

# THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE GREEK DODECANESE ISLAND RHODES

From the 14th Century up to unification with Greece in 1948

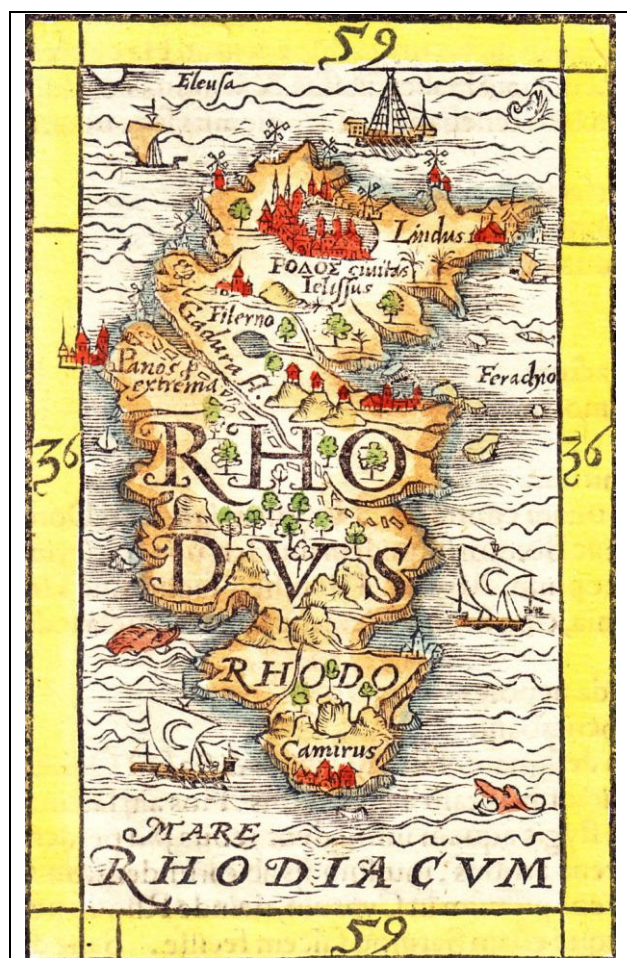
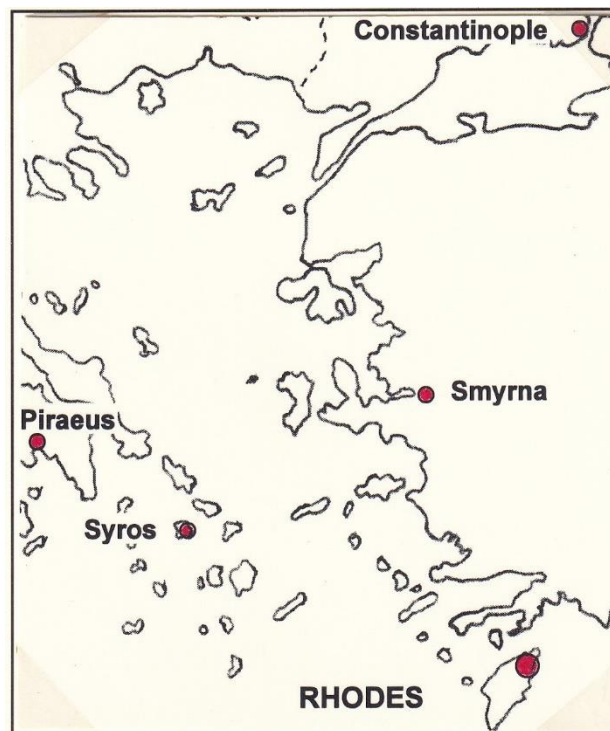
Rhodes was awarded to the Knights of St. John in 1309 and besieged by Sultan Suleiman in 1522. The capitulation terms permitted the Knights to depart and they later established themselves in Malta.

Rhodes belonged to the Ottoman Empire up to the Occupation of the Dodecanese by Italy in 1912. In 1923 the islands were awarded to Italy under the Treaty of Lausanne.

After German and British Military Occupations in 1943-47, the Dodecanese were united with Greece in 1948.

Right: The Aegean with important ports

Below: Rhodes map S. Münster ca. 1540



The exhibit is structured as follows:

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| A. Knights of St. John                        | 1309 – 1522     |
| B. Ottoman Empire                             | 1522 – 1912     |
| 1. Ship letters and forwarded letters         | 1819 – 1912     |
| 2. Austrian Lloyd Agency and Post Office      | 1838 – 1912     |
| 3. French Post Office                         | 1852 – 1912     |
| 4. Russian Steamship Co. Agency               | 1860 – 1912     |
| 5. Egyptian Khedival Shipping Agency          | 1870 – 1881     |
| 6. Turkish Post Office                        | 1868 – 1912     |
| C. Italian Occupation / Possession from 1923  | 1912 – 1945     |
| 1. Italian Military Post Office in Rhodes     | 1912 – 1913     |
| 2. Italian Civil Post Office in Rhodes        | 1912 – 1923     |
| 3. a. Austrian and b. French Post Offices     | 1912 – 1924     |
| 4. a. Italian Milit. Post b. Foreign Warships | 1919 – 1921     |
| 5. Ship letters                               | 1923 – 1943     |
| 6. Italian Postal Agencies                    | 1912 – 1945     |
| 7. Airmail Routes                             | 1930 – 1943     |
| 8. Italian Military Post Offices              | 1940 – 1943     |
| 9. Italian Post Offices under German Occ.     | 1943 – 1945     |
| 10. German Military Post Office               | 1943 – 1945     |
| D. British Military Administration            | 1945 – 1947     |
| E. Greek Military Administration              | 1947 – 1948     |
| F. Kingdom of Greece                          | from March 1948 |

The literature used is very extensive. Particularly important publications are those of Salles, Tchilingirian and Nicolas / Galinos.

Letters from the time of Grand-Master Juan Fernandez de Heredia 1377 - 1396

Al honorable esingulayssimo  
amigo totho reyo penador  
del Senyor castellan de am  
posta

Reu Senyor en xpo poder como amny deslelo de fazer cosas q sean honro y es nyo de  
vra merca me atyno pedre le de gra quera por amor nyo receyr en su cast  
afey como catrezo sobyno y cyado nyo este poco tpo estare aqui / q espero sera breue  
por q le ha seguido cierto cast q por algun tpo no es bien por muchos respectos este  
a qm es estado el cast q comete alor sobenes y harn alas vezes alor viegos y  
sabros segmit el mas largo dno dno merca / sea le freno y castigo para qnadar  
se en tpo esdeneyda de caer en otros eiores / he por q se la vnt de vta merca  
elo mor q me tiene no le quera mas en catreze este negocio / solo ledigo q le  
nado el comera toman en cast de vta merca todo lo qo q abia neas dno nyo  
penador / ele dno / mro senyor la vida y estado de vta merca acciente por  
l nengos tpos / de todos a t d m j de nobiembre del anyo de lxxviii  
alogo m. maderestio m  
castellan de amposta

Two entire letters written in Catalan and signed in the name of the Castellan of Amposta, both datelined Rhodes 29 November '89. The style of the writing indicates that these letters are from 1389 rather than 1489. The Castellany of Amposta (a town ca. 180 km SW of Barcelona) was the Administrative Division of the Order of St. John which was responsible for Aragon. Juan Fernandez de Heredia, who was the Grand-Master of the Order from 1377 to 1396, had been the Castellan of Amposta from 1346 to 1377. These letters were sent in 1389, during the period of office of Martin de Lihori as Castellan of Amposta (1379 to 1392), but they bear his title and not his own name. They are sealed with a paper strip, which had to be cut to open the letter.

Both letters apparently relate to an individual being sent back to Aragon in disgrace. The one above (folded and the address shown) is addressed to an official (prison governor?) in Amposta and that below (opened to show the text of the letter) is addressed to the Bishop of Vich (70km north of Barcelona), asking him to provide support for the individual's family.



Nobily et sapient domino  
Emmanuel del pino del

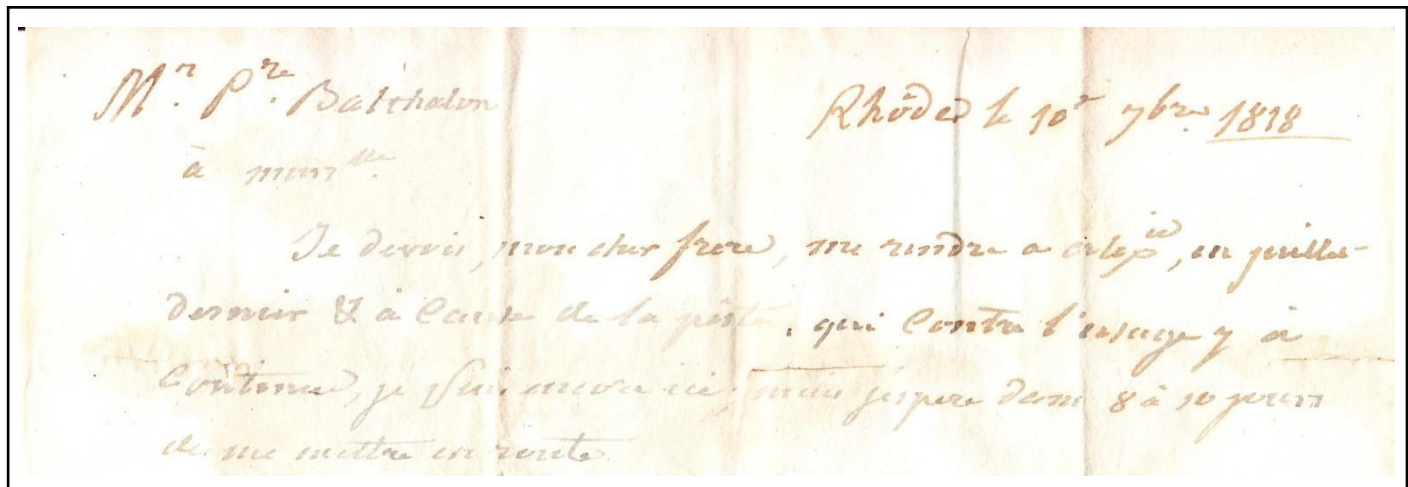
Il 14. 12. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846

Below: The text of the letter showing the Rhodes dateline at the top.

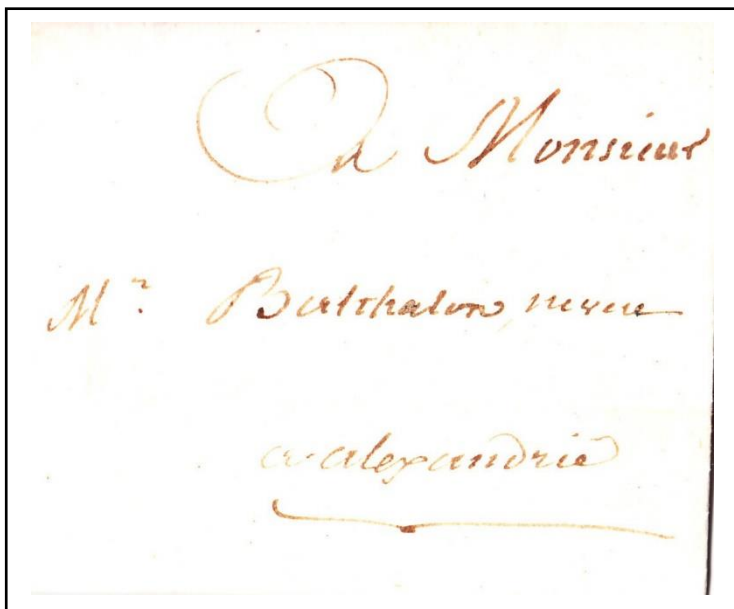
## B. Ottoman Empire

### 1. Ship letters before the opening of postal agencies

Letters sent privately by ship from Rhodes to Marseilles and Alexandria in 1818-19



The heading of a letter written by Mr. Batchalon Cadet at Rhodes on 10 September 1818 and addressed to his son, Pierre Batchalon, at Marseilles. The letter bears no postal markings or indication of routing but has a note of receipt on 27 September. It was slit for disinfection, probably at Marseilles, and bears vinegar stains.



Left: A letter from the same correspondence dated 15 January 1819 and sent to Alexandria. It has a note of receipt on 20 January but no postal markings or indication of routing.

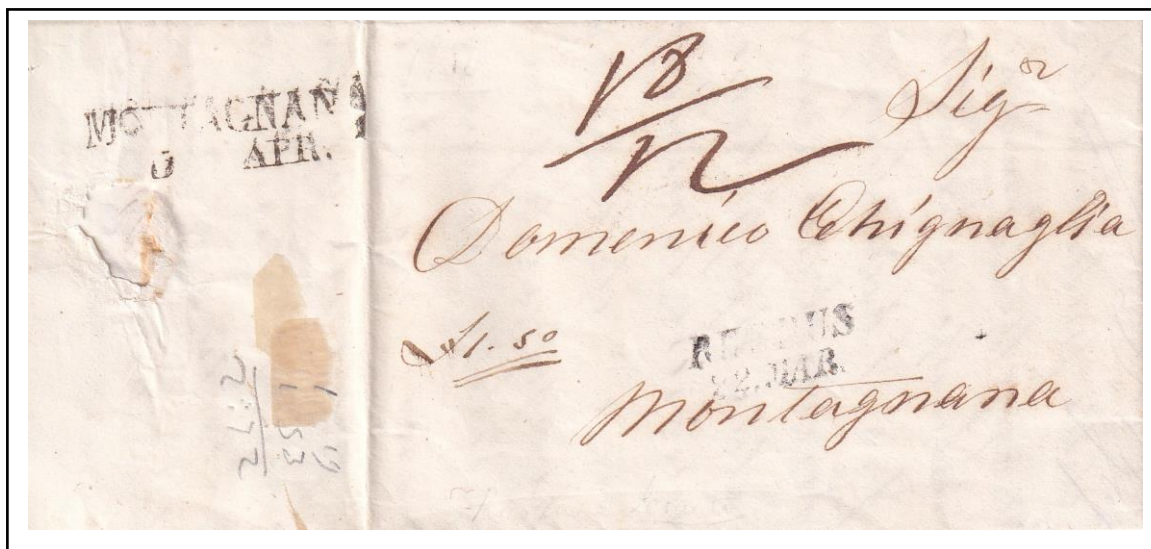
Right: A further letter from this correspondence, here dated 18 July 1819 and addressed to Marseilles. Also slit and stained from disinfection. Without indication of the routing but bearing the French postal entry mark "COLONIES PAR / MARSEILLE" (recorded on mail from the Mediterranean 1815-27) and a figure "2" indicating 2 décimes payable on delivery. The letter bears the addressee's note of receipt on 10 September 1819.



