

## POSTAL HISTORY OF PONTUS UNTIL 1923

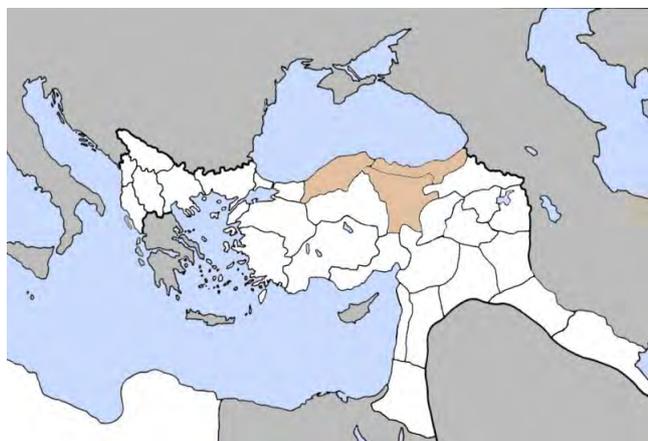
Pontus is the Greek name of the geographical area of the northeastern coast of Asia Minor which is the coastal region of Cappadocia that now belongs to Turkey. Pontus was from the ancient times field of intense Greek colonization and in the region coexisted for centuries Christian and Muslim populations, until 1923 and the compulsory population exchange that followed by order of the Treaty of Lausanne.

The Ottoman Empire was divided into vilayets (districts) and each vilayet into sancaks (counties). Pontus spread mainly in vilayets of Kastamonu, Trabzon, as well as in a part of the vilayet of Sivas.

Since 1840 alongside establishing Ottoman Post Offices in the major cities of the region, (while the opening of offices in smaller cities is carried out in the following years), because of empire's strategic importance and it's significant economic and commercial association with India and the Far East, the Great European powers settled postal services. Specifically, from mid-19th century, Austrian, French and Russian Post Offices were founded in major coastal cities of Pontus, where large steamboat companies on behalf of these countries took the carriage of mail. The Offices remained open until October 1, 1914, after the unilateral abolition of capitulations by the Ottoman government. Furthermore, the Ottoman postal services were in the first decades unreliable and therefore the Foreign Post Offices handled the majority of the mail sent abroad for most traders. During the 'Great War'(1914-1918) the Ottoman Post was the only postal service available. The Ottoman authorities applied censorship from the beginning. For a short period (1916-1917) the region of Trabzon was occupied by the Russians.

After the war and the capitulation of Turkey (armistice of Mudros) the foreign correspondence was disrupted. Between 1919-20, because of the troubles between the Kemalists and the Ottoman administration, the operation of the Ottoman Post was problematic. Thus, traders organized a postal network in cooperation with the Consulates, delivering mail to the Military Offices settled in Constantinople. With the prevalence of the Kemalists, Turkish Post Offices operate using the first period the so called postage stamps of 'Anatolia' along with censorship that was applied in the large settlements and towns of Pontus.

In more detail the following table contents demonstrate the structure of the exhibit:



The Ottoman empire late 19th and early 20th century. Pontus shared the vilayets Trabzon, Kastamonu, Sivas.

### Bibliography

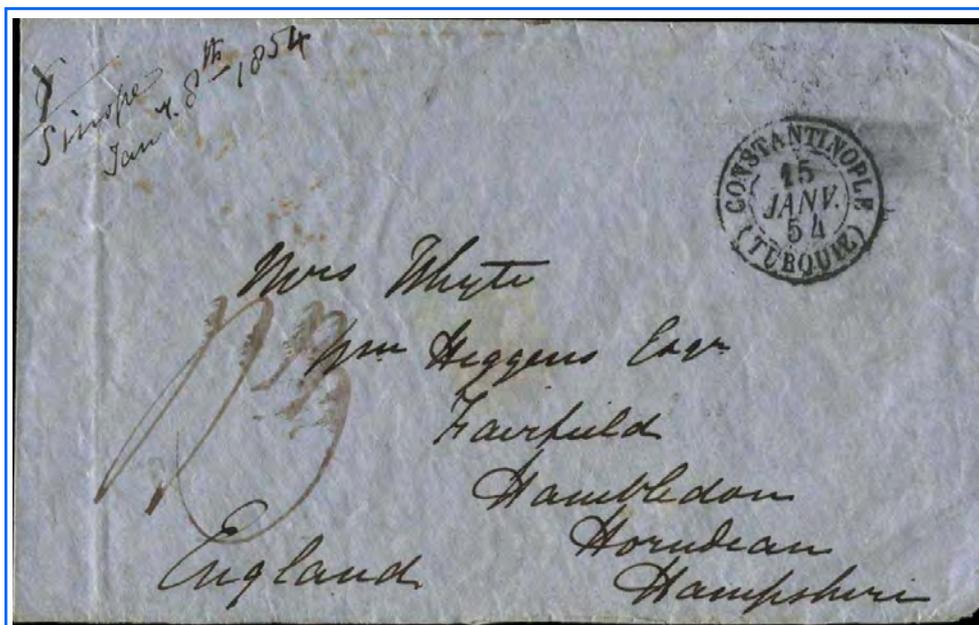
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## CRIMEAN WAR

The Crimean War (October 1853 – February 1856), was a conflict between Russia and the alliance of France, United Kingdom, the Ottoman Empire, and Sardinia which led the former to defeat. The immediate cause involved the rights of Christian minorities in the Holy Land, which was controlled by the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire declared war on Russia in October 1853 and suffered a major defeat that gave Russia control of the Black Sea. The Russians sent a fleet to Sinope and on the 30th of November 1853 they destroyed the Ottoman ships while they were anchored in port. Sinope provided the Allies with the casus belli. On 28 March 1854, after Russia ignored an Anglo-French ultimatum to withdraw from the Danubian Principalities, the Allies formally declared war. Finally, peace negotiations at the Congress of Paris resulted in the signing of the Treaty of Paris on the 30th of March 1856.

### SINOPE-NAVAL BLOCKADE



Cover sent from Sinope on 8 January 1854 (handwritten at top left) addressed to Horndean, England, transferred by a French warship via the French PO of Constantinople on 15 Jan '54, London on 29/1 & arrival mark 30/1 on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** Handwritten '13' i.e. 13 decimes (1.3 francs) foreign rate.

On 30 November 1853 in the port of Sinope the Russians destroyed the Ottoman Fleet.  
On 22 December, the Anglo-French squadron entered the Black Sea and forced Naval control.

**THE FRENCH POST OFFICES**

In November 1857 the French merchant Shipping Company Messageries Imperiales opened 5 Post Offices (Trebizonde, Samsun, Kerassunde, Sinope and Ineboli) followed by another at Ordou in 1869. In 1876 three of them were closed (Ordou, Ineboli, Sinope) due to their small traffic. The Offices used postage stamps of France, later in 1885 began to be surcharged in piasters, at a rate of 4 piasters to the franc. Beginning in 1902, the Blanc, Mouchon and Merson series were issued with the inscription "LEVANT". The Post Offices operated continuously till 1.10.1914 after the enforced closure of all Foreign Offices in the Ottoman Empire and the abolition of the Capitulations.

**Petits Chiffres 4016**  
 Seen 1857-1862  
**TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE**  
 Seen 1857- ca 1887



**TREBIZONDE**  
**PC 4016**  
 Seen 1857-1862



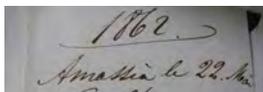
Folded letter with marking 'T.T.REBOUL, TREBISONDE', franked with 2×20c +10c 1853-60 imperforate Napoleon III Empire issue and tied by **PC 4016**, along with **TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE 8 AVRIL 60** & marking **PD** (payé à destination), addressed to Marseille, arrival 19/4 via Constantinople(11/4) on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 50c single foreign letter. The rate of 50c applied from Nov '57 to Jan '66.

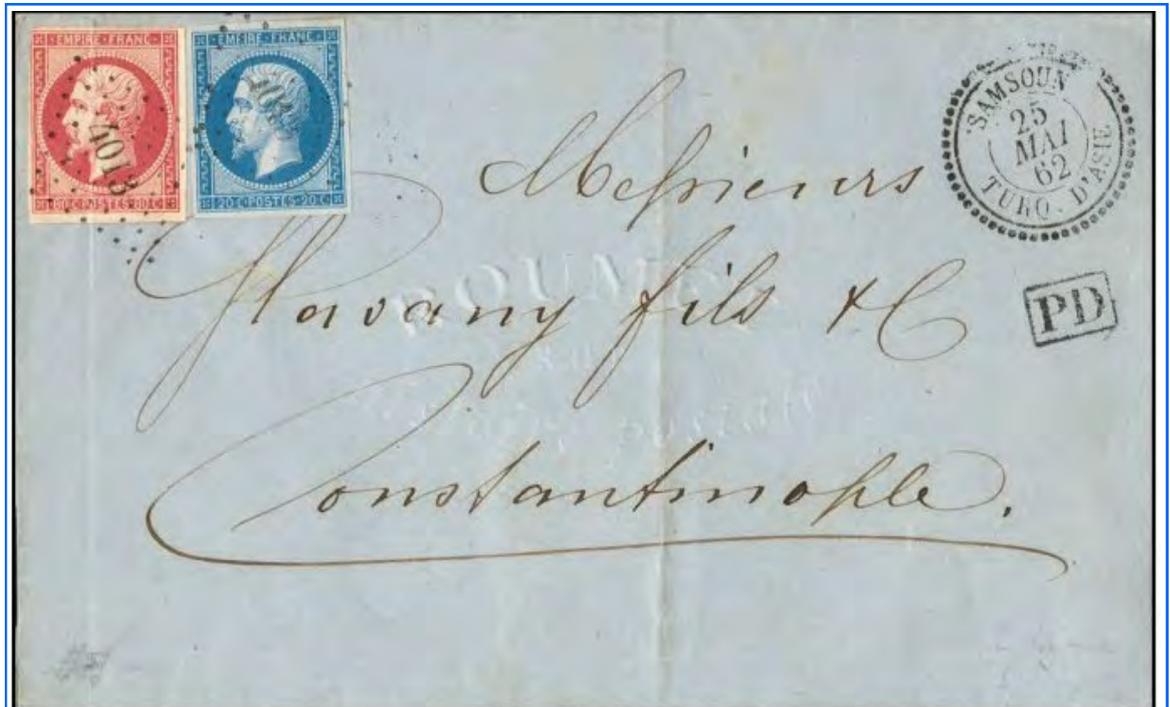
'PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERANEE' (Ships of the Mediterranean) marking on destination port Marseille.

Petits Chiffres 4013  
 Seen 1857-1862  
**SAMSOUN TURQ. D' ASIE**  
 Seen 1857- ca 1892

Folded letter dated 'Amassia 18 Août 1859', franked with 10+40c 1853 imperforate Napoleon III Empire issue and tied by **PC 4013**, along with **SAMSOUN TURQ. D' ASIE 22 AOUT 59** & marking **PD** (payé à destination), addressed to Le Pouzin, France, via Constantinople (24/8), Marseille (31/8) & wax seal on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 50c single foreign letter



Folded letter dated 'Amassia 22 Mai 1862', franked with 20+80c 1859-60 imperforate Napoleon III Empire issue and tied by **PC 4013**, along with **SAMSOUN TURQ. D' ASIE 25 MAI 62** & marking **PD** (payé à destination), addressed to Constantinople, arrival 28/5 & wax seal on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 50c +50c Double weight domestic letter between Levant Ports



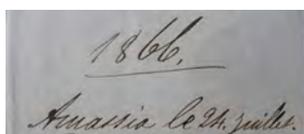
These letters were transferred from Amassia to Samsun by private means

Gros Chiffres 5100  
 Seen 1862-1876  
**TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE**  
 Seen 1857- ca 1887



Folded letter franked with 10+ 40c 1862 perforate Napoleon III Empire issue and tied by **GC 5100**, along with **TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE 30 MAI 63** & marking **PD** (payé à destination), addressed to Salonica, arrival mark on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 50c single domestic letter between Levant Ports

Gros Chiffres 5096  
 Seen 1862-1876  
**SAMSOUN TURQ. D' ASIE**  
 Seen 1857- ca 1892



Folded letter dated 'Amassia 24 Juillet 1866', franked with 40c 1862 perforate Napoleon III Empire issue and tied by **GC 5096**, along with **SAMSOUN TURQ. D' ASIE 30 JUL 66** & marking **PD** (payé à destination), addressed to Constantinople, arrival 1/8 on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 40c single domestic rate

New Postal Rates applied from 1.1.66

Down left 'Affranchie' for the Post Office in Samsun indicates that the letter is already prepaid from Amassia and no extra fees should be charged. (At top also 'aff C 40') The letter was transferred from Amassia to Samsun by private means



**KERASSUNDE**  
**GC 5090**  
 Seen 1862-1876



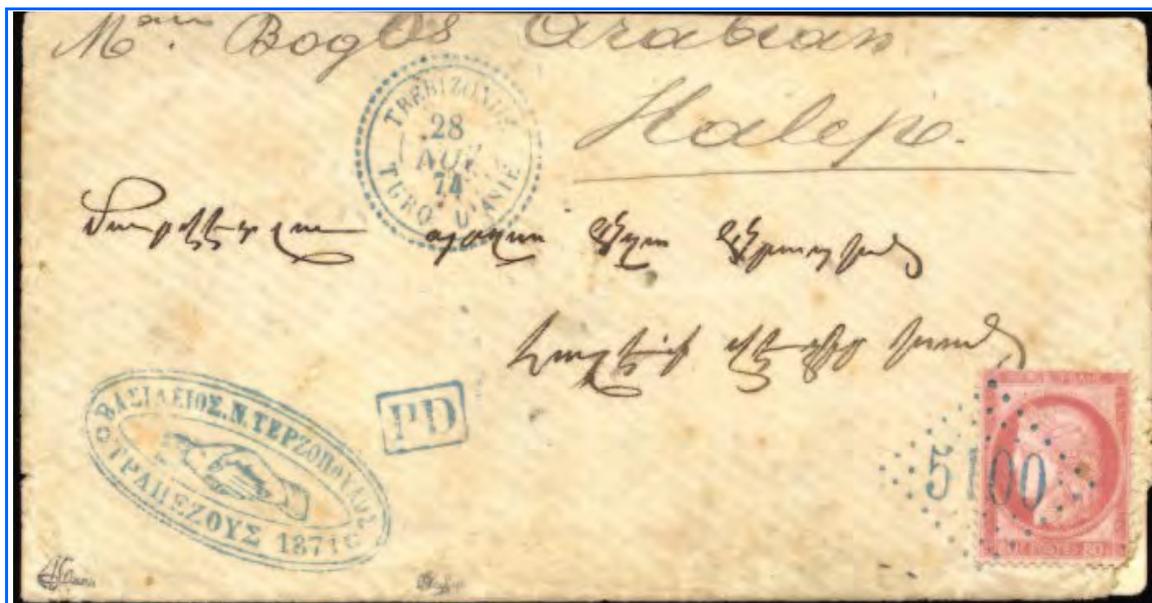
**INEBOLI**  
**GC 5088**  
 Seen 1862-1876

Gros Chiffres 5100  
 Seen 1862-1876  
**TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE**  
 Seen 1857– ca 1887



Folded letter franked with 40c 1862 perforate Napoleon III Empire issue and tied by **GC 5100**, along with **TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE 1 MARS 67** & marking **PD** (payé à destination), addressed to St Ambroix, Gard, France, arrival 20/3 via Constantinople (9/3) on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 40c single foreign rate

Gros Chiffres 5100  
 Seen 1862-1876  
**TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE**  
 Seen 1857– ca 1887



Cover bearing marking 'Βασίλειος Ν. Τραπεζούς 1871', franked with 80c 1872 Ceres IIIe Republique issue and tied by **GC 5100**, along with **TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE 28 NOV 74** & marking **PD** (payé à destination), addressed to Halep (Aleppo) via Constantinople with arrival mark on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 40c + 40c Double weight domestic letter

Gros Chiffres 5100  
 Seen 1862-1876  
**TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE**  
 Seen 1857– ca 1887



Cover franked with 2×40c 1868 Napoleon III Laure issue and tied by **GC 5100**, along with **TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE 23 JUL 70** & marking **PD** (payé à destination), addressed to Constantinople, arrival 27/7 on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 40c + 40c Double weight domestic letter between Levant Ports

In the address is instructed 'Poste Restante', a service which was free of charges during that period

Folded letter  
 franked with 80c  
 1867 Napoleon III  
 Laure issue and  
 tied by **GC 5100**,  
 along with  
**TREBIZONDE  
 TURQ. D' ASIE  
 8 JUIN 72**  
 & marking **PD**  
 (payé à  
 destination),  
 addressed to  
 Marseille,  
 arrival 19/6 via  
 Constantinople  
 (11/6) on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 40c +  
 40c Double weight  
 foreign letter to  
 Marseille



'PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERANEE' (Ships of the Mediterranean) marking on destination port Marseille.

## NON PREPAID CORRESPONDANCE

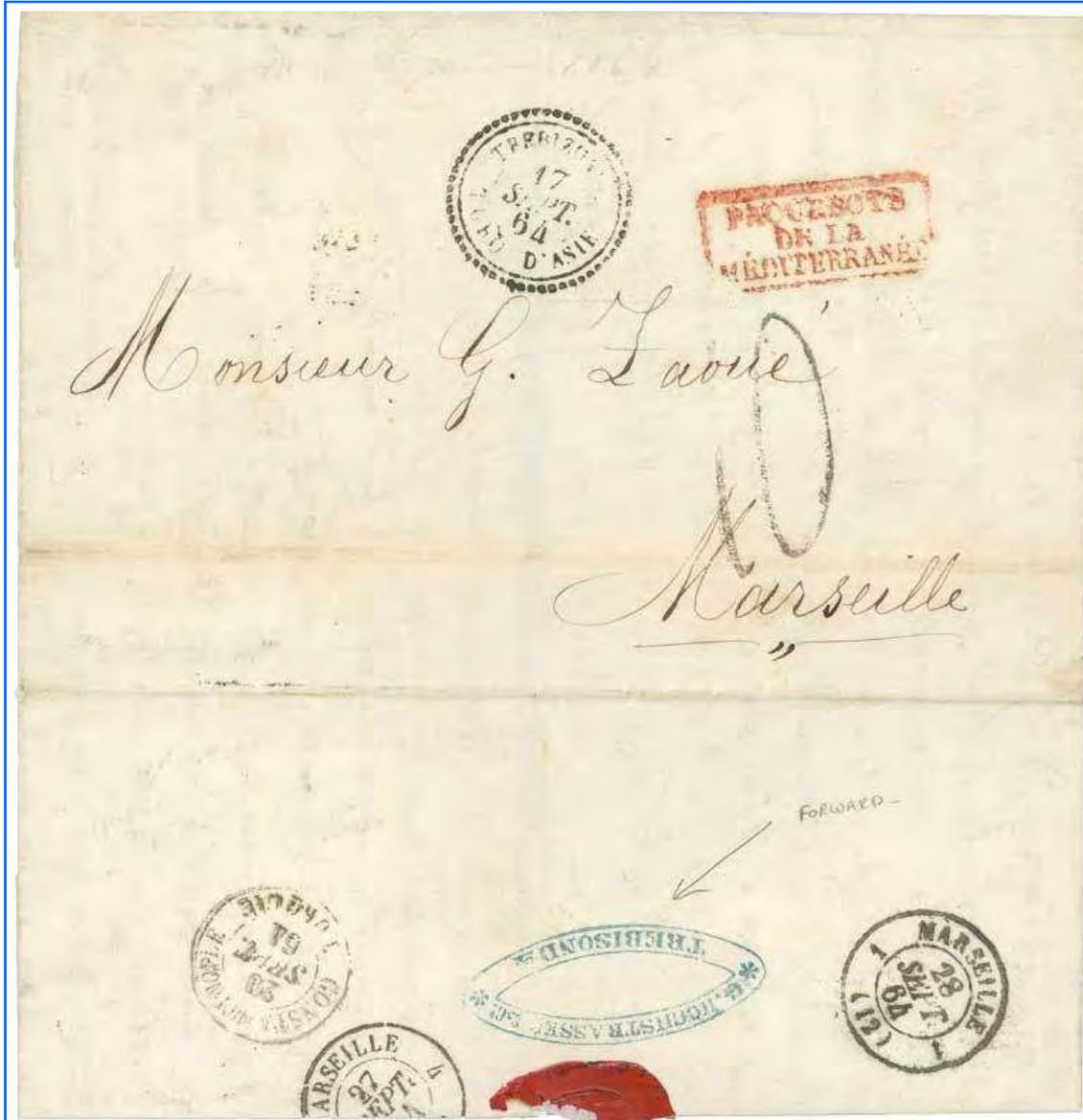
FORWARDING AGENT: G. HOCHSTRASSER &amp; CIE, TREBISONDA

## TREBIZONDE TURQ. D'ASIE

Seen 1857– ca 1887

'PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERANEE' (Ships of the Mediterranean) marking on destination port Marseille.

*Erzeroum, le 12 Septembre 1864.*



Entire dated 'Erzeroum 1.9.64' carried by the Forwarding Agent 'G. Hochstrasser & Cie, Trebisonda', with cachet on reverse, to Trebizonde, then tied by **TREBIZONDE TURQ. D'ASIE 17 SEPT. 64**, addressed to Marseille, arrival 27/9 & 28/9 via Constantinople (20/9).

**Postal Rate:** The letter bearing handwritten '10', i.e. taxed with 10 decimes (1 franc) on arrival, that is charge for single weight foreign letter paid in Double (2×50c)

## NON PREPAID CORRESPONDANCE

FORWARDING AGENT: G. HOCHSTRASSER &amp; CIE, TREBISONDA

## TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE

Seen 1857– ca 1887

'PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI' (French Postal Steamer) marking on destination port Genova.



Entire from Tauris, Persia, carried by the Forwarding Agent 'G. Hochstrasser & Cie, Trebisonda', cachet on reverse, to Trebizonde, then tied by **TREBIZONDE TURQ. D'ASIE 23 AOUT 62**, addressed to Ponte Valtellina, Lombardy, arrival 6/9 via Constantinople (27/8) & Genova (4/9) on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** The letter bearing handwritten '20' & '11gr' i.e. taxed with 20 decimes (2 francs) on arrival, that is charge for double weight foreign letter to Italy paid in Double (2×1f)

Up left 'via Genova' indicates the itinerary preference from Trebizonde.

## NON PREPAID CORRESPONDANCE

## TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE

Seen 1857– ca 1887

'PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERANEE' (Ships of the Mediterranean) marking on destination port Marseille.



Folded letter bearing Merchant cachet 'G. Hochstrasser & Cie, Trebisonda' and tied by **TREBIZONDE TURQ. D'ASIE 22 AOUT 68**, addressed to Marseille, arrival 2/9 via Constantinople (26/8) on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** The letter bearing handwritten '12', i.e. taxed with 12 decimes (1.2 francs) on arrival.

1875-FORMATION OF UPU  
French UPU Rates**KERASSUNDE TURQ. D'ASIE**

Seen 1857-ca 1892

'PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERANEE' (Ships of the Mediterranean) marking on destination port Marseille.



Folded letter (large part) franked with 6×5c (1 Pair, 1 Stripe of 3) 1872 Ceres IIIe Republique issue and tied by **KERASSUNDE TURQ. D'ASIE 14 OCT 76**, addressed to Marseille.

**Postal Rate:** 30c single foreign rate

1875-FORMATION OF UPU  
French UPU Rates

**SAMSOUN TURQ. D' ASIE**  
Seen 1857– ca 1892



Folded letter (large part) franked with 30c 1872 Ceres IIIe République issue and tied by **SAMSOUN TURQ. D' ASIE 13 AOUT 76**, addressed to Marseille, arrival 22/8, via Constantinople(21/8).

**Postal Rate:** 30c single foreign rate

**TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE**  
Seen 1857– ca 1887



Folded letter franked with 30c 1876 Sage type I and tied by **TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE 31 MARS 77**, addressed to Marseille, arrival 9/4 on reverse, via Constantinople (8/4).

**Postal Rate:** 30c single foreign rate

## TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE

Seen 1857– ca 1887



Folded letter from an Armenian merchant, franked with 30c 1876 Sage type I and tied by **TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE 27 JANV 78**, addressed to Alep (Aleppo, Syria), transit mark at Constantinople 31/1. Then another French steamer in Mediterranean Sea along the Asia Minor Coastline reached among several harbors Smyrna at 8/2 & finally Alexandrette at 13/2 by the French PO. At this port the jurisdiction of the French has ended (according to the Capitulations), so the Ottoman authorities carried the letter to Aleppo. The letter is at arrival franked with 1 Pia 1875 Duloz Type IV & 20 Pa 1877 Duloz Type VI and cancelled with the negative postmark of the Ottoman PO in Aleppo, i.e. 1.5 Pia to be paid by the receiver for the distance from Alexandretta to Aleppo.

**Postal Rate:** 30c single domestic rate that justifies the route Trebizonde-Alexandretta + 1.5 Pia for the distance Alexandretta-Aleppo.

A nice example of the itineraries in the Levant at 19th century. Covers with mixed franking in the Pontus area are considered to be rare!

## TREBIZONDE TURQ. D' ASIE

Seen 1857– ca 1887

Cover franked with  
15c + 10c 1877-78  
Sage Type II and  
tied by

**TREBIZONDE  
TURQ. D'ASIE  
7 MAI 83,**

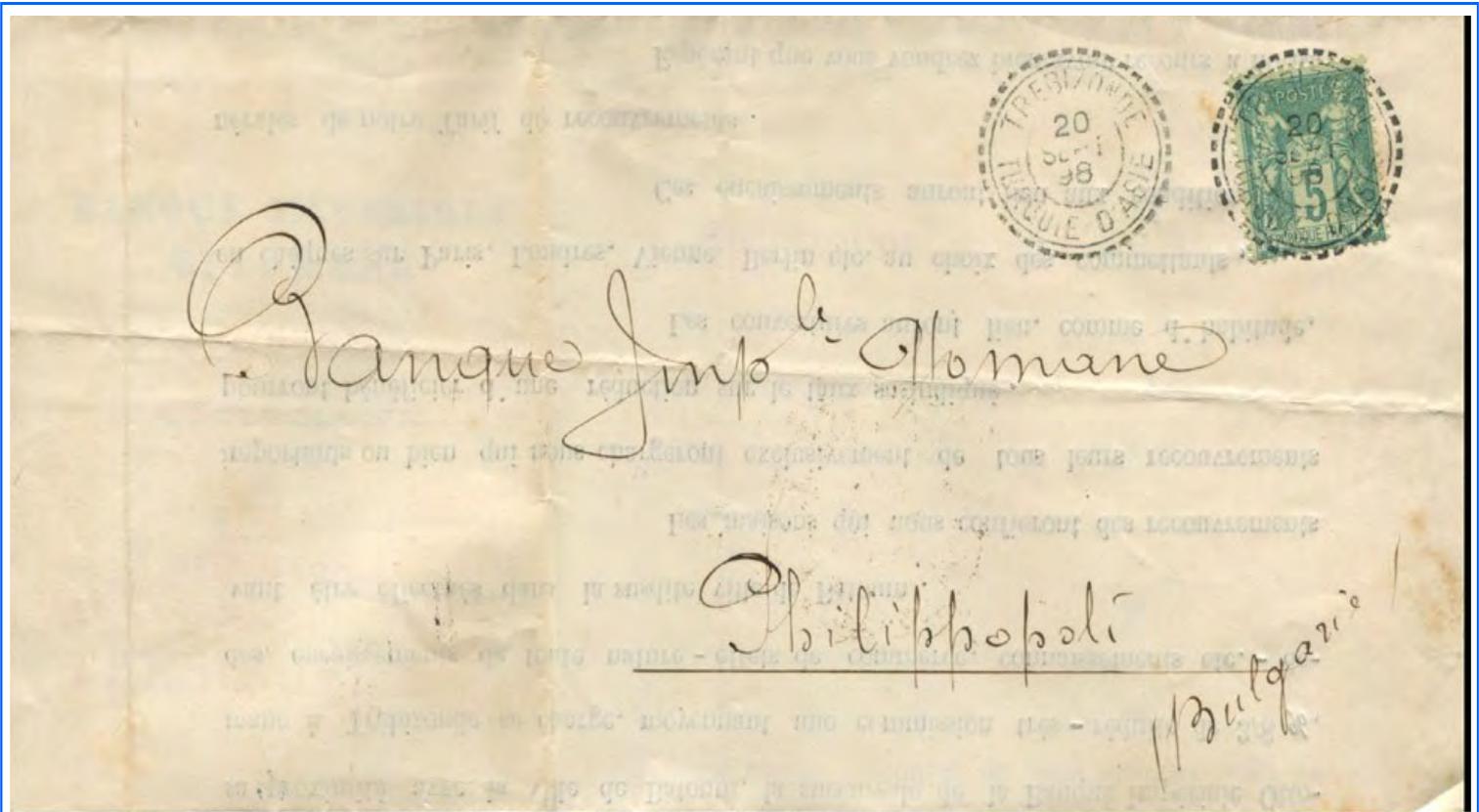
addressed to Zara,  
Dalmatia via  
Constantinople with  
the French PO  
(11/5), Brindisi  
(16/5) and arrival  
20/5 on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 25c  
single foreign rate  
**New Postal Rates**  
applied from  
mid 1878



## TREBIZONDE TURQUIE D'ASIE

Seen ca 1887-1914



Circulaire from 'Banque Imperiale Ottomane, Trebizonde' franked with 5c 1892 Sage Type II and tied by **TREBIZONDE  
TURQUIE D'ASIE 20 SEPT 98**, addressed to the Branch Office at  
Philippopoli (*Plovdiv*), Bulgaria, with arrival mark on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 5c Printed Matter foreign rate

**SAMSOUN TURQUIE**

Seen ca 1892– 1914



From mid 1880's the 25c & 50c Sage issues surcharged with 1 Piastre and 2 Piastres respectively while the rest smaller values remained without surcharge.

