

Ceres
Use of 5 centimes

Postal regulations from 1856 had established a local visiting card rate of 5 centimes per 10 grams. Addressed to the German Consulate in Saigon, this unsealed mailing qualified for the reduced rate in February 1878. Later in the same year, the local rate was abolished.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON COCHINCHINE 25 FEVR. 78

Ceres
Use of 5 centimes

Beginning on 1 May 1878, printed calling cards sent in unsealed envelopes enjoyed reduced postal rates. Provided that no message had been added the rate was 5 centimes per 50 grams (even though it is difficult to imagine a card of this weight). Based on the indistinct transit postmark dated 15 January 1880, the mailing's journey from Saigon to France was about five weeks.



POSTAL MARKINGS
COCHINCHINE SAIGON 4 DEC. 79
REVERSE
SAIGON COCHINCHINE 4 DEC. 79
LIGNE N PAQ. FR. N° 2 17 DEC. 79
RAON L'ETAPE VOSGES 16 JANV. 80

Ceres Use of 5 centimes

From 1871 to 1878, soldiers serving in Indochina sent letters home to France at a reduced postage rate of 25 centimes. While low-value stamps were typically used for printed matter, this letter was franked with five copies of the 5-centime Ceres stamp. Posted from Saigon via the military postal system in 1873, the letter reached Paris in in about five weeks.



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES SAIGON 2 JUIL. 73

framed PD (red)

CCH lozenge

COL. FR. V. SUEZ PAQ. F. 3 MARS. 3 11 AOUT 73 (blue)

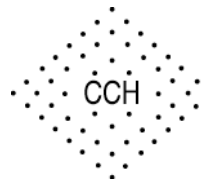
REVERSE

PARIS MONTMARTRE 11 AOUT 73

Ceres Use of 5 and 20 centimes

Printing of 25-centime stamps for the colonies did not occur until March 1872. The reduced military franchise rate of 25 centimes became effective 1 September 1871. Here, the sender combined 5-centime and 20-centime Ceres stamps to make up the 25-centime military letter rate in 1873.

For comparison, 900,000 5-centime stamps were sent to Indochina as compared to only 75,000 20-centime stamps.



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES SAIGON 9 NOV. 73

framed PD (red)

CCH lozenge

REVERSE

MARSEILLE A LYON SPECIAL 9 DEC. 73

AVIGNON 9 DEC. 73

Ceres Use of 5 and 20 centimes

For civilians, the letter rate to France was 50 centimes during the period 1872-76. For this letter posted to Paris from Saigon, a combination of lower values made up the required postage. Because few of the 20-centime Ceres stamps were shipped to Indochina, they are not commonly found used on letters.

In addition to the usual postal markings, this letter received an entry marking at Marseilles when the S.S. Ava reached the port on 27 October 1873



POSTAL MARKINGS

COCHINCHINE SAIGON 25 SEPT. 73

PD in rectangle (red)

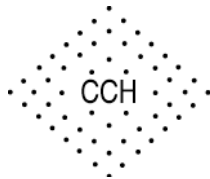
COL. FR. V. SUEZ P.F. AMB. MAR. 27 OCT. 73 (red)

Ceres Use of 5 and 20 centimes

At first glance, one would assume that this folded letter was treated as civilian mail based on the postage of 50 centimes. The 50-centime rate was in affect for a decade and a half from 1862 until 1876. In this case however, the sender deposited his letter shortly before the ship sailed from Saigon. By the Governor's Arête of 15 May 1873, a mail pick-up less than two hours before the ship sailed was an "exceptional pickup" and carried a 25-centime fee. Since the sender had paid this additional fee, the letter was accepted for transport.

Postage was calculated as follows:

military letter rate to France	25 centimes
<u>exceptional pickup fee</u>	<u>25 centimes</u>
total	50 centimes



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES SAIGON 16 JUIL. 73

framed PD (red)

CCH lozenge

COL. FR. V. SUEZ PAQ. F. 3 MARS. 3 20 AOUT 73 (blue)

Ceres
Use of 10 and 15 centimes

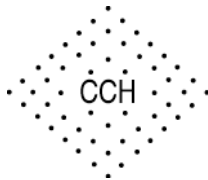
A "Commissaire Aux Hopitaux / Cochinchine" cachet on the reverse certified that this mailing qualified for the reduced military postage rate. From 1 July 1876 to 30 April 1878, the military letter rate was 25 centimes per 15 grams. A combination of a 10-centime and a small figure 15-centime Ceres stamps made up the postage.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON COCHINCHINE 12 DEC. 77

Ceres Use of 10 and 40 centimes

A combination of a 10-centime and 40-centime Ceres stamps paid the 50-centime letter rate to France in 1873. The total transit time was approximately five weeks.



