The Fabrication and Postal Usage of the "*large Hermes head*" of Greece (1861/1901)

The first Greek postal stamp, the so-called "*large Hermes head*" (LHH), has been created in **Paris** on 1860/1861 by the Chief Engraver of the French Mint, **Désiré-Albert Barre**. It represents the head of Hermes, mythologic Greek God, Olympia messenger and protector of the Arts and the commerce. Its first date of circulation was October 1st, 1861 according to the Julian calendar (October 13th of the Gregorian one).

Désiré-Albert Barre (1818/1878) was the second son of **Jacques-Jean Barre** (1793/1855), Chief Engraver of the French Mint, who created, the first French postal-stamps (Types "*République*" & "*Empire*"). Succeeding to his father, **Barre fils** became the French Mint Chief-Engraver and engraved the "*Empire lauré*" French type and many other stamps of France & colonies and of several foreign countries, as well as almost all the French coins & medals produced during this period (1855-1878).

In 1860, **Barre fils** designed the mock-up of the "*large Hermes head*" in Indian ink from a black 20 centimes "*Empire*" plate-proof. Then **Barre fils** engraved the medallion die using the "*taille de relief*" method. All the service dies, including the final one, necessary to manufacture the plates, were issued from this one.

Progressive die-proof of the "*large Hermes head*", 1860.

(©)

Désiré-Albert Barre also realized, in 1861, the typographic plates of the seven values of the first Greek stamp (1 lepton, 2, 5, 10, 20, 40 & 80 lepta) using his new method, "*the direct striking in the coining press*", developed in 1858/1859. The "*large Hermes head*" are the unique stamps which have ever been produced by using typographic plates manufactured with this method. The printing of the stamps of the "*large Hermes head*" **Paris** emission has been done by the private printing house: *Typographie* ***Ernest Meyer*** in **Paris**.

The seven typographic plates have been delivered to the Greek postal administration in **Athens** during the summer of 1861 and have been used for more than twenty years, up to 1882, to print all the various **Athens** emissions. At the same time, a total of 1.345.000 stamps (versus 510.000 ordered initially) of the seven first values of the "*large Hermes head*" were also sent to **Athens**, the so-called **Paris** printing.

The "*large Hermes head*" stamp stayed in circulation for twenty-five years, up to 1886, and was replaced then by the "*small Hermes head*".

In 1876, **Barre fils** realized two new typographic plates for the new values requested by the *Union Générale des Postes - U.G.P.* (ancestor of *Universal Postal Union - U.P.U.*), the 30 & 60 lepta using, that time, the so-called "*Galvanoplastie-type*" method. At the same period, he also created the first Greek postal stationery.

In 1900, the stocks left of the "*large Hermes head*", among other emissions, were reused, overprinted, to overcome the late shipment of the "*flying Hermes*".

As the postage-due stamps were introduced in Greece only in 1875, the "*large Hermes head*" was also used for the taxation of the letters from 1861 to 1875.

The Julian calendar was still in use in Greece during this period. There was 12 days difference with the Gregorian calendar used in Western Europe then. It's the reason why we are using two dates (Julian/Gregorian) to describe the international letters shown in this study.

Letter from **Marseille**, insufficiently franked and taxed at the arrival in **Piraeus** with 132 lepta.

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Désiré-Albert Barre

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Die-proofs & plate-proofs of the "*Cérès 1858*" issued from the die and the typographic plates manufactured for the new method, the so-called: "*direct striking in the coining press*"

In 1858, the president of the French Mint Commission asked the Chief-Engraver, **Désiré-Albert Barre**: "*... to urgently research the means of reproducing the printing plates for postage stamps by other processes than that of galvanoplasty...*". To respond to this request, **Barre fils** experimented, for the first time for stamps, the method called "*direct striking in the coining press*", already used during the 18th century to print the "*assignats*" (banknotes used during the French Revolution).

To validate this new method, **Barre fils** used the first French stamp of 1849: the "*République*" type (also known as "*Cérès*"). The upper legend "· *REPUB · FRANC* ·" was replaced by "· *ESSAI · 1858* ·" and the value was changed to "*00*" at the bottom. He realised few die-proofs in black ink and printed from the typographic plate the "*Cérès 1858*" plate-proofs in four colours: black, bistre, green & blue.

The typographic plate was consisting of clichés, made with 95% of bronze and brass, struck individually between the coining press and a steel matrix, then placed side-by-side and soldered onto a bronze base. The plate was composed of one hundred & fifty clichés (10 X 15).

This new method was never used to print any French stamp but was finally used in 1861, to manufacture the typographic plates of the seven first values of the first Greek stamp, the "*large Hermes head*" used for both **Paris** and **Athens** printings during more than twenty years.

The Greek stamps of the seven first values of the "*large Hermes head*" (**1 lepton**, **2**, **5**, **10**, **20**, **40** & **80 lepta**) of all the **Paris** and **Athens** printings are the unique stamps which have ever been printed from typographic plates realised with the "*direct striking in the coining press*" method!

Progressive die-proof of the "*Cérès 1858*".

Two items known so far.

(©)

Terminal die-proof of the "*Cérès 1858*".

Unique item known to date.

Pair of the "*Cérès 1858*" plate-proof, in black.

One of the larger multiple known so far.

(©)

Plate-proofs of the "*Cérès without inscription*" of 1861, issued from a typographic plate manufactured with the "*direct striking in the coining press*" method, developed in 1858/1859 and perfected in 1861

Désiré-Albert Barre tested out various types of metals and alloys in order to find the easier one to be struck and the one which will not corrupt the colours and will restore the optimum printing rendering. The plate-proofs presented on this sheet are issued from a typographic plate, in pure steel, of one hundred clichés (10 X 10), manufactured in 1861 in order to improve the "*direct striking in the coining press*" method, developed in 1858/1859 and was realized in April/May 1861 timeframe, just before starting the realisation of the typographic plates of the "*large Hermes head*" (May 1861).

It exists two colours of the "*Cérès without inscription*" plate-proofs: red and blue, the late one in two shades, blue & dark blue.

One sheet of one hundred plate-proofs of each colour, red & blue, have been exhibited by **Désiré-Albert Barre** at the Universal Exhibit of **London** in 1862, (see below of this page).

Block of four of the "*Cérès without inscription*" plate-proof, in blue.

(©)

Pair of the "*Cérès without inscription*" plate-proof, in dark blue.

Pair of the "*Cérès without inscription*" plate-proof, in red.

"*Cérès 1858*" plate proofs of 1858, issued from the typographic plates new manufacturing method called the "*direct striking in the coining press*" method

Strips of twenty of the "*Cérès 1858*" plate proofs in three, out of the four printed colours (*black*, bistre, green & blue), from the first typographic plate manufactured with the "*direct striking in the coining press*" method created by **Désiré-Albert Barre** in 1858/1859, and exhibited by the chief engraver during the Universal Exhibit of **London** in 1862.

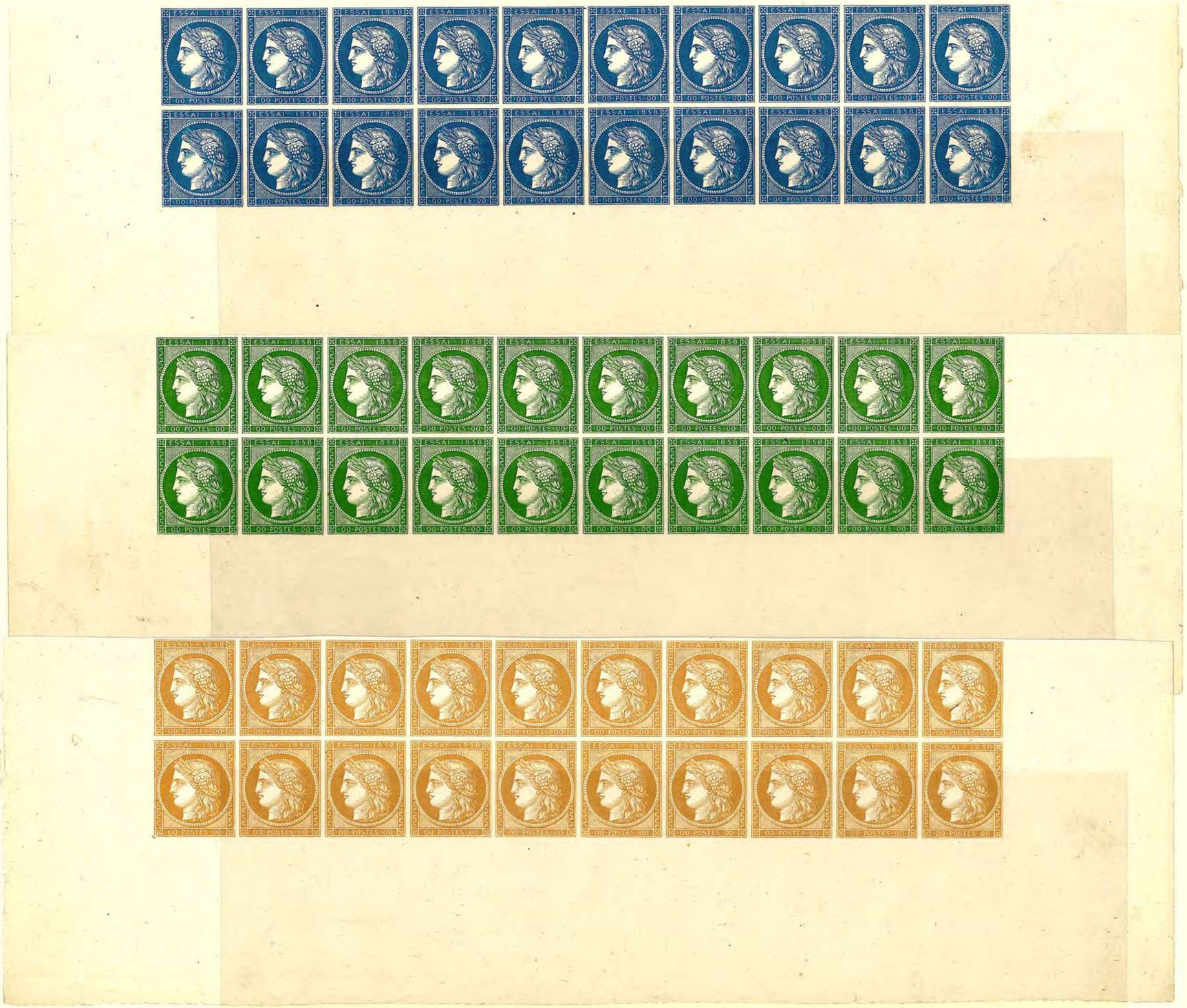
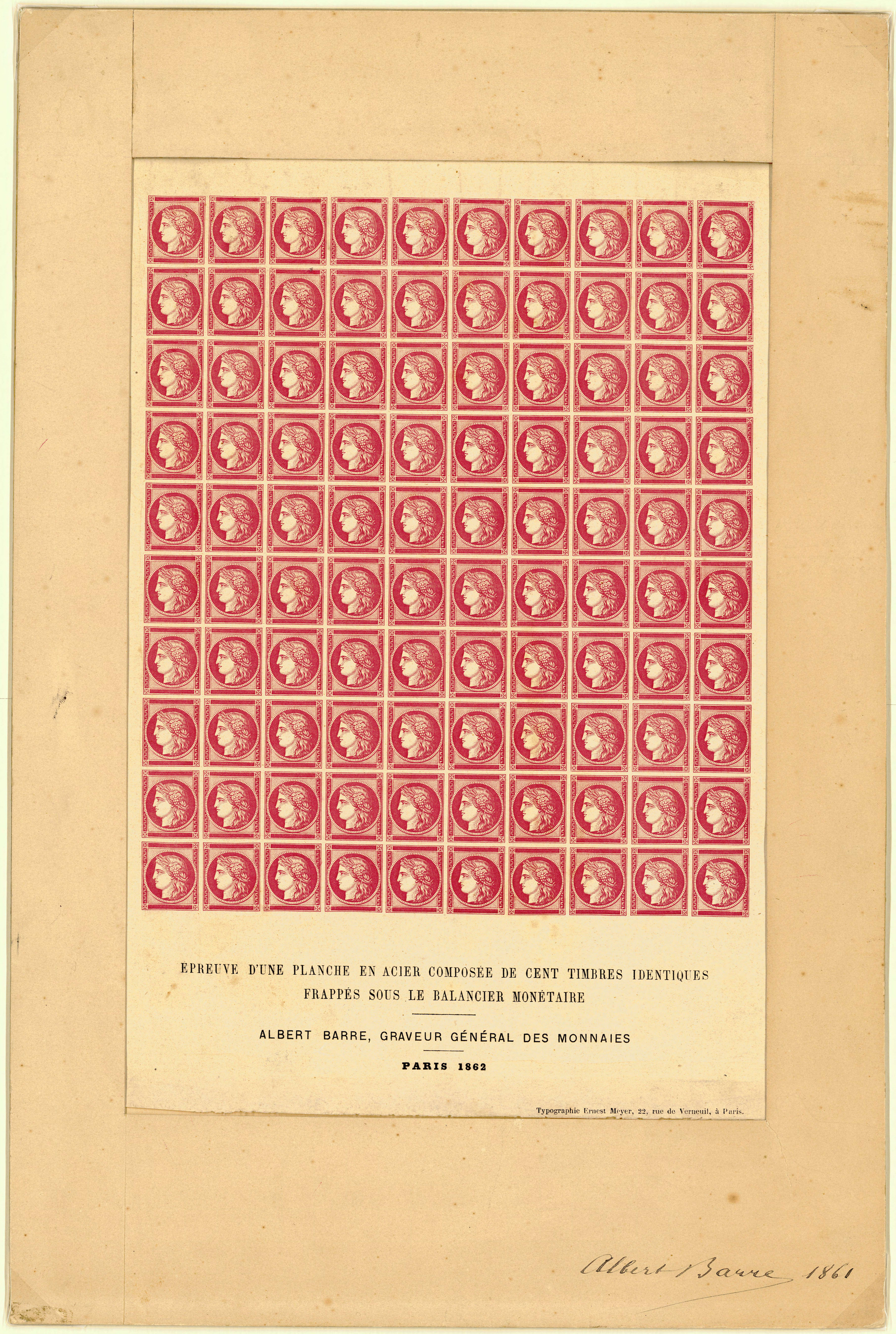


Plate proofs of the "*Cérès without inscription*" of 1861, issued from a typographic plate manufactured with the "*direct striking in the coining press*" method, developed in 1858/1859 and perfected in 1861 (cont.)

In 1861, **Désiré-Albert Barre** perfected his "*direct striking in the coining press*" method, developed in 1858/1859, in order to manufacture the typographic plates of the "*large Hermes head*" of Greece. Particularly, he experimented the usage of different types of metals & alloys in order to find the most appropriate one for an easier striking and an optimum printing. **Barre fils** realised then a typographic plate of one hundred clichés (10 X 10), in pure steel, of the "*Cérès*" but that time, without any legend, and he printed, from this plate, sheets of plate proofs in red and in two shades of blue (see on the previous page).

Finally, the typographic plates of the first seven values of the "*large Hermes head*" of Greece were made of bronze and brass.



Complete sheet of one hundred plate proofs of the "*Cérès without inscription*", in red, printed in 1861 and exhibited by **Désiré-Albert Barre**, as such, at the Universal Exhibit of **London** in 1862. Inscription of the printer, **Ernest Meyer**, at the right-bottom of the sheet, and signature of **Désiré-Albert Barre** at the right-bottom of the frame.

Unique, up to date.

(©)

Plate-proofs of the "*Cérès 1858*" of 1861, issued from a typographic plate manufactured with the "*direct striking in the coining press*" method, developed in 1858/1859 and perfected in 1861

In spring 1861, when **Désiré-Albert Barre** got the order to manufacture the typographic plates of the first Greek stamp, he perfected the typographic plates manufacturing new method, developed in 1858/1859, the "*direct striking in the coining press*" method and printed "*Cérès 1858*" plate-proofs in a fifth colour: the blue on bluish paper.

At that stage, he also experimented the printing of "*control numbers*" "*10*" of eight millimetres high, on the back of the stamps in the same colour as the verso. This practice will be also used on the stamp of **10 lepta** of the "*large Hermes head*" of the **Paris** printings (eight millimetres high), with the same "*control numbers*" printing plate as we find the same "*control numbers*" errors on the same positions of these two stamps. Later and on all the **Athens** printings of the **5**, **10**, **20**, **40** & **80 lepta**, up to 1880, this practice was continuing but with six & half millimetres high "*control numbers*".

Only one sheet of one hundred and fifty plate-proofs of this value is known as of today.

Marginal block of six of the "*Cérès 1858*"
plate-proofs' blue on blueish paper.
With blue "*control numbers*" "*10*" on the back.

One of the three largest blocks known of this plate-proof to date.

Recto of a block of four of the "*Cérès 1858*" plate-proofs,
blue on blueish paper. Positions: 89-88 / 99-98,
with "*0*" inverted (Position 88).

Unique, up to date.

Plate-proofs of the "*Cérès 1858*" of 1861, issued from a typographic plate manufactured with the "*direct striking in the coining press*" method, developed in 1858/1859 and perfected in 1861 (cont. & end)

As the manufacturing of the typographic plates and the printing of the stamps of the "*large Hermes head*" have been retired, on April 1861, from **Anatole-Auguste Hulot** who was responsible of the printing activities at the Paris Mint (*Directeur de la fabrication des timbres-poste*), **Désiré-Albert Barre**, who was the Chief Engraver of the French Mint, was obliged to find a private company to print the first stamps of the Kingdom of Greece. He has selected the printer-typograph, **Ernest Meyer** (1806/a.1895), who was established in **Paris**, *22, rue de Verneuil*. We do not know so much about **Ernest Meyer**, except that he was born in Germany and came in **Paris** in 1833. He worked for various printing companies and after his French naturalisation (1848) started his own printing house in 1851 in **Paris**, *3, rue de l'Abbaye*. He was printing gravures for illustrating books up to his return to Germany in the late 1860's. The philatelic literature of the end of the 19th century/beginning of the 20th century is stating that he died in **Dresden** in 1895.

Only twenty-five plate-proofs of the "*Cérès 1858*" & the "*Cérès without inscription*" of France and of the "*large Hermes head*" of Greece with the complete, or partial, inscription of the printer **Ernest Meyer** have been discovered so far.

Block of height of the bottom of the sheet of the "*Cérès 1858*" plate-proofs
blue on blueish paper, with the full inscription of the printer:
"*TYPOGRAPHIE ERNEST MEYER, RUE DE VERNEUIL, 22, A PARIS.*".
With blue "*control numbers*" "*10*" on the back.

The only "*Cérès 1858*" piece known, up to now, with the complete (or partial) printer imprint.

(©)

Progressive die-proofs from the progressive die

Progressive die-proofs coming from a "*cliché*" of the progressive die, not finished, and engraved between the end of 1860 and the early beginning of 1861. These die-proofs have permitted to the Chief Engraver, **Désiré-Albert Barre**, to visualise and then to fine tune, up to the perfection, the engraving of the "*large Hermes head*" medallion before the realisation of the final die.

At this stage, the values, the legend, the frame and the florets are missing.

The progressive die effigy differs from the final one on several elements, the most remarkable are:

- The eye has a pupil and an inferior eyelid,
- the shade lines of the neck & the nape are continue,
- the noise and the month are more pronounced,
- the second line of the helmet is continue,
- there is only a single point at the left up to the ear,
- ...

Six pieces of this type of progressive die-proofs have been identified so far, all in blue.

Progressive die-proof on "*laid bâtonné*" paper.
One of the six progressive die-proofs known as of today.

(©)

Picture of the cooper "*cliché*" from which these progressive die-proofs have been printed.

Progressive die-proofs from the progressive die (cont. & end)

It exists three progressive die-proofs printed in "*negative*" from a "*cliché*" of the progressive die. These three progressive die proofs, one in sepia and two in black, are printed on "*Canson*" drawing paper.

They have appeared for the first time during the sale of the last archives of the **Barre** family in December 2002, organised by the auction house **Aguttes** in **Neuilly**, France.

The engraver inked the recess parts of a "*cliché*" of the progressive die, probably with his thumb, and printed three progressive die-proofs. This technique that we can call: "*pseudo taille douce*", has the advantage to being extremely fast. The result appears in "*negative*" as the dies and the issued "*clichés*" were done for a typographic printing.

Three progressive die-proofs printed in "*negative*", are known so far, two in black and one in sepia.

Black progressive die-proof printed in "*negative*" on "*Canson*" drawing paper.

One of the two pieces known so far.

(©)

Final die-proofs, issued from the final die

Final die-proofs, issued from a service die, coming from the final die, realised in the beginning of 1861. They are exactly similar to the issued stamps with the exception of the values which are missing, and the first & tenth wavy lines of the north-west spandrel which are intact, unlike all the plate-proofs and the issued stamps of all "*large Hermes head*" printings.

The stamps of the "*large Hermes head*" were initially supposed to be printed from typographic plates manufactured with the "*galvanoplasty*" method. So, two empty spaces, needed to insert the values were dug at first in the service die. But as finally, the "*galvanoplasty*" has not been used, these two holes have been finally refilled before striking the "*clichés*".

These final die-proofs have been printed in three colours: black, blue and red-brown.

As of today, six are known in blue, ten in black and thirteen in red-brown.

Blue final die-proof,
on Indian paper.
(©)

Black final die-proof,
on Indian paper.
(©)

Red-brown final die-proof,
on Indian paper.

Numbered final die-proof of the 1 lepton, issued from the final die

This unique numbered final die-proof of the **1 lepton** has been discovered recently.

There are two plausible hypotheses to determine who was the author of this numbered final die proof:

1. Either it has been realised in February/March 1861 by **Auguste-Anatole Hulot** when he had the final die and before it was retired from his hands on early April 1861. He has started to manufacture the typographic plates, by hardening the die, then preparing it in order to coin the *"flans"* (name of the *"clichés"* in galvanoplasty) for the galvanoplasty process by inserting the values in the two sluts and obviously commencing by the 1 lepton,
2. Or it has been realised by **Désiré-Albert Barre** when he got back the final die from **Hulot** in early April 1861 to verify its state after having been in the hands of **Hulot** for two months, and hardened by the director of the stamp manufacturing. As **Barre** was against hardening the dies, he wanted to verify that no problem happened during this operation...

