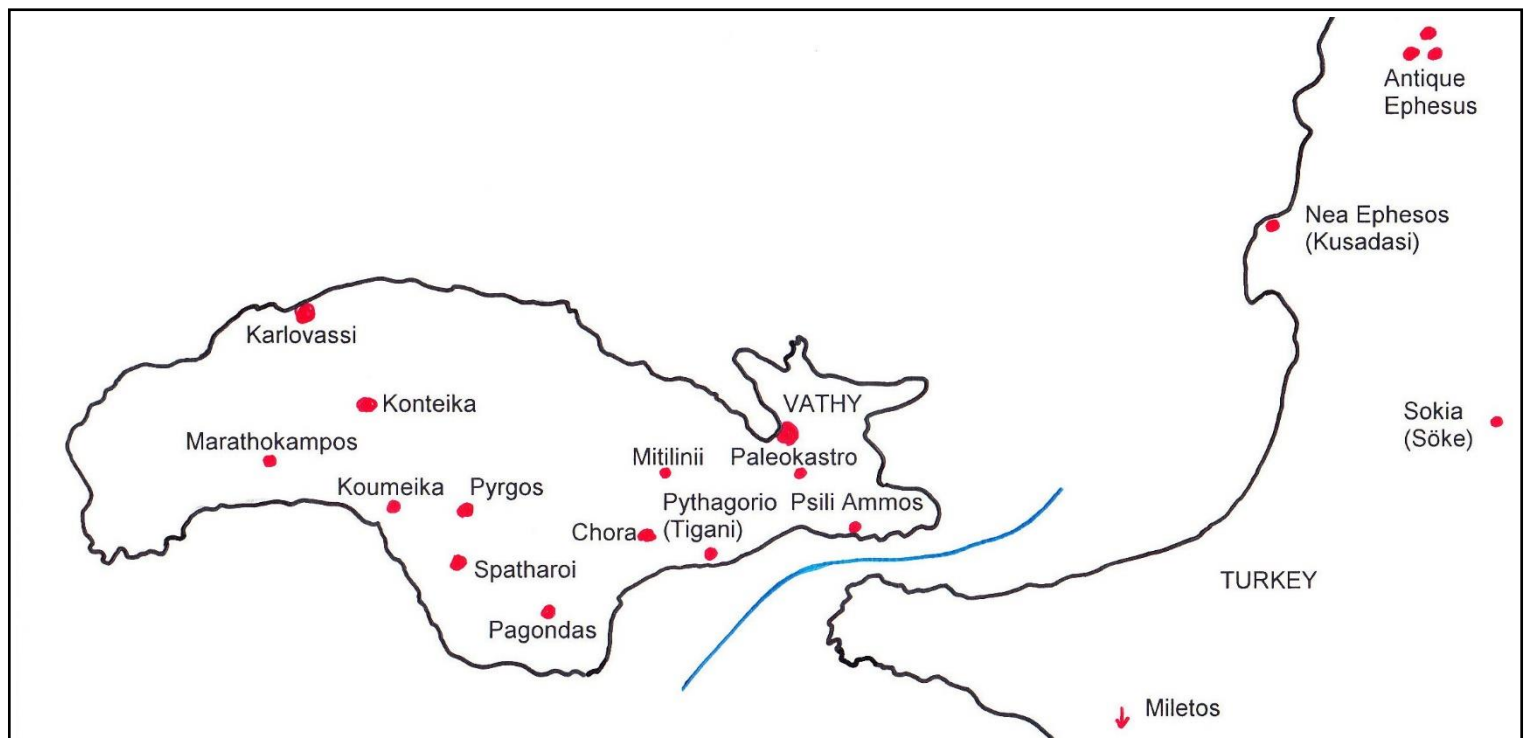


THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE ISLAND OF SAMOS



This exhibit shows the postal history of the Greek island of **Samos** from the early 19th Century, before post offices were opened, until after the Second World War.

In 1900, the population was about 55,000 (today 40,000) plus 15,000 living in nearby Anatolia. The blue line shows today's border between Greece and Turkey.

The structure of the exhibit is as follows:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Ottoman Empire before the Greek War of Independence | - 1821 |
| 2. Revolutionary Government of Samos | 1821 - 1834 |
| 3. Autonomous Principality of Samos as a tributary of Turkey | |
| 3.1 Private mail before post office opening and official mail | 1834 - 1880 |
| 3.2 Post Office of the Principality of Samos | 1855 - 1912 |
| 3.3 Samian maritime service to Piraeus | 1903 - 1912 |
| 3.4 Turkish Post Office | 1868 - 1912 |
| 3.5 Austrian Post Office | 1881 - 1914 |
| 3.6 French Post Office | 1893 - 1914 |
| 4. Provisional Samian Administration | 1912 - 1913 |
| 5. Greek Administration to World War II | 1913 - 1941 |
| 6. Italian Military Occupation | 1941 - 1943 |
| 7. German Military Occupation | 1943 - 1944 |
| 8. Greek Administration after World War II | 1944 - |

Within the sections, the structure is generally chronological, but with sub-groupings as in the page heading and details of markings, frankings, etc. given in the description of the material.

The literature used includes: A. Kosmidis - Samos 1821 - 1945

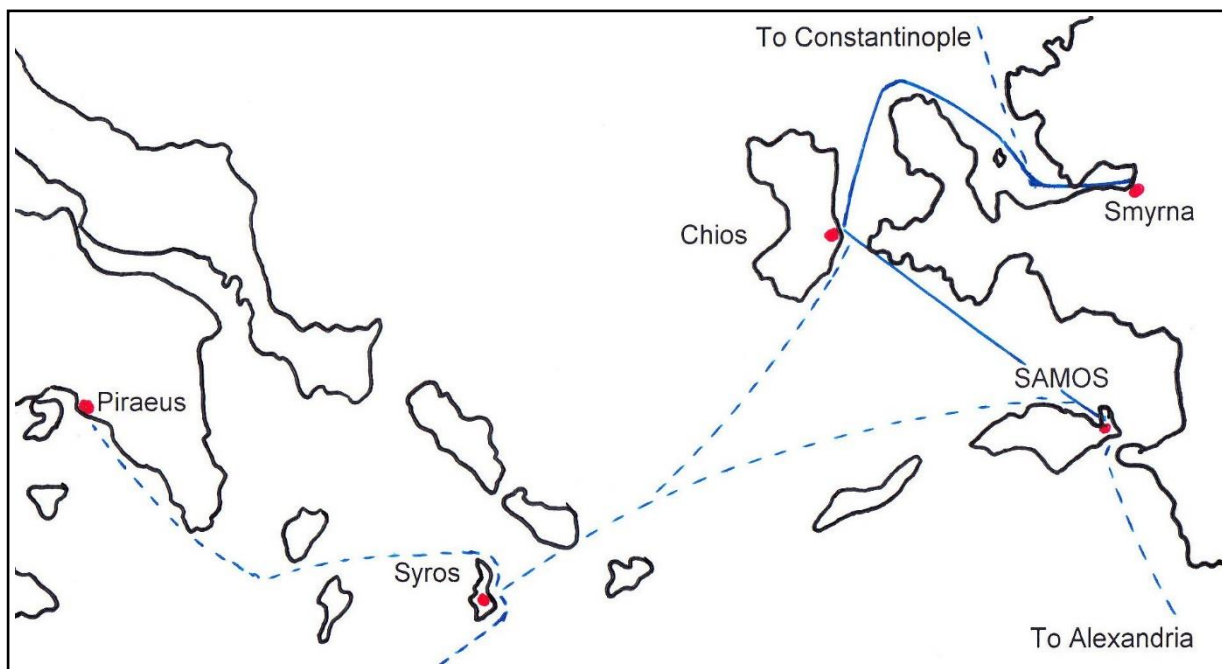
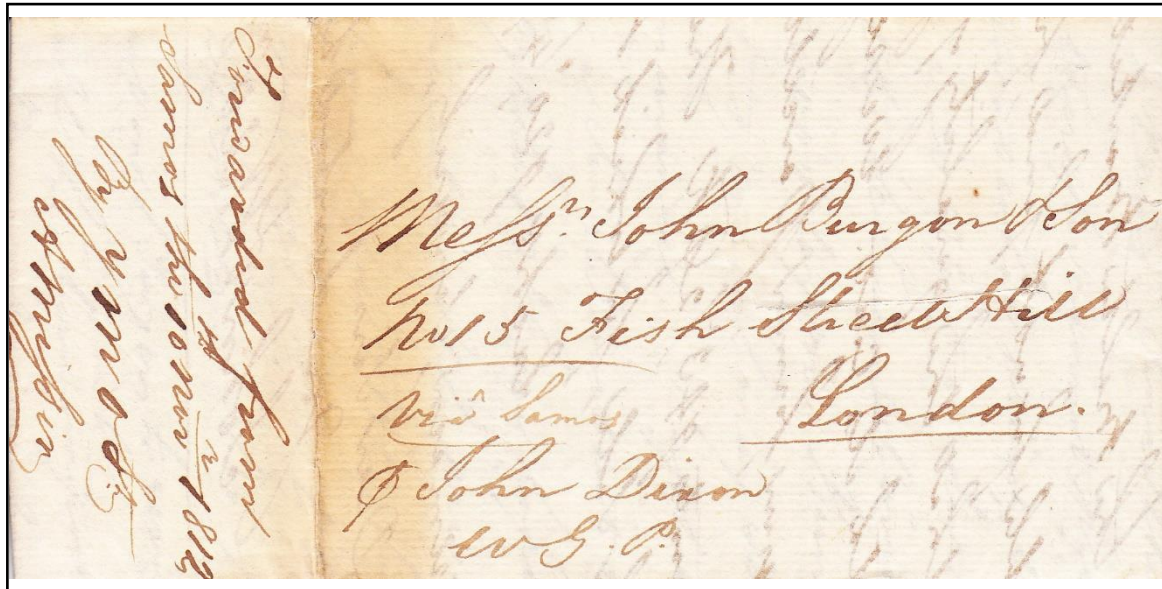
M. Anagnostou - Samos Postal History & Stamps 1800 – 1915

Kohl Handbuch, Gibbons and Karamitsos catalogues

1. Ottoman Empire to 1821

Letter from Smyrna to London forwarded via Samos 1812

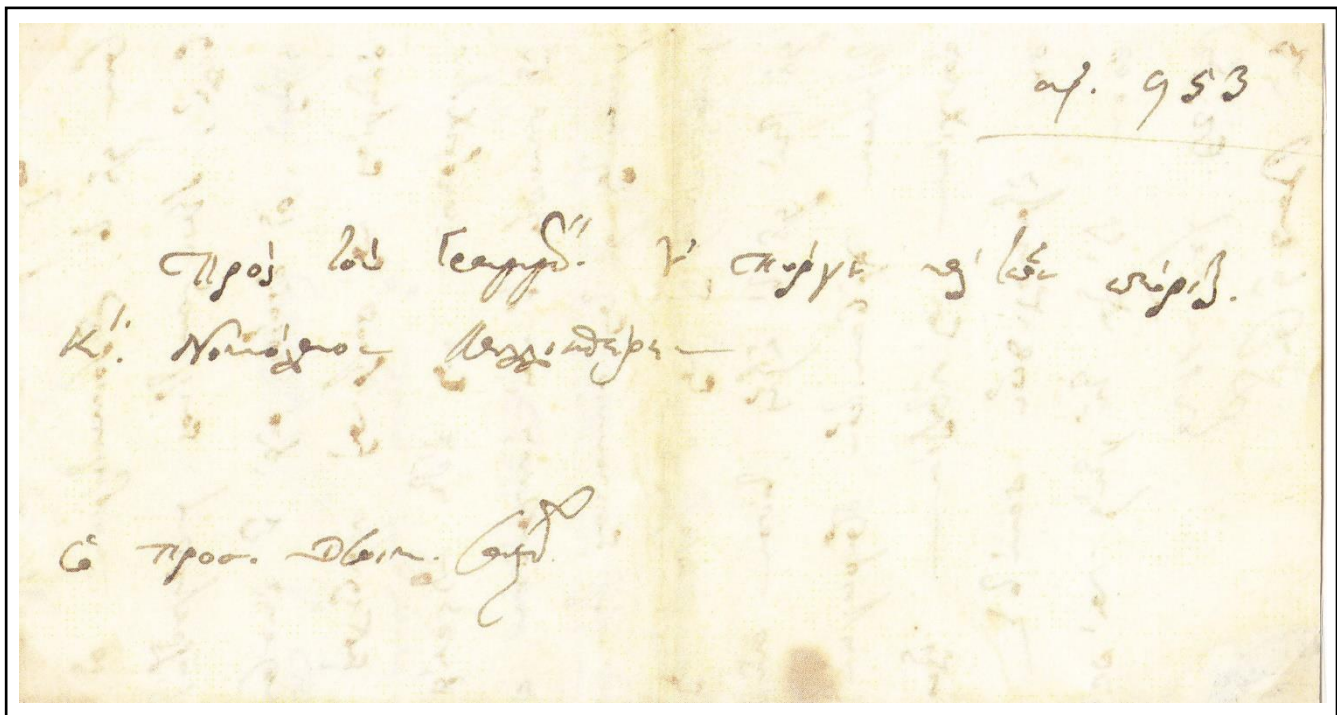
Private letters either had to be carried by travellers or sent via forwarding agents. Samos lay at the junction of routes from the west via Syros, from the north via Smyrna and Constantinople and from south and east via Beirut. These letters usually bear notations as to the route, but no postal markings.



A merchant's entire written at Smyrna and containing a triplicate of a letter dated 26 October 1812 with a continuation dated 3 November 1812; bearing manuscript endorsements: "Via Samos / P(er) John Dixon / W(hom) G(od).P(reserve).", and "Forwarded from Samos the 10th Novr. 1812 by your o(bedient) S(ervan)t. A Missir"; privately carried to London; slit for disinfection en route; no postal markings.

2. Revolutionary Government of Samos 1821-34 Official mail under Greek Administration 1828-30

The Samiots rebelled against the Porte in 1821 and repelled Turkish fleets sent in 1821 and 1824. Struggles for independence followed, and under the Treaty of London, Samos became a semi-independent Principality within the Ottoman Empire from 1834 until November 1912.



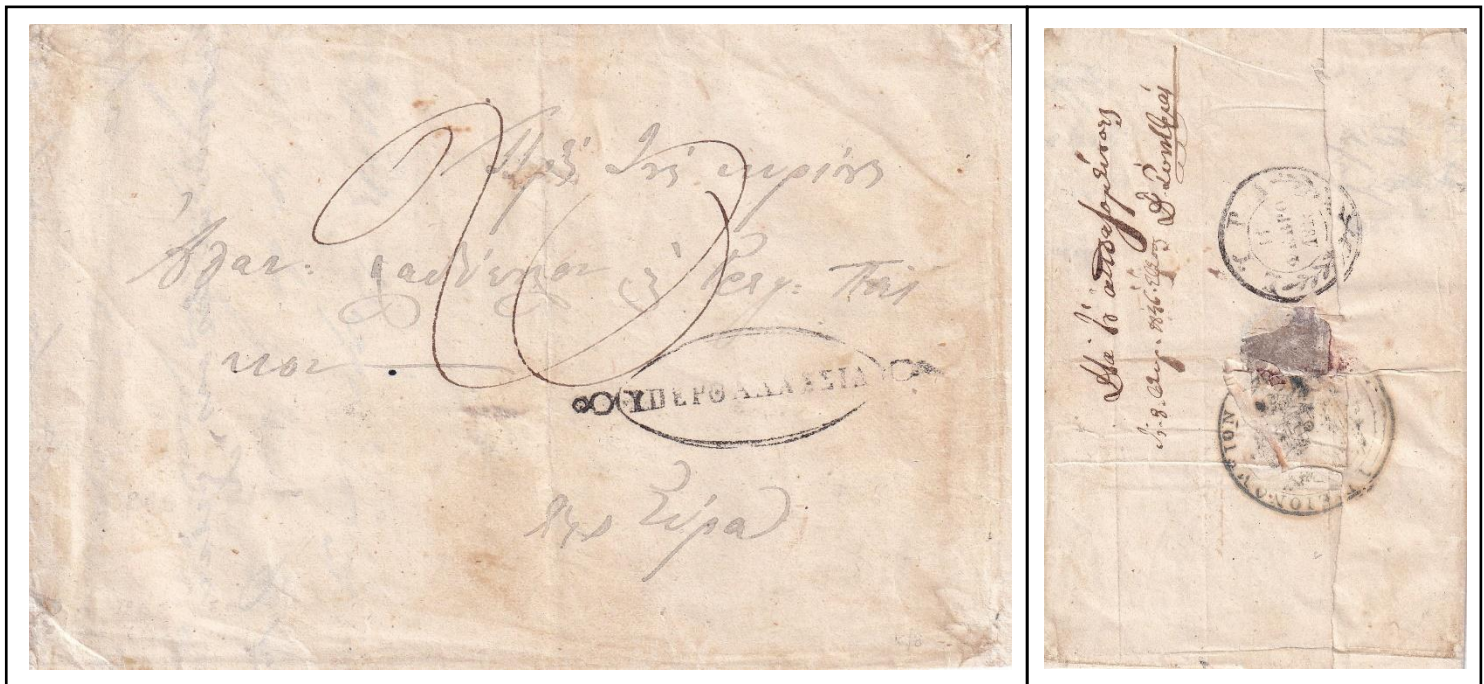
A photocopy (100%) of the address-side of the official letter below which was sent to the Secretary of Pyrgos and Region by the Provisional Governor of Samos during the period of Provisional Greek Administration 1828-1830.



The inside and reverse of this inland official letter dated 27 July 1829 bear the seal of the Provisional Governor of Samos showing the goddess Athena and the Greek text "THE PROVIS. GOVERNOR OF SAMOS". One of the four recorded examples.

3.1 Principality of Samos Private mail from 1834 to the opening of the Samian post office in 1855

Entire letters sent privately from Vathy to Syros as ship letters in 1846



The front this entire dated Vathy 7 February 1846 shows the Greek ship-letter marking "YPERTHALASSIA" (= "From Overseas" - type used in Syros) in black and in manuscript "20" lepta Greek postage for up to 7½g payable by the addressee. The reverse (66% copy) bears a manuscript note dated 8 February 1846 saying that the letter has been disinfected, a cachet of the Sanitary Authorities at Syros with the Greek coat-of-arms and an arrival back-stamp of the Greek p.o. at Syros dated 11 February 1846.



The front this entire dated Carlovassi 13 April 1846 shows the Greek ship-letter marking "YPERTHALASSIA" (= "From Overseas" - type used in Syros) in red and in manuscript "30" lepta Greek postage for to 7½-15g payable by the addressee. The reverse (72% copy) bears a Piraeus transit date-stamp of 28 April 1846 and a Syros arrival date-stamp of 1 May 1846.

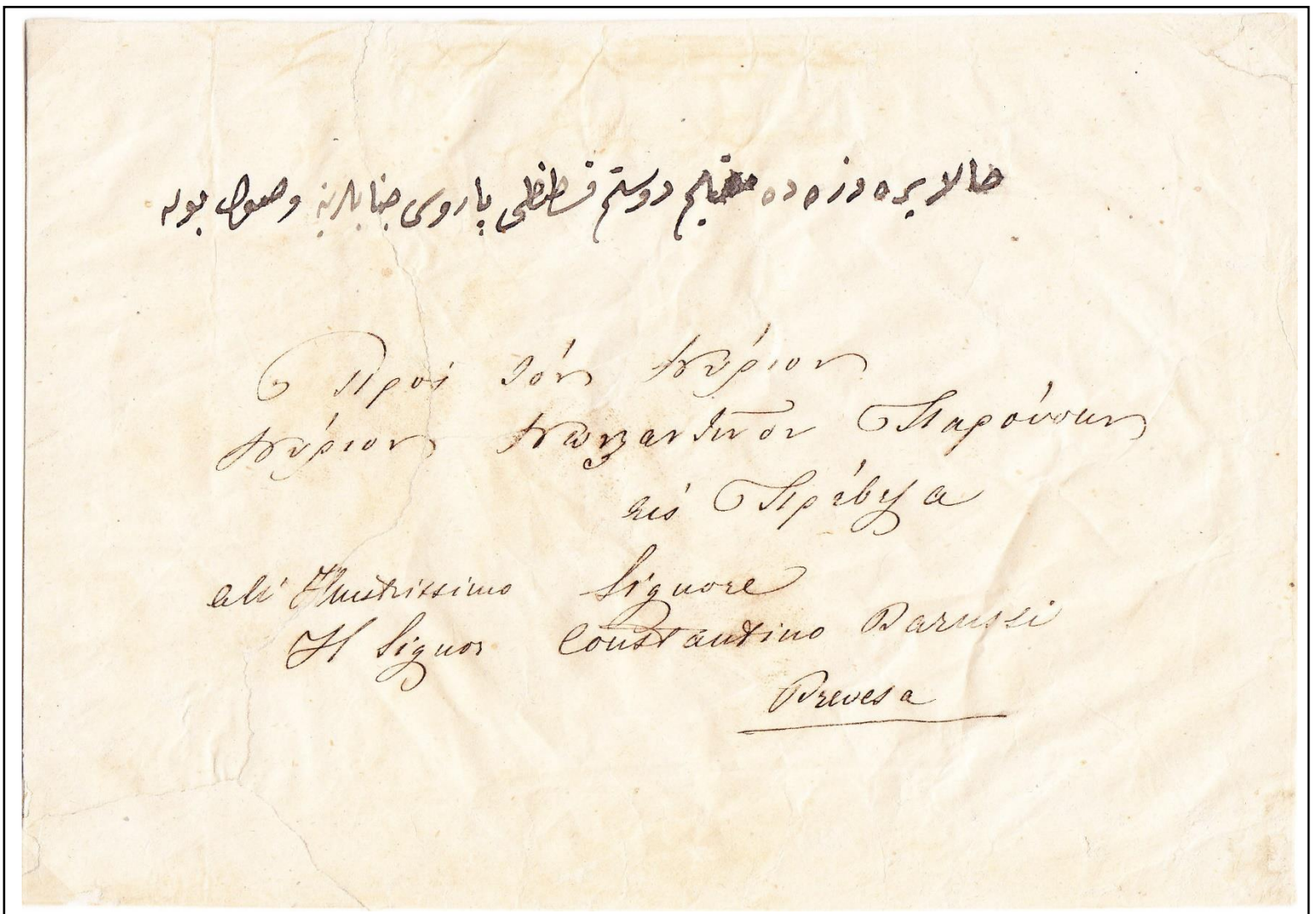
3.1 Principality of Samos

Outgoing official letter from Prince of Samos 1850

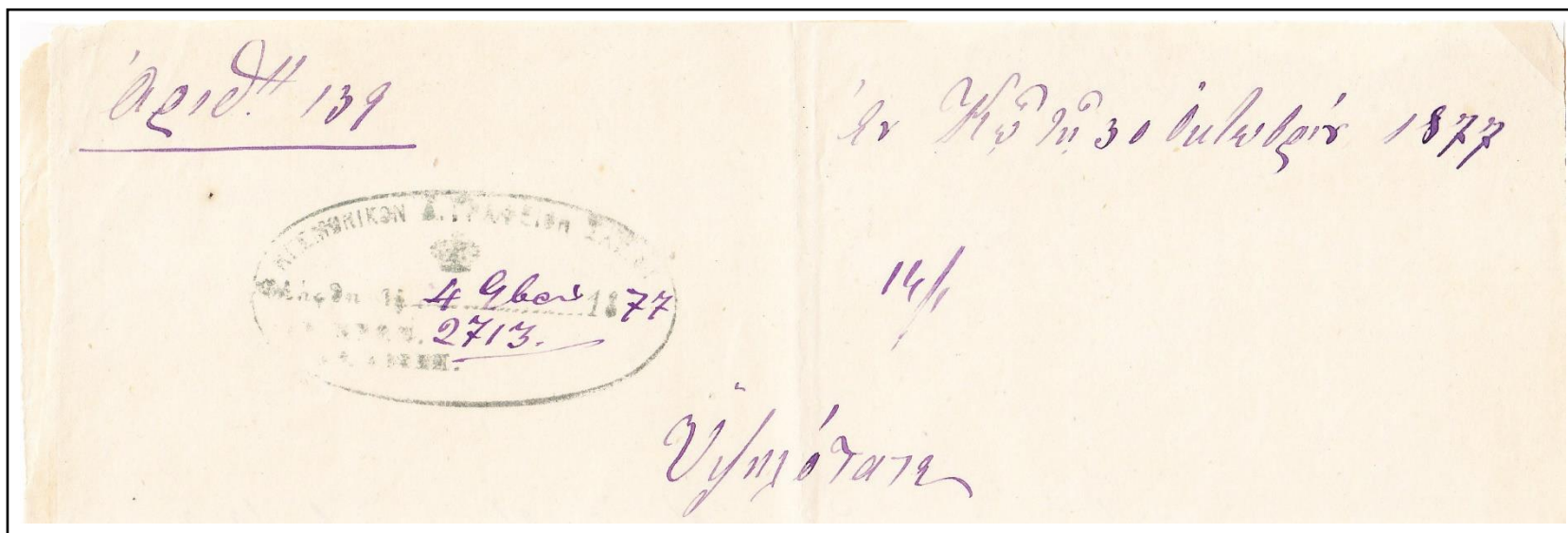
The Samiots did not achieve their desired independence or unification with the new Kingdom of Greece. After being returned to Turkey as of 1830 under the London Agreement of 1827, and receiving a certain degree of freedom in December 1832, Samos became in 1834 an autonomous tribute-paying Principality. The Prince was to be Greek-Orthodox and to be designated by the High Porte. The second Prince was Alexandros Kallimachis (1850-54), Turkish Ambassador in Vienna, who delegated his duties as Prince largely to the Governor, Georgios Konemenos.



A reduced copy of the reverse of this cover bearing the seal of Georgios Konemenos which shows the coat-of-arms of Samos and bears the text "A.KALLIMACHES - PRINCE OF SAMOS - G.KONEMENOS GOVERNOR".



An official cover of 1850 sent by the Governor of Samos to Prevesa, his home town in Turkish Epirus.



A letter written by Miliadias Aristarchis, the Governor of the Dodecanese island of Cos (who had been the Prince of Samos from 1859 to 1866), dated 30 October 1877 and sent to the current Prince of Samos, Konstantinos Fotiadis (1874-79) in Samos; bearing his registry mark noting receipt of the letter on 4 November 1877.



The cover in which the above letter was sent, bearing a negative Arabic seal inscribed "Governor of Cos, Miliadias Aristarchis, 1877" and addressed to the Prince of Samos, Kostaki Bey Fotiadi; no transit or arrival markings of the Turkish post.



A wrapper addressed to Vathy, with a note of receipt dated 16 December 1835; sealed in green with a cachet translating "Municipality of Marathokampos Samos".



An entire letter addressed to Vathy dated 16 July 1855; sealed in black with a cachet translating "Municipality of Middle Karlovassi Samos".



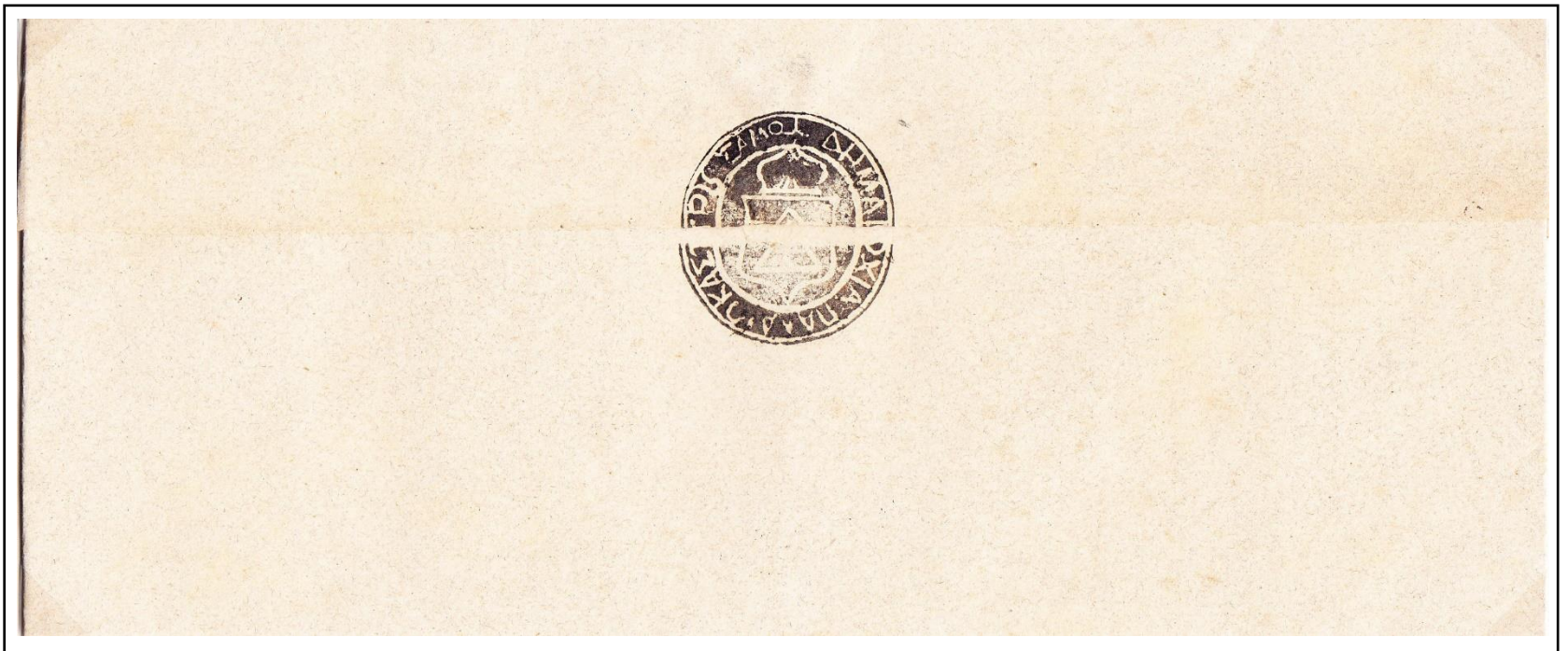
An entire letter addressed to Vathy dated 3 July 1853; sealed in blue-black with a cachet translating "Sanitary Office of New Karlovassi Samos 1850".



