

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE GREEK ISLAND OF CHIOS

From the 15th Century up to after WW2



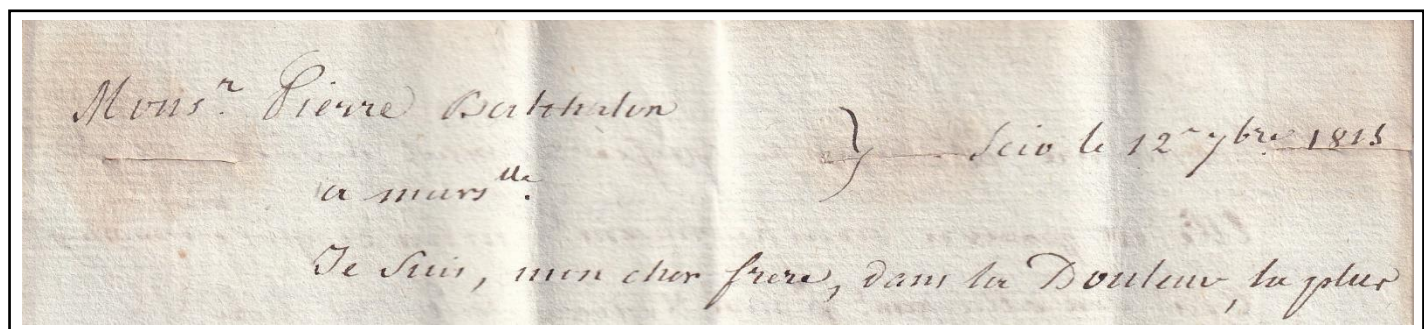
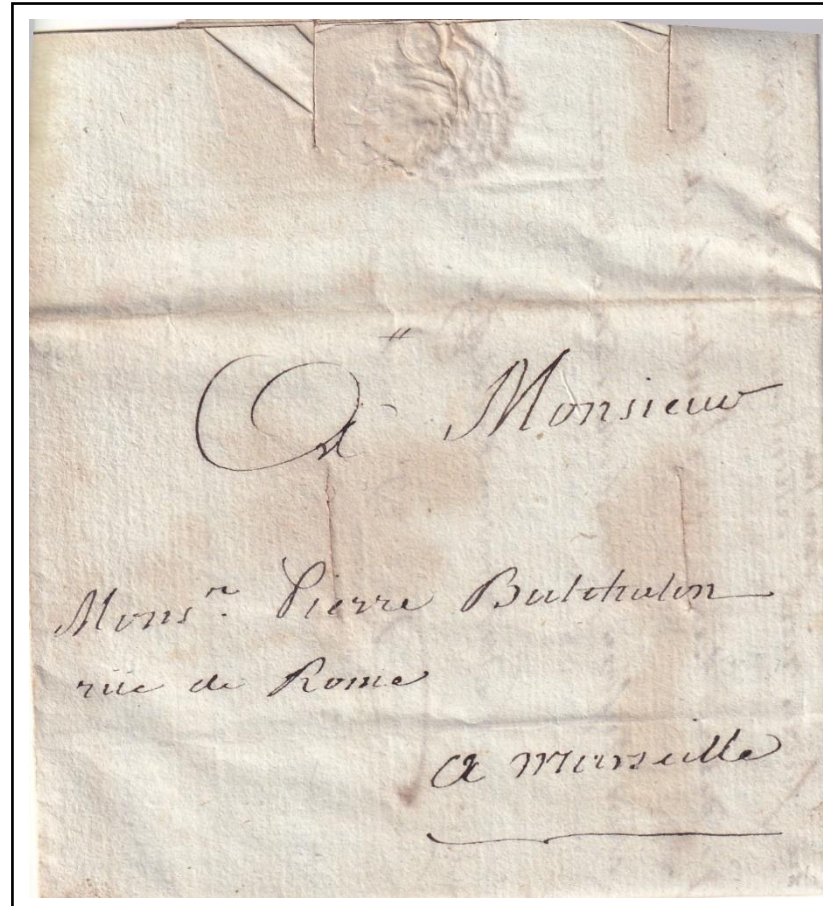
This view-card sent as printed matter from the Turkish p.o. in Chios to Paris on 7 October 1904 shows a view of Chios Town by J. Janssonius, Amsterdam, from 1657

Chios was a Genoese Colony from 1346 to 1566. Then it was conquered by the Turks and became a part of the Ottoman Empire up until 1912. The island was occupied by Greece on 12/25 November 1912 and became a part of the Kingdom of Greece on 30 May 1913 under the Treaty of London. In this exhibit the island appears under various names: English and German – CHIOS; French – CHIO; Italian – SCIO; Turkish – SAKIZ and Greek – XIOS.

The exhibit is structured as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| A. Genoese Colony – Private letters of trading-houses | 1346 – 1566 |
| B. Ottoman Empire | 1566 – 1912 |
| 1. Ship-letters | 1812 – 1912 |
| 2. Agency of the Austrian Lloyd and Austrian Post Office | 1837 – 1912 |
| 3. Agency of the Russian Steamship Company (ROPIT) | 1860 – 1912 |
| 4. Agency of the Egyptian Khedival Mail Line | 1870 – 1881 |
| 5. Turkish Post Offices | 1871 – 1912 |
| C. Greek Occupation | Nov. 1912 – May 1913 |
| D. Greek Administration: Kingdom to 1924, Republic 1924-35, Kingdom 1935-73 | |
| 1. Greek Post Office | from May 1913 |
| 2. Post Offices during the Second World War | 1941 – 1944 |
| 3. Greek Post Office | from May 1945 |

The literature used is very extensive. The publication of A. Nicolas & A. Galinos: Foreign Post Offices in the Helladic Territories, provides an excellent summary for the 100 years to 1923.



An entire letter to Marseilles written by a Cadet and date-lined Chios 12 September 1815 (see copy below). There were no packet-boats or markings at this time, so the letter was presumably carried by the first available ship. The letter was slit for disinfection and the manuscript "6" on the front indicates 6 décimes to be paid by the addressee.



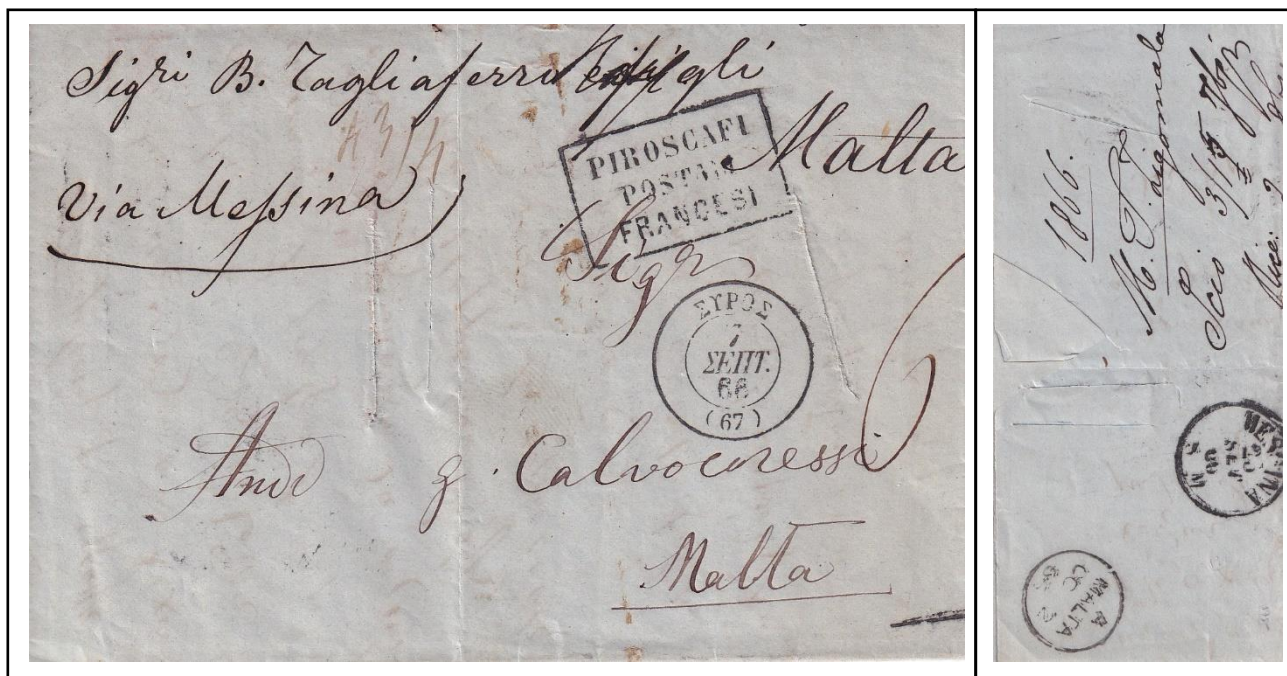
An entire letter to Chippenham, Wiltshire, written at Chios and dated 16 February 1812; carried privately to Malta and handed in unpaid for carriage to England by the mail packet, receiving the curved boxed "MALTA" marking in red (recorded 1807-32); ms. "3-0", then "3/4" (= 3s 4d) payable by the addressee.



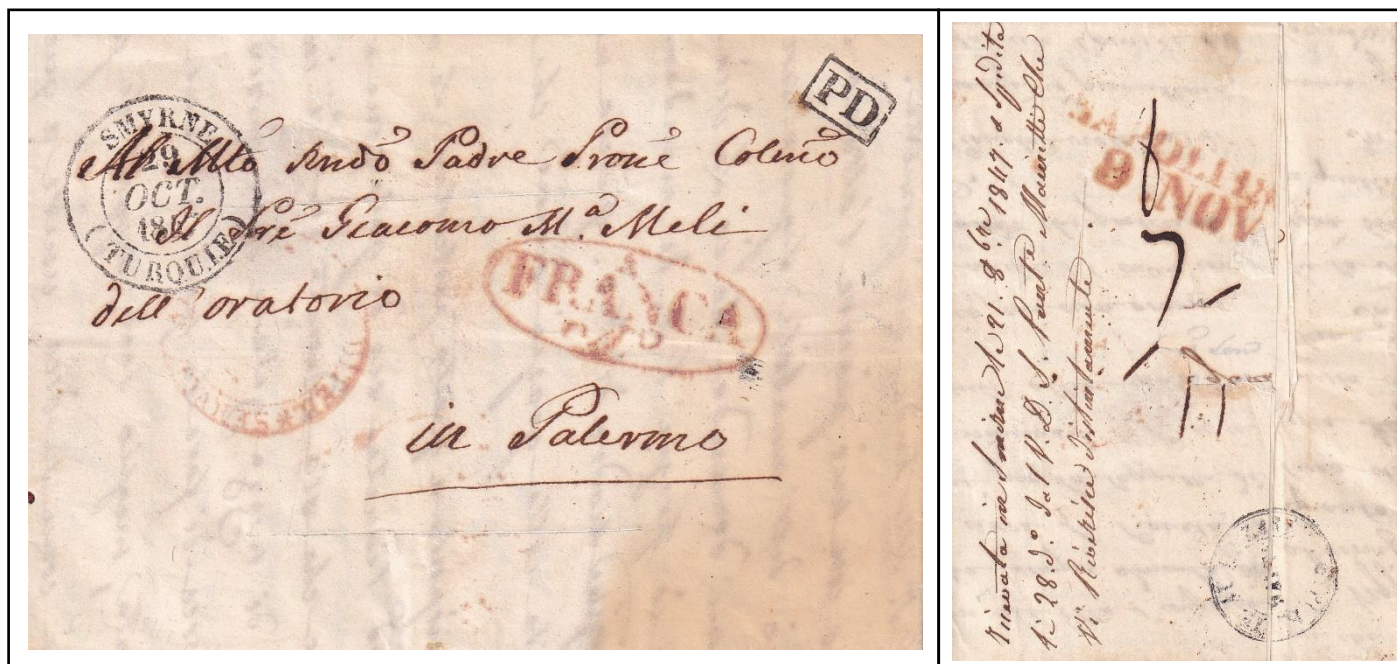
A mourning letter dated 11 March 1871 sent from Chios by Pericles Canalas to his brother at the Black Sea port of Samsun. Carried privately to Constantinople and handed-in at the British post office there. Franked with a 4d stamp (1870 issue, plate 12) cancelled with the "C" obliterator for carriage by a British ship. On the reverse a date-stamp of the British P.O. at Constantinople dated 27 March 1871.



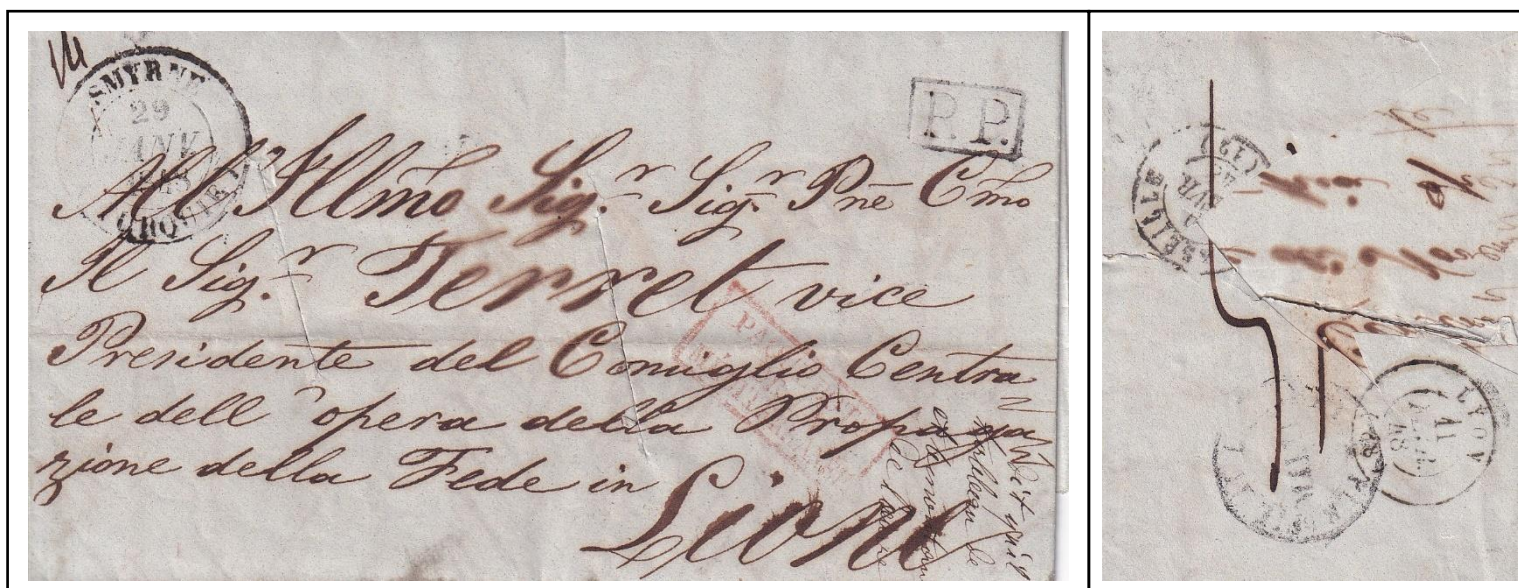
An entire letter to Athens date-lined Chios 3 June 1839; carried privately to a forwarding agent at Syros; prepaid by him, receiving a "SYRA" date-stamp of 16 June 1839 plus Piraeus transit and Athens arrival date-stamps of 20 June.



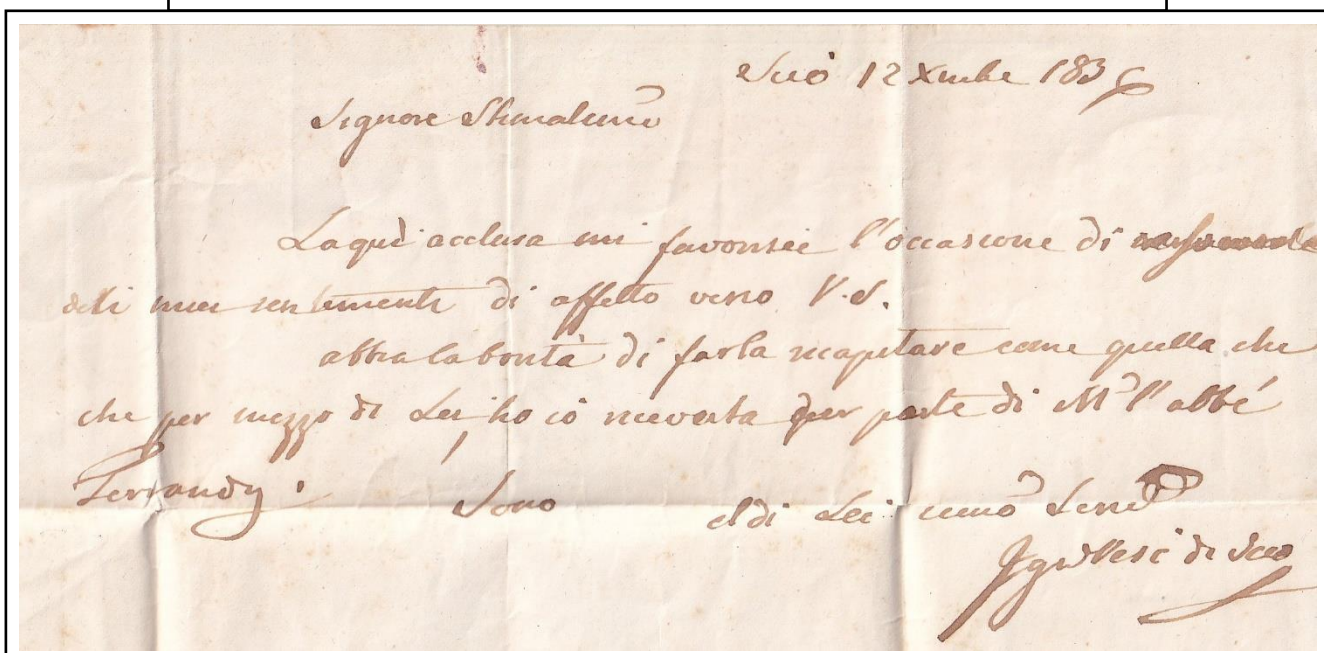
An entire letter to Malta date-lined Chios 3/15 September 1866; carried privately to Syros, and sent from there with a date-stamp of 7/19 September; the entire was back-stamped on arrival at Messina on 23 September and received a boxed marking indicating onward carriage by "French Postal Steamers". The entire received a Malta arrival back-stamp on 2 October and was slit for disinfection; "6" pence postage was paid by the addressee.