## B. Ottoman Empire

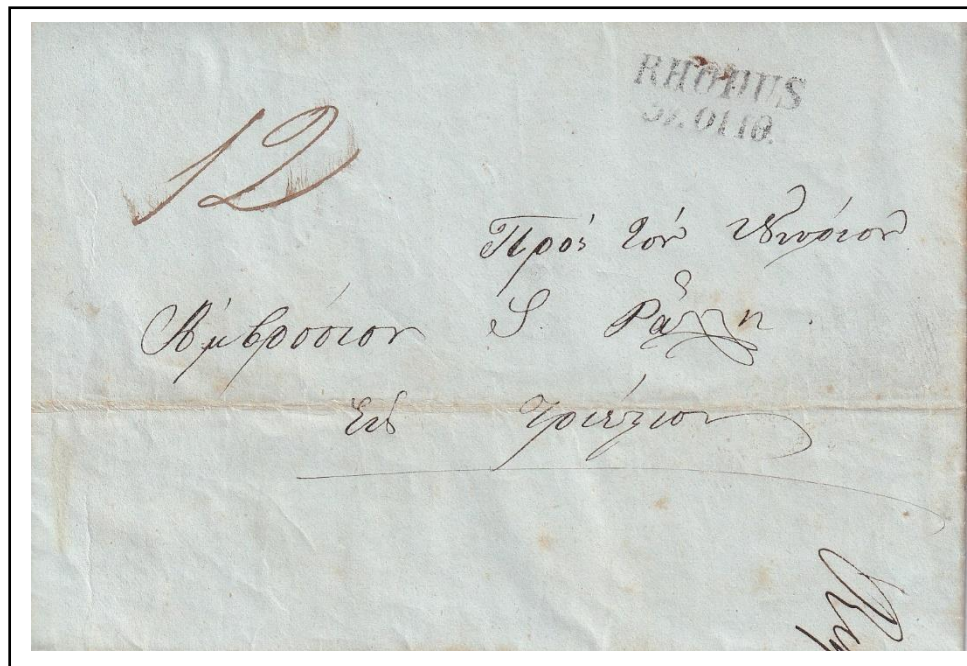
### 2. Austrian Lloyd agency and p.o. at Rhodes 1838 - 1912

An agency of the Austrian Lloyd was opened at Rhodes ca. 1838 as an intermediate port of call and coaling station on the Syros to Larnaca route. This office operated the Austrian postal agency (later post office) from ca. 1845 after the inauguration of the Syrian Coast Line from Trieste to Alexandria.

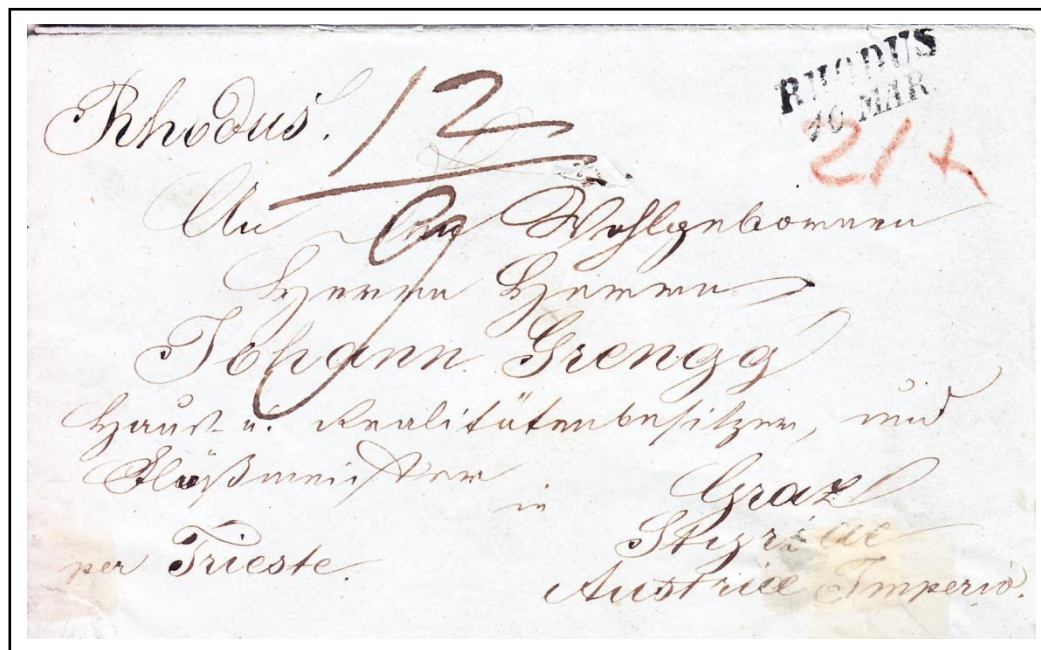


An unpaid letter to Veneto dated Rhodes 22 March 1850; two-line Austrian Postal Agency marking "RHODUS / 22. MAR." (recorded 1845-75); Levant postage to Trieste 18 kreuzer CM (rate for ½ loth to 31.5.1850) plus Austrian inland postage 12 kr. marked "18/12" and "£1.50" (1 Lira 50 = 30 kr.) paid by the addressee; Montagnana arrival 3 April.

Rate to Trieste 12 kreuzer CM per loth (ca. 17g) from June 1850 to 1858



A letter written at Symi on 29 October 1851 carried privately to the Austrian Post Office at Rhodes and sent unpaid to Trieste; bearing the two-line marking "RHODUS / 29. OTTO." in black; Levant postage to Trieste 12 soldi payable by the addressee and marked ms. "12"; Trieste arrival back-stamp dated 9 November.



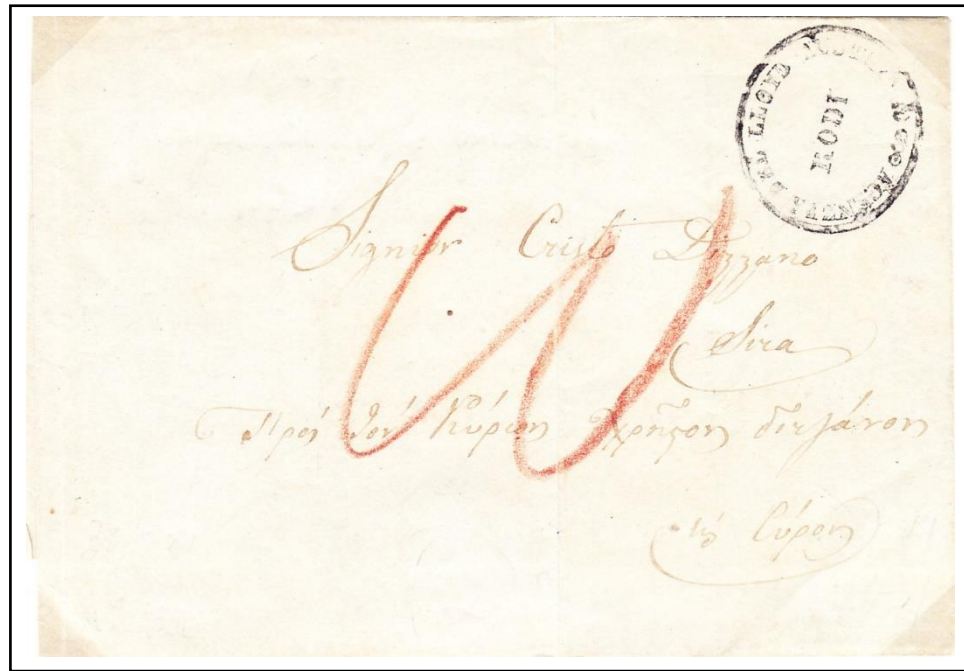
A letter written on board the Lloyd steamer "Fiume" on 1 March 1856 which was handed in to the post office on arrival at Rhodes and marked "RHODUS / 10. MAR.", then sent unpaid to Graz; Levant postage to Trieste 12 kr plus Austrian inland postage 9 kr. marked ms. "12/9" and the total of 21 kr. to be collected from the addressee marked ms. "21x" in red (x = abbreviation for kreuzer); Graz arrival back-stamp dated 26 March.



## B. Ottoman Empire

### 2. Austrian Lloyd agency and p.o. at Rhodes 1838 - 1912

Port-to-port rate to Greece 10 kreuzer CM for ½ loth (ca. 8.5g) from 1842 to 1858



An entire written at Rhodes on 17 December 1853 and sent to Syros from the Lloyd Agency with the sea carriage paid but not marked; bearing the oval Lloyd Agency marking in black (recorded 1844-66); the Greek postage payable by the addressee marked ms. "10" in red (10 lepta for up to 7.5g); Syros arrival back-stamp dated 24 December 1853.



An entire written at Rhodes on 9 June 1854 and sent to Syros as above also bearing the oval Lloyd Agency marking in black; the Greek postage payable by the addressee marked ms. "15" in red (7.5g to 15g = 1½ x 10 lepta); Syros arrival back-stamp dated 10 June (1854).

## B. Ottoman Empire

## 2. Austrian Lloyd agency and p.o. at Rhodes 1838 - 1912

Rate to Trieste 20 soldi (= 20 new kreuzer) for 1 loth (ca. 17g) prepaid from 1858 to 1866



An entire to Trieste datelined Symi 2/14 May 1865 (see copy) carried privately to Rhodes and sent from the Austrian P.O. there on 17 May 1865 and prepaid 20 soldi (= 20 new kr. Levant rate 1858-65) with 5 plus 15 soldi stamps (1864 issue); cancelled "RHODUS / 17. Mai"; the Trieste arrival back-stamp is dated 26 May (1865). Expertise.



An entire written at Rhodes on 7 August 1866 and sent from the Lloyd Agency with the postage of 20 soldi paid and marked on the reverse in red; bearing the oval Lloyd Agency marking plus a "FRANCA" marking in blue; Trieste arrival back-stamp dated 17 August 1866. Very unusual use of the oval marking on mail to Trieste.



Port-to-port rate to Greece 10 soldi for 1 loth (ca. 17g) from 1858 to 1866



An entire written at Rhodes on 8 July 1858 and sent to Patras from the Lloyd Agency with the sea carriage of 10 soldi paid; bearing the oval Lloyd marking in black (recorded 1844-66); the Greek postage payable by the addressee was marked ms. "20" in red (20 lepta for 15g from Oct. 1861) and collected in cash (Greek stamps were issued first in October 1861); Patras arrival back-stamp dated 23 July 1858.



An entire written at Rhodes on 27 February 1862 and sent to Syros from the Austrian Postal Agency with the sea carriage of 10 soldi paid and marked on the reverse in red; the letter is also marked "FRANCA" and crossed to indicate prepayment; bearing the two-line marking "RHODUS / 4. GIUG." in blue (recorded 1844-75); the Greek postage payable by the addressee marked ms. "20" in red (20 lepta for 15g from Oct. 1861) collected using a Greek 20 lepta stamp (1861 Paris print) incorrectly cancelled with the "67" obliterator of Syros rather than the date-stamp; Syros arrival back-stamp dated 4 March 1862.

## 2. Austrian Lloyd agency and p.o. at Rhodes 1838 - 1912

To  
The Ottoman Bank  
at  
Constantinople  
France

+ 78 Hana puleto Egelila Segolilale & Purovunua  
Hakipia K., Kipipipi Kipio Tugapipi W.S., v. Mavota  
zaga Dura.

Corfali

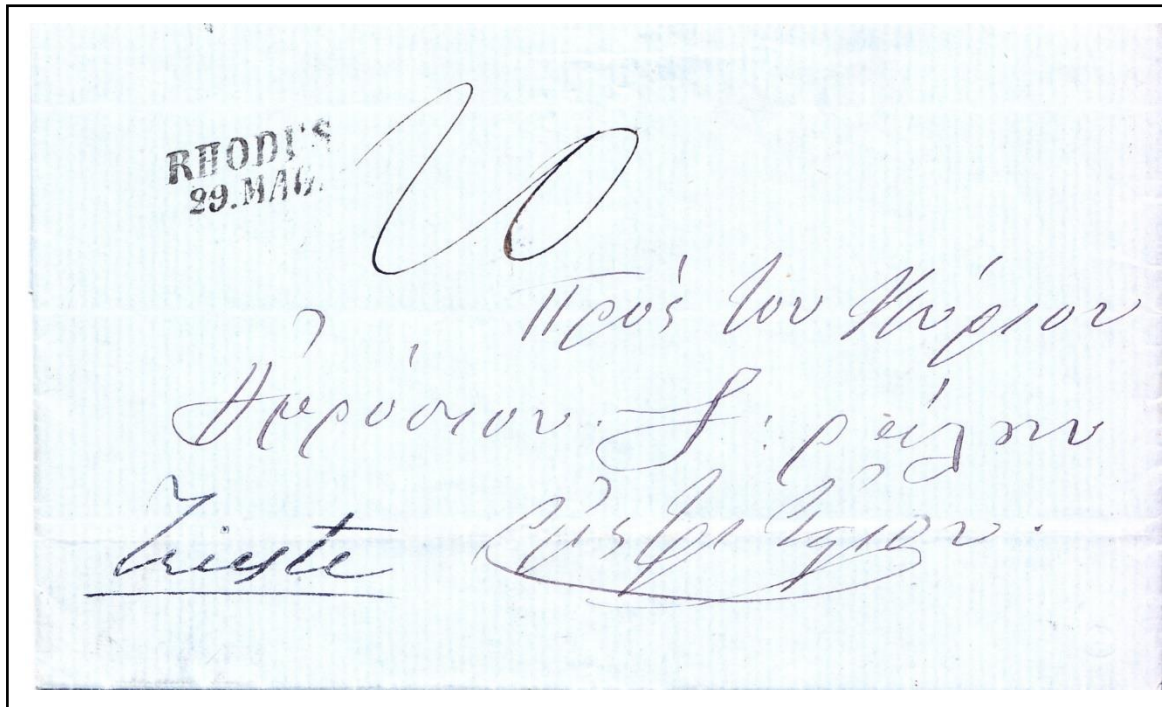
An undated wrapper to a prelate of the Greek Orthodox Church in Constantinople sent from the Austrian Postal Agency franked with a 15s stamp (1864 issue) cancelled with the two-line marking "*RHODUS / 16. OTTO.*"; transit and arrival back-stamps of the Austrian Lloyd Agencies at Smyrna and Constantinople dated 17 and 21 October.