POSTAL MARKINGS

COCHINCHINE SAIGON 2 JUL. 73

CCH lozenge

framed PD (red)

COL. F. V. SUEZ PAQ. F. 1 MARS. 1 9 AOUT 72 (red)

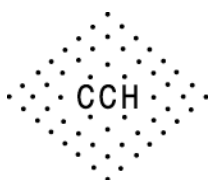
REVERSE

SERRES HAUTES-ALPES 11 AOUT 73

Ceres Use of 10 and 40 centimes

The franking for this 1873 mailing from Saigon to Tleman, Algeria consisted of two 10-centime (small numerals) and two 40-centime Ceres stamps. This combination exactly satisfied the postal rate of 1 franc for a second step letter (weighing between 10 and 20 grams).

The letter was transported by the S.S. *Iraquddy* which departed Saigon on 4 June 1873 reaching Marseilles in mid-July.



POSTAL MARKINGS

COCHINCHINE SAIGON 4 JUIN 73

CCH lozenge

PD in rectangle (red)

COL. F. V. SUEZ PAQ. F 1 MARS. 1 12 JUIL. 73

REVERSE

TLEMAN ALGERIE 17 JUIL. 73

Ceres
Use of 15 centimes

A letter mailed via the military postal system in 1878 was franked with a single 15-centime Ceres stamp. The total travel time from Saigon to Paris was one month.



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES SAIGON 10 JUL. 78

REVERSE

MARSEILLE A LYON SPECIAL 11 AOUT 78
PARIS 10 (DISTRIBUTION) 12 AOUT 78

Ceres Use of 15 centimes

Effective 1 May 1878, the reduced military rate was fixed at 15 centimes per 15 grams. With two examples of the 15-centime Ceres stamp attached, this small mailing must have exceeded the first weight step and been in the 15 to 30 gram range to warrant the second stamp.



POSTAL MARKINGS
CORR. D. ARMÉES SAIGON 21 AOUT 78
REVERSE
LE MANS SARTHE 23 SEPT. 78
PARIGNÉ-L'ÉVÊQUE (71) 24 SEPT. 78

Ceres
Use of 15 and 25 centimes

Effective 1 July 1876, the letter rate to France changed from 50 centimes to 40 centimes. Prior to 1877, the Saigon post office used the type A postmark. However, in 1877, the type B2 postmark was introduced with the positions of "SAIGON" and "COCHINCHINE" interchanged as compared to the type A postmark. Both postmarks share a dotted inner circle with fleurons on each side.



Ceres Use of 20 centimes

In late 1873, the governor of Cochinchina sent Francis Garnier to Tonkin to resolve a dispute between the Vietnamese authorities and the French entrepreneur Jean Dupuis. Convinced that the time was ripe for the conquest of Tonkin, Garnier captured Hanoi, the capital of Tonkin. On 21 December 1873, Chinese known as the Black Flags led an assault followed by a large Vietnamese army stormed the West gate of Hanoi. Garnier led a party of 18 French soldiers to repel the attackers. Overwhelmed he was killed and his body was mutilated.

Garnier had captured Hanoi on 20 November. This letter addressed to Leon Garnier, Francis's only brother in Paris, was postmarked 27 November. Garnier's military unit may or may not have had a canceling device with them. In any event, he was killed in battle a little more than three weeks after this letter was postmarked. Under the conditions of being an occupying force in a foreign territory, could he have gotten another letter out to France? Is this the last surviving letter from the hand Francis Garnier?



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES SAIGON 27 NOV. 73

framed PD

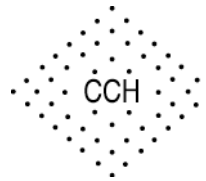
COLONIES FR. TOULON 10 JANV. 74

REVERSE

TOULON-S-MER (83) 10 JANV. 74

Ceres Use of 25 centimes

From 1871 to 1878, soldiers serving in Indochina enjoyed a reduced postage rate for letters sent home to France. Posted via the military postal system in 1874 from Saigon to Lille, this letter was franked with a 25-centime Ceres stamp. The prevailing civilian postage rate at that time was 50 centimes, twice the military rate.



