



GREEK POST OFFICE
PHILATELIC SERVICE
100, AILOU STREET
ATHENS - 131



SET OF COMMON STAMPS
«POPULAR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS»



VALUE - QUANTITY - DESIGN

1. 0.10 drachmae — 15,000,000 pieces. Pontos lyre
2. 0.20 drachmae — 3,000,000 pieces. Musicians (Byzantine mural)
3. 1 drachmae — 16,000,000 pieces. Cretan lyre
4. 1.50 drachmae — 22,000,000 pieces. Tambourine
5. 4 drachmae — 40,000,000 pieces. Guitarist (from an amphore)
6. 6 drachmae — 10,000,000 pieces. Bagpipes
7. 7 drachmae — 14,000,000 pieces. Lute
8. 10 drachmae — 6,000,000 pieces. Barrel-organ
9. 11 drachmae — 13,000,000 pieces. Pipes and zournades
10. 20 drachmae — 3,000,000 pieces. Praise God (Byzantine mural)
11. 25 drachmae — 4,000,000 pieces. Drums
12. 30 drachmae — 1,000,000 pieces. Kanonaki

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

DESIGN AND ADAPTATION: By artists Panayotis Gravalos and Vassiliki Constantinea.

SIZE: 26 × 36.5 mm in 50-piece sheets.

PRINTING METHOD: Multi-coloured Offset.

PRINTED by «Aspioti-Elka» Graphic Arts Ltd, Athens.

DATE OF CIRCULATION

The above stamps will be released on 15 December 1975 and will be on sale until fully sold out.

FIRST DAY COVERS

Illustrated FDCs will be available. The stamps of the present series will be affixed on three envelopes which will be sold at the price of 121.80 drachmae, i.e. two drachmae above the total value of the stamps affixed on each envelope. Residents of Greece wishing to acquire these FDCs may apply to their local post office from 25 November to 5 December 1975 inclusive.

A special service for permanent subscribers to standing orders of stamp issues and FDCs has been created in order to serve the requirements of philatelists.

Enquiries regarding subscriptions and other relative information should be made at the Sub-directorate for stamps for philatelists, 100, Aioulou street, Athens.

Residents of Greece may also address themselves to any Post Office in the country.

POPULAR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

The origin of musical instruments is lost in the mists of time and is closely associated with primitive magic and religious rituals. Whistles, sistra, bullroarers, were all-powerful weapons in the hands of the sorcerers and for this reason they were considered to be sacred objects. And there were

even some instruments, exclusively used by the tribe's sorcerer, which women were not even allowed to see, on pain of death.

With the passage of time however, when man gradually freed himself from the bonds of sorcery and received the influence of religion at first and then, in more recent times, of education, music and musical instruments began to satisfy his emotional and intellectual needs.

Today, musical instruments have become the bearers of folk songs. And the Greek people, at feasts, marriages and all kinds of celebrations, dance their dances to the accompaniment of songs and musical instruments — to which should be added, hand-clapping, finger-snapping, the stamping of feet on the ground, etc.

Apart from various random combinations of musical instruments, usually dictated by the whim of the revellers and available instruments, there are some combinations which have become established, with time, as instrumental groups. Of these the most known, throughout Greece, are the «zyghia» of the islands, violin and lute, the «zyghia» of continental Greece, zurnas (a kind of oboe) and drum (daouli) and the «compania», consisting of a clarinet, a violin, a lute and the «dulcimer» (a kind of zither).

The Greeks living in the rural areas owe their knowledge and appreciation of music to the popular players, especially those who play instruments which are appropriate for open air celebrations, such as the zurnas and the daouli. These self-taught players have carried down to us — and still do, those who remain — the tradition of Greek music. The tradition of the player and the maker of our popular instruments, because the players, in most cases, are also the makers of the instruments they play, thus combining, in one single person, the experience of the performer to that of the manufacturer.

The following instruments have been used, since old times, by the Greek people:

Idiophones: Zilia (cymbals), triangle, tongs, spoons, small wine glasses, bells, hand-clapping and crackers, etc. Membranophones: daouli (large drum) toubi (small drum), small and large tambourines, toumbeleki (a kind of drum), etc. Aerophones: floghera, souravli, madoura, zurnas (kind of oboe), bagpipes and in recent years the clarinet.

Chordophones: tambouras (of lute family), lute, pearshaped lyre (which we now find on the islands and in Northern Greece), bottle-shaped lyre (the kementzes of the Greeks of the Pontus), kanonaki, dulcimer and violi.

FIVOS ANOYANAKIS