Registered Cover with Avis de Reception (Return Receipt) 'AR', franked with pair 1Pia/25c 1886 & 2x5c 1876 Sage Type II and tied by **SAMSOUN TURQUIE 2 NOV 93**, addressed to Constantinople, arrival 5/11 via the French PO on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single domestic rate + 1 Pia for Registration + 10c for Return Receipt

**KERASSUNDE TURQUIE-D'ASIE**

Seen ca 1892-1914

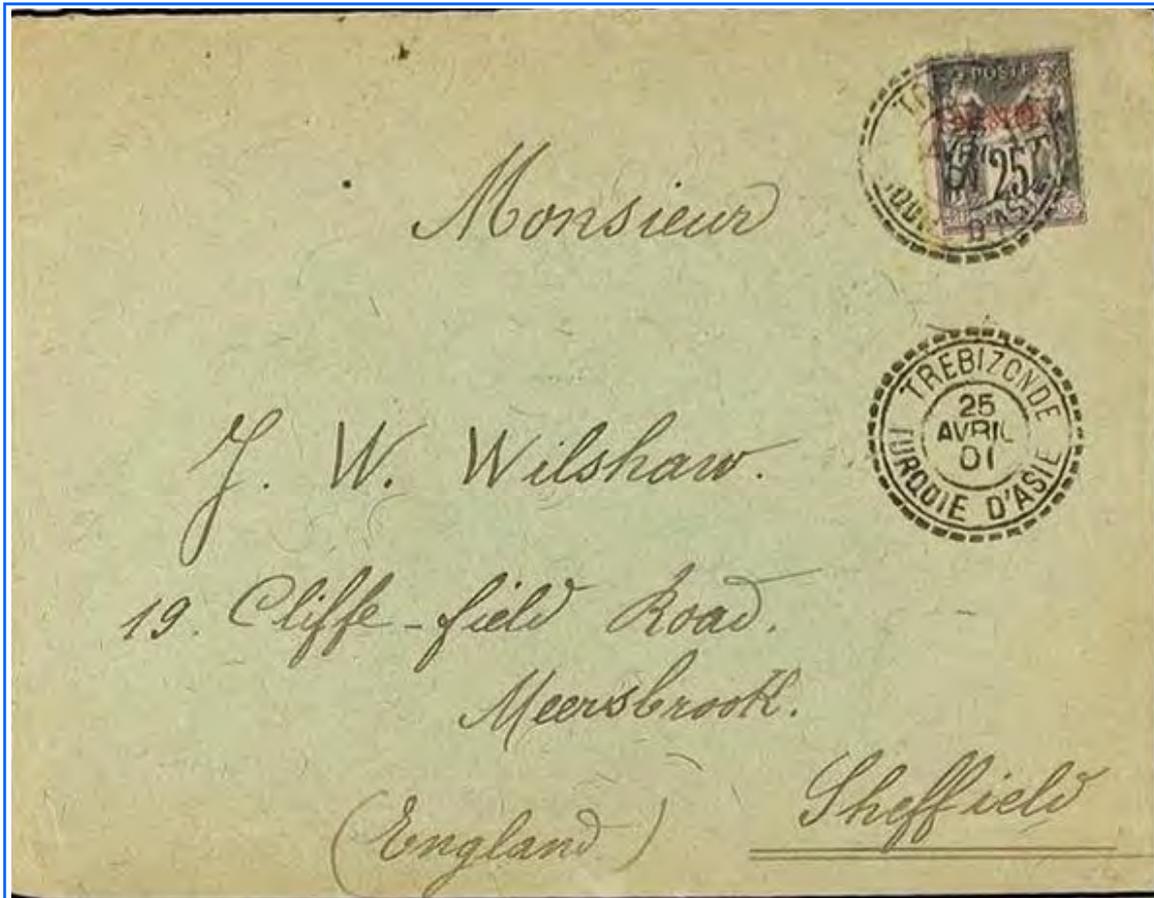


Cover franked with 1 Pia/25c 1886 Sage Type II and tied by **KERASSUNDE TURQUIE-D'ASIE 27 DEC 93**, addressed to Paris arrival 6/1/94, via the French PO of Constantinople (1/1/94) on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate

## TREBIZONDE TURQUIE D'ASIE

Seen ca 1887-1914



Cover franked with 1 Pia/25c 1886 Sage Type II and tied by **TREBIZONDE TURQUIE D'ASIE 25 AVRIL 01**, addressed to Sheffield, arrival 2/5 via the French PO of Constantinople (28/4) on reverse. **Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate

**SAMSOUN TURQUIE**  
Seen ca 1892-1914

Registered Cover 'Banque Imperiale Ottomane' franked with 3×1 Pia/25c 1886 Sage Type II and tied by **SAMSOUN TURQUIE 14 FEVR 02**, addressed to Jaffa, arrival 24/2 via the French PO of Constantinople(17/2), Smyrne (19/2) & Beyrouth(23/2) on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 2 Pia double weight foreign rate + 1 Pia for Registration



**SAMSOUN TURQUIE**

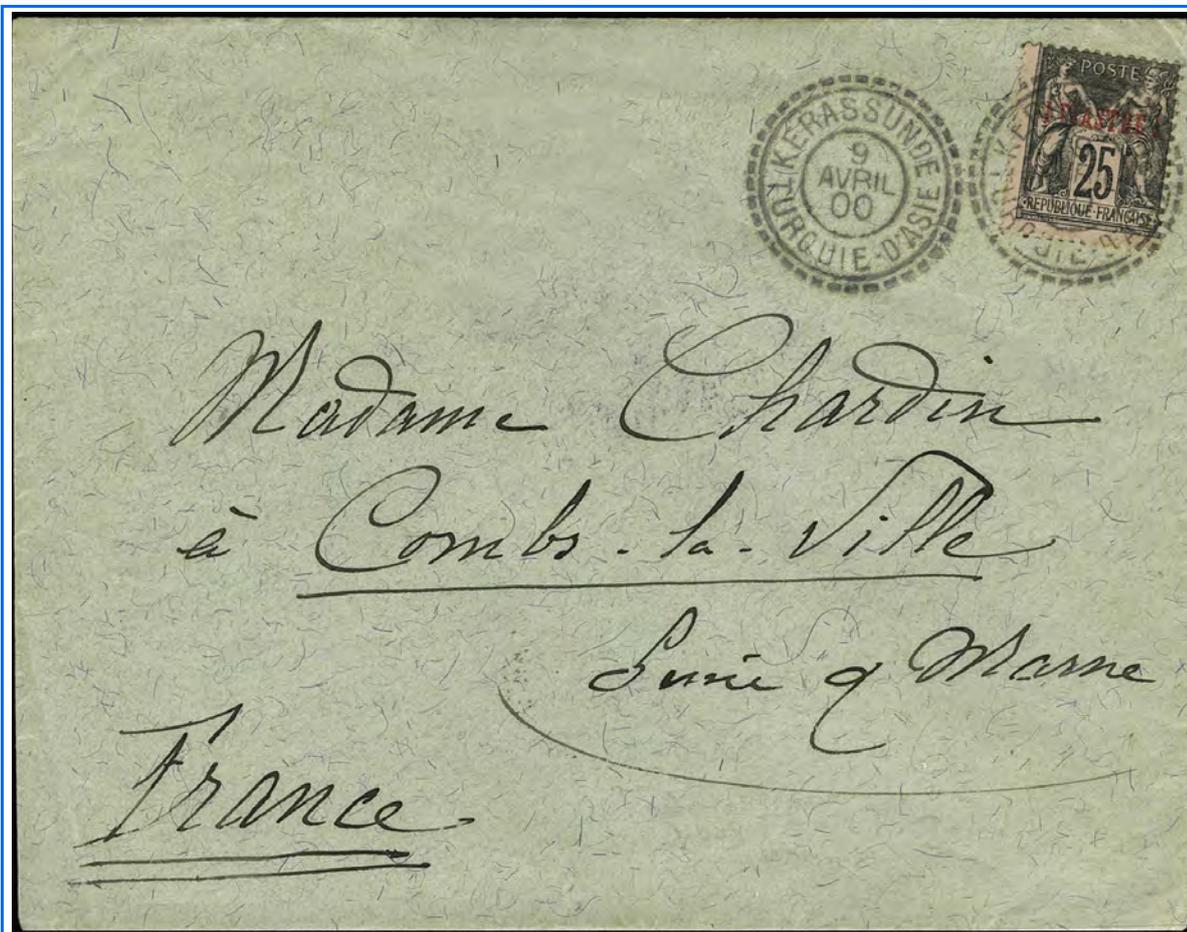
Seen ca 1892-1914



Picture Postcard 'Gruss aus Amassia' franked with  
2x 5c 1898 Sage Type II and tied by  
**SAMSOUN TURQUIE 12 MARS 00**,  
addressed to Constantinople.  
**Postal Rate:** 10c foreign rate for Postcards

**KERASSUNDE TURQUIE-D'ASIE**

Seen ca 1892-1914



Commercial  
Cover franked  
with  
1 Pia/25c 1886  
Sage Type II  
and tied by  
**KERASSUNDE  
TURQUIE-  
D'ASIE  
9 AVRIL 00**,  
addressed to  
Combs-la-Ville,  
France, arrival  
22/4 via the  
French PO of  
Constantinople  
(18/4) on  
reverse.  
**Postal Rate:**  
1 Pia  
single foreign  
rate

KERASSUNDE TURQUIE-D'ASIE

Seen ca 1892-1914

N° 514.  
 (Briser sans craquer)  
 (Mise à la poste)  
 sans enveloppe ordinaire  
 N° 819  
 et de 1220-1000

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE.

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

d'un Lettre valeur déclarée ..... enregistré au bureau **B**  
 recommandé.....

de 23 JANV 1906 sous le n° 38  
 et adressé à (subscription, compte) M. Malkhassian, Had. G. A.  
Veget en noix de  
Kerassunde  
 (nom et adresse) (Couronne d'Asie)

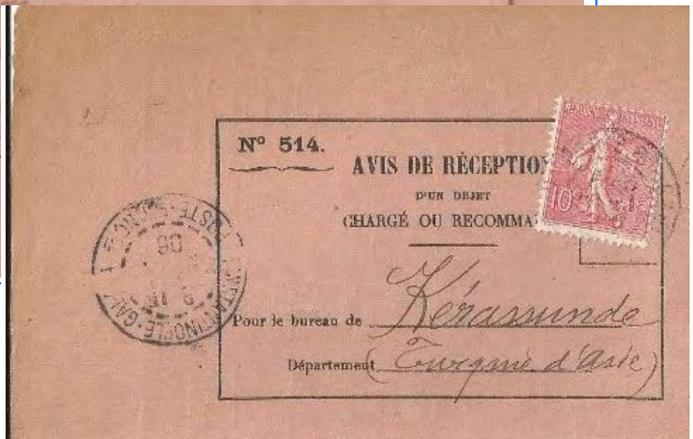
Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur (A) M. L'UNION  
de d'Assurances sur la Vie  
9, Place Vendôme  
PARIS

Le soussigné déclare que ce Lettre valeur déclarée ..... à l'adresse  
 recommandée .....  
 susmentionnée a été dûment livré le 30 janvier 1906

Signature de [Signature]  
 du destinataire [Signature] du chef du bureau distributeur [Signature]

(1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, boîte, échantillon, etc.). — (2) Grille du bureau d'origine. — (3) Date du dépôt au bureau d'inscription au registre des dépôts. — (4) Dans les offices où les règlements le comportent, la signature du chef du bureau distributeur est complétée par celle du destinataire. L'exemplaire est ensuite renvoyé par le premier courrier.  
 Dans le régime intérieur : Sans enveloppe n° 819 comme  
 recommandée ordinaire.....  
 Dans le régime international : Sans enveloppe n° 889 recommandée d'office.....  
 (5) Dans le régime international le nom et l'adresse du destinataire de la formule n° 514 au bureau d'origine

Avis de Reception form franked with 10c Semeuse lignee 1903 issue and tied by **PARIS 81 23.I.06**, addressed to Kerassunde with **KERASSUNDE TURQUIE D'ASIE 30 JANV 06** via Constantinople Galata by the French PO & back to Paris.  
**Postal Rate:** 10c for Return Receipt (AR)



TREBIZONDE TURQUIE D'ASIE

Seen ca 1887-1914



At the beginning of 20th century 3 French issues (Mouchon, Blanc & Merson) bearing the inscription Levant and the values of 25c & 50c are surcharged with 1 Piastre & 2 Piastres respectively, while the rest smaller values remained without surcharge.

Registered Cover franked with 2x1 Pia/25c 1902 Levant Mouchon Type and tied by **TREBIZONDE TURQUIE D'ASIE 22 DEC 09**, addressed to Paris with arrival 30/12 on reverse. **Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate + 1 Pia for Registration



Registered Cover 'Banque Imperiale Ottomane' franked with 2 Pia/50c 1902 Levant Merson Type and tied by **TREBIZONDE TURQUIE D'ASIE 16 OCT 13**, along with Registration Label 'Trebizonde', addressed to Hoechst-Main, Germany, arrival 25/10 via the French PO of Constantinople (21/10), on reverse. **Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate + 1 Pia for Registration

## TREBIZONDE TURQUIE D'ASIE

Seen ca 1887-1914



Cover franked with 4x5c 1902 Levant Type Blanc (one pair) + 5c 1907 Semeuse Type and tied by **TREBIZONDE TURQUIE D'ASIE 15 OCT 08**, addressed to Constantinople, with arrival mark.

**Postal Rate:** 25c single domestic rate

At nice example of mixed franking of French Levant and Metropolitan stamps(5c Semeuse).Such covers are considered to be scarce.



Small Cover with commercial cachet 'Gregoriades Fils 25 Dec 1906 Trebizonde', franked with 5c 1902 Levant Type Blanc and tied by **TREBIZONDE TURQUIE D'ASIE 26 DEC 06**, addressed to La Tremblade, France, via the French PO of Constantinople (31/12).

**Postal Rate:** 5c for open 'Carte Visite' foreign rate

KERASSUNDE TURQUIE-D'ASIE

Seen ca 1906-1914



Commercial Cover franked with 1 Pia/25c 1902 Levant Mouchon Type and tied by **KERASSUNDE TURQUIE-D'ASIE 3-6-06**, addressed to Rouen, arrival 9/6 via Constantinople(6/6) on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate



Registered Commercial Cover franked with 10c 1902 Levant Mouchon & 40c 1902 Levant Merson Type and tied by **KERASSUNDE TURQUIE-D'ASIE 3-6-07**, addressed to Dole, France, arrival 10/6 on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 50c, i.e 25c single foreign rate + 25c for Registration (which is equivalent to 2 Pia)

## RARE USAGE OF PERFORATED STAMPS BY MERCHANTS

**PERFIN H.C**  
(HOCHSTRASSER & CIE)

**SAMSOUN TURQUIE**  
Seen ca 1892-1914



Cover 'Hochstrasser & Cie- Samsoun' franked with 1 Pia/25c 1902 Levant Mouchon Type with perfin **H.C** & tied by **SAMSOUN TURQUIE 13 JANV 14**, addressed to Bautzen, Germany via the French PO of Constantinople(17/1).

**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate

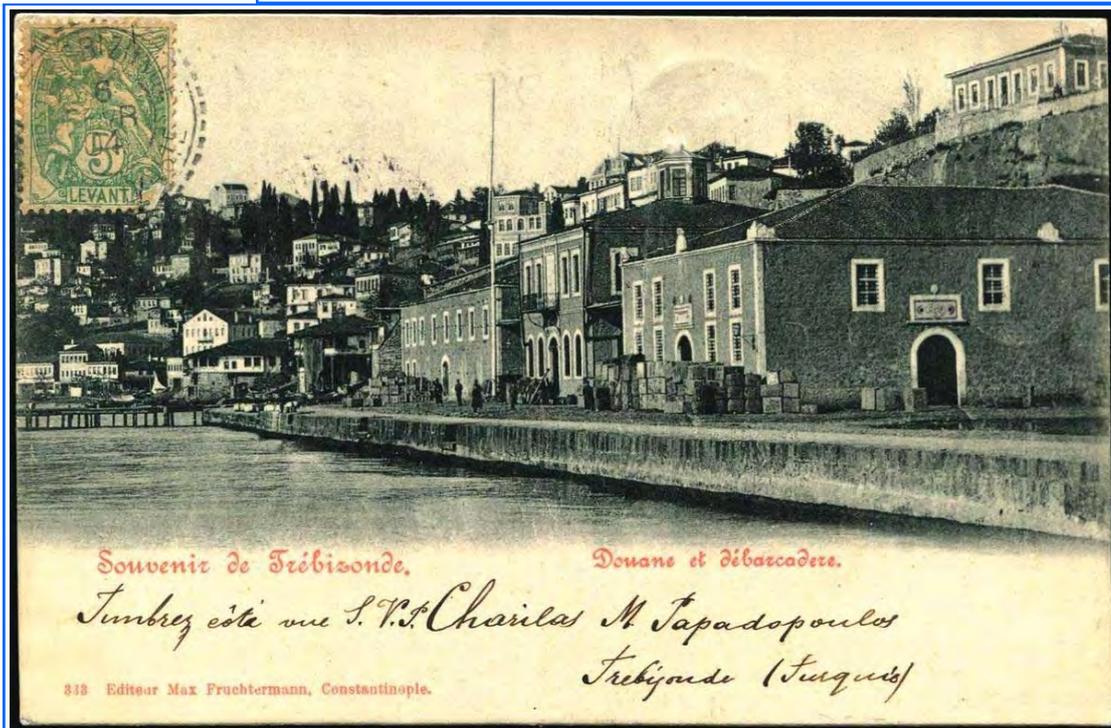
**PERFIN G.C.**  
(G.CAPAYANNIDES)



**TREBIZONDE**  
**TURQUIE D'ASIE**  
with Perfin **G.C.**  
on 2 Pia/50c Levant  
Merson Type 1902

UNDERPAID CORRESPONDENCE

Greek Picture Postcard with Greek merchant cachet franked with 5c 1902 Levant Blanc Type & tied by **SAMSOUN TURQUIE 28 FEVR 06**, addressed to Paris, on arrival taxed and stamped with triangular 'T' & franked with 10 c Chiffre Taxe 1893 along with 'Paris XV 3.3.06'. **Postal Rate:** 5c underpaid, the difference of 5c is paid in double by the receiver



Picture Postcard 'Souvenir de Trebizonde' franked with 5c 1902 Levant Blanc Type & tied by **TREBIZONDE TURQUIE 6 FEVR 04**, addressed to Paris, bearing on arrival handwritten blue 'T', also stamped with triangular 'T' & franked with 10 c Chiffre Taxe 1893 along with 'Paris Poste Restante 14.2.04'. **Postal Rate:** 5c underpaid, the difference of 5c is paid in double by the receiver



MARITIME MAIL HANDLED BY FRENCH SHIPS

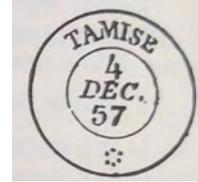
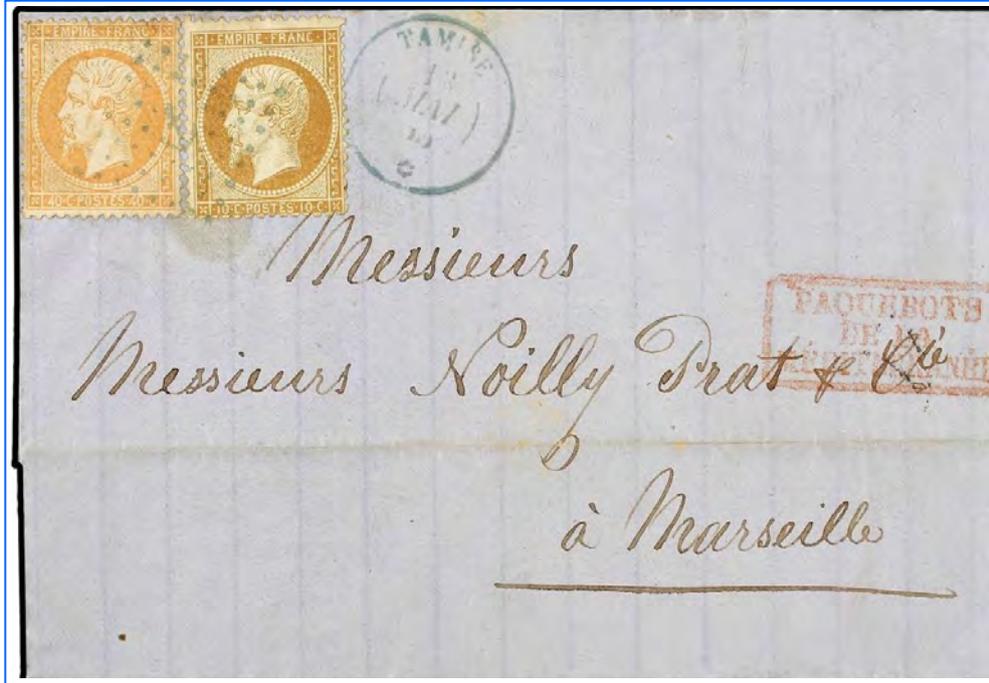
PAQUEBOT TAMISE

Seen 1855-1867

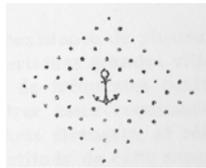
Constructed in Glasgow in 1853/54

First Postal voyage: Constantinople 1855

'PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERANEE' (Ships of the Mediterranean) marking on destination port Marseille.



The seal of the steamer used on board



Dotted seal with anchor used on board to cancel the stamps

Folded letter dated 'Trebizonde 13 MAI 1865', conveyed via the French steamer 'TAMISE' of the Trebizond-Constantinople line, franked with 40c +10c 1862 perforate Napoleon III Empire issues, cancelled with **ANCHOR** Postmark & tied by **TAMISE 13 MAI 65** on board, addressed to Marseille, arrival 23/5 via Constantinople (17/5) on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 50c single foreign rate

LIGNE AB

PAQ. FR. N° 2

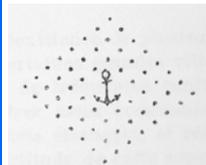
Seen 1867-1868

Constantinople-Trebizonde

Large Part of Commercial Cover 'Victor Stroh, Amasia 23.10.68', transferred from Amassia probably to Samsun by private means & conveyed via a French steamer which served the AB line, franked with 2x20c 1868 Napoleon III Laure issue, cancelled with **ANCHOR** Postmark & tied by **LIGNE AB PAQ.FR.N° 2 23 OCT 68** on board, marking **PD** (payé à destination) & addressed to Constantinople.



The steamers which served line AB were: Cheliff, Clyde, Neva, Simois, Tamise.



Dotted seal with anchor used on board to cancel the stamps

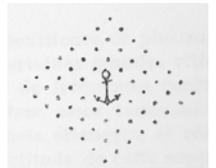
Ex Dubus

The number of the Postmark refers to the Postal Agents that served the line and were on board. There are 2 numbers (postmarks) for this line available according to the Note of September 1866. No more than 3-4 examples in total are recorded so far with the postmarks N° 1 & N° 2.

**Postal Rate:** 40c single domestic rate

**PAQUEBOT DUPLEIX**  
 Seen in the Levant 1863-1865, 1870-71  
 Launched on July 27, 1862 in La Ciotat

'PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERANEE' (Ships of the Mediterranean) marking on destination port Marseille.



Dotted seal with anchor used on board to cancel the stamps

Folded letter conveyed via the French steamer 'DUPLEIX' for the route till Constantinople, franked with 10+ 40c 1862 perforate Napoleon III Empire issue, cancelled with **ANCHOR** Postmark & tied by **DUPLEIX 30 NOV. 64** on board, marking **PD** (payé à destination) & addressed to Exoudun, France, via Marseille (7/12), Nantes (8/12) & La Moth-St-Heraye (9/12). The letter is signed by the Agent of Maritime Services of Messageries Imperiales in Sinope.  
**Postal Rate:** 50c single foreign rate

**PAQUEBOT**

Used on uncancelled ship mail arriving at Constantinople from the Black Sea and the Mediterranean



Commercial Cover from an Armenian merchant in Samsoun who delivered the envelope to a French steamer franked with 1 Pia/25c 1902 Levant Mouchon Type, addressed to Marseille. Arrived in the port of Constantinople on 16-3-08 and tied by oval **BM** (boîte mobile) & black **PAQUEBOT** by the French Post Office. Arrival on Marseille on 20-3-08.  
**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate

MARITIME MAIL HANDLED BY THE FRENCH POST OFFICE IN CONSTANTINOPLE

**MER NOIRE**

MAIL ARRIVED BY SHIP FROM THE BLACK SEA



Folded letter dated 'Trebizonde 1868', conveyed via a French ship of the Trebizond-Constantinople line, franked with 40c 1862 perforate Napoleon III Empire issue, bearing black marking **MER NOIRE** on arrival by the French PO of Constantinople & tied by **GC 5083** of Constantinople, red marking **PD** (payé à destination), addressed to Bordeaux, arrival 2/4 via Constantinople (19/3) & Marseille (1/4) on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 40c single foreign rate

Folded letter dated 'Trebizonde 1875', conveyed via a French ship of the Trebizond-Constantinople line, franked with 2x10c 1873 Ille Republique+ 40c 1870 Siege de Paris, bearing black marking **MER NOIRE** on arrival by the French PO of Constantinople & tied by **GC 5083** of Constantinople, marking **PD** (payé à destination), addressed to London, arrival 5/2 via Constantinople (26/1) & Marseille (3/2) on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 60c single foreign rate for a Letter to England



Postal material originating from Pontus bearing the marking 'MER NOIRE' is extremely scarce

MARITIME MAIL

Commercial Cover from an Armenian merchant in Uniah who delivered the envelope to a French ship addressed to Constantinople, arrival

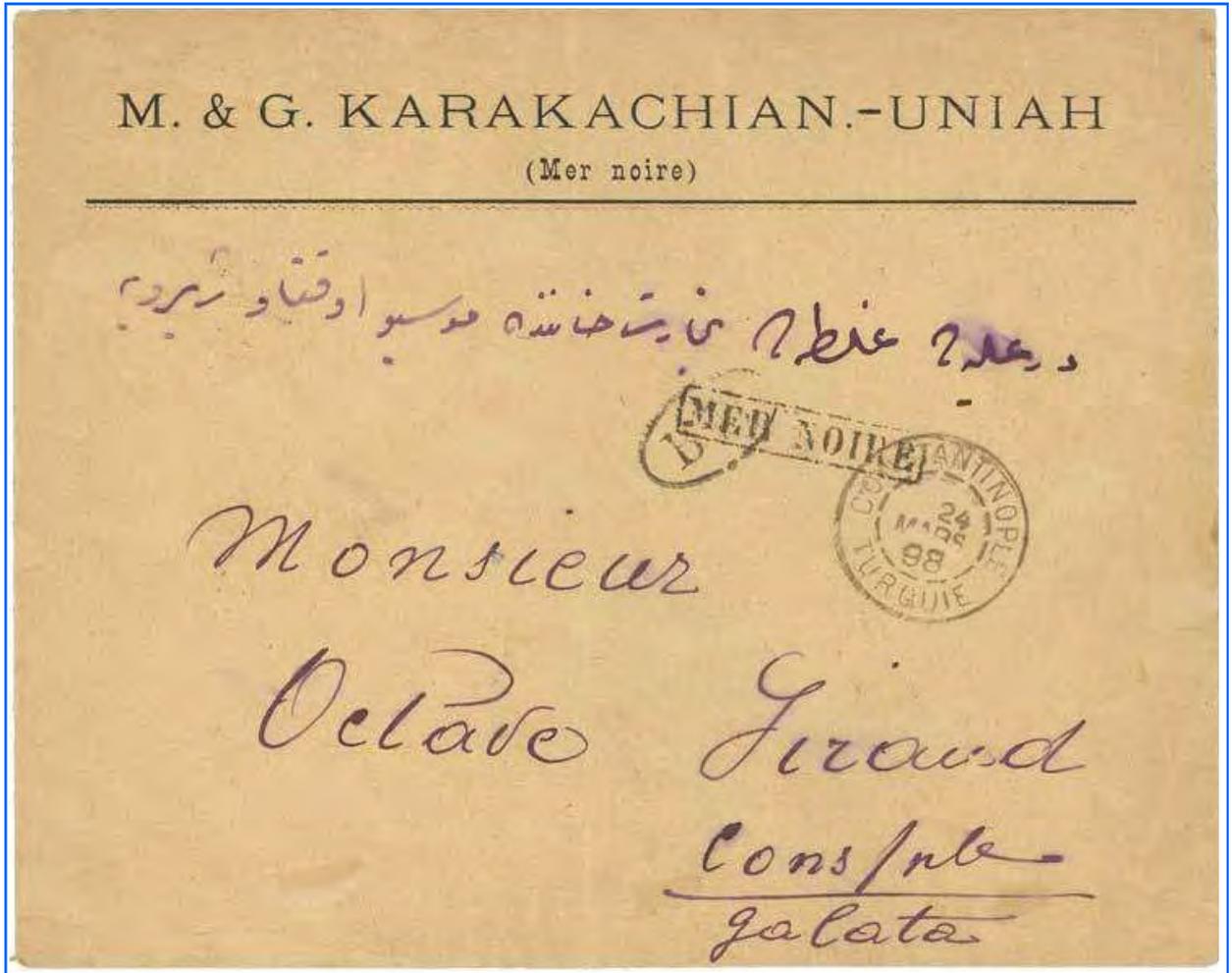
**CONSTANTIOPLE TURQUIE**

**24 MARS 98**

by the French Post Office, also tied by oval **BM** (boîte mobile) & rectangular black **MER NOIRE** on arrival.

On reverse Ottoman 20 Pa 1892 issue franked by the sender and cancelled on arrival by the French Office.

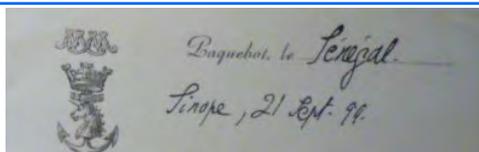
**Postal Rate:** 20 Pa littoral rate letter



Cover dated 'Paquebot le Senegal, Sinope 21 Sept 99' written onboard by a traveler in the area of Black Sea, franked with 5x 5c 1898 Sage Type II and tied by **CONSTANTIOPLE TURQUIE 22 SEPT 99** on arrival in Constantinople. The letter is addressed to Carcasonne, France, then readdressed to St Jean de Luz, arrival 28/9 on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 25c single foreign rate prepaid on board.

The traveler writes: 'In the prison of Sinope I met two political convicted who spoke French. Despite the guard they spoke to me. We are Young Turks they said. The one was arrested because the authorities found forbidden newspapers in his house.'



