

DESIGNS - NUMBER OF STAMPS PRINTED

- 1) DRACHMAS 2.00 — 3,500,000 pieces.

The picture of the leader of the Revolt Hatzimichales Geannaris.

- 2) DRACHMAS 2.50 — 4,500,000 pieces.

The explosion of the monastery Arcadium on Crete.

- 3) DRACHMAS 4.50 — 1,000,000 pieces.

Crete.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

SIZE: 26 X 36.5 mm., in sheets of 50 pieces each.

METHOD OF PRINTING: Multi-coloured offset.

DESIGNS: By engraver A. Tassos.

PRINTED: By "Aspioti - Elka", Graphic Arts Co. Ltd., Athens.

DATE OF RELEASE: These stamps will be released on the 18th of April 1966 and will be on sale until April 18th, 1967, if the stocks are not depleted earlier.

RATE OF EXCHANGE: \$1.00 = 29.85 drachmas.

FIRST DAY COVERS

The Philatelic Service will dispose of First Day Covers, too, bearing the picture of a coin originating from Knossos on Crete. It dates from 116 - 117 B.C. and shows the head of goddess Demetra and the Labyrinth (a mythological cave of Cretan King Minus).

The stamps that are on the F.D.C.s will be cancelled with a commemorative postmark showing the picture of Kydon and being imprinted on the folders, too. According to mythology, he is the son of Hermes (or Apollo) and of the nymph Acacalis. The old town Kydonia, nowadays called Chania, was named after Kydon.

Private envelopes bearing stamps of the issue in question will not be cancelled with the commemorative postmark.

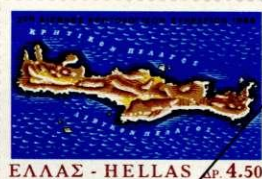
Price of each F.D.C. is the face value of a complete set of the issue, i.e. 9 drachmas.



G R E E K P O S T O F F I C E
P H I L A T E L I C S E R V I C E
A T H E N S



SET OF STAMPS COMMEMORATING
THE CRETAN REVOLT IN 1866
AGAINST THE TURKISH YOKE



The greatest and most important Revolt of the Cretan people against the Turkish tyranny broke out in May 1866. The purpose of the Revolt was the liberation of Crete from the Turkish yoke and the union of the Island with the mother country Greece. This Uprising of the Cretan people can be compared with their Revolts against the Venetians in 1361 and against the Turks in 1821-1830, the latter of which took place simultaneously with the general Greek Revolt against Turkey. The Cretan Revolt of 1866-1869 acquainted the people of the world with the Cretan Question and at the same time with the East Question (i.e. the matter of integrity and succession to Ottoman Empire). It was supported from the free part of Greece, from the Greeks spread all over the world and in general from the democratic circles of all countries. And what is more, it brought the strong Ottoman Empire of that time into such a difficult economical position, that the Turkish Government was forced finally to make concessions to the Cretan people, which in 1878 grew larger. Heavy taxes and educational questions were the main reason of the Revolt that broke out in Crete and is characterized by a strong resistance of the Cretan people against their cruel oppressors and by deeds of great valour, such as the sacrificial explosion of the monastery Arcadium. Repeated campaigns of the large Turkish army and raids of the Turkish mob on the Island devastated the country. But the fighting patriots used to take refuge in the inaccessible mountains of the Island, while the free part of Greece sheltered the numerous bare-foot, naked, hungry and homeless women and children of Crete. The Island was entirely destroyed, but it didn't surrender. Its destiny was determined unfortunately by the Great Powers of that time that deprived it of the ability to be supplied by the sea and forced the Greek Government, under a threat of war, into withdrawing the Greek volunteers from the Island. In that way Crete was obliged to surrender.

DESIGNS OF THE STAMPS

GEANNARES MICHAEL (HATZES), from Lakkoi, was the head chieftain of the Revolt in the Kydonia region (west part of the Island) in 1866-69, as well as in Revolts of later years, and a great patriot of an impressive stature and valour. After the failure of the Revolt, he went to Russia, and returned to Greece when the Island got its independence. He served as a member of the Cretan Parliament and

a Minister of the Government of the Island and wrote memoirs and the poem "the Cretecopoula" (= the Woman from Crete).

ARCADIUM. This is a big monastery in the Rethymno region, in which were enclosed in autumn 1866 women, children, a group of defenders and a great number of armed monks in order to resist the attack of the Turkish army, led by Mustafa Pasha. After a resistance of three days, abbot Gabriel (or C. Geaboudakes) blew up the gun-power magazine of the monastery and a lot of patriots were entombed under the fallen rubble of the monastery. In this way, the defenders avoided surrendering and lots of the attacking Turks were killed with them. The deed of Arcadium became legendary and served as a theme for literature and painting all over the world. The sacrifice of the defenders of this monastery can be compared with another heroic deed of the Greek Revolt entitled "Exodus from Messolongium" (the defence of the town Messolongium for months by its inhabitants and the death of all of them, during their leaving the town, caused by the besieging Turkish army).

CRETE is the biggest island of Greece, which closes the Aegean Sea from the south. The Island is famous for its Minoan culture, for 100 old towns, its archers, products and great men (Radamanthys, Nearchus, Kyrillus Loucares, Theotokopoulus, El. Venizelus, N. Casantzaces). Crete is well known, too, because of its repeated Revolts from 1204, when the Island was conquered by the Franks, and from 1669, when the Turkish occupation was completed, until 1898, when Crete was finally liberated from the hard Turkish yoke. The union of Crete with the mother country Greece took place in 1913. The population of the Island is at present 500,000. Further 500,000 Cretans live outside the Island. It is divided into 4 prefectures (= counties) and has 8 dioceses. The main products of Crete are olive oil, cheese, grapes, raisins, oranges, almonds and wines.

The General Direction of Posts, partaking in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Cretan Revolt in 1866, issues the present set of commemorative stamps, honouring at the same time the 2nd International Congress on the history of the Island.

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English Translation: Post Office Department