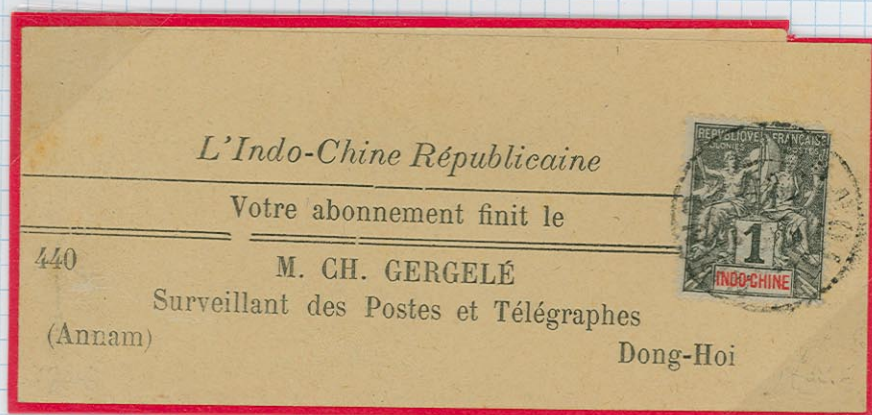
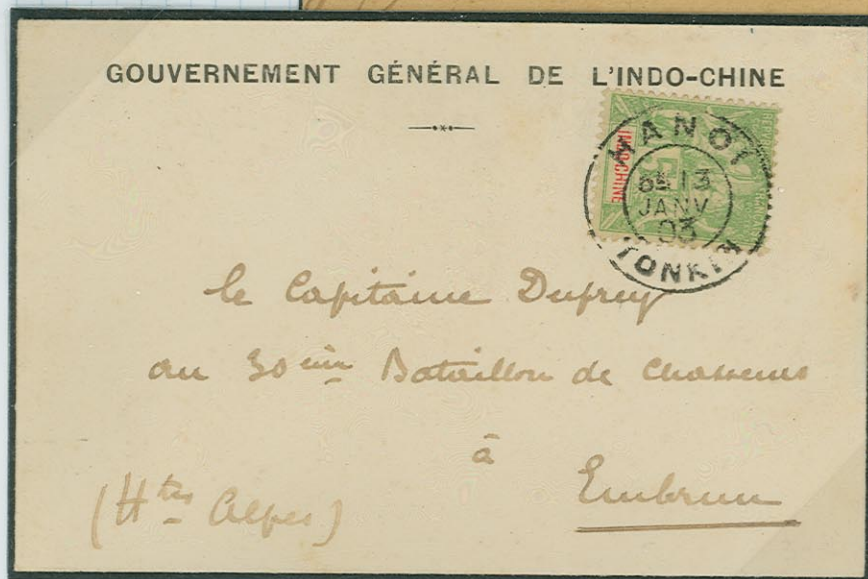


## TONKIN

The province of Tonkin was located north of Annam on the east coast of Indochina, just south of China. Of the five Indochinese provinces, it presents the most complex postal history during the period of the Group Type's use. Intense commercial and political activity centered about the province's capitol at Hanoi and principal commercial city and port of Haiphong during this period. There were more small villages in Tonkin than any of the other provinces, adding to the philatelic interest. Extensive French military activities were taking place during the first ten years of the Group Type's use adding to the complex postal history.

