

POSTAL HISTORY OF AITOLOAKARNANIA 1840-1950

Aitoloakarnania is an administrative region at the **midwest of Greece**. Its population is **211.000** (2011) and its area **5461 km²**. Its capital is **Messolonghi** for historical reasons, while its biggest city and economic centre is **Agrinio**. Other towns are **Nafpaktos** (Lepanto), **Amfilochia**, **Thermo**, **Astakos**, **Vonitsa**, **Aitoliko**. There are also many small villages and the remarkable is that there were post offices which operated in some of them for a very short time.



Aitoloakarnania is the biggest prefecture in **Greece** with many morphological differences. There are many mountains but also rivers, lakes and plains. This is why the communication with other districts was difficult. In the **19th** century, mails were transferred by mounted or pedestrian postmen towards the nearest ports like **Messolonghi**, **Nafpaktos**, **Amfilochia**, **Vonitsa** and **Astakos**. From there, they were transferred by ship mainly to **Patra** (**Peloponnese**) and then to their final destination in **Greece** or abroad. Since the beginning of the **20th** century, the railway, which was constructed from **Agrinio** to **Kryoneri** (port across **Patra**), was also used for the correspondence.

Note: The administrative division of Greece in force since **1975** was taken in account.

PLAN OF EXHIBIT

2 – 8 Pre-Adhesive Period 1840-1861
9 – 20 1861- 1900
21 – 29 Inland Mail
30 – 34 Mail to Abroad
35 – 39 Telegraphic Postmarks
40 – 46 Rural Postal Service
47 – 48 Railway Postal Service
49 – 52 Air Mail
53 – 56 Exchange Control

57 Centenary of Lord Byron's Death
58 Messolonghi Sacred City
59 National Resistance
60 WW1 Hellenic Censorship
61 – 63 WW2 Hellenic Censorship
64 WW2 Axis Forces Censorship
65 – 72 Italian Military Mail 1941-1943
73 – 78 German Military Mail 1942-1944
79 – 80 Mail of Italians under the German Army
1943 - 1944

- Bibliography:**
1. Cancellations of Greek Post Offices by Ioannis Ntais
 2. La Posta Militare Italiana 1939-1945 by Giuseppe Marchese
 3. Die Deutsche Feldpost in Griechenland im II weltkrieg 1941-1945 by Byron Tesapsides
 4. Post Offices in Greece by Moysis Konstantinis
 5. The Greek Post Offices of the 20th Century by Ioannis Ntais

PRE-ADHESIVE PERIOD 1840 - 1861

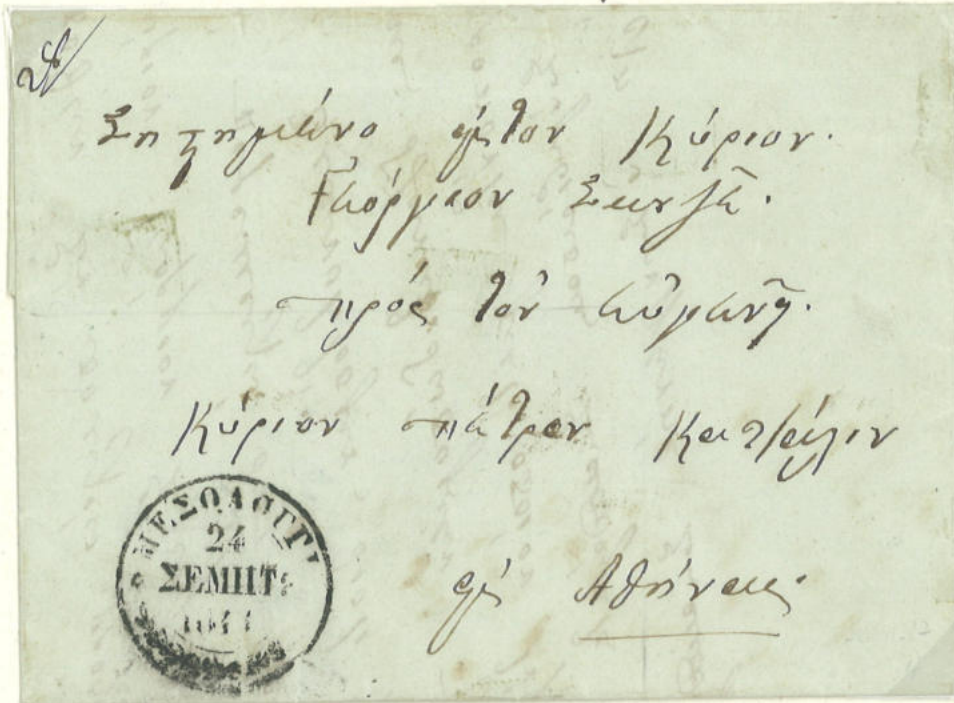
Post offices during the Preadhesive period at Aitolokarnania were at : **ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ** (NAFPAKTOS or LEPANTO) 1833, - **ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ** (MESSOLONGHI) 1834, - **ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ** (AGRINIO) 1833, - **ΑΜΦΙΛΟΧΙΚΟΝ ΑΡΓΟΣ** (AMFILOCHIA) 1838, - **ANNINON** (ANNINON) 1854, (extremely rare, population only 40 people), - **ΒΟΝΙΤΣΑ** and **BONITZA** (VONITSA and VONITZA) 1835, - **ΑΙΤΩΛΙΚΟΝ** (AITOLIKON) 1843, - **ΑΣΤΑΚΟΣ** (ASTAKOS) 1837.



Blue button type cancellation "ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ" (NAFPAKTOS or LEPANTO) on commercial letter written "7 Φεβρ. 1845" (7 Feb. 1845), sent to "ΠΑΤΡΑ" (PATRA Peloponnese) arrival postmark "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*8 ΦΕΒΡΟ 1845" (PATRA*8 FEB. 1845). On backside handwritten 10 lepta postal rate to be paid.



Commercial letter type I cancellation "ΑΙΤΩΛΙΚΟΝ" (AITOLIKON) with a decorative ornament at the lower part, written "2 Ιανουαρίου 1856" (2 January 1856), sent to "ΠΑΤΡΑ" (PATRA Peloponnese) arrival postmark "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*4.ΙΑΝΟΥ. 1856" (PATRA*4.JAN.1856).



Letter dated "τη 24: 7βρίου, 1844: Μεσολόγγιον" (24 Sept. 1844 Messolonghi), postmarked "ME-SOΛOΓΓI*24 ΣEΜIIT. 1844" (MESSOLONGHI) with lawrel leaves at the lower part. Sent to "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ*27 .ΣEΜIIT.1844" (ATHENS) black, with handwritten rate on reverse 20 lepta.

Letter posted from "MEΣOΛOΓ-ΓION*1 AYΓ: 1843" (MESSOLONGHI) with lawrel leaves, via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*2 AYΓ: 1843" (PATRA Peloponnese), arrival "ΝΑΥΠΛION*4 AYΓ: 1843". (Nafplio Peloponnese) Prepaid postage rete 30 lepta.



Commercial letter from "MEΣOΛOΓΓION*1.ΣEΠT.59*(49)" (MESSOLONGHI, - 49 was the number of the post office) in blue (type III) arrival "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*2.ΣEΠT.59*(9), (PATRA - number post office 9).



Prepaid letter dated "τη 9 Φεβρ. 1844" (9 Febr. 1844) from "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ" (AGRINIO), (type I – button) in blue/green to Athens. On reverse 30 lepta paid fee. Sender writes to his brother.



Commercial letter dated "την 16 αυγού. 1852" (16 August 1852" from "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ" (AGRINIO), (type I – button) in blue to PATRA. Arrival postmark ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*18 ΑΥΓΟΥ*1852 (PATRA, 18 AUGUST, 1852). The sender writes to "μπάτρα" (mpatra, that is Patra with m in front), spoken idiomatic expression transferred to written.

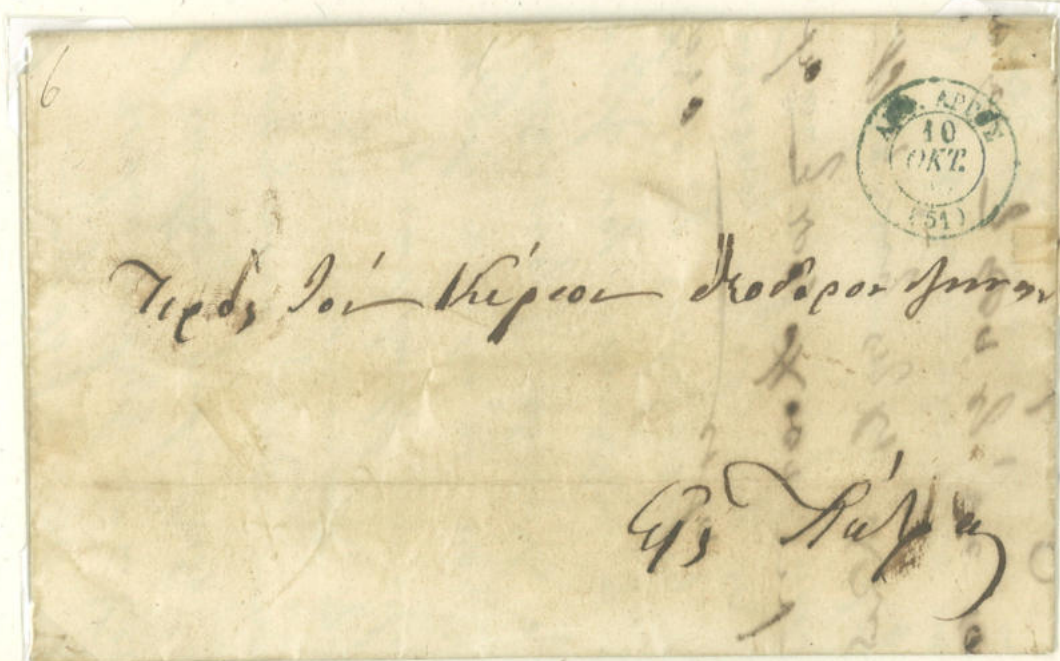


Letter dated "13
Μαΐου 1853"
(13 May 1853),
cancelled with
"ΑΜΦΙΑ.
ΑΡΓΟΣ"
(AMFIL.
ARGOS =
AMFILOC-
HIA), port at
the north of
Aitolokarna-
nia, type I –
button, sent to a
lawyer at
PATRA.

Commercial
letter cancelled
with type II, with
lawrel leaves,
"ΑΜΦ.
ΑΡΓΟΣ*29
ΙΑΝΟΥ. 1860",
(AMF. ARGOS =
AMFILOCHIA),
arrival to
"ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*4
ΦΕΒΡ. 60 (9)",
(PATRA – number
post office 9), type
III.



Commercial
letter cancelled
type III, "ΑΜΦ.
ΑΡΓΟΣ* 10
ΟΚΤ. 60*(51),
(AMF. ARGOS
= AMFILOCH-
IA and 51 was
the number of
the post office),
arrival to
"ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*10
ΟΚΤ.60* (9)",
(PATRA) type
III.

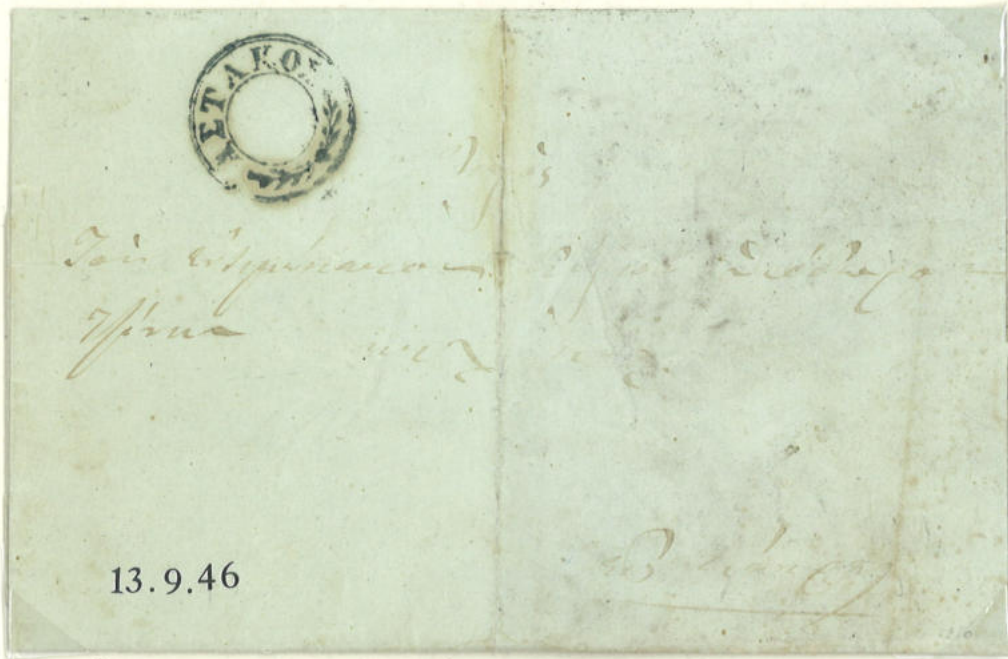




Commercial letter dated "την 12 Αυγούστου 1847" cancelled **BONITZA (VONITSA)**, port at the northwest of **Aitoloakarnania**, type I – button, arrival to "**ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*16 ΑΥΓΟΥ.1847**" (**PATRA**), type II. Prepaid postage 20 lepta.



Letter cancelled type II with lawrel leaves, **BONITZA*25 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡ.1851**, (**VONITZA = VONITSA**), arrival **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ*7 ΦΕΒΡ:1851**, (**ATHENS**) type II. Sent to the secretary of the **Othomanic** embassy.



Entire folded letter, postmarked ΑΣΤΑΚΟΣ, bluish black, type I- button with decorative ornament, (ASTAKOS, port at the west of Aitolokarnania), written at "Εν Δραγαμέστι την 13. 7βρίου 1846" (Dragamesti, fortified Byzantine city, at the north side of Astakos), sent to ΠΑΤΡΑΙ 16. ΣΕΠΤ. 1846 (Patra Peloponnese), with handwritten rate "30" lepta.



Entire folded letter , postmarked ΑΣΤΑΚΟΣ, (ASTAKOS), bluish black, type I – button with decorative ornament, written "11. Δεκεμ. 1851", arrival postmark "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*13. ΔΕΚΕΜ.1851" (PATRA). Prepaid postage handwritten "20" lepta.

ΕΠΙΤΑΓΟΣ
ΒΟΝΙΤΣΗΣ

Αριδ. 1710.

Δημοδιδάσκαλον Μειχελου Τεο
Ευμια Εχίνου κα Βασου Α. Μιχαηλ

Ο Ε' Μειχελου

Entire administrative letter dated "24.Φεβρ.1851", cancelled 2-line ΕΠΙΤΑΓΟΣ ΒΟΝΙΤΣΗΣ (PERFECT of VONITSA) to "Μαχαλά Δήμου Εχίνου", (Machalas - minicapility of Ehinou, at the centre of Aitoloakarnania). Letter was sent to a teacher and was the reply from the Church Ministry to his letter about his salary.

Αριδ. 1710 - Επιδρομοποιησε -

Καταποσει - αλληλπειαν -

ΔΙΟΙΚΗΤΗΣ

ΑΙΤΩΛΙΑΣ

Νικησοδου -

αδ. ηγ. αδ. -

αδ

αδ. ηγ

Cover with 2-line administrative cachet "ΔΙΟΙΚΗΤΗΣ ΑΙΤΩΛΙΑΣ" (GOVERNOR of AITOLIA) sent to ATHENS.

1861-1900



Cover bearing 20 lepta Large Hermes (Paris printing), cancelled by dotted "50" (number of Agrinio post office), and the type II, "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ*3 ΜΑΡΤ. 62*(50)", (AGRINIO), sent to PATRA. Arrival postmark "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*5 ΜΑΡΤ.62*(9)", (PATRA).



Entire folded letter franked with 10 lepta orange in vertical pair, posted from "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ (50)*4 ΜΑΙΟΣ 76" (AGRINIO) type II, via "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ (1) *8 ΜΑΙΟΣ 76" (ATHENS), arrival "ΣΥΡΑ(67)*9 ΜΑΙΟΣ 76", (SYROS, Aegean island – Kyklades).



Registered, 2-line "ΕΥΣΤΗΜΕΝΟΝ/ΑΡ. 700", cover franked with 40 lepta dull olive-green on blue in pair posted from "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ (50)*13 ΝΟΕΜ. 75" (AGRINION), via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (9)*17 ΝΟΕΜ. 75" (PATRA), arrival "ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ (106)*25 ΝΟΕΜ. 75" (CORFU, island at the Ionian sea).



Free of charge entire folded letter from "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ (50)*5 ΙΟΥΛ. 79" (AGRINION type II) sent to Athens "Επί αποδείξει" (registered mail), with handwritten marking "Δ.Υ." [=Δημόσια Υπηρεσία / Public Service]. Sender the ΕΠΙΣΤΑΣΙΑ Τ. ΤΑΧΥΔΡ. ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΥ [Intendancy of the Post Office of Agrinion, with Coat of Arms], addressed to 'Προς τον Κυρ. Αριστ. Ν. Ρακόπουλον, Γραμματέαν της Γεν. Των Ταχυδρομείων Διευθύνσεως, εις Αθήνας. (to the secretary of the general post administration in Athens).



Entire folded letter franked with 20 lepta coarse print deep blue. Tied by dotted "49"(number of Messolonghi post office), and the type II, "ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ (49)*22 ΙΟΥΝ.62" (MESSOLONGHI), sent to AGRINIO.



