

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
Postmarks

RED OVERPRINT



BACNINH
TONKIN



CAP St. JACQUES
COCHINCHINE



CHOLON
COCHINCHINE



HAIPHONG
TONKIN



HANOI
TONKIN



HUE
ANNAM



MY-THO
ANNAM



R&D Overprints
Postmarks

RED OVERPRINT



SAIGON
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON CAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



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
VINHLONG



POULO-CONDORE
COCHINCHINE



VINH-LONG
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-CENTRAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON CAL
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-PORT
COCHINCHINE



SAIGON-PORT
COCHINCHINE



R&D Overprints
Postmarks

BLACK OVERPRINT



HAI-PHONG
TONKIN



HA-NOI
TONKIN



R&D Overprints Fournier Facsimiles

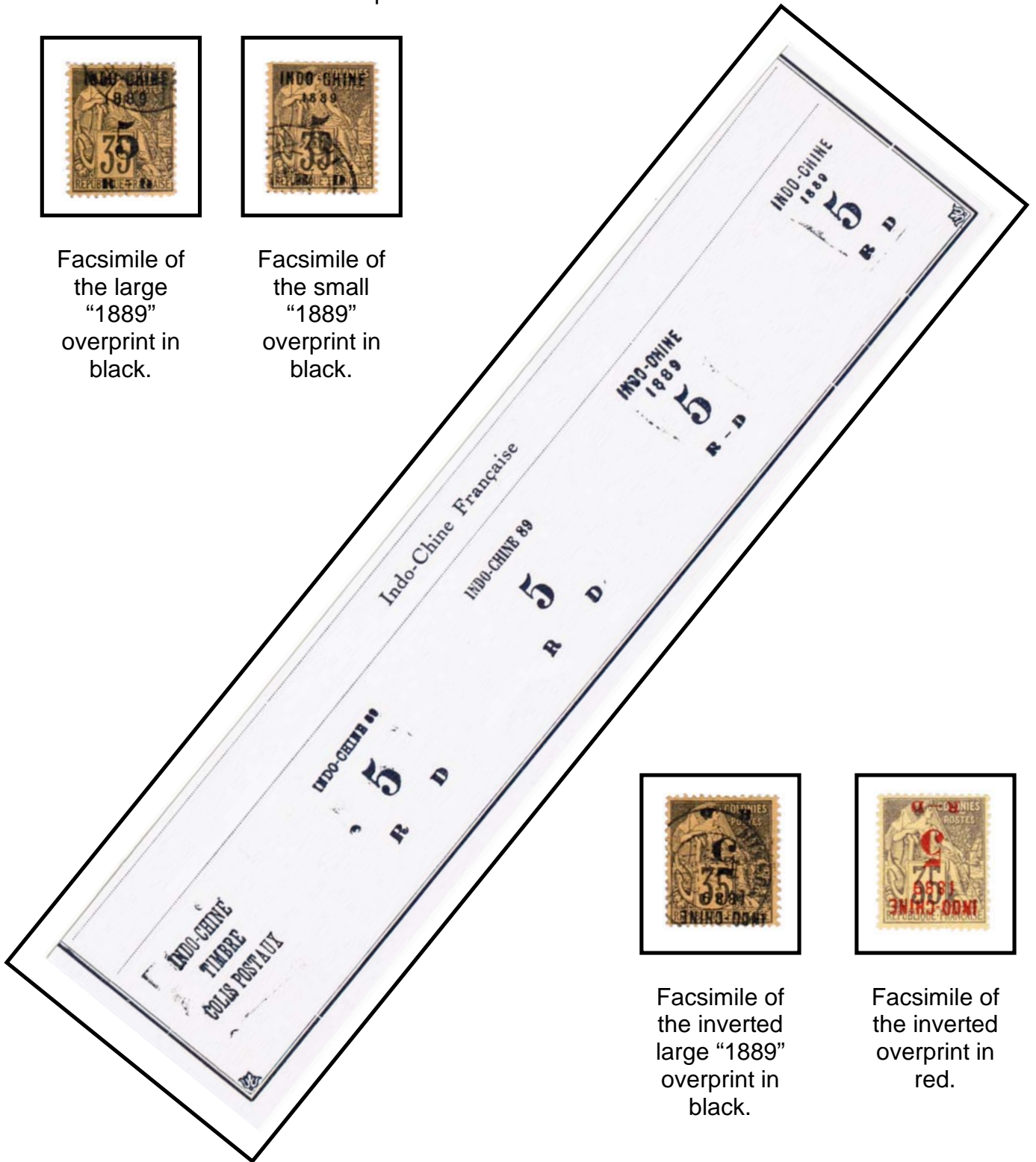
Operating from Switzerland at the turn of the century, Francois Fournier produced facsimiles of postage stamps. He regarded his work as objects d'art which he sold at low prices to collectors who could not afford the original stamps. After his death, his materials were collected and published in a limited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

