

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF LEMNOS AND THE NORTHERN AEGEAN ISLANDS

From the beginning of the 19th Century until after World War II



This exhibit shows the postal history of the islands marked in red on the above map. Thasos and Samothrace belong today to the Greek Province of Thrace, the other islands to the Province of Northern Aegean (Lesbos, Chios and Samos also belong to this Province but are the subject of separate exhibits). The islands were all part of the Ottoman Empire until 1912. Icaria seized Autonomy in July 1912 and the others were occupied by Greece in October 1912.

Lemnos, Imbros and Tenedos were used by the Entente in the Dardanelles and Thessalonica Campaigns against Turkey from November 1914 to December 1918. Apart from Imbros and Tenedos, which were returned to Turkey, the islands were confirmed as part of Greece under the Treaty of Lausanne of 1923.

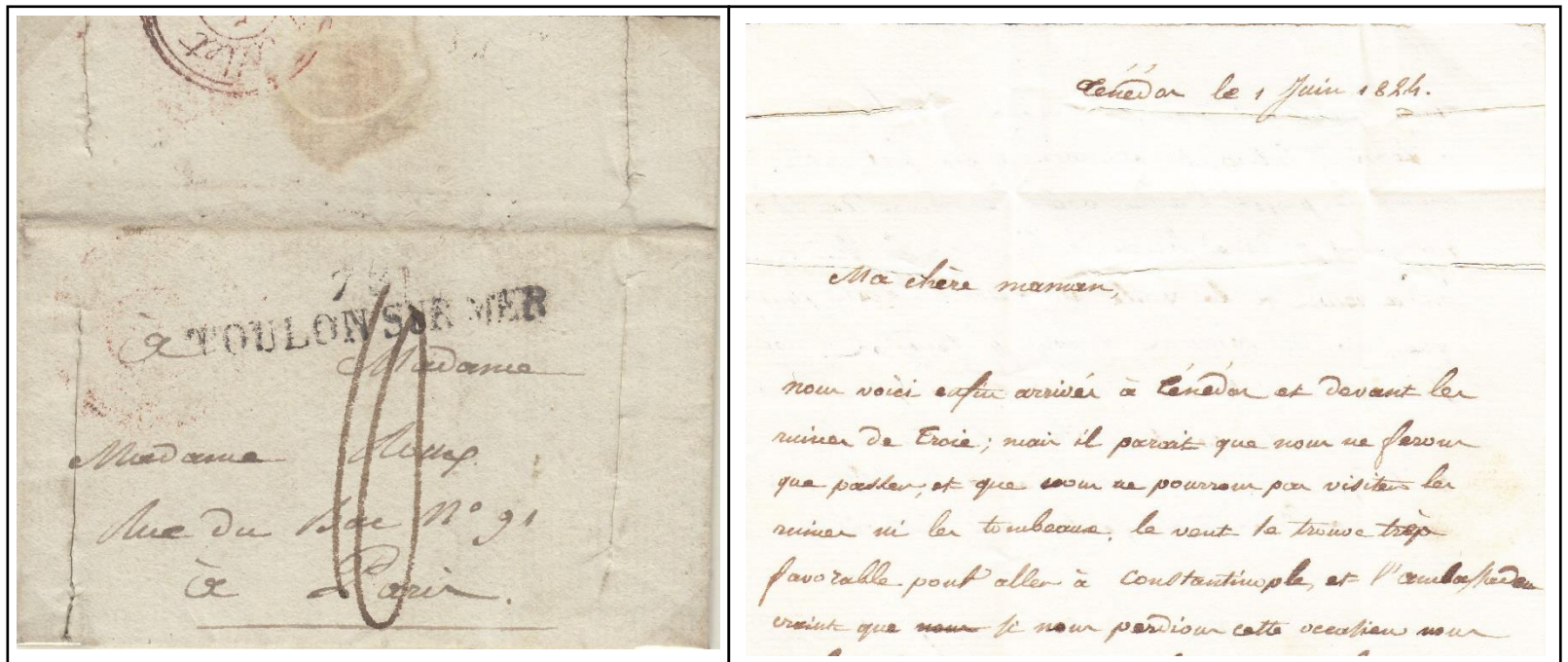
The exhibit is structured as follows:

A. Ottoman Empire	1. Ship letters	1807 – 1912
	2. Egyptian Postal Agency at Tenedos	1837 – 1891
	3. Austrian Lloyd and Postal Agency at Tenedos	1870 – 1871
	4. Turkish Post Offices	1876 – 1912
B. Autonomous and Provisional Greek Administration		1912 – 1913
C. Greek Administration	1. Greek Post Offices	1913 – 1914
	2. WWI – a. Dardanelles and b. Salonica Campaign	1914 – 1918
	3. Russian Refugees' Post	1920 – 1921
	4. Greek Post Offices	1919 – 1941
	5. WWII - German, Italian and Bulgarian Military Occupations	1941 – 1944
	6. Greek Post Offices	1944 – 1947

The literature used is very extensive. The publication of A. Nicolas & A. Galinos "Foreign Post Offices in the Helladic Territories" gives a comprehensive summary for the hundred years to 1923.

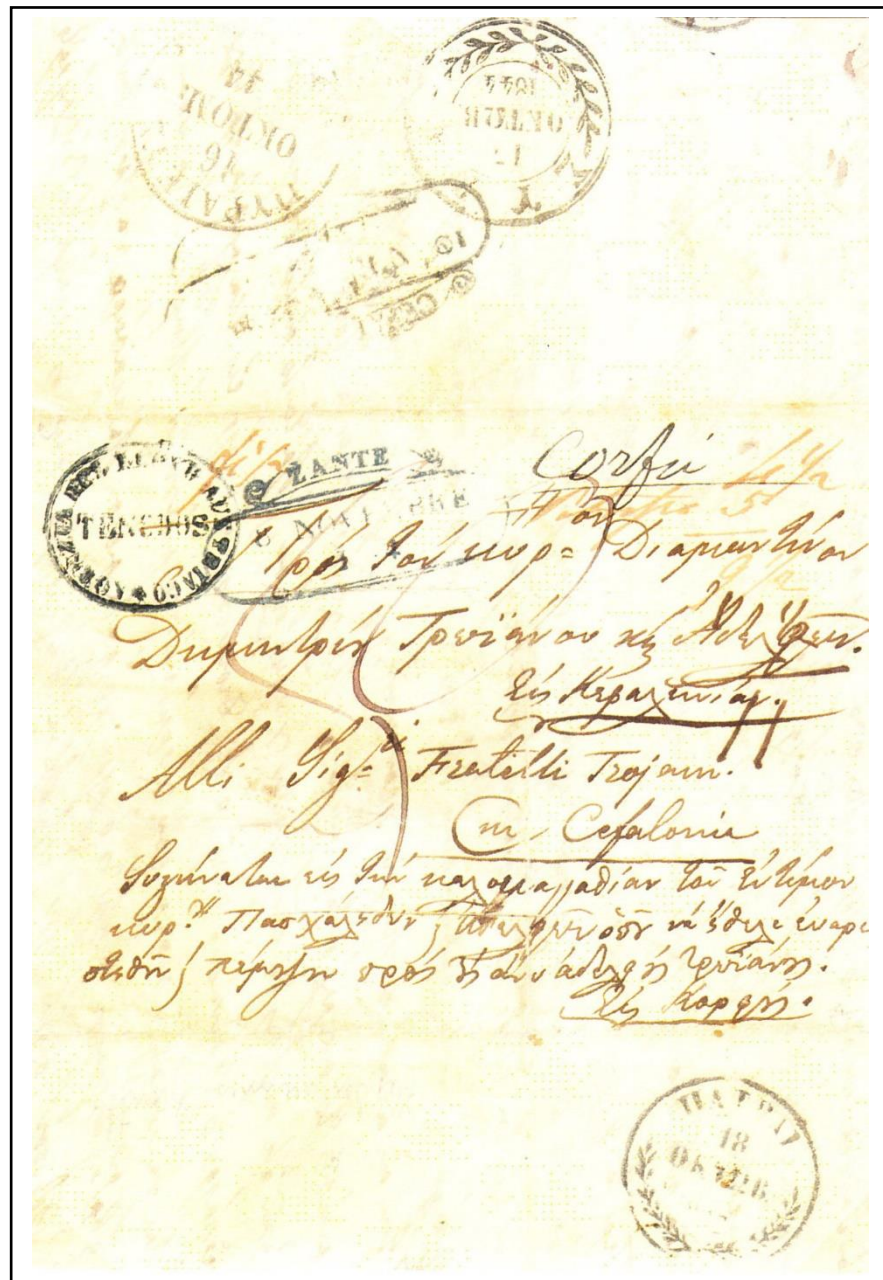


An entire letter to Canterbury written on board the H.M.S. Glatton off Tenedos on 22 February 1807 by Chas. Seccombe (apparently the brother of the Captain, Thomas Seccombe); carried privately (or by British naval vessel) to Malta and handed-in unpaid for carriage to England by the mail packet, receiving the curved boxed "MALTA" marking in black (very early use, recorded by Robson Lowe first from 1808); British arrival back-stamp "Foreign" of 17 April 1807; manuscript "3/1" (ship letter fee), then "3:2" = 3s 2d (including the carriage to Canterbury) payable by the addressee. The writer had witnessed the arrival of Sir J.T. Duckworth's squadron of 7 naval ships on their return Journey from Constantinople; they had been fired on by the castles of the Dardanelles, which led to the declaration of war between Britain and the Ottoman Empire.



An entire addressed to Paris written at Tenedos on 1 June 1824 (right: copy of interesting text saying that the writer was going straight onto a ship for Constantinople because of the favourable wind and did not have time to visit the nearby ruins of Troy); apparently sent from Constantinople as a ship-letter to Toulon sur Mer, France; disinfected (probably on arrival at Toulon), marked with the straight-line "73 / TOULON SUR MER"; postage payable by the addressee 10 décimes marked in manuscript; Paris arrival back-stamp of 5 July 1824 in red.

Letter to the Ionian Islands 1844



A letter written in Tenedos on 13/25 October 1844 and addressed to Cefalonia in the British ruled Ionian Islands. It was apparently first prepaid at 10 soldi, receiving the oval marking of the Lloyd Agency at Tenedos (the second of the two examples known is on a ship-letter from 1858) and carried to Syros by the Austrian Lloyd.

In Syros the letter was handed-in to the Greek P.O. (transit date-stamp of 15? October), then carried to Piraeus and Patras by a Greek ships (transit date-stamp of 16 and 18 October = 28 and 30 October by the Gregorian calendar and rate „5“?).

In Patras the letter was handed-over to a ship of the Ionian Islands and carried first to Zante (transit date-stamp of 8 November), then to Cefalonia (arrival date-stamp 10 November).

The notation “Corfu” is unclear, as Corfu (in the direction of Trieste) lay off the route of the letter and it has no Corfu transit-marking. The red rate notation “Corfu 4½” may be the tariff Patras-Corfu charged for carriage Patras-Zante plus “Patrasso 5” (the above “5” in black) gives the “9½”, to which comes “1½” in black (carriage Zante-Cefalonia?) and gives in total “11” (pence?) to be paid by the addressee.

A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912

2. Austrian Postal Agency at Tenedos 1845(?) - 1891

Wrapper to Trieste of October 1855 - previous earliest recorded use of Tenedos date-stamp 1856

Rate to Trieste: 12 Kreuzer CM per loth (ca. 17g) 1850-58



An entire from Lemnos to Trieste dated 24 October 1855

Serif date-stamp of Tenedos in blue (1855-77)

Prepaid postage of 12 kreuzer noted in black; Tenedos date-stamp of 30 October (1855) and "FRANCO" paid marking in blue, Trieste arrival back-stamp of 8 November (1855).

A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912

2. Austrian Postal Agency at Tenedos 1845(?) - 1891

Letters to Thessaloniki (Turkey) 1862/64 - rate 20 soldi per loth 1858-1865



An entire to Thessaloniki dated 27 July 1862

Serif date-stamp of Tenedos in blue (1862-77)

Prepaid postage of 20 soldi noted in black; date-stamp and "FRANCO" paid marking in blue (regularly used 1862-4)



A registered entire to Thessaloniki dated 12 February 1864

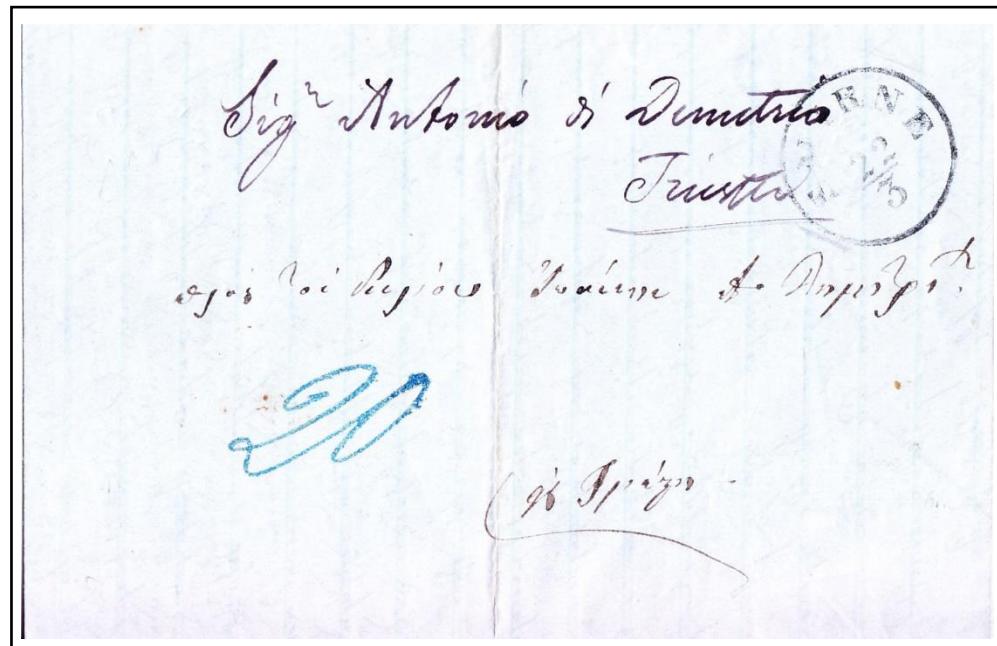
Serif date-stamp of Tenedos in black (1862-77)

Prepaid postage 20 soldi plus registration fee 20 soldi noted as "40" in black; date-stamp of 14 February 1864 and "RECOM" registration marking (black ink was normal from 1864). The only recorded registered letter from Tenedos.

A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912

2. Austrian Postal Agency at Tenedos 1845(?) - 1891

Letters written at Lemnos sent from Tenedos to Trieste via Smyrna in 1862 and to Alexandria in 1864



An entire from Lemnos to Trieste dated 25 February 1862

Albino serif date-stamp of Tenedos (1850-77?)

This entire was sent under cover from Tenedos to Smyrna and shows albino impressions of the Tenedos date-stamp and the "Franco" mark; it was posted unpaid at the Austrian p.o. at Smyrna and date-stamped on 22 March 1862; the postage of 20 soldi payable by the addressee was noted in blue; Trieste arrival back-stamp of 17 May.



A wrapper from Lemnos to Alexandria dated 26 December 1864

Serif date-stamp of Tenedos (1850-77?)

Posted in Tenedos on 1 January 1865; postage 30 soldi prepaid with two 15 s. stamps (1863 issue, perf. 14); date-stamp with typical smudgy impression; note of receipt on 17 January 1865.

A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912

2. Austrian Postal Agency at Tenedos 1845(?) - 1891

Letters to Trieste of 1865 – Levant rate 20 soldi per loth 1858-October 1866



A wrapper from Tenedos dated 19 October 1865

Serif date-stamp of the Postal Agency in black (1850-77?)

Unpaid postage "20" soldi noted in red (no surcharge yet); the Tenedos date-stamp shows the smudgy impression typical at this time; Trieste arrival back-stamp of 26 October 1865; slit for disinfection at Trieste.



Signed "Ferchenbauer"

An entire from Tenedos dated 25 December 1865

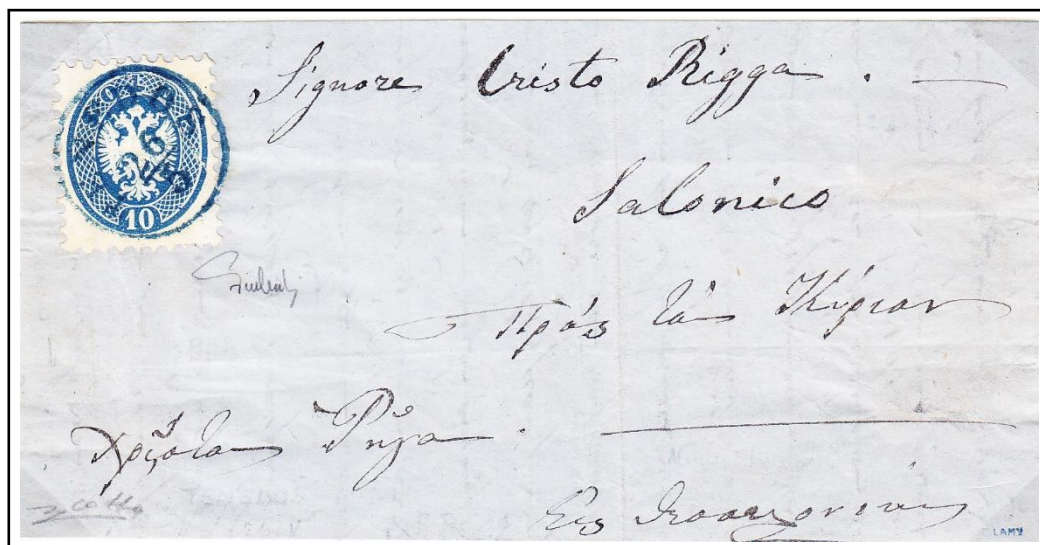
Serif date-stamp of the Postal Agency in black (1850-77?)

Postage prepaid with 5 + 15 soldi stamps of the 1864 issue and "20" soldi noted in blue; the Tenedos date-stamp again shows the typical smudgy impression; Trieste arrival back-stamp of 4 January 1866.

A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912

2. Austrian Postal Agency at Tenedos 1845(?) - 1891

New rates between the postal reform of October 1866 and UPU entry in June 1875



Signed "Ferchenbauer"

A partial entire to Thessalonica dated 26 May (between 1866-9) Serif date-stamp of Tenedos in blue (1850-77?)
New port-to-port postage of 10 soldi prepaid with a 10 s. stamp (1864 issue) and late use of blue ink for cancellation

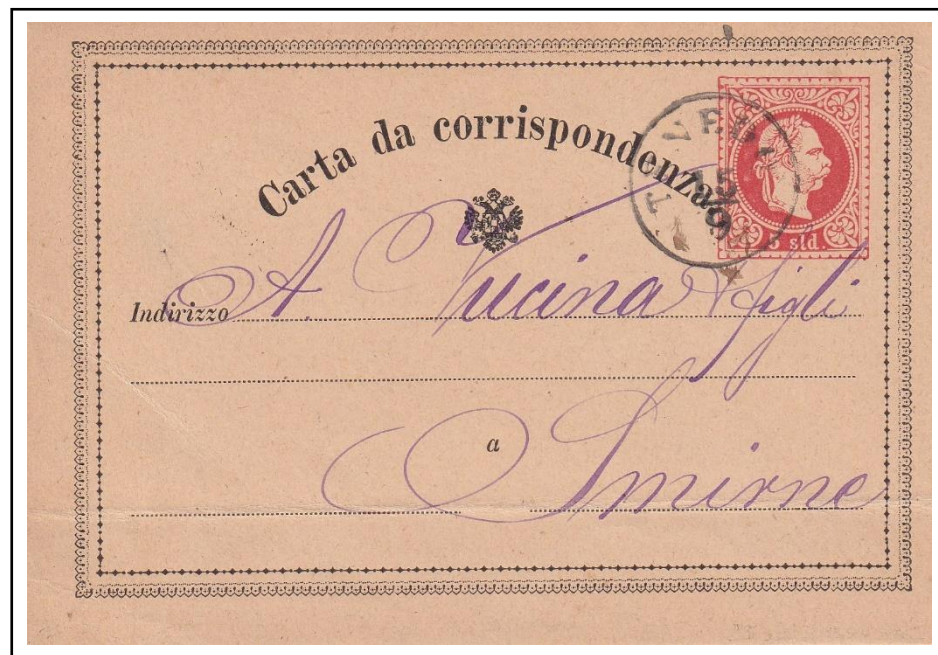


A wrapper to Trieste posted at Tenedos on 4 December 1870 Serif date-stamp of Tenedos in black (1850-77?)
New Levant postage rate of 15 soldi prepaid with a 15 s. stamp (1867 issue); transit back-stamps of the Austrian Lloyd Agency and the p.o. at Constantinople both dated 6 December; Trieste arrival back-stamp of 12 December.

A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912

2. Austrian Postal Agency at Tenedos 1845(?) - 1891

Mail sent after UPU entry on 1 July 1875



A post-card to Smyrna dated 15 September 1876

Serif date-stamp of Tenedos in black (1864-77?)

A 5s postal card of the 1875 issue (rate increased from 4s) correctly used to the Austrian Post Office at Smyrna.



A cover front to Milan dated 16 May (1876 or 1877)

Serif date-stamp of Tenedos in black (1864-77?)

The Franking of this front of 190 soldi (1 x 5 s. + 13 x 15 s. stamps of the 1867 issue) corresponds to a weight of 270 to 285g and the cancellation is dated 16 May; since this UPU tariff was first possible from July 1875, and this date-stamp is recorded only up to 1877, the letter must be from July 1876 or 1877.

A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912

2. Austrian Postal Agency at Tenedos 1845(?) - 1891

Mail sent after UPU entry on 1 July 1875 cancelled with the sans-serif date-stamp



25s stamp (1867 issue)
with Tenedos cancel of
2 March (1877-84)
Sig. Ferchenbauer



10s stamp (1883 issue)
with Tenedos cancel
date illegible
(1883-88)



1pi on 10kr stamp (1888
issue) with Tenedos
cancel of 31 August
(1888-90)



A cover to Fiume dated 14 March 1879

Sans-serif date-stamp of Tenedos in black (1877-91?)
Correctly franked with a 10s stamp (1875 Levant issue); bearing a transit back-stamp of the Lloyd Agency in Constantinople dated 18 March and a Fiume arrival back-stamp of 24 March 1879.

