MARS 08
HONGAY TONKIN 19 MARS 09

In 1905, eight 2-centimestamps overpaid the letter rate to France by 1 centime. The rate to France was reduced to 10 centimes in 1907.



POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 24 AOUT 05
REVERSE
ALBARON BOUCHES-DU-RHONE 26 SEPT 05

#### Grasset Mixed Use of 2 centimes

Affixed to a picture postcard, a 2-centime Grasset stamp had been cancelled with a postcard dealer's device to make his product more appealing to collectors. Subsequently, on 28 April 1913, the card was franked with a Sower stamp and posted from Algeria to Switzerland. The French stamp covers a portion of the original cancellation.



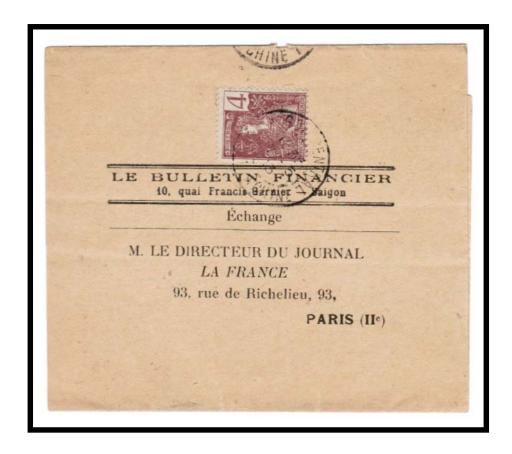
POSTAL MARKINGS ALGER ALGER 28-4 13

A 4-centimeGrasset stamp, which had been applied to the face of a picture postcard, was favor canceled with a Saigon "A" postmark in 1910. Auxiliary post offices were assigned sequential letters starting with "A." In another departure from the norm, auxiliary post offices often employed hexagonal postmarks.



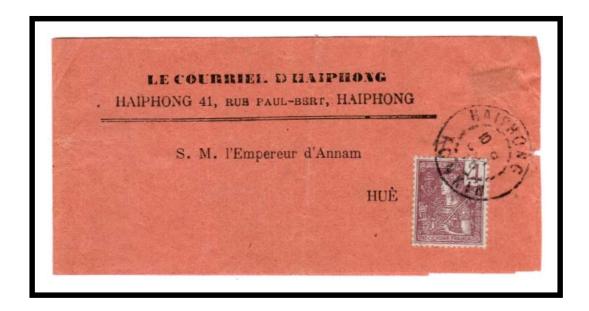
POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON A COCHINCHINE 22 SEPT 10

Periodicals sent with wrappers enjoyed reduced postal rates. Here a 4-centime Grasset stamp paid for delivering a business journal to Paris in 1913.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 7-5 13

Evidently, long-duration subscriptions warranted printing individual wrappers for subscribers. In this case, the recipient of *Le Courrier d Haiphong* was the Emperor of Annam.



POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 10 OCT 05

The letter rates to French colonies were the same as those to France proper. For this simple letter to Algeria, the postage was overpaid by two centimes.



POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN 16 FEVR 11
REVERSE
ALGER ALGER 20 MARS 11

Small calling cards mailed in unsealed envelopes required only 5 centimes for postage. The special rate applied to mailings sent locally as well as to France, as this example demonstrates.



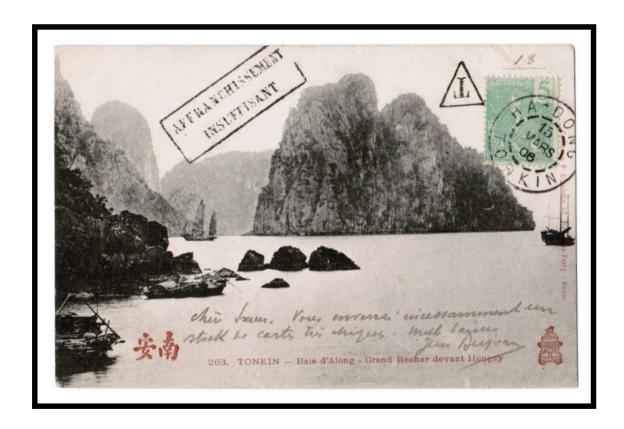
POSTAL MARKINGS HANOI TONKIN 4 DEC. 08

For items mailed aboard ships while underway, senders could use for postage stamps from the last port or stamps from the country of the ship's registry. This postcard was franked with the 5-centimeGrasset stamp and was posted aboard ship. The Singapore post office canceled the stamp when the postcard came ashore there in 1906.



