

### 3. Foreign Mail via Indochina (Vietnam)

#### Earliest recorded cover from any of the Chinese Imperial Post Offices in Yunnan

Until this correspondence was discovered, the earliest known cover from SZEMAO dated October 1, 1901. Paul Ke-Shing Chang assumed that the Mengtsz, Szemao and Hokow Chinese Imperial Post Offices were opened to the public as late as October 12, 1901 (Part II page 22). Although several items exist with CIPO handstamps of these offices before that date, so far I have not seen any from these Yunnan offices which are franked with Chinese postage stamps cancelled before October 21, 1901 (see earliest combination cover)

**January 4, 1900**, sent from **SZEMAO** via **MENGTSZ** (bs Jan 16) and **LAOKAY** at the Yunnan-Indochinese border where this letter was franked and cancelled Jan 26 and sent via Hanoi (bs Feb 6) and arrived at Mirande in France March 13, 1900.



Ex Colin Jones

Map showing the route from Szemao via the Red River to Hanoi