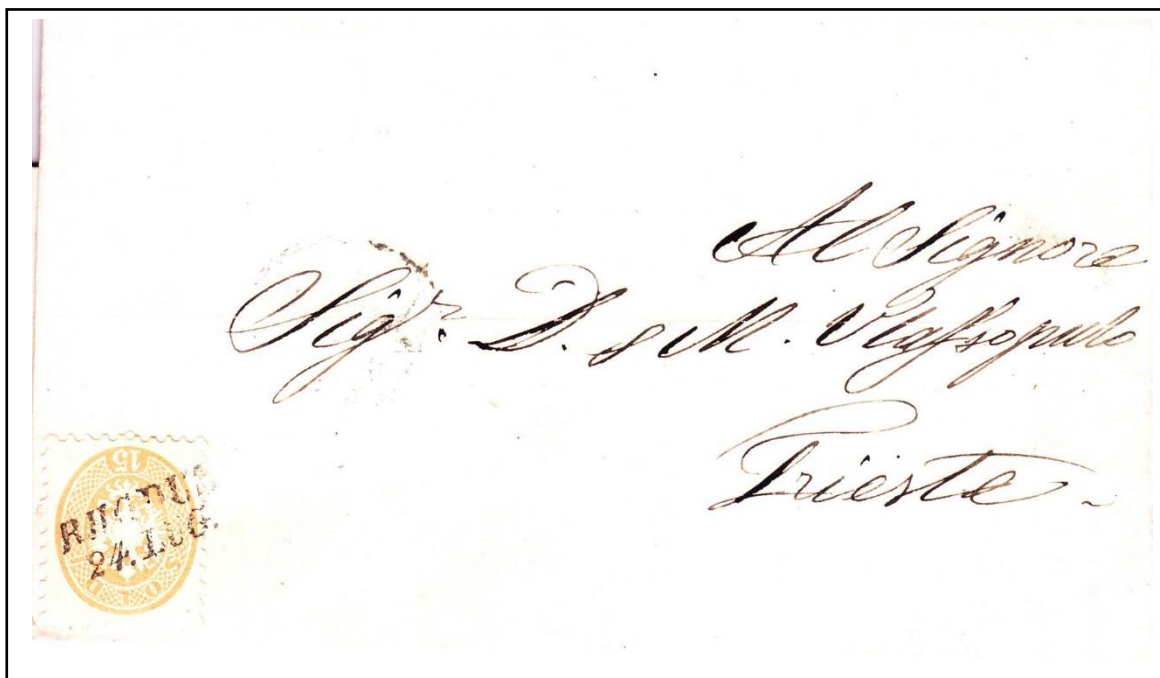
**B. Ottoman Empire**

**2. Austrian Lloyd agency and p.o. at Rhodes 1838 - 1912**

Rate to Trieste 20 soldi for 1 loth unpaid / 15 soldi prepaid with stamps of the 1864 issue (1866-75)



An entire written at Symi on 3/15 May 1868 and carried privately to Rhodes; sent unpaid to Trieste from the Austrian Postal Agency and bearing the two-line marking "RHODUS / 29. MAG."; the postage due for this unpaid letter was marked in black ink; Trieste arrival back-stamp dated 5 June.



An entire written at Symi on 10 July 1867 and carried privately to Rhodes; sent prepaid to Trieste from the Austrian Postal Agency franked with a 15s stamp of the 1864 issue cancelled with the two-line marking "RHODUS / 24. LUG."; Trieste arrival back-stamp dated 1 August.

## B. Ottoman Empire

## 2. Austrian Lloyd agency and p.o. at Rhodes 1838 - 1912

Rate to Trieste 20 soldi (= 20 new kreuzer) for 1 loth (ca. 17g) prepaid from 1858 to 1866



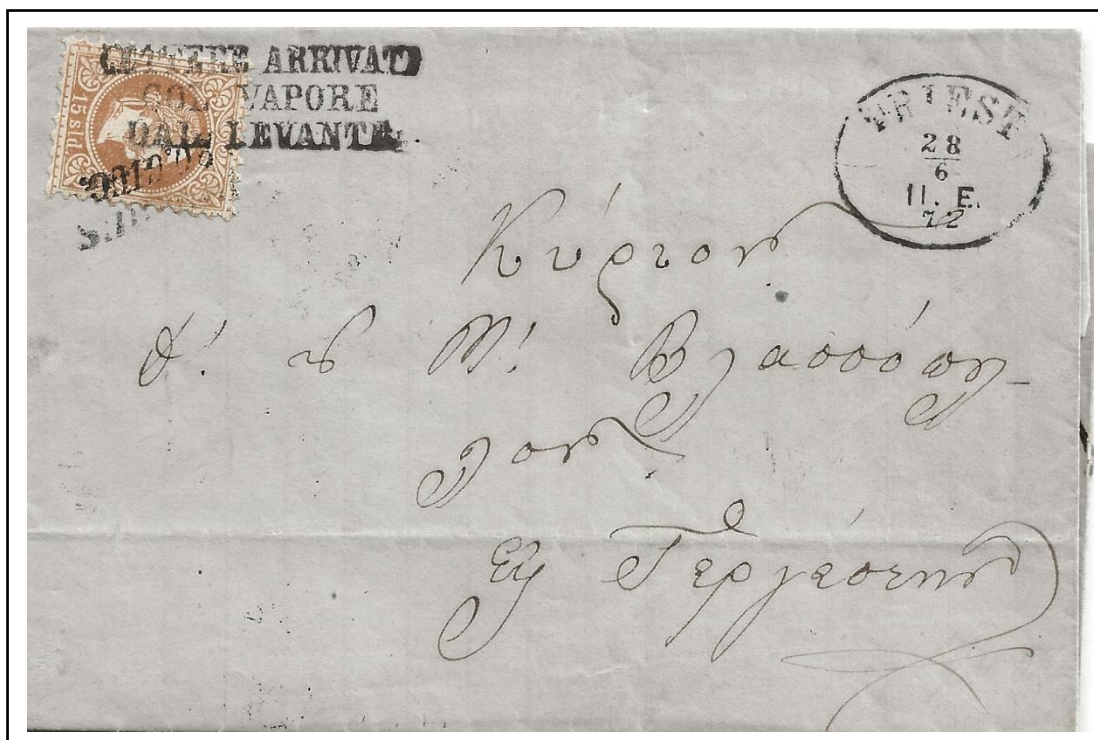
An entire written at Rhodes on 7 September 1873 sent prepaid to Trieste from the Austrian Postal Agency franked with a 15s stamp (1867 issue); cancelled with the two-line marking "RHODUS / 11. SETT."; transit back-stamp of the Lloyd Agency at Smyrna dated 13 September; Trieste arrival back-stamp dated 19 September 1873. Expertise.



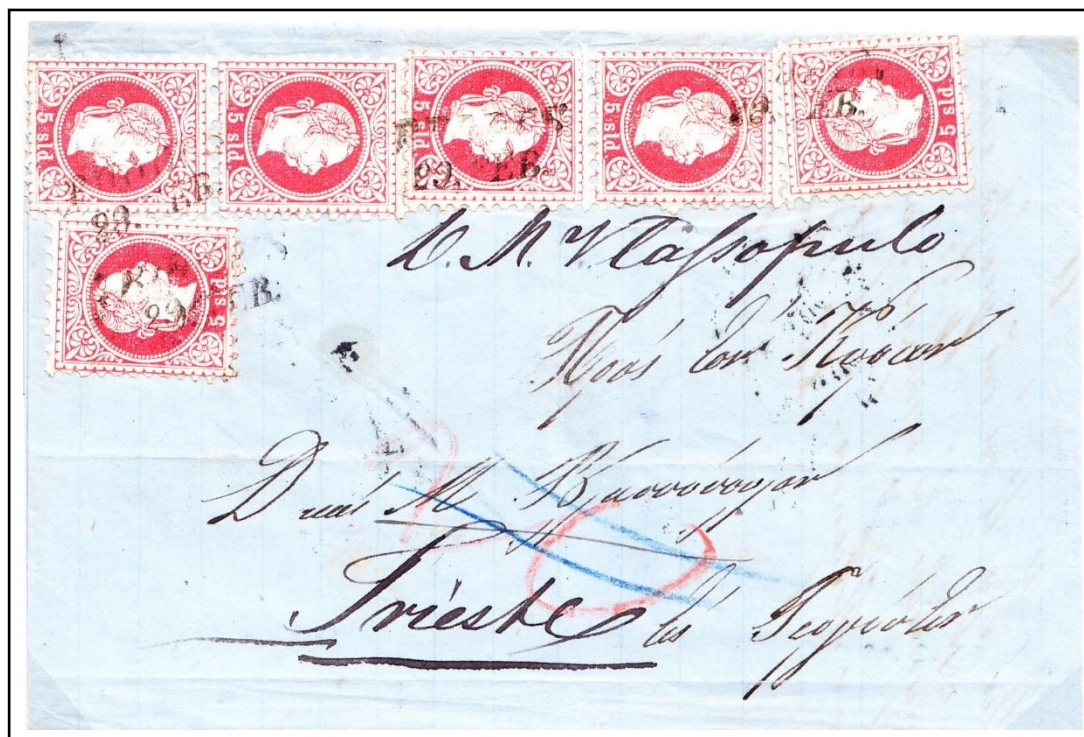
An entire to England datelined Symi 25 October / 6 November 1871 carried privately to Rhodes and sent from the Austrian P.O. prepaid at 40 soldi (= 15s Levant rate 1866-75 plus 25s to England per the tariff of 1866, this should have been 13s as from 1 July 1870) with stamps of the 1867 issue; cancelled "RHODUS / 9 NOV." and marked "P.D." (Paid to Destination); Trieste back-stamp 17 November and marked "W.F.8" = Weiter Franco (onward franking) 8 kr.



Rate to Trieste 15 soldi for 1 loth (1866-75) prepaid with stamps of 1867 issue



An entire written at Rhodes on 7 June 1872 sent prepaid to Trieste from the Austrian Postal Agency franked with a 15s stamp (1867 issue); cancelled with the two-line marking "RHODUS / 20. GUIG."; transit back-stamp of the Lloyd Agency at Smyrna dated 24 June; Trieste arrival back-stamp dated 28 June 1872. As the stamp was only partially cancelled with the Rhodes marking, it was additionally cancelled in Trieste with the Levant Steamers arrival mark.



An entire, originally with an enclosure and weighing over one loth, written at Rhodes on 28 February 1872 sent prepaid to Trieste franked with six 5s stamps of the 1867 Lombardy Venetia issue; cancelled with the two-line marking "RHODUS / 29. FEB."; transit back-stamp of the Lloyd Agency at Smyrna dated 1 March; sent in error to Syros, where 20 lepta postage due was marked and deleted, receiving a back-stamp of 20 February (= 3 March); forwarded to Argostolion and then to Corfu, receiving transit back-stamps of 23 February (= 6 March) and 1 March (= 13 March); Trieste arrival back-stamp dated 18 March (1872).

## 2. Austrian Lloyd agency and p.o. at Rhodes 1838 - 1912

Al. Sign. P. Giacopulo  
Patrasso / Grecia /

10 sld

Προς τὸν Κύριον  
H. S. Γεωργίου.  
ἐν Πάτρᾳ.

  
  
 Απὸς τοῦ Κόπλου  
 Queen Mary  
 Dring 3 Mar  
 C. S. P. O.

Contrary to incoming letters from Austrian P.O.s in the Levant, letters from Greece could be fully prepaid at 40 lepta as from 6 May 1868. This entire from Syros to Rhodes was franked with a 40 lepta stamp (1872/75 issue) cancelled with the “Syra” date-stamp on 7/19 August 1874; marked “P.D.” (= paid to destination); transit back-stamp of the Lloyd Agency in Smyrna dated 20 August 1874; with the two-line marking “RHODUS / 24. AGO.” as an arrival back-stamp.



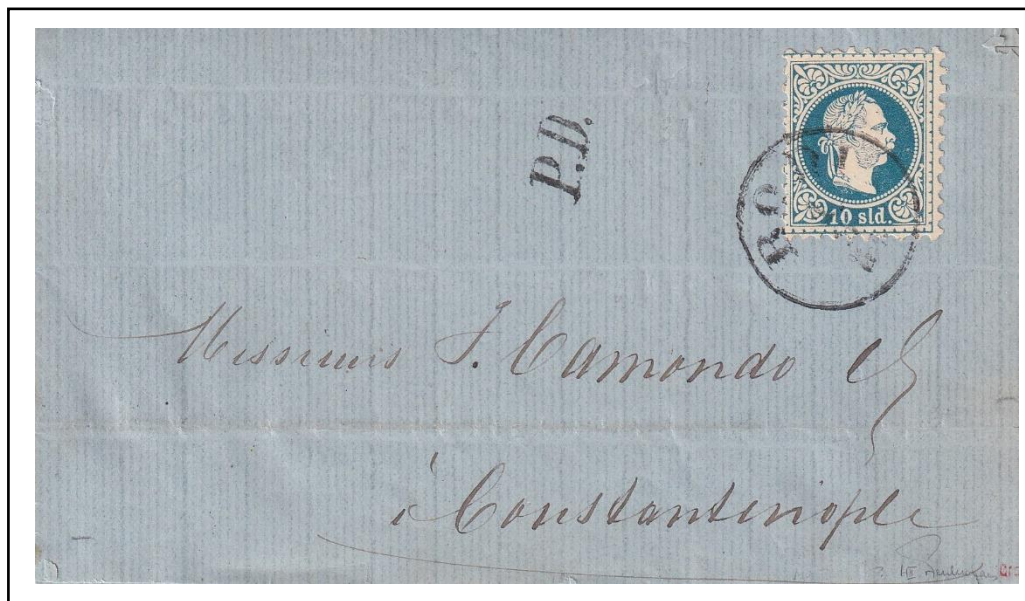
## B. Ottoman Empire

## 2. Austrian Lloyd agency and p.o. at Rhodes 1838 - 1912

UPU rates from 1 July 1875 and “soldi” stamps used with new “RODI” date-stamp 1875-84



An entire written at Symi on 2 April 1877 and addressed to Trieste; sent to Rhodes (oval forwarder's back-stamp) an incorrectly franked with an **Austrian 10 kreuzer** stamp (1867 issue) instead of a 10 soldi stamp; cancelled with the "RODI" date-stamp on 5 April 1877 and marked "P.D." (= paid to destination); Trieste arrival back-stamp of 13 April 1877. The invalid franking was noted and marked in blue "Marca in legale" ("stamp illegal") with "20" soldi postage due.