The Messageries Maritimes trademark is printed on paper letter



### THE AUSTRIAN POST OFFICES

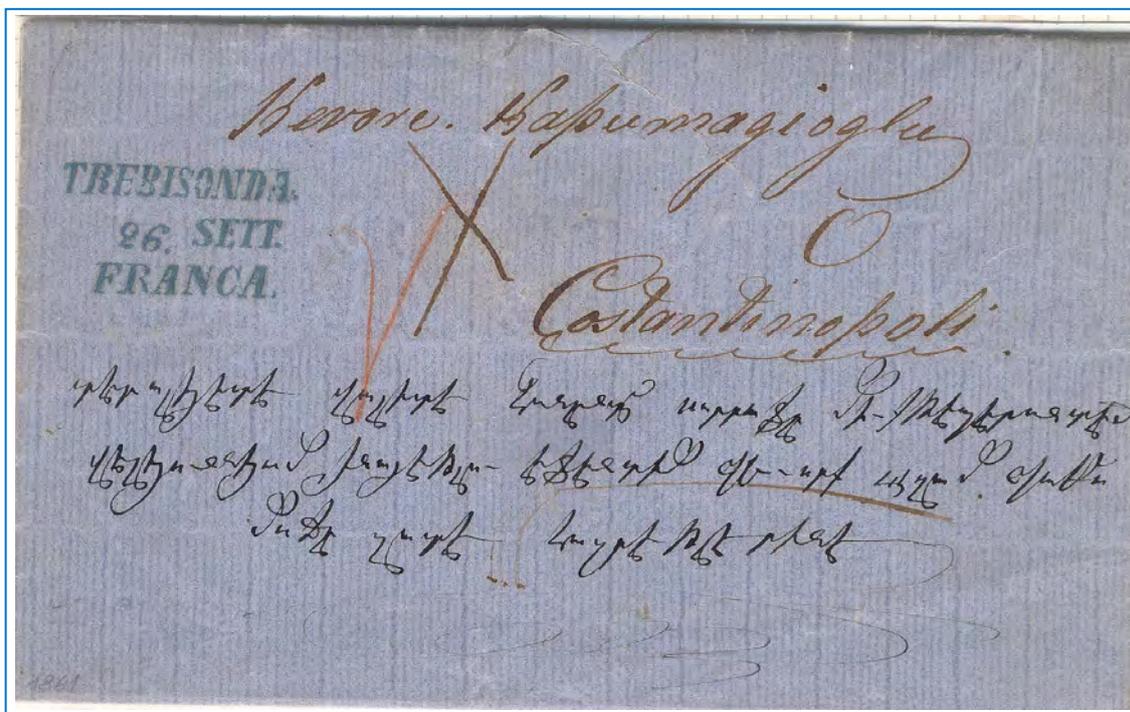
The Austrian Steamboat Company Lloyd based in Trieste, began to operate in Black Sea in 1845 linking Constantinople with Trebizonde via Samsun. A postal Agency of the Austrian Lloyd was opened at Ineboli and Sinope in 1854 but the latter seems to be problematic, thus it was closed in 1868. A new port of call of the Lloyd opened in Kerassunde in 1872.

Letters were stampless until 1 June 1864 and the first stamps used by the Agency were issues of Lombardy-Venetia from 1864-1868 and afterwards the Franz-Joseph issue with value in Soldi till 1883. In 1886 this was changed to Paras and Piasters by surcharging the existing stamps of the offices. Further issues surcharged between 1888-1907, while the Jubilee issue of 1908-1914 included directly values in Turkish currency. The Austrian Post Offices were closed on 1st October 1914 and the Ottoman Post Offices were the only postal services available in the Ottoman Empire.

#### PREPHILATELIC PERIOD 1845-1.6.1864

**TREBISONDA.**  
**30. APR.**

**FRANCA.**



Entire written in Armenian, dated 1861, handstruck stamp in two-lines **TREBISONDA 26 SETT & FRANCA** addressed to Constantinople, arrival 29/9 by the Lloyd Agency on reverse bearing also wax seal.

**Postal Rate:** 'Franca' single line handstamp used for fully prepaid letters. Handwritten '27' on reverse paid by the sender.

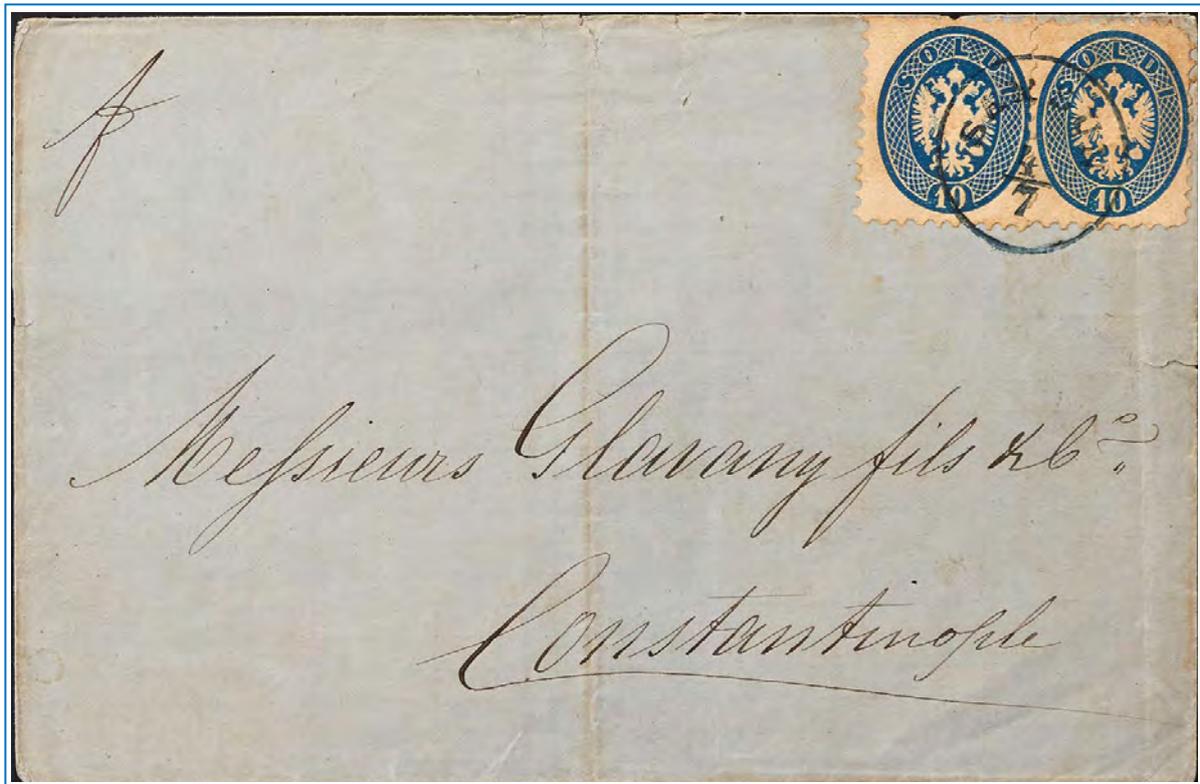


## SINGLE CYCLE DATESTAMPS

**SAMSUN**

Date in 2 lines

Seen ca 1860– early 1880's



Entire dated 1868, franked with 2×10 So 1864 Lombardy-Venetia issue and tied by **SAMSUN 4/7**, addressed to Constantinople, arrival 6/7 by the Lloyd Agency on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 20 So double rate between the Levant Ports

A uniform rate of 10 So between the Levant Ports was applied from 1.1.66



**SINOPE 7/4** on  
15 So 1864  
Lombardy-Venetia  
Seen 1860's  
No covers with this  
postmark are known



**TREBISONDA 10/1**  
on 15 So 1864  
Lombardy-Venetia  
Seen 1864-1868



**SAMSUN 10/9** on  
Pair of 5 So 1864  
Lombardy-Venetia  
Seen ca 1860– early 1880's



**INEBOLI** on 1867  
Franz Joseph  
Seen ca 1864-1884

**SAMSUN**

Date in 2 lines

Seen ca 1860– early 1880's



Entire dated 20 Julliet 1872, franked with 10 + 5 So 1867 Franz Joseph issue and tied by **SAMSUN 20/7**, addressed to Wien, arrival 27/7 via Constantinople (23/7) on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 15 So rate from the Levant Ports to Wien (Applied from 1.1.66)

**TREBISONDA**

Date with year blocked

Seen 1870-1884



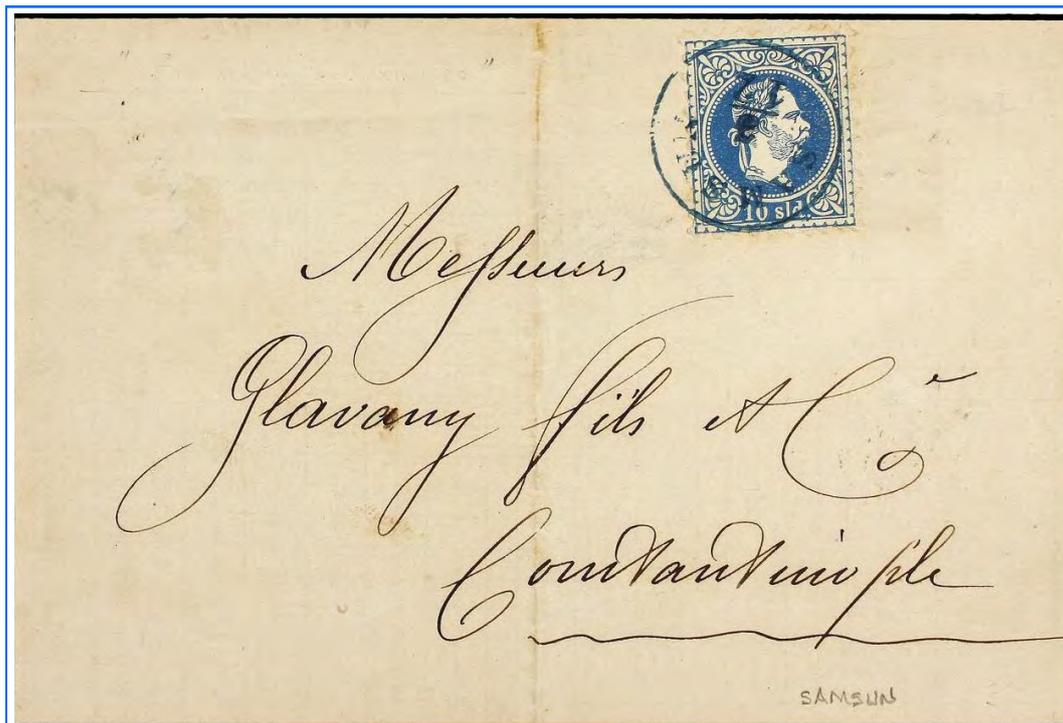
Entire dated 1874 bearing marking 'Hochstrasser & Cie, Trebisonda', franked with 10 So 1867 Franz Joseph issue and tied by **TREBISONDA 30/10**, addressed to Constantinople with arrival by the Lloyd Agency on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 10 So rate between the Levant Ports

**SAMSUN**

Date in 2 lines

Seen ca 1860– early 1880's



Entire dated 1870, franked with 10 So 1867 Franz Joseph issue and tied by **SAMSUN 3/12**, addressed to Constantinople, arrival 6/12 by the Lloyd Agency on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 10 So rate between the Levant Ports

**TREBISONDA**

Date with year blocked

Seen 1870-1884



Entire dated 1871 bearing marking 'Hochstrasser & Cie, Trebisonda', with handwritten 'Via Triest' at top left, franked with 3× 5 So 1867 Franz Joseph issue and tied by **TREBISONDA 30/11**, addressed to Wien, arrival 14 /12, via Constantinople (5/12) on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 15 So rate from the Levant Ports to Wien

**TREBISONDA**

Date with year blocked

Seen 1870-1884



Entire 1875, bearing marking 'Capayannidi Freres, Trebizonde', franked with 10 + 5 So 1867 Franz Joseph issue and tied by **TREBISONDA 4/3**, addressed to Trieste, arrival 17/3 via Constantinople 8.3.75 on reverse. *Ex Cihangir*

**Postal Rate:** 15 So rate from the Levant Ports to Trieste, Austria

**1875-FORMATION OF UPU**  
Austrian UPU Rates

**TREBISONDA**

Date with year blocked

Seen 1870-1884



Entire franked with 10 So 1867 Franz Joseph issue and tied by **TREBISONDA 7/10**, addressed to Trieste, arrival 15.10.76 via Constantinople 10.10.76 on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 10 So single foreign rate

SINGLE CYCLE WITH DATE IN 3 LINES



COLORS: BLACK, PURPLE, BLUE

**TREBISONDA**  
Seen 1880-1895



Cover franked with 10 So 1876 Franz Joseph issue & tied by black **TREBISONDA 21.10.80** addressed to Constantinople, arrival 25/10 on reverse.

Postal Rate: 10 So single domestic rate

**TREBISONDA**  
Seen Mid 1880's



**TREBISONDA 13.11.86** on 5 So 1883 issue Austrian stationary card addressed to Boston, arrival 6/12 via Constantinople (18/11) and London (24/11).

Denomination in Turkish Currency  
Seen from 1887

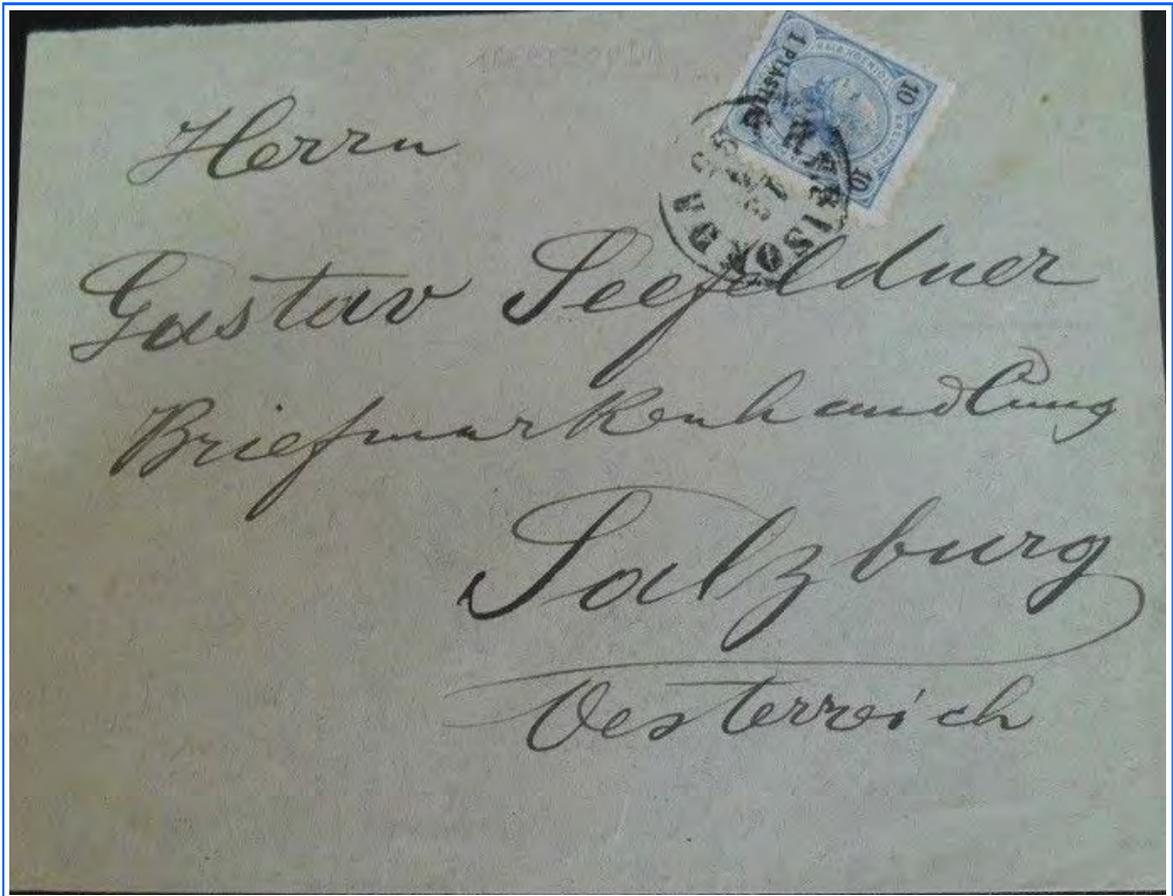
**TREBISONDA**  
Seen 1870-1895



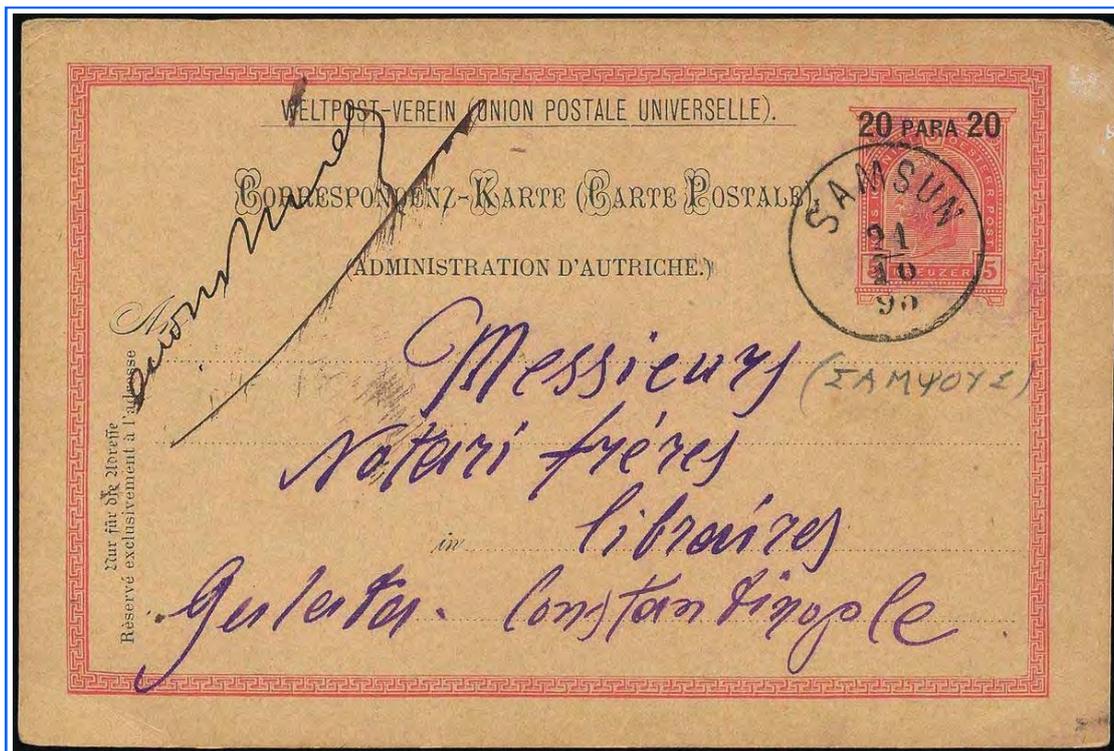
**TREBISONDA 25.3.89** on 20 Pa/5 Kr 1888 issue stationary card to Constantinople with arrival mark.

**TREBISONDA**  
Seen Mid 1880's-1895

Cover franked with 1 Pia/10 Kr Levant 1890 issue and tied by **TREBISONDA 13.4.95**, addressed to Salzburg, arrival 20/4 on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:**  
1 Pia single foreign rate

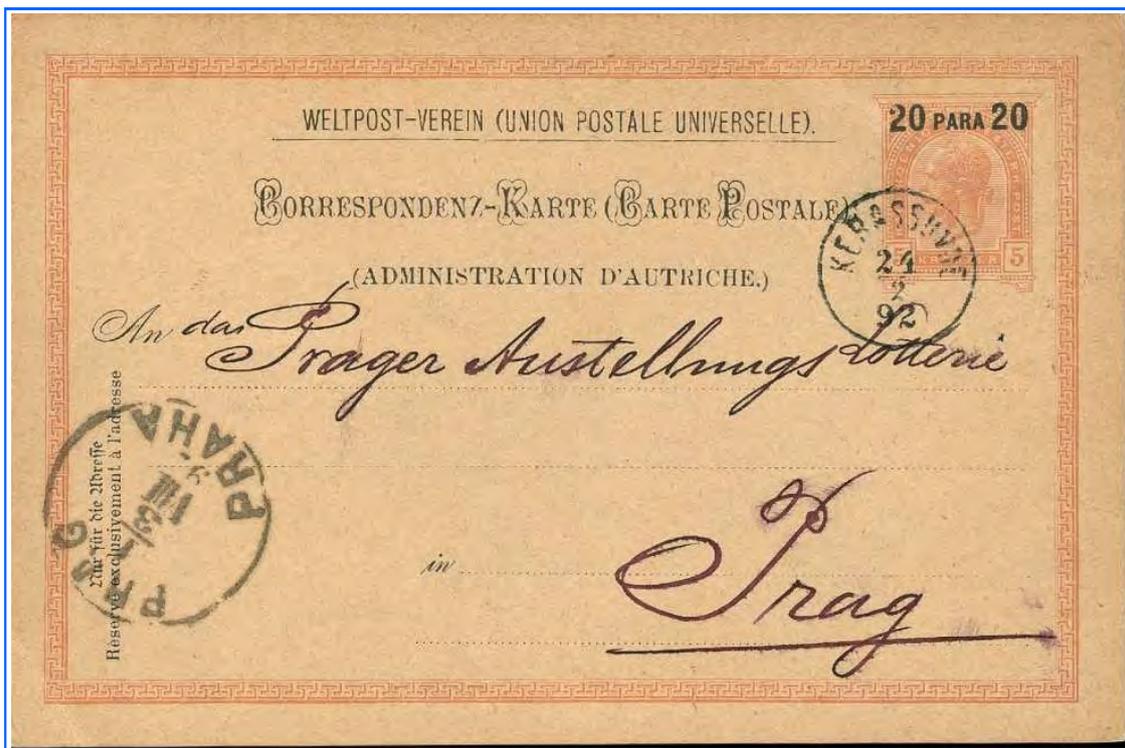


**SAMSUN**  
Seen 1884-1895



**SAMSUN 21.10.95** on 20 Pa/5 Kr 1891 issue stationary card to Constantinople, arrival 23/10 on reverse.

**KERASSUNDE**  
Seen Mid 1870's-Mid 1890's



**KERASSUNDE 24.2.92** on 1891 20 Pa/5 Kr 1891 issue stationary card addressed to Prague. arrival 1/3.

**KERASSUNDE ÖSTERR. POST**  
Seen ca 1895 – ca 1906



**KERASSUNDE 7.11.96 ÖSTERR. POST** on 20 Pa/5 Kr 1891 issue stationary card to Athens. The number '5' marked in arrival indicates the urban mailman who is obligated to deliver the mail.

## KERASSUNDE ÖSTERR. POST

Seen ca 1895 – ca 1906

## UNDERPAID CORRESPONDENCE

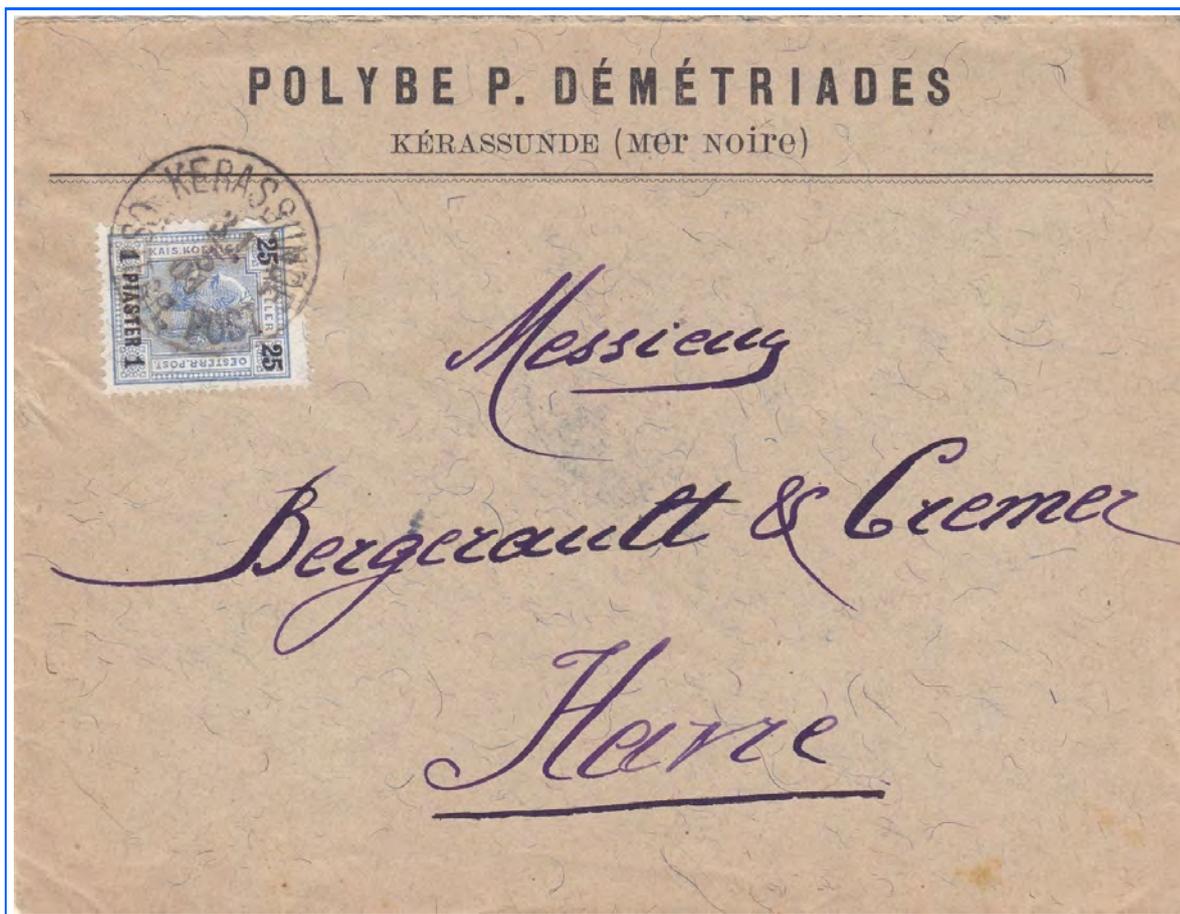


Commercial Cover with insufficient postage paid, franked with 10 Pa Levant 1903-7 issue and tied by **KERASSUNDE 26.8.04 ÖSTERR. POST**, with handwritten '40', addressed to Geneva, Suisse, arrival 2.IX.04 on reverse. The cover is cut in the corners for printed matter rate, but on arrival is taxed with 2×20c Suisse postage dues 1889 issue & tied by 'Geneve 2.IX.04'.

**Postal Rate:** 10 Pa (i.e 5c)+ 40c, the difference of 20c for a single foreign letter is paid in double by the receiver.

**KERASSUNDE ÖSTERR. POST**

Seen ca 1895 – ca 1906

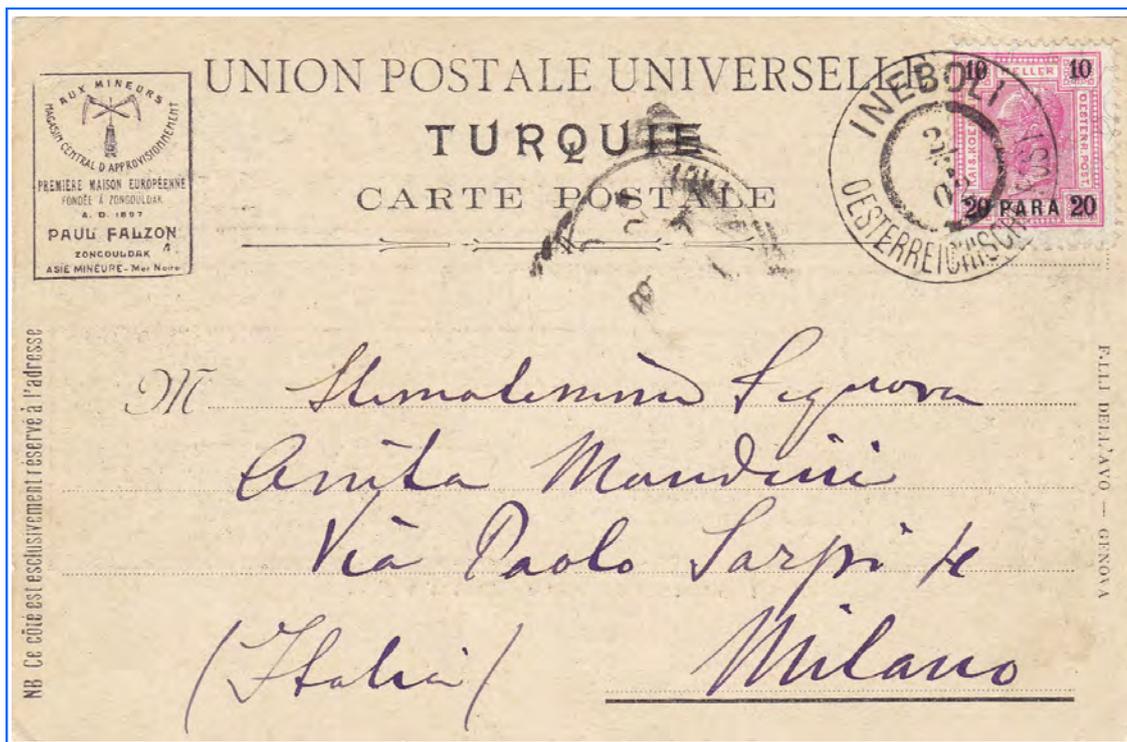


Commercial Cover 'Polybe Demetriades' franked with 1 Pia/25h 1900 Levant issue and tied by **KERASSUNDE 31.5.01 ÖSTERR. POST**, addressed to Havre, France, arrival 7/6 on reverse. **Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate

**DOUBLE CYCLE WITH DATE IN 3 LINES**

Seen 1895-1914

**INEBOLI OESTERREICHISCHE POST**



Picture Postcard (View of Zonguldak) franked with 20 Pa/10 h 1900 Levant issue and tied by **INEBOLI OESTERREICHISCHE POST 2.3.02**, addressed to Milano with arrival mark. **Postal Rate:** 20 Pa single rate for Postcards.

## INEBOLI OESTERREICHISCHE POST

The FLORIO &amp; RUBATTINO Agency in Ineboli

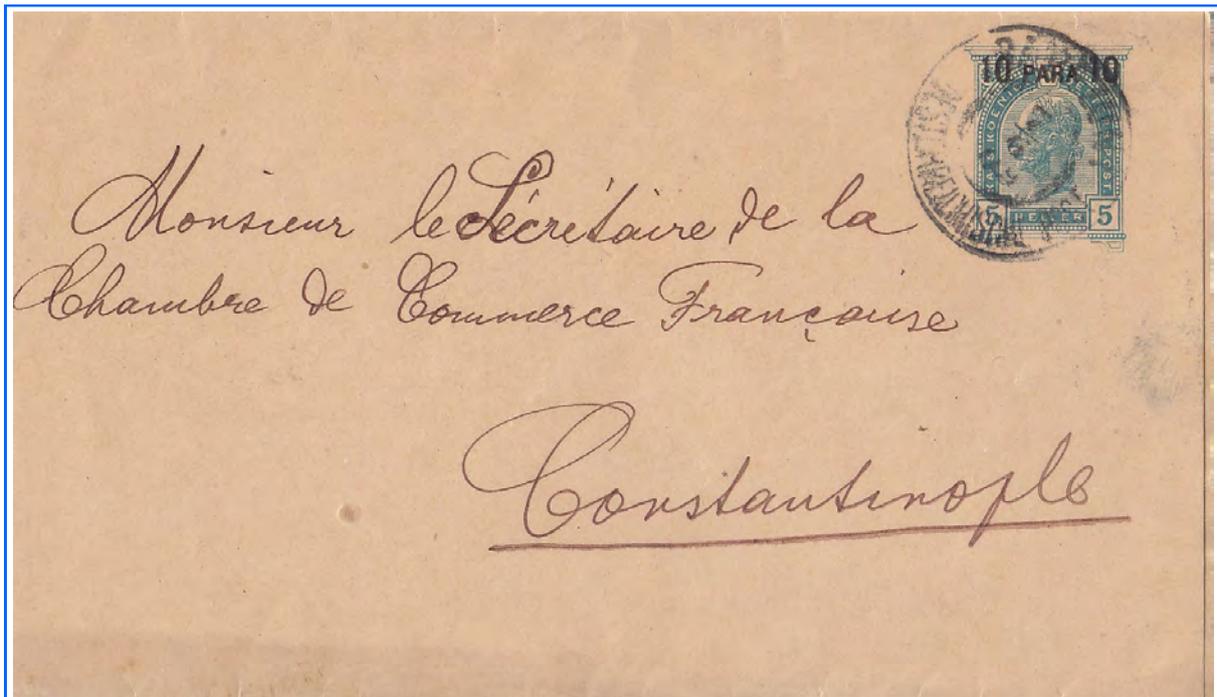


Cover franked with 1 Pia 1903-7 Levant issue and tied by **INEBOLI OESTERREICHISCHE POST 2.2.04**, addressed to Palermo, arrival 9/2 and Firm seal 'Navigazione Generale Italiana, Agencia Ineboli' on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate

TRAPEZUNT OESTERREICHISCHE POST



Commercial Cover 'G.E. Michailidis' franked with 1 Pia Levant 1903-7 issue and tied by **TRAPEZUNT OESTERREICHISCHE POST 15.6.05**, addressed to Paris.  
**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate



Postal Wrapper 10 Pa/5 h 1900 issue tied by **TRAPEZUNT OESTERREICHISCHE POST 7.6.04**, addressed to Constantinople, arrival 13/6 on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 10 Pa rate for Newspapers

## TRAPEZUNT OESTERREICHISCHE POST



Registered Cover 'P.Coustoulides' franked with 5×10 Pa Levant 1903-7 issue and tied by **TRAPEZUNT OESTERREICHISCHE POST 10.3.07**, addressed to Deuben Germany, arrival 17/3 on reverse.