An entire letter addressed to Vathy dated 2 February 1853; sealed in black with a cachet translating "Sub-Sanitary Office of Supervisor at Spatharoi Samos".



An entire letter addressed to Vathy dated 5 March 1869; sealed in black with a cachet translating "Customs Office of Karlovassi Samos".

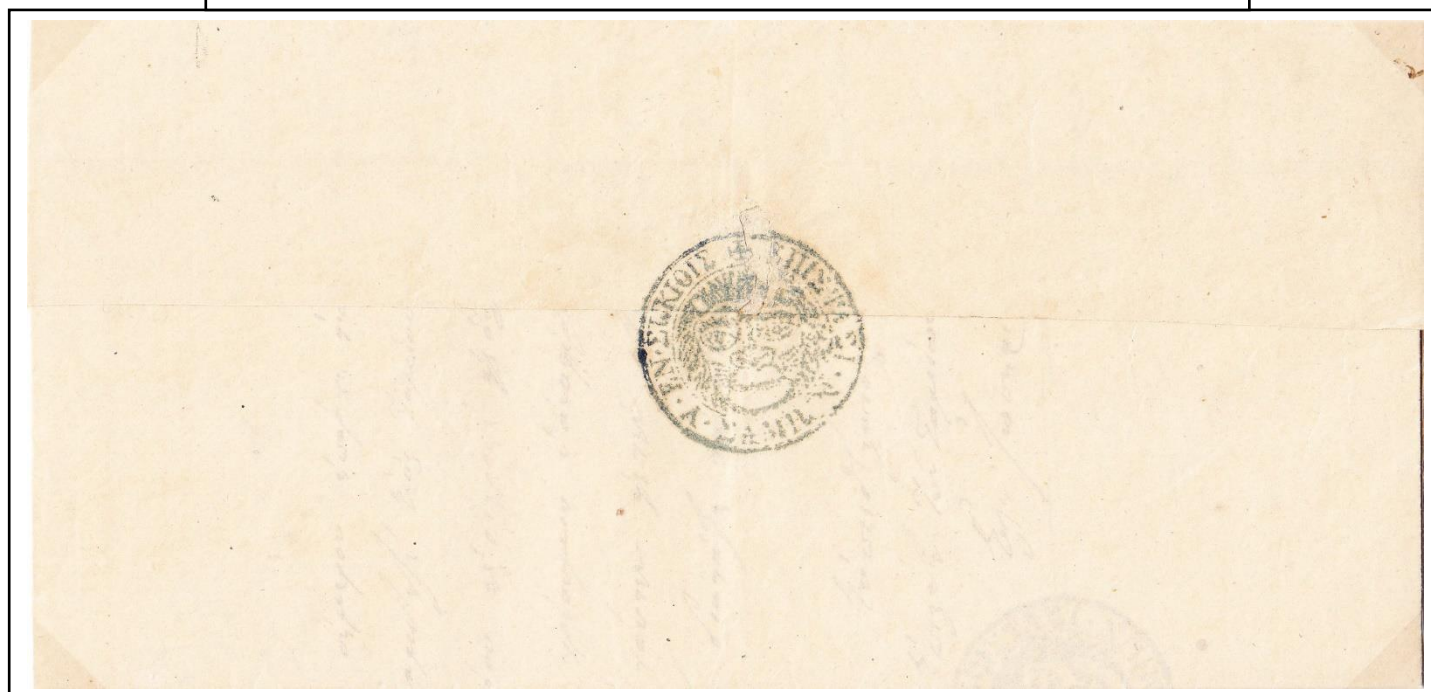


An entire letter addressed to Vathy dated 6 November 1872; sealed in black with a cachet translating "Municipality of Paleokastro Samos".

3.1 Principality of Samos

Samian Representations in Asia Minor 1854-59

The Principality of Samos maintained representations in places in Asia Minor where Samian workers came on a seasonal basis. These also acted as postal agencies and their official mail was carried postage free by the Samian messengers. Letters are recorded from three agencies, sent to Vathy on Samos or to other agencies and bearing the seals of the representations.



Above: Entire dated 15 January 1854; seal with arms of Samos & "SAMIAN REPRESENTATION N(ew). EPHESUS" (Kusadasi)

Centre: Entire dated 24 January 1856; with lion's head seal of Samos inscribed "SAMIAN REPRESENTATION AT SOKIE"

Below: Entire dated 9 June 1859; seal with arms of Samos inscribed "SAMIAN REPRESENTATION AT MELSO" (Meles).

(As the paper showing the top half of the seal was destroyed on opening, this is illustrated with a photocopy from the seal inside)

3.2 Post Office of Principality of Samos 1855-1912

Only recorded example of first marking 1863

Further to a decree covering the postal services, which was signed on 27 January 1860, postal routes were established along the northern & southern coasts of the island, as were Samian exchange post offices in Constantinople and Smyrna.



This wrapper from Vathy to Milos bears the only known example of the first marking of the Samos Post Office, which reads "GEN. DIEFTH (insis).TACHYDROM(iou).SAMOU" and is here dated 19 June 1863. The Samian carriage to Smyrna of 1 grosh (= 1 piastre) per 10g was prepaid and was marked in ink at Vathy, together with the serial number of the letter "2"; the Greek postage was payable by the addressee. The wrapper bears transit markings of the Greek post offices at Smyrna and Syros dated 22 and 28 June; the "50" lepta postage due was marked in red crayon and Greek 10 l. + 40 l. stamps (Athens print) were added and cancelled "67" at Syros; Milos arrival back-stamp dated 12 July 1863.

3.2 Post Office of Principality of Samos 1855-1912 Second recorded date - no Samos marking 1863



This entire letter to Athens was written at Samos on 24 June 1863. This was within one week after the wrapper on the previous sheet and it is not apparent why one bears a Samos date-stamp but the other does not. The Samian carriage to Smyrna of 1 grosh (= 1 piastre) per 10g was prepaid and was marked in ink at Vathy, together with the serial number of the letter "41"; the Greek postage was payable by the addressee. The entire bears transit markings of the Greek post offices at Smyrna and Piraeus dated 29 June and 1 July 1863; the "50" lepta postage due was marked in red crayon and Greek 10 l. + 40 l. stamps (Athens print) were added and cancelled with the Athens date-stamp on arrival on 1 July 1863.

3.2 Post Office of Principality of Samos 1855-1912

Oval "Paid" date-stamp 1878/80

The second marking is an oval date-stamp reading "POST OFFICE OF VATHY/SAMOS/PAID". This was struck in blue and 6 examples are recorded from 1875 to 1880.



An envelope from Vathy to Karlovassi with this marking dated 25 March 1880? Although this marking says "PAID", the envelope bears in addition the straight-line mark "PLIROMENI" meaning paid, which is one of the two recorded examples.

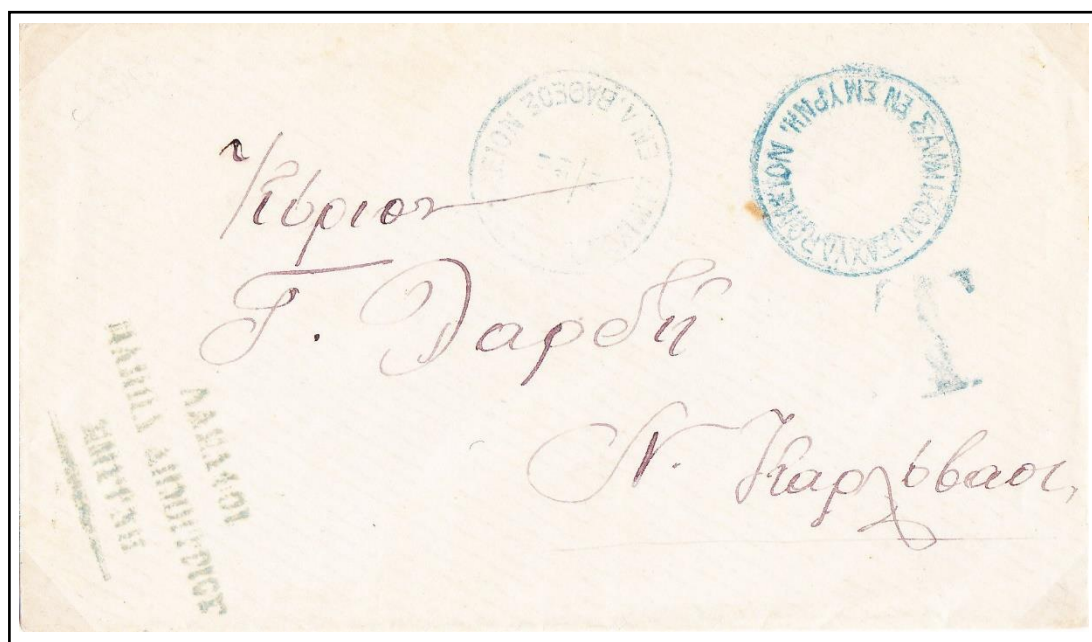


This envelope from Vathy to Germany bears the above mark dated 10 December 1878 (22 December by the Gregorian calendar) indicating that carriage to Smyrna by the Samian post was prepaid; it was handed-in to the Austrian post office, franked at 20 soldi for over 15g and cancelled on 23 December 1878; it has a Berlin delivery back-stamp dated 4 January 1879.

A circular date-stamp translating "Samian Post Office in Vathy Port" was the standard marking used in Samos from 1881 to 1912 and was usually struck in black. A similar but undated marking reading "Samian Post Office in Smyrna" is recorded from the exchange post office there from 1881 to 1887. Samos also maintained an exchange post office in Constantinople, but no examples of markings from this office have been seen.



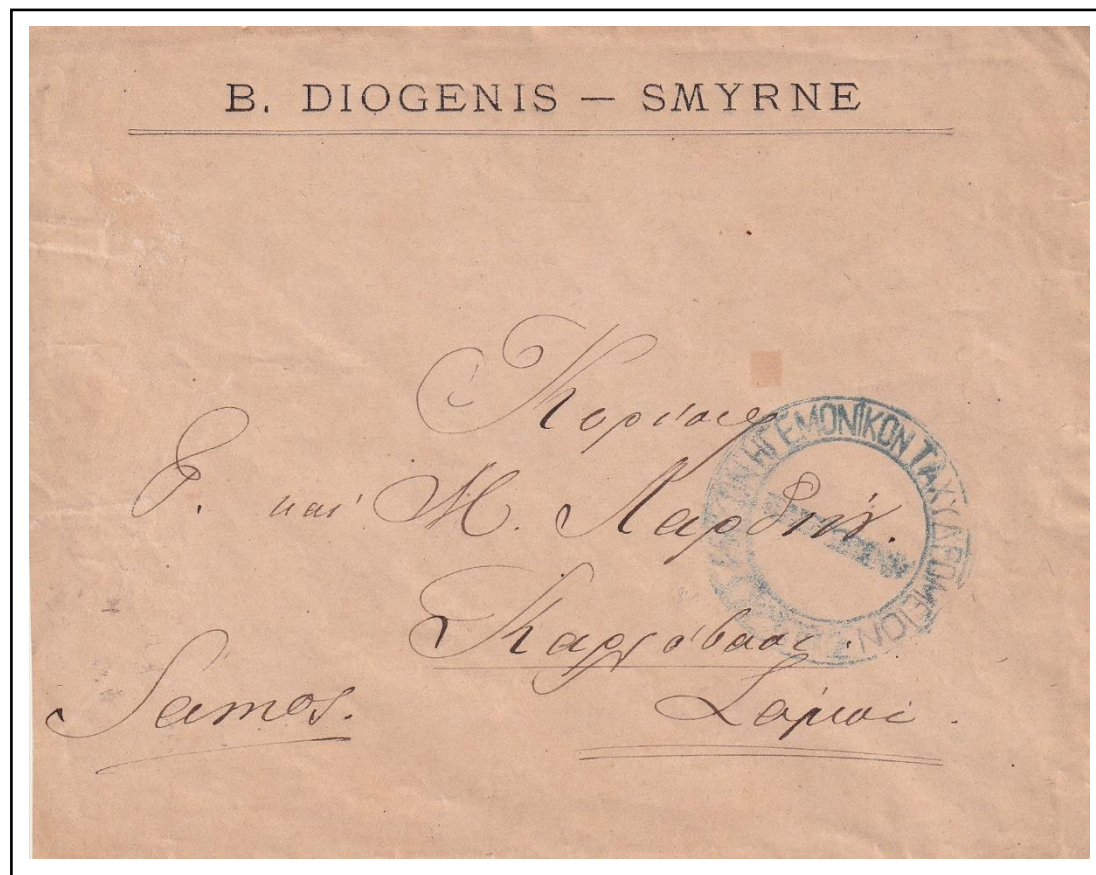
An envelope from Vathy to Constantinople bearing only the Port Vathy date-stamp with the barely legible date 12 April 1892? This letter was clearly handled only by the Samian Post and was apparently sent to its exchange office in Constantinople.



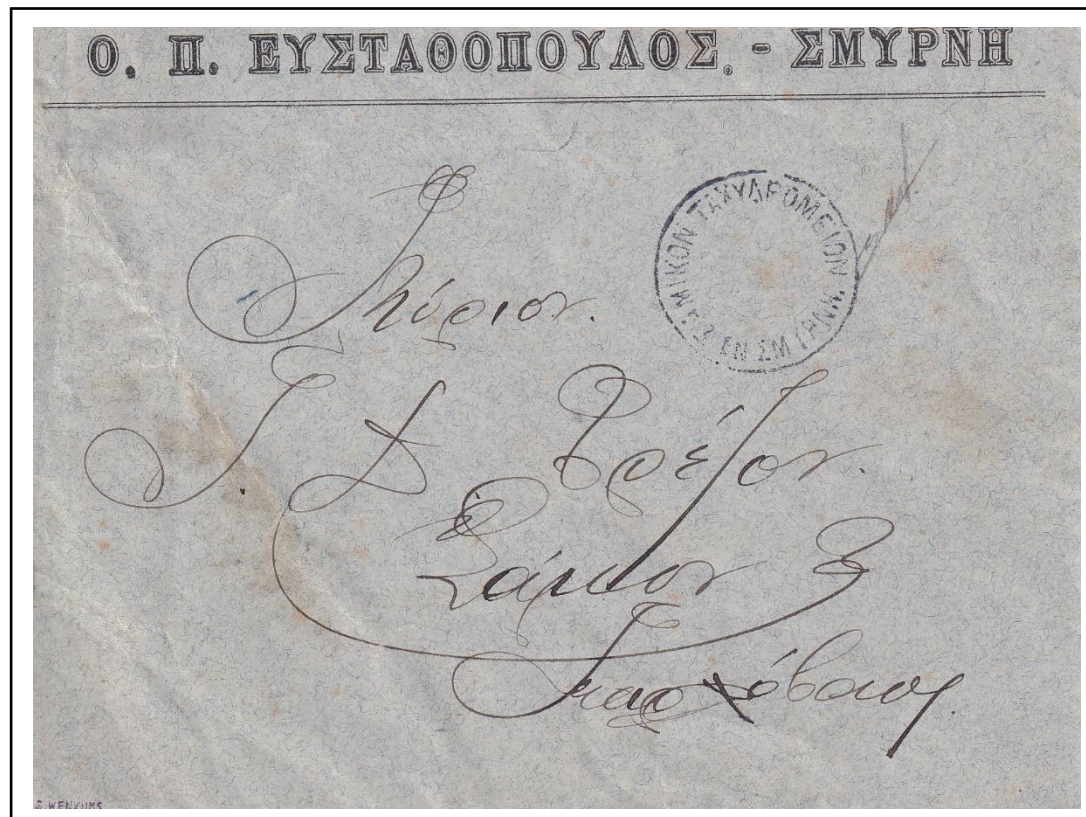
An unpaid commercial envelope from Smyrna to Karlovassi on Samos bearing the marking of the exchange office in blue and a "T" (= tax) marking (5 examples recorded) indicating that the postage due (1 piaster per 10g) was to be collected from the addressee. It also bears the Port Vathy date-stamp of 29 November 1881 in blue as a transit marking.

3.2 Post Office of Principality of Samos 1855-1912 Mail from the exchange p.o. in Smyrna 1875-86

The Principality of Samos had a representative office in Smyrna as from 1853 and this acted as a p.o. from ca. 1875



This letter to Carlovasson on Samos sent by B. Diogenis in Smyrna is one of the 3 recorded letters with the first marking of the Smyrna p.o. inscribed “Samian Principality Post Office of Smyrna” and “Paid”. Undated, believed to be from 1875 – 1880.



This letter to Carlovasson on Samos sent by O. P. Eistathopoulos in Smyrna is one of the 11 recorded letters with the second marking of the Smyrna p.o. inscribed “Samian Post Office in Smyrna”. Undated, believed to be from 1881 – 1887.

Although an Austrian post office had been opened at Vathy on Samos in 1881, vessels of the Austrian Lloyd called at Smyrna much more frequently than at Vathy. Further, the Ottoman post office at Vathy was hardly used in the 1880's. It remained possible to prepay both the Samian and onwards postage at the Samian Post Office in Vathy, which sent the mail to the exchange office in Smyrna to be handed-over to the Austrian post office there.



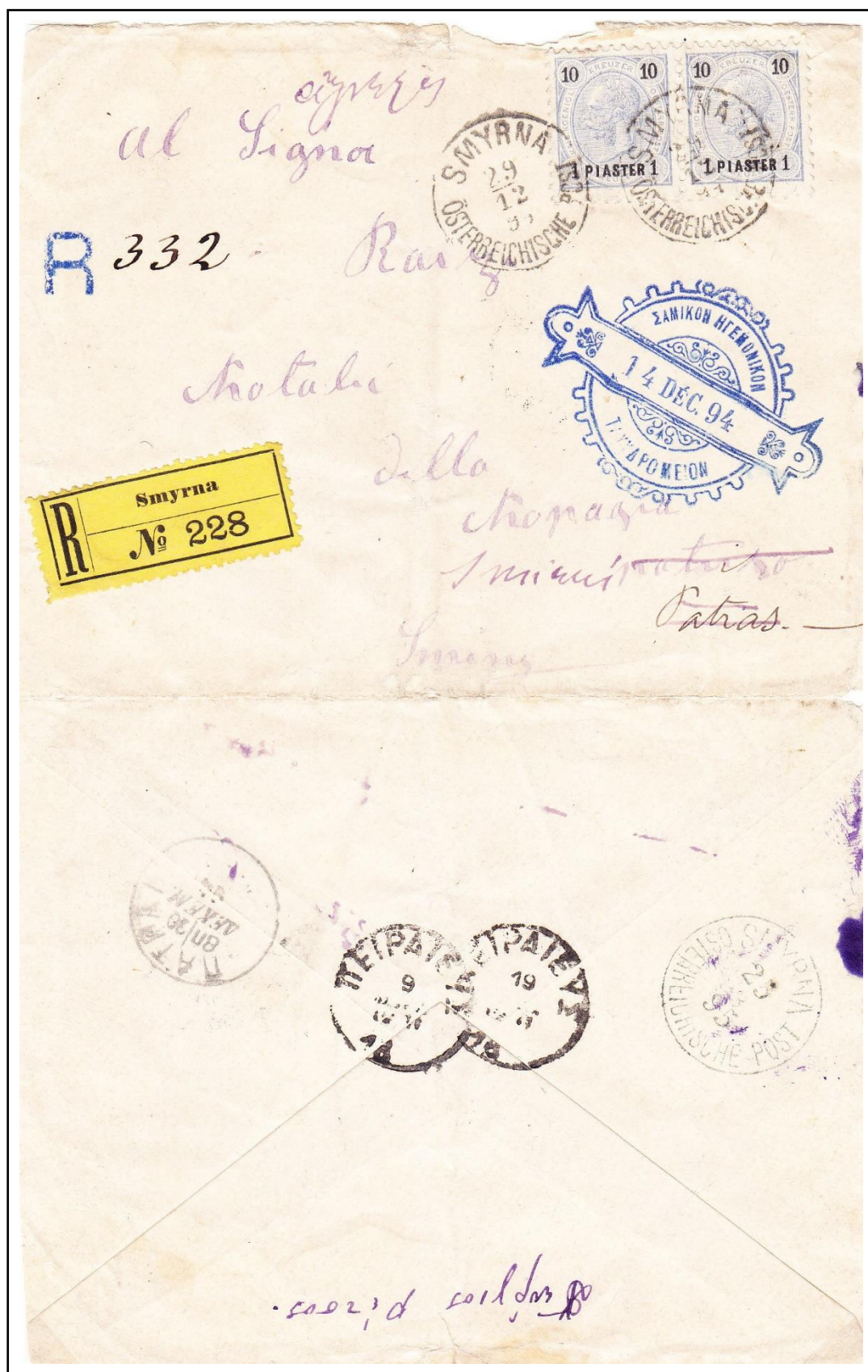
This letter from Samos to Athens was handed-in at Vathy where both the Samian and onwards postage were prepaid. It received the "Samian Post Office in Vathy Port" date-stamp with an unusually clear date of 6 August 1886 (= 18 August by the Gregorian calendar) and an undated transit mark of the Samian exchange office in Smyrna. Then it was handed-over to the Austrian post office in Smyrna correctly franked with a 10 soldi stamp (1883 Levant issue) and cancelled on 20 August 1886. It bears an arrival back-stamp of the Greek post office at Athens dated 9 August 1886 (= 21 August by the Gregorian calendar).

Although rather soiled in appearance, this is the only recorded envelope via the Austrian post office in Smyrna which shows the markings of the Samian Post Offices in both Port Vathy and Smyrna.

3.2 Post office of Principality of Samos 1855-1912

Mail via the exchange p.o. in Smyrna 1894

A new decorative date-stamp reading "SAMIAN PRINCIPALITY POST OFFICE" was introduced in December 1893 and used (at the Head post office?) up to December 1894 (only 5 examples are recorded).



Registered envelope to Patras, Greece, with the above marking dated 14 December 1894 (= 26 December by the Gregorian calendar); marked with the Samian post "R" and ms. "332"; transmitted to Smyrna (no longer marked by the Samian p.o. there) and to the Austrian post office; correctly franked with two 1 piaster stamps (1890 Austrian Levant issue); cancelled "SMYRNA ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST" on 29 December 1894; transit and arrival back-stamps of Piraeus and Patras dated 19 and 20 December 1894 respectively; undelivered at Patras and returned to Smyrna; transit and arrival back-stamps of Piraeus and of the Austrian post office at Smyrna dated 9 and 25 March 1895 respectively.

This printed telegram form dated 19 August 1899 was used locally from Vathy harbour to the Chief of the Gendarmerie franked with the 5 para stamp (local postage rate) of the second issue cancelled in blue with the undated hand-stamp "Samian Post Office Port Vathy" (in use 1882-1912). Apart from this telegram form, which provides a date for the issue, and one undated item of printed matter, also with a 5 para stamp, no further examples of the usage of these stamps are known.

A law of 4 June 1902 provided for the issue of postal stationery envelopes with a blue imprint (reading "PRINCIPALITY OF SAMOS") at the inland letter rate of 10 paras, newspaper wrappers with a similar imprint at 5 paras and parcel wrappers with a red imprint at 1 grosion (= 1 piastre = 40 paras). These colours and rates are confusing, especially when stationery cut-outs were used. This stationery was issued on 1 January 1903 and was apparently tolerated by the Ottoman Authorities although the Grand Visir of the Porte had made clear in a letter of 14 June 1901 that "The Principality's Office has no right to print stamps in its own name and for its own purposes".



This is the earliest used envelope I have seen. It is addressed to the village of Konteika and bears the decorative marking reading "SAMIAN PRINCIPALITY POST OFFICE" which had been in use from December 1893 to December 1894 (at the Head Post Office?). The mechanical date has been removed and the date of 4 March 1903 has been added by hand; interestingly, a value of "10" (paras) was added below the imprint at the same time. Existing unused items and pieces suggest that this may have been a pre-cancel of the items of stationery.

3.2 Post Office of Principality of Samos 1855-1912

Inland mail service reorganized in 1903

The inland mail service was reorganized in a law dated 15 May 1903 which provided for 5 circular routes as shown on this map and gave a comprehensive weekly service. Prepayment was with the newly issued postal stationery. Except for Vathy, the post-offices used no markings; they were run by the local mayors (except for the post office in Karlovassi, the second largest town on Samos, which had a postmaster).



Map ex M. Anagnostou



This postal stationery envelope properly used to "Karlovassi" is cancelled with the standard date-stamp of Port Vathy. The impression is clear, but only the day "23" and the month "MART", but not the year, are visible.

The postal stationery wrappers were little used and cut-out imprints were accepted for franking other items of mail



This envelope is addressed to Marathokampos and bears a cut-out from the wrapper with the blue imprint paying the 10 para inland rate (even though the wrapper was apparently originally sold for only 5 paras); this is cancelled with the standard date-stamp of Port Vathy dated 1 November 1910. The hand-stamp "E.F.E. / 246" is a private marking.

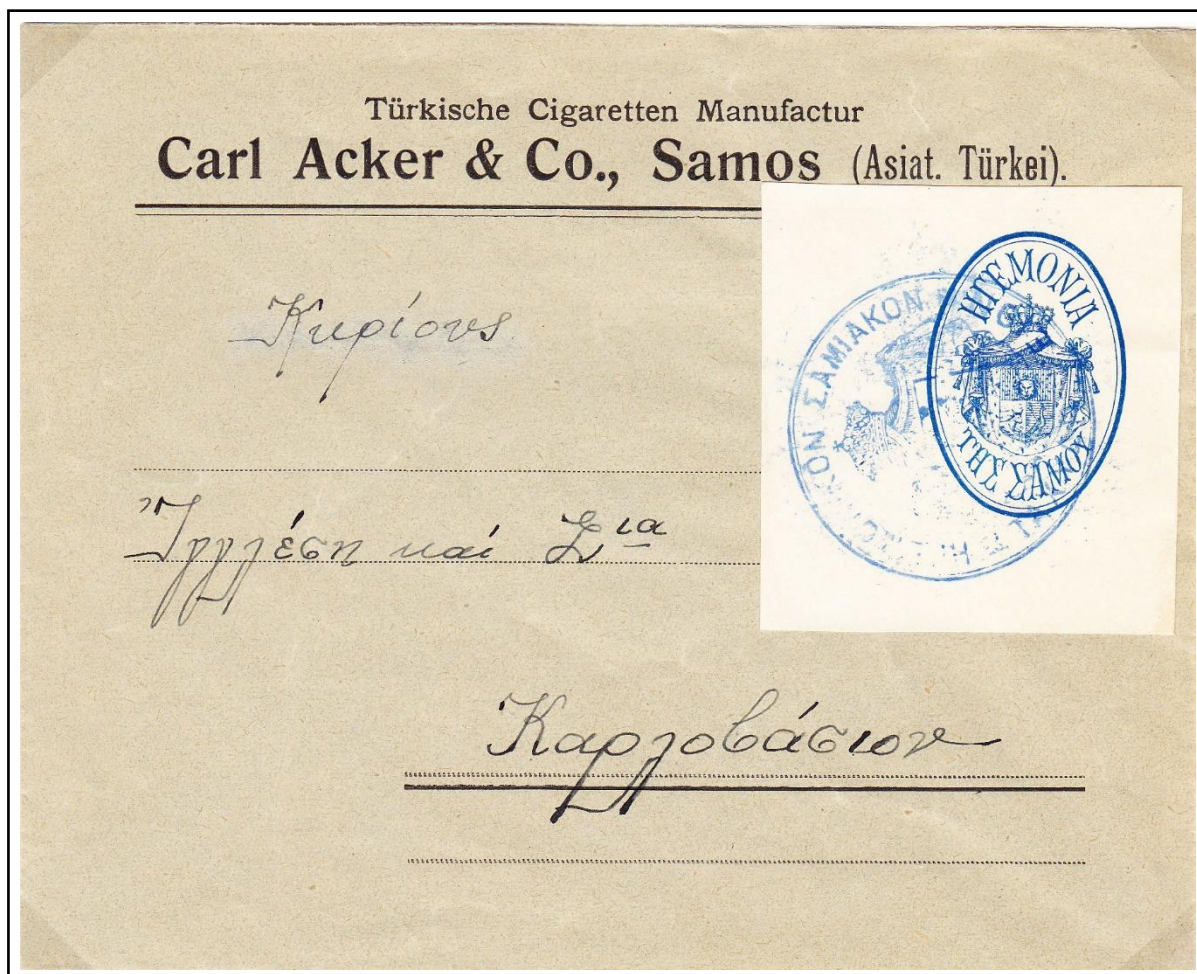


This envelope addressed to the Mayor of Marathokampos bears two cut-outs from wrapper with the red imprint paying the 10 para inland rate (even though the wrappers were apparently originally sold for 40 paras each, the red cut-outs are here used with a value of 5 paras each); cancelled clearly with the standard date-stamp of Port Vathy dated 1 November 1910.

