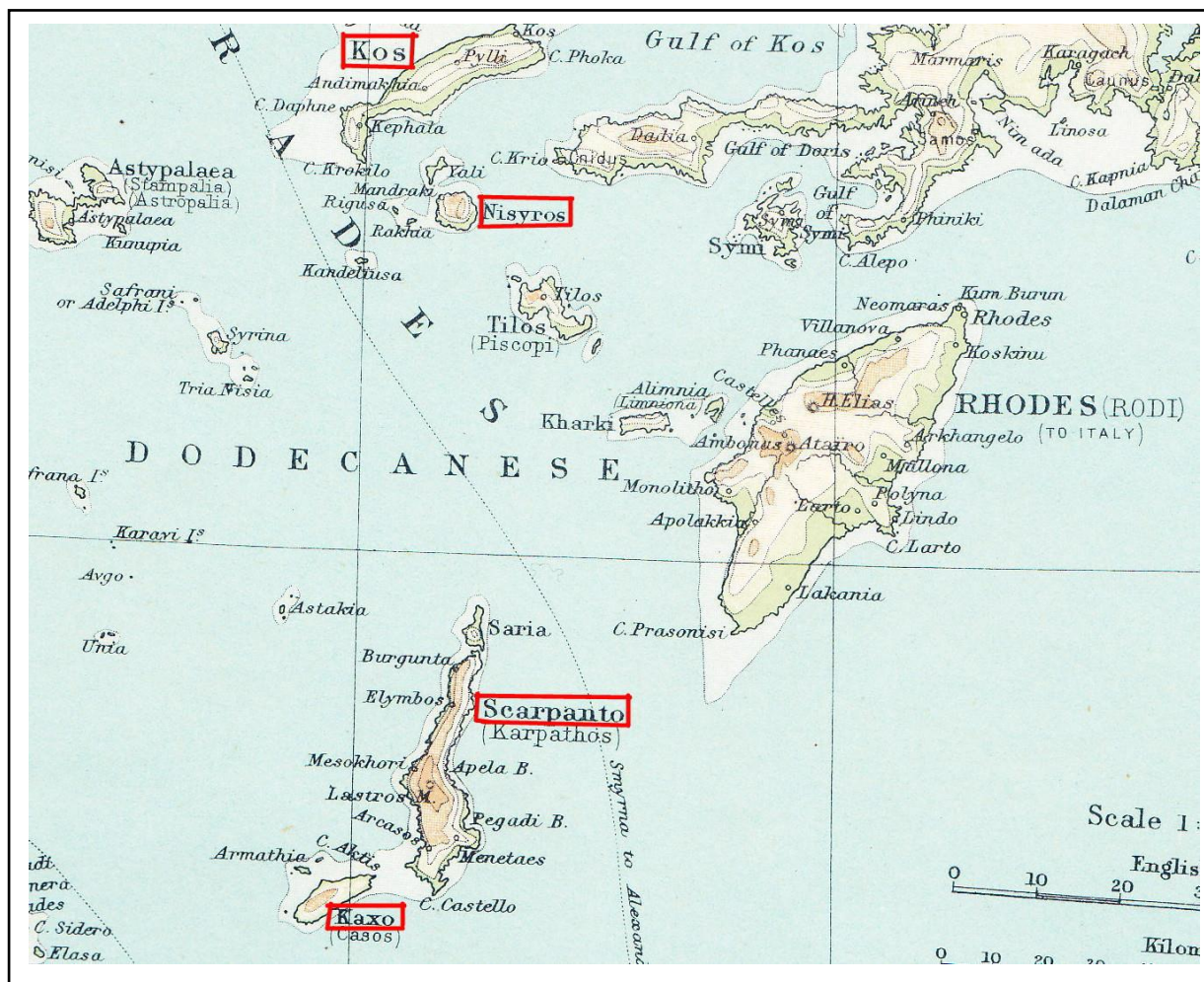


# POSTAL HISTORY OF THE DODECANESE ISLANDS COS, NISIROS, CARPATHOS & CASOS



This exhibit shows the postal history of the four main islands constituting the Greek Regional Units Cos and Carpathos from ca. 1600 up to the unification with Greece in April 1948. These islands are shown on the above map of ca. 1920 with their names framed in red:

**Cos**, ca. 100 km northwest of Rhodes, Turkish Istandköy, Greek Kos, Italian Coò;

**Nisiros**, in the Unit Cos (ca. 20 km southeast of Cos); Turkish Injirli, Greek Nisyros, Italian Nisiro;

**Carpathos**, ca. 40 km southwest of Rhodes, Turkish Kerpe, Greek Karpathos, Italian Scarpanto; and

**Casos**, in the Unit Carpathos (ca. 10 km southwest of Carpathos); Turkish Kashut, Greek Kasos, Italian Caso.

Cos, the third-largest of the Dodecanese Islands, is today an important tourist destination with a population of over 33'000 (16'000 in 1912). Carpathos the second-largest of the Dodecanese Islands, has today a population of only 6'000 (11'000 in 1912). The two smaller islands, Nisiros and Casas, have today populations of only 1'000 and 1'200 (3'200 respectively 1'750 in 1912).

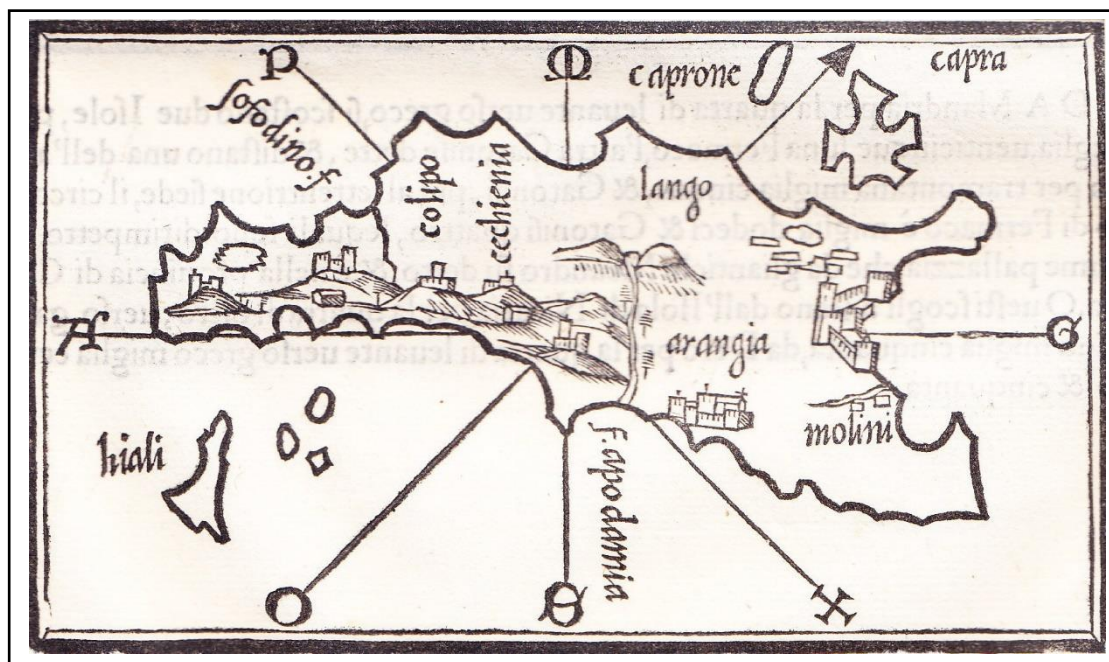
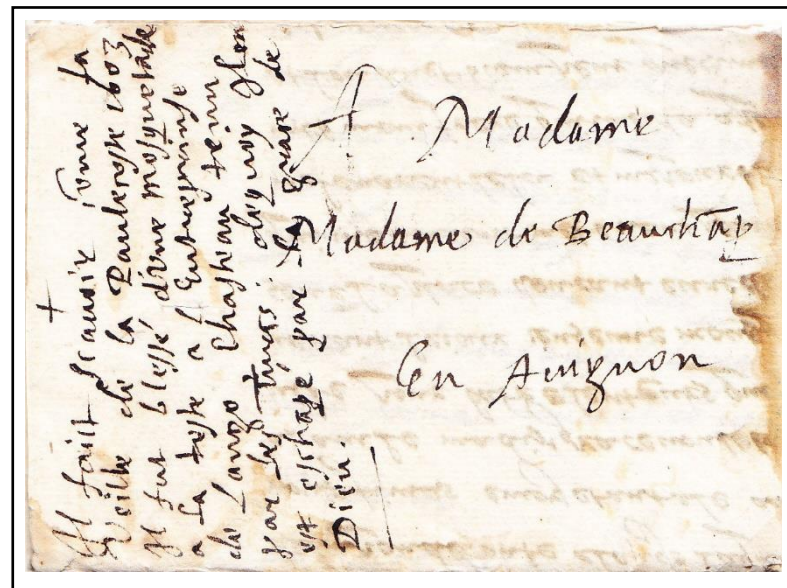
The exhibit is structured as follows:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Turkish Period up to Occupation by Italy in May 1912                            | ca. 1600 - May 1912 |
| 2. Communal and Italian Post Offices: a. Cos, b. Nisiros, c. Carpathos, d. Casas   | May 1912 - Sep 1943 |
| 3. German Military Occupation: a. Italian Civilian P.O.s, b. German Military P.O.s | Oct 1943 - May 1945 |
| 4. British Military Administration   | May 1945 - Mar 1947 |
| 5. Greek Military Administration   | Apr 1947 - Apr 1948 |

The literature used includes:

- A. Nicolas & A. Galinos: Foreign Post Offices in the Helladic Territories
- S. D. Tchilinghirian and R. Bernardelli: Stamps of Italy Used Abroad
- M. S. Petradakis: Postal History of Aegean Is., Italian Military P.O.'s
- M. Carloni and V. Cerenà: Storia Postale del Dodecaneso

A letter from Malta to Avignon with an account of an attack on Cos by the Knights of St. John in 1603



Founded in Jerusalem in 1119, the Knights Templar moved to Cyprus in 1291 after the fall of Acre. They chose Rhodes as a new home, capturing it in 1309, with a number of other islands and the port of Bodrum. On the dissolution of the Knights Templar in 1312, much of the order's property was given to the Knights Hospitaller, also known as the Knights of Rhodes or the Order of St. John. Rhodes withstood invasions in 1444 and 1480, but was besieged in 1522 by 200,000 men under Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. After holding out for six months, the surviving Hospitallers were allowed to withdraw to Sicily. They moved from place to place in Europe until 1530, when Charles V of Spain, as King of Sicily, gave them Malta, Gozo and the port of Tripoli in North Africa. The Knights continued their actions against the Muslims and withstood an invasion force sent by Suleiman in 1565.

Above: A letter written at Malta on 15 April 1603 by Henri de Merles de Beauchamp, a Knight of the Order. Addressed to his mother in Avignon, it tells that he was wounded on 20 March during the Order's capture of Lango (the Venetian name of Cos, the second largest of the Dodecanese islands). He asks his mother to send shirts, and money so that he can repay a friend who had paid for his medical care. The recipient has summarized the contents of the letter on the outside to the left of the address.

Below: A map of Cos, here with the name "Lango", from Bendetto Bordone's "Isolario", which was printed in Venice in 1528.



## 1522 - 1912

*Δια' του εν Σμύρνη νομαρχίου βίβλου Κυρίου Π.  
Γαβριήλ φωτισμένου.*

---

**Π.Ε.Λ.**

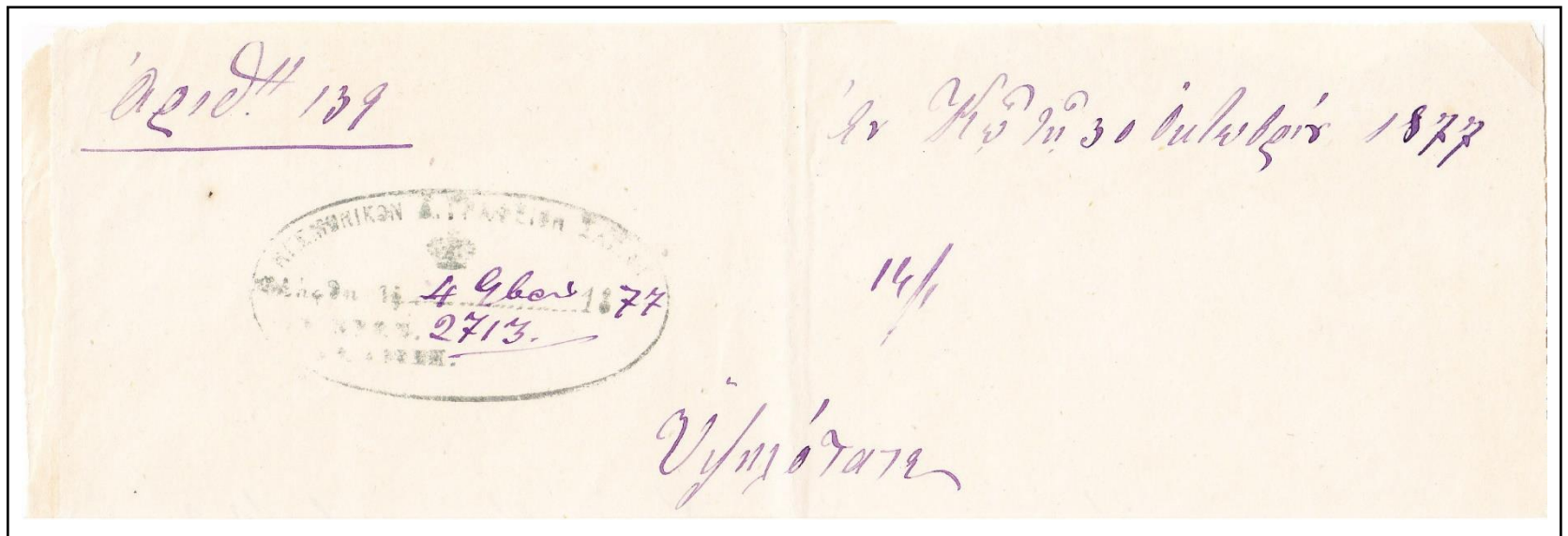
*Προς τους Κυρίους Γεώργιον Σ. Παπα-  
δόπουλον, καὶ Χρηστον Τζιφάκου.*

*ἐν Σμύρῃ*

ΑΡΧΗΝ  
Δ  
Τ. ΑΥ.  
88

A letter written at Cos on 17 December 1857 and sent privately to the forwarding agent Gabriel Foscolo at Smyrna. He back-stamped the letter with his oval cachet in blue and handed it over to the Greek Post Office, paying 100 lepta (marked in red on the back) for carriage to Syros by the Austrian Lloyd. The Greek post office date-stamped the letter on 4 January 1858 and marked it "P.E.D." (Foreign Fee Paid). Arrival back-stamp of Syros dated 5 January 1858.

Turkish official mail from Cos to Samos from 1877



A letter written by Miliadi Aristarchis, the Governor of Cos (who had been the Prince of Samos 1859-66), dated 30 October 1877 and sent to the current Prince of Samos, Konstantinos Fotiadis (1874-79) whose registry mark notes receipt on 4 November 1877.



The cover in which the above letter was sent, bearing a negative seal inscribed "Governor of Cos, Miliadi Aristarchis, 1877" and addressed to the Prince of Samos, Kostaki Bey Fotiadi.



