

## Eagles

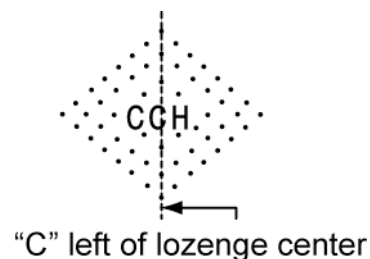
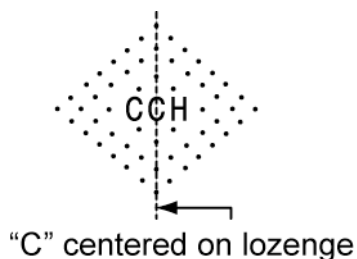
The Law of 3 May 1853 laid the foundation for colonial stamps. Through decrees and circulars, the new law was interpreted that monies collected by colonial post offices should benefit colonial treasuries. To be practically implemented, colonial post offices would need to sell stamps different from regular French postage stamps. But since prepayment of postal fees could be done in cash, there was no real pressure to take action.

Finally in 1857, the Colonial Ministry received positive feedback in reaction to a letter soliciting interest in colonial stamps. The Mint proposed a square design around an eagle, an old imperial symbol. In deference to Napoleon III, a crown was placed above the eagle's head. The circular banner surrounding the center contained the words "COLONIES DE L'EMPIRE FRANÇAISE (value) POSTES (value)."

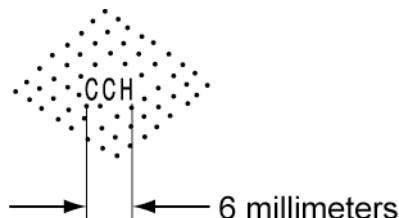
The design was accepted in November 1858 and the first stamps were printed by June 1859. Printings continued more or less annually until interruptions resulting from the Franco-Prussian War in 1870.

Lozenge cancellations consist of an array of dots in the shape of a diamond. French colonies made extensive use of lozenge obliterations when the Eagles were in circulation. While many colonies used "mute" lozenges without any indication of the colony's identification, Indochina relied on the "CCH" (for Cochinchina) lozenge for canceling stamps on envelopes. Lozenges with "CCN" plus a number, "C" plus a number and "T" plus a number are also known, but are much rarer than the CCH varieties.

The two basic varieties of the CCH lozenge are distinguished by the location of the central "C" with respect to the vertical axis of the diamond.



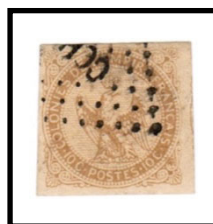
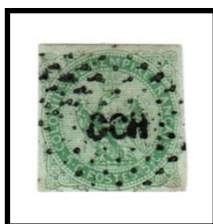
A fake version employed smaller lettering resulting in a 6-millimeter wide "CCH."



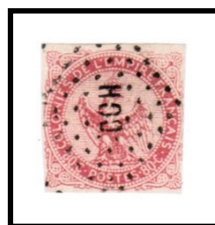
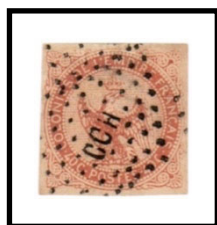
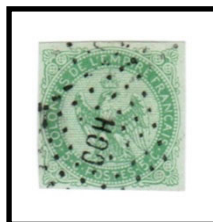
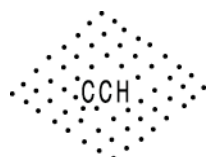
In Indochina, use of the lozenges ended around 1876.