The use of cut-out imprints from wrappers and envelopes was apparently permitted right from their issue in 1903



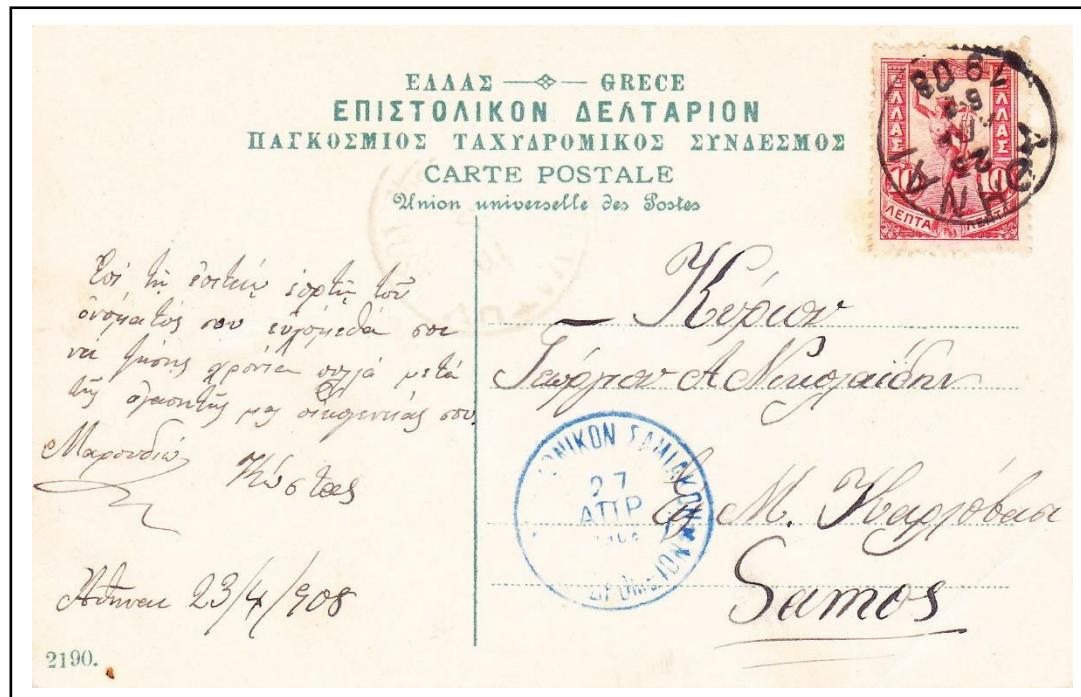
Above: This view-card addressed to Greece is franked with a cut-out from the wrapper with blue imprint which pays the 10 para UPU post-card rate; it is cancelled with the standard date-stamp of Port Vathy dated 20 June 1903 (?); Piraeus arrival date-stamp of 27 June 1903. The sender possibly wanted to frank this card with a Samian "stamp" and not a Turkish or foreign stamp.



This possibly philatelic envelope addressed to Karlovassi is correctly franked with a cut-out from an envelope with the dark blue imprint (from the 1907 printing) paying the 10 para inland rate and is cancelled with the large marking inscribed "Princely Samian Post" ascribed to the General Post Office as from ca. 1903 (4 examples known – none dated).

3.2 Post Office of Principality of Samos 1855-1912 Mail date-stamped by the Head Post Office 1908

Date-stamp "SAMIAN PRINCIPALITY – POST OFFICE" of the Head Post Office of Samos – the 2 recorded examples



This correctly franked view-card sent from Athens to Karlovasion on 25 April 1908 bears transit date-stamps of both the Austrian p.o. and the Samian General post office at Vathy of 27 April 1908 (= 10 May by the Gregorian calendar).



This view-card was sent from Samos to France correctly franked at 20 paras for the Turkish post. It bears the marking of the Samian General post office of 3 May 1908 (= 16 May by the Gregorian calendar) and was cancelled by the Turkish post office at Vathy on the same day. The card bears a transit date-stamp of Stamboul with an illegible date.

3.3 Principality of Samos 1834-1912

Mail to Piraeus by Samian maritime services 1903-12

Mail for Piraeus and the Greek Post could be franked with Greek stamps purchased at the Vathy office of the Samian Steam Navigation Co. and was carried by the steamers "SAMOS" and "Lykourgos", which sailed under the flag of the Principality.

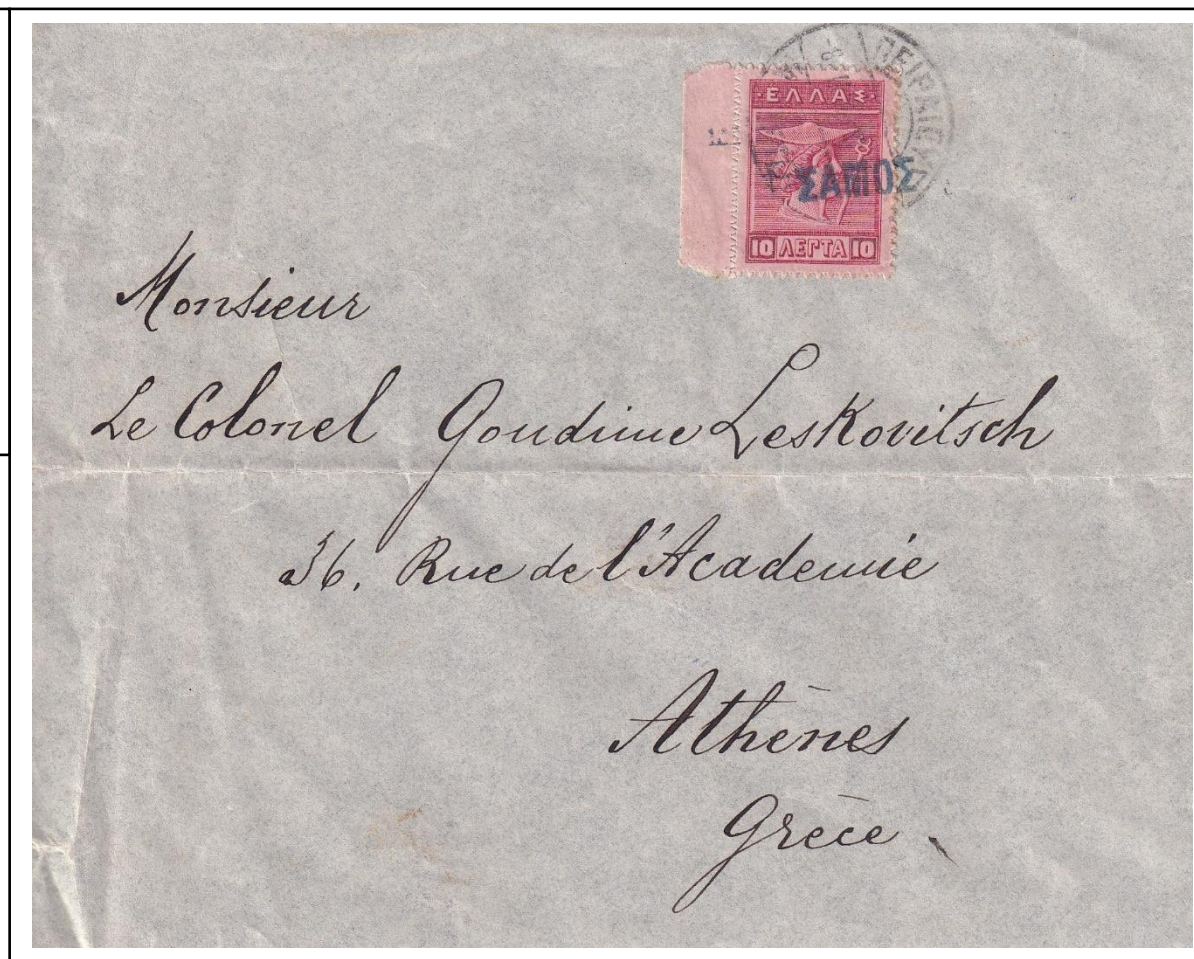


A view-card of Vathy dated 8 November 1903 and sent to Germany; bearing the cachet of the "Samian Steam Navigation Co. in Port Vathy"; franked with a 20 lepta Greek stamp (1901 issue); to Piraeus by the vessel "Lykourgos" and cancelled on arrival there on 27 October 1903 (= 9 November 1903 by the Gregorian calendar); Hornberg arrival date-stamp of 14 November 1903.



Above: A pair of 5 lepta stamps (1911 issue) cancelled first with the ship marking "SAMOS" then with the Piraeus date-stamp of 19 June 1914.

Right: Printed matter from Samos to Athens correctly franked with a 10 lepta stamp (1911 issue) cancelled as above; Piraeus cancellation and Athens arrival back-stamp dated 8 May 1912.



3.3 Principality of Samos ship letters 1834-1912

Letters from Samos by Greek & Turkish ships

In the Levant it was normal for commercial ships to accept mail. It was usual to hand-in the item to the ship's local agency and prepay the postage with a local stamp or with one of the nationality of the vessel.



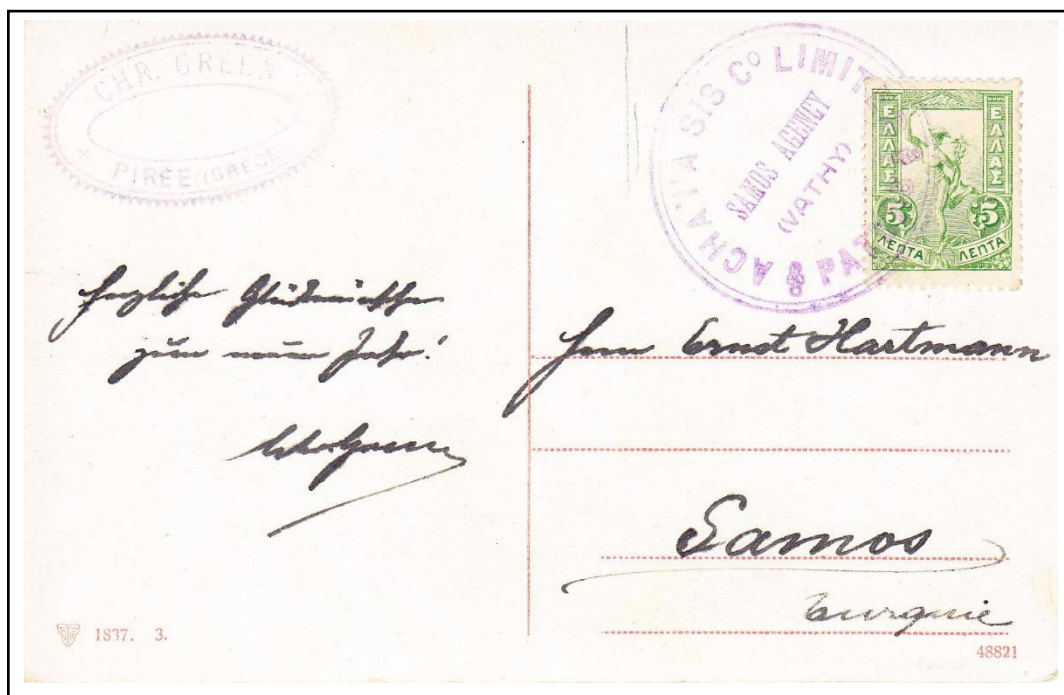
A 20 para stamp of Turkey (1892 issue) cancelled with the oval cachet of the Karlovassi Agency of the Archipelago Steamship Co. Hatzi Daout Farkouh, which was registered under the Turkish flag.



A 20 para post-card of the 1901 issue of Turkey written at Karlovassi on 18 August 1902 and sent to Belgium. It was put uncanceled onto a ship heading to Smyrna, where it received a back-stamp on 19 August and was cancelled with a rare "Paquebot" marking (recorded only 1898-1902). The card received a Brussels arrival date-stamp on 25 August 1902.



A pair of 10 lepta stamps (1901 issue of Greece) cancelled with a later, now Greek, cachet of the Karlovassi Agency of the Archipelago Steamship Co.



An undated greeting-card with short text sent at the printed matter rate from Piraeus to Vathy; franked with a 5 lepta Greek stamp (1901 issue); cancelled on arrival at Vathy with the cachet of the Samos Agency of the Achaia Steamship Co. Limited of Patras (Western Greece).

3.4 Turkish Post Office at Vathy 1868-1912

Hexagonal and seal cancellers used up to 1892

It appears that the Turkish post office at Vathy was opened in 1868, but the Samian post office handled the island's internal mail and initially transferred foreign mail to the Austrian post office in Smyrna.

The first marking of the Turkish post office was a hexagonal canceller and is known only on two loose stamps of the 1868 issue. The next cancellers were negative seal markings dated 1289 (1873) and 1310 (1894).



1 pi. stamp (1868 issue) with a very fine strike of the hexagonal canceller



1 pi. stamp (1892 issue) with the negative seal of Vathy dated 1310 (1894) in violet

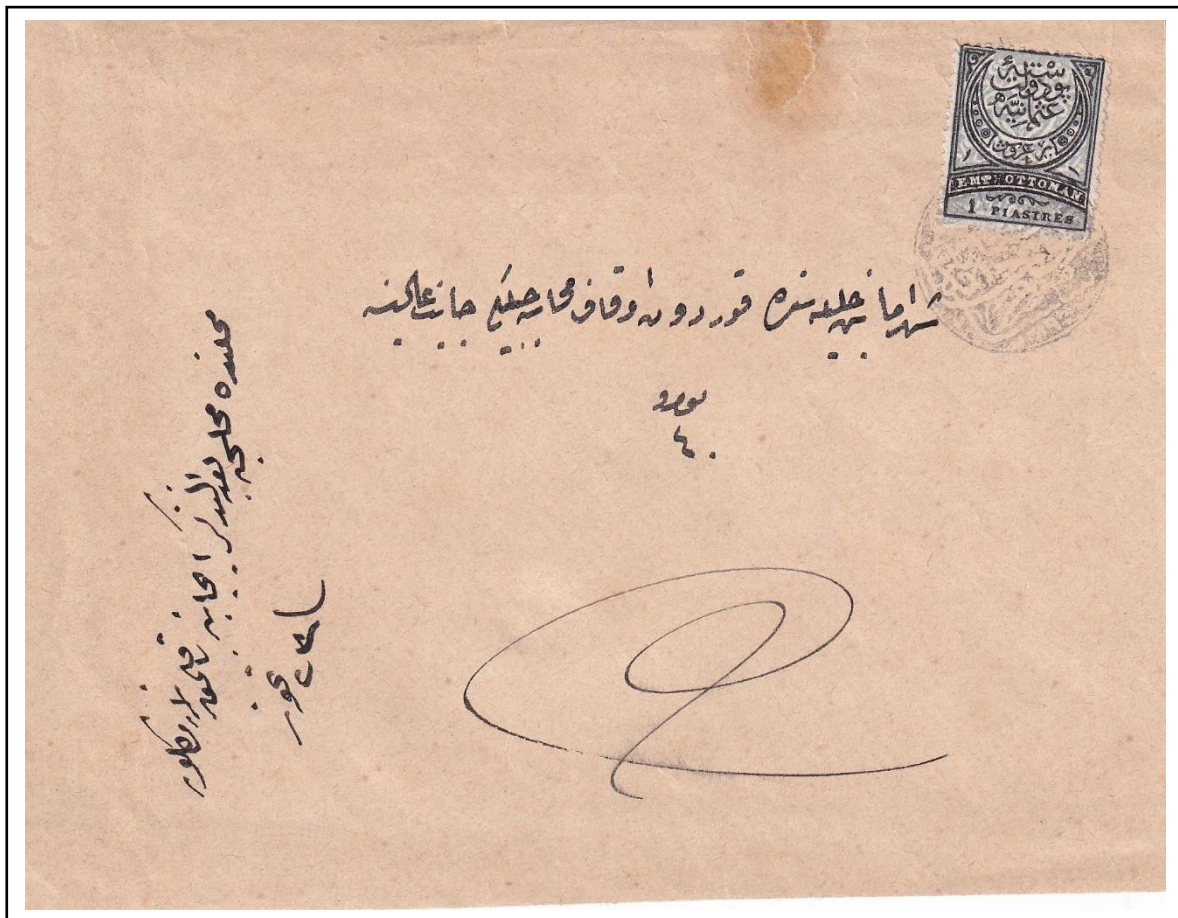


This envelope addressed to the Austrian naval vessel "Radetsky" via the Naval Headquarters at Trieste was underfranked, which lead to postage of 10 kr. due being charged on arrival at Trieste (back-stamp 4 February 1892). The letter was readdressed Smyrna and marked "T 37 1/2 ctmes", the equivalent of the 15 kr. Levant sea carriage, (arrival back-stamp of Austrian p.o. at Smyrna dated 10 February 1892?). At Smyrna, the letter was readdressed to Samos; it bears an arrival back-stamp of the Austrian p.o. at Vathy dated 13 February 1892 and a date-stamp of the Turkish p.o. at Vathy dated 14 February (type recorded only 1889-90); postage due of twice the inland rate was collected using two 20 para postage-due stamps (1888 issue) which were cancelled with the negative seal translating "Telegraph and post office of Samos 1289 (= 1873 AD)", which is otherwise recorded only from the period 1873-89.

3.4 Turkish post office at Vathy 1868 – 1912

Negative seal marking dated 1289 (1873)

The second canceller was a negative seal bearing the inscription “Telegraph and Post Office Sisam” and date 1289 (1873). This is **recorded on two outgoing letters** to Constantinople: above a front with 1 piastres black/slate (issued 15.5.1880); below a cover to the treasury with 1 piastre black/blue (issued 1.4.1881) ©.



The first bi-lingual date-stamp of the Turkish p.o. at Vathy was introduced in 1889 and is known until 1893



An envelope to France from the agent of the Messageries Maritimes at Vathy correctly franked as printed matter with a 10 para stamp (1892 issue); cancelled as above on 22 February 1893; transit back-stamps of the Turkish p.o. at Smyrna and the Constantinople-Mustapha Pasha T.P.O. dated 25 February and 1 March 1893; Carentoir arrival back-stamp with illegible date.



A similar envelope correctly franked at the U.P.U. rate with a pair of 20 para stamps (1890 issue); cancelled as above on 10 December 1890; transit date-stamps of the Turkish p.o.'s at Smyrna and Constantinople dated 13 and 16 December 1890; French T.P.O. transit and Lyon arrival date-stamps of 20 December 1890.

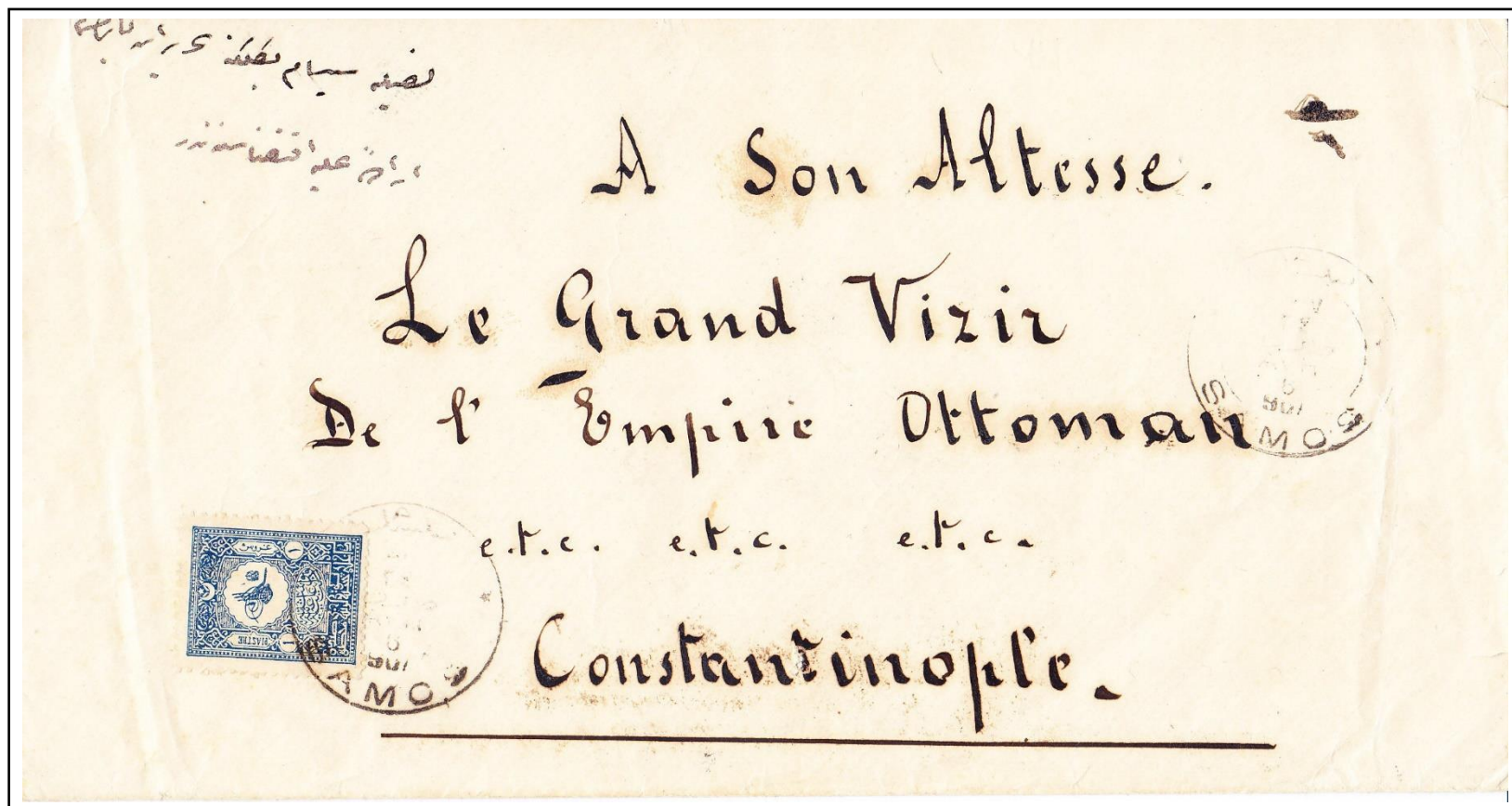
3.4 Turkish Post Office at Vathy 1868-1912

Mail to Turkey 1897 and 1901

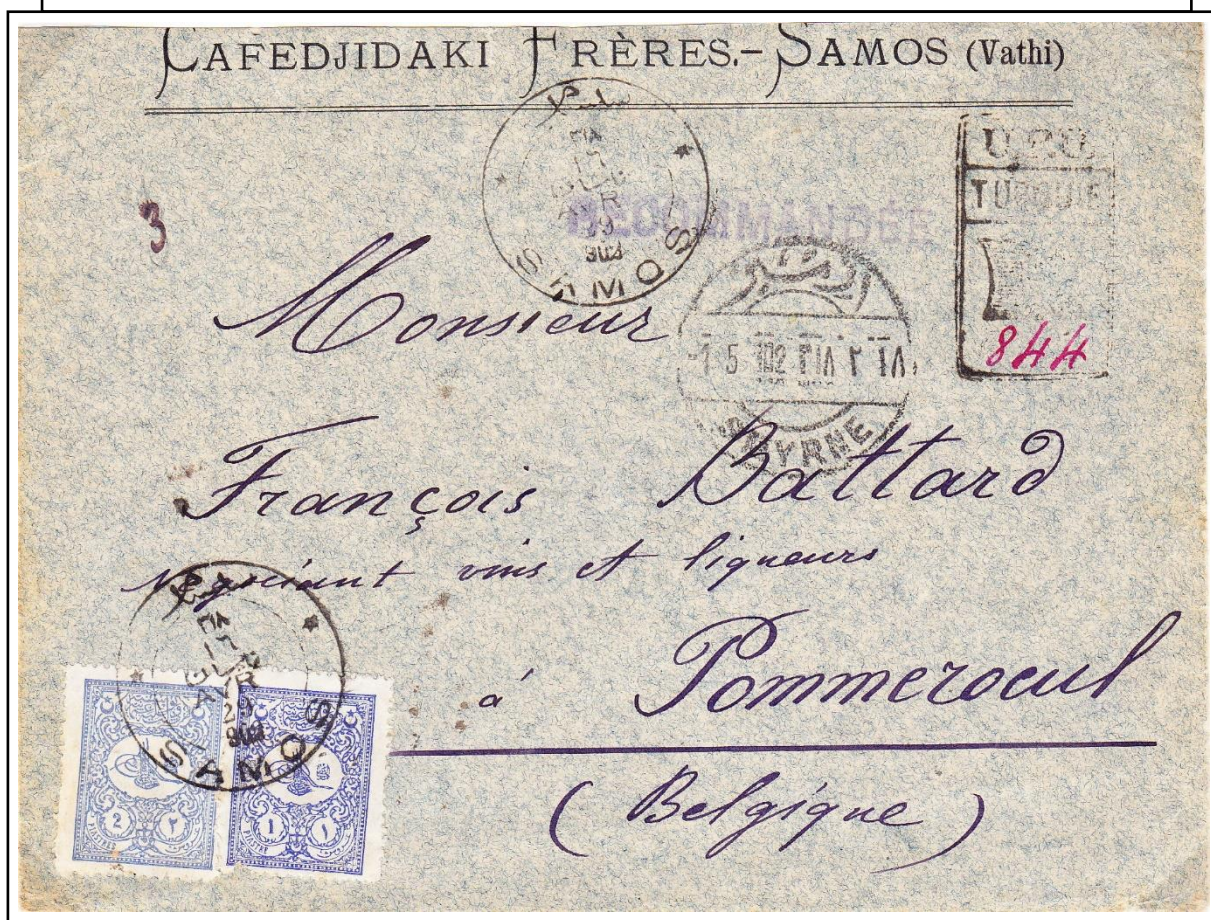
A new bi-lingual date-stamp (with wider spacing) was in use at the Turkish p.o. at Vathy from 1892 to 1904



This registered cover to Constantinople is correctly franked at 20 paras inland postage plus 40 paras registration with five pairs and two singles of the 5 para on 10 para provisional printed matter stamp of March 1897; cancelled in blue with the above date-stamp; with arrival back-stamp Galata (Mevrude) (type recorded only 1898).



This overweight cover to the Prime Minister in Constantinople is correctly franked at 40 paras with a stamp of the 1901 issue; cancelled as above on 6 April 1901; with transit and arrival back-stamps of Smyrna and Constantinople.



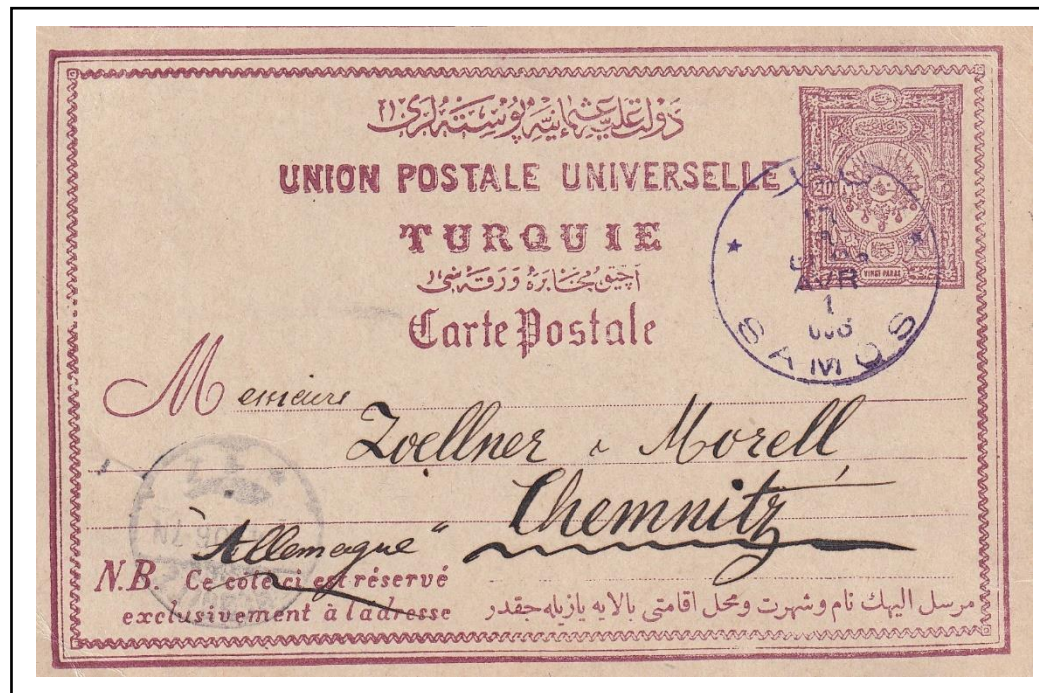
Above: This envelope to Italy bears the printed heading of a firm in Marathokambos in the western part of Samos; carried privately to Vathy (no markings of the Samian post); correctly franked at UPU rate with a pair of 20 para stamps (1892 issue); cancelled in black with Turkish Samos date-stamp dated 3 August 1900 (type recorded 1892-1903); with Smyrna and Savona transit and arrival back-stamps dated 10 August and 17 August 1900.