The cover is cut in the corners to show contains according to the postal regulations.

**Postal Rate:** 10 Pa printed matter rate + 40 Pa for Registration.

**CONSULAR  
MAIL**

**TRAPEZUNT OESTERREICHISCHE POST**

Cover from Austro-Hungarian Consulate in Trebizonde franked with 25h Austrian stamp 1906-7 issue and tied by **TRAPEZUNT OESTERREICHISCHE POST 11.12.07**, addressed to Wien, arrival 18/12 bearing also the Consular seal on reverse.

**Postal Rate:**

1 Pia single foreign rate

The use of Austrian stamps was illegal but in this case was accepted by the Post Office in Wien.



**SAMSUN OESTERREICHISCHE POST**



Registered Cover from the German Consulate in Samsun franked with 5×1 Pia 1903-7 Levant issue and tied by **SAMSUN OESTERREICHISCHE POST 4.8.05**, addressed to Trieste, arrival 9/8 on reverse. **Postal Rate:** 4 Pia quadruple weight + 1 Pia for Registration.

## TRAPEZUNT OESTERREICHISCHE POST



Reply Coupon with value 28 Heller & tied by  
**TRAPEZUNT OESTERREICHISCHE POST 18.12.08.**

The text in French indicates: 'This coupon can be exchanged for a postage stamp of the value of 25 centimes or the equivalent of that sum in countries which have adopted the arrangement.'

The usage of these Reply Coupons in the Levant Offices is very scarce.

DOUBLE CYCLE WITH CENTRAL BELT  
Seen 1906-1914

SAMSUN ÖSTERR. POST a  
Seen 1910-1914

231

*Duplicata*

 **LEVANTE.** Österreichische Postverwaltung. Amministrazione delle Poste austriache.  
Administration des Postes d'Autriche.

Aufgabeschein für rekommandierte Gegenstände und Pakete. —  
Certificato d'impostazione per oggetti raccomandati e pacchi. —  
Récépissé pour objets recommandés et colis.

Gegenstand:  
Oggetto: — Objet: *lett. V. N<sup>o</sup> -*

Empfänger:  
Destinatario: — Destinataire: *B. Salonique*

Bestimmungsort: — Luogo di destinazione: — Lieu de destination: *Constantinople*

Wert:  
Valore: — Valeur: Francs *8000* cs. *—*

Gewicht:  
Peso: — Poids: — Kilog. *320* Gramm

Nachnahme:  
Assegno: — Remboursement: *—*

Gebühr:  
Tassa: — Taxe perçue: *32 P. 20* pa.

  
Unterschrift: — Firma:  
Signature: *Max Lipius*

D. S. Nr. **78 e** (Levante). — B. K. N. U. ST. DR. (ST.)

millecartoline

Deposit Receipt of Registered Parcel with Declaration of value of 8.000 Francs, tied by  
**SAMSUN ÖSTERR. POST a 14.XI.11**, addressed to Bank of Salonica in Constantinople.  
**Postal Rate:** 32 Pia 20 Pa for 320 gr of weight

**SAMSUN ÖSTERR. POST b**  
Seen 1910-1914



The Jubilee issue 1908-1914 included directly values in Turkish currency.

Commercial Cover  
‘Etablissements Orosdi-Back’ franked with 2×10 Pa + 20 Pa 1908 Levant issue & tied by **SAMSUN ÖSTERR. POST b 5.VIII.12**, addressed to Budapest, arrival 10/8 on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 40 Pa single foreign rate

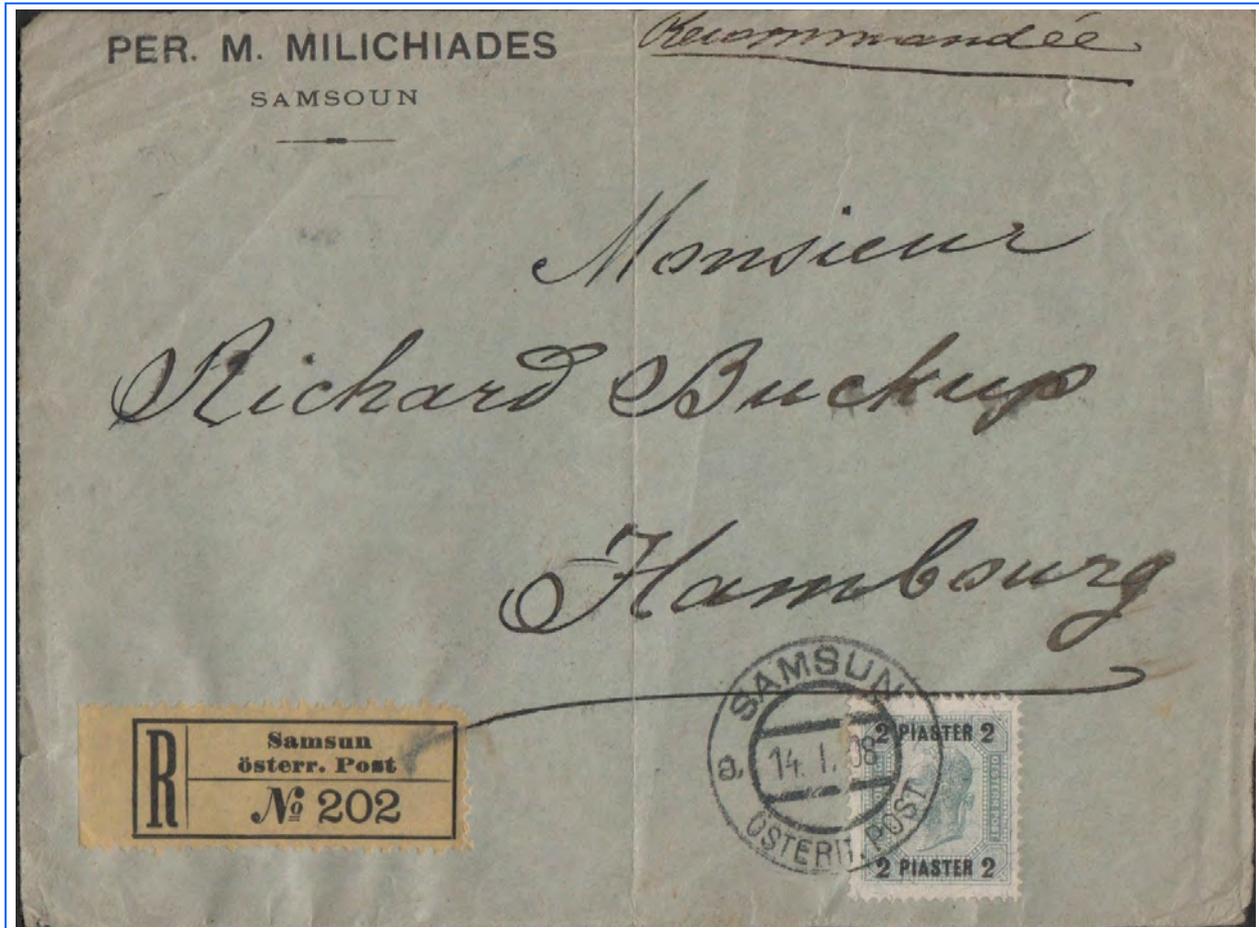
**INEBOLI ÖSTERR. POST a**  
Seen ca 1910-1914



**INEBOLI ÖSTERR. POST a 6.IV.14**, on 20 Pa 1908 issue Levant Stationary Card addressed to Parma, Italy, arrival 11/4.

**SAMSUN ÖSTERR. POST a**  
Seen 1906-1910

Commercial Cover 'PER.M. MILICHADES', franked with 2 Pia 1903-7 Levant issue and tied by **SAMSUN ÖSTERR. POST a 14.I.08**, addressed to Hamburg.  
**Postal Rate:**  
1 Pia single foreign rate + 1 Pia for Registration



**TRAPEZUNT ÖSTERR. POST a**  
Seen ca 1907-1914



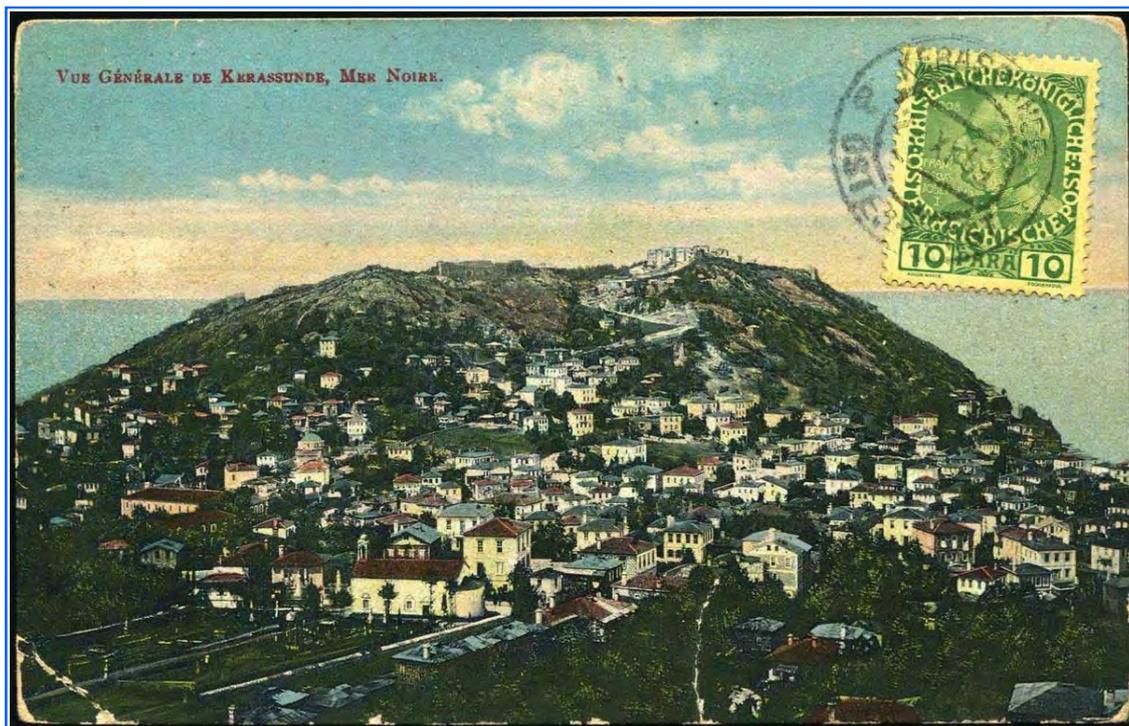
Commercial Cover 'Hochstrasser & Co Trebizonde', franked with 2x10 Pa + 20 Pa 1908 Levant issue and tied by **TRAPEZUNT ÖSTERR. POST a 7.VII.14**, addressed to Gontenschwil, Switzerland, arrival 17/7, then readdressed to Menziken (17/7).  
**Postal Rate:**  
40 Pa single foreign rate

## KERASSUNDE ÖSTERR. POST a

Seen 1906-1910



Registered Cover franked with 2 Pia 1903-7

Levant issue and tied by **KERASSUNDE ÖSTERR. POST a 25.V.08**, addressed to Paris**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate + 1 Pia for Registration.

Picture Postcard  
(View of  
Kerassunde)  
franked with 10  
Pa 1908 Levant  
issue and tied by  
**KERASSUNDE  
ÖSTERR. POST  
a 2.XI.09**,  
addressed to  
Morecambe,  
England.  
**Postal Rate:**  
10 Pa rate for  
Postcards  
without text.

**KERASSUNDE ÖSTERR. POST a**  
Seen 1910-1914

Picture Postcard  
(La Plage de Limeri)  
franked with 10 Pa  
1908 Levant  
issue and tied by  
**KERASSUNDE  
ÖSTERR. POST a**  
**23.VII.11**, addressed  
to Oldenburg,  
Germany.  
**Postal Rate:** 10 Pa  
rate for Postcards  
without text



**KERASSUNDE ÖSTERR. POST b**  
Seen 1910-1914



Commercial  
Cover franked  
with 1  
Pia 1908  
Levant issue  
and tied by  
**KERASSUNDE  
ÖSTERR. POST  
b 20.VII.12**,  
addressed to  
Jummet  
Belgium,  
arrival 27/7.  
**Postal Rate:**  
1 Piaster single  
foreign rate



**THE RUSSIAN POST OFFICES**

The year 1856 'Russian Company for Shipping and Trade' known as ROPIT was founded. A fleet of merchant vessels began to transfer passengers, commodities and mail in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The following years ROPIT acted as the Postal Branch of the Imperial Administration. Special stamps were printed for use in the Levant Ports for the Agencies and from 1900 ordinary Russian stamps were surcharged with new values in Turkish currency. This company was a damaging competition for the Porte, so with the outbreak of the 1st World War all foreign Post Offices along with the Russian ordered to be closed on 1st October 1914.



**COMPAGNIE RUSSE DE NAVIGATION A VAPEUR ET DE COMMERCE**  
**31 MARS 8-**  
**AGENCE D'INEBOLI**  
 on 1 коп 1884 Russian Levant issue  
 Seen 1880's



Dotted **778** in blue on 1884 Russian Levant issue for use in Trebizonde  
 Seen 1862-1880's



**Р.О.П.Т.О.Ж.Д'ОРДУ**  
 (R.O.P.T.O.ZHE.D ORDU)  
 on 1 коп 1884 Russian Levant issue  
 Seen 1880's-1890's



**Р.О.П.ИТ'ИНЕБОЛИ**  
 (INEBOLI) on 10 коп Russian Levant 1884-90 issue  
 Seen 1890's -1900's

**ПОРТЬ ТРЕБИЗОНДЪ (PORT TREBIZONDE)**  
 Seen ca 1868 - 1870's



Cover with its contents dated 1910 (i.e. 1874), franked with 1+5 kop 1872 issue and tied by **ПОРТЬ ТРЕБИЗОНДЪ 20 МАЙ**, addressed to Constantinople. *Ex Cihangir*  
**Postal Rate:** 6 kop rate between the Levant Ports

**САМСУНЪ (SAMSUN)**  
Seen 1870's BLUE & 1880's BLACK



Cover franked with pair 3 kon 1872 issue and tied by blue  
**САМСУНЪ 12 СЕН 73**, addressed to Constantinople with arrival mark 16 СЕН (16/9) on reverse. *Ex Cihangir*  
**Postal Rate:** 6 kop rate between the Levant Ports

**ТРАПЕЗУНТЪ (TRAPEZUNT)**  
Seen 1870's BLUE & 1880's BLACK



Cover franked with pair 1 kon + 3x 3 kon 1872 issue and tied by blue  
**ТРАПЕЗУНТЪ 16 СЕН 75**, addressed to Constantinople.  
**Postal Rate:** 11 kop, that is for domestic letters above 1 lot (~12.8gr) between the Levant Ports

**САМСУНСК АГЕНТСТВО**  
 (SAMSUNSK AGENTSTVO  
 i.e AGENCY OF  
 SAMSUN)  
 Seen late 1870's  
 Colors: **BLUE**



Entire letter franked with thick '7' surcharge in black on 10 коп 1872-79 issue & tied by blue **САМСУНСК АГЕНТСТВО 7 АПР 1879**, addressed to Trebizonde.  
**Postal Rate:** 7 коп single domestic rate  
 (Rate applied from 3.1879 to 3.1889)

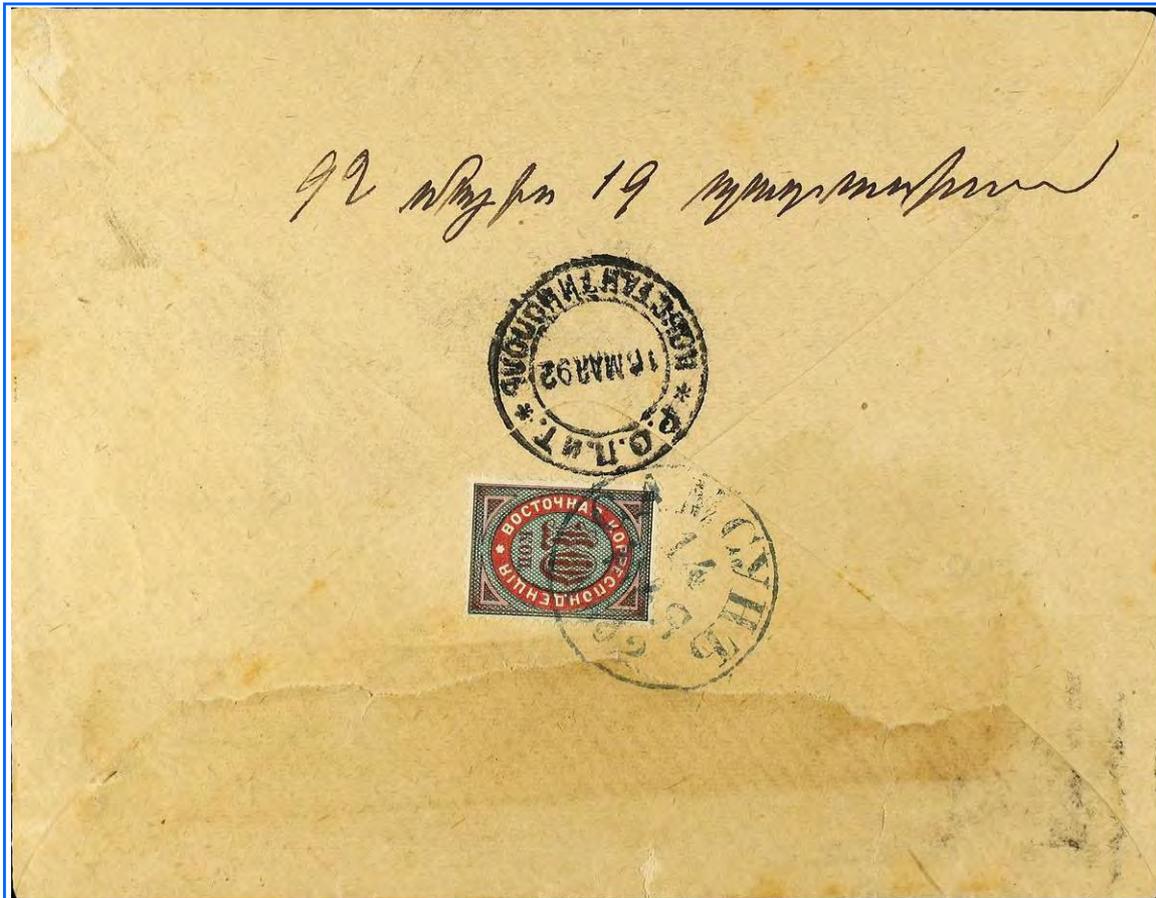
*This cover is mentioned in Tchilinghirian supplement which was in Snegireff collection.  
 Ex Snegireff, Lipschutz & Chihangir. Probably unique!*

**САМСУНЪ (SAMSUN)**

Date in 3 lines

Seen 1880's-1890's

Colors: BLACK



Cover franked with 10 kop 1890 issue and tied by **САМСУНЪ 14 МАЯ 1892**,  
addressed to Constantinople, arrival mark 16/5 by the Russian Post Office.

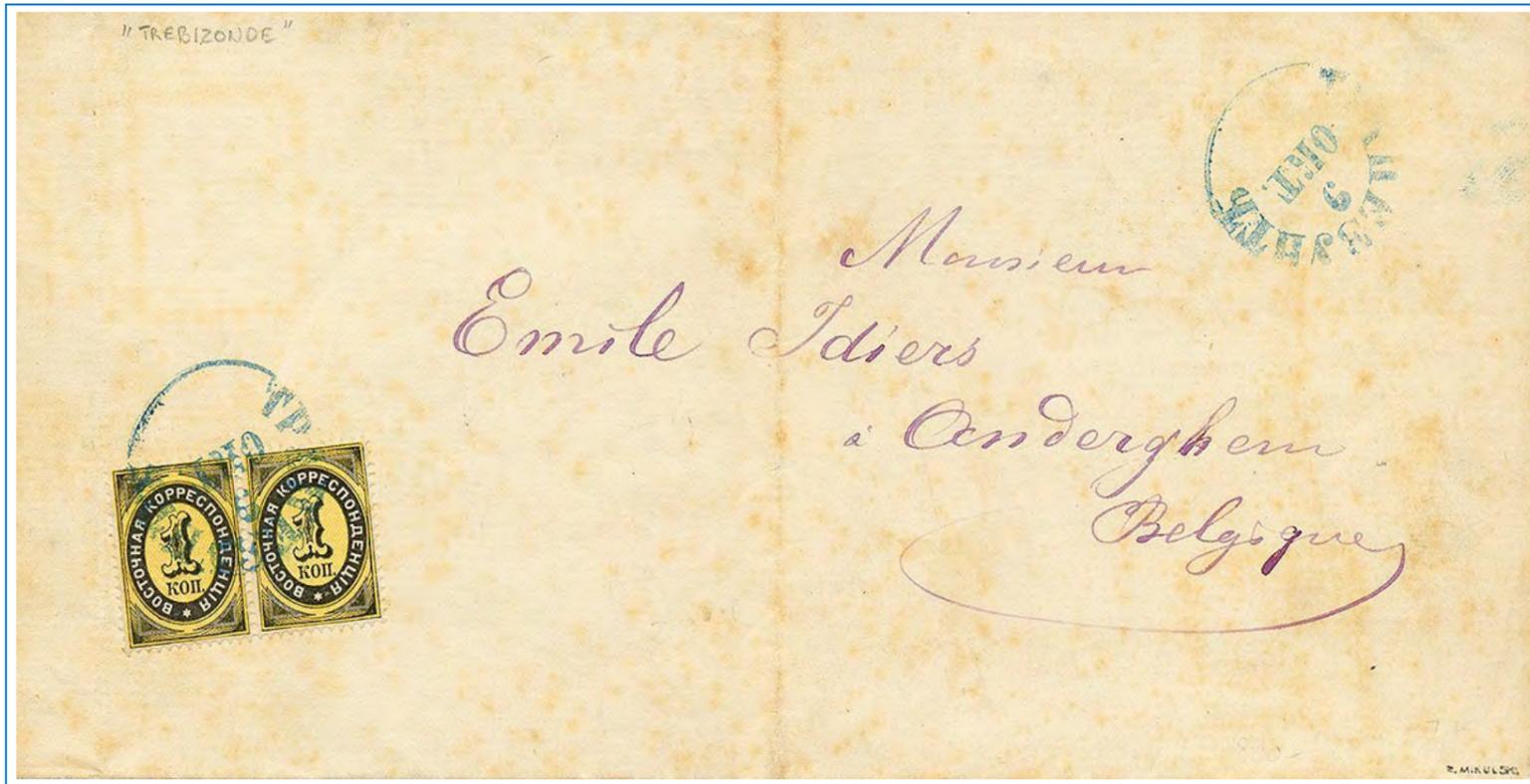
*Ex Lipschutz & Cihangir*

**Postal Rate:** 10 kop single domestic rate

**ТРАПЕЗУНТЬ (TRAPEZUNT)**

Seen 1870's – early 1890's

Colors: BLUE & BLACK



Printed Matter dated 1/13 Octobre 1885, franked with 2x1 коп 1879 issue & tied by blue **ТРАПЕЗУНТЬ 9 OKT**, addressed to Auderghem, Belgium, arrival 31/10, via Constantinople by the Russian PO (14/10) & Odessa (16/10) on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 2 коп for Printed Matter

Complete Printed Matter from this period from the Russian Levant Post Offices is extremely scarce

Commercial Cover 'Vafiades P. Freres: Trebizonde', ca 1890, franked with 7+2+1 коп 1884 issues & tied by black **ТРАПЕЗУНТЬ 23 OKT**, addressed to Constantinople.

**Postal Rate:** 10 коп single domestic rate (Rate applied from 3.1889)



Cover franked with 5 коп 1872 + 2 коп 1879 issue & tied by blue **ТРАПЕЗУНТЬ 9 OKT**, addressed to Northampton, Massachusetts, arrival in New York 14/11, via Constantinople by the Russian PO (14 OKT 85) & Odessa (16 OKT 1885) on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 7 коп single foreign rate (Rate applied from 3.1879 to 3.1889)



DOUBLE CYCLE WITH DATE STAMP IN 3 LINES

YEAR IN FOUR FIGURES

**Р.О.П.ИТ ТРЕБИЗОНДЪ (TREBIZONDE)**

Seen 1890's – early 1900's



**Р.О.П.ИТ. ТРЕБИЗОНДЪ 17 МАЯ 1896**  
 on 1894 issue  
 4 kop  
 stationary card  
 addressed to  
 St Petersburg,  
 arrival 24/5.

**Р.О.П.ИТ САМСУНЪ (SAMSUN)**

Seen 1890's



**Р.О.П.ИТ. САМСУНЪ 30 МАЯ 1898**, on  
 1894 issue  
 4 kop  
 stationary card  
 addressed to  
 Gand, Belgium  
 arrival mark 18/4  
 via the Russian  
 PO of Constanti-  
 nople on reverse  
 & Odessa(3/4).

**Р.О.П.ИТ ИНЕБОЛИ (INEBOLI)**  
Seen 1890's -1900's

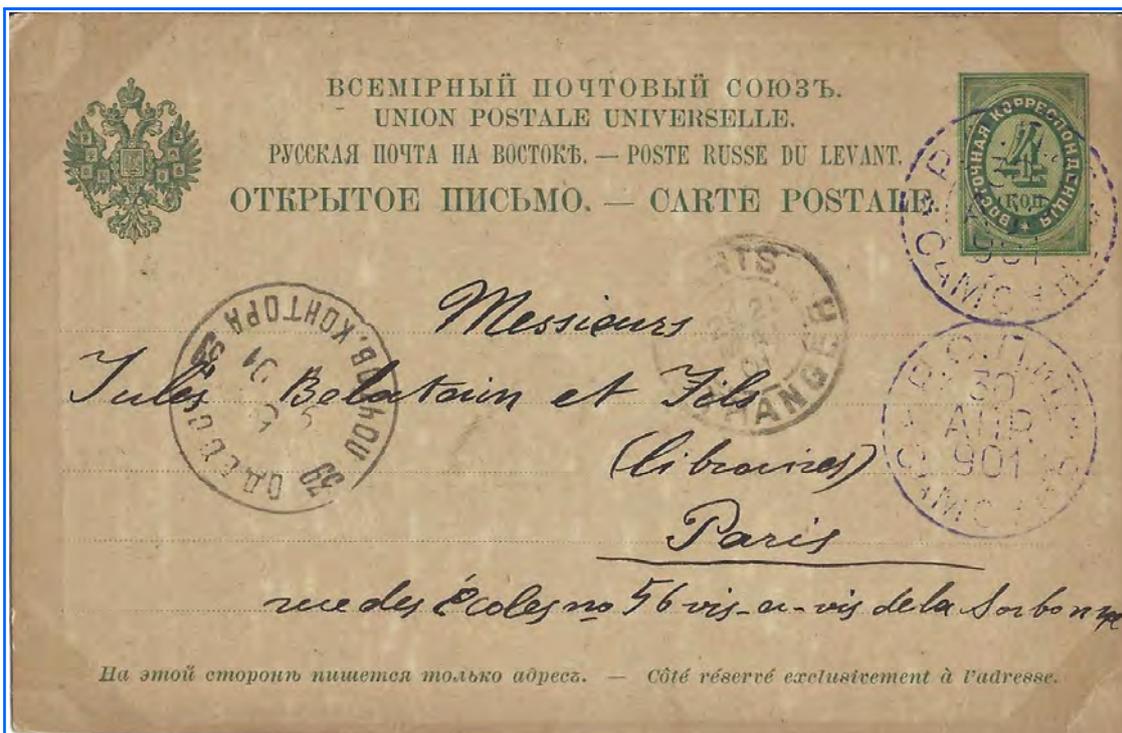


**Р.О.П.ИТ ИНЕБОЛИ 24 ИЮНЯ 901** on 1894 issue 4 kon stationary card addressed to Wien with arrival mark.

Very few examples are recorded so far with this postmark.

**Р.О.П.ИТ САМСУНЪ (SAMSUN)**

Year to last three figures  
Seen 1900's



**Р.О.П.ИТ САМСУНЪ 30 АПР 901** on 1894 issue 4 kon stationery card addressed to Paris via Odessa (5/5) with arrival 21/5.

**Р.О.П.ИТ ТРАПЕЗОНДЪ (TREBIZONDE)**

Year in four figures  
Seen 1900's



**Р.О.П.ИТ ТРАПЕЗОНДЪ 28 МАР 1902** on 1894 issue 4 kon stationery card with response addressed to Witten, Germany, via Constantinople (1/4 on reverse by the Russian Post Office), Odessa (6/4) and arrival 20/4.

## DATE STAMP WITH MONTH IN LATIN

P.O.П.ИТ ОРДУ (ORDU)

Seen 1900's -1910's



Commercial Cover 'Regie Tobacco Company', franked with 1 pia/10 kon 1900 issue (diagonal overprint) and tied by P.O.П.ИТ ОРДУ 21.VI.19-05, addressed to Constantinople with arrival 25/6 on reverse by the Russian Post Office.

**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single domestic rate

No more than 3-4 examples are recorded so far with this postmark .