A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912 3. Egyptian Postal Agency at Tenedos 14 July 1870 – March 1871

The standard literature records no covers from the Tenedos Postal Agency, which was open only 9 months



An unused postal seal of the standard Egyptian Type IV A
printed for the Consular Postal Agency at Tenedos

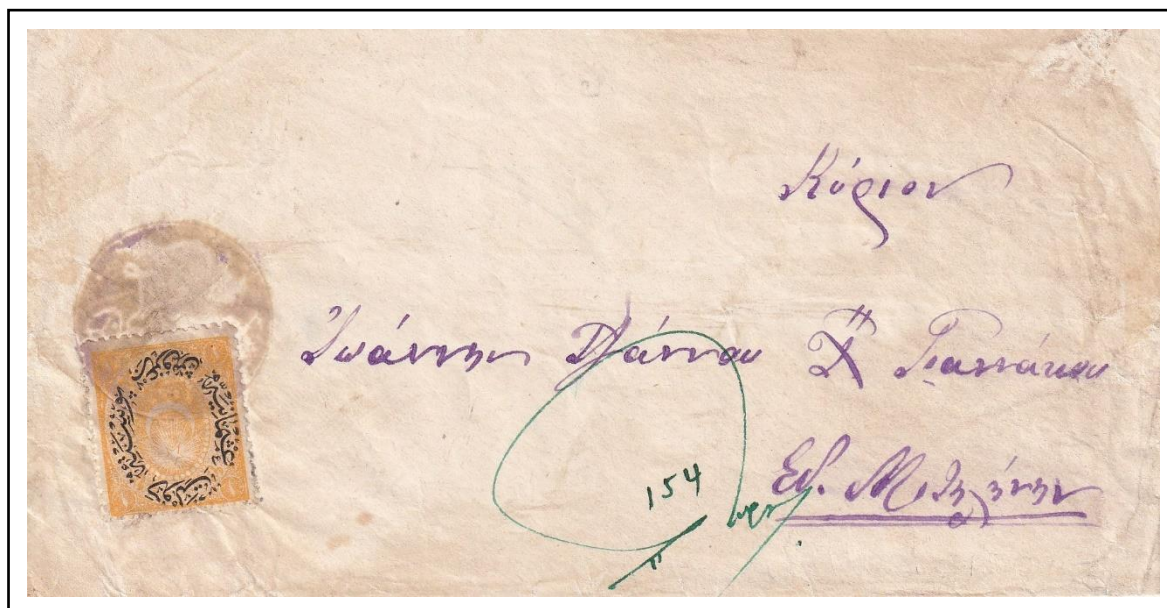


1 and 2 piastre stamps of the 1869 issue of Egypt, which are the only two Egyptian stamp issues recorded with cancellations of the Tenedos Consular Office. The date-stamp reads, in Italian, “V(ice). R(eali). POSTE EGIZIANE TENEDOS” and the date on the 2 piastre stamp can be read as 2? July 1870.



Map ex A. Birken

The first Turkish post office in these islands was opened at Kastro on Lemnos in 1876. Offices on Tenedos and Imbros followed in 1878 and 1885. Undated markings of 8 branch post offices of Lemnos are recorded on stamps of the 1900's. Date-stamps of 1912 for three further offices apparently never came into use.



An undated cover to the island of Mytilene correctly franked at the littoral rate with a 1 piastre stamp (1876-82 issue) cancelled with the first marking of Lemnos. This undated negative marking reading Telegraph and Post Office in Lemnos is recorded only from 1876. The green ink notation is a private register reference.

The second marking of Lemnos is an oval hand-stamp inscribed “Lemnos Post Office” plus a date of “1300” = 1884. These two are the only covers recorded.



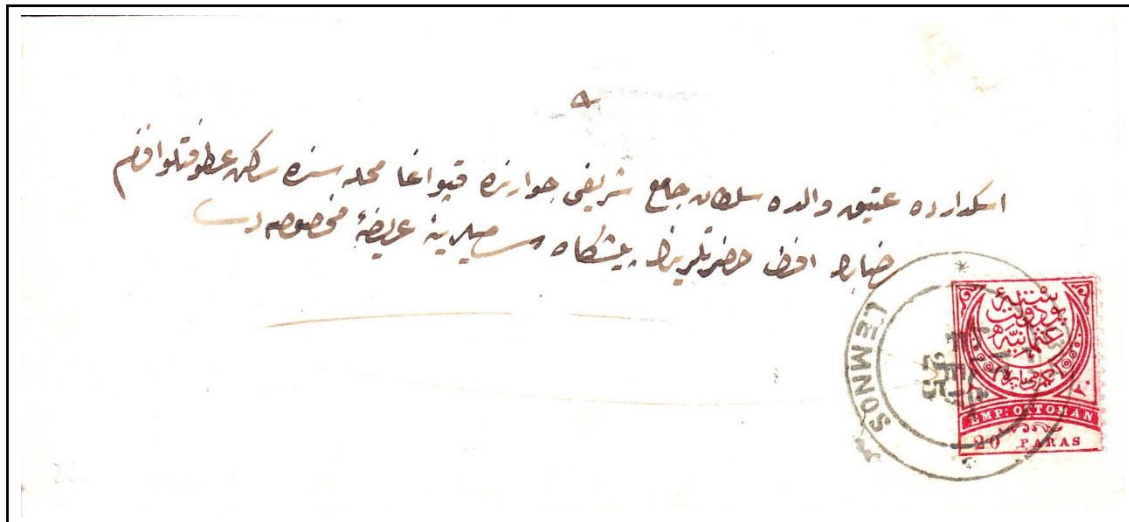
An undated inland cover correctly franked with a 20 pa stamp of the 1880 issue cancelled in blue with the above oval marking used at Kastro. (Expertise).



A further 20 pa stamp of the 1884 issue also cancelled with the above oval marking, here still in blue ink.

An inland cover correctly franked with a 20 pa stamp of the 1884 issue cancelled in black with the above oval marking used at Kastro, The cover also bears the small-lettered “Lemnos” date-stamp dated 6 October 1885?

Covers bearing the first date-stamp of Kastro (small letters) which is recorded 1884-90



A letter to Constantinople correctly franked with a 20 pa. stamp (1884 p. 11½ issue) cancelled with the above date-stamp on 25 February (1886); Constantinople transit and Stamboul arrival back-stamps of 1886 (dates illegible).



A letter to Italy correctly franked with a 1 pa. stamp (1884 p. 13½ issue) cancelled with the above date-stamp on 4 May (1886); Smyrna and Taranto transit and Palermo arrival back-stamps of 6, 12 and 13 May 1886.

A negative seal marking inscribed “Lemnos Post Office” plus a date “1309” = 1893 used as a canceller



Left a 1 piastre and right a pair of 20 pa stamps of the 1892 issue cancelled with the above negative marking in violet respectively in black



A cover to Jerusalem dated 25 August 1899

Large-lettered date-stamp of Myrina, Lemnos in violet (1893-1902)

Correctly franked at 1 piastre with stamps of the 1892 issue cancelled with the above negative marking of Lemnos (recorded 1893-1911); date-stamped before despatch; with Smyrna transit and Jerusalem arrival back-stamps.



A post-card to Italy dated 20 November 1895 Large lettered date-stamp of Kastro, Lemnos in black (1893-1902)
 A 20 para post-card (1892 issue) correctly used to Italy; Bagnacavallo arrival date-stamp of 24 November 1895



Printed matter to Mytilene dated 11 May 1900 Large-lettered date-stamp of Kastro, Lemnos in violet (1893-1902)
 Correctly franked with a 5 para on 10 para stamp of the 1897 provisional issue for printed matter; with a Mytilene arrival back-stamp of 13 May 1900.



A letter from Athens sent with inland franking to a British naval vessel in Greece on 3 August 1902; readdressed to Lemnos (Turkey); transit back-stamps of the Austrian & Turkish p.o.'s at Smyrna of 21 & 22 August 1902; Turkish "T" plus ms. "60 paras" marked on the front; Lemnos arrival back-stamp of 24 August and three 20 para postage-due stamps (1901 issue) affixed and cancelled on 25 August 1902. Right: reduced copy (61%) of part of front.



A cover to Constantinople dated 18 December 1910 Date-belt date-stamp of Castro, Lemnos in black (1901-12)
Correctly franked with a 20 para stamp (1892 issue) and bearing Chios and Smyrna transit and Constantinople arrival back-stamps of 25, 26 and 29 December 1910.

A receipt form for a parcel sent from Myrina, Lemnos on 12 May 1907 bearing a 10 para fiscal stamp cancelled with the date-belt date-stamp.

A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912

4. Turkish Branch Post Office at Moudros on Lemnos 1905-1912

The second largest village on Lemnos was Moudros – the only Branch Post Office to receive a date-stamp



Stamps of the 1905 issue cancelled with the standard type undated Lemnos village marking of Moudros reading (in French) "Imperial Ottoman Branch Post Office Mondros"



Above: The back of a letter sent from USA to Moudros, Lemnos, on 18 March 1911; blue transit back-stamps of Smyrna and Kastro, Lemnos, of 3 and 7 April 1911; arrival back-stamp reading "MONDOROZ" dated 7 April 1911 (recorded only from 1912).

Right: Part of the back of a letter sent from Moudros to USA correctly franked with a pair of 20 pa stamps of the 1909 issue cancelled at Moudros with the date-stamp inscribed "MONDOROZ" (date illegible); transit back-stamps of Kastro, Lemnos, of 17 July and of a US entry point of 9 September 1910.



A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912

4. Turkish Branch Post Offices on Lemnos 1905-1912

Standard undated markings from 6 of the 7 other Branch Post Offices of villages on Lemnos and Boz-Baba



ATCHKY on 10
pa. 1906 Béhié



ATCHKY on 20 pa. 1909



BOZ-BABA 1 pi. 1905
Ayios Ephstratios Island



CONDIE 1 pi. 1905



KORNOS 1 pi. 1909



KONDOPOL 1 pi. 1905



Above left: A block of four 10 para stamps (1905 issue) cancelled in blue with the Varoz marking. Right: A letter sent from Varoz to New York correctly franked with a 1 pi stamp (1908 issue – badly printed, colour should be blue). Below left: A reduced copy (47%) of the reverse of the cover showing a Lemnos back-stamp of 8 April 1909; non-delivery in New York on 8 May and return to Turkey on 10 June, receiving a Lemnos back-stamp on 20 July 1909.

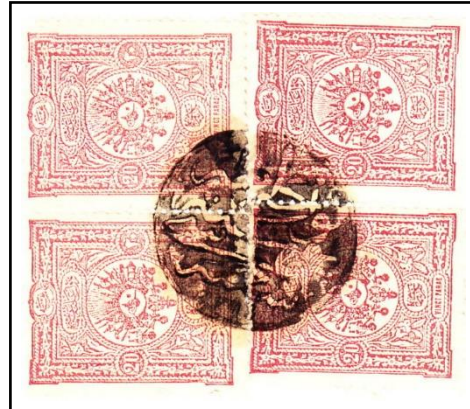
A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912

4. Turkish Post Office on Tenedos 1878-1912

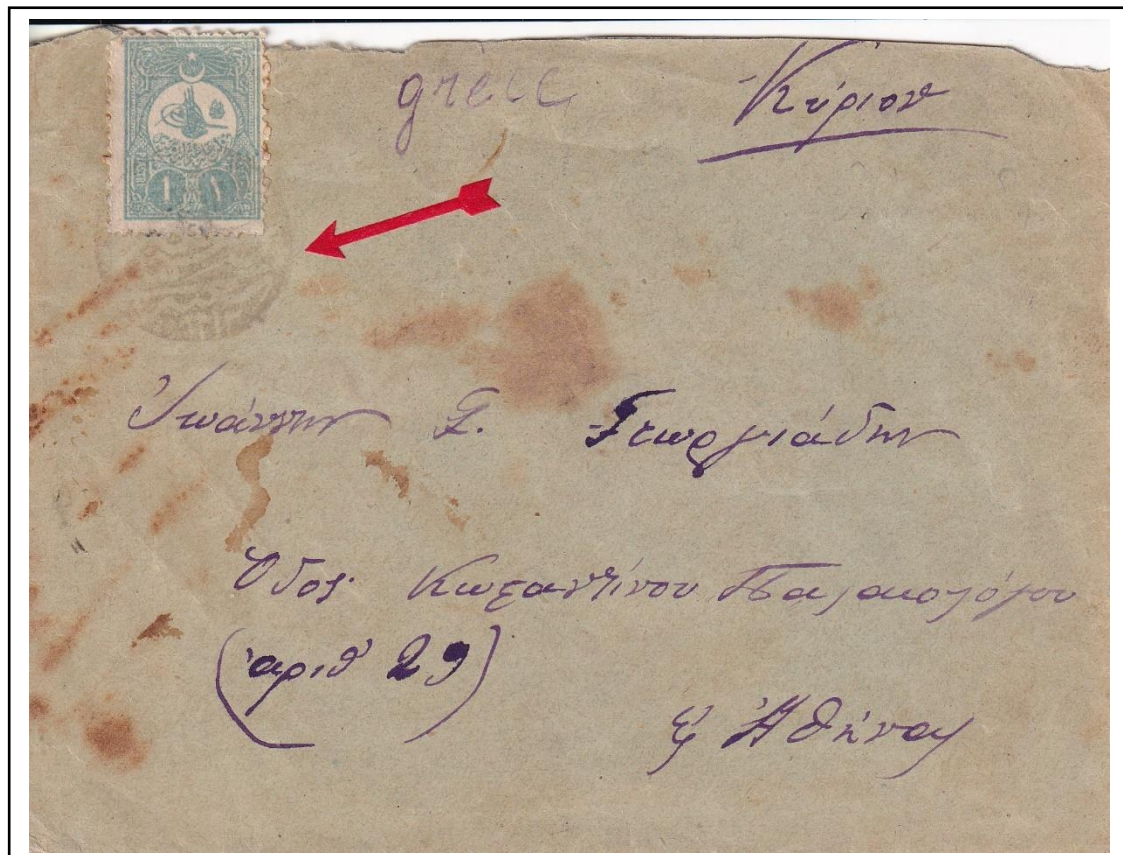
Negative seal markings inscribed with the island's Turkish name "Bozdja Ada"



A piece with a perfect strike of the negative seal of Tenedos with date "1294" = 1878 in blue (only black and green recorded).



Two pairs of 20 para stamps (1891 issue); cancelled in black with the 26 mm negative seal of Tenedos (date not legible).



Expertise

A letter to Greece correctly franked with a 1 piastre stamp (1908 issue) cancelled in black with a negative seal marking of Tenedos now with date "1313" = 1897; bearing an Athens arrival back-stamp of 20 May 1908.

A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912

4. Turkish Post Office on Tenedos 1878-1912

Rectangular marking with Turkish name “Bozdja Ada” and date-stamps with Greek and Turkish names



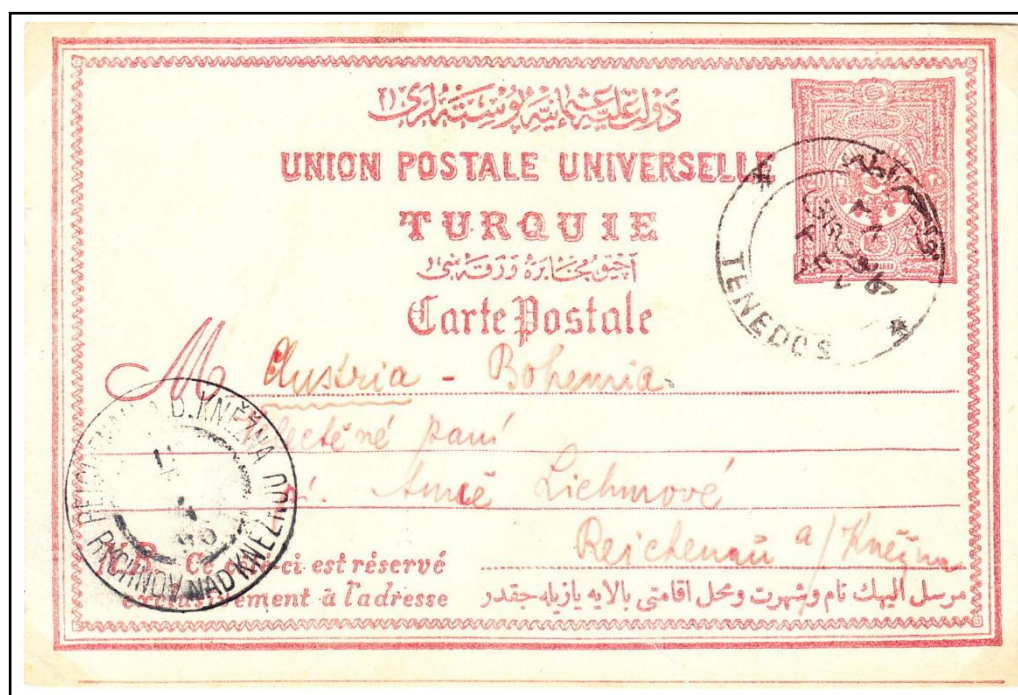
A pair of 20 pa. stamps of the 1884 issue with the rectangular Bozdja Ada marking in blue.



20 pa. and 1 pi. stamps of the 1892 issue with the Tenedos date-stamp in black. Recorded on stamps of the 1892 up to 1901 issues.



A 1 pi. stamp (1901 issue) with the rectangular marking and Bozdja Ada date-stamp.



A 20 para post-card (1892 issue) used to Austria cancelled with the double-ring Tenedos date-stamp on 10 February 1896 (recorded 1892-1901); with Smyrna transit b/s of 11 February and arrival mark of Reichenau a.d. Knezna with unclear date.

A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912 4. Turkish P.O. on Tenedos (markings now “Bozdja Ada”) 1876-1912



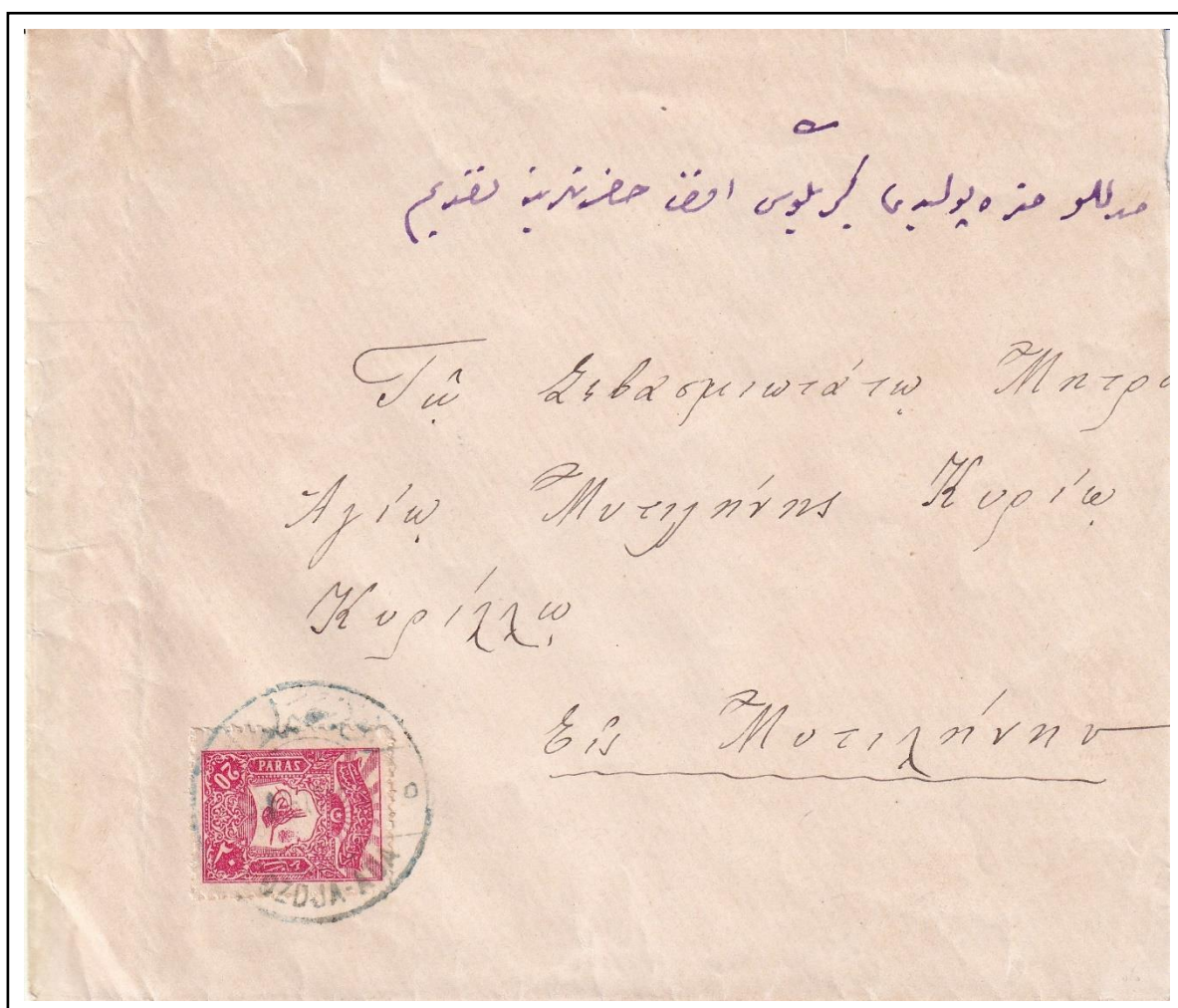
An envelope to German East Africa correctly franked with a pair of 20 para stamps (1892 issue); cancelled in blue with the 30 mm "BOZDJA (ADA)" date-stamp of 15 (December) 1899 (recorded only 1900-01); transit marks of Constantinople, Aden, Dar-es-Salaam and Tanga dated 18 and 30 December 1899, 19 and 26 January 1900.



An incoming envelope from Constantinople franked with a 20 para stamp (1892 issue) cancelled with the oval "Dersaadet 3" marking (recorded 1892-1901); with a Stamboul departure date-stamp of 584.2.12 (= 18 October 1900) (recorded 1895-1900) and a weak strike of the 30 mm "BOZDJA (ADA)" date-stamp on arrival on 20 October 1920.

A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912 4. Turkish P.O. on Tenedos (markings now “Bozdja Ada”) 1876-1912

The 31 mm belt-type date-stamp with name "BOZDJA-ADA" was introduced in 1901 and used up to October 1912



An envelope to Mitylene franked with a 20 para stamp (1905 issue) cancelled in greenish-blue with the 31 mm "BOZDJA-ADA" date-stamp on ? August 1906.



A piece with 20 para and 1 piastre stamps (1905 issue) cancelled in blue with the 31 mm "BOZDJA-ADA" date-stamp (date illegible).



After the occupation by Greece in October 1912, this date-stamp continued in use with the Turkish date replaced with the word "ELLAS", and still with the light blue Turkish ink. Right: a part-cover with this date-stamp cancelling Greek stamps on 20 January 1913.