Below: This overweight registered letter to Belgium is correctly franked at 2 piastres postage plus 1 piastre registration (issue as above); cancelled as above on 29 April 1902; with Smyrna transit date-stamp of 1 May and arrival back-stamp of 7 May 1902.

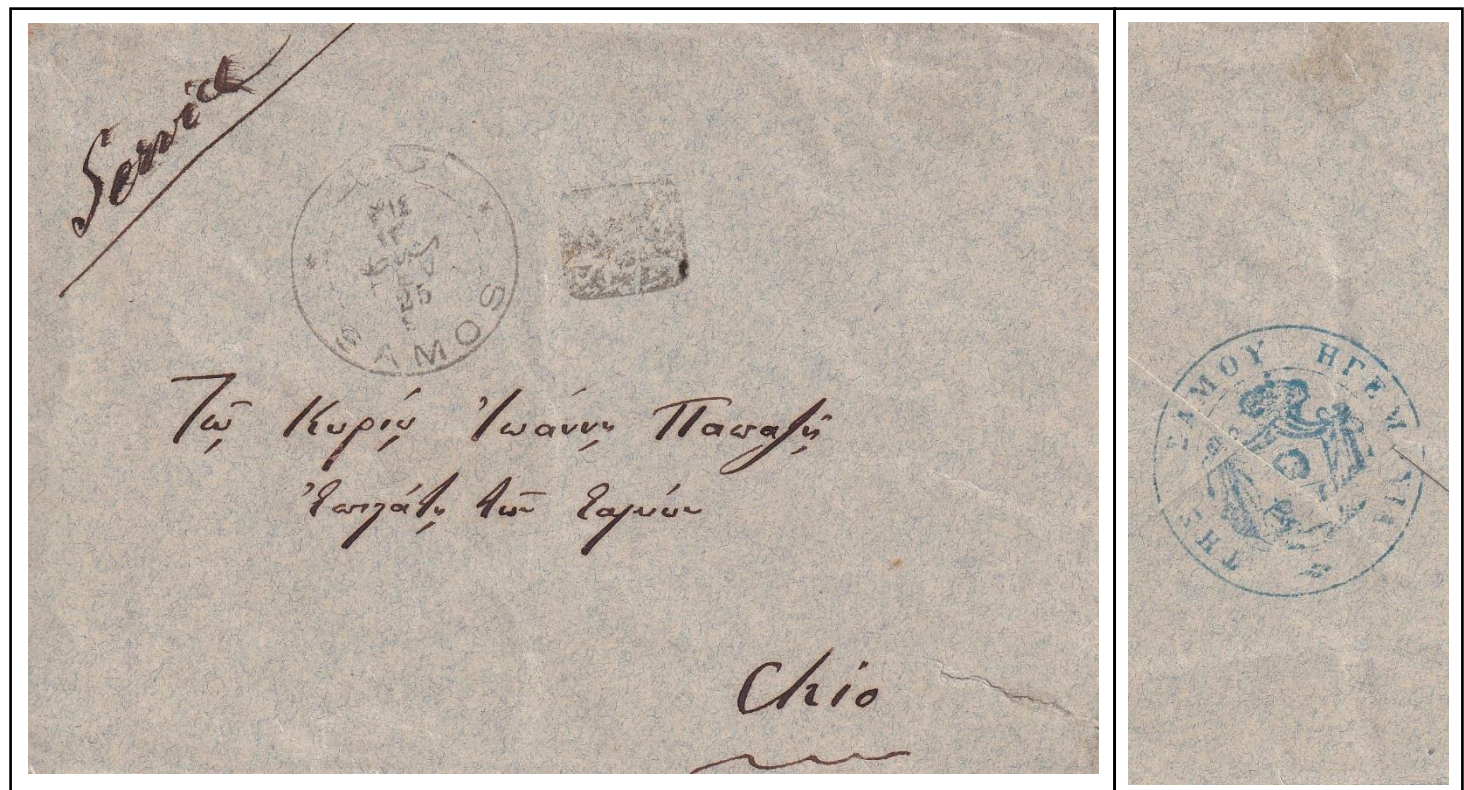
3.4 Turkish post office at Vathy 1868-1912

Early and late use of wide 6-line date-stamp

Items of mail with the wide-lettered date-stamp with 6-line date (recorded 1892 to 1906)



A 20 para post-card (1892 issue) used to Germany and cancelled in violet with the above date-stamp on 1 April 1906; with Smyrna and Chemnitz transit and arrival date-stamps of ? and 7 April 1906.



This official cover from the Government of the Principality of Samos (see cachet on reverse) was sent postage-free to Chios via the Turkish post office, receiving the above date-stamp on 25 February 1897.



This view-card to Austria is correctly franked at the 20 para UPU rate with a 20 para stamp (1901 issue for foreign mail); cancelled in black with the 30mm Samos date-stamp dated 24 January 1904 (type recorded only 1892-1903); with Smyrna and Vienna transit and arrival date-stamps of 26 and 31 January 1904.

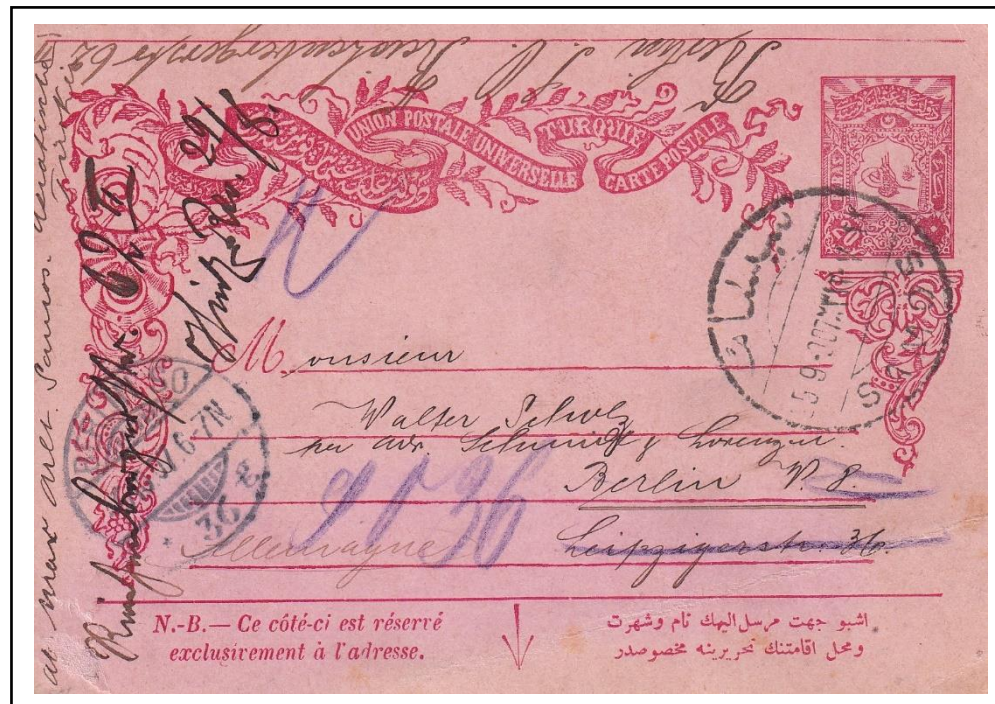


This view-card to Austria is correctly franked at the same rate with two 10 para stamps (same issue); similarly cancelled exactly one year earlier, on 24 January 1903; with Smyrna and Trieste transit and arrival date-stamps of 25 and 31 January 1903. The card is amusing: the heading on the address side says "Republic of France" – which does not appear to have given rise to any objections – and the text on the view side indicates a publisher in the Netherlands, who spelled Vathy as "Vathij".

3.4 Turkish Post Office at Vathy 1868-1912

New belt-type date-stamps from 1902

New date-stamps, with the date in a belt across the centre of the hand-stamp, were introduced in 1902. The first type of these, with the Arabic date at the right, is recorded from 1902 to 1912.



A Turkish 20 para post-card (1905 issue) sent to Germany and cancelled as above on 25 September 1907. Readdressed within Berlin and date-stamped on 5 October 1907.



A letter to Germany franked at the UPU rate with a 1 piastre stamp (1901 issue) cancelled as above on 27 May 1904. With Smyrna transit and Frankfurt arrival back-stamps of 30 May and 3 June 1904.

3.4 Turkish Post Office at Vathy 1868-1912 Reduced price “Béhié” overprinted stamps from 1905

Mail with “Béhié” stamps and the first belt-type date-stamp with Arabic date at right, type recorded 1902-12



Above: to Austria with one 1 pi. stamp from 11 February 1912. Below: To Switzerland with two 20 pa. stamps from 20 Oct. 1907

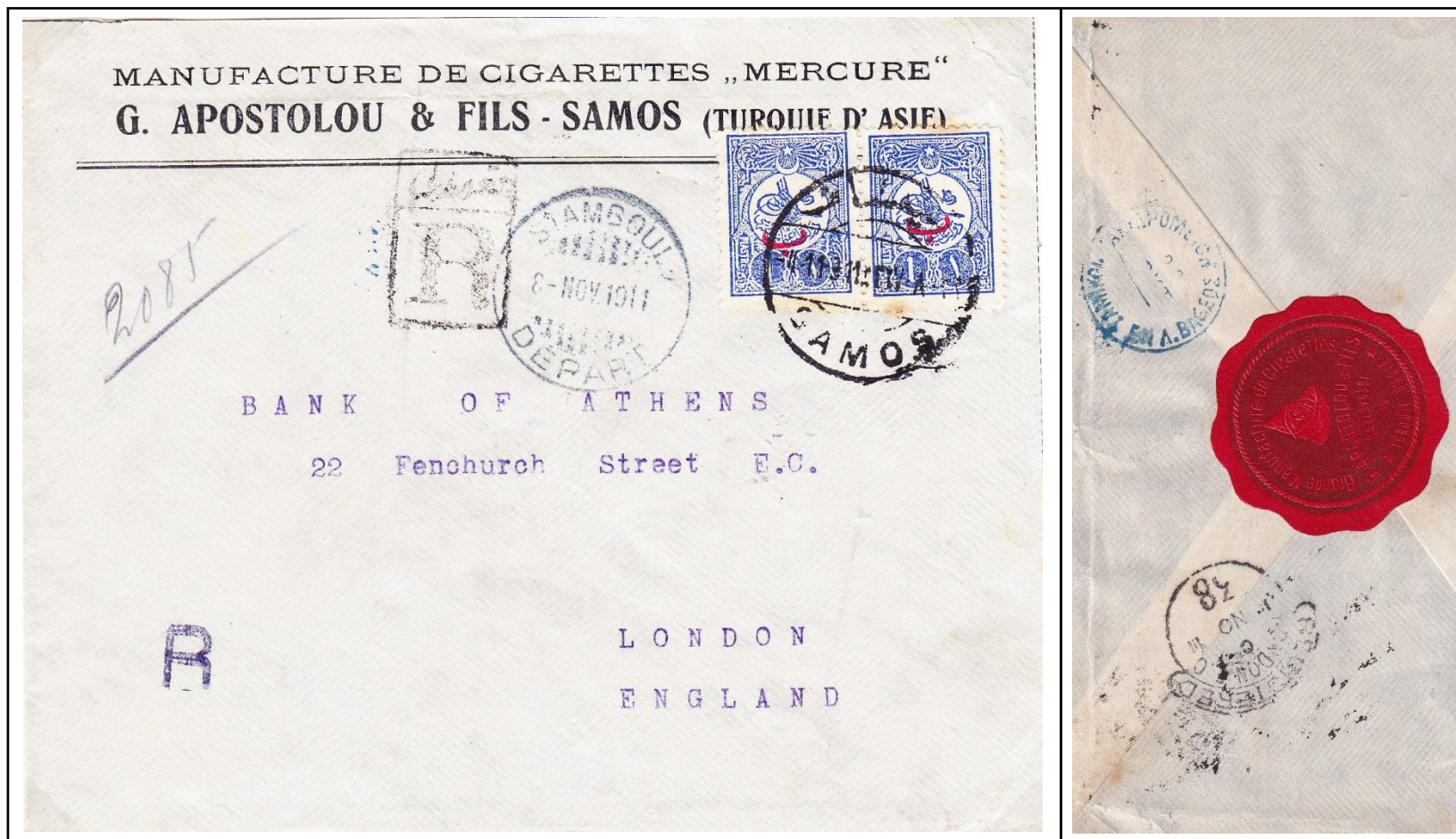
3.4 Turkish post office at Vathy 1868-1912

International mail with first belt-type date-stamp

Mail bearing the first belt-type date-stamp, this type recorded 1902-12



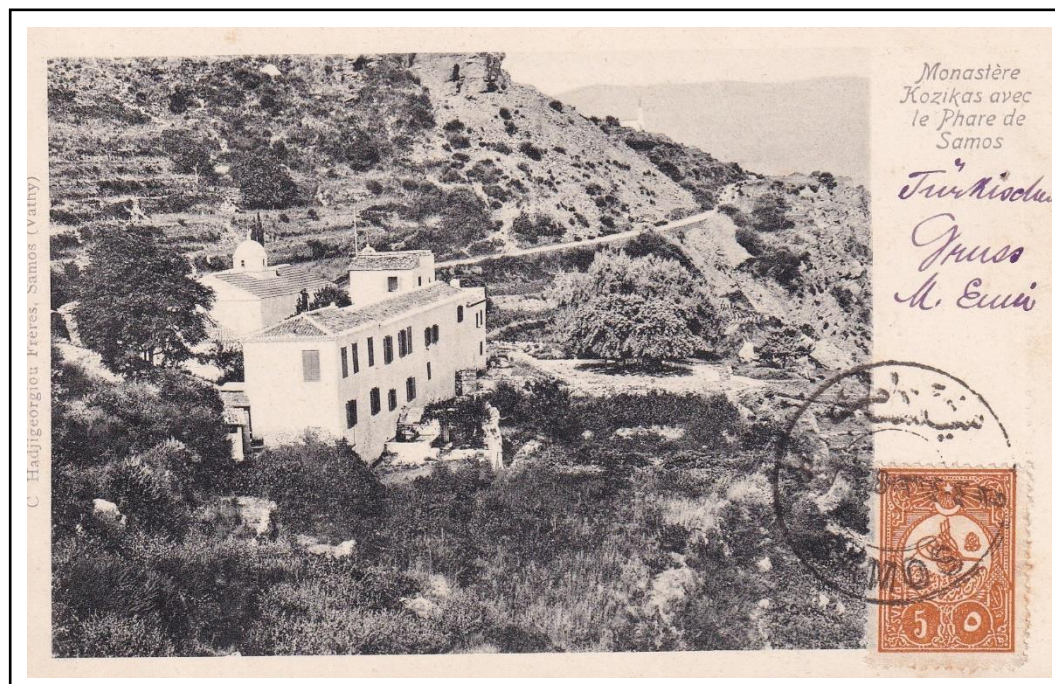
This 20 Pfennig German post-card (1908 issue) was properly used to Samos and cancelled at Rostock on 17 March 1912. The Turkish post office objected to the presence of foreign post-offices and treated the card as unpaid, charging 1 pi. postage due and using a pair of 20 para stamps (1908 issue) on ? March 1912. First type Samos belt date-stamp with Arabic date at left.



A registered cover from Karlovassi to London handed-in to the Samian post, with an "R" marking and a back-stamp of the Samian p.o. at Vathy of 22 October (= 4 November by the Gregorian calendar). Correctly franked with two 1 piastre stamps (1910 "Béhié" issue sold at a 20% discount) and handed over to the Turkish post office at Vathy; re-registered and cancelled with the above date-stamp on 4 November 1911; Stamboul transit date-stamp of 8 November 1911. Right: a photocopy of part of the back with the seal of the sender in Karlovassi, the Samian p.o. back-stamp and a London arrival back-stamp of 18? November 1911.

3.4 Turkish Post Office at Vathy 1868-1912 Second belt-type date-stamp with Arabic date at right

International mail bearing the second belt-type date-stamp, which is recorded from 1905 to 1912

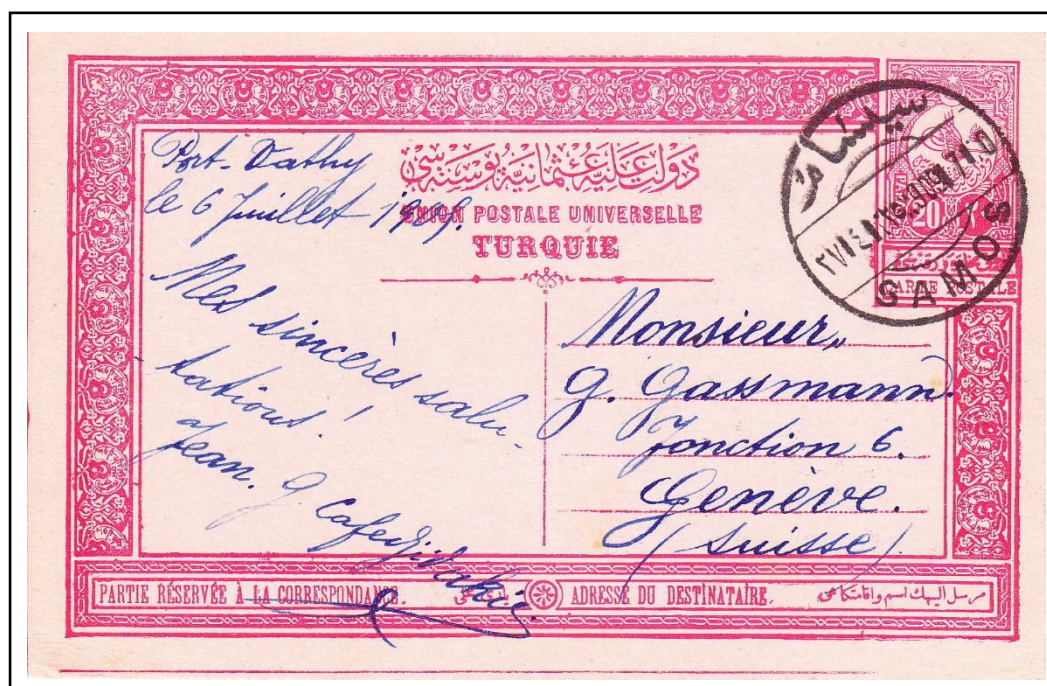


Short-text view-card sent to Denmark as printed matter with a 5 pa. stamp (1908 issue) and cancelled on 8 July 1908



A registered letter to Egypt handed-in to the Samian post and back-stamped by the Samian p.o. at Port Vathy on 25 August 1912 (= 7 September by the Gregorian calendar), also hand-stamped with the "SYSTEMENON" marking (= "registered" – one of 3 examples recorded). Then handed over to the Turkish post office at Vathy; re-registered and correctly franked with two 1 piastre stamps (1910 "Béhié" issue sold at a 20% discount); cancelled with the above date-stamp on 7 September 1912; no transit or arrival back-stamps but part of back of envelope missing. At the right: a photocopy of part of the back of the envelope.

First belt-type date-stamp with Arabic date at left recorded only 1908-09



A 20 para post-card (1908 foreign mail issue) used to Switzerland; cancelled with the 1908 type date-stamp on 10 July 1909; transit back-stamp of the Turkish p.o. at Constantinople dated 12 July 1909.



A wine-merchant's cover sent to Germany correctly franked with two 20 para stamps of the 1908 Constitution commemorative issue cancelled as above on 5 December 1909.



Above: Letters to Germany correctly franked with "Béhié" stamps (1908 issue); cancelled with a date-stamp recorded 1905-12.
 Above: Registered with two 1 piastre stamps on 22 April 1908. Below: Printed matter with a 10 para stamp on 10 March 1910.

3.4 Turkish Post Office at Vathy 1868-1912

Mail to and from Africa 1903 and 1906

Although Samos mail to Europe is normal, mail to and from Africa is already difficult

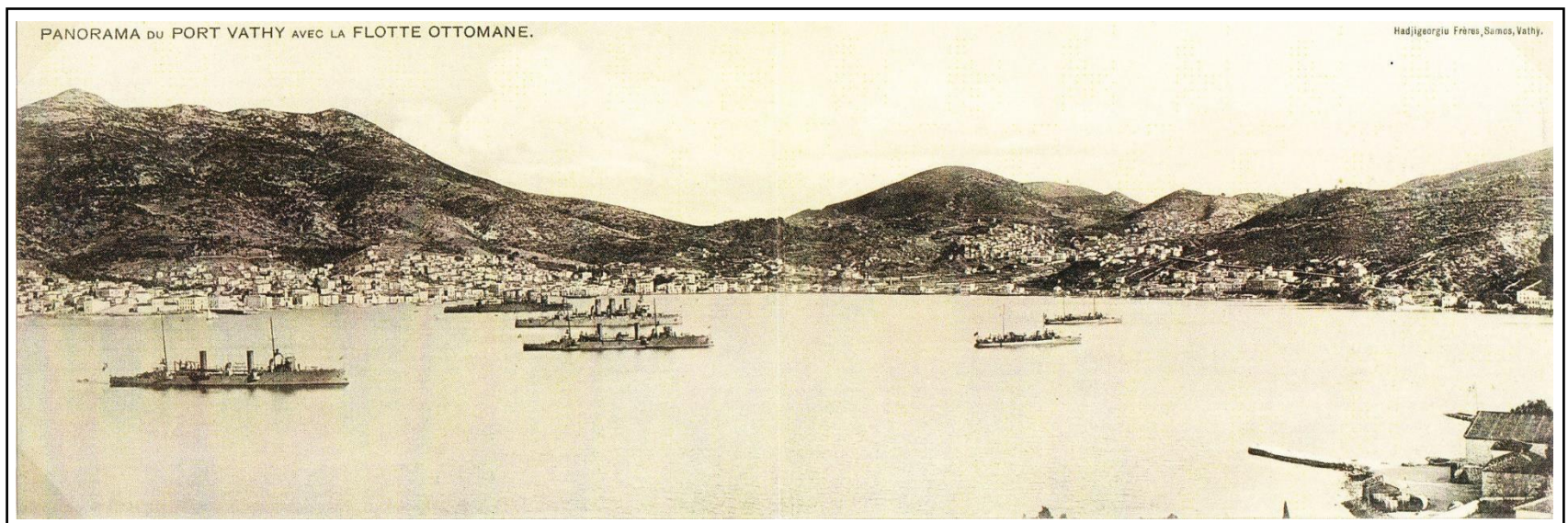


A letter sent from French Madagascar to Samos on 13 August 1903; put on board the French packet "Djemnah" at Diego-Suarez on 5 September and unloaded at Suez (back-stamp 16 September). Apart from an illegible back-stamp of the Turkish p.o. at Smyrna, the rest of the journey to Samos is not evidenced.



This 20 para envelope of the 1905 issue supplemented with a 20 para stamp was sent from Samos to the Gold Coast and cancelled on 7? September 1906. It transited London on 22 September and remained undelivered after arrival at Tarkwa on 15 October. On its return journey to Samos, the cover reached the British p.o. at Smyrna on 14 November and was passed to the Turkish p.o. at Smyrna on 15 November for forwarding to Samos. Right: copy of part of back.

First belt-type date-stamp with Arabic date at left recorded only 1908-09



A double view-card showing a panorama of the Port of Vathy with the Ottoman fleet (below at 80%); written at Samos on 26 August 1909 (= 7 September 1909 by the Gregorian calendar) and addressed to Austria bearing a 10 para Turkish stamp (1908 "Béhié" issue) paying the printed matter rate, cancelled at Samos on the same day with the above date-stamp; further franked with a 5 heller Austrian stamp (inland post-card rate) cancelled with the date-stamp of the S.M.S. "Archduke Karl" on 27 August 1909. This double-card would normally have been franked at the letter rate but it was here apparently accepted as printed matter and possibly treated as Austrian Naval mail.

New, smaller, date-stamps were introduced in the Turkish post offices in the Aegean Islands between 1910 and 1912; that from Samos is recorded only from a few months in 1912.



This printed matter cover to Prague is typical for the mailings of the many cigarette and wine price lists despatched from Samos to Western Europe; it is correctly franked as printed matter with a 10 para "Béhié" stamp of the 1909 issue (sold at 8 paras); cancelled at Samos on 31 August 1912 with the new, smaller, date-stamp with code number "3" (recorded only from 1912).

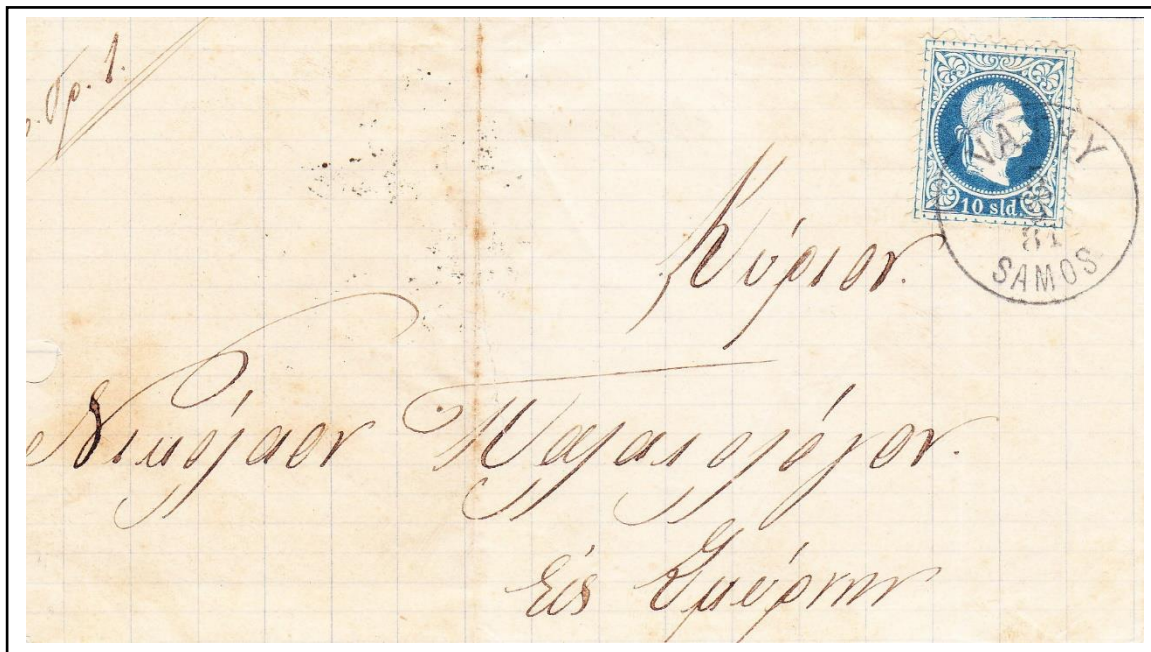
Ships of the Austrian Lloyd Trieste-Constantinople-Odessa Line started calling at Vathy in 1880 and the Austrian post office there was apparently opened in 1881.

Mail from the Austrian Post Office from the 1880's is seldom seen but international travel and, in particular, the export of wine and cigarettes from Samos to Europe gave rise to a wide variety of fascinating commercial mail as from the late 1890's.



The Austrian Lloyd Agency at Vathy did not itself normally accept mail; but this printed envelope to Trieste originated from the Agency itself and was handed directly to the Lloyd vessel "V" ("Apollo"), receiving the ship's date-stamp on 2 November 1901. It is correctly franked with four 10 pa stamps (1900 Levant issue), which are cancelled in red with the oval cachet of the Agency (only one other example is known - from 1914). The envelope has Trieste arrival and delivery back-stamps of 10 and 11 November 1901.