Entire folded letter franked with 20 lepta, sky-blue. Tied by dotted "49" and the type II, "ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ (49)*10 ΝΟΕΜ.63", (MESSOLONGHI), month inverted, via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (9)*11 ΝΟΕΜ.63" (PATRA), to ARGOS (town at the east of Peloponnese).



Entire folded letter franked with 3x10 lepta orange, cancelled type II "ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ (49)*23 ΔΕΚΕ.77", (MESSOLONGHI), via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (9)*25 ΔΕΚΕ.77" (PATRA), arrival oval "TRIEST*10.1.78" (TRIESTE ITALY).



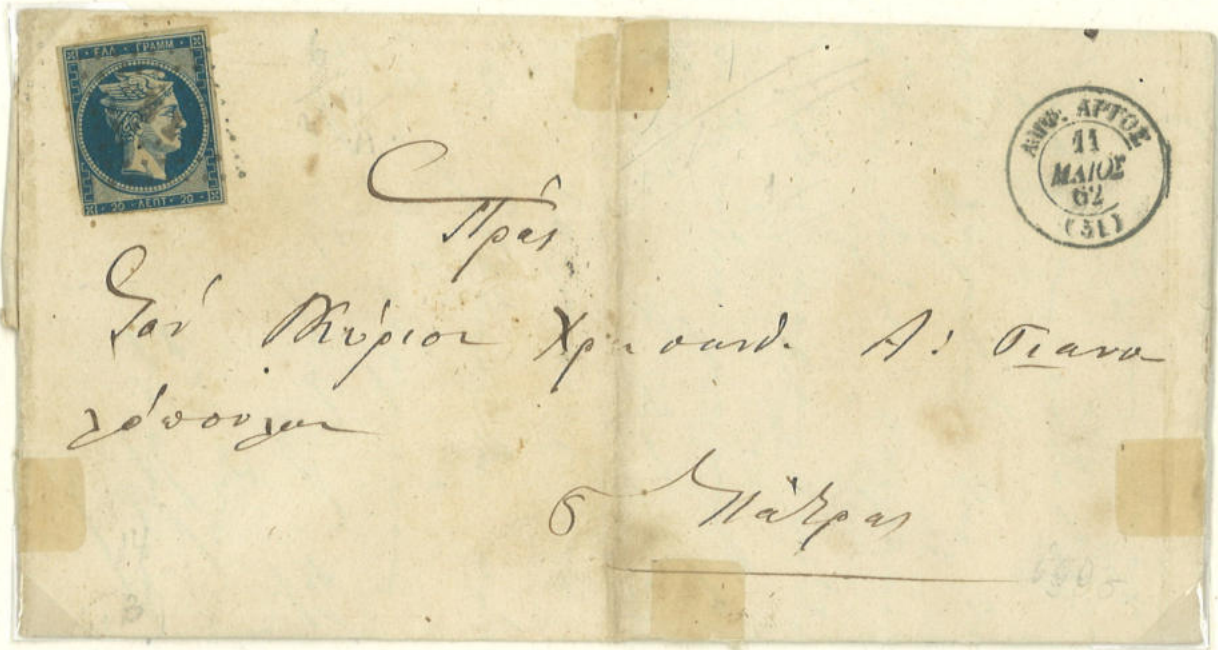
Entire folded letter franked with 1x20 lepta bright rosine and 1x5 lepta green, cancelled type VI "ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ*5 ΜΑΡΤ. 86" (MESSOLONGHI), via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*6 ΜΑΡΤ. 86" (PATRA), arrival oval "TRIEST*21.3.86" (TRIESTE ITALY).



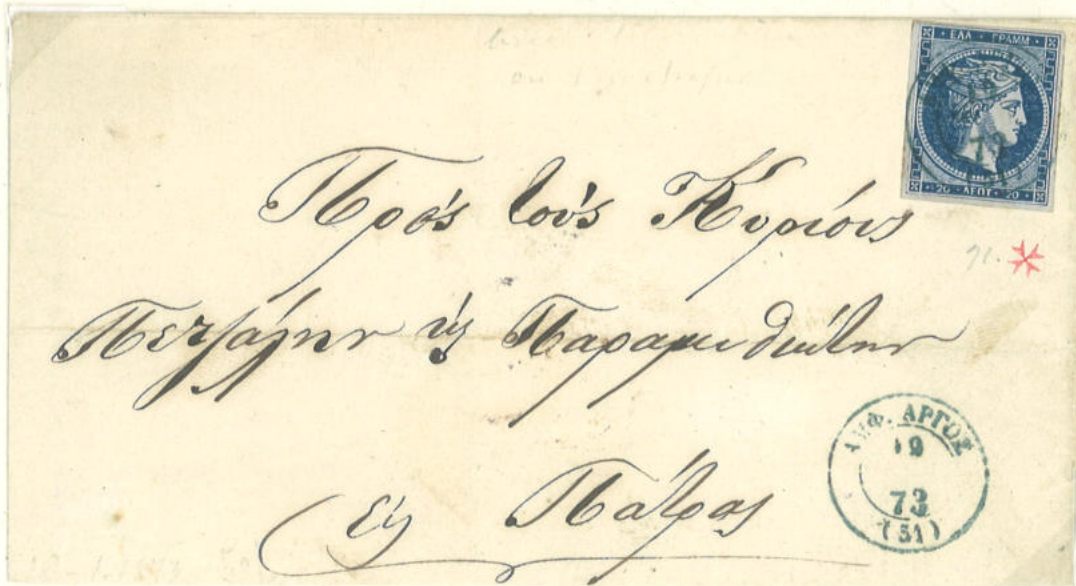
Entire folded letter franked with pair of 10λ Large Hermes Head, cancelled with "ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ* 2. ΦΕΒΡ.84", (Messolonghi) type IV, via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ *3. ΦΕΒΡ.1844" (Patra), sent to "ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ*5.ΦΕΒΡ.1884" (Kerkyra, Corfu)



Entire folded letter franked with 20λ blue Large Hermes Head, cancelled with "ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ (49)*16.ΔΕΚΕ.76", (Messolonghi), administrative circular cachet "ΕΘΝ. ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ Τ. ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ. ΥΠΟΚΑΤΑΣΤ. ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΥ" (National Bank of Greece, Messolonghi Branch), sent to National Bank Patra's Branch, arrival "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (9)*17 ΔΕΚΕ.76", (Patra).



Entire folded letter franked with 20 lepta deep blue / coarse impressions. Tied by dotted "51" (number of Amfilochia post office) and the type II, "ΑΜΦ. ΑΡΓΟΣ (51)*11 ΜΑΙΟΣ 62" (AMF. ARGOS = AMFILOCHIA, port at north Aitolokarnania), arrival "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (9)*14 ΜΑΙΟΣ 62" (PATRA).



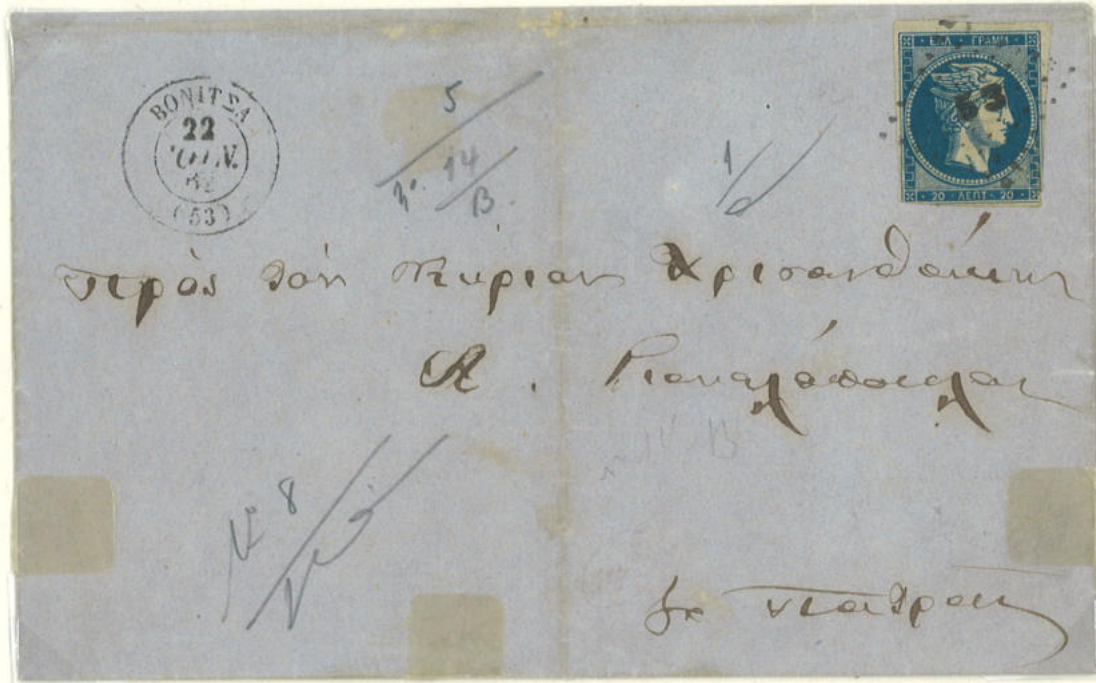
Entire folded letter with 20 lepta, cancelled "ΑΜΦ. ΑΡΓΟΣ(51)*19...73" type II, (AMF. ARGOS = AMFILOCHIA), arrival "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (9)*22.ΙΑΝ.73" (PATRA).



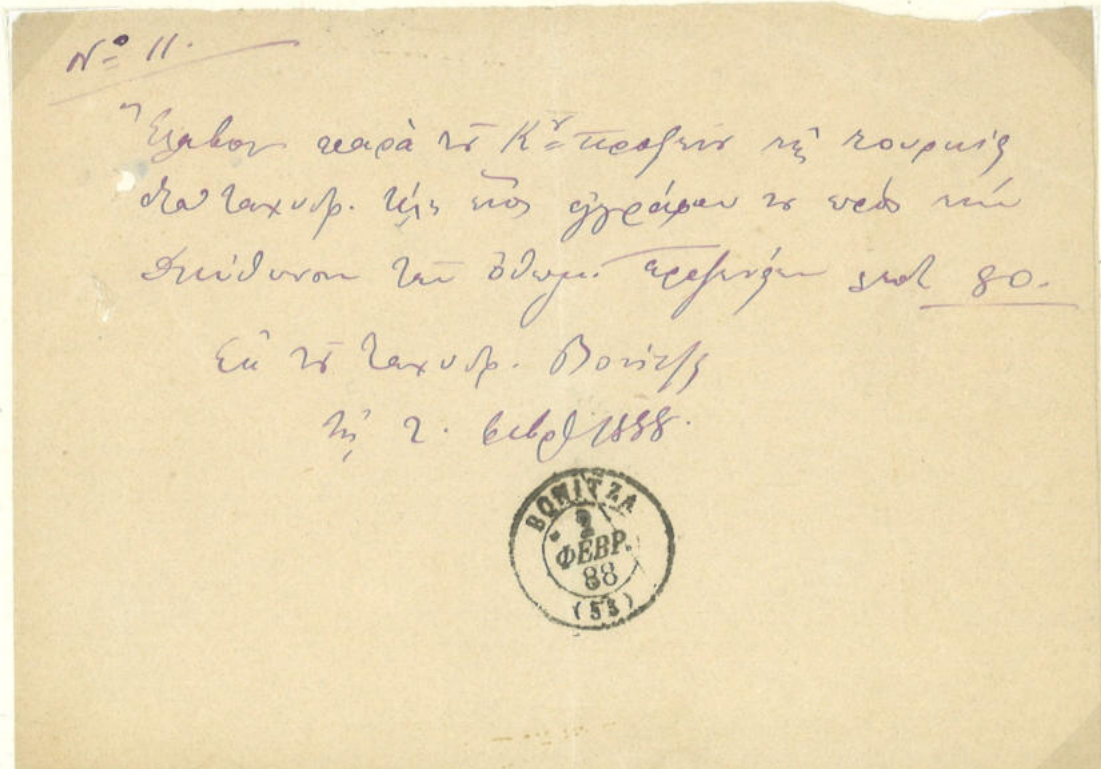
Entire folded letter with 20 lepta blue, cancelled by dotted "55" (number of Astakos post office) and the type II, "ΑΣΤΑΚΟΣ (55)*16 ΑΥΓ.66" (ASTAKOS port at the west Aitolioakarnania), arrival "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (9)*18 ΑΥΓ..." (PATRA).



Entire folded letter with 20λ, cancelled "ΑΣΤΑΚΟΣ(55)*12 ΦΕΒΡ. 77", type II, (ASTAKOS), arrival "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ(9)*16 ΦΕΒΡ. 77" (PATRA).



Entire folded letter franked with 20 lepta deep-blue. Tied by dotted "53" (number of **Vonitsa** post office) and the type II "BONITZA(5)*22 IOYN. 62" (VONITSA port at the northwest of **Aitoloakarnania**), arrival "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (9)*25 IOYN. 62" (PATRA).



Postal receipt 80 ?, Nb.11, postmarked type II "BONITZA(53)*2 ΦΕΒΡ. 88" (VONITZA=VONITSA). The receipt concerned the **Turkish** concul.



Entire folded letter with 20 lepta grey-blue, cancelled type II "ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ (48)*13 ΦΕΒΡ. 66" (NAFPAKTOS or LEPANTO), via "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ (1)*16 ΦΕΒΡ.66", (ATHENS), arrival "ΣΥΡΟΣ(67) *19 ΦΕΒΡ.66" (SYROS island of Kyklades Aegean sea).



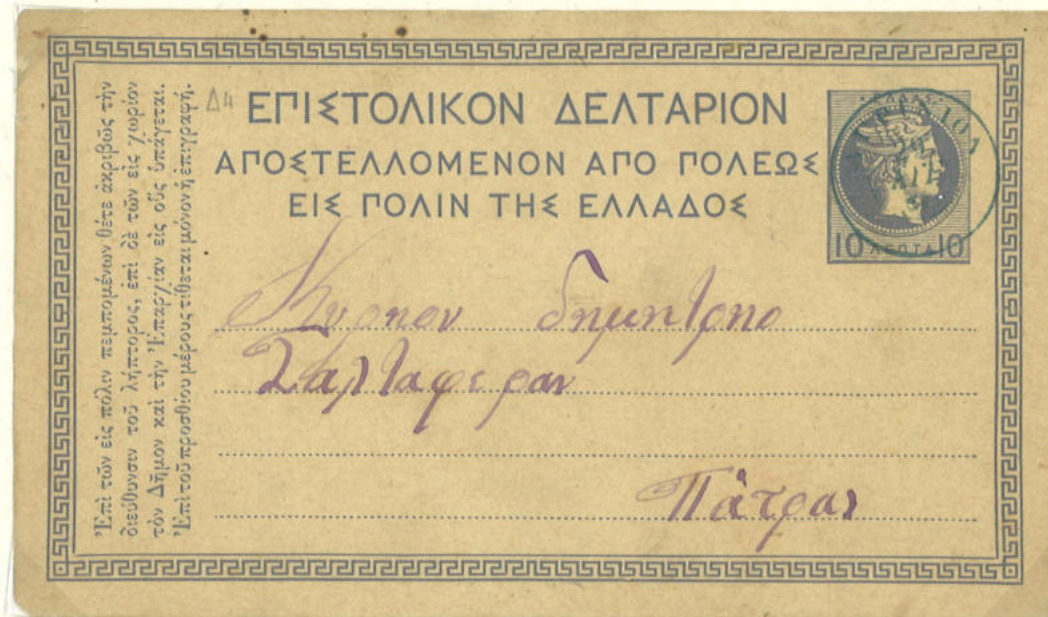
Cover franked with 1x20 lepta carmine and 1x10 lepta orange, cancelled type II "ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ (48) *9 NOEM. 82" (NAFPAKTOS), via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (9)*10 NOEM. 82" (PATRA), sent to ΤΕΡΓΕΣΤΗ (TRIESTE Italy).



Entire folded letter franked with 20 lepta sky-blue, Tied by dotted "54" (number of Etoliko post office) and the type II, "ΑΙΤΩΛΙΚΟΝ (54)*12 ΝΟΕΜ. 70" (ΑΙΤΩΛΙΚΟΝ port near to Messolonghi), via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (9)*13 ΝΟΕΜ. 70" (ΠΑΤΡΑ), arrival "ΤΡΙΠΟΛΙΣ (18)*15 ΝΟΕΜ.70" (ΤΡΙΠΟΛΙ, central Peloponnese).



Entire folded letter with 20 lepta deep carmine, cancelled type II, "ΑΙΤΩΛΙΚΟΝ(54)*8 ΑΥΓ. 82" (ΑΙΤΩΛΙΚΟΝ), arrival "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (9)*10 ΑΥΓ. 82" (ΠΑΤΡΑ).