A. Turkish period 1657 – 1912

4. Turkish Post Office on Imbros 1885-1912

Negative seal marking “Gökçe Ada” and dual language markings also showing the Greek name “Imbros”



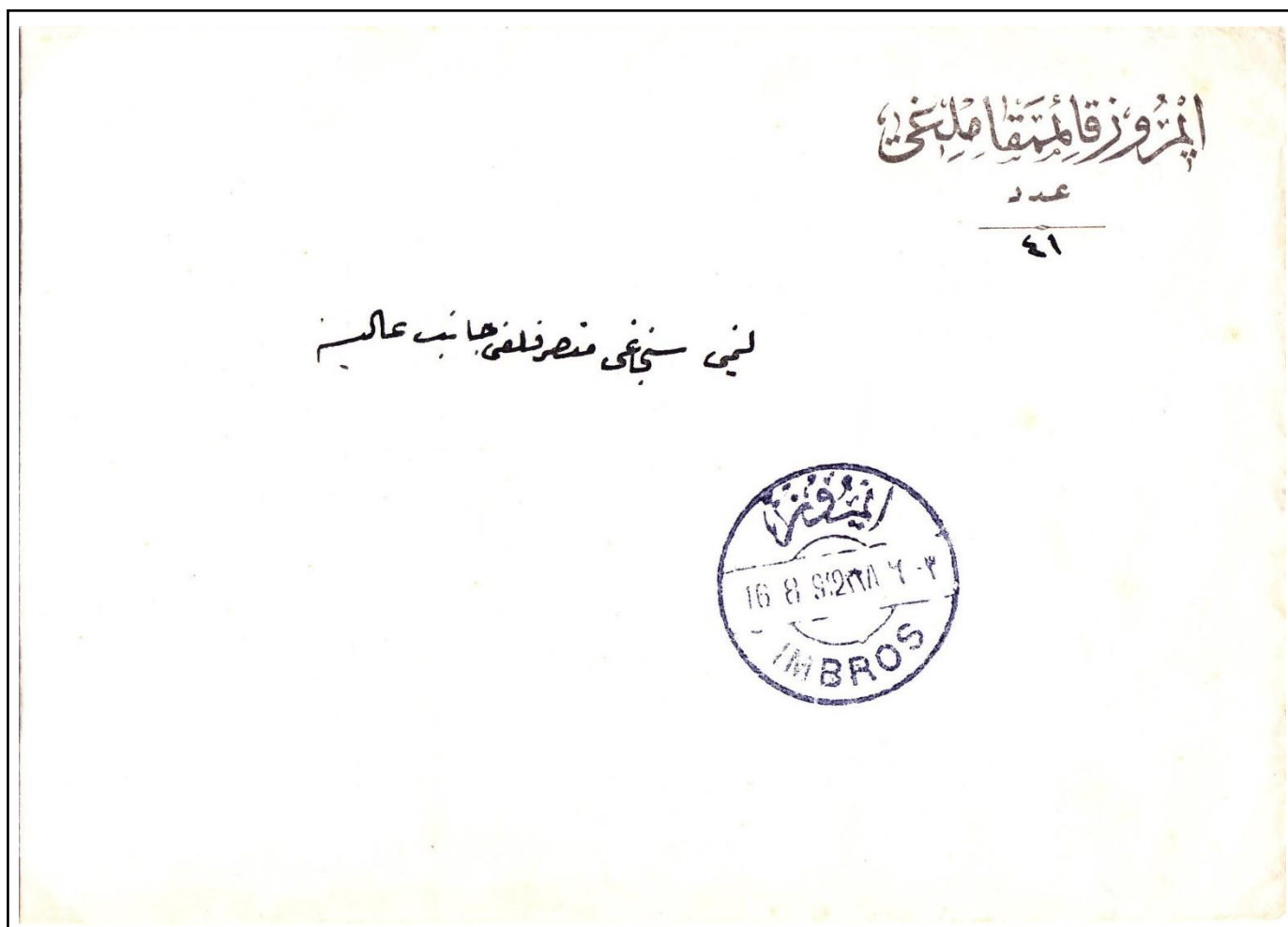
A pair of 20 para stamps of the 1892 issue cancelled in red with the 26 mm negative seal marking of Imbros inscribed inscription “Gökçe Ada” (Imbros) with date “1305” = 1889. (Recorded 1887-1892).



A piece with two 20 para stamps (1901 issue); cancelled in blue with the undated double-ring marking of Imbros; with arrival date-stamp of the French Post Office at Constantinople dated 21 September 1902.

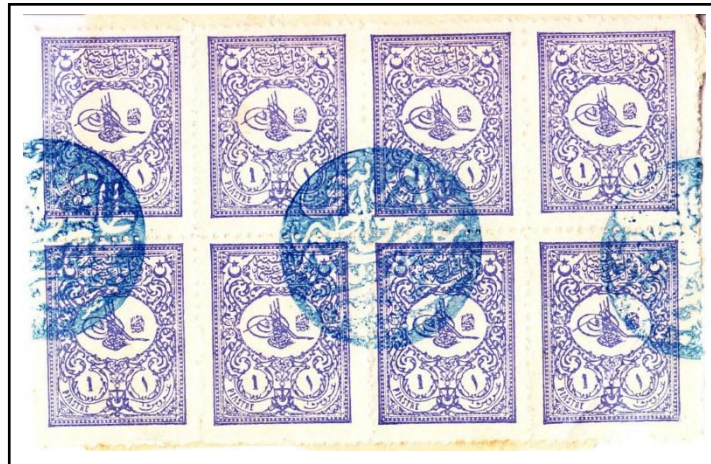


A 20 para postal stationery cut-out supplemented with a 2 pi. stamp (1908 issue) bearing the 34mm date-stamp of Imbros dated 23 August 1909 plus a Mytilene marking (date illegible).



A postage-free official envelope bearing the 34 mm Imbros date-stamp dated 16 August 1912 (recorded 1909-1912)

Dual language markings showing the island's Greek name "Thassos"



A block of eight 1 piastre stamps of the 1901 issue cancelled in blue with the negative seal marking of the Turkish post office at Liman (Osmaniye) inscribed only "Tashoz".



A 20 para postal stationery envelope (1905 issue) used to Thessalonica and cancelled with the "THASSOS" date-stamp used at Liman (Osmaniye) on 16 June 1906 (recorded 1902-08).

A. Turkish Period 1657 - 1912 Turkish Post Offices at Liman and Liminaria on Thasos 1908-1912

Dual language markings with “Osmaniye-Thassos” (Greek Liman) or “Tachos-Hamidie” (Greek Liminaria)



Three 20 para stamps (1908 commem. issue) and a 20 para stamp (1905 issue) on a post-card to Italy cancelled with the “OSMANIE-THASSOS” date-stamp on 21 March 1909 respectively 20 September 1907 (recorded 1907-12).



A cover to Switzerland with a 1 pi. stamp (1908 issue) with the “TACHOS-HAMIDIE” date-stamp of Liminaria on 29 January 1909 (recorded 1908-12); Cavalla transit and Tägerwilen arrival back-stamps of 29 January and 3 February 1909



20 pa. stamps (1884 and 1901 issues) with the date-stamp "CARIOT (ILE)" of 1891 (blue) & 1903 (black) (recorded 1894-1907).



A registered cover to Constantinople franked with 20 para + 1 pi. stamps of the 1905 issue (20 para postage + 1 pi. registration) cancelled with the 32mm "KARIOT" date-stamp in blue on 30 November 1911 (recorded 1908-12); Chios transit date-stamp of 1 December 1911; Pankaldi & Constantinople transit and arrival back stamps.



A letter sent from Boston, USA, addressed to Cairo, Egypt, on 16 August 1909. Misdirected to "Kariot", to arrive on 20 September and receive the 32mm "KARIOT" date-stamp in violet. Redirected to Cairo, travelling via Chios, Chania, Crete, and Alexandria and receiving a Cairo delivery date-stamp on 5 October 1909.

B. Autonomy and Greek Occupation Local and Provisional Greek P.O.s July 1912 – May 1913/1923

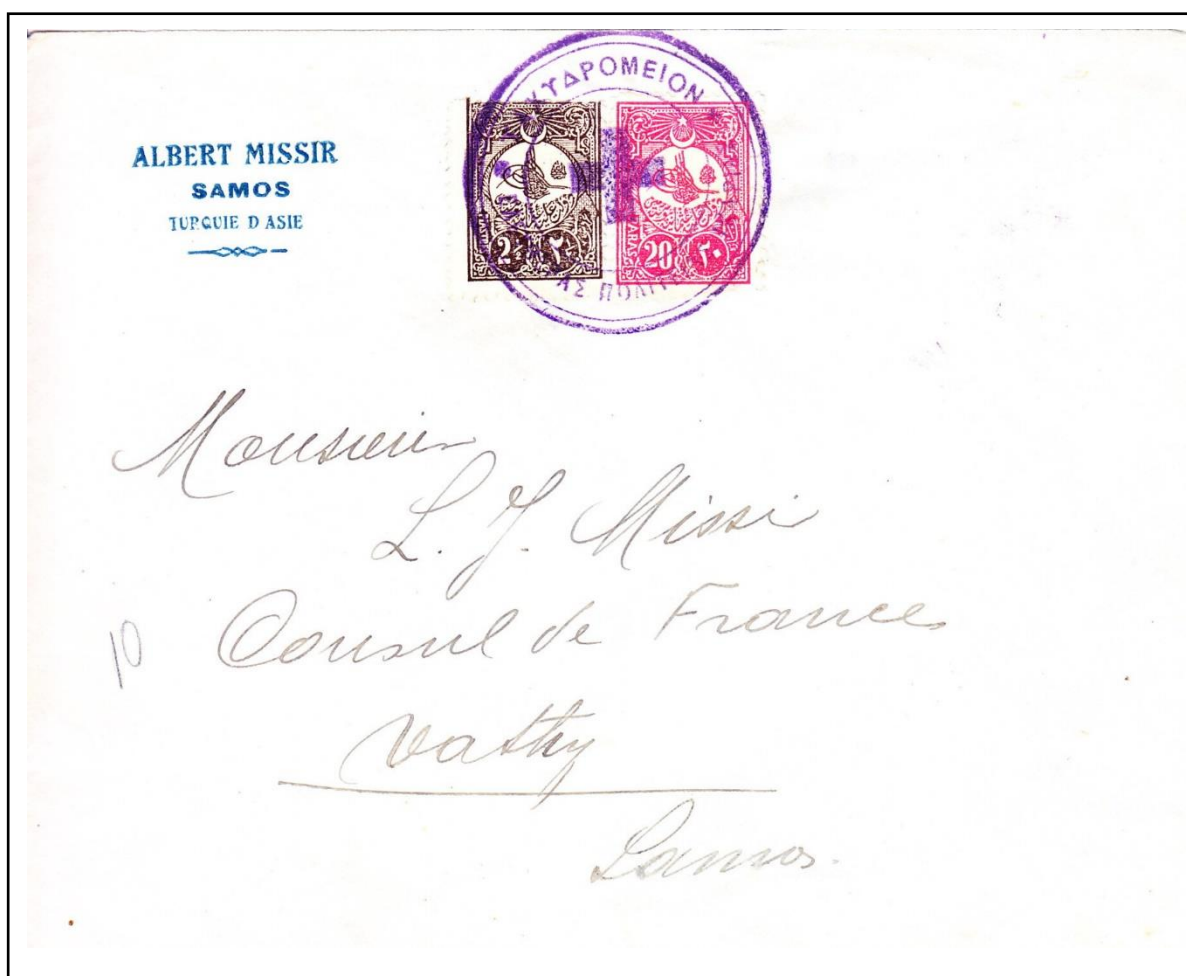
After the occupation of the Southern Sporades (the Dodecanese) by Italy in April/May 1912, the mainly Greek populations of the Northern Aegean Islands aspired to independence from Turkey and unification with Greece. This was achieved on 30 May 1913 under the Treaty of London (except Imbros & Tenedos).

The transitional postal arrangements up to the unification with Greece are shown in this section island by island in the chronological order in which the Turkish authorities were expelled:

1. Icaria	1.1. Autonomy	17/30 July 1912	
	1.2. Greek Occupation	4/17 November 1912	
2. Lemnos	Greek Occupation	7/20 October 1912	
3. Thassos	Greek Occupation	17/30 October 1912	
4. Imbros	Greek Occupation	18/31 October 1912	Return to Turkey 24 July 1923
5. Tenedos	Greek Occupation	18/31 October 1912	Return to Turkey 24 July 1923
6. Samothrace	Greek Occupation	18/31 October 1912 (ca.)	

B.1.1 Icaria: Autonomous State 17 July - 4 Nov. 1912

Mail with Turkish stamps September 1912



A philatelic cover to the French Consul at Vathy on Samos; over-franked at 3 pi. with 2½ pi. and 20 pa. stamps of Turkey (1908 issue) cancelled with a rubber hand-stamp translating "POST OFFICE * FREE STATE OF ICARIA"; arrival back-stamp of the French post office at Vathy dated 27 September 1912.

According to standard catalogues, these stamps were first issued on 8 October 1912, but Arthur Maury in France had written that they were already issued in September. The cover below, addressed to Yvert and Tellier (perhaps the evidence Athur Maury had seen) confirms an issue date before 24 September 1912.



A piece of an envelope bearing an imperforate example of the 2 lepta stamp cancelled with the marking "POST OFFICE * FREE STATE OF ICARIA" used at Agios Kirykos.



A cover to France with a manuscript note "Registered" and correctly franked with a 50 lepta stamp for postage 25 l. plus registration 25 l.; cancelled with the marking "POST OFFICE * FREE STATE OF ICARIA". The copy (100%) of part of the back shows a Piraeus transit back-stamp of 11 (24) September 1912, a Calais transit back-stamp of 30 September 1912 and an Amiens, Somme, arrival back-stamp of 1 October 1912.



A registered cover to Egypt; correctly franked at 50 lepta (still with an Icaria stamp); cancelled with the date-stamp "FREE STATE OF ICARIA / CENTRAL POST OFFICE" dated 22 December 1912 (= 4 Jan. 1913); Athens transit back-stamp of 27 Dec. 1912 (= 9 Jan. 1913); Alexandria transit and Tanta arrival back-stamps of 13 January 1913.



A cover to Egypt; correctly franked with a 25 lepta Icaria stamp; cancelled with the date-stamp translating "FREE STATE OF ICARIA / CENTRAL POST OFFICE" dated 28? October 1912 (= 10 November by the Gregorian calendar); Cairo arrival back-stamp of 22 November 1912.



A philatelic cover to Samos; franked with a Greek 10 lepta stamp unoffically overprinted locally "GREEK ADMINISTRATION"; cancelled with Greek "IKARIA" date-stamp at Ag. Kyrikos on 2? January 1913; with a Vathy arrival back-stamp of 30 January 1913.



A philatelic cover to Yvert & Tellier in France; correctly franked with a 10 lepta stamp of the 8 October 1912 issue plus Greek stamps to 15 lepta unoffically overprinted "Ikaria" locally at Evdilos (not mentioned in the standard literature); cancelled "EVDILOS / ICARIA" on 8 January 1913; Amiens arrival back-stamp dated 30 January 1913.



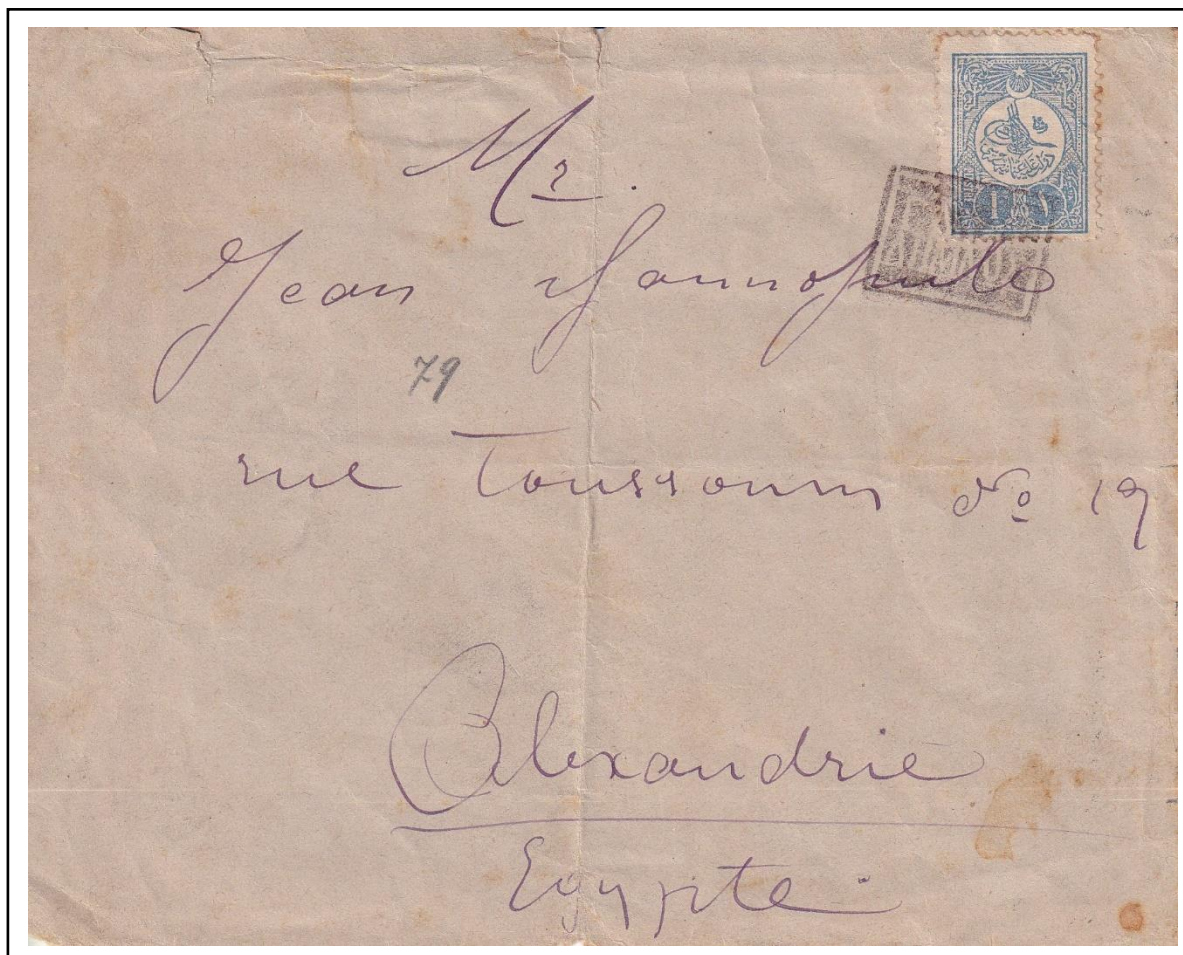
A cover to Egypt correctly franked with a Turkish 1 piastre stamp (1909 issue); cancelled with the Turkish marking of Kondopol village; a sharp impression of the "ELLAS / LEMNOS" marking as transit marking at Kastron; Piraeus transit back-stamp 25 October (= 7 November); Alexandria arrival b/s dated 10 November 1912 (first mail despatch!).



A cover to Egypt correctly franked with two Turkish 20 para stamps (1909 issue) cancelled as above. The reduced copy of the back shows: Piraeus and Alexandria transit markings as above, Bacos and Sidi Gabes transit and Bilqas arrival back-stamps dated 10 and 11 November 1912 (mail despatch as above).



A cover to Egypt bearing no stamps, but only the hand-stamp reading "ELLAS / LEMNOS"; Piraeus transit b/s 13 November (= 25 November) 1912; Alexandria transit and Mahalla arrival b/s of 29 and 30 November 1912.



A cover to Egypt correctly franked with a Turkish 1 piastre stamp (1909 issue); cancelled with the "ELLAS / LEMNOS" negative hand-stamp; Alexandria arrival on same date as above.



A cover to Egypt still correctly franked with a Turkish 1 piastre stamp (the Greek stamps overprinted for Lemnos had not yet arrived); cancelled "LEMNOS 21 Nov. 8" (here, the "8" is the date by the Julian calendar); additionally cancelled in transit with the Athens machine mark on 21 November (= 4 December by the Gregorian calendar); with Alexandria and Birket el Sab transit and arrival back-stamps dated 8 December 1912.



A registered cover to Egypt over-franked by 1 lepton with Greek stamps overprinted "LEMNOS", which were issued in mid-November 1912; cancelled "LEMNOS 28 Nov. 11" (as the date by the Julian calendar should have been "15", the "11" is here confusing); Alexandria arrival back-stamp dated 20 December 1912.

The "LEMNOS" date-stamp was used at the main post office at Kastro from November. As a further post office was opened at Mudros early in 1913, a new date-stamp "KASTRON-LEMNOS" was introduced.

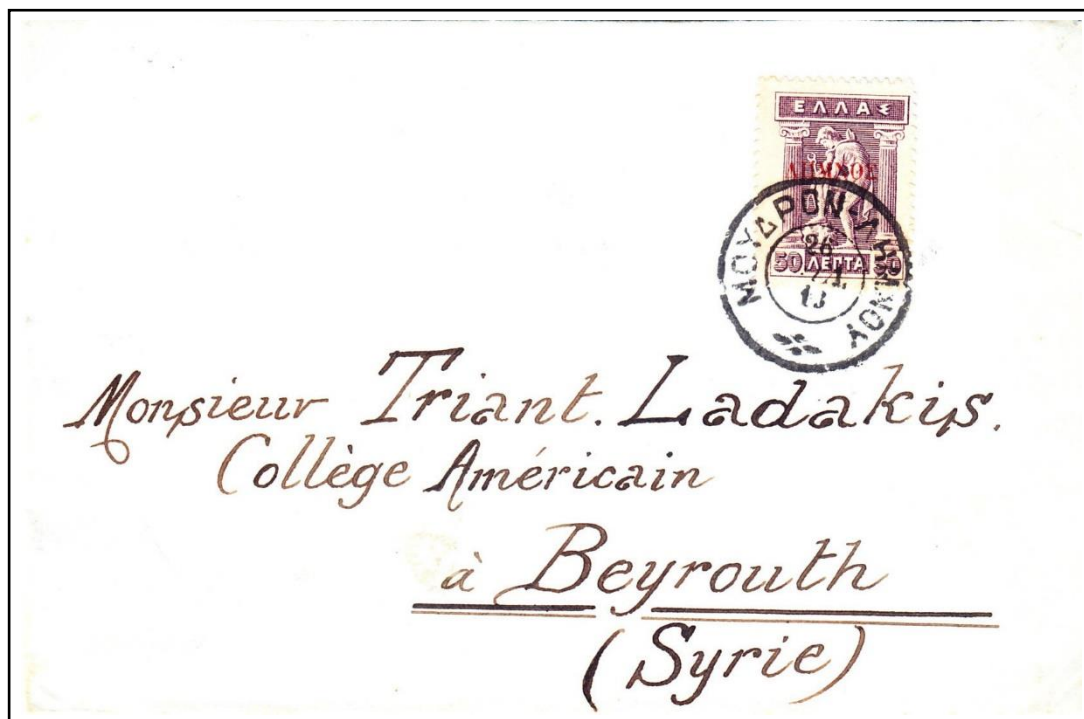


A cover to Egypt correctly franked with a 25 lepta stamp overprinted "LEMNOS" in red cancelled with the new "KASTRON LEMNOS" date-stamp on 1 March 1913; with an Alexandria arrival back-stamp with missing date.