## 1. Turkish post office on Cos

1868 - May 1912

Octagonal canceller inscribed "İstanköy" (recorded 1871-98) and six-line date-stamp (recorded 1892-1900)



1pi 1868  
Black



2 pairs + 2 singles 20pa 1875  
Blue



20pa 1884  
Blue



20pa 1890  
Blue

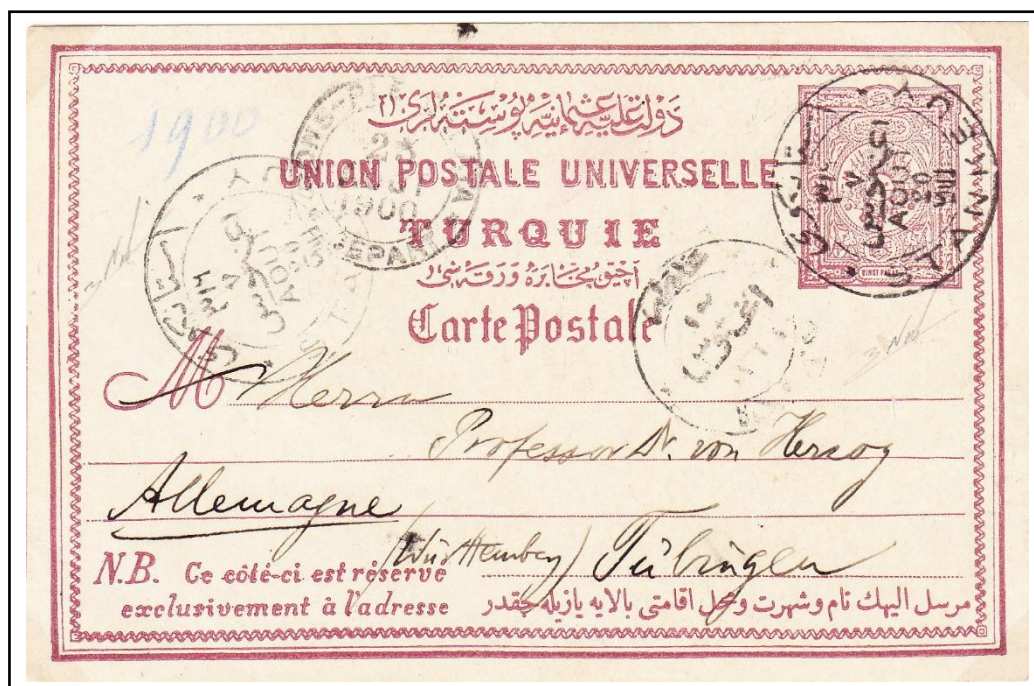


Expertise

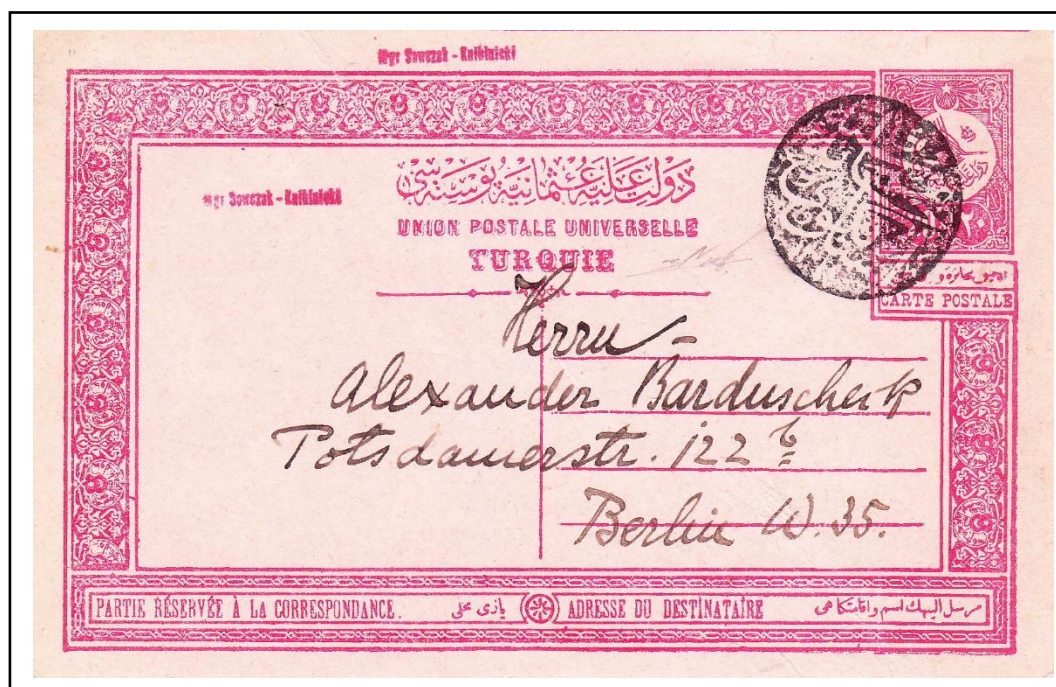
An envelope from Cos addressed to Kus Adasi, Izmir; correctly franked at the coastal rate with a 20 para stamp (1892 issue) cancelled in violet with the octagonal marking of the Turkish post office at Cos inscribed "İstanköy" (**one of three recorded covers**); bearing the "İstanköy" cds with six-line date of 27 May 1898 and an Izmir arrival date-stamp of 29 May 1898.



Negative seals of Cos (only recorded entire 1910) and date-stamp with six-line date (recorded 1892-1900)



A 20 para post-card (1892 issue) sent to Germany; cancelled with the double-circle marking of Cos in black on 20 August 1900; transit back-stamp of the Turkish post office at Chios of 21 August; Constantinople transit date-stamp of 25 August 1900.



Left: A 20 para post-card (1909 issue) dated ? June 1910 and addressed to Berlin; cancelled in black with the negative seal of the Turkish post office at Cos inscribed "Postahane-i Istandkoy 1317" (= Postal Office Cos 1901): this is **the only recorded entire**. Above right: A piece from a 20 para envelope (1909 issue) cancelled with this negative seal. Below right: A piece bearing a 1 pi. stamp (1909 issue) cancelled with the post-office seal inscribed "BUREAU TELEGRAPHIQUE ET POSTAL \* ILE DE COS \* Telegraf ve Postahane-i Istandkoy 1317" – apparently **the only recorded example** of this marking.



Large double-circle with date-belt marking used at Cos on international mail 1901 - 1910



A 20 para post-card (1901 issue) sent to England cancelled with the large double-circle with date-belt of Cos inscribed "Stankeui" on 24 April 1905; Smyrna transit date-stamp of 28 April 1905.



A heavy letter sent to Germany; correctly franked with a 2 piastre stamp (1901 foreign issue); cancelled with the above marking of Cos on 5 August 1904; Smyrna transit date-stamp of 8 August 1904; Frankfurt arrival back-stamp of 12 August 1904.



Large double-circle with date-belt marking used at Cos on inland mail 1901 - 1910



A view-card from Constantinople addressed to Cos; correctly franked with a 20 para stamp (1905 issue); cancelled with an undated marking of Constantinople-Galata; Smyrna transit date-stamp of 3 July 1906; bearing the large double-circle marking with date-belt of Cos inscribed "Stankeui" as an arrival marking of 5 July 1906.



A 20 para envelope (1905 issue) sent to the nearby island of Calymnos; cancelled with the above marking of Cos on 27 December 1907; Calymnos arrival back-stamp also of 27 December 1907.



Double-circle date-stamps with date-belts used at Cos (large 1901-10 and small 1910-12)



A view-card of Rhodes sent to Smyrna franked with two 5 para stamps (1905 issue); cancelled with the large double-circle with date-belt of Cos inscribed "Stankeui" on 24 August 1906; Smyrna transit date-stamp of 26 August 1906.



A similar stamp cancelled with this date-stamp on 19 May 1912, the day before Cos was surrendered to Italy.

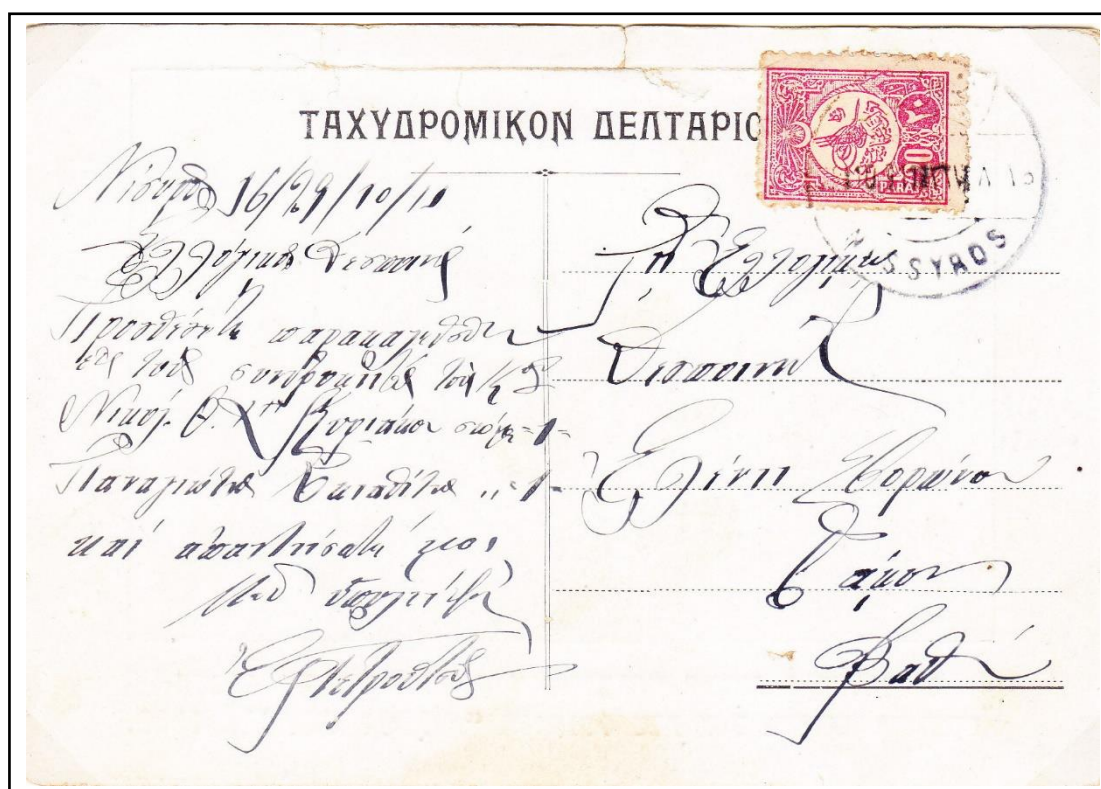
A view-card sent to Germany correctly franked with a 20 para stamp (1909 issue); cancelled with the small double-circle with date-belt of Cos inscribed "Istankeui" on 23 March 1911; readdressed to Basel, Switzerland on arrival in Tübingen.



Negative seal and double-circle markings used at Nisiros 1890's and 1906/12



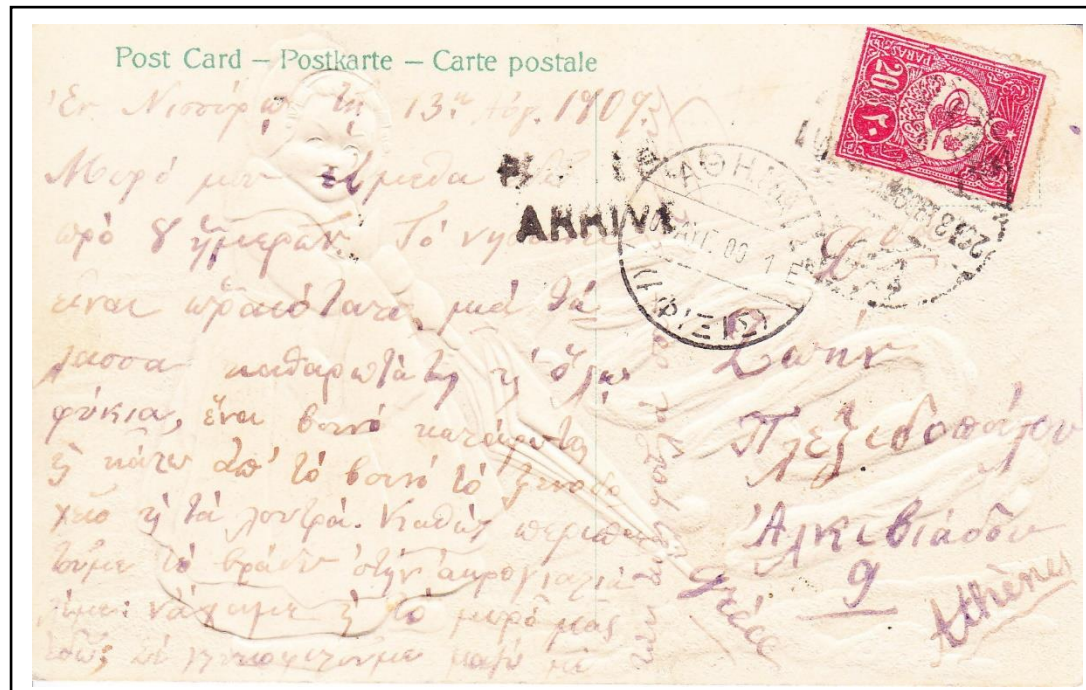
A pair of 20 para stamps (1884 issue) cancelled in black with the negative seal of the Turkish post office at Nisiros inscribed "İncirli atasi posta subesi" (recorded only on loose stamps of the 1880 and 1892 issues).



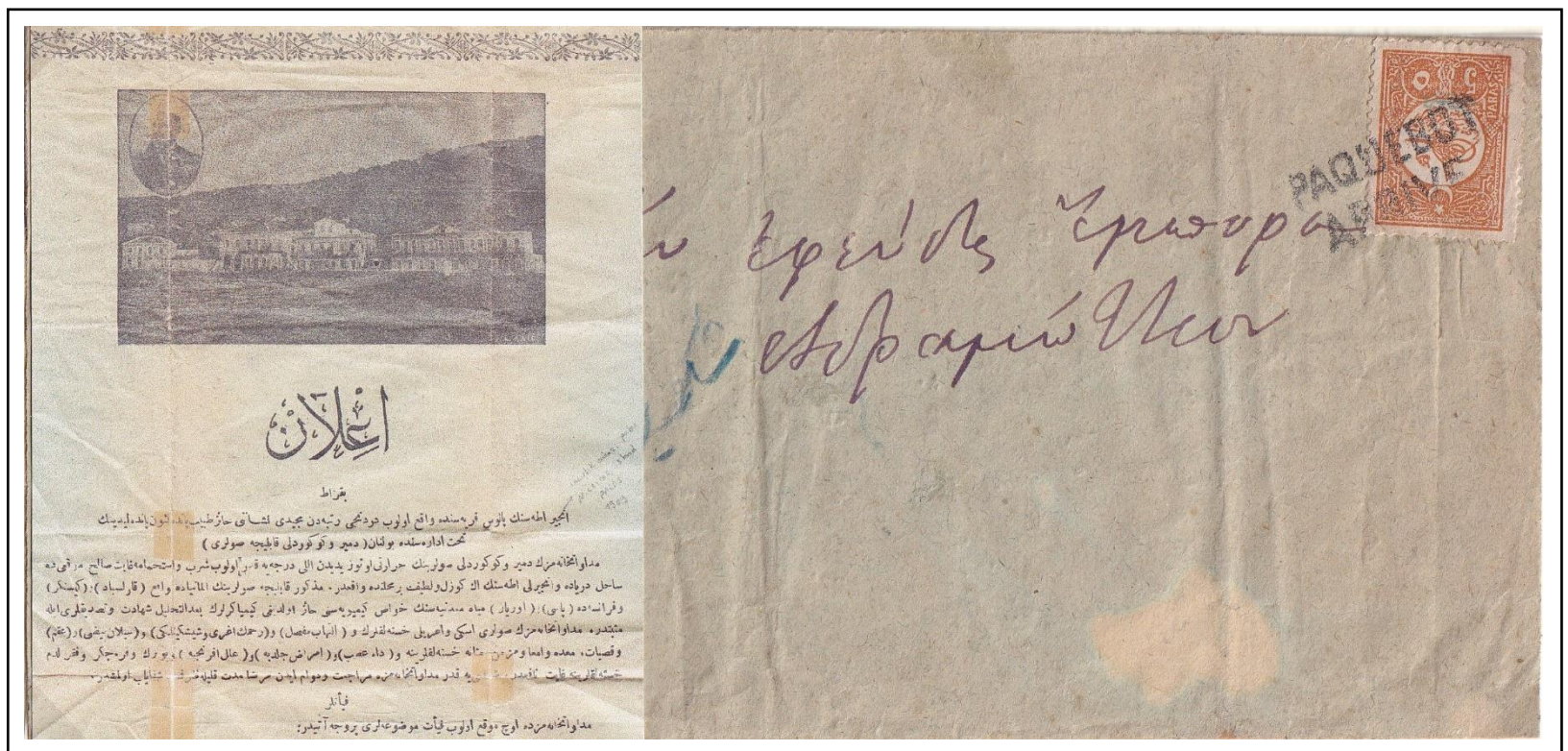
View-cards sent to Egypt, respectively to Samos, correctly franked with 20 para stamps (1905 and 1909 issues); cancelled with the double-circle marking of Nisiros in blue on 23 August 1906 and in black on 29 October 1911.



Mail services to the small volcanic island of Nisiros were not frequent, but increasing numbers of guests were visiting the thermal establishment at Palus, outside the main town of Mandraki, and mail could be handed-in directly to vessels heading for Smyrna.



A view-card addressed to Athens written at Nisiros on 13/26 August 1909 and handed directly to a vessel heading for Smyrna; correctly franked with a 20 para stamp (1908 issue); cancelled on arrival at Smyrna on 29 August 1909 with the marking "PAQUEBOT ARRIVE" (this marking is otherwise recorded only from 1912); Athens arrival date-stamp of 30 August 1909.