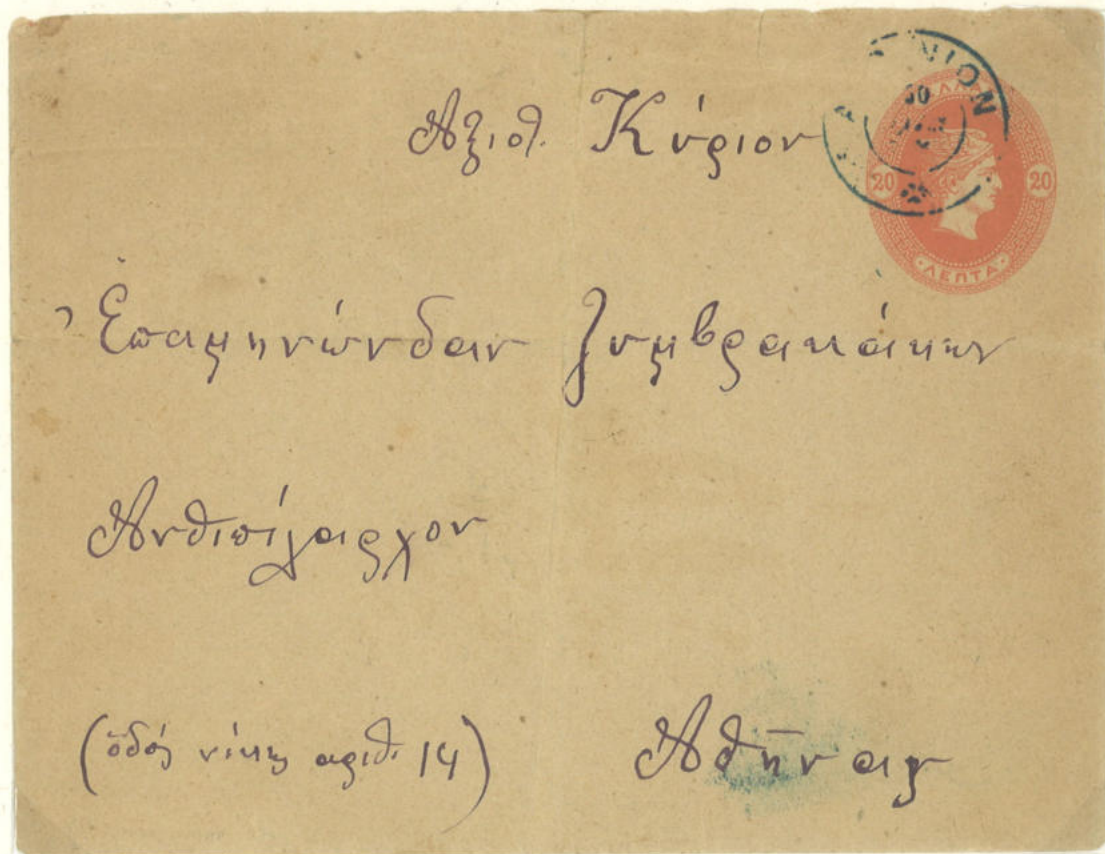
Postal Stationery 10λ "Belgian print" dull ultramarine on grey-cream cancelled "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ 29 ΑΥΓ. 85", type IV in blue colour, (AGRINIO) sent to **Patra**.



Postal Stationery 10λ "Belgian print" dull ultramarine on grey-cream cancelled "ΑΙΤΩΛΙΚΟΝ(54)*20 ΔΕΚΕ.85" type II (AITOLIKON), sealed with circular 53, written in **French**, sent to **Bruxelles Belgium**, postmarked at arrival "**BRUXELLES 28 DECE 85**".



Postal Stationery 10λ "Belgian print" dull ultramarine on grey-cream plus 5λ green Small Hermes Head, from Messolonghi, via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*18 ΙΟΥΛ. 95", (Patra), written in French sent to Hemes Westfalen Germany.



"ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ 30.ΙΟΥΛ.97", (Agrinion type V in blue), on 20λ postal envelope stationery, sent to "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 5 31.ΙΟΥΛ.97"(Athens). Addressed to Ἐραμηνώνδαν Ζυμβρακάκη, Ανθιπίλαρχον. The receiver Epaminondas Zymvrakakis was a Greek military, volunteer during the Greco-Turkish War of 1897.

INLAND MAIL

Aitoloakarnania is the largest prefecture in Greece and has many small villages. In some of them operated post offices for a short time, so are saved few mails. The fact that some villages were renamed does the old one cancellations more rare.



ΒΕΤΟΛΙΣΤΑ 16. ΑΥΓ. 11 (Vetolista, renamed **Romia** at 1927 and at 1928 to **Terpsithea**), small mountainous village at the Sub-Prefecture of **Nafpaktos**, tying a **5λ** engraved definitives issue on picture postcard sent to **Patras**. Picture postcard: **ΔΗΜΗΤΣΑΝΑ** (γενική άποψη) - **Dimitsana Peloponnese** (general view).



ΒΟΪΤΣΑ 2 IOYA. 13 (Voitsa, renamed at 1927 to **Elatovrysi**), small mountainous village at the Sub-Prefecture of **Nafpaktos**, canceling on a **10λ** commercial letter card, sent to **Nafpaktos**



ΠΕΡΙΣΤΑ 26 ΟΚΤ. 10 (Perista, small mountainous village near to village **Platanos**, Sub-Perfecture of **Nafpaktos**), cancelling on a 10λ commercial letter card (Flying Hermes), arrival postmarked "ΣΥΡΟΣ 2 ΝΟΕΜ. 10" (Syros Kyklades Aegean sea).



ΔΟΥΝΙΤΣΑ 31 ΑΥΓ. 923 (Dounitsa, renamed at 1928 to **Stathas**, mountainous village of the Sub-Perfecture of **Amfilochia**), tying 30λ lithographic definitives and 50λ revenue stamp (additional fees), on properly posted cover sent to "ΑΜΦΙΛΟΧΙΑ (ΚΑΡΒΑΣΣΑΡΑΣ) 2 ΣΕΠ. 23" (Amfilochia port at the north Aitolokarnania).



ΠΑΠΑΔΑΤΕΣ 1.VIII.28 (Papadates Makrynia, village at the Sub-Perfecture of Messolonghi and nowadays at the Municipality of Agrinio), tying a 10λ + 3X30λ lithographic definitives on commercial corner card, sent to ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (Patras), via "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ 3 ΙΟΥΛ. 28" (Agrinion).



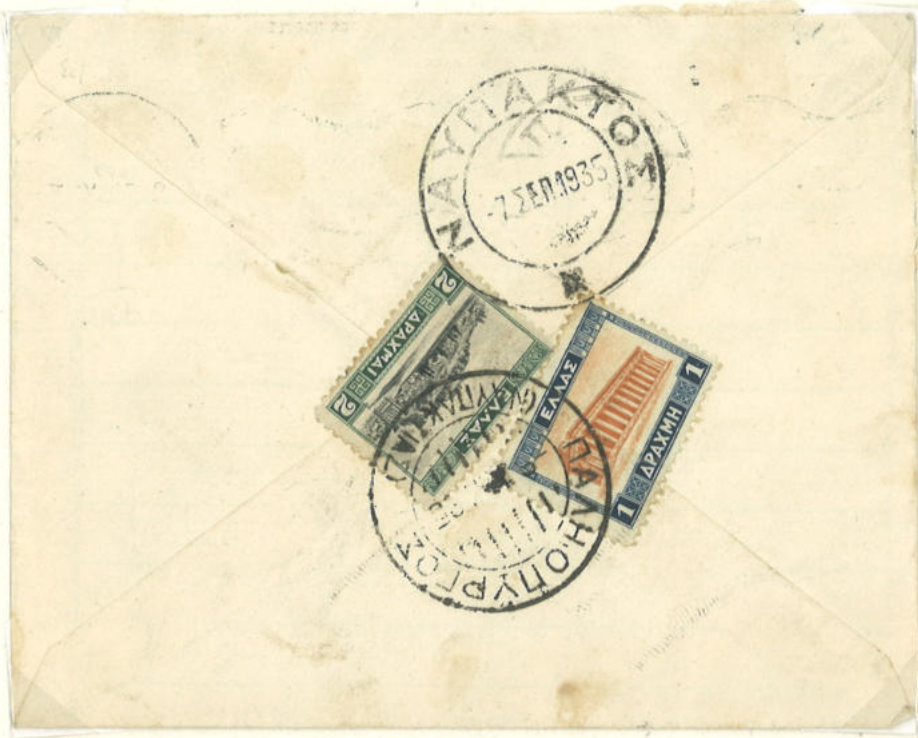
ΜΠΟΥΡΛΕΣΙΑ 30. ΣΕΠ. 36 (Bourlesia Makrynia, renamed at 1956 to Metapa and at 1957 to Agios Andreas). Small village at the Sub-Perfecture of Messolonghi and nowadays at the Municipality of Agrinio. Tying a pair of 1δρχ Landscapes on postcard sent to ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (Patras), via "ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ 1 ΟΚΤ. 36 (Messolonghi).



ΜΥΡΤΙΑ ΤΡΙΧΩΝΙΑΣ 29 ΟΚΤ. 31 (Myrtia, till 1928 named as Gouritsa, small village at the waterside of lake Trichonida, Sub-Perfecture of Thermo, central Aitoloakarnania), tying a 20λ + α pair of 25λ Landscapes, plus a 80λ lithographic issue, boxed with postman's "59", via "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ 30 X 931" (Agrinion), arrival postmarked "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 31 ΟΚΤ. 31" (Athens).



ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΙΚΟΝ ΜΕΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΥ 31 ΔΕΚ. 1928 (Grammatikon, village at Sub-Perfecture of Messolonghi, nowadays at the Municipality of Agrinio), tying a 1,50δρχ Navarin sent to "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ 1.1.29" (Patras, new year's day).



ΠΑΛΗΟΠΥΡΓΟΣ (ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΙΑΣ) 6 ΣΕΠ. 1935 (Paliopyrgos, till 1927 Velvitsena, mountainous village at the Sub-Perfecture of Nafpaktos), tying 1δρχ + 2δρχ Landscapes on cover, via "ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ 7 ΣΕΠ. 1935" (Nafpaktos), sent to Patras.



ΜΑΧΑΛΑΣ 13.ΙΙΙ.40 (Machalas, renamed at 1954 to Fyties, at the Sub-Perfecture Xiromero, central Aitoloakarnania), tying a 1δρχ King George II on 1δρχ postal card Landscapes issue, via "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ 13 ΜΑΡ. 40" (Agrinion) sent to Patras.



ΚΛΕΠΑ 22.ΙΟΥΝ.1930, arrival postmark (Klepa, small mountainous village at the Sub-Perfecture of Nafpaktos) on post card tying a pair of 50λ Independence issue (Hero Athanasios Diakos), from "ΜΕΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ 18 ΙΟΥΝ. 1930", (Messolonghi), via "ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ 20 ΙΟΥΝ. 1930", (Nafpaktos) to Sinista (very small village, written such as by the sender, although it was renamed to Perdikovrysi since 1927).



ΛΕΠΕΝΟΥ 28.IV.50 (Lepenou, village near to Agrinio) blue, tying a 450δρ. Annexation of Dodecanese + 50Δρχ/10λ charity (Postal staff Welfare Fund) + 50δρχ charity (Restoration of Thessaloniki Monuments Fund), postman's boxed "25", boxed with slogan, sent to "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΙΞΙΣ 30.IV.50" (Athens).



Cover pictured ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ (Athens bank) from "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ 14 ΙΧ 31" (Agrinio), tying 1x80λ lithographic issue + 1x20λ + 2x25λ Landscapes, via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ 14 ΙΧ 31", (Patra Peloponnese), tied "ΣΤ ΔΙΕΘΝΗΣ ΕΚΘΕΣΙΣ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ 13-27 ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 1931 / VI FOIRE INTERNATIONALE DE THESSALONIKI 13-27 SEPTEMBRE 1931 (International Fair of Thessaloniki), via "ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ-ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥΠΟΛΙΣ* ΚΙΝΗΤΟΝ* 16 ΙΧ 31 Α" [Thessaloniki- Alexandroupoli 1A, Ambulant railway postmark, (Thessaloniki Macedonia – Alexandroupoli East Thraki)]. Arrival "ΞΑΝΘΗ*16 ΣΕΠ.1931" (Xanthi West Thraki).



Commercial postcard from "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ 16. ΧΙΙ. 37" (Agrinio) franked with 1δρχ King George II + 50λ Welfare plus 2δρχ Postage due tied by "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (ΑΦΙΕΙΣ) 17. ΔΕΚ. 37", (Patras) upon arrival.



Cover sent from Athens, written in French (letter enclosed), to "ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ 14 ΔΕΚ. 23" (Messolonghi), tying a pair of 5λ and a strip of 3X50λ postage due stamps, at arrival.

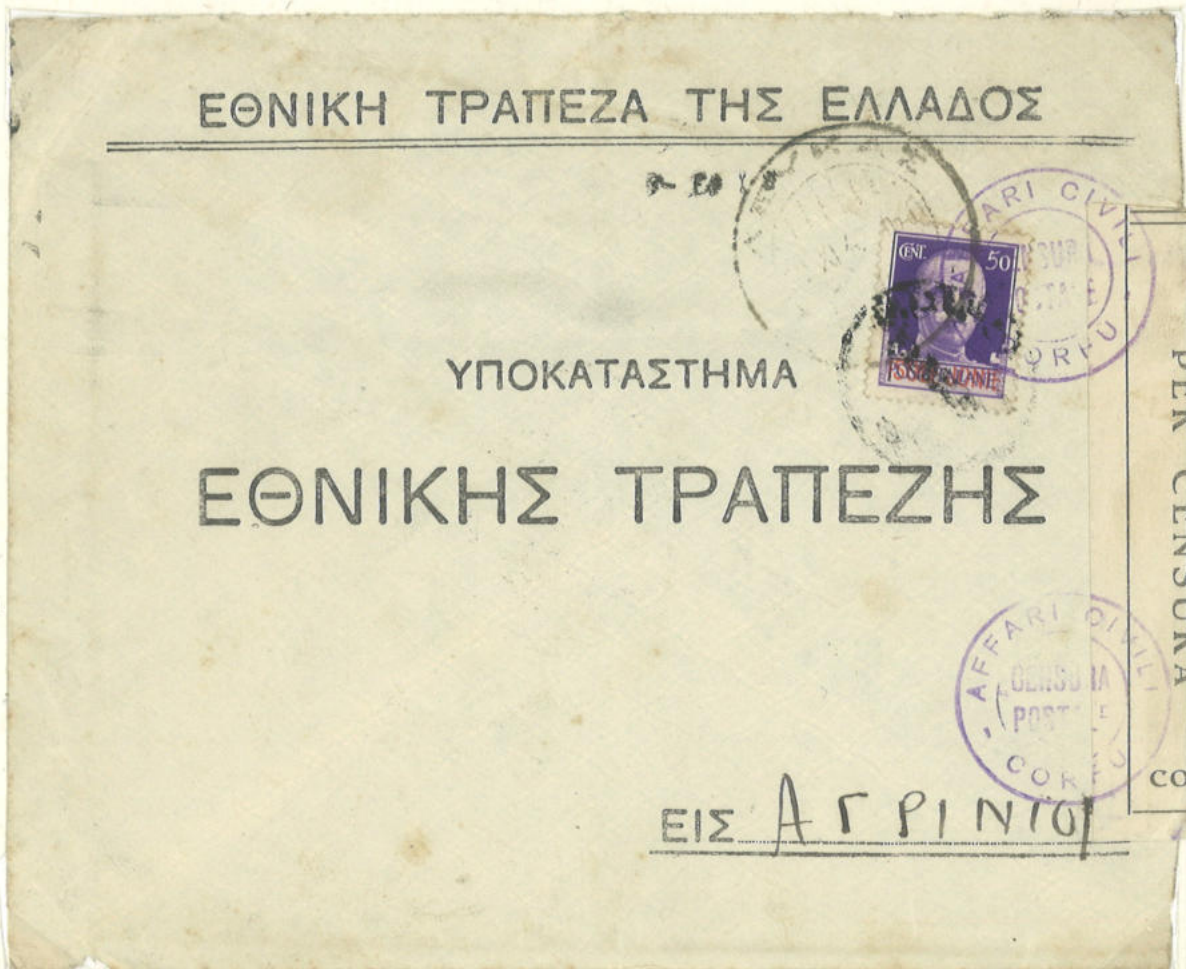


Cover from "ΧΙΟΣ *ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ* 28. ΙΙ. 44" (Chios, island at north-east Aegean), handstamp T 2.000, censored circular "DEUTSCHE ZENSUR*CHIOS", sent to National Bank Agrinion, franked at arrival with 10x200δρχ Postage due lithographic issue, reused, postmarked "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ 20 ΜΑΡ. 44", (Agrinion).



Airmail cover cancelled "NEAPOLIS KRITHS 18 VIII 1941" (Neapolis Crete), sender "Gendarmerie Sub-Command of Neapolis Crete", franked with 30c + 50c in pair + 50c airpost, via Rodos, "POSTA AEREA* RODI(EGEO) 22.8. 41", via machine "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ" (Athens), linear "ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ" (By air), sent to "Αγγελόκαστρον Μεσολογγίου" (Aggelokastron, village at the Sub-Perfecture of Messolonghi, nowadays at Agrinion), postmarked at arrival "ΜΕΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ" (Messolonghi). Italian censor tape "Verificato per Censura".

Cover, National Bank sender, franked with 50c overprint "ISOLE JONIE" from "ΛΕΥΚΑΣ 10. XI. 42" (Lefkada, Ionian's island), via "ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ (ΑΦΙΕΙΣ) 30 ΔΕΚ. 42" (Corfu), via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ 8. Ι. 43", (Patras) to "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ 10 ΙΑΝ. 43" (Agrinion). Italian censor tape "VERIFICATO PER CENSURA * CORFU", censored circular "AFFARI CIVILI*CORFU*CE NSURA POSTALE" in violet. Very unusual route.