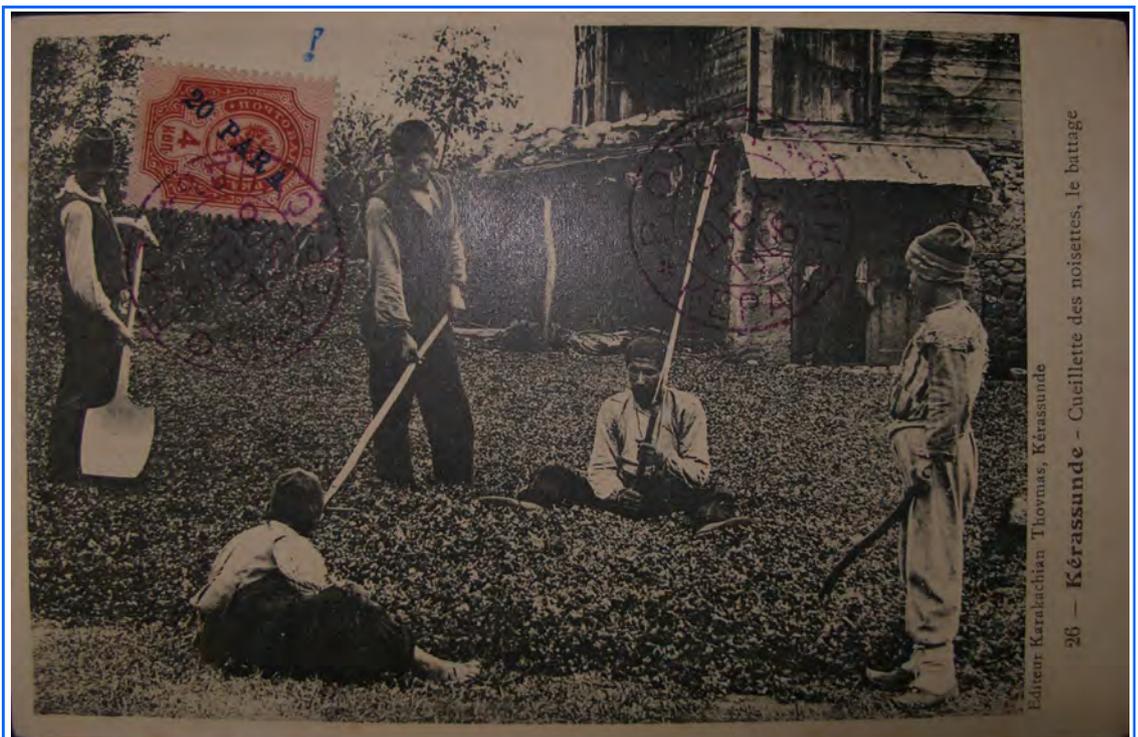
**Р.О.П.ИТ КЕРАСУНДЪ** (KERASSUNDE)

Year in four figures

Seen 1900's

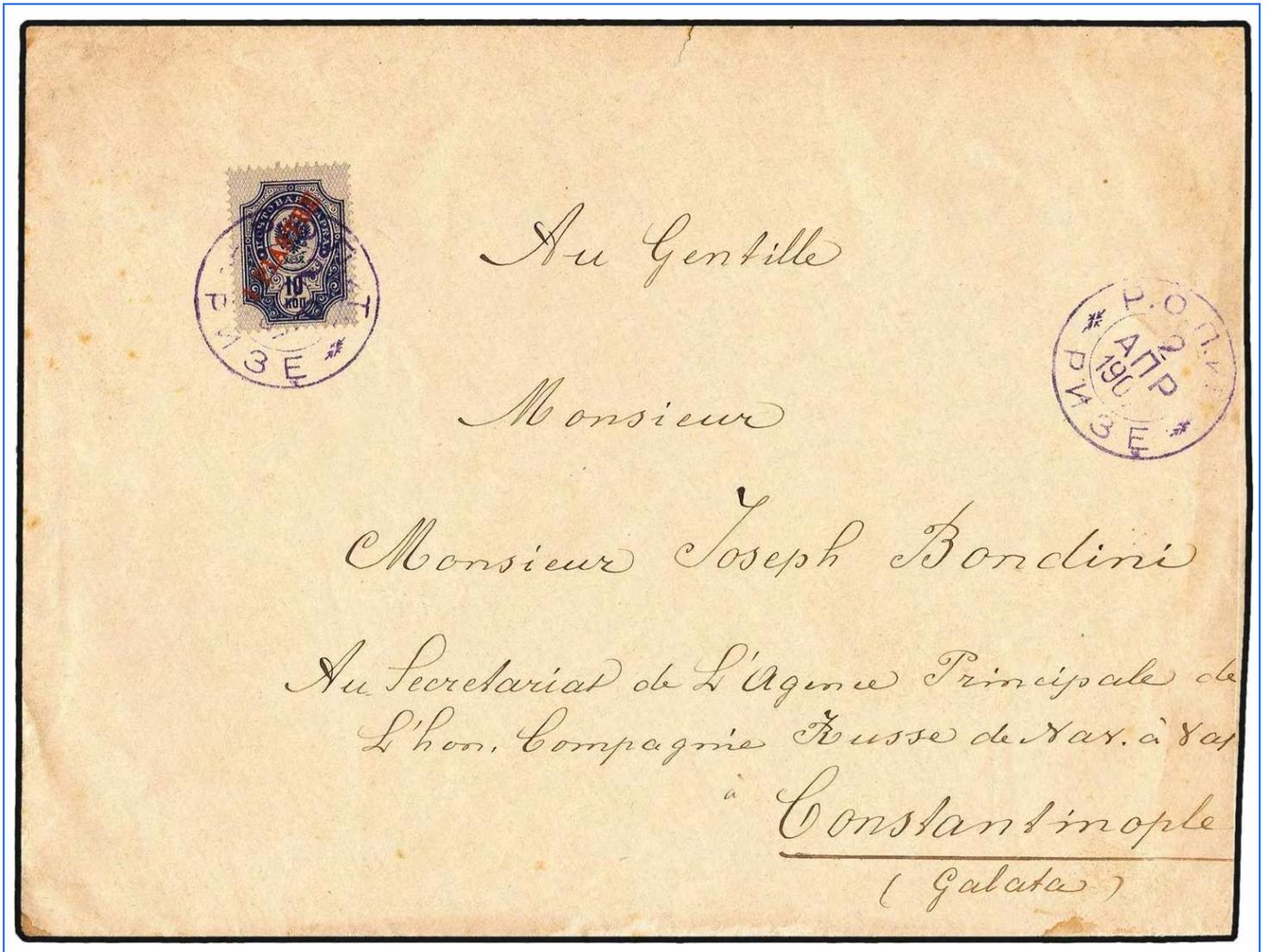


Registered Commercial Cover 'Cacoulides Freres' franked with 2 Pia/20kon 1900 Issue (diagonal overprint) and tied by **Р.О.П.ИТ КЕРАСУНДЪ 29 ИЮЛЯ 1905** along with **Р.О.П.ИТ КЕРАСУНДЪ 30 ИЮЛЯ 1905**, addressed to Kiev, arrival 8/8 on reverse. **Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate + 1 Pia for Registration



Picture Postcard 'Cueillette des Noisettes', franked with 20 Pa/4kon 1900 issue (diagonal overprint) and tied by **КЕРАСУНДЪ 9 ДЕК 1906**, addressed to Paris. **Postal Rate:** 20 Pa single rate for Postcards

**Р.О.П.ИТ РИЗЭ (RIZE)**  
 Seen 1900's

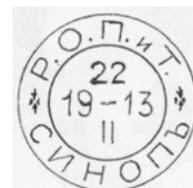


Cover franked with 1 pia/10 kon 1900 issue (diagonal overprint) and tied by **Р.О.П.ИТ РИЗЭ 2 АПР 1907**, addressed to Constantinople. *Ex Cihangir*  
**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single domestic rate

No more than 2-3 examples are recorded so far with this postmark.  
 This Post Office with the limited volume of mail is one of the rarest Russian Levant Post Offices

DATE STAMP WITH MONTH IN LATIN

**Р.О.П.ИТ СИНОПЬ** (SINOPE)  
 Seen 1910's



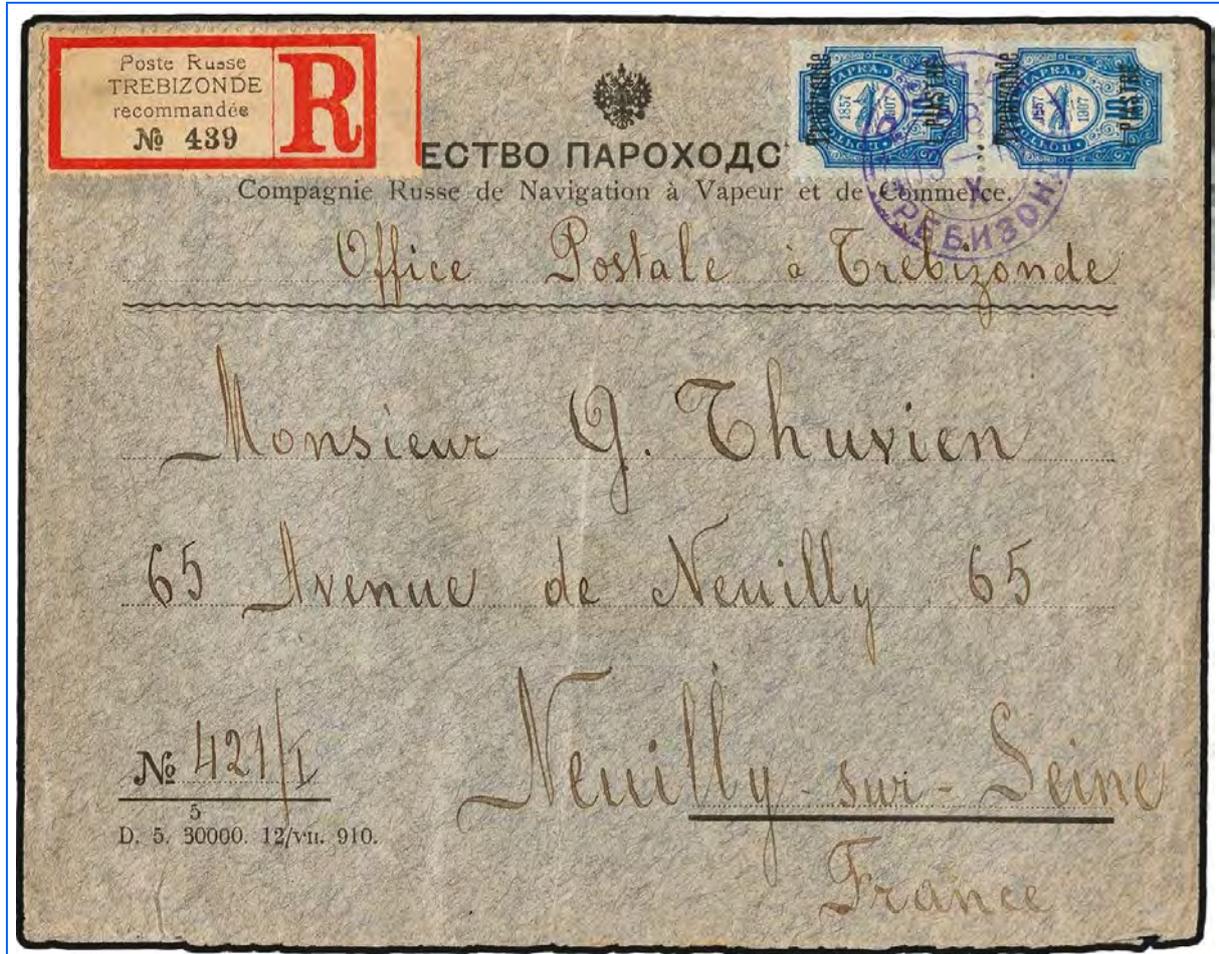
**Р.О.П.ИТ СИНОПЬ 16.VII.19-12** on 1900 issue 20Pa/4 kon stationary card addressed to Berlin, via the Russian Post Office of Constantinople(18/7) on reverse. *Ex Cihangir*

No more than 3-4 examples are recorded so far with this postmark .  
 This Post Office with the limited volume of mail is one of the rarest Russian Levant Post Offices

USAGE OF RUSSIAN LEVANT STAMPS WITH OVERPRINT THE NAME OF THE CITY (ISSUED IN 1909-1910)  
'TREBIZONDE'

**Р.О.П.ИТ ТРЕБИЗОНДЪ** (TREBIZONDE)

Seen 1910's



Registered Cover with Dispatcher 'Compagnie Russe de Navigation et de Commerce', franked with 2x1 Pia/10kon 1909-10 issue with overprint 'Trebizonde' and tied by **Р.О.П.ИТ ТРЕБИЗОНДЪ 28.X.19-10**, addressed to Neuilly-sur-Seine, France with arrival, transit mark by the Russian Post Office of Constantinople, along with wax seal on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate + 1 Pia for Registration

The use of these stamps on properly mailed postal material is very scarce.

**Р.О.П.ИТ ТРЕБИЗОНДЪ (TREBIZONDE)**

Seen 1910's



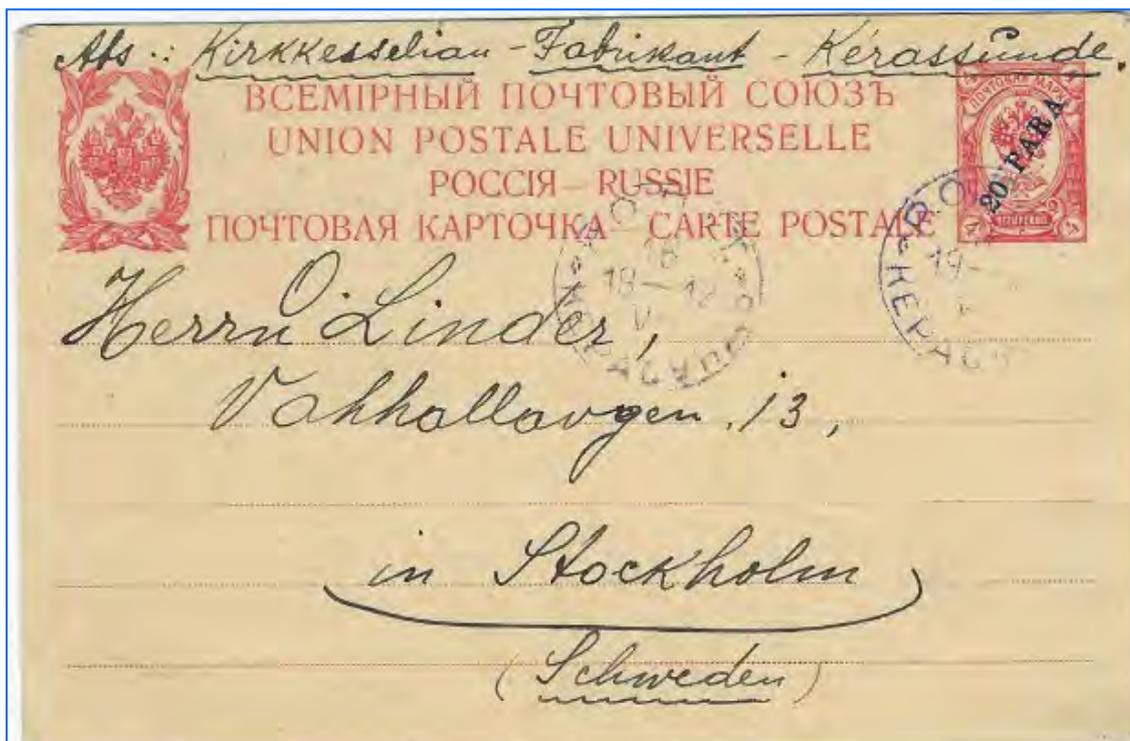
Registered Cover franked with 1 pia/10 kon & strip of 4x10 pa/2 kon 1910 issue (diagonal overprint) and tied by **Р.О.П.ИТ ТРЕБИЗОНДЪ 5.III.19-13**, addressed to Versailles, France with transit mark (8/3) by the Russian Post Office of Constantinople, Paris (25/3) & arrival mark on 26/3.  
**Postal Rate:** 40 Pa(1 Pia) single foreign rate + 1 Pia for Registration



**Р.О.П.ИТ КЕРАСУНДЪ**

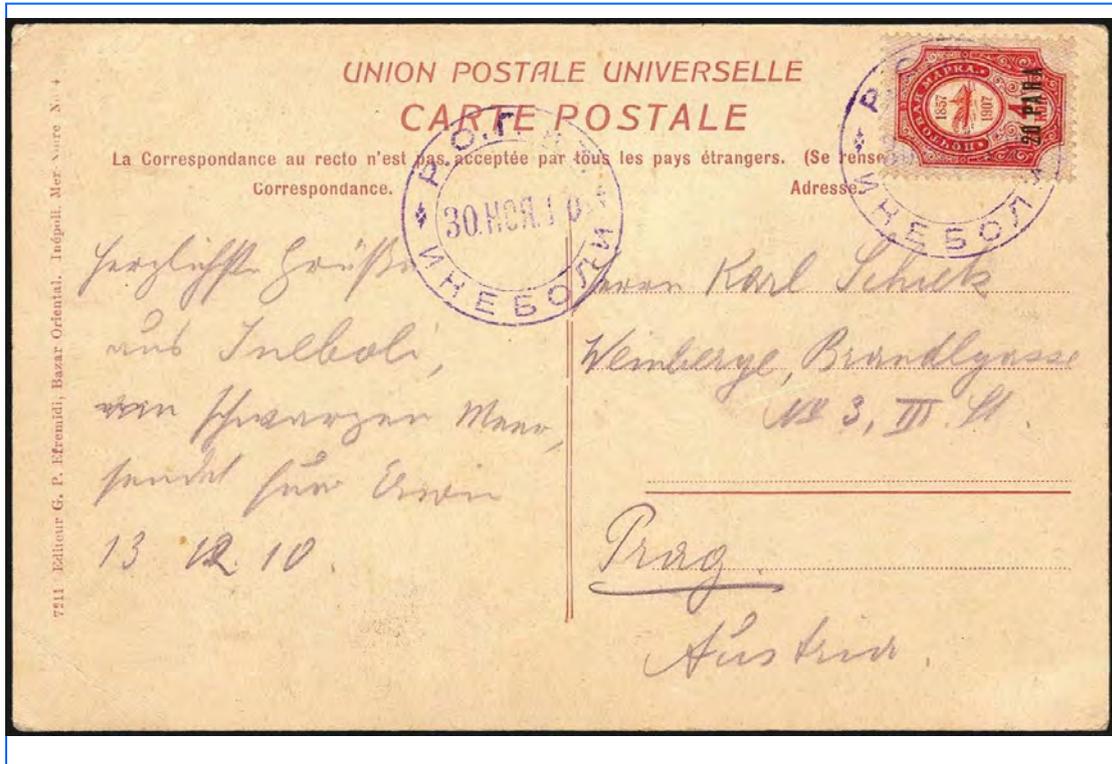
(KERASSUNDE)

Seen 1910's



**Р.О.П.ИТ КЕРАСУНДЪ 16.VII.19-12** on 1909 issue 20Pa/4 kon stationary card addressed to Stockholm.

**Р.О.П.ИТ ИНЕБОЛИ (INEBOLI)**  
 Seen 1890's –1900's

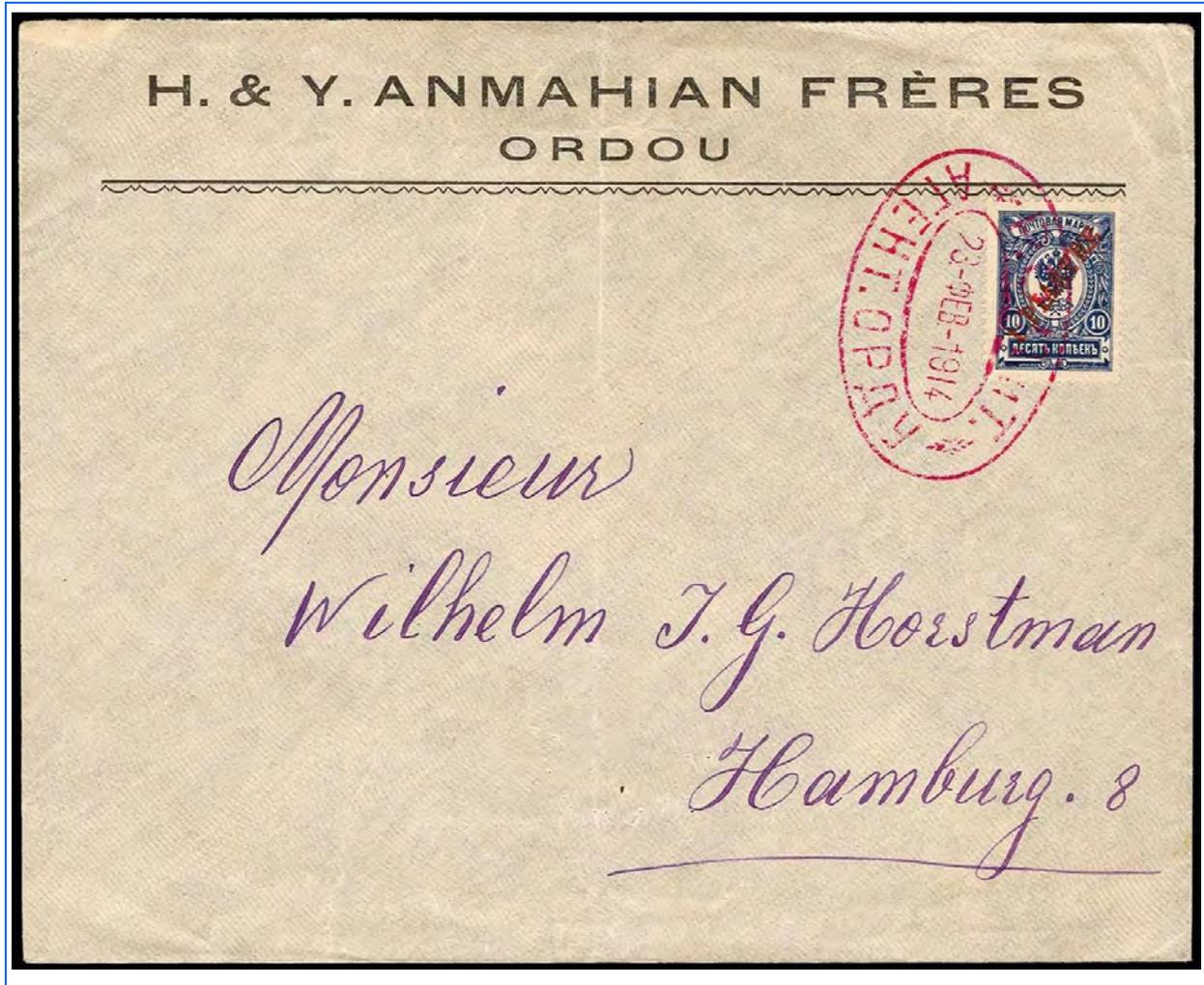


Picture Postcard 'Souvenir d' Ineboli, Le Port', franked with 20Pa/4 kon 1909 issue and tied by **Р.О.П.ИТ ИНЕБОЛИ 30 НОЯ 10**, addressed to Prague.

**Postal Rate:** 20 Para single rate for Postcards

No more than 2-3 examples are recorded so far with this postmark.

**Р.О.П.иТ АГЕНТ. ОРДУ** (ORDU)  
Seen 1900's -1910's



Commercial Cover franked with 1 pia/10 kon 1910 issue (diagonal overprint) and tied by large oval **Р.О.П.иТ АГЕНТ. ОРДУ 23-ФЕВ-1914**, addressed to Hamburg. *Ex Cihangir*  
**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate

Only 2 examples with this postmark are known.

This Post Office with the limited volume of mail is one of the rarest Russian Levant Post Offices

**Р.О.П.ИТ САМСУНЪ (SAMSUN)**

Seen 1910's



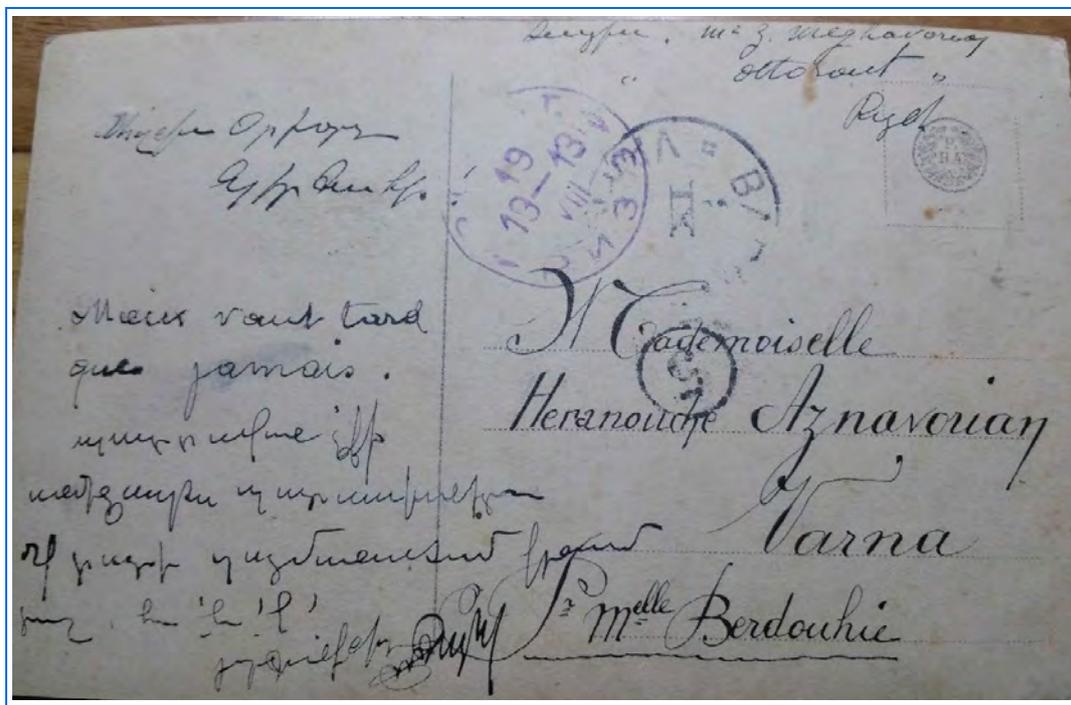
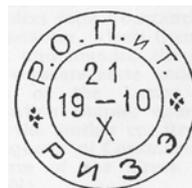
**Р.О.П.ИТ САМСУНЪ 11.II.19-11** on 1900 issue 20Pa/4 kon stationary card addressed to Brussels, arrival mark 3/3.



Registered Cover franked with 4×10 Pa/2kon 1913 Romanov +3×15 Pa/3kon 1910 issue and tied by **Р.О.П.ИТ САМСУНЪ 20.V.19-14**, addressed to Basel, Suisse, arrival 7/6 via Constantinople (22/5) by the Russian Post Office, on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 40 Pa single foreign rate + 40 Pa for Registration, overfranked by 5 Pa

**Р.О.П.ИТ РИЗЭ (RIZE)**  
Seen 1910's



Picture Postcard franked with 20Pa/4 kon 1913 Romanov issue and tied by **Р.О.П.ИТ РИЗЭ 19.VIII.19-13**, addressed to Varna, Bulgaria, arrival 2/9. **Postal Rate:** 20 Para single rate for Postcards

Very few examples are recorded so far with this postmark.

CIRCULAR DATE STAMP IN 1 LINE

**Р.О.П.ИТ ТРЕБИЗОНДЪ** (TREBIZONDE)

Seen 1913-14



Picture Postcard franked with 20Pa/4 kon 1913 Romanov issue and tied by **Р.О.П.ИТ ТРЕБИЗОНДЪ 23.XI.1913**, addressed to Landes, France. **Postal Rate:** 20 Para single rate for Postcards

**Р.О.П.ИТ ТРЕБИЗОНДЪ** (TREBIZONDE)

Seen 1913-14



Registered Cover from the French Consulate in Trebizonde franked with 10 Pa/2kon + 2x15 Pa/3kon + 1 Pia/10kon 1913 Romanov issue and tied by **Р.О.П.ИТ ТРЕБИЗОНДЪ 9.V.1913**, addressed to Chalon-sur-Saone, France, arrival 31/5 via Constantinople (14/5) by the Russian Post Office, along with Consulate cachet on reverse. **Postal Rate:** 40 Pa single foreign rate + 1Pia for Registration



## THE OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

The public postal service in the Ottoman Empire began in 1840's, which led to the opening of Offices in the major cities of Pontus such as Trabzon (1842), Samsun (1843), Kastamonu (1844), Tokat (1847) and Amassia (1849). Postage depended on weight and distance in hours. The Ottoman mail services were at the beginning unreliable, so it was handling mostly domestic mail and it took some years for the Ottoman Post to have a substantial amount of foreign mail.

**CIRCULAR BLACK NEGATIVE SEAL**  
**AN CANIB-I POSTA-I KASTAMONU 1260**  
 (ON BEHALF OF POST OFFICE OF  
 KASTAMONU 1844)  
 Seen 1844- early 1860's



Entire from Kastamonu dated 1850, text written in 'Caramanli' and tied by negative **AN CANIB-I POSTA-I KASTAMONU 1260**, addressed to Istanbul.

Address firstly written in Caramanli and in Ottoman Turkish probably by the Postal Clerk.

**Postal Rate:** 3 Dirhem/3 Pia marking at top left, that is 120 Para for the distance of 120 hours.

Caramanli or Karamanlides evolved from the Greek Orthodox Christians of Asia Minor. It should be noted while their spoken language was Turkish, they employed the Greek alphabet to write it.

Castamonu, which was the capital of the villayet, was not considered to be part of Pontus, however there was a significant amount of Greek population that used to live there. Castamonu was commercially connected with the harbor of Inebolu which supplied the city with goods and commodities.





**CIRCULAR BLACK NEGATIVE SEAL**  
**AN CANIB-I POSTA-I AMASYA 265**  
 (ON BEHALF OF POST OFFICE OF  
 AMASSIA 1849)  
 Seen 1849-1862



Entire from Amassia dated 1860, and tied by negative  
**AN CANIB-I POSTA-I AMASYA 265**, addressed to Dersaadet.  
 Address firstly written in Armenian and in Ottoman Turkish probably by the Postal Clerk. Wax seal on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 3 Dirhem/4 Pia marking at top left, that is 1 Para per hour of distance up to 3 Dirhem for the distance of 144 hours, rounded to 160.