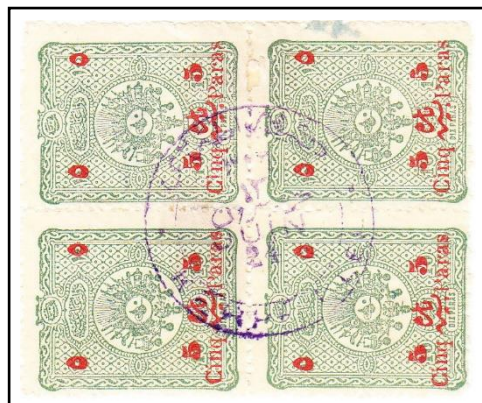
An advertising circular from Dr. Pantelides dated 1909 with pictures of him and his Thermal Establishment at Palus and bearing a 2 para fiscal stamp (at left a reduced copy of part of the inside); sent as printed matter from Palus directly to Smyrna correctly franked with a 5 para stamp (1908 issue) cancelled on arrival at Smyrna with the above Paquebot marking.



## 1. Turkish post office on Carpathos

ca.1890 - May 1912

A Turkish post office was opened early in the 1890's at Pigadia, the island's main port, but very little material is seen in spite of the island's size.



A block of four 5 para stamps of the 1897 overprinted issue cancelled in violet with the first date-stamp of Carpathos, inscribed "Kerpe (Ile)", on 24 June. The year is here illegible but the date stamp is recorded from 1895 to 1900.



A pair of 20 para stamps of the 1908 Constitution issue cancelled with the "Scarpanto" date-stamp of Carpathos. **One of two recorded examples** (the other is from 1906).



Turkish stamps cancelled with the "Karpachos" date-stamp as used at Pigadia (recorded 1904-11).

Left: The reverse of a cover sent to the USA correctly franked with a 1 pi. stamp (1909 issue) cancelled at Karpachos on 24 March 1911; with transit back-stamps of Symi and Smyrna of 24 and 27 March 1911 and an arrival back-stamp of Hunkers PA, USA of 10 April 1911. The letter was undelivered and returned to sender, receiving transit back stamps of a USA Dead Letter Office of 5 Jul 1911, then Symi 23 August 1911, Smyrna 11 September, and Rhodes 12 September 1911. Right: Pieces with 1 piaster stamps (March 1908 issue) cancelled with this Karpachos date-stamp (Above: Perf. 12 date 4 March 1908. Below: Perf. 12 x 13.5 date 8 June 1908).



## 1. Turkish post office on Casos

ca. 1900 to May 1912 (then to July 1912 under Italy)

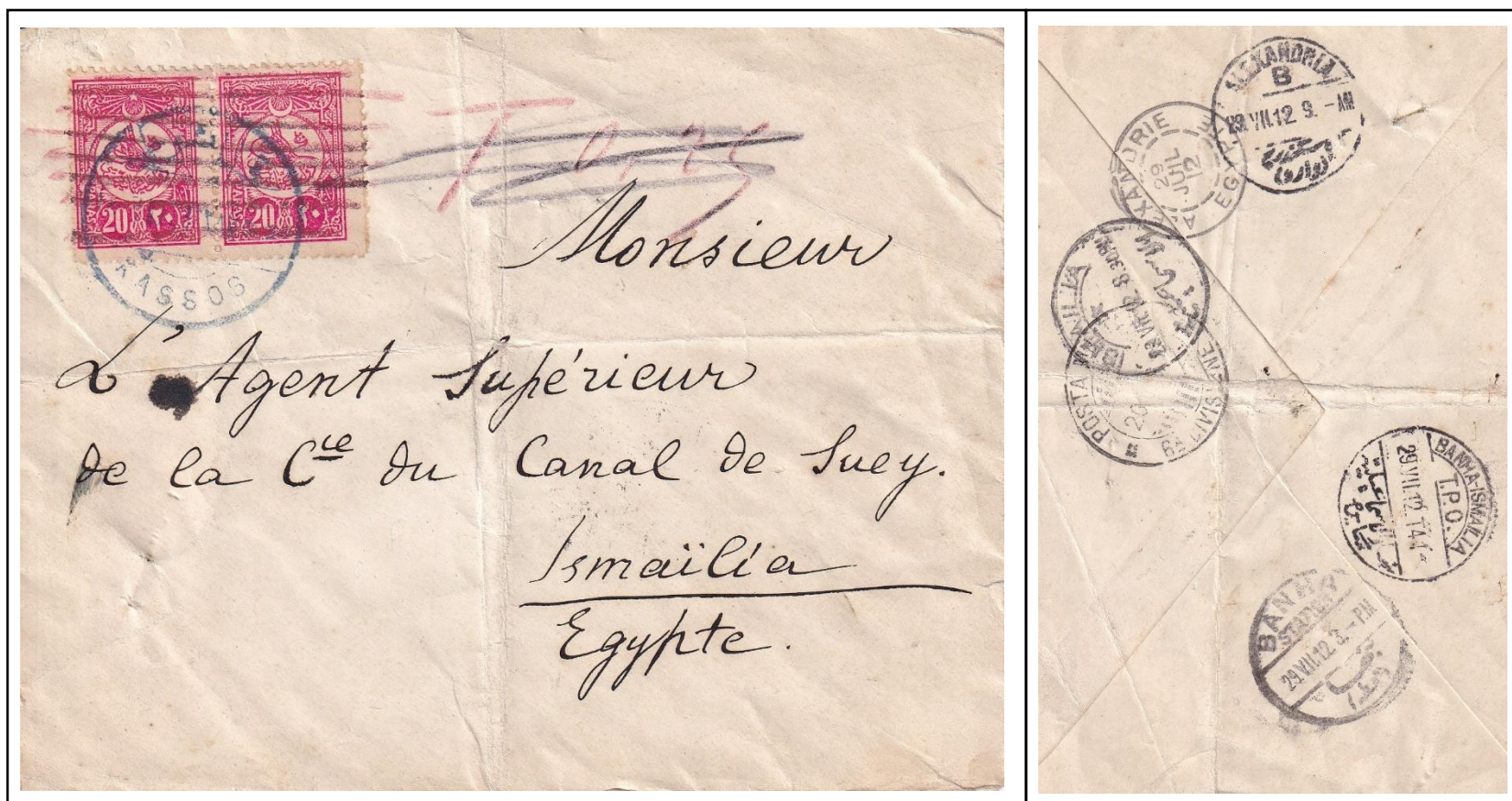
Very little material is recorded and no other civilian mail of the early Italian period



A 20 pa. stamp of the 1901 issue cancelled with the "CACHOT" date-stamp in violet on 14 December 1902.



A 1 pi. stamp of the 1909 issue cancelled with the "KASSOS" date-stamp in blue on 21 May 1911.

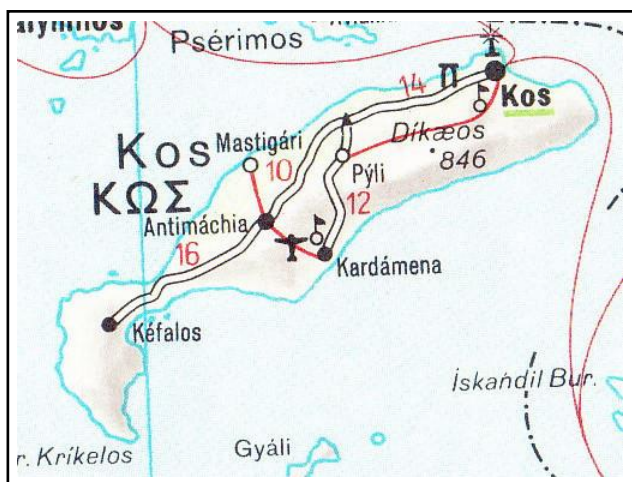


Left: A civilian letter to Egypt correctly franked as under the Turkish post with a pair of 20 para stamps (1909 issue) and cancelled with the Turkish "KASSOS" date-stamp on 18 July 1912. These stamps were later deleted in red and postage due of 25c was marked (probably in transit at Rhodes) but the Egyptian post office deleted this in black, accepting the Turkish franking.

Right: A reduced photocopy of the reverse of the cover below showing the transit back-stamps of the Italian military p.o. at Rhodes dated 20 July 1912, the French p.o. at Alexandria, the Egyptian p.o.'s at Alexandria & Banha Station and the Banha-Ismailia T.P.O. dated 29 July; plus an Ismailia arrival back-stamp of the same date.



The Ottoman authorities surrendered Cos to the Italian cruiser Napoli on 20 May 1912. The island was occupied by a battalion of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and an Italian post office managed by a lieutenant of this unit was opened without delay. There was therefore no need for provisional postal arrangements.



This modern map of the long island of Cos shows clearly the bay of Cos-Town (**Kos**) in the north-east, where half the island's population, and the main post office, were located.

A "Collettoria" operated by the police was opened at **Antimachia** in the centre of the island on 7 March 1914.

Postal stations operated by Customs officers apparently operated at **Cefalo** in the south-west of the island from 1914 and at **Masticari** on the north coast in the 1930's.

**Kardamena**, now a tourist location, was just a small fishing village during the Italian period.



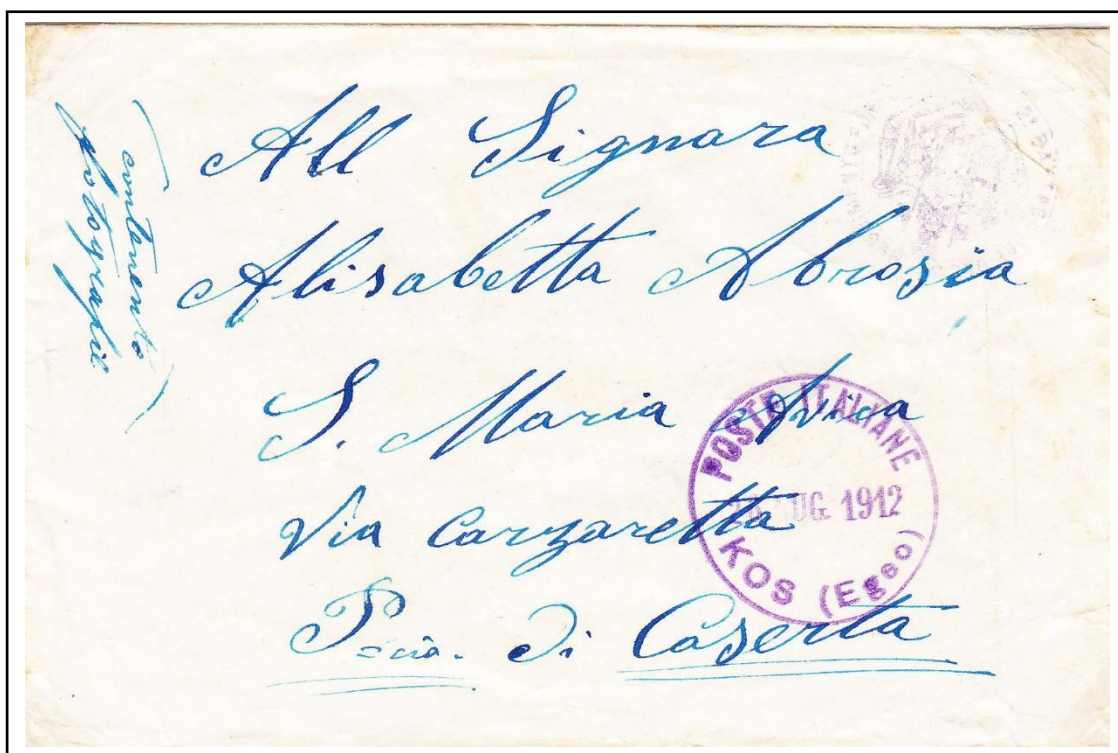
Letter to Smyrna correctly franked with 10c + 15c stamps of Italy cancelled with rubber date-stamp of Cos in violet ink on 6 September 1912. Introduced on the opening of the civilian post office on 10 June 1912.

Postage-free view card sent to Italy with the cachet of the Italian Garrison on Cos cancelled as above, already in the same violet ink, on 21 July 1912.





Rubber date-stamp of Cos – used with violet ink causing little deterioration to early September 1912



A postage-free letter to Italy bearing the cachet of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry plus the Cos rubber date-stamp in violet dated 28 July 1912



A letter to Turkey correctly franked with 5 x 5c stamps of Italy cancelled in violet as above on 14 August 1912; the envelope bears an arrival back-stamp of the Austrian post office at Smyrna dated 20 August 1912.



Rubber date-stamp of Cos – used with black ink causing deterioration after early September 1912



An Italian 10c post-card used to Italy cancelled with the Cos rubber date-stamp in black dated 25 September 1912



A letter to a Turkish prisoner of war from Lipsos held in Italy, sent from Cos correctly franked with a 15c stamp of Italy cancelled in black with the Cos rubber date-stamp (now broken) on 19 October 1912; Lucca arrival back-stamp dated 29 October 1912.



## 10 June 1912 – September 1943

BIGLIETTO POSTALE  
DA 15 CENTESIMI.

27.2.13.  
EGEO

27.2.13.  
EGEO

V. S. Saggi  
Via Delcours 3 Savona

(Provincia di \_\_\_\_\_).

*Gode franchigia*

*Egregio Signore*  
*Ld. C. Stengelmann*  
*Palermo*  
*V. Lolli 66*

15.12.12  
(EGEO)

SERVIZIO RADIO-TELEGRAFICO MILITARE

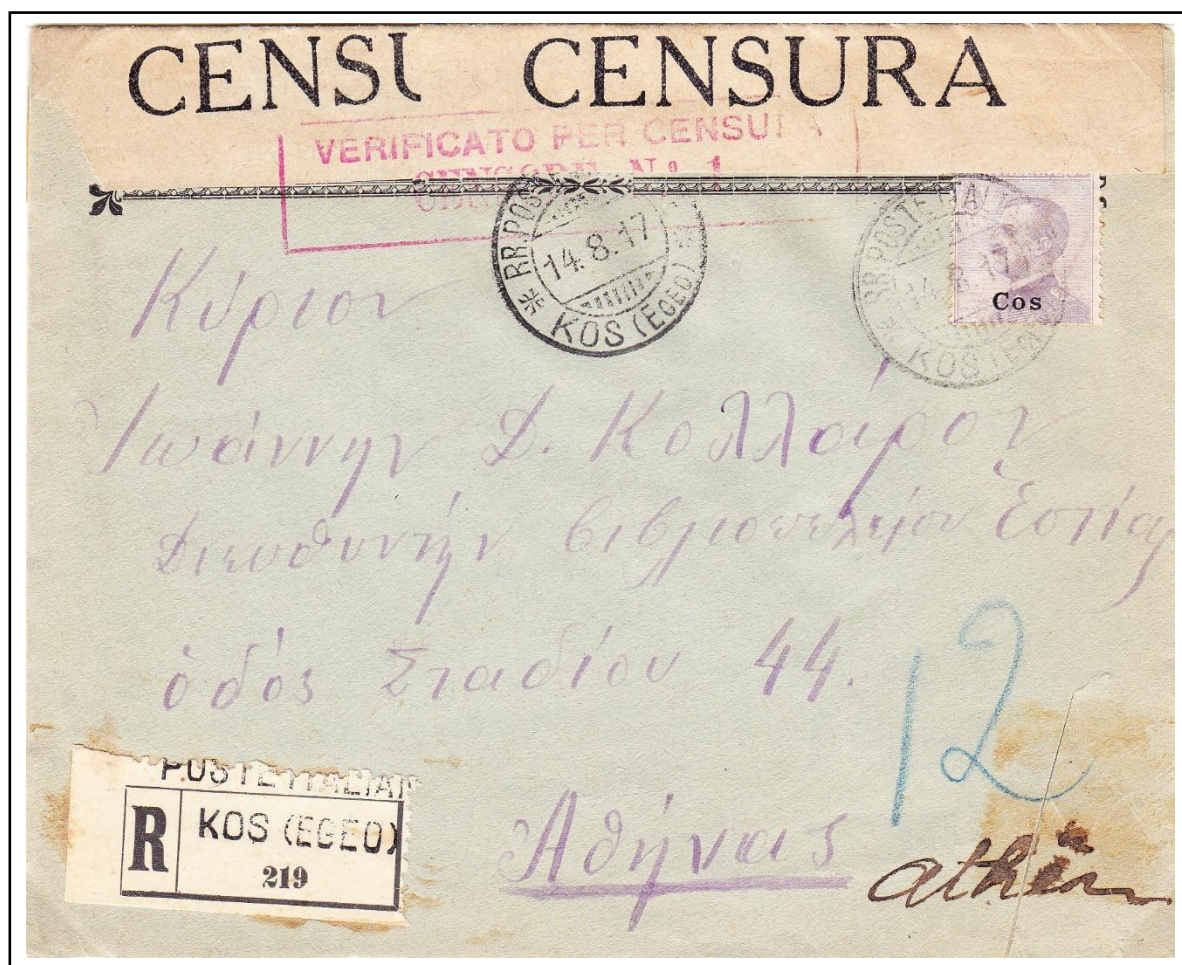
A postage-free letter to Italy with the cachet of the military radio-telegraph service sent from Cos on 15 December 1912 (just after the introduction of the metal date-stamp); Palermo arrival back-stamp dated 23 December 1912.