POSTAL MARKINGS SINGAPORE OC 13 1906

If the written message on a postcard exceeded five words, 10 centimes postage was required. Because this postcard was underfranked with a single 5-centime Grasset stamp, it was charged postage due.



POSTAL MARKINGS

HA-DONG TONKIN 15 MARS 06

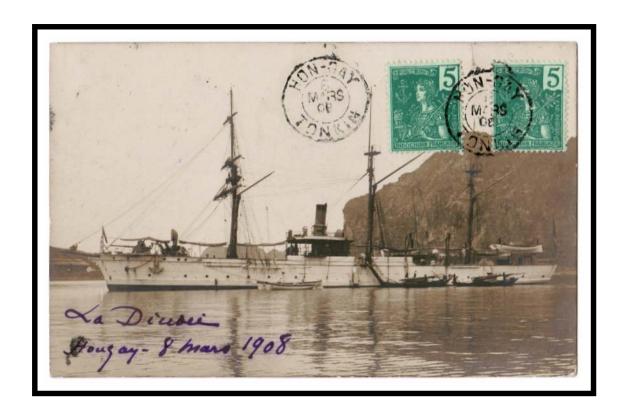
T in triangle
boxed AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT

The sender affixed a previously use 5-centime Grasset stamp on his postcard addressed to Bordeaux, France. The post office marked it postage due with a "T" in a triangle. At Bordeaux, the postcard was charged 10 centimes postage due, twice the underpayment for a postal card with a message less than five words.



POSTAL MARKINGS
T in triangle
BORDEAUX GIRONDE 24-1 05

At the turn of the century, it was a popular practice to affix postage stamps to the view side of picture postcards. When the message exceeded five words, 10 centimes postage was required for postcards to France and colonies.



POSTAL MARKINGS HON-GAY TONKIN 8 MARS 08

Unlike letters, which had a completely different rate structure, postcards had the same rate for foreign countries as for France and colonies.



POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 30 AOUT 07

When postcards carried lengthy messages, they required the same postage as letters. Here the sender affixed a pair of 5-centimeGrasset stamps on a postcard sent from Baria, Cochinchina to France in 1909.



POSTAL MARKINGS
BARIA COCHINCHINE 23 JUIL 09

With another 5-centimestamp on the reverse, this postcard was sent to Peking, China in 1909. It was subsequently forwarded to Shanghai.



#### **POSTAL MARKINGS**

TAYNINH COCHINCHINE 11 JUIN 09
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 12 JUIN 09
PEKIN CHINE 30 JUIN 09
TIEN-TSIN CHINE POSTE FRANCAISE 30 JUIN 09
TIEN-TSIN CHINE POSTE FRANCAISE 2 JUIL 09

Most postage rates were multiples of 5 centimes. Here two 5-centimestamps paid the new rate of 10 centimes, established in 1907, for mailing a regular letter to France.



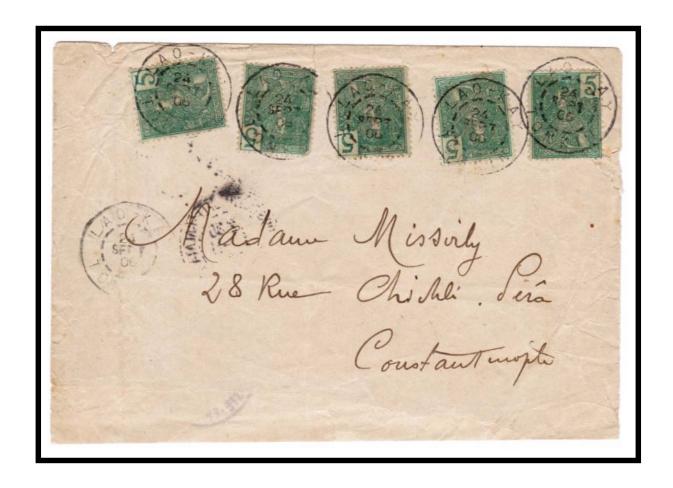
POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 29 NOV 09

