

Commerce

The Minister of Colonies had had to live with complaints about imperforate stamps since 1863. Finally in 1880, conditions were right to pursue a new issue of stamps for the colonies. The design submitted by Alphée Dubois featuring an allegorical image of commerce was selected as the final design. Mr. Dubois's fee of 4,000 francs was paid by the colonies, each apportioned a share based on the size of its economy. The stamps were among the first to be printed in the government's newly acquired At lier de Fabrication des Timbres.

The stamps were first distributed in 1881 and served the postal needs of the colonies for a decade until each colony got its own Navigation and Commerce issues in 1892. Besides the basic stamps, various overprints were applied to meet shortages or new purposes.



Belgian trade card depicts postman of Annam and example of 15 centimes blue Commerce stamp.



To familiarize the public with the stamps available to them, post offices in major cities displayed samples in their lobbies. While waiting to transact business with a postal clerk, patrons could examine postal products before making a purchase. As a security measure, the display samples were overprinted "Specimen."

Commerce
Postmarks

1 centime



HA-NOI
TONKIN



HANOI-CONCES^{ON}
TONKIN



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-PORT
COCHINCHINE



TOURANNE
ANNAM



Commerce
Postmarks

2 centimes



TONQUIN
HAIPHONG



HA-NOI
TONKIN



LONGXUYEN
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON CAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



Commerce
Postmarks

2 centimes



SAIGON-PORT
COCHINCHINE



TOURANNE
ANNAM



4 centimes



CHOBO
TONKIN



HAIPHONG
TONKIN



HANOI-CONCES^{ON}
TONKIN



Commerce Postmarks

4 centimes



SAIGON
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



THUAN-AN
ANNAM



5 centimes



HA-NOI
TONKIN



HAI-PHONG
TONKIN



LAO-KAI
TONKIN



MYTHO
COCHINCHINE



Commerce
Postmarks

5 centimes



HAI-PHONG
TONKIN



NAM-DINH
TONKIN



PNOMPENH
CAMBODGE



QUINEHONE
ANNAM



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



Commerce Postmarks

5 centimes



SAIGON A HAIPHONG
PAQ. FR.



SAIGON CAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-PORT
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-PORT
COCHINCHINE



QUINEHONE
ANNAM



Commerce Postmarks

10 centimes



CHAUDOC
COCHINCHINE



HA-NOI
TONKIN



HAI-PHONG
TONKIN



LONGXUYEN
COCHINCHINE



15 centimes



CORR. D. ARMEES
HA-NOI



CORR. D. ARM.
PNOM PENH



CORR. D. ARMEES
SADEC



CORR. D. ARMEES
SAIGON



Commerce Postmarks

15 centimes



HAI-PHONG
TONKIN



ANNAM
HUE



COCHINCHINE
MY-THO



SAIGON
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-PORT
COCHINCHINE



Commerce Postmarks

15 centimes



SOCTRANG
COCHINCHINE



COCHINCHINE
TAN-AN



VINHLONG
COCHINCHINE



20 centimes



HANOI-REC^{TE}
TONKIN



PNOMPENH
CAMBODGE



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



Commerce Postmarks

25 centimes yellow



BACLIEU
COCHINCHINE



COCHINCHINE
BENTRE



HA-NOI
TONKIN



CORR. D. ARMEES
HA-NOI



CORR. D. ARMEES
HAI-PHONG



CAMBODGE
PNUM-PENH



Commerce Postmarks

25 centimes yellow



SAIGON
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-PORT
COCHINCHINE



TONKIN
CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE



COCHINCHINE
VINH-LONG



Commerce Postmarks

25 centimes black



HA-NOI
TONKIN



HAI-PHONG
TONKIN



ANNAM
HUE



LONGXUYEN
COCHINCHINE



PNOMPENH
CAMBODGE



QUANG-YEN
ANNAM



Commerce Postmarks

25 centimes black



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



MYTHO
ANNAM



SAIGON C^{AL}
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-PORT
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-PORT
COCHINCHINE



TRANGBANG
COCHINCHINE



Commerce Postmarks

25 centimes black



TRAVINH
COCHINCHINE



TOURANNE
ANNAM



VINH
ANNAM



30 centimes



CHOBO
TONKIN



CHOLON
COCHINCHINE



HA-NOI
TONKIN



HANOI-REC^{TE}
TONKIN



Commerce Postmarks

30 centimes



HAIPHONG
TONKIN



ANNAM
HUE



KEBAU
TONKIN



PHU-LANG-THUONG
TONKIN



PNOMPENH
CAMBODGE



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



THUAN-AN
ANNAM



TOURANNE
ANNAM



Commerce
Postmarks

35 centimes



CHOBO
TONKIN



HA-NOI
TONKIN



HAI-PHONG
TONKIN



KEBAU
TONKIN



LAO-KAI
TONKIN



THUAN-AN
ANNAM



Commerce
Postmarks

40 centimes



BINH-DINH
ANNAM



DAPCAU
TONKIN



HAI-PHONG
TONKIN



HUE
ANNAM



HA-NOI
TONKIN



HANOI-CONCES^{ON}
TONKIN



HANOI-REC^{TE}
TONKIN



Commerce Postmarks

40 centimes



SAIGON CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-PORT
COCHINCHINE



LAO-KAI
TONKIN



THUAN-AN
ANNAM



TOURANNE
ANNAM



Commerce
Postmarks

75 centimes



TONG-KIN
HAI-PHUNG



CAP ST JACQUES
COCHINCHINE



HAI-PHONG
TONKIN



HA-NOI
TONKIN



KEBAU
TONKIN



Commerce Postmarks

75 centimes



SAIGON CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



THUAN-AN
ANNAM



1 franc



HA-NOI
TONKIN



HAI-PHONG
TONKIN



HAIPHONG A SAIGON
PAQ. FR.



Commerce Postmarks

1 franc



LAO-KAI
TONKIN



PNOMPENH
CAMBODGE



SAIGON A SINGAPORE
PAQ. FR.



COCHINCHINE
SAIGON



SAIGON C^{AL}
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON PORT
COCHINCHINE



Commerce Fake Postmarks

Keen collector interest in the postmarks of the various colonial towns on the General Issues has inspired some to meet the demand by producing their own supply. Here are the efforts of one individual. After manufacturing his own cancellers, he applied them to used stamps, which in most cases show traces of the original, genuine postmarks. However, he evidently was not knowledgeable about the cancels of the period as such large circular date stamps were not in use in Indochina.

For the Phnompenh postmark, the letter height is 3.25 mm and the circles are 25 and 37 mm in diameter.



For the Saigon postmark, letter height is 2.75 mm and the circle diameters are 26 and 35 mm. The numbers 18 and 27 are common to the interior of these Saigon strikes.



Commerce Clerk of Court Tax Stamps

During 1895-97, four denominations were overprinted with values in cents of the Indochinese piaster to serve as tax stamps for documents handled by the Clerk of Court. "GREFFE" stood for Droits de Greffe (court clerk duties).

