

Foothold in Indo-China (1858-62)

Massacres of missionaries in Cochin-China led to French and Spanish reprisals, including naval bombardment of coastal cities and February 1859 seizure of Saigon. By 5 June 1862 treaty, Emperor of Annam ceded three Cochin-China provinces to France.

Mail via Hong-Kong until early 1861 opening of military-postal bureau at Saigon. Reinforcements from China retained their China Campaign markings until 1863.



Brest, 7 Feb. 1859 to Hong-Kong, for captain of steam corvette "Laplace" on Indo-China Station
 correct 80c postage for prepaid 1x Hong-Kong letter via Suez and
 British packet (rate in effect 1 Jan. 1857)
 backstamps: Brest-Paris 7 February night train; Marseille 8 February transit;
 Hong-Kong, 26 March 1859 arrival

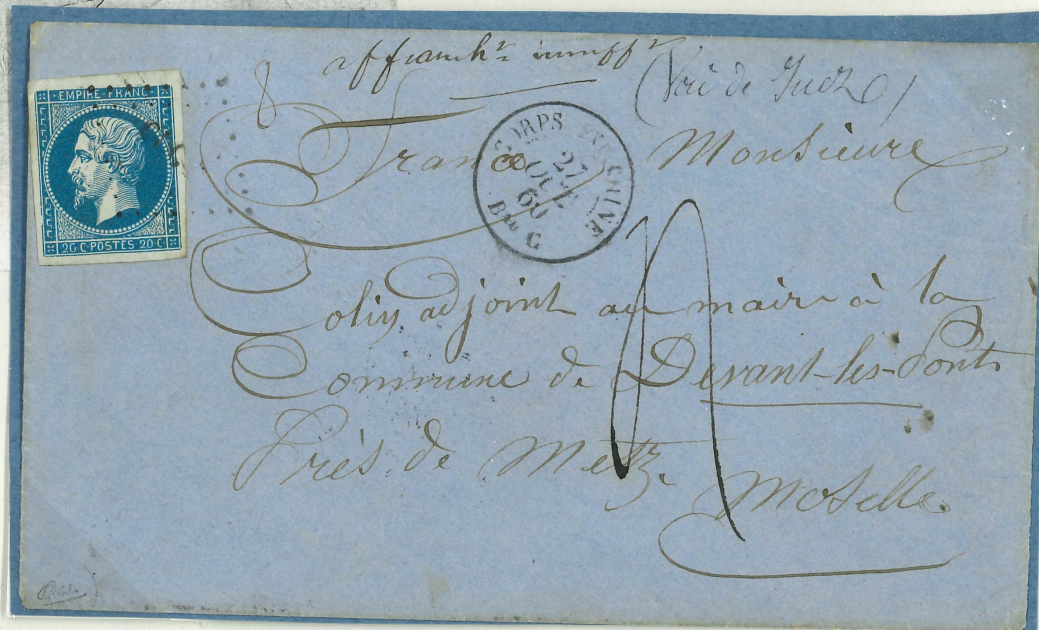


CORPS EXP.CHINE/B^{AU} A, 31 March 1862 + its CECA killer
 2x officer's letter, at 80c via Suez

last day of rate/transit agreement for transport via British packet
 [see China Campaign, below, for more information]

backstamps: Marseille-0Lyon night train (illegible date); Bâle-Paris night train,
 Paris, 12 May; Bourmont, 13 May 1862 arrival

Bureau A of the China Expeditionary Corps situated at Saigon, 28 February 1861 to 25 June 1862.



CORPS EXP.CHINE/B^{AU} C, 27 Oct. 1860, + its CECC killer

ms. insufficient postage and 4 (décimes) tax; 2x penalty for underpaid officer's mail [per ms. annotation on flap]

backstamps: **CORPS EXP.CHINE/B^{AU} A**, 7 November [Bureau A, then at Hong-Kong, closed 30 November];
Marseille, 26 December; illegible train date stamp out of Marseille; Metz, 27 Dec. 1860 arrival

Very early date (first week of record) for Bureau C date stamp; Bureau C at Canton



CORPS EXP.CHINE/B^{AU} B
15 Oct. 1861, + its CECC killer

backstamps: Marseille-Lyon 12 Dec. 1861
night train; Paris-Calais 2^o, 14 December
day train; Dunkerque 14 December arrival

Bureau B at Tientsin

China Campaign (Second Opium War) (1860-61)

Expeditionary corps of 7,500 French and smaller Spanish contingent, in two divisions under Gen. de Montauban, reached Hong-Kong, then arrived off Shanghai, 8 April 1860, prior to declaration of war by other European powers. Corps landed at Tchefoo in June, occupied Tientsin and Palikao; took and burned Imperial Summer Palace in Peking, 13 October. After uneasy peace, China proper evacuated by Fall 1861; most of French troops sent to the Cochinchina theater.

Mail from central and four divisional bureaus carried mainly by British packets via Suez. Only properly countersigned mail from enlisted personnel benefitted from French domestic rates.



CORPS EXP. CHINE/B^{AU} CENTRAL, 20 Sept. 1860 [Central Bureau moved May 1860 from Hong-Kong to Shanghai], + its **CECB.C^L** killer

faint red boxed PD (Paid to Destination)

backstamps: *Marseille, 11 November; Paris 12 November; Paris-Nantes, 12 Nov. 1860 night train*

Officer's mail, fully prepaid at 40c for under 7.5 gm, via British service