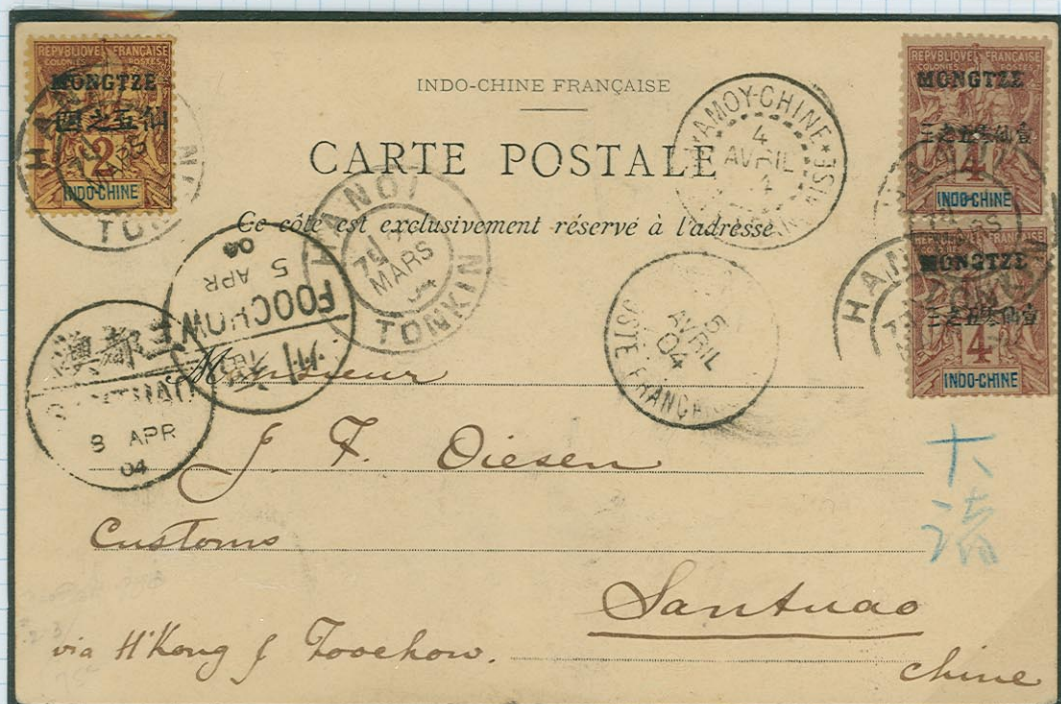
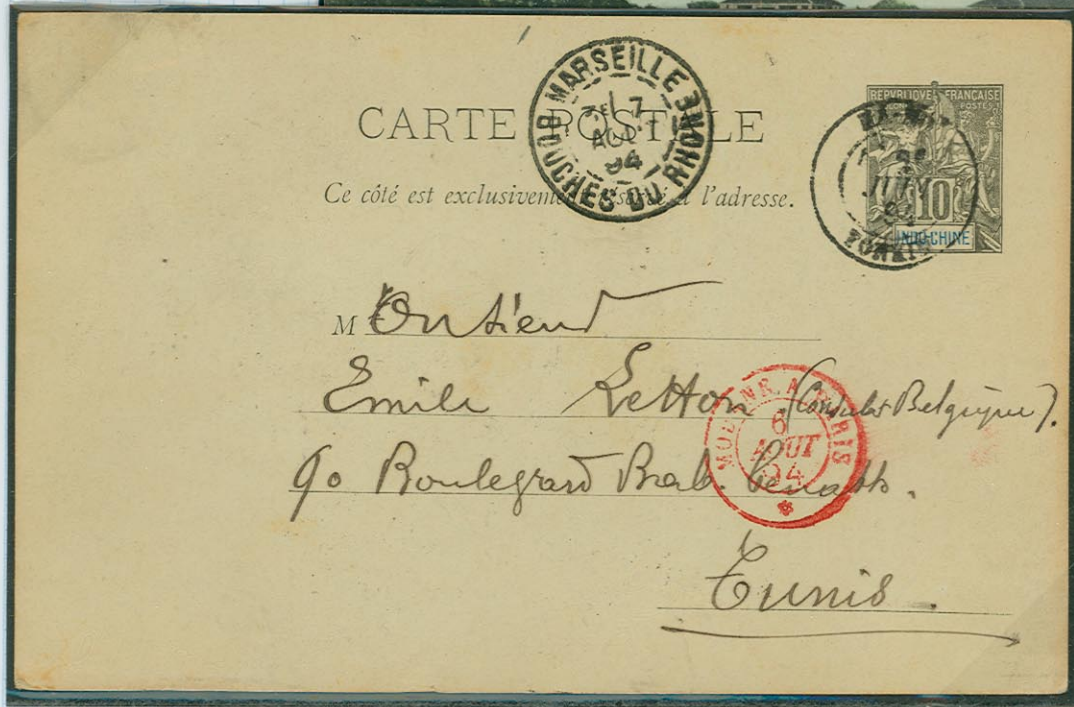
Hanoi



Multiple local printed matter rate at 5c on a large envelope used locally in Hanoi. Also, 5c overseas printed matter rate for unsealed envelopes used typically for New Year's and other greeting cards, visiting cards, birth, marriage and death announcements, etc. Single weight printed matter wrapper franked at 1c used locally to Annam. The 1c stamp used singly on a printed matter wrapper is a major rarity despite the trivial catalog value of the stamp. The other example of this rate I this exhibit is in the Canton section.