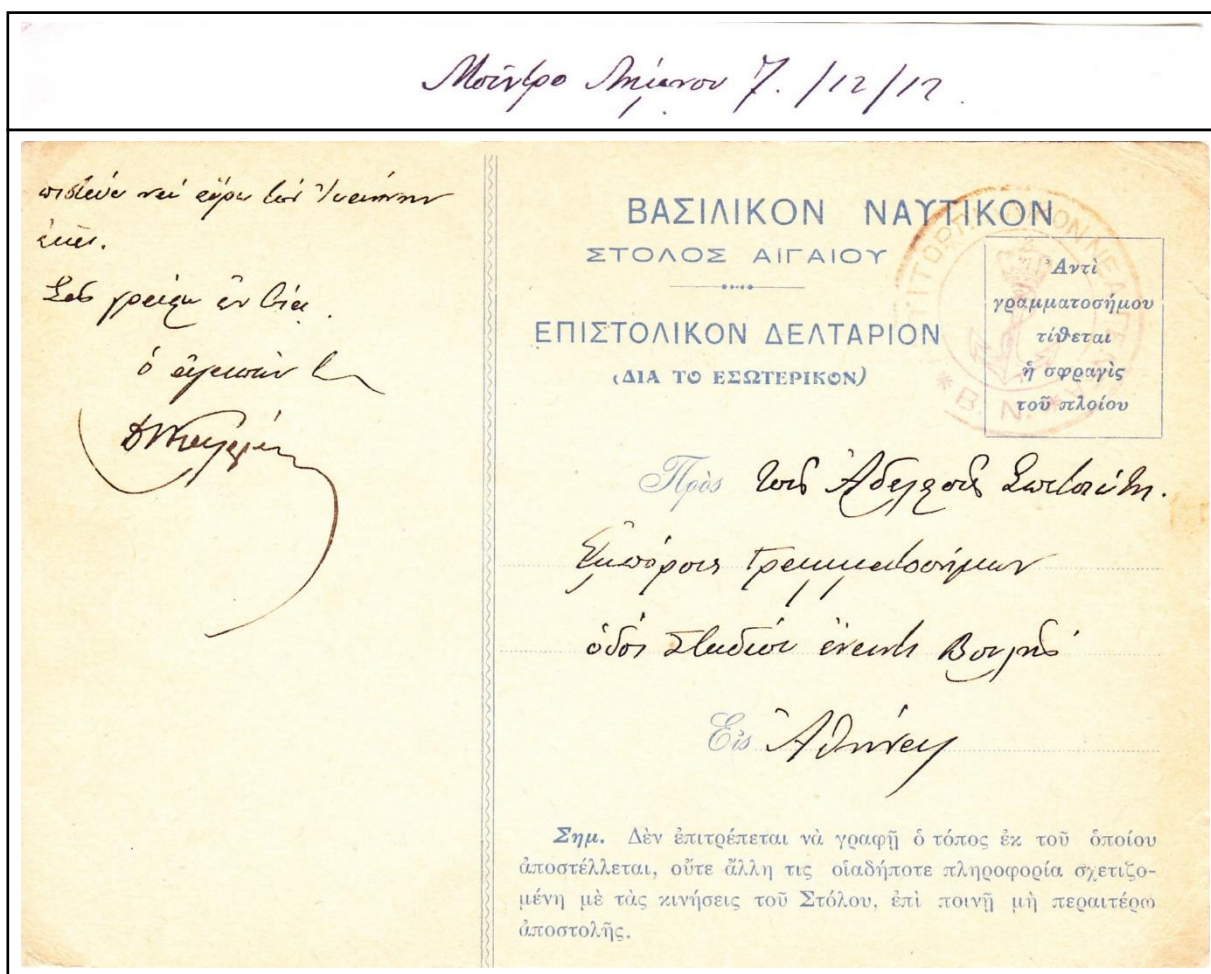


A cover to Egypt correctly franked with a 25 lepta stamp overprinted "LEMNOS" in black; cancelled "LEMNOS" at Kastron on 9/22 December 1912; with a Birket el Sab arrival back-stamp dated 30 December 1912.

A new post office was opened at Moudros at the beginning of 1913 and was supplied with a date-stamp "MOUDRON-LEMNOS" (earliest recorded date 2 January 1913).



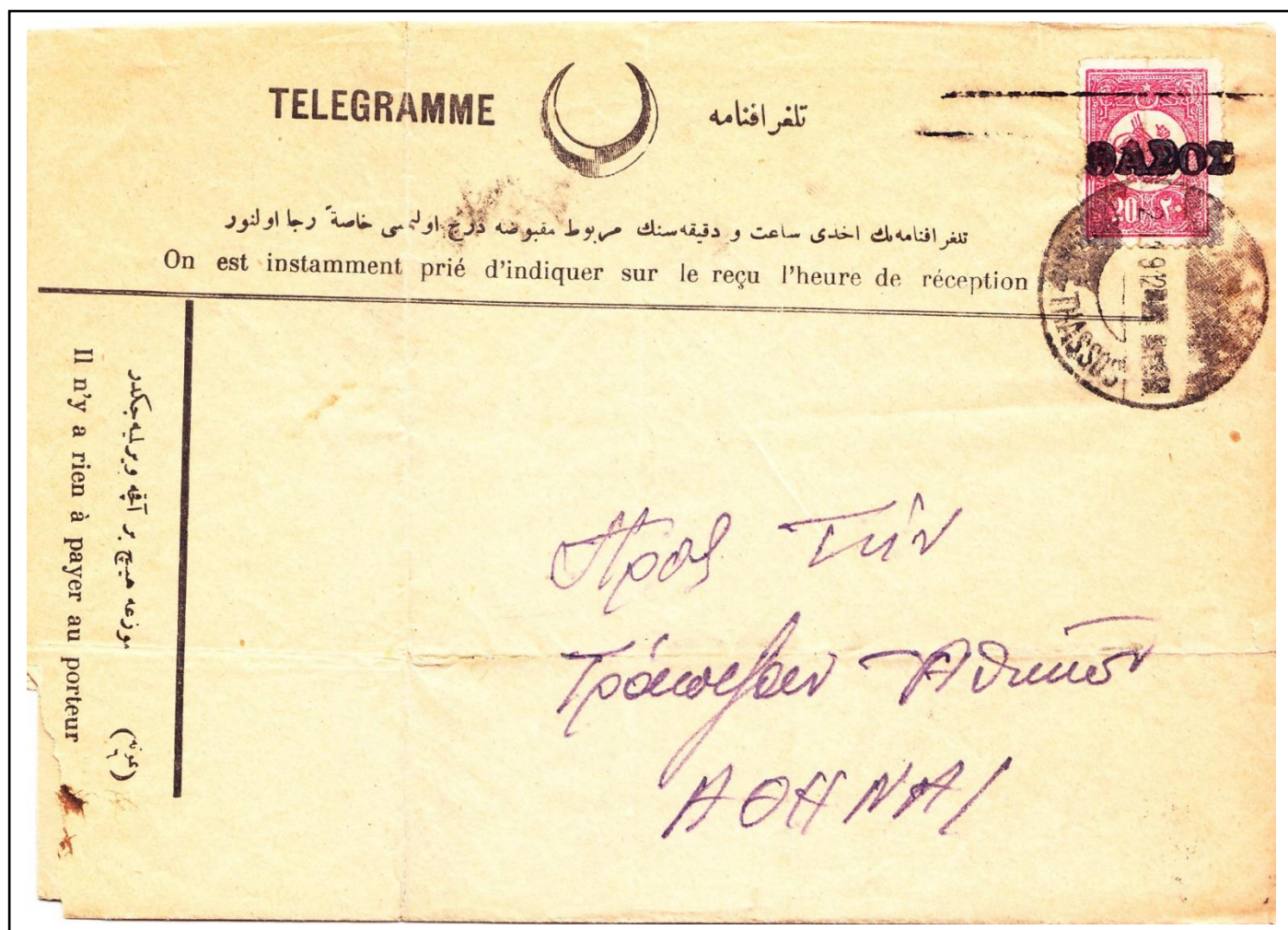
A cover to Lebanon franked for 16-30g with a 50 lepta stamp overprinted "LEMNOS" in red; cancelled with the "MOUDRON LEMNOS" date-stamp on 27 July / 9 August 1913; with a Beyrouth arrival back-stamp of 17 August.



A postage-free Greek Naval post-card date-lined "Moudros Lemnos 7 December 1912" (see photocopy); with the cachet of the ship "Antitorpillikon Nea Genea". The writer said that Moudros did not yet have a canceller.

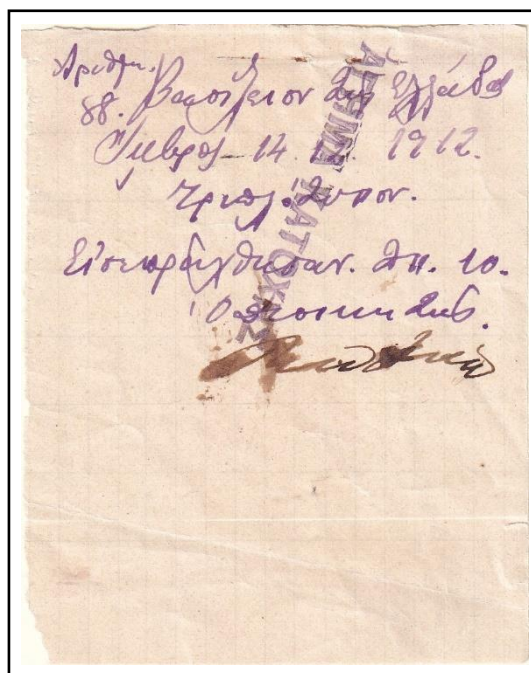


A letter from Liman, Thassos, to Athens correctly franked at 10 lepta with Greek stamps (October 1912 issue); cancelled with the straight-line marking "THASSOS"; Athens arrival back-stamp dated 10? December 1912.



A Turkish telegram envelope used from Liman, Thassos, to Athens and franked with a Turkish 20 para stamp (1909 issue); cancelled on 2 November 1912 with the Turkish date-stamp "OSMANIE THASSOS" (originally recorded 1907-12, now with the word "OSMANIE" and the Arabic inscription and date defaced); additionally cancelled with the straight-line marking "THASSOS"; Athens arrival back-stamp dated 10 November 1912.

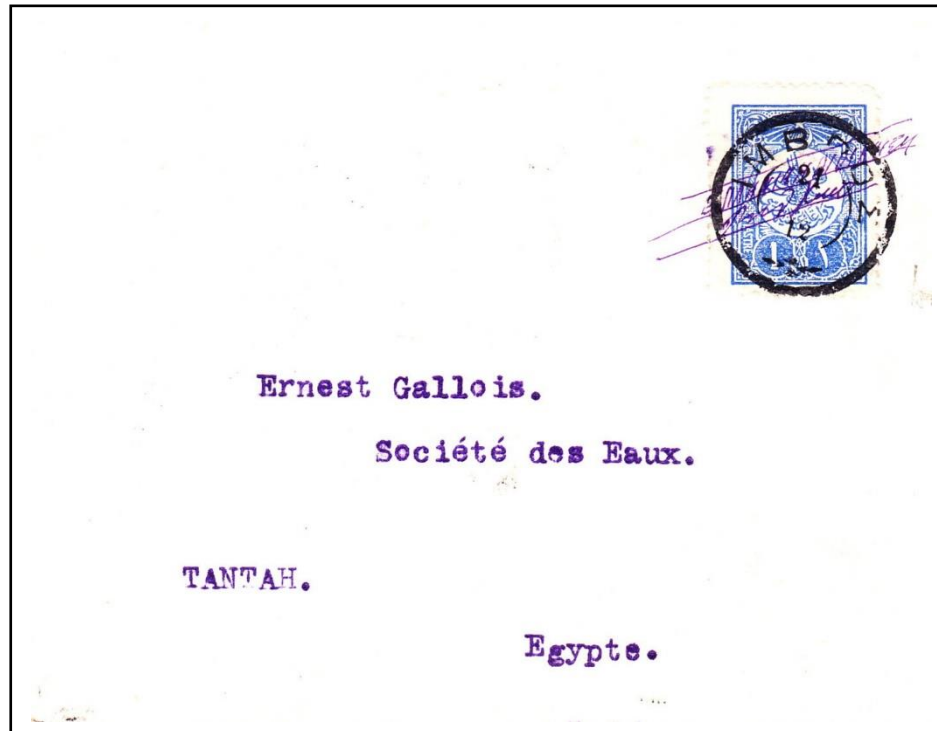
B. 4. Imbros: Greek Occupation 18 Oct. 1912 – May 1913 Mail prepaid at Monastery December 1912



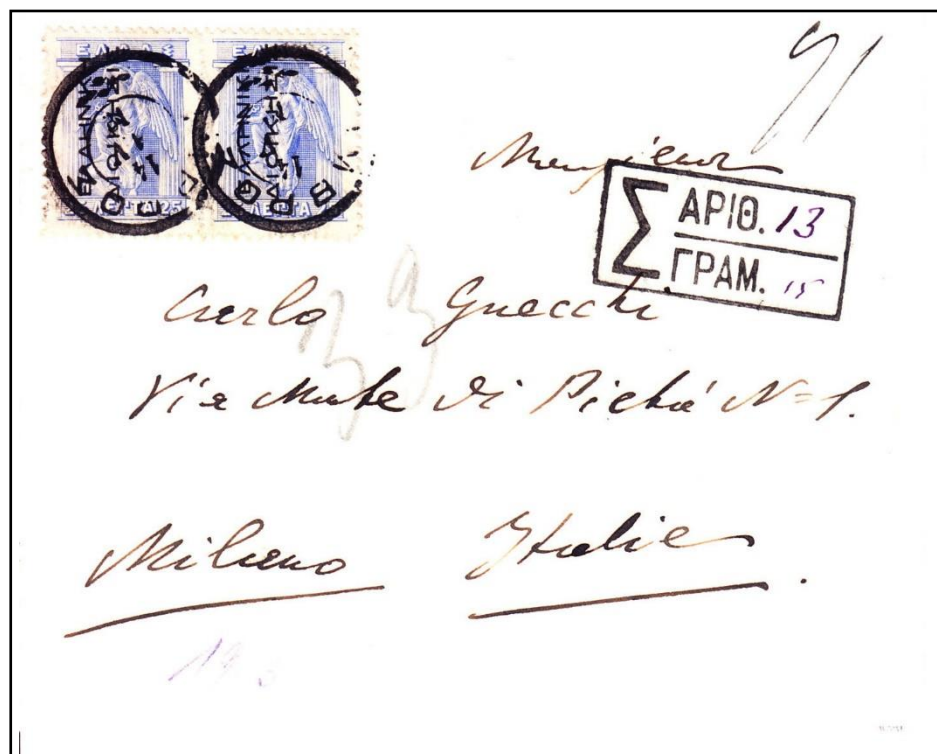
The office copy of hand-written receipt No. 88 dated "Imbros 14 December 1912" for postage of 10 lepta received.



Envelope No. 69 sent to Greece; bearing the cachet of the Bishopric of Imbros and hand-written receipt No. 69 for 20 lepta postage paid; dated Imbros 13 December 1912; date-stamped on arrival at Piraeus on 19 December 1912.



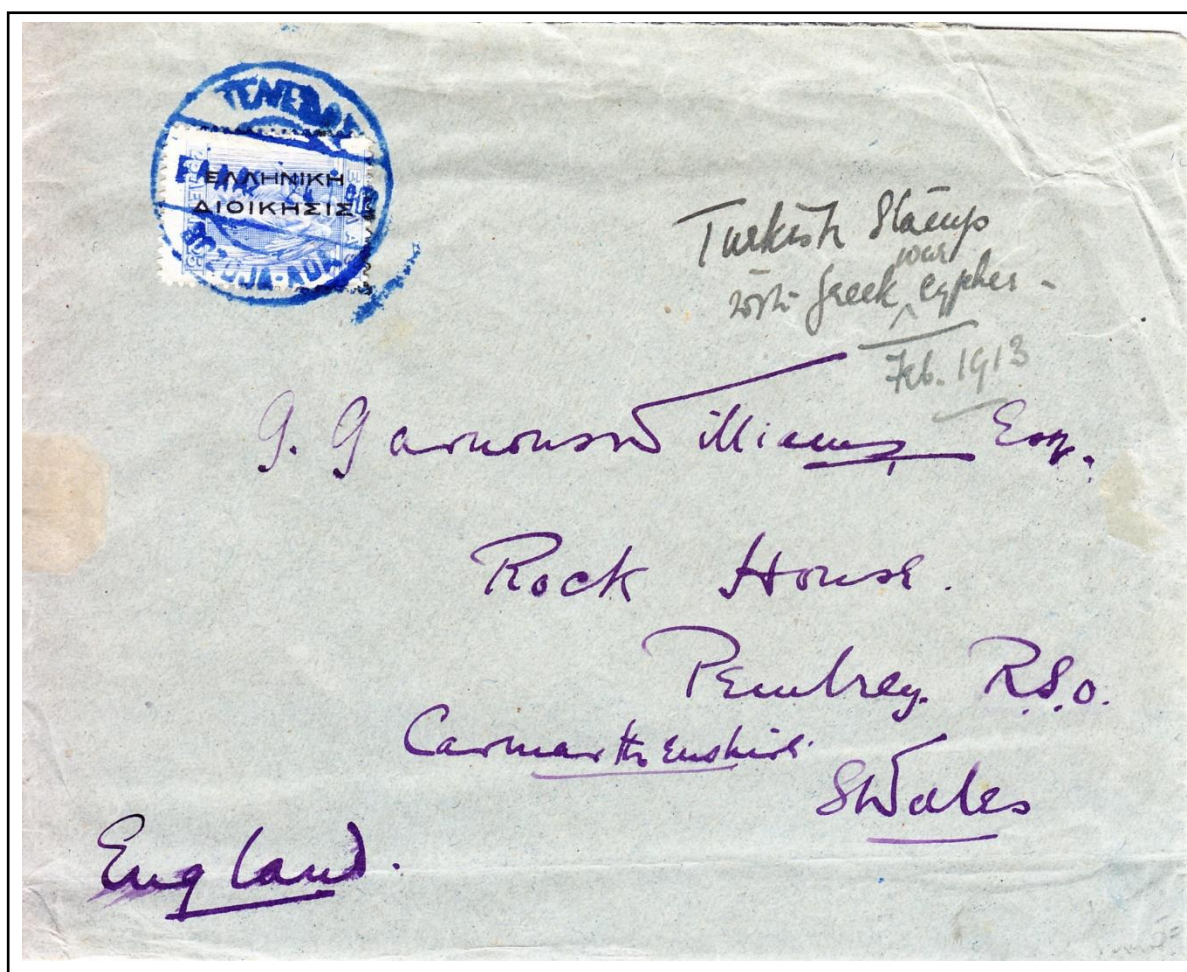
A cover to Egypt correctly franked with a 1 pi. stamp of Turkey (1909 issue) with "GREEK / ADMINISTRATION" written across it in violet ink; cancelled with the Imbros date-stamp "21 (Dec) 12" (= 3 January 1913); with an Alexandria arrival back-stamp dated 11 January 1913. The earliest recorded date of this date-stamp.



A registered cover to Italy correctly franked with two 25 lepta Greek stamps (1911 issue overprinted "Greek Administration" in October 1912) cancelled "IMBROS 14 JAN. 13"; Piraeus transit back-stamp dated 24 January (= 6 February); Milan arrival back-stamp dated 11 February 1913.



A cover to Egypt correctly franked at 25 lepta with stamps of the October 1912 overprinted issue; cancelled with the Turkish "BOZDJA-ADA" date-stamp (with the Arabic name and date replaced by "TENEDOS" and "ELLAS" in Greek) dated 13 January 1913 (= 26 January by the Gregorian calendar); Alexandria arrival back-stamp 7 February.



A cover containing the original letter dated 5 February 1913 sent to Wales by a member of the crew of a British naval vessel visiting Tenedos; correctly franked and cancelled as above on 24 January 1913 (= 6 February by the Gregorian calendar); arrival back-stamp of Burry-Port of 27 February 1913.

B. 5. Tenedos: Greek Occupation 18 October 1912 – May 1913 Greek date-stamp from March 1913



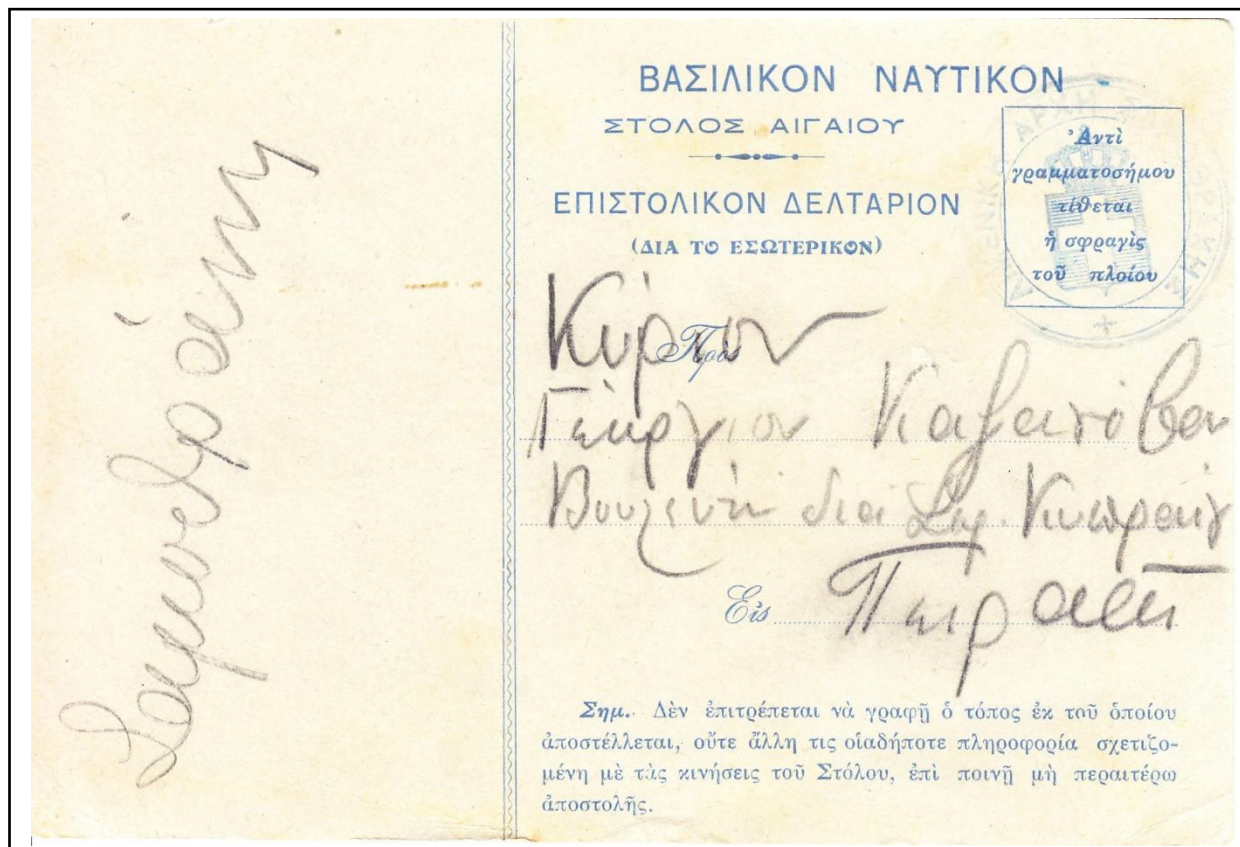
A cover sent to Constantinople from Tenedos; bearing the Turkish "BOZDJA-ADA" date-stamp (with the Arabic name and date replaced by "TENEDOS" and "ELLAS" in Greek) dated 20 February 1913; correctly franked with an unoverprinted Greek 25 lepta stamp cancelled at Piraeus (deliberately not at Tenedos as without overprint?) on 26 February (= 11 March by the Gregorian calendar); arrival b/s of the French p.o. at Constantinople dated 17 March.