Date-stamps “R” & “RR. Poste Italiane Kos (Egeo)” introduced 1914/16 used with “Cos” overprinted stamps



A letter with the cachet of the garrison commandant sent to Italy correctly franked (officers not entitled to free mail) with a 20c on 15c “COS” stamp (new rate 1915-21); cancelled “R. POSTE ITALIANE KOS (EGEO)” on 1 August 1918; arrival b/s 30 Sept.!



A registered letter to Greece correctly franked with a 50c “Cos” stamp (rate to 1921); cancelled “RR. POSTE ITALIANE \* KOS (EGEO)” on 14 August 1917; censored in transit at Rhodes on 17 August; Athens arrival back-stamp 15/28 August 1917.



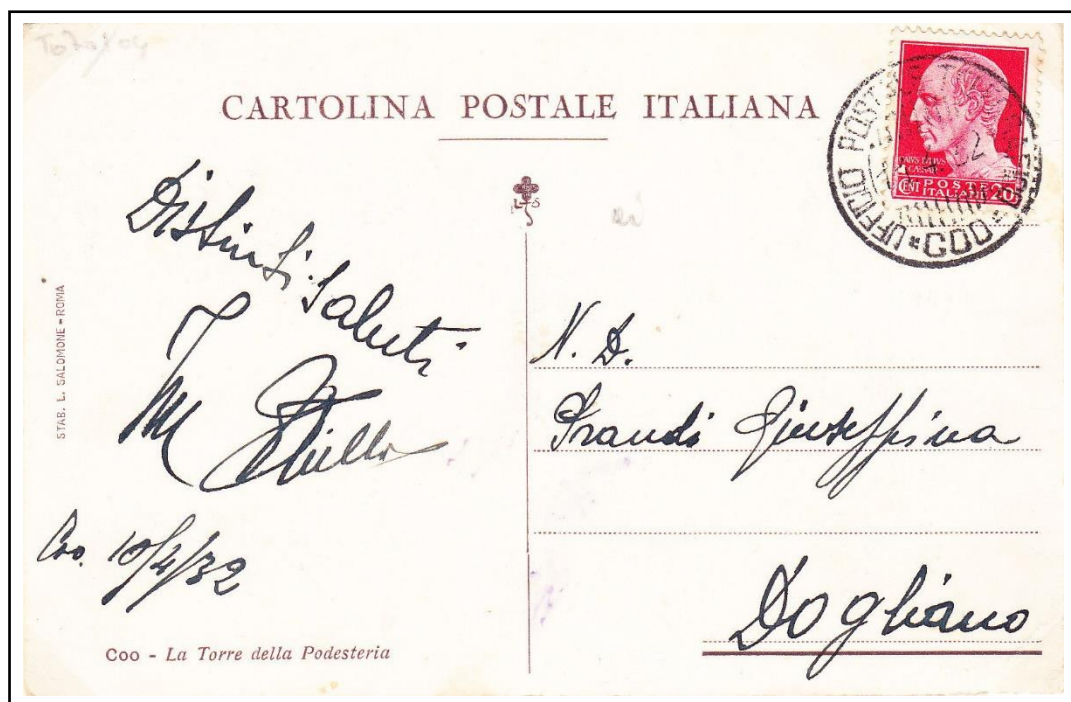
Date-stamps “RR. Poste Italiane \* Antimakia (Kos Egeo)” from 1914 and “Antimachia (Coo)” from 1929



Above and centre: letters to USA franked with 5c + 25c “Rodi” and “Cos” stamps; cancelled Antimachia (Kos Egeo) on 13 and 14 April 1920. Below: a regd. letter to Genoa correctly franked with 2 x 25c “Rodi” stamps plus a 1L25 Italian commemorative stamp; cancelled Antimachia (Coo) on 4 November 1929; registered in transit at Cos-Town on 7 November 1929; arrival 18 Nov. 1929.



New date-stamps with the name now Italianized to “Coo” introduced in 1926 and 1929



A post-card with short text sent to Italy correctly franked with a 20c stamp of Italy (new rate from 1925); cancelled “UFFICIO POSTALE TELEGRAFICO \* COO” on 11 April 1932.



A registered letter of 20-40g to Italy correctly franked with 5c “Rodi” + 20c “Egeo” Dante + 75c & 1L25 “Coo” Garibaldi stamps (rate from 1927 postage 50c per 20g, regn. 1L25); cancelled “COO \* (EGEO)” on 5 January 1933; Firenze arrival b/s11 January.



## 2a. Italian civilian post office on Cos

10 June 1912 – September 1943

New larger date-stamps “COO \* EGEO” and “COO \* (EGEO)” introduced in the early 1930’s



A 30c post-card (1929 issue with arms of Cos) sent to Italy cancelled with large “COO \* EGEO” date-stamp on 27 October 1939



A front sent by registered airmail to Tripoli franked with various stamps to 1L75 (postage 50c + registration 1L25) plus an Italian 1L airmail stamp (needed to pay the airmail fee); cancelled with new large “COO \* (EGEO)” on 12 November 1932.



Mail censorship was commenced on 10 June 1940, also at Cos



An airmail letter to Italy franked with "Rodi" stamps (postage 50c airmail fee 50c); cancelled "COO \* (EGEO)" on 16 September 1940 and censored before sealing; Verona arrival back-stamp 22 September.



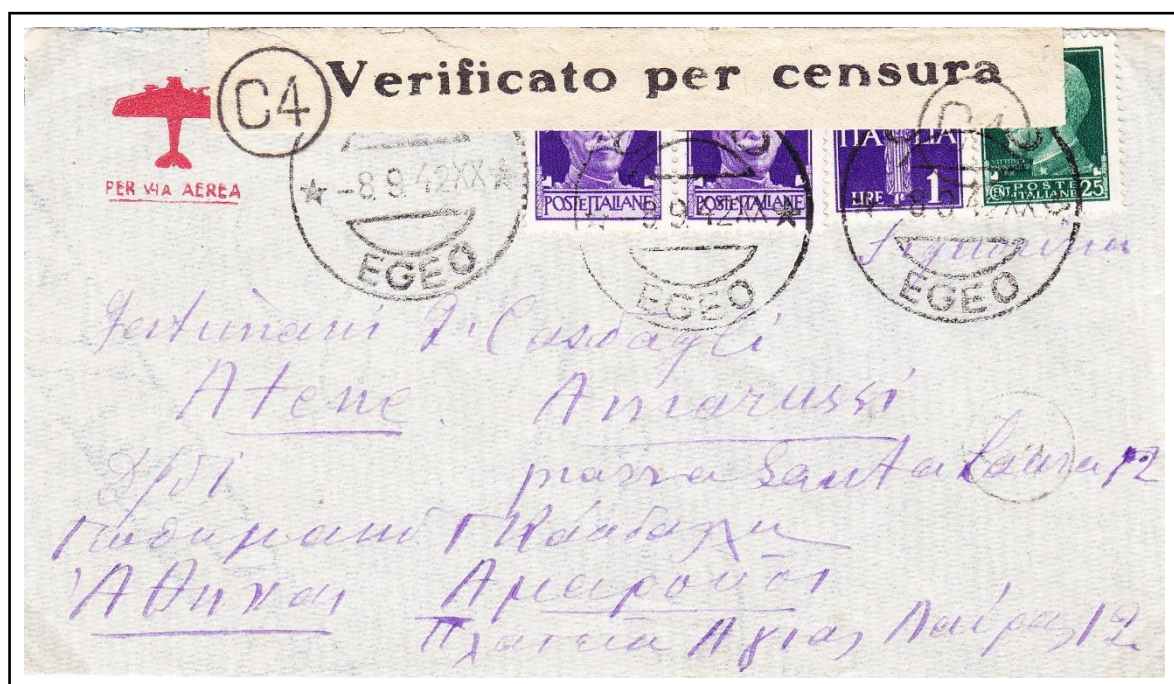
An express airmail letter of 20-40g to Italy franked with "Rodi" stamps (correct postage 50c per 20g, express fee 2L50, airmail fee for express 25c per 20g); cancelled "COO \* (EGEO)" on 10 March 1941 and censored; Rome arrival back-stamp 19 March.



Mail from Cos to Greece franked with stamps of Italy censored and resealed



An express airmail letter to Athens franked with stamps of Italy (correct postage 1L25, express fee 2L50, airmail fee 1L); cancelled with new hatched "COO \* EGEO" date-stamp (introduced 1942) on 4 July 1942 and censored; arrival back-stamp 11 July.



An airmail letter to Athens franked with stamps of Italy (correct postage 1L25, airmail fee 1L); cancelled "COO \* EGEO" on 8 September 1942 and censored (probably in transit at Rhodes); Athens arrival back-stamp 15 September.





Official letters subject to postage: Above regd. to Italy franked with a 1L75 Italian stamp cancelled at Cos on 20 October 1942. Below: sent un-franked to Rhodes on 23 July 1942 and with 2 x 5c + 2 x 20c "Rodi" postage due stamps cancelled on 27 July.



Since the private delivery of mail conflicted with the Post Monopoly, it was authorized provided that a fee of 10c was paid. The special Italian “Recapito Autorizzato” stamps were not issued in the Dodecanese.



An advice-form sent privately by the Registration Office in Cos-Town to that in the village of Cefalo on 18 March 1942. It correctly bears a 10c “Rodi” stamp, but this was not cancelled.



An advice-form sent privately by the branch of the Bank of Sicily in Cos-Town to a customer in the town. It correctly bears a 10c stamp of Italy, which was cancelled with a private date-stamp reading “COO the 13 OCT. 1942 – XX”.



## Military mail from Cos via Rhodes up to the German occupation



A postage-free letter-form sent to Italy by a member of the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment on Cos; by postal ship to Rhodes and marked "Military P.O. No. 550 – Mobile Service No. 2" on 31 August 1943 (Fascist date blocked after mid-August); Bari arrival b/s 6 September.



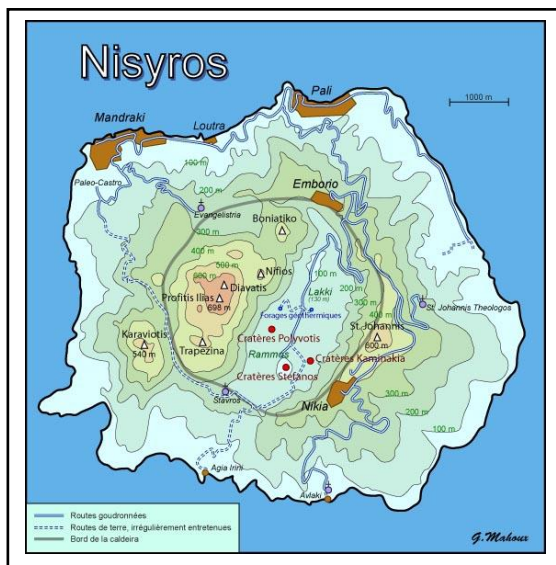
A postage-free letter to Italy from a mechanic at Airport No. 804 at Antimachia on Cos (inset part of reverse); franked at 50c for the airmail fee and cancelled "Military Post No. 550" at Rhodes on 22 March 1942; censored on arrival at Verona on 26 March.



## 2b. Italian post office at Nisiros

13 May 1912 – September 1943

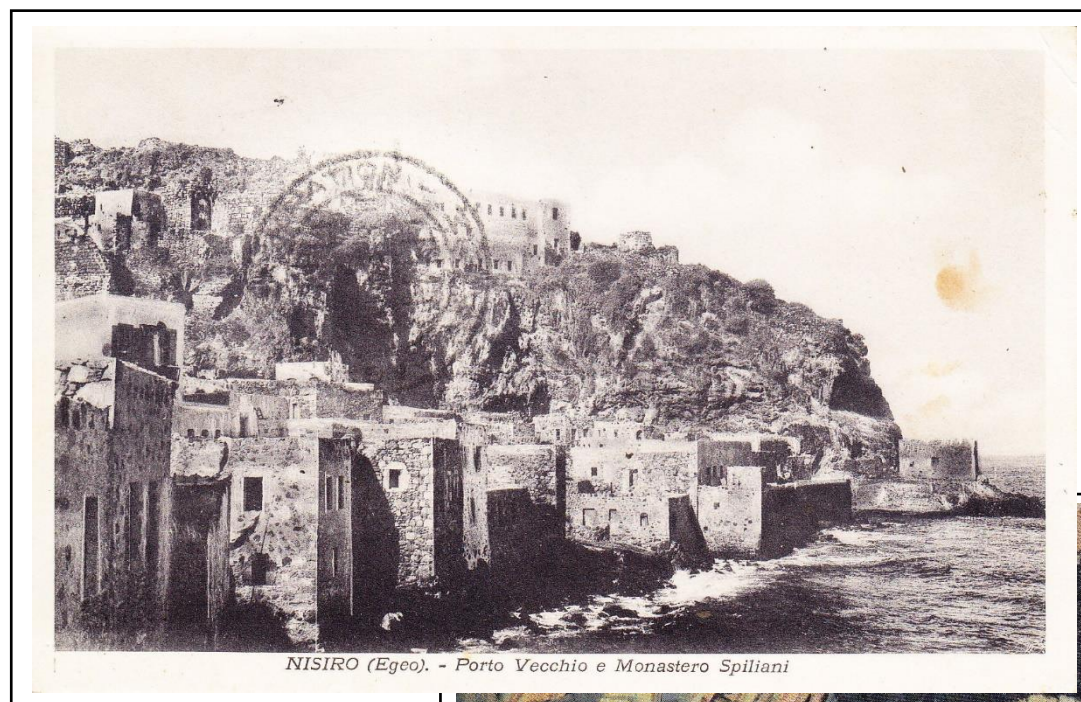
The Ottoman authorities surrendered Nisiros to the Italian cruiser Roma on 13 May 1912. The island was occupied by a detachment of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and a Municipal post office was temporarily established at the main port, Mandraki.



This modern map of the circular volcanic island of Nisiros shows clearly the caldera in the centre surrounded by steep sides and the town of **Mandraki** in the north-west, where half the island's population, and the main post office, were located.

**Palus**, 3 km east of Mandraki, had one of the island's hot springs, where there were Thermal Establishments. A "Colletoria" operated by the police was opened there on 1 August 1913.

The two small villages of **Emborio** and **Nikia** on the lip of the crater did not have post offices.



This view-card from the early 1930's shows the old port and the monastery at the main town of Mandraki.

This view card shows the entrance to the "Hippocrates" Thermal Establishment at Palus. It bears a 2c stamp cto with the metal date-stamp introduced in February 1914.





Locally made negative double-ring hand-stamp reading “MUNICIPIO DI NISSIRO – POSTA 1912”



A non-travelled envelope with the cachet of the Italian Police and Italian stamps to 40c cancelled with the Nisiros hand-stamp



A commercial cover to Egypt correctly franked with 10c + 15c stamps of Italy cancelled with the Nisiros hand-stamp; with back-stamps of the French and Egyptian post offices at Alexandria, and a Tantah arrival back-stamp, all dated 17 July 1912.



Rubber date-stamp of Nisiros introduced on 26 July 1912



A 21-40g registered cover to Egypt correctly franked with 3 x 25c stamps of Italy cancelled with the Nisiros hand-stamp; with the date-stamp of 28 July 1912; transit date-stamp of Military P.O. at Rhodes dated 31 July; Alexandria arrival b/s dated 9 August.