# Eagles CCH Lozenge Postmarks

## Genuine



## Fake



# Eagles Postmarks

1 centime olive-green



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON

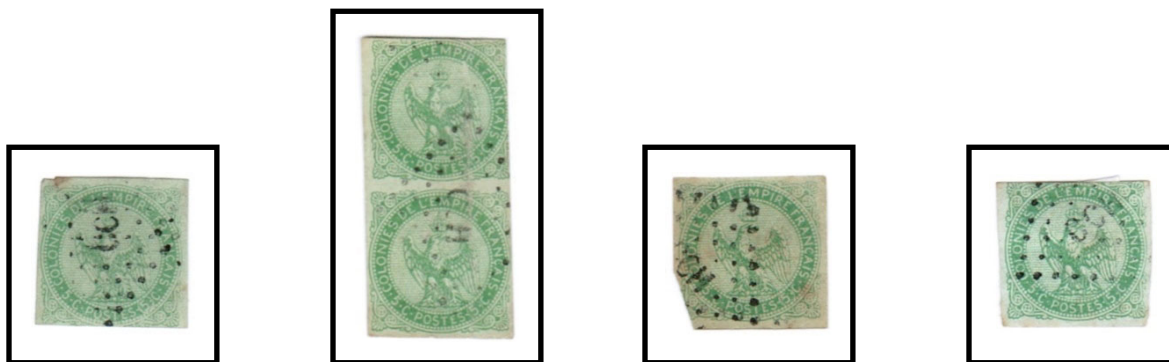


COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON

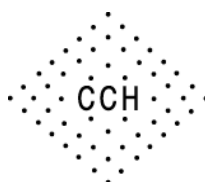


# Eagles Postmarks

5 centimes green



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON



Eagles  
Postmarks

10 centimes brown



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON

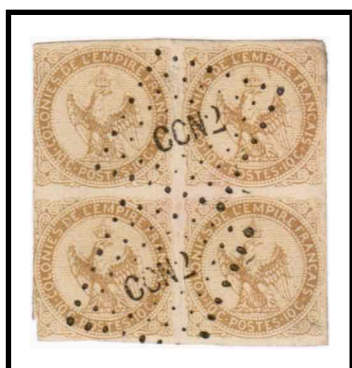


COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON



# Eagles Postmarks

10 centimes brown



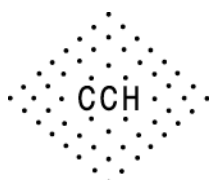
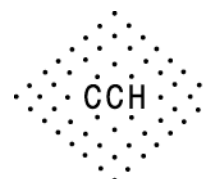
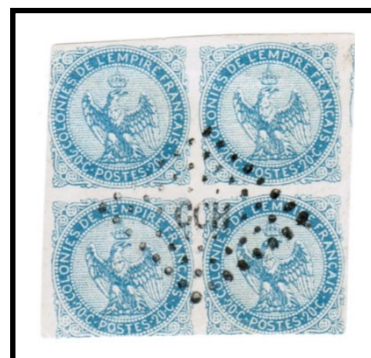


# Eagles Postmarks

20 centimes blue

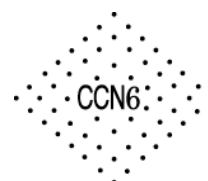
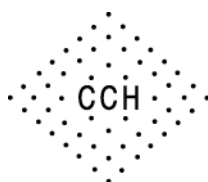
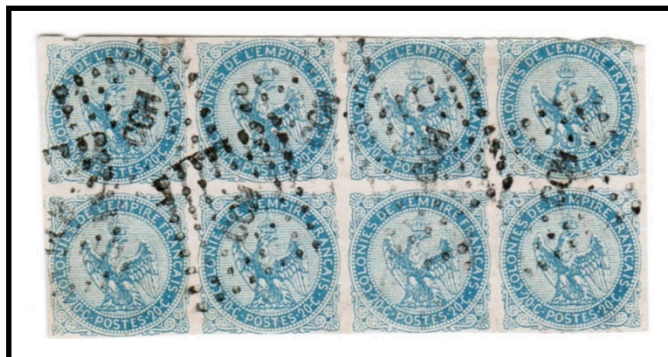


COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON



# Eagles Postmarks

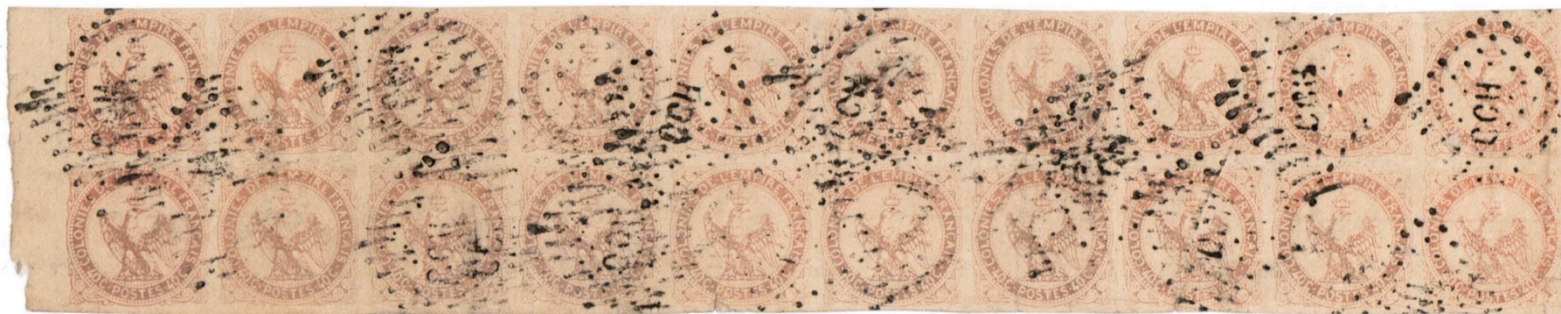
20 centimes blue





Eagles  
Postmarks

40 centimes orange



# Eagles Postmarks

40 centimes orange



COCHINCHINE  
CAP ST JACQUES



# Eagles Postmarks

80 centimes rose



COCHINCHINE  
SAIGON