I believe that the second hypothesis is the more realistic one as **Hulot** had never done any die proof for any of the French stamp operations he had conducted before...

This numbered final die-proof has been printed after the hardening of the final die and/or after the striking of few *"flans"*. The wavy lines 1 & 10 of the north-west spandrel are broken at their base, like all the plate proofs and all the issued stamps of the *"large Hermes head"* printed after this date. These wavy lines 1 & 10 of the north-west spandrel are intact on the final die-proofs as shown previously in this presentation. This could demonstrate that these breaks have happened, accidentally, during the hardening of the final die and/or during the striking of few *"flans"* of the **1 lepton**, when the final die was in possession of **Hulot** (February & March 1861) and when he started the manufacturing process of the first of the seven typographic plates, the **1 lepton**.

Black numbered final-die proof of the
1 lepton on*"laid batonné"* paper.

Unique piece known, up to date.

(©)

Plate-proofs of the 1 lepton

The plate-proofs are issued from the typographic plates. They are allowing to calibrate the printing press (plate-proofs printed with black ink), but also to define the quality and the quantity of the ink to be used. This practice is also necessary to define the right choice of the papers and to standardise the inks blending in order to reach the optimum of the desired colour.

The plate-proofs are also allowing the mounting of the various layers of sheets to build the corrective "*decoupage*", a technique used in typographic printing to increase the contrast and to correct the parallelism imperfections of the typographic plate.

Plate-proof of the **1 lepton**.
In grey and black.

Plate-proof of the **1 lepton**.
Search of the colour.

Plate-proof of the **1 lepton**.
Printed on both sides.

Marginal strip of three plate-proofs
of the **1 lepton**.

Corner block of six plate-proofs
of the **1 lepton** - Final colour.

Marginal block de six plate-proofs
of the **1 lepton**.

Plate proofs of the 1 lepton (cont.)

In his letter of July 17th, 1861 to **Théophile Jules Pelouze** (President of the French Mint Commission), **Dimitri Kalergis** (Plenipotentiary Minister of Greece in Paris) defined the specifications of the drawing, the values, and the quantities & colours of the seven stamps that his government wished to acquire from the French administration. The requested colour for the 1st class stamp (the **1 lepton**) was black.
By his answer on July 27th, 1860, **Pelouze** and **Désiré-Albert Barre** recommended three modifications:

1. the diminution of the number of values,
2. the change of colours for **1 lepton** and of the **2 lepta** and
3. the increase of the ordered quantities.

Kalergis, by his letter of July 31st, 1860, accepted the two last requests, but maintained the initial number of values. Then the **1 lepton** has been finally printed but in brown and not in black...
The printing of the plate proofs & imprimaturs and of the **Paris** printings issued stamps of the "*large Hermes head*" have been realised by the Typographie **Ernest Meyer**, printer, 22, rue de Verneuil, in **Paris**.

Block of sixty of the **1 lepton** plate proofs. (Positions 61 → 120).
Plate flaws:

- "*Open cross*" on position 90,
- "*NW rounded corner*" on position 91 &
- "*Point as coma*" on positions 72 & 92.

The largest block known of this value, to date.

(©)

Plate-proofs of the 2, 5 & 10 lepta

Marginal block of four plate-proofs of the of the **2 lepta**.

Plate-proof of the **5 lepta**.
Pink on peel paper.

Plate-proofs of the **5 lepta**.
Search of the colour.

Plate-proofs of the **10 lepta** w/o "*control number*".
Search of colour.

Final plat-proof of **10 lepta**,
with "*control numbers*".

Plate-proofs of the 20 lepta

Plate-proofs of the **20 lepta**.
In grey and black.

Plate-proofs of the **20 lepta**.
Search of the colour.

Plate-proof of the **20 lepta** with partial inscription of the printer, **Ernest Meyer**.
Picture of the recto on the right.

Two pieces known, up to date.

(©)

Plate-proofs of the **20 lepta**.
Double Impressions.

Marginal strip of five plate-proofs
of the **20 lepta** - Final colour.

Plate proofs of the 20 lepta (cont.)

This block of thirty-five plate proofs of the **20 lepta** carries in its upper margin, a hand-written inscription of the Chief Engraver, **Désiré-Albert Barre** stating that:

- This half sheet of one hundred & fifty plate proofs has been printed on a **Stanhope** press,
- This half sheet of one hundred and fifty plate proofs was printed, as part of two half sheets at the same time on the same complete sheet of three hundred stamps (150 X 2),
- We can also see the partial signature of the Chief Engraver.

The printing of the plate proofs & imprimaturs and issued stamps of the 1861 Paris printings has been done by the Typographie **Ernest Meyer**, printer, 22, rue de Verneuil, in **Paris**.

Block of thirty-five plate proofs of the **20 lepta** (Positions 1 → 30 & 36 → 40).

On the top margin: hand written inscription of **Désiré Albert Barre**:

*"Chaque demi feuille .... deux à la fois sur la presse **Stanhope**"* and partial signature of the Chief Engraver.

The largest block known of this value, to date.

(©)

Plate-proofs of the 20 lepta (cont. & end)

20 lepta plate-proof - Triple impression.

Three pieces known, up the date.

Block of eight of the **20 lepta** plate-proofs.

Double impression "*tête-bêche*" - Printed on both sides.

The large block known of this plate proof, up to date.

(©)

Plate-proofs of the 40 lepta

Marginal strip of five plate-proofs of the **40 lepta** - Calibration of the press.

Plate-proofs of the **40 lepta** - Search of the colour.

Plate-proofs of the **40 lepta**.
On newspaper paper - Printed on both sides.

Plate-proofs of the **40 lepta**.
Various colours - Inked at their back.

Marginal strip of four imprimaturs of the **40 lepta**.
Previously in the **Ferrari** & **Burrus** collections as part of the famous complete set of seven values with the printer inscription, **Ernest Meyer**.

Plate-proofs of the 40 lepta (cont. & end)

Marginal strip of three plate-proofs of the **40 lepta** on peel paper with the hand written inscription of the Chief Engraver, **Désiré-Albert Barre**: "*épreuve d'essai . 40 Lepta*".

(©)

Marginal block of four plate-proofs of the **40 lepta** on peel paper with the hand written inscription and the paraph of the Chief Engraver, **Désiré-Albert Barre**: "*essai sur papier pelure*".

The largest block of this value known, up to date.

(©)

Plate-proofs of the 80 lepta

Plate-proofs of the **80 lepta** - Search of the colour.

Block of four plate-proofs of the **80 lepta**.
Very light impression, as insufficiently inked.

Block of nine plate-proofs of the **80 lepta**.
Final colour.

Plate-proofs (1 lepton, 10, 20 & 40 lepta) printed in black

The plate-proofs, printed in black, allow the calibration of the printing press as the coloured ones permit to determine the quality and the quantity of the ink to be used. This practice is also necessary to choose the right papers and to standardize the right inks blending to reach the desired colour.

Plate-proofs of the **1 lepton**.

Plate-proof of the **10 lepta**.
Two items known, up to date.

Plate-proofs of the **20 lepta**.

Marginal block of ten plate-proofs of the **40 lepta**.

Imprimaturs of the seven initial values of 1861

Positions: 41-42 / 51-52.
Plate flaw of the
"narrow circle"
(Position 51).

Without *"control number"*.
Positions: 97-98 / 107-108.
Plate flaw of the
"grecque touching the circle"
(Position 107).

(©)

Imprimaturs of the 10, 20 & 80 lepta

These *"final-plate proofs"* or imprimaturs have served as *"pass for press"* before the final and definitive printing of the issued stamps.

They are absolutely identical to the issued stamps of the **Paris** printings but they have not been gummed.

The bottom margin of the complete sheets of these imprimaturs were Printed with the typographer/printer inscription:
"TYPOGRAPHIE ERNEST MEYER, RUE DE VERNEUIL, 22, A PARIS", in the same shade as the stamp.

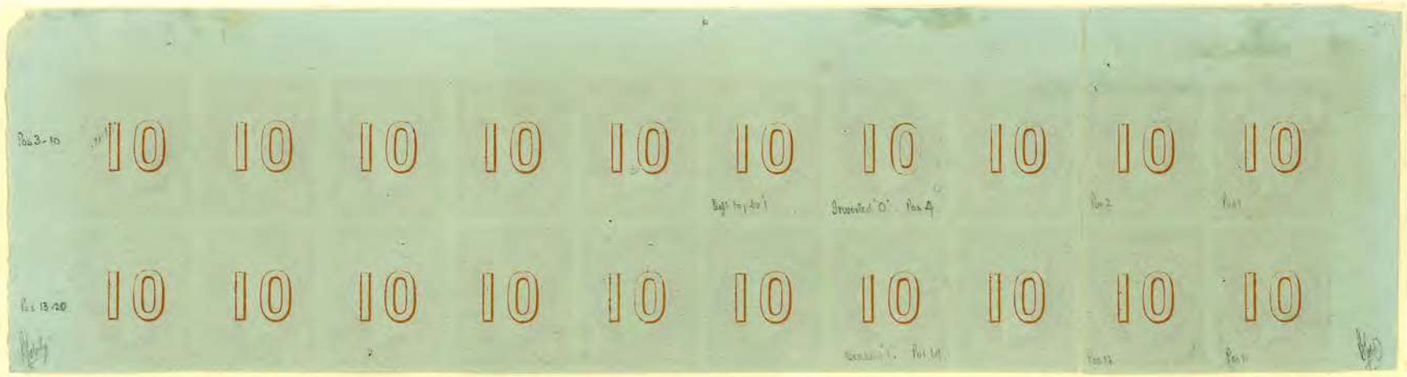
Many believe that all the sheets of the issued stamps of the **Paris** printings were also printed with this inscription...
So, two plausible hypotheses are possible, even if the second one seems to me more realistic:

- Either, the **Paris** printing sheets were wearing the inscription and **Barre fils** cut this inscription at the bottom of the totality of the 8,369 sheets of the issued stamps of the seven values before their shipment to **Athens** during the summer of 1861...
- Or, **Barre fils** asked **Ernest Meyer** to remove the inscription from the press before the printing of the issued stamps sheets of the **Paris** printing...

Désiré-Albert Barre and **Ernest Meyer**, kept only 21 complete sheets of these imprimaturs, with this inscription, for their own archives.

These imprimaturs are also known as the *"**Barre** plate proofs"*.

Only the **Paris** printing issued stamps and the plate-proofs & imprimaturs of the **10 lepta** have, at their back, *"control numbers"* *"10"* of eight millimetres high.
This practice was used for all the **Athens** printings with the exception of the last two emissions. All the printings of the **5**, **10**, **20**, **40** & **80 lepta** of the **Athens** coming emissions, up to 1880, have *"control numbers"* of six & half millimetres high with the facial value at their back.



Strip of twenty imprimaturs of the **10 lepta**. Top of the sheet (Positions: 10 → 1 / 20 → 11). *"Control numbers"* errors:

- *"0"* inverted (Position 4),
- *"1"* open (Position 14) and
- *"0"* open (Position 16).

To be noticed, the faulty, but non-recurrent, impression of the top of the *"1"*, (Position 5)
One of the two largest blocks of this value known, up to date. - (©)

Strip of twenty imprimaturs of the **20 lepta** - Top of the sheet (Positions: 1 → 10 / 11 → 20).
One of the three largest blocks of this value known, up to date. - (©)

Strip of twenty imprimaturs of the **80 lepta** - Top of the sheet (Positions: 1 → 10 / 11 → 20).
One of two largest blocks of this value known, up to date. - (©)

Imprimaturs of the 1 lepton and the 80 lepta with the printer inscription, Ernest Meyer

Block of eight imprimaturs of the **1 lepton**.

One of the three largest blocks of imprimaturs of this value known, up to date, with the printer inscription, **Ernest Meyer**.

(©)

Block of eight imprimaturs of the **80 lepta**.

The largest block of imprimaturs of this value known, up to date, with the printer inscription, **Ernest Meyer**.

(©)

The 1 lepton of the Paris printing and its postal usage

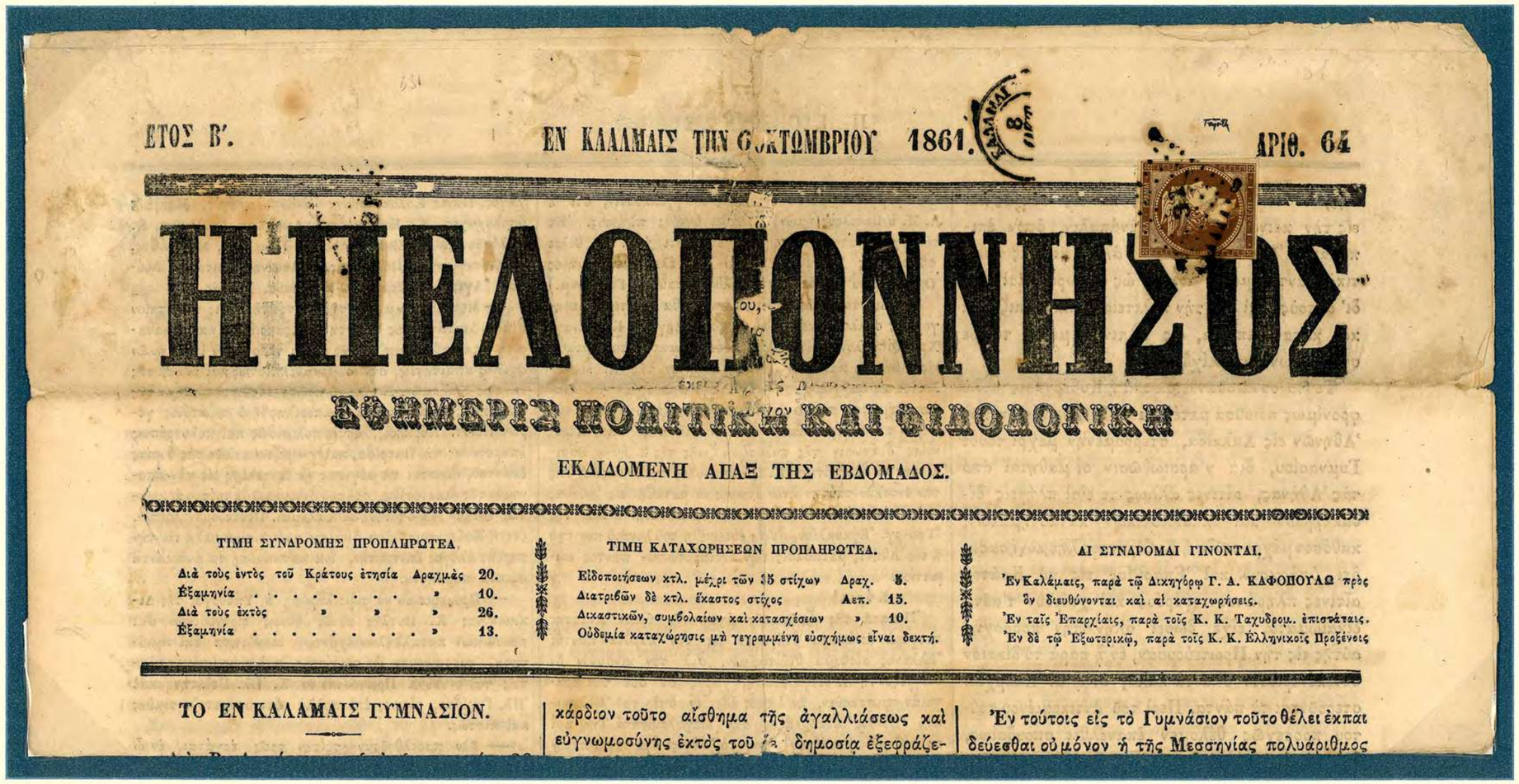
300,000 stamps of the **1 lepton** of the **Paris** emission have been printed and shipped to **Athens** with the first shipment on August 10th, 1861.
1 lepton was the inland as well as the international rate for the shipment of the newspapers up to 30 grams. It exists three main shades of the **1 lepton**: Brown, red-brown and chocolate.
The first date of issue of the seven values (**1 lepton**, **2**, **5**, **10**, **20**, **40** & **80 lepta**) of the **Paris** emission was October 1st, 1861 (Julian calendar) or October 13th, 1861 (Gregorian calendar).

Block of eight of the **1 lepton**, chocolate.

Strip of three of the **1 lepton**, brown.
Cancelled with the diamond cancellation, type I, number "*67*" of **Syros**.

Strip of five of the **1 lepton**, red-brown.
Cancelled with the diamond cancellation, type I, number "*8*" of **Kalavrita**.
Dated circular postmark, type II, number "*1*" of **Athens**, on the fragment of a letter.

The 1 lepton of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)



ΕΤΟΣ Β'. ΕΝ ΚΑΛΑΜΑΙΣ ΤΗΝ 6 ΟΚΤΩΜΒΡΙΟΥ 1861. ΑΡΙΘ. 64

Η ΠΕΛΟΠΟΝΝΗΣΟΣ

ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΦΙΛΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ

ΕΚΔΙΔΟΜΕΝΗ ΑΠΑΞ ΤΗΣ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΟΣ.

ΤΙΜΗ ΣΥΝΔΡΟΜΗΣ ΠΡΟΠΛΗΡΩΤΕΑ.

Διὰ τοὺς ἐντὸς τοῦ Κράτους ἐτησία	Δραχμὰς	20.
Ἑξαμηνία	»	10.
Διὰ τοὺς ἐκτὸς » »	»	26.
Ἑξαμηνία	»	13.

ΤΙΜΗ ΚΑΤΑΧΩΡΗΣΕΩΝ ΠΡΟΠΛΗΡΩΤΕΑ.

Εἰδοποιήσεων κτλ. μέχρι τῶν 55 στίχων	Δραχ.	5.
Διατριβῶν δὲ κτλ. ἕκαστος στίχος	Λεπ.	15.
Δικαστικῶν, συμβολαίων καὶ κατασχέσεων	»	10.

Οὐδεμία καταχώρησις μὴ γεγραμμένη εὐσχήμως εἶναι δεκτή.

ΑΙ ΣΥΝΔΡΟΜΑΙ ΓΙΝΟΝΤΑΙ.

Ἐν Καλάμαις, παρὰ τῷ Δικηγόρῳ Γ. Α. ΚΛΦΟΠΟΥΛΩ πρὸς ὃν διευθύνονται καὶ αἱ καταχωρήσεις.
Ἐν ταῖς Ἐπαρχίαις, παρὰ τοῖς Κ. Κ. Ταχυδρομ. ἐπιστάταις.
Ἐν δὲ τῷ Ἐξωτερικῷ, παρὰ τοῖς Κ. Κ. Ἑλληνικοῖς Προξένοις

ΤΟ ΕΝ ΚΑΛΑΜΑΙΣ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΟΝ.

κάρδιον τοῦτο αἴσθημα τῆς ἀγαλλιάσεως καὶ εὐγνωμοσύνης ἐκτὸς τοῦ ἵνα δημοσία ἐξεφράζε-

Ἐν τούτοις εἰς τὸ Γυμνάσιον τοῦτο θέλει ἐκπαιδεύεσθαι οὐ μόνον ἡ τῆς Μεσσηνίας πολυάριθμος

Weekly newspaper "*Η ΠΕΛΟΠΟΝΝΗΣΟΣ* ("*THE PELOPONNESE*") of October 6th, 1861.
Shipped from **Kalamata**, with type I diamond cancellation and type II postmark, number "*31*", of October 8th, 1861.
The domestic & international rate, for the newspapers and magazines was **1 lepton** up to 30 grams, plus **1 lepton** per increment of 20 additional grams.

The 1 lepton of the Paris printing and its usage (cont. & end)

Unpaid letter sent from **Chios** on November 25th, 1861 (date of the correspondence), arrived and taxed at **Syros** (*67*) on December 6th, 1861 with the diamond cancellation (type I) on the stamps and the dated circular postmark (type II) on the back of the cover, via **Smyrna**, Turkey with the *Lloyd Adriatico* agency postmark below the strip of five of **1 lepton**.

Taxed at the domestic rate of 20 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams, with a strip of five of the **1 lepton**, one **5 lepta** and one **10 lepta**.

All the stamps are from the **Paris** printing.

<u>NB:</u> As the postage-due stamps were introduced in Greece only in 1875, the "*large Hermes head*" was also used for the taxation of the letters from 1861 to 1875.

The 2 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage

224,000 stamps of the **2 lepta** of the **Paris** emission have been printed and have been shipped to **Athens** on August 10th, 1861 and September 11th, 1861. The 100,000 stamps shipped with the first shipment on August 10th, 1861 were of bistre colour. **Désiré-Albert Barre** has considered that shade by far too pale and has printed 124,000 additional stamps of bistre-olive colour which have been shipped to **Athens** with the second shipment on September 11th, 1861. The 100.000 stamps of this first shipment have been delivered for free.

Marginal block of eight of the **2 lepta**,
dark bistre-brown on thick paper.

Block of twelve of the **2 lepta**, bistre.

Strip of five of the **2 lepta**, bistre-olive.
Cancelled with the diamond cancellation, type I, number *"23"* of **Megalopolis**.

The 2 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

Copy of the back letter.

Unpaid letter sent from **Verviers**, Belgium, on January 7th/19th, 1862 (postmark under the stamps), arrived in **Athens** (1), on January 18th/30th, 1862.

Mobile post-offices postmarks of:

- **Midi** N° 2, Belgium of January 8th/20th, 1862 (postmark on the back) and
- **Calais** E., France of January 8th/20th, 1862.

The 144 lepta tax is corresponding to 124 lepta for the transportation through the French territory and with the French mail boats for an unpaid letter less than 7 ½ grams ("*Voie de France*"), plus the Greek domestic rate of 20 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams, according to the conventions of December 3rd, 1857 between France and Belgium and of 1838/1844 between Greece and France.