ΕΘΝΙΚΗ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ

ΥΠΟΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑ

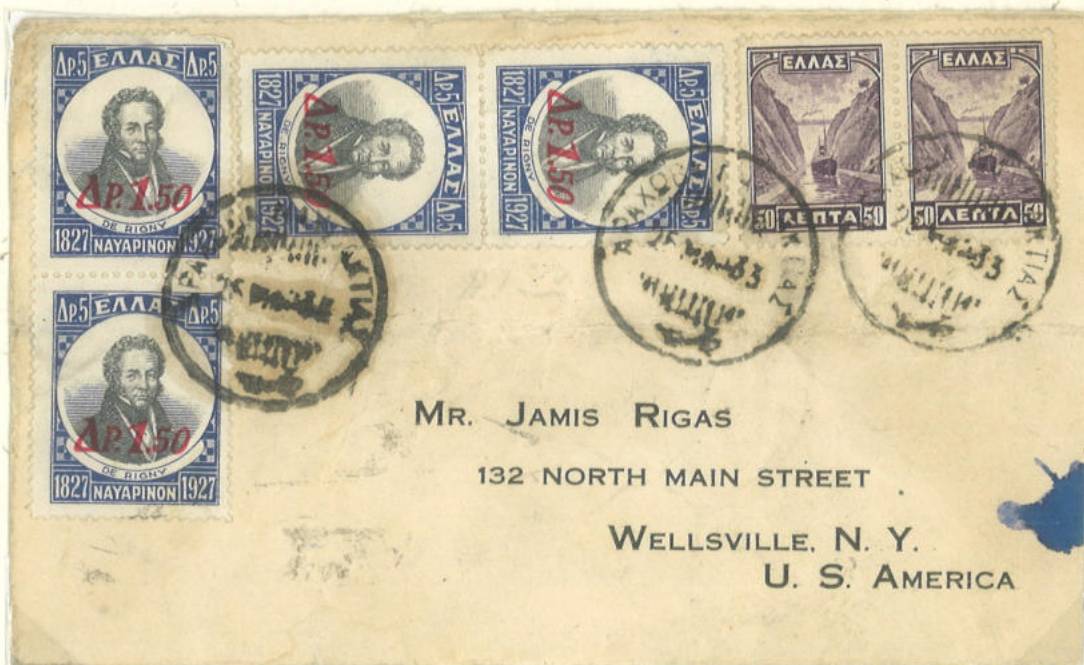
ΕΘΝΙΚΗΣ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΗΣ

ΕΙΣ ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ

MAIL TO ABROAD



ΜΑΤΑΡΑΓΚΑ 15.ΦΕΒ.28 (Mataranga, area Makrynia, village near Agrinion), tying **2X1,50δρχ** Navarin + **2X50λ** Landscapes on commercial cover sent to **Hamburg Germany**. Sender's corner cover: **ΔΗΜΟΣ Ι. ΣΑΚΕΛΛΑΡΙΑΔΗΣ, ΚΑΠΝΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ, ΜΑΤΑΡΑΓΚΑ-ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ** (Demos I. Sakellariadis), **Tobacciana**. Tobacco's crop was very developed at the area of **Agrinio**, there were many processing factories and was exported all over the world.



ΑΡΑΧΩΒΑ ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΙΑΣ 26.ΜΑΡ.33 (Arachova, small mountainous village at the Sub-Perfecture of Nafpaktos), tying **4X1,50δρχ** Navarin Surcharges + **2X50λ** Landscapes, via "**ΠΛΑΤΑΝΟΣ (ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΙΑΣ) 26.ΙΙΙ.33**" (Platanos, village of the Sub-Perfecture of Nafpaktos), via "**ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 28.ΜΑΡ.33**", (Athens), sent to **WELLSVILLE, NEW YORK, U.S.A.**



NEOXΩPION (NAYΠAKTIAΣ) 23.VIII.34 (Neochorion, very small mountainous village at the Sub-Perfecture of Nafpaktos), tying 9X80λ lithographic issue + 4X20λ Landscapes, via "ΠΛΑΤΑΝΟΣ (NAYΠAKTIAΣ) 25.ΑΥΓ.34" (Platanos of Nafpaktos), sent to Hanover (New Hampshire, U.S.A).



ΠΛΑΤΑΝΟΣ NAYΠAKTIAΣ 14.XII.1930 (Platanos, mountainous village at the Sub-Perfecture of Nafpaktos), tying 2X1,50δρχ Independence (Hero Karaiskakis) + 8X10 reverse + 2X10 front Independence (Hero Rigas Feraios), sent to Lufhen Texas U.S.A.



ΚΟΝΙΣΚΑ 2.VIII.46 (Koniska, very small mountainous village at the Sub-Perfecture of Thermo), tying **5X300δρχ** Eleftherios Venizelos (Prime Minister of Greece), on Par-Avion cover, via "**ΘΕΡΜΟΝ 2.VIII.46**" (Thermon, central Aitoloakarnania), sent to **Brouklen New York U.S.A.**



Registered, Par-Avion cover, postmarked "**ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ 10.IAN.47**" (Nafpaktos), sender from **Καταφυγιον** (small mountainous village, till 1927 named as Amorani), tying **4X50δρχ + 4X500δρχ** Chains surcharges issue, via "**ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑ 13.IAN.47**", (Athens), sent to **Pontiac Michigan U.S.A.** arrival postmarked "**NEW YORK *JAN.19.1947 *A.M.F. TOURS**" and "***JAN.21.1947 *REGISTERED**".



Cover postmarked "ΑΜΦΙΛΟΧΙΑ*7 ΣΕΠ. 23" (Amfilochia, port at the north of Aitolokarḗnia), tying with 50λ/50λ + 1δρχ + 1δρχ Grey-Ultramarine, Bisected, Revolution 1922 overprint, sent to Alexandria Egypt, arrival postmarked "ALEXANDRIA*15.SEP.23".



ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ 11.ΙΟΥΝ.26, (Agrinion), tying 1X40λ + 1X80λ lithographic issue, on cover sent to ΒΑΡΔΑ ΚΟΡΥΤΣΑ ΑΛΒΑΝΙΑ, (Varda Korytsa Albania), via "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΟΝ*13.ΙΟΥΝ.26" (Athens), cancelled at arival "ΚΟΡΤΣΕ*16.6.26".

Registered cover from
 "ΑΙΤΩΛΙΚΟΝ
 8.ΔΕΚ.27"
 (Aitolikon,
 port near
 Messolonghi),
 tying with 1x50λ
 + 1X40λ + 1X10λ
 Landscapes issue,
 plus 1X1δρ. +
 1X6δρ. Fabvier
 issue,
 via "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ*1
 0 ΔΕΚ.
 27"(Athens), sent
 to Saarlouis
 Germany, arrival
 postmarked
 "SAARLOUIS
 (BARNHOF)*14
 .12.27". Sender
 corner cover
 ΙΩΑΚΕΙΜ Γ.
 ΚΟΥΡΚΟΥΜΕ-
 ΛΗΣ ΔΙΚΗΓΟ-
 ΡΟΣ (Lawyer).



Registered
 cover from
 "ΑΙΤΩΛΙΚΟΝ
 3. ΜΑΙ.28"
 (Aitolikon), tying
 on reverse 2X4δρ.
 Navarino issue,
 sent to San Jose
 Costa Rica, via
 "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ -
 ΣΥΣΤ. ΑΦΙΕ.*5
 .ΜΑΙ.28"
 (Athens
 Registered),
 via "BRINDISI
 TRANPITI*RA
 C-
 COMAN*8.5.28"
 (Brindisi Italy),
 via "??*10.5.28",
 arrival postmarked
 "SAN JOSE,
 COSTA
 RICA*R.R.
 EXTERIOR*
 MAY.31.1928"



TELEGRAPHIC POSTMARKS

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the Post and Telegraphic service in Greece operated united. It was usually that the employees used the telegraphic seals to cancel the post, because it was convenient to them. Telegraphic seal was broken single cycle, in 36 small lines, 29mm outer diameter. In the middle of the cycle was written the date and at the upper side the name of the telegraphic office. At Aitoloakarnania operated 12 Telegraphic offices and at most of them were found telegraphic postmarks on post.



ΘΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΒΟΝΙΤΣΗΣ 5. ΑΥΓ. 24 (Telegraphic office Vonitsas, port at the west Aitoloakarnania), on 10λ post card uprated with a pair of 10λ lithographic, sent to commercial bank of Patras.



ΘΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΚΑΤΟΥΝΗΣ 27. ΝΟΕ. 26 (Telegraphic office Katounas, small town at the west of Aitoloakarnania), on commercial post card, tying with 2X20λ + 2X30λ lithographic, sent to Patras.



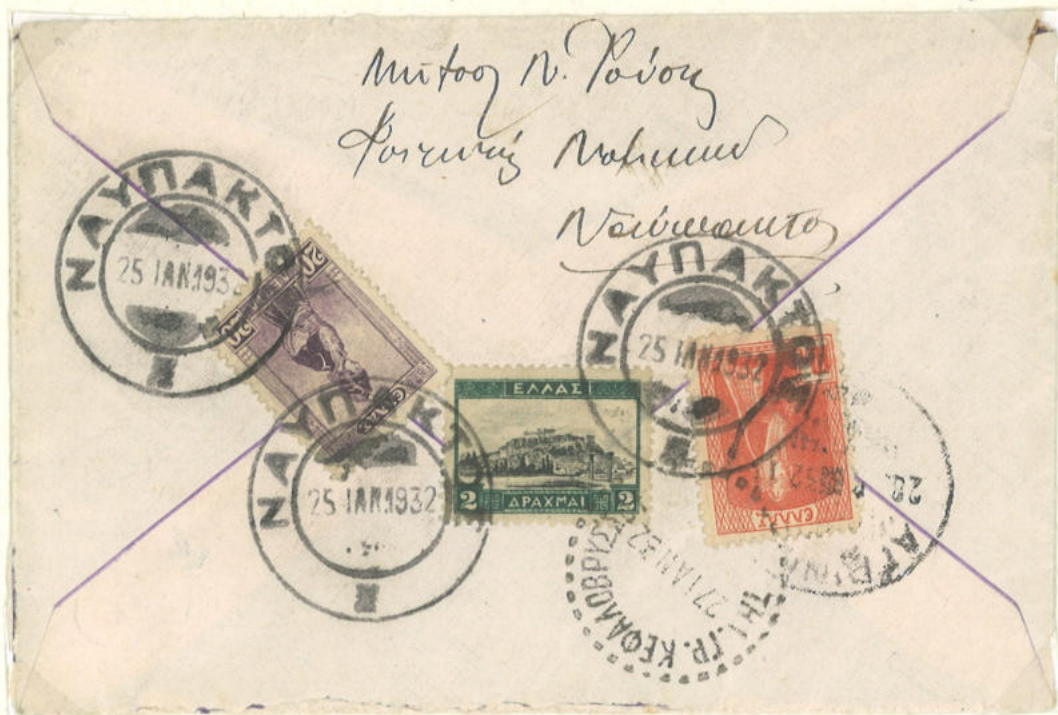
ΤΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΚΑΤΟΧΗΣ 25. ΜΑΙ. 13 (Telegraphic office Katochis, small town near Messolonghi), on 5λ. post card, sent to Syros (island of Kyklades, Aegean sea).



ΤΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΥ 23 ΑΥΓ. 26 (Telegraphic office Nafpaktos), on cover tying with 1X80λ + 3X20λ lithographic, sent to Athens, on reverse arrival machine postmark "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 25.ΑΥΓ.23".



ΤΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΚΕΦΑΛΟΒΡΥΣΣΟΥ 22. ΦΕΒ. 30 (Telegraphic office Kefalovrissy, nowadays Thermo, central Aitoloakarnania) on cover tying 4X10λ + 8X25λ Landscapes plus 2X80λ lithographic, via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ", (Patras), sent to New York U.S.A.



Cover from "ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ 25. ΙΑΝ. 1932" (Nafpaktos) franked 10λ + 20λ + 2δρχ Landscapes, via "ΤΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΚΕΦΑΛΟΒΡΥΣΣΟΥ 27. ΙΑΝ. 32" (Telegraphic office Kefalovrissy), sent to "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ 28. ΙΑΝ. 32" (Agrinion).



ΤΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΑΣΤΑΚΟΥ 14. ΑΠΡ. 16 (Telegraphic office Astakos, port at the west Aitolokarnania), on 5λ post card sent to Patras Peloponnese.



"ΤΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΑΙΤΩΛΙΚΟΥ* ?? ΦΕΒ. 22" (Telegraphic Office of Aitoliko), during the **Asia Minor Campaign**, small free of charge cover, from a **Greek military**, **1ος Λόχος, 18ο Σύνταγμα (1st Company, 18th Regiment**, written **21-2-22**, letter included), handwritten **"Ελογοκρίθη"** (Censored) and signed by the Company's commander as examiner, sent to **Aitoliko**, postmarked at the arrival.



ΤΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΠΛΑΤΑΝΟΥ 14. ΙΑΝ. 27 (Telegraphic office Platanos, mountainous village at the Sub-Perfecture of Nafpaktos), on commercial post card, tying with 1δρ. Lithographic, sent to Patras.



ΤΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΜΥΤΙΚΑ 19. ΟΚΤ. 38 (Telegraphic office Mytikas, port west Aitolokarnania), on commercial post card, tying with 2δρ. Historical (Naval Battle of Salamis), sent to Patras, arrival machine postmarked "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*21.X.38" (Patras).

RURAL POSTAL SERVICE

The largest part of Greece till 1950 consisted from about 11.000 villages (3,5 million population). Postal service was very difficult because of the very bad condition of the road network. Rural post service started by law at 1909. There were two categories of rural postmans. The mounted who should traverse about 180 – 240 km per week and the pedestrians 160 km per week. Aitolokarnania which has many small villages had rural postmans to service them mostly once or twice per week.



Dotted rural "153" on 10λ + 5λ, commercial letter card from "Γαλατά Μεσολογγίου" (Galatas, village at the Sub-Prefecture of Messolonghi, population 353 – census 1921), via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*30 ΙΟΥΛ..." (Patra Peloponnese) sent to Piraeus.



Dotted rural "158" on small cover franked with 50λ + 1δρχ, via "ΓΑΒΑΛΟΥ*12 ΦΕΒ. 40" (Gavalou village seat of the Rural Route), via "ΜΕΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ 13 ΦΕΒ. 40", (Messolonghi), to Athens. On arrival postman's cachet "33".



Dotted rural "160" on 10λ + 5λ Charity issues (National Welfare Foundation Fund) commercial letter card written at "Εμπεσός 15 Απριλίου 1919" (Empesos, village, population 511 - census 1921), via "ΜΕΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ" (Messolonghi), arrival "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*17 ΑΠΡ.19" (Patra).



Dotted rural "161" on cover franked in front with a pair 3δρ. and back 3δρ. + a pair of 50λ Charity Issues (Queens) from "Παλαιομάνινα Αιτωλικού" (Palaiomanina village near Aitoliko), via "ΝΕΟΧΩΡΙΟΝ ΜΕΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΥ*22 V 40" (Neochorion village near Messolonghi), via "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ 23 V 40" (Patra), with Exchange Control marking of Patra, sent to Canton Ohio U.S.A.

Ι. Θ. ΠΑΠΑΓΙΑΝΝΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ & ΑΔΕΛΦΟΙ

ΕΜΠΟΡΟΙ
ΓΑΒΑΛΟΥ - ΜΑΚΡΥΝΕΙΑΣ



Κύριον

« Από την Αιτωλία

Αγ. Αφραία 56

Πάτρας

Dotted rural "166" on commercial post card franked with 1δρ, written at "Γαβαλού 14-10-27" (Gavalou, village at the centre of Aitoloakarnania), via "ΤΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΚΕΦΑΛΟΒΡΥΣΣΟΥ" (Telegr. Office Kefalovryso, nowadays Thermo) to Patra. Two postmarks of "ΤΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΚΕΦΑΛΟΒΡΥΣΣΟΥ". The first with date 15 ΟΚΤ. 27 and the second one with date 21 ΟΚΤ. 27. Probably it was forgotten at the Post Office.

Misse

Anastasia Tsilios.

202 West 11th Street

Wilmington. Del.

U. S. A.

America



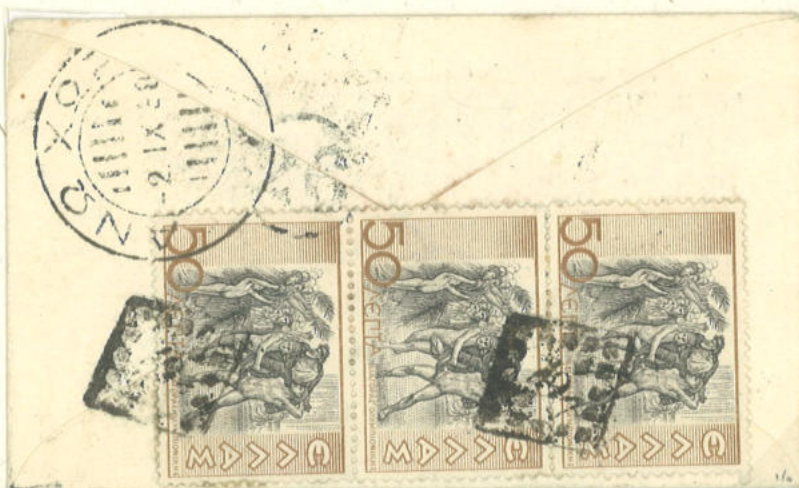
Dotted rural "173" on cover franked in front with a pair 3δρ. and back with a pair 1δρ. + a pair 50λ, Charity Issues, from "Ποκίστα Ναυπακτίας" (Pokista a mountain village of Nafpaktos, popul. 249), via "ΣΙΜΟΥ*15 ΝΟΕ. 38" (Simos, mountain village of Nafpaktos), via "ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ*16 ΝΟΕ. 1938" (Nafpaktos) to Wilmington U.S.A. Sealed with circular Exchange Control marking "Υ.Ε.Σ" (Department for Currency Control).