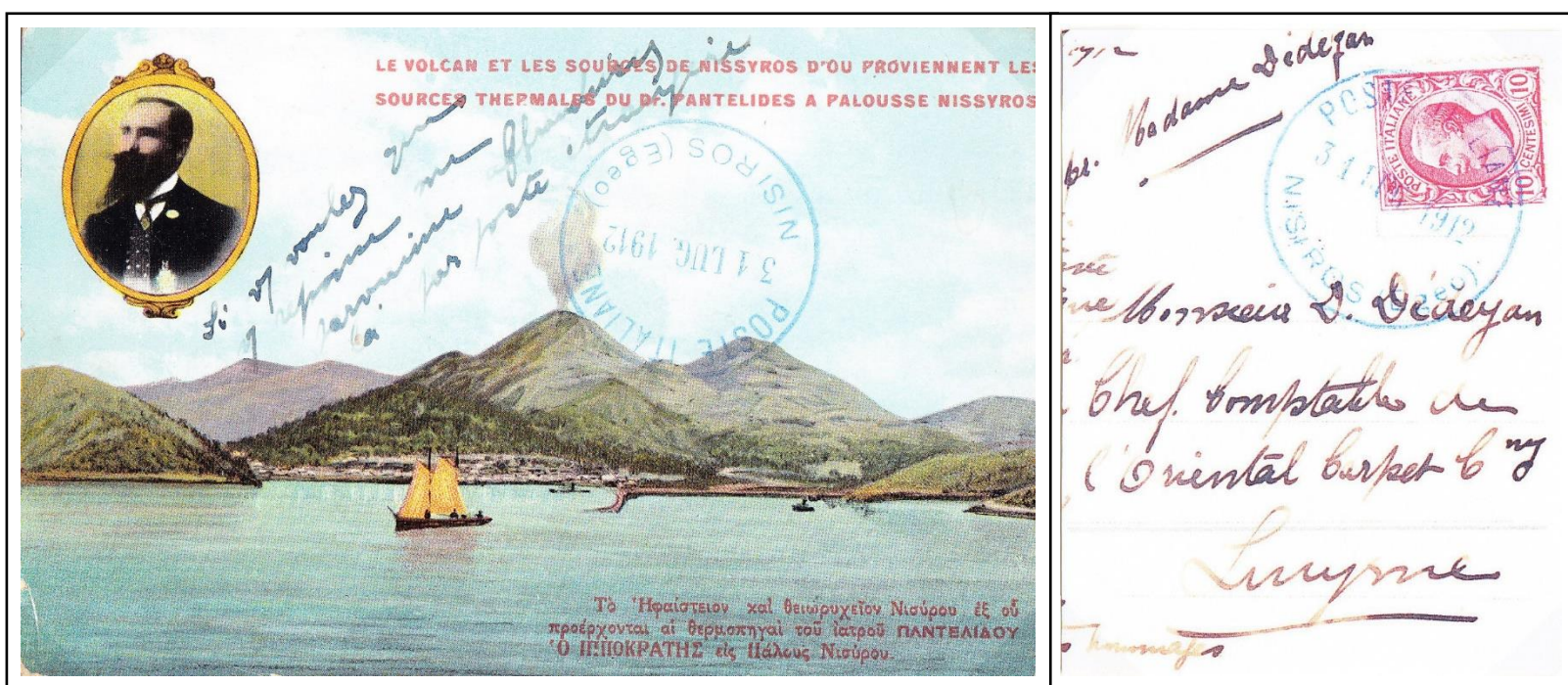
A similarly franked and cancelled cover, but to Turkey; with similar Nisiros date-stamp; transit back-stamp here from the Italian civilian P.O. at Rhodes dated 29 July and an arrival back-stamp of the Austrian P.O. at Constantinople dated 4 August 1912.



Rubber date-stamp of Nisiros in use with blue ink from 26 July 1912 to early March 1913



A cover to Turkey correctly franked with a 25c stamp of Italy (overprinted “EGEO” at Rhodes and issued on 22 September 1912 for sale at 1 piastre rather than 25 cents); cancelled with the Nisiros rubber date-stamp on 17 October 1912; with an arrival back-stamp of the Austrian P.O. at Constantinople dated 30 October 1912.



This view-card shows the island of Nisiros and has an inset portrait of Dr. Pantelides, who had such cards printed to publicize his Thermal Establishment at Palus. The card was commercially used to Smyrna, Turkey, and correctly franked with a 10c stamp of Italy which was cancelled in blue with the Nisiros hand-stamp on 31 July 1912.



Metal date-stamp "POSTE ITALIANE \* NISEROS (EGEO)" introduced early in March 1913



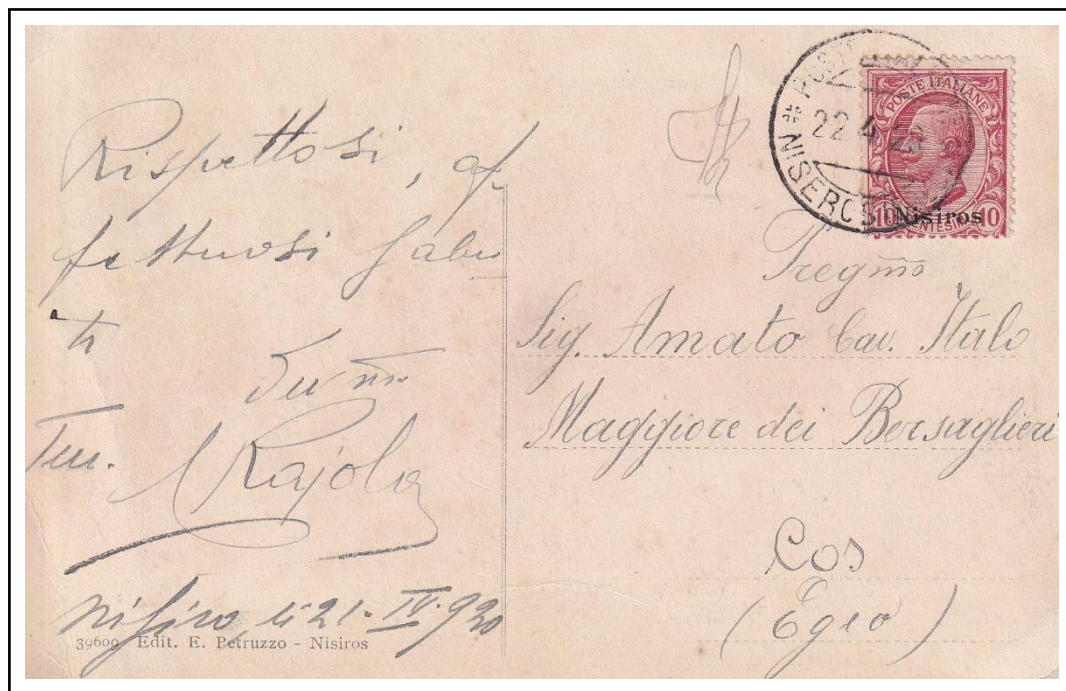
An incoming cover sent un-franked from Tanta, Egypt, on 15 April 1913 and marked "T 50"; transit back-stamps of Alexandria and Smyrna dated 15 and 19 April; on arrival at Mandraki, 50c postage due was collected using 20c + 30c postage-due stamps of Italy, which were cancelled with the Nisiros metal date-stamp on 5 May 1913.



A philatelic registered cover to Italy heavily over-franked with the whole set of Italian stamps overprinted "Nisiros" issued on 1 December 1912; cancelled with the Nisiros metal date-stamp on 11 April 1913; Naples arrival back-stamp of 18 April 1913.



Continued use of date-stamp “POSTE ITALIANE \* NISEROS (EGEO)” and “Nisiros” stamps in the 1920’s



A view-card with short text sent to Cos correctly franked with a 10c Italian stamp overprinted “Nisiros” (inland rate 1915-22); cancelled with the Nisiros metal date-stamp on 22 April 1920.



A view-card sent to Greece correctly franked with a 40c Italian stamp overprinted “Nisiros” (foreign rate 1921-22); cancelled with the Nisiros metal date-stamp on 21 November 1921.



New date-stamp "RR. POSTE ITALIANE \* NISEROS (EGEO)" introduced in 1914



Above: A commercial cover to Greece correctly franked with a 25c "Nisiros" stamp cancelled with the new Nisiros date-stamp on 23 July 1917; censored and re-sealed in transit at Rhodes; Athens arrival back-stamp dated 15 August 1917.

Below: A 21-40g letter sent registered to Italy correctly franked with a 20c "Nisiros" stamp and three 15c Italian Red Cross stamps cancelled as above on 30 October 1916; Rhodes and Messina transit back-stamps dated 7 and 15 November 1916.



Meilleurs souvenirs  
Rhodes & Nimio.  
Bien de chers aux vôtres

27.6.26  
UFFICIO POSTALE  
ITALIA

POSTE ITALIANE 5 CENTESIMI  
POSTE ITALIANE 10 CENTESIMI  
POSTE ITALIANE 60

M<sup>me</sup> & M<sup>me</sup> H. Parachimona  
Co M<sup>me</sup> Pittacos

Station Cléopatra  
Alexandrie  
Egypte

91112 Edit. K. M. Anastassiadis  
Fot. Elia Calamatianos

**ΛΟΥΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ**  
**ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ**  
**ΜΑΝΔΡΑΚΙΟΥ**  
ΝΙΣΥΡΟΣ

Assegno = Remboursement  
**R NISI RO**  
347

*France*

M<sup>re</sup> G. de-Georgi  
Rue de la Poste Villa M<sup>re</sup> Primal  
Port - de-Cheruy  
(Isere)

STAMBOUL  
ITALIA  
POSTA ITALIANA  
LIRE 10  
LIRE 20  
LIRE 30  
LIRE 40  
LIRE 50  
LIRE 60  
LIRE 70  
LIRE 80  
LIRE 90  
LIRE 100  
LIRE 120  
LIRE 150  
LIRE 200  
LIRE 250  
LIRE 300  
LIRE 350  
LIRE 400  
LIRE 450  
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LIRE 45000  
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LIRE 60000  
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LIRE 80000  
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LIRE 100000  
LIRE 120000  
LIRE 150000  
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LIRE 300000  
LIRE 350000  
LIRE 400000  
LIRE 450000  
LIRE 500000  
LIRE 600000  
LIRE 700000  
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LIRE 900000  
LIRE 1000000  
LIRE 1200000  
LIRE 1500000  
LIRE 2000000  
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LIRE 3000000  
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LIRE 20000000  
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LIRE 30000000  
LIRE 35000000  
LIRE 40000000  
LIRE 45000000  
LIRE 50000000  
LIRE 60000000  
LIRE 70000000  
LIRE 80000000  
LIRE 90000000  
LIRE 100000000  
LIRE 120000000  
LIRE 150000000  
LIRE 200000000  
LIRE 250000000  
LIRE 300000000  
LIRE 350000000  
LIRE 400000000  
LIRE 450000000  
LIRE 500000000  
LIRE 600000000  
LIRE 700000000  
LIRE 800000000  
LIRE 900000000  
LIRE 1000000000  
LIRE 1200000000  
LIRE 1500000000  
LIRE 2000000000  
LIRE 2500000000  
LIRE 3000000000  
LIRE 3500000000  
LIRE 4000000000  
LIRE 4500000000  
LIRE 5000000000  
LIRE 6000000000  
LIRE 7000000000  
LIRE 8000000000  
LIRE 9000000000  
LIRE 10000000000  
LIRE 12000000000  
LIRE 15000000000  
LIRE 20000000000  
LIRE 25000000000  
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LIRE 45000000000  
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LIRE 70000000000  
LIRE 80000000000  
LIRE 90000000000  
LIRE 100000000000  
LIRE 120000000000  
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LIRE 250000000000  
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LIRE 400000000000  
LIRE 450000000000  
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LIRE 10000000000000000  
LIRE 12000000000000000  
LIRE 15000000000000000  
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LIRE 25000000000000000  
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LIRE 70000000000000000  
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LIRE 90000000000000000  
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LIRE 120000000000000000  
LIRE 150000000000000000  
LIRE 200000000000000000  
LIRE 250000000000000000  
LIRE 300000000000000000  
LIRE 350000000000000000  
LIRE 400000000000000000  
LIRE 450000000000000000  
LIRE 500000000000000000  
LIRE 600000000000000000  
LIRE 700000000000000000  
LIRE 800000000000000000  
LIRE 900000000000000000  
LIRE 1000000000000000000  
LIRE 1200000000000000000  
LIRE 1500000000000000000  
LIRE 2000000000000000000  
LIRE 2500000000000000000  
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LIRE 3500000000000000000  
LIRE 4000000000000000000  
LIRE 4500000000000000000  
LIRE 5000000000000000000  
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LIRE 7000000000000000000  
LIRE 8000000000000000000  
LIRE 9000000000000000000  
LIRE 10000000000000000000  
LIRE 12000000000000000000  
LIRE 150000

A registered letter sent to France correctly franked with 10c + 40c + 2L stamps of Italy (postage 1L25, registration 1L25); cancelled as above on 25 August 1926; Rhodes and Brindisi transit date-stamps of 27 August and 2 September; on arrival at Pont de Cheruy on 6 September, postage due of 30c was charged (the same amount as the poste restante fee).



New date-stamp “NISIRO \* (EGEO)” introduced in the late 1920’s



A commercial registered cover to Greece correctly franked with a pair of 1L25 “Rodi” stamps cancelled with the new Nisiro date-stamp on 26 January 1931; Rhodes transit and Athens arrival back-stamps dated 27 January and 1 February 1931.



An airmail letter of 5-10g sent to USA correctly franked with 3 x 1L25 “Rodi” stamps (postage 1L25 + 50c airmail to Italy to 20g + 2L airmail to New York for 2 x 5g); cancelled as above on 18 April 1941; censored and re-sealed in transit at Rhodes.



The Ottoman authorities at Pigadia surrendered Carpathos to Italian warships *Vittorio Emanuele* and *Alpino* on 12 May 1912. Postal services were operated at Pigadia, the main port, by the Officer in command of the garrison. Legitimate material from the first two months of the occupation is not recorded.



This modern map shows the islands of Carpathos and the nearby small island of Kasos. An official Italian post office began to operate at the main port of **Pigadia** (pop. ca. 500) in the south-east on 20 July 1912.

Postal Agencies operated by the police were opened in the 1930's at **Aperi** (pop. ca. 1,000) 20 km north-west of Pigadia, **Finichi** in the south-west, **Messocorio** above the west coast (pop. ca. 500) and **Olimbo** (the largest village pop. ca. 1,100) high on the precipitous west coast.



This provisional 3-line hand-stamp had been in use at Pigadia even before stamps arrived.

The above 25c stamp has a manuscript date of 21 July 1912 (first date of use of stamps).

This letter of 41-60g to Egypt is correctly franked with 3 x 10c + 3 x 15c stamps cancelled with the 3-line mark; it has a Cairo arrival back-stamp with a July 1912 date.





Rubber "SCARPANTO" date-stamp of Carpathos used with blue ink after introduction in August 1912



A serviceman's postage-free view-card sent to Rome with the rubber date-stamp of 12 September 1912



A letter sent to Ethiopia correctly franked with 10c + 15c stamps of Italy; cancelled as above on 30 August 1912; Alexandria, Ismailia-Port Taufiq TPO & Djibouti transit back-stamps of 4 & 5 September; Dire-Daoua arrival back-stamp of 1 October 1912.



*Raccomandata*

*Al. Lino Liguori*

*Bucci Dott. Luigi*

*Via Forse Vecchia n. 3*

*Ferrara*

POSTE ITALIANE  
SCARPANTO (Egeo)  
243

POSTE ITALIANE  
4 - OTT. 1912  
SCARPANTO (Egeo)



A letter weighing 41-60g sent registered to Italy correctly franked at 85c (postage 3 x 15c + regn, 25c) with 2 x 5c stamps of Italy plus 3 x 25c "EGEO" overprinted stamps (issued 22 Sept. and sold at 20c); cancelled with the rubber date-stamp on 6 October 1912; Ferrara arrival back-stamp of 14 October 1912. Above a reduced (75%) copy of the front of the envelope.



Metal “POSTE ITALIANE \* SCARPANTO (EGEO)” date-stamp introduced in March 1913



A military card sent to Italy with short text correctly franked with a 5c “Scarpanto” stamp cancelled as above on 26 December 1917. These cards were postage-free for servicemen but subject to normal postage when used by officers.



A registered express letter sent to Italy franked at 55c with 5c + 25c “Scarpanto” stamps plus a 25c express stamp of Italy (as the correct franking would have been 65c, the letter was apparently forwarded registered but not express); cancelled as above on 8 May 1913; with a registered arrival back-stamp of Ascoli Piceno dated 17 May 1913.



Metal “POSTE ITALIANE \* SCARPANTO (EGEO)” date-stamp introduced in March 1913



An envelope sent within Pigadia franked with a 5c “Scarpanto” stamp cancelled with the metal date-stamp on 31 March 1918



A registered letter sent to Italy correctly franked at 1L (postage and regn. each 50c in 1923) with 2 x 10c stamps of Italy plus 2 x 40c “Rodì” overprinted stamps (also valid in Carpathos); cancelled as above on 3 October 1923; with transit back-stamps of Rhodes and Brindisi of 10 and 22 October and an arrival back-stamp of Caserta dated 23 October 1923.



New small “SCARPANTO \* (EGEO)” date-stamp introduced at Pigadia ca. 1926



A letter weighing 81-100g sent registered to Rhodes correctly franked at 4L25 (postage 5 x 60c + regn, 1L25) with 5 x 10c + 3 x 1L25 stamps of Italy; cancelled with the above date-stamp on 7 February 1927; Rhodes arrival back-stamp of 13 February 1927.