Relatively little mail is seen from the first ten years of the Austrian post office at Vathy



This cover to Smyrna was correctly franked with a 10 s. stamp, cancelled with the first date-stamp of the Austrian post office at Vathy on 5 September 1881. The cover has an arrival back-stamp of the Austrian post office at Smyrna of 5 September 1881.



This registered envelope was sent from London to Karlovassia on Samos on 23 May 1891 and was presumably originally also franked with a 2½d stamp prepaying the postage. The reverse shows transit date-stamps of London Regent St. of 23 May 1891, the Austrian post office at Smyrna of 3 June 1891, the Austrian post office at Vathy of 7 June 1891 and the Samian post office at Vathy (date illegible).

Austrian post-cards for international use had been issued with an overprinted value of 20 paras for use in Turkey as from 1888 but it is not clear from what date these were available in Vathy.



A self-made "U.P.U." post-card to Trieste (Austria) correctly franked at 20 paras with a bisected 1 piaster stamp (1890-96 Levant issue); cancelled on 18(?) February 1892 with the "VATHY SAMOS" date-stamp (regularly used 1881-95); with a Trieste arrival date-stamp of 25 February 1892.



A cover sent registered (boxed Greek registration mark on front) from Zakynthos in the Ionian Islands to Samos in 1895 franked with bisected Greek stamps. At first sight, this looks very suspicious! But the sending of small envelopes containing visiting cards as New Year greetings was quite normal and $\frac{1}{2}$ of a 5 lepta stamp (1889 issue) plus $\frac{1}{2}$ of a 5 lepta postage-due stamp (1876 issue) pays the visiting card rate of 5 lepta; further, $\frac{1}{2}$ of a 60 lepta postage stamp (1876 issue) pays the registration fee of 30 lepta. These stamps are cancelled with the Zakynthos date-stamp of 2 January 1895, which is also on the reverse of the cover (100% copy at right); this bears an arrival back-stamp of the Austrian post office at Vathy dated 17 January 1895.

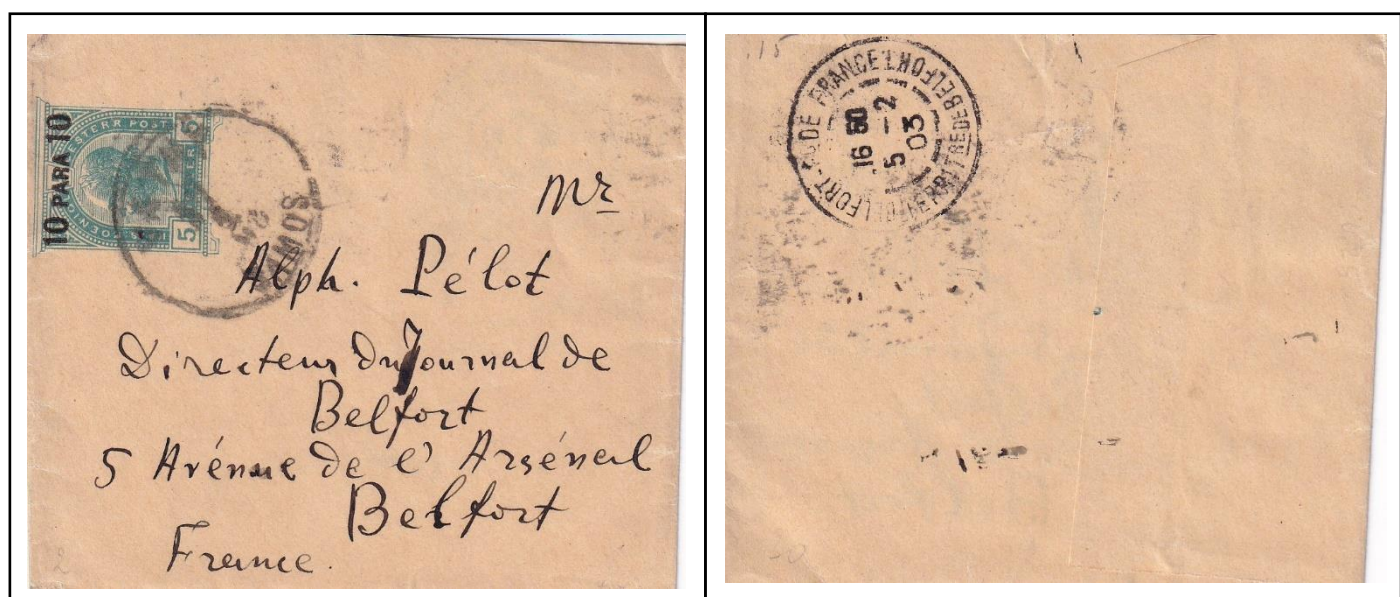
3.5 Austrian post office at Vathy 1881-1914

Mail with the first date-stamp recorded 1881-1914

Postal stationery cards and wrappers were frequently used for international commercial mail

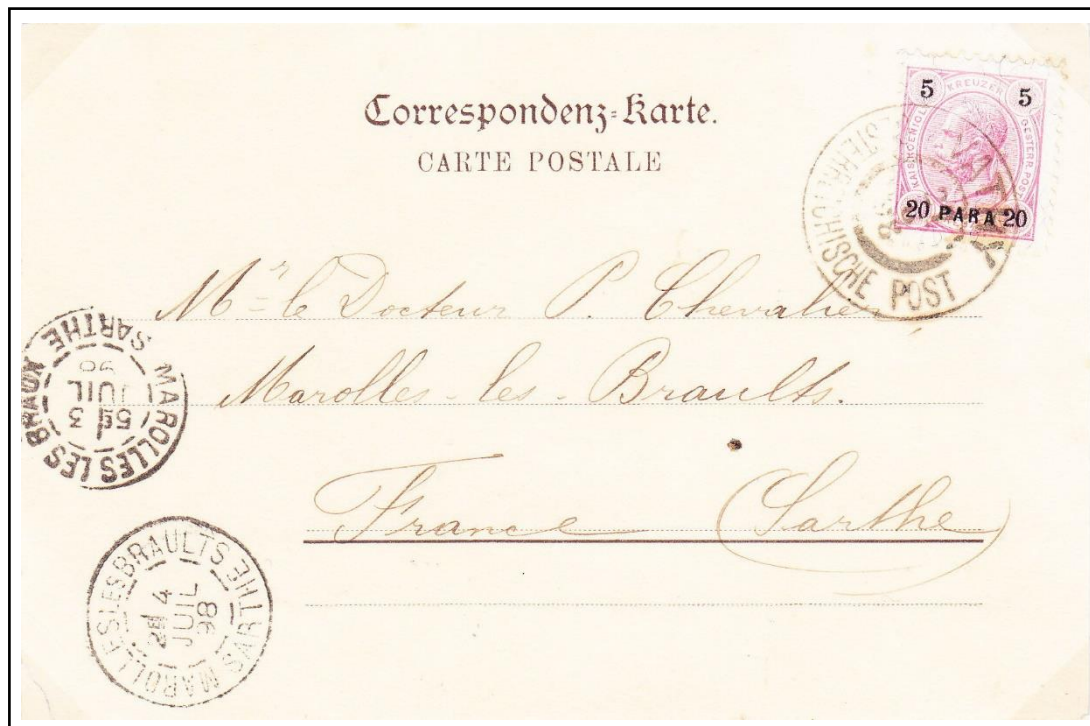


A 20 para post-card (1891-98 Levant issue) used to Sweden; cancelled on 13 July 1896 with the above date-stamp; arrival back-stamp of Gothenburg dated 20 July 1896.

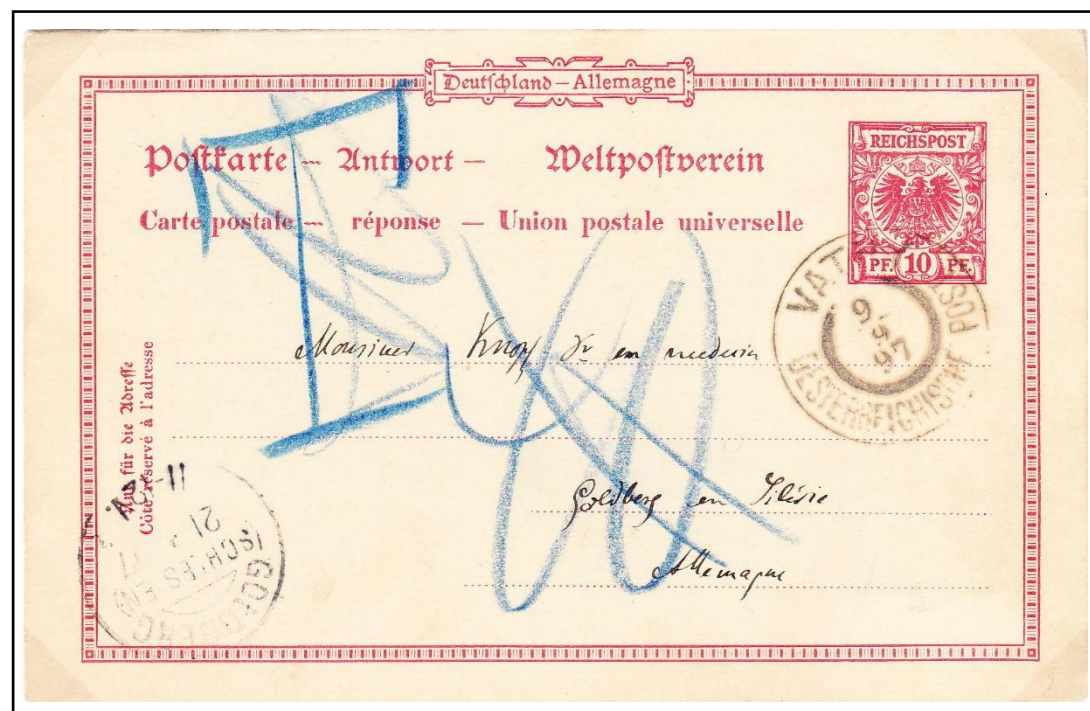


A 10 para wrapper (1891-98 Levant issue) used to France; cancelled on 17 January 1903 with the above date-stamp; arrival back-stamp of Belfort dated 5 February 1903.

A new date-stamp reading "VATHY OESTERREICHISCHE POST" of a standard type with thick inner ring was introduced in 1895 and regularly used until the closure of the office in 1914).



A view-card to France correctly franked with a 20 para stamp (1890 Levant issue); cancelled on 27 June 1898 with the above date-stamp; Marolles, Sarthe arrival date-stamps of 3 and 4 July 1898.



A 10 pfennig reply-card (1889 issue of Germany) used for return to Germany (at first erroneously thought not to be valid and postage due marked "T 40"); cancelled as above on 9 September 1897; incoming Athens transit back-stamp of 17 August 1897 (= 29 August); Goldberg arrival date-stamp of 21 September 1897.



Address-label franked at 70 pa for a weight of 90-105g with a 1 pi (40 pa) stamp (1903 Levant issue) plus 5 and 10 centime (10 + 20 pa) stamps (1903 Crete issue) cancelled with the "VATHY OESTERREICHISCHE POST" date-stamp (date illegible).



A wrapper franked at 50 pa for a weight of 60-75g with a 1 pi (40 pa) stamp (1900 Levant issue) plus a 5 centime (10 pa) stamp (1903 Crete issue); a further 1 pi stamp paid the registration fee; cancelled as above on 17 June 1903; Augsburg arrival 25 June.

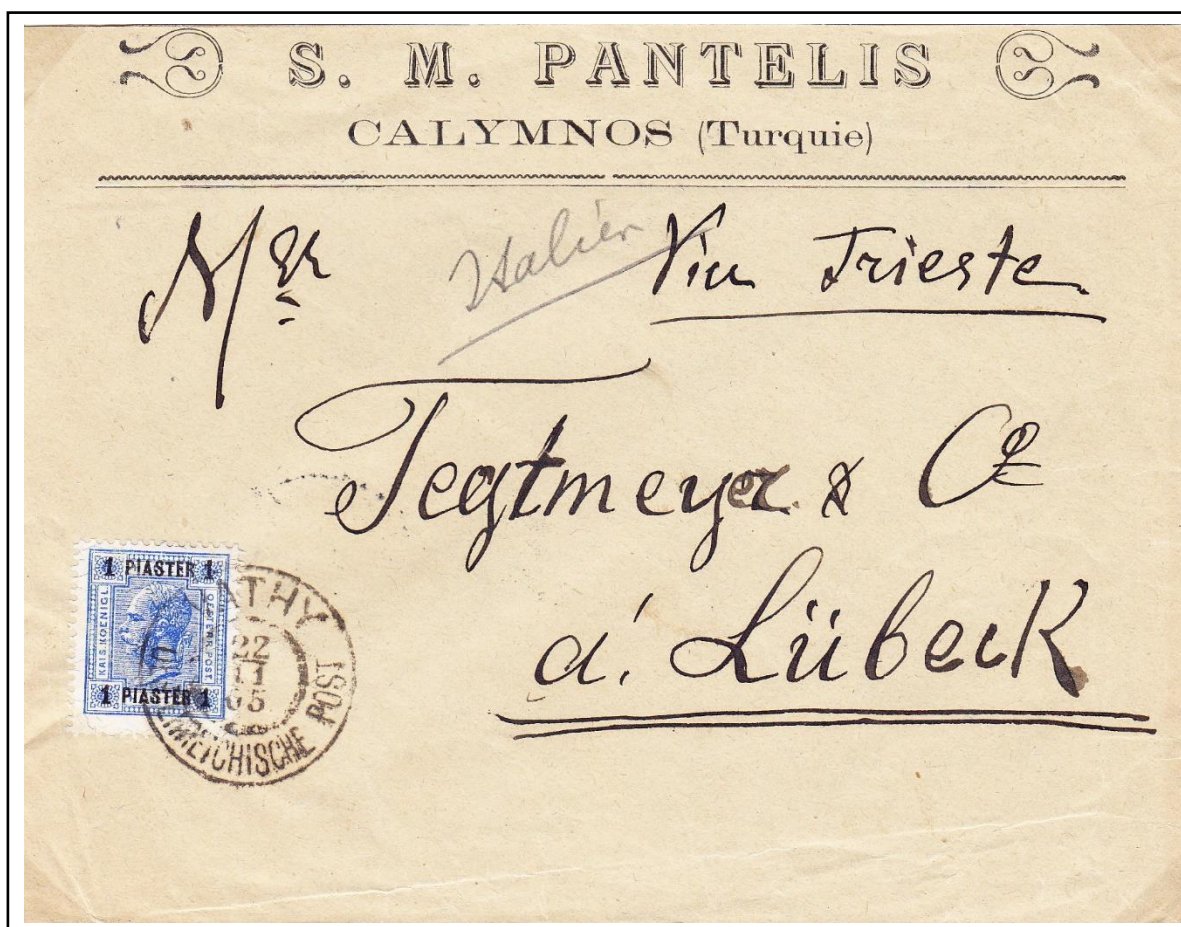
3.5 Austrian post office at Vathy 1881-1914

Extensive mail to Western Europe 1904/05

Commercial mail using Austrian stamps and postal stationery overprinted for sale in Turkish currency

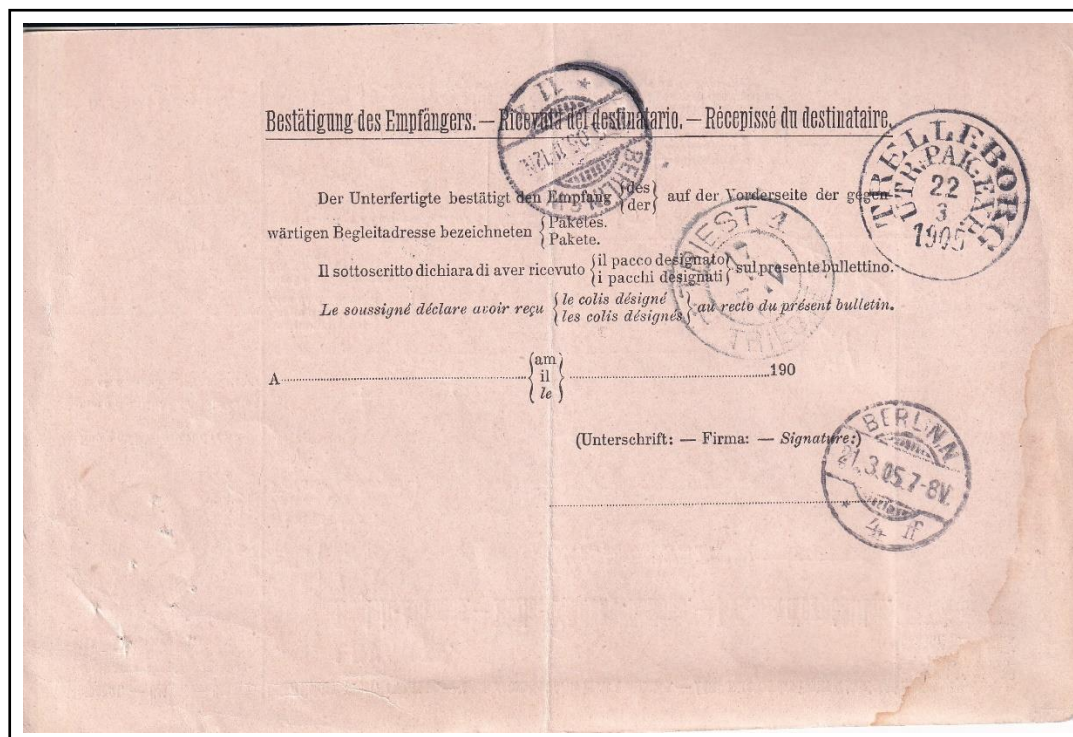


A view-card to Austria correctly franked with a cut-out from a 10 para wrapper (1900 Levant issue); cancelled on 20 February 1904 with the "VATHY OESTERREICHISCHE POST" date-stamp; Trieste arrival date-stamp 26 February 1904; treated as unpaid and 20 heller postage due charged using two 10 heller postage due stamps. Such cut-outs were, however, officially used by the Austrian post office at Vathy between 19 and 21 February 1904 during a shortage of 10 para stamps.



An envelope with the imprint of a sender on the Dodecanese island of Calymnos (probably regarding the export of sponges) carried privately to Vathy and handed-in at the Austrian post office; correctly franked with a 1 piastre stamp (1903 Levant issue); cancelled as above on 22 November 1905; Lübeck arrival back-stamp of 2 December 1905.

The large volume in cigarette exports from Samos to Western Europe and beyond from the beginning of the 20th Century up to World War I provides us with a wide variety of parcel cards.



Abschnitt. — Cedola. — Coupon. Österreichische Postverwaltung

(Kann vom Empfänger abgetrennt werden. — Può essere staccata dal destinatario. — Peut être détaché par le destinataire.)

Colis postal Vathy-Samos öst. Post 123 124

LEVANTE. Begleit-Adresse. — Bullettino di spedizione. — Bulletin d'expédition.

Hiebei Annesso Ci-joint

Zahl der Zolldéklarationen Numero delle dichiarazioni doganali 3

Nombre des déclarations en douane

Wertangabe Valore dichiarato Valeur assurée

Francs

An Al A

Name und Wohnort des Absenders: A. P. Ostberg

Nome e domicilio del mittente: Ystas

Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur:

Bestimmungsort Luogo di destinazione Lieu de destination

SUÈDE

Straße und Hausnummer Via e numero Rue et N°

Gewicht—Peso—Poids: 5 kg 900 g

Zollgebühren Tasse doganali Droits de douane (*)

Beförderungsweg Avviamento Acheminement

*) Vom Eintritts-Auswechslungsamt des Bestimmungslandes auszufüllen. Da riempire dall' Ufficio di cambio d'entrata del paese di destinazione. Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange du pays de destination.

8 MARS 1905

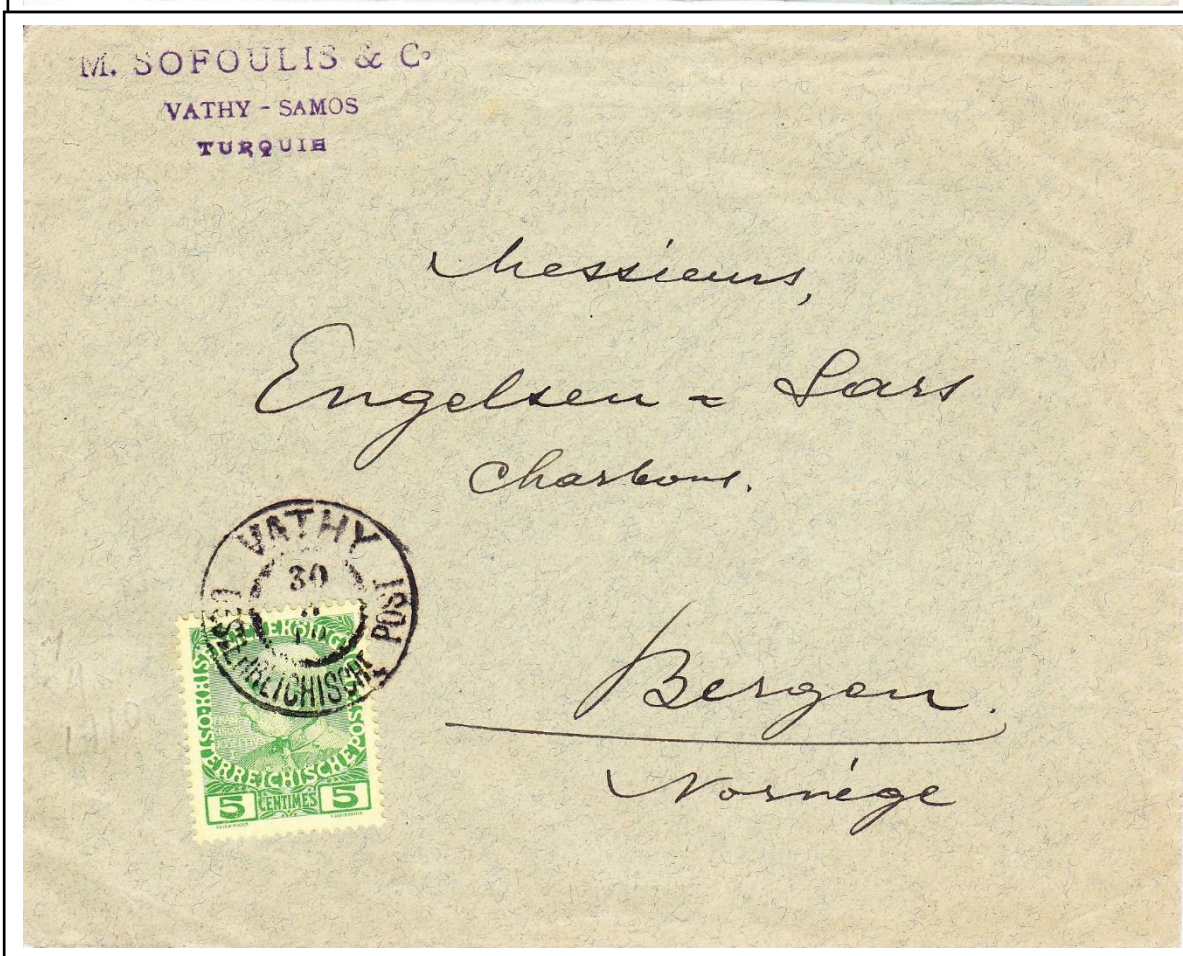
D. S. Nr. 1 a. (Levante) Auflage 1904.

A parcel-card for two small parcels of 4.9 kg and 5 kg (the maximum weight for a "Colis Postal") containing cigarettes sent to Sweden; franked at 26 pi. with 1 pi., 5 pi. and 2 x 10 pi. stamps (1900-01 issues for Levant); cancelled with the second date-stamp of the Austrian p.o. at Vathy on 7 March 1905. The reduced copy (75%) of the reverse of the card shows the transit date-stamps of Trieste, Berlin and Trelleborg from 17, 21 and 22 March 1905.

Registered international mail could be handed-in to the Samian post office, which then handed it over to the Austrian or Turkish post office at Vathy for onward transmission.



Registered mourning envelope to Crete handed-in to the Samian post office on 14 July 1909, receiving a boxed "SYSTEMENON" marking (= "registered" – one of 3 examples recorded) and the registration no. ms. "234"; handed over to the Austrian post office at Vathy; re-registered and correctly franked with two 1 piaster stamps (1908 issue); cancelled with the "VATHY ÖSTERR. POST" date-stamp (date illegible, type recorded 1908-14); arrival back-stamp of the Austrian post office at Canea dated 19 July 1909.



Above: Printed matter to a coal merchant in Norway correctly franked with a 5 centime stamp of the 1908 Crete issue; cancelled with the "VATHY ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST" date-stamp on 14 June 1910 (recorded 1895-1914).

Below: A letter to Athens correctly franked with 10 and 30 para stamps of the 1908 Levant issue; cancelled with the "VATHY ÖSTERR. POST" date-stamp on 8 March 1911; Piraeus transit back-stamp of 27 February 1911 (= 12 March by the Greg. Cal.).

3.5 Austrian post office at Vathy 1881-1914

Large parcel to Switzerland 1912

The postal agreement between Austria and Switzerland made it possible to send not only “colis postal” of up to 5 Kg, but also large parcels, from Samos.

Bestätigung des Empfängers. — Ricevuta del destinatario. — Récépiss

Der Unterfertigte bestätigt den Empfang {des} auf der Vorder-
wärtigen Begleitadresse bezeichneten Paketes. {der} Pakete.

Il sottoscritto dichiara di aver ricevuto {il pacco designato} sul p.
{i pacchi designati}

Le soussigné déclare avoir reçu {le colis désigné} au recto d.
{les colis désignés}

A an }
il }
le }

(Unterschrift: — Firma:

VATHY
24 1 1912
ÖSTERR. POST.

KAISERLICHE KÖNIGLICHE
ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST
20 PASTER 20

KAISERLICHE KÖNIGLICHE
ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST
20 PASTER 20

KAISERLICHE KÖNIGLICHE
ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST
20 PASTER 20

KAISERLICHE KÖNIGLICHE
ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST
20 PASTER 20

KAISERLICHE KÖNIGLICHE
ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST
2 PASTER 2

KAISERLICHE KÖNIGLICHE
ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST
2 PASTER 2

Abschnitt. — Cedola. — Coupon. Österreichische Postverwaltung Vathy 398 Administration des Postes d'Autriche.

(Kann vom Empfänger abgetrennt werden. — Può essere staccata dal destinatario. — Peut être détaché par le destinataire.)

LEVANT Colis postal
Begleit-Adresse. — Buletino di spedizione. — Bulletin d'expédition.

Hiebei Annesso 1 Paquet Zahl der Zolldeklarationen 4
Ci-joint Numero delle dichiarazioni doganali
Nombre des déclarations en douane

Wertangabe
Valore dichiarato
Valeur assurée Franes

An } Naturhistorisches Museum
Al }
A }

Name und Wohnort des Absenders:
Nome e domicilio del mittente:
Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur:

Bestimmungsort
Luogo di destinazione
Lieu de destination
Straße und Hausnummer
Via e numero
Rue et N°

Gewicht—Peso—Poids:
42 kg

Zollgebühren
Tasse doganali
Droits de douane

Beförderungsweg
Avviamento
Acheminement

Vom Eintritts-Auswechslungsamt des Bestimmungslandes auszufüllen.
Da riempire dall' Ufficio di cambio d'entrata del paese di destinazione.
Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange du pays de destination.

D. S. Nr. 1 a. (Levante)
(Auflage 1907.)

VATHY
24 1 1912
ÖSTERR. POST.

KAISERLICHE KÖNIGLICHE
ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST
20 PASTER 20

KAISERLICHE KÖNIGLICHE
ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST
20 PASTER 20

KAISERLICHE KÖNIGLICHE
ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST
20 PASTER 20

KAISERLICHE KÖNIGLICHE
ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST
20 PASTER 20

A parcel-card for a large parcel of 42 kg sent to the Natural History Museum in Basle; which required a huge franking of 142½ pi. using 20 pa., 2 pi. and 7 x 20 pi. stamps (1908 issue for Levant); cancelled with the third date-stamp of the Austrian p.o. at Vathy on 24 January 1912. The reverse (copy reduced to 75%) bears part of the franking.

Parcel-card for a small parcel 5 kg (the maximum weight for a "Collis Postal") containing cigarettes sent C.O.D. to Sweden; franked at 30 pi. with 2 x 5 pi. + 2 x 10 pi. stamps (1908 Anniversary issue for Levant); cancelled at the Austrian p.o. at Vathy on 29 October 1912 (two weeks before the proclamation of the Union with Greece); Trieste and Hamburg transit date-stamps of 11 and 14/15 November 1912; Malmö arrival date-stamp of 16 November 1901; cash 36.40 kr. collected from the addressee.

Vathy 415

Österreichische Postverwaltung. — Amministrazione della Poste austriache. — Administration des Postes d'Autriche.

LEVANTE.

Nachnahme.

Begleitadresse. — Bullettin Remboursement. — Bulletin d'expédition.