Dotted rural "176" on commercial postcard tying a 2δρ. Historical sent 15/5/39 from **Περίστα** (Perista, small mountainous village of **Nafpaktos**), via "**ΠΛΑΤΑΝΟΣ ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΙΑΣ* 18 ΜΑΙ. 39**" (Platanos, mountainous village of **Nafpaktos**) to "**ΠΑΤΡΑΙ* 19 V 39**" (Patra Peloponnese).



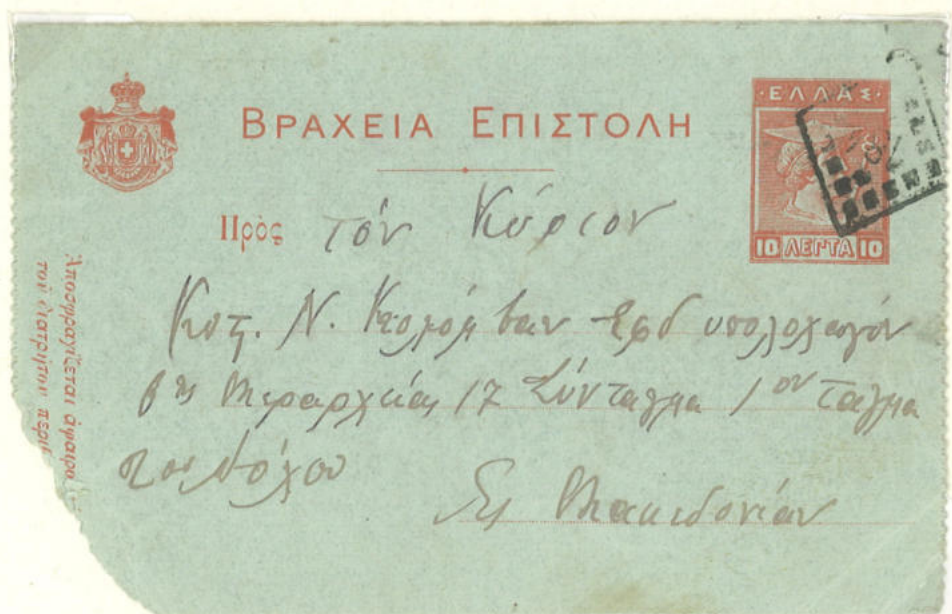
Dotted rural "181" on small cover written 5/12/27, tying a pair of 25λ, via "**ΜΕΓ. ΛΟΜΠΟΤΙΝΑ**" (Big **Lompotina**, mountainous village of **Nafpaktos**, named as **Ano Hora** at 1930). Arrival postmark "**ΚΑΜΑΡΑΙ ΠΑΤΡΩΝ*10 ΔΕΚ. 1927**" (Kamarai of **Patra's Peloponnese**).



Dotted rural "181" on small cover, tying 3x50λ Historical, via "**ΑΝΩ ΧΩΡΑ*2 ΙΧ 38**" (**Ano Hora**, mountainous village of **Nafpaktos**), sent to **Athens**.



Dotted rural "183" on cover tying 4x2δρ. Landscapes, via "ΑΝΩ ΧΩΡΑ*24 XII. 34" (Ano Hora, mountainous village of Nafpaktos), via "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ*27 XII. 34" (Athens), sent to Washington U.S.A.



Dotted rural "184" on 10λ letter card written at "Ζηλίστα 8 Ιουλίου 1913" (Zilista small village of Nafpaktos) sent to a reserve lieutenant, 6th Division, 17th Regiment, 1st Battalion, 2nd Company at Macedonia Greece during the 1st Balkans war.



Dotted rural "194" on airmail cover franked with 3x1000δρ. + 1000δρ. Chains surcharges, from "Μοναστηράκι Βονίτσας" (Monastiraki, village of Vonitsa, west Aitolokarnania), via "ΤΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΒΟΝΙΤΣΗΣ*22 ΙΟΥΛ. 46" (Vonitsa's Telegr. Office), to New York U.S.A.



Dotted rural "199" on cover franked with 3x5λ, written at "Ζάβιτσα την 6 Ιουνίου 1920" (Zavitsa, village at the west Aitolokarnania), via "ΤΗΛ. ΓΡ. ΜΥΤΙΚΑ * 8 ΙΟΥΝ. 20" (Mytika's Telegr. Office), Mytikas port at the west Aitolokarnania, sent to a lawyer at Lefkada (island at Ionian sea)



Dotted rural "201" on 10λ letter card + 1x2λ + 1x3λ (total rate 15λ), written at "Τρύφου τη 12-3-920" (Tryfos, village at the centre of Aitoloakarnania), via "ΤΗΛ.ΓΡ. ΚΑΤΟΥΝΗΣ*12 ΜΑΡ.20" (Katouna's Telegr. Office), sent to Aitoliko (port at the south Aitoloakarnania).



Dotted rural "221" franked with 3x100δρ. Dodecanese union from "Χόμορη Ναυπάκτου" (Homori, mountainous village of Nafpaktos), via "ΠΛΑΤΑΝΟΣ ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΙΑΣ*29 ΧΙΛ 49" (Platanos, mountainous village at Sub-Prefecture of Nafpaktos) sent to Athens.

RAILWAY POSTAL SERVICE

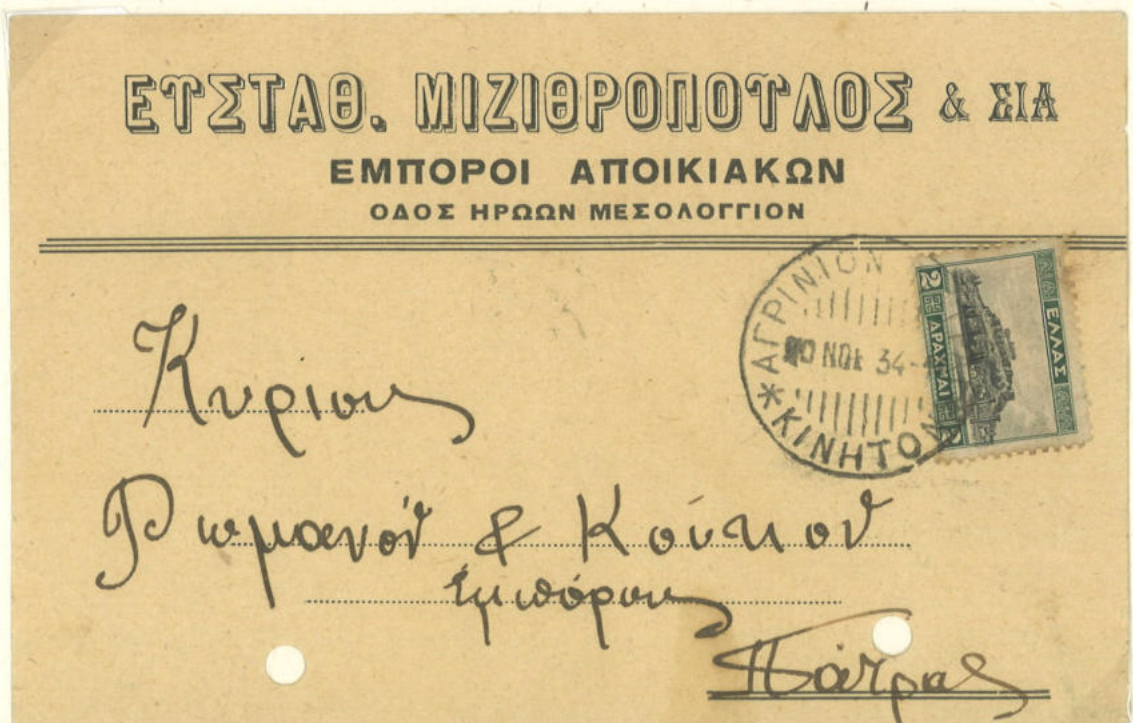


At the end of 19th century was constructed at **Aitolokarnania** railway with terms **Agrinio** and **Kryoneri** (port across **Patra**). Other main train stations were at **Messolonghi** and **Aitoliko**. From **Kryoneri** a ship with railway lines transferred the wagons at **Patra**. That helped a lot the commercial transactions and railway was also used for the correspondense with postmen on the train receiving and cancelling the mails.



Commercial postcard from **Agrinio** tying with a pair 1δρ. King George II, postmarked "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ-ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*ΚΙΝΗ-ΤΟΝ*23 ΟΚΤ. 40" (Agrinio-Patras Ambulant, railway postmark), sent to **Patra**, arrival postmark "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ 24 Χ 40" just 4 days before the Greek-Italian war.

Commercial postcard from **Messolonghi** tying with a 2δρ. Landscape, postmarked "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ-ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*ΚΙΝΗΤΟΝ* 20 ΝΟΕ.34" (Agrinio-Patras Ambulant, railway postmark), sent to **Patra**





Commercial postcard from Aitoliko tying 1x80λ lithographic + 1x40λ landscapes postmarked "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ-ΠΑΤΡΑΙ*ΚΙΝΗΤΟΝ*23 ΣΕΠΤ. 31" (Agrinio-Patras Ambulant, railway postmark), sent to a merchant in Patra.



Cover from Galata (village at the Sub-Prefecture of Messolonghi) tying 5x50λ Historical (Olympic Games) + 50λ Charity (Queens), postmarked "ΠΑΤΡΑΙ-ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ*ΚΙΝΗΤΟΝ*19 ΑΥΓ. 40" (Patras-Agrinio Ambulant, railway postmark), to Athens.

AIR MAIL



From the EEES timetable of 1931

The first all-Greek airline company 'ΕΕΕΣ - Ελληνική Εταιρεία Εναερίων Συγκοινωνιών' (EEES – Hellenic Aerial Communications Company) was founded in 1931 and operated domestically in Greece between 1931 and 1940 (WW2). At the beginning there were flights only between Athens – Thessaloniki – Agrinio – Jannina (Ioannina).



"ΙΩΑΝΝΙΝΑ*23. NOE. 1931" (Ioannina) first flight cover to "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ*23 NOE.31" (Agrinio on reverse postmark), by EEES, tying with 1X50λ + 1X40λ Landscapes, boxed with "ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ - PAR AVION" air-cachet in violet and air-label. The itinerary last until 16.12.1932. Only 4 covers flown.



"ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ*ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ*24.XI.31" (Thessaloniki), first flight cover to "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ*25 ΝΟΕΜ. 31", (Agrinion on reverse postmark), via Athens by ΕΕΕΣ, tying with 1X10λ + 3X25λ Landscapes + 1X5λ lithographic, boxed with "ΕΝΑΕΡΙΩΣ - PAR AVION" air-cachet in black and air-label. Only 2 covers flown.



"ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ*26 ΝΟΕΜ. 31" (Agrinion), first flight cover to "ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ*ΑΦΕΙΣ ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ*27.XI.31" (Thessaloniki arrival by air) by ΕΕΕΣ, tying with 2X40λ + 1X10λ Landscapes, via Athens, postmarked on reverse "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ*ΑΦΕΙΣ ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ*26.XI.31" (Athens, arrival by air) and with "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ*ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ*26.XI.32" [wrong date, 32 instead 31 (Athens by air)]. Boxed "ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ - PAR AVION" air-cachet in black, and "ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΗ ΑΦΕΙΣ" (Arrival by air) in blue and on reverse black. Only 12 covers flown.



"ΑΘΗΝΑΙ*ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ*2.VIII.32", (Athens by air) on cover to "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ*2.VIII. 32" (Agrinion) by ΕΕΕΣ, tying 1,5δρ. Navarino Surcharges; boxed with "ΕΝΑΕΡΙΩΣ - PAR AVION" air-cachet in purple and air-label and with special airmail cachet, **first day of use for the cachet "ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΗ ΑΦΙΞΗΣ"** (Arrival by air) in blue colour.



"ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ* 28. ΜΑΙ. 34", (Agrinion), **first flight cover** to "ΔΡΑΜΑ*30 V 34" (Drama Macedonia, postmark on reverse) by ΕΕΕΣ, tying with 1δρ. Landscapes + 2δρ. Fabvier Surcharges + 1δρ. Airpost Government's issue, via "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ*ΑΦΙΞΙΣ ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ*28 V 34", (Athens arrival by air, on reverse), boxed "ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ - PAR AVION", with airmail cachet "ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΗ ΑΦΙΞΗΣ" (Arrival by air), on reverse. **Only 12 covers flown.**

In 1946 an attempt was made to reform the Greek national airline, this time being then known by the initials "T.A.E" (Technical and Aeronautical Exploitations). T.A.E. operated all the domestic services within Greece. In 1947, three airlines were based in Greece: "T.A.E.", "ELL. A.S." (Hellenic Airlines) and "A.M.E." (Air Transporations of Greece). All of them operated flights from and towards Agrinio, but there was not a special mark on air-mails to be distinguished.



"ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΟΝ 31.X.49", (Agrinion by air), on cover tying 100δρ. + 450δρ. Dodecanese union, + 50δρ. Charity – Postal staff Welfare Fund + 50δρ. Charity – Restoration of Thessaloniki Monuments Fund, with air-label, sent to Athens.



"ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΟΝ 18.X.50", (Agrinion by air), on commercial post card, tying with 4X100δρ. Dodecanese union, sent to Patras Peloponnese [unusual mails by air, because of the small distance between Agrinion and Patras, about 85km (mails arrived normally next day)].

EXCHANGE CONTROL

Because of the economic crisis in Greece during the decade of 1930s was imposed exchange control. There were special committees which were checking the abroad mails (incoming and outgoing) and marked them with special seals. That started at 1932 and last until the beginning of 50s.

Red
**ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ
 ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ
 ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ
 ΝΟΜΙΣΜΑΤΟΣ
 ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΥ**
 (Exchange
 Control
 Department of
Agrinion, with
 Athena
 Goddess) on
 airmail cover
 from
**"ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ
 25.ΑΠΡ.39"**
 (Agrinion)
 tying various
 stamps (pair of
 4δρχ Μύστρος, in
 total on reverse .
 7δρχ airmail
 stamps and
 2x50λ/20λ
 Charity stamps),
 sent to
Sweden.



Red **ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ
 ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ
 ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ
 ΝΟΜΙΣΜΑΤΟΣ
 ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΥ**
 (Exchange Control
 Department of
Agrinion) on post
 card from **"New York
 30.APR.1938"**, tying
 with 3 cents, boxed
 with slogan, via
**"ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 14. ΜΑΙ.
 38"** (Athens),
 postmarked at arrival
**"ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ
 15.ΜΑΙ.38"**
 (Agrinion). Picture of
 Mid-New York
 Skyline, View from
 New Jersey.

Χ.Π. ΚΟΥΤΣΟΓΙΑΝΝΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ

ΟΔΟΣ ΣΤΑΤΙΚΟΥ 35
ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ

LE "BON GOUT"

ΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑ ΥΦΑΣΜΑΤΩΝ
ΚΑΙ ΕΙΩΝ ΠΟΛΥΤΕΛΕΙΑΣ

Monsieur

Pierre Scardel

Aéro-Club. 4th Marine

Chamouil

France



Corner cover "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ 29.XII.38" (Agrinion), franked with 5δρχ Historical (instead proper 8δρχ postage), tied by violet circular ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΝΟΜΙΣΜΑΤΟΣ ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΥ (National Currency Protection Service of Agrinion) both sides, with inspector's manuscript signature, via "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 30.XI.38" (Athens), sent to France.

ROLE DU CHANGE

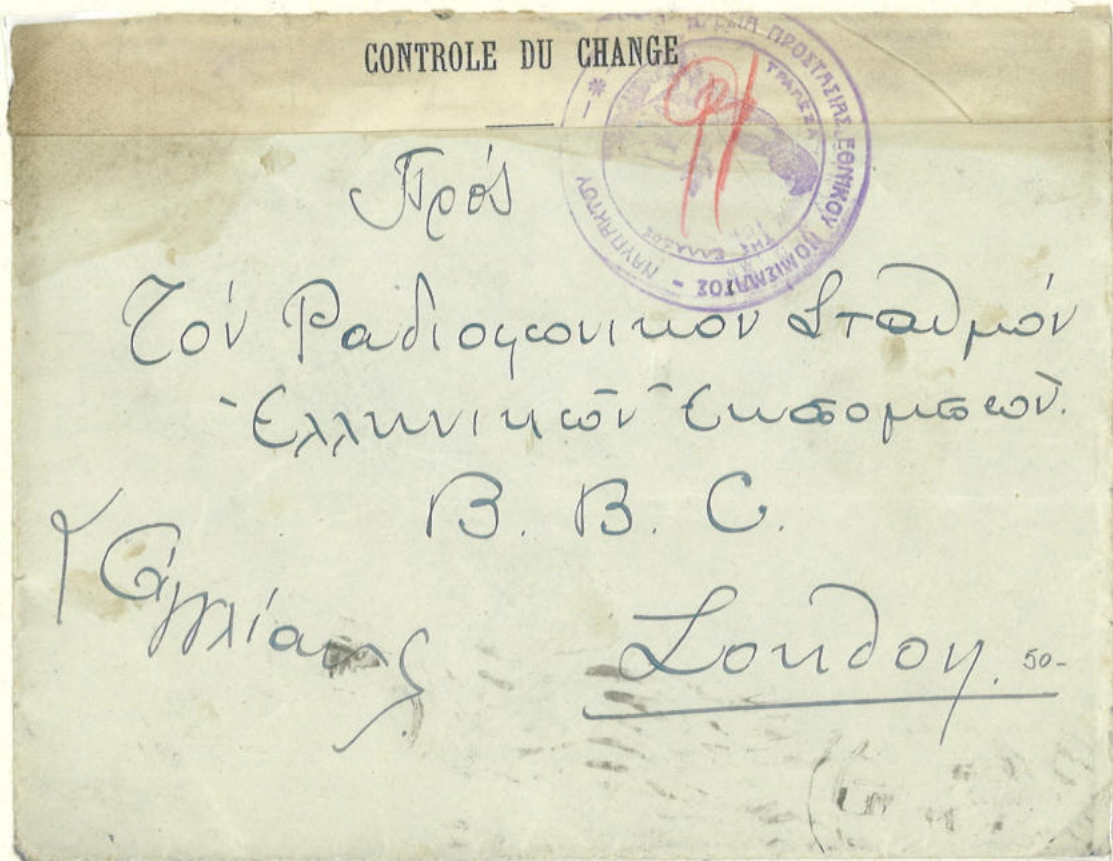
M. Wauters

Diest. 184

*Louvain
Belgujo (Belgique)*



Cover from "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ 30.VIII.38" (Agrinion), franked with 5δρχ Historical (Panathenaic procession) + 3δρχ King George II + 2x50λ Charity, Cover was opened and inspected, then sealed with a **CONTROLE DU CHANGE ΕΛΕΓΧΟΣ ΣΥΝΑΛΛΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ** currency control tape, tied by red circular ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΝΟΜΙΣΜΑΤΟΣ ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΥ (National Currency Protection Service of Agrinion), with inspector's manuscript initials in rose red, via "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 31.VIII.38" (Athens), sent to Louvain Belgium.