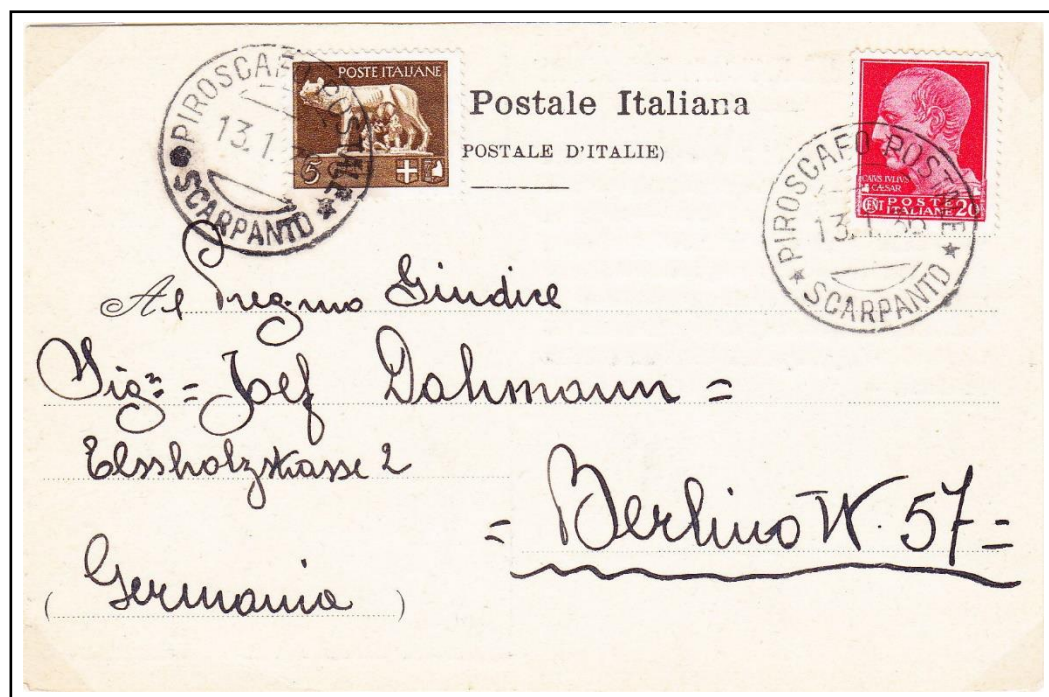
A cover bearing a 10L “Rodi” stamp sent from Carpathos carried on the 4<sup>th</sup> Zeppelin flight to South America in 1933



This zeppelin cover was sent from Carpathos to Pernambuco on 18 July 1933. It is philatelic and slightly over-franked at 10L20 (postage 1L25 + registration 1L25 + airmail 7L); but the 10L “Rodi” stamp is not otherwise seen properly used from Carpathos. On the front is a Friedrichshafen transit date-stamp of 5 August and the special flight cachet; the copy of the back of the cover (shown at 75% above) shows transit date-stamps of Rhodes and Brindisi of 26 and 27 July 1933; the Pernambuco arrival date-stamp of 9 August 1933 confirms carriage by the Graf Zeppelin. Expertise.



Date-stamps used on the postal steamers "Scarpanto" serving Carpathos and "Stampalia" serving Cos



A philatelic view-card sent as printed matter to Germany correctly franked with 5c + 20c stamps of Italy and cancelled with the date-stamp of the postal steamer "Scarpanto", which served on the Rhodes-Chalki-Scarpanto-Caso route, on 13 January 1936.



A commodity price-list from Rhodes sent as printed matter to Cos on 6 June 1935 correctly franked with 2 x 5c "Rodi" stamps; handed-in to the steamer on the Rhodes to Stampalia route via Cos and cancelled with the date-stamp "Pfo. Postale Stampalia".



Mail sent to Rhodes from postal agencies at Aperi, Messocorio and Olimbo



This 25c "Rodi" stamp bears the Messocorio date-stamp of 2 November 1934.



These covers are franked at 50c (inland rate) or 40c (local rate) with "Rodi" stamps and were censored on arrival at Rhodes: above with mute cancellation of 13 June 1941 but a sender's address in Aperi; below cancelled at Olimbo on 13 May 1943.



Mail sent to the Red Cross in Geneva from the postal agency at Aperi in 1942-43



This cover is franked at 1L30 (over-franked by 5c) with 10c + 6 x 20c “Rodi” stamps which were cancelled in magenta ink with the large “APERI SCARPANTO \* EGEO” date-stamp on 10 February 1942. It bears a “Scarpanto” transit date-stamp of Pigadia and was censored and re-sealed in transit at Rhodes.



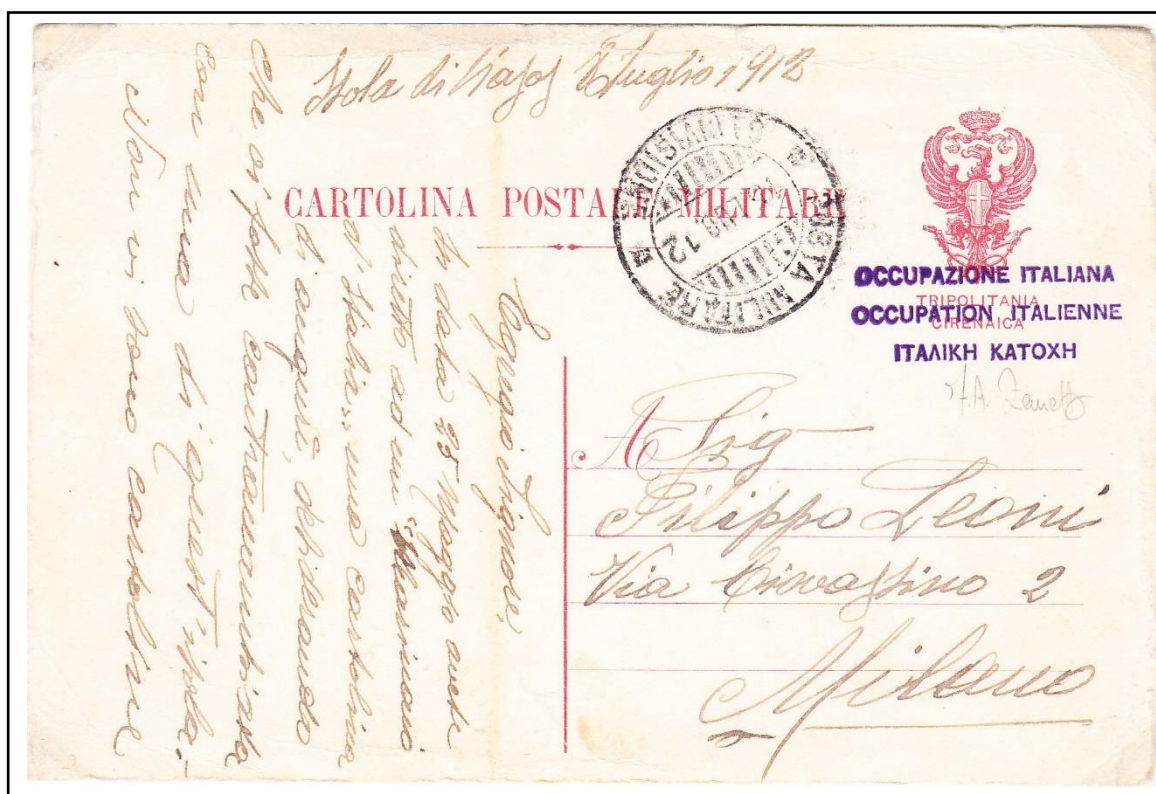
This cover weighing 16-30g is correctly franked at 2L50 with 5 x 50c stamps of Italy which were cancelled in violet ink with the large “APERI SCARPANTO \* EGEO” date-stamp on 5 April 1943. It was censored in transit at Rhodes and again in Italy.



The Ottoman authorities surrendered Casos to the Italian battleship Regina Elena on 12 May 1912. Postal services were operated at the main port, Ophrys, (pop. ca. 600) by the Officer in command of the garrison. An official Italian post office was first opened on 21 July 1912



This view-card from the early 1920's shows the main town of Ophrys (Italian Offri). It was sent to Italy with short text on 29 October 1924 correctly franked with a 15c stamp on the address-side (3 other stamps on the picture-side).



This military post-card to Italy written by the Lieutenant in charge at Casos bears an unrecorded violet hand-stamp reading "ITALIAN OCCUPATION" in Italian, French and Greek and an indication of its origin "Island of Casos 8 July 1912". It has a transit date-stamp of the Italian Military P.O. at Rhodes dated 15 July 1912.



Rubber date-stamp of Casos in use with blue or violet ink from 21 July 1912 until April 1913



This 5c reply-paid card was commercially used to Italy with full text by the Head of the Customs and cancelled with the above date-stamp in blue on 5 October 1912.



This letter was sent to Italy insured for 100L and franked with 5c + 25c + 50c "Caso" overprinted stamps (postage 15c + regn. 25c + ins. 30c). It was cancelled with the above date-stamp in violet 17 February 1913 and has transit and arrival back-stamps of Naples and Palermo dated 10 and 11 March 1913.



Metal date-stamp “POSTE ITALIANE \* CASSOS (EGEO)” introduced in April 1913



This 10c reply-paid card was returned to Italy cancelled with the above date-stamp in on 29 August 1913



This 21-40g letter was sent registered to Paris franked with 10c + 3x 50c “Caso” overprinted stamps (correct postage 1<sup>st</sup> 20g = 60c + 2<sup>nd</sup> 20g = 30c + regn. 60c) It was cancelled with the above date-stamp on 16 June 1921 (the originally incorrect date-figure “12” was corrected in violet ink) and has transit and arrival back-stamps of Rhodes and Paris dated 30 June and 14 July 1921.



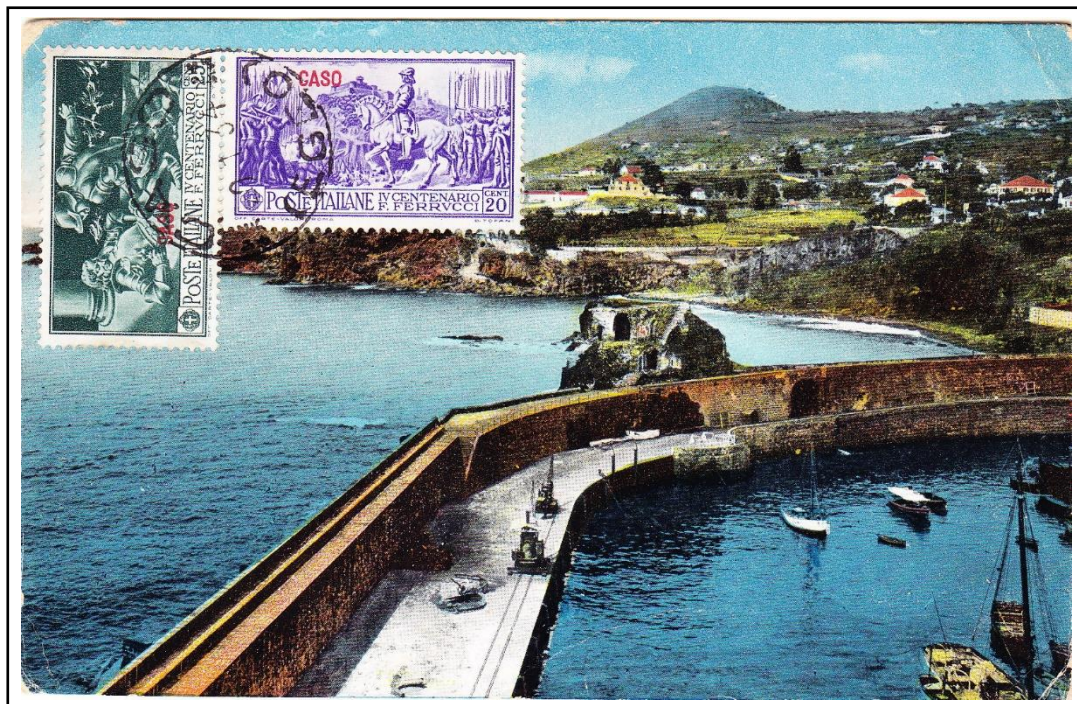
Metal date-stamp "POSTE ITALIANE \* CASSOS (EGEO)" introduced in April 1913



These two letters to Egypt are correctly franked with 25c "Caso" overprinted stamps (that below with a second copy for registration). They were cancelled with the above date-stamp on 14 April 1916 respectively 15 June 1917 and bear Ismailia arrival back-stamps of 30 April 1916 resp. 15 July 1917. Both were censored in transit at Rhodes, that above also at Alexandria.



Metal date-stamp of "CASO \* EGEO" introduced ca. 1926



This view-card was sent as printed matter to the USA over-franked with 20c + 25c stamps of the 1930 Ferrucci issue overprinted "CASO", which were cancelled with the above date-stamp on 20 January 1934.



A letter to Egypt correctly franked with a 1L25 "Rodi" stamp; cancelled with the above date-stamp on 20 February 1940. It was censored in Egypt and has transit and arrival back-stamps of Cairo and Ismailia dated 27 and 28 February 1940.





From summer 1944 special arrangements were made for the transmission of mail to the International Red Cross in Geneva. These two letters correctly franked at 1L25 were sent on 4 and 10 July 1944 and both bear the boxed censor mark of the German authorities on Cos. The first bears a Rhodes censor mark and back-stamp of 23 August 1944. The second did not transit through Rhodes but was censored again and re-sealed by the German authorities in Munich sector.

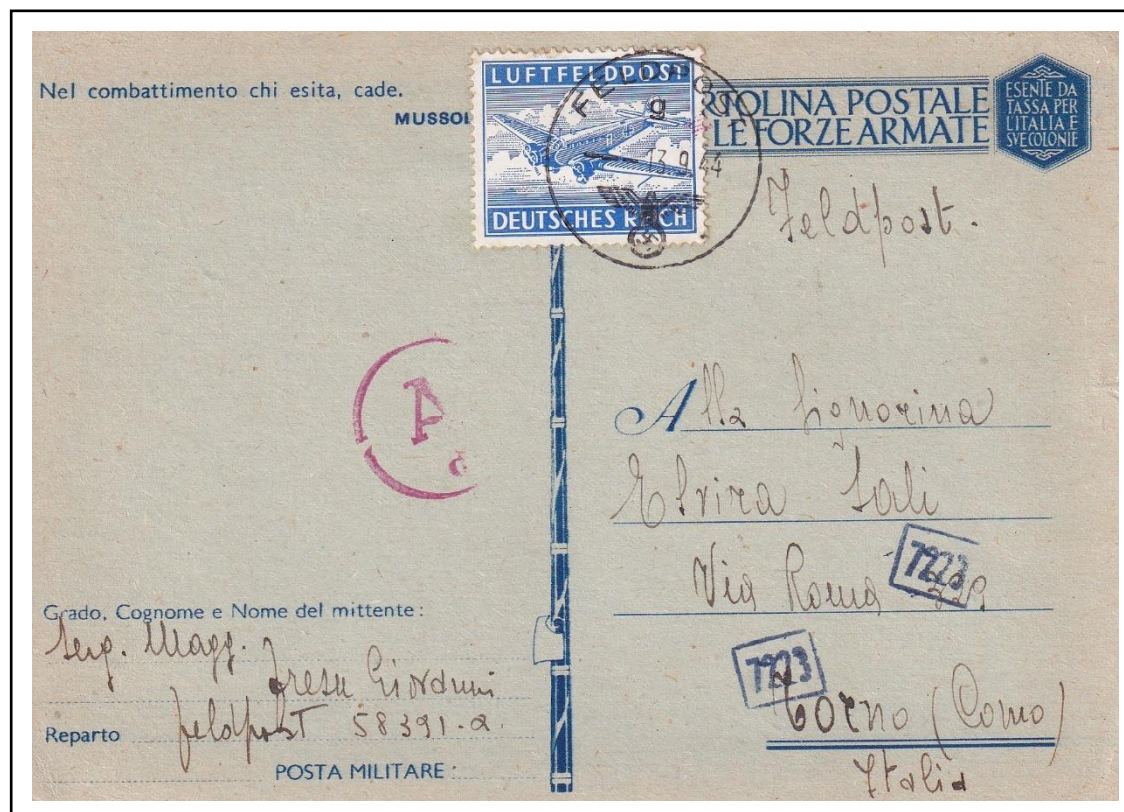


### 3b. German Military Occupation – German military post offices on Cos      October 1943 – May 1945

German forces captured Cos on 3 October 1943 and were later served by about 12 field post offices, which included the numbers 58391, 52949 and 54691. The Italian military personnel could either swear allegiance to Germany or become prisoners of war.