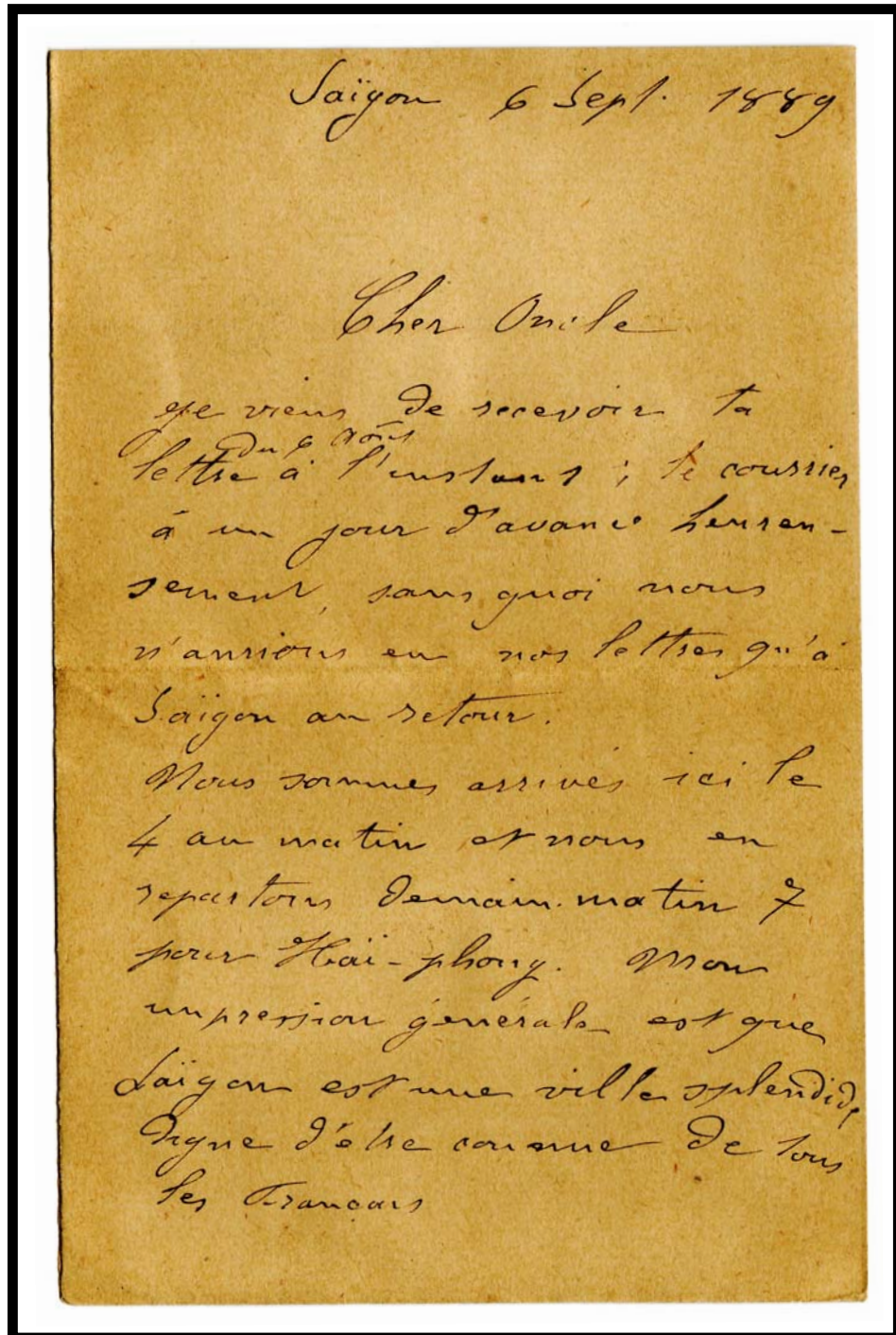
SAIGON CAL COCHINCHINE 7 SEPT 89

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.



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
STUTT GART 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 Pnompenh 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.