Hanoi  
Post Cards  
Unusual usages



Post card at the 5c short message rate franked with Group Type and Grasset stamps, and a 10c postal stationery card to Tunis, an unusual destination for Indochina. The final item is a post card from Hanoi franked with Group Type overprints from the Chinese office at Mongtze posted to Santuao, China via Foochow. (See Offices in China section of the exhibit.) Though illegal, the use of these stamps was clearly tolerated in this case. The use of unoverprinted Indochinese stamps from the French Offices is occasionally seen, as will be noted in the French Offices section of the exhibit.





Pre-1900 registered letters from Hanoi showing use of the **HANOI-REC<sup>TE</sup>** datestamp indicating a full service office. Shown is a registered military concession rate (no military datestamps were in use) from 1897; a normal registered rate from 1898; and a registered rate with a request for a return receipt. There was a 10c charge for the latter, which was shown on the letter of origin until 1898, and then on the receipt thereafter. The boxed **AR** handstamp is non-standard for the French area and was fabricated locally. This is the only recorded example of this handstamp.





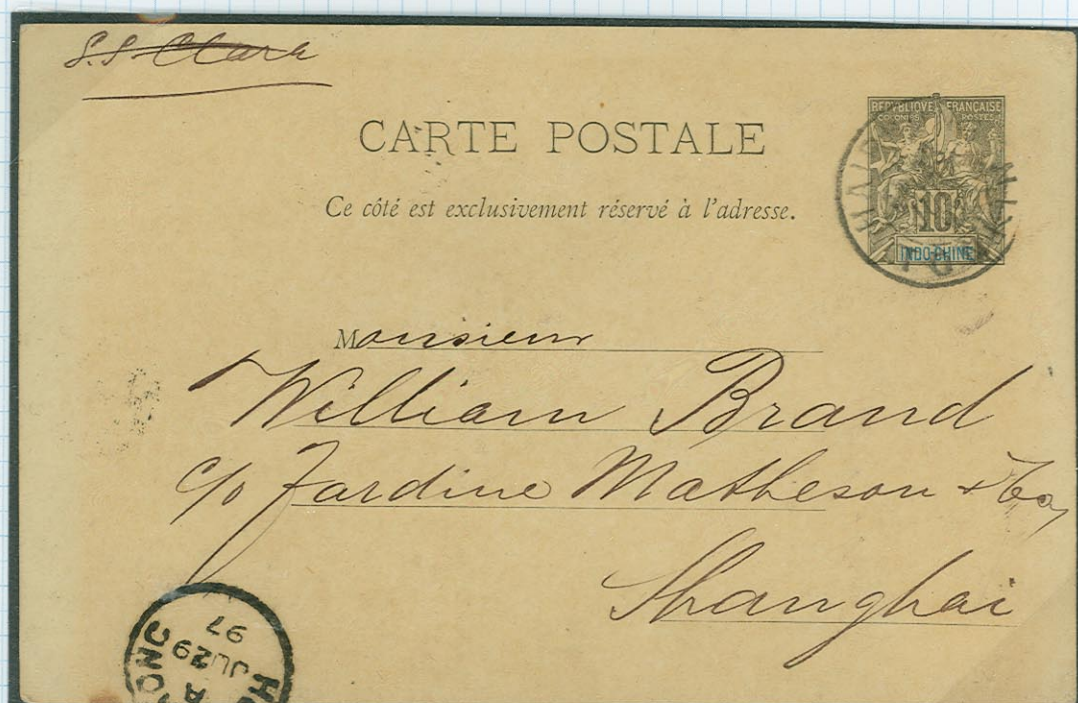
A special **HANOI-EXPOSITION** cancel was created for the Hanoi Exposition of 1902 – 1903. Essentially all of the examples seen of this cancel are philatelic as illustrated by the post card above. However, the example shown below was applied to a letter posted from the Exposition Office on Exposition stationery to Japan, and is one of the very few non-philatelic uses of this cancel recorded. It traveled via the principal office at Hanoi, Haiphong and Hong Kong enroute to Tokyo.





