

Indochina – China Combination Letters

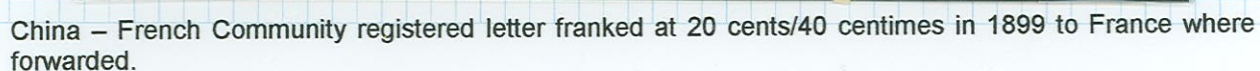
Because of the proximity of other Chinese villages to Indochina, French influence in the area was considerable. Since China was not in the UPU at the turn of the 20th century, mail from these villages required Chinese postage for travel to the Indochinese border, and Indochinese postage for travel through the UPU countries. This resulted in combination letters.

Longtcheou

Because of a significant French presence in Longtcheou, Group Type stamps were prepared. However, they were never issued. Thus, combination letters from Longtcheou, though rare, are the most prevalent of this type. Mail typically traveled through Langson and into the Indochinese and international systems.



Printed matter envelope from Longtcheou in 1899 showing 2 cents Chinese postage and 5c Indochinese postage on an envelope to Haiphong. Note the rare large format Chinese date stamp. Also, a post card franked at 4c Chinese local postage and 10c Indochinese postage via Langson and the Hanoi – Haiphong railroad enroute to Paris.



Indochina – China
Combination Letters

Longtcheou



China – French Community registered letter to Hanoi franked at 16 cents/40centimes from Longtcheou to Hanoi with an unusual Chinese registry handstamp. Also China – Overseas letter from Longtcheou on 1900 franked at 10 cents/25 centimes to Munich, Germany.

Indochina – China
Combination Letters

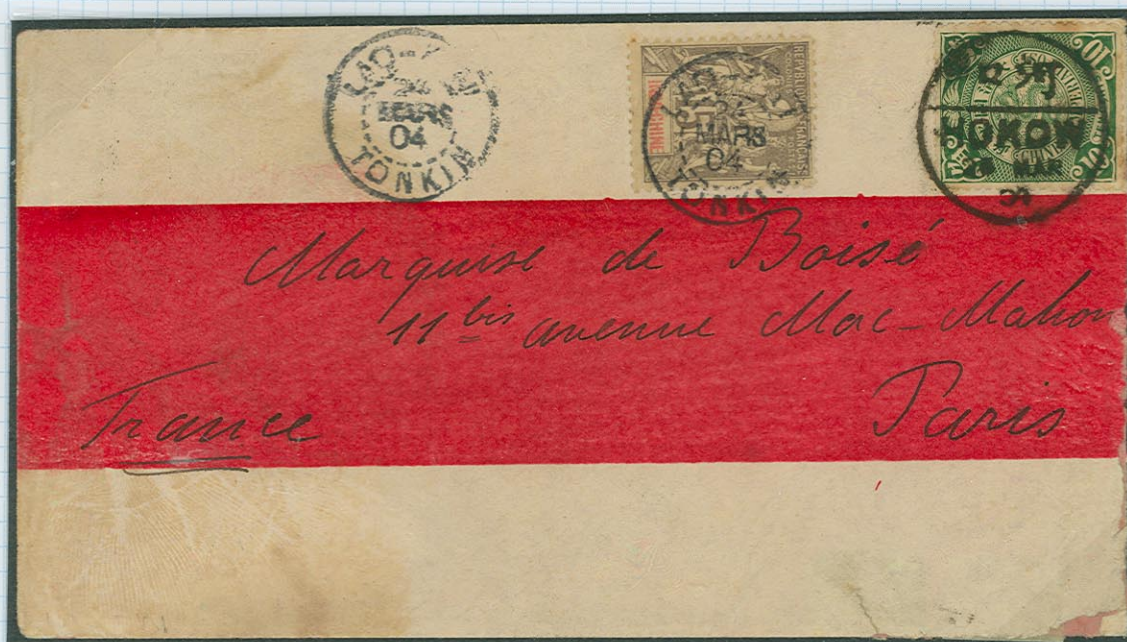
Longtcheou
Return Receipt



Exceptional registered combination cover from Longtcheou franked at 24 cents/40 centimes to Haiphong via Langson with a request for a return receipt as shown by the Chinese RR. and the French AR.

Indochina – China
Combination Letters

Nan-Ling (Quangse Prvince)
Hokow (Yunan Province)



Unusual combination covers from Nan-Ling on June 27, 1901 via Langson; and Hokow on March 23, 1904 via Lokay showing the 10c Chinese local rate and the 15c French Community rate to destinations in France.