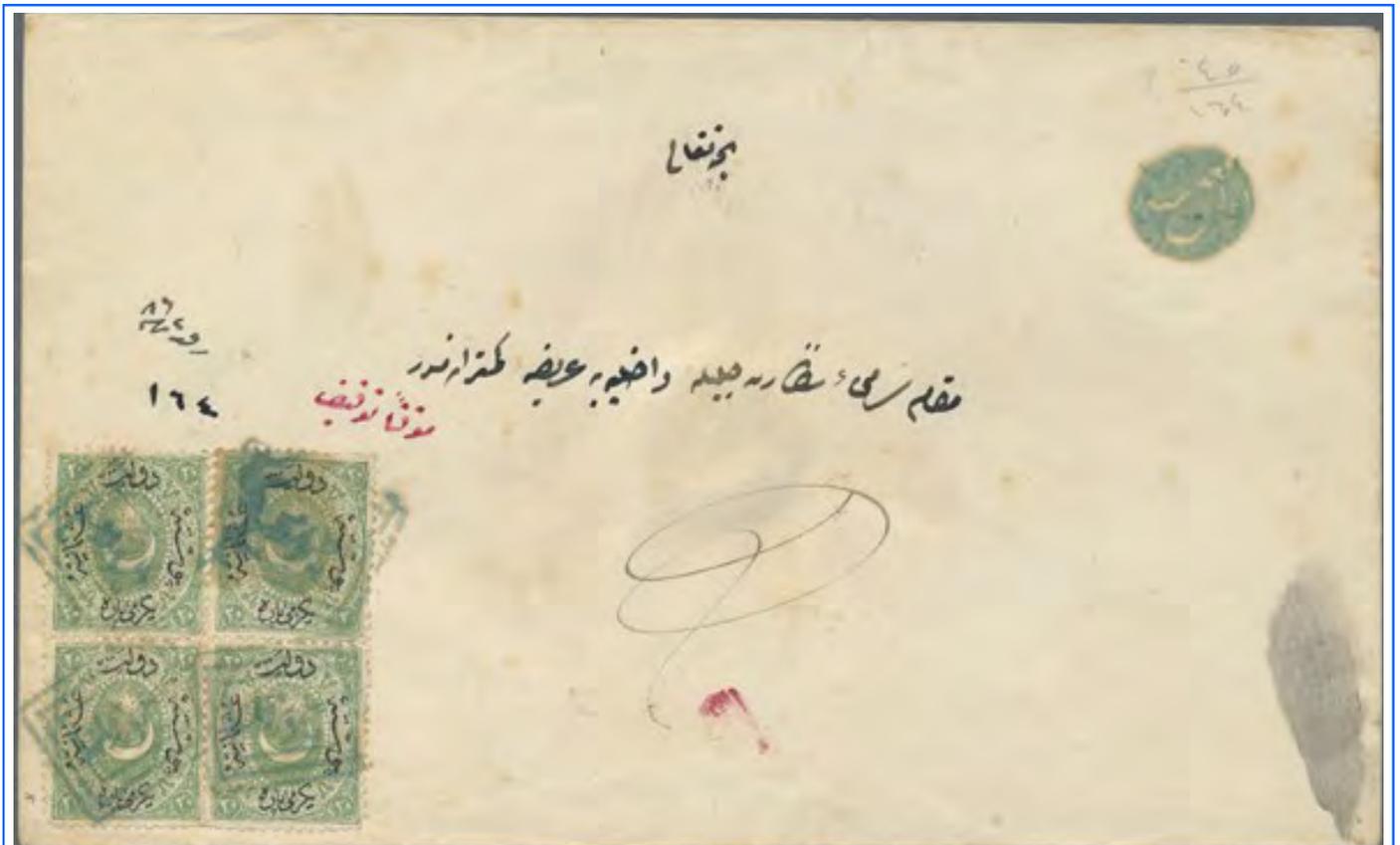


TRIPLE BOX ARABIC  
**SAMSUN**  
Seen 1868-1875



Entire dated 30 July 1869 franked with 2x20 Pa 1868 Duloz Type III & tied by blue box Arabic **SAMSUN** addressed to 'Hochstrasser & Cie', Trebizonde. **Postal Rate:** 40 Pa Littoral rate letter

TRIPLE BOX ARABIC  
**TRABZON 81**  
(TRABZON 1865)  
Seen 1865-1875

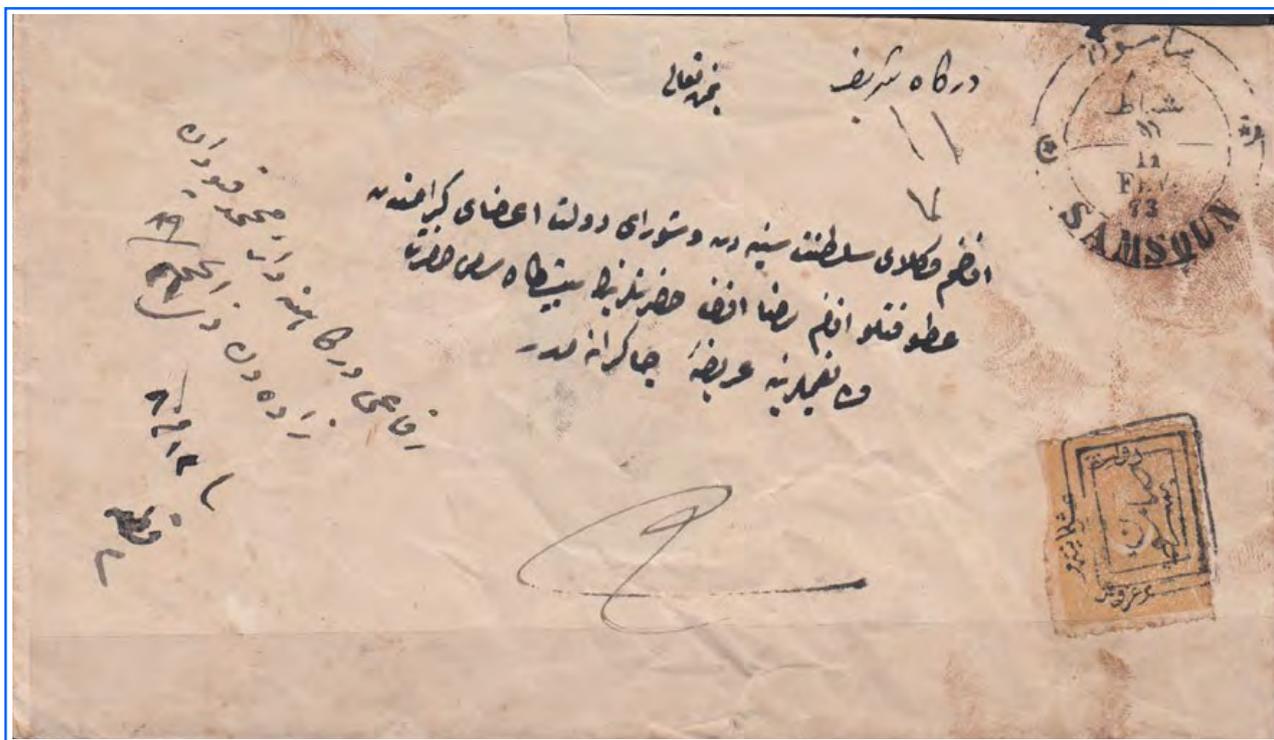


Registered Cover 1870 franked with 4 x 20 Pa 1868 Duloz type III & tied by blue box **TRABZON 81** addressed to Constantinople with arrival mark and wax seal on reverse. **Postal Rate:** 40 Pa Littoral rate + 40 Pa for Registration (100% charge).

TRIPLE BOX ARABIC  
SAMSUN  
Seen 1868-1875



CIRCULAR STARTYPE WITH 6 LINES  
SAMSOUN  
Seen 1868-1873



Cover franked with 1 Pia 1870-71 Duloz type III & tied by black box Arabic SAMSUN, along with black startype SAMSOUN 11 FEV 73, addressed to Istanbul. Postal Rate: 1 Pia littoral rate letter

TRIPLE BOX ARABIC  
KASTAMONU  
Seen 1868-1892



Registered Cover franked with 5x1+ 2x2 Pia 1870-71 Duloz type III & tied by black box KASTAMONU, addressed to Istanbul with wax seal on reverse. Postal Rate: 9 Pia: 3 Pia up to 200 hours of distance + 1.5 Pia(50%) for 2nd weight + 4.5 Pia for registration (100% charge).

TRIPLE BOX ARABIC  
**TRABZON 81**  
 (TRABZON 1865)  
 Seen 1865-1875



Entire from Bayburt addressed to Trabzon, dated 1874, franked on arrival with 2 Pia 1868 Duloz type III + 1 Pia 1870 Duloz type III & tied by black box **TRABZON 81** with address in Old Turkish & Armenian on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 3 Pia, for a distance up to 200 hours.

1875-FORMATION OF UPU  
 Ottoman UPU Rates

CIRCULAR NEGATIVE SEAL  
**TELGRAF VE POSTAHANE-I RIZE 92**  
 (TELEGRAPH AND POST OFFICE RIZE 1876)  
 Seen Late 1870's-1880's



Registered Cover with Wax seals in Old Turkish, franked with 1 Pia 1876 Duloz type IV and tied by **TELGRAF VE POSTAHANE-I RIZE 92** addressed to Constantinople, arrival mark 24 DEC 83.

**Postal Rate:** 20 Pa littoral rate + 20 Pa for Registration (100% Charge)

1875-FORMATION OF UPU  
Ottoman UPU Rates

CIRCULAR NEGATIVE SEAL  
TELGRAF VE POSTAHANE-I RIZE 92  
(TELEGRAPH AND POST OFFICE RIZE 1876)  
Seen Late 1870's-1880's



Cover 1877 franked with pair of 10 Pa 1876 Crescent issue (littoral rate) and tied by **TELGRAF VE POSTAHANE-I RIZE 92** addressed to Constantinople with arrival mark.

CIRCULAR NEGATIVE SEAL WITH CRESCENT  
POSTAHANE-I AMASYA 1278  
(POST OFFICE OF AMASYA 1862)  
Seen 1870's-1880's



Cover 1888 franked with 2 Pia 1888 Crescent issue and tied by **POSTAHANE-I AMASYA 1278**, addressed to Istanbul with arrival cachet.

**Postal Rate:** 2 Pia single domestic rate.(Applied from 7.6.1882 to 1.9.1888)

OFFICE SANITAIRE TREBIZONDE 1877

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE  
POSTAL RATE: FREE OF CHARGES

OFFICE SANITAIRE SINOPE 1879

The box handstamp 'TAHKIKATI MUHIMME' indicates 'Very important Correspondence' and it was used for official mail.



Cover bearing **OFFICE SANITAIRE TREBIZONDE 1877** and box handstamp 'TAHKIKATI MUHIMME' addressed to the Health Authorities of Constantinople.

Cover dated 1883 bearing **OFFICE SANITAIRE SINOPE 1879** and box handstamp 'TAHKIKATI MUHIMME' from Sinope Quarantine Office addressed to the Health Authorities of Constantinople.

**TABII SAMSOUN KARANTINE OUNIEH**  
(SAMSOUN QUARANTINE OFFICE, UNIAH)

OFFICE SANITAIRE EREGLI(MER NOIRE)



Cover bearing **OFFICE SANITAIRE EREGLI(MER NOIRE)** and box handstamp 'TAHKIKATI MUHIMME' addressed to the Health Authorities of Constantinople with arrival mark 31 JAN 76 and wax seal on reverse.

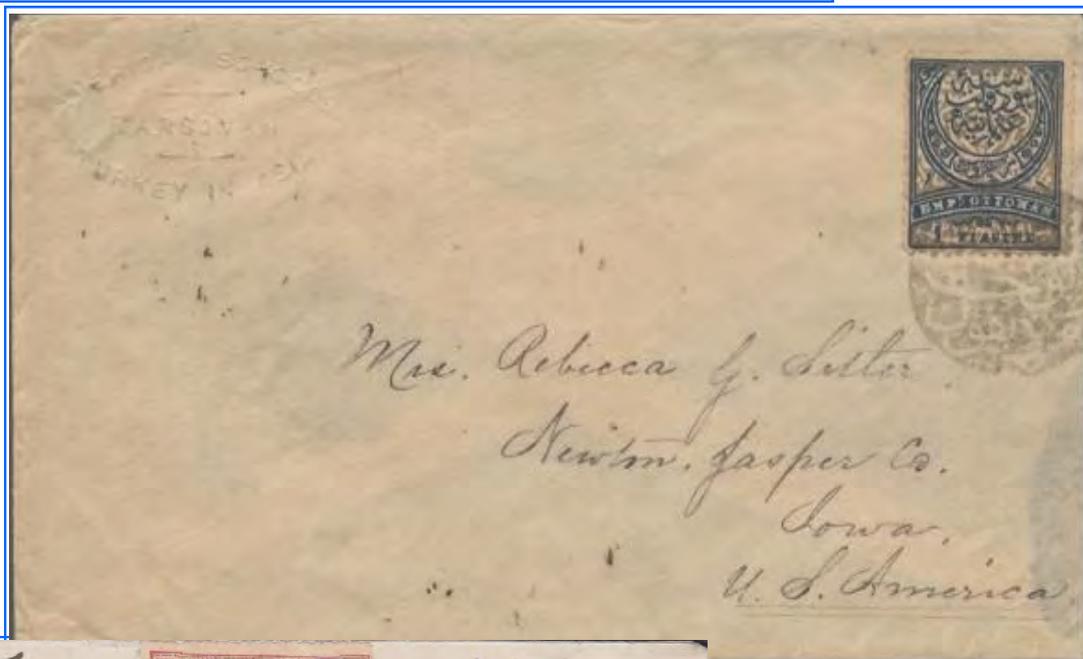
Cover ca.1878 bearing **TABII SAMSOUN KARANTINE OUNIEH** from Branch Quarantine Office in Uniah and box handstamp 'TAHKIKATI MUHIMME' addressed to the Health Authorities of Constantinople, arrival mark 7/9. According to Vandervele only 2 covers with this postmark are known.

CIRCULAR NEGATIVE SEAL  
 TELGRAF VE POSTAHANE-I MERZIFON 1289  
 (TELEGRAPH AND POST OFFICE MERZIFON 1873)  
 Seen 1873-1902



Cover dated 1887, franked with 2 Pia 1886 Crescent issue addressed to Istanbul with arrival mark & Armenian merchant cachet.  
**Postal Rate:**  
 2 Pia single domestic rate.  
 (Applied from 7.6.1882 to 1.9.1888)

Cover with 'American School Marsovan Turkey in Asia' typed header, franked with 1 Pia 1880 Crescent issue addressed to Newton Iowa, via New York 21 Sept 1888.  
**Postal Rate:**  
 1 Pia single foreign rate.



Cover 1897 franked with 2x20 Pa 1892 Tughra & Empire Coat of Arms addressed to Grenoble, France, arrival mark 18/1 via Constantinople (13/1).  
**Postal Rate:**  
 40 Pa single foreign rate  
 A late use of this Postmark.

CIRCULAR DATE STAMP IN FRENCH  
TREBIZONDE TURQUIE

Seen 1880's



TREBIZONDE TURQUIE 30 JUNI 88 on 1884 issue 20 Pa stationary card to Gand, Belgium arrival 11/7 via Constantinople (7/7).

CIRCULAR DATE STAMP IN FRENCH  
SAMSOON TURQUIE

Seen 1884-1890



SAMSOON TURQUIE 25 DECEMBRE 1889 on 1884 issue 20 Pa stationary card to Heidelberg, Germany, arrival 3.1.90 via Constantinople (28/12).

This postmark was used for foreign correspondence, however it is seldom seen.

## TRIPLE RECTANGULAR ARABIC

## GIRE SUN 81

(KERASSUNDE 1865)

Seen 1865-1886



Commercial Cover franked with 1+5 Pia 1884  
Crescent issue and tied by blue **GIRE SUN 81**,  
addressed to Istanbul.

**Postal Rate:** 6 Pia triple domestic rate. (Applied  
from 7.6.1882 to 1.9.1888, 2 Pia per 10g)

**CIRCULAR NEGATIVE SEAL  
TELGRAF VE POSTAHANE-I EREGLI 1314**

(TELEGRAPH AND POST OFFICE EREGLI 1898)

Seen 1898– early 1900's



Cover franked with pair of 20 Pa 1892  
Tughra & Empire  
Coat of Arms & tied  
by **TELGRAF VE  
POSTAHANE-I  
EREGLI 1314**,  
addressed to  
Kastamonu.

**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia  
single domestic  
rate

**CIRCULAR NEGATIVE SEAL WITH CRESCENT  
POSTAHANE-I TOKAT 1279**  
(POST OFFICE OF TOKAT 1863)  
Seen 1863-1890's



Registered Cover + Avis de Reception (AR Cover) franked with 1+2 Pia 1892  
Tughra & Empire Coat of Arms & tied by **POSTAHANE-I TOKAT 1279**,  
addressed to Basel, Suisse, arrival 16.1.97 via Galata (13/1).

**Postal Rate:** 3 Pia: 1 Pia single foreign rate +1 Pia for Registration + 1 Pia for Return Receipt (AR)  
This is a quite late use of this postmark

**BILINGUAL BLACK OVAL**



**SAMSUN** on  
1905 issue  
Seen ca 1890-1907



**UNIAH** on fragment  
Seen 1890's-1910's



**ORDOU** on 1892  
Tughra & Empire  
Coat of Arms  
Seen 1890-1909

CIRCULAR STARTYPE WITH 6 LINES

SAMSOUN  
Seen 1890-1899



**SAMSOUN**  
**21 OCT 92**  
on 1892 issue  
20 Pa stationary  
card to Liege,  
Belgium, via  
Constantinople  
(24/10).

MERZIFON  
Seen 1890's



**MERZIFON**  
**JAN 97** with  
cachet 'American  
School Marsovan',  
on 1892 issue 20  
Pa stationary card  
to Northfield  
Miami via  
Constantinople  
(4/2).  
This postmark is  
not mentioned by  
Coles-Walker &  
Bayindir.

## TREBIZONDE

Seen 1890's



TREBIZONDE 25 DEC 96 on 1895 issue 1 Pia Lettercard to Smyrna.

## INEBOLI

Seen 1890-1898



Cover franked with 1 Pia 1892 Tughra &amp; Empire Coat of Arms and tied by INEBOLI 6 SEPT 97, addressed to Istanbul.

Postal Rate: 1 Pia single domestic rate

## CIRCULAR NEGATIVE SEAL

## TELGRAF VE POSTAHANE-I HAVZA 1312

(TELEGRAPH AND POST OFFICE HAVZA 1896)

Seen Late 1890's-1901

**TELGRAF VE  
POSTAHANE-I  
HAVZA 1312**  
on 1901 issue 20  
Pa stationary card  
for the interior  
addressed to  
Sehzadebasi,  
Istanbul.



## TRABZON POSTA ŞUBESİ 1309

(Trabzon Branch Post Office 1893)

Seen 1893-1904



Cover franked with  
20 Pa 1901 issue  
(littoral rate)  
and tied by  
negative

**TRABZON POSTA  
ŞUBESİ 1309**,  
addressed to  
Dersaadet with  
arrival cachet  
on reverse.

**SINOP TURQUIE**  
Seen 1877- early 1900's



Picture Postcard 'franked with 10 Pa 1901 issue and tied by **SINOPE TURQUIE 22 FEVRIER 02**, addressed to Beauvais, Oise, France, via Constantinople (25/2) & Brussels (22/3)  
**Postal Rate:** 10 Pa rate for Postcards without text

This Postmark is not mentioned by Coles-Walker & Bayindir



**MERZIFOUN**  
Seen 1900's

**MERZIFOUN 22.4.904** on 1901 issue 1 Pia Lettercard for the exterior with dispatcher 'American School Marsovan' addressed to Rosario, Argentina, arrival 21/5 & 22/5 via Constantinople (25/4) & Paris (29/4).



## TREBIZONDE

Seen 1890-1909



Commercial Cover 'Regie Tobacco Company' franked with 2×10 Pa 1901 issue (littoral rate) and tied by bilingual black oval **TREBIZONDE**, addressed to Constantinople, arrival 2.1.1905 on reverse.

## KERASSOUNDE

Seen 1900's



Cover franked with 4×5 Pa 1905 issue and tied by **KERASSOUNDE**

**25.11.906**

addressed to Istanbul with arrival mark (29/11) on reverse.

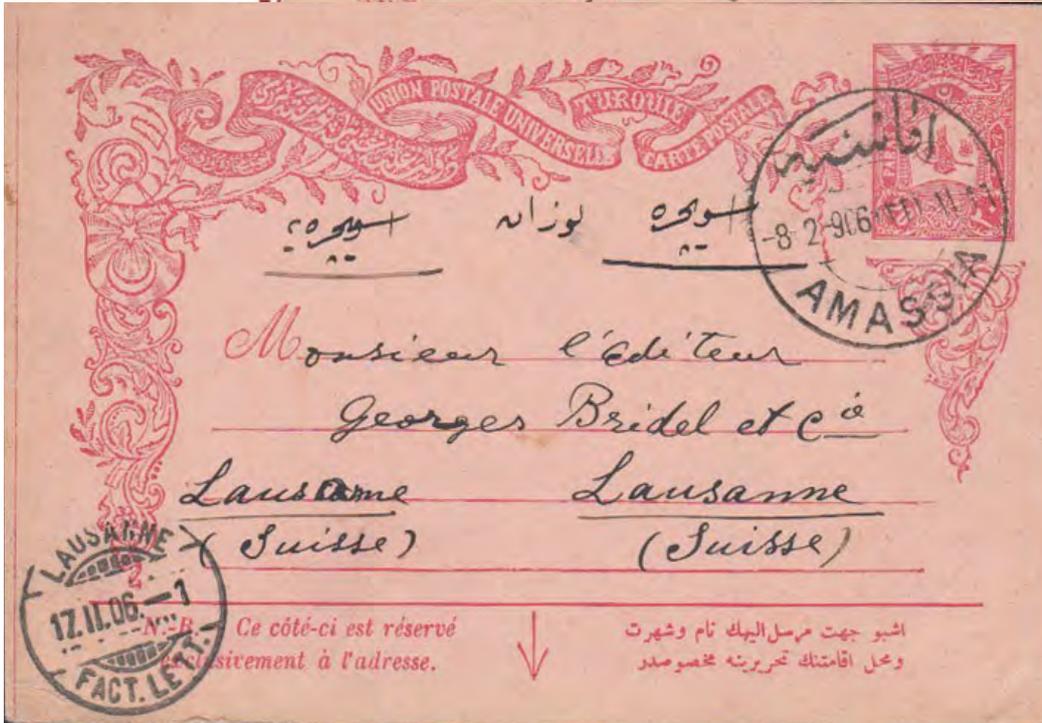
**Postal Rate:**  
20 Pa littoral rate letter

**TOKAT**

Seen 1905-1908

**TOKAT 13-3-906**

on 1905 issue 20 Pa stationary card to Schramberg, Germany, arrival 24/3.



**AMASSIA**

Seen 1906-1915

**AMASSIA 8-2-906**

on 1905 issue 20 Pa stationary card to Lausanne, arrival 17/2.

**SAMSOUN**

Seen 1900's

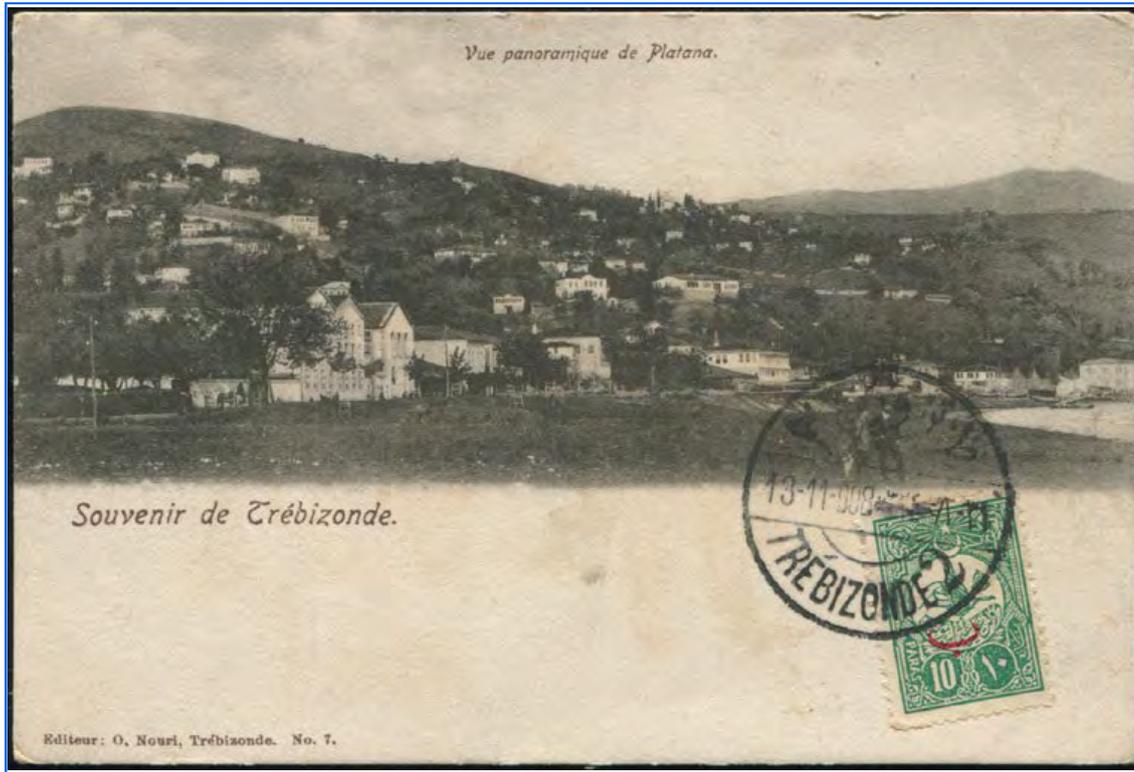


Small Cover franked with 10 Pa 1901 issue and tied by **SAMSOUN 15-12-901**, addressed to Chicago, arrival 6 JAN 1902. **Postal Rate:** 10 Pa 'Carte Visite' exterior rate.

From 1905-1913 the Ottoman stamps were overprinted with the letter 'ب' i.e "b", for use in foreign correspondence.

## TREBIZONDE 2

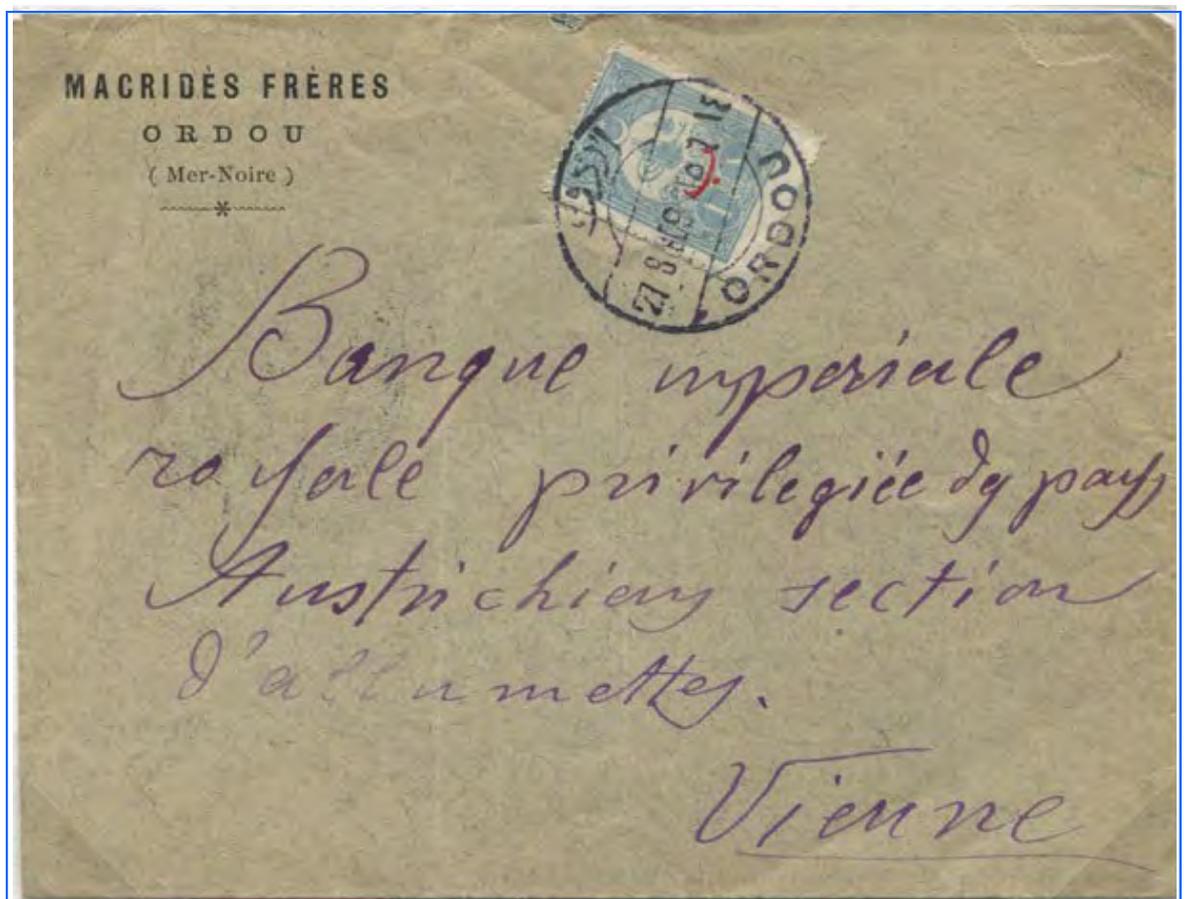
Seen 1910's



Picture Postcard (View of Platana) franked with 10 Pa Bey-iye-stamp 1908 issue and tied by **TREBIZONDE 2 13-11-908**, addressed to Varilhes, France, arrival 27/11. **Postal Rate:** 10 Pa rate for Postcards without text

## ORDOU

Seen 1901-1913



Commercial Cover 'Macrides Freres' franked with 1 Pia Bey-iye-stamp 1908 issue and tied by **ORDOU 27-8-909**, addressed to Vienna, arrival 3/9 on reverse. **Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate

## RIZE

Seen 1908-1914

Cover franked with  
20 Pa 1910 issue  
(littoral rate)  
and tied by  
**RIZE 22-8-911**,  
addressed to  
Istanbul, arrival 28/8.



