

R&D Overprints

Because of a temporary lack of 5-centime stamps, Indochina overprinted the infrequently-used 35-centime denomination from the Commerce issue. The Commerce series had been in use in all French colonies since 1881. The four-line, red overprint was first available on 8 January 1889. Complaints from postal clerks that red did not contrast satisfactorily with the background quickly led to the preparation of a three-line, black overprint. It appeared only two days later on 10 January.

These two provisional overprints are widely regarded to be the first stamps of Indochina proper since they were first to bear the title "INDO-CHINE". The letters "R" and "D" in both overprints represent the initials of Governor General Richard and Director of Posts Demars.



COLOR SHADES



R&D Overprints Varieties

Two type sizes were used for the numerals of the red overprint. The smaller are 2mm high while the larger are 2.5 mm high. The small figure variety occurs six times per sheet.



The first sheet with the black overprint showed the numeral "9" to be inverted in the lower right position. The year date was removed so that all subsequent printings carry no numerals in that position.



PRINTING VARIETIES



widely spaced "8 9"
(upper right)



slanted "9"



R&D Overprints Position Varieties

ASCENDING OVERPRINT



OVERPRINT SHIFTING LEFT TO RIGHT



R&D Overprints Varieties

For this pair, the left stamp exhibits such a light overprint that it is barely discernable. The superb strike of a SAIGON-PORT postmark on the right stamp camouflages a more pronounced but still weak overprint.



OVERPRINTS SHIFTING TO RIGHT



R&D Overprints Registration Varieties

ASCENDING OVERPRINTS



R&D Overprints Postmarks

RED OVERPRINT



BAC-NINH
TONKIN



CAP St. JACQUES
COCHINCHINE



CHOLON
COCHINCHINE



HAIPHONG
TONKIN



HANOI
TONKIN



HUE
ANNAM



ANNAM
HUE



MY-THO
ANNAM



R&D Overprints Postmarks

RED OVERPRINT



SAIGON
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON CAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



THUAN-AN
ANNAM



B62
(HONG KONG)



SHANG-HAI
CHINE



R&D Overprints Postmarks

BLACK OVERPRINT



BAMBOUS
TONKIN



CHOLON
COCHINCHINE



HAI-PHONG
TONKIN



HAIPHONG
TONKIN



TONKIN
HAI-PHUNG



HA-NOI
TONKIN



R&D Overprints Postmarks

BLACK OVERPRINT



HANOI RECTE
TONKIN



HUNG-YEN
TONKIN



HANOI-CONCES^{ON}
TONKIN



NAM-DINH
TONKIN



TONKIN
CORPS EXPEDITRE
(shifted overprint)



SON-TAY
TONKIN



R&D Overprints Postmarks

BLACK OVERPRINT



COCHINCHINE
SAIGON



CORR. D. ARMEES
SAIGON



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON CAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-PORT
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-PORT
COCHINCHINE



R&D Overprints Postmarks

BLACK OVERPRINT



POULO-CONDORE
COCHINCHINE



TOURANNE
ANNAM



COCHINCHINE
VINH-LONG



COCHINCHINE
VINH-LONG



VINH-LONG
COCHINCHINE



R&D Overprints
Postmarks
BLACK OVERPRINT



HAI-PHONG
TONKIN



HA-NOI
TONKIN



R&D Overprints Fournier Facsimiles

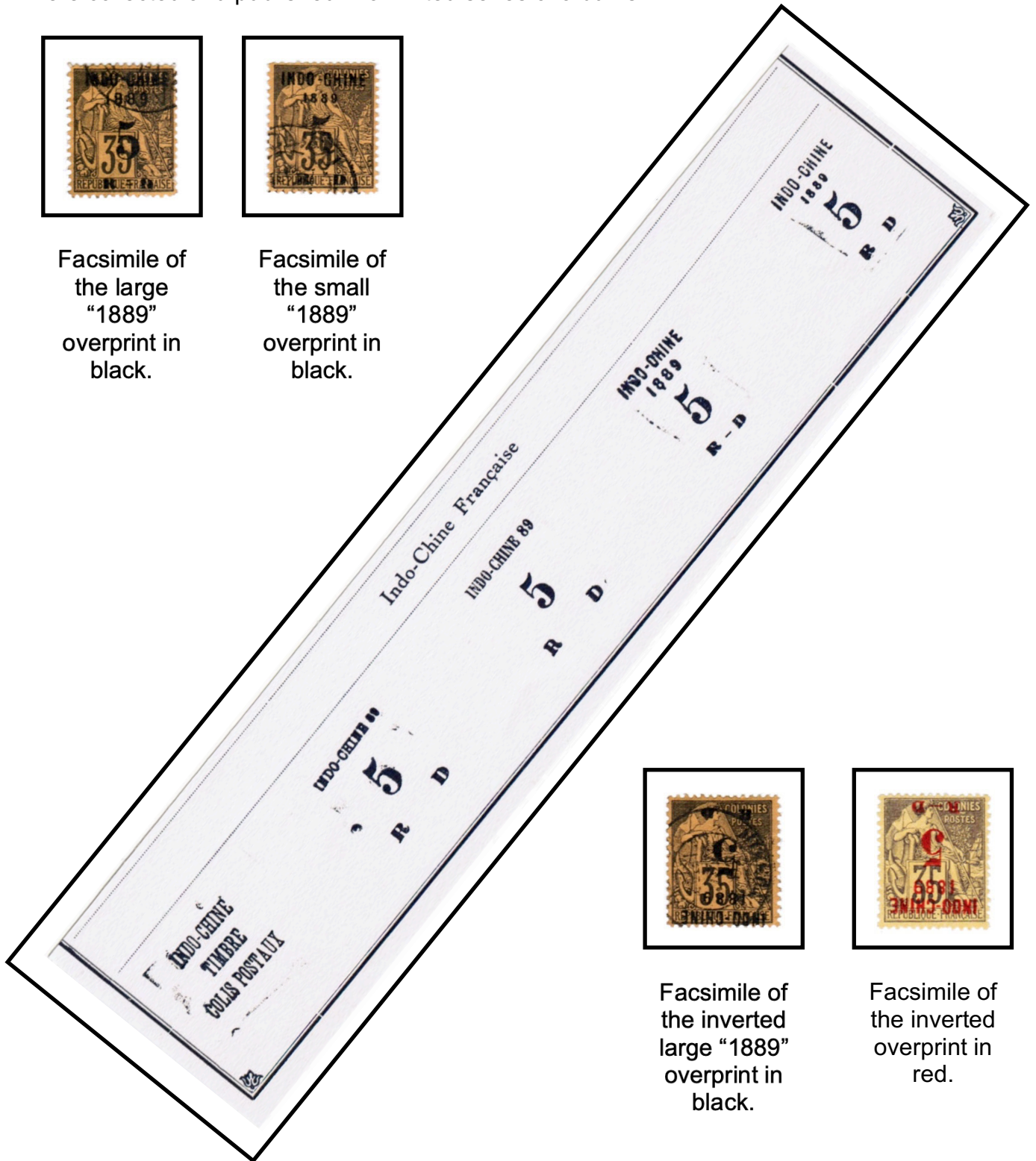
Operating from Switzerland at the turn of the century, Francois Fournier produced facsimiles of postage stamps. He regarded his work as objects d'art which he sold at low prices to collectors who could not afford the original stamps. After his death, his materials were collected and published in a limited series of albums.