Registered printed matter from Haiphong in 1905 to Paris – complete newspaper. Franked with Group Type and Grasset stamps at a 35c rate – 10c for postage for 50 – 100g of weight and 25c for registration.





Postal stationery items to Chinese destinations. The first a 15c envelope to Pak-Hoi in 1906. Posted from Haiphong on April 3, 1906, this envelope arrived at the French Office at Pak-Hoi on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Since this enveloped remained within the French postal system, the 15c French Community rate was applicable in lieu of the 25c international rate. The post card traveled from Haiphong to Shanghai via Hong Kong at the 10c standard rate.



Haiphong  
15/25 1903 Overprint  
Local Use



Local letters from Haiphong showing use of the 1903 15/25 overprint. The first within the city bears an unusual and unrecorded 5 1 overprint misregistration. The second arrived at Haiphong on the mobile postal wagon (BM) and was posted to the military office at Na-Thong via Nacham.





Registered French community and local rates from Haiphong – the first at the 40c single rate, and the second at the registered fifth-weight (15c x 5 + 25c) level. The latter is unusually franked with a pair of the 50c stamps of the 1900 printing.



Haiphong  
Motte Correspondence

Via Hongkong & Naples  
per "German Steamer"



59



Madame V<sup>ve</sup> Motte



2. Rue Mogador

North Africa

Alger

Via Hongkong & Napoli  
per ss "Kiaoutchou"



274

Madame V<sup>ve</sup> Motte



2. Rue Mogador

North Africa

Alger

Letters to Madame Motte from Haiphong in 1901 and 1902 at a 50c rate. At this time the French Community registered rate was 40c. While these letters could be philatelic, such is contrary to the general observations for this correspondence. Since both letters went via Hong Kong on non-French ships, it is more likely that the 40c French Community rate was not valid for this route, and the 50c international rate was applicable. Note the red and blue Haiphong datestamps, and the archaic spelling of **TONQUIN** in the latter.



Haiphong  
Registered Letters



Double weight registered letters to the unusual destinations of Australia and Constantinople, the latter forwarded to Milan.



Haiphong  
Registered Letters  
Request for Return Receipt



Single and double weight registered letters franked to Philadelphia and Constantinople, respectively, franked at 85c and 55c, with requests for return receipts. Prior to 1900 the 10c charge for the return receipts was shown in the postage, thus the rates above show the respective charges of 50c postage + 25c registration + 10c for the receipt, and 25c + 25c + 10c. Note the unusual datestamp spellings – TONG-KIN HAI-PHONG on the former.



Haiphong  
Request for Return Receipt  
Registered Letter



Standard return receipt (**Avis de Réception**) form on a letter to Natal via Aden and a triple weight overseas registered letter with request for return receipts illustrating a combination of 25c and 75c stamps to prepay the proper rate.



Haiphong  
Return Receipt - Registered Letter  
Reunited

RENSEIGNEMENTS FOURNIS À L'EXPÉDITEUR SUR LE SORT  
CHARGÉ OU RECOMMANDÉ.

M<sup>(\*)</sup> *Guckwiller*  
*Commiss des Postes*  
rue n°  
à *Haiphong*  
département d *Tonkin*

(\*) L'expéditeur de l'objet est invité à s'adresser au Directeur des Postes et des Télégraphes de son département pour les réclamations ou les demandes de renseignements supplémentaires qu'il pourrait avoir à former après la réception du présent avis.

REPUBLICQUE FRANÇAISE  
10  
INDO-CHINE  
TONKIN

"Airlie" ou "Rostta Marn"

A.R. 497 R

HAIPHONG  
21 23  
JUN  
01  
TONKIN

REPUBLICQUE FRANÇAISE  
1  
INDO-CHINE  
TONKIN

Monsieur *H. W. Laine*  
*Holy Trinity Vicarage*  
*Lara*  
*Australia* (*Victoria*)

In addition to return receipt forms, French area post offices had special 'Resignements.....' forms which were used to confirm delivery of registered and insured letters after they had been delivered. The combination of this form and the registered letter above clearly shows that these forms were also used as simple return receipt forms, despite their printed designation of use. This form was dated on June 23, 1901 and used to confirm delivery of letter number 497 to M. Laine in Lara, Australia. Clearly it traveled with the letter and was used to confirm simple delivery in the manner of standard AR forms.