Three 5-centime Grasset stamps paid the letter rate postage from Saigon-Port to Nice, France in 1905.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PORT COCHINCHINE 3 NOV 05
REVERSE
NICE-ARRIVEE ALPES-MMES 30 NOV 05

Five copies of the 5-centime Grasset stamp paid the foreign letter rate in 1906. Based on the transit markings, the letter went via the French post office at Constantinople.



POSTAL MARKINGS LAO-KAY TONKIN 24 SEPT 06 REVERSE

HAIPHONG TONKIN 26 SEPT 06 PORT-SAID EGYPT 24-10 06 CONSTANTINOPLE-GALATA POSTE-FRANC<sup>SE</sup> 5-11 06

Multiple copies of low values could be used to pay complicated rates. In this case of this registered letter, seven 5-centime stamps paid for service to Marseille in 1907.



POSTAL MARKINGS

HANOI TONKIN 5 JUIL 07 boxed R with manuscript registration number

**REVERSE** 

HANOI TONKIN 5 JUIL 07

Senders who addressed their mail in Chinese were obliged to use specially marked covers. The broad red stripe identified the envelope as one to be sorted by a clerk who read Chinese.



POSTAL MARKINGS

MYTHO COCHINCHINE 25 SEPT 05

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 26 SEPT 05

This letter originated at Nhatrang on 9 July 1907. After arriving at the indicated address in the Philippines, it was forded to Hawaii where it was marked received. The year date in the Hawaii datestamp (1910) is in error.



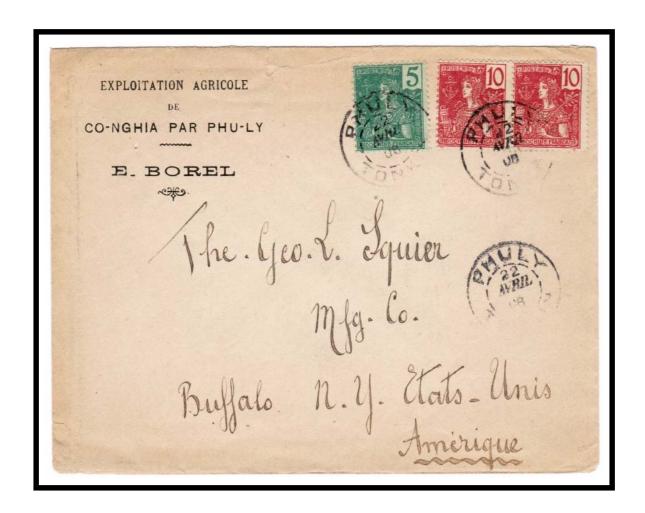
#### **POSTAL MARKINGS**

NHATRANG TONKIN 9 JUIL 07
HAIPHONG TONKIN 10 JUIL 07
VICTORIA HONG KONG 22 JY 07
MANILA, P.I. REC'D JUL 27 7
BONCABON, REC'D NUEVAECIJA., P.I. JUL 28 07
HONOLULU, H ISLS. REC'D AUG 20 1910

**REVERSE** 

NHATRANG TONKIN 9 JUIL 07

The foreign letter rate remained at 25 centimes until World War I. Here the foreign letter rate postage was paid with a combination of smaller values.