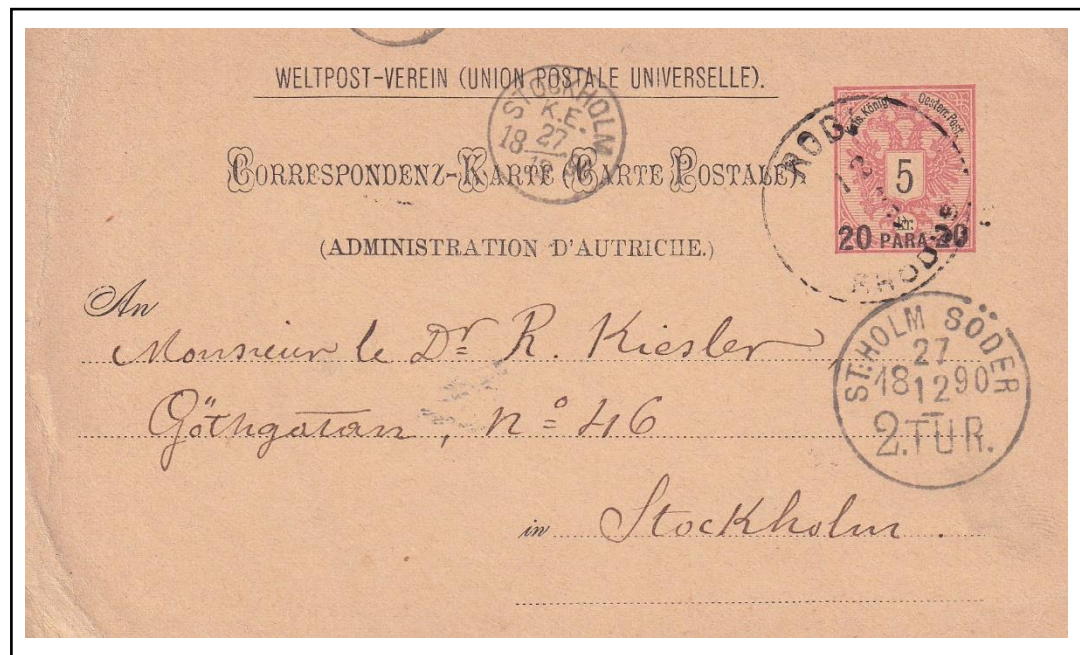


An entire addressed to Constantinople franked with a 10 soldi stamp (1875 issue) and cancelled with the "RODI" date-stamp on 1 September 1881; marked "P.D." (= paid to destination); transit back-stamp of the Lloyd Agency at Smyrna dated 3 September 1881 and arrival back-stamp of the Lloyd Agency at Constantinople dated 5 September 1881.

## B. Ottoman Empire

## 2. Austrian Lloyd agency and p.o. at Rhodes 1838 - 1912

Stamps in Turkish currency issued in 1888 used with "RODI RHODUS" date-stamp (1884-93)



A 20 para on 5kr Austrian post card (1888 issue for the Levant) addressed to Sweden and cancelled with the "RODI RHODUS" date-stamp on 12 December 1890. Stockholm arrival date-stamp 27 December 1890.



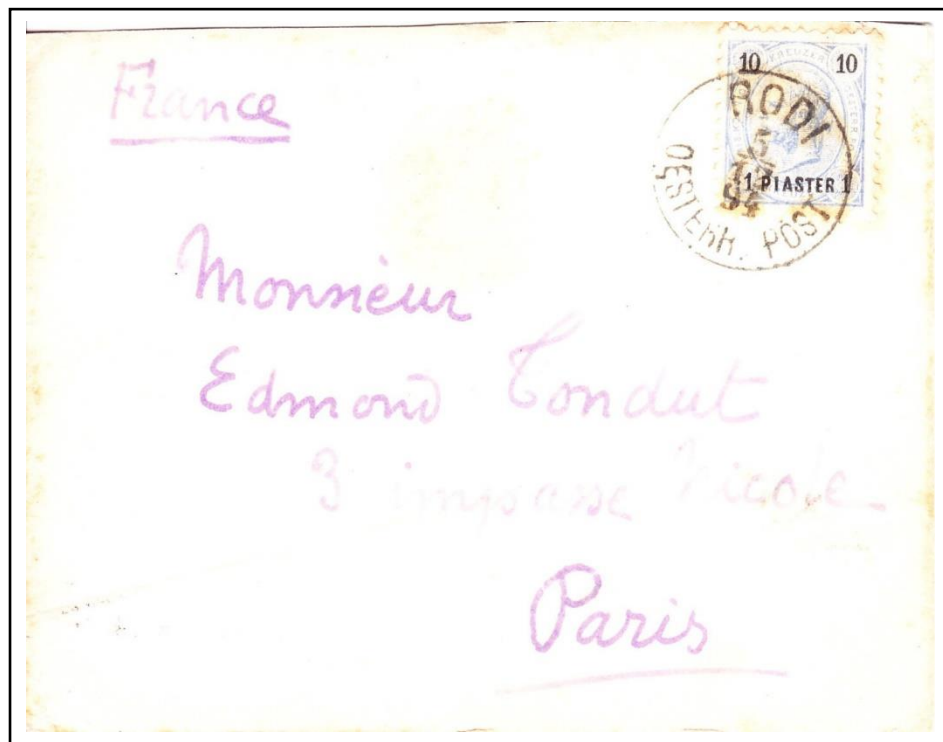
A letter to Germany correctly franked with a 1 pi. on 10kr. Austrian stamp (1888 issue for the Levant) cancelled with the "RODI RHODUS" date-stamp on 3 April 189?; with a Mainz delivery back-stamp of 9 April.



## B. Ottoman Empire

## 2. Austrian Lloyd agency and p.o. at Rhodes 1838 - 1912

Austrian Levant issues of 1890 and 1900 with single-circle "RODI OESTERR. POST" date stamp (1890-1905)



A letter to France correctly franked with a 1 piastre on 10 kreuzer stamp (1890 issue for the Levant) and cancelled with the "RODI OESTERR. POST" cds on 5 December 1894.



para on 10 heller post card (1900 issue for the Levant) addressed to Germany and cancelled with the above date-stamp on 29 December 1903; Berlin arrival back-stamp of ? January 1904.

## B. Ottoman Empire

## 2. Austrian Lloyd agency and p.o. at Rhodes 1838 - 1912

Mail with new double-circle date stamps with letters "a" and "b" introduced in 1900



A view-card sent registered to Germany franked as a letter with a 2 pi. stamp (1908 Levant issue); cancelled "RHODUS ÖSTERR. POST b" on 9 December 1909; with Solin arrival date-stamp of 16 December 1909.

Rhodus österr. Post 91		L'Autriche	
Österreichische Postverwaltung.	Amministrazione delle Poste Austriache.	Räum zum Aufkleben der Marken	
LEVANTE.	C. P.	Wert.	Valeur.
Begleit-Adresse. — Bullettino di spedizione. — Bulletin d'expédition.			
Hierbei Annessen. Ci-joint.	Un pacco	Zahl der Zolldeklarationen. Numero delle dichiarazioni doganali. Nombre des déclarations en douane.	Due
Wertangabe. Valore dichiarato. Valeur assurée.	Zweimila cinquecento quattordici Frances		
An Al A	Sydias & Co		
Bestimmungsort. Luogo di destinazione. Lieu de destination.	Trieste (Austria)		
Strasse und Hausnummer. Via e numero.			
Gewicht. Peso. Poids.	kg 845 g		
Zoll. Tasse. Droits.			
Beförderungsweg. Avviamento. Acheminement.	Cospoli		
<p>*) Vom Eintritts-Auswechslungsamt des Bestimmungslandes auszufüllen. Da riempire dall' Ufficio di cambio d'entrata del paese di destinazione. Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange du pays de destination.</p>			

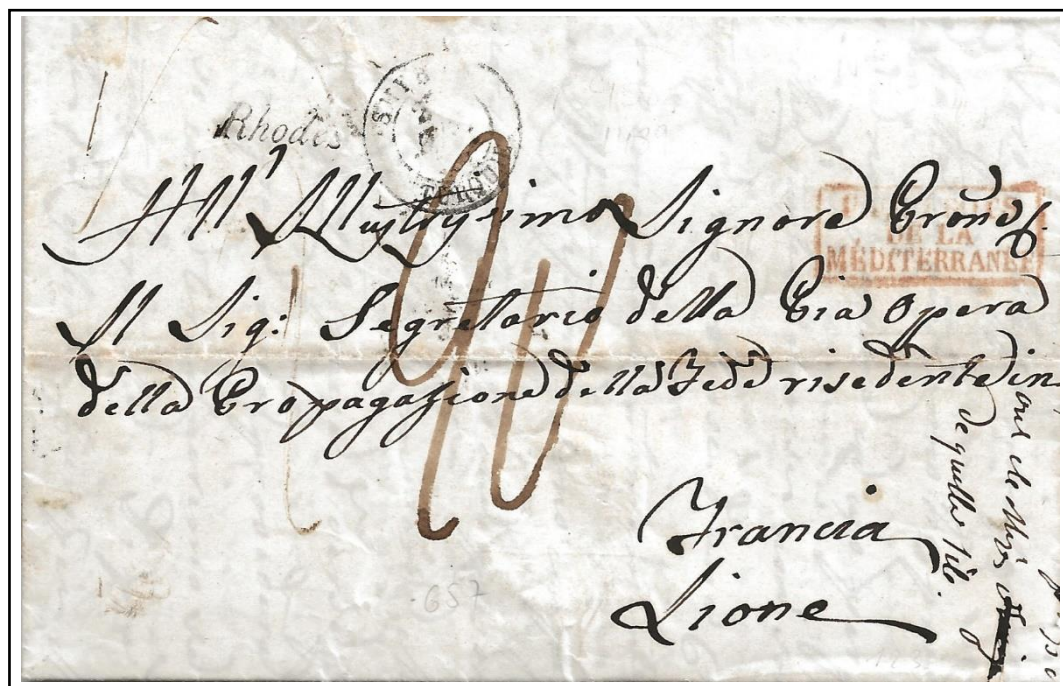
A parcel card for a packet of 845g sent to Trieste insured for Fr. 2,540; franked to the value of 12pi.10pa. (1901/05 issues); cancelled "RHODUS ÖSTERR. POST a" on 4 May 1907; with a receipt on the reverse dated 17 May 1907.



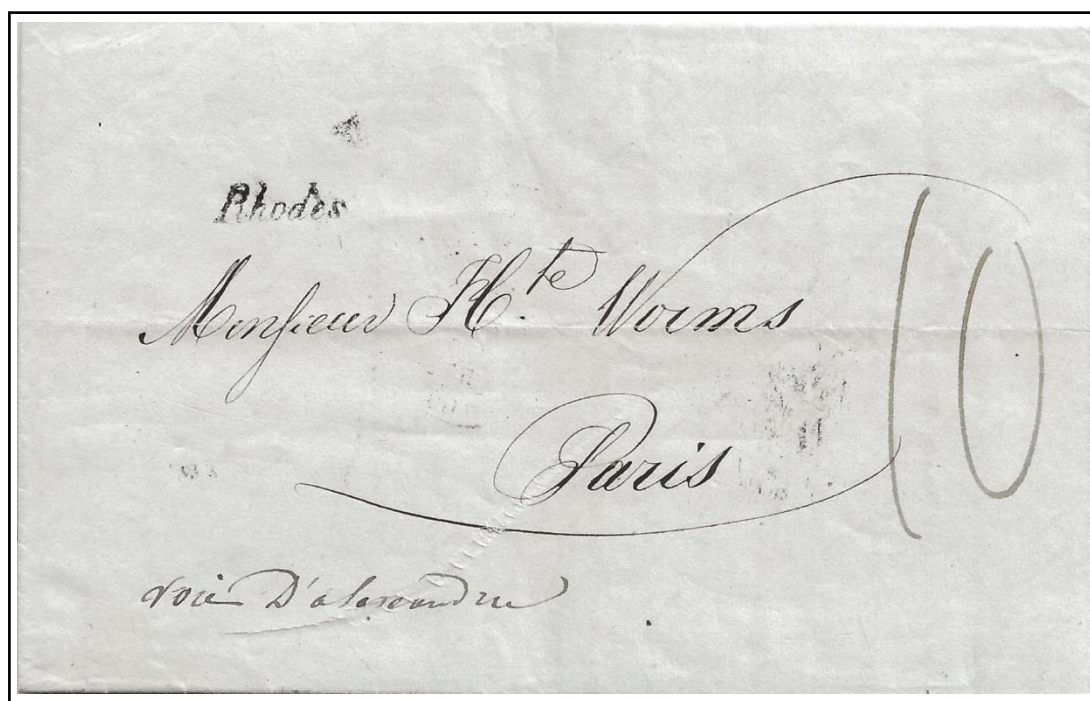
## B. Ottoman Empire

### 3. French Post Office at Rhodes 1852 - 1912

A French “Bureau de Distribution” was opened at Rhodes on the inauguration of a new maritime route from Constantinople to Alexandria by the Messageries Impériales (later the Messageries Maritimes) in July 1852.



A letter of 7.5-15g written at Rhodes on 21 December 1853 and handed in at the French Post Office, receiving the italic marking “Rhodes” (recorded use 1852-54) and a note of the postage payable by the addressee “20” décimes. Carried by the “Tancrede” to Smyrna, being date-stamped there on 24 December; then carried on the “Osiris”, to arrive at Marseilles on 6 January 1854 (red boxed entry mark); Lyons arrival back-stamp of 7 January 1854.



A letter written at Rhodes on 3 December 1853 and sent unpaid to Paris with an ms. routing “Voie D’alexandrie”; handed in at the French Post Office, receiving the italic marking “Rhodes” (recorded use 1852-54) and a note of the postage payable by the addressee “10” décimes. The letter had apparently missed the Messageries Impériales vessels which had departed from Rhodes (in both directions) the day before and was forwarded to Beirut on another vessel, being back-stamped by the French post office there on 8 December 1853. The letter waited at Beirut for the next packet-boat, the “Eurotas”, which departed ca. 28 December 1853, arriving at Alexandria on 1 January 1854; it was then carried on the “Louqsor” leaving Alexandria on 5 January to arrive at Marseilles on 12 January, so that it finally arrived and was back-stamped at Paris on 14 January 1854.(Expertise).