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES SAIGON 9 NOV. 74

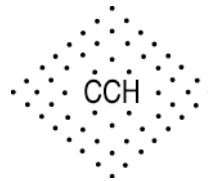
CCH lozenge
framed PD (red)

REVERSE

PARIS A LILLE 10 DEC 74
LILLE 11 DEC. 74

Ceres Use of 25 centimes

The civilian letter rate for France was 50 centimes. Because there was no 50-centime stamp available in the colonies, a pair of 25-centime Ceres stamps was the frequent choice to satisfy postage requirements.



POSTAL MARKINGS
COCHINCHINE SAIGON 15 MARS 75
CCH lozenge

Ceres
Use of 25 centimes

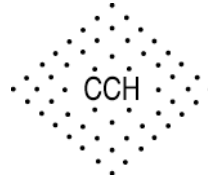
The Tayninh post office began operations sometime after 1863. It used the type A postmark from 1868 through 1897.



POSTAL MARKINGS
COCHINCHINE TAYNINH 28 JUIL. 74
framed PD (red)
CCH lozenge

Ceres
Use of 25 centimes

Based on the entry marking at Marseille on 5 January 1876, there was a one-month transit time for this mailing from Saigon.



POSTAL MARKINGS
COCHINCHINE SAIGON 6 DEC. 75
CCH lozenge
framed PD (red)
COL. FR.V. SUEZ P. F. AMB. MAR 5 JANV. 76

Ceres
Use of 40 centimes

From 1 July 1876 through 30 April 1878, the civilian letter rate to France was 40 centimes. Here a single 40-centime Ceres stamp paid the postage for a mailing from Saigon to Toulouse.

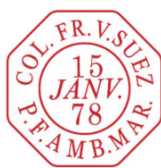


POSTAL MARKINGS
COCHINCHINE SAIGON 16 MAI 77
REVERSE
LIGNE N PAQ. FR. N° 5 16 MAI 77
MARSEILLE A LYON SPECIAL 17 JUIN
TOULOUSE HAUTE-GARONNE 18 JUIN 77

Ceres Use of 40 centimes

In association with the signing of the Treaty of Bern creating the Universal Postal Union, France brought French colonial postage rates into alignment with other rates. Effective 1 July 1876, the letter rate to members of the UPU was 40 centimes. The receiving mark applied upon arrival in London verifies that the requisite postage had been fully paid.

The letter was carried aboard the S.S. *Pei-Ho*, which departed Saigon on 17 December 1877.



POSTAL MARKINGS

ANNAM HUE 17 NOV. 77 (blue)
COL. FR. V. SUEZ P. F. AMB. MAR. 15 JANV. 78 (red)
LONDON-W PAID 17 JA 78 (red)

REVERSE

SAIGON COCHINCHINE 6 DEC. 77
PARIS A CALAIS 16 JANV. 78

Ceres
Use of 40 centimes

While the vast majority of mail originated from Saigon, there were a number of other post offices operating in the major towns of Cochinchina. This example from 1877 is a mailing posted to France from Mytho's civilian post office.



POSTAL MARKINGS

COCHINCHINE MYTHO 18 SEPT. 77

REVERSE

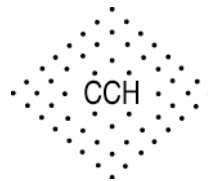
COCHINCHINE MYTHO 18 SEPT. 77

SAIGON COCHINCHINE 19 SEPT. 77

PARIS A BREST 22 OCT. 77

Ceres Use of 40 centimes

From 1871 through 1878, the reduced letter rate for soldiers was 25 centimes. In this case, the sender had franked his letter with a 40-centime Ceres stamp, which did not correspond to any prevailing rate. Deposited in the military's postal system, the letter was in transit for over five weeks.



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES SAIGON 24 SEPT. 74

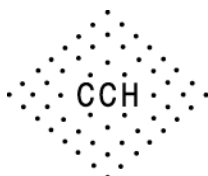
framed PD (red)

CCH lozenge

COL. F. V. SUEZ PAQ. F. 3 MARS 3 30 OCT. 74 (blue)

Ceres
Use of 80 centimes

A strip of three 80-centime Ceres stamps paid the postage on a heavy letter posted from Saigon to Brighton, England in 1875. The envelope was endorsed "via Marseille" to ensure that it traveled from the Far East on a French ship rather than the more expensive option of a British ship.



POSTAL MARKINGS

COCHINCHINE SAIGON 8 NOV. 75

CCH lozenge

PD in rectangle (red)

REVERSE

BRIGHTON A DE 11 75