

**French Maritime Markings,  
on Hong Kong adhesives or on mail,  
associated with Hong Kong and its Treaty Ports.**

Philippe Orsetti



# **French Maritime Markings, on Hong Kong adhesives or on mail, associated with Hong Kong and its Treaty Ports. (1845 – 1940)**

**Philippe Orsetti**

**December 2023**

## **Introduction**

French Maritime mail has been extensively studied over the years. Raymond Salles (1899-1976) has published ten volumes of the “*Poste Maritime Française*”, between 1961 and 1975.

**Tome V** addresses specifically Far East Ships on Saigon, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Yokohama & Kobe lines.

The initial object of this monograph was to illustrate Tome V markings, organized by Salles’ chapters and numbers, on entire letters, covers, postcards or single stamps, as long as they had been used on adhesives, or mail matter associated with Hong Kong. It proved too restrictive and eventually it was attempted to include illustrations of all the Salles’s Tome V markings, provided their provenance was to or from the Far East and hopefully carried on a French ship .

This monograph is not intended to describe itineraries that have been already brilliantly studied and illustrated, by Lee C. Scamp in “*Far East Mail Ship Itineraries*”, Vol I, in 1987 and “*French Mail Paquebot / Far East Itineraries (1862-1880) - Vol 2*”, in 2010.

It focusses on French Maritime Markings only that have been consistently sought after by philatelists and that have often commanded high prices at auctions.

Ahead of this Monograph, the author had uploaded on the website of the Hong Kong Study Circle (in 2020) a Monograph titled “*Messageries Maritimes Ships Having Served on Far East Lines (1867 to 1932)*” illustrating through postcards most of the ships that had served on the French Far East Lines as identified by Raymond Salles in his Tome V.

When not specifically credited, the stamps & covers illustrated in this document, which have been in the hands of successive collectors, have been, at some point, in the author’s collection.

Examples of some markings could not be found, yet they may exist. Any scan contribution by readers shall be welcomed by the author who will attempt to update this Monograph, time permits.

These mails have sailed thousands of miles for many months and illustrate the constant links between Europe and the far East.

Philippe Orsetti

[Toulousin@msn.com](mailto:Toulousin@msn.com)

**Contents**

Introduction .....	1	838 / F .....	32	1.898 (Modane) .....	68
Contents .....	2	(B) Exchange Markings struck in London .....	33	1.900 (Alexandrie).....	69
Correspondence numbering.....	5	1.163 (ART.12).....	33	Markings struck in Hong Kong .....	70
Messageries Imperiales .....	7	1.164 (ART.13).....	33	1.901 (GB 1.22.4/10 black)70	
Messageries Maritimes.....	8	1.165 (ART-18).....	34	1.901 (GB 1.22.4/10 blue).72	
Chapter I- Indochina Lines.....	9	1.850 (G.B. in star) .....	35	1.902 (GB 1.62.4/10) black73	
a- Ship names struck onboard. 9		(C) French Colonies, Suez route .....	36	1.903 (GB 1.80 blue).....	74
1.811 .....	9	1.855.....	36	1.874 / F.....	74
1.814.....	11	1.856.....	37	1.904 (GB 1.26 black) .....	75
1.815 .....	12	1.857.....	37	1.905 (GB 1.66 black) .....	77
b- Ship names, French Colonies. .....	13	1.859.....	38	1.906 (GB 1.90 black) .....	79
1.816 red.....	13	1.863.....	39	1.907 (GB 1.62.4/10 blue).80	
1.817 .....	14	(D) Foreign Countries, Suez ..	40	Chapter III- Ligne N.....	82
1.818 red.....	15	1.866.....	40	Dots & Anchor .....	82
1.819.....	16	1.868.....	43	Boite Mobile “BM” .....	82
c- Ship names, British Colonies. .....	17	1.869.....	48	966.....	82
1.822 .....	17	(E) English Possessions, Suez	49	Ligne N - Circular Marking...83	
1.823 red.....	18	1.871.....	49	1.921 .....	83
1.825 .....	19	1.872.....	51	1.921 / 1 .....	84
d- Ship names in Annex Lines20		1.873.....	52	1.921 / 2.....	85
1.828.....	20	1.874 (A to H).....	53	1.921 / 3.....	86
1.829.....	21	1.875.....	55	1.921 / 4.....	88
1.843.....	22	1.876.....	56	1.921 / 5.....	90
1.844.....	23	F) English Paquebot via Suez	57	1.921 / 7.....	91
1.848.....	24	744.....	57	1.921 / 8.....	92
Chapter II- Entry & Exchange....	25	1.879.....	58	1.921 / 9.....	93
Fee Markings .....	25	1.880.....	59	1.921 / 10.....	93
(A) India via Marseille .....	26	1.881.....	61	Ligne M .....	95
Paquebots Méditerranée ....	26	(G) French Establishment, India .....	62	1.922 / 1 .....	95
725 .....	26	1.884.....	62	“Grille de Chargement” .....	97
726.....	27	1.885.....	63	1.923 .....	97
727 .....	28	H) Entry via Brindisi.....	64	Ligne N - Octagonal Marking	98
Indes Orientales.....	29	1.894 (Modane).....	64	1.924.....	98
730 .....	29	1.895 (Modane).....	66	1.924 / 1 .....	99
732 .....	29	I) Miscellaneous entry markings .....	67	1.924 / 2.....	100
838 / H.....	31	1.897 (Modane).....	67	1.924 / 3.....	101