A 5 lepta inland post-card of Greece overprinted for the new territories in October 1912; cancelled with the new standard-type date-stamp of Tenedos on 14 March 1913; Piraeus arrival back-stamp of 23 March 1913.



Part of a Greek 10 lepta letter-card overprinted for the newly acquired territories in October 1912; philatelic use to Italy from Samothrace at the post-card rate; cancelled in violet with the new Greek date-stamp on "1 JAN 13" (= 14 January by the Gregorian calendar); Paserno d'Adda arrival back-stamp of 12 February 1913.



An undated Greek postage-free naval card used to Piraeus with the cachet of the Harbourmaster at Samothrace reading "LIMENIKI ARCHI. SAMOTHRAKIS".

C. 1. Greek Post Office at Imbros June 1913 – July 1923 International mail March 1916 / April 1922



A registered cover from Imbros to Switzerland correctly franked at 50 lepta (1913 issue); cancelled on 26 March 1916 (= 8 April); censored and re-sealed in transit through Italy at Bologna; Milan transit back-stamp of 28 April 1916; Geneva arrival back-stamp of 29 April 1916.



A cover from Imbros to Athens correctly franked at 20 lepta (inland rate 1.1 1900 to 7.8.1922) with a pair of 10 lepta stamps of the 1913 issue cut instead of torn along the roulette; cancelled on 29 April 1922.



A view-card from Tenedos to France; correctly franked at 10 lepta (stamps of 1913 issue for newly occupied territories); cancelled on 26 July 1915; Piraeus transit machine-mark of 1 August 1915 (= 14 August). Even though the island, located at the entrance to the Dardanelles, was a key forward base for the Allied forces of the Gallipoli campaign, civilian mail was not subject to censorship on despatch until late in 1916.

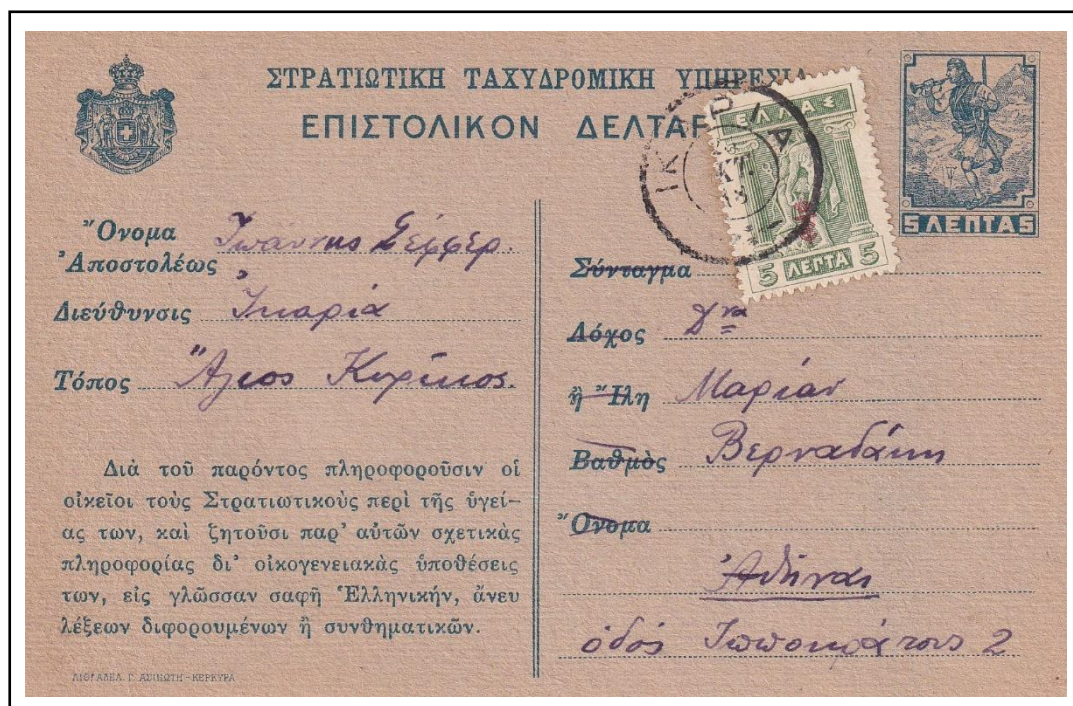


A letter of 15-30g from Tenedos to Athens correctly franked at 30 lepta (stamps of 1913 issue for newly occupied territories); cancelled on 24 February 1915; Athens arrival machine back-stamp of 28 February 1915.

C. 1. Greek Post Offices on Icaria June 1913 – July 1923 Mail from Ag. Kirykos June 1913 and 1918



A registered cover to Germany franked with 2 x 25 + 50 lepta stamps overprinted "Greek Administration" in 1912/13; cancelled "IKARIA" at Ag. Kirykos on 20 June 1913; transit back-stamp of Piraeus of 22 June (= 4 July) and Munich arrival back-stamp of 10 July 1913. To a dealer and probably over-franked but a very early date from this period.



A military post-card (the 5 lepta imprint was not valid) used to Athens franked with a 5 lepta stamp overprinted "E.T." (= "Greek Post") in 1916 for use in areas under Royalist control; cancelled "IKARIA" at Ag. Kirykos on 28 Oct. 1918.

C. 1. Greek Post Offices on Icaria June 1913 – July 1923

Mail from Ag. Kirykos and Evdilos 1919

The times of political turmoil in Greece did not end with the Armistice in November 1918. Greece invaded Smyrna in May 1919 and 1½ million Greeks had to leave Ionia after its defeat by Turkey in August 1922. These events had little effect on the post offices at Ag. Kirykos and Evdilos on the Island of Icaria.



A cover to Switzerland correctly franked 25 lepta; cancelled "IKARIA" at Ag. Kirykos on 19 November 1919; transit mark of Vathy, Samos, where the letter was censored, of 21 December; Buchs arrival back-stamp of 5 January 1920.

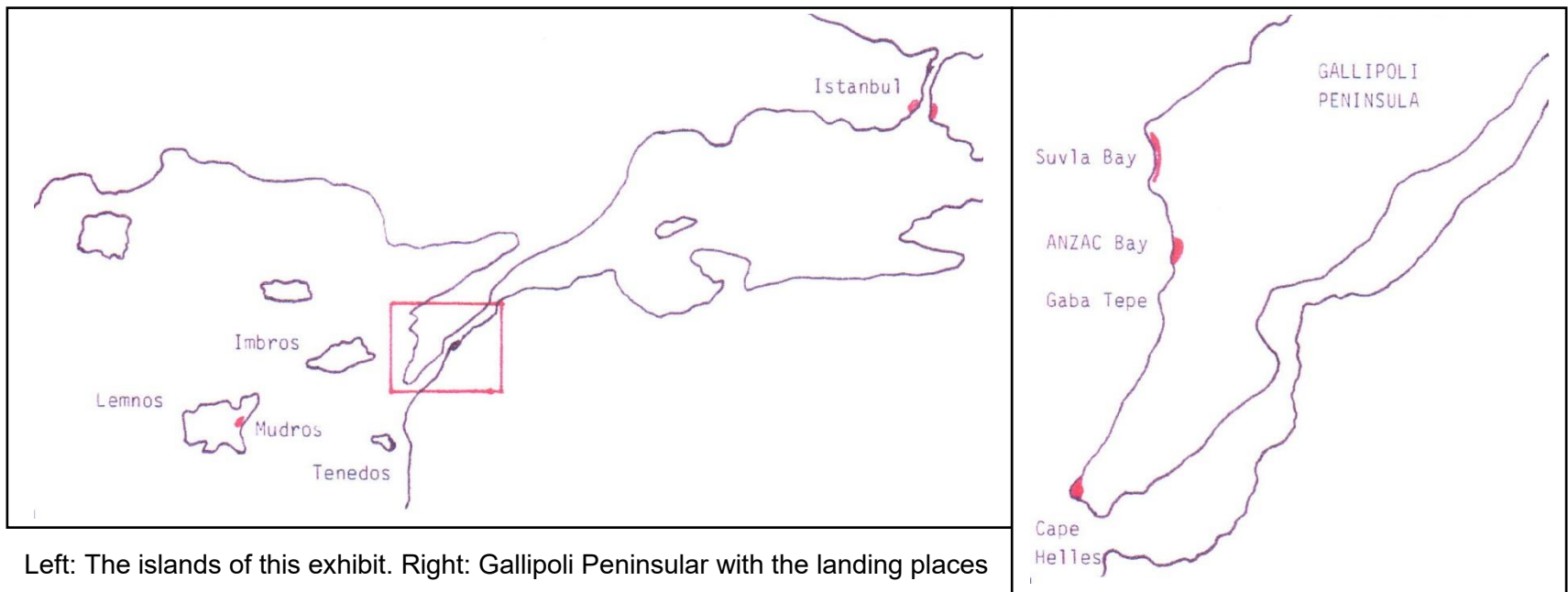


A letter sent from Cairo to Evdilos on 12 August 1919; after arrival it was sent-on to Piraeus on 28 September re-franked with a 25 lepta Royalist stamp (over-franked by 5 lepta); Piraeus arrival back-stamp dated 2 October 1919.

On 11 October 1914, Turkey closed the Dardanelles to the Entente and then declared war on 25 November. After a naval bombardment of the Dardanelles in February 1915 ended in a fiasco with heavy losses, Britain planned landings by British, Australian, New Zealand, Indian and French forces.

Greece officially remained neutral; but, although King Constantine in Athens (whose wife was the sister of Kaiser Wilhelm) sympathised with the Central Powers, the Venizelos Government consented to the Entente using Moudros on Lemnos as its base for the Campaign.

The British advance party arrived at Moudros on 11 March 1915 and the first landings on the Gallipoli Peninsular were on 25 April 1915, with further landings on 6 August. Little progress from the foot of the cliffs was made; and, after heavy casualties and bad weather, over 80'000 men were evacuated on 20 December and the rest, ca. 35'000, left Cape Helles by 9 January 1916. This evacuation had probably become essential because the position became untenable after the arrival of an Austrian 24cm mortar battery on 27 Nov. 1915.

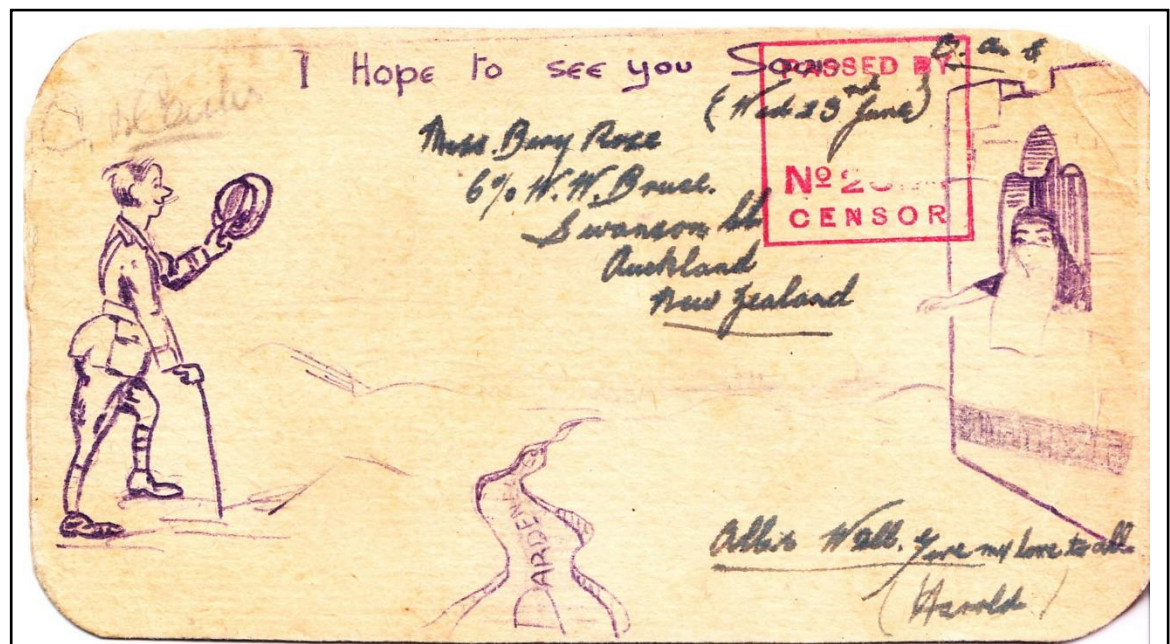


Left: The islands of this exhibit. Right: Gallipoli Peninsular with the landing places

This section is structured as follows:

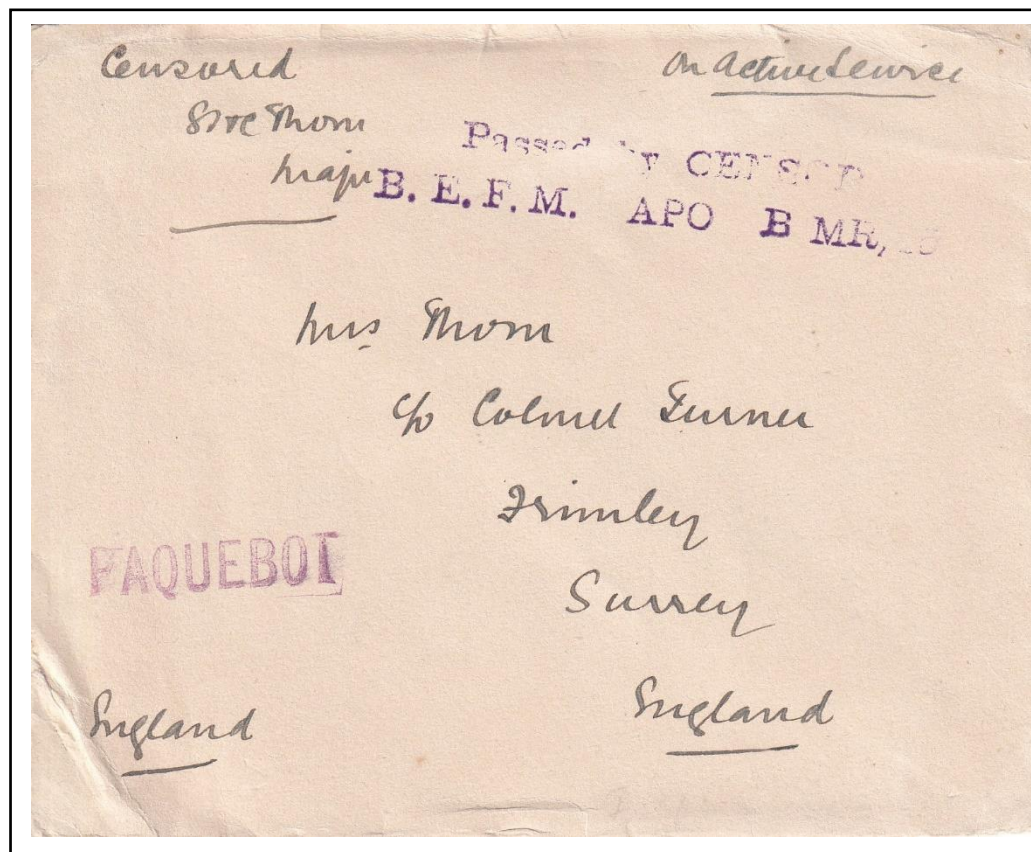
1. Mail from the advance party on H.M.T. Dunluce Castle at Moudros: 11 to 27 March 1915
2. British Stationary Army P.O.'s at Moudros and on Imbros Island: Y, GZ, SZ2, SZ3
3. Australian Field Post Offices on Imbros Island
4. French Field P.O. at Moudros
5. Use of Greek post offices and end of Dardanelles Campaign

At right: a hand-drawn post-card made from a cigarette carton and sent from a New Zealand F.P.O. at ANZAC Bay. There were no NZ Field Post Offices on the islands.

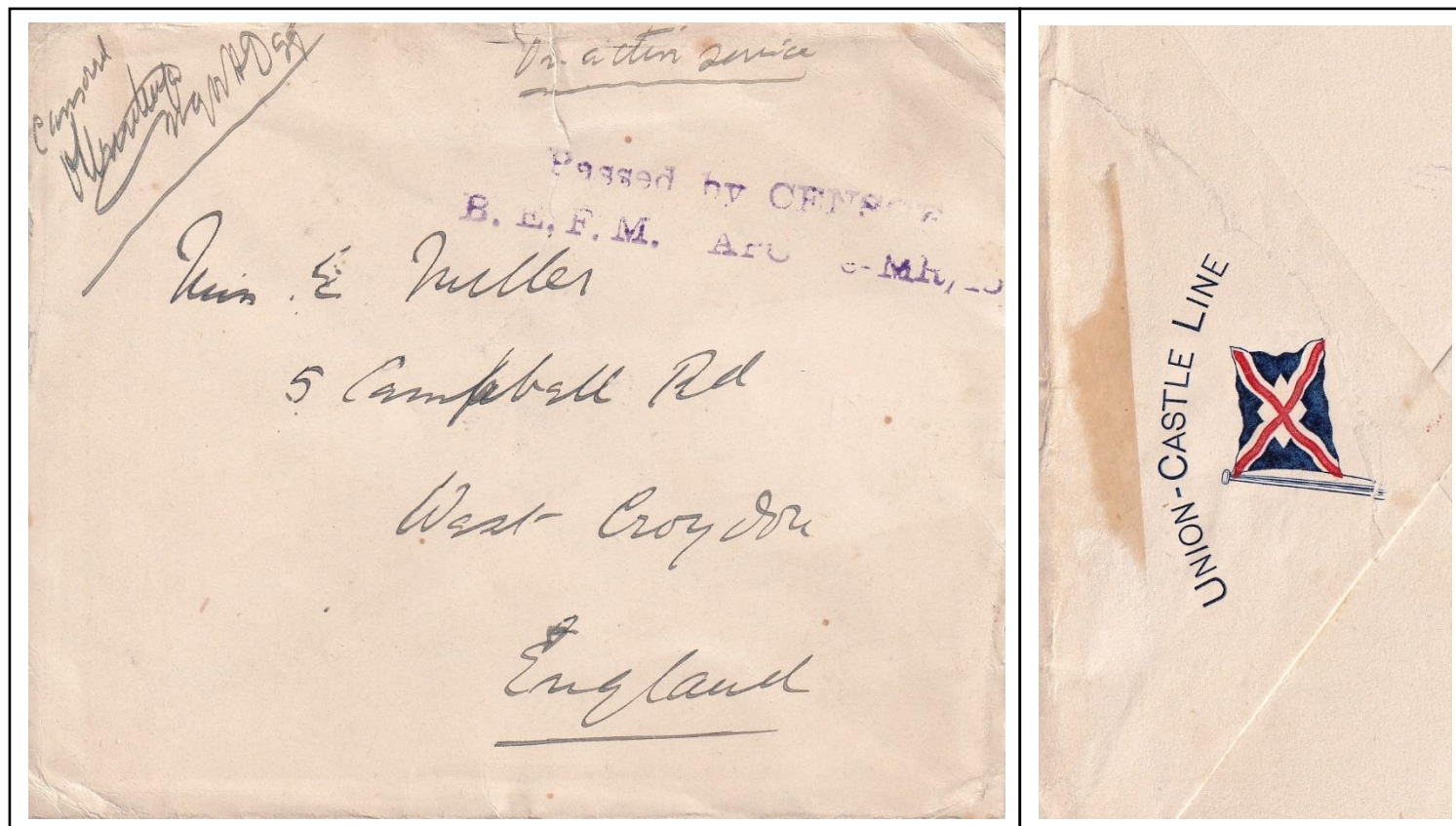


C. 2. Greek Administration: WWI Nov. 1914 – Nov. 1918 a. Dardanelles Campaign Mar. – Dec. 1915

H.M.T. Dunluce Castle (formerly of Union Castle Line): Advance Party at Moudros: 11 to 27 March 1915



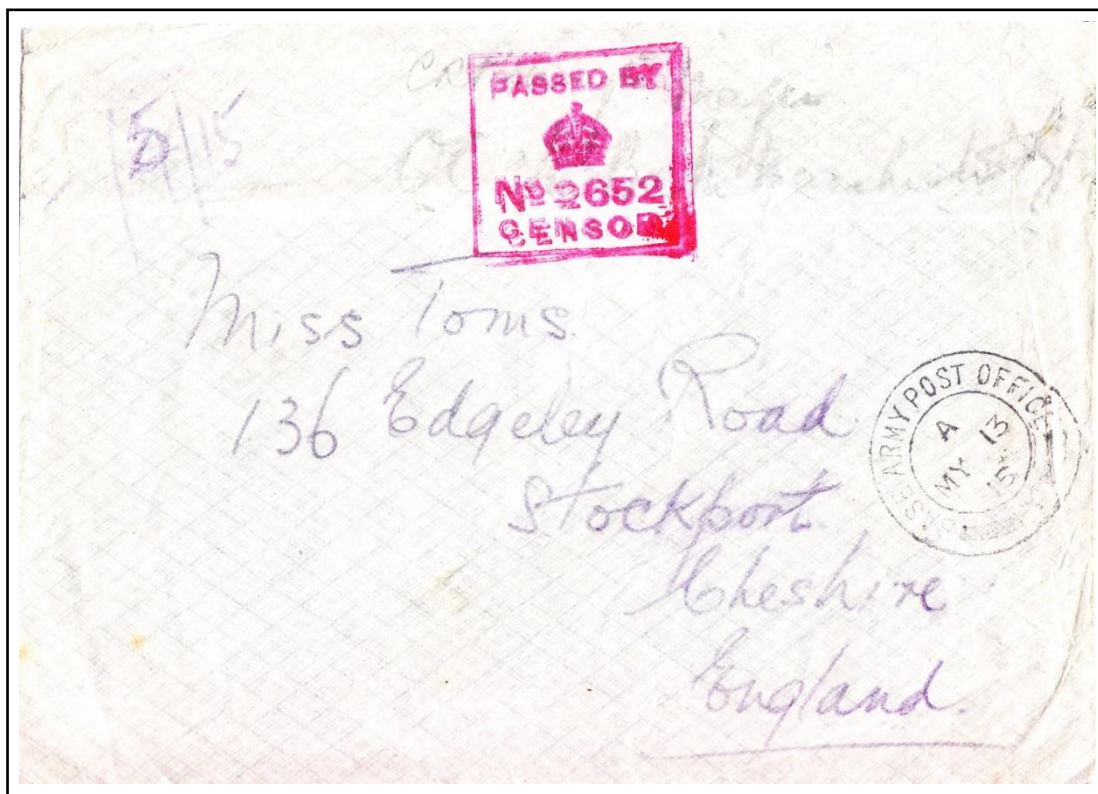
This cover shows the provisional combined censor mark / date-stamp used on this voyage from England, which reads “B(ritish).E(xpeditionary). F(orce). M(editerranean).” with code letter “B” for the first mail despatch after arrival at Moudros on 11 March 1915. The location of the “PAQUEBOT” marking is has not yet been identified.