An entire to Palermo, written at Chios on 15 October 1847; sent to a forwarding agent at Smyrna and fully prepaid at the French post office there on 29 October 1847, receiving the boxed "PD" marking; carried by the postal packet "Telemaque"; slit and disinfected at Malta, receiving a back-stamp "PURIFIEE AU LAZARET MALTE"; Naples transit back-stamp dated 9 November 1847, mark of origin "SERV.CO. VAP.FRANC.DEL.MEDITER." (recorded 1844-56) and oval paid arrival marking "A FRANCA N." (recorded from Nov. 1848 to May 1857).

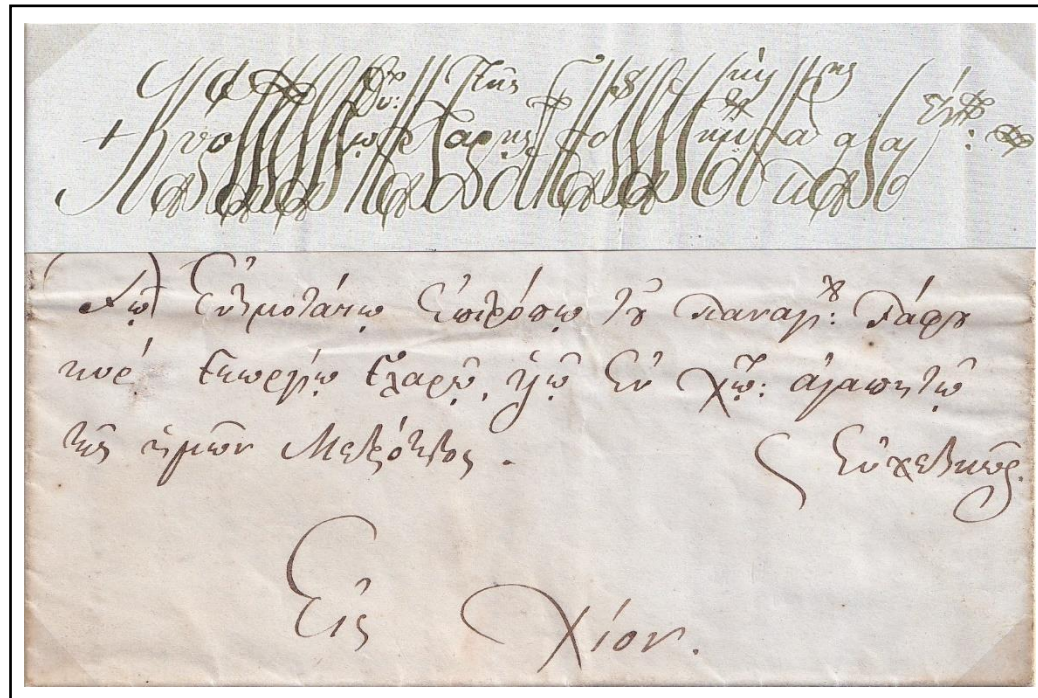


An entire to France written at Chios on 29 December 1847; routed and prepaid as above, receiving the Smyrna date-stamp on 29 January 1848 (recorded only to 1847), but marked with boxed "P.P."; carried by the French postal packet "Tancrede" from Smyrna; red French entry mark "PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANEE" and transit back-stamp of Marseilles dated 9 February 1848; arrival back-stamp of Lyon dated 11 February 1848.

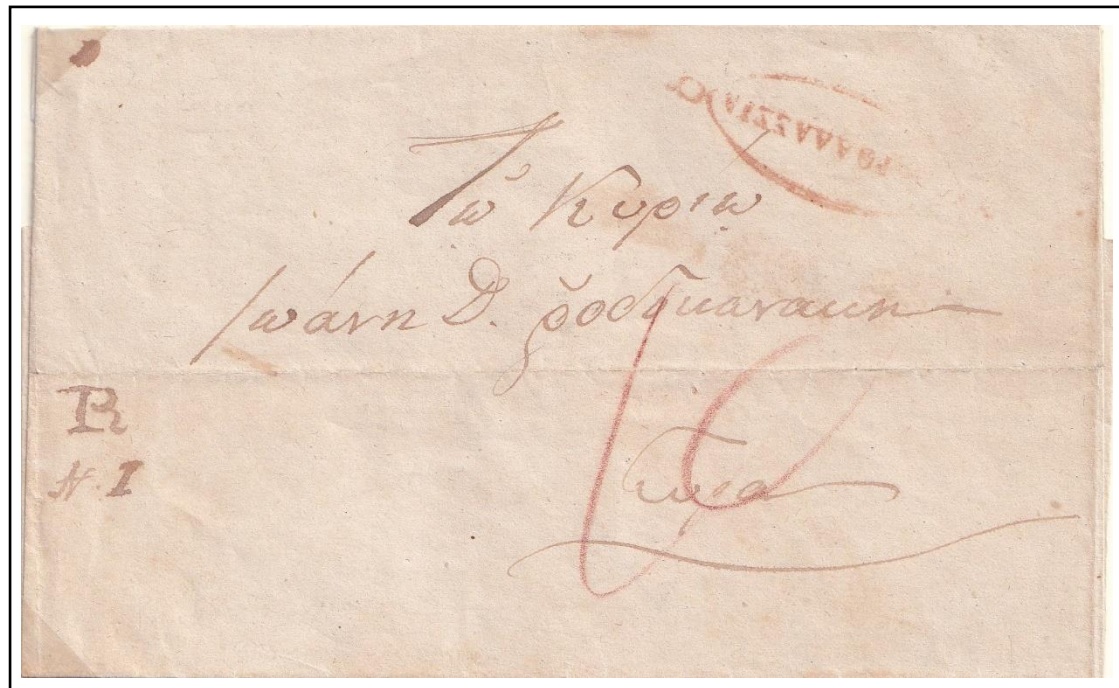


An entire letter to Aleppo date-lined Chios 12 December 1856 (see copy below); carried privately to Smyrna and prepaid at the French P.O. there, receiving a date-stamp of 7 March 1857, a boxed "P.P." (Port Payé) marking with a "10" on the reverse indicating 10 décimes paid and a two-line arrival date-stamp of the French P.O. in Aleppo.

B. Turkish period 1566-1912 1. Privately carried mail from Constantinople 1850 and to Syros 1855

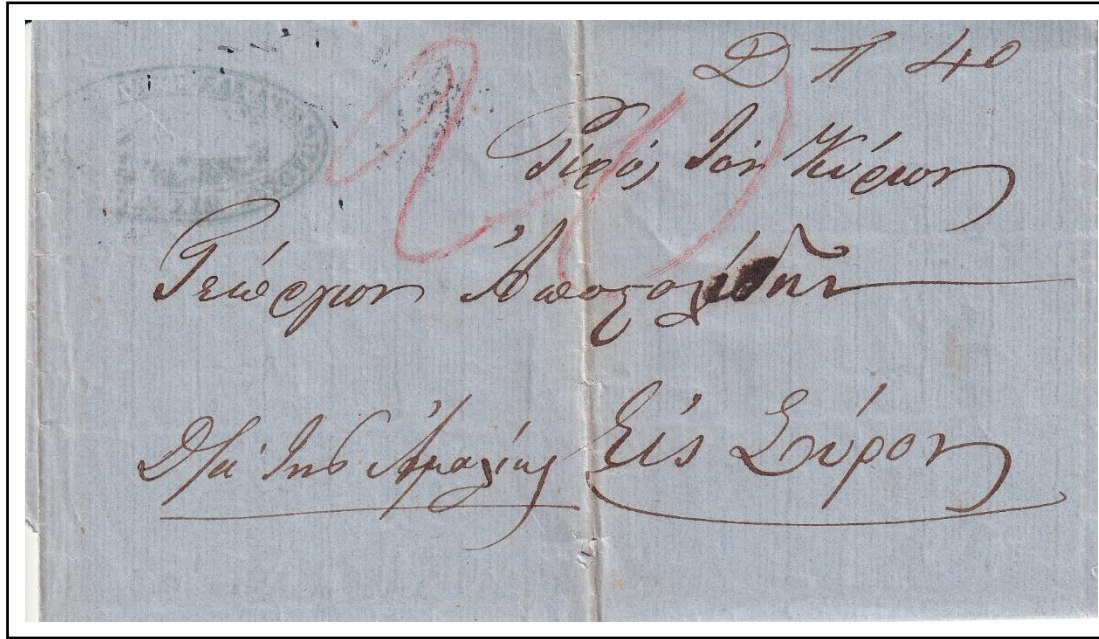


An entire letter from the Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church in Constantinople (with a copy of the signature inset) dated 8 June 1850 and carried privately to Chios (no postal markings).



A wrapper carried privately from Chios to Syros with an oval maritime entry mark "YPERTHALASSIA" ("From Overseas") and an arrival back-stamp of the Greek post office dated 3 August 1855; "10" lepta Greek postage payable by addressee was marked in red crayon on the front.

B. Turkish period 1566-1912 Ship mail from Chios to Syros by Hellenic Steam Navigation Co. 1861



An entire addressed to Syros written at Chios on 21 April 1861; with a poor strike of the oval cachet of the Chios Agency of the Hellenic Steam Navigation Co. in blue and a manuscript note in black "D P 40" (= postage paid 40 paras); Syros arrival back-stamp of 22 April 1861 and Greek postage payable of 20 lepta marked in red.



A wrapper addressed to Syros written at Chios on 2 November 1861; with a very poor strike of the oval cachet of the Chios Agency of the Hellenic Steam Navigation Co. in blue and a manuscript note in blue "D P 40" (= postage paid 40 paras); Syros arrival back-stamp of 4 November 1861; Greek postage payable of 20 lepta marked in red and collected using a 20 lepta stamp of the Paris printing (in use since 1 October 1861) cancelled with the Syros "67" obliterator.

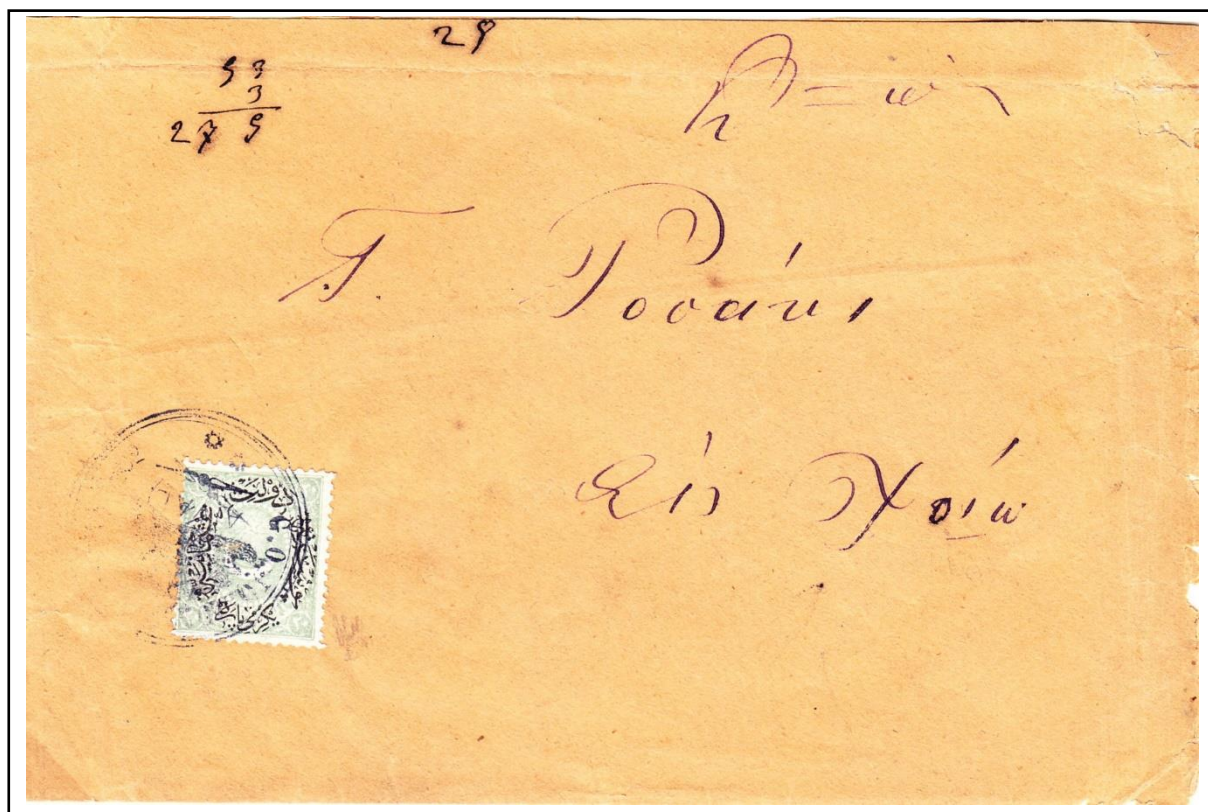


Above: An entire letter dated 31 May 1866 sent to Chios bearing only two different oval cachets of the Porto Lago Agency of the Hellenic Steam Navigation Co.

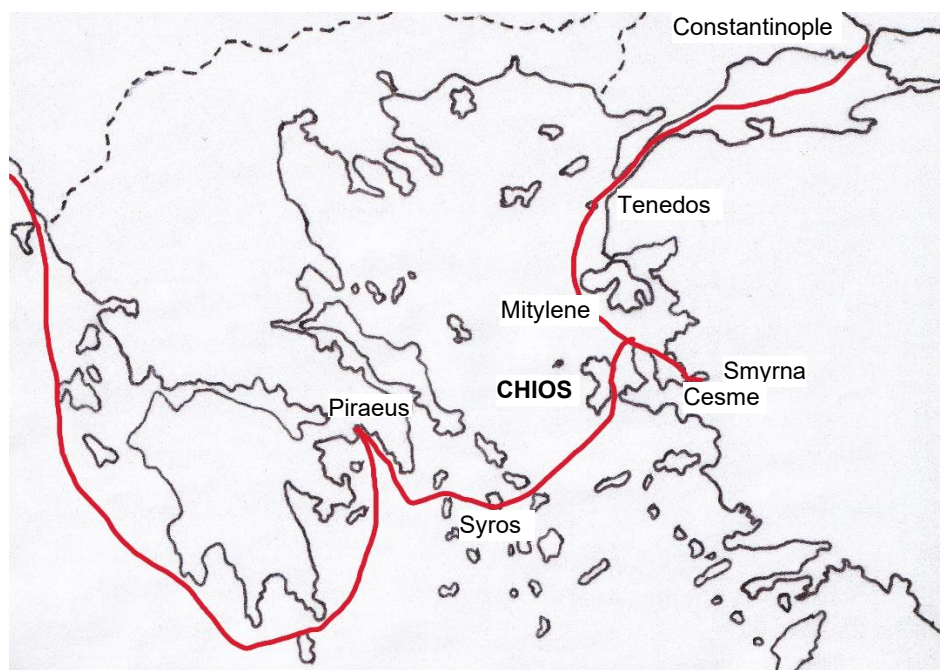
Below: An entire to Constantinople dated 22 June 1866; with the oval cachet of "P.A. Canalas"; handed in at the Chios Agency of the Hellenic Steam Navigation Co. and carriage "30" paras(?) prepaid; arrival back-stamp of the company's Constantinople Agency of 25 June 1866 "ELLIN. ATMOPLOIA PRACTOR. CONST POLEOS" (1 of 6 known examples - 2 on letters from Chios and 4 on letters from Volos).



An envelope addressed to Smyrna with a letter dated 16 February 1884 written at Chios; correctly franked with a Turkish 20 para stamp (1877 issue) cancelled with the cachet "G.O.JOLY VICTORIA & CO. CHIO".