The **2**, **40** and **80 lepta** are from the **Paris** printing and the **20 lepta** is from one of the first **Athens** printings (1861/1862).

Only very few covers between Belgium and Greece during this period are known.

The 2 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

Unpaid letter sent from **Paris**, France on November 24th/December 5th, 1861, arrived in **Athens** (1) on November 30th/December 12th, 1861, via **Marseille**, France. The 132 lepta tax is corresponding to the rate effective up to October 30th, 1867, according to the 1838/1844 convention between Greece and France for the sea transportation, by the French mail boats, of 112 lepta (1 French franc), for a letter less than 7 & ½ grams, plus the Greek domestic rate of 20 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams. All the stamps are from the **Paris** printings.

Unpaid letter sent from **Marseille**, France on January 13th/25th, 1862, arrived and taxed in **Syros** (67) on January 20th/February 1st, 1862, carried by the company *Paquebots de la Méditerranée*. The 244 lepta tax is corresponding to the rate, according to the 1938/1844 convention between Greece and France for the sea transportation by the French mail boats, and up to October 30th, 1867, of 224 lepta (112 lepta X2 or 2 French francs) for a letter from 10 grams and less than 15 grams (triple rate), plus the Greek domestic rate of 20 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams. All the stamps are from the **Paris** printings.

The 2 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont. & end)

Prepaid letter sent from **Patras** (*9*) on October 3rd, 1863, and arrived in **Athens** (*1*) on October 5th, 1863, franked at 20 lepta, the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams, with one **10 lepta** and five **2 lepta**, including one vertical pair. The **2 lepta** are from the **Paris** printings, and the **10 lepta** is from one of the first **Athens** printings (1861/1862).

Prepaid letter sent from **Syros** (*67*) on September 25th, 1862, arrived in **Kalamata** (*31*) on September 29th, 1862, via **Athens** (*1*) on September 26th, 1862. Franked at 30 lepta, the rate for the transportation, inside the country, by Greek or French boats for a letter up to 15 grams, with one **20 lepta** and five **2 lepta**, including one pair and one strip of three. The **2 lepta** are from the **Paris** printing and the **20 lepta** is from one of the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

The 5 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage

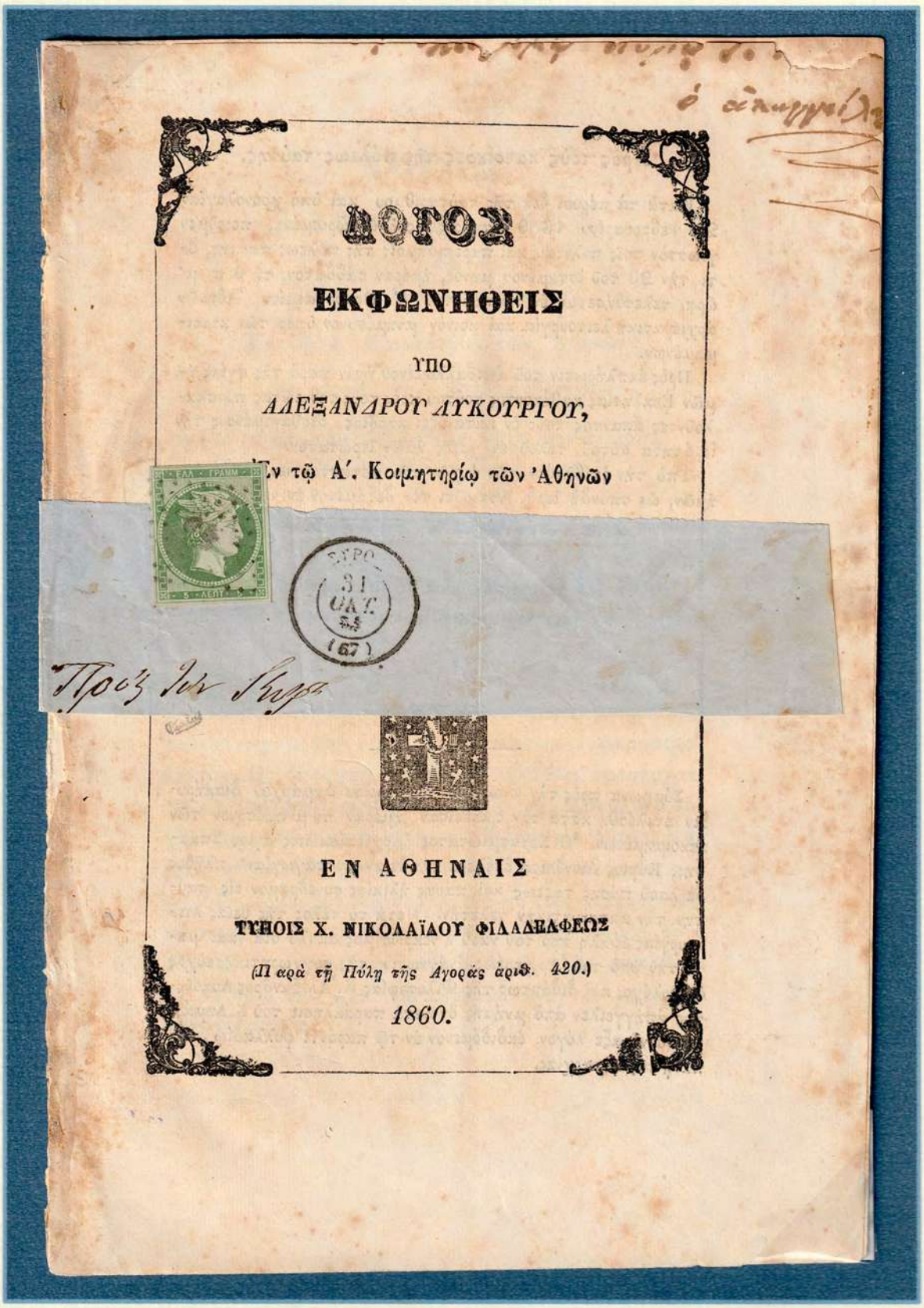
130,000 stamps of the **5 lepta** of the **Paris** emission have been printed. 100,000 stamps have been shipped to **Athens** with the first shipment on August 10th, 1861, and 30,000 stamps with the second one on September 11th, 1861. It exists two shades of the **5 lepta**: green and yellow-green.

Block of four the **5 lepta**, yellow-green.
Positions: 129-130 / 139-140.
Plate flaw of the *"Broken circle"*
(Position 129).

Vertical strip of three of the **5 lepta**, green.
Diamond cancellation type I, number *"40"* of **Nisi**.
Plate flaw of the *"Thin circle"* on the middle stamp.

Strip of four of the **5 lepta**, yellow-green.
Diamond cancellation type I, number *"29"* of **Levadeia**.

The 5 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)



ΛΟΓΟΣ

ΕΚΦΩΝΗΘΕΙΣ

ΥΠΟ

ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ ΛΥΚΟΥΡΓΟΥ,

Ἐν τῷ Α΄. Κοιμητηρίῳ τῶν Ἀθηνῶν

ΕΛΛ · ΓΡΑΜΜ · 5 · ΛΕΠΤ

ΣΥΡΟ 31 ΟΚΤ. (67)

Πρὸς τὴν Σύρ.

ΕΝ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΣ

ΤΥΠΟΙΣ Χ. ΝΙΚΟΛΑΪΔΟΥ ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΕΩΣ

(Παρὰ τῇ Πύλῃ τῆς Ἀγορᾶς ἀριθ. 420.)

1860.

Periodic "*ΛΟΓΟΣ*" ("*REASON*") sent from **Syros** (*67*) on October 31st, 1861, franked with one **5 lepta**, yellow-green of the **Paris** printing, the rate for a periodic between 110 et 130 grams.
The domestic rate, as well as the international one, for the newspapers & periodics, was **1 lepton**, up to 30 grams, and **1 lepton** per additional increment of 20 grams. - (©)

The 5 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

Prepaid letter sent from **Syros** (*67*) on March 11th, 1862, arrived in **Kalamata** (*31*) on March 12th, 1862, franked at 40 lepta, the Greek domestic rate for a letter from 15 to 30 grams (double domestic rate). All the stamps are from the **Paris** printing.

Unpaid letter sent from **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on May 10th/22nd, 1864 (postmark below the stamps), arrived in **Tripoli** (*18*) on May 14th/26th, 1862, via **Athens** (*1*) on May 12th/24th, 1862, taxed at the arrival at 75 lepta corresponding to: 10 lepta for transit through **Trieste** (3 kreuzer), plus 45 lepta for the transportation by Austrian mail boats (15 kreuzer) and 20 lepta for the Greek domestic rate. The 5 lepta is from the **Paris** printing and the strip of three **20 lepta** & the **10 lepta** are from one of the first **Athens** printings (1861/1862).

The 5 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont. & end)

Strip of four of the **5 lepta** of the **Paris** printings, on a prepaid letter sent from **Athens** (*1*) on November 25th, 1861, arrived in **Patras** (*9*) on November 27th, 1861, franked at 20 lepta, the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams. On the first stamp from the left, plate flaw of the "*Broken circle*" (Position 129).

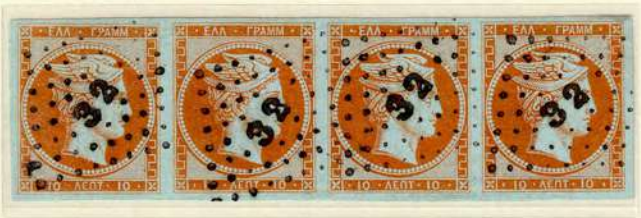
Unpaid letter sent from **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary, on November 10th/22nd, 1862, arrived in **Kalamata** (31) on November 18th/30th, 1862, taxed at the arrival at 75 lepta, corresponding to: 10 lepta for transit through **Trieste** (3 kreuzer), plus 45 lepta for the transportation by Austrian mail boats (15 kreuzer) and 20 lepta for the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams.

The **5** and **40 lepta** are from the **Paris** printing, and the **20 lepta** from one of the **Athens** consecutive printings (1861/1862). Plate flaw of the "*Broken circle*" (Position 129) on the upper **5 lepta**.

The 10 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage

100,000 stamps of the **10 lepta** of the **Paris** emission have been printed and shipped to **Athens** with the second shipment on September 11th, 1861. It exists two shades of the **10 lepta**: orange on bluish paper and yellowish-orange on bluish paper. The **10 lepta** is the unique value of the *"large Hermes head"* of the **Paris** printing with numbers of eight millimetres high on the back indicating the facial value. This innovation has been introduced by **Désiré-Albert Barre** and then implemented, with numbers of six & half millimetres high, on the **5**, **10**, **20**, **40** & **80 lepta** of all the **Athens** printings from 1861 to 1880. Not any single document has been discovered so far indicating the exact purpose of these numbers. Many hypotheses have been advanced to explain the presence of these numbers: easier readability of the value of the stamp, or to avoid possible counterfeit... It is admitted now that the most plausible reason was the control and the counting of the quantity of sheets circulating between the printer, the mint and the postal administration. It's the reason why we are qualifying them as *"control numbers"*.

Marginal block of six of the **10 lepta**, orange.
Positions: 91 → 93 / 101 → 103.
Plate flaw of the *"Greek touching the frame"* (Position 93).



Strip of four of the **10 lepta**, orange.
Positions: 117 → 120.
Plate flaw of the *"Open frame"* (Position 117).
Cancelled with the diamond cancellation type I, number *"32"* of **Sparta**.

Back of a pair of the **10 lepta**,
with the *"control numbers"* of eight millimetres high.

The 10 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

The one hundred and fifty stamps of the sheet of the **10 lepta** of the *"large Hermes head"* of the **Paris** printing are wearing *"control numbers"* of the facial value *"10"* on their back. The only official document found up to date mentioning these numbers, is the post-scriptum of the letter sent by **Désiré-Albert Barre** with the second shipment to **Athens** on September 11th, 1861: *"The 10 lepta stamps, the last produced, carry on their back the printed value: 10 lepta in large sized numbers. I believed it was necessary to apply this innovation to these stamps which idea came to me late and which appears to offer some great advantages."*...

It exists several impression errors of these *"control numbers"* like the *"1"* or the *"0"* inverted...

These are these main errors:

Regular *"control numbers"*.

"1" inverted.
(Position 86).

"0" inverted.
(Position 4).

"0" inverted & uneven numbers.
(Position 88, left stamp).

Uneven numbers.
(Position 127).

"1" open.
(Position 16).

"0" open.
(Position 14).

The 10 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

Unpaid letter sent from **Constantinople**, Turkey on October 4th/16th, 1861 (**Constantinople** French post-office postmark on the bottom-right of the envelop), arrived et taxed in **Athens** (*1*), on October 6th/18th, 1861, via **Piraeus** (*2*), on October 6th/18th, 1861 (postmarks on the back of the cover).

The 115 lepta tax is corresponding to the rate of 75 lepta for a 4th level of weight letter from 15 grams and less than 20 grams, between the French foreign post-offices and Greece, according to the January 2nd, 1838/June 1st, 1844 conventions between France and Greece, up to October 30th, 1867, plus the Greek domestic rate of 40 lepta for a letter from 15 to 30 grams (double rate).

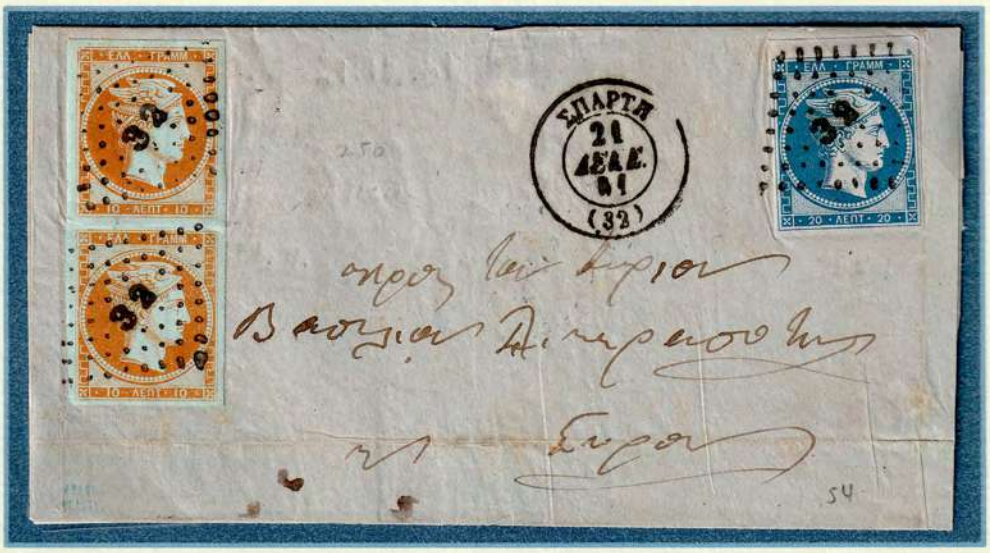
The four stamps are from the **Paris** printing.

October 6th, 1861 is the one of the earliest date known, up today, for the usage of the **10 lepta** of the **Paris** printing of the "*large Hermes head*".

Only very few letters to/from French foreign post-offices from/to Greece with the French post offices cancellation and with "*large Hermes head*" **Paris** printing are known.

(©)

The 10 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont. & end)



Prepaid letter sent from **Sparta** (*32*) on December 21st, 1861, arrived in **Syros** (*67*) on December, 24th, 1861, via **Athens** (*1*) on December 23rd, 1861. Franked at 40 lepta, the Greek domestic rate for a letter from 15 to 30 grams (double rate) with one vertical pair of the **10 lepta** and one **20 lepta**, both of the **Paris** printing.

Partially paid letter sent from **Spetses** (*66*) on November 4th/14th, 1861, arrived in **Corfu** (*106*), via **Nafplio** (*15*) on November 5th/17th, 1861 and **Patras** (*9*) on November 8th/20th, 1861. At that time, and since the fall of **Napoléon Ist**, the Ionians Islands had the status of English protectorate. They have been given back to Greece on May 21st/June 2nd, 1864. Black postmark "*ΠΕΔ*" or "*ΠΛΙΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΕΞΟΤΕΡΙΚΟΝ ΔΗΚΕΩΜΑ*" for "*Paid to Foreign Destination*", and small oval red postmark of **Corfu** on the top-middle of the cover. The franking of 50 lepta is the rate of the transportation by Greek mail boats up the deboarding harbour (circular of the Greek post-office director of May 25th, 1861). One Penny, hand written on the left of the stamps, was paid in cash by the addressee (inland rate of the Ionian islands). All the stamps are from the **Paris** printing.

The 20 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage

321,000 stamps of the **20 lepta** of the **Paris** emission have been printed. 300,000 stamps have been shipped to **Athens** with the first shipment on August 10th, 1861 and 21,000 stamps with the second one on September 11th, 1861. It exists a large spectrum of shades of the **20 lepta**: from pale blue to deep dark blue. **20 lepta** was the domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams.

Block of four of the **20 lepta**, blue.

Marginal pair of the **20 lepta**, blue.
With the diamond cancellation type I, number "*67*" of **Syros**.

20 lepta, blue with
plate flaw of the
"*Deformed bottom frame*".
(Position 50).

The 20 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

First Day of Issue Cover

First day of issue cover from **Missolonghi** (*49*) on October 1st, 1861, arrived in **Patras** (*9*) on October 2nd, 1861 (circular dated postmark, type II, on the back), franked at 20 lepta, the domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams.

Seven first day of issue covers with one, or several, of the seven values of the "*large Hermes head*" of the **Paris** printing are known up to date.

(©)

The 20 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

Prepaid cover sent from **Kalamata** (*31*), on November 28th/December 10th, 1861, arrived in **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on December 8th/20th, 1861, via in **Athens** (*1*) on December 1st/13th, 1861. Franked at 75 lepta, corresponding to the sum of: the Austrian maritime company *Lloyd Adriatico* of 45 lepta (15 kreuzer), the transit tax through the city of **Trieste** of 10 lepta (3 kreuzer), and the Greek domestic rate 20 Lepta for a letter up to 15 grams.
Red postmark "*ΠΕΔ*" or "*ΠΛΙΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΕΞΟΤΕΡΙΚΟΝ ΔΗΚΕΩΜΑ*" for "*Foreign Paid to Destination*".
All the **stamps** are from the **Paris** printings. To be noticed on the **10 lepta**, the plate flaw of the "*thin circle*".

Prepaid letter sent from **Syros** (*67*) on November 29th/December 11th, 1861, arrived in **Kalamata** (*31*) on December 3rd/15th, 1861, via **Athens** (*1*) on November 30th/December 12th, 1861. Franked at 30 lepta, the rate for the transportation of letter of less than 15 grams by the Greek or French mail boats, inside the country.
The two stamps are from the **Paris** printings.

The 20 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

Prepaid letter sent from the village of **Kastania** with the local post-office blue rectangular postmark "*ΔΤ 177*", for "*ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΟΝ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΟΝ*", (top-left of the cover) on April 28th, 1862 (date of the correspondence), stamped and cancelled at **Sparta** (*32*) on April 30th, 1862 to **Argos**.

Only very few covers with local post-office postmark ("*ΔΤ*") and "*large Hermes head*" of the **Paris** printing stamps are known.

Partially paid letter sent from the Austrian Levant harbour of **Scio-Cesme** on November 18th/30th, 1861 with the black linear postmark "*FRANCO*", arrived in **Syros** (*67*) on November 19th/December 1st, 1861. As the rate was paid up to the deboarding harbour, a tax of 20 lepta, the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams, has been affixed at the arrival, "*20*" handwritten on red pencil.

The 20 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

Letter sent from **Smyrna** (*96*), Turkey, Greek foreign post office postmark, on December 1st, 1861, arrived in **Tripoli** (*18*) on December 7th, 1861, via **Piraeus** (*2*) (pre-philatelic postmark on the back) on December 3rd, 1861 and **Athens** (*1*) on December 3rd, 1861. Taxed at the arrival at 50 lepta, rate for a letter up to 15 grams for the transportation by Greek or French boats of 30 lepta plus 20 lepta for the domestic rate. All the stamps are from the **Paris** printing.

(©)

Unpaid letter sent from **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on September 28th/October 10th, 1861, arrived in **Nafplio** (*15*) on December 16th/4th, 1861, via **Athens** (*1*) on December 16th/4th, 1861. Taxed at the arrival at 75 lepta corresponding to the sum of 10 lepta (3 kreuzer) for the transit through the city of **Trieste**, 45 lepta (15 kreuzer) for the transportation by Austrian mail boats company *Lloyd Adriatico*, and 20 lepta for the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams. All the stamps are from the **Paris** printings.

The 20 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

Partially prepaid letter sent from **Syros** *(67)* on December, 27th, 1861/January 8th, 1862 (date on the correspondence), arrived in **Genoa**, Sardinia on January 16th/28th, 1862 (red rectangular arrival postmark on the back).

Franked at 140 lepta, the rate between Greece and the port of **Genoa**, by the French boats and for a letter below 7 & ½ grams, from October 1st/13th, 1861 to March 17th 1862 (when the Kingdom of Sardinia jointed the Kingdom of Italy). Due to the lack of postal convention between the Kingdom of Greece and the Kingdom of Sardinia, this rate was up to deboarding harbour, so a tax of 2 decimi was affixed at the arrival in **Genoa** (handwritten "*2*" in black ink, in the middle of the cover), corresponding to the Sardinian inland rate for a single letter (rating of January 1st, 1850).

Black postmark "*ΠΔ*" or "*ΠΛΙΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΔΗΚΕΩΜΑ*" for "*Paid to Destination*", affixed at the departure in **Syros** and red postmark "*PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI* " for "*French postal paquebots*", affixed at the arrival in **Genoa**.

The three stamps are from the **Paris** printing.

As this rate was is use for less than six months, only very few letters with this franking are known.

(©)

The 20 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

The **20 lepta** exist in a broad spectrum of blue, from the very light blue to the dark one. The darkest blues are the most researched ones, in particular, the dark Prussian blue, also called "***Patras** blue*" as it was printed in a single complete sheet of one hundred & fifty stamps which was sent to the **Patras** post office. A fifteenth items or so of this shade is known up today, all cancelled with **Patras** postmarks (Type I or II), with only three on covers.