**French Maritime Markings in association with Hong Kong and its Treaty Ports**

1.924 / 6.....	105	1.948.....	137	1.976 / 3.....	162
1.924 / 7.....	107	1.949.....	137	1.977.....	163
1.924 / 8.....	108	1.946 / 1 .....	138	Ligne T .....	164
1.924 / 9.....	110	1.946 / 2 .....	138	Hong Kong - Saigon.....	166
1.924 / 10.....	112	1.946 / 3 .....	139	1.2001 .....	166
Ligne N – Marseille-Yokohama .....	115	1.946 / 7 .....	140	Chapter V- Far East Lines .....	167
1.925 / 1.....	116	1.949 / 5 .....	140	Line Marseille - Yokohama..	167
1.925 / 8.....	118	1.949 / 6 blue.....	141	1-Circular date stamp .....	167
1.925 / 10.....	119	1.949 / 8 red .....	142	MARSEILLE A YOKOAMA .....	167
Ligne N – Yokohama-Marseille .....	120	1.949 / 10 .....	142	2.021 / 1 .....	167
1.926.....	120	1.950.....	143	YOKOAMA A MARSEILLE .....	170
1.926 / 1.....	120	1.952 / 3 blue.....	144	2.022 / 1 .....	170
1.926 / 6.....	121	Ligne N - Corps Expéditionnaire Tonkin .....	146	2-Octagonal Date Stamp .	171
1.926 / 8.....	122	1.954 / 1 .....	146	MARSEILLE A YOKOAMA .....	171
1.926 / 10.....	123	1.954 / 2 .....	147	2.023 / 2.....	171
Ligne N – French Colonies ..	124	1.954 / 3 red .....	148	2.023 / 3.....	173
1.927 / 1.....	124	1.954 / 5 blue.....	149	2.023 / 4.....	173
1.927 / 2.....	125	1.954 / 6 .....	150	2.023 / 5.....	175
1.927 / 4.....	125	1.954 / 7 .....	151	2.023 / 6.....	178
1.929 / 5.....	126	1.954 / 8 .....	151	2.023 / 7.....	179
1.927 / 7.....	126	1.954 / 10 .....	152	YOKOAMA A MARSEILLE .....	180
1.929 / 7.....	127	Chapter IV- Lignes Annexes ...	153	2.024.....	180
1.929 / 8.....	127	Ligne O .....	153	2.024 / 2.....	180
Ligne N - Possessions Anglaises .....	128	1.961.....	153	2.024 / 4.....	181
1.931.....	128	1.962.....	154	2.024 / 5.....	183
1.931 / 1.....	129	Ligne R.....	155	2.024 / 6.....	183
1.931 / 2 red.....	130	1.968.....	155	2.023 / 7.....	185
1.931 / 4.....	131	1.969.....	155	2.023 / 8.....	185
1.932.....	132	Ligne S .....	156	MARSEILLE A YOKOHAMA .....	186
1.933.....	133	1-Line Markings.....	156	2.025 / 7.....	186
1.933 / 5.....	134	1.971.....	156	YOKOHAMA A MARSEILLE.....	187
1.933 / 6 red.....	135	1.971 / 1 .....	156	2.026 / 4.....	187
1.933 / 9 red.....	136	2-Provenance markings..	157	2.026 / 7.....	188
1.934.....	136	1.972 / 1 .....	157	MARSEILLE A YOKOHAMA .....	189
Ligne N - Correspondance d'Armée.....	137	1.972 / 3 .....	158	2.027 / 3.....	189
1.946.....	137	1.973.....	159		
1.947.....	137	1.974.....	160		
		3-Correspondance d'Armée .....	161		
		1.975 / 1 .....	161		

**French Maritime Markings in association with Hong Kong and its Treaty Ports**

2.027 / 8.....190	2.042 / 7 ..... 206	2.052 / 6.....218
2.027 / 9.....192	SHANGHAI A MARSEILLE	2.052 / 7.....220
2.027 / 10.....194	..... 207	2.052 / 8.....221
YOKOHAMA A	2.042 / 6 ..... 207	2.052 / 9.....222
MARSEILLE.....195	Registration Markings..... 208	2.053 .....223
2.028 / 3.....195	2.043 & 2.044 ..... 208	2.054.....223
2.028 / 7.....196	Line Marseille - Kobe ..... 209	Administrative Markings..... 224
2.028 / 8.....197	MARSEILLE A KOBE .. 209	2.082.....224
2.028 / 9.....199	2.051 / 2 ..... 209	2.083.....225
2.029.....200	2.051 / 4 ..... 211	Chapter VI - Indochina lines ....226
3-Registration Markings..201	2.051 / 5 ..... 213	Service Haiphong - Hong Kong
2.033 .....202	2.051 / 6 ..... 214	.....226
Line Marseille - Shanghai .... 204	2.051 / 8 ..... 214	2.086.....226
MARSEILLE A SHANGHAI	2.051 / 9 ..... 215	2.080.....226
.....204	KOBE A MARSEILLE .. 216	Index of Ships.....227
2.041 / 5.....204	2.052 / 1 ..... 216	Bibliography.....228
2.041 / 6.....205	2.052 / 4 ..... 217	

**Appendix:** Messageries Maritimes Ships having served on Far East Lines (1867 to 1932)

Hong Kong Study Circle – Members Only

Please login to view the rest of the document.