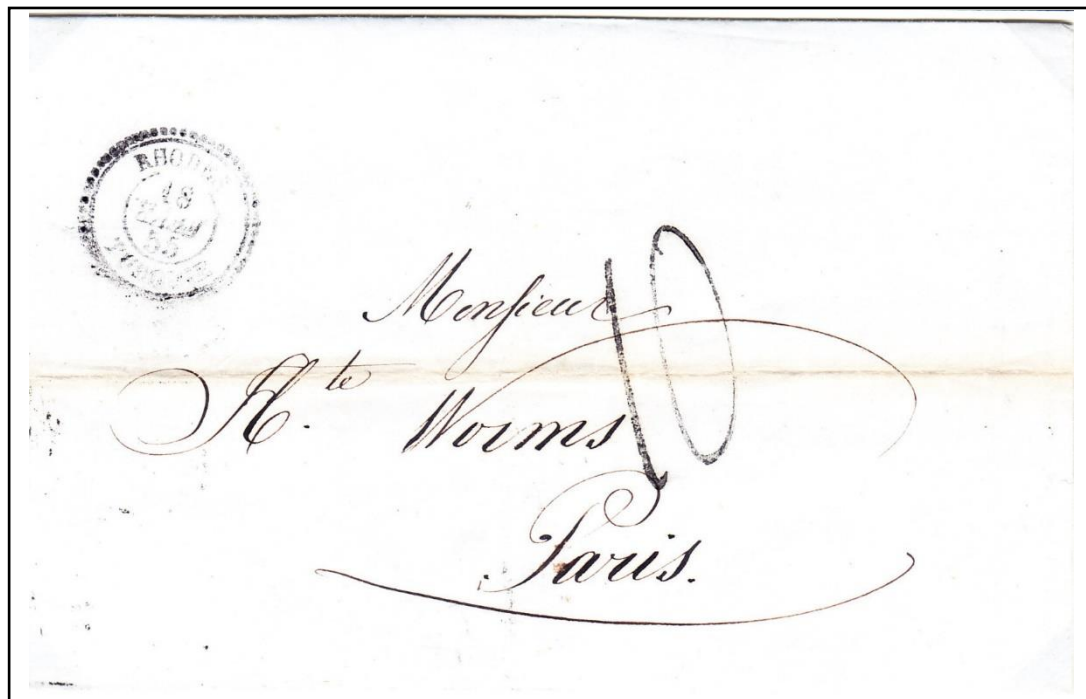
## B. Ottoman Empire

## 3. French Post Office at Rhodes 1852 - 1912

Rate to France 50c per 7.5g if prepaid in cash (or 100c postage due if unpaid) up to December 1875



An entire written at Rhodes on 19 February 1857 and sent to Lyon; prepaid at the French Post Office, receiving the "RHODES TURQUIE" date-stamp on 22 February 1857 (recorded use 1852-76) and marked "P.P." (= postage paid). Carried by the packet-boat "Nil" to Smyrna, then the "Telemaque" to Marseilles; back-stamped there on 18 March, receiving the red entry mark "PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANEE", the Marseille-Lyon TPO and Lyon transit and arrival back-stamps of 18 and 19 March 1857.



An entire written at Rhodes on 18 February 1855 and sent unpaid to Paris; handed in at the French Post Office, receiving the above date-stamp on the same day (month inverted) and the hand-stamp "10" (= 10 décimes postage payable by the addressee); carried by the packet-boat "Louqsor" to Smyrna (back-stamp 24 February), then the "Pharamond" to Marseilles; Paris arrival back-stamp 7 March 1855.



## B. Ottoman Empire

## 3. French Post Office at Rhodes 1852 - 1912

Rate to France 50c per 7.5g up to December 1875 – prepaid with stamps of the 1853-61 “Empire” issue



An envelope to France (noted weight 29g); franked with 6 stamps of the “Empire” issue to Fr. 2.50 for 30g; cancelled with the “3772” obliterator of the French P. O. at Rhodes (used 1852-62); “RHODES TURQUIE” date-stamp of 31 December 1858; marked “PP” (=postage paid); by the packet-boat “Simois” to Marseilles; transit b/s of Marseille-Lyon, Lyon-Paris and Paris-Strasbourg TPO’s 12/14 January; Ribeauville arrival b/s of 15 January 1859.



An entire to France written at Rhodes on 25 January 1861; franked at 50c and cancelled as above, receiving the same date-stamp on 25 January (month inverted) and “P.P.” marking; by the packet-boat “Clyde” directly to Marseilles; transit and arrival back-stamps of the Marseille-Lyon TPO and of Flaviac of 14 and 15 February 1861.

## B. Ottoman Empire

## 3. French Post Office at Rhodes 1852 - 1912

Comparison of the French route to Alsace for 50 cents with the Austrian route for 45 soldi in May 1864

These envelopes form part of the same correspondence from Rhodes to Ribeauville in Alsace (then France). One was despatched by the Austrian post on 20 April 1864, arriving in 13 days and costing 45 soldi. The other was despatched by the French post on 2 May 1864, arriving in 11 days and costing 50 cents. As the soldo was worth 2½ cents, the letter by the slower Austrian route cost here more than double that by the French route.



French route. An envelope franked at 50c with stamps of the 1863-70 issue (for up to 7.5g) cancelled with the “5094” obliterator of the French Post Office at Rhodes (used 1863-76) and with the “RHODES TURQUIE” date-stamp of 2 May 1864 plus “P.D.” in red; by the packet-boat “Godawery” to Smyrna, then the “Gange” to Marseilles; transit b/s of the Méditerranée to Lyon TPO of 12 May 1864; Mulhouse transit and Ribeauville arrival b/s of 13 May 1864.



Austrian route. This envelope bears the two-line marking of the Austrian Postal Agency “RHODUS / 20. APR.” plus “FRANCA” and, on the reverse in ms, the sea postage paid to Trieste of 20s plus the Austrian postage to France of 25s. It travelled from Trieste to the foot of the Mont Cenis pass by rail via Turin then by coach/mule to France, where the mail bag was opened at the rail junction of Culoz and the envelope received the red entry mark “AUTRICHE CULOZ” on 1 May 1864 plus the red “P.D.”. The envelope bears a transit back-stamp of the Paris-Strasbourg TPO of 1 May and a Ribeauville arrival back-stamp of 2 May 1864.



Letters to France taken directly on board the Messageries Maritimes vessel "Volga" in 1865 and 1867



This entire to Marseilles, written at Rhodes on 26 August 1865, was handed-in directly to the postal clerk on board the vessel "Volga" coming from Mersin on the Syrian Coast Line. It was correctly franked with 10c and 40c stamps paying the rate for 7.5g up to December 1865, which were cancelled with the standard anchor obliterator and the letter was marked with the with "VOLGA" date-stamp of the vessel on 26 August 1865 (used on 6 voyages in 1865-66); Marseilles arrival back-stamp of 5 September 1865 and "Paquebots de la Méditerranée" French entry mark.

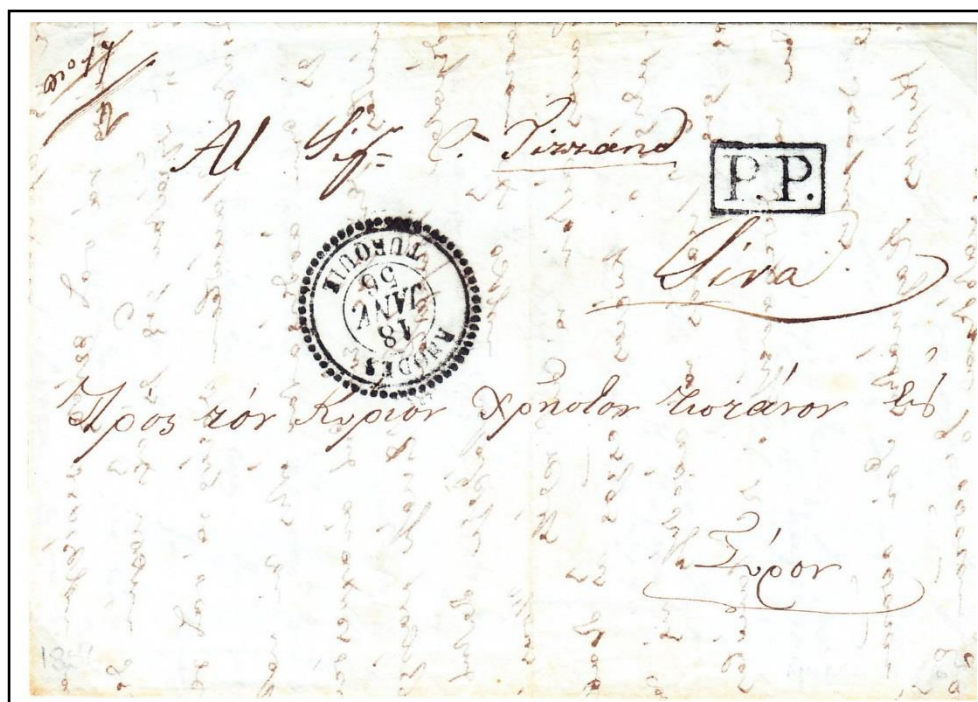


This entire to Marseilles, written at Rhodes on 5 October 1867, was handed-in directly to the postal clerk on board the vessel "Volga" coming from Mersin on Line X. It was correctly franked with a 40c stamp paying the rate for 7.5g from January 1866 to June 1871, which was cancelled with the anchor obliterator. The letter was marked with the with "RHODES PAQ.FR.X No 1" date-stamp of the vessel on 6 October 1867. Examples of the Rhodes Line X date-stamps Nos. 4 and 5 are recorded, but not No. 1, although Salles records Line X No. 1 used from most of the other ports on Line X and by the "Volga" on the voyages in 1867 immediately prior to and after this one. The cover has a Marseilles arrival back-stamp of 15 October 1867 and a "Paquebots de la Méditerranée" French entry mark.

Rate to Greece for 7.5g to 1856 paid and unpaid 100c, 1857-63 paid 50c / unpaid 100c



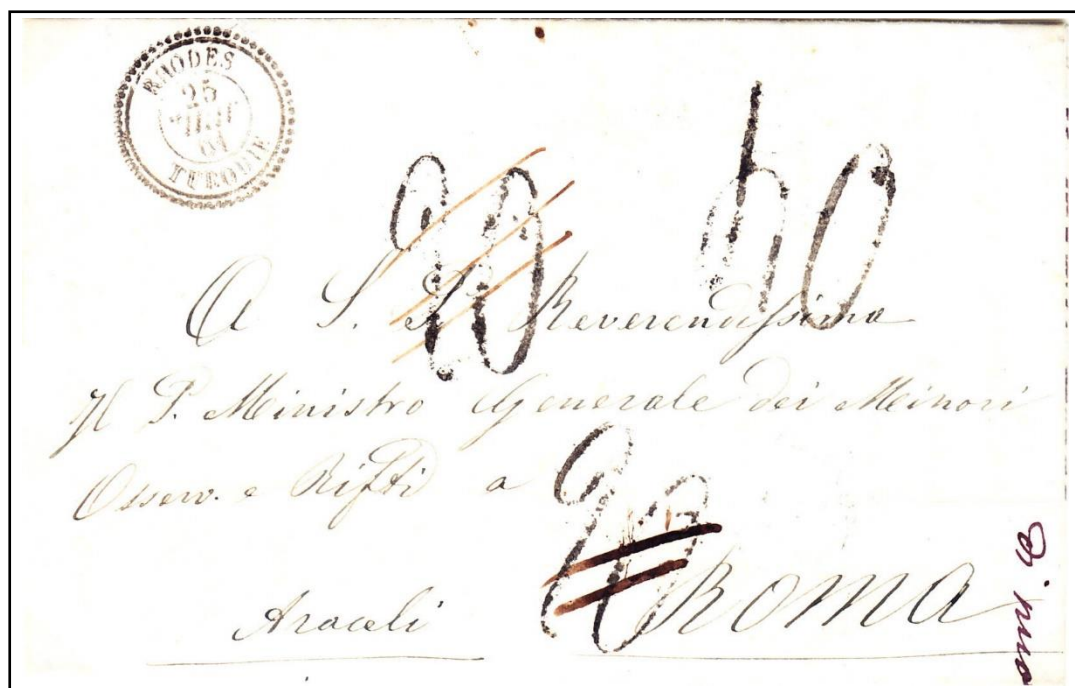
An entire written at Rhodes on 22 October / 3 November 1857 sent unpaid to Syros; with "RHODES TURQUIE" date-stamp of 6 November (year missing); carried by the packet-boat "Hydaspe" to Syros, arrival back-stamp of 29 October / 10 November 1857; marked in red "100" (100 lepta = 100c) postage due from the addressee.



An entire written at Rhodes dated 6/18 February 1856 and sent prepaid to Syros (postage "10" decimes noted in ms. on reverse); with a "RHODES TURQUIE" date-stamp of 18 January (in error, instead of February) and a boxed "P.P." (= carriage paid) marking; by packet-boat to Smyrna (arrival back-stamp 26 February 1856); held there until 1 March (back-stamp); by the packet-boat "Alexandre" to Syros, with arrival back-stamp of 19 February / 3 March.



Rate to the Roman States and Sardinia paid 100c / unpaid 200c for 7.5g in 1857-63



An entire written at Rhodes on 26 July 1861 sent unpaid to Rome from the French Post Office; "RHODES TURQUIE" date-stamp of same date; carried by the "Euphrate" to Malta, then the "Capitole" to Civita-Vecchia; back-stamped with the entry mark "ROMA VIA MARE" on 7 August 1861. Originally marked "20" postage due (= 20 decimes = 200c for an unpaid letter), a further "20" marking was added because the weight exceeded 7.5g. Apparently for clarity, these two "20" markings were deleted and replaced by a "40" marking.



An entire to Genoa (Sardinia) written at Rhodes on 21 October 1858; prepaid at 100c with stamps of the 1853-61 issue; cancelled with the "3772" obliterator of the French Post Office at Rhodes; with the above date-stamp of 21 October 1858 and hand-stamp "PD"; by the packet-boat "Jourdain" to Malta, then the "Capitole" to Genoa; three-line Genoa entry mark in red translating "French Postal Steamers" and arrival back-stamp of 5 November 1858.