## BAFRA

Seen 1910's



Cover franked with  
1 Pia 1910 issue  
and tied by  
**BAFRA 17-9-1911**,  
addressed to  
Istanbul, arrival 22/9.  
**Postal Rate:**  
1 Pia single  
domestic rate

**SINOP 2**  
Seen 1911-1922



Picture Postcard (Le Port Sinope) franked with 20 Pa Bey-iye-stamp 1908 issue and tied by **SINOP 2 9-12-12**, addressed to Milano, Italy.  
**Postal Rate:** 20 Pa rate for Postcards

Picture Postcards from Sinope are rarely seen.  
Editeur: N.K. Hadji Photides, Sinope



**TIREBOLI**  
Seen 1900's

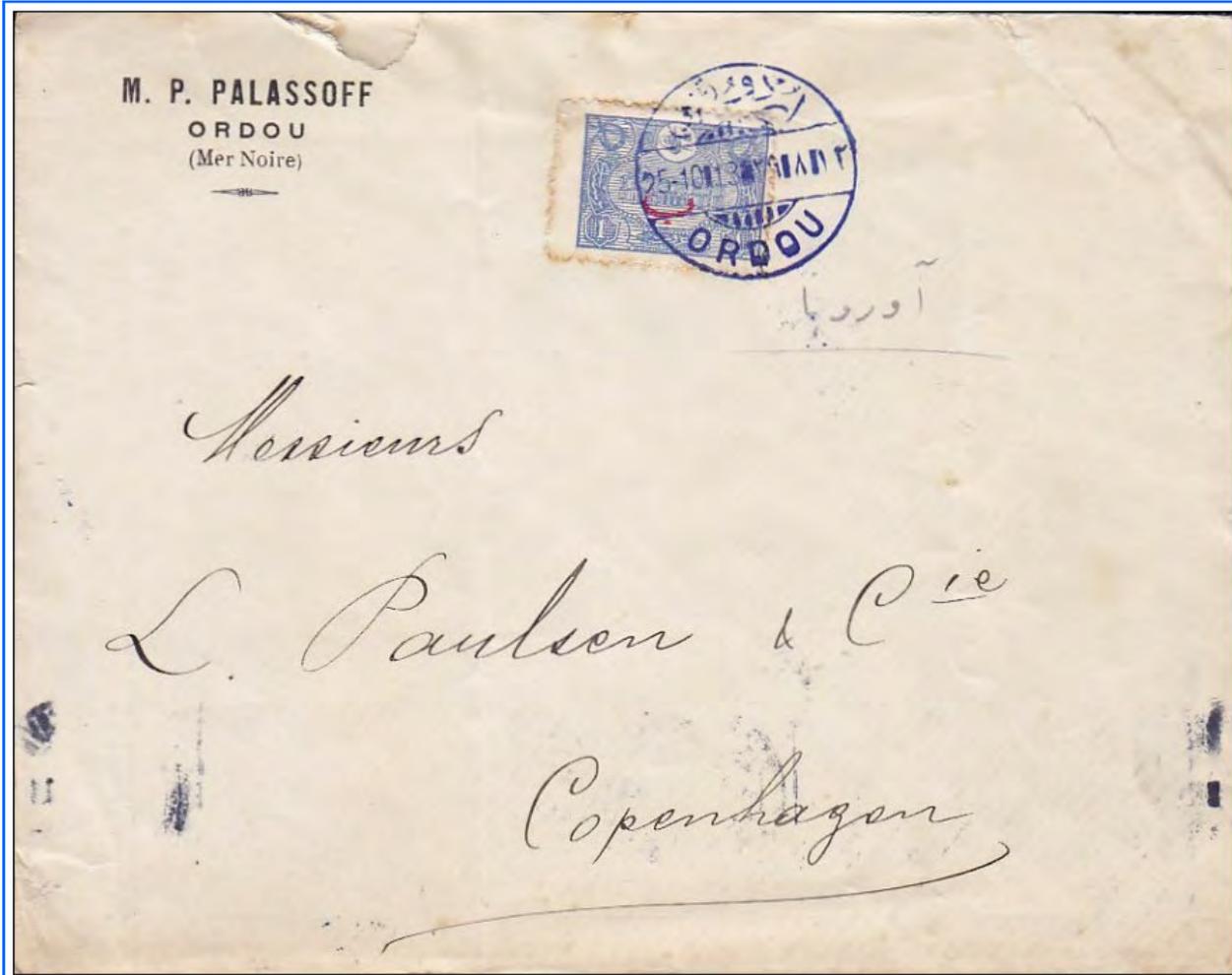


Small Cover franked with 5 Pa 1909 issue and tied by **TIREBOLI 2-12-909**, addressed to Kerassunde, arrival 8/12. **Postal Rate:** 5 Pa for open 'Carte Visite' domestic rate.

**SAMSOUN 1**  
Seen 1908-1914

Large envelope franked with 5×1 Pia 1910 issue and tied by **SAMSOUN 1 22-3-912**, addressed to Konia, arrival 28/3. **Postal Rate:** 5 Pia for Fifth Weight domestic rate(1 Pia/15gr).

**ORDOU**  
Seen Mid 1910's



Commercial Cover 'M.P. Palassoﬀ' franked with 1 Pia Bey'iyé-stamp 1913 issue and tied by **ORDOU 25-10-13**, addressed to Copenhagen, Denmark.  
**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate

**MERZIFOUN 2**  
Seen 1914-1927

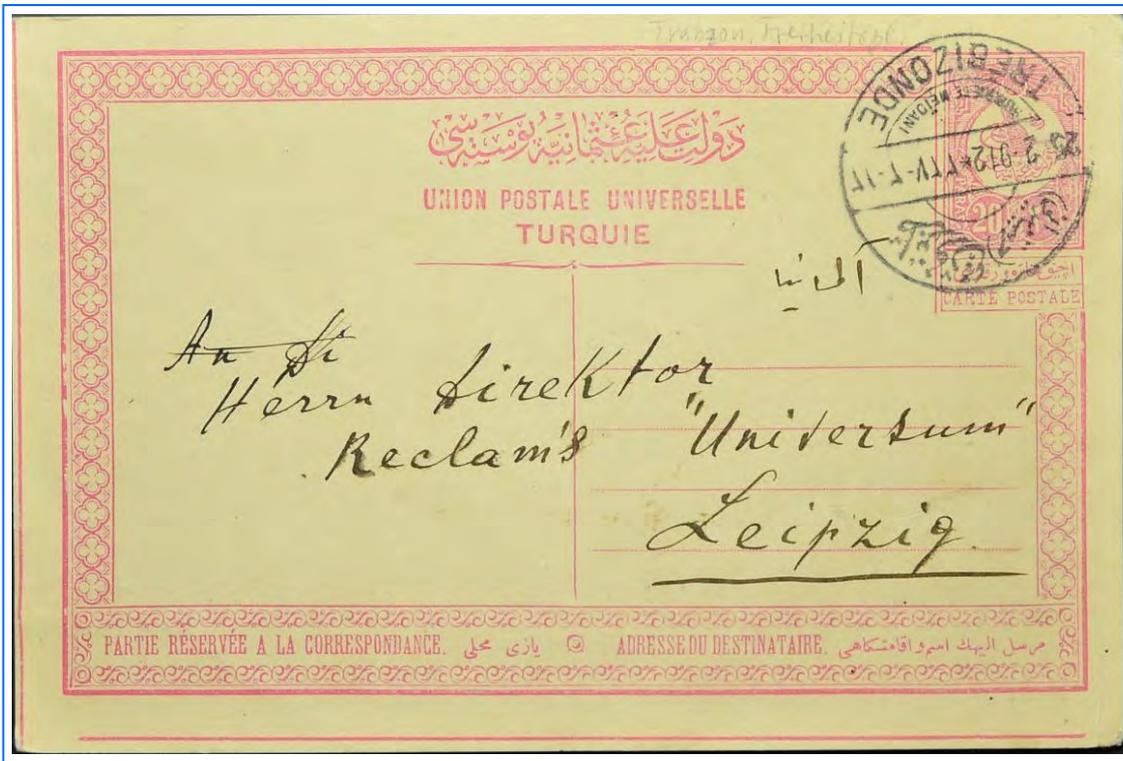


**Anatolia College cachet on reverse**

Cover franked with pair of 20 Pa 1914 London printing issue and tied by **MERZIFOUN 2 30-9-14**, addressed to Wichita, Kansas with Anatolia College Ottoman cachet in purple.  
**Postal Rate:** 40 Pa single foreign rate



**TREBIZONDE HURRIETE MEİDANI**  
 (TREBIZONDE FREEDOM SQUARE)  
 Seen ca 1910-1914



This Postmark is seldom seen. It is believed that it was in use since ca 1910 until the middle of 1914 at the time the War broke out. The Post Office closed due to the limited volume of mail and the Postmark was for a short period still in use probably in the main Post Office, but this time scratched, only with Trebizonde, both Latin and Arabic. (see also Page 97)

TREBIZONDE HURRIETE MEİDANI 25-2-912 on 1908 issue 20 Pa stationary card to Leipzig.

**SAMSOUN 4**  
 Seen 1913-1923

Parcel Card franked with 1.5 + 2.5 + 5 Pia 1914 London printing issue and tied by **SAMSOUN 4 17-5-14**, addressed to Wien, via Roumania, arrival 28/5 on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:**  
 9 Pia for 1 Parcel of 5 kgr.



In 28 July 1914 outbreaked the First World War and lasted till 11 November 1918. All the Foreign Post Offices were closed on 1st October 1914 after the unilateral abrogation of the Capitulations by the Ottoman government, just a month before the Porte entered the War by the side of the Central Powers. The Ottoman Post Offices applied censorship from the beginning.

**EREGLI (MER NOIRE) 1**  
Seen Mid 1910's

Registered Cover  
franked with 2  
Pia 1914 London  
printing issue  
and tied by  
**EREGLI (MER  
NOIRE) 1**  
**12-5-15** & black  
rectangular  
Censorship  
cachet of  
Constantinople  
No ۳۷(37),  
addressed to  
Germany via  
Istanbul 19/5.  
**Postal Rate:**  
1 Pia single  
foreign rate +  
1 Pia for  
Registration

The number in  
the Censorship  
cachet  
indicates the  
number of the  
examiner.



**KERASSUNDE 2**  
Seen 1910-1918



**KERASSUNDE 2**  
**21-4-915** on 1914  
issue 20 Pa  
Registered  
Stationary card  
franked with 20 Pa  
(London printing) +  
2x10 Pa (star over-  
printed) 1914 issues  
& black rectangular  
Censorship cachet of  
Constantinople No ۳۹  
(39), addressed to  
Laibach (Ljubljana),  
Austria, via  
Istanbul 3/5, along  
with blue circular  
Austrian  
Censorship &  
'ÜBERPRÜFT'  
marking on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:**  
20 Pa + 40 Pa  
for Registration

**ORDOU 1**

Seen 1910's

Registered Cover franked with Pair of 1 Pia London Printing 1914 issue and tied by **ORDOU 1 27-11-15**, along with purple rectangular Censorship of Constantinople No ۳۲ (32), addressed to Wien with transit mark of Constantinople on reverse.

**Postal Rate:**

1 Pia single foreign rate + 1 Pia for registration

Commercial Cover 'N.Haldeopoulo' franked with 1 Pia London Printing 1914 issue and tied by **TREBIZONDE 1 28-11-15**, along with red rectangular Censorship cachet of Constantinople No ۳۸ (38), addressed to Amsterdam with arrival mark on reverse.

**Postal Rate:**

1 Piaster single foreign rate



**TREBIZONDE 1**  
Seen Mid 1910's-1920's



**TREBIZONDE**  
Seen 1914-1915



**TREBIZONDE**  
18-1-915 on 1914  
issue 20 Pa  
Stationary card along  
with black rectangular  
Censorship cachet of  
Constantinople No ۲  
(2), addressed to  
Rome.

The above postmark  
was scratched after  
the closure of the  
Post Office in  
Hurriete Meidani,  
Trebizond & used for  
a short period during  
the War.

**HAVZA 20-10-916**  
on 1914 pair  
London printing  
Seen 1910's



**POULETHANE**  
20-5-915  
on 1914  
London printing  
Seen 1911-1917

**SURMENE 21-12-15**  
on 1915 pair  
War issue  
Seen 1915-1929



**NIKSAR 1**  
28-10-16  
on 1915 pair  
War issue  
Seen 1910's



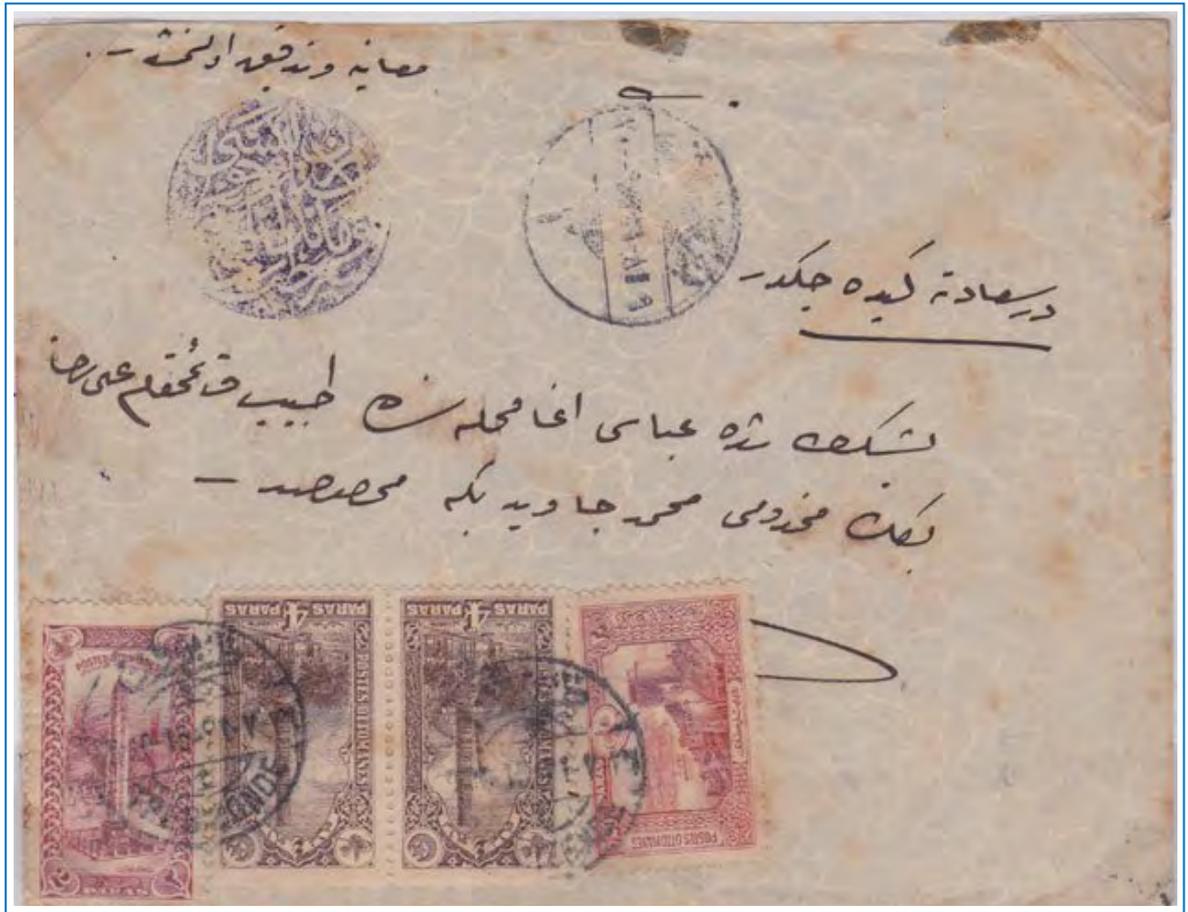
**TELGRAF VE POSTAHANE-I  
ALAÇAM ۱۶۰ (TELEGRAPH  
AND POST OFFICE ALACAM  
1290, i.e 1874)  
on 1916 pair War issue  
Seen 1874-1916**

**TREBIZONDE 1**

Seen Mid 1910's-1920's

From 25-6-15 all mail had to be franked with additional charity stamps for war orphans. Cards & letters were surtaxed with 10 Pa, Registered mail with 20 Pa. Foreign mail was excluded from this surtax but normal postage was raised instead from 1.7.16.

Cover franked with 2 Pa + 2x4 Pa + 20 Pa 1914 London printing issue & tied by **TREBIZONDE 1 16-10-15** addressed to Istanbul with arrival mark 22/10 on reverse. The cover also bears negative purple cachet **LAZISTAN VE HAVALISI KOMANDANLIGI SER TARABETI** (CHIEF COMMAND OF LAZISTAN DOCTORS)  
**Postal Rate:** 20 Pa littoral rate + 10 Pa surtax for War orphans



**SAMSOUN**

Seen 1910-1920

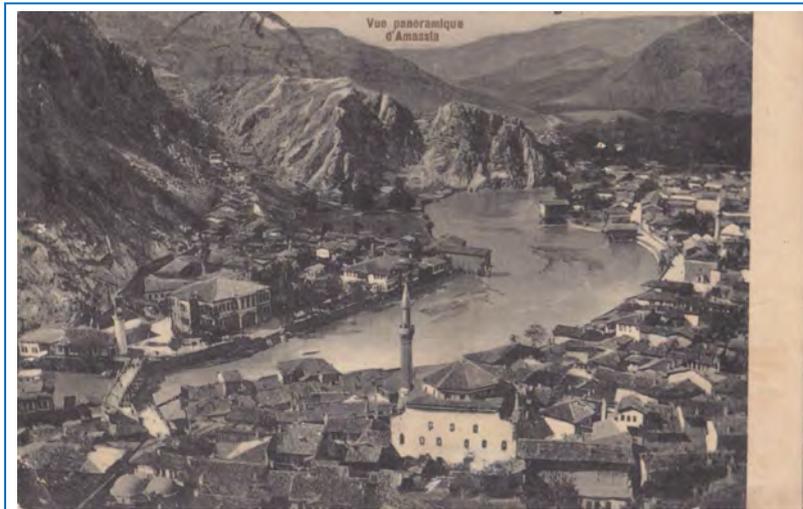


Registered Commercial Cover 'G.C. Pavlides', franked with 1 Pia (1914 London Printing) + 1 Pia (1915 War issue) and tied by **SAMSOUN 29-6-16** & purple rectangular Censorship cachet of Constantinople No 31(31), addressed to Anvers, arrival 17/7 via Istanbul (9/7) along with purple 'Aachen' Censorship.  
**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia single foreign rate + 1 Pia for Registration

**AMASSIA**  
Seen 1906-1917



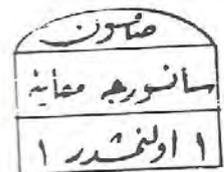
'Amassia' Censorship Cachet



Picture Postcard 'Vue Panoramique d'Amassia', franked with 20 Pa (1914 London Printing) + 10 Pa (1915 War issue) and tied by **AMASSIA 17-8-16** along with **Amassia** Censorship Cachet, addressed to Istanbul.

**Postal Rate:** 30 Pa rate for Postcards

**SAMSOUN**  
Seen 1910-1920



'Sansürce muayene olunmuştur 1'  
(Censorship control has become 1)  
The number '1' indicates the number of the examiner

Commercial Cover 'ΑΔΕΛΦΟΙ ΥΨΗΛΑΝΤΗ ΑΜΙΣΟΣ', franked with 4×10 Pa (1914 London Printing) + 10 Pa (1915 War issue) and tied by **SAMSOUN 25-8-16** along with **Sansürce muayene olunmuştur 1** Censorship, addressed to Ankara.

**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia 10 Pa single foreign rate



**SAMSOUN**  
Seen 1910-1920



Registered Cover franked with 1 Pia + 3×20 Pa (1915-16 War issues) and tied by **SAMSOUN 22-11-17** & black rectangular Censorship cachet of Constantinople, addressed to Munich, arrival 12/12 via Istanbul (4/12) on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia 10 Pa single foreign rate + 1 Pia 10 Pa for Registration

**MERZIFOUN 2**  
Seen 1914-1927



**MERZIFOUN 2**  
**10-10-17** on 1917 issue 20 Pa  
 Stationary card franked with 10 Pa (1917 War Orphans) & black rectangular Censorship cachet of Constantinople No 40 (40), addressed to Echichens Suisse, via Istanbul with transit mark.

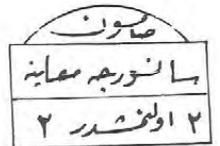
**MERZIFOUN 2**

Seen 1914-1927

Cover franked with 1 Pia (star overprinted 1914) + 10 Pa (Crescent Six-pointed star overprinted ۱۳۳۱ (1331) 1915 issue) and tied by **MERZIFOUN 2 22-9-917** (possible wrong date) & black rectangular Censorship of Constantinople No 46 (46), addressed to Constantinople, arrival 6/11 on reverse.

**Postal Rate:**

1 Pia 10 Pa single domestic rate.

**SAMSOUN**  
Seen 1910-1920

'Samsun sansürce muayene olunmuştur 2' (Samsun, Censorship control has become 2) The number '2' indicates the number of the examiner

Commercial Cover franked with 20 + 10 Pa (Crescent Five-pointed star overprinted 1916 issues) and tied by **SAMSOUN 5-12-17** along with **Samsun sansürce muayene olunmuştur 2** Censorship, addressed to Dersaadet, arrival 26/12 on reverse. **Postal Rate:** 30 Pa Littoral rate letter.

**SINOP 2**

Seen 1911-1922

Cover franked with 1 Pia (1916 issue) +10 Pa (1915 War issue) and tied by **SINOP 2 24-2-18** along with black rectangular Censorship cachet of Constantinople, addressed to Berlin-Steglitz via Istanbul (25/2 & 26/2).  
**Postal Rate:**  
 1 Pia 10 Pa single foreign rate

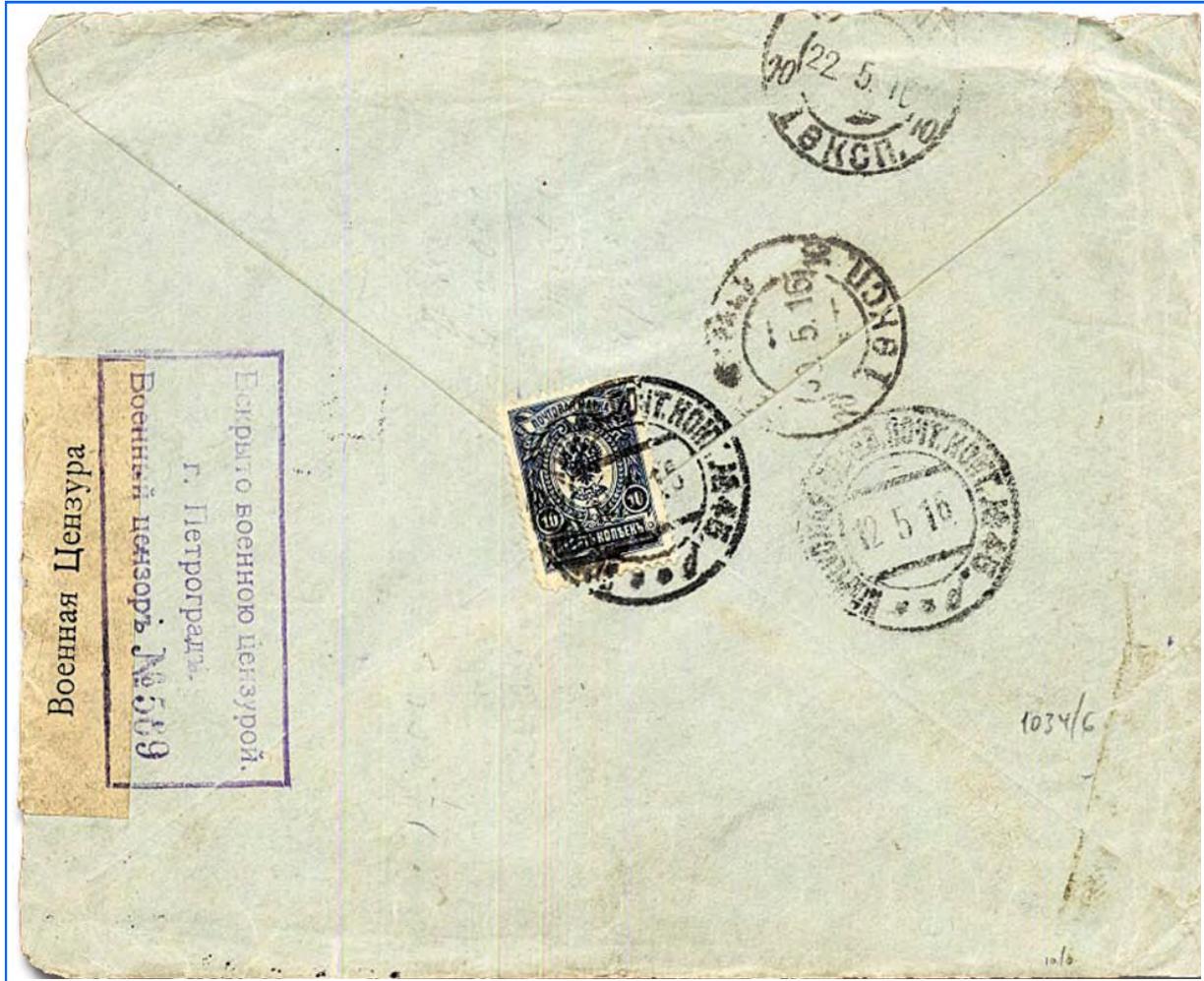
**INEBOLI**  
Seen 1911-1920's

'Inebolu sansürce tetkik edilmiştir 1331'  
 (Ineboli, verified by censorship, 1915)

**INEBOLI 3.5.18**  
 on 1916 issue 20 Pa stationary envelope franked with 10 Pa (Crescent Five-pointed star overprinted 1916 issue), along with **Inebolu sansürce tetkik edilmiştir 1331** Censorship, addressed to Istanbul, arrival 16/5 on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:**  
 30 Pa littoral rate letter

In April 1916 during the War, Trebizonde was captured by Russian forces. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 allowed the Turks to reconquer the territory in December 1917 after the disintegration of the Russian army which abandoned the city. During this 20-month period, military Field Post Offices operate in the area of Trebizonde which also handled civilian mail.

**КОРПУСКАЯ ПОЛЕВ. ПОЧТ. КОНТ. № 45 6**  
(ARMY CORPS FIELD POST OFFICE 45)



'Вскрыто военною цензурой г. Петроградъ. Военный цензоръ № 589'  
(Autopsy military Censorship of Petrograd. Military Censor No 589)



Commercial Cover 'J. Enepekoglu Fils' franked with 10коп 1908 issue Russian stamp and tied by **КОРПУСКАЯ ПОЛЕВ. ПОЧТ. КОНТ. № 45 6 12-5-16** addressed to Manchester via St. Petersburg with boxed **Вскрыто военною цензурой г. Петроградъ. Военный цензоръ № 589** Censorship in purple along with Censorship tape and boxed number '6'. **Postal Rate:** 10 коп single foreign rate

Sector 'b' is not reported by Tchilingirian.

**ПОЛЕВАЯ ЗАПАСНАЯ П.К. 161 6**  
(FIELD RESERVE POST OFFICE 161)



Postcard 'Souvenir de Trébizonde, Les rochers de "Douzli-Echeuchmé"', Ed. H.Tsolakian, with purple administrative cachet on departure and tied by **ПОЛЕВАЯ ЗАПАСНАЯ П.К. 161 6 26-4-16**, addressed to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan and arrival mark 7-5-16. On arrival is censored with purple oval marking '**Ашгабат военный цензор 7 май 1916**' ('Military Censorship of Ashgabat 7 May 1916'), along with rectangular Censorship marking in purple in which the name of the city is faintly visible.

**Postal Rate:** Free of charges mailed by military personnel.

For a very short period from mid-April to the beginning of May the Office was located in Trabzon. Then the 5<sup>th</sup> Caucasian Army Corps along with the Field Post & Telegraph Office No 45 were settled in Trabzon, so the Office No 161 was transferred to Rize. The office seems to remain there until perhaps late '16.

Very few items are known with this postmark during the short stay in Trabzon!

ПОЛЕВАЯ ЗАПАСНАЯ П.К. 159 а  
(FIELD RESERVE POST OFFICE 159)



Cover franked with 2×1kop + 2×4 коп 1908-

18 issue and tied by **ПОЛЕВАЯ**

**ЗАПАСНАЯ П.К. № 159 а 3-8-17,**

addressed to Bern via St Petersburg where it was censored with purple cachet

**‘Вскрыто в. ценз. № 527**

**П.В.О.’** (Autopsy M. Cens. No 527 P.M.C. i.e. Petrograd Military Censorship) on the

Censor tape that applied after the envelope was opened. On the tape is written on

**‘военная цензура’** (Military Censorship).

Arrival mark of St Petersburg, written in

purple probably from the Examiner ‘Швейцария’, meaning ‘Switzerland’ and number ‘37’ which indicates his number.

Then the envelope is reopened to be censored again with tape ‘Controle Postal Militaire’ and black oval ‘Ouvert par l’

Autorité Militaire 912’, in London. It arrives finally in Bern with arrival mark ‘Bern 1

Briefausgabe 24.X.17’, after of almost 2.5 months journey.

**Postal Rate:** 10 kop single foreign rate



**ЭТАПНОЕ ПОЧТ. ТЕЛ. ОТД. N 243**  
(TEMPORARY POST & TELEGRAPH BRUNCH No 243)



Postcard 'Souvenir de Trébizonde, Les Murailles de Comnènes', Ed. O. Nouri, with purple administrative cachet on departure 'Управление и. д. (иностранные дела) началь..ка лазистанскаро раіона', (Department of Foreign Affairs of the Military Chief of the Lazistan Region) and tied by **ЭТАПНОЕ ПОЧТ. ТЕЛ. ОТД. N 243 α 10-5-16** addressed to петроградъ (St Petersburg) and arrival mark 26-5-16. The text starts: 'Rize 9/V/16'  
**Postal Rate:** Free of charges mailed by military personnel.

The Office was formed in May 1915 in Tiflis. In November a part was transferred to the Black Sea coastline after Batumi in occupied Turkey and around April '16 was transferred to Rize. It stayed there until early May '16, while afterwards it moved to Enzeli, Persia and remained there until the end of the war.  
Mailed items bearing this postmark are considered to be very rare!

The Ottoman Empire capitulated on 30 Oct. 1918 with the Armistice of Mudros, just a month before the end of the War. The armistice was followed with occupation of Constantinople and all ports and railways were made available for use by the Allies. As a result, correspondence abroad was interrupted for a few months and handled by the Military Post Offices while the domestic mail services operated continuously.