POSTAL MARKINGS
PHULY TONKIN 22 AVRIL 08
REVERSE
HAIPHONG TONKIN 23 AVRIL 08
VICTORIA HONG KONG 29 AP 08

A combination of common denominations paid the foreign registered letter rate to the Philippine Islands in 1906. Postage was calculated as follows:

foreign letter rate	25 centimes
registration fee	25 centimes
total	50 centimes



**POSTAL MARKINGS** 

HAIPHONG TONKIN 6 DEC 06 boxed R with manuscript registration number

**REVERSE** 

REGISTERED G.P.O. HONG KONG DE 11 06 REGISTERED MANILA, P.I. DEC 14 1906

# Grasset Mixed Use of 5 centimes

A 4-cent Filipino stamp was combined with a 5-centime Grasset stamp for a mailing posted aboard ship.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.926/1 PERIOD OF USE: 1902-10



POSTAL MARKINGS
YOKOHAMA A MARSEILLE L.N. Nº 1 17 MARS 08
REVERSE
YOKOHAMA A MARSEILLE L.N. Nº 1 17 MARS 08

# Grasset Use 10 centimes

Here a 10-centime Grasset stamp paid the foreign postcard rate in 1906. Based on the postmark dates, the postcard was in transit for 46 days.



POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN 27 MARS 06
VICTORIA HONG KONG 3 AP 06
PLAINFIELD, N. J. MAY 11 1906

A 10-centime Grasset stamp paid the foreign postcard rate to the Dutch East Indies for a picture postcard posted at Hanoi on the day after Christmas in 1907. Multiple postmarks trace its three-week journey to the destination.



POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI TONKIN 26 DEC. 07
LIGNE N PAQ. FR. Nº 4 11 JANV 08
Nº 1 AGENT SINGAPORE 13 I 1908
BATAVIA 16 I 1908
SOERABAJA 18 1 1908
BUITENZORG 17 I 1908

## Grasset Use 10 centimes

Postage rates were based geopolitical divisions and not on distance. A postcard sent to India required the same 10 centimes postage as a postcard sent to Europe or North America.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PORT COCHINCHINE 6 NOV 06
TUTICORIN 25 NO. 06
TELLICHERRY 27 NO. 06

Franked with a 10-centime Grasset stamp, this picture postcard was posted aboard a ship returning from the Far East. Mail addressed to Paris or northern France was offloaded at Naples, Italy and then transferred to Modane by rail. Modane, a small French village in the Savoy Alps, is situated at the western side of Mount Cenis. A tunnel through the mountain was completed in 1870 allowing a rail connection between Modane and Italy. Traveling via this route, mail could reach its destination faster than going all the way to Marseille by ship.

Since the stamp had not been cancelled before, a clerk on the railway applied the postmark.





POSTAL MARKINGS

MODANE A PARIS 10-11 05

REVERSE

MODANE A PARIS 10-11 05

# Grasset Use 10 centimes

Established in 1907 at 10 centimes, the basic letter rate to France and colonies remained unchanged until World War I.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 16 NOV 07
REVERSE
ST. ROMAIN LOT-ET-GARONNE 11-12 07

During this time, government agencies used the same stamps as the general public. Later in its history, Indochina introduced separate stamps for official correspondence.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 11 JANV 07

Two 10-centime Grasset stamps were used for a heavy letter containing photographs. Posted at Tchong-King, the mailing went initially to Han-Keou and then to Peking. Routed on the Trans-Siberian Railroad, the letter reached Paris after a month's travel.