Rate to the Levant ports paid 40c / unpaid 60c for 10g in 1866-75



A wrapper to Constantinople correctly franked with two 20c stamps (1863-70 issue) cancelled in black with the large figure obliterator "5094" of Rhodes; with the "RHODES TURQUIE" date-stamp in blue of 5 February 1868 and a boxed "PD"; carried by the packet-boat "Niemen" to Smyrna (arrival back-stamp 7 February 1868), then to Constantinople (arrival back-stamp 10 February 1868).



A wrapper to Constantinople correctly franked with two 20c stamps (1871 issue) cancelled in blue with the large figure obliterator "5094" of Rhodes and again at Smyrna with the obliterator "5098" in black; with the "RHODES TURQUIE" date-stamp in blue of (5) September 1871 and a boxed "PD"; carried by the packet-boat "Illissus" to Smyrna (arrival b/s 7 September 1871), then by the "Tibre" to Constantinople (arrival b/s 10 September 1871).



## B. Ottoman Empire

## 3. French Post Office at Rhodes 1852 - 1912

According to the standard literature, the French Post Office at Rhodes was closed from 1 September 1877 to 1 January 1896 due to diminished traffic. However, the items shown are from September 1877 to 1881.



Entire addressed to Trieste written at Symi, carried privately to Rhodes and handed-in to the French post office; correctly franked at the UPU rate for 15g (1.1.1876-30.4.1878) with a 30c stamp (July 1876 issue) cancelled in blue with the "RHODES TURQUIE" date-stamp on 11 September 1877. Smyrna and Brindisi transit back-stamps of 12 and 16 September and boxed marking indicating carriage by Italian Postal Steamer; Trieste arrival 18 September 1877.



An envelope to Germany correctly franked at the reduced UPU rate from 1 May 1878 with a 25c stamp (1876 issue) cancelled in blue with the "RHODES TURQUIE" date-stamp on 14 December 1878. A further date-stamp shows that the letter did not leave Rhodes until 17 December 1878. The envelope bears transit back-stamps of the French P.O. at Smyrna and of Brindisi from 18 and 24 December, plus a Schweidnitz arrival back-stamp of 27 December.

Letters sent during the reported closure of the French post office between 1877 and 1895



This wrapper to Syros was correctly franked at the UPU rate with a 25c stamp (1877 issue) cancelled in blue with the "RHODES TURQUIE" date-stamp on 23 August 1881; carried by a packet-boat of the Syrian Coast Line to Smyrna (transit back-stamp of French P.O. 24 August 1881), and on to Syros (arrival back-stamp 15/27 August).



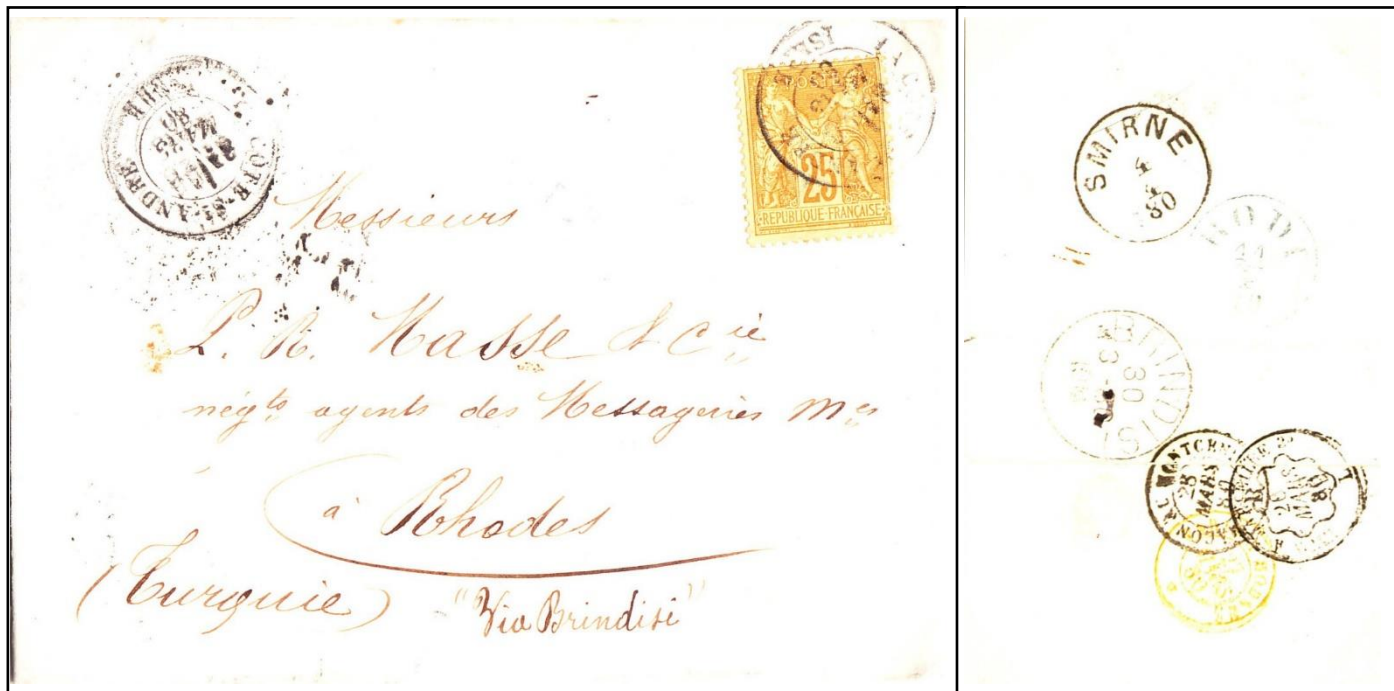
This wrapper to Trieste was correctly franked at the UPU rate with a 25c stamp (1876 issue) cancelled in blue with the "RHODES TURQUIE" date-stamp on 2 December 1879; carried by a packet-boat of the Syrian Coast Line to Smyrna (transit back-stamp of French P.O. 12 December 1879), and on to Brindisi (arrival back-stamp 17 December); by an Italian packet-boat from Brindisi (boxed marking translating as "Italian Postal Steamers") to Trieste (arrival back-stamp 19 December 1879).



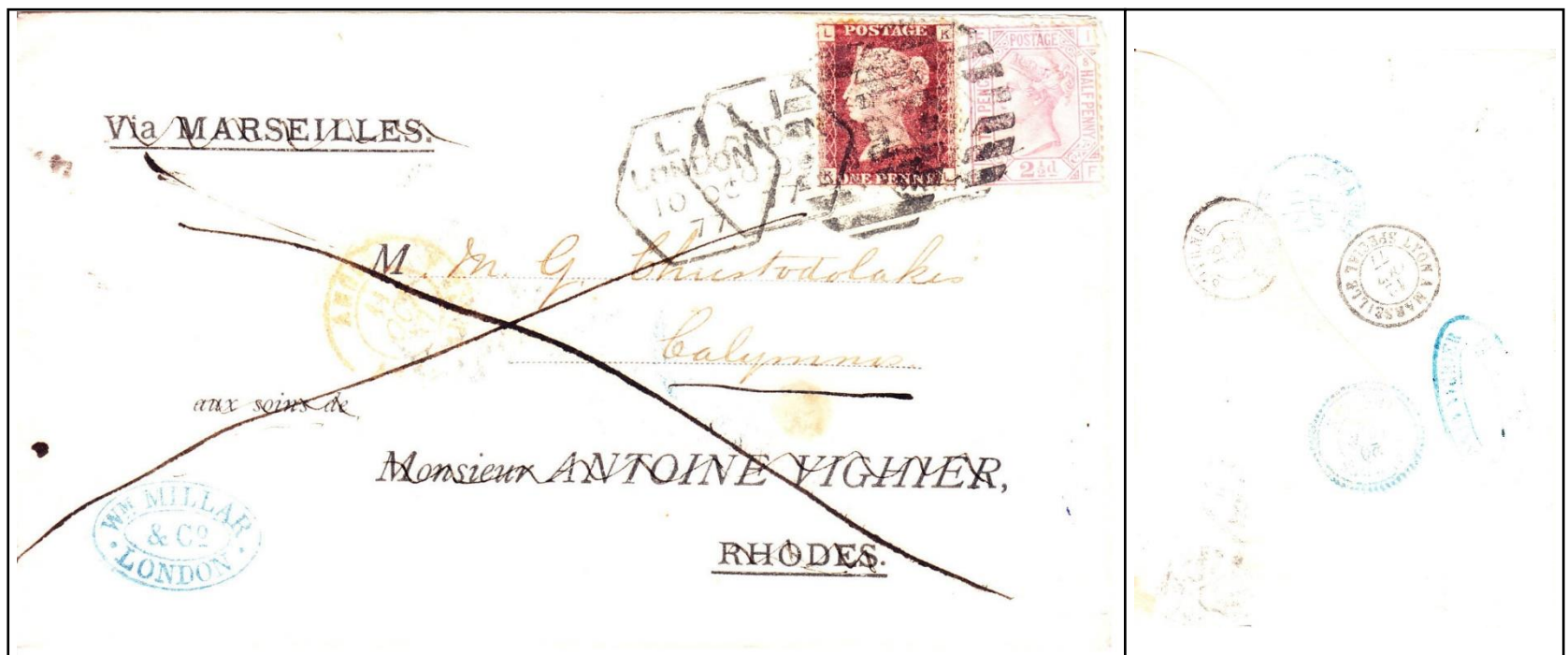
## B. Ottoman Empire

## 3. French Post Office at Rhodes 1852 - 1912

Incoming letters during the reported closure of the French post office between 1877 and 1895



An envelope sent from London on 10 October 1877 to a forwarding agent at Rhodes franked at 2½d plus 1d late fee; transit back-stamps of Paris (11 October), the French TPO Lyon-Marseilles (12 October), the French P.O. at Smyrna (18 October); with an arrival back-stamp of the French P. O. at Rhodes dated 20 October 1877.



An entire sent from France to the Messageries Maritimes Agent at Rhodes on 26 March 1880; ms. routing "Via Brindisi" and back-stamps of the French TPO's Lyon-Marseilles (26 March), Paris-Modane (27 March) and Macon-Mont Cenis (28 March); then by rail to Brindisi (transit b/s 30 March), Austrian Lloyd packet to Smyrna (transit b/s 4 April 1880), and to Rhodes (arrival b/s of the Austrian Post Office 11 April 1880 but none of the French Post Office).

The French P.O. at Rhodes, a Bureau de Distribution between January 1896 and 1911: mail to France



A view-card correctly franked at the UPU rate of 10c with a pair of 5c stamps (1902 Levant issue with inter-space); cancelled with the "RHODES TURQUIE D'ASIE" date-stamp on 14 February 1904 (dotted outer circle type recorded 1896-1911); by the MM to Smyrna (transit date-stamp 15 February); Maillet arrival date stamp 23 February 1904.



An envelope sent registered to Paris with an Advice of Receipt requested; correctly franked for 2 pi. postage (16-30g) + 1 pi. registration + 1 pi. Advice of Receipt with four 1 pi. on 25c stamps of the 1891 Levant issue; cancelled with the "RHODES TURQUIE D'ASIE" date-stamp on 20 January 1900; with a Paris delivery back-stamp of 29 May 1900.



The French P.O. at Rhodes, a Bureau de Distribution between January 1896 and 1911: mail to North Africa

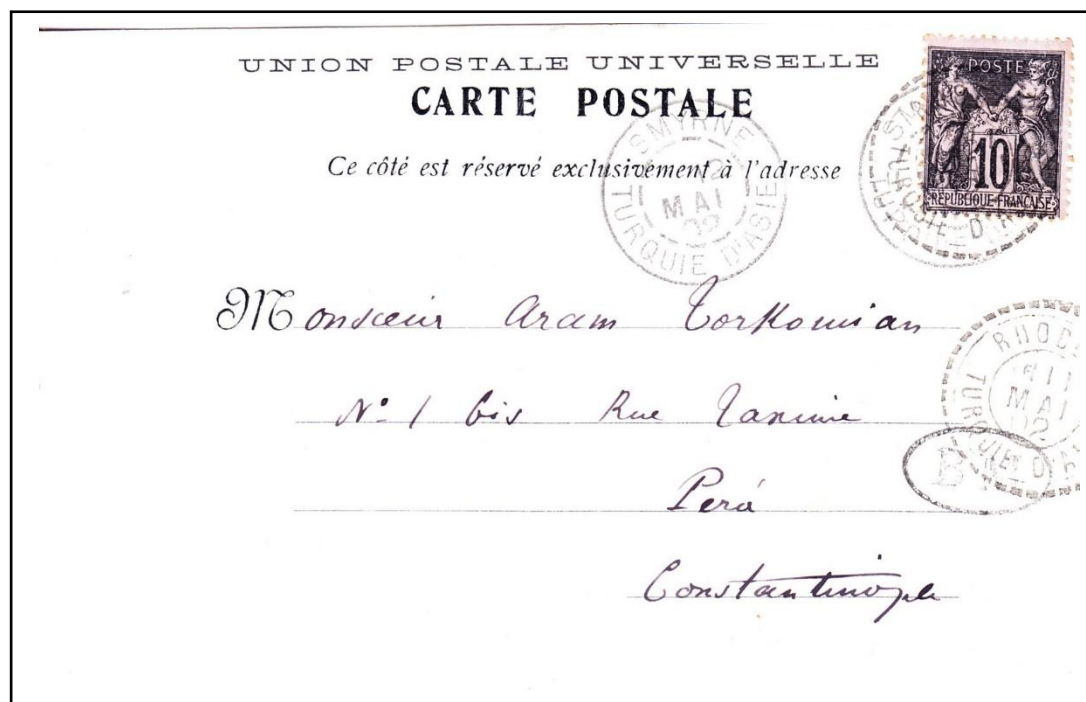


An envelope to Algeria correctly franked at the UPU printed matter rate with a 5c stamp of the 1898 issue of France; cancelled with the above date-stamp on 26 June 1902; by the MM to Smyrna (transit back-stamp of 28 June 1902).



An envelope to Cairo correctly franked at the UPU rate with a 1 pi. on 25c stamp of the 1891 Levant issue; cancelled with the above date-stamp on 19 December 1899; by the MM to Smyrna (transit b/s with illegible date); transit b/s of the French and Egyptian p.o.'s at Alexandria of 31 December; Cairo arrival back-stamp of 1 January 1900.