Prepaid letter shipped from **Patras** (*9*) on May 10th, 1862, arrived in **Aigio** (*7*), franked at **20 lepta**, the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams.

The so-called variety of the "***Patras** blue*".

Three pieces known on cover, up to date.

(©)

The 20 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont. & end)

Unpaid letter sent from **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on January 20th/February 1st, 1862, arrived in **Syros** (*67*) January 24th/February 5th, 1862. Taxed at the arrival at 75 lepta, corresponding to the sum of: the Austrian maritime company *Lloyd Adriatico* of 45 lepta (15 kreuzer), the transit tax through the city of **Trieste** of 10 lepta (3 kreuzer), and the Greek domestic rate 20 Lepta for a letter up to 15 grams. All the stamps are from the **Paris** printings.

Prepaid letter sent from **Patras** (*9*), on January 12th/24th, 1862, arrived in **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on January 18th/30th, 1862, via in **Athens** (*1*) on January 13th/25th, 1862. Franked at 75 lepta, corresponding to the sum of: the Austrian maritime company *Lloyd Adriatico* of 45 lepta (15 kreuzer), the transit tax through the port of **Trieste** of 10 lepta (3 kreuzer), and the Greek domestic rate 20 Lepta for a letter up to 15 grams.
Red postmark "*ΠΕΔ*" or "*ΠΛΙΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΕΞΟΤΕΡΙΚΟΝ ΔΗΚΕΩΜΑ*" for "*Paid to Foreign Destination*".
All the stamps are from the **Paris** printings.

The 40 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage

130,000 stamps of the **40 lepta** of the **Paris** emission have been printed and shipped to **Athens** with the second shipment on September 11th, 1861.
It exists two shades of the **40 lepta**: mauve on bluish paper and dull-mauve on bluish paper.

Block of four of the **40 lepta**, mauve.

Marginal strip of five of the **40 lepta**, mauve.

(©)

40 lepta, mauve
Diamond cancellation type I,
number "*67*" of **Syros**.

40 lepta, dull-mauve
Diamond cancellation type I,
number "*9*" of **Patras**.

The 40 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

Copy of the back of the letter.

Insufficiently prepaid letter sent from **London**, England on November 26th/December 8th, 1862, arrived in **Patras** (*9*) on December 9th/21st, 1862, via:

- **Aachen**, German States on November 27th/December 9th, 1862,
- **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on December 1st/13th, 1862,
- **Athens** (*1*) on December 7th/19th, 1862.

It was insufficiently stamped in **London** with only eleven pence (three stamps of: one penny, four pence & six pence) which was the rate up to **Trieste**, So the letter was taxed at the arrival with 65 lepta corresponding to 45 lepta (15 kreuzer) for the transport by the *Lloyd maritime* Austrian company from **Trieste** to Greece, plus 20 lepta, the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams.

The black postmark "*INSUFFICIENTLY STAMPED*", was affixed by the British post-office.

The **5** & **40 lepta** are from the **Paris** printing, and the **20 lepta** from one of the **Athens** consecutive printings (1862/1867).

One of the two covers known with this franking combination.

The 40 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

Prepaid letter sent from **Patras** (*9*), on October 12th/24th, 1861, arrived in **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary, on October 19th/31st, 1861 via **Athens** (*1*), on October 14th/26th, 1861 (postmark on the back of the cover).

Red postmark "*ΠΕΔ*" or "*ΠΛΙΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΕΞΟΤΕΡΙΚΟΝ ΔΗΚΕΩΜΑ*" for "*Paid to Foreign Destination*".

The 150 lepta franking is corresponding to the rate effective from October 1st/12th, 1861 to October 30th/November 12th, 1867 (Greece and Austria & *Lloyd Adriatico* 1850 conventions), for a letter from 15 to 30 grams, between Greece and Austria-Hungary (double rate) consisting of:

- 90 Lepta (30 kreuzer) for the Austrian maritime company *Lloyd Adriatico*,
- 20 Lepta (6 kreuzer) for the transit tax through the town of **Trieste**, at that time in Austria-Hungary and
- 40 Lepta for the Greek domestic rate for a letter from 15 and 30 grams.

The five stamps are from the **Paris** printings.

The 40 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.& end)

Unpaid letter sent from the Greek post office of **Smyrna** (*96*), Turkey on May 12th, 1862, arrived in **Kalamata** (*31*) on May 17th, 1862, via **Piraeus** (*2*) & **Athens** (*1*) on May 14th, 1862. The 50 lepta tax is corresponding to 30 lepta for the transportation by Greek or French mail boats, plus 20 lepta for the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams. The three stamps are from the **Paris** printings.

Partially paid letter sent from **Patras** (*9*) on May 1st/13th, 1862, arrived in **Taganrog**, Russia on May 3rd, 15th, 1862, via **Piraeus** (*2*) and **Constantinople**, Turkey. Franked by the sender at 65 lepta corresponding to sum of the rate of the transportation up to **Constantinople** by Austrian boats of 45 lepta (1 time & ½ the basic rate of 30 lepta for a double rate letter) plus the Greek domestic rate of a letter up to 15 grams. The addressee paid 33 kopecks in cash (hand written in black ink on the top right of the cover) at the reception. According to the 1848 convention between Greece and Russia, each country was paying from/to the exchange harbour of **Constantinople**.

Red postmark "*ΠΕΔ*" or "*ΠΛΙΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΕΞΟΤΕΡΙΚΟΝ ΔΗΚΕΩΜΑ*" for "*Paid to Foreign Destination*", rightly corrected by the black postmark "*ΠΔ*" or "*ΠΛΙΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΔΗΚΕΩΜΑ*" for "*Paid to Destination*".

All the stamps are from the **Paris** printing. (©)

The 80 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage

140,000 stamps of the **80 lepta** of the **Paris** emission have been printed. 100,000 stamps have been shipped to **Athens** with the first shipment on August 10th, 1861, and 40,000 stamps with the second one on September 11th, 1861. It exists two shades of the **80 lepta**: rose-carmine and light carmine.

Block of four of the **80 lepta**,
light carmine, margin of the sheet.
Positions: 129-130 / 139-140.
On the stamp in the position 129:
Plate flaw of the "*Line between the Greek & the frame*".

Pair of the **80 lepta**, rose-carmine.
With the diamond cancellation type I, number "*67*" of **Syros**.

Vertical pair of the **80 lepta**, rose-carmine.
With the diamond cancellation type I, number "*67*" of **Syros**.

The 80 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

Unpaid letter from **Venice**, then in Austria-Hungary on December 27th, 1861/January 8th, 1862, arrived and taxed in **Athens** (*1*), on January 4th/16th, 1862, via **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on 28 December 28th, 1861/January 9th, 1862. The 95 lepta tax is corresponding to the rates of the Austrian maritime company *Lloyd Adriatico* of 45 lepta (15 kreuzer), the transit tax through the harbour of **Trieste** of 30 lepta (10 kreuzer) and the Greek domestic rate of 20 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams.

The **80 lepta** is from the **Paris** printing and the **5** & **10 lepta** from one of the first **Athens** printings (1861/1862).

Unpaid letter shipped from **Paris**, France on November 10th/22nd, 1861, arrived and taxed in **Athens** (*1*), via **Marseille**, France and **Piraeus** (*2*), by the mail boats of the French company *Paquebots de la Méditerranée*.

This letter was carried from **Marseille**, either by the mail boat "*Cydnus*" on November 23rd, 1861, or by the mail boat "*Phase*" on November 30th, 1861, both operating on the "*U line*" of the French company *Paquebots de la Méditerranée*. The "*U line*", (Initially named the "*Levant line*"), was doing the maritime route: **Marseille**, France/**Constantinople**, Turkey/**Marseille**, France, with stopovers at **Messina**, Italy, **Piraeus**, Greece and **Dardanelles**, Turkey.

The 132 lepta tax is corresponding to the effective rate, up to October 30th, 1867, and according to the January 1838/June 1844 convention between France and Greece, for the transportation, by the French mail boats, of 112 lepta (1 French franc), for a letter of less than 7 & ½ grams, plus the Greek domestic rate of 20 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams.

The four stamps are from the **Paris** printing.

The 80 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont.)

Unpaid letter sent from **Weimar**, Kingdom of Prussia on December 4th/16th, 1861, arrived in **Athens** (*1*) on December 15th/27th, 1861 (circular dated postmark, type II on the back of the cover), via **Grossneuhausen**, Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach on December 5th/17th, 1861 and **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on December 9th/21st, 1861.

Taxed at 110 lepta, corresponding to the sum of the rates for the **Grossneuhausen/Trieste** land route of 45 lepta (15 kreuzer), the **Trieste**/Greece sea route of 45 lepta (15 kreuzer) by the Austrian boats, plus the Greek domestic rate of 20 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams, according to the 1850 conventions between Austria and Greece and to the Greek circular of May 25th, 1861.
"*110*" handwritten with red pencil on the bottom-left of the cover.

The **80 lepta** is from the **Paris** printing and the **10** & **20 lepta** are from one of the first **Athens** printings (1861/1862).

Only very few letters from/to German states, bearing "*large Hermes head*" **Paris** printing are known.

The 80 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage (cont. & end)

Unpaid letter sent from **London**, England on January 8th/20th, 1862 (postmark under the stamps), arrived in **Patras** (*9*) on January 20th/February 1st, 1862, by the "*voie d'**Ostende***", via **Aachen** (red mobile post office cancellation on the back of the cover: "*England per **Aachen***" on January 9th/21st, 1862) and **Athens** (*1*) on January 18th/30th, 1862.

The 170 lepta tax, at the arrival, is corresponding to the sum of: 105 lepta (35 kreuzer) for the transportation by land route, through Belgium & the German states, from England, and up to the Austrian border, plus 45 lepta (15 kreuzer) for the routing between Austria and Greece and 20 lepta for the domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams.

The three stamps are from the **Paris** printing.

Letter sent from **London**, England on March 8th/20th, 1862, arrived in **Patras** (*9*) on March 16th/28th, 1862, via **Calais** on March 9th/21st, 1862 ("*voie de France*"), **Marseille,** France**, Piraeus** (*2*) and **Athens** (*1*) on March 15th/27th, 1862.

The 170 lepta tax, at the arrival, is corresponding to the sum of: 150 lepta for the transportation by sea of an unpaid letter of less than 7 & ½ grams (up to October 31st, 1867), plus 20 lepta for the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams, according to the 1838/1844 convention between Greece and France.

The three stamps are from the **Paris** printing.

The 1 lepton of the Athens printings and its postal usage

The **1 lepton** of the **Athens** printings have been printed from 1861 to 1882 and were in usage up to 1886. It exists height main emissions and not any document has been discovered yet giving any indication of the quantities printed during this period.
1 lepton was the inland rate, as well as the international one, for the newspapers up to 30 grams.

1 lepton mint, brown.
First **Athens** printings
(1861/1862).

(©)

1 lepton mint, bistre-brown.
First **Athens** printings
(1861/1862).

Mint block of six of the **1 lepton**, red-brown.
Consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).
Corner of the sheet with control postmark "*ΕΛΕΓΧΟΣ*".

Mint block of four of the **1 lepton**, chocolate.
Cream papers with "*control numbers*" (1875/1880).
With plate flaw of the "*stain on the neck*" (Position 55).

Cancelled strip of four of the **1 lepton**, chocolate.
Cream papers w/o "*control number*" (1880/1882).
Franked with type II postmark of **Corfu** (*106*).

The 1 lepton of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Printed paper sent from **Athens** (*1*) on August 28th, 1879, arrived in **Syros** (*67*), franked at 4 lepta, the rate for a printed paper less than 10 grams for the interior or the international.
The strip of four of the **1 lepton** is from the cream paper with "*control numbers*" printings (1875/1880).

Periodical "*ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΚΟΣ ΛΟΓΟΣ*" for "*Evangelical reason*" sent from **Piraeus** (*2*) on June 28th, 1876, franked at 1 lepton, the rate for newspapers and periodicals up to 30 grams for the interior or the international. The **1 lepton** is from the cream papers with "*control numbers*" printings (1875/1880).

The 1 lepton of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Prepaid letter sent from **Argostoli** (*110*) on May 17th, 1866, arrived in **Corfu** (*106*) on May 18th, 1866, franked at 26 lepta, the rate for a letter up to 15 grams between the Ionian islands. All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

Prepaid letter sent from **Argostoli** (*110*) on November 16th, 1867, arrived in **Corfu** (*106*) on November 17th, 1866, franked at 26 lepta, the rate for a letter up to 15 grams between the Ionian islands. All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

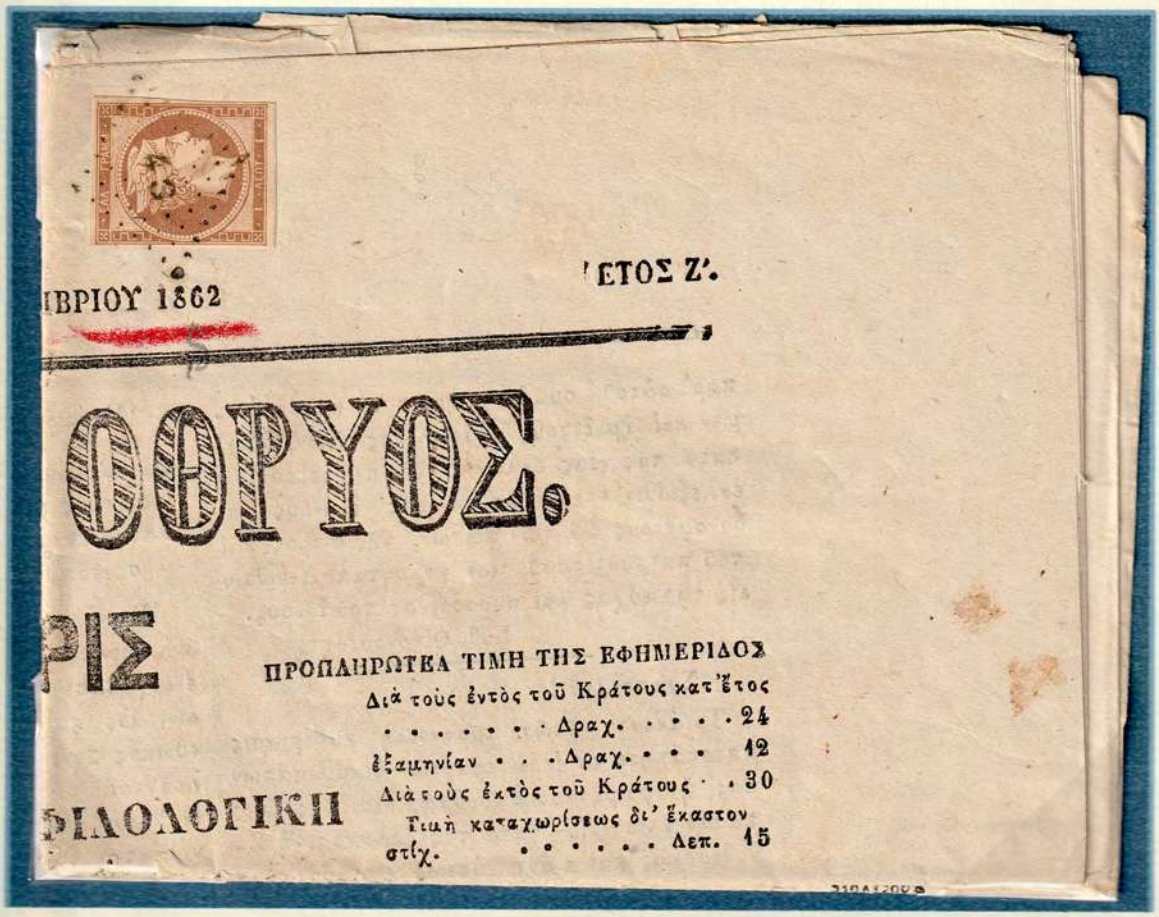
The 1 lepton of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Unpaid letter sent from **Marseille**, France on September 14th/26th, 1874, arrived in **Nauplie** (15), via **Syros** (67) on September 19th/October 1st, 1874, using the "*voie française*" of the *paquebots de la Méditerranée*. Black postmark "*90 LEP*" affixed by the postal agent in the boat for an unpaid letter below 10 grams and taxed at the arrival at 90 lepta according to the 1866 convention between Greece and France, applicable starting November 1st, 1867.

The five stamps of 10 lepta & the one of 20 lepta are from the meshed paper printings (1871/1876) and all the stamps of 1 lepton (one block of height, one block of four, one strip of five & one pair) are from the "*cleaned plates*" printings (1868/1869). One stamp of 1 lepton is missing on the second raw, after the five 10 lepta.

The 1 lepton of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont. & end)

Prepaid letter sent from **Tripoli** (*18*) on December 31st, 1887/January 12th, 1888, arrived in **Alexandria**, Egypt on January 4th/16th, 1888, franked at 25 lepta, the U.P.U. rate (1878 **Paris** treaty). The strip of five of the **1 lepton** is from the cream papers w/o "*control number*" printings (1880/1886) and the **20 lepta** from the change of colours printings (1882).



ΙΒΡΙΟΥ 1862

ΕΤΟΣ Ζ'.

ΟΘΡΥΟΣ.

ΡΙΣ

ΦΙΛΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ

ΠΡΟΠΛΗΡΩΤΕΑ ΤΙΜΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΔΟΣ

Διὰ τοὺς ἐντὸς τοῦ Κράτους κατ' ἔτος . . . . . Δραχ. 24

ἑξαμηνίαν . . . Δραχ. . . . 12

Διὰ τοὺς ἐκτὸς τοῦ Κράτους . . 30

Τιμὴ καταχωρίσεως δι' ἕκαστον στίχ. . . . . Λεπ. 15

Newspaper "*ΦΑΡΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΟΘΡΥΟΣ*" for "*Lighthouse of Othrios*" sent from **Lamia** (*43*) on November 17th, 1862, franked at **1 lepton**, the rate for newspapers and periodicals up to 30 grams for the interior or the international.

The **1 lepton** is from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

The 2 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage

The **2 lepta** of the **Athens** printings have been printed from 1861 to 1882 and were in usage up to 1886. It exists seven main emissions and not any document has been discovered yet giving any indication of the quantities printed during this period.

Corner block of four of the **2 lepta**, pale-bistre.
First **Athens** printings (1861/1862). - (©)

Mint block of forty of the **2 lepta**, bistre - Control postmark on the back: "*ΕΛΕΓΧΟΣ*" for "*control*".
Corner of the sheet - Consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

The 2 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Prepaid letter sent from **Corfu** (*106*) on April 12th, 1869, arrived in **Athens** (*1*) on April 14th, 1869. Franked at 20 lepta, the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams.
All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

Partially prepaid letter sent from **Catania**, Sicily on September 6th/12th, 1869, arrived and taxed at **Patras** (*9*) on September 13th/25th, 1869, via **Athens** (*1*) on September 11th/23rd, 1869. Franked at the departure at 60 centisimi with a strip of three 20 centisimi, instead of 80 centisimi for a letter up to 10 grams transported by the French boats. The Italian postal agent indicated that it was a double rate (from 10 to 20 grams) and handwrote "2" in black ink (top-left of the cover) and affixed the black postmark "*AFFRANCATURA INSUFFICIENTE*" for "*Insufficiently Prepaid*". The Greek exchange post office taxed the letter only at 22 lepta ("22" red pencilled in the middle of the cover), the difference between the rate for a letter up to 15 grams (Greek weight) by French boats (90 lepta) and the amount franked (60 centisimi or 68 lepta). The two Greek stamps are from the "*cleaned plates*" printings (1868/1869). - (©)

The 2 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Prepaid letter sent from **Argostoli** (*110*) on April 2nd, 1866, arrived in **Corfu** (*106*) on April 3rd, 1866. Franked at 26 lepta, the rate for a letter up to 15 grams between the Ionian islands. All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

Prepaid letter sent from **Patras** (*9*) on April 12th, 1866, for **Aigio** (*7*). Franked at 20 lepta, the domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams. The ten **2 lepta** (one strip of four, one strip of three and three singles) are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/167).

The 2 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont. & end)

Prepaid letter sent from **Argostoli** (*110*) on July 17th, 1865, arrived in **Corfu** (*106*) on July 20th, 1865. Franked at 20 lepta, the domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams.
All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

26 Αθῆναι, 1865 Πέμπτη 8 ἀπριλίου

ΠΑΛΙΓΓΕΝΕΣΙΑ

Ἀλλοδαπῆ δρ. 24. Ἐκδιδομένη δύο τῆς ἑβδομάδος. Τιμὴ κατοχωρίσεως ἑκάστου εἰκ. λ. 30 Ἑκάστης γνωσοποιήσ. (10 εἰκ.) ἐρ. 3.

ραφήματα.