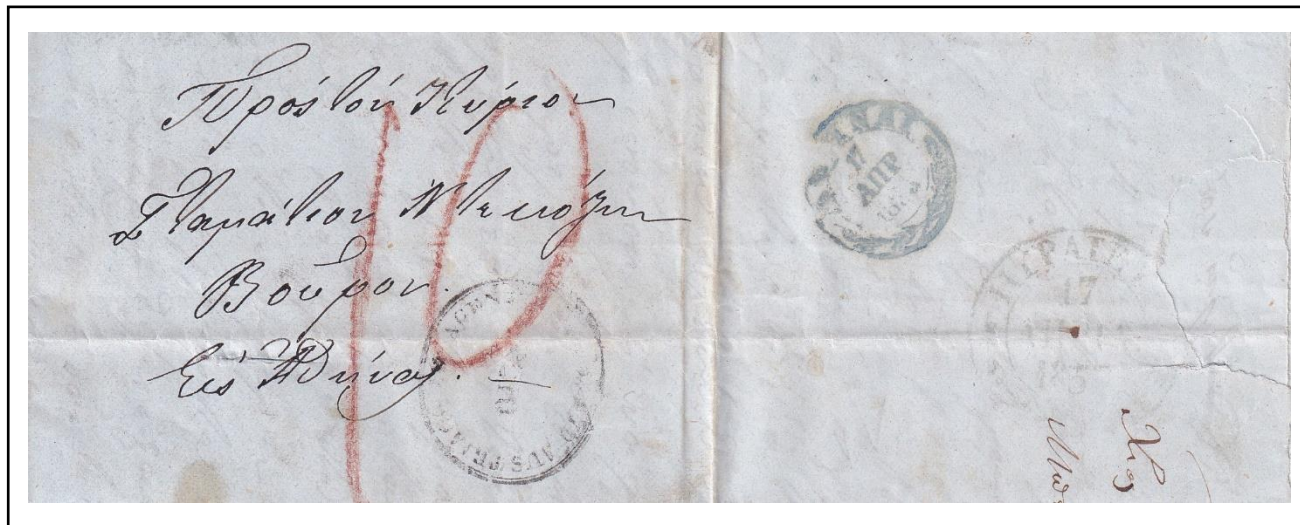
An undated cover addressed to Chios; correctly franked as above, the stamp cancelled with a similar cachet of the G.O.Joly Victoria & Co. Agency in nearby Aivalik on the Anatolian coast.



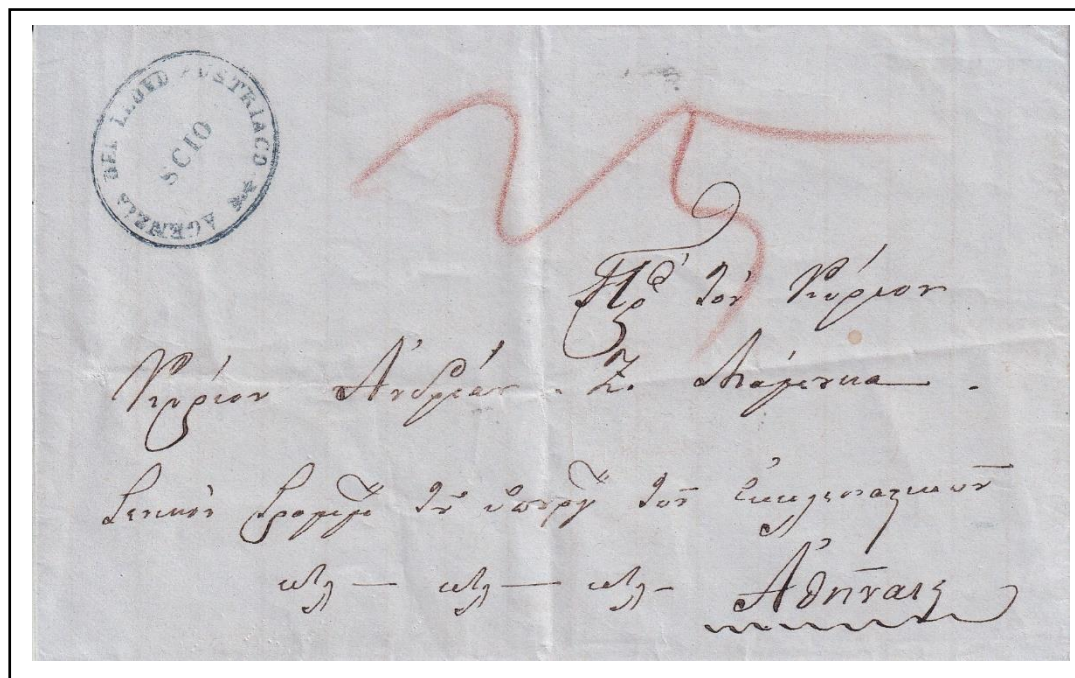
The Austrian Lloyd opened its steamer line from Trieste to Constantinople via Piraeus, Syros and Smyrna in May 1837 and also opened agencies at Chios and Tenedos, where calls were made. As agreed with the Austrian Post on 13 July 1837, the Lloyd Agencies handled mail in ports where there was no Austrian Consular Agency. Afterwards, the Lloyd Agencies apparently handled only the mail to the Aegean ports, but not that to / via Trieste.



An entire to Volos written at Chios on 12 March 1858, handed in to the Austrian Lloyd Agency the Chios and prepaid (no indication of amount paid), receiving the oval marking in black (recorded as from 1853).



An entire to Athens dated 15 April 1853; sea carriage prepaid but amount not noted; with the oval marking of the Lloyd Agency at Chios in black (very early date, first recorded 1853); transit and arrival back-stamps of the Greek p.o.s. at Pireaus and Athens dated 17 April 1853; Greek inland postage due "10" lepta marked in red crayon for weight to 7.5g (as per the postal agreement of 27 November 1850).



A double entire to Athens dated 26 December 1859; sea carriage prepaid but amount not noted; with the above marking but in blue; transit and arrival back-stamps of the Greek p.o.s. at Pireaus and Athens dated 28 December 1859; Greek inland postage due "25" lepta marked in red crayon for weight 15-20g (postal agreement as above).

B. Turkish Period 1566-1912

2. Austrian Postal Agency 1852-1914

It seems that the Austrian Postal Agency first operated at Cesme in Anatolia (across the strait from Chios) and that mail from Chios for Trieste was transferred to Cesme. The two-line “CESME” date-stamp is recorded only from 1852 to 1854, but may have been in use until the new date-stamp inscribed “SCIO-CESME” (for the mail from both Chios and Cesme?) was introduced in 1863.



An entire dated Chios 18 August 1852 (by the Julian calendar) addressed to Trieste and transferred to the Austrian Postal Agency at Cesme; Levant postage 12 s. (rate 1851-57) paid and noted on the reverse; marked “FRANCA”; two-line marking “Cesme” dated 30 August (Gregorian calendar); Trieste arrival back-stamp 5 September 1852.



An entire from the Catholic Mission at Chios (the negative cachet) dated 5 June 1854; handed-in, prepaid, and date-stamped as above on 7 June 1854 (recorded only to 1852); marked “PD” in red; French entry mark for mail coming from Austria “AUTR. / 2 PT DE BEAUVOISIN” of 19 June 1854 in red indicating transit through Savoy; Lyon arrival back-stamp dated 19 June 1854.

B. Turkish Period 1566-1912

2. Austrian Postal Agency 1852-1914

New "SCIO-CESME" date-stamp believed first introduced in 1863 – this letter to Malta clearly dated 1861



An entire from Chios to Malta dated 29 June 1861 (copy of letterhead at foot) with the "SCIO-CESME" date-stamp of the same date and the straight-line "FRANCO" both in blue. Austrian sea carriage to Trieste and onward postage to Italy prepaid; the address-side crossed in blue and the prepayment of "20/28" (20 + 28 soldi rate to Italy 1858-66) marked in blue crayon on the back. Italian "From Desenzano to Milano" TPO and Genoa transit back-stamps of 5 and 6 July 1861; Malta arrival back-stamp of 18 July 1861 plus manuscript "2/4" British postage due.

B. Turkish Period 1566-1912

2. Austrian Postal Agency 1852-1914

Sea carriage prepaid to Syros but Greek postage payable by addressee – letters from 1863 and 1865



A wrapper to Syros dated 29 June / 11 July 1863; sea carriage prepaid and marked “FRANCO”; with the “SCIO-CESME” date-stamp of the Austrian Postal Agency at Chios in blue dated 11 July; Greek inland postage due “20” lepta marked in red crayon (for weight to 15g from October 1861 to 1875) and collected with a 20 lepta stamp (1862-67 issue) cancelled with the Syros date-stamp on 30 June / 12 July 1863.



A wrapper to Syros from 30 October / 11 November 1865; sea carriage prepaid with a 10 soldi stamp (1864 issue) cancelled with the “SCIO-CESME” date-stamp in black dated 11 November; Greek inland postage due “20” lepta marked in red crayon (rate as above) and collected with a 20 lepta stamp (1862-67 issue) cancelled on 1 / 13 November 1865; the entire was slit for disinfection on arrival.

B. Turkish Period 1566-1912

2. Austrian Postal Agency 1852-1914

Letters to Cyprus from 1865 and 1866 with unclear rates



A wrapper to Cyprus dated 9 / 21 June 1865; sea carriage prepaid with three 15 soldi stamps (1864 issue) cancelled with the “SCIO-CESME” date-stamp in black dated 21 June; transit back-stamp of Lloyd Agency at Smyrna of 22 June.



An entire to Cyprus dated 21 June / 3 July 1867; sea carriage prepaid with two 15 soldi stamps (1864 issue) cancelled with the “SCIO-CESME” date-stamp in black dated 3 July; transit back-stamp of Lloyd Agency at Smyrna dated 4 July.



A wrapper to Syros with sea carriage prepaid with a pair of 5 soldi stamps (late use of 1864 issue) cancelled with the "SCIO-CESME" date-stamp in blue dated 19 December (1868); Greek inland postage due "20" lepta marked in blue; collected with two 5 lepta stamps (1862-67 issue) cancelled with the Syros date-stamp on 8 / 20 December.



An entire dated 29 March / 10 April 1869 sent registered to Constantinople with carriage 10s plus registration 10s prepaid with a pair of 10 soldi stamps (1867 issue – early use in Chios) cancelled with the "SCIO-CESME" date-stamp in blue dated 10 April (1869); "RECOM:" registration marking also in blue; transit and arrival back-stamps of the Austrian Lloyd Agencies at Smyrna and Constantinople dated 12 and 14 April.



A wrapper to Syros with sea carriage prepaid with a 10 soldi stamp (1867 issue) cancelled with the "SCIO-CESME" date-stamp in black dated 30 March (1872); Greek inland postage due "20" lepta marked in red and collected with two pairs of 5 lepta stamps (1871 issue) cancelled with the Syros date-stamp on 19 / 31 March 1872.



A wrapper to Corfu with sea carriage prepaid with a 10 soldi stamp (1867 issue) cancelled with the "SCIO-CESME" date-stamp in black on 24 October (1874); Greek inland postage due "20" lepta marked in blue and collected with a 20 lepta stamp (1872-75 issue) incorrectly cancelled with the "106" obliterator instead of the Corfu date-stamp; transit and arrival back-stamps of the Greek P.O.'s at Syros and Corfu dated 13 / 25 and 15 / 27 October 1874



An entire to Trieste prepaid at 15 soldi with 5 + 10 soldi stamps (1867 issue) cancelled with the “SCIO-CESME” date-stamp in black dated 11 October (1873); with a Trieste arrival back-stamp of 17 October 1873.



Certificate

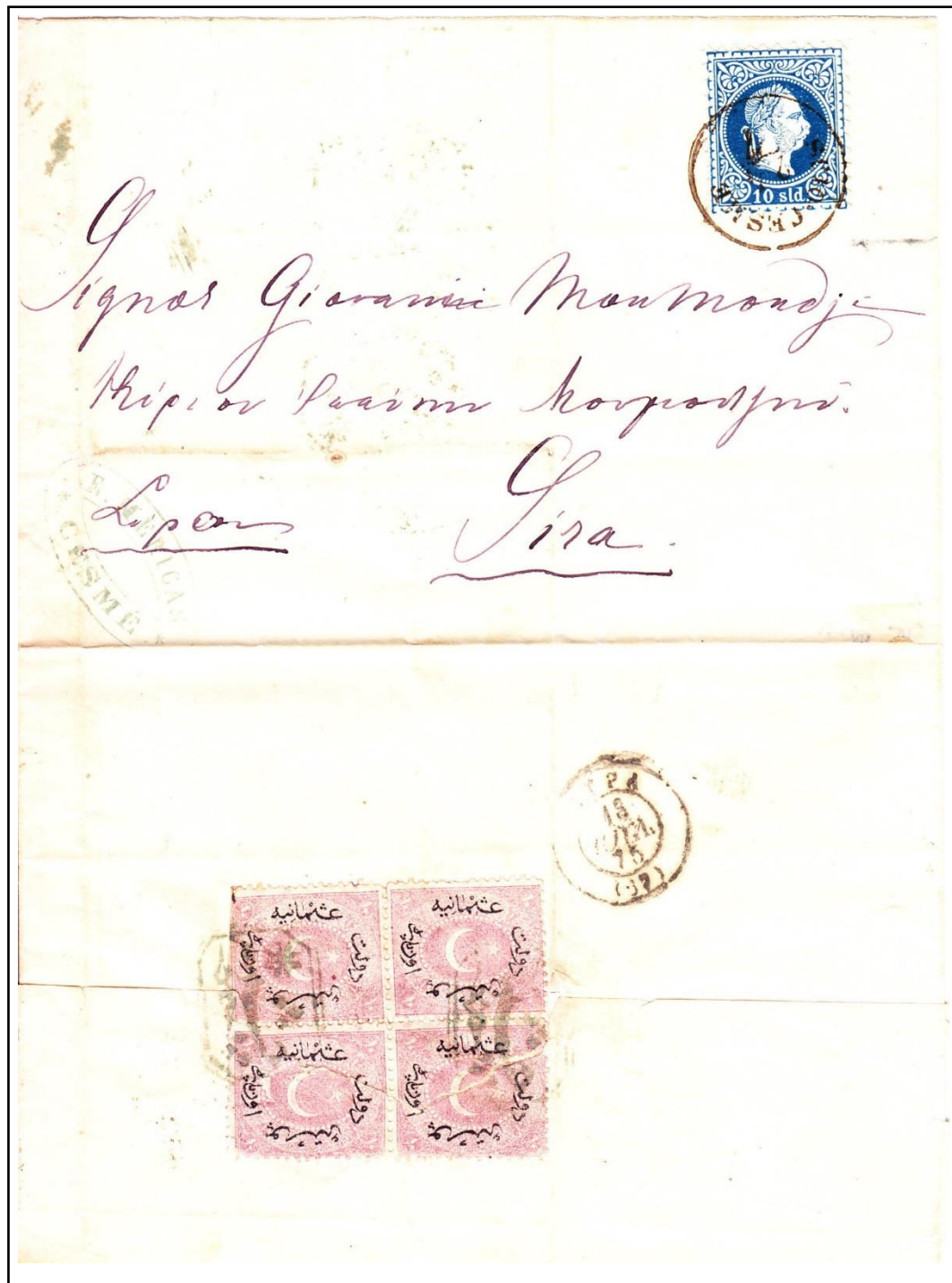
A wrapper to Genoa prepaid at 23 soldi for carriage by an Austrian ship from Brindisi with 3 + 5 + 15 soldi stamps (1867 issue) cancelled with the “SCIO-CESME” date-stamp in black dated 6 June (1874); with transit and arrival back-stamps of Corfu, Brindisi and Genoa of 9, 10 and 14 June 1874.



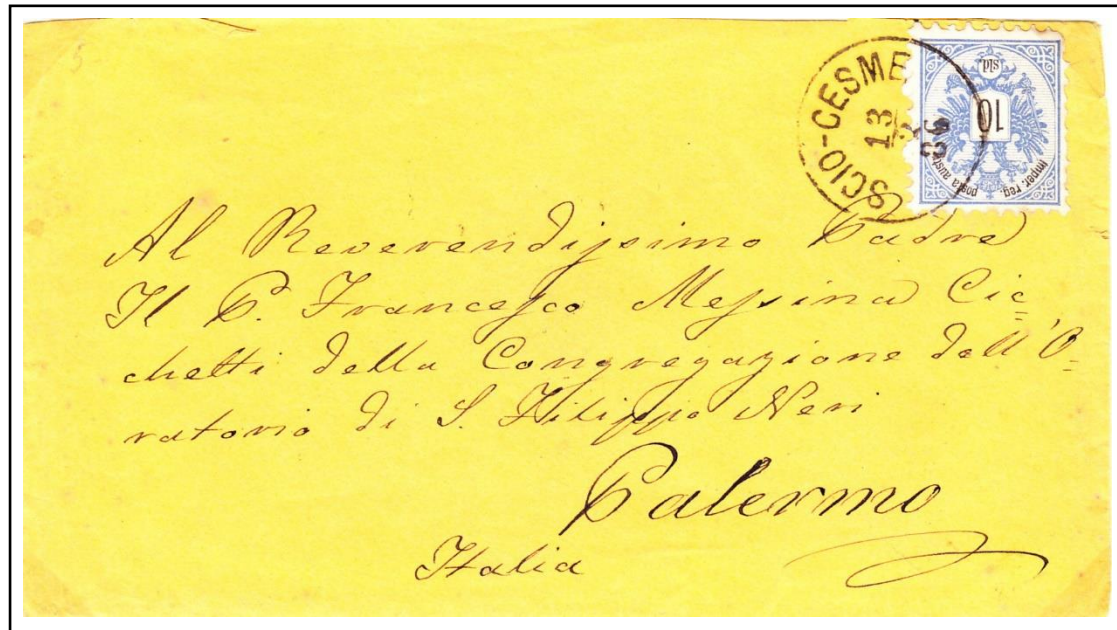
A 5 soldi post-card (1875 issue for Austrian Italy) used to Athens under the GPU/UPU and cancelled with the "SCIO-CESME" date-stamp in black on 14 November (1877); with transit and arrival back-stamps of Syros and Athens of 6 November 1877.



