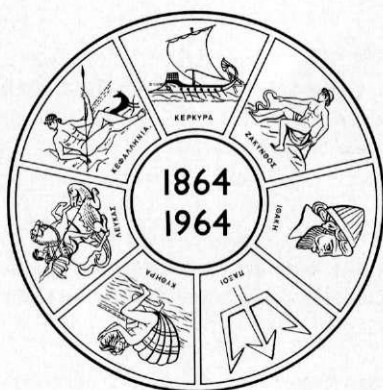




G R E E K P O S T O F F I C E



SET OF STAMPS COMMEMORATING THE 100th  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNION OF THE IONIAN  
ISLES WITH GREECE

## DESIGNS

The designs of the stamps show the emblem used by each Island during the period of the Ionian State.

1) LEPTA 20

The emblem of island Paxi: a trident.

2) LEPTA 30

Goddess Venus. The emblem of island Cythera, where according to mythology the worship of that goddess was introduced very early.

3) DRACHMAE 1

Ulysses. The emblem of island Ithaca, where according to mythology this homeric hero was born.

4) DRACHMAE 2

The emblem of island Lefkas: St. George.

5) DRACHMAE 2,50

The emblem of island Zante (Zakynthos): Zakynthos, a mythological hero, the son of the King of Troy Dardanus. Zakynthos landed on the island and built a city to which he gave his name.

6) DRACHMAE 4,50

The emblem of island Cephallonia: Cephalus. According to mythology he drove the "Teleboas" out of the island, which was named after him. Cephalus was a very active hunter with a hunting dog and lance.

7) DRACHMAE 6

A trireme: the emblem of Corfu. This island is referred to as the island of the seafaring Phaecians in Homer's epics.



THE ABOVE STAMPS WILL BE RELEASED ON JULY 20, 1964

### FIRST DAY COVERS

The Post Office will service First Day Covers with the special design illustrated herein.

The stamps on these covers will be cancelled with the special commemorative cancellation also pictured above.

There will be no application of this seal on privately prepared covers.

Each cover will bear the 7 stamps of the set and will be sold at the face value of the set, 16,50 drachmae.

The islands of the Ionian sea, Corfu, Paxi, Lefkas, Cephalonia, Zante and Ithaca are the westernmost sentinels of the Greek mainland as well as the link with the Western world. When Great Greece thrived and the colonies of Byzantium flourished in Italy the seven Islands were an outpost of Hellenism in the Adriatic lower basin. Nature has impressed its seal on the civilization of these islands, on their prehistoric, ancient, medieval and modern civilizations.

Some of the Islands detached from Byzantium a little before the Fourth Crusade, the others after the conquest of Constantinople by the Franks (1204). Ever since they have all existed under foreign sovereignty for centuries, during which time there have been very short intervals of freedom.

Each Island had its own fate. Shortly before the Fourth Crusade Corfu fell to the Genoese pirate Vetrano and was seized by the Venetians in 1206.

Cephalonia and Zante were seized by the Norman Admiral Margaritoni of Brindisi in 1185 to be delivered to the Orsini. Then the sovereignty of the Anjous and the rule of the Toccoes followed. The expansion of the Venetians and the incorporation of the Islands under one sovereign State took place later when the Venetians drove away the individual conquerors and attached the islands to their Colonial Empire. Corfu was attached in 1386, Zante in 1482, Cephalonia in 1500, Cythera in 1383. Only Lefkas remained under the Turks for a long period of time (1479-1684).

When the Venetian Democracy was demolished by Buonaparte (treaty of Campo-Formio, 1797) the seven islands came under French rule, to be conquered later on by the allied navies of Russia and Turkey. By force of the treaty of Constantinople (21st March 1800) the islands became "The Ionian State" under the Sultan. After the second French occupation they went under English rule (treaty of Paris, 5th November 1815) and proclaimed "a united, free and independent State" called "The United States of the Ionian Islands". They were under the direct and exclusive protection, of Great Britain. On December 29th 1817 the new State acquired its first constitution.

Under Venetian sovereignty the inhabitants of the Ionian isles, while clinging to national tradition, thrived in culture and fine arts and developed the spirit of reformation that flourished in the West. Under English protection they had an autonomous life and participated actively in the struggle for National Independence offering the Greek mainland excellent men. They fought persistently for "enosis" with mother Greece later on. Their struggles for "enosis" oftentimes resulted into violent risings and relentless clashes. Facing a constantly aggravating situation Great Britain decided to hand the Islands over to Greece on the occasion of the enthronement of King George I, the founder of the Greek Dynasty.

"Enosis" was declared by the Islands' House of representatives on September 23rd 1863 and was ratified and finalized by force of the treaties of November 14, 1863 and March 29th, 1864.

On May 21st 1864 Greece took official possession of the Islands and that was the first act of expansion since the Kingdom of Greece was founded.

This great anniversary of recent history is celebrated by the Greek people. The General Directorate of Greek Posts is issuing a special set of commemorative stamps to honour the event.

#### DIONYSIOS ZAKYNTHINOS

Professor, University of Athens. President of the Central Committee for the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Seven Islands with Greece.

## QUANTITY

	VALUES	PIECES
1)	Lepta 20 . . . . .	2.500.000
2)	» 30 . . . . .	2.500.000
3)	Drachma 1.— . . . . .	2.000.000
4)	» 2.— . . . . .	2.000.000
5)	» 2,50 . . . . .	4.000.000
6)	» 4,50 . . . . .	1.000.000
7)	» 6.— . . . . .	1.000.000

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

VALUE OF THE SET : Drachmae 16,50

SIZE : 26 X 36,50 mm.

METHOD OF PRINTING : Offset Litho, multi-coloured.

The set will be released on July 20, 1964 and will be on sale till July 19, 1965 unless sold out at a previous date.

The set will come out in sheets of 50 pieces.

DESIGNS : By the engraver Mr. A. Tassos.

PRINTED : By Aspioti-Elka, Athens.

RATE OF EXCHANGE : \$ 1.00 = 29,85 dr.