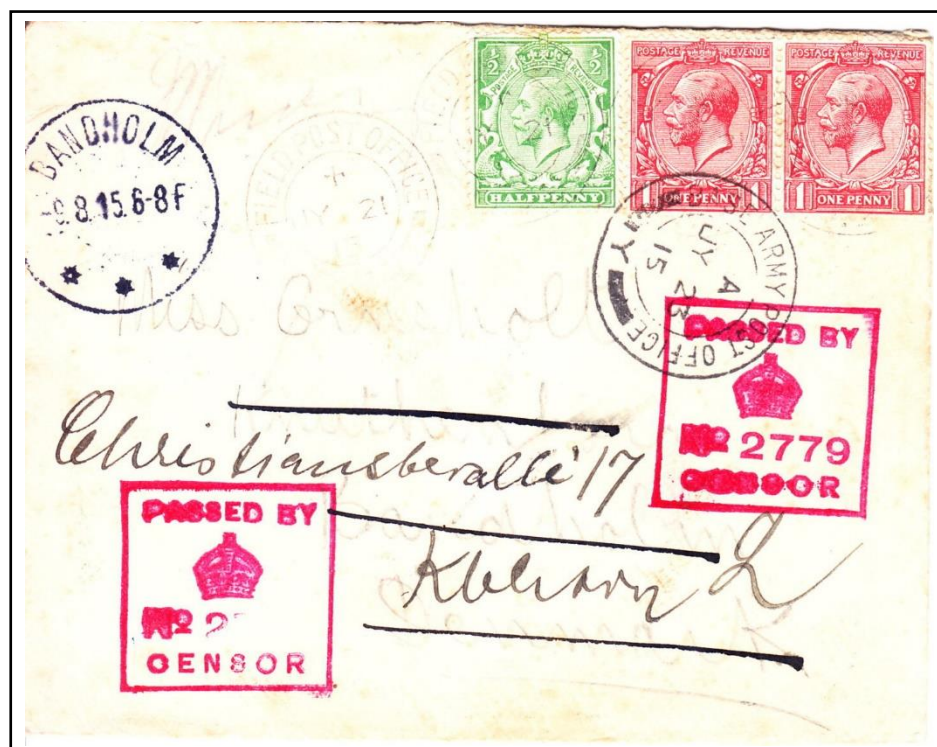
This cover shows the above marking with code letter “C” of the 2nd mail despatch from Moudros, in mid-March 1915

C. 2. Greek Administration: WWI Nov. 1914 – Nov. 1918 a. Dardanelles Campaign Mar. – Dec. 1915

British Base Army Post Office Y operated at Moudros, Lemnos from 10 April 1915 to 3 February 1916



A serviceman's postage-free cover to England sent from Base Army Post Office Y; censored and date-stamped on 13 May 1915; with an arrival back-stamp of Stockport dated 1 June 1915.



A cover to sent to Denmark by a member of the staff of the 29th Division and handed-in at Field Post Office D.29 at Cape Helles in Turkey on 21 July 1915; correctly franked at 2½d, censored, and forwarded to Base Army Post Office Y at Moudros, where it was date-stamped on 23 July 1915; Bandholm arrival date-stamp of 9 August 1915.

C. 2. Greek Admin.: WWI Nov. 1914 – Nov. 1918 a. Dardanelles Campaign Mar. 1915 – Feb. 1916

British Stationary Army Post Offices at Moudros: SZ2 June 1915 – Feb. 1916, SZ6 Oct. 1915 – Feb. 1916

<p>A. F. A. 2042 14/Gen. No./5248.</p> <p>FIELD SERVICE</p> <p>POST CARD.</p> <p>The address only to be written on this side. If anything else is added, the post card will be destroyed.</p> <p>Mrs Jeannie Bennet Hamilton Maryfield Low Wicket Scotland</p> <p>ARMY POST OFFICE B JY 18 15 S.Z.2</p>	<p>NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. <u>If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.</u></p> <p>I am quite well.</p> <p>I have been admitted into hospital (sick) and am going on well. (wounded) and hope to be discharged soon.</p> <p>I am being sent down to the base.</p> <p>I have received your (letter dated _____ telegram " _____ parcel " _____)</p> <p>Letter follows at first opportunity.</p> <p>I have received no letter from you (lately). (for a long time).</p> <p>Signature only. } <i>W. Bennet</i></p> <p>Date <u>17.7.15</u></p> <p>[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]</p> <p>(14618) Wt. W 1608-001. 600m. 6/15. W. & Co., Ltd.</p>
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A Field Service postage-free card sent to Scotland from Army Post Office SZ2 on 18 July 1915. Right: a reduced copy of the back of the card showing that no message could be written, but only prescribed texts selected.

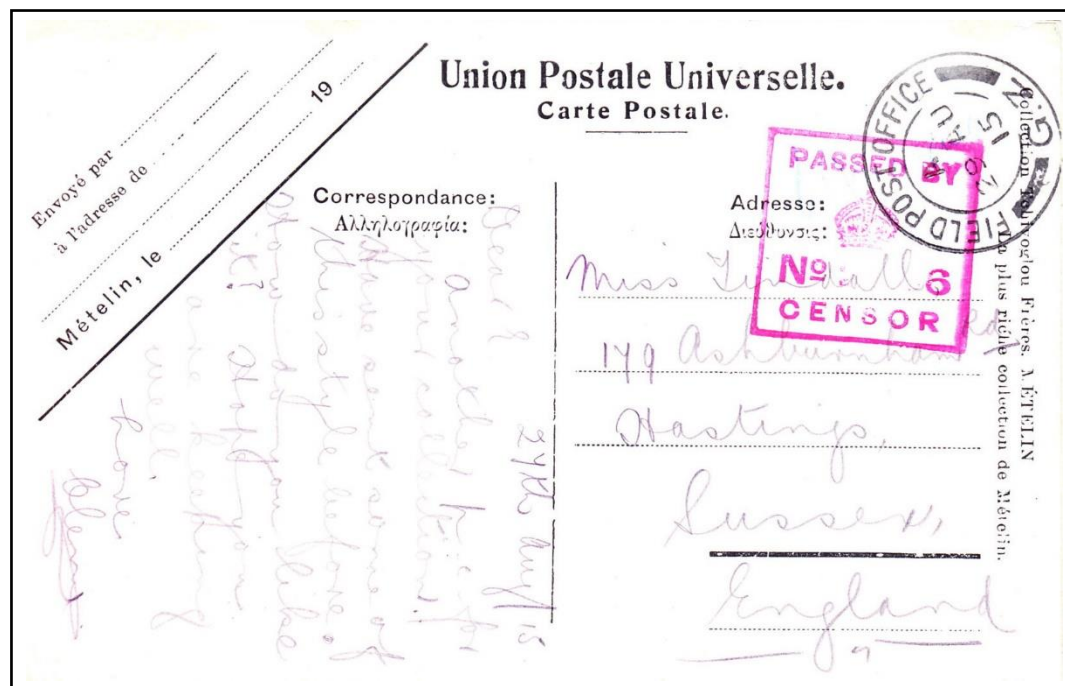
<p>A. F. W. 8078.</p> <p>31/12/15</p> <p>ON ACTIVE SERVICE.</p> <p>NOTE.— Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored Regimentally. The Contents are liable to examination at the Base. The following Certificate must be signed by the writer : I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters.</p> <p>Signature } (Name only) }</p> <p><i>John J. Geyde</i></p>	<p>[Crown Copyright Reserved.]</p> <p>Address—</p> <p><i>Mrs. Geyde</i> <i>24 Ketherhall Gardens</i> <i>Hampstead</i> <i>England London</i></p> <p>ARMY POST OFFICE 3 JAN 16 S Z 6</p>
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A "honour" cover (which was exempt from censorship based on the sender's declaration) to sent to England and handed-in at Army Post Office SZ6 at Moudros East, where it was date-stamped on 3 January 1916. Army Post Office SZ6 had relieved A.P.O. T10 at the Rest Camp at Protiana and remained there until 8 February 1916.

C. 2. Greek Admin.: WWI Nov. 1914 – Nov. 1918

a. Dardanelles Campaign Mar. 1915 – Feb. 1916

British Stationary HQ and Army Post Offices on Imbros: GZ May - Nov 1915, SZ3 July 1915 – Jan. 1916

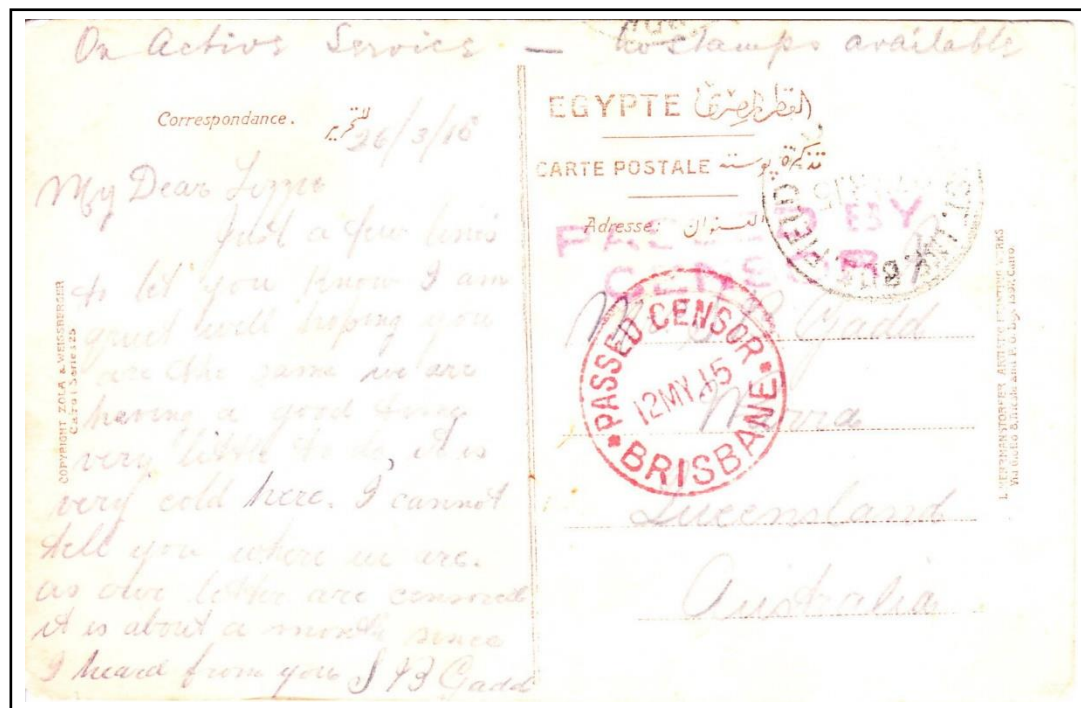


A view-card sent postage-free to England from Field Post Office GZ on 29 August 1915. This served the Headquarters for the Dardanelles Expedition, which was initially on board HMT Arcadian, but was moved ashore at Imbros in May 1915 because of danger from enemy submarines.

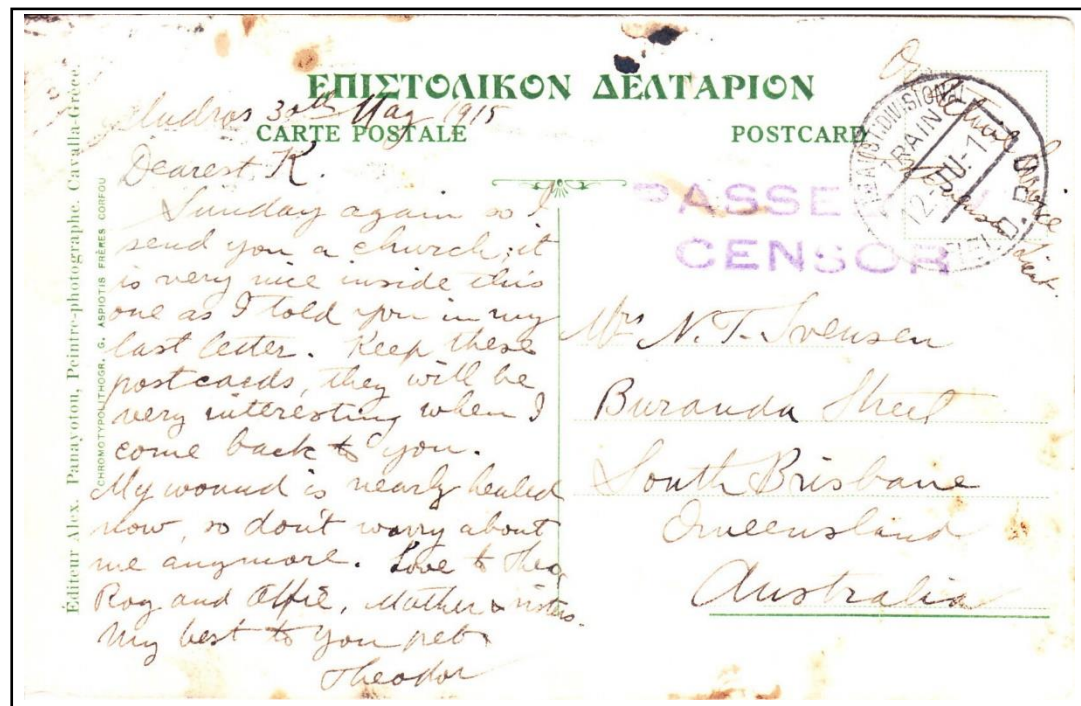


This cover sent registered to Egypt was postage-free but the registration fee had to be paid with a 2d stamp. It was handed-in at Army Post Office SZ3 on Imbros on 3 October 1915 and forwarded first to Base Army Post Office Y at Moudros, then to Base Army Post Office Z at Cairo where it was back-stamped on 11 October 1915.

Field Post Offices of the 1st Australian Division on Lemnos during the period: March - December 1915



The 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade (which, together with the 1st and 2nd Brigades, comprised the 1st Division) had arrived at Mudros on 4 March 1915 and the first Australians landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. This view-card to Australia was written by a member of the 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade and bears the unit's F.P.O. marking dated 27 March 1915; it was censored before despatch and again on arrival at Brisbane on 12 May 1915.



The Train of the 1st Australian Division was briefly located Mudros in April 1915, then moved to Gallipoli, returning to Mudros in May and remaining until December 1915. This view-card to Australia was written at Mudros on 30 May 1915 by an Australian wounded at Gallipoli and bears the date-stamp of the 1st Australian Division Train F.P.O. dated 12 June 1915; it was censored before despatch to Australia.

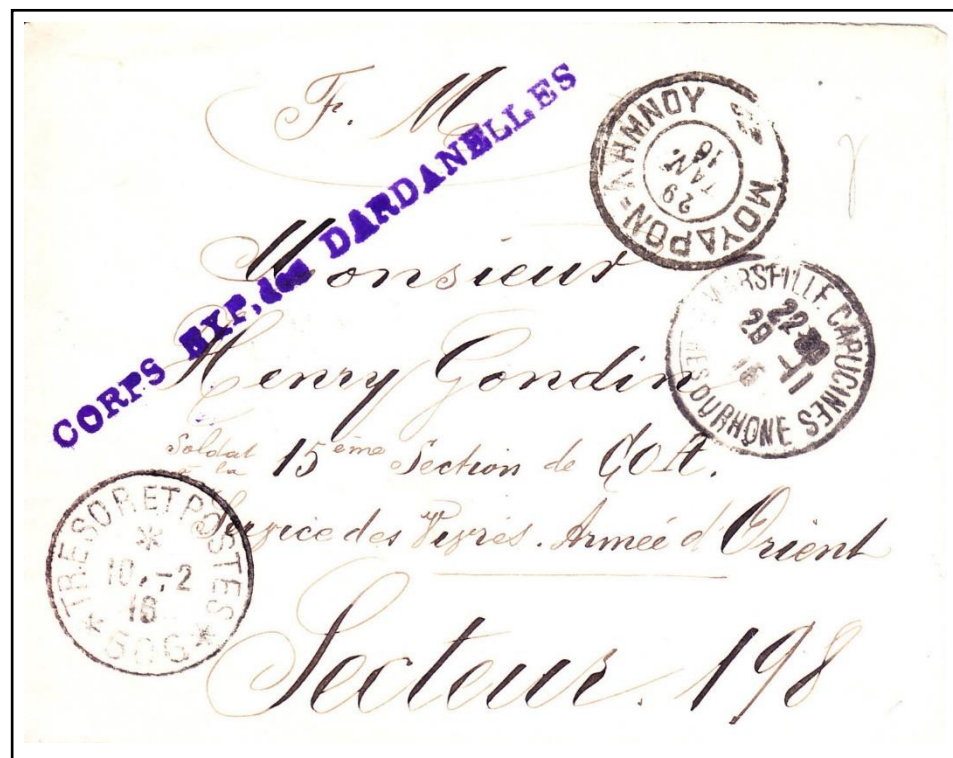
C. 2. Greek Admin.: WWI Nov. 1914 – Nov. 1918

a. Dardanelles Campaign Mar. 1915 – Feb. 1916

French Field Post Office, at first No. 198, later No. 506, on Lemnos: March 1915 - February 1916



A French military letter-card sent to Egypt via French Military P.O. No. 506 at Mudros on 5 November 1915; with cachet of commanding officer; transit and arrival back-stamps of San Stefano and Alexandria of 15 November 1915.

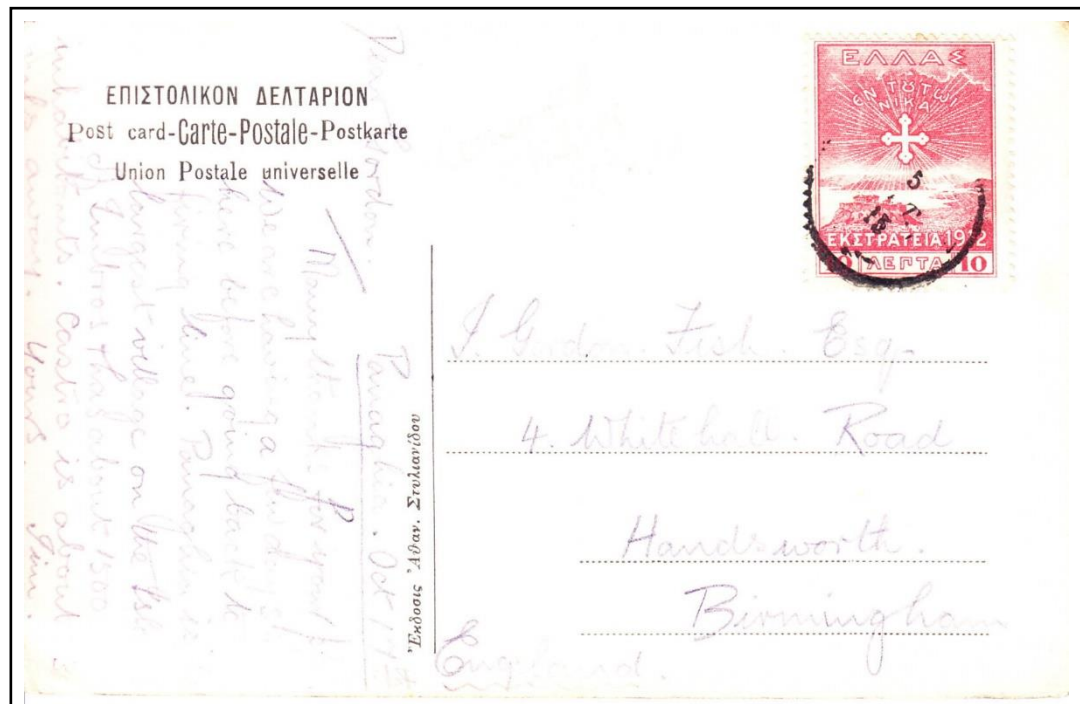


A postage-free cover sent from Marseilles on 20 November 1914 addressed to the former military P.O. No. 198 on Lemnos; the straight-line cachet "CORPS. EXP. des DARDANELLES" does not indicate the letter's source but its destination; with a transit date-stamp of the Greek post office at Mudros of 29 January 1916 (= 10 February) and an arrival date-stamp of French Military P.O. No. 506 (formerly No. 198) at Mudros of the same day.

Greek Civilian p.o.'s in Lemnos and Imbros used by French and British military personnel in 1915



A view-card sent to Salonica by a member of the French Expeditionary Force correctly franked with a 10 lepta Greek stamp overprinted "Lemnos" and handed-in at the Greek p.o. at Moudros on 1 June (=14 June) 1915; with a cachet of the cashier and a Thessalonica arrival back-stamp of 16 June 1915.