An entire to Syros with sea carriage prepaid with a 10 soldi stamp (1867 issue) cancelled "SCIO-CESME" in black on 5 June (1875); Greek inland postage due of "20" lepta marked in blue and collected with a 20 lepta postage due stamp (introduced on 1 March 1875) cancelled with the "67" obliterator of Syros; with arrival back-stamp of 25 May / 6 June 1875. After the GPU came into effect on 1 July 1875, Greek postage was no longer payable.



This entire addressed to Syros was written at Cesme on the Anatolian coast on 24 July 1875. Although Turkey was a signatory to the GPU, the new regulations were first implemented in 1876, and international mail was then initially handled only by the Galata post-office in Constantinople. This entire was therefore franked for carriage to Chios at the Turkish inland rate of 1 piastre with a block of four 10 para stamps (1871 issue); these are cancelled with the octagonal two-framed marking of Cesme (recorded 1871-92). In Chios, the entire was handed-in at the Austrian P.O. and franked at the GPU rate with a 10 soldi stamp (1867 issue) cancelled "SCIO-CESME" on 24 July; Syros arrival back-stamp dated 13 /25 July 1875. As from 1 July 1875, the Austrian franking at the GPU rate covered also the carriage in Greece and postage due was no longer charged for the Greek postage.



A cover to Palermo franked with a 10 soldo stamp of the 1883 issue (UPU rate since 1 July 1875); cancelled with the sans-serif date-stamp on 13 February 1886 (recorded 1885-91); transit back-stamps of Corfu (Austrian P.O.) 16 Feb. and Brindisi 17 Feb.; Messina-Palermo T.P.O. transit b/s and Palermo arrival b/s of 18 Feb. 1886.



A cover from Constantinople to Chios handed-in on the Austro-Hungarian Lloyd vessel "Ceres" correctly franked with a 1 pi. stamp of the 1890 Levant issue; cancelled with the ship's date-stamp (numbered XIV) on ? December 1892; with a sans-serif arrival date-stamp of Chios in violet dated 2 December 1892 (latest recorded date 1891).



This French 15 cent inland letter-card was sent from Paris to Chios on 2 December 1892 correctly supplemented with a 10 cent stamp and bearing a superfluous 15 cent stamp. The card bears transit back-stamps of the Paris-Modane TPO (3 December) of Corfu (25 November = 7 December) and of Piraeus (25 November = 8 December), plus the sans-serif date-stamp of the Austrian P.O. in Chios of 10 December 1892 as an arrival mark. The inscription "SCIO CESME" of this new date-stamp introduced ca. 1885 indicates that the Austrian P.O. in Chios was still serving Cesme on the Anatolian coast, which did not have its own date-stamp.

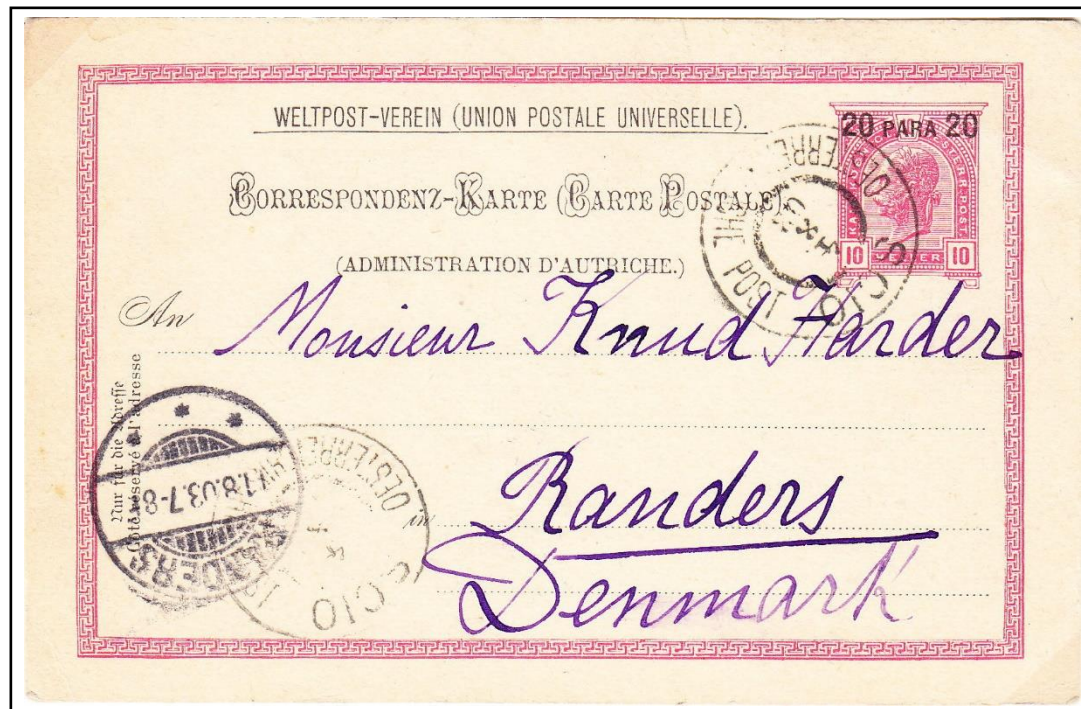


This 20 para on 5 kr post-card (1891 issue) was sent from Cesme to Poland on 13 June 1898 and cancelled in violet with the old oval hand-stamp of the Lloyd Agency at Chios; it has a Cracow arrival mark of 16 June 1898.



Certificate

This cover was sent to Trieste (probably from Cesme) in October 1898 correctly franked with a 1 pi on 10 kr stamp (1890-96 issue) which was cancelled in violet as above; it has a Trieste arrival mark of 31 October 1898.



This 20 para on 10 h post-card (1900 issue) was sent from Chios to Denmark on 4 August 1903 cancelled with the new date-stamp reading just "Scio" = Chios introduced in 1895; it has a Randers arrival mark of 11 August 1903.



This cover was sent from Chios to Cesme correctly franked with two 20 para on 10 h stamps (1900 issue) on 5 August 1900; it has the new Cesme date-stamp of 9 August 1900 in violet as an arrival mark.



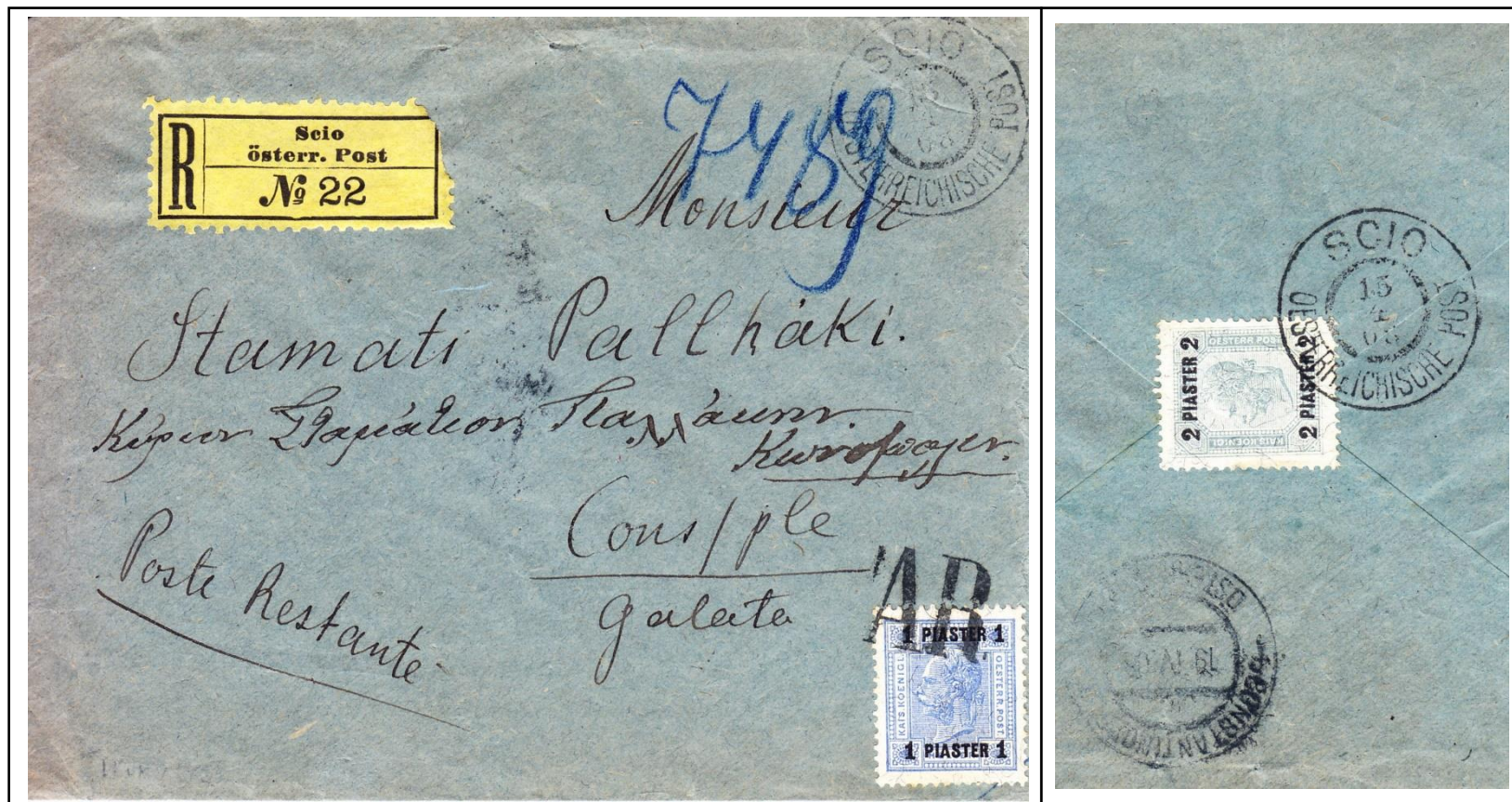
This view-card with less than 5 words of text was correctly franked as printed matter with a 10 pa. on 5 h. stamp (1900 issue); cancelled with the "SCIO OESTERREICHISCHE POST" date-stamp on 12 June 1902 (recorded 1895-1914); arrival back-stamp of the Austrian P.O. at the Dardanelles dated 14 June 1902.



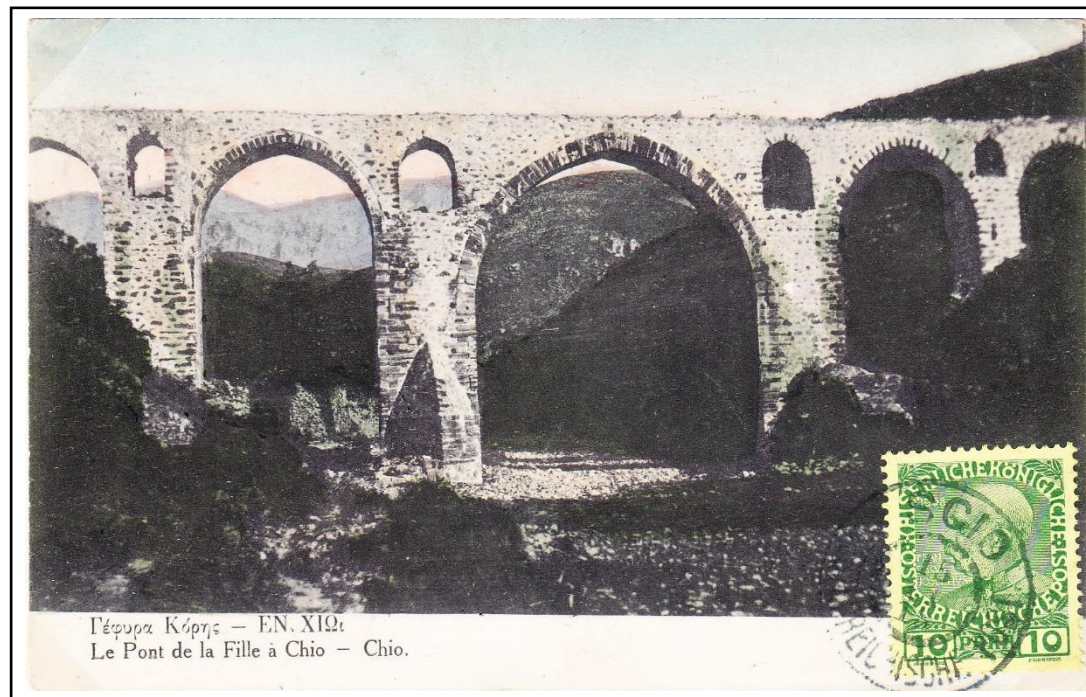
A 10 pa. wrapper (1900 issue) used to Trieste cancelled as above on 28 December 1901; arrival back-stamp with illegible date. With the oval sender's cachet of the Lloyd Agency at Chios – this type is not recorded as a canceller.



A registered letter to Egypt correctly franked with eight 10 pa. on 5 h. stamps (1900 issue); cancelled with the "SCIO OESTERREICHISCHE POST" date-stamp on 19 March 1901 ; Alexandria arrival back-stamp dated 30 March 1901.



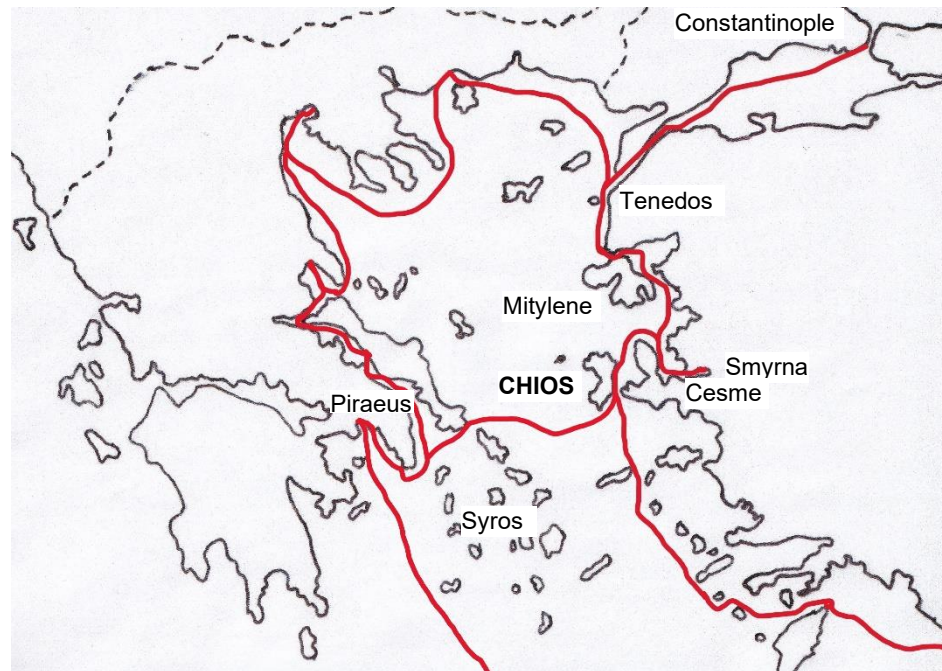
A registered letter with advice of receipt sent to Constantinople correctly franked with stamps of the 1903 issue; a 2 pi. stamp cancelled as above on 15 April 1908 pays the postage plus registration and a 1 pi. stamp cancelled "A.R." pays the AR fee; Constantinople arrival back-stamp of 19 April 1908. At right: a 100% copy of part of the reverse.