Indochina – China
Combination Letters

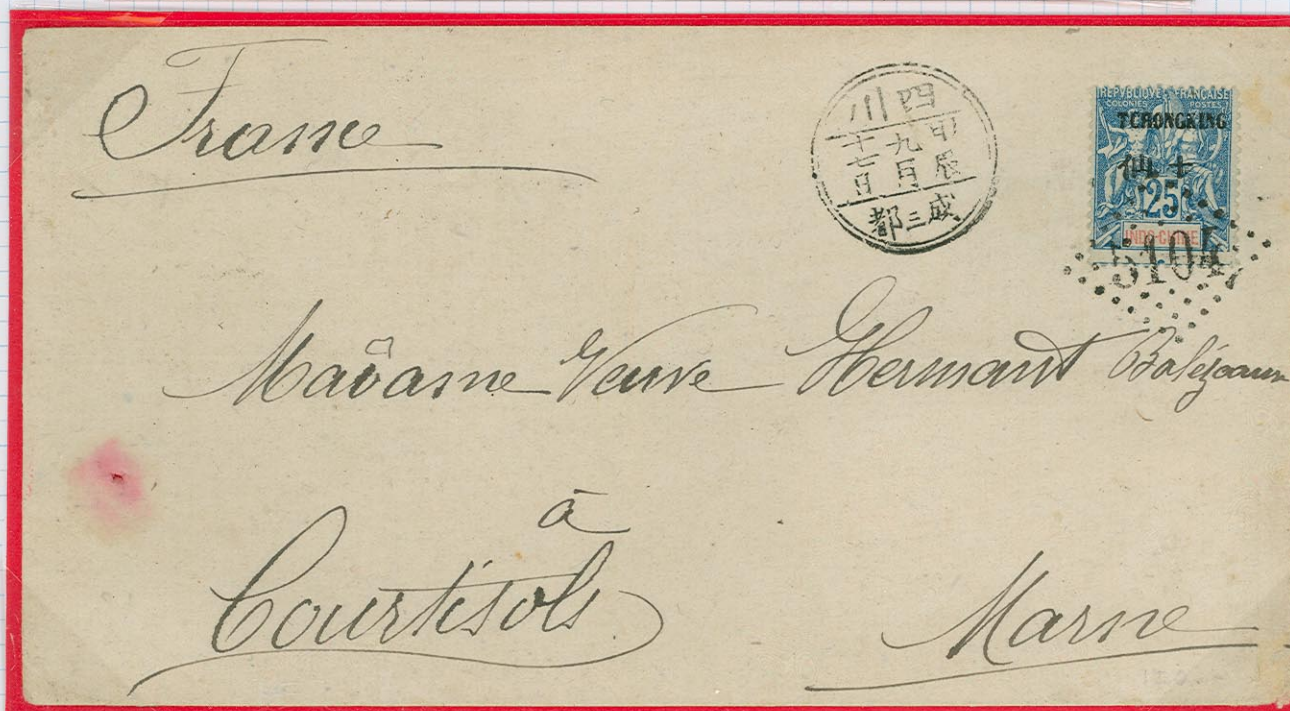
Dali (Yunan Province)
Pakhoi



Letter posted from Dali on April 30, 1903 via the French Office at Mongtze to France at an unusual rate combination of 2 cents local postage and 25 centimes international postage, and an unusual Pakhoi combination printed matter letter sent on February 18, 1902 just before the French Office at Pakhoi opened. Thus, Chinese (4 cents) and Indochinese (5 centimes) postage was required, and the letter was sent via Haiphong. Because of limited address information, the letter was returned and arrived at the French Office of Pakhoi on May 18, 1902 after it had opened.

Indochina – China

Szemaio-Lokay
Chengdu-Shanghai



Letter posted from the Chinese village of Szemaio in 1904 by special arrangements for the French railroad workers, wherein the letters were taken to Lokay in Indochina for transit at the 15c French Community rate. Below, an exceptional letter posted from the village of Chengdu in Sichun Province on September 17, 1904 and franked with a 25c issue of Tchongking for international postage. It is presumed that the local Chinese postage was paid in cash. The letter transited via the Chinese office at Shanghai (SHANGHAI, 14 NOV 04). It then went to the French Office at Shanghai where the Tchongking stamp was obliterated with the old 5104 GC obliterator and the letter was placed in the international mails. It arrived at Paris-Gare de l'Est on December 16th, transited on the Paris-a-Belfort rail line and arrived in Courtisols on December 17th. This is an exceptional posting and possibly the last recorded use of the old French Shanghai obliterator.