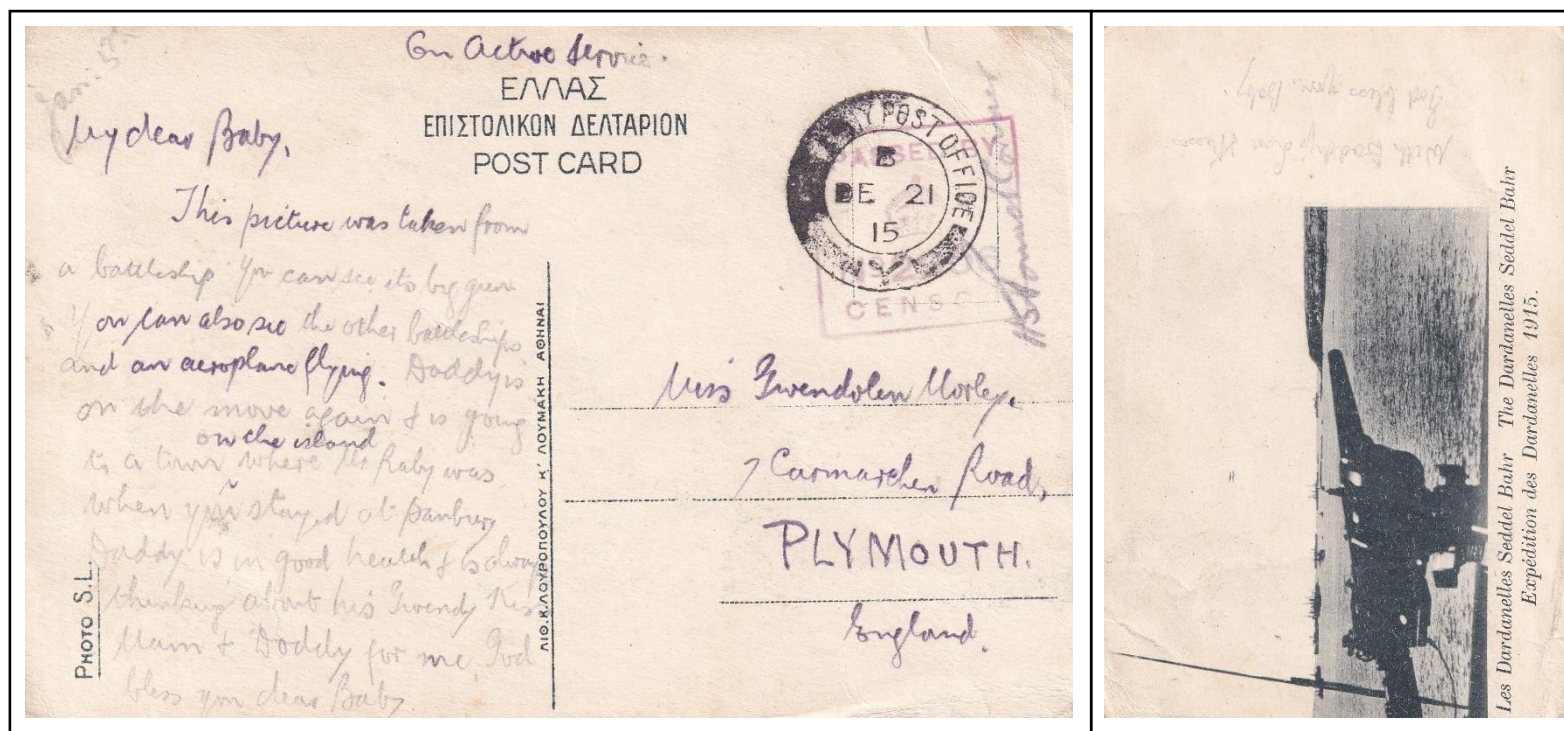


A view-card sent to England by a member of the British Expeditionary Force on leave on Imbros correctly franked with a 10 lepta stamp (1913 issue) and handed-in already censored at the Greek p.o. at Imbros on 5 October (=18 October) 1915; with a transit back-stamp of Piraeus dated 20 October (= 2 November) 1915.

The end of the Dardanelles Campaign: December 1915 to February 1916



After the arrival of the Austrian 25cm Mortar Battery No. 9 in Gallipoli and the commencement of its firing on 27 November 1915, which coincided with heavy rain and blizzards, the British decided to evacuate Gallipoli. This field-post card was sent to Constantinople by a member of this Mortar Battery on 4 December 1915.



The writer of this view-card sent to England from Base Army Post Office Y at Moudros on 21 December 1915 will probably have been evacuated from Gallipoli; he indicates that he will be going to a town on the island (Lemnos).

Letters to Turkish prisoners of war on Lemnos November - December 1915



This registered letter to a Turkish prisoner of war in Moudros was franked for AR with 3 x 1 pi. stamps cancelled at Kutahya on 6 November 1915. It has a Stamboul date-stamp of 8 November 1915, boxed Turkish censor marks in violet, a red paper seal, a Piraeus transit b/s dated 3/16 November 1915 and arrival b/s of Kastron and Moudros of 17 November 1915. The British censor on Lemnos removed one stamp and added the red boxed censor mark.



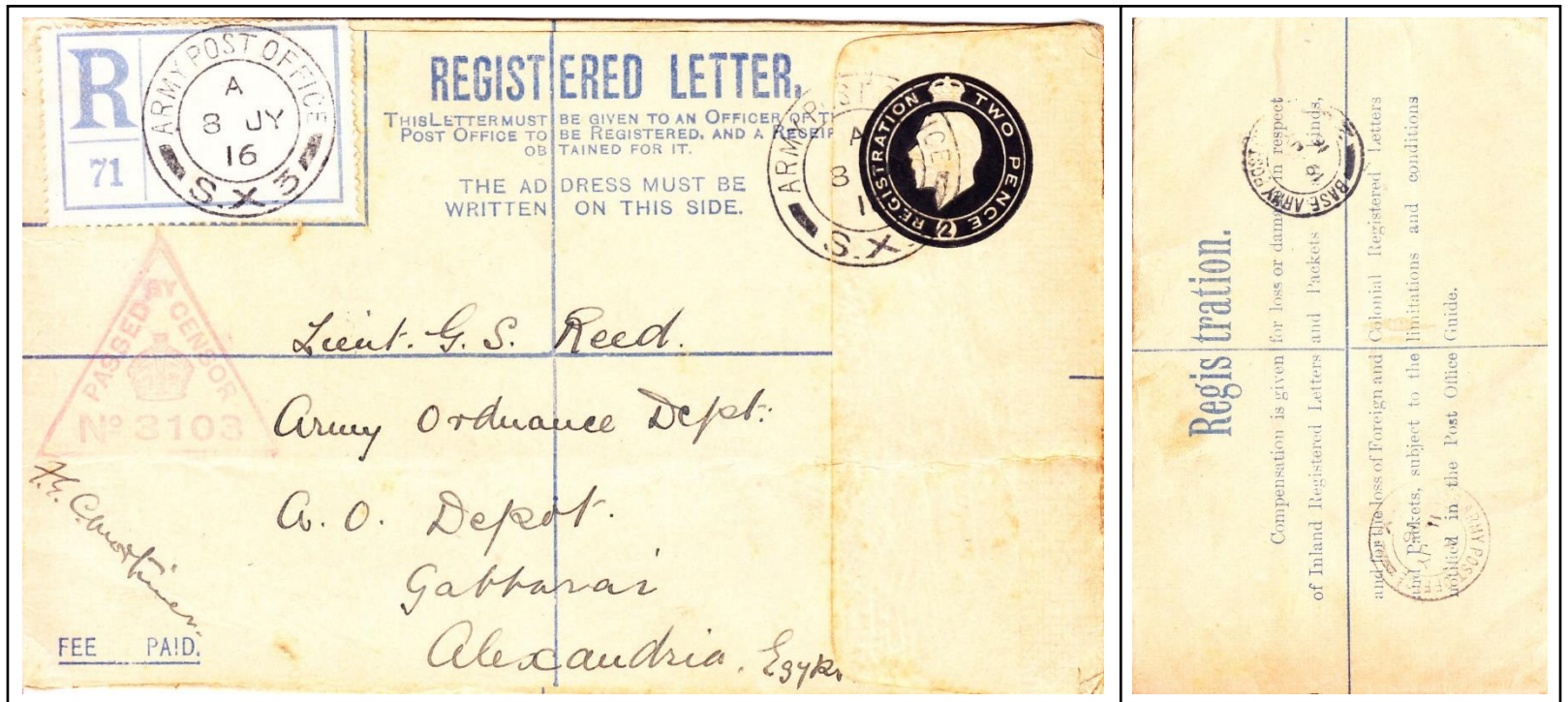
This postage-free official letter to a Turkish prisoner of war in Moudros bears a negative seal of the sender, a Constantinople machine marking of 28 December 1915, a boxed Turkish censor mark in violet, a green paper seal, a POW post marking and a Thessalonica transit back-stamp dated 20 December 1915 (= 2 January 1916).

C. 2. Greek Admin.: WWI Nov. 1914 – Nov. 1918

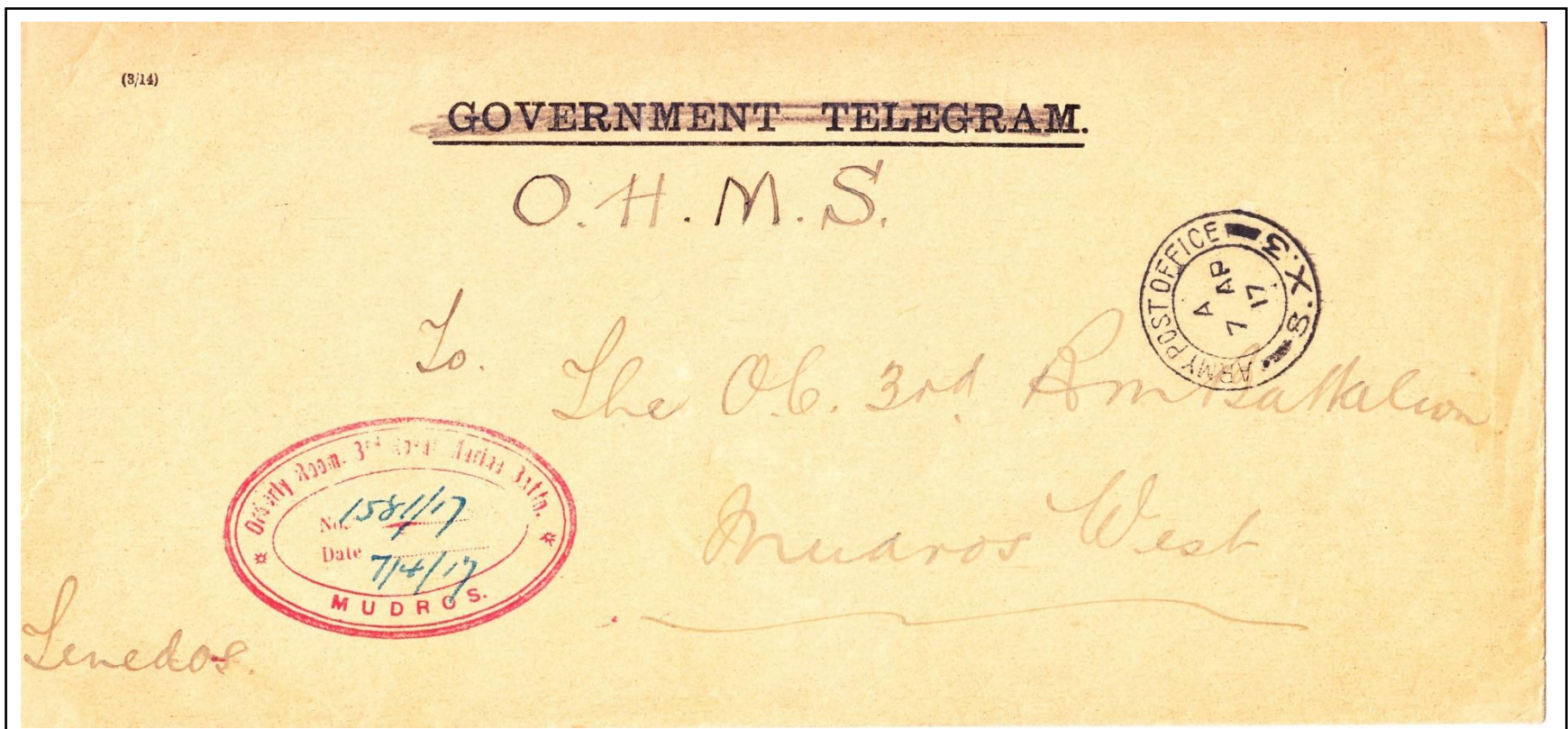
b. Salonica Campaign Jan. 1916 – Dec. 1918

In October 1915 troops of the Central Powers were advancing through Serbia and, at the request of the Venizelos Government, English and French troops landed at Salonica on 5 October 1915. They had to retreat back into Greece in December and the Salonica Army was placed under overall French command in January 1916 until the Armistice of Moudros of 30 October 1918. This section is structured as follows:

1. Below: British Army Post Office SX3 at Moudros (with service to Imbros and Tenedos): May 16-Dec. 17
2. French Military Post Office No. 505 on Tenedos Military Occupation of Thasos
3. Censorship of Greek mail by Greek and Allied Authorities from mid-1916



A 2d registration envelope sent to Egypt from Army Post Office SX3 on 8 July 1916. The reduced copy of the back shows transit marks of Base Army Post Office X at Salonica and of Base Army Post Office Z at Cairo dated 11 and 19 July 1916.

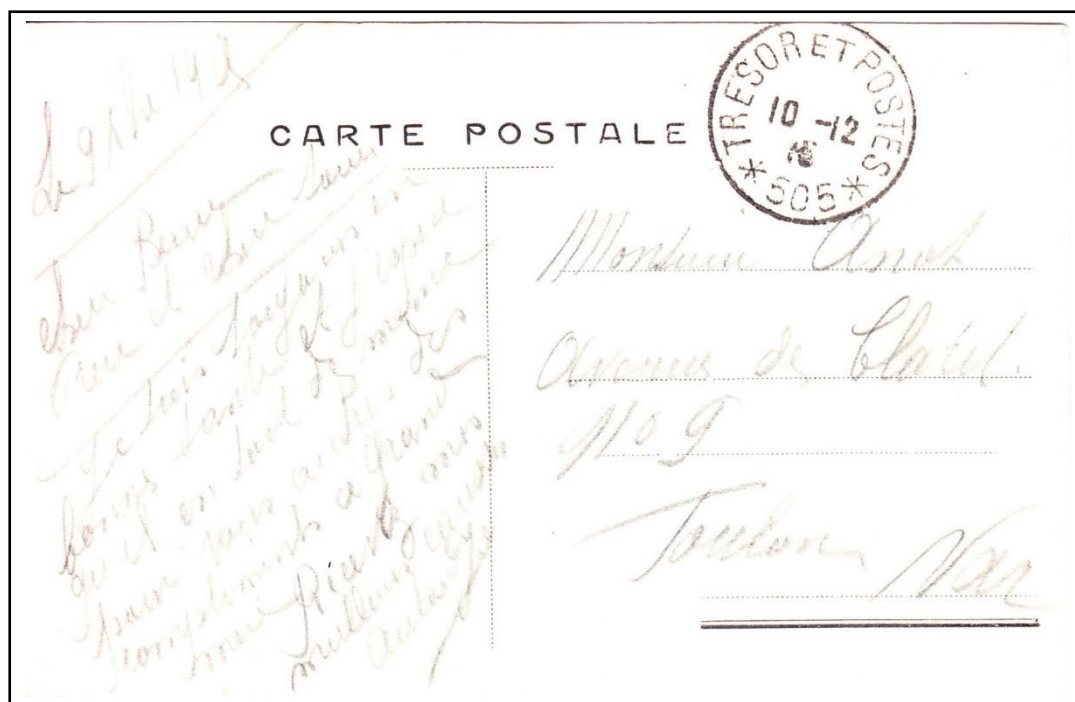


An official envelope sent from Tenedos to the Royal Marines HQ via Army Post Office SX3 at Mudros on 7 April 1917

C. 2. Greek Admin.: WWI Nov. 1914 – Nov. 1918

b. Salonica Campaign Jan. 1916 – Dec. 1918

2. French Military Post Office No. 505 on Tenedos



This view-card was sent postage-free to France on 10 December 1915 from French Military Post Office No. 505, which was located on the island of Tenedos.

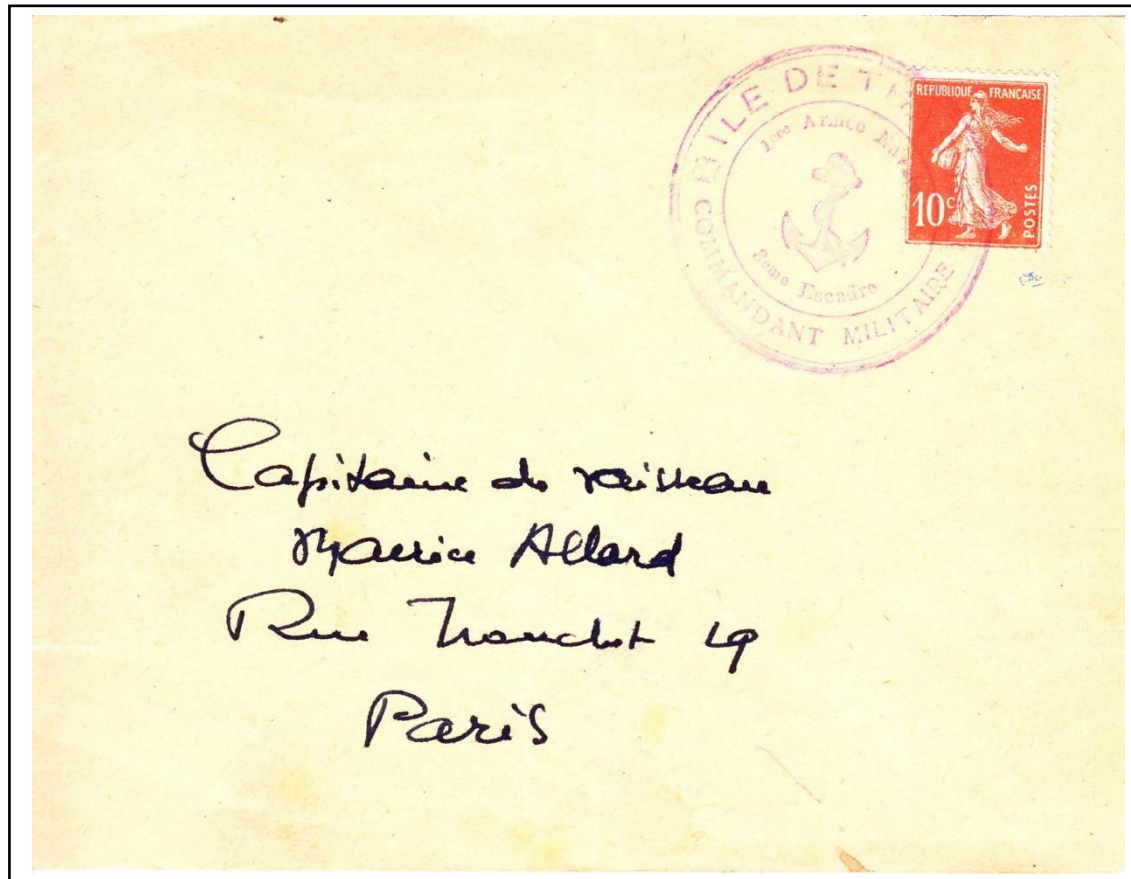


This cover (specially printed for the Dardanelles Campaign) was sent postage-free to France on 7 February 1916 from French Military Post Office No. 505 on Tenedos and bears a Paris arrival back-stamp of 21 February 1916.

C. 2. Greek Admin.: WWI Nov. 1914 – Nov. 1918

b. Salonica Campaign Jan. 1916 – Dec. 1918

2. French Naval Occupation of Thasos from 10 June 1916



An undated cover franked at 10c (inland rate) cancelled with the cachet of the French Military Commandant on Thasos



An over-franked cover to Volos sent from Thasos on 14 July 1917 with French Military Admin. and Censor markings

3. Censorship of Greek mail by Greek and Allied Authorities from mid-1916



A cover to Egypt correctly franked at 25 lepta (stamp of 1913 issue); cancelled “KASTRON-LEMNOS” on 1/14 May 1918; with a negative British censor marking in violet and Egyptian wavy lines censor marks on front and back; Alexandria transit and Mina el Gamh arrival back-stamps of 7 June 1918.

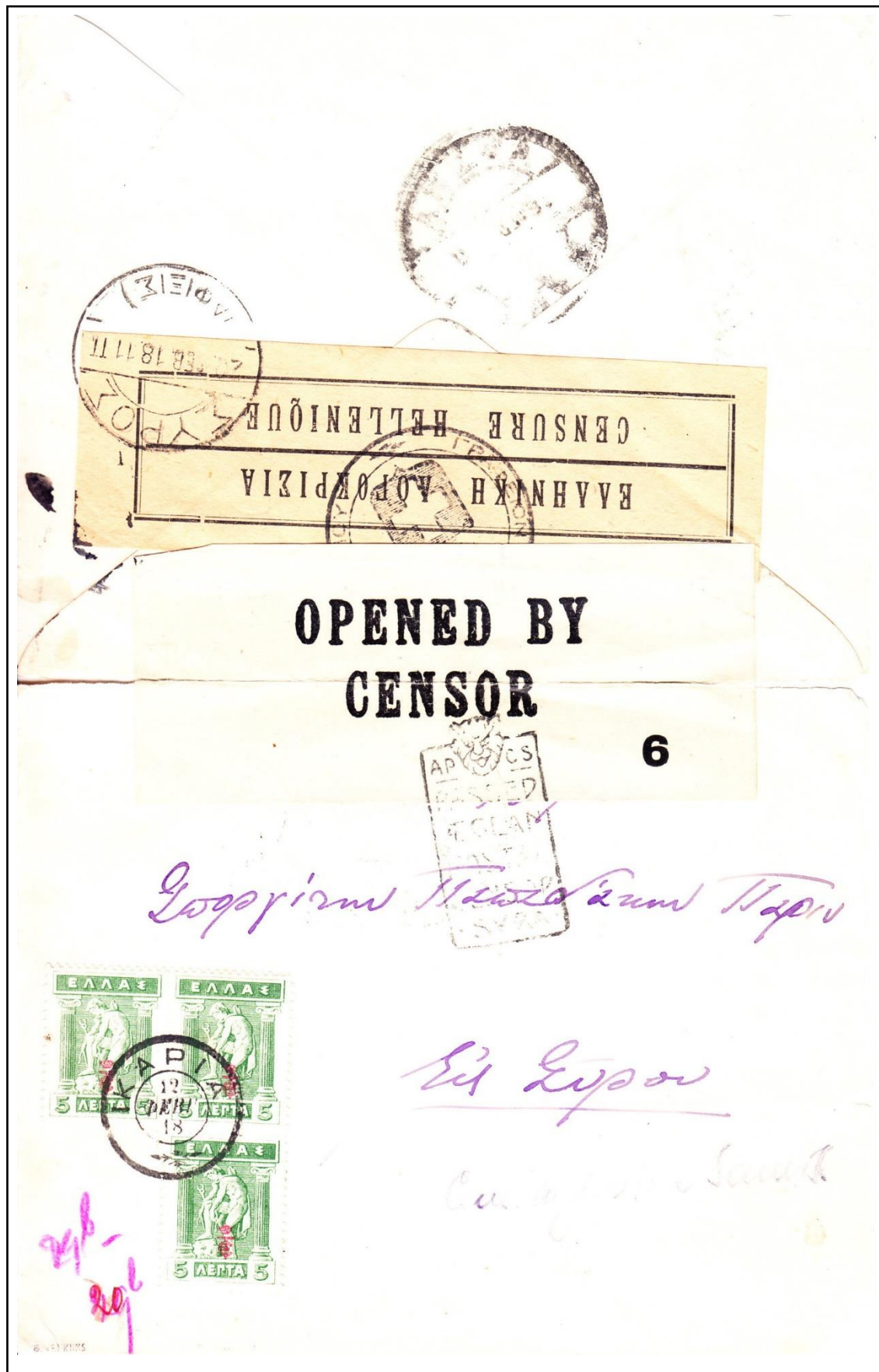


A view-card sent to France correctly franked at 10 lepta (with a stamp of the Greek Venizelist issue of February 1917 used only in Northern Greece and the islands); cancelled with the rural service obliterator “531” at Kastron on Lemnos on 6 March 1918; with a circular British censor marking (with a letter “K” for Kastron in the centre) in violet.