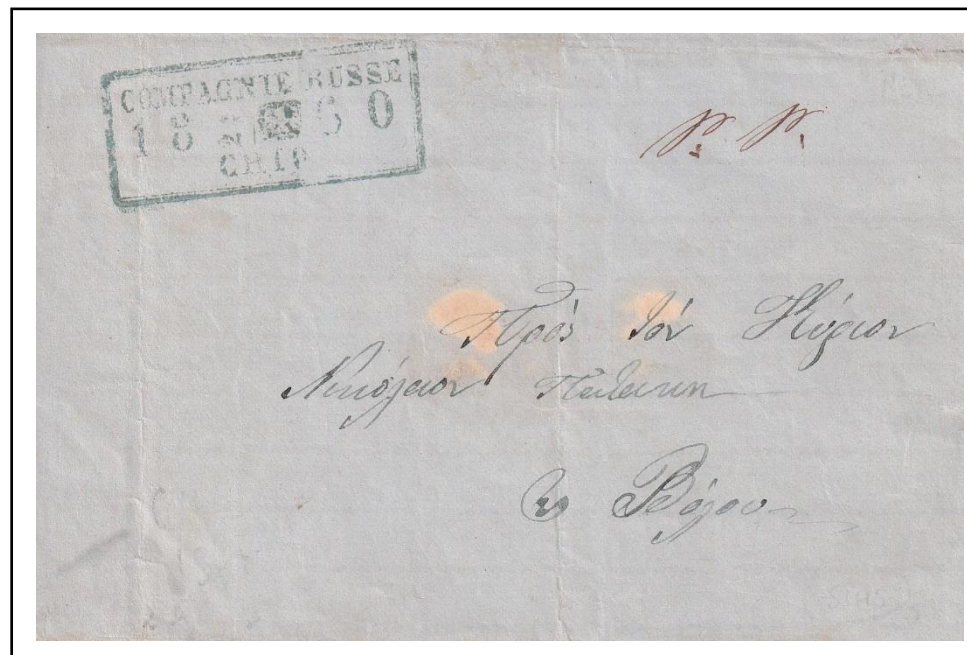
A view-card sent to Switzerland correctly franked as printed matter with a 10 pa. stamp (1908 issue); cancelled with the "SCIO OESTERREICHISCHE POST" date-stamp on 15. November 1913.



A letter from Chios to Constantinople correctly franked with four 10 pa. stamps of the 1908 issue and handed in directly to the Austrian Lloyd vessel "Bukovina"; the stamps were cancelled with the ship's date-stamp on 30 May 1909; Constantinople arrival back-stamp of 1 June 1909.



The Russian Company of Steam Shipping and Trade (Russkoe Obshchestvo Parokhodstva I Torgovli = "ROPIT") opened its line from Odessa-Constantinople-Smyrna-Beyrouth-Alexandria-Piraeus-Constantinople-Batum and return early in 1860. Regular calls were made at the main ports on this route, others, such as Chios, were only visited as needed.

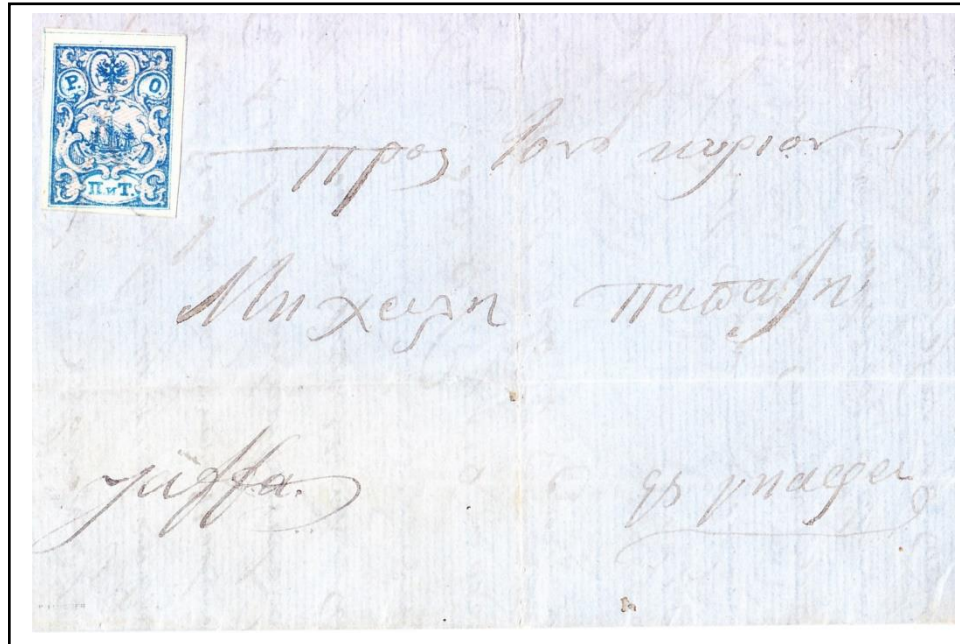


This front of an entire to Volos bears the rectangular boxed date-stamp of the ROPIT Agency at Chios reading "COMPAGNIE RUSSE 23 ? 1860 CHIO" (recorded from 1860 to 1862) in greenish blue.

B. Turkish Period 1566-1912

3. Russian Steamship Co. Agency 1860-1914

In the 1860's, a Greek trader, John Papazis in Odessa, sent his son John to Chios as a purchaser. John Papazis jun. saved his letters and the following letters are from his correspondence with relatives in Jaffa.



An entire letter dated Chios 13 March 1865; addressed to Jaffa and correctly franked with a 2 piastre stamp of the second 1865 ROPIT issue, which is pen-cancelled.



An entire dated Chios 15 May 1865; again addressed to Jaffa and franked with a similar 2 piastre stamp. However, the stamp is now cancelled with a Russian retta canceller with a figure "5" in the centre. For many years only one example of this cancellation, from 1866, on another letter from this correspondence was recorded.

The Papazis correspondence with Jaffa shows the development of the cancellers used at Chios.



A wrapper addressed to Jaffa handed-in at the ROPIT Agency at Chios and correctly franked with a 2 piastre stamp of the second 1865 ROPIT issue; cancelled in blue with the Agency's date-stamp reading "PORT CHIOS" dated 7 January 1867 (recorded 1863-80); with an additional strike of the date-stamp under the stamp.



Expertise

A wrapper addressed and handed-in as above and correctly franked with a 2 piastre stamp of the first 1865 ROPIT issue; cancelled in blue with the Agency's date-stamp reading "CHIOS" dated 23 May 1868 (this type with four-digit date and device at foot recorded 1865-80).



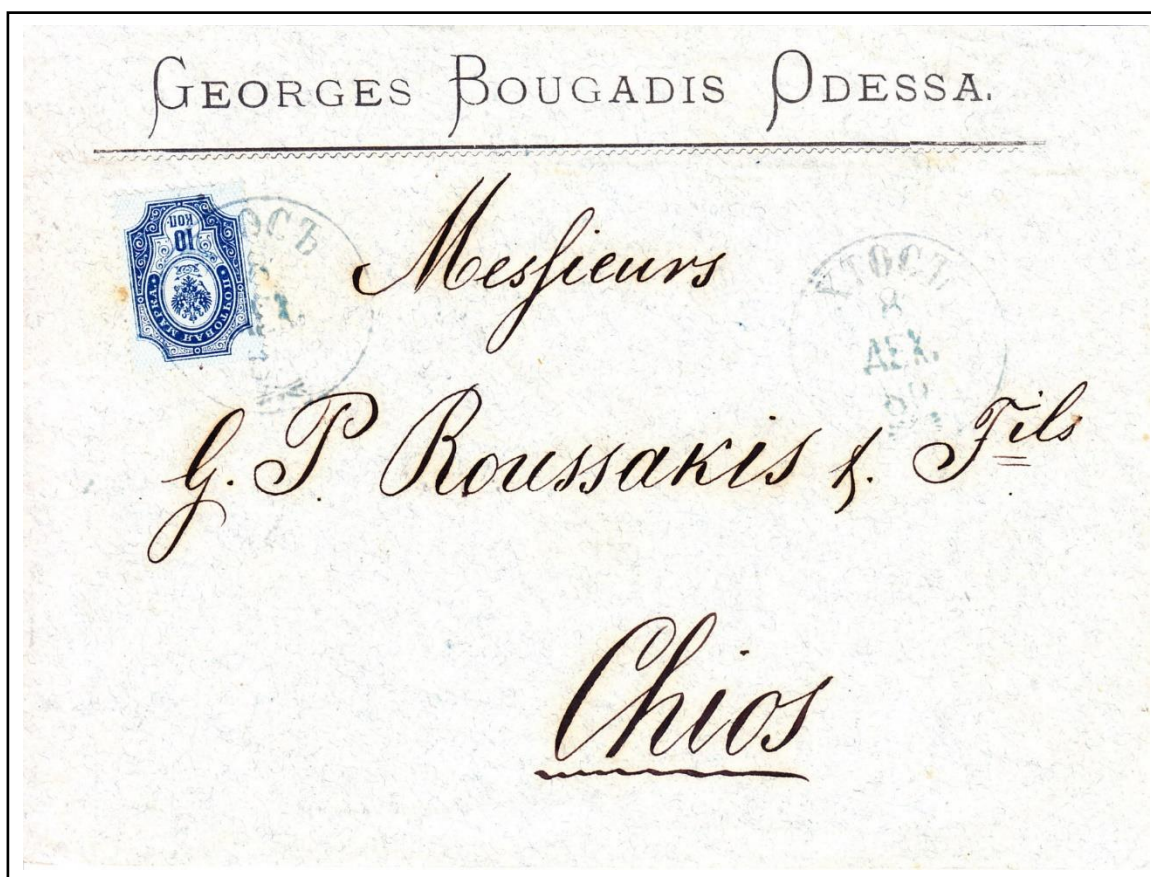
An entire from Chios to Constantinople dated 1875; correctly franked with two 3 kopeck stamps (1872 ROPIT issue); cancelled in blue with the ROPIT Agency's broad lettered date-stamp "CHIOS" on 22 October (recorded 1875-90); arrival back-stamp of the ROPIT Agency at Constantinople dated 26 October.



An entire from Chios to Constantinople dated 1870; correctly franked with 1 + 5 kopeck stamps (1868 ROPIT issue); cancelled in blue with the ROPIT Agency's date-stamp "PORT CHIOS" with inverted date Mar 17 (recorded 1863-80); both stamps are also cancelled in black with a retta obliterator, possibly on arrival at Constantinople.



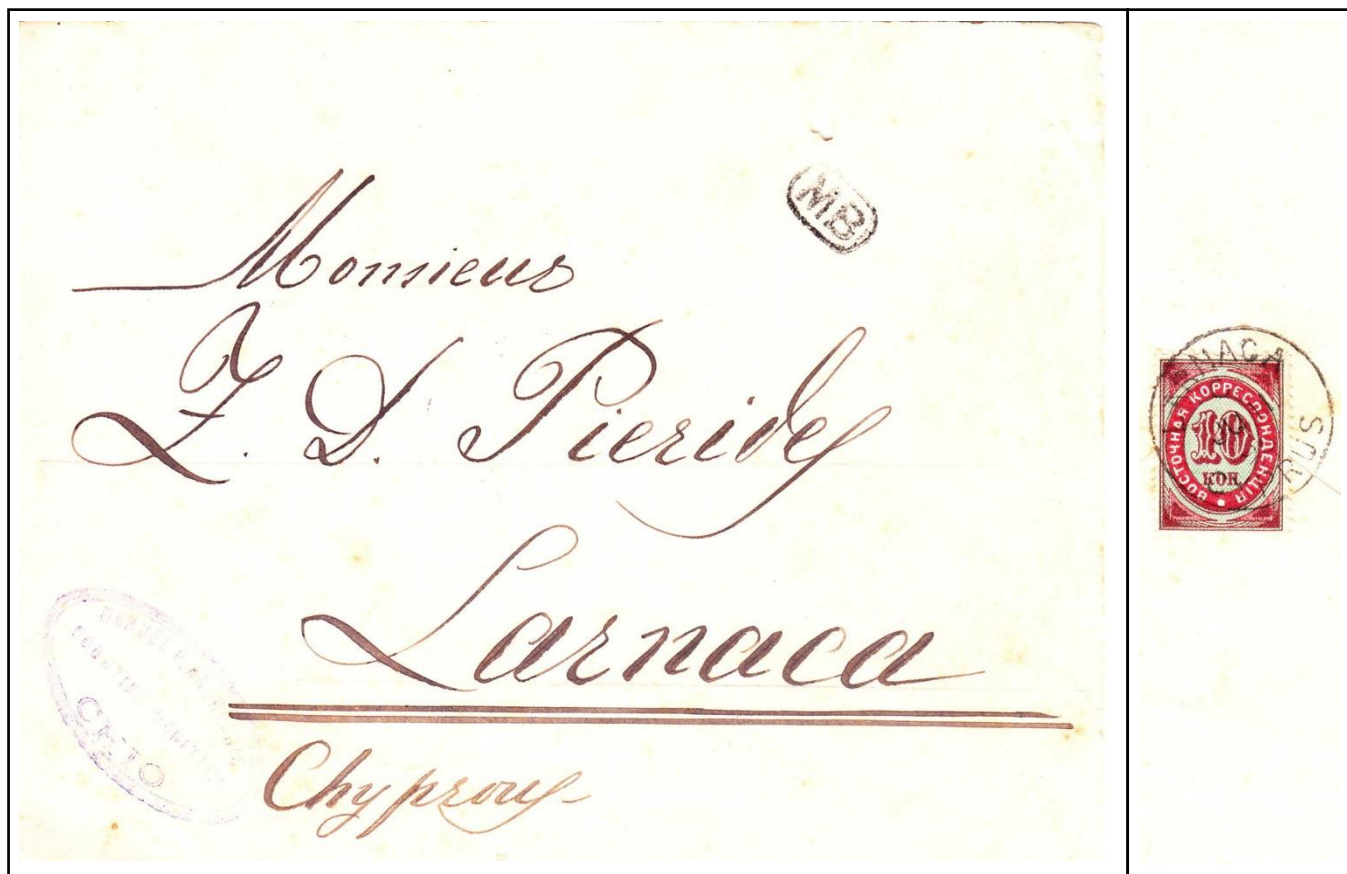
A wrapper to Aleppo, Syria, dated 1880; sea carriage prepaid (up to 1 Russian loth = ca. 12g?) with stamps of 1 kopeck (1879 ROPIT issue) + 5 kopecks (1872 ROPIT issue); cancelled in violet blue on 9 Sep. 1880 with the ROPIT Agency's date-stamp "CHIOS" (type recorded 1880-90); transit date-stamp of the ROPIT Agency in Alexandretta (the port for Aleppo) dated 15 September; although both Russia and Turkey were members of the UPU, the ROPIT franking did not cover the Turkish inland postage of 1 pi. 20 pa. for 10-15g (27.12.1879-18.6.1882) which was collected on delivery with stamps of the 1873 issue cancelled "ALEP TURQUIE" on 26 September 1880.



A cover from Odessa addressed to Chios and handed-in directly to the R.O.P.I.T. vessel; correctly franked with a 10 kopeck stamp (1868 issue of Russia); cancelled "CHIOS" on arrival on 8 December 1889 (type recorded 1888-90)



A cover as above cancelled on arrival with oval "R.O.P.I.T. * AGENCY. CHIOS" 11 November ? (recorded 1880-95)



A cover from Chios to Cyprus, handed-in directly to the ROPIT ship coming from Odessa; correctly franked with a 10 kopeck stamp (1872 ROPIT issue - reissued after postage increase on 1 January 1890). Receiving a British "MB" (= "Movable Box") marking, the stamp was cancelled on arrival at the British post office at Larnaca on 11 June 1895 (the only recorded example).



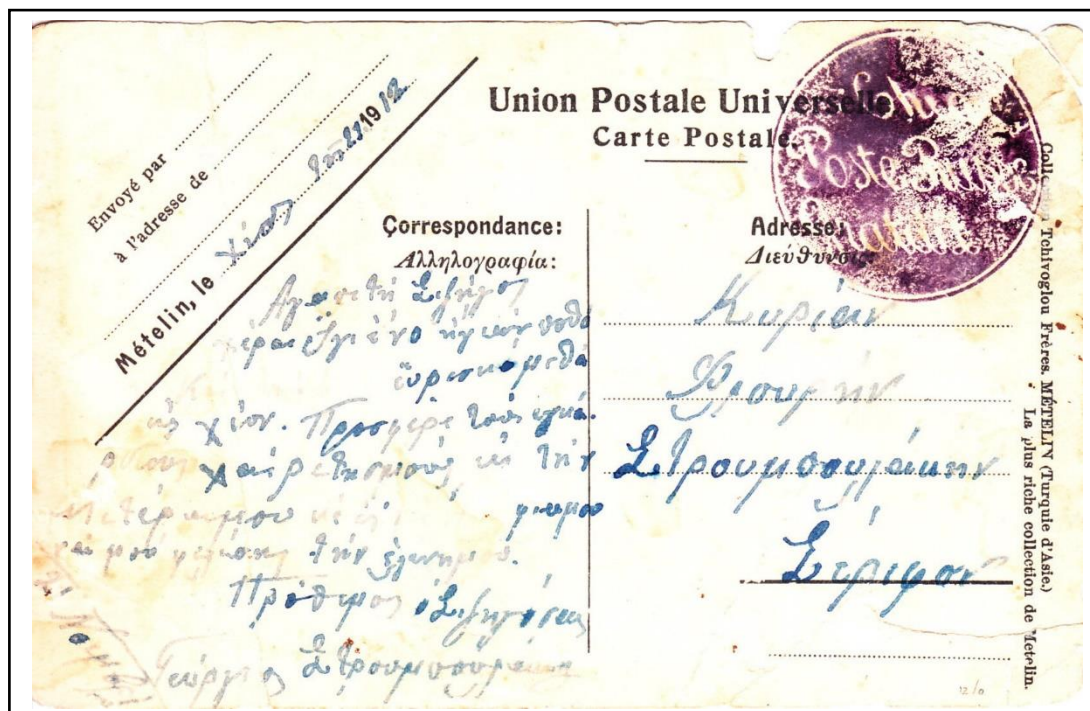
A mourning cover from Odessa addressed to Chios; franked as above and cancelled by the ROPIT office in Constantinople on 27 December 1890; date-stamped on arrival with the oval "R.O.P.I.T. * AGENCY. CHIOS" on 29 December (recorded 1880-95).