ἀπριλίου. — Ἡ εἴδησις ὅτι οἱ ἀν-
τὸν πρόεδρον Λίγκολν κήρυκας
μέχρι τοῦδε.
— Ἐν τῷ Νομοθετικῷ Σώματι, ὁ
σας πᾶσαν ὑποψίαν περὶ ἐνδεχο-
Ἀμερικῆς καὶ Γαλλίας ἕνεκα τοῦ
ἡ Γαλλία ἐτήρησε τελείαν οὐδε

Ἡ ἐντελὴς μισθοδοσία πεντήκοντα ἢ ἑξήκοντα δραχμῶν κατὰ τί ἄρα γε ὠφελεῖ τοὺς ; Πιστεύει, ὁ κύριος ὑπουργὸς τῶν ἐσωτερ ῶς τοὺς ὠφελεῖ, παραλαμβάνων αὐτοὺς ἐπί βεβαίως ὁ διάδοχός του θὰ τοὺς παύσῃ), ς ὑπεραρίθμους ;
Τὸ καθ' ἡμᾶς, πιστεύομε ἄλλον αὐτοὺς, διότι οὗτοι δελεαζόμενοι κ τῆς εὐτελοῦς ἐκείνης μισθοδοσίας, παραιτοῦσι πᾶν ἄλλο ἔργον, καὶ τοῦ λοιποῦ θὰ ἦναι ὀχληροὶ ἀπαιτηταὶ εἰς πάντα μέλλοντα

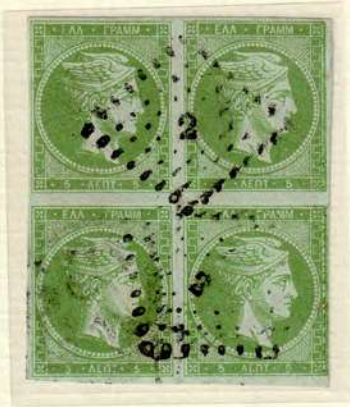
Newspaper "*ΠΑΛΙΓΓΕΝΕΣΙΑ*" for "*Palingenesis*" sent from **Athens** (*1*) on April 8th/20th, 1865 (date of the newspaper) via **Marseilles**, France on April 16th/28th, 1865. Franked at 2 lepta, corresponding to the rate of a newspaper or periodical from 30 to 50 grams for the interior or the international.
The **2 lepta** is from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

The 5 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage

The **5 lepta** of the **Athens** printings have been printed from 1861 to 1882 and were in usage up to 1886. All the 5 lepta of the **Athens** printings bear a *"control number" "5"* of 6.5 centimetres high at their back except on the last emission of 1880/1882. It exists seven main emissions and not any document has been discovered yet giving any indication of the quantities printed during this period.

Block of four of the **5 lepta**, green.
Consecutive **Athens** printings
(1862/1867).

Block of four of the **5 lepta**, green
Franked at à **Argostoli** (*110*).
Consecutive **Athens** printings
(1862/1867).



Block of four of the **5 lepta**, green.
Franked at **Piraeus** (*2*).
"Cleaned plates" printings
(1868/1869).
Only very few blocks known.

Strip of four franked at **Pyrgos** (*13*).
First Athens printings (1861/ 1862).

Strip of four franked at **Molaoi** (*35*).
"Cleaned plates" printings (1862/1867).
Only very few strips of four known.

<u>*"Control numbers"* errors:</u>

Double "*5*".
Cream papers (1875/1880).
Only very few items known.

Disformed "*5*" on the middle stamp
(Position 132).
Cream papers (1875/1880).

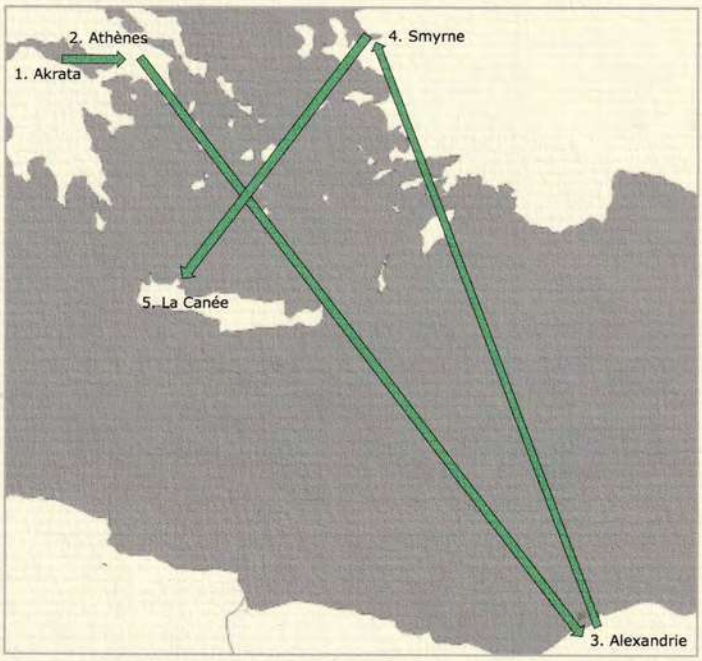
Distant double "*5*".
Meshed papers (1871/1876).
Only very few items known.

Double "5" on 3 of the 4 stamps.
Meshed papers (1871/1876)

The 5 lepta of the Athens printings and its usage (cont.)

Picture of the back of the cover

Letter sent to an archimandrite, manager of the *Holy Trinity*, dependency of the *Mount Sinai* Monastery in **Kydonia** (close to **Chania**, Crete), by a sender from the Monastery *Agia Trias* at **Akrata**. The letter left **Akrata** (*6*) insufficiently franked at 10 lepta instead of the U.P.U. rate of 25 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams. The sender was wrong, probably thinking that a preferential rate was existing for the letters between monasteries... The Greek post has cancelled the stamps and has not mentioned this insufficiently franking... At the transit in **Athens** (**Piraeus**), the letter has taken a boat to **Alexandria** instead of being sent directly to Crete or to transit by **Syros**. This has happened either by error or because the insurrectional situation in Crete was not allowing to do so. Then the letter has transited by **Smyrna**. At its arrival in **Chania**, at this period still part of the Ottoman Empire, the Turkish post office has affixed the blue tax postmark "*T*" on the cover. But the amount of the tax has not been written or stamped, so the tax has not been collected... The vertical pair of the **5 lepta** is from the cream papers w/o "*control number*" (1880/82).



<u>Itinerary of this small letter:</u>

1. Departure from **Akrata** (*6*) on September 2nd/14th, 1887 (Type IV postmark on the recto),
2. Via **Athens** (*1*)/**Piraeus** (*2*) on September 3rd/15th, 1887 (Type VI postmark on the verso),
3. Via **Alexandria**, Egypt on September 7th/19th, 1887 (Egyptian postmark on the verso),
4. Via **Smyrna**, Turkey on September 12th/24th, 1887 (Ottoman postmark on the verso),
5. Arrival in **Chania**, Crete on September 18th/30th, 1887 (Ottoman postmark on the verso).

The 5 lepta of the Athens printings and its usage (cont.)

Prepaid letter sent from **Galaxidi** (*46*) on November 18th/30th, 1872,
arrived at **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on November 23rd/December 5th, 1872,
via **Corfu** (*106*) on November 21st/December 3rd, 1872.

Franked at 70 lepta, the rate for a pre-paid letter up to 15 grams from Greece to Austria according to the 1867 convention and the circular n° 9 of April 10th, 1868 between the two countries.
The sender overpaid 15 lepta, ignoring that the rate, according from the same 1867 convention, was fixed at 55 lepta for the Austrian ports like **Trieste**.

Black postmark "*ΠΕΔ*" or "*ΠΛΙΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΕΞΟΤΕΡΙΚΟΝ ΔΗΚΕΩΜΑ*" for "*Paid to Foreign Destination*".

The strip of six of the **5 lepta** is from the "*cleaned plates*" printings (1868/1869)
and the pair of the **20 lepta** is from the 1871/1872 printings.

The strip of six of the **5 lepta** from the "*cleaned plates*" printings (1868/1869)
is the largest multiple of this value kwon to date.

(©)

The 5 lepta of the Athens printings and its usage (cont. & end)

Prepaid letter from **Lefkada** (*108*) on June 24th, 1867, arrived in **Corfu** (*106*) on June 26th, 1867. Franked at 26 lepta, the rate for a letter up to 15 grams between the Ionian islands.

All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867)

Prepaid letter from **Patras** (*9*) on April 16th/28th, 1864, arrived in **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on April 23rd/May 5th, 1864, via **Athens** (*1*) on April 18th/30th, 1864. Franked at 75 lepta corresponding to 45 lepta for the sea transportation by the Austrian boats company of the *Lloyd Adriatico* (15 kreuzer), 10 lepta for the transit tax of the town of **Trieste** (3 kreuzer) and 20 lepta for the Greek domestic rate. Red postmark "*ΠΕΔ*" or "*ΠΛΙΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΕΞΟΤΕΡΙΚΟΝ ΔΗΚΕΩΜΑ*" for "*Paid to Foreign Destination*".

All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867)

The 10 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage

The **10 lepta** of the **Athens** printings have been printed from 1861 to 1882 and were in usage up to 1886. All the 10 lepta of the **Athens** printings bear a *"control number" "10"* of 6.5 centimetres high at their back except on the last emission of 1880/1882. It exists seven main emissions and not any document has been discovered yet giving any indication of the quantities printed during this period.

Marginal block of thirty of the **10 lepta**, orange.
Cream papers printing w/o *"control number"* (1880/1882).

"Control number" errors:

"1" inverted. *"0"* inverted.
First **Athens** printings
(1861/1862).

Double *"10"*.
Meshed papers
(1871/1876).

"10" inverted, printed on the recto.
The so-called **Zante** error (*111*).
Consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).
About twenty items known as of today.

The 10 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Prepaid letter sent from **Kalamata** (*31*) on July 25th/August 6th, 1862, arrived in **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on August 2nd/14th, 1862, via **Athens** (*1*) on July 28th/August 9th, 1862. Franked at 75 lepta corresponding to 45 lepta for the sea transportation by the Austrian boats of the *Lloyd Adriatico* (15 kreuzer), 10 lepta for the transit tax of the town of **Trieste** (3 kreuzer) and 20 lepta for the Greek domestic rate.
Red postmark "*ΠΕΔ*" or "*ΠΛΙΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΕΞΟΤΕΡΙΚΟΝ ΔΗΚΕΩΜΑ*" for "*Paid to Foreign Destination*".
The **5 lepta** is from the **Paris** printing and the **10** & **20 lepta** are from the first **Athens** printings (1861/1862).

Unpaid letter sent from **Livorno**, Italy on July 26th/August 7th, 1867, arrived and taxed in **Corfu** (*106*) on July 29th/August 10th, 1867, via **Brindisi**, Italy on July 28th/August 9th, 1867. The 65 lepta tax is corresponding to the rate, effective on this date, for a letter up to 10 grams according to the 1864 convention between Greece & Italy and to the January 5th, 1865 circular of the Director of the Post Office of Greece. All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

The 10 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Partially prepaid letter sent from **Rome**, Papal states on November 28th/December 10th, 1862 (date of the correspondence), arrived and taxed at **Thera** (*77*) on December 24th, 1862/January 5th, 1863, via **Syros** (*67*) on December 15th/27th, 1862. Franked at three bajocchi, reduced rate for a letter less than 7 & ½ grams granted to the sender: the "*Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples*" or "*Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith*" (red rectangular postmark "*Propaganda Fide*" on the top-right of the cover) instead the regular rate of twenty-one bajocchi.
The letter has been taxed at the arrival at 20 lepta, the Greek internal rate for a letter up to 15 grams.

<u>This letter followed the following itinerary:</u>

- Departure from **Rome** on November 28th/December 10th, 1862 (date of the correspondence),
- Land routed from **Rome** to **Civitavecchia**, port on the Tyrrhenian sea, at the south-west of **Roma**, between November 28th/December 10th, 1862 and December 9th/21st, 1862,
- Transported by the "*Céphise*" of the "*ligne d'Italie*" of the French boat company *Paquebots de la Méditerranée* between **Civitavecchia** on December 9th/21st, 1862 & **Messina** on December 11th/23rd, 1862,
- Transferred on the "*Neva*" of the "*ligne du Levant*" of the French boat company *Paquebots de la Méditerranée* between **Messina** on December 11th/13th, 1862 and **Piraeus** on December 14th/26th, 1862,
- Transferred on a French boat of the "*lignes de l'archipel*" of the French boat company *Paquebots de la Méditerranée* between **Piraeus** on December 15th/27th, 1862 and **Syros** on December 15th/27th, 1862,
- Transferred on a Greek boat between **Syros** and **Thera** between December 15th/27th, 1862 and December 24th, 1862/January 5th, 1863,
- Arrived in **Thera** on December 24th, 1862/January 5th, 1863.

The two 10 lepta are from one of the first **Athens** printings (1861/1862).

Only two letters with the "*Propaganda Fide*" preferred rate are known up to now.

The 10 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont. & end)

Prepaid letter sent from **Argostoli** (*111*) on October 4th, 1867, arrived in **Corfu** (*106*) on October 5th, 1867. Franked at 52 lepta, the double rate for a letter from 15 to 30 grams between the Ionian islands. All the stamps are from the **Athens** consecutive printings (1862/1867).

Prepaid letter sent from **Athens** (*1*) on October 18th/30th, 1881, arrived in **Paris**, France on October 22nd/November 4th, 1881. Franked at 30 lepta, the U.P.U. rate for a letter up to 15 grams to the international. All the stamps are from the cream papers w/o "*control number*" (1880/1882).

The 20 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage

The **20 lepta** of the **Athens** printings have been printed from 1861 to 1882 and were in usage up to 1886. All the 20 lepta of the **Athens** printings bear a "*control number*" "20" of 6.5 centimetres high at their back except on the last two last emissions. It exists nine main emissions and not any document has been discovered yet giving any indication of the quantities printed during this period.
20 lepta was the inland rate for the letters up to 15 grams.

Block of four of the du **20 lepta**, ultramarine.
Cream papers w/o "*control number*" (1875/1880).

Block of four of the **20 lepta**, carmine.
Change of colours (1882).

(©)

"*Fond quadrille*".

"*Fond uni*".

First **Athens** printings (October 1861) w/o "*control number*".

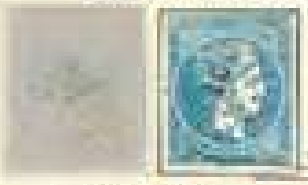
(©)

20 lepta, printed at the fitting of a ream of paper.
Picture of the two parts of the stamp, on the right.
Meshed papers printings (1871/1876).
Very few items known up to date.

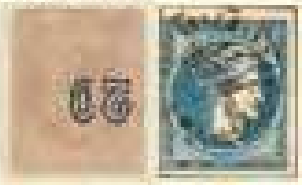
(©)

Marginal strip of three of the **20 lepta**, deep blue.
First **Athens** printings (1861/1867).

<u>"Control numbers" errors with pictures of the recto on the right.</u>



"20" inverted.
20 lepta, grey-blue, oxidized corners.
Consecutive **Athens** printings (1863/1867).
Unique item known today.



"20" inverted.
The so-called **Argostoli** error.
Cream papers printings (1875/1880).
Only very few pieces known today.

The 20 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage

The **20 lepta** of the **Athens** printings have been printed from 1861 to 1882 and were in usage up to 1886. All the 20 lepta of the **Athens** printings bear a *"control number"* *"20"* of 6.5 centimetres high at their back except on the last two last emissions. It exists nine main emissions and not any document has been discovered yet giving any indication of the quantities printed during this period.
20 lepta was the inland rate for the letters up to 15 grams.

Block of four of the du **20 lepta**, ultramarine.
Cream papers w/o *"control number"* (1875/1880).

Block of four of the **20 lepta**, carmine.
Change of colours (1882).
(©)

20 lepta, printed at the fitting of a ream of paper .
Picture of the two parts of the stamp, on the right.
Meshed papers printings (1871/1876).
Very few items known up to date.
(©)

Marginal strip of three of the **20 lepta**, deep blue.
First **Athens** printings (1861/1862).

<u>*"Control numbers"* errors with pictures of the recto on the right:</u>

"20" inverted.
20 lepta, grey-blue, oxidized corners.
Consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).
Unique item known today.

"20" inverted.
The so-called **Argostoli** error.
Cream papers printings (1875/1880).
Only very few pieces known today.

The 20 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Prepaid letter sent from **Patras** (*9*) on August 12th, 1876, to **Vonitsa** (*57*). Franked at 60 lepta for an internal letter from 30 to 45 grams (triple rate). This cover is showing an interesting practice of the postmen in **Patras** during this period: the pre-cutting of the strips of stamps, probably to win some times before the arrival of the postal boats…
The strip of three of the **20 lepta** is from one of the meshed papers printings (1871/1876).

Insufficiently prepaid letter sent from **Patras** (*9*) on April 2nd,184 for **Pyrgos** (*13*). Taxed at 20 lepta, the domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams. The black rectangular postmark *"ΠΛΗΡ. ΑΝΕΠΑΡΚΗΣ"* for "*Insufficiently paid*" was affixed as this letter was a double rate (from 15 to 30 grams) and a tax of 20 lepta was applied at the arrival in **Pyrgos**.
The two **20 lepta** are from one of the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

The 20 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

The Greek postal administration received from **Paris** a total of 2.140 sheets of 150 stamps of the **20 lepta** value, or 321.000 stamps, of the **Paris** printings on August & September 1861. All these items have been distributed to the 94 post offices inside the country and in the foreign offices to start the general stamped postal services on October 1st/12th, 1861. As **20 lepta** was the domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams, in big cities like **Athens**, **Piraeus** or **Syros**..., this stock has been exhausted in the first weeks of use... So, to answer to this shortage, the Greek printing office in **Athens** started to use the typographic plates received from **Paris**, as soon as the end of October 1861, to produce its first local stamps with the 20 lepta value. As the *"control numbers"* plates, ordered locally, were not yet available the first sheets printed were without *"control numbers"*. Only a few dozen of sheets have been printed and only a few hundred of stamps have survived. They are not known mint or in multiple and are cancelled with only four Type I diamond postmarks of the towns of **Athens** (*1*), **Kapernission** (*44*), **Patras** (*9*) & **Lechaina** (*10*). It's also possible that these ten sheets or so would have been done as trial to start the printing process and were finally sent to these four post-offices to answer to the strong demand. The **20 lepta** of the first **Athens** printings without *"control numbers"* exists in two main varieties related to the aspect of the medallion: the famous *"fond quadrillé"* and the *"fond uni"*.

"Fond quadrillé".
First **Athens** printings (October 1861) w/o *"control numbers"*.
Only very few items are known in such condition.
(©)

"Fond uni ".
First **Athens** printings (October 1861) w/o *"control numbers "*.
Only very few items are known in such condition.

The 20 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Picture of the postmarks at the back of the cover

Prepaid letter sent from **Patras** (*9*) on May 26th/June 7th, 1868, arrived at **Amsterdam**, The Netherlands on June 7th/19th, 1868, via **Corfu** (*106*) and via the Italian route.

<u>This letter followed the following itinerary:</u>

- Departure from **Patras** (*9*) on May 26th/June 7th, 1868 (postmark on the back of the cover),
- Transit at **Corfu** (*106*) on May 28th/June 9th, 1868 (postmark on the back),
- Transit at **Brindisi**, Italy between May 29th/June 10th, 1868 and June 1st/13th, 1868 (postmarks on the back),
- Transit at **Milano**, Italy on June 3rd/15th, 1868 with postmark "*MILANO*-STAZ" and mobile postmark "*MILANO-COMO (AMBUL^{E} N°2)*" (postmarks on the back),
- Transit at **Olten**, Switzerland on 6th/18th, 1868 with mobile postmark "*BASEL-OLTEN*" (postmark on the back),
- Transit at **Baden**, Switzerland with black oval mobile postmark "*SCWHEIZ über BADEN*", w/o date (postmark on the back),
- Transit at **Basel**, Switzerland on June 6th/18th, 1868 with mobile postmark "*HEIDELBER-BASEL*" (postmark on the back) &
- Arrived at **Amsterdam**, The Netherlands on June 7th/19th, 1868 (red postmark on the back).

Red postmark "*PD*" and black one "*P.D*" on the back for "*Paid to Destination*" affixed in Greece and Italy.
Black postmark "*PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI*" on the back for "*Italian Postal Boat*" affixed on an Italian boat.
Black postmark "*FRANCO*", on the back affixed at the arrival in The Netherlands.

The rate between Greece and The Netherlands via **Corfu** and the Italian route was 120 lepta for a pre-paid letter up to 10 grams according to the convention between Greece and Italy of 1864 and the circular of January 5th, 1865.
All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

Only very few letters from/to The Netherlands are known with "*large Hermes head*" stamps.

The 20 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Prepaid letter sent from **Athens** (*1*) on October 12th/24th, 1875, arrived in **Lyon**, France on October 19th/31st, 1875, via **Dijon**, France on October 18th/30th, 1875. Transported via **Brindisi**, Italie, by the Austrian or Italian boats. Red mobile postmark "*GRECE MOD. - A. MAR.PARIS B*" on October 18th/30th, 1875 and black postmark "*PD*" for "*Paid to Destination*". Franked at 70 lepta, the rate for a letter up to 15 grams according to the 1866/1867 convention, extended on May 12th, 1875. Despite France was a founder member on July 1st, 1875, with Greece, of the *U.G.P.* (*Union Générale des Postes*), France entered officially in the organisation only on January 1st, 1876, so the U.G.P. rates were not applicable during that six-months period.
The **10 lepta** (with "*control numbers*" error of the "*10*" inverted and wide space) and the strip of three of the **20 lepta** are from the meshed papers printings (1871/1876). Only very few letters of this six-months period are known.

(©)

Partially prepaid letter sent from the Italian post office of **Port Saïd**, Egypt on February 23rd/March 7th, 1869 (postmark on the Egyptian stamp and on the middle-right of the cover), arrived and taxed at **Syros** (*67*) on March 9th/21st, 1869, via **Alexandria**, Egypt on February 25th/March 9th, 1869. The partial franking at the departure at 1 piastre was only up to the Austrian transit office of **Alexandria**, Egypt (postmark on the back), so a tax of 40 lepta has been affixed at the arrival for an unpaid letter up to 15 grams, transported by an Austrian boat between an Austrian Levant office and a Greek harbour, according to the 1867 convention between the two countries. The pair of **20 lepta** is from one of the "*cleaned plates*" printings (1868/1869).

The 20 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Prepaid letter sent from **Sparta** (*32*) on September 7th, 1867, arrived in **Syros** (*67*) on September 11th, 1867, via **Athens** (*1*).

Franked at 25 lepta, the inland rate for the transportation by the Austrian boats.

This letter is showing an interesting practice, also used in France at that same period: when stamp(s) was/were affixed on the back of the cover, the postman was notifying it by franking the diamond cancellation (type I) not only on the stamp(s) in the front as usual, but also aside the stamp(s).

All the stamps are from one of the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

Only a couple of covers showing this practice with *"large Hermes head"* are known up to date.