**SAMSOUN**  
Seen 1910-1920

Registered Stationary Envelope 20 Pa 1914 issue additionally franked with 10 Pa/20 Pa surcharged 1917 + 50 Pa 1917-18 Vienna issue and tied by **SAMSOUN 5-12-18**, with registration label, addressed to Istanbul, arrival 13/12 on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 30 Pa Littoral Rate + 50 Pa for Registration

**INEBOLI**  
Seen 1911-1920's

Registered Cover franked with 4x1 Pia + 20 Pa 1917-8 Vienna issue and tied by **INEBOLI 9-6-19**, addressed to Istanbul with arrival marks.  
**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia 20 Pa x2 for second weight domestic letter + 1 Pia 20 Pa for Registration (Applied from 6.2.19)



TREBIZONDE 3  
Seen Mid 1910's-early 1920's



Cover franked with 10 Pa/20 Pa surcharged 1917 + 50 Pa 1917-18 Vienna issue and tied by octagonal **TREBIZONDE 3, 10-3-919**, addressed to Istanbul with arrival marks on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia 20 Pa (60 Pa) single weight domestic letter

## ZAFRANBOLOU

Seen 1901-1926



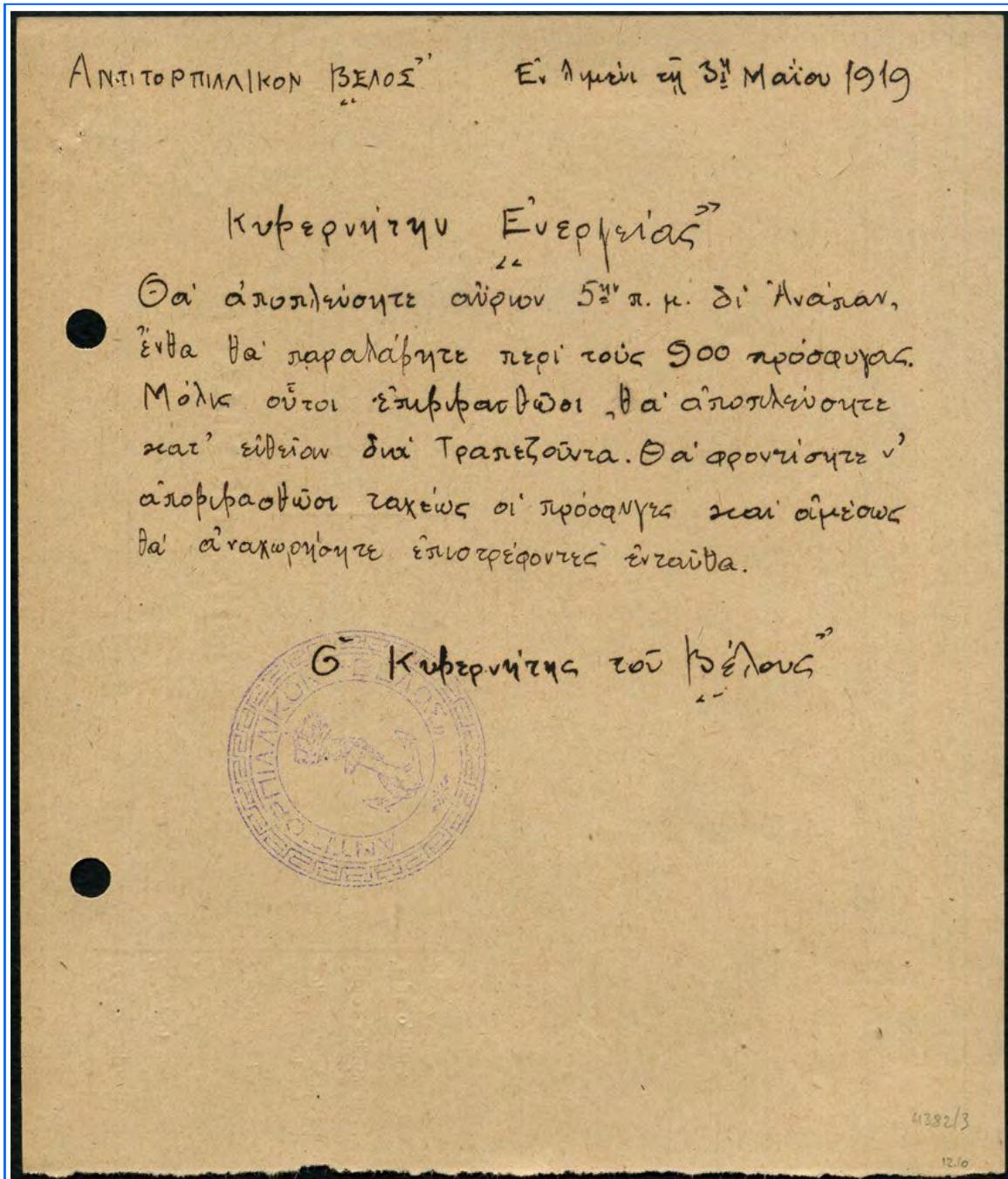
Money Order 25000 Pia franked with 17x 5 Pia (1916 War issue) + 3x50 Pa (1917-18 Vienna) +1 Pia (1916 issue) and tied by **ZAFRANBOLOU 21-1-19**, addressed to Istanbul, arrival 23/1 on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 89 Pia 30 Pa for 25000 (i.e. ~15 Pa per 100 Pia charge)



## GREEK NAVAL CAMPAIGN

France (as a principal member of the Entente) decided to send expeditionary force with the participation of Greece to help the troops resisting the Bolsheviks who were active in southern Russia. The first Greek regiments arrived in Odessa on January 1919. After the collapse of the front, end of April 1919, the Greek expeditionary force withdrew along with the other forces in Constanta Romania and that was the end of the Crimean campaign. This campaign was not only unfortunate, but also very disastrous for the Greek population of the surrounding area because of the reprisals that followed such as persecutions, deportations etc. As a result, Greek ships undertook the evacuation of several thousands of Greek population to the ports of Pontus.



Naval Command dated 3 May 1919, written in Greek by the Captain of Destroyer 'Velos', sent to the Captain of 'Energia' ordering him to transfer 900 refugees from Anapa (Russian port of Black Sea, near the Sea of Azof) to Trebizonde, bearing official cachet in violet color "ΑΝΤΙΤΟΡΠΙΛΙΚΟΝ ΒΕΛΟΣ".

After the war, end of November 1918, Constantinople was occupied by the Entente who established Military Post Offices that also handled civilian mail. Due to the fact that the correspondence abroad was interrupted, traders in the region of Black Sea in cooperation with the French Consulates set up a postal network to send their mail via the French Military Post Offices in Constantinople. The mail was prepaid, the Consulate probably had procured the stamps and finally the mail was cancelled in arrival by 'TRESOR ET POSTES 506' and then was forwarded accordingly.

Registered Cover  
 'Maison de Banque,  
 Phostiropoulo Freres'  
 franked with 50c  
 metropolitan 1919  
 Merson type and tied by  
**TRESOR ET POSTES  
 506 12-1-20** along with  
 Registration label,  
 addressed to  
 Istanbul.  
**Postal Rate:**  
 25c single rate + 25c  
 for Registration



'ΑΔΕΛΦΟΙ  
 ΦΩΣΤΗΡΟΠΟΥΛΟΙ-  
 ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ'  
 Bank mark

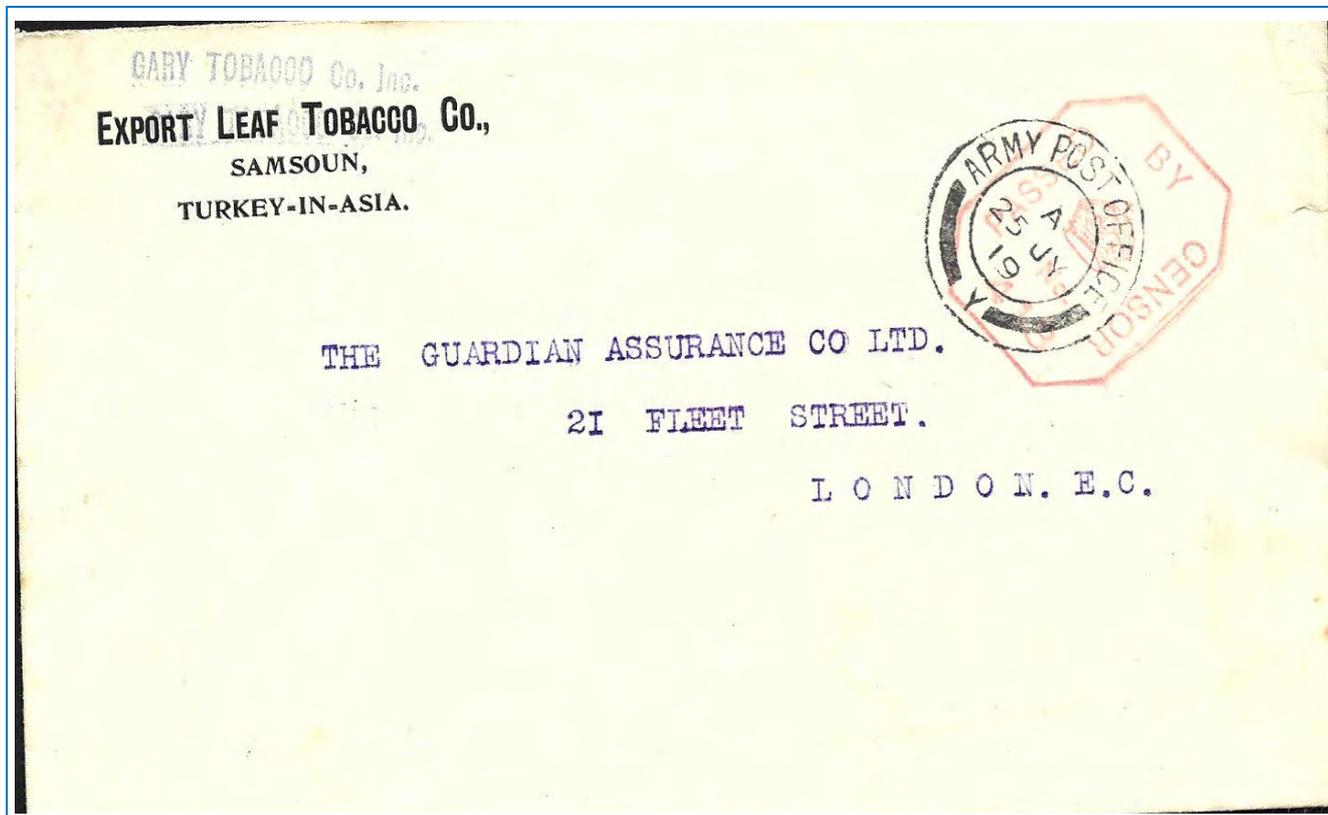


On reverse there are 3x1 piastres Ottoman stamps, that is the single domestic rate of that period. Probably the sender put the stamps in order not to face any problems with the local authorities.



Registered Cover  
 'W.H.Alston,  
 American  
 Tobacco Co  
 Agent' franked  
 with 50c  
 metropolitan  
 1919 Merson  
 type and tied by  
**TRESOR ET  
 POSTES 506  
 5-12-19**,  
 along with  
 Registration label  
 addressed to  
 London, arrival  
 28/12 on  
 reverse.  
**Postal Rate:**  
 25c single rate  
 + 25c for  
 Registration

The Ottoman correspondence abroad was again allowed to the allies and neutral countries by the end of May 1919. Civilian Mail could be forwarded via the British Military Post Office in Constantinople and would be subjected to Censorship. More specifically, the Civilian mail was handled via the ARMY POST OFFICE Y for a few months in the middle of 1919. Censorship control in the Military Post Offices lasted till October 1919.



Commercial Cover 'Export Leaf Tobacco Co., Samsoun, Turkey-in-Asia', sent probably via a French or British War ship in Constantinople & tied by **ARMY POST OFFICE Y A 25 JY 19**, along with Censorship **PASSED BY CENSOR 418**, addressed to London.

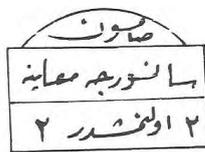
**Postal Rate:** Free of charges

When Mustafa Kemal reached Samsun on May 1919, his first goal was the establishment of an organized national movement against the occupying forces. Those who opposed the Allies issued a declaration and on April 1920 established a new Turkish Parliament seated in Ankara, the 'Grand National Assembly'. The last act of the Greco-Turkish War was on July 1923 with the Treaty of Lausanne signed by the Powers with the GNA, thus recognizing the latter as the government of Turkey.

On 29 October 1923, the Republic of Turkey was proclaimed.

During this period the Authorities used the previous Ottoman issues along with Ottoman, Fiscal & Revenue stamps overprinted by the GNA and on January 1922 they issued their own stamps. From mid-1920 Censorship was applied in mail correspondence until the end of the War on 1923.

**INCOMING MAIL REFUSED BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF ANATOLIA AND RETURNED TO THE SENDER**



'Samsun  
sansürce muayene  
olunmuştur 2'  
(Samsun, Censorship  
control has become 2)  
The number '2'  
indicates the number  
of the examiner

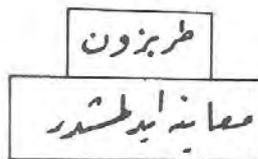
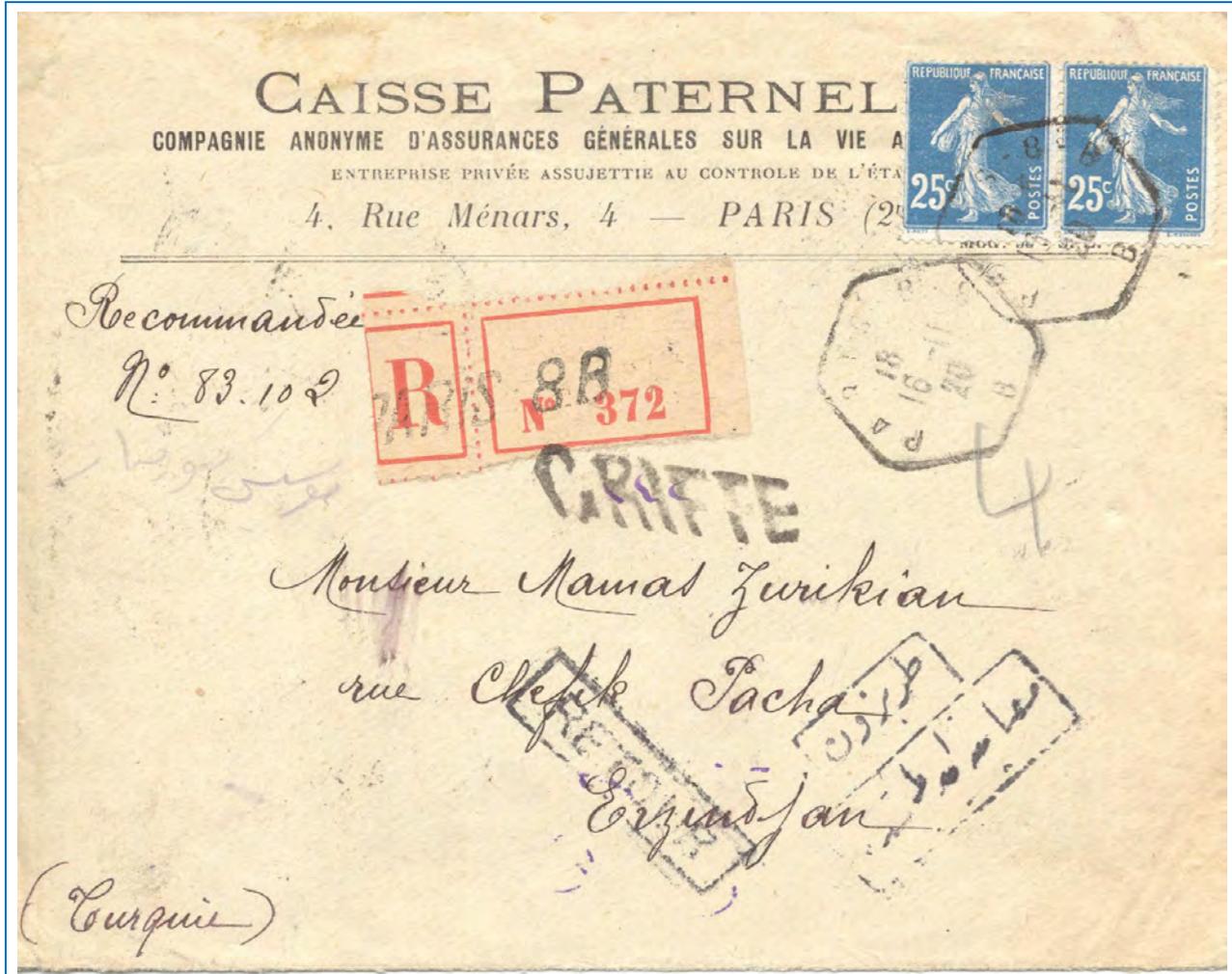


Registered Commercial Cover 'Caisse Paternelle' franked with 2x25c semeuse camée French stamps and tied by **PARIS 88 22.11.20** addressed to Divrigui, Turkey (date illegible) via Constantinople with **TRESOR ET POSTES 506 28.11.20** of the Military French Post Office, Ottoman 'GALATA 22 29.11.20', then via Samsun with **Samsun sansürce muayene olunmuştur 2** Censorship & 'SIVAS 2 17.1.21'. Then the letter is returned via 'SIVAS 2 23.1.21', 'Stamboul Depart 4 Mar 1921' & boxed Arabic 'RETOUR'.

**Handwritten Notice in French: 'Refusé par l'autorité nationaliste d'Anatolie'**  
(Refused by the Nationalist Authorities of Anatolia)

It was probably written by the Postal Clerk of the French Military Postal Sector '506'.

INCOMING MAIL REFUSED BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF ANATOLIA AND  
RETURNED TO THE SENDER



'Trabzon muayene  
edilmıştır'  
(Trabzon, Censorship  
Control)



Registered Commercial Cover 'Caisse Paternelle' franked with 2x25c semeuse camée French stamps and tied by **PARIS 88 16.11.20** addressed to to an Armenian (Mamas Zurikian) in Erzurum via Constantinople with **TRESOR ET POSTES 506 23.11.20** of the Military French Post Office, Ottoman 'GALATA 22 24.11.20', octagonal '**TREBIZONDE 2 17.1.21**' with **Trabzon muayene edilmıştır** Censorship & arrival in Erzurum postmark in Arabic '١٣/٣' (13/3). Then the letter is returned via '**TREBIZONDE 2 11.4.21**', 'Stamboul Depart 19 AVR. 1921', boxed 'RETOUR' & black 'GRIFFE'.  
**Postal Rate:** 25c single foreign rate + 25c for Registration.

On reverse handwritten by pen in French 'Parti' (left) probably by the Postal Clerk of the Ottoman Post Office in Erzurum.

TREBIZONDE 2

Seen 1912-1922



طرزون  
معاینه ایلمیشر

'Trabzon muayene edilmiştir'  
(Trabzon, Censorship Control)



Registered Commercial Cover 'N.P. Haldeopoulo' franked with 5 Pia 1917-18 Vienna + 4x10 Pa 1917 issue & tied by **TREBIZONDE 2 3-12-20** along with **Trabzon muayene edilmiştir** Censorship, addressed to Constantinople with arrival marks.

**Postal Rate:** 3 Pia domestic rate + 3 Pia for Registration (Applied from 1.2.1920)





**ZOUNGOULDAK 2 11.1.21** on 2+1 Pia 1917-18 Vienna along with **Zonguldak sansürünce görüldü** Censorship.  
Postal Rate (domestic & foreign) applied from 1.2.20 is 3 Pia

### KERASSUNDE 2

Seen Mid 1910's-1920's



Cover franked with 5 Pia/2 Pa surcharged 1918 Vienna issue & tied by **KERASSOUNDE 2 16-12-21** along with **Sansürce muayene olunmuştur 1 Giresun 1** Censorship on reverse, addressed to Constantinople, arrival 25/12 & 26/12 on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 5 Pia single domestic rate

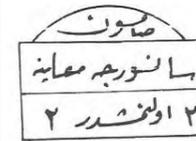
New Postal Rates applied from 6.6.1921

**SAMSOUN 3**

Seen 1910-1922

Commercial Cover  
'Banque Imperiale  
Ottomane, Samsoun'  
franked with 5 Pia  
(1921 Religious  
Tribunal Revenue  
stamp with overprint  
'Osmanli Postalari  
1337') + 10 Pia (1920  
London Printing issue)  
& tied by **SAMSOUN  
3 21-11-921**, along  
with **Samsun  
sansürce muayene  
olunmuştur 2**,  
addressed to  
Constantinople,  
Galata with arrival  
27/11 on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 15 Pia:  
5 Pia single rate +  
2.5×4 Pia for 5<sup>TH</sup>  
weight domestic rate  
(2.5 Pia per 20g)



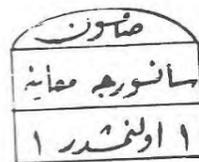
'Samsun  
sansürce muayene  
olunmuştur 2'  
(Samsun, Censorship  
control has become 2)  
The number '2'  
indicates the number  
of the examiner

**SAMSOUN**

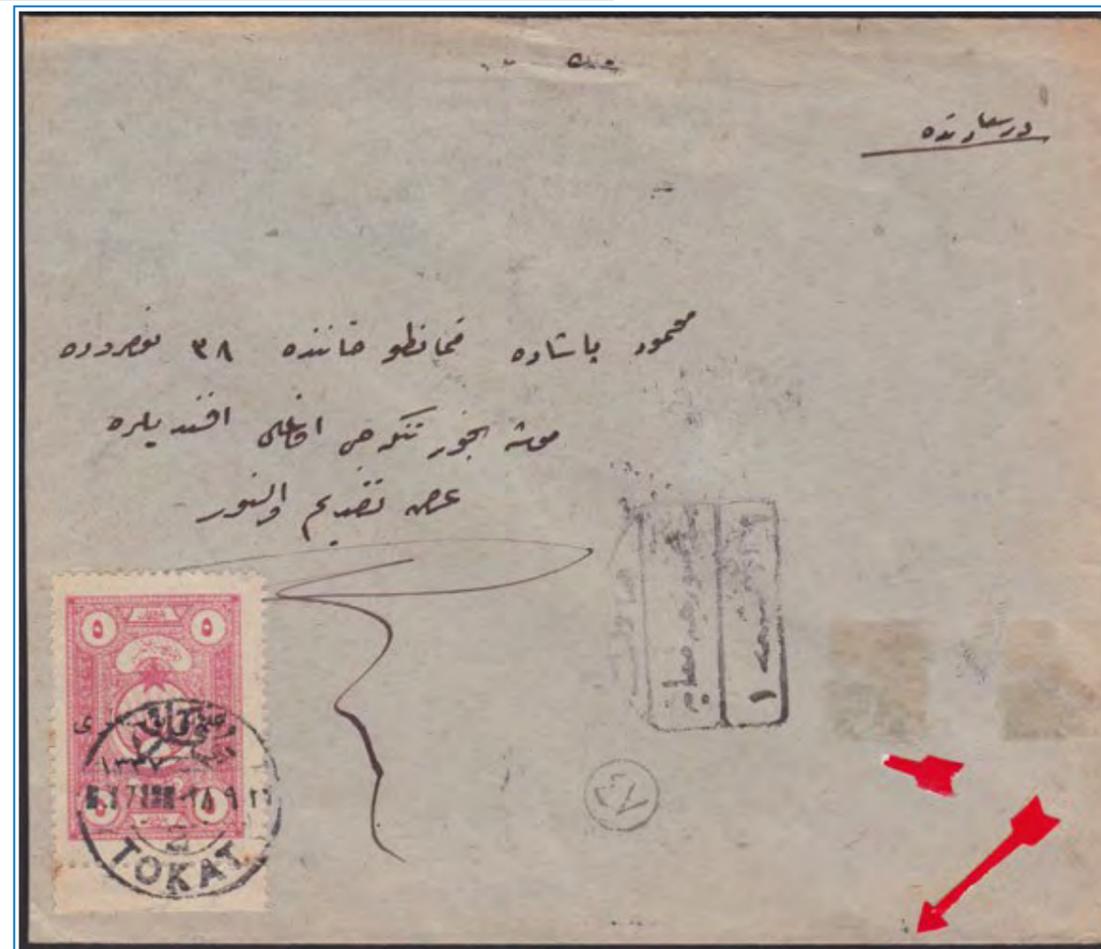
Seen 1910-1920

**TOKAT 2**

Seen 1914-1923



'Sansürce muayene  
olunmuştur 1'  
(Censorship control has  
become 1)  
The number '1'  
indicates the number  
of the examiner



Registered Cover franked with 2×5 Pia 1921 issue with  
'Osmanli Postalari 1337' overprint on Ottoman Ministry of  
Finance Fiscal stamp & tied by **SAMSOUN 11-8-21** along with  
**Samsun sansürce muayene olunmuştur 2** Censorship  
addressed to Dersaadet, arrival 15/8 on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 5 Pia domestic rate + 5 Pia for Registration

Cover franked with 5 Pia 1921 issue with 'Osmanli Postalari  
1337' overprint on Ottoman Ministry of Finance Fiscal stamp  
& tied by **TOKAT 2 26-9-21**, censored in Samsun with  
**Sansürce muayene olunmuştur 1**  
& addressed to Istanbul, arrival mark on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 5 Pia single domestic rate

## ZOUNGOULDAK 2

Seen 1914-1922



'Zonguldak  
sansürünce görüldü'  
(Zonguldak Censorship  
has been applied)

Registered Cover  
franked with 2x5 Pia  
1921 issue with  
'Osmanli Postalari  
1337'

overprint on  
Ottoman Ministry of  
Finance Fiscal  
stamp & tied by  
**ZOUNGOULDAK 2**  
23.2.22, along with  
**Zonguldak**  
**sansürünce görüldü**

Censorship  
addressed to  
Dersaadet, arrival  
27.2 on reverse.

**Postal Rate:**

5 Pia domestic rate  
+ 5 Pia for  
Registration

## KASTAMONU 3

Seen 1918-1921



'Sansür edilmiştir  
1328'  
(Censorship has  
been applied, 1912)

Registered Cover  
franked with 10  
Pia 1920 London  
printing issue &  
tied by

**KASTAMONU 3**  
8-12-21

along  
with **Sansür  
edilmiştir 1328**

Censorship,  
addressed to  
Dersaadet, arrival  
15.12 on reverse.

**Postal Rate:**

5 Pia domestic  
rate



**TREBIZONDE**  
Seen Mid 1910's-1922



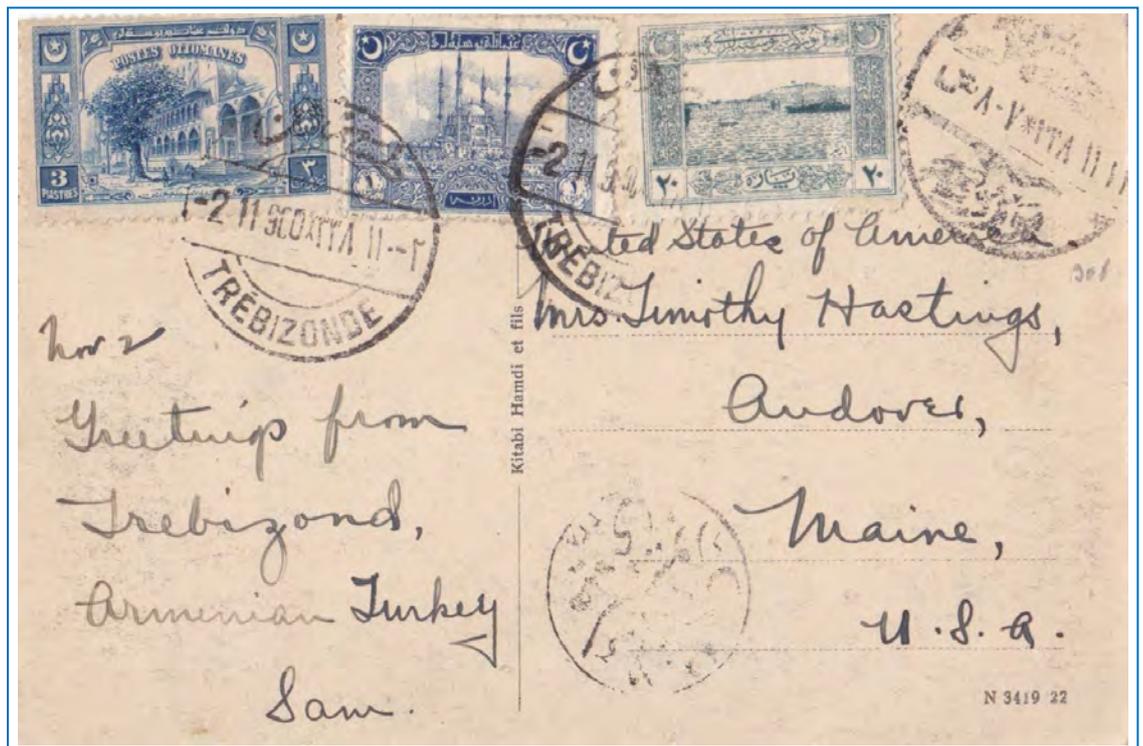
**Trabzon ۲۲۸**  
(‘922’)  
Cyclic  
Censorship  
Seen from 1922

Commercial  
Cover ‘George  
El. Michailides’  
franked with 5  
Pia +20 Pa (1917  
-18 Vienna) +  
2 Pia (1922  
Genoa) & tied by  
**TREBIZONDE**  
۳۳۸,۷,۲۹  
(29.7.922) along  
with **Trabzon ۲۲۸**  
(‘922’)  
Cyclic  
Censorship,  
addressed to  
Anvers, Belgium  
with transit mark  
Istanbul 4/8  
on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:**  
7.5Pia single  
foreign rate  
(Applied from  
6.6.21)

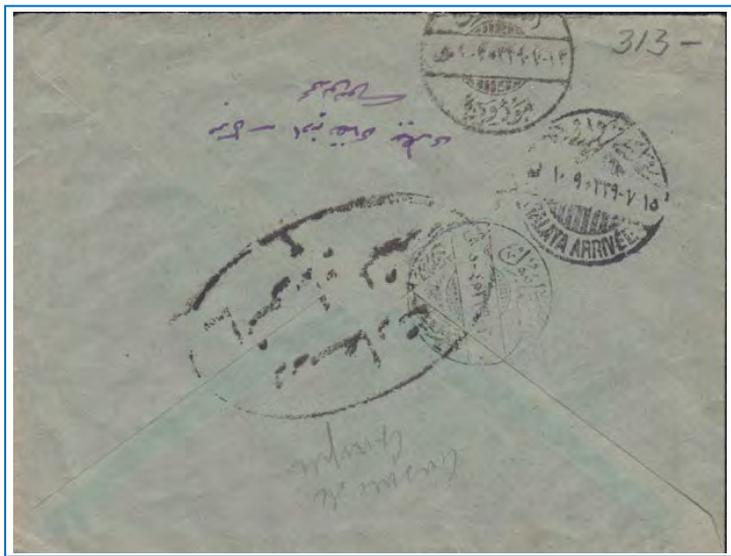


**TREBIZONDE**  
Seen from 1900

Picture Postcard  
franked with 3 Pia  
(1920 London  
printing) +1 Pia + 20  
Pa (1922 Genoa  
printing) & tied by  
**TREBIZONDE**  
2-11-900 (wrong  
date)  
along with  
**Trabzon ۲۲۸** (‘922’)  
Cyclic Censorship,  
addressed to  
Maine, Usa via  
Istanbul, transit  
postmark ۱۱. ۲۲۸  
(11/922)  
**Postal Rate:** 4.5 Pia  
foreign rate for  
Postcards  
(Applied from 6.6.21)



**UNIE**  
(WITH 'N' INVERTED)  
Seen 1923-1925



Cover franked with 4×5 Pa 1917 (surcharged Vienna) + 4.5 Pia (1923 Star & Crescent 1st Printing) & tied by **UNIE 8-7-23** along with 'Dersaadet' large oval Censorship, addressed to Dersaadet with arrival marks 13/7 & 15/7 on reverse.  
**Postal Rate:** 5 Pia single domestic rate

This cover was sent just 3 days before the Treaty of Lausanne was signed in 11.7.1923 (Julian calendar, i.e. 24.7.1923 with the Gregorian)