Paquebot mail processed by the French post office at Rhodes while a Bureau de Distribution 1896 - 1911



A view-card addressed to Constantinople handed-in on board an MM vessel heading for Rhodes; franked at the UPU rate with a 10c stamp of the 1898 issue of France; cancelled with the "RHODES TURQUIE D'ASIE" date-stamp on 11 May 1902 and date-stamped again by the French p.o. at Smyrna on 12 May 1902; the oval "BM" (Boîte Mobile or Boîte Maritime) marking is neither recorded from the French Post Office at Rhodes nor that at Smyrna.



A view-card addressed to Belgium handed-in on board an MM vessel heading for Rhodes; franked at the UPU rate with a 10c stamp of the 1903 issue of France; cancelled with the above date-stamp on 11 May 1907; with a handwritten "BM" marking, probably from Rhodes; Brussels arrival date-stamp of 24 June and delivery mark "107".



Early in 1860, the Russian Company of Steam Shipping and Trade (Russkoe Obshchestvo Parokhodstva I Torgovli = "ROPIT") inaugurated its Mediterranean Coast Mail and Slow Lines: Odessa-Constantinople-Smyrna-Beirut-Alexandria-Pireaus-Constantinople-Batum and return. The Slow Line made calls at Rhodes when necessary. The ROPIT Agency became a Russian foreign post office on 13 May 1868.



An entire to Beirut written at Rhodes on 7 May 1866 and handed in at the ROPIT Agency; prepaid with a 20 kopeck stamp of the 1865 ROPIT issue (sold at 2 piastres) cancelled with Agency's date-stamp reading "PORT RODOS" on 8 May 1866 (recorded use 1866-70); no arrival back-stamp but ms. note of receipt on 14 May 1866.



An entire to Smyrna written at Rhodes on 4 July 1872; handed in at the Russian Post Office and prepaid with two 3 kopeck stamps (1868 "Eastern Correspondence" issue); cancelled with the above date-stamp in greenish blue dated "Jul 4" 1872 (recorded only until 1870); arrival back-stamp "SMIRNSKOE AGENTSTVO" of the ROPIT Agency at Smyrna dated 7 July 1872. This port-to-port rate of 6 kopecks has not been documented in literature but is corroborated by various items from other ports.

The Rhodes Agent of the Khedival Mail Line operated an Egyptian post office from 18 August 1872 to 30 June 1881. During this time, Rhodes was popular with wealthy Egyptians as a summer vacation resort and the ships of this line called regularly on their route from Alexandria to Constantinople and Odessa.



10pa and 1pi stamps of the 1872 issue cancelled with the date-stamp reading "V.R. POSTE EGIZIANE – RODI", the recorded use of which was from 1872 with a 4-digit date and from 1874 with a 2-digit date; the damage at the foot of the circle, below the "R" of "RODI", arose in 1872 and is very clear on these cancellations.



20pa, 1pi and 2pi stamps of the 1874 issue cancelled as above, the impressions of 1878 and 1879 showing additional damage at the foot of the circle, below the "D" of "RODI" and at 2 o'clock and 4 o'clock.



An envelope to Egypt (cleaned and repaired); handed in at the Egyptian post office at Rhodes and prepaid at the UPU rate of 1 piastre (reduced from 1½ pi. on 1 April 1878) with two 20 para stamps (1872 issue of Egypt); cancelled with the above date-stamp on 6 July 1879; Alexandria transit and Tanta arrival back-stamps of 13 July.



## B. Ottoman Empire

## 6. Turkish post office at Rhodes 1868 - 1912

An overview of the markings regularly used as cancellers at Rhodes-Town



1pi 1868



10pa 1876



1pi 1876



1pi 1876 Imperf



20pa 1882

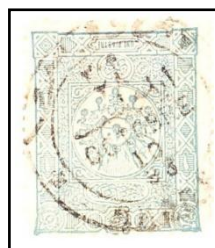
The double-framed octagon marking is recorded on stamp issues from 1868 to ca. 1886



Block of four 10pa 1875



20pa 1880



1pi 1892



Pair of 10pa 1901

Double-framed octagon marking

6-line date-stamps: left: 1886-94; right: 1895-1901



20pa 1905 Pf "25" for "20"



20pa 1908



20pa 1908

Belt-type date-stamps: left: 32.5mm 1907-08; centre 34mm 1909-10; right: 28mm 1911-12



20pa 1901

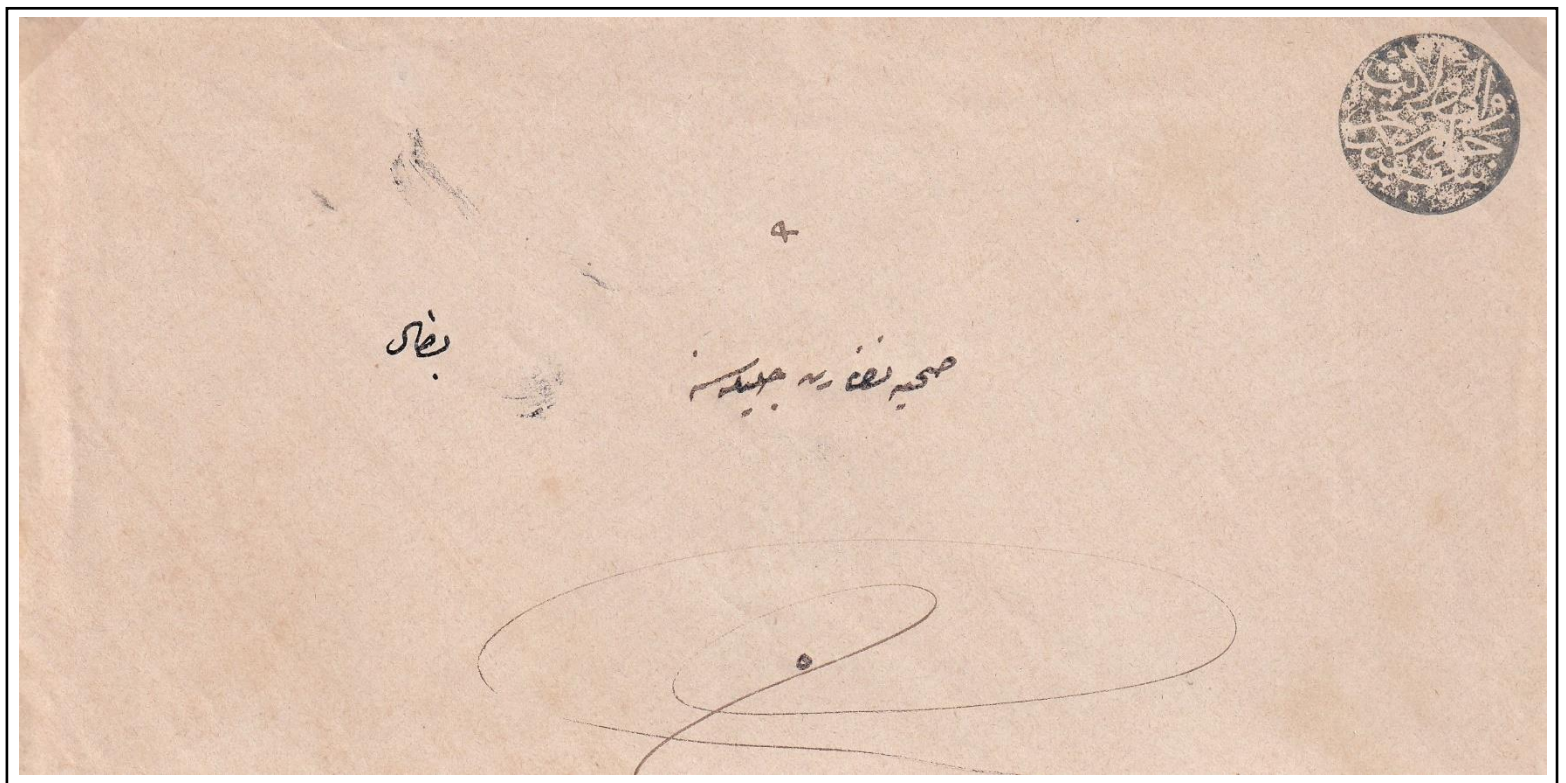


20pa 1905

Date-stamps of the Harbour-Branch P.O.: left: name "Rhôdes-Echelle" 1901-05; right: name "Rados-Echelle" 1905-06



Turkish official mail from Rhodes with seals dated 1879 and 1883



Above: A cover sent from Rhodes to the Ministry of Health in Istanbul; bearing the seal of the Health Service at Rhodes dated 1879 (date of introduction) in blue.

Below: A cover sent from Rhodes to Istanbul; bearing an all Arabic seal inscribed "Vali vilayet cezayir-i bahri sefid" (= Prefect of the Province of Aegean Islands) dated 1883 in black.



Seal type markings of the Turkish Postal and Telegraph Office at Rhodes dated 1881 to 1904



This 1 pi. stamp of the 1892 issue bears part of a negative seal inscribed "Telegraf ve postahaneyi Rodos 1297" (= Telegraph and Postal Office of Rhodes 1881) in violet.



This 1 pi. stamp of the 1908 issue bears a negative seal inscribed "Telegraf ve postahaneyi Rodos 1320" (= Telegraph and Postal Office of Rhodes 1904) in black.

Le 189...  
 وصول نومروسی  
 N° d'arrivé  
 دقیقه ساعت  
 h. m. du  
 ارسالی  
 Réexpédié  
 مأمورك امضای  
 Signature de l'employé  
 De... Pour...  
 الی عن رجب

Transmis par  
 دقیقه ساعت  
 h. m. du  
 بدأ محاره  
 Commencé à  
 ختام محاره  
 Fini à  
 مأمورك امضای  
 Signature de l'employé

L'état n'accepte aucune responsabilité à raison du service de la télégraphie.

محل نومروسی	عدد کلمات	غروب	محل تاریخی	ساعت	دقیقه	روز و یاشب	اشارات مخصوصه
N° du dépôt	Nombre de mots	Group	Date du dépôt.	Heures	Minutes	Matin ou soir	Voies
۱۴۹۶	۷۵			۱۱		روز	

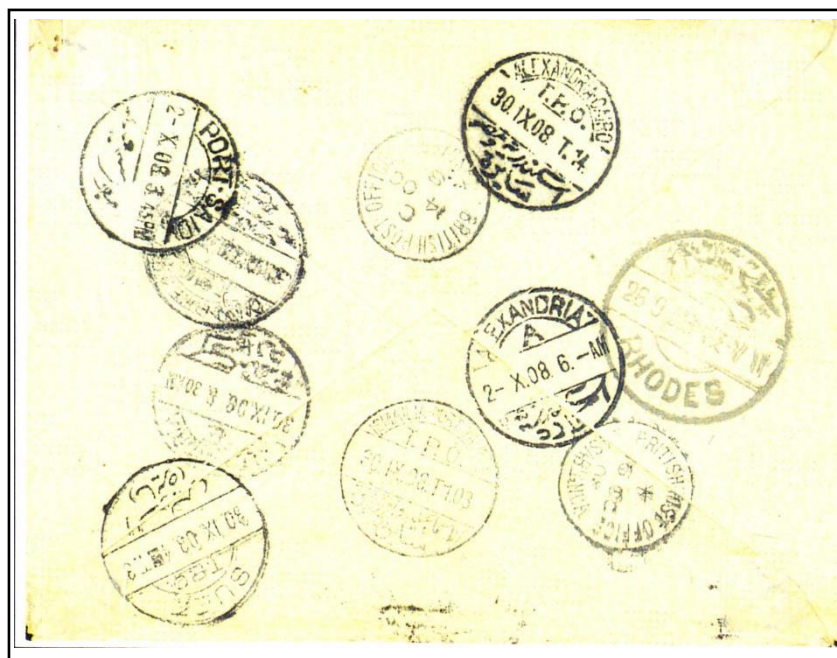
Telegraf ve Postahane  
 Rodos

روسی معایب سیرینه

نویسنده ده جیفان اسانه ده غنیه سند اخبرخی مایه یکم بری و اوده طقوزی یاغی  
 نوید ده کیشتر

This telegram form bears a printed date at the top "189...", but no further date, and was presumably used between 1890 and 1899. It bears a negative seal inscribed "Telegraf ve postahane-i Rodos" (= Telegraph and Postal Office of Rhodes) with an almost illegible date at the foot ("298"? = 1882); examples of this seal have also been seen on forms dated at the top "190...", so it was apparently in use for some 20 years.

Unrecorded negative seal canceller of the Post Office at Lindos ("Landos") on the island of Rhodes



A reduced photocopy of the reverse of the envelope with nine transit markings showing the letter's route. Although bearing a routing note "Via Marseille", the letter was sent to Egypt: with transit back-stamps of the Turkish p.o. at Rhodes-Town of 26 September 1908, of Alexandria, the Alexandria-Cairo T.P.O., the Cairo-Port Saïd T.P.O. and the Ismailia-Port Taufiq T.P.O. – all dated 30 September 1908; at Port Taufiq the wrong addressing was noticed and the letter was re-directed towards the Mediterranean, arriving at Alexandria and being forwarded to Port Saïd on 2 October 1908; sent by ship to Morocco, arriving at the British post office at Tangier on 14 October 1908 and being sent on to the British post office at Casablanca to arrive on 16 October 1908.



An envelope addressed to Casablanca, "South Africa" (instead of Morocco, North Africa); correctly franked with a 1pi stamp of the 1908 issue; cancelled in black with the negative seal of the Turkish post office at Lindos on Rhodes inscribed "Landos posta subesi 1312" (= Lindos Post Office 1896); **the only recorded example of this marking.**



Narrow text 6-line date marking used on inland mail recorded 1886 - 1894



An official envelope (to Constantinople?), postage free but sent registered with advice of receipt, the fee for which was paid with a 2 piastre stamp (1876 issue); cancelled as above at Rhodes on 25 February 1889.