Abchnitt. — Cedola. — Coupon.
(Kann vom Empfänger abgetrennt werden. — Può essere staccata dal destinatario. — Peut être détaché par le destinataire.)

Stempel des Aufgabee-Postamtes.
Bollo dell'Ufficio d'origine.
Timbre du bureau d'origine.

Name und Wohnort des Absenders.
Nome e domicilio del mittente.
Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur:

Wertangabe
Valore dichiarato
Valeur assurée

Nachnahme
Assegno
Remboursement

Umgerechnet auf — Convertito in — Converti en

An
Al
A

Bestimmungsort
Luogo di destinazione
Lieu de destination

Straße und Hausnummer
Via e numero
Rue et numéro

Gewicht — Peso — Poids:

Zollgebühren
Tasse doganali
Droits de douane

Beförderungsweg
Avviamento
Acheminement

Zollgut zu stellen in

Vom Eintritts-Auswechslungsamte oder vom Zollamte des Bestimmungsortes.
Da riempire dall'Ufficio di cambio d'entrata o dal servizio del paese di destinazione.
Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrée ou par le service du pays de destination.

D. S. Nr. 2 a. (Levante.) Auflage 1911. K. K. U. D. ST. DR. (ST.)

Vathy 449

Österreichische Postverwaltung. — Amministrazione della Poste austriache. — Administration des Postes d'Autriche.

LEVANTE.

Colis postal

Begleit-Adresse. — Bullettino di spedizione. — Bulletin d'expédition.

Abchnitt. — Cedola. — Coupon.
(Kann vom Empfänger abgetrennt werden. — Può essere staccata dal destinatario. — Peut être détaché par le destinataire.)

Stempel des Aufgabee-Postamtes.
Bollo dell'Ufficio d'origine.
Timbre du bureau d'origine.

Name und Wohnort des Absenders.
Nome e domicilio del mittente.
Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur:

Wertangabe
Valore dichiarato
Valeur assurée

Zahl der Zolldeklarationen
Numero delle dichiarazioni doganali
Nombre des déclarations en douane

Bestimmungsort
Luogo di destinazione
Lieu de destination

Straße und Hausnummer
Via e numero
Rue et numéro

Gewicht — Peso — Poids:

Zollgebühren
Tasse doganali
Droits de douane

Beförderungsweg
Avviamento
Acheminement

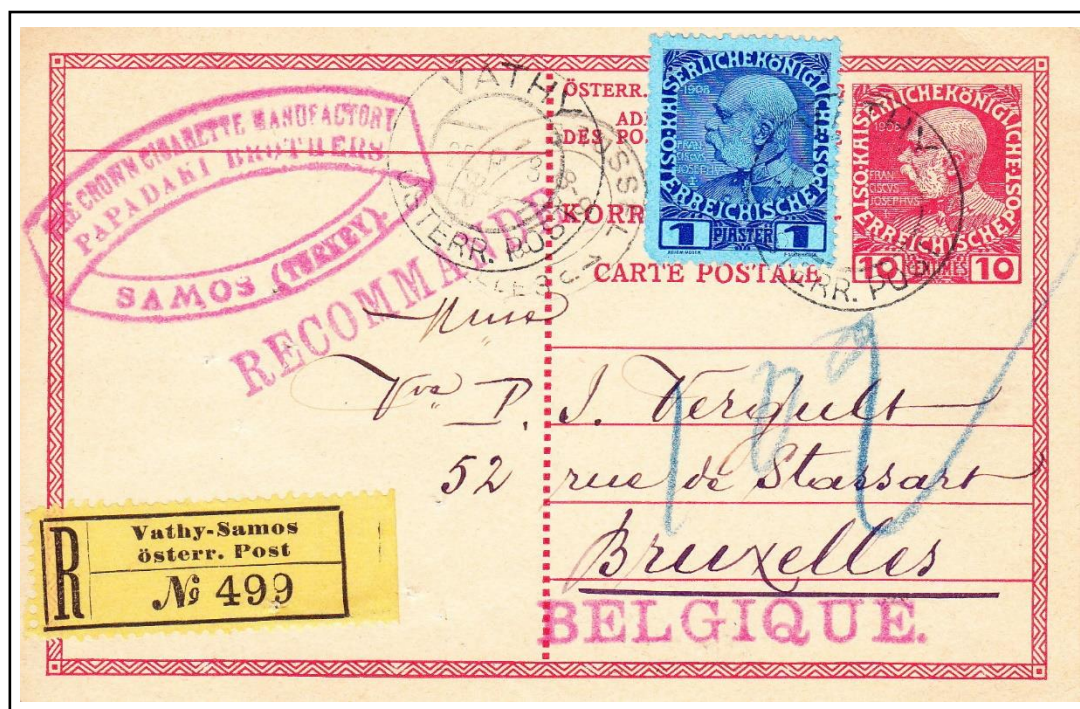
Vom Eintritts-Auswechslungsamte oder vom Zollamte des Bestimmungsortes.
Da riempire dall'Ufficio di cambio d'entrata o dal servizio del paese di destinazione.
Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrée ou par le service du pays de destination.

D. S. Nr. 1 a. (Levante.) Auflage 1910.

Parcel-cards for "Colis Postal" to 5 kg sent from the Austrian p.o. at Vathy: Above: C.O.D. to Hungary franked at 7 pi. (2 + 5 pi. stamps of 1908 issue); cancelled on 24 June 1913; Trieste transit date-stamp of 5 July 1913; Budapest arrival mark 7 July 1913. Below: To the USA franked at 22 pi. (2 + 20 pi. as above); cancelled on 15 July 1913; Trieste and Buchs transit date-stamps of 24 and 26 July 1913; markings reflecting onward transmission from Switzerland to the USA will have been on freight documents.

A parcel card for two packets 1.65 and 0.5 kg sent to the USA franked at 44 pi. with 2 x2 pi. + 2 x 20 pi. stamps (1908 Levant issue) cancelled at Vathy on 31 March 1914; Trieste transit and Buchs SG Station arrival marks dated 11 and 13 April 1914. The US Post Office did not handle parcels until 1913 and then contracted with Switzerland for the transmission of packets up to 5 kg, whereby, for destinations beyond New York, the carriage payable (incl. Swiss transit of Fr. 0.50 per packet) was Fr. 2.20 to 1.3 kg, Fr. 3.35 to 3 kg and Fr. 4.15 to 5 kg. As Austria had no contract with the USA, packets were sent to Switzerland for onward transmission. The Levant parcel cards remained in Buchs Switzerland and the analysis of a bundle found showed frankings (going beyond New York) of 14 pi. to 1.3 kg, 18½ pi. to 3 kg and 22 pi. to 5 kg. Here the onward carriage for 1.65 + 0.5 kg of Fr. 3.35 + 2.20 was marked on the card at Buchs, plus the correct franking of 32½ pi. (14 + 18½ pi.) and the over-franking of 11½ pi.

After the outbreak of First World War, the Turkish authorities required the closure of the foreign post offices by 30 September 1914; those Austrian post offices located in the Greek controlled territories (eg. Vathy) and Italian territories (Rhodes) remained open until 15 December 1914.



A 10 centime post-card (1908 Crete issue) sent registered to Belgium, supplemented with a 1 piaster stamp (1908 Levant issue) to pay the registration fee; cancelled with the "VATHY ÖSTERR. POST" date-stamp on 28 February 1913 (recorded 1908-14); Brussels arrival date-stamp of 7 March 1913.



A view-card sent from Rhodes (now occupied by Italy) to Samos; cancelled at the Austrian p.o. at Rhodes on 19 October 1914 and bearing the "VATHY ÖSTERR. POST" arrival date-stamp of 22 October 1914 struck in blue.

A French "Bureau de Distribution" was opened at Vathy at the end of 1893 and ships of the Messageries Maritimes "Ligne Circulaire" started to make regular calls there.



A 10c post-card (1890 issue of France) used to Egypt; cancelled in blue with the double-circle "VATHY SAMOS" date-stamp on 16 October 1896 (recorded in the literature 1885??-1904?); transit back-stamp of the French p.o. at Smyrna dated 19 October 1896; Alexandria arrival back-stamp of 25 October 1896.



An envelope to Switzerland correctly franked with a 1 piaster stamp (1891 Levant issue); cancelled as above but in black on 20 September 1895; transit back-stamps of the French p.o.'s at Smyrna & Constantinople dated 23 and 25 September 1895; Thalwil arrival back-stamp of 28 September 1895.

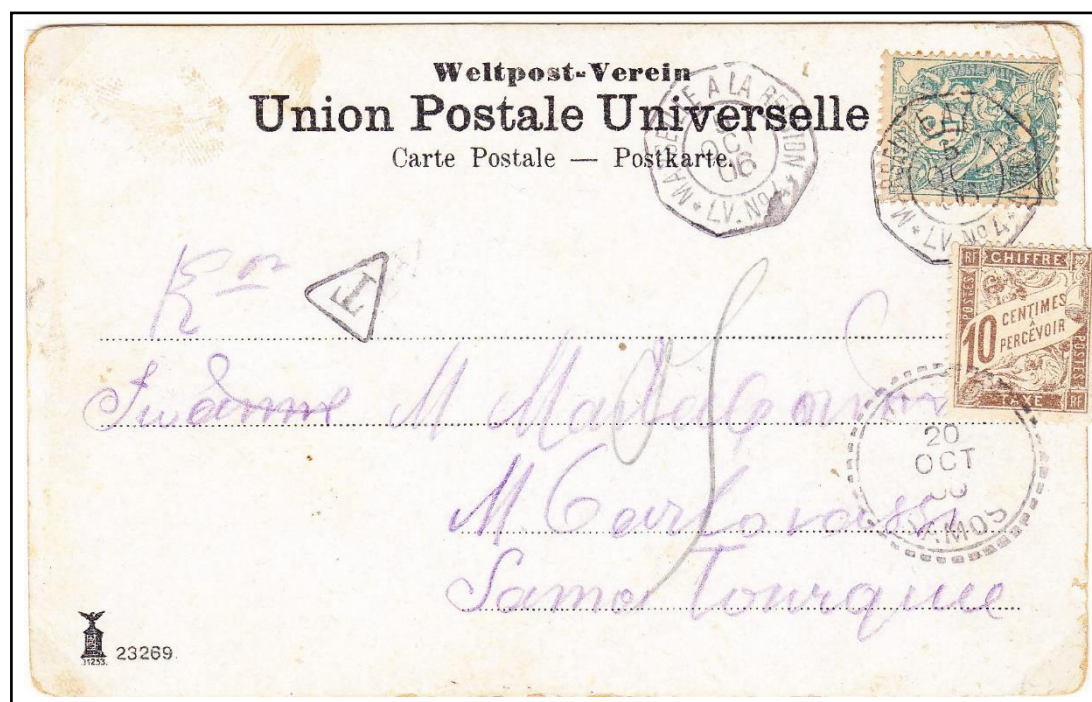
Stamps overprinted specially for the French p.o. at Vathy were issued in 1893 but were used consecutively with the stamps inscribed "Levant".



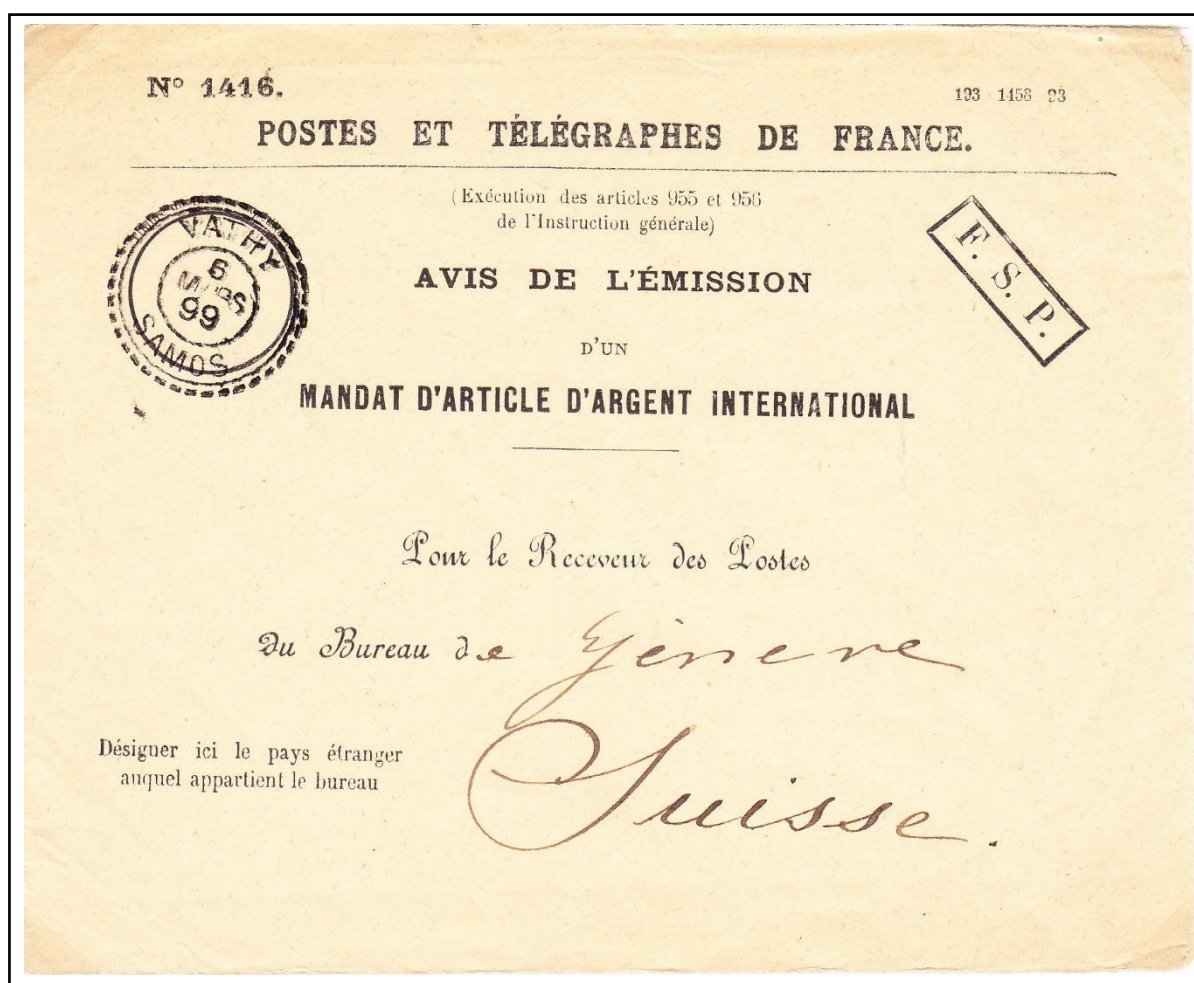
An envelope sent registered to France correctly franked with a 2 piaster stamp (1893 Vathy issue); cancelled in blue with the double-circle "VATHY SAMOS" date-stamp on 26 April 1897; Bagé le Chatel arrival back-stamp of 4 May 1897.



An envelope to Cesme, Turkey, correctly franked at 1 piaster with a bisected copy of the above stamp; cancelled as above but in black on 3 March 1895; Cesme octagonal seal as an arrival back-stamp (recorded 1871-92).



A view-card to Karlovassi dated 22 September 1906 (5 October by the Gregorian calendar); franked with a 5c stamp of France; as the card has more than 5 words of text, 10c was necessary and it was marked "T 05"; The card was handed in on the Line V vessel "Natal" between Suez and Aden and cancelled with the "LV.No.4" date-stamp on 5 October 1906; on 7 October it was transferred at Aden to the "Yarra" coming from Australia, and then at Port Said to a vessel heading for Constantinople via Vathy; on arrival on 20 October 1906, twice the missing 5c was collected using a French 10c postage due stamp (1893 issue).



An envelope sent to Geneva advising a postal money transfer date-stamped at Vathy on 6 March and Smyrna on 7 March 1899

3.6 French post office at Vathy 1893-1914

“Boîte Mobile” Paquebot cards 1905/10

Mail dropped into the letter-boxes of the vessels of the Messageries Maritimes would be handed-in to the next French post office, marked “BM” (= “Boîte Mobile”) and cancelled with the office’s date-stamp before despatch.



A view-card with full text to France; written on board a French ship and dropped into the ship’s letter-box; franked as French inland mail with a 5c stamp (1902 Levant issue); cancelled with the double-circle Vathy date-stamp in blue on 9 October 1905 and marked “BM”; Smyrna transit date-stamp 10 October 1905; Courbevoie arrival date-stamp 15 October 1905.



A view-card to Constantinople; written at Smyrna on 11 May 1910 and handed-in directly to the Messageries Maritimes vessel “Sénégal”, receiving the vessel’s cachet; correctly franked with two 5c stamps (1905 Levant issue); cancelled at Vathy with the single-circle date-stamp in black on 13 June 1910 and marked “BM”.

3.6 French post office at Vathy 1893-1914

Use of stamps of France and Levant 1906/09

The office received a new standard single-circle "VATHY SAMOS" date-stamp in 1904 (in use until 1914)



A 10c post-card (1903 Levant issue) used to Corsica; cancelled with the single-circle date-stamp on 25 September 1909; Paris transit date-stamp 1 October 1909; Ajaccio arrival back-stamp 3 October 1909.



An envelope to France franked with a 25c stamp (1903 issue of France); cancelled at Vathy with the above date-stamp on 22 September 1906; Smyrna transit back-stamp 24 September 1906; Lyon arrival back-stamp 29 September 1906.

3.6 French post office at Vathy 1893-1914

Use of stamps of French Levant 1910/14

The French post office at Vathy remained open until the declaration of war against Turkey in August 1914



A view-card (showing the hills of Samos covered in snow in 1905!) used to France; franked with a 10c stamp (1902 Levant issue); cancelled with the single-circle Vathy date-stamp on 7 May 1910; St. Denis-Laval arrival back-stamp 14 May 1910.

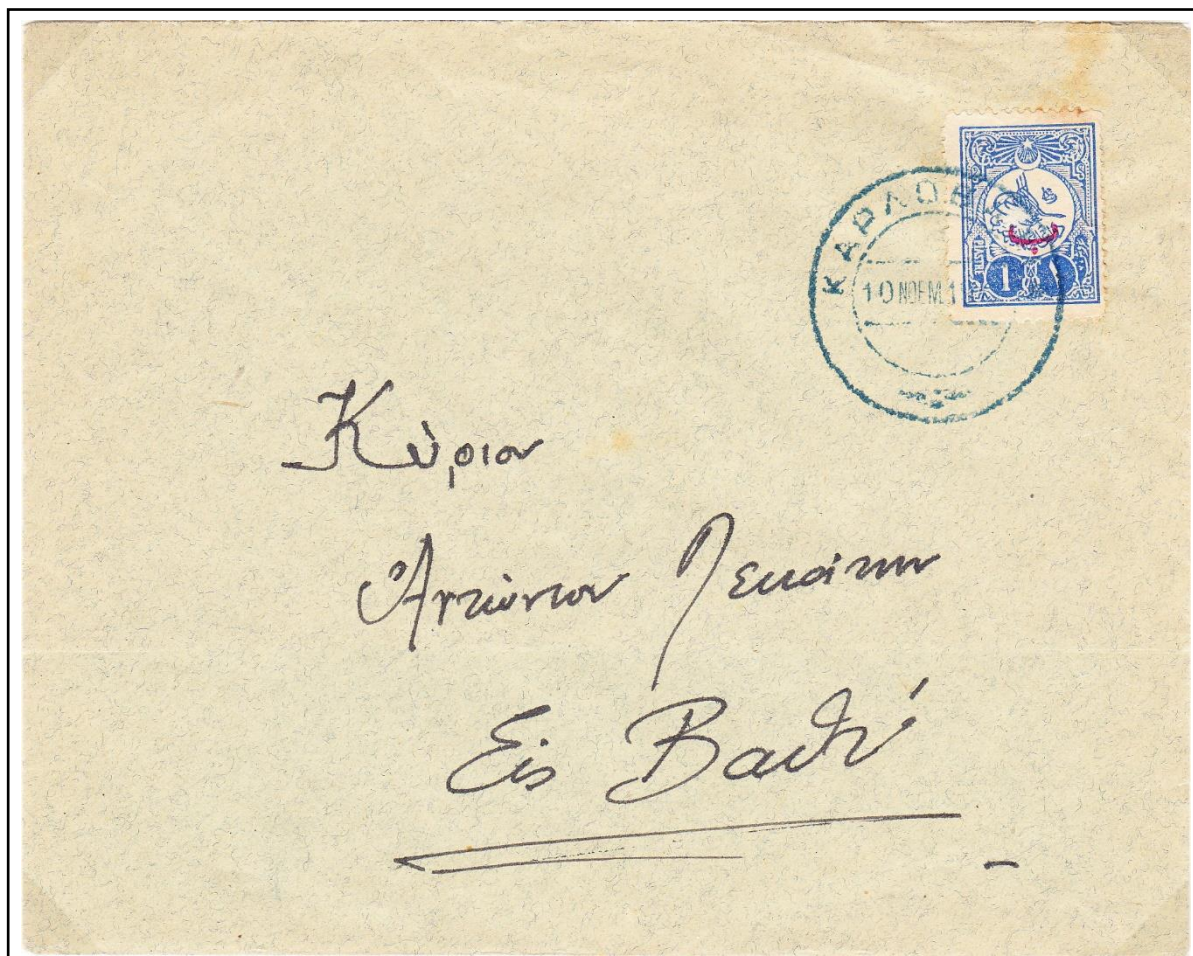


A registered envelope to Italy franked with a 2 piastre stamp (1902 Levant issue); cancelled at Vathy as above on 25 July 1914 (during the Provisional Administration period and shortly before the closure of the office in August 1914 on the declaration of war between France and Turkey); Smyrna transit back-stamp 27 July 1914; Busto Arsizio arrival back-stamp 1 August 1914.

The Principality of Samos ended with the declaration of the unification of Samos with Greece on 11 November 1912. New stamps and date-stamps of Vathy and Karlovassi were available on 14 November.



This view-card shows departure of the Turkish troops after the declaration of the unification of Samos with Greece



This philatelic envelope bears a Turkish 1 piaster stamp cancelled in blue with the new "KARLOVASION" date-stamp dated 10 November 1912 and has the new Vathy date-stamp dated 12 November 1912 as an arrival back-stamp. As these new date-stamps are first recorded as from 14 November 1912, it is possible that this envelope was not actually mailed on the last day of the Principality, to arrive at Vathy 2 days later, but was a souvenir prepared with back-dated markings.

4. Provisional Administration Nov. 1912 – May 1913

Mail with the map stamp issue Nov. 1912

A set of three stamps showing the map of Samos was prepared locally because of the delayed delivery of the Hermes stamps ordered from Athens and was issued on 14 November 1912 by the Julian calendar.



A view-card to Athens correctly franked with a 10 lepta stamp of the above issue; cancelled with the new Vathy date-stamp on 24 November 1912; with an Athens arrival back-stamp of 27 November 1912.



An envelope to France correctly franked with a 25 lepta stamp of the above issue; cancelled with the new Vathy date-stamp on 19 November 1912 (= 2 December by Greg. cal.); with an arrival back-stamp of La Celle St. Cloud dated 10 December 1912.

4. Provisional Administration Nov. 1912 – May 1913 Mail with the Hermes stamp issue Nov. 1912

A set of five Hermes stamps ordered from Stangel & Co. in Athens were issued on 26 November 1912



A registered cover to Egypt franked with a 25 lepta stamp of the above issue paying the postage, plus three 10 lepta stamps overpaying the registration fee by 5 lepta (possibly because only a part of the ordered 5 lepta stamps had arrived); cancelled at Karlovassion on 4 December 1912 (= 17 December by the Gregorian calendar); Athens transit and Cairo arrival back-stamps dated 7 December (20 December) 1912 and 27 December 1912.

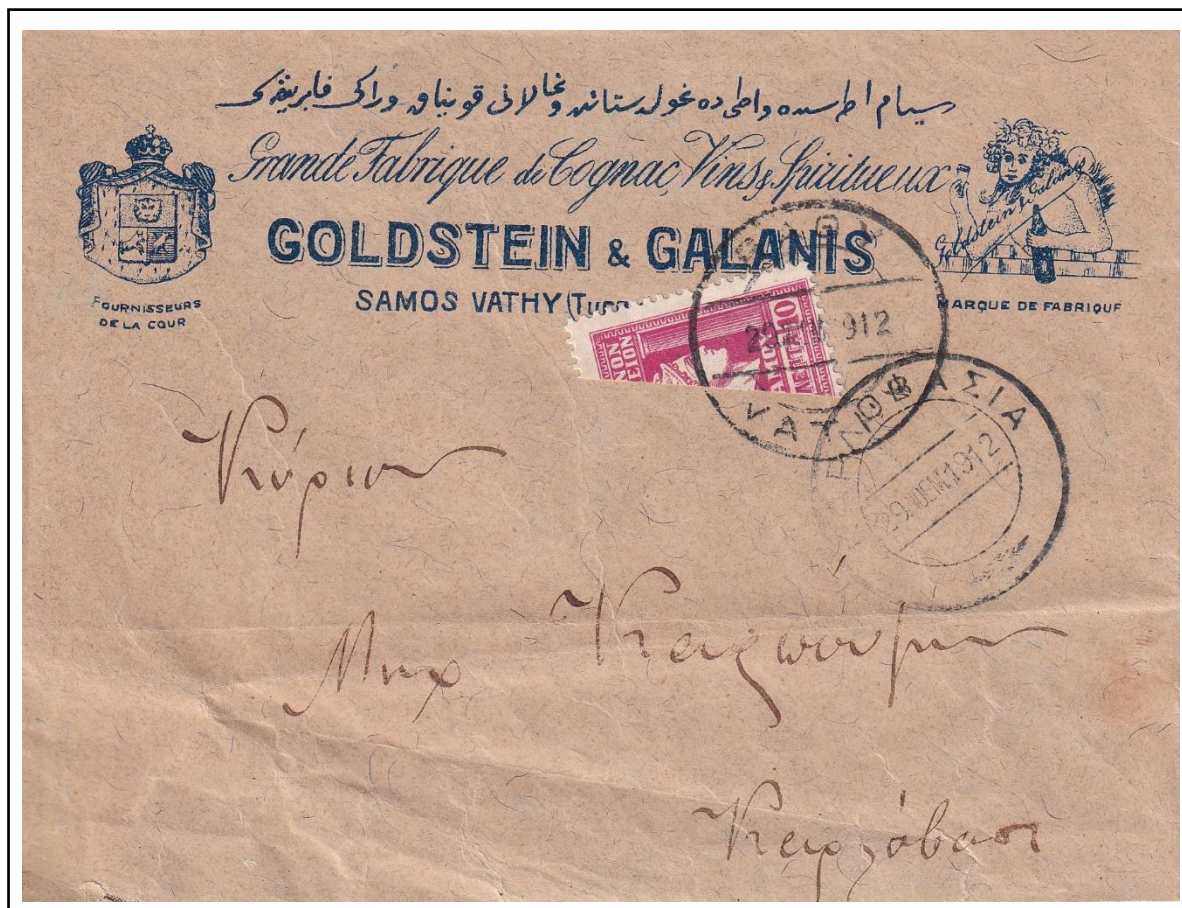


An envelope to Belgium correctly franked with a 25 lepta stamp of the above issue; cancelled at Vathy on 18 December 1912 (= 31 December by the Gregorian calendar); Brussels arrival back-stamp dated 15 January 1913.

When the Hermes stamps ordered from Stangel and Co. in Athens arrived for issue on 26 November 1912 there were too few 5 lepta stamps and the use of bisects of the 10 lepta value was approved.