This 30c Aegean post-card was written by an Italian serviceman on Cos on 29 April 1944. He was served by German F.P.O. No. 58391D, so the card received the cachet of this F.P.O. and the "Feldpost m" date-stamp of 15 May 1944. It was censored by the Munich section, receiving the red machine mark. On arrival at Bobbio Pellice, it was back-stamped on 3 June 1944.



This Italian military Aegean post-card was written by an Italian serviceman on Cos on 3 September 1944. He was served by German F.P.O. No. 58391A and the card, bearing the "Luftfeldpost" stamp required from June 1944, received the "Feldpost g" date-stamp of 13 September 1944. It was censored by the Munich section, receiving the circular red marking.



From the capture of Cos on 3 October 1943 up to October 1944 the German forces there were served by about 12 field post offices, which included those numbered 58391, 52949 and 54691.

Telegrams notifying the recipient of the occurrence of certain specific events could, subject to the approval of the local military authorities, be sent to members of the German forces in the Dodecanese.

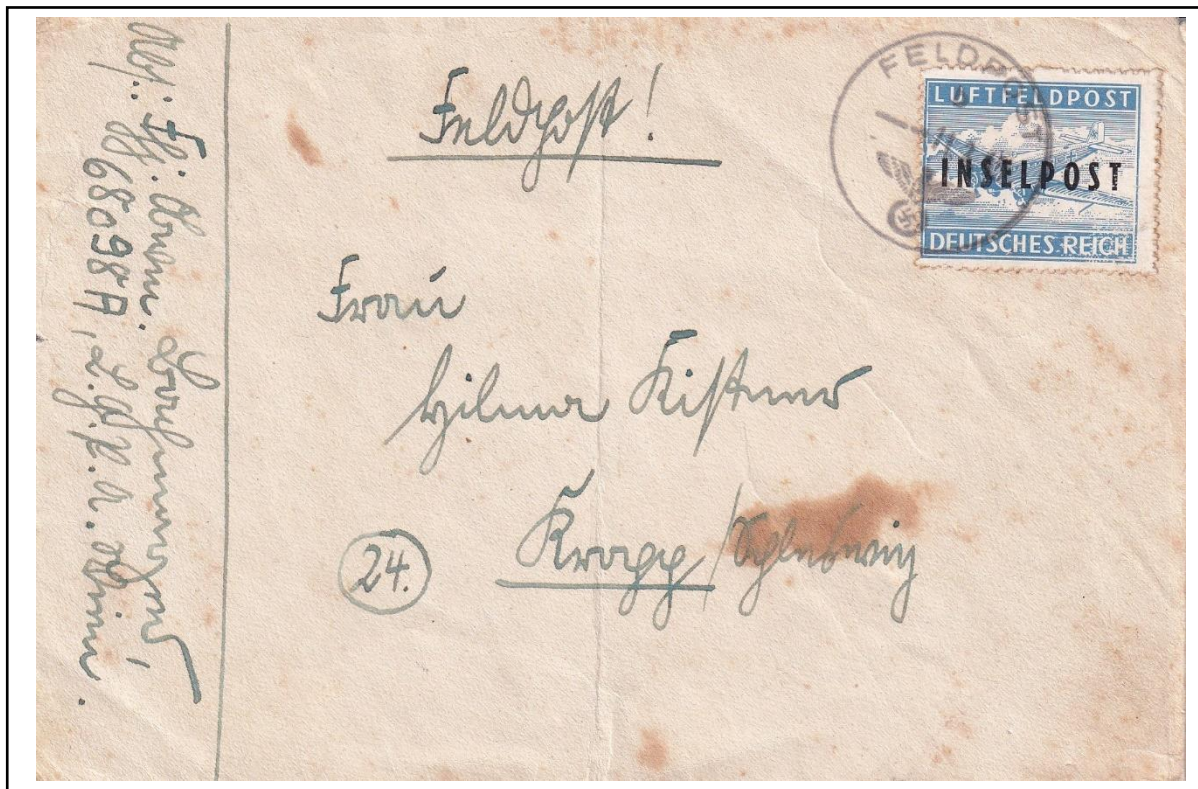
o Telegramm aus 80/3865 S HAMBURGALTONA/1 19/18 12 1730=		Deutsche Reichspost	
Aufgenommen Tag: Monat: Jahr: Zeit: von: 14. SEP. 1944 durch: [Signature] Amt: Wien TA		Übermittelt Tag: Zeit: an: 541 18.9.44 durch: [Signature] S	
DIENSTSTELLE FELDPSTNR 58391 CC KENNR 943 BELGRAD=			
BENACHRICHTIGT SOLDAT HERMANN KIELMANN MUTTER AM 10.9. 44 VERSTORBEN= STANDORTOFFIZIER ALTONA			
I A VON LOESSL RITTMEISTER+			
Feldpost-Nr. 58391-C 18. Okt. 1944 Eing. am Erl. am Az:			
Raum für dienstliche Rückfrage Schw. c			
+ 58391 943 10 9 44 +			

This telegram was sent to a soldier served by F.P.O. No. 58391C on Cos on 10 September 1944 by the military authorities in Hamburg-Altona and notified him of the decease of his mother. It was transmitted telegraphically to Vienna on 14 September. The telegram form was stamped "FELDPST a 541" on 18 September 1944, forwarded to Marburg on the Drau (Yugoslavia) and Zagreb by ordinary mail. It was then flown to Cos (via Rhodes), and stamped by F.P.O. No. 58391C on arrival on 18 October 1944.



### 3b. German Military Occupation – German military post offices on Cos      October 1943 – May 1945

The German field post offices on Cos were re-organized under 3 new numbers (68097, 68098 and 68099) for the "Inselpost" service at the end of October 1944. Stamps overprinted "INSELPOST" at Rhodes were used at Cos from 19 December 1944, plus the Italian "Rodi" 5c stamps overprinted "WEIHNACHTEN 1944" distributed at Christmas.



A cover sent from F.P.O. No. 68098A on Cos correctly bearing a Rhodes "Inselpost" stamp. This was cancelled "Feldpost b" at Rhodes on 11 February 1945. Probably flown to Vienna on 26 February on 7 March. Certificate.



A cover sent from F.P.O. No. 68097F on Cos unnecessarily bearing both a Rhodes "Inselpost" stamp and a "Weihnachten" stamp (Type I). These were cancelled "Feldpost b" at Rhodes on 16 February 1945. Flown to Vienna with the above letter. Certificate.



## October 1943 – May 1945

Letters from field post offices numbered 68097, 68098 and 68099 on Cos each had to bear a rationed "INSELPOST" stamp after November 1944. The largest printing (with a diagonal overprint) was made at Zagreb and came into use at Cos in January 1945. A local printing was made at Leros in February 1945 and was also used in Cos.



This envelope from F.P.O. No. 68097A on Cos bears a Leros "Inselpost" stamp which was cancelled in transit at Rhodes on 23 March 1945. The letter was probably flown to Vienna on 1 April 1945 but may not have reached its addressee.



This envelope from F.P.O. No. 68097F on Cos bears a Zagreb "Inselpost" stamp which was cancelled in transit at Rhodes on 26 March 1945. The letter was probably flown to Vienna on 1 April 1945 but may not have reached its addressee.

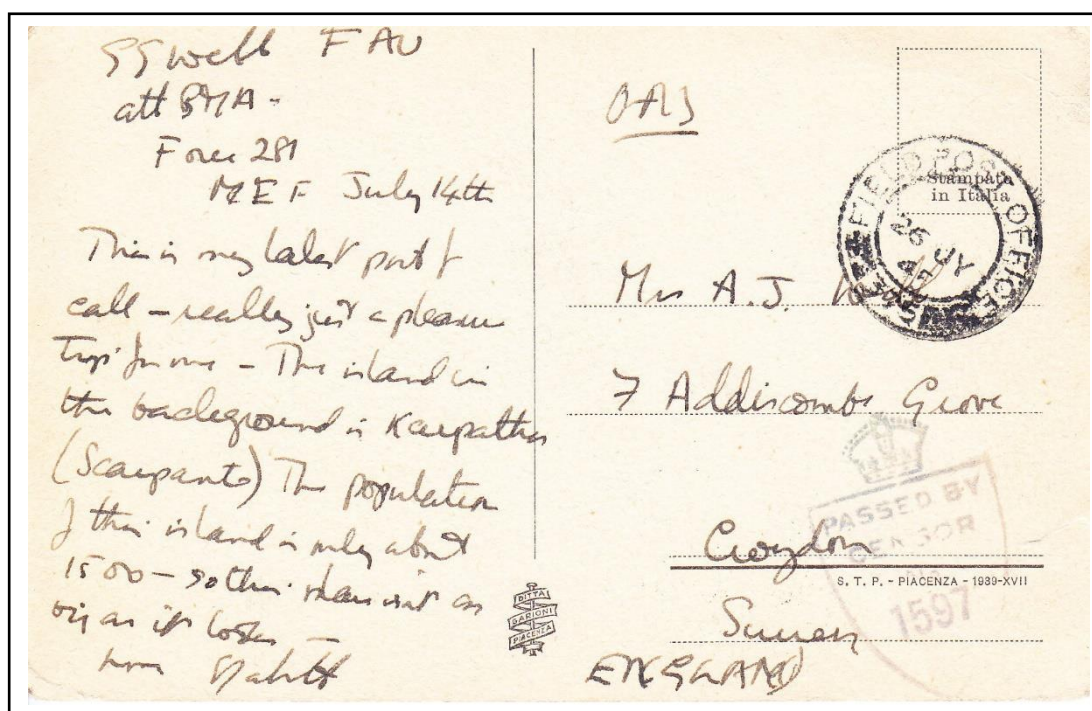


The Germans formally handed the Dodecanese Islands over to British forces on 8 May 1945. Although Cos was occupied by German forces until this date, they evacuated the smaller islands, including Nisiros, Carpathos and Casos, in Autumn 1944 and some of these were then occupied by British forces.

British Field Post Office No. 375 was opened in Rhodes in May 1945 to service the British forces in the Dodecanese, but the view-card below from July 1945 appears to be the earliest recorded item.



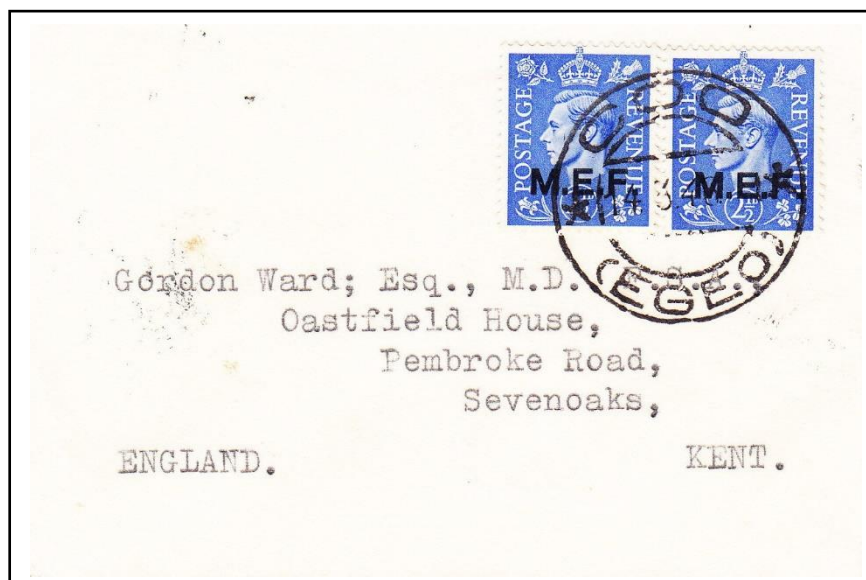
This view-card (copy) shows Ophrys (Italian "Ofri"), the main port on Casos, and the island of Carpathos in the background.



The message on the above postage-free view-card to the sender's wife in England is dated 14 July 1945. The sender does not name his location, but says "this is my latest port of call" and names the island in the background as Carpathos, to which the censor did not object. In transit through Rhodes, it received the date-stamp of Field Post Office No. 375 on 26 July 1945.



The British civilian post office at Cos was opened on 25 June 1945 and was provided with a supply of British stamps overprinted "M.E.F." for use by the Middle East Forces. It initially used the Italian date-stamps which were on hand.



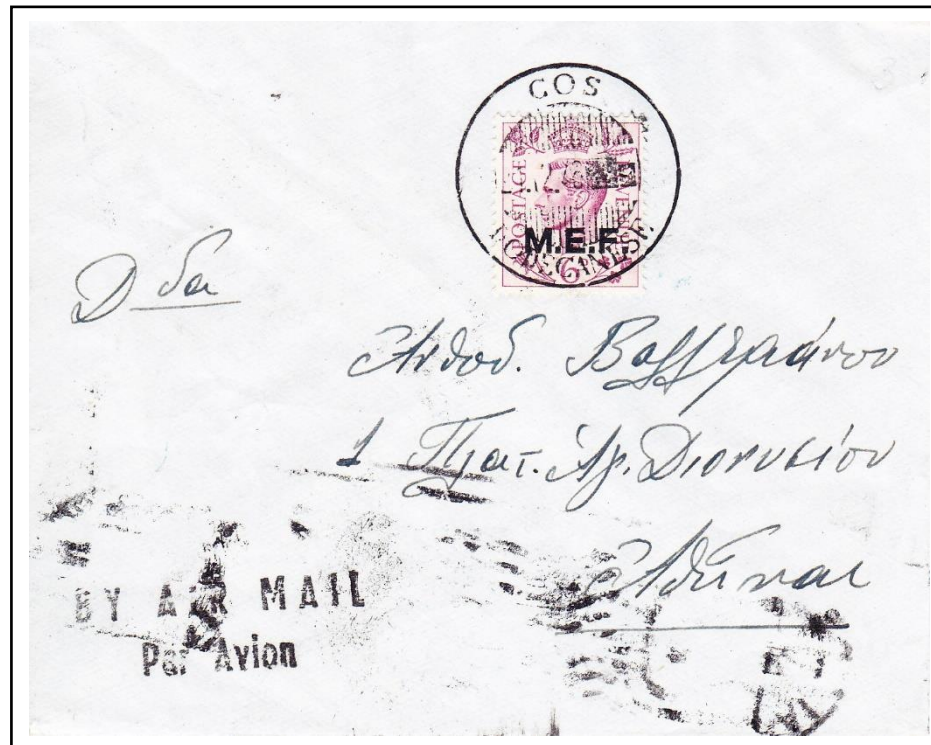
A philatelic cover to England franked at the UPU rate with a pair of 2½d "M.E.F." stamps cancelled with the Italian "COO \* (EGEO)" date-stamp on 14 March 1946; the envelope bears a transit back-stamp of Rhodes dated 18 March 1946.



An airmail cover to Athens franked at the international airmail rate with 1/- and 3d "M.E.F." stamps cancelled with the Italian "COO \* EGEO" date-stamp on 22 February 1946; it bears transit and arrival back-stamps of Rhodes and Athens dated 25 February and 4 March 1946.



A British date-stamp inscribed “COS DODECANESE” was manufactured by British Forces in Cairo by adapting an Italian Aegean date-stamp and was brought into use in mid-April 1946.

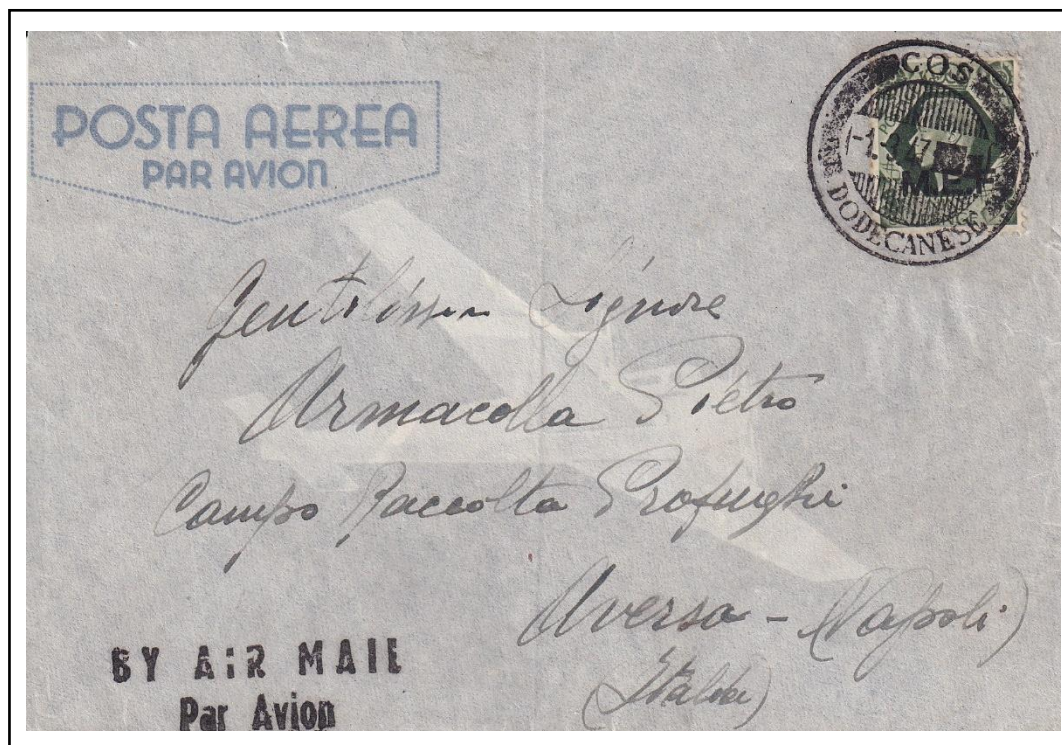


An airmail cover to Athens franked at the reduced airmail rate with a 6d “M.E.F.” stamp cancelled with the British Cos date-stamp on 21 December 1946; the envelope bears a transit back-stamp of Rhodes dated 26 December 1946.