#### **POSTAL MARKINGS**

TCHONG-KING-CHINE 13 JUIL 11
HAN-KEOU CHINE POSTE FRANCAISE 28 JUIL 11
PARIS-R.P. DISTRIBON 3 16 AOUT 11

**REVERSE** 

PEKIN CHINE 28 JUIL 11

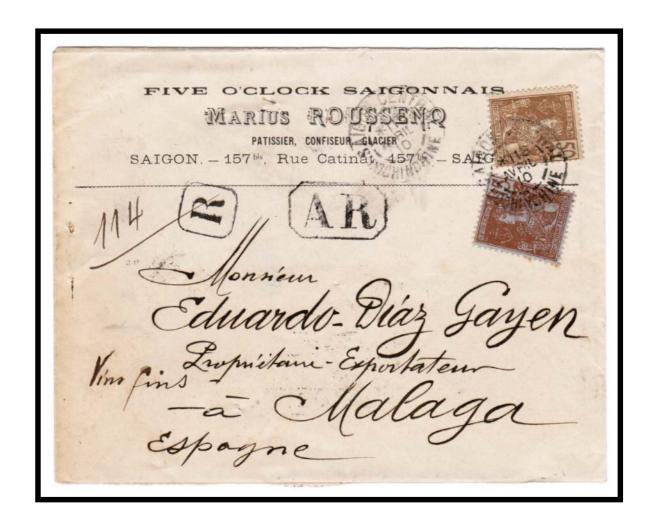
At the time the Grasset series was issued in 1904, the basic letter rate to France and colonies was 15 centimes.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 20 OCT 04
REVERSE
ST. ROMAIN LOT-ET-GARONNE 17 NOV 04

## Grasset Use of 15 and 50 centimes

When the sender wanted a return receipt, indicated by the boxed "AR," the fee was paid with postage stamps. Here, 65 centimes was charged for a return receipt, registered letter to Spain.



#### **POSTAL MARKINGS**

SAIGON CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 18 AVRIL 10 boxed R with manuscript registration number framed AR

**REVERSE** 

CERTIFICADO MADRID 12 MAY 10 CERTIFICADO MALAGA 13 MAY 10

## Grasset Use of 15 centimes and 1 franc

The charge for insured mail was based on the insurance amount. Here the total postage cost was 1.15 franc for a letter to France with a declared value of 800 francs. The declaration was handwritten across the top of the cover.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PORT COCHINCHINE 6 AVRIL 06
CHARGE cachet
YOKOHAMA A MARSEILLE 6 AVRIL 06

A 20-centime Grasset stamp overpaid the postage for a postcard posted from Doson, Tonkin to Paris in 1912. Perhaps it was simply a matter of convenience for the sender to use a stamp that was immediately available, although the 20-centime value do not correspond to any common postal rate.



POSTAL MARKINGS
DOSON TONKIN 29 AVRIL 12

Letters addressed to foreign destinations required 25 centimes postage. Here a letter to Singapore was franked with a 25-centime Grasset stamp.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PORT COCHINCHINE 18 JUIL 06
REVERSE
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 18 JUIL 06
SINGAPORE JY 21 1906

Registration fees for foreign letters was the same as for internal letters. For a registered letter sent to the United States in 1908, postage was computed as follows:

foreign letter rate	25 centimes
registration fee	25 centimes
total	50 centimes



#### **POSTAL MARKINGS**

SOCTRANG COCHINCHINE 24 AOUT 08 boxed R with manuscript registration number stamped registration numbers

#### **REVERSE**

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 25 AOUT 08 REGISTERED G.P.O. HONG-KONG 31 AU 08 SEATTLE, WASH. REGISTERED. SEP 27 1908 DETROIT, MICH. REGISTERED. OCT 2 1908

A strip of four 25-centime stamps was used for a heavy mailing from Saigon in 1908.

Addressed on the reverse to "Yuan Yuan Dai Store" in Saigon, the sender indicated that the letter originated in Hong Kong. Likely, it was hand carried to Saigon and posted from there. On the franked side, the sender wrote the date as "September 20."



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE 1 NOV 08

A wrapper for a 1908 mailing of a surgical medicine journal to Brussels, Belgium was franked with a 30-centime Grasset stamp. As mailing rates for periodicals were typically very small, the journal must have been quite heavy to require twice the prevailing letter rate for postage.



POSTAL MARKINGS HANOI TONKIN 1 FEVR 08

In May 1910, postage for a tourist's postcard to Paris was considerably overpaid with a 30-centimeGrasset stamp.



POSTAL MARKINGS
PNOMPENH CAMBODGE MAI 10

Postage for a heavy, foreign letter was paid with a 30-centime Grasset stamp in combination with a 35-centime Native Woman stamp.