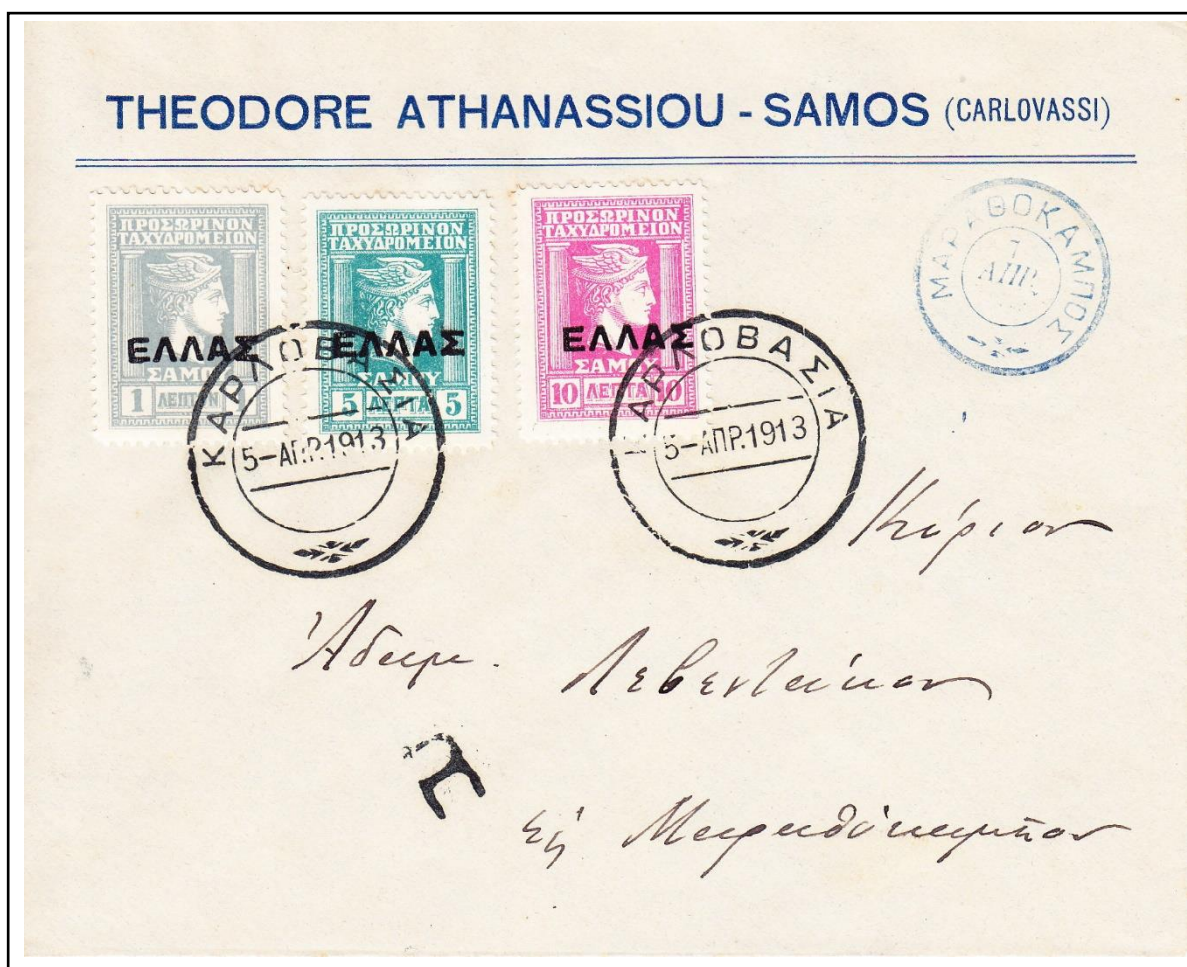


A view-card to Athens correctly franked with a bisected 10 lepta stamp of the above issue; cancelled with the Vathy date-stamp on 28 November 1912; with an Athens arrival back-stamp of 2 December 1912.



An envelope sent as printed matter correctly franked with a bisected 10 lepta stamp; cancelled at Vathy on 29 November 1912 and with a Karlovassion arrival date-stamp of the same day.

In order to emphasize its desire for unification with Greece, Samos made an issue of six newly printed Hermes stamps (in different colour shades) overprinted “ELLAS” (Greece) on 22 December 1912.



An envelope sent registered (with Samian type “R” marking in black) to the village of Marathokampos franked as printed matter with a 1, 5 and 10 lepta stamps of the above issue; cancelled at Karlovassi on 5 April 1913 in black; with the new standard Greek type date-stamp of Marathokampos of 7 April 1913 in blue as an arrival marking.



This 5 lepta post card of the 29 November 1912 issue was used to France correctly supplemented with a 5 lepta stamp of the above issue on the picture-side; cancelled at Vathy on 26 February 1913. At left a photocopy of half of the address-side (100%).

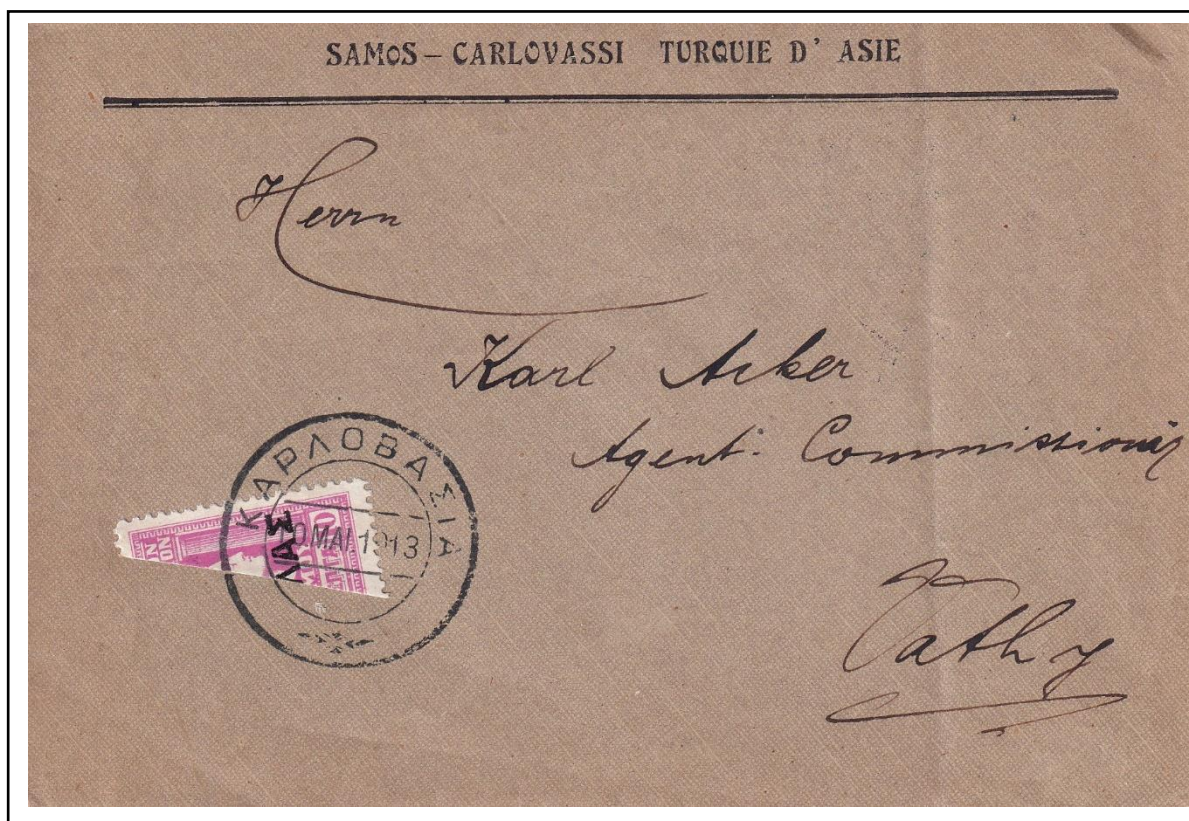
4. Provisional Administration Nov. 1912 – May 1913

Mail with Hermes stamp issue of Dec. 1912

In order to emphasize its desire for unification with Greece, Samos made an issue of six newly printed Hermes stamps (in different colour shades) overprinted "ELLAS" (Greece) on 22 December 1912.



A philatelic registered cover to Berlin correctly franked at 50 lepta with a 10 lepta "Ellas" stamp plus the map series (40 lepta); cancelled at Karlovassi on 28 January (= 10 February) 1913; Piraeus transit back-stamp of 31 January; registration label of the Odenburg-Breslau T.P.O.; Berlin arrival back-stamp of 19 February 1913.

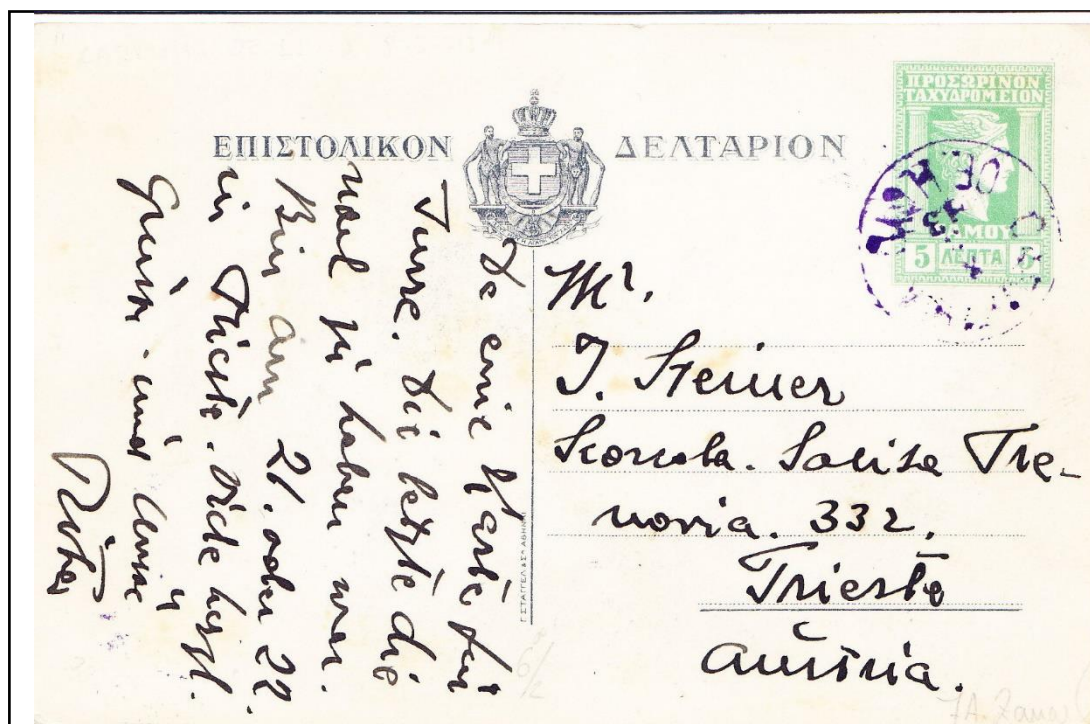


An envelope to Vathy franked as printed matter with a bisected 10 lepta "Ellas" stamp (former authorization still valid); cancelled as above on 10 May 1913 and with a Vathy arrival back-stamp of the same day.

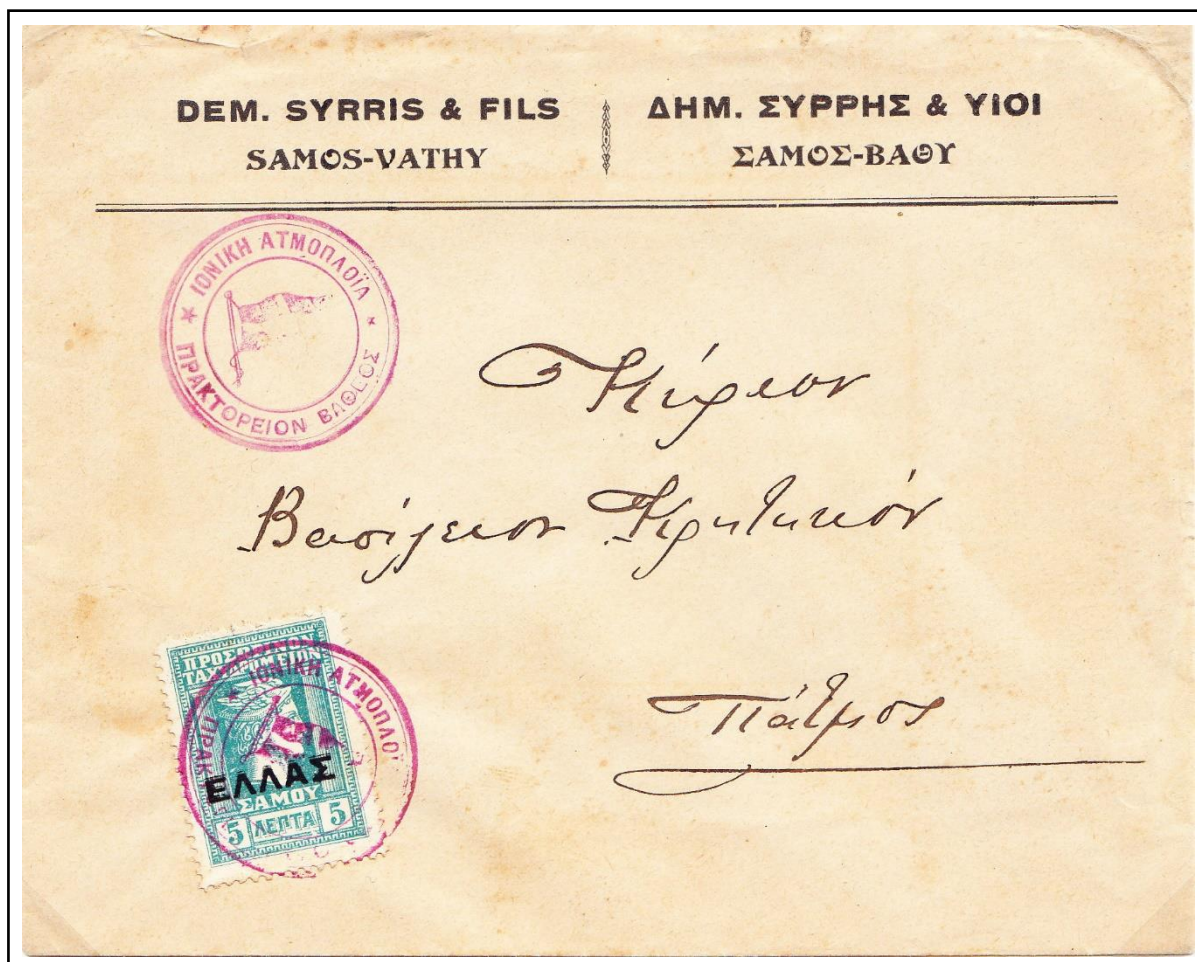
A Greek military unit of 350 men was present on the island of Samos from the beginning of March 1913. Greek stamps were therefore also accepted for franking purposes from then onwards.



This presumably philatelic registered cover from Karlovassi to Athens was correctly franked at 50 lepta with a 25 lepta stamp of the map series and a 25 lepta stamp of Greece (1911 issue); cancelled with the Karlovassi date-stamp on 15 March 1913; registration marking applied in red; Vathy transit back-stamp of 20 March 1913; Athens arrival back-stamp dated 25 March 1913.



This example of the Samos postal card-card addressed to Austria was handed-in and cancelled on board the Austrian Lloyd vessel "CARINTHIA" on 8 March 1913. It bears no additional franking and was apparently accepted as Austrian inland mail.



An undated envelope, with the imprint of a firm in Vathy, addressed to Patmos, a Dodecanese island then occupied by Italy; handed-in to the Vathy Agency of the Ionian Steamship Co.; correctly franked as printed matter with a 5 lepta "Ellas" stamp, which was cancelled in red with the circular cachet of the Agency.

4. Provisional Administration Nov. 1912 – May 1913 Mail with Commemorative issue of Jan. 1913

In order to commemorate the Turkish Evacuation, Samos made an issue of five high value stamps: the 1, 2 and 5 Dr. values on 4 / 17 January 1913 and the 10 and 25 Dr. values on 24 January / 6 February 1913.



Above: A philatelic cover to Smyrna bearing the 2 Dr. value cancelled at Vathy on 22 March / 5 April 1913. Below: A philatelic registered cover to Berlin bearing the 1, 2 and 5 Dr. values cancelled at Vathy on 8/21 April 1913; Athens transit and Berlin arrival back-stamps of 23 and 28 April 1913.

Although Samos was part of Greece after 30 May 1913, the stamps of the provisional administration continued to be used alongside Greek stamps. Standard Greek type date-stamps were introduced slowly.



Printed matter (a visiting card) sent to Switzerland correctly franked with a 5 lepta stamp of the "ELLAS" issue cancelled at Karlovassi on 11 January 1914 (= 24 January by the Gregorian calendar); Bern arrival back-stamp of 31 January 1914.



A commercial headed envelope to Switzerland correctly franked with a 25 lepta stamp of the "ELLAS" issue cancelled at Vathy on 25 January 1914 (= 7 February by the Gregorian calendar); transit back-stamps of the French post offices at Smyrna (date illegible) and Constantinople dated 11 February 1914; Bern arrival back-stamp of 14 February 1914.

5. Greek Administration May 1913 - WWII

Mail cancelled in blue with the Vathy date-stamp 1914

The date-stamps of the Provisional Administration continued to be used up to 1918. In Summer 1914 they were usually struck in blue.



A cover from Vathy to Athens correctly franked with a 10 lepta stamp (1913 issue for new territories) cancelled in blue at Vathy as above on 25 August 1914; with an arrival back-stamp of 28 August 1914.



A cover to France correctly franked (copy of reverse at right) at 25 lepta (stamps of Dec. 1912 issue); voluntarily bearing on the front the two March 1914 charity stamps (compulsory on inland mail from 31 March to 11 April 1914) cancelled in blue at Vathy on 12/25 April 1914; transit back-stamp of French p.o. in Smyrna 27 April, of Paris 2 May and arrival b/s of Valiers 3 May 1914.

5. Greek Administration May 1913 - WW II

Vathy Hospital issue 1915

The proposal of the local administration to overprint the remainders from the 1912 stamp issue of the Principality of Samos (already overprinted "GREECE") and sell these to finance a new hospital was approved by the Greek Government. These stamps were overprinted in Greek "General Administration of Samos" and trial overprints were made in black and in red. The overprinted stamps in the selected colours were issued in quantities of between 7,500 and 22,000 per value. The trial overprints in the non-accepted colours (quantities printed: 100 to 250 per value) were purchased by a local (German) stamp dealer who claimed that he paid 10 gold francs to the German Red Cross for each set he sold.



A registered cover to the dealer, Maury, in Paris correctly franked to 50l with stamps from the above series overprinted in the accepted colours; cancelled at Vathy on 3 February 1915 (Greg. cal. 16 Feb.); Italian transit back-stamp of 24 February 1915.



A registered cover to the dealer, Senf, in Leipzig over-franked with the above series (1l to 1dr) overprinted in the non-accepted colours (1dr with double overprint); cancelled at Vathy on 31 January 1915 (Greg. cal. 13 Feb.); arrival b/s of 28 February 1915.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES

ΔΙΕΘΝΗΣ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΑΓΗ

MANDAT DE POSTE INTERNATIONAL

Τιμή Συν/το
Cours du change

Πληρ. ποσό
Somme payée

(*)

Αξίας
De la somme de

(Είς αραβικούς αριθμούς — En chiffres arabes)

250 -

(Όλογράφως διά λατινικών στοιχείων)
(Les unités en toutes lettres et en caractères latins)

Πληρωτέα τ K) Leon Adjemian
Payable à M) Brousse

Τόπος προορισμού)
Lieu de destination)

Διευθύνσις του παραλήπτου)
Adresse du destinataire)

Χώρα του προορισμού)
Pays de destination)

Αριθμός εκδόσεως
Numéro d'émission

Χρονολογία εκδόσεως
Date d'émission

Γραφείον εκδόσεως
Bureau expéditeur

Nº 1250 -

28 Mars 1914.

Valhy - Sauros

Grèce

Υπογραφή του εκδόντος υπαλλήλου)
Signature de l'agent qui a dressé le mandat)

Καταβληθέν ποσόν
- Somme Versée

Νόμισμα της χώρας της καταγωγής — Monnaie du pays d'origine

ΕΛΛΑΣ

10 MAR 14

ΕΛΛΑΣ

πὸ τῆς υπηρεσίας τοῦ προορισμοῦ, ὅταν ἐνεργῇ ἡ ἰδίᾳ τὴν μετατροπὴν ἢ ποιεῖται χρῆσιν διὰ τὰς πληρωμὰς τῶν ἀξιών ἐν σχέσει πρὸς τὸ μεταλλικὸν νόμισμα τὸ ἔχον τὴν ἀξίαν τοῦ χρυσοῦ. (Σύμβασις Ἀρθ. 2)

fice destinataire, lorsqu'il opère lui-même la conversion ou qu'il fait usage, pour ses paiements, de port à la monnaie métallique ayant le cours de l'or (Arrangement article 2)

A Greek form for a postal money transfer of 250 drs to Turkey franked with two 1 dr stamps of the Vathy Hospital issue; cancelled at Vathy on 2? February 1917 (= 13 February by the Gregorian calendar); with a Brousse arrival date-stamp of 2 March 1917.



A commercial
date-stamp of

with the bilingual

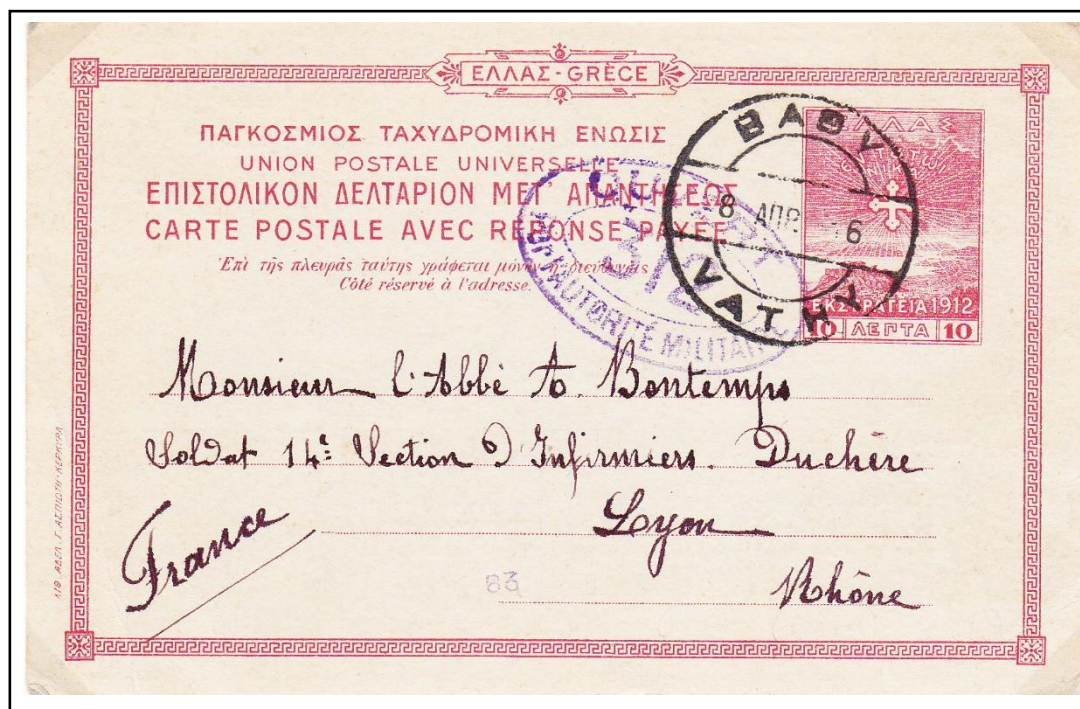
Vathy Hospital issue 1915

Three cancelled Greek postage stamps are shown. The leftmost stamp is blue, valued at 2, and features a building. The middle stamp is green, valued at 5, and features a building. The rightmost stamp is green, valued at 5, and features a building. All stamps are cancelled with a large 'X' and have handwritten red text 'ΤΕΛΟΣ' (End) and '1916'.

Gebührenverzeichnis. Bordereau des droits. - Distinta delle spese.		ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΕΣ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΟΝ		REMBOURSEMENT	
	Fr. C.	STAMPS		Nombre du colis - Αριθ. του δέματος	
Nachnahme Remboursement, Rimborso		16. 00.55		SAMOS 504 1916	
Fremdes Porto Port étranger, Porto estero		10		1	
Schweiz. Porto Port suisse, Porto svizzero		10		1	
Ausl. Gebühren Droits étrangers, Diritti esteri		10		1	
Zollgebühr Droits de douane, Dazio		10		1	
Monopolgebühr Droit de monop., Diritto di monop.		10		1	
Zollbehandl.-Gebühr Finance p. formalités en douane Diritto p. formal. di sdoganamento		10		1	
Untersuchungsgeb. Droit d'expertise Tassa per la visita sanitaria		10		1	
Frankozettelgebühr Droit p. bulletin d'affranchi Diritto p. bollettino d'affranc.		10		1	
Lagergebühr Droit de magasinage Diritto di magazzinoaggio		10		1	
Total Fr.		10		1	
Nr. 1873. Sch. & Co. II. 14. 500,000.		58. 55/100		Cinquante huit et 55/100	
		Jos. Willmann & fils		Centralhof	
		Lucerne		SUISSE	
A remplir par l'expéditeur Συμπληρωτέον από τον αποστολέα		Poids vérifié Βάρος επαληθευθέν		Acheminement - Οδός αποστολής	
		400		via France	
		1		Bureau d'échange hellénique - Ανταλλακτήριο ελληνικών γραμμάτων	
		1		Valéry - Samos	

A parcel card for 4.7 Kg. of cigarettes sent C.O.D. to Lucerne franked with 1 Dr. + 2 Dr. stamps of the above issue plus Greek 10 l + 25 l stamps; cancelled with the Greek Type V "SAMOS" date-stamp on 9 July 1916 (= 22 July by the Gregorian calendar); undated Marseilles transit mark; Swiss customs mark dated 25 September 1916. The known commercial items franked with the drachmae values of the Hospital Fund issue are limited to this card and two similar cards (one damaged). This parcel was sent between neutral countries (Northern Greece & the islands under Venizelos entered the war on 18 October 1916).

Greece's sympathies were split in WW1, the King's loyalties lay with the Central Powers and those of Prime Minister Venizelos lay with the Entente. Samos was occupied by Entente forces in Spring 1916.



A 10 lepta reply-paid postcard of Greece (1913 issue) used to France; cancelled with the Vathy date-stamp on 8 April 1916; no censorship yet in Samos; censored by the French Military authorities at Belfort on entry into France.



A letter to Switzerland; franked with a 25 lepta stamp of Greece (1913 issue); cancelled with the Vathy date-stamp on 12 April 1916 (Greg. cal. 25 April); censored and re-sealed in transit in Italy at Bologna; Basel arrival back-stamp dated 8 May 1916.

In September 1916 Prime Minister Venizelos formed a Provisional Government in Crete, Salonika and the Aegean (including Samos), which declared war on Turkey on 18 October 1916.



A letter from Karlovassi to Vathy; franked at 10 lepta with stamps of the 1913 issue; cancelled with the Karlovassi date-stamp on 16 November 1916; Vathy arrival back-stamp 18 November 1916; censored and resealed (tape "Senior Censor").

King Constantine abdicated on 12 June 1917 and Greece declared war on the Central Powers on 15 June



A letter from Athens to Samos; franked at 15 Lepta (new inland rate from 7 September 1917) with 5 + 10 lepta stamps of the 1916 Royalist issue; cancelled at Athens on 22 September 1917; censored and resealed (tape with "Censor of Samos" in Greek and French) on arrival at Samos; Vathy transit and Karlovassi arrival back-stamps of 2 and 3 October 1917.

The “E.T.” stamps were issued by the Royalist Government on 1 November 1916 for use in southern and central Greece, but were used throughout the country after King Constantine’s abdication in June 1917.



A view-card to Chios franked with a 10 lepta stamp overprinted “E.T.” (= Greek Post); also bearing a voluntarily added Greek Red Cross charity stamp (Sept. 1915 issue); cancelled with the “SAMOS” date-stamp at Vathy on 21 April 1918; censored in transit at Syros by the British military authorities, receiving the decorative boxed censor mark; Chios arrival b/s 8 May 1918. The



A 5 lepta military post-card supplemented with a 5 lepta stamp overprinted “E.T.” and used to Switzerland; cancelled with the “KARLOVASIA” date-stamp on 28 August 1918; censored in transit at Athens by the Greek authorities (and marked with the large “V”); censored again in transit through Italy, receiving the two-line “VERIFICATO PER CENSURA” marking.

New Greek date-stamps were introduced, most of those used in Vathy being inscribed only "Samos". The use of the large "VATHY" and "KARLOVASSI" date-stamps from 1912 was discontinued in 1918.



A non-philatelic registered cover to Switzerland correctly franked (50 l. post + 50 l. regn.) with a 1 drachma value of the Vathy Hospital issue of 1915 (a small remainder of which were discovered and put on sale at the counter in Vathy in 1921); cancelled "SAMOS (SORTING)" on 9 December 1921 (= 22 Dec. by the Gregorian calendar); Geneva arrival back-stamp 31 December.



A cover to the Netherlands correctly franked at 2 dr. 50 (rate 1.1.25-31.5.26); cancelled "VATHY - SAMOS" on 23 January 1925; on the reverse four charity stamps added voluntarily (1914 issue, reintroduced in 1921) and a boxed "D763" delivery mark.

New standard Greek date-stamps were introduced on the island of Samos as required after World War I



This cover to New York is franked with a 50 lepta stamp (1913-19 issue), being the postage rate for 20g from 2 May 1921 to 18 July 1922; it was cancelled with a new date-stamp "PAGONDA" of the village Pagondas on 10 October 1921 (?).



This registered cover to Germany is apparently over-franked by 50 lepta at 6.50 drachmae (rates 1.6.26-30.4.27: postage to 20g 3 dr. + registration 3 dr.) with stamps of the 1913-19 issue; it was cancelled with a new date-stamp "TIGANION" on 25 June 1926 (Greece had changed to the Gregorian calendar in 1923); with transit back-stamps of Vathy ("Samos Sorting"), Brindisi and the Bologna-Trento T.P.O. dated 28 June, 2 July and 3 July; Frankfurt arrival back-stamp of 4 July 1926.