C. 2. Greek Admin.: WWI Nov. 1914 – Nov. 1918

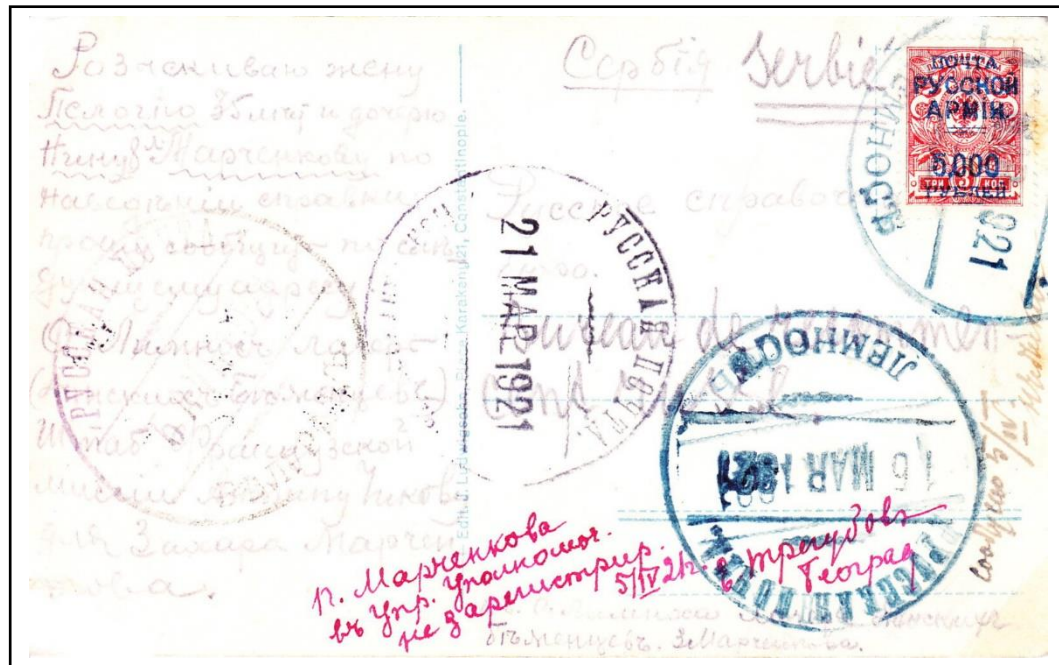
b. Salonica Campaign Jan. 1916 – Dec. 1918

3. Censorship of Greek mail by Greek and Allied Authorities from mid-1916



A letter sent from Icaria to Syros on 12 February 1918 correctly franked at the local rate with three 5 lepta stamps of the Greek Royalist issue of November 1916 (used in the whole of Greece after June 1917); censored and re-sealed in transit at Vathy, Samos, on 16 February; censored and re-sealed by the British on arrival at Syros on 20 February

After the White Russian army under General Wrangel was defeated by the Bolsheviks over 100'000 refugees came to Turkey in November 1920. Refugee camps were established in Constantinople, Gallipoli and Lemnos with their own postal service, which overprinted various stamps with "Russian Army Post" and new value. There was some genuine postal use of these stamps; but, after they were withdrawn from use in June 1921, spurious covers were manufactured with original material – possibly including those below



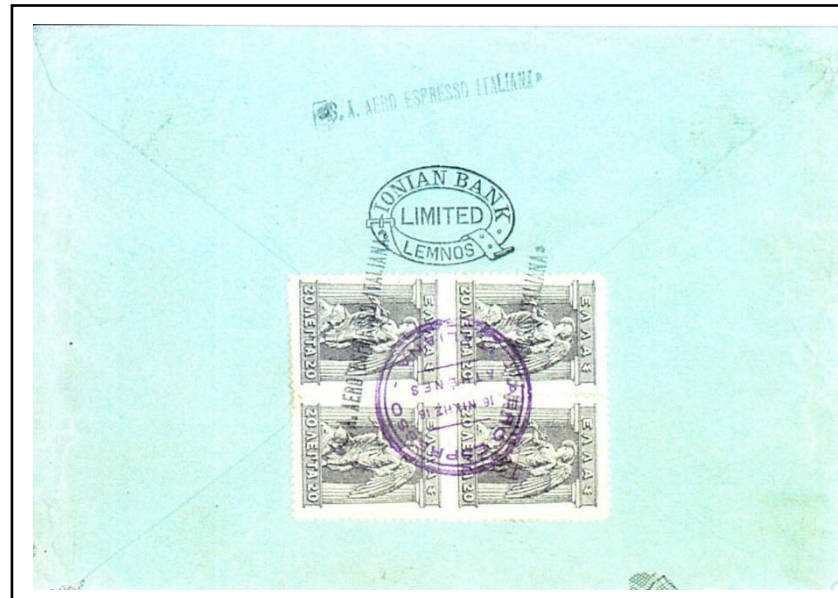
A view-card correctly franked with a 5'000 rouble stamp cancelled at the Lemnos Camp on 14 March 1921; with date-stamps of the Camps at Constantinople and Gallipoli dated 21 March and 5 April 1921.



A cover addressed to Constantinople correctly franked for registration with a 20'000 rouble stamp cancelled at the Lemnos Camp on 7 March 1921; with an arrival back-stamp of the Camp at Constantinople dated 12 March 1921.

C. Greek Administration: Dec. 1918 – May 1941 4. Aeroespresso Co. Agency on Lemnos: 1926-30

An agreement for the establishment of an air service Brindisi - Athens - Thasos (or Lemnos) – Constantinople between the Italian Aero-Espresso Company and Greece was signed on 19 September 1924. The opening flight on 1 August 1926 went only as far as Athens. There were subsequent flights from 9 August 1926, but covers to/from Thasos/Lemnos appear not be recorded and the published documents do not give airmail rates between Athens and Thasos/Lemnos. The special Aeroespresso stamps were not available until October 1926.

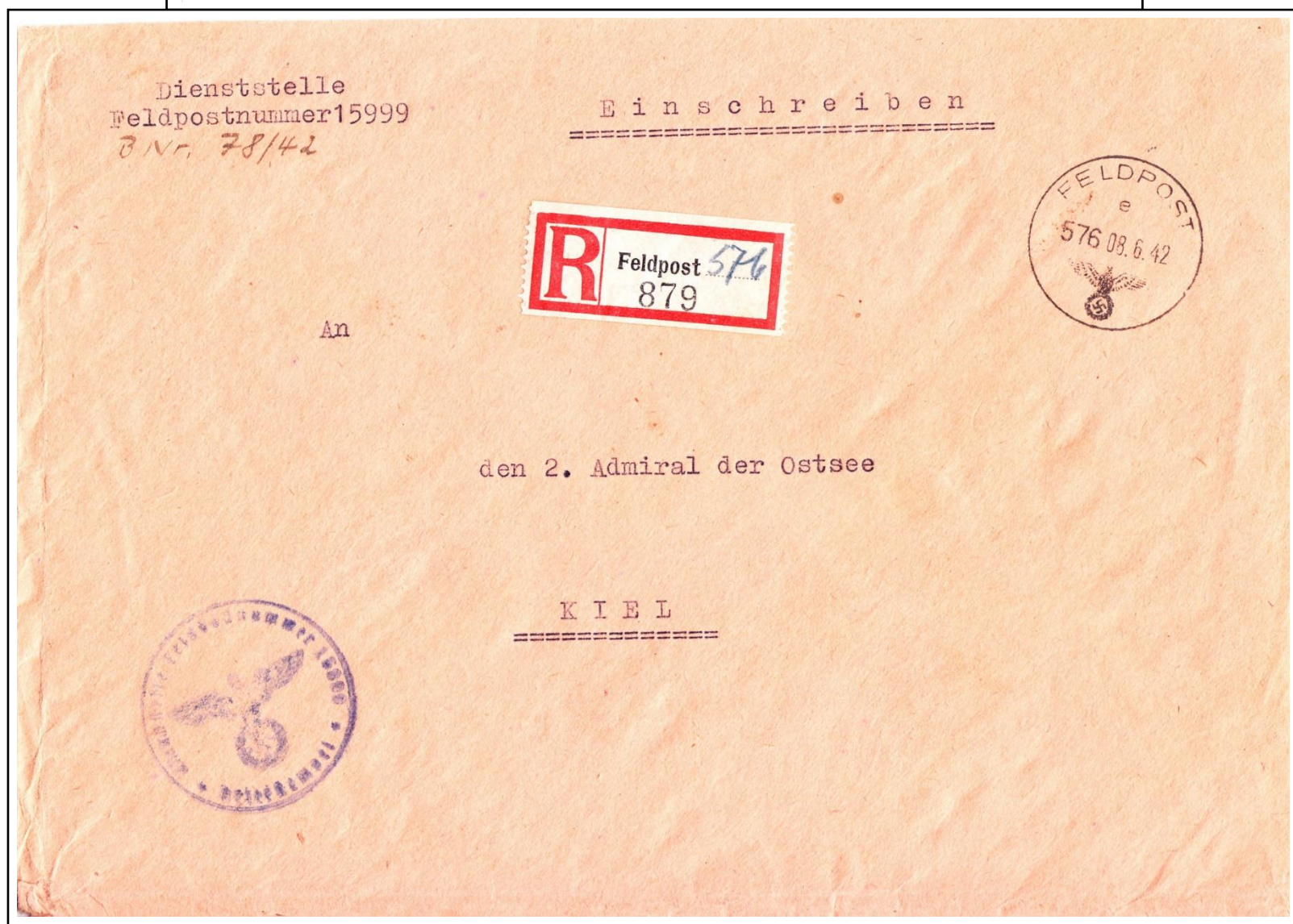


An undated envelope from the Lemnos Branch of the Ionian Bank Ltd. (see reduced copy of back) to its office in Athens with a specific mention "VIA AEROESPRESSO"; franked at 2 Dr. 20 with pre-1926 stamps of Greece, apparently representing postage of 1 Dr. 20 (rate for 20g from 1.5.26 to 1.5.27) plus an airmail surcharge of 1 Dr. (unpublished?). The stamps were cancelled first with a straight-line company marking "S.A. AEROESPRESSO ITALIANA" (of the agency at Lemnos?) and then, on arrival, with a circular company marking with its Athens address. This cover suggests that the Aeroespresso en route stop was at Lemnos rather than Thasos.



Above: A reduced copy of the front bearing stamps to 8 dr. paying the postage (rate for 20g from 6.2.36 to 19.9.41) plus special social security surcharge stamps to 1 dr. (rate from 20.1.37, compulsory on foreign mail until 19.9.41); cancelled with the rhomboid obliterator with number "521" used on the route to Kastron from 1911 to the 1950's.

Below: The reverse of the cover, with stamps paying the airmail surcharge to the UK (rate 7 dr. per 10g from 1.3.38 to the closure of the service on 27.4.41) cancelled "KASTRON-LEMNOS" on 28 August 1938; by ship to Piraeus, with an Athens airmail transit mark of 30 August 1938, and flown to London by Imperial Airways.



Above: Letter to Germany with cachet of Location No. 05080 on Lemnos; field-post date stamp ("b") of 30 May 1942
 Below: An official military registered letter to Kiel from Unit No. 576, with the cachet of Location No. 15999, the Harbourmaster at Mudros on Lemnos, and the unit's field-post date stamp code letter "e" dated 8 June 1942.



A letter sent from Icaria to Athens in February 1942 correctly franked at 7 dr. (rate 15 May – 31 August 1942) and cancelled at Ag. Kirykos (date illegible); censored and re-sealed in transit at Vathy, Samos, on 5 February 1942 by the Italian military authorities there; arrival machine-marking of Athens without indication of place or date.

C. 5. Greek Administration: June 1941 – 1944 c. Thasos: Bulgarian Military Occupation 1941 - 1944

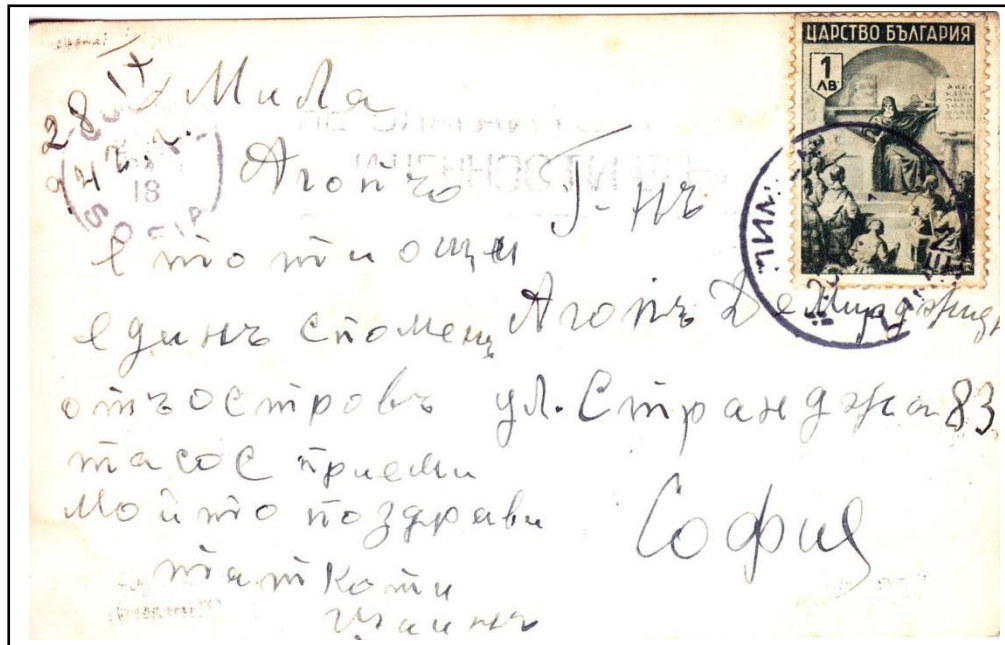


This propaganda map-card, with text in Bulgarian, names the island of Thasos as “Thasos – Bulgaria” and bears the date 12 May 1941. Bulgaria pursued a consequent policy of repression and forbade the use of Greek.



A post-card sent to Cavalla in Greek Macedonia (occupied by Bulgaria) franked with 30 and 50 st. stamps (December 1941 issue) cancelled at Limen on 13 May 1942; Cavalla arrival date-stamp of 16 May 1942.

C. 5. Greek Administration: June 1941 – 1944 c. Thasos: Bulgarian Military Occupation 1941 - 1944

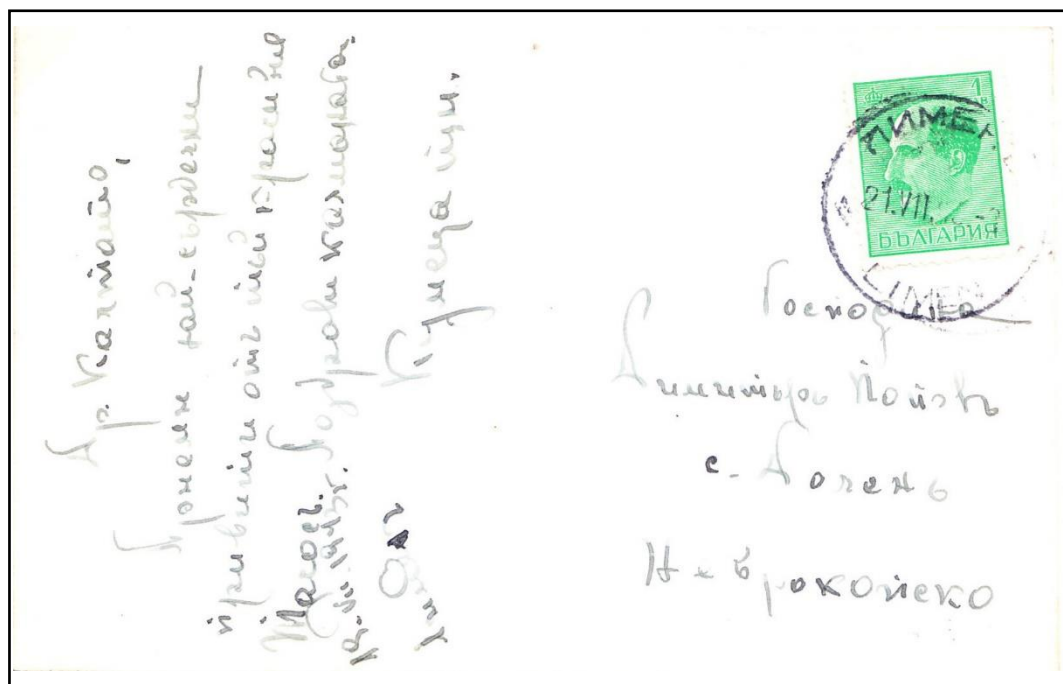


A view-card of Limen in the north of Thasos sent to Sofia in Bulgaria correctly franked with a 1 leva stamp (October 1942 issue) cancelled at Limen on 28 October 1942.



A registered letter to Bulgaria correctly franked with 1 and 4 leva stamps (October 1941 "Reacquisition of Macedonia" issue) cancelled at Limenaria in the south-west of Thasos on 4 and 7 May 1943; with transit and arrival back-stamps of the Bulgarian post-offices at Cavalla and Sofia dated 7 and 9 May 1943.

C. 5. Greek Administration: June 1941 – 1944 c. Thasos: Bulgarian Military Occupation 1941 - 1944

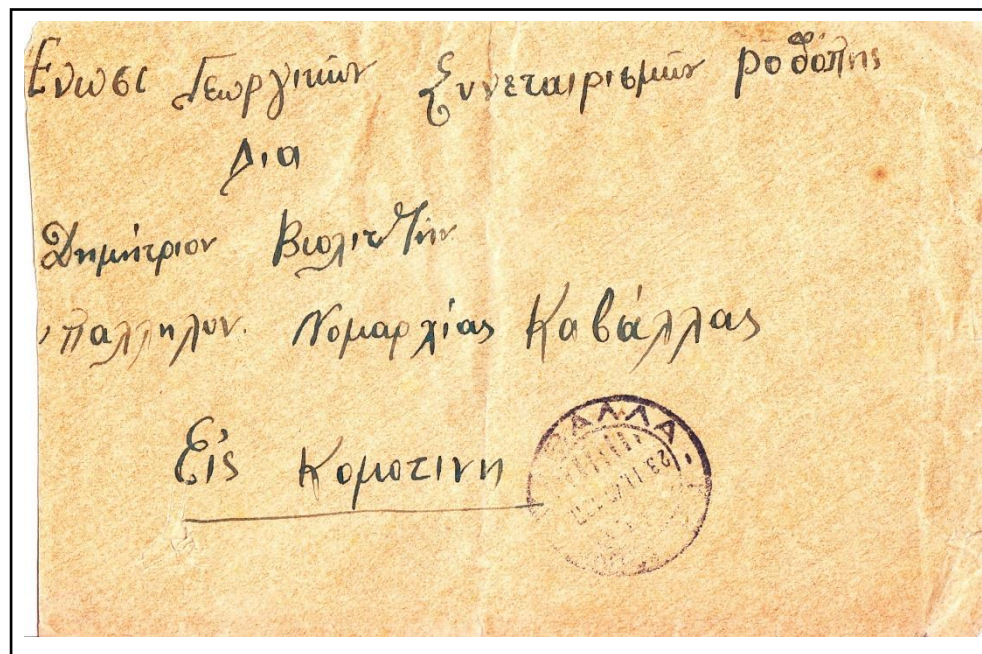


A view-card sent to Bulgaria correctly franked with a 1 leva stamp (1941 issue); cancelled at Limen on 21 July 1943



A soldier's postage-free letter to Bulgaria with a military frank and authorization signature at the top left, plus the bilingual date-stamp of Limen dated 14 September 1943; Plovdiv arrival back-stamp dated 19 September 1943.

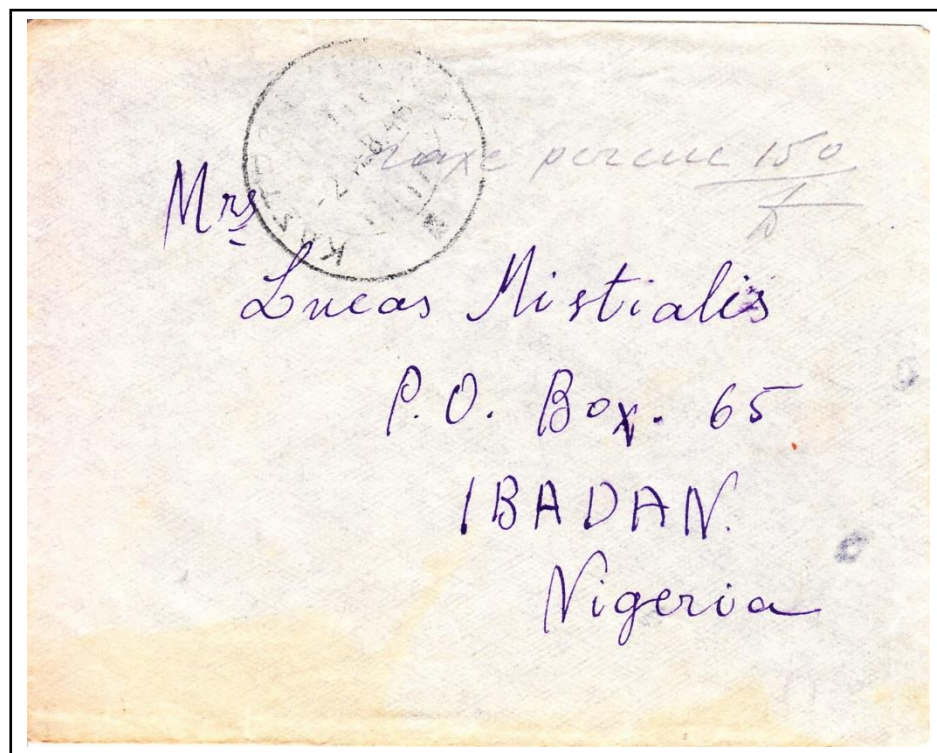
C. 6. Greek Administration 1944 – 1947 Thasos: Greek partisan administration from October 1944



A reduced copy (75%) of the front of the cover below to Komotini with Cavalla transit date-stamp 23 February 1945



A cover with the sender's address in Thasos and postage paid of "5 Leva" (the inland letter-rate – still in Bulgarian currency) marked faintly in red crayon; with an undated arrival mark "POST OFFICE KOMOTINI" of the Bulgarian post office in Komotini (in Greek Thrace but still under Bulgarian occupation).



A letter sent by surface mail to Ibadan in Nigeria correctly prepaid in cash with manuscript note “Taxe percue 150” (rate 150 dr. 16.1.1946 – 9.2.1946) with despatch date-stamp “KASTRON-LEMNOS” of 2 February 1946.



An airmail letter to the above addressee in Ibadan franked at 1'250 dr. (under-franked by 350 dr.: correct postage 10.6.1946 – 15.11.1947: 600 dr. + airmail fee 30.1.1946 – 15.11.1947: 1'000) plus a 50 dr. charity stamp; cancelled at “KASTRON-LEMNOS” on 16 April 1947; Lagos transit and Ibadan arrival back-stamps of 1 and 2 May 1947.