**POSTAL MARKINGS** 

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 9 NOV 08 framed R with manuscript registration number

REVERSE

RECEPTION BRUSSELS 8 DECE 08

After the letter rate to France was reduced to 10 centimes in 1907, the 35-centime Grasset stamp paid for registered letters. Postage was calculated as follows:

letter rate to France	10 centimes
registration fee	25 centimes
total	35 centimes



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 6 JUIL 08
boxed R with manuscript registration number

Postcards were sent as registered items only rarely. Here postal fees for a registered postcard sent to Germany were paid with a single 35-centimes Grasset stamp.



**POSTAL MARKINGS** 

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 14 DEC 09 framed R with manuscript registration number WILMERSDORF Berlin 1 19.1.10

Before the letter rate was lowered to 10 centimes, a 40-centime stamp paid postage (15 centimes) and the registry charge (25 centimes).



**POSTAL MARKINGS** 

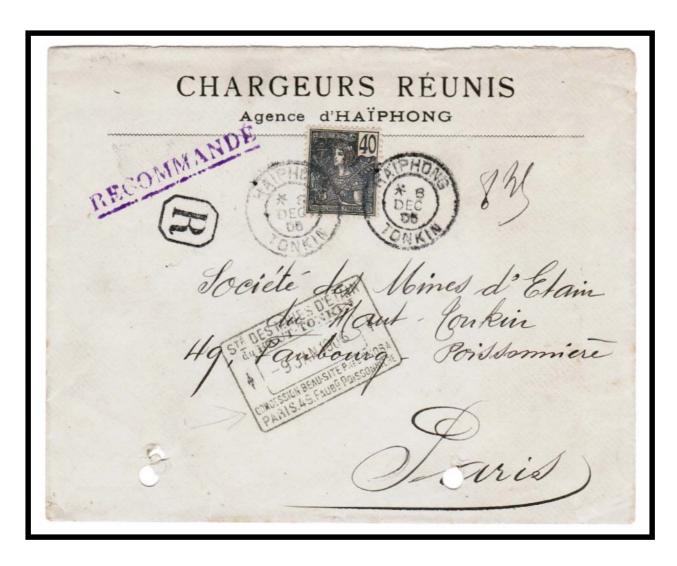
HANOI TONKIN 6 JANV 05 boxed R with manuscript registration number

REVERSE

MONTAUBAN TARN-ET-GARONNE 11-2 05

Stationery from the Haiphong branch office of Chargeurs Réunis shipping company carried a registered mailing from Haiphong to Pars at the end of 1905. Based on the dated arrival handstamp, the letter was in transit for a month. Postage was calculated as follows:

letter rate to France	15 centimes
registration fee	25 centimes
total	40 centimes



POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 5 DEC 05
framed R and manuscript registration number

Before the decrease in the letter rate to France from 15 centimes in 1906, the rate for this registered letter to Algeria was calculated as follows:

letter rate to French colony	15 centimes
registration fee	25 centimes
total	40 centimes



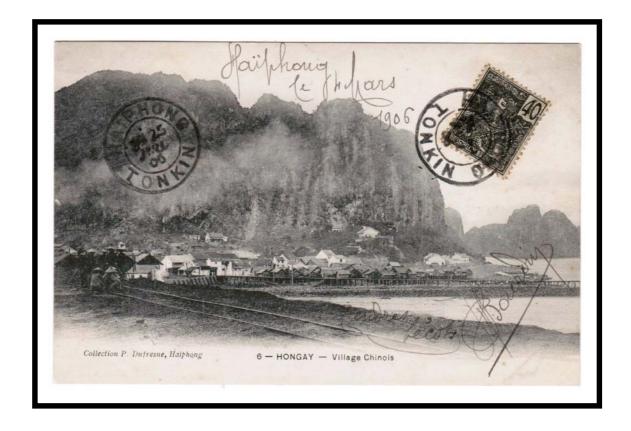
**POSTAL MARKINGS** 

PHU-DOAN TONKIN 5 MARS 05 framed R with manuscript registration number

**REVERSE** 

HANOI TONKIN 9 MARS 05

A 40-centime stamp would have significantly overpaid the postcard rate. In this case, after the stamp had been affixed to the card, the preparer applied a bogus "HAIPHONG TONKIN" postmark several times to make the item more attractive to postcard collectors.



POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN (bogus)
REVERSE
HAIPHONG TONKIN (bogus)

Fifty centimes paid the foreign mail rate and the registration fee, each 25 centimes.



#### **POSTAL MARKINGS**

HAIPHONG TONKIN 6 JANV 09 boxed R with manuscript registration number stamped registration numbers

#### **REVERSE**

REGISTERED G.P.O. HONG-KONG 14 JA 09 SEATTLE, WASH. REG. DIV. FEB 6 1909 CLEVELAND, OHIO REG. DIV. FEB 11 1909 STA. A. CLEVELAND, OHIO REGISTERED FEB 12 1909

The Grasset definitive stamps were replaced by the Native Women series in 1907. This cover demonstrates a late usage in 1911 of the 50-centime Grasset stamp to pay for a registered letter to Hong Kong.



**POSTAL MARKINGS** 

HAIHONG TONKIN 29 MARS 11 boxed R with manuscript registration number

**REVERSE** 

REGISTERED G.P.O. HONG KONG 5 AP 11

## Grasset Use of 2 francs

With a value of 5,000 francs, this insured (CHARGÉ) letter bears several high denomination stamps including the 2 franc Grasset stamp.



#### **POSTAL MARKINGS**

HANOI TONKIN 24 MAI 07 CHARGÉ with manuscript record number blue crayon check mark

#### **REVERSE**

weight and options handstamp PARIS POSTE RESTANTE 27-6 07

# Grasset Usage

The letter rate to France was 15 centimes throughout the period of the Grasset definitives. A combination of three lower values made up the postage for a mailing from Hon-Gay to France in 1906.



POSTAL MARKINGS
HON-GAY TONKIN 20 FEVR 06
REVERSE
ORLEANS LOIRET 28-3 06

#### Grasset Usage

The lowest values did not correspond to any common postal rates. Naturally, mixtures of small denominations could be combined to make up virtually any rate. Here four low value stamps were combined for the postage on a postcard to Canada in 1908.



POSTAL MARKINGS
CHAUDOC COCHINCHINE 29 AOUT 08

# Grasset Usage

A mixture of low value Grasset definitive stamps paid the postage for a picture postcard sent to California in 1908. The card was in transit for approximately six weeks.



**POSTAL MARKINGS** 

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 5 FEVR 08 VICTORIA HONG KONG 15 FB 08 BERKELEY CAL MAR 21 1908

#### Grasset Usage

Five different denominations from the Grasset issue frank a registered mailing to France in 1906.

Postage was calculated as follows:

letter rate to France	15 centimes
registration fee	25 centimes
total	40 centimes



#### **POSTAL MARKINGS**

HANOI TONKIN 3 AVRIL 06 framed R with manuscript registration number framed AR (accusé de réception)

**REVERSE** 

NANCY MTHE ET MLLE 6-5 08

#### Grasset Usage

A mixture of values, including a 4 cent Navigation and Commerce stamp, made up the 80 centimes postage on a registered letter to Germany at the end of 1908.



**POSTAL MARKINGS** 

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 30 DEC 08 boxed R with manuscript registration numbers

REVERSE

WIESBADEN 1b 25.1.09

# Grasset Usage

Stamps from the previous definitive series, Navigation and Commerce, were combined with Grasset stamps to compose the franking for a registered letter to Japan in 1905.



POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 9 MAI 05
boxed R with manuscript registration number

#### Grasset Usage

Seven different Grasset denominations are represented by the fifteen stamps on the front and single stamp on the reverse of this 1907 cover to France.



#### **POSTAL MARKINGS**

TAYNINH COCHINCHINE 31 JUIL 07 boxed R with manuscript registration number

#### **REVERSE**

TAYNINH COCHINCHINE 31 JUIL 07 SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 30 AOUT 08 BREST FINISTERE 5-9 07