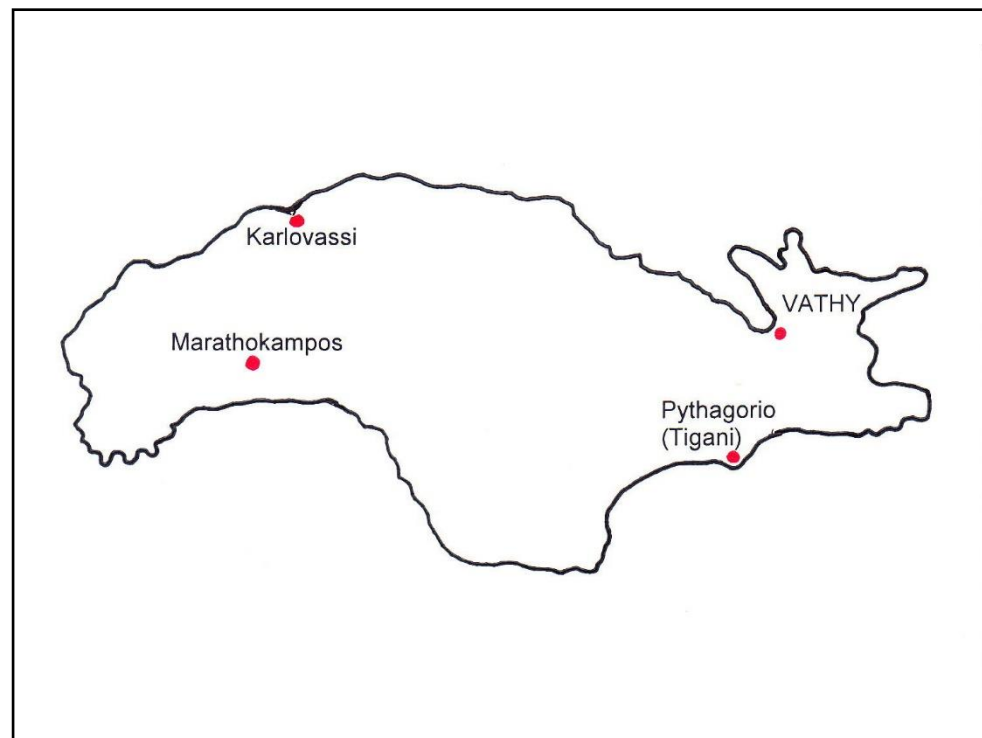


Three covers to the same addressee in New York, USA - with various Karlovassi date-stamps and Athens transit machine marks

Above: Correctly franked at 4 dr. (rate 1.5.27-31.5.32); cancelled "Karlovassi Parcels" on 9 November 1929

Below left: Over-franked by 5 l. at 4 dr.05 (rate as above); cancelled "Karlovassi" on 19 December 1931

Rural postal services were first introduced in Crete early in the 20th Century, later in other parts of Greece. After collection en route, the mail was handed-in and back-stamped at the post-office from which the route operated and the stamps were cancelled with diamond shaped hand-stamps with the number of the route.



This map shows the post-offices on Samos from which rural postal services are known to have operated; these, and their route numbers, were: Vathy 58, 426; Karlovassi 400, 802, 815; Marathokampos 597, 815; Tigani (later renamed Pythagorion) 392.



This envelope was sent to the USA from a village near Karlovassi; it was franked with a pair of 2 dr. stamps (paying the correct rate 1.5.27-31.5.32), which were cancelled with the "802" hand-stamp; the envelope bears a transit date-stamp of Karlovassi, the office from which the route operated (see copy), dated 21 March 1931 and a transit machine marking of Athens dated 23 March.

The existing prohibition of the export of banknotes or securities was extended to postage stamps in July 1933 and postal censorship commenced in August 1936. The exchange post-offices originally designated were: Athens, Cavalla, Chania, Corfu, Heraklion, Mytiline, Patras, Piraeus, Thessalonica and Volos.



This unregistered cover to Amsterdam was correctly franked at franked 8 dr. (postage rate 6.2.36-20.9.41); the stamps were cancelled with the above date-stamp on 5 September 1936; not opened but passed for exchange control and bearing a red cachet inscribed "Banque de Grèce Salonique"; with a transit back-stamp of the Sassnitz-Trelleborg ferry between Germany and Sweden dated 12 September 1936, which indicates a mistake in the routing.

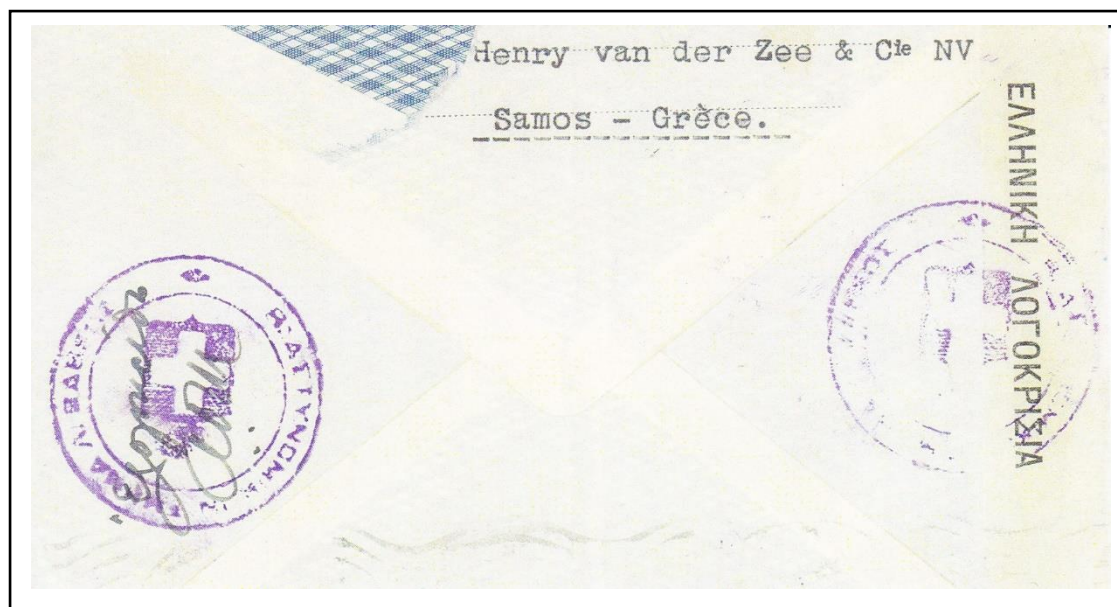


This registered commercial cover from the same sender to the same addressee in Amsterdam as above is apparently under-franked by 2 dr. at 14 dr. (postage rate 6.2.36-20.9.41: 8 dr. + registration rate from 1.5.33: 8 dr. - but to Turkey only 6 dr., which may have lead to the under-franking); the franking includes two 50 lepta stamps with an inverted charity surcharge – after two sheets with this error were discovered, the post office deliberately made a reprint with inverted overprint to prevent speculation; the stamps were cancelled with the 33mm "SAMOS" date-stamp on 27 May 1937; censored and re-sealed with a strip inscribed "Exchange Control" and a cachet inscribed "Samos"; bearing a transit machine-marking of Piraeus dated 29 May 1937.

The independent Greek postal censorship continued up until Greece's capitulation to Germany on 23 April 1941. Shortly afterwards, Samos was occupied by the Italian "Regina" Regiment.



An 8 drachmae franked envelope of the 1 September 1939 issue with an additional 1 drachma charity tax imprint correctly used to Switzerland (postage rate 6.2.36-20.9.41: 8 dr.); it was cancelled with the 33mm "SAMOS" date-stamp on 19 February 1941.

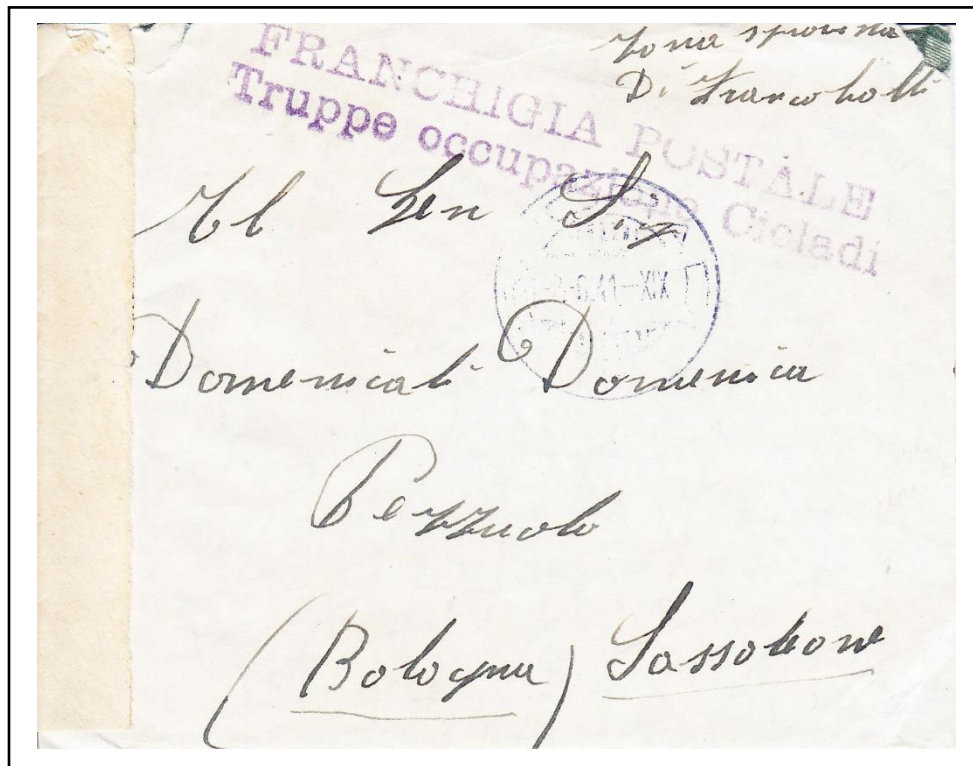


The above envelope was censored and re-sealed with a strip inscribed "Greek Censor" and this copy of part of the reverse shows the cachet with "Vathy" in the inscription and a transit machine-marking (apparently of Piraeus) dated 6 March 1941.

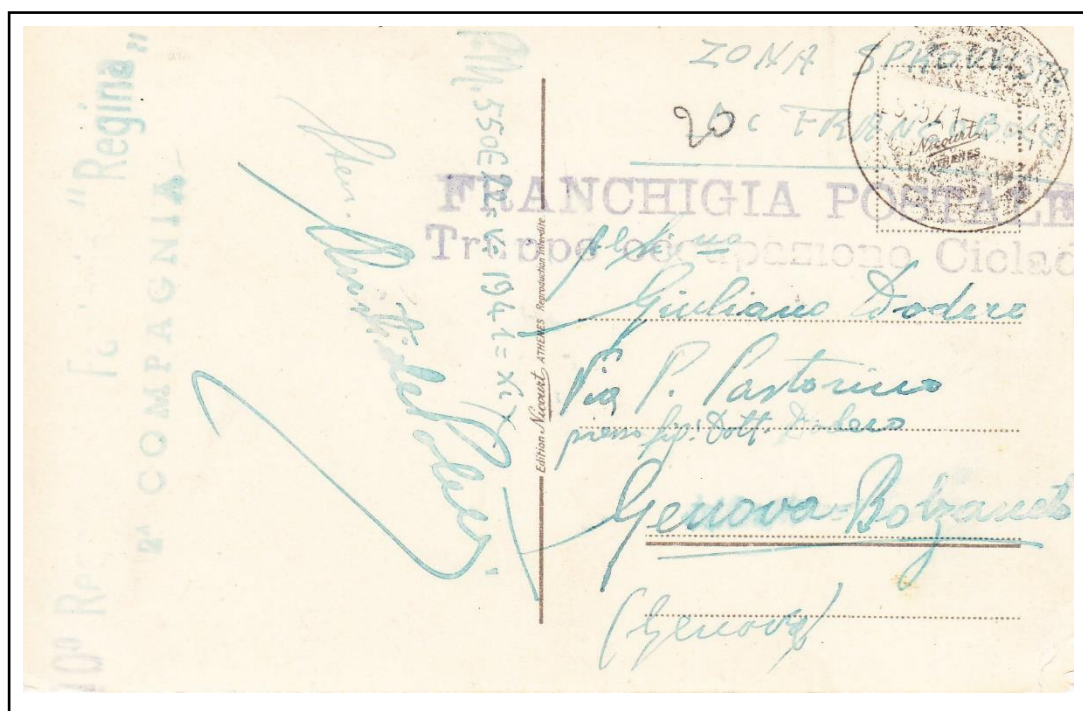
6. Italian Military Occupation 1941-43

Mail from "Regina" Regiment May/June 1941

Troops of the Italian 10th Regiment "Regina" arrived from Cos on 9 May 1941 to occupy Samos. Their mail was apparently sent first to Syros en route to Rhodes, to be flown from there to Italy.



A cover to Italy from a soldier in the 10th Regiment "Regina" bearing, in black, the date stamp translating "Sporades" of the Italian p.o. at Vathy dated 2 June 1941 (first recorded date) and, in violet, a franchise marking reading "POSTAL FRANCHISE Troops of occupation of the Cyclades" which was probably applied in transit at Syros; censored and re-sealed in Italy; Sassoleone arrival back-stamp of 13 June 1941.



A view-card of Vathy written on 22 May 1941 by an officer in the 10th Regiment "Regina" and sent to Italy; it received the same franchise marking as the above cover, again probably applied in transit at Syros; the mute date-stamp of 28 May 1941 was probably applied in transit at Rhodes.

These two items of commercial mail were sent from Vathy on Samos to the same addressee in Rhodes, arriving on the same day; one is franked with an Italian Aegean stamp, the other with Greek stamps.



A cover to Rhodes bearing the cachet of a sender in Vathy correctly franked at the Italian inland rate with a 30c "Rodì" stamp; cancelled on arrival with a normal Rhodes date-stamp on 28 June 1941; censored and re-sealed before delivery.



This commercial cover to Rhodes was correctly franked at 8 Dr. (rate for 20g April – 20 Sept. 1941) plus two unnecessary 50 lepta charity stamps; cancelled in black with the "SPORADI" date-stamp on 25 June 1941 and again with date-stamp of P.M. 550 at Rhodes on 27 June; then censored and re-sealed at Rhodes; arrival back-stamp of Rhodes head p.o. dated 28 June 1941.

6. Italian Military Occupation 1941-43

Italian military p.o. No. 62 June 1941 / Sept. 1943

The Italian 8th Regiment "Cuneo" arrived on Samos on 10 July 1941 to replace the "Regina" Regiment: and brought the military post office P.M. No. 62 with its date-stamp which replaced the "Sporadi" marking.

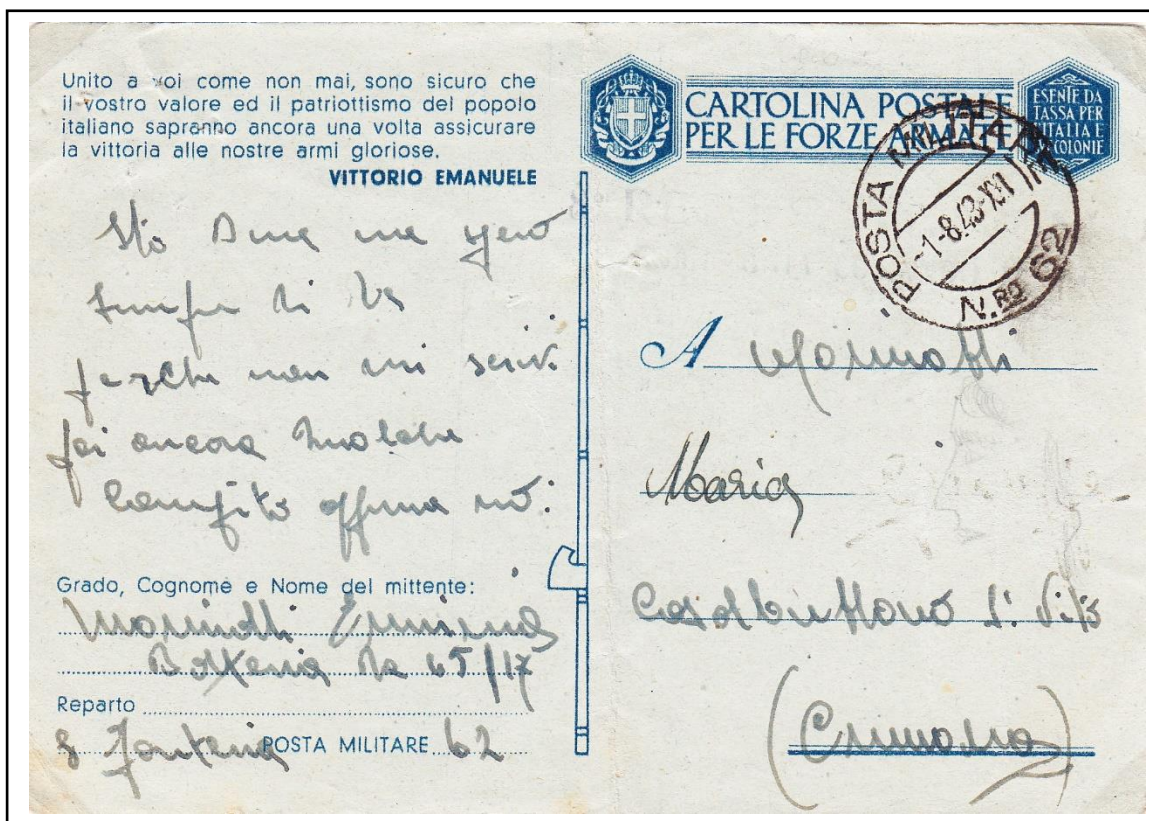


A cover to Switzerland correctly franked at 1 L. 25 (mixed Italy/Rhodes franking); cancelled with the date stamp of P.M. No. 62, which also served as the civilian p.o., on 11 November 1941; censored in transit at Milan.



A cover to an Italian military p.o. from a Captain (officers did not have free postage) of the 8th Regiment "Cuneo" bearing a two 50 c. "Rodi" air stamps to pay the postage and airmail surcharge; cancelled with the date stamp of P.M. No. 62 dated 30 May 1942; censored on 18 June in Italy.

Mussolini had been deposed on 25 July 1943 and Badoglio entered into an armistice with the Allies



A postage-free card to Italy from a member of the 8th Regiment "Cuneo" on Samos; cancelled with the military p.o. date stamp "Nro. 62" on 1 August 1943, which shows the fascist year in roman numerals.



A registered cover sent by air to Italy by an officer (who did not enjoy free postage); correctly franked with three 50 c. stamps of the 1943 "Posta Militare" issue; cancelled with the above date stamp on 2 August 1943, one day later than above, but now with the fascist year blocked out; censored before despatch on 4 August; Rome and Mestre transit and arrival b/s of 8 and 9 August.

6. Italian Military Occupation 1941-43

Military mail via p.o. No. 62 September 1943

An Italian fascist legion arrived on Samos on 28 August, 2 weeks before the first British officers. After defence of the island by Italian, British and Greek forces, Samos was evacuated on 22 November 1943.



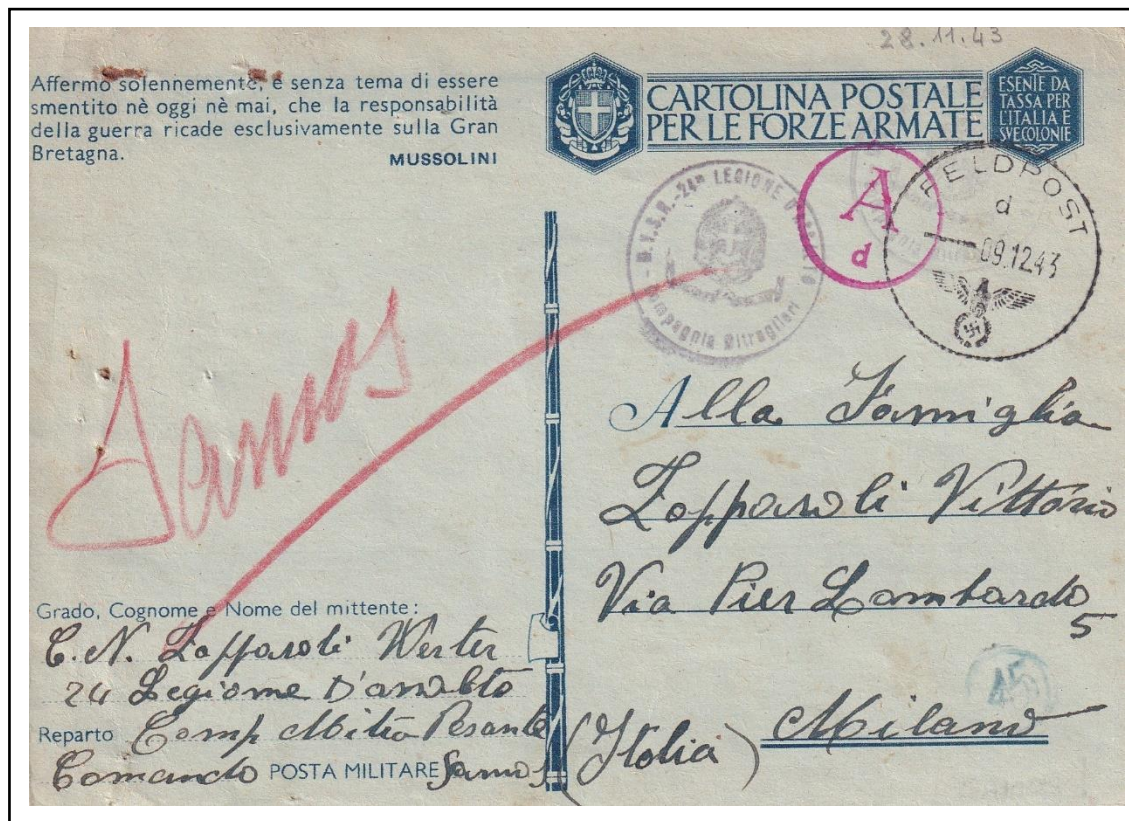
An envelope sent to Italian military p.o. No. 82 via Rome by an officer; correctly franked at 50 c as officers did not enjoy free postage; cancelled by P.M. No. 62 on 31 August 1943; With a Military Censor date-stamp of 9 September 1943 applied at Rome.



Expertise

A military post-card dated 30 August 1943; franked at 50c; cancelled by P.M. No. 62 first on 19 September 1943. By this date, Rhodes was already in German hands and this card could only reach Italy (Southern Italy!) with the help of the British military postal service. It is unusual for such a card to be addressed to Northern Italy (here Brescia), which was still under fascist control.

Members of the Italian forces could choose to swear allegiance to Germany or become prisoners of war



A military postcard written on 28 November 1943 by a member of the M.V.S.N. 24th Assault Legion on Samos sent to Italy by the first mail despatch after the German occupation and cancelled "FELDPOST d" on 19 December 1943; red German censor mark code letter "d" (= Munich sector).

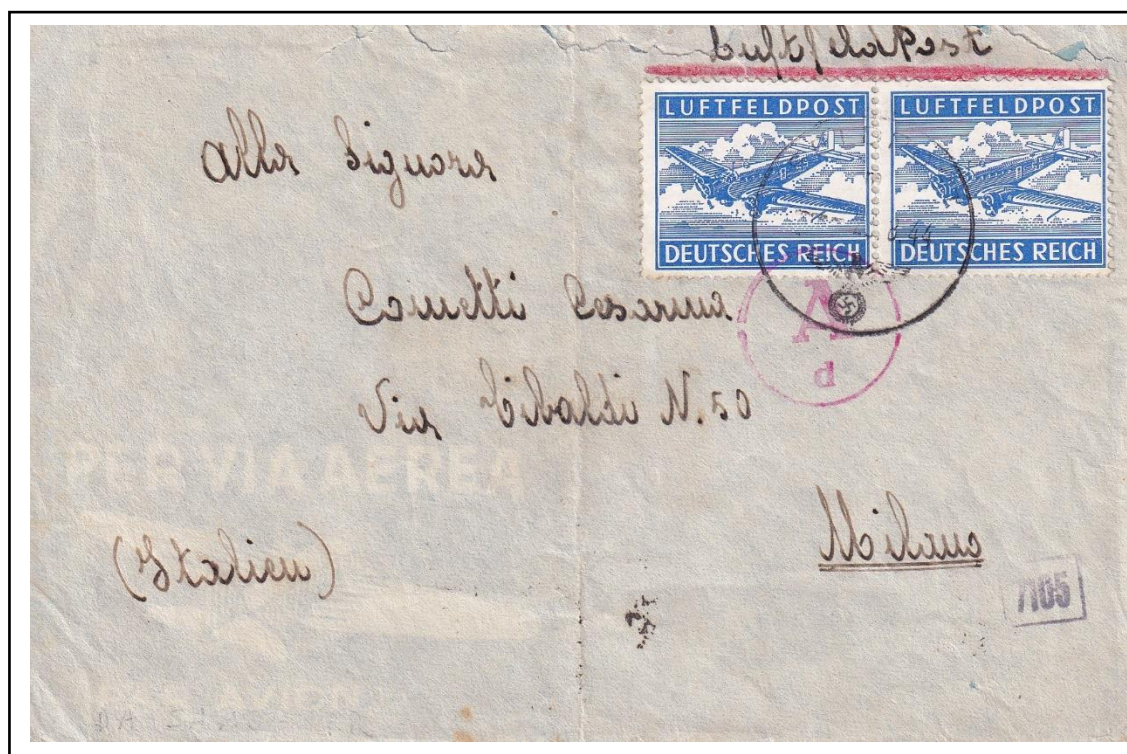


A cover to Italy from a member of the Italian R.S.I. forces with the circular cachet of the 24th Italian Fascist Legion on Samos and the cachet of German Field-Post No. 59447A (which served the XIII Fortress Infantry Battalion 999, Companies 1-4); franked at 50 c. with Italian "P.M." stamps cancelled "FELDPOST I" on 21 March 1944; censored and re-sealed by the Italian authorities in Milan; red German censor mark code letter "d" (= Munich sector – probably a branch in Northern Italy).

Members of the Italian forces could choose to swear allegiance to Germany or become prisoners of war



A cover to Italy from a member of the Italian R.S.I. on Samos served by German Field-Post No. 59447D (XIII Fortress Infantry Battalion 999, Companies 1-4); bearing a "Luftfeldpost" stamp cancelled "FELDPOST m" on 6 June 1944 (two were formally required as from 1 June 1944 but one was tolerated here); red German censor mark code letter "d" (= Munich sector – probably a branch in Northern Italy); with an arrival back-stamp of Pordenone dated 20 June 1944.



A cover from an R.S.I. member on Samos now served by German Field-Post No. 81410D; correctly bearing two "Luftfeldpost" stamps cancelled "FELDPOST m" on 23 August 1944; red German Munich sector censor as above.

World War II ended on 8 May 1945 but Greece suffered internal strife and inflation in the following years



An envelope to the USA correctly franked at 40 drs. (16.9.45-20.11.45); cancelled at "Mytilinioi" on 23 September 1945 (a village on Samos so named because its people had come from the island of Mytilene); Samos transit back-stamp of 24 September 1945; undelivered in Detroit and returned; Samos transit and Mytilinioi arrival back-stamps of 23 and 25 February 1946.



A letter to Amsterdam; Samos date-stamp of 6 February 1946; correct postage "150 drs." (16.1.46-10.2.46) marked paid in cash

Letters from Karlovassi to the same addressee in New York illustrate Greek inflation in the post-war years



An envelope of 5-10g sent on 6 August 1948 correctly franked at 2,600 drs. = postage 1,000 drs. (16.11.47-20.8.50) + airmail fee 2 x 800 drs. per 5g (15.2.48-5.11.49).



An envelope sent on 21 August 1946 correctly franked at 1,300 drs. = postage 600 drs. (10.6.46-15.11.47) + airmail fee 700 drs. for 5g (5.46-1.47).

8. Greek Administration after WWII

Tigani renamed Pythagorion in 1955

One of Samos' claims to fame is that it was the birthplace of Pythagoras, the mathematician and philosopher, who was born there between ca. 580 BC and 572 BC.



A first day cover bearing the series of stamps issued by Greece on 20 August 1955 to commemorate a Pythagorean Congress at Tigani on Samos. The 2 and 5 dr. Values show an ancient coin of Samos depicting Pythagoras, the 3.50 dr. value has a representation of the theorem of Pythagoras and the 6 dr. value shows the island of Samos with location of the town of Tigani. This became the occasion for the name of the town of Tigani to be changed to Pythagorion, which is the name on the date-stamp; the envelope is addressed to Vathy and bears a Samos arrival back-stamp of 21 August 1955.