Facsimile of
the large
"1889"
overprint in
black.



Facsimile of
the small
"1889"
overprint in
black.



Facsimile of
the inverted
large "1889"
overprint in
black.



Facsimile of
the inverted
overprint in
red.

R&D Overprints Use of Red Overprint

In 1892, an internal mailing was posted from Tayninh to Giadinh. Postage consisted of a 10-centime Commerce stamp and an example of the red R&D provisional overprint.

APRÉS
LE
DÉPART



POSTAL MARKINGS

TAYNINH COCHINCHINE 7 OCT 92

"After Departure" handstamp

REVERSE

GIADINH COCHINCHINE 8 OCT 92

R&D Overprints Use of Black Overprint

A single example of the black overprint franked a letter to France in 1889, significantly underpaying the required postage. Service by a British ship ("Voie anglaise") required more postage than service via a French ship.



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON ^{CA} COCHINCHINE 7 SEPT 89
REVERSE
BRAZEY EN PLAINE COTE D'OR 12 OCT 89

R&D Overprints
Use of Black Overprint
Letter

The enclosed letter was datelined at Saigon on 6 September 1889.

Saigon 6 Sept. 1889

Cher Oncle

Je viens de recevoir ta
^{Du 6 août} lettre à l'instant ; te courir
à un jour d'avance heu-
sement, sans quoi nous
n'aurions eu nos lettres qu'à
Saigon au retour.

Nous sommes arrivés ici le
4 au matin et nous en
repassons demain matin 7
pour Hoi-phong. Mon
impression générale est que
Saigon est une ville splendide,
digne d'être connue de tous
les Français.

R&D Overprints Use of Black Overprint

Five copies of the black R&D Overprint paid the 25-centime letter rate to Algeria in 1889. The black R&D Overprint was first released on 10 January, 10 days prior to the posting of this letter.



POSTAL MARKINGS
TONG-KIN HAI-PHONG 20 JANV 89

R&D Overprints Use of Black Overprint

Ten copies of the black R&D Overprint paid for mailing a registered letter from Hanoi to Stuttgart, Germany in January 1889. Postage was calculated as follows:

foreign letter rate	25 centimes
<u>registration fee</u>	<u>25 centimes</u>
total	50 centimes



POSTAL MARKINGS

HA-NOI TONKIN 28 JANV. 89
framed R (red) with manuscript registration number
MARSEILLE A LYON SPECIAL 8 MARS 89

REVERSE

TONQUIN HAI-PHONG 29 JANV. 80
STUTTGART 9/3

R&D Overprints Mixed Usage

Two copies of the black 1889 R&D overprint as well as examples of each value of the Annam and Tonkin provisional overprints and several values of the Commerce issue were applied as franking to this 1891 cover. Total value was 85 centimes for registered mail to Japan.



POSTAL MARKINGS

HAI-PHONG TONKIN 13 NOV 91
framed R with manuscript registration number

REVERSE

HONG KONG NO 16 91
REGISTERED YOKOHAMA 27 NOV 1891

R&D Overprints Mixed Usage

A single copy of the black R&D provisional stamp contributed to the franking of a registered letter card sent from Saigon to Phnompenh in 1897. Three stamp series are represented on the mailing: 20 centime Commerce General Issue, 5 centime black R&D overprint and the 15 centime blue Navigation and Commerce letter card.



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-PORT COCHINCHINE 15 MARS 97
framed R with manuscript registration number

REVERSE

PNOMPENH CAMBODGE 18 MARS 97

Black R&D Overprint Sheet



←
Missing "89"
in position
50.