A surface mail cover to England franked at the UPU rate with 1d and 2 x 2d “M.E.F.” stamps cancelled with the British Cos date-stamp on 9 December 1946; it bears transit back-stamps of Rhodes and Alexandria dated 12 and 28 December 1946.





A ½ oz airmail cover to Naples franked with a 9d “M.E.F.” stamp cancelled at Cos on 1 March 1947; the envelope bears a transit back-stamp of Rhodes dated 5 March 1947 and an arrival back-stamp of Aversa (date illegible).



A registered airmail cover to Rome franked with “M.E.F.” stamps to 9s 9d for 6½ oz plus 5d registration cancelled at Cos on 16 January 1947; it bears a transit back-stamp of Rhodes dated 18 January 1947.



A British postal agency operated by a local Elderman was opened at Mandraki on Nisiros on 25 June 1945. Mail was forwarded un-cancelled to the post office at Rhodes.

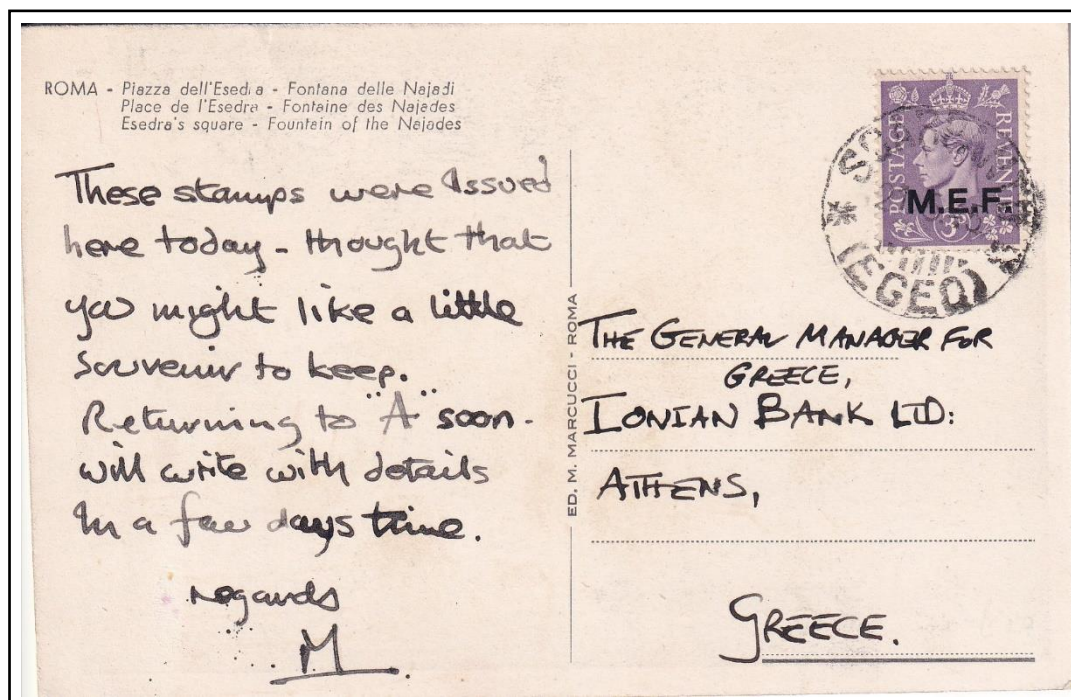


Two covers from Nisiros with their stamps cancelled at Rhodes with a former Italian date-stamp. Above: to New York franked at the airmail rate to USA of 1/- and cancelled on 27 May 1946. Below: to Rhodes franked at the inland rate of 2½d and cancelled on 14 March 1947. The backs of the envelopes show the sender's address resp. Municipality cachet and a Rhodes back-stamp.



**4b. British Military Administration – Post office at Pigadia on Carpathos      June 1945 – March 1947**

This British civilian post office was opened on 21 May 1945 and was supplied with “M.E.F.” overprinted stamps

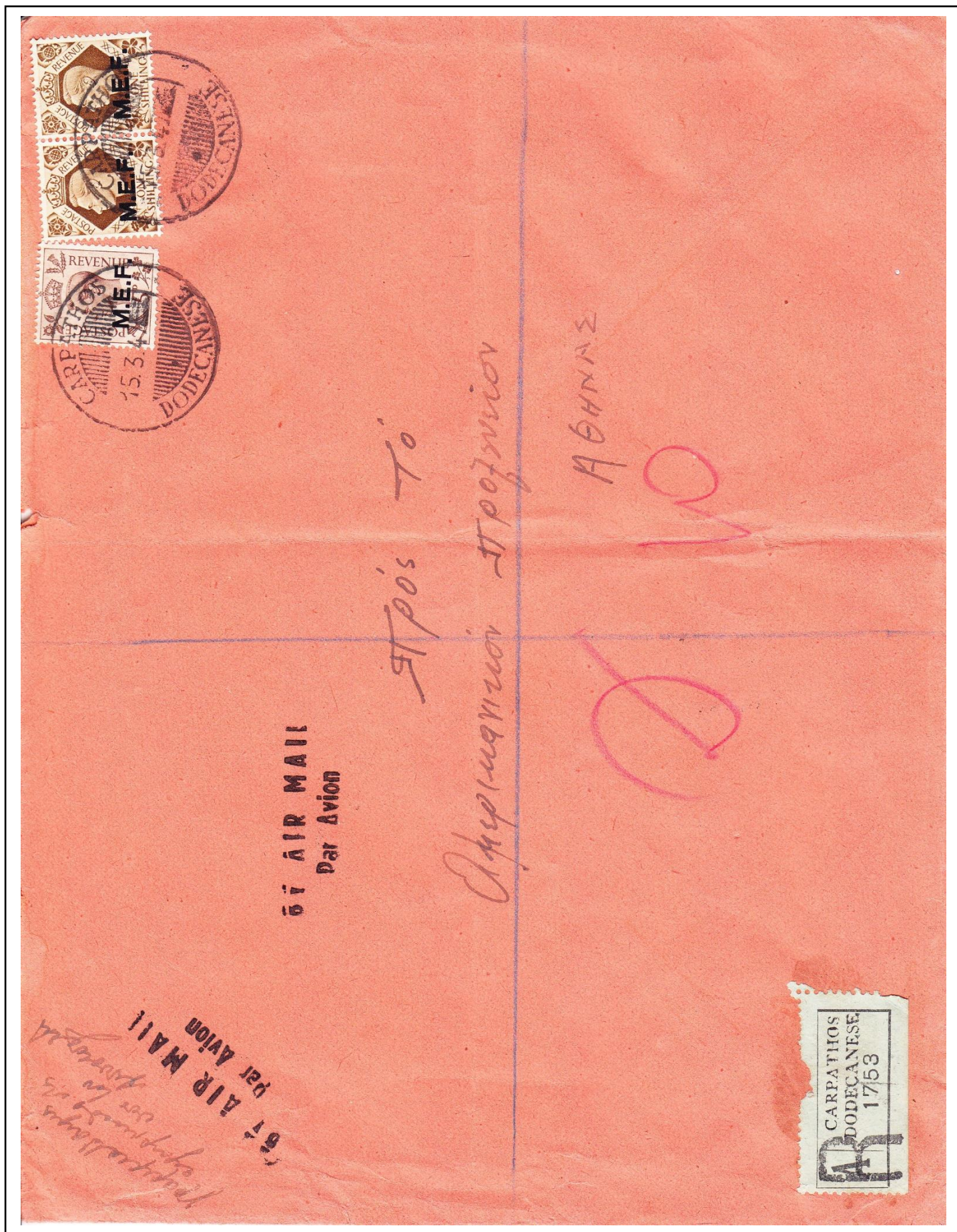


A post-card to Athens franked at the UPU post-card rate of 3d and cancelled with a former Italian date-stamp “SCARPANTO (EGEO)” on 21 May 1945, the opening date of the post-office.



A cover to Rhodes franked at the inland rate of 2½d and cancelled with a former Italian date-stamp “SCARPANTO (EGEO)” on 4 October 1945; with a Rhodes arrival back-stamp of 8 October 1945.





This heavy registered airmail letter sent to Athens was franked with 5d + 2 x 1/- "M.E.F." stamps on the front plus 2 x 3d + 2 x 1/- on the back for 9 x 6d for the 9th weight stage plus 5d registration. These stamps were cancelled with the British Carpathos date-stamp on 15 March 1947. The envelope bears a Rhodes transit and Athens arrival back-stamps of 17 and 24 March 1947.



The Mayor of Ophrys acted as the British postal agent on Casos and sent the mail uncanceled to the British post office at Pigadia on Carpathos



A surface mail cover to New York franked at the UPU rate of 5d and cancelled on 18 February 1947 with the British date-stamp inscribed "CARPATHOS DODECANESE" introduced mid-April 1946.



This copy from the back of the envelope shows it was sent from the Island of Casos and a Rhodes back-stamp 24 February 1947.



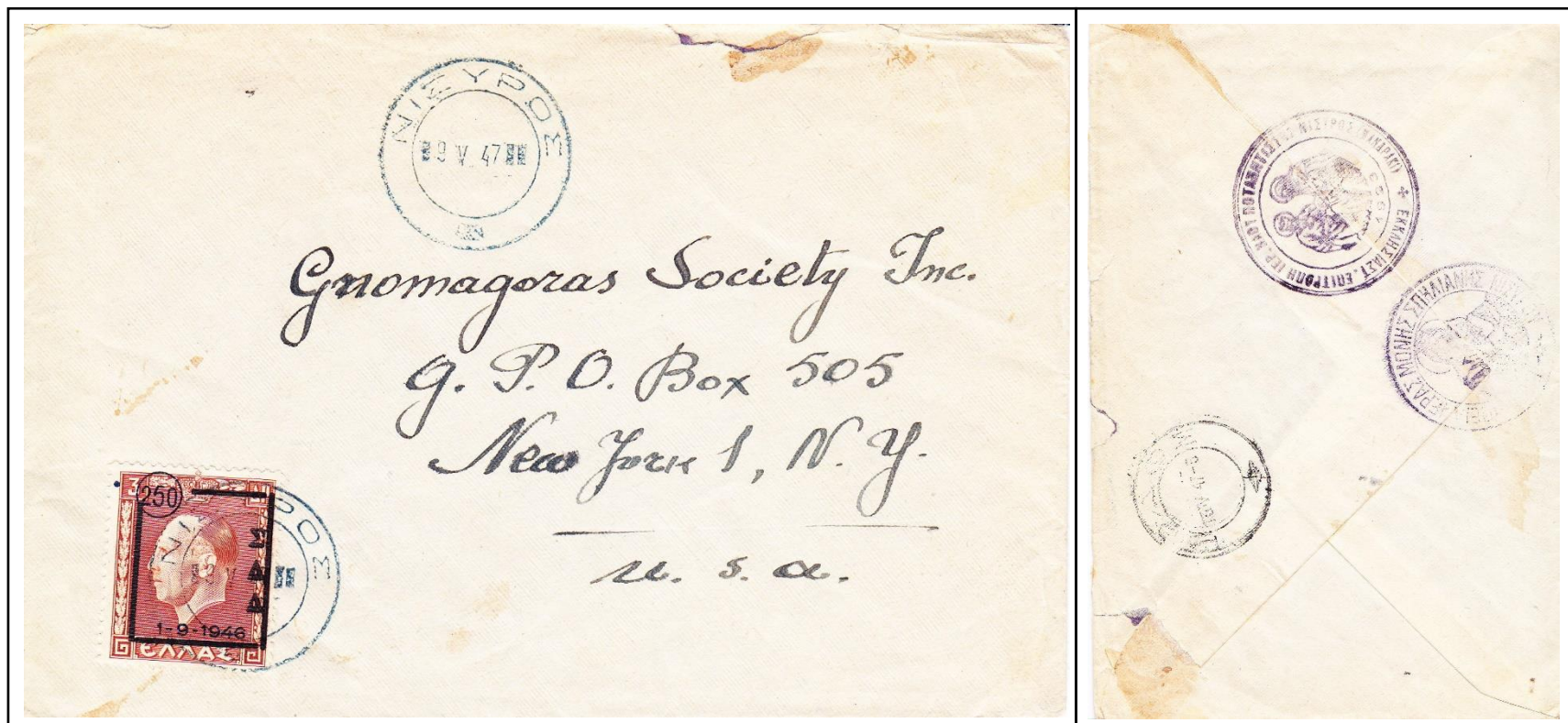
## 5. Greek Military Administration post offices at Cos and Nisiros

April 1947 – March 1948

As the Dodecanese Islands were not yet part of Greece, the Dr. 10 stamp of Greece was overprinted “S.D.D.” and introduced, together with the new Greek date-stamp, on 1 April 1947. A second overprint issue, comprising Dr. 50 and Dr. 250 stamps, was placed on sale on 20 April 1947.



A philatelic envelope sent from Cos to Rhodes on 11 April 1947 over-franked with four (instead of one) of the stamps overprinted in carmine “S.D.D.” (Military Administration Dodecanese) and “Dr. 10” (but sold at Dr. 100); with arrival back-stamp of 13 April.



An envelope sent from Nisiros to New York on 9 May 1947 correctly franked with a Dr. 250 stamp overprinted “S.D.D.” The reduced copy of part of the reverse shows cachets of the sender (a monastery) and a Rhodes transit back-stamp of 13 May.



Airmail letters sent to the USA in 1947 franked with stamps of the two "S.D.D." overprint issues of April 1947



An airmail cover sent to the USA franked with stamps of the second "S.D.D." issue to 400 Dr., which were cancelled at Carpathos (Pigadia) on 2 May 1947 with the standard Greek type date-stamp introduced on 1 April 1947. At this time, the published Greek UPU postage rate for 20 gr. was 600 Dr. and the airmail rate for 5g to the USA was 750 Dr.; there is an unexplained discrepancy between the franking of 100 Dr. and the Greek rate of 1'350 Dr. The envelope bears a Rhodes transit date-stamp of 10 May 1947.



This registered airmail cover was sent on 8 October 1947 from the village of Pigadia franked with 14 10 Dr. stamps of the first "S.D.D." issue (sold at 100 Dr. each), which gives a franking of 1'400 Dr. At this time, the published Greek UPU postage rate for 20 gr. was 600 Dr. and the airmail rate for 5g to the USA was 500 Dr., suggesting an over-franking of 300 Dr.; but the airmail rate was increased by 300 Dr. on 11 Nov. 1947. Did the postal official use this new rate? Rhodes transit back-stamp 9 October 1947.



## 5. Greek Military Administration post office at Carpathos

April 1947 – March 1948

A series of stamps anticipating the Union of the Dodecanese Islands with Greece on 7 March 1948 was issued by Greece in November 1947. These stamps were also valid in the Dodecanese from their date of issue although the Greek Military Administration continued until 31 March 1948.



This airmail cover was sent from the village of Aperi to Southern Rhodesia; franked with stamps of the Union issue to Dr. 1'500 which were cancelled at Carpathos on 17 February 1948. The published Greek franking would have been Dr. 1'000 postage, plus Dr. 700 airmail supplement, a total of Dr. 1'700. The envelope bears a Rhodes transit back-stamp of 21 February 1948.



This philatelic registered airmail printed matter was sent from the village of Othos to the same person as above, here franked with stamps of the Union issue to the value of Dr. 2'550 cancelled at Carpathos on 7 March 1948, the date of Union with Greece. The correct franking would have been Dr. 200 printed matter postage, plus Dr. 700 airmail supplement, plus Dr. 1'500 registration fee, a total of Dr. 2'400. The envelope bears Rhodes, Athens and Salisbury transit date-stamps of 19, 23 and 29 March 1948.