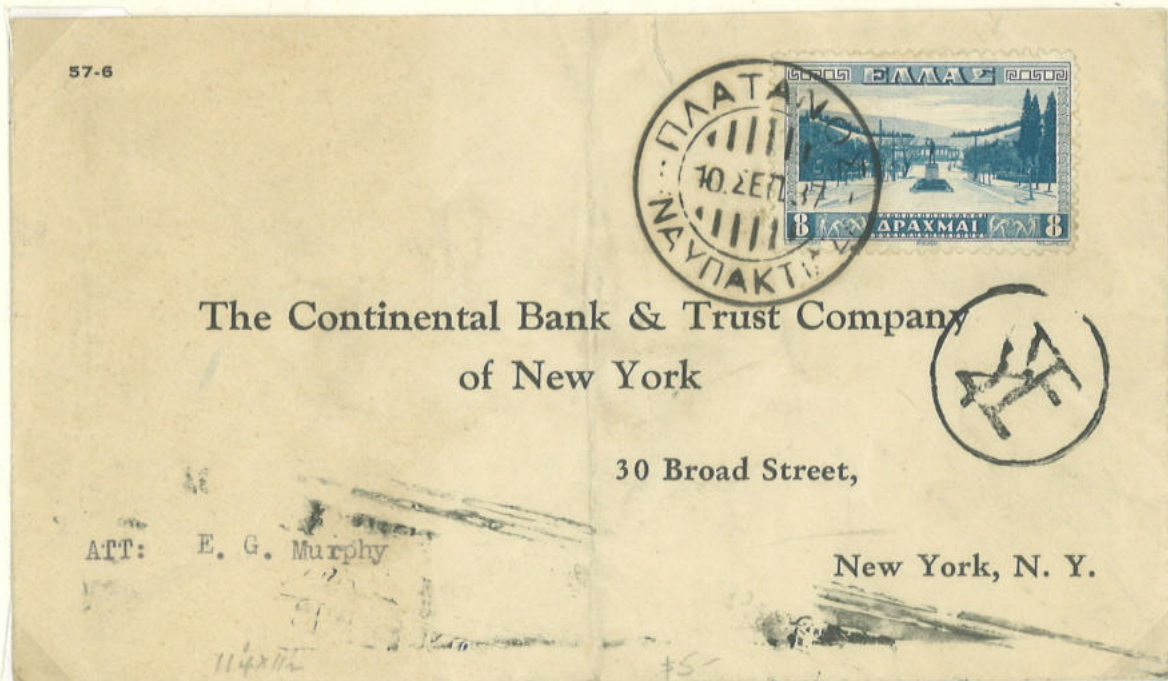
Cover from "ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ 9.ΜΑΙ.1940" (Nafpaktos), franked with 4X2δρχ Historical (Naval Battle of Salamis). Cover was opened and inspected, then sealed with a **CONTROLE DU CHANGE ΕΛΕΓΧΟΣ ΣΥΝΑΛΛΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ** currency control tape, tied by violet circular **ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΝΟΜΙΣΜΑΤΟΣ ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΥ** (National Currency Protection Service of Nafpaktos) both sides, with inspector's manuscript signature in rose red, via "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 10.V.40" (Athens), sent to B.B.C. radio station, London England.



Cover from "ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ 20.ΟΚΤ.40" (Nafpaktos), franked with a 8δρχ Balkan Entente II, tied with 4 (2 in front and 2 on reverse) black circular **ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΝΟΜΙΣΜΑΤΟΣ ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΥ** (National Currency Protection Service of Nafpaktos), with inspector's manuscript signature in rose red, via "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 22.X.40", sent to Dover U.S.A.



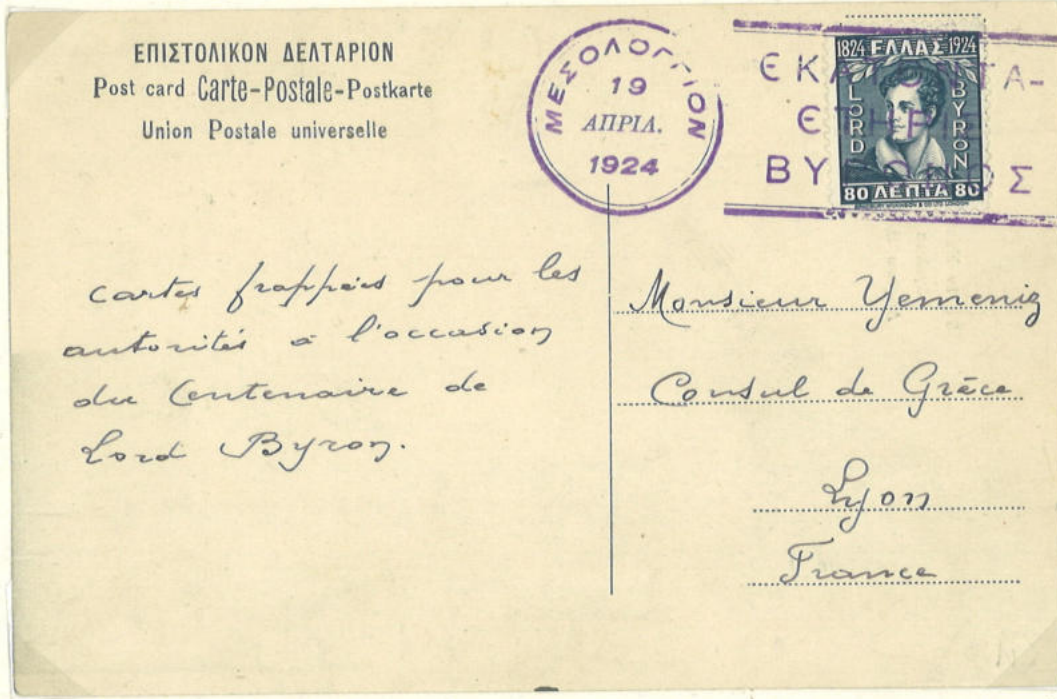
Registered cover from "ΜΕΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ 25.ΟΚΤ.39" (Messolonghion), franked both sides with 2x50λ + 3δρχ + 8δρχ (Balkan Games) and 4δρχ (Ionian Islands union) and 1δρχ Charity Queens. Written and signed by Post officer of Messolonghi: "to be checked, contains stamps about 400δρχ as the sender declares". On reverse cachets "ΚΕΝΤΡ.ΤΑΧ.ΑΘΗΝΩΝ - ΕΛΕΓΧΟΣ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣΗΜΟΥ." (Main Athen's Post Office - Stamp Control) and "ΠΕΝ" (National Currency Protection) both signed by the examiner. Sent to San Jose, Costa Rica, via "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 27.ΟΚΤ.39" (Athens), via "NEW YORK U.S.A.*FOREIGN *11.10.1939" sealed at arrival "SAN JOSE. C. R.*R. R. EXTERIOR*NOV.18.1939".



Cover from "ΠΛΑΤΑΝΟΣ ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΙΑΣ 10. ΣΕΠ. 37." (Platanos of Nafpaktos), franked with a 5δρχ Stadium + a pair of 50λ Charity, boxed with slogan "ΧΙ ΔΙΕΘΝΗΣ ΕΚΘΕΣΗ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ * 15-26 ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 1937" (XI International Fair of Thessaloniki), with Control cachet "ΥΣΕ" (Exchange Control Service), sent to New York U.S.A. Exchange control was selective.

CENTENARY OF LORD BYRON'S DEATH

At 16 April 1924 the Greek Post issue a set of two values 80λ and 2δρ. to commemorate the centenary of Lord Byron's death. As known the English poet Lord Byron fight with Greeks against the Turkish at the independence war and died during Messolonghi's siege. At 19 April 1924 during the celebrations was used at Messolonghi commemorative postmark. Visitors arrived from everywhere of Europe, including diplomats, parliament members, ministers, members of Royal families and the Greek Prime Minister.



Post card tying with 80λ Lord Byron's portrait, based to a paint of English painter Philips, from the Greek painter Nikolao Lytra. Sealed with commorative postmark "ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ*19 ΑΠΡΙΛ. 1924 / ΕΚΑΤΟΝΤΑΕΤΗΡΙΑΣ ΒΥΡΩΝΟΣ" (Messolonghi / Centenary of Lord Byron). Sent to Lyon France. On reverse picture of Lord Byron's statue at Messolonghi.

Post card tying with 2δρ. Lord Byron's welcoming at Messolonghi 7-2-1824, from a 1861 paint of Greek painter Vryzakis. Sealed with commorative postmark "ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ* 19 ΑΠΡΙΛ. 1924 / ΕΚΑΤΟΝΤΑΕΤΗΡΙΑΣ ΒΥΡΩΝΟΣ (Messolonghi / Centenary of Lord Byron). Sent to London. On reverse picture of Marko Botsaris monument (Greek Hero of independence war).



MESSOLONGHI – SACRED CITY

When the **Greek War of Independence** broke out in spring 1821, **Messolonghi** was the first place in western Greece to join the uprising. A **siege** started on **15 April 1825** by **Turkish and Egyptian** army. After a year of relentless enemy attacks and facing starvation, the people of **Messolonghi** decided to leave the beleaguered city in the "**Exodus**" on the night of **10 April 1826**. From the **10.500** people in **Messolonghi** very few managed to escape. Most of them killed or became slaves. Due to the heroic stance of the population and the subsequent massacre of its inhabitants by the **Turkish-Egyptian** forces, the town of Messolonghi received at **1937** the honorary title of **Hiera Polis (Sacred City)**.

During the celebrations was used **commemorative postmark** "**ΙΕΡΑ ΠΟΛΙΣ*ΜΕΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ*25 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ 1937**" (Sacred City Messolonghi 25 April 1937). Cover sent to **Athens**, tying with a **3δρχ** University of Athens + **50λ** Charity issue overprints on Landscape.



Commercial post card postmarked "**ΜΕΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ 24.ΙΟΥΝ.26**" (Messolonghi) sent to **Patras**, tying with **3X25λ** Centenary of the fall of **Messolonghi**, **Marko's Botsaris tomb (Independence war Hero)**, boxed **ΕΙΣΠΡΑΚΤΕΟΝ ΤΕΛΟΣ ΔΡΑΧ. 10 ΛΕΠΤΑ** (postage due).

NATIONAL RESISTANCE

After the withdrawal of the occupation forces (September – October 1944), in four regions of Greece, that is **Lesvos, Lefkada, Prevesa and Agrinion**, the local authorities, the power of which was meanwhile taken over by resistance groups, proceeded to the issue of overprinted stamps of local character, commemorative of the liberation. At **Agrinion** moreover the post office was operating normally and postal articles bearing these overprinted stamps faced no difficulty whatsoever for local destinations, the reaction of new government in capital forbade them. Almost all of mails were philatelic.

In **Agrinio** issued by E.A.M. (main Resistance organization), in accordance with an order by the municipal council (member of the issue commission was the **chairman of philatelic company of Agrinion**). Two types of surcharge "ΕΛΛΑΣ Αγρίνιο 14-ΙΧ-1944" (**Hellas Agrinio**) and "Ε.Α. Αγρίνιο 14-ΙΧ-1944" (**E.A. Agrinio**), on three values of the 1944 Views stamps of the Occupation period. All stamps in blocks of four bear a safety mark on the reverse side "... ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ * ΔΗΜΟΣ ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΥ" [... of Greece * Municipality of Agrinio], i.e. the official seal of the municipality after the removal of the crown from the Greek coat of arms and the word "ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ", (**Kingdom**). These stamps issued at **7. Oct. 1944**.



1944 Agrinio surcharge, complete set of 4 values, 5.000.000δρχ / 5.000 δρχ + 5.000.000δρχ / 15.000δρχ + 5.000.000δρχ / 25.000δρχ + 10.000.000δρχ / 25.000δρχ plus 500.000δρχ + 500.000δρχ + 200.000δρχ 1944 Landscapes, on philatelic cover "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ*13. ΝΟΕΜ. 44" (**Agrinion**), last known date of issue, sent to "Παναϊτώλιον", (**Panaitolion**, village near to **Agrinion**).

WW1 HELLENIC CENSORSHIP



WW1 corner cover, franked with 10λ + 5λ ET plus 30λ lithographic, sent from "ΝΗΣΙΟΝ (ΜΕΣΣΗΝΗ) * 10.ΝΟΕ.17" (Nision Messinia, small town at south Peloponnese) to Messolonghi. Sealed with circular "ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑΣ ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΥ" (Censure Office of Messolonghi) and censor tape "ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑ CENSURE HELLENIQUE" + "T" examiner's.

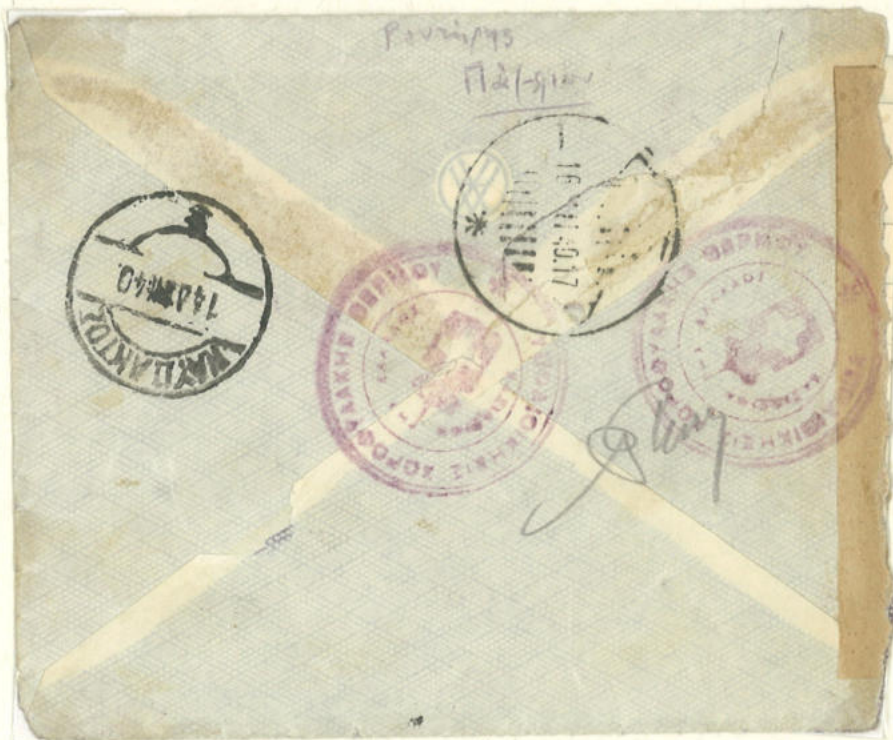


WW1 Letter card 10λ uprated with 5λ ET, from "ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ 17.ΟΚΤ.18" (Messolonghion), sent to Piraeus, marked "ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑ 44" (Greek censorship), censor tape (missing) "ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑ CENSURE HELLENIQUE" + "157" black, examiner's handstamp. Not all mails were censored. Censorship was selectived.

WW2 HELLENIC CENSORSHIP



Cover, paid fee, from "Κάτω Βασιλική Ναυπακτίας" (Kato Vasiliki, village of Nafpaktos), Dotted rural "180", via "ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ 26. ΜΑΡ. 41" (Nafpaktos), sent to 2nd Company, T.T. 461 (Albania) during to Greek – Italian war, postmarked at arrival "ΤΑΧ. ΤΟΜΕΥΣ 461 * 3. ΙV. 41". Censor cachet in violet "ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑ ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΥ*4", (Censorship of Nafpaktos).