Prepaid letter from the village of **Ligouditsa** (local post-office blue rectangular postmark "*ΔΤ 151*", for "*ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΟΝ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΟΝ*", on the stamp and on the top-right of the cover) on October 29th, 1870 (date of the correspondence), arrived in **Athens** (*1*) on November 4th, 1870, via **Gargaliani** (*124*) on October 31st, 1870. The marginal **20 lepta** is from the "*cleaned plates*" printings (1868/1869).

Only few covers with local post-office postmark ("*ΔΤ*") and *"large Hermes head"* stamps are known and less than a handful with the "*ΔΤ*" postmark cancelling the stamp.

The 20 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Insufficiently prepaid letter sent from **Patras** (*9*) on July 8th, 1868, arrived in **Constantinople** (*95*), Turkey on July 11th, 1868, via **Athens** (*1*) & **Piraeus** (*2*) on July 10th, 1868. Insufficiently franked at 40 lepta, the black rectangular postmark "*AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT*" was affixed and 5 lepta tax was paid to reach the 45 lepta regular rate ("*5*" red pencilled on the middle-left of the cover) when arrived at the Greek post office of **Constantinople**. The **5 lepta** & the two **20 lepta** (one of them is the "*liar*") are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

Prepaid letter sent from **Patras** (*9*) on May 22nd/June 3rd, 1866, arrived in **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on May 26th/ June 7th, 1866. Franked at 75 lepta, corresponding to the sum of: the Austrian maritime company *Lloyd Adriatico* of 45 lepta (15 kreuzer), the transit tax of the city of **Trieste** of 10 lepta (3 kreuzer), and the Greek domestic rate 20 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams. Red postmark "*ΠΕΔ*" or "*ΠΛΙΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΕΞΟΤΕΡΙΚΟΝ ΔΗΚΕΩΜΑ*" for "*Paid to Foreign Destination*". All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

The 20 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Insufficiently prepaid letter sent from **Patras** (*9*) on July 8th, 1868, arrived in **Constantinople** (*95*), Turkey on July 11th, 1868, via **Athens** (*1*) & **Piraeus** (*2*) on July 10th, 1868. Insufficiently franked at 40 lepta, the black rectangular postmark "*AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT*" was affixed and 5 lepta tax was paid to reach the 45 lepta regular rate ("*5*" red pencilled on the middle-left of the cover) when arrived at the Greek post office of **Constantinople**. The **5 lepta** & the two **20 lepta** (one of them is the "*liar*") are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

Prepaid letter sent from **Patras** (*9*) on August 12th, 1876, to **Vonitsa** (*57*). Franked at 60 lepta for an internal letter from 30 to 45 grams (triple rate). This cover is showing an interesting practice of the postmen in **Patras** during this period: the pre-cutting of the strips of stamps, probably to win some times before the arrival of the postal boats... The strip of three of the **20 lepta** is from one of the meshed papers printings (1871/1876).

The 20 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Partially prepaid letter sent from **Naples**, Italy on December 24th, 1861/January 6th, 1862, arrived in **Piraeus** (*2*) on December 28th, 1861/January 10th, 1862. Partially franked at the departure at 24 grana with one **20 grana** & a pair of **2 grana** stamps of the Neapolitan provinces, up to the harbour of deboarding, via the French sea route. Rectangular black postmark "*P.P.*" for "*Partially Paid*" was affixed at the departure and a tax of 20 lepta was collected at the arrival for the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams.
The "*large Hermes head*" is from one of the first **Athens** printings (1861/1862).

(©)

Partially prepaid letter sent from **Civitavecchia**, Italy on February 26th/March 10th, 1866, arrived in **Athens** (*1*) on March 3rd/15th, 1866. Partially franked at the departure at 21 bajocchi with one **5 bajocchi** and two **8 bajocchi** stamps of the Papal States, for a letter less than 7 & ½ grams, up to the harbour of deboarding, via the French sea route. A tax of 20 lepta was collected at the arrival for the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams. The "*large Hermes head*" is from one of the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

(©)

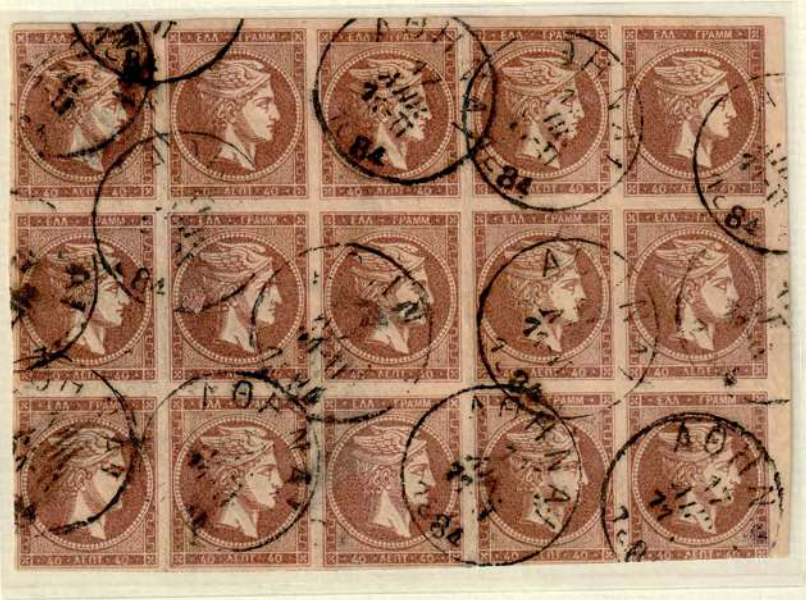
The 20 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont. & end)

Partially prepaid letter sent from Malta, then a British possession, on February 2nd/14th, 1863, arrived in **Hydra** (*65*) on 15th/27th, 1863, via **Piraeus** (*2*) on 7th/19th, 1863 by the French boats with transit at **Messina**, Italy. Partially franked at the departure at 3 pence, up to the harbour of deboarding and taxed at the arrival at 20 lepta ("*20*" pencilled in red), the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams (1856 convention between France and Great Britain). The **20 lepta** is from one of the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

Unpaid letter from **Paris**, France on July 16th/28th, 1868, arrived in **Athens** (*1*) on July 25th/August 6th, 1868, via **Marseille**, France on July 17th/29th, 1868. Black mobile postmark "*LYON A AVIGNON*" on July 17th/29th, 1868 (on the back of the cover). Transported by the French boat "*Tanaïs*" of the "*Ligne U*" (previously "*ligne du Levant*") of the compagnie *Lignes de la Méditerranée*. Black postmark "*1 DR 80 LEP*" affixed by the postal agent in the boat for an unpaid letter from 10 to 20 grams (double rate), materialised by "*2*" black pencilled on the top-left of the cover and taxed at the arrival at 180 lepta according to the 1866/1867 convention between Greece and France.
All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

The 40 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage

The **40 lepta** of the **Athens** printings have been printed from 1861 to 1882 and were in usage up to 1886. All the 40 lepta of the **Athens** printings bear a *"control number"* *"40"* of 6.5 centimetres high at their back except on the last emission of 1880/1882. It exists seven main emissions and not any document has been discovered yet giving any indication of the quantities printed during this period.



Block of fifteen of the **40 lepta**, dull violet-brown.
Cream papers w/o *"control numbers"* (1880/1882).

Block of four of **40 lepta**, grey-bistre.
Cream papers with *"control numbers"* (1875/1880).

(©)

40 lepta, mauve.
First **Athens** printings (1861/1862).

(©)

Block of nine of the **40 lepta**, violet-grey.
"20" corrected by *"40"* on the middle stamp.
"Cleaned plates" printings (1868/1869).
One of two blocks of this error known.

<u>*"Control numbers"* errors:</u>

Double *"40"*
with one shifted.
Meshed papers (1871/1876).
Very few items known.

Triple *"40"*.
First **Athens** printings
(1861/1862).
Very few items known.

The 40 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Partially paid letter sent from the village of **Vallérysthal**, France on October28th/November 9th, 1863, arrived in **Athens** (*1*) on November 7th/19th, 1863, via **Marseilles**, France on October 30th/November 11th, 1863. As this letter was insufficiently paid at the departure at only 40 centimes instead of 1 franc & 20 centimes for a letter of less than 7 & ½ grams (Convention of August 1st, 1849 between Greece and France), it was taxed at the arrival at the full rate of 132 lepta (or 1 franc & 20 centimes). The **Marseilles** post office has cancelled the two "*PD*" for "*Paid to Destination*" wrongly affixed at the departure and has applied the black rectangular postmark "*AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT*" for "*Insufficiently pre-paid*". Circular black postmark "*F*" affixed at the local post office of the village of **Vallérysthal** (top-left of the cover).
All the "*large Hermes head*" stamps are from one of the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

Unpaid letter sent from **Marseilles**, France on August 6th/18th, 1868, arrived in **Syros** (*67*) on August 11th/13th, 1868. The two black postmarks "*90 LEP*" and "*LIGNE X – PAQ. FR. N° 5*" have been affixed by the post-office crew agent in the boat "*Tanaïs*" of the "*Ligne X de Syrie*" of the *Paquebots de la Méditerranée* company on August 6th/18th, 1868, according the November 1st, 1867 convention between Greece and France. The letter has been taxed at the arrival in **Athens** at the regular rate of 90 lepta. All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

The 40 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Partially prepaid letter sent from **Rostov**, Russia on January 31st, 1867, arrived in **Syros** (*67*) on February 18th, 1867, via **Odessa**, Russia and **Constantinople**, Turkey. Partially pre-paid at 34 kopecks, the double rate, up to **Constantinople**. Taxed at the arrival at 80 lepta corresponding to 60 lepta (2 X 30 lepta) for a double rate letter (from 7 & ½ to 15 grams) for the transportation by French boats between **Constantinople** and **Syros** (rate before March 1867), plus 20 lepta for the Greek domestic rate for a letter up to 15 grams. According to the 1848 convention between Greece and Russia, each country was paying to/from the exchange harbour of **Constantinople**. Russian red postmark "*OPLATSCHENCO*" for "*Paid to Destination*".
The pair of **40 lepta** is from one of the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867). - (©)

Unpaid letter sent from **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on March 19th/31st, 1866, arrived in **Athens** (*1*) on March 24th/April 5th, 1866. Taxed at the arrival at 150 lepta ("*150*" red pencilled on the bottom-middle of the cover) corresponding to: 20 lepta for the transit tax of the city of **Trieste** (6 kreuzer), plus 90 lepta for the sea transportation by the Austrian boats of the *Lloyd Adriatico* company (30 kreuzer) and 40 lepta for the Greek domestic rate for a letter from 15 to 30 grams (double rate).
All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

The 40 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont. & end)

Insufficiently prepaid letter sent from **London**, United Kingdom on April 4th/16th, 1873, arrived in **Athens** (*1*) on April 12th/24th, 1873 via the French route and the *Paquebots de la Méditerranée*. Insufficiently pre-paid at the departure at 6 pence instead of 8 pence (or 92 lepta) for a prepaid letter up to 15 grams. Black postmark *"INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID"* was affixed at the departure in **London** and the letter was taxed ("45" blue pencilled on the middle of the cover) at the arrival in **Athens** at 45 lepta (or 4 pence) corresponding to the difference between the regular rate of an unpaid letter up to 15 grams of 115 lepta (or 10 pence) and the amount franked, 6 pence (or about 70 lepta). Since January 1st, 1870 and according to the article 7 of the 1868 convention between Greece and the United Kingdom, no penalty was applied in case of insufficient franking.
The *"large Hermes head"* stamps are from the meshed papers printings (1871/1876).

Partially paid letter sent from **Mytilene**, Austrian office in the island of Lesbos, on March 31st/April 12th, 1866, arrived in **Syros** (*67*) on April 8th/20th, 1866, via **Smyrna**, Turkey on April 1st/13th, 1866 (postmark of the *Lloyd Adriatico* on the back of the cover). Partially paid at 20 soldi, up to the deboarding harbour, for a letter from 8 & ¾ and 17 & ½ grams (double rate). Taxed at the arrival at 40 lepta ("40" red pencilled on the left of the cover), the Greek domestic rate for a letter from 15 to 30 grams (double rate). The **40 lepta** is from one of the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

The 80 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage

The **80 lepta** of the **Athens** printings have been printed on 1862/1867 (consecutive **Athens**) and 1873 (*"cleaned plates"*) and were in usage up to 1886. All the 80 lepta of the **Athens** printings bear a *"control number" "80"* of 6.5 centimetres high at their back. It exists only two main emissions. Not any document has been discovered giving any indication of the quantities printed during this period.

Corner block of eighteen.

Strip of three, orange *"control numbers"*.
Consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

Block of six, cancelled at **Corfu** (*106*).

80 lepta, rose-carmine of the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

Recto of a block of four. - (©)

Verso of a block of four. - (©)

80 lepta, rose-carmine of the *"cleaned plates"* printings (1867/1868 - 1873).

<u>*"Control numbers"* errors:</u>

Strip of three of the **80 lepta**, rose-carmine.
"8" inverted on the middle stamp (Position 9).
Consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867). - (©)

80 lepta, rose-carmine.
"8" instead of *"80"*.

80 lepta, rose-carmine.
"0" keyhole (Position114).

"Cleaned plates" printings (1868/1869-1973).

The 80 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont.)

Insufficiently prepaid letter sent from **Piraeus** (*2*) on March 13th/25th, 1871, arrived and taxed at **Genoa**, Italy on Mars 21st/April 2nd, 1871, via **Corfu** (*106*) on March 17th/29th, 1871 (type II postmark on the back).

This letter was wrongly franked at the departure at 390 lepta as a 6th level of weight (from 50 to 60 grams) as indicated on blue pencil ("*6*") on the top-right of the cover and corresponding to 65 lepta by increment of 10 grams according to the article 26 of the 1864 convention between Greece and Italy.

The letter travelled between Greece and Italy by Austrian or Italian boats.

At the arrival in **Genoa**, the rectangular red postmark "*AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT*" has been affixed as it was an 8th level of weight (from 70 to 80 grams), as indicated on blue pencil ("*8*") between the two rows of stamps on the top-left part of the cover, so the correct rate was 65 lepta X 8 = 520 lepta.

130 lepta were missing (520 lepta - 390 lepta) and as an equal parity was in usage between the Greek & Italian currencies (1 lepta = 1 centesimi) since the entrance of Greece in the "*Union Latine*" convention (1868), the letter has been taxed at 130 centesimi with three Italian postage-due stamps (two **40 centesimi** and one **50 centesimi**). "*130*" (lepta) in blue pencil on the top-right of the cover and "*13*" (decimi) in black ink on top of it.

According to the article 26 of the 1864 convention between Greece and Italy, no penalty was applied in case of under-postage.

The stamps of the "*large Hermes head*" are from:

- One of the 1871/1872 printings for the two **5 lepta**,
- One of the "*cleaned plates*" printings (1867/1868) for the two **10 lepta** and the **40 lepta**, (One of the two **10 lepta** is bearing the "*control numbers*" error of the inverted "*1*"),
- One of the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867) for the four **80 lepta**.

It exists only very few Greek covers, with "*large Hermes head*" stamps, taxed abroad.

The 80 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage (cont. & end)

Unpaid letter sent from **Marseilles**, France on December 1st/13th, 1864, arrived in **Athens** (*1*) on December 7th/19th, 1864, via **Piraeus** (*2*) on December 7th/19th, 1863. Taxed at the arrival in **Athens** at 188 lepta ("188" red pencilled on the bottom-left of the cover) corresponding to the rate of a letter from 7 & ½ to 10 grams (1 & ½ level of weight), transported by the French boats company of the *Paquebots de la Méditerranée* of 168 lepta plus the Greek domestic rate of 20 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams according to the 1838/1844 convention between Greece and France. All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

Unpaid letter sent from **Marseilles**, France on July 8th/20th, 1867, arrived in **Athens** (*1*) on July 13th/25th, 1867, via **Piraeus** (*2*) on July 13th/25th, 1867. Taxed at the arrival in **Athens** at 244 lepta ("244" blue pencilled on the bottom of the cover) corresponding to the rate of a letter from 10 to 15 grams (double rate), transported by the French boats company of the *Paquebots de la Méditerranée* of 224 lepta (112 lepta X 2) plus the Greek domestic rate of 20 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams according to the 1838/1844 convention between Greece and France.

All the stamps are from the consecutive **Athens** printings (1862/1867).

Greece in the *Union Générale des Postes* (*U.G.P.*)

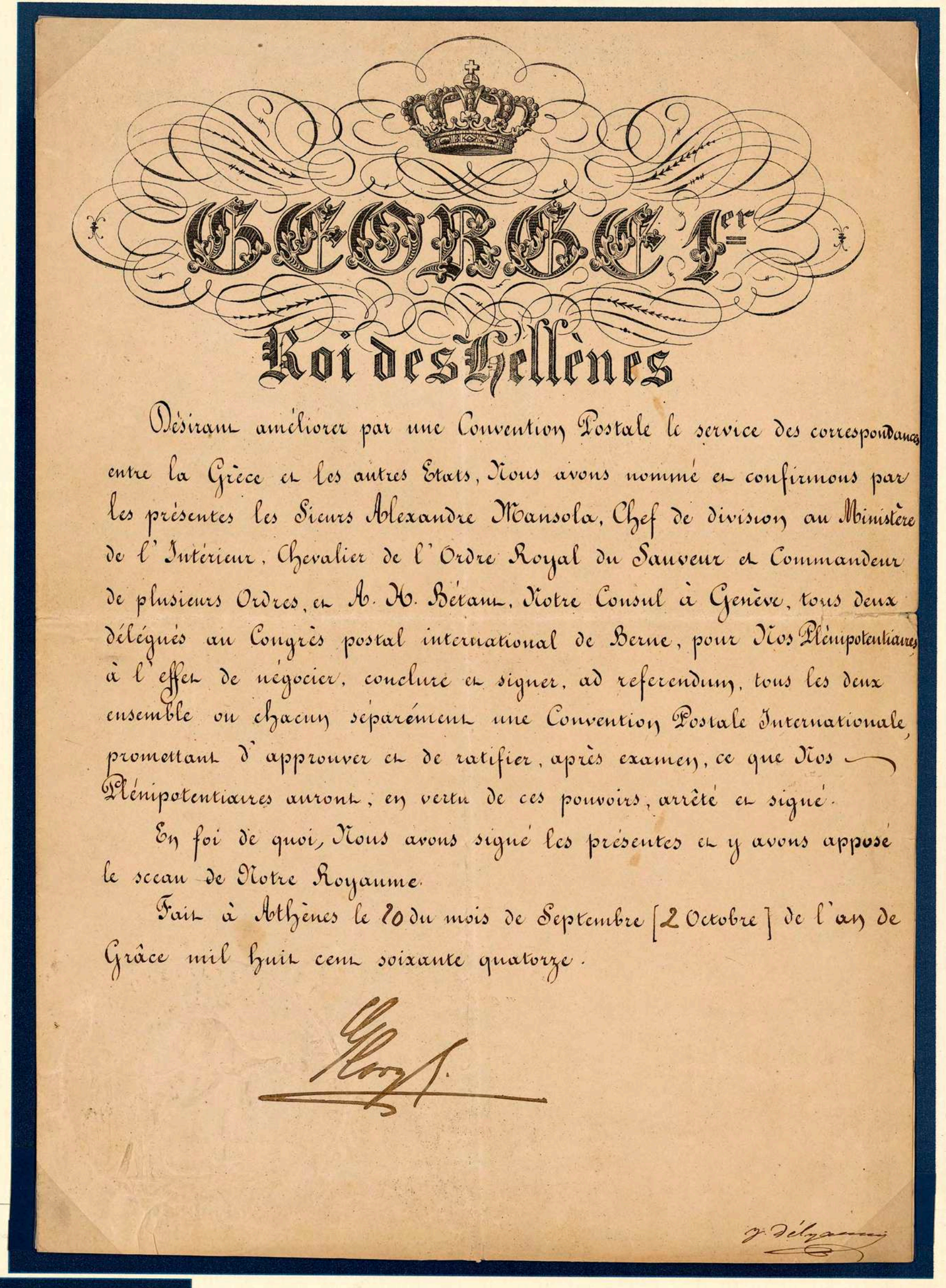
Greece was a founder member of the *Union Générale des Postes* (*U.G.P.*), ancestor of the *Union Postale Universelle* (*U.P.U*) as soon as June 19th/July 1st, 1875.

Engraved "***George 1er*** - *Roi des Hellènes*" original document, dated on September 20th/October 2nd, 1874, signed at base over embossed white wafer seal, **George 1er** in ink.

This document, written in French, is acknowledging two Plenipotentiaries for Greece, namely: Monsieur **Alexandre Mansola** and Monsieur **A. H. Bétant** as delegates of the Kingdom of Greece for the famous 1874 congress of the Union Générale des Postes (U.G.P.) in **Berne**, Switzerland.

The so-called "*Traité de **Berne***", signed on September 27th/October 9th, 1874 has been the founding event of the U.G.P., then the U.P.U., and defined the rules & the rates of the international postal exchanges, first between the founder countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom & United States of America)
and then for almost all the countries over the world.

This document is also signed, on the bottom-right by **N. Delyannis**, *Chargé d'Affaires* of Greece with whom **Désiré-Albert Barre** worked in 1875/1876 for the realization of the two new values of the "*large Hermes head*" (**30** & **60 lepta**) for the U.G.P. as well as for of first Greek postal stationery. →



GEORGE 1er

Roi des Hellènes

Désirant améliorer par une Convention Postale le service des correspondances entre la Grèce et les autres Etats, Nous avons nommé et confirmons par les présentes les Sieurs Alexandre Mansola, Chef de division au Ministère de l'Intérieur, Chevalier de l'Ordre Royal du Sauveur et Commandeur de plusieurs Ordres, et A. H. Bétant, Notre Consul à Genève, tous deux délégués au Congrès postal international de Berne, pour Nos Plénipotentiaires à l'effet de négocier, conclure et signer, ad referendum, tous les deux ensemble ou chacun séparément une Convention Postale Internationale, promettant d'approuver et de ratifier, après examen, ce que Nos Plénipotentiaires auront, en vertu de ces pouvoirs, arrêté et signé.