Haiphong

Commercial use of a 5F stamp on a heavy weight declared value letter. This is a front only, and the detailed charges can not be determined. The total franking was 7.85F.

Valeur déclarée : Mille Cinq Cents Francs.

Monsieur Villermont

14, Passage de l'Opéra

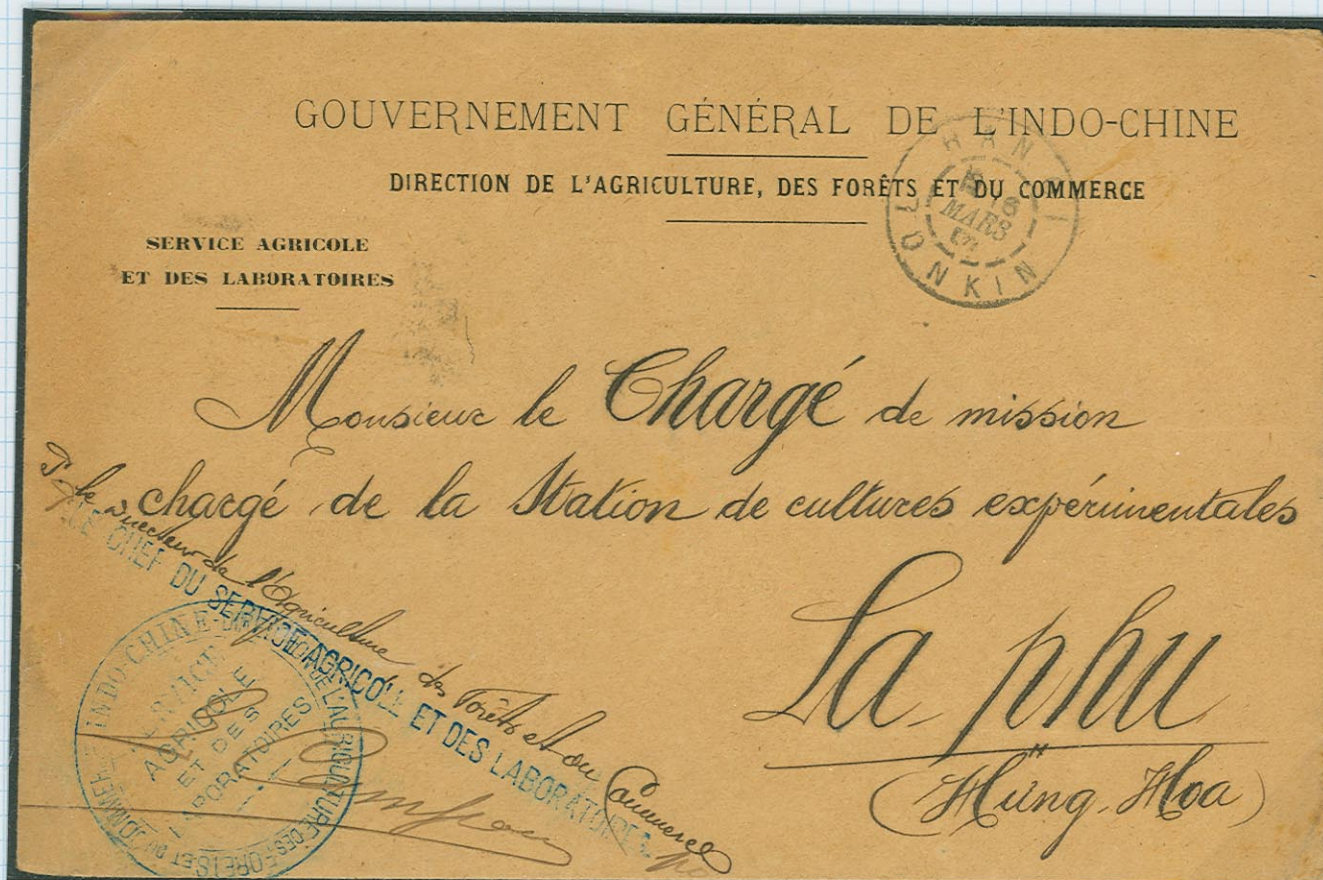
Paris





TONKIN – Government Franchise Mail

Hanoi  
Haiphong



Government franchise wrappers from Hanoi and Haiphong relating to official publications, and letter from the Agricultural Department, the latter with required cachet, endorsement and signature for validation.