Cover with contents, franked with 3δρχ King George II and 50λ Charity stamp (Queens), tied with dotted rural 166 and "ΘΕΡΜΟΝ (ΤΡΙΧΩΝΙΔΟΣ) 11. ΧΙΙ. 40" (Thermon, central Aitoloakarnania), sent to "ΙΤΕΑ 16. ΧΙΙ. 40" (Itea, Phokis) via "ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ 14. ΧΙΙ. 40" (Nafpaktos). Censored with circular purple with Coat of Arms "ΥΠΟΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ ΧΩΡΟΦΥΛΑΚΗΣ ΘΕΡΜΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ", (Gendarmerie Sub-Command of Thermon), signed by the examiner, on resealing tape. Written at Πάμφιον (Pamfion, village of Thermo).



Cover with letter enclosed, posted on 9.4.41 from the Red Cross Hospital at Agrinion (seated at tobacco's stores), to Athens, with red cachet "ΕΛΛΗΝ. ΕΡΥΘΡΟΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ * ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟΝ ΕΚΕΤΡΑΤΕΙΑΣ" and censorship cachet "ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑ ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΥ * ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ" (Hellenic Censorship of Agrinion, with Coat of Arms), with circular censor marking "18".



Postal card stationery 2δρχ (Historical, Naval battle of Salamis), franked with additional 50λ Charity stamp (Queens), tied with "ΚΑΤΟΥΝΑ 13. ΙΑΝ.41 (Katouna, village at the central Aitoloa-karnania), sent to Πάτραι (Patras). Censor marking in violet "ΥΠΟΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ ΧΩΡ/ΚΗΣ ΚΑΤΟΥΝΑΣ" (Gendarmerie Sub-Command of Katouna), with Coat of Arms.



Illustrated letter card showing Madonna and Jesus Christ (used for commercial purposes) franked with a pair of 1δρχ King George II and additional 10λ Historical (used to pay the charity fee), tied with "ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ 11. ΜΑΡ. 41" (Messolonghion) sent to Πάτραι (Patras). Censor marking in violet "ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΛΟΓΟΚΡΗΣΙΑ ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΥ" (Hellenic Censorship of Mesolonghi), with Coat of Arms.



Illustrated letter card, payed fee, with slogan, showing civilians praying to Madonna for Greek's army victory, (during the Greek – Italian war), written by a military, tied with "ΑΣΤΑΚΟΣ 9. ΦΕΒ. 41" (Astakos, port at the west Aitoloakarnania), sent to Athens. Censor marking "ΥΠΟΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ ΧΩΡ/ΚΗΣ ΣΤΑΘΜΟΣ ΑΣΤΑΚΟΥ" (Gendarmerie Station of Astakos), with Coat of Arms and circular cancellation "115".

WW2 AXIS FORCES' CENSORSHIP



Registered commercial cover franked **25δρχ** Historical (Glory of Psara), cancelled "ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟΝ" (Agrinion) to Athens. Italian censor tape "Verificato per Censura / ΕΛΟΓΟΚΡ-ΙΟΗ" + cachets "CO-MANDO DIVISIONE FANTERIA CASALE * XI ARMATA" both sides in blue.

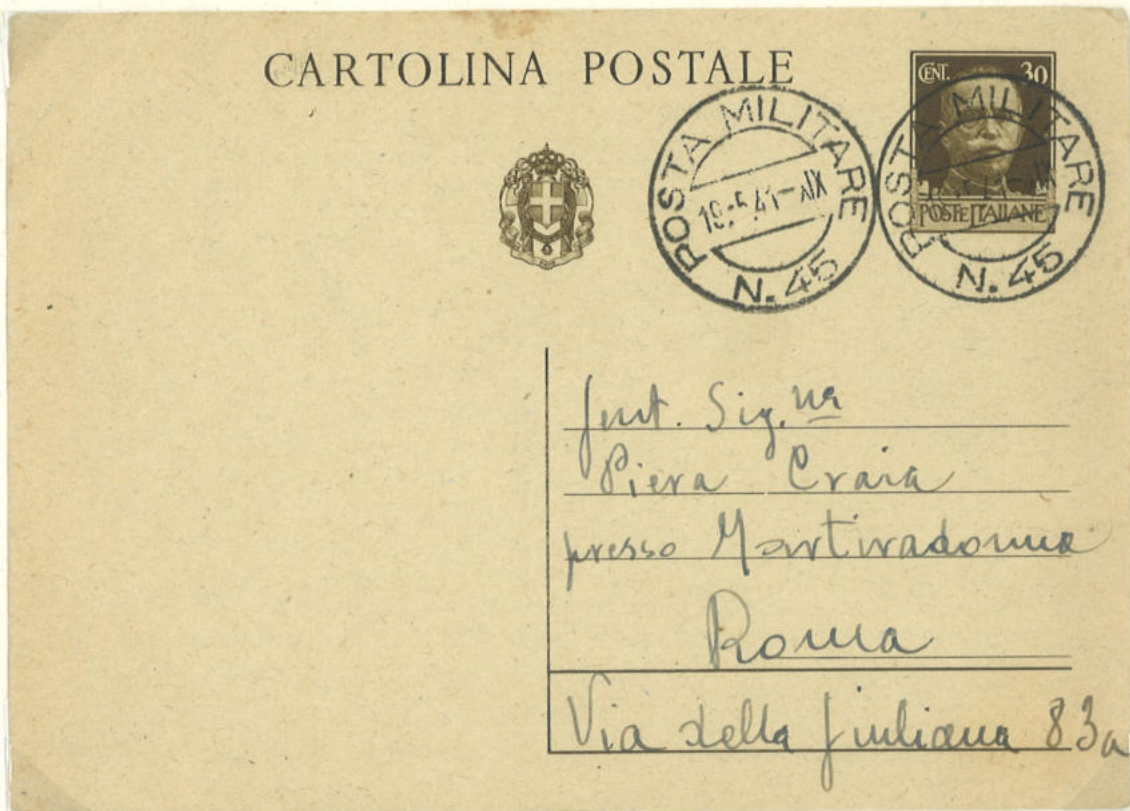


Cover franked with **7δρχ** Historical / Apostle Paul on Arios Pagos, cancelled "ΜΕΣΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ 11. ΦΕΒ. 42" (Messolonghi) with censorship tape with typewritten "VERIFICATO PER CENSURA", sealed with Italian / Greek violet boxed "VERIFICATO PER CENSURA / - ΕΛΟΓΟΚΡΠΙΟΗ -", sent to Athens. The enclosed letter is stamped with circular violet "COMANDO 11ο FANTERIA CASALE * VERIFICARO PER CENSURA * XI ARMATA".

POSTA MILITARE N. 45

During the period of **Aitoloakarnania's** military command by **Italians**, operated military post offices (Posta militare) for **Italian** army. Some of them were at **Aitoloakarnania** for a few days because their units just moving for other areas. **Posta militare 45** operated only at **Aitoloakarnania** for whole the period of **Italians** occupation and based at **Agrinio** from **17/5/1941** to **16/8/1943** and at **Messolonghi** from **17/8/1943** till **8/9/1943** Italy's capitulation.

Postcard tying a 30c "POSTE ITALIANE" on picture postcard, postmarked **POSTA MILITARE N.45 - 19.5.41** (based at **Agrinio**), sent to **Roma Italy**. It was written at **17.5.1941** (first day of Italian army at **Aitoloakarnania**) from a soldier in a unit moving from "**Amflulosia**" (**Amfilochia**), port north-west of **Aitoloakarnania**) towards "**Missolungi**" (**Messolonghi**).



Cover tying a 50c postmarked **POSTA MILITARE N.45 - 5.6.41** (based at **Agrinio**) to **Padova Italy**. The unit of the **Italian** soldier - sender belongs to **Posta Militare 202** (back side of the cover **P.M.202A**) and was moving towards **Nauplio Pelloponisos**.



Postcard tying a 15 cent "POSTE ITALIANE" on picture postcard, examiner's framed "VERIFICATO CENSURA 4" red censor marking, postmarked **POSTA MILITARE N.45 - 7.10.41**, (based at Agrinio) sent to **Bari Italy**.



Cover **PER VIA AEREA PAR AVION** franked with a pair 50c "POSTE ITALIANE" and red overprint "SOLE JONIE". These stamps were in circulation at the **Ionian** islands and is very rare to be found stamped from other places. Probably the sender was before in unit at an **Ionian** island and bought them. Censor tape **VERIFICATO PER CENSURA**, postmarked **POSTA MILITARE N.45 - 13.5.42**, (based at Agrinio) sent to **Mantova Italy**. Circular postmark at arrival **CENSURA DI GUERRA - MANTOVA - N.22**.

POSTA MILITARE N.17

POSTA MILITARE N.17 operated from **30/5/1941** till **18/6/1941** at **Messolonghi**. A branch of it remained there until **8/7/1941**. It was operated in **Aitoloakarnania** again at **Agrinio** from **16/8/1943** to **8/9/1943** when Italy capitulated.



Cover **PER VIA AEREA** franked with a pair 50c "ITALIA POSTA AEREA", censor tape **Verificato per censura**, circular seal **COMMISSIONE PROV. LE CENSURA 6** in violet, postmarked **POSTA MILITARE N.17 - 10.6.41** (based at **Messolonghi**), sent to **Massa Marittima Italy**. Arrival postmark **MASSA MARITTIMA 16.6.41**, sealed **COMMISSIONE PROV. DI CENSURA - 16 GIU.41**.



Postcard **VIA AEREA** franked 50c **ITALIA POSTA AEREA** overprinted **P.M.**, military unit seal **COMANDO 3 COMPANIA**, postmarked **POSTA MILITARE N.17 - 18.8.43** (based at **Agrinio**). Sent to **Ferrara Italy**.

POSTA MILITARE N. 202 BIS

POSTA MILITARE 202 BIS operated from 25/6/1941 till 20/3/1942 at Messolonghi. It was replaced by POSTA MILITARE 204.



Cover franked 2x50c, stuck "PER VIA AEREA PAR AVION", postmarked UFFICIO POSTALE MILITARE N. 202 BIS – 6.12.41. Sent to Milano Italy. At the back side boxed "VISITATE LITALIA", arrival postmark "MILANO*ARMINI DISTRIBUZIONE *11.XII.41".



Cover AEROPOSTA, franked 2x50c, postmarked UFFICIO POSTALE MILITARE N. 202 BIS – 21.2.42. Sent to Milano Italy. Sender from military unit of POSTA MILITARE 45. Arrival postmark "MILANO*ARRIVI DISTRIBUZIONE*26.II.42".

POSTA MILITARE N. 204

POSTA MILITARE N.204 replaced POSTA MILITARE 202 BIS and operated at Messolonghi from 21/3/1942 till 8/9/1943 Italy's capitulation.

Cover PER VIA AEREA PAR AVION in green, franked with a pair 50c, postmarked POSTA MILITARE N.204 - 7.5.42. Sent to Milano Italy. Sender (letter 4 pages included), from military unit of POSTA MILITARE N.45. Arrival postmark MILANO*ARRIVI DISTRIBUZIONE*13.V.42.



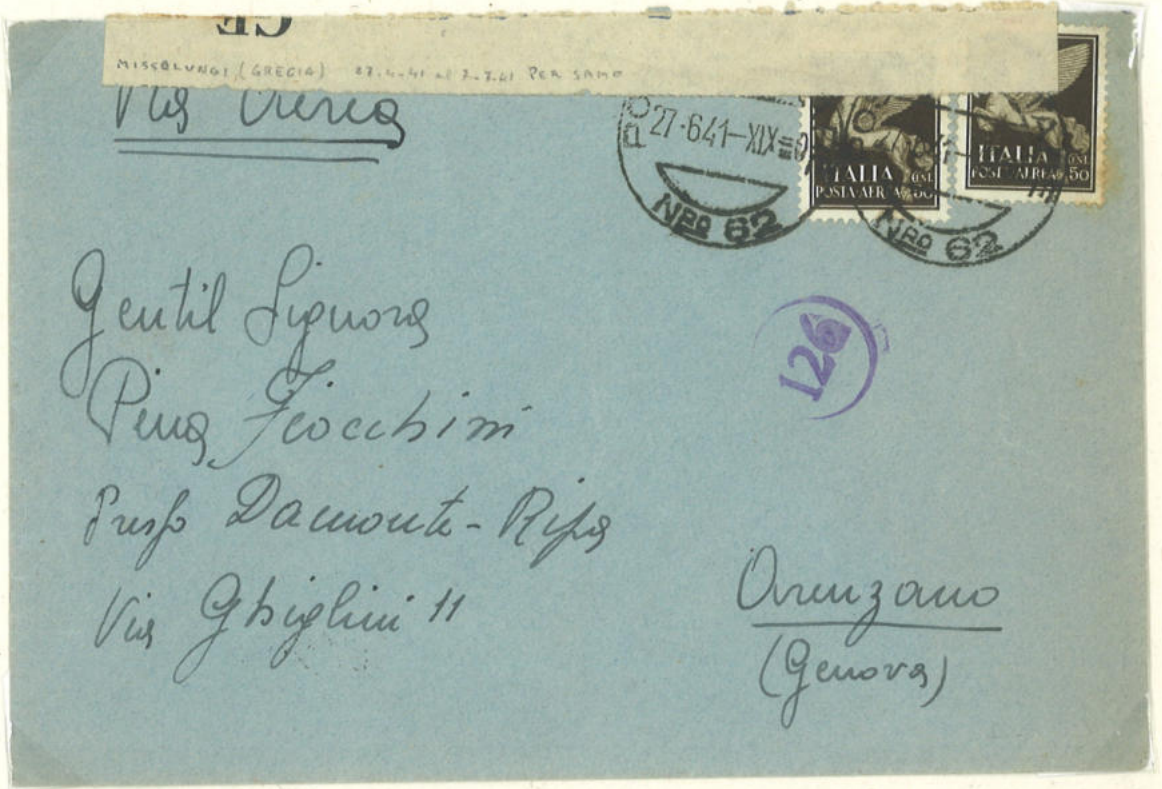
Cover PER VIA AEREA PAR AVION, franked with a pair 50c, overprinted P.M., sealed by the examiner with a sencer "IL CAPO CENTRO DOCUMENTALE" (both sides). Postmarked POSTA MILITARE N.204 - 10.7.43. Sent to Lauropoli Italy.



POSTA MILITARE N.62

POSTA MILITARE N.62, was for a few days from 14/6/41 till the end of June '41 at the area of Messolonghi, moving towards Samos (Aegean island)..

Cover Via aerea,
franked with a pair
50c, overprinted
P.M, censor tape
Verificato per
censura,
postmarked
POSTA
MILITARE N. 62
- 27.6.41, tied with
circular (126) in
blue. Sent to
Arenzano
(Genova) Italy.
Arrival post mark
ARENZANO*
GENOVA*5.7.41



Military postcard, postmarked POSTA MILITARE N.62 - 26.6.41, sent to Brugherio (Milano) Italy.

POSTA MILITARE N.121

POSTA MILITARE N.121 was moving from 29.6.41 till very first of July 1941 via Aitoloakarnania to Crete. It is mentioned at the area of Aitoliko (town and port near to Messolonghi)

Cover franked with three "POSTE ITALIANE SEGNATASSE" total 50c, sealed at arrival PIANO DAFI*CATANIA* 15.7.41, postmarked POSTA MILITARE N.121 - 2.7.41 (area Aitoliko), sent to Piano Dafi Catania Italy. Sender from unit of Posta Militare 82P. Arrival postmarked (cover back-side) ACIREALE*CATANIA*-15.7.41.

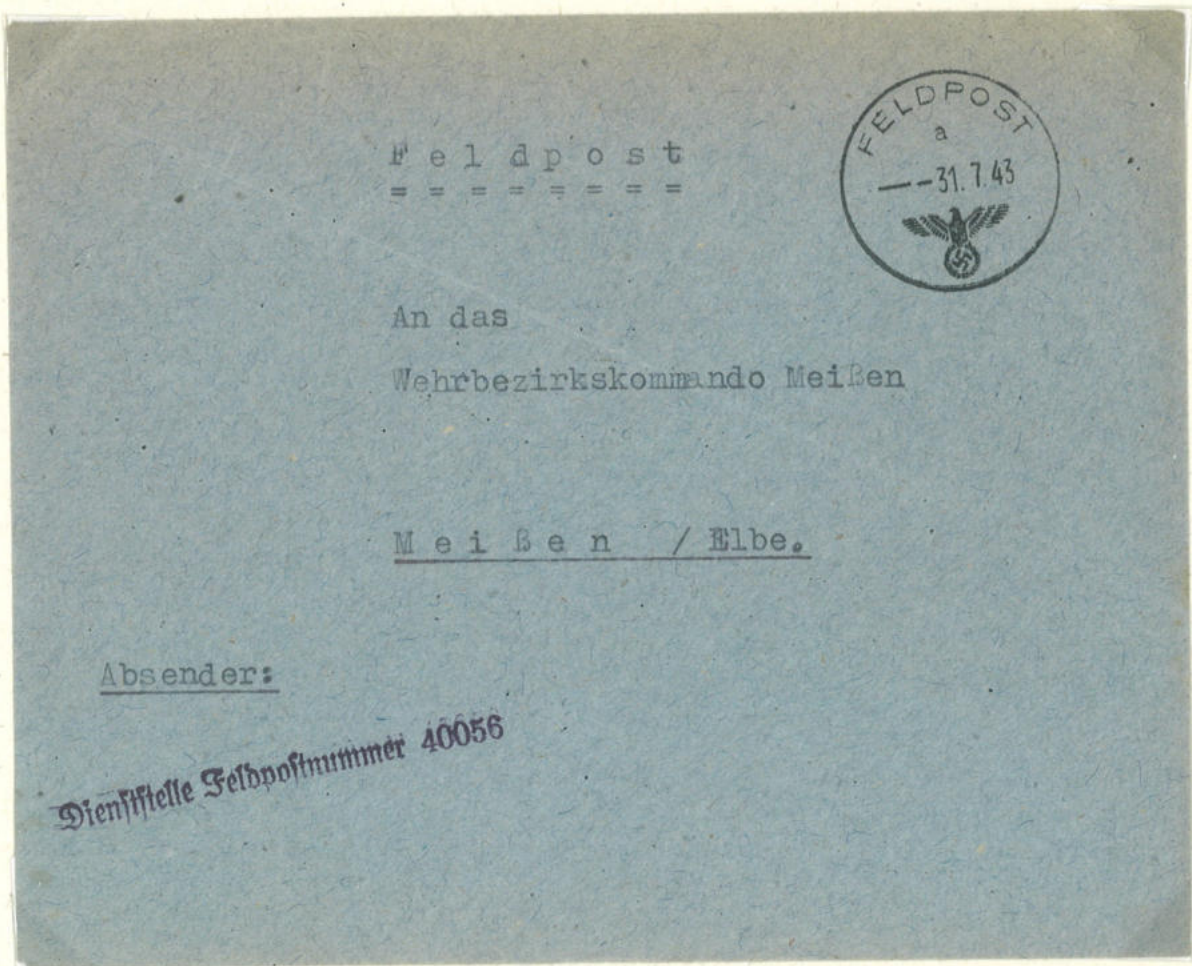


Military postcard, postmarked POSTA MILITARE N.121 - 3.7.41, sent to Palermo Italy. Sender from unit of Posta Militare 82P. Sealed with circular (92). Arrival postmarked PALERMO*CENTRO*13-7-41.