En foi de quoi, Nous avons signé les présentes et y avons apposé le sceau de Notre Royaume.

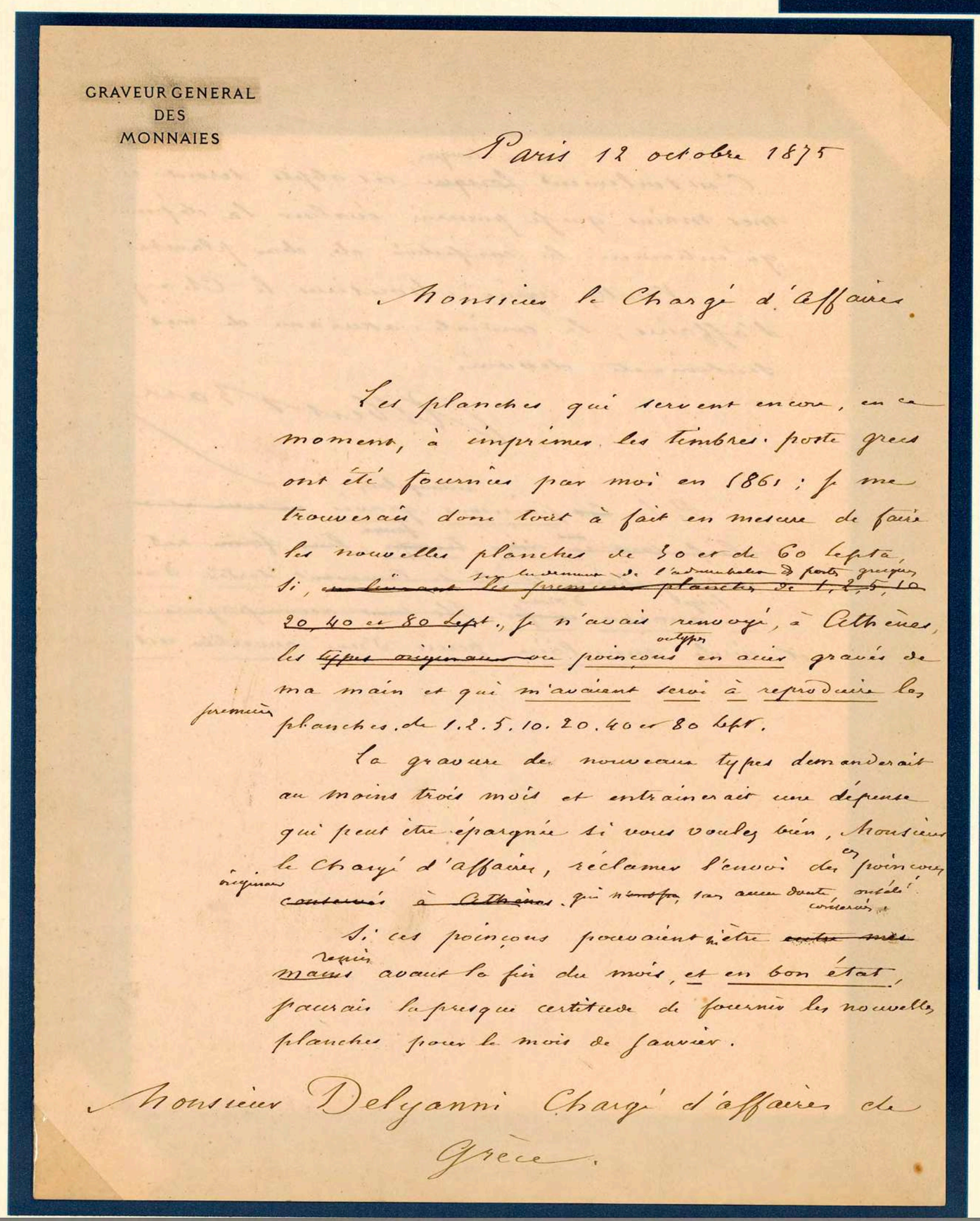
Fait à Athènes le 20 du mois de Septembre [2 Octobre] de l'an de Grâce mil huit cent soixante quatorze.

Original draft letter, written and signed by **Désiré-Albert Barre** to **N. Delyannis**, *Chargé d'Affaires of* Greece, on August 31st/September 12th, 1875 to ask for the restitution of the final die of the "*large Hermes head*" sent to **Athens** during the summer 1861, with the seven typographic plates of the first values of the first Greek stamp, in order to manufacture the two typographic plates of the two new values requested by the *Union Générale des Postes* (*U.G.P.*): the **30** & **60 lepta**.

The Chief-Engraver was requesting the 1861 final die in order to save time, about three months, and money. He was expecting to get the final die, in good condition, back to **Paris** at the end of the month of September 1875 in order to be able to deliver the two typographic plates for the new values (**30** & **60 lepta**) during January 1876.

After several weeks of researches, the Greek administration sent back the final die to **Désiré-Albert Barre** in **Paris** on December 1875.

Finally, the typographic plates of the two U.G.P. new values (**30** & **60 lepta**) were sent to **Athens** on April 7th/19th, 1876 as well as 150.000 stamps of each of the two new values.
↓



GRAVEUR GENERAL
DES
MONNAIES

Paris 12 octobre 1875

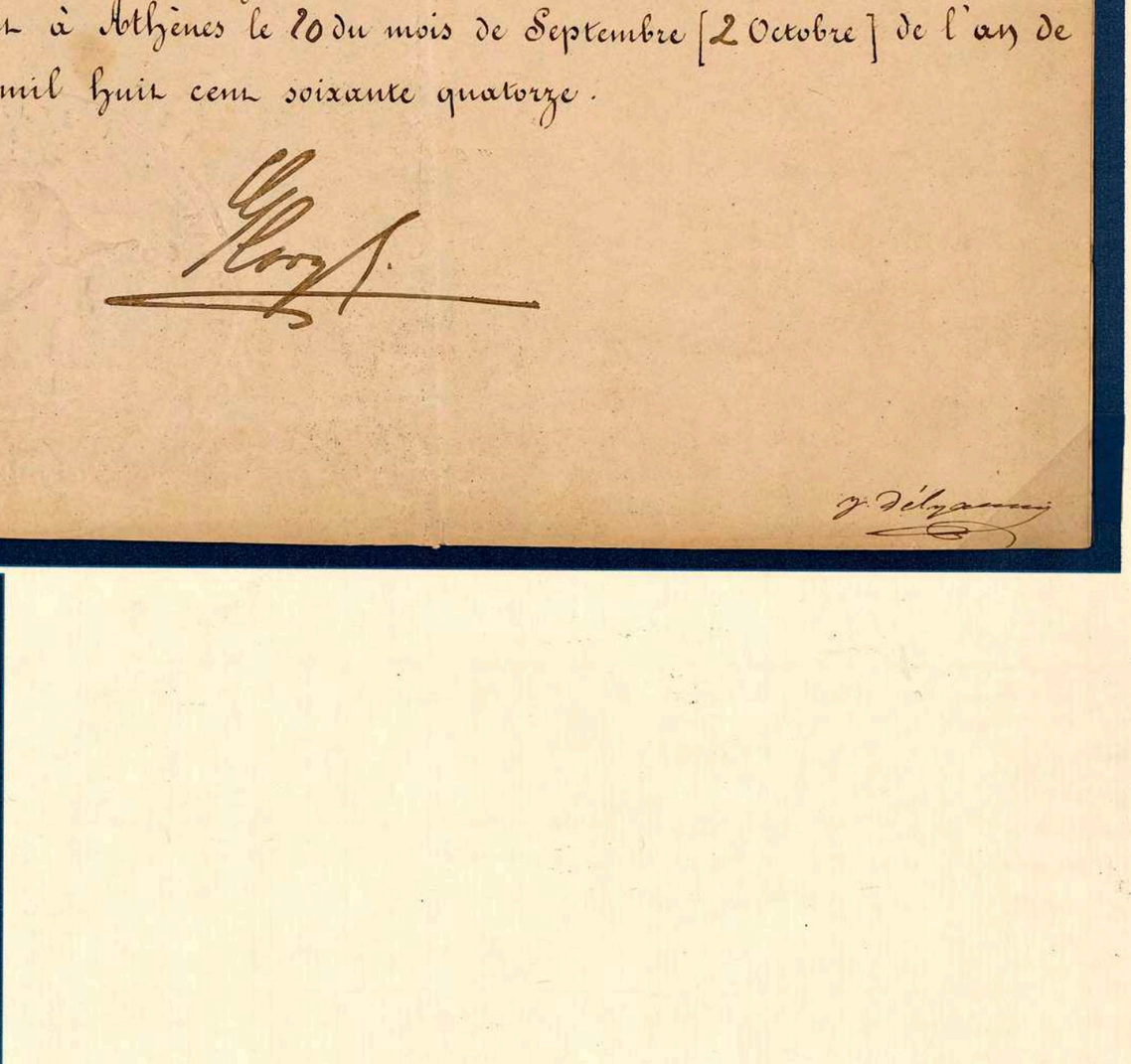
Monsieur le Chargé d'affaires

Les planches qui servent encore, en ce moment, à imprimer les timbres-poste grecs ont été fournies par moi en 1861 ; je me trouverais donc tout à fait en mesure de faire les nouvelles planches de 30 et de 60 lepta, si, ~~en tirant les premières planches de 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 40 et 80 lept.~~ par le moyen de l'admission à poste gravées, je n'avais renvoyé, à Athènes, les ~~types originaux~~ ou poinçons en acier gravés de ma main et qui m'avaient servi à reproduire les premières planches de 1.2.5.10.20.40 et 80 lept.

La gravure de nouveaux types demanderait au moins trois mois et entraînerait une dépense qui peut être épargnée si vous voulez bien, Monsieur le Chargé d'affaires, réclamer l'envoi des poinçons originaux ~~conservés à Athènes~~ qui n'ont pas, sans aucun doute, été détériorés.

Si ces poinçons pouvaient être ~~entre mes~~ remis mains avant la fin du mois, et en bon état, j'aurais la presque certitude de fournir les nouvelles planches pour le mois de janvier.

Monsieur Delyanni Chargé d'affaires de Grèce.



C'est seulement ~~lorsque~~ avec lorsque ces objets seront entre mes mains que je pourrai évaluer la dépense qu'entraînera la confection de ces planches.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Chargé d'affaires, la cordiale assurance de mes sentiments dévoués

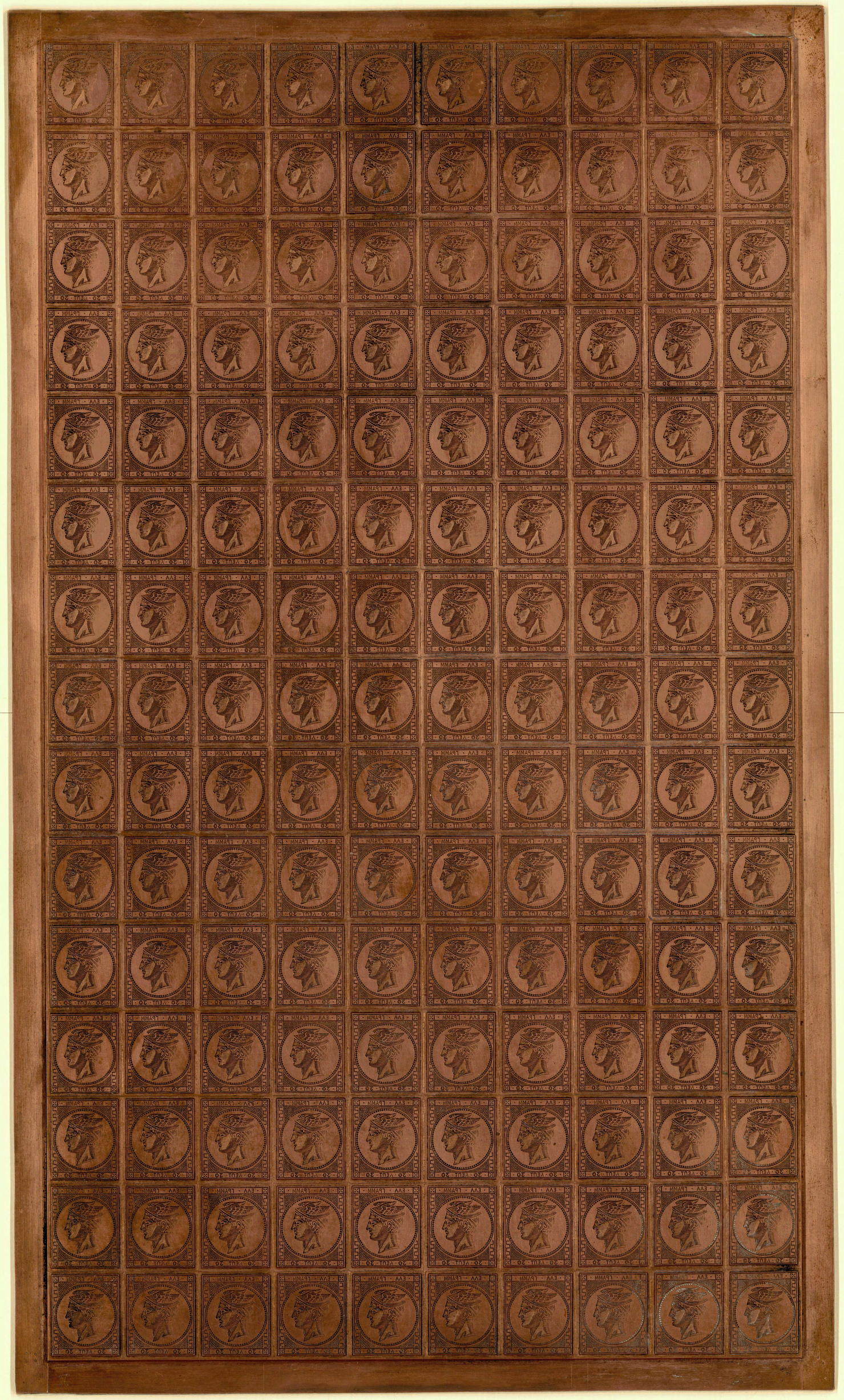
Albert Barre

P. S. ~~Les~~ poinçons rectangulaires gravés ~~en creux et en relief tout en acier trempé~~ sont, leur ~~forme est rectangulaire, et ils se trouvent~~ sortis dans un anneau ~~en fer~~ d'acier. ~~Ils sont accompagnés d'une~~ et virole annulaire percée d'une ouverture rectangulaire

↑ Picture of the recto of the letter with **Désiré-Albert Barre** signature and the post-scriptum describing the aspect of the final die in order to facilitate its research fifteen years after its shipment to **Athens**.

"*Galvano*" of the 30 lepta

In 1875/1876, the typographic plates of the two new values for the U.G.P./U.P.U. (**30 lepta** & **60 lepta**) have been realised with the method of the "*galvanoplasty-type*".
They have been manufactured, under the supervision of **Désiré-Albert Barre**, by the company **Charles Derriey**, 6 & 12, rue Notre-Dame-des-Champs in **Paris**.
The typographic plates of the **30 lepta** and **60 lepta** count 300 clichés each as they are composed by the assembly of two "*galvano*" of 150 clichés each.
They are both visible in the Postal Museum in **Athens**.
The plate-proofs, imprimaturs and the **Paris** printing issued stamps of these two values of 1876 (**30** & **60 lepta**) have been printed by the company **J. Claye & C°**, rue Saint Benoît, n° 7, in **Paris**.



Half-plate or "*galvano*" of one hundred & fifty clichés of the **30 lepta**, in pure copper.
This "*galvano*" is either a spare one or a defective one.
This "*galvano*" has appeared during the auction of the last archives of the **Barre** family done by the house **Aguttes** in **Neuilly**, France on December 2002.
Unique as of today.

(©)

"*Cliché-fils*" of the 60 lepta

In 1876, the typographic plates of the **30 lepta** and **60 lepta** have been manufactured with the method called "*Galvanoplastie-type*" which was an evolution of the galvanic method used by **Anatole-Auguste Hulot** to build the typographic plates of the French stamps since 1848. The "*galvanos*" were consisting of an assembly of ten "*clichés-type*" of fifteen stamps each. This new method has been developed to avoid to replace the complete "*galvano*" when an accidental problem happened. With this new method and in that case, only one "*cliché-type*" of the typographic plate has to be replaced...

The main steps of the manufacturing of the typographic plate with this new method were the following:

1. First, from the hardened final die, one stroke, under the coining press, pieces of lead named "*flans*",
2. Fifteen "*flans*", mounted on "*métal d'imprimerie*", were assembled on three rows of five, to give a "*cliché-type*" (5 X 3),
3. A footprint of this "*cliché-type*" was realised with gutta-percha. This footprint was put in the galvanic bath to generate a "*cliché-fils*". This last operation was done twenty times,
4. Then, ten "*cliché-fils*" were assembled to give a "*galvano*" of one hundred & fifty clichés,
5. This last operation was repeated once in order to get a second "*galvanic*" of one hundred & fifty clichés (15 X 10),
6. Finally, the two "*galvanos*" were assembled in a frame of bronze in order to give the complete typographic plates of three hundred clichés [(5 X 3) X 10] X 2.

The "*Galvanoplastie-type*" method has been used in France, starting the beginning of the years 1860's, to realise the typographic plates done up to the end of the 19th century.

The piece shown here is a spare "*cliché-fils*" coming from the auction of the last **Barre**'s family archives done in **Neuilly** on December 2002.

"*Cliché-fils*" of the **60 lepta** in pure copper.

Unique piece known so far.

(©)

Die-proofs of the 30 lepta and 60 lepta

In 1875/1876, two new typographic plates have been manufactured, under the supervision of **Désiré-Albert Barre**, for two new values (**30** & **60 Lepta**) asked by the by the U.G.P. - Union Générale des Postes (ancestor of the U.P.U. - Union Postale Universelle), following the adhesion, as one of the founders, of the Kingdom of Greece to the international postal organisation on July 1st, 1875.

The final die, shipped to **Athens** on September 1861 has been sent back to **Paris** on December 1875 in order to realise these two new printing plates with the exact same design as the one done in 1861 for the first seven values (see **Barre** draft letter below).

If the seven first plates were made in 1861 by using the *"striking in the coining press"* method, the typographic plates of these two new values have been manufactured with a galvanic method named *"Galvanoplasty-type"* which was an evolution of the *"Galvanoplasty"* method used by **Anatole-Auguste Hulot** for the manufacturing of the typographic plates of the French stamps from 1849 to 1875, date of his departure from the French Mint.

Each plate was consisting of two *"galvanos"* of one hundred & fifty clichés each (10 X 15) in pure copper. Each *"galvano"* was consisting of ten *"clichés-type"* (2 X 5) assembled to make a half-plate of hundred & fifty clichés. Each *"cliché-type"* was composed of fifteen clichés (5 X 3). Two *"galvanos"* were assembled to make a full plate of three hundred clichés [(10 X 15) X 2]. This method was introduced in France few years before in order to avoid to change the complete *"galvano"* when just one cliché was damaged by accident.

These two new typographic plates have been manufactured, under the supervision of **Désiré-Albert Barre**, by the company **Charles Derriey**, 6 & 12, rue Notre-Dame-des-Champs in **Paris**.

Die-proof of the **30 lepta**.

Two items known, up to date.

Die-proof of the **60 lepta**.

Two items known, up to date.

(©)

Plate-proofs of the 30 lepta

Block of four of plate-proof of the **30 lepta**,
with double impression.

Plate-proof of the **30 lepta**,
printed on carton.

Plate-proofs of the **30 lepta**,
printed, recto-verso.

Plate-proofs of the **30 lepta**,
printed on thin paper.

Marginal block of four of the
final plate-proof of the **30 lepta**.

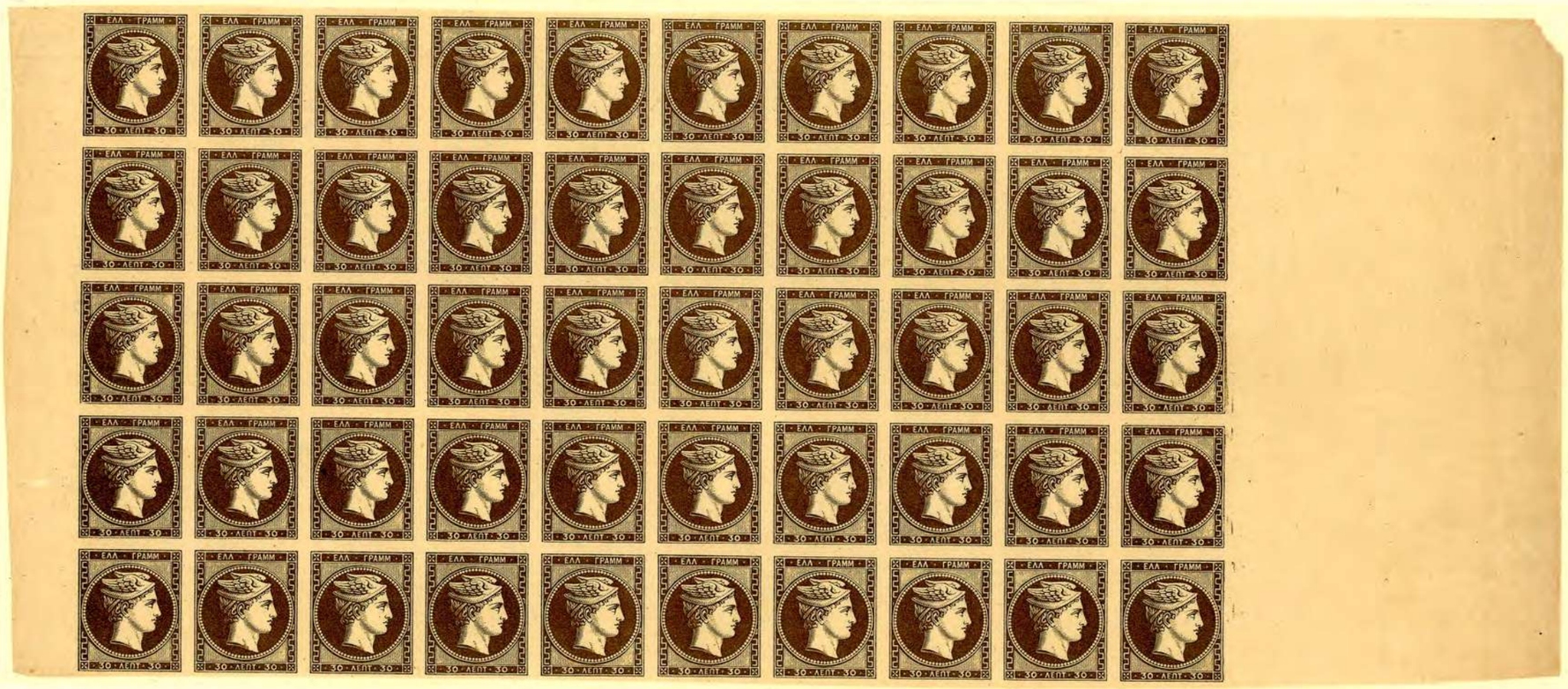
Imprimatur of the 60 lepta of the Paris printing

Block of thirty imprimatur of the **60 lepta**.
Corner of the right sheet.