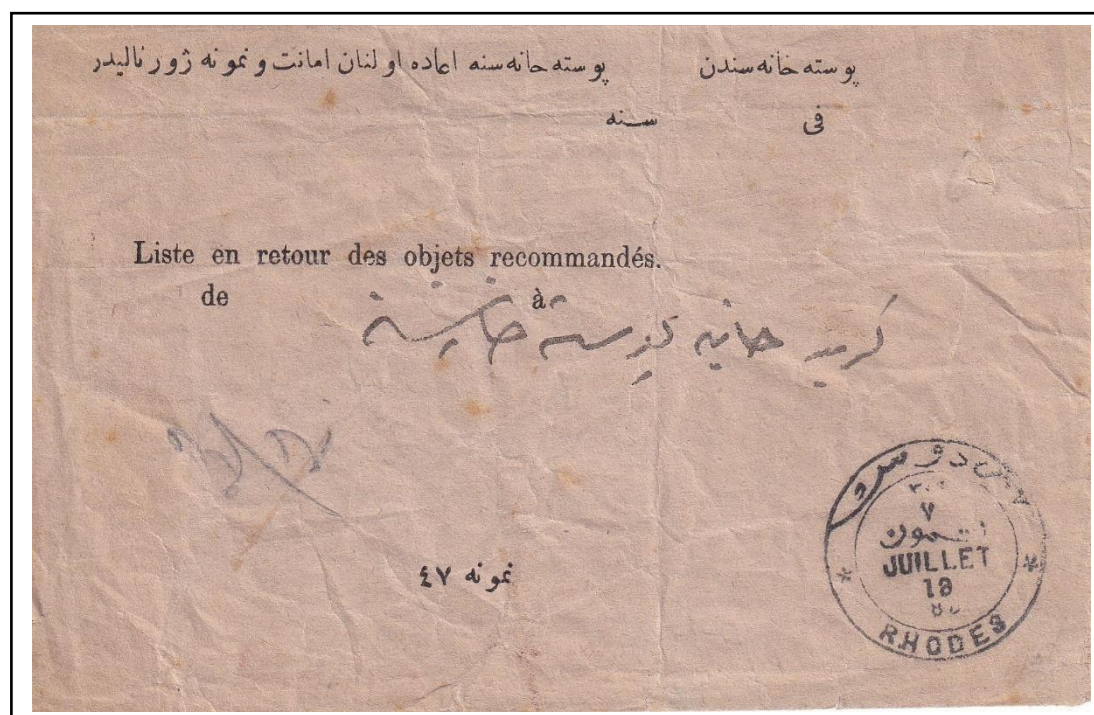


An envelope to Constantinople franked with a 20 pa stamp (1884 issue); cancelled with the above marking of Rhodes dated 15 June 1887; transit back-stamp of the Turkish post office at Smyrna reading "Smyrne Turquie Depart" dated 17 June (no year); Stamboul arrival back-stamp (date missing).

Narrow text 6-line date marking used on inland mail recorded 1886 - 1894



A letter to Chios with postage at the inland rate of 1 pi. (1888-97) paid with a pair of 20 para stamps (1892 issue); cancelled with the above date-stamp at Rhodes on 1 December 1892.



A post-office return envelope for lists of registered letters submitted to the Head Post Office from Rhodes and bearing the above marking of Rhodes dated 16 July 1888.



Narrow text 6-line date marking used on foreign mail recorded 1886 - 1894



A 20 para post-card (1881 issue) sent to France; cancelled with the above marking at Rhodes on 25 April 1889; Piraeus transit back-stamp of 14/26 April 1889; St. Raphael arrival back-stamp of 2 May 1889.



An envelope to Germany franked with a 1 piastre stamp (1890 issue); cancelled with the above marking of Rhodes dated 12 July 1894; transit date-stamp of the Turkish post office at Smyrna reading "Postes Ottomanes Smyrne Départ" dated 14 July 1894; Brindisi transit back-stamp of 18 July; Berlin arrival back-stamp dated 21 July 1894.



Wide text 6-line date marking used on foreign mail recorded 1895 - 1901



A 1 piastre letter-card (1895 issue) correctly used to Holland; cancelled with the above marking of Rhodes on 16 April 1899; Constantinople transit date-stamp of 20 April 1899; Woerden arrival back-stamp of 24 April 1899.



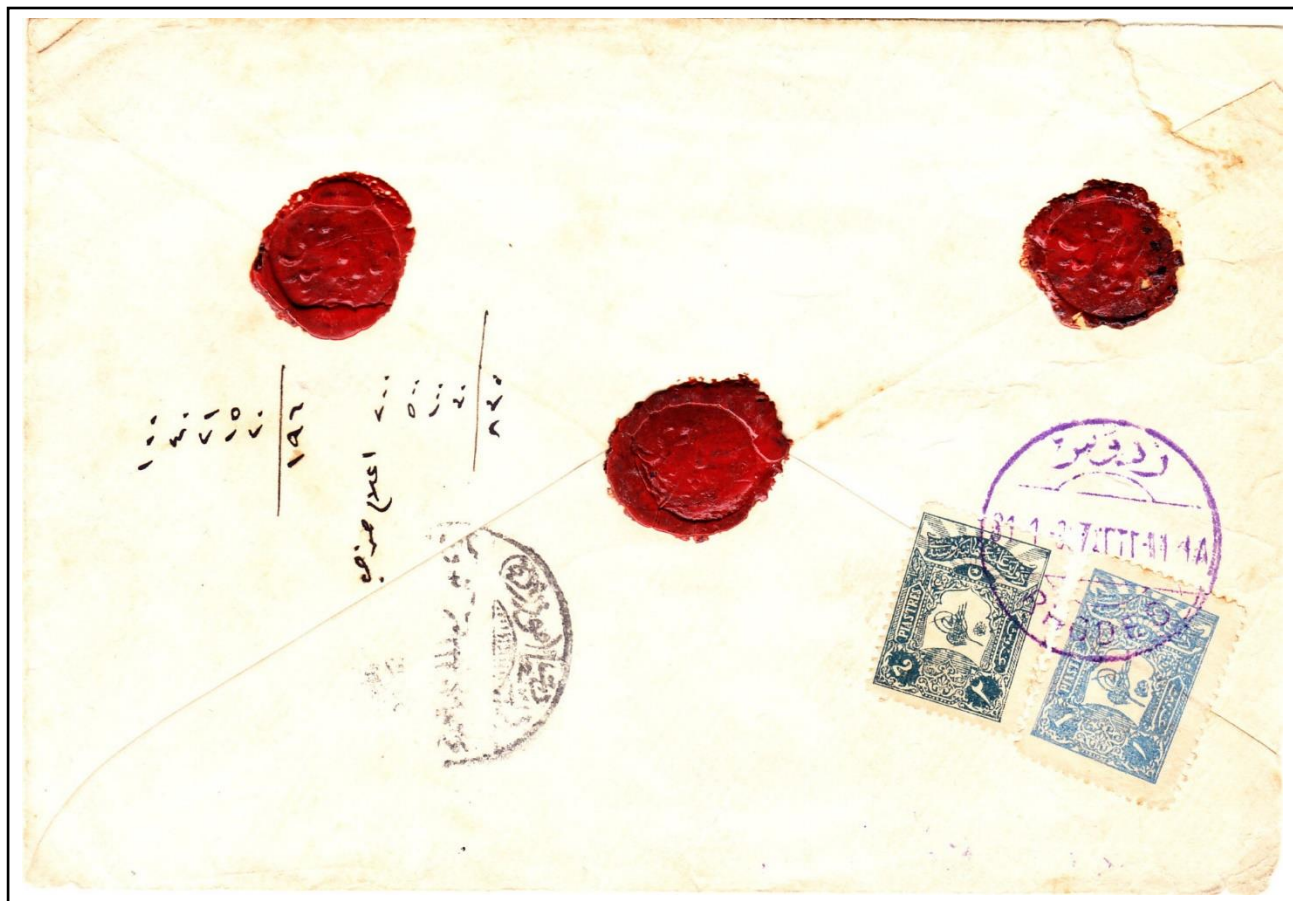
An envelope sent registered to Marseilles with advice of receipt requested; correctly franked with a 2 pi. stamp (1892 issue) paying the postage and registration fee cancelled with the above marking of Rhodes dated 1? July 1895; the advice of receipt prepaid with a 1 pi. stamp cancelled with an **unrecorded boxed "AR" marking** of Rhodes; Smyrna and Galata transit date-stamps of 19 and 20 July 1895 and smudged arrival back-stamp of Marseilles.



32.5 mm belt-type date-stamp used on inland mail 1907-08



A registered letter to Constantinople; franked for 20-40g with a 2 piastre stamp (1905 issue); cancelled with the above date-stamp in black on 5 December 1907; Smyrna transit (12 Dec.) and Galata Mevrude arrival back-stamps.



A registered letter to Constantinople; franked for 60-80g with 1 + 2 piastre stamps (1905 issue); cancelled with the above date-stamp in violet on 31 January 1907; Stamboul arrival back-stamp (date not legible).

32.5 mm belt-type date-stamp used on inland mail 1907-08



A view-card sent to Constantinople; franked at the inland rate with a pair of 5 para stamps (1901 issue with overprint "printed matter" from 1908); cancelled with the above date-stamp in black on 23 July 1908.



A view-card sent to Karlovasion on Samos; franked at the UPU rate with a 20 para stamp (1908 issue); cancelled as above in blue-black on 21 September 1908; undated blue transit mark of the Samian post office at Vathy.



34 mm belt-type date-stamp used on foreign mail 1909 - 10



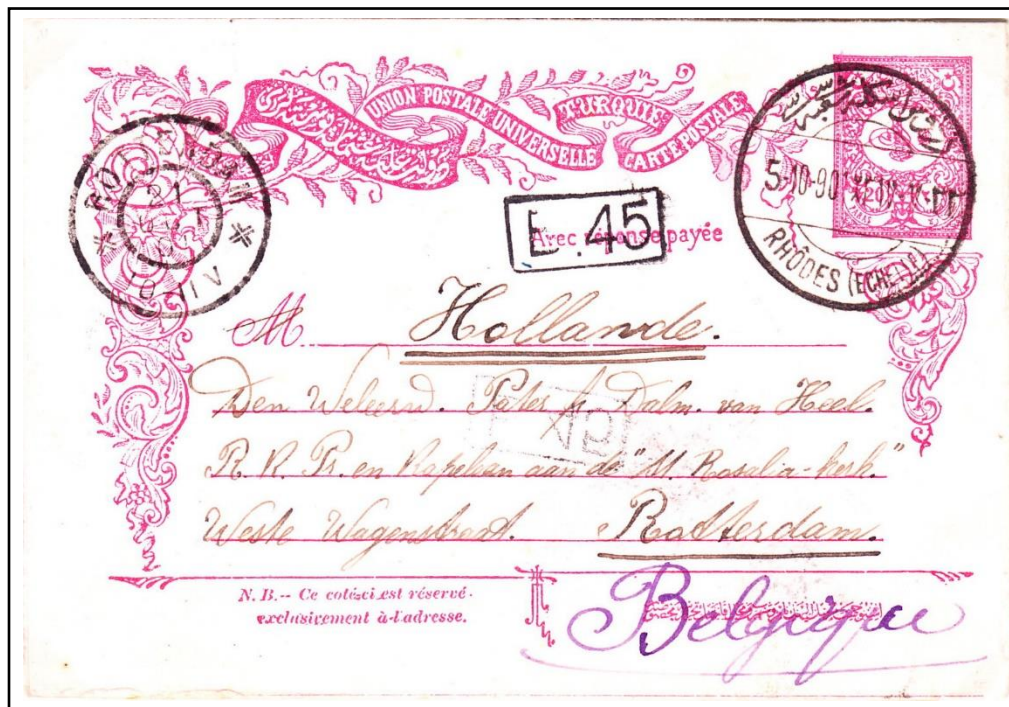
A view-card sent to Jaffa; franked at the UPU rate with a 20 para stamp (1909 issue); cancelled with the above date-stamp in black on 1 June 1910; Alexandria transit date-stamp of 4 June 1910.



A letter to Germany franked at 2 pi. (although the UPU rate for 20-40g had been reduced to 1 pi 30pa in October 1907) with a pair of 5pa stamps (1908 issue) plus 10pa, 20pa and 1pi stamps of the same issue overprinted "B" (= "Béhié" = for sale at a discount); cancelled as above on 17 August 1909; Stamboul transit back-stamp.



Rhodes Harbour Branch p.o. date-stamp with text "Rhôdes (Echelle)" used 1901 - 05



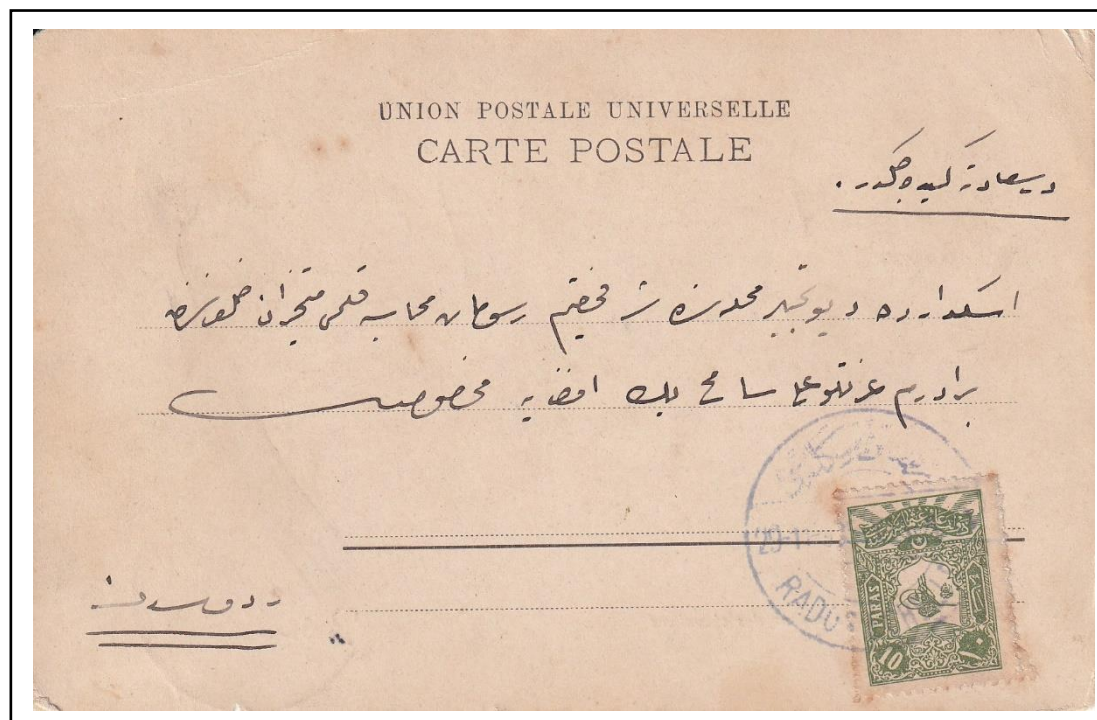
A 20 para reply-paid post-card (1902 issue) sent to Holland; cancelled with the above date-stamp in black on 5 October 1901 (recorded 1901-05); Stamboul transit and Rotterdam arrival date-stamps of 16 and 21 October 1901.