Heavy registered cover to Vienna franked at 3½ pi. (2½ pi. postage for 41-60g + 1 pi. registration) with 5, 10 and 20 para stamps of the 1909 "50th Anniversary of ROPIT" issue a; cancelled in violet with a new "ROPIT CHIOS" date-stamp (recorded 1910-14) on 1 May 1910; no registration label, but large "RECOMMANDÉE" and dotted "R" in circle markings in red; ROPIT Agency Constantinople transit mark dated 5 May 1910.



A Russian Levant 20 para post-card (1900 issue) used from Chios to Constantinople cancelled in black with the above date-stamp on 10 December 1910 (type with date in figures recorded 1908-14).



A card to the Cyclades Island, Serifos, dated 21 November 1912, after the occupation of Chios by Greek forces in October 1912; after the liberation, the ROPIT Agency in Chios forwarded mail free of charge for some weeks, indicating this with a locally made negative marking translating "Chios Russian Post Free"; this is an early non-philatelic item with the marking in violet.



A philatelic cover sent to Greece bearing the above frank marking in black, together with the "ROPIT CHIOS" date-stamp of 6 December 1912; it has an Athens arrival back-stamp of 12 December 1912

B. Turkish Period 1566-1912

4. Egyptian Khedival Mail Line Agency 1870-1881

Egyptian postal agencies were opened in Smyrna and Constantinople on the opening of the Khedival Mail Line's route in 1865. An agency was opened at Chios when the Syrian Coast route commenced in 1870.



An illustration of the negative seal canceller used in 1870.



1 pi. stamp of the 1867 issue; cancelled with the negative seal.



A piece with a 1 pi. stamp of the 1874 issue plus a bisect to give the UPU rate of 1½ pi. cancelled with the Chios date-stamp on 26 December 1875.

An entire to Constantinople franked at the pre-UPU rate of 1 pi. (up to 30.6.1875) with a 1 pi. stamp of the 1867 issue; cancelled with the "V.R. POSTE EGIZIANE SCIO" date-stamp on 14 October 1871 (recorded 1871-73 with 4-digit year-date); arrival back-stamp of the Egyptian postal agency at Constantinople dated 28 October 1871.



10 pa. on 2½ pi. stamp of the 1879 issue with Scio canceller.



10 pa. stamp of the 1879 issue; cancelled at Scio in 1879.



20 pa. stamp of the 1879 issue; cancelled at Scio in 1879.



20 pa. stamp of 1881 issue with Scio cancel of 1881 and retta.



The two types of official inter-postal seals inscribed "SCIO": at left Type IV cancelled as above in 1878; at right Type V cancelled at Chios in 1880.

B. Turkish Period 1566-1912

4. Egyptian Khedival Mail Line Agency 1870-1881

Egyptian postal agencies were opened in Smyrna and Constantinople on the opening of the Khedival Mail Line's route in 1865. An agency was opened at Chios when the Syrian Coast route commenced in 1870.



An entire to Constantinople franked at $1\frac{1}{2}$ pi. (UPU rate 1.7.75-31.3.78) with three 20 para stamps of the 1874 issue; cancelled with the "V.R. POSTE EGIZIANE SCIO" date-stamp on 24 December 1876 (recorded 1874-81); arrival back-stamp of the Egyptian postal agency at Constantinople dated 27 December 1876.



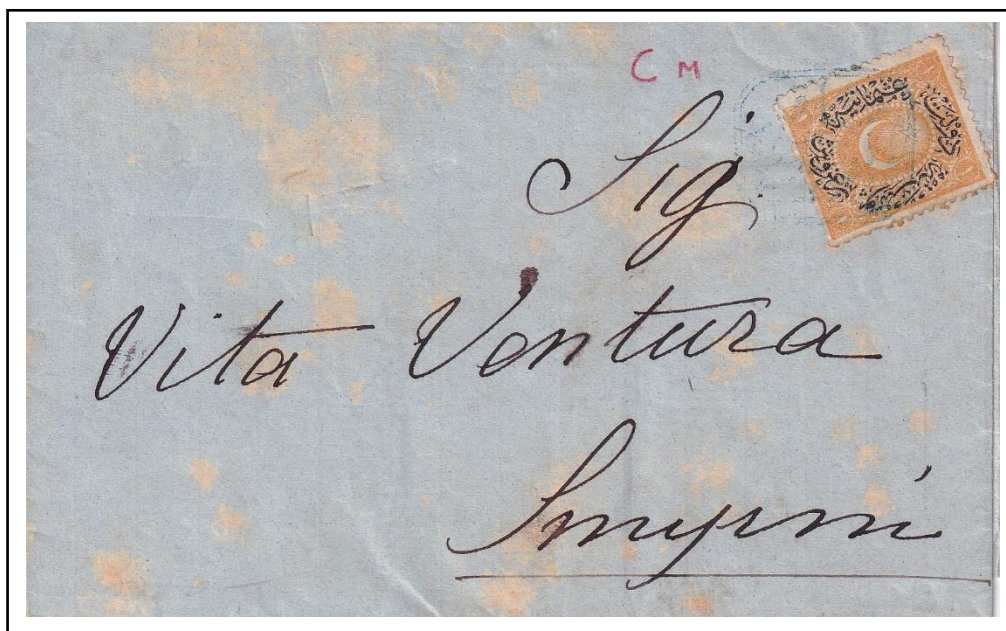
An entire to Constantinople franked at $1\frac{1}{2}$ pi. with 20 para + 1 pi. stamps of the 1874 issue; cancelled as above on 13 March 1876; arrival back-stamp of the Egyptian postal agency at Constantinople dated 16 March 1876.

B. Turkish Period 1566-1912

4. Turkish post offices on Chios 1871-1912

Sakiz Sanjak had Sakiz (Chios) as its main island, with the important port at Chios-Town. It included the medium-sized but sparsely populated island of Kariot (Icaria), and the northern Dodecanese islands, Patnos (Patmos), Leryos (Leros) and Kalimnos (Calymnos).

The Turkish post office at Chios-Town was opened in 1871, later with a branch office at the Port. In the early 1900's post offices were opened at the villages of Kardomila (no material recorded) and Voliso.



The first markings of Chios were octagonal cancellers, examples of the Chios-Town canceller are shown below (recorded 1871-92). The canceller of Chios-Port, reading "Sakiz Vapur Subesi" (Chios Maritime Office) is shown here on 1 pi. stamps of the April 1876 issue (above a weak strike on an entire to Smyrna dated 20 January 1878 and below a full strike on the stamp); but is **recorded only on loose stamps of the 1892 issue**.



Chios Port

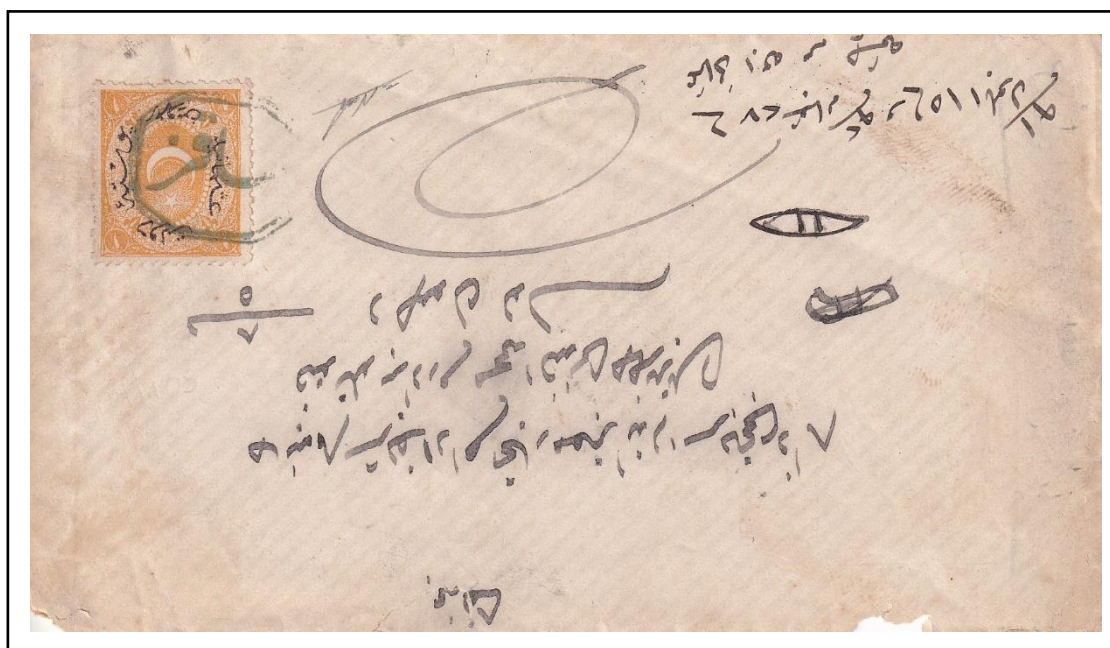
1 pi. stamps of the April 1876 issue



20 para stamp
of May 1874
perf. 13½ issue
with "Sakiz"
cancel in blue



20 para stamp
of July 1874
perf. 11½ issue
with "Sakiz"
cancel in black



An inland cover correctly franked with a 1 pi. stamp (August 1875 plate A issue) cancelled with the octagonal canceller of Chios-Town inscribed "Sakiz".

B. Turkish Period 1566-1912

4. Turkish Post Office at Chios Town 1871-1912

A date-stamp in French "Chio-Turquie", introduced at Chios-Town after UPU entry, recorded as from 1881



An incoming ship-letter from Athens franked with a 20 pa. stamp (May 1877 issue) cancelled with the above marking.

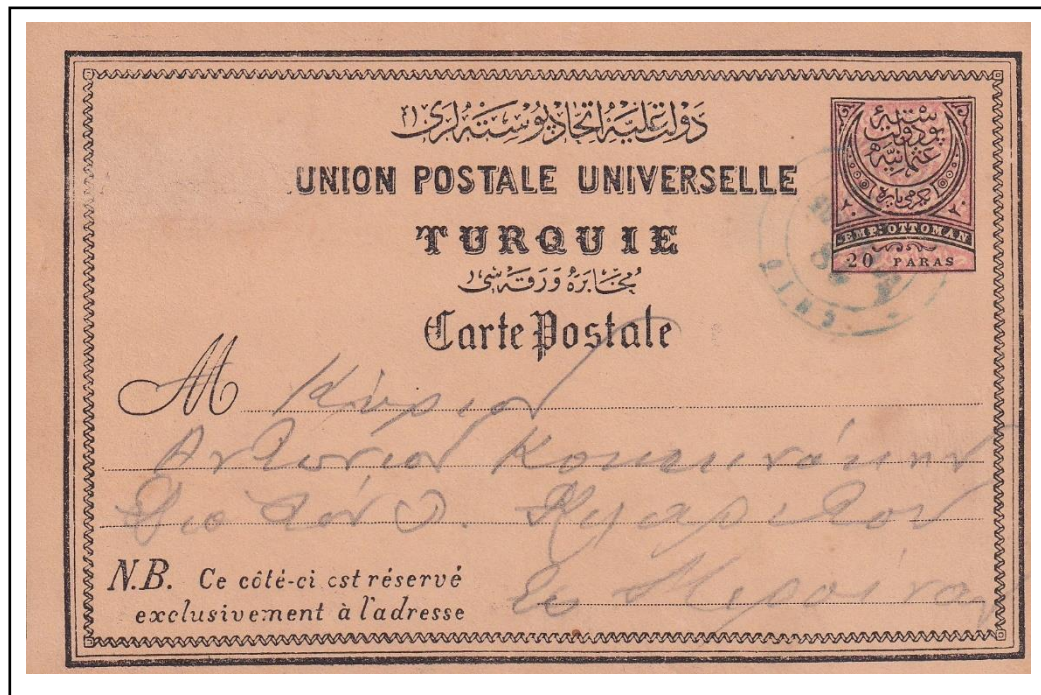


A registered cover to Egypt franked at the UPU rate with a pair of 1 pi. stamps (1876 issue); cancelled with the above date-stamp on 24 December 1882; Alexandria arrival back-stamp 27 December 1882.

B. Turkish Period 1566-1912

4. Turkish Post Office at Chios Town 1871-1912

A date-stamp in French "Chio-Turquie", introduced at Chios-Town after UPU entry, recorded as from 1881



A 20 para post-card (1881 issue) used to Greece cancelled with the above date-stamp in blue on 18 December 1881.

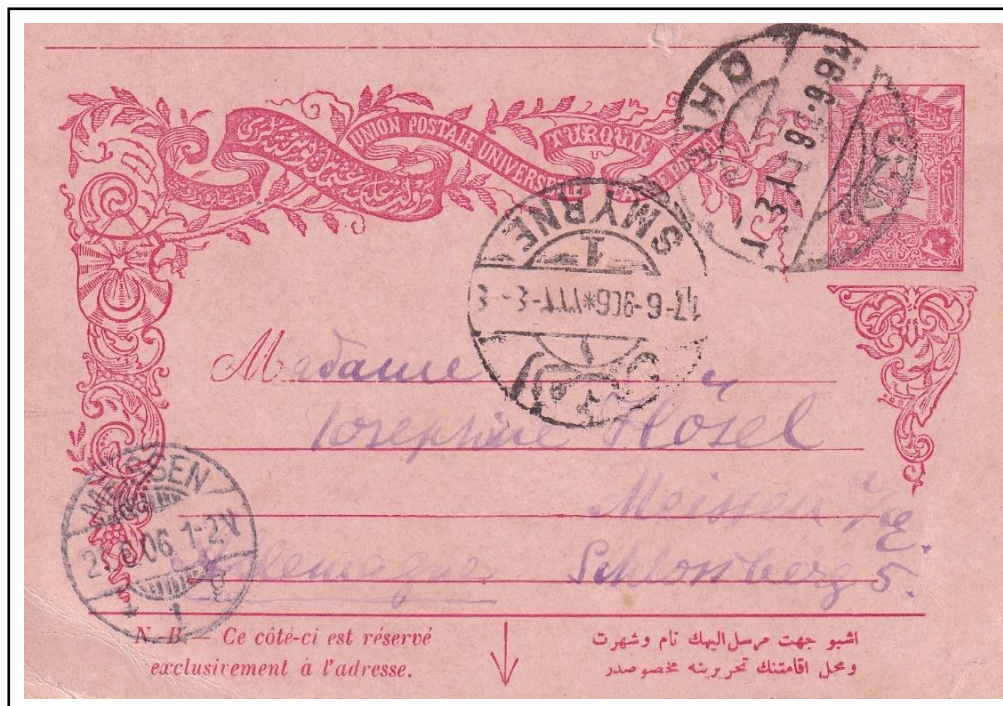


A cover with a negative official seal originally sent unpaid from Chios to Constantinople; arrival back-stamp 12 July 1884? The cover was then apparently returned to Chios for franking, receiving a Smyrna transit back-stamp of 23 July 1884 in blue and a "CHIO TURQUIE" arrival back-stamp of 2 August 1884 in blue. It was then franked with a 20 para stamp of the 1880 issue, which was cancelled with the hexagonal "Sakiz" marking, and re-sent to Constantinople. The back-stamps are shown at the right reduced to 80%.