GERMAN MILITARY MAIL 1943 - 1944

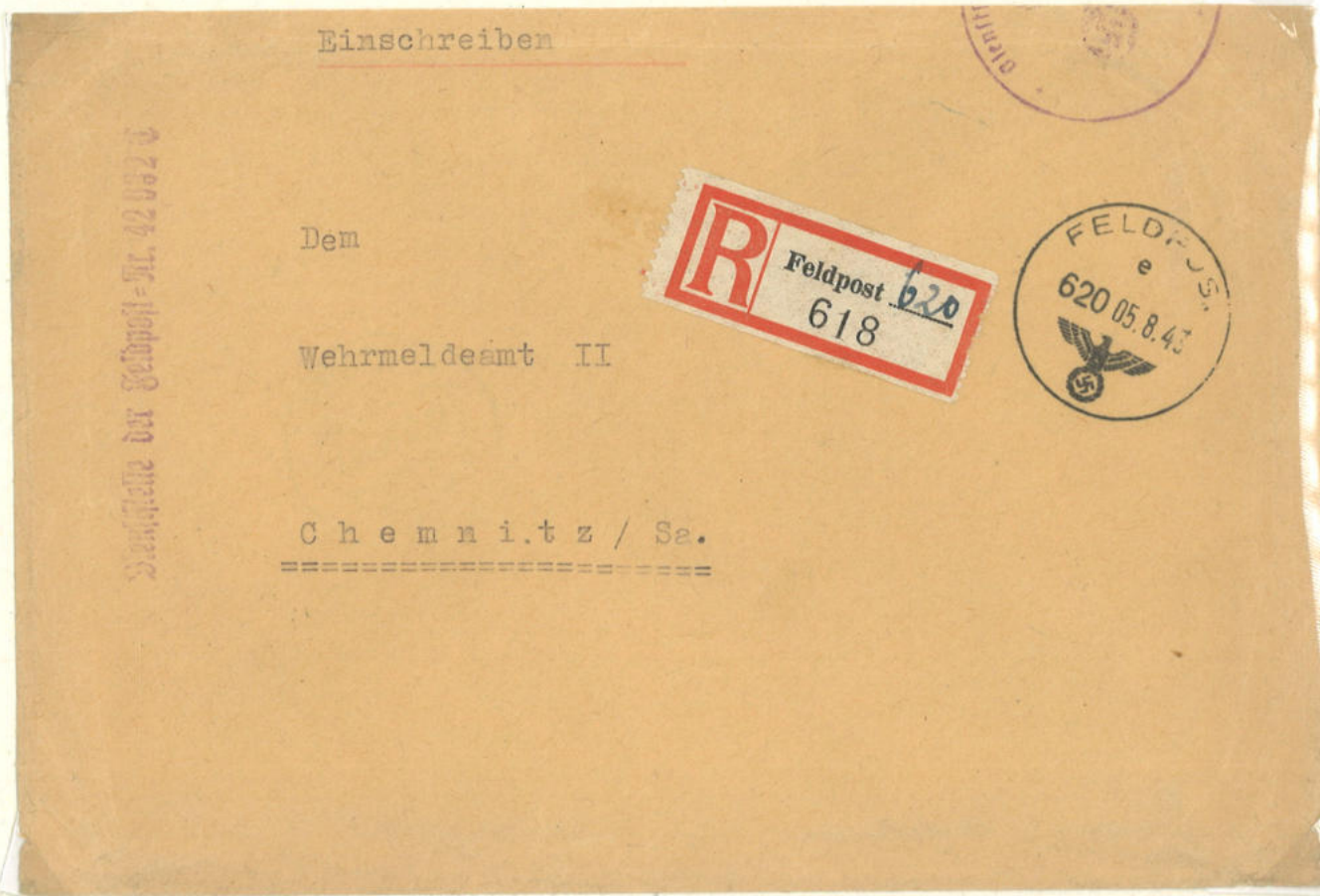
German military forces took over officially the command of **Aitoloakarnania** from 9/9/1943, after Italy's capitulation to 10/9/1944, when they began to retreat. The units of **104 Jäger (Hunter) Division**, with about **10.000** soldiers started coming to **Aitoloakarnania** from the middle of **July 1943**. At first they camped in the area of **Machala** (about **15km** north of **Agrinio** and engaged in the pursuit of the guerrillas. The **104 Hunter Division** included **Regiments 654, 724, 734** and the **104 Military Command** unit. The **104 Hunter Division** was under **Dresden's Germany** Military Command.

Feldpost (Field post) office based at **Agrinio** as **FELDPOST 620**. Only the official mails were sent registered. All other personal Military mails, even officers, were sent as regular.



Cover with linear postmark **Dienststelle Feldpostnummer 40056** (Department Fieldpostnumber, unit command **104 / 104 Hunter Division**). Sent **31.7.43** to military command office of **Meiben Germany**.

Registered
(Einschreiben)
letter
FELDPOST
ST 620 –
05.8.43
from unit
fieldpost
number
42932 C (7
company,
Regiment
734, 104
Hunter
Division –
area
Machala),
to
Chemnitz
Germany
(arrival pos
tmark
CHEMNITZ
18.8.43).



Registered
(Einschreiben)
letter
FELDPOST
620 – 15.9.43
from unit
fieldpost
number
41478 F (10
company,
Regiment
724, 104
Hunter
Division –
area
Machala), to
Dresden
Germany.
(arrival
postmark
DRESDEN
N 15
27.9.43).



Franchise cover with contents from the **German Captain and District Commander at Messolonghi, Hauptmann Dr. A. Ritter**, F.P.N (Field post number) **56278**, assigned to **1028 Feld-Kdtr (Field Command 1028)** located at **Messolonghi**, postmarked **FELDPOST d 29.4.44** to **Nurnberg Germany**.



The enclosed **6-page** letter, dated "**Mes..., am 29 April 1944 Samstag**", gives also interesting information: The writer sends laurel leaves to his wife with instructions how to dry them up./ He cannot rest even for an afternoon. People come by ferry from **Patras** and the **Germans at Messolonghi** take care of them as they have no place to stay./ He cannot make parcels as no cardboard and string exist. His men were using the gunpowder boxes left by the **Italians**.



Short letter Field post number **56278**, **31.7.44**, from the same writer as uper to his wife at **Nurnberg**. Because it's an open type letter the **German Commander** did not write anything about war's problems. He just describes the town of **Messolonghi** and the **Greeks** as orrientalis.

259 Feldpost

Aufgabestempel: **FELDPOST d 620 - 23.11.43**

Zum Aufkleben der Postmarken durch den Absender: **FELDPOST d 620 - 23.11.43**

Absender: **Dienststelle Feldpostnummer - 56115B -**

Besondere Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite):
Verwundeten-Nachricht
Wert: 500 Reichsmark

An **Gefreiten**
Oberleutnant v. Batterlecher

Freigebühr (Rpf) **Richard Pröstler**

Postgewicht (kg) **Res.-Laz. II a**

Anbei Paket **in Graz / Steiermark.**

Bitte in jedes Paket obenauf ein Doppel der Aufschrift zu legen!
Erdgeschoss - Zimmer 102
 (Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk)

63 (6. 35) C 20 Din A 6

Parcel post for the belongings of injured **German** soldier sent to the hospital of **Graz/Austria** where he was hospitalized. **Insured value 500 Reichsmark**. It was sent from his unit, **1 Company, assault tank Battalion 201**, Fieldpost number **56115B**, postmarked **FELDPOST d 620 - 23.11.43**. This unit acted against **Greek guerrillas** at the area of **Astakos**.

Einschreiben !

R Feldpost **IK 480**
942

An das **Wehrbezirkskommando**
Bad - Kissingen

FELDPOST 480/19.3.44

Wehrdienststelle - 33092 Luftwaffenamt Agrinio

Registered (Einschreiben) letter Fieldpost number **L33092 - Agrinio Military Airport Unit**. It was sent by **FELDPOST 480/19.3.44** (480 located at Athens) to **Bad-Kissingen Germany**. Postmarked at arrival **BAD KISSINGEN 22.3.44**.

Einschreiben.

FELDPOST



Wehrbezirks-Kommando
Hildesheim
Eing.: 28. Dez. 1943
Br.-B. *M. S.*

An das

Wehrbezirks-Kommando

R Feldpost 620
476 b



H i l d e s h e i m

(b. Hannover)

Registered letter postmarked **FELDPPOST d 620 – 09.12.43** from unit fieldpost number **57495** (**Turkestan's** transport platoon, Regiment **734/104** Hunter Division), sent to Wehrbezirks-Kommando (Recruiting Command Authority) at **Hildesheim (b. Hannover) Germany**. Arrival postmark **HILDESHEIM 1/ 25.12.43**. Boxed postmark Wehrbezirks - Kommando Hildesheim **28.Dez.1943**. **Turkestan's** transport platoon consisted by **Turkestan's** captives from **Russia** war, who confessed to **German** army.



Turkestanische Tragtierkolonne 104 der Jäg.Div.Nachsch.Tr. 104

Einschreiben.

FELDPOST



Wehrbezirks-Kommando
Hildesheim
Eing.: 28. Dez. 1943
Br.-B. *M. S.*

An das

Wehrbezirks-Kommando



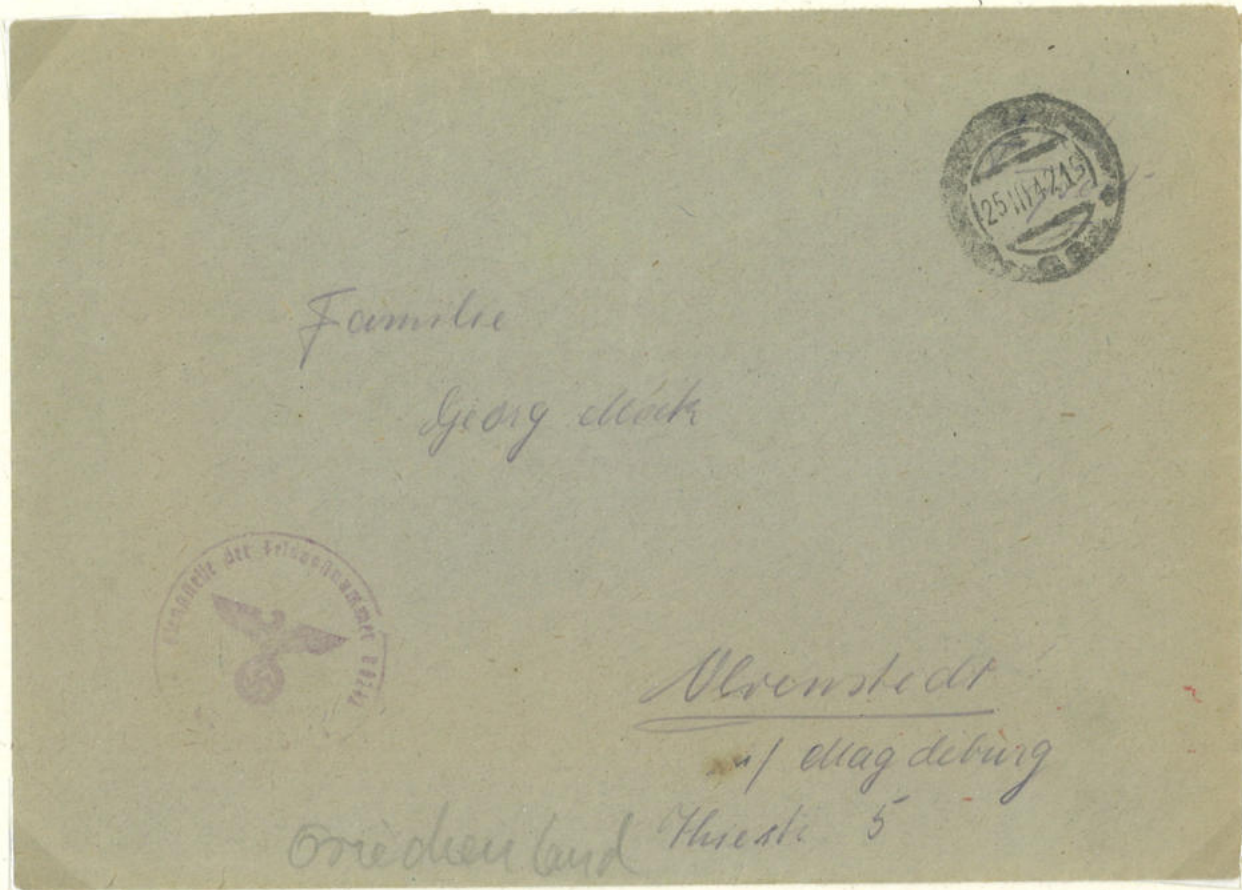
H i l d e s h e i m

(b. Hannover)

Registered letter postmarked **FELDPPOST d 620 – 09.12.43** from unit fieldpost number **57495** (**Turkestan's** transport platoon, Regiment **734/104** Hunter Division), sent to Wehrbezirks-Kommando (Recruiting Command Authority) at **Hildesheim (b. Hannover) Germany**. Arrival postmark **HILDESHEIM 1/ 25.12.43**. Boxed postmark Wehrbezirks - Kommando Hildesheim **28.Dez.1943**. **Turkestan's** transport platoon consisted by **Turkestan's** captives from **Russia** war, who confessed to **German** army.



Turkestanische Tragtierkolonne 104 der Jäg.Div.Nachschr. 104



Although **Aitoloakarnania** was till **8/September/1943** under **Italian** military command, there were also **German** forces acted against the **Greek** guerrillas. Letter **Fieldpost Number 08292/2** Company assault tank Battalion **201**, sent **25. III.42** to **Germany**. That period this unit acted against **Greek** guerrillas at the area of **Nafpaktos**.



Cover (with 8 pages enclosed letter) postmarked **FELDPOST 05.7.44** to **Germany**. Written by soldier, fieldpost number **41893i** (Regiment **724 / 104** Hunter Division), postmarked **F.P.Nr 44576 D** (Regiment **654 / 104** Hunter Division). It was unusual letter sent by units of different Regiments. Probably that period they were acted together.

MAIL OF ITALIANS UNDER THE GERMAN ARMY 1943 - 1944

After Italy's capitulation, Germans took officially the command of Aitolokarnania. Italian soldiers surrendered to the Germans. Some of them tried to escape to Italy, a few joined with Greek guerrillas and the most of them captured or joined to the German army (almost 2000 Italians fight by German's command).

Cover FELD
POST
07.11.43, from
unit Fieldpost
number 29551
(17 Company,
Regiment 724 /
104 Hunter
Division), with
censorship
strip, boxed
postmarks
4108 - 5767 -
35 and circular
postmark 32,
sent to Milano
by Italian
soldier.



Cover FELD
POST
17.12.43, from
unit Fieldpost
number
44042A (Pi.Btl.104,
Stab / 104
Hunter
Division),
postmarked
with red
circular censo
rship Ad, sent
to Trento Italy
by Italian
soldier, (6
enclosed
pages) arrival
postmark
TRENTO -
2.1.44.

Italian soldiers who denied, after **Italy's** capulation at **8.8.1943**, to fight under **German's** command, were captured and kept to **prison camps**. Such a prison camp operated at **Messolonghi** from **February to July 1944**. At this prison camp transported **Italian** soldiers from **Aitoloakarnania, Lefkada** and south **Eipiros**.

Military **Italian** postal card **FELDPOST 16.6.44**, field-post number **13347** (**prison camp** at **Messolonghi** postmarked with red circular **Ad** censorship written **13.6.44** by **Italian capture**, who was transported to **prison camp** from **Prevesa** (port of south **Eiriros**). Sent to **Trento Italy**.



Cover **FELDPOST 11.12.43**, from unit Field-post number **45562** (**16** assault tank Company, Regiment **734**/ **104** Hunter Division), postmarked with red circular censorship **Ad**, sent to **Mantova Italy**, written "**Grecia 10.12.43**", (**4** enclosed pages) arrival postmark **MANTOVA - 5.1.44**.