One of the five largest blocks known to date.

(©)

Imprimatur of the 30 lepta of the Paris printing



Block of fifty imprimatur of the **30 lepta** of the **Paris** printing.
Marginal part of the right sheet.
Positions: 61R → 110R.
Plate flaw of the *"dot on the base of the Λ of the word ΛΕΠΤ"* on position 79R.
One of the three largest blocks known to date.

The 30 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage

150.000 stamps of the **30 lepta** of the **Paris** emission have been printed by the printer **J. Claye & C°**, rue Saint Benoît, n° 7, in **Paris**, and have been shipped to **Athens** on April 19th, 1876. 30 lepta was the U.G.P./U.P.U. rate for a letter up to 15 grams to the international till 1878 April 1st, 1878.

Marginal block of twenty of the **30 lepta** of the left sheet, yellowish-brown.

(©)

Prepaid letter sent from **Athens** (*1*) on June 28th/July 10th, 1876, arrived in **Pennington**, United States of America, via **Vienna**, Austria-Hungary on July 6th/18th and via **New York**, United States of America on July 19th/31st, 1876.

(©)

The 60 lepta of the Paris printing and its postal usage

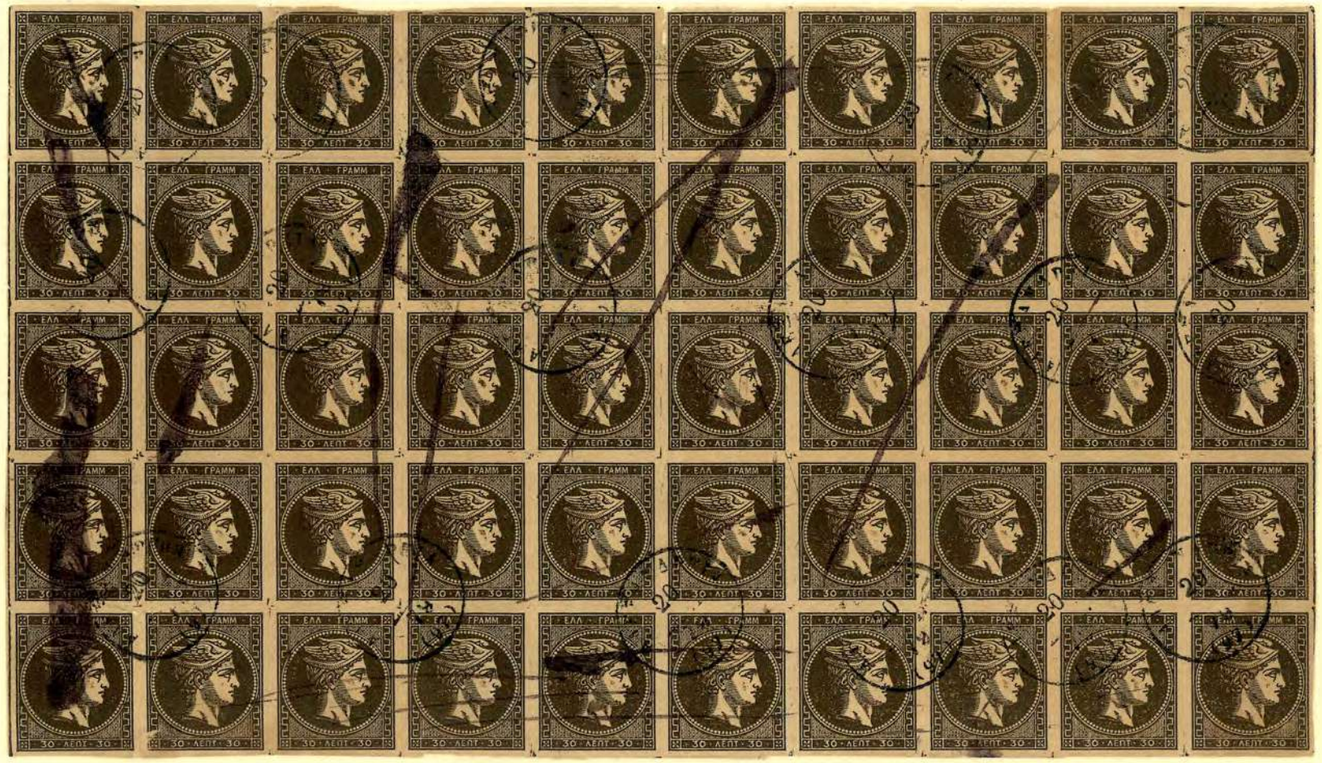
150.000 stamps of the **60 lepta** of the **Paris** emission have been printed by the printer **J. Claye & C°**, rue Saint Benoît, n° 7, in **Paris**, and have been shipped to **Athens** on April 19th, 1876.
60 lepta was the U.G.P./U.P.U. rate for a letter up to 30 grams (double rate) or for a registered letter up to 15 grams, to the international till 1878 April 1st, 1878 (convention de **Paris**).

Marginal block of eight of the **60 lepta**,
deep green on greenish paper.

Letter sent from **Syros** (*67*) on April 17th/29th, 1877,
arrived in **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on April 21st/May 3rd, 1877.
Red postmark "*PD*" for "*Paid to Destination*".
Franked at the U.P.U. rate of 60 lepta (double rate) for a letter from 15 to 30 grams.

The 30 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage

The 30 lepta of the **Athens** printings have been printed in 1876 & 1877 in brown and in 1882 in blue.
Both colours have been in usage up to 1886. They are not wearing any "*control number*" on the back.
Not any document has been found, so far, relating to the quantities printed...



Block of fifty of the **30 lepta**, grey-brown., cancelled with the type II postmark of **Alexandria** (*97*) and with pen stokes.
Athens printings (1876/1877).
The largest cancelled multiple of this value known today.
(©)

Prepaid letter sent from **Syros** (*67*) on September 17th/29th, 1878, arrived in **Ennenda**, Switzerland, via **Brindisi**, Italy on September 22nd/October 4th, 1878. Swiss mobile post office postmark dated on September 24th/October 6th, 1878 on the back of the cover. Black postmark "*ΠΔ*" or "*ΠΛΙΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΔΗΚΕΩΜΑ*" for "*Paid to Destination*" and black maritime postmark "*PIROSCAFI POSTALI AUSTRIACI*" for "*Austrian Postal Boats*". Franked at the U.P.U. rate of 30 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams for the international.
The 30 lepta is from the **Athens** printings (1876/1877).
Only very few letters with "*large Hermes heads*" to/from Switzerland are existing.

30 lepta of the **Athens**, printings printed on the both sides.
Picture of the recto of the stamp on the right.
Very few items known up to date.
(©)

30 lepta, ultramarine with the plate flaw of the "*Hermès with the pipe*" (Position 10R).
With type IV postmark of **Athens** (*1*).
Change of colours printings (1882).

Strip of three of the **30 lepta**, ultramarine.
With type IV postmark of **Athens** (*1*).
Change of colours printings (1882).

Mint block of fifteen of the **30 lepta**, brown.
Athens printings (1876/1877).

Picture of the wax seal on the verso of the cover.

Letter sent from **Athens** (*1*) on November 12th/24th, 1880, to **London**, United Kingdom.
Franked at 210 lepta, corresponding to the 8th weight level rate of the U.P.U. for international letters from 120 to 135 grams, (25 lepta per increment of 15 grams), with a strip of seven **30 lepta** of the **Athens** printings, so 10 lepta have been overpaid.

The 60 lepta of the Athens printings and its postal usage

The 60 lepta of the Athens printings have been printed in 1876 & 1877 and have been in usage up to 1886. They were not wearing any "*control number*" on the back.
Not any document has been found, so far relating to the quantities printed…

Strip of four of the 60 lepta of the **Athens** printings, deep green.
Cancelled with the type II postmark of **Athens** (*1*).

Prepaid letter sent from **Athens** (*1*) on April 8th, 1877, arrived in **Constantinople** (*95*), Turkey on April 11th, 1877, type II postmark of the Greek foreign post-office of **Constantinople** (*95*) at the back of the cover.
Franked at 60 lepta for a letter from 15 to 30 grams (U.P.U. international double rate).

Both dates are from the Julian calendar.

(©)

The first postal stationery of Greece

In 1875, the Greek Postal Administration also asked to **Désiré-Albert Barre** to realise a typographic plate to print the first Greek postal stationery (*"carte-correspondance"*). The Chief Engraver used the same medallion die as the one used in 1861 to create the *"large Hermes head"* stamps to replicate the same Hermes head effigy, for the postal stationeries. The typographic plate was manufactured, under the supervision of **Désiré-Albert Barre**, by the company **Charles Derriey**, 6 & 12, rue Notre-Dame-des-Champs in **Paris**, by using the method of the *"galvanoplasty-type"*.
This typographic plate counted twenty-four *"clichés"* (4 X 6). One thousand sheets of twenty-four *"carte-correspondance"* each have been printed on Bristol paper by the printer **J. Claye & C°**, rue Saint Benoît, n° 7, in **Paris**. They have been shipped, with the typographic plate, to **Athens** on the same shipment as the **30** & **60 lepta** plates and stamps on April 19th, 1876.

Study on the effigy of the postal stationery with the head of Athena. One of the three pencil drawings on *"baudruche"* paper, realized by **Désiré-Albert Barre** before selecting, again, the Hermes head.

The two other known draft drawings are with the effigy of Demeter & Hermes.

Unique item.

Pre-project of the effigy of the **15 lepta** postal stationery by **Désiré-Albert Barre** from the one centime French stamp, olive-green, of the *"Cérès à gros chiffres"* emission of 1871/72.

On the stamp, **Barre fils**, drafted the legends, the values and arabesques with China ink. On the carton support, he drafted, with pencil, the legend, the frame and the florets.

Unique item.

(©)

The first postal stationery of Greece (cont.)

The mock-up of the effigy of the **15 lepta** postal stationery realised by **Désiré-Albert Barre** in 1876.
Around the medallion, a cut from a black plate-proof the "*large Hermes head*" of 1861,
the Chief Engraver drew the frame and the legends of the stamp with China ink.
He also drafted, on the carton support, the potential modifications of the eye
(top right, pencilled) and the value (bottom-middle, China ink).

Unique item.

(©)

The first postal stationery of Greece (cont. & end)

Final die-proof of the stamp of the **15 lepta** postal stationery, green on *"laid baton"* paper.

Two items known, so far.

(©)

Final die-proof of the stamp of the **15 lepta** postal stationery, black on *"laid baton"* paper.

Three items known, so far.

(©)

Mint postal stationery of the **15 lepta** of the **Paris** emission.

The two overprinted series of 1900/1901 and their usage

On September 1900, the shipment of the new emission of the *"flying Hermes"*, ordered to the English printer, **J.P. Segg & C°**, was delayed, so the Postal Greek Administration decided to overprint the stocks of three previous emissions: the *"large Hermes head"*, the *"small Hermes head"* and the *"1896 Olympic Games"* with a black inked surcharge *"AM"* or *"ΑΞΙΑ ΜΕΤΑΛΛΙΧΗ"* for *"Metal Value"*. For the *"large Hermes head"*, deux overprinted values were printed: the **1 drachma** on **5 lepta** and **2 drachma** on **40 lepta**. These two values have been offered imperforated and perforated (11½).

The usage of these two values was reserved to the postal parcels and to the postal orders (*"mandats"*) and were paid in *"gold drachma"*.

The two overprinted values of **1** & **2 drachma**, unperforated and perforated of the *"AM"* series (September 1900).

On October 1900, a second series of overprinted values was introduced for the common postal usage. Five new values with black inked overprint of simple value were introduced: **30 lepta** on **40 lepta, 40 lepta** on **2 lepta, 50 lepta** on **40 lepta**, **3 drachma** on **10 lepta** and **5 drachma** on **40 lepta** on various emissions of the *"large Hermes head"* of the **Athens** printings. These five values have been offered imperforated and perforated (11½).

The five overprinted values of **30**, **40** & **50 lepta** and **1** & **2 drachma**, unperforated and perforated of the common postal usage series (October 1900).

These two overprinted emissions were retired on June 30th, 1901.

The two overprinted series of 1900/1901 and their usage (cont.)

Picture of the wax seal on the verso of the cover.

Registered letter sent from the *Commission Financière Internationale - CFI* in **Athens** (*1*) on June 22nd/July 4th, 1901, arrived at the British Embassy in **Constantinople**, Turkey, on June 26th/July 8th, 1901, franked at 4 drachma & 30 lepta.

This U.P.U. rate is corresponding to the 16th weight level (from 240 to 255 grams) or 25 lepta X 16 = 400 lepta + 25 lepta for the registration, so 5 lepta were over paid.
As no 25 lepta stamp was probably available at this period (this value has not been introduced in the 1900 common postal usage overprinted series), the sender used instead a 30 lepta stamp, explaining the 5 lepta over paid.

Mixed franking with one **30 lepta/40 lepta** & one **3 drachma/10 lepta**, both of cream papers w/o *"control numbers"* emission of the *"large Hermes head"* (1880/1886) and one **1 drachma/40 lepta** of the perforated **Athens** printings (2nd period) of the *"small Hermes head"* (1896). →

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Registered letter sent from **Athens** (*1*) on February 3rd/15th, 1901, arrived in **Oran**, French Algeria, on February 14th/26nd, 1901, franked at 50 lepta corresponding to the U.P.U. rate of 25 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams plus 25 lepta for the registration (**Paris** convention of 1878).
Only very few covers bearing *"large Hermes head"* are known from/to Africa.

The two overprinted series of 1900/1901 and their usage (cont.)

Picture of postmarks at the back of this *"Bulletin d'expédition"*

Despatch note (*"Bulletin d'expédition"*) for post parcels with sample of mineral sent from **Syros** (*67*) on November 18th/30th, 1900, arrived in **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on December 5th/17th, 1900, via **Piraeus** (*2*) on November 2nd/December 2nd, 1900.

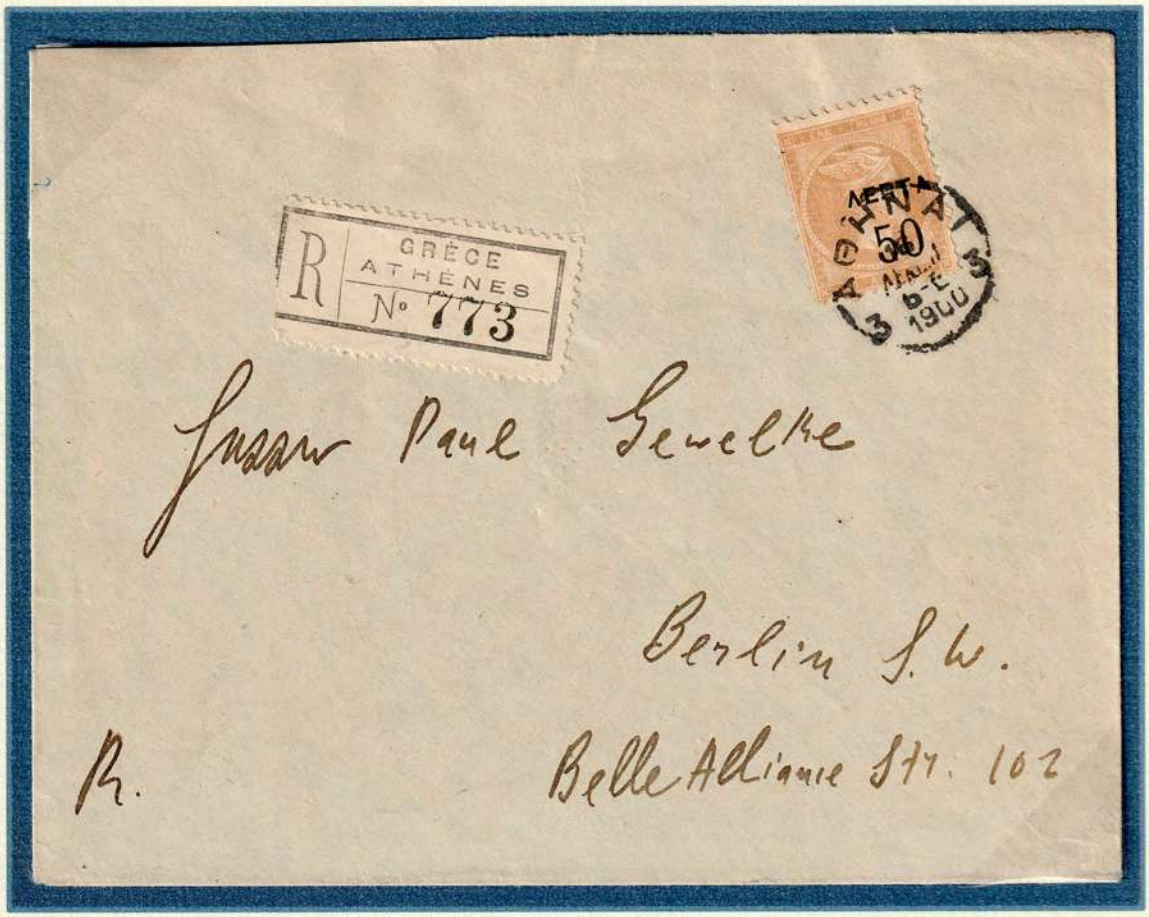
Black postmark *"ΤΑΧ. ΠΑΡΑΡΤ. ΠΑΡΑ ΤΩ ΤΕΛΩΝ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΩΣ"* on the back.

Franked at 1 drachma & 75 lepta for a weight of 800 grams with one **1 drachma/40 lepta** of the meshed papers printings of the *"large Hermes head"* (1871/1876) and one **50 lepta/25 lepta** & one **25 lepta/40 lepta**, both of the Belgian printing of the of the *"small Hermes head"* (1886/1888). The three stamps are overprinted AM or *"ΑΞΙΑ ΜΕΤΑΛΛΙΧΗ" (Metal Value)*.

Only very few documents wearing the AM overprinted LHH exist for their real purpose: the franking of the post parcels and the postal orders. Any other usage is *"philatelic"*...

The two overprinted series of 1900/1901 and their usage (cont.)

Registered postal stationery sent from **Athens** (*1*) on January 13th/25th, 1901, arrived in **Cairo**, Egypt on January 19th/31st, 1901, franked at 50 lepta, corresponding to the U.P.U. rate of 25 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams, plus 25 lepta for the recommendation (**Paris** convention of 1878).



Registered letter sent from **Athens** (*1*) on December 16th/28th, 1900, arrived in **Berlin**, Germany on December 21st, 1900/January 2nd, 1901, franked at 50 lepta, corresponding to the U.P.U. rate of 25 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams, plus 25 lepta for the recommendation (**Paris** convention of 1878).

The two overprinted series of 1900/1901 and their usage (cont.)

Registered letter sent from **Athens** (*1*) on November 4th/16th, 1900, arrived in **Mulheim**, Germany on November 9th/21st, 1900, franked at 50 lepta, corresponding to the U.P.U. rate of 25 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams, plus 25 lepta for the recommendation (**Paris** convention of 1878).

Blue rectangular postmark "*EPI APODEIXI*" for "*Acknowledgement of Receipt*".

Mixed franking with a vertical pair of the **30 lepta/40 lepta** of cream papers w/o "*control numbers*" emission of the "*large Hermes head*" (1880/1886) and one **5 lepta** & one **10 lepta** of the perforated **Athens** printings (2nd period) of the "*small Hermes head*" (1896).

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Registered letter sent from **Athens** (*1*) on June XX, 1901, arrived in **Karlsbad**, Austria-Hungary on June 10th/22nd, 1901, franked at 75 lepta corresponding to the U.P.U. rate of 50 lepta for a double rate letter, from 15 to 30 grams (25 lepta per increment of 15 grams), plus 25 lepta for the recommendation (**Paris** convention of 1878).

Mixed franking with one **50 lepta/40 lepta** of cream papers with "*control numbers*" emission of the "*large Hermes head*" (1875/1880) and one **25 lepta** of the perforated **Athens** printings (2nd period) of the "*small Hermes head*" (1896).

The two overprinted series of 1900/1901 and their usage (cont. & end)

Prepaid letter sent from **Athens** (*1*) on May 19th/June 2nd, 1901, arrived in **Trieste**, Austria-Hungary on May 22nd/June 5th, 1901, franked at 50 lepta, corresponding to the U.P.U. double rate for a letter from 15 to 30 grams (25 lepta per increment of 15 grams), according to the U.P.U. **Paris** convention of 1878.

Mixed franking with three emissions:

- One **40 lepta/2 lepta** of the of cream papers w/o "*control numbers*" emission of the "*large Hermes head*" (1880/1886),
- One vertical strip of four of the **1 lepton** of the of the perforated **Athens** printings (2nd period) of the "*small Hermes head*" (1896),
- One vertical strip of three of the **2 lepta** of the "*1896 Olympic Games*" emission (1896).