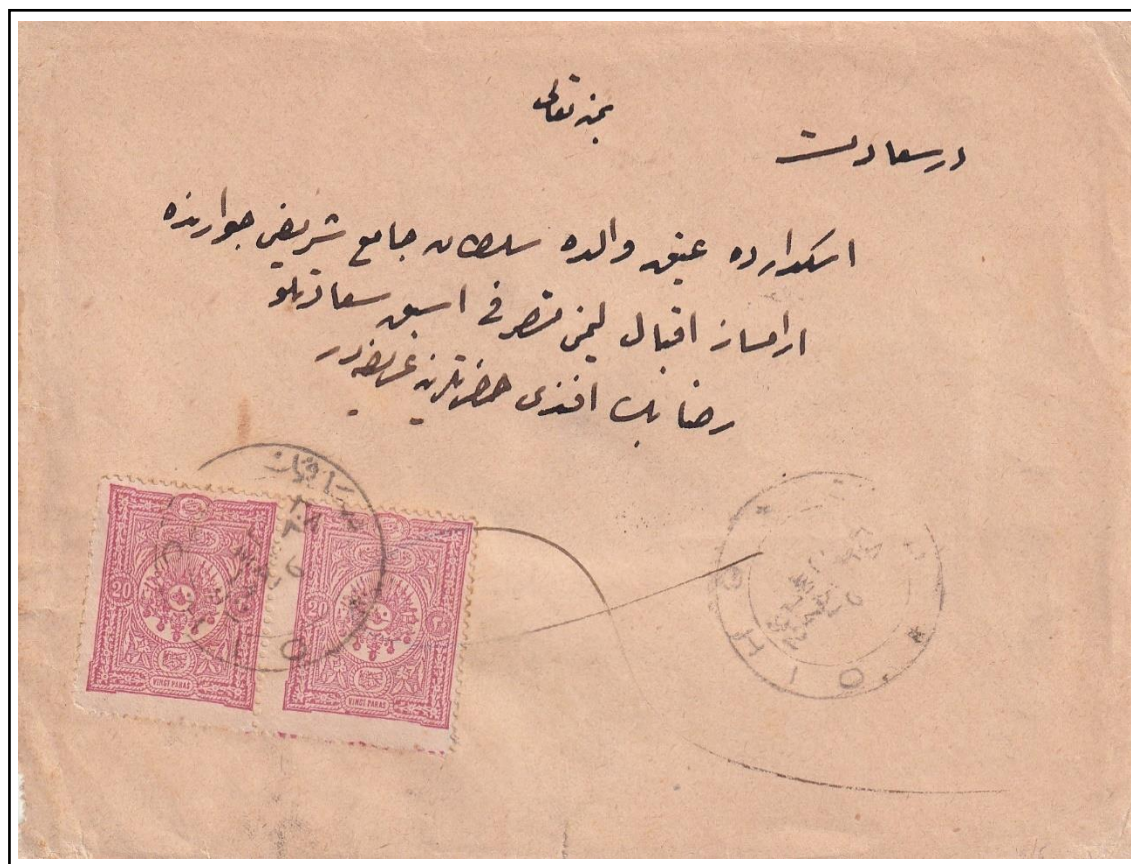
B. Turkish Period 1566-1912

4. Turkish Post Office at Chios Town 1871-1912

Canceller with 6-line date used at Chios-Town 1892 – 1900, then one with belt-type date 1900-1906



A 20 para post-card (1905 issue) sent to Germany cancelled with the above belt-type date-stamp (narrow letters) on 16 June 1906. The card bears Smyrna transit and Meissen arrival date-stamps of 17 and 21 June 1906.



An inland cover franked with a pair of 20 pa. rose stamps (1892 issue); with the above 6-line date canceller from 14 May 1892 (recorded 1892-1900); Stamboul transit and Galata arrival back-stamps (dates illegible).



A view-card sent to Belgium as printed matter franked with a pair of 10 pa. stamp (1905 issue); cancelled with the large-lettered date-stamp of Chios on 21 December 1906 (recorded use 1906-10).



A cover to Constantinople franked with a pair of 10 pa. stamps (1905 issue); cancelled as above at Chios on 16 January 1907; Constantinople arrival back-stamp of 20 January 1907.

B. Turkish Period 1566-1912

4. Turkish Post Office at Chios Town 1871-1912

One large belt-type date-stamp was in use 1906-10, then smaller types were used in 1910-12



A view-card with a short greeting sent to Switzerland franked as printed matter with a 10 pa. stamp (1909 issue); cancelled on 16 April 1911 with the small Chios "1" date-stamp; as the words "Carte Postale" were not deleted, the difference to the 20 pa. post-card rate (10 c.) was charged as postage-due (but not doubled) in Basle on 22 April 1911.



A cover to Constantinople franked at the littoral rate with a 20 pa. stamp (1908 Constitution commemorative issue); cancelled at Chios on 28 December 1908 with the large-lettered belt-type date-stamp (recorded use 1906-10).



A cover to Constantinople franked with a 20 pa. stamp (1909 issue); cancelled with the "Voliso (Chio)" date-stamp on 23 December 1910 (**no covers recorded**); with a Chios Town "2" transit date-stamp 5 January 1911 (recorded 1911-).

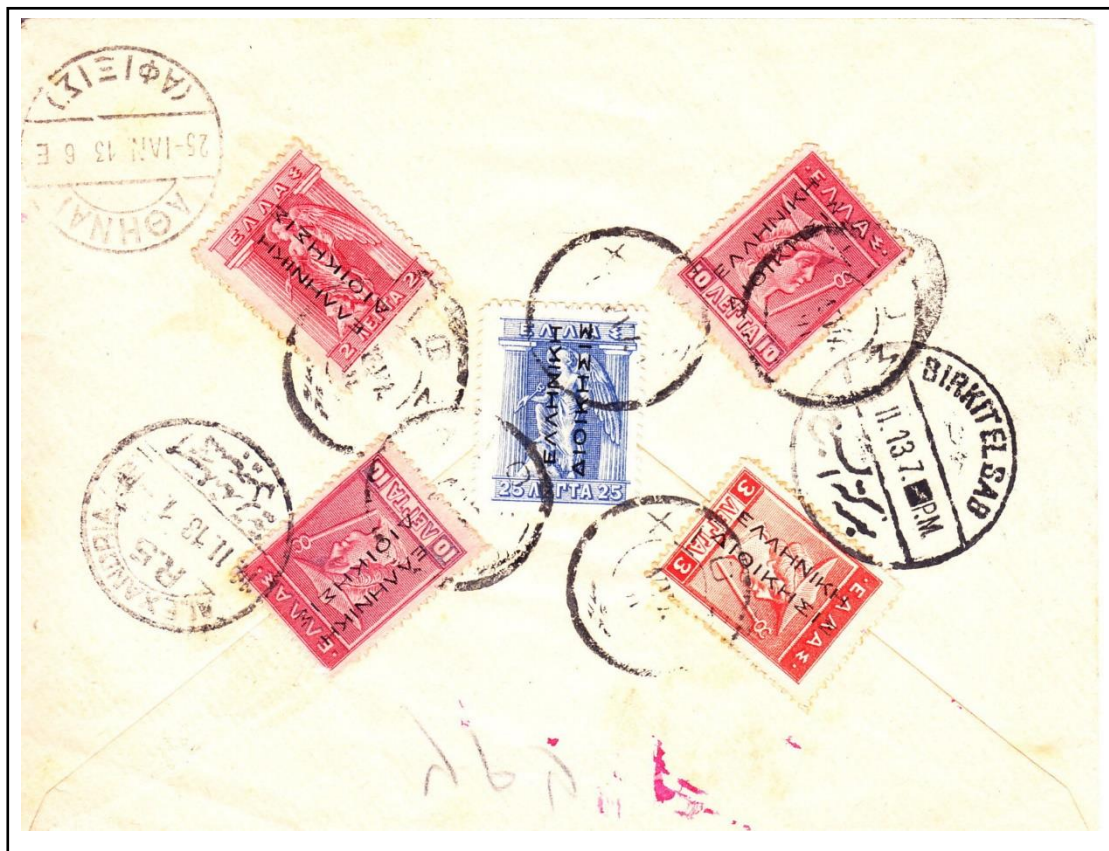


A 20 pa. envelope (1905 issue) used to Turkey at the littoral rate; cancelled with the "Voliso (Chio)" date-stamp on 25 February 1906 (**no covers recorded**); Chios Town transit and Smyrna arrival back-stamps of 26 and 27 February 1906.

Chios was occupied by Greek forces on 11/24 November 1912. In October 1912, Greek stamps had been overprinted "Greek Occupation" for use in the newly acquired territories, and were apparently available on Chios. These territories were awarded to Greece on 30 May 1913 under the Treaty of London, which was ratified by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923.



A piece from the island of Psara to the north-west of Chios (pop. ca. 700), which had a post-office, but no recorded markings. It bears a pair of 10 para stamps of Turkey (1909 issue) cancelled with a locally made negative marking translating "GREECE / PSARA" and an Athens arrival back-stamp of 16 November / 7 December 1912.



A registered cover to Egypt; correctly franked at 50 lepta with stamps of the 1911 and 1913 issues overprinted "Greek Administration" (to compete with the foreign post-offices, the 25 and 50 lepta values were sold at a 20% discount); these were cancelled with the new territories type date-stamp "CHIOS" on 16/29 January 1913; Athens and Alexandria transit marks of 26 January/8 February and 14 February 1913; Birket el Sab arrival back-stamp dated ? February 1913.

After Chios was occupied by Greek forces on 11/24 November 1912 only Greek stamps overprinted "Greek Occupation" for the newly acquired territories were to be used. The 25 and 50 lepta values of these were sold at a 20% discount. When part of the shipment of 25 lepta stamps received in May 1913 comprised unoverprinted stamps, the postmaster in Chios made an unauthorized issue of 25 lepta stamps overprinted locally "E*D" with the intention of selling these at 20 lepta. He was later taken to Court for this.



A piece bearing a 25 lepta stamp with the unauthorized local overprint "E*D" cancelled "CHIOS 19 JUNE 13"



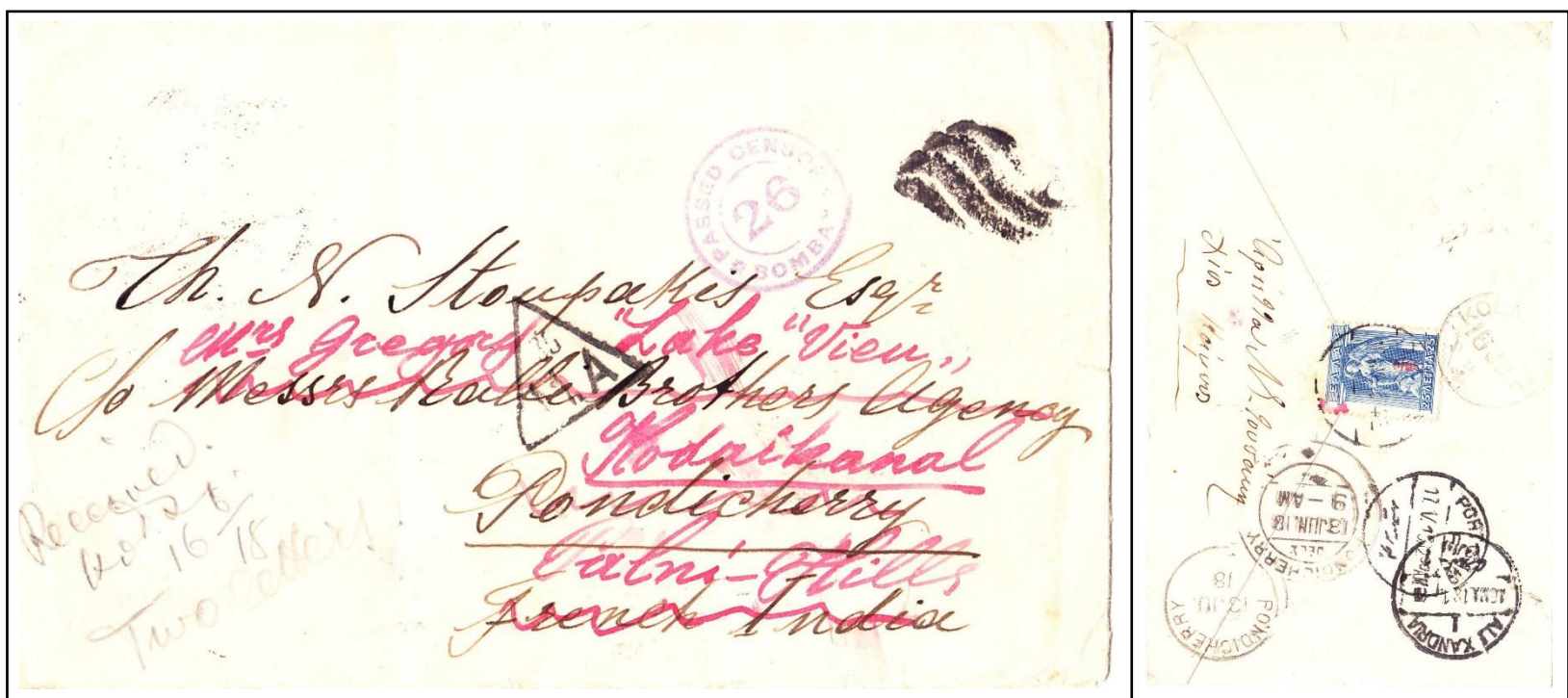
A philatelic registered cover sent to Albania franked to the correct amount of 50 lepta, but with two of the locally overprinted 25 lepta stamps, some 8 months after their issue. These were cancelled with the new standard Greek type date-stamp "CHIOS" on 22 January/4 February 1914. The cover bears Piraeus and Corfu transit marks of 23 January/5 February and 26 January/8 February 1914 plus a Valona arrival back-stamp dated 10 February 1914.



This 5 lepta inland postcard of the 1913 issue for the newly acquired territories was correctly used from Chios to Athens on 17 January 1915. This date was one month before the Allied bombardment of the Dardanelles and 20 months before Venizelos' Provisional Government in Thessaloniki declared war against the Central Powers.



A cover from Chios to Egypt, correctly franked with a 25 lepta stamp (1913 issue for new territories) and bearing a Royalist red cross charity stamp, both cancelled on 10/23 May 1917; censored and re-sealed by the Venizelist Greek authorities at Chios; bearing a circular censor mark of the French "Armée D'Orient" at Salonica and a wavy lines mark of the Egyptian censorship authorities; Alexandria arrival back-stamp 7 June 1917.



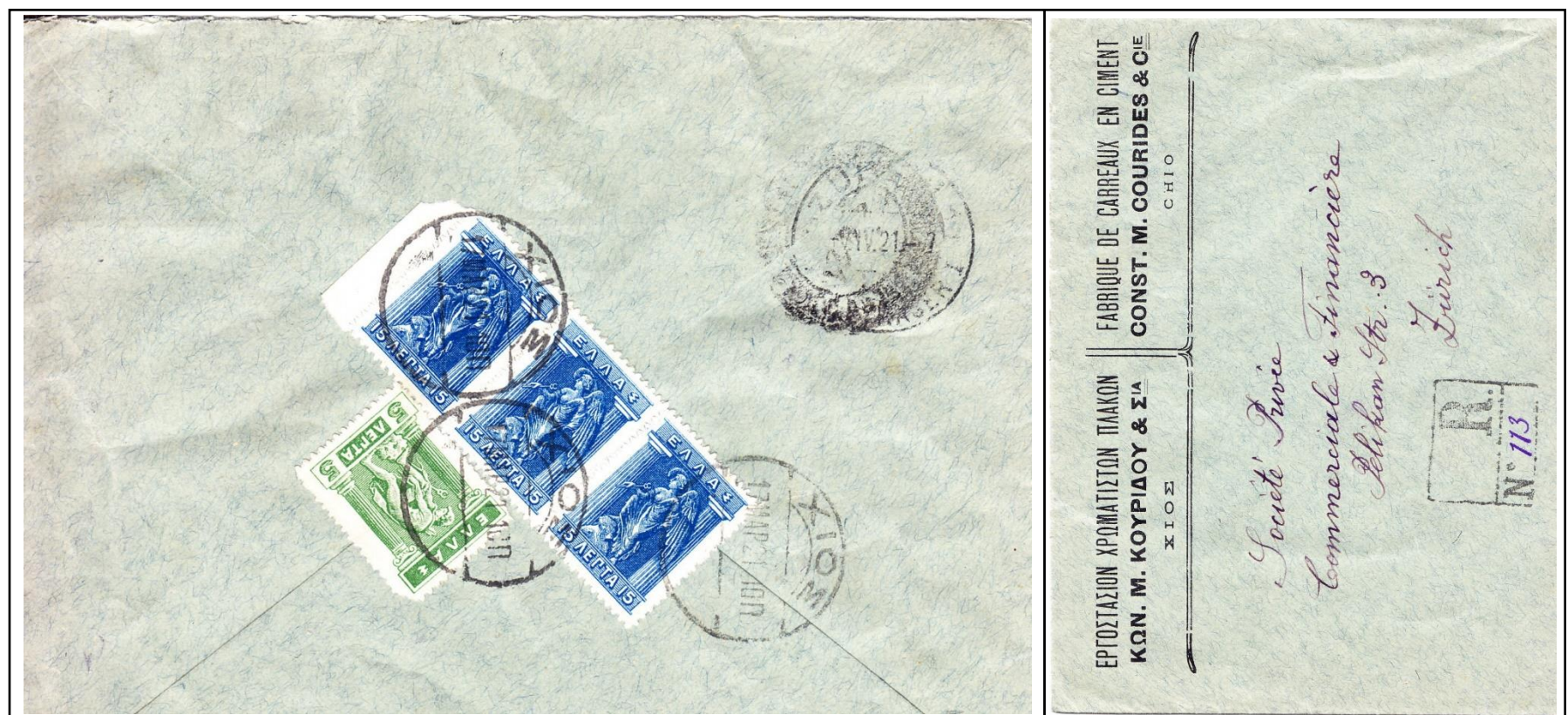
A cover sent from Chios to India via Egypt correctly franked with a 25 lepta stamp overprinted "E.T." (= "Greek Post" issued by the Royalist Government on 1 November 1916 for use in southern and central Greece, valid throughout the country after the King's abdication in June 1917) cancelled on 18 April 1918; not censored at Chios but in transit in Egypt and India; with transit marks of Alexandria, Port Said and Pondicherry of 16 and 17 May and 13 June, plus a Kodikal arrival mark of 16 June 1918.



A similar cover sent from Chios to India already on 17 February 1918 but routed via France; censored by the Greek authorities at Chios and by the French authorities in transit in Marseilles; carried together with the above letter sent two months later, but with a transit mark of the French p.o. at Pondicherry on 13 June; arrival mark as above.



An undated commercial cover to Germany correctly franked at 50 lepta (rate for 20g from 2 May 1921 to 19 July 1922); cancelled with the oval marking of the Chios agency of the Italian shipping company, Compagnia Marittima di Genova.



A cover sent registered from Chios to Switzerland on 17/30 March 1921 correctly franked for 25 lepta postage (rate for 20g from 17 March 1921 to 1 May 1921) plus 25 lepta registration fee; illegible transit mark plus Zurich arrival mark of 7 April 1921.

Mail cancelled with the registration date-stamp and with printed registration labels with numbers added



A registered cover from Chios to the USA, correctly franked for postage 4 dr. plus registration 4 dr. (both rates 1 5. 1927-31.5.1932) with stamps of the 1927 issue commemorating the Centenary of the Liberation of Athens cancelled on 6 October 1927; New York transit and San Diego arrival registry back-stamps of 18 and 22 October 1927.



An inland cover from Chios to Edessa, correctly franked for postage 1.50 dr. plus registration 2.50 dr. (both rates 1 5. 1927-31.3.1930) and bearing a 10 lepta red cross charity stamp (not compulsory); cancelled on 28 April 1927; Thessaloniki transit and Edessa arrival back-stamps of 1 and 2 May 1927.

The registration date-stamp replaced with a bilingual date-stamp “XIOS – CHIOS”



An airmail cover from Chios to India, correctly franked for postage 20g 8 dr. (rate 1 5. 1933-31.12.1935) plus airmail fee for 10g 20 dr. (rate 22.3.1933-30.10.1936) with definitive stamps cancelled on 2 June 1933 with the registration date-stamp (although not sent registered); Athens transit and Karachi arrival back-stamps of 3 and 9 June 1933.



A registered cover from Chios to the USA, correctly franked for postage 20g 8 dr. plus additional 20g 5 dr. and registration 8 dr. (both rates 1 5. 1933-31.12.1935) with definitive stamps cancelled on 30 January 1935; New York transit and Philadelphia arrival registry back-stamps of 13 and 14 February 1935.



A registered cover from Chios to the UK, correctly franked at 8 dr. for postage to 20g plus registration fee of 8 dr. (both rates 1.5.1933-19.9.1941) and two 50 l. compulsory charity stamps; cancelled on 30 April 1937 with the bilingual date-stamp; censored by the Greek Monetary Authorities at Chios; Piraeus transit back-stamps of 1 May.



A cover from Chios to the Netherlands, correctly franked at 8 dr. for postage to 20g (rate 6.2.1936-19.9.1941) and with two 50 l. compulsory charity stamps; cancelled with a new "XIOS" date-stamp on 19 April 1940; censored and re-sealed by the Greek Monetary Authorities at Chios and by the German Military Authorities the in Cologne Sector.



A letter of 25-30g sent from Chios to the Gold Coast by airmail, correctly franked at 115 dr. for postage to 40g of 13 dr. plus airmail fee of 17 dr. per 5g (airmail rate 31.10.1936-20.1.1939) and two 50 l. compulsory charity stamps; cancelled on 3 January 1939 with the bilingual date-stamp; censored by the Greek Monetary Authorities at Chios; Athens and Piraeus transit back-stamps of 4 and 9 January 1939. (Below: 100% copy of part of back).

Mail from Italian forces on Chios via Italian Military post office No. 62 on Samos: June 1941 to Sept. 1943

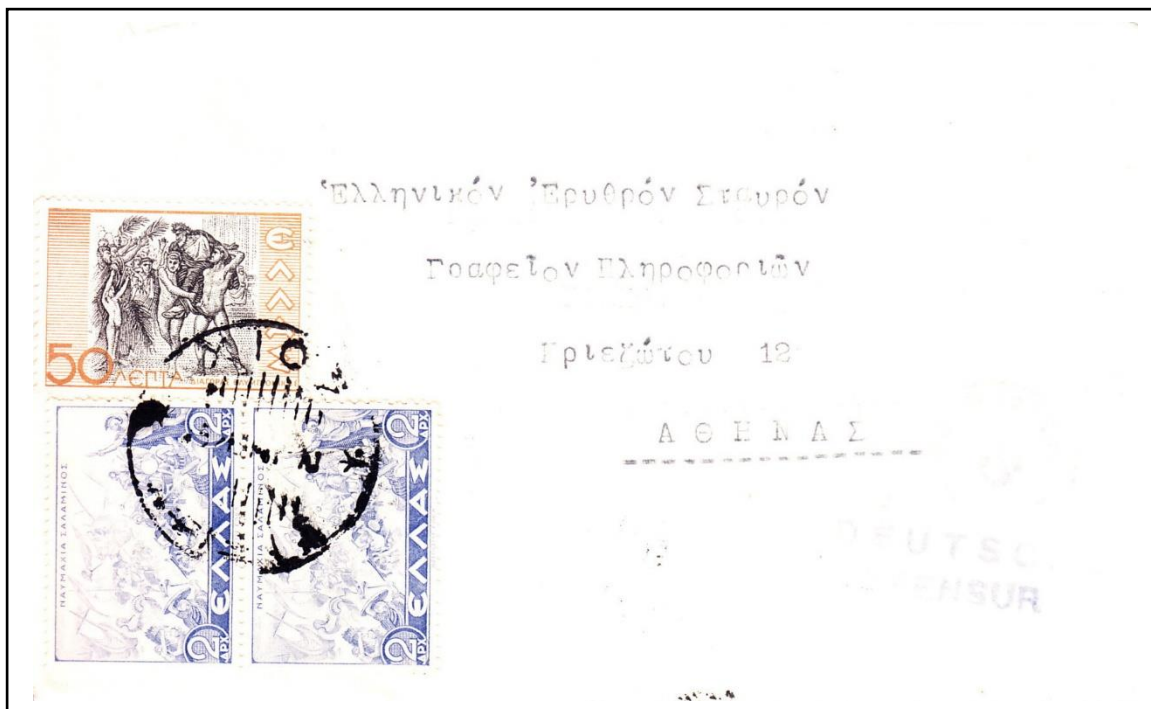


A Military post-card from an officer of the 27th Artillery Regiment 2nd Group located on Chios from 14 July 1941; franked with two 50c stamps to pay the postage and airmail surcharge as the officer enjoyed no franking privilege; cancelled with the date stamp "P.M. Nro. 62" on 6 March 1942; censored in transit at Rhodes, receiving the "C1" mark there.



A Military post-card from a soldier of the above unit on Chios; with the date stamp "P.M. N. 62" of 14 September 1942; with "in" and "out" censor date-stamps of the Ministry of the Marine at Rome dated 25 September 1942.

Mail from Greek Post Offices on Chios with the 2-line German censor mark "DEUTSCH ZENSUR"

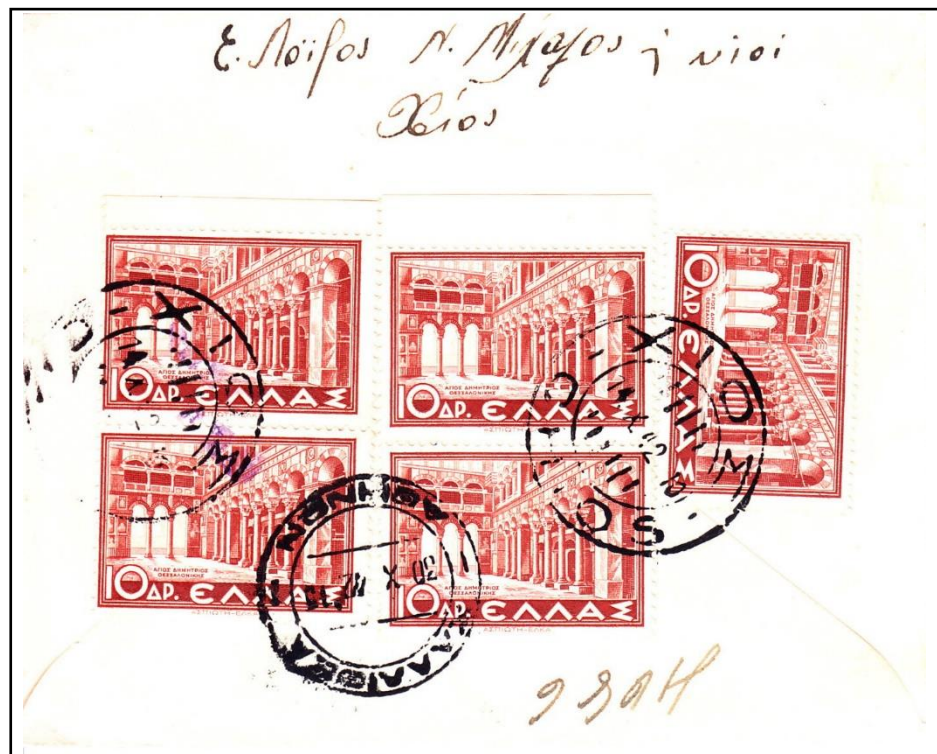


A letter from Chios to Athens correctly franked with two 2 dr. stamps plus a 50 lepta charity stamp; cancelled on 25 September 1941; censored before despatch (Censor cachet "3"); Athens arrival back-stamp of 12 October 1941.



A letter from the Oinousses Islands near Chios to Athens over-franked by 1 dr. with a 5 dr. stamp (possibly in lieu of a 50 lepta charity stamp); cancelled on 23 November 1941; censored in transit at Chios (censor mark on front); transit date-stamp of 24 November and Athens arrival machine-mark of 8 December 1941.

Mail from Greek Post Offices on Chios with the 2-line German censor mark "DEUTSCH ZENSUR"



A letter sent registered to Kallithea, Athens, from Chios correctly franked at 50 dr. with 5 x 10 dr. stamps (postage and registration rates 1.9.42-31.10.42 each 25 dr.); cancelled on 14 October 1942; censored and resealed before despatch; Kallithea arrival back-stamp of 30 October 1942.



A letter from Chios to Athens correctly franked at 25 Dr. (rate 1.9.42-31.10.42 for 20g inland); cancelled at Chios on 23 August "1943" (should be 1942); censored before despatch; Athens arrival machine mark of 6 September 1942.

Mail from Greek Post Offices on Chios with the 2-line and circular German censor marks



A letter from Chios to Athens correctly franked at 50 dr. (rate 1.11.42-31.1.43 for 20g inland) plus a 10 dr. compulsory charity stamp; cancelled at Chios on 29 December 1942; censored and re-sealed before despatch.



A letter from Chios to Mitylene correctly franked at 500 dr. (rate 10.11.43-14.3.44 for 40g) plus a 10 dr. compulsory charity stamp; cancelled on 19 December 1943; censored at Chios; Mitylene arrival b/s of 27 December 1943.

Mail to and from Vrontades Post Office on Chios with the circular German censor mark



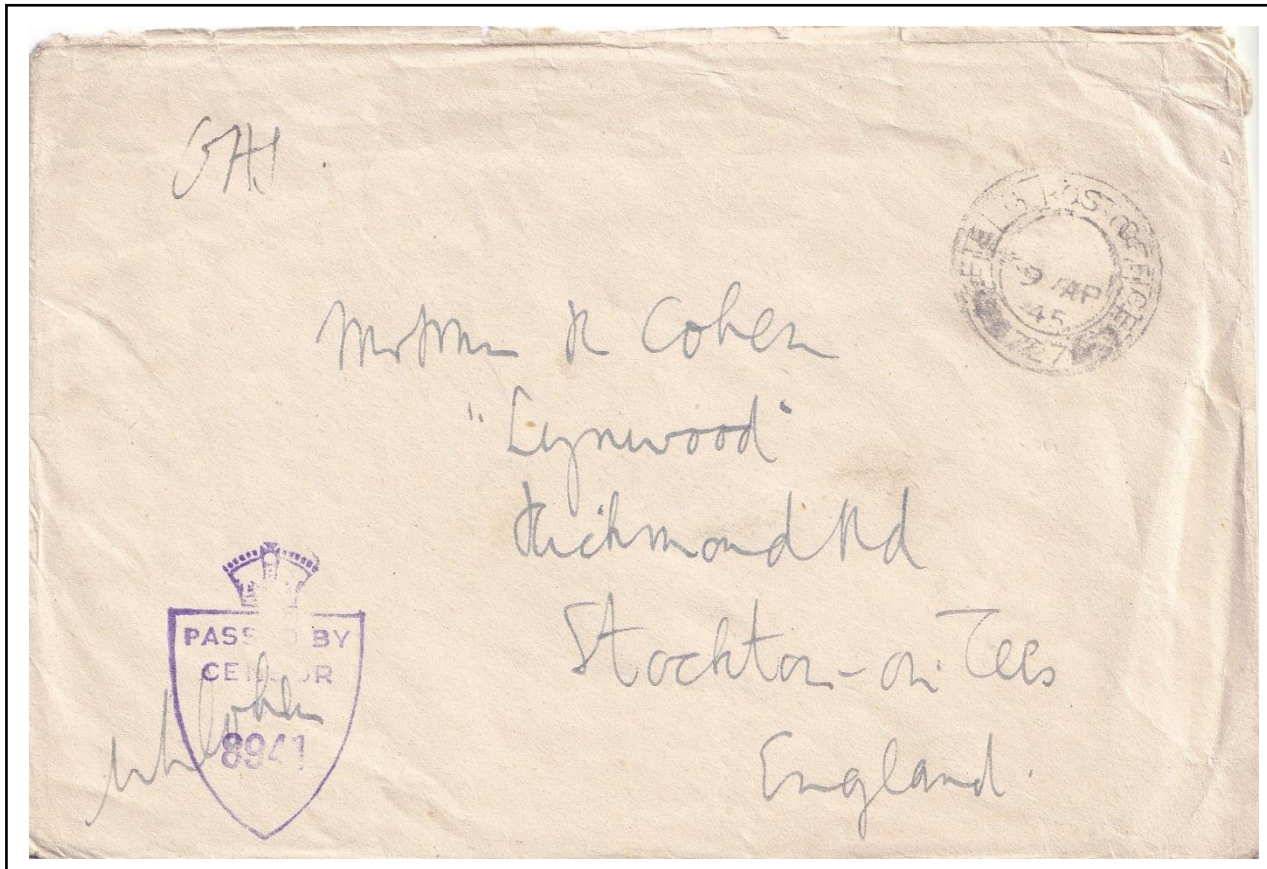
A 2 dr. post-card overprinted 7 dr. on 1 June 1942 used from Heraklion (Crete) to Chios supplemented with stamps to 310 dr. (rate 10.11.43-14.3.44 = 300 dr.); cancelled at Heraklion on 31 December 1943; censored in transit at Chios-Town; Vrontades arrival date-stamp of 28 March 1944.



A letter from Vrontades village on Chios to Athens correctly franked at 50'000 dr. (rate 1.7.44-14.8.44 for 20g) plus a 5'000 dr. charity stamp (issued on 5.8.1944 and compulsory on inland letters during the first 10 days of every month); cancelled on 5 August 1944; censored in transit at Chios; Athens arrival back-stamp of 3 October 1944; at right an 80% copy of the back.

D. Kingdom of Greece – Post Offices during WW2 British Military presence from ca. March 1945

The German forces withdrew from Chios in September 1944 and the local authorities took over



A British serviceman's postage free letter sent to England from Field Post Office No. 727 located on Chios on 9 April 1945 (one month before the German surrender); censored before despatch and re-sealed with a neutral tape. There was no British military administration of Chios, but a presence was established until the formal surrender.



A letter sent to Heraklion, Crete, from Kardamyla Village on Chios bearing a manuscript indication of postage of 50 dr. paid in cash (rate 16.1.46-9.2.46) and a 2 dr. compulsory charity stamp; cancelled at Kardamyla (date illegible); Chios-Town transit and Heraklion arrival back-stamps of 24 January and 4 February 1946. Right 80% copy of back.



A letter from Chios to Port-Said, Egypt, bearing a manuscript indication of postage of 300 dr. paid in cash (rate 10.2.46-9.6.46) and a Chios date-stamp (date illegible); this prepayment was not recognised in Egypt and 44 mils postage due was charged on arrival at Port-Said on 27 February 1946. Left: an 80% copy of the front.



A 5g letter sent from Chios to the USA correctly franked at 1'800 dr. (postage rate 1'000 dr. for 20g 16.11.47-19.8.50 plus airmail fee 800 dr. for 5g 15.2.1948-4.11.1949); cancelled at Chios on 12 October 1949.



A letter from Chios to Piraeus without date or postal marking; the franking of 700 dr. (the rate from 20.8.50 to 16.4.52) and the 50 dr. compulsory charity stamp are cancelled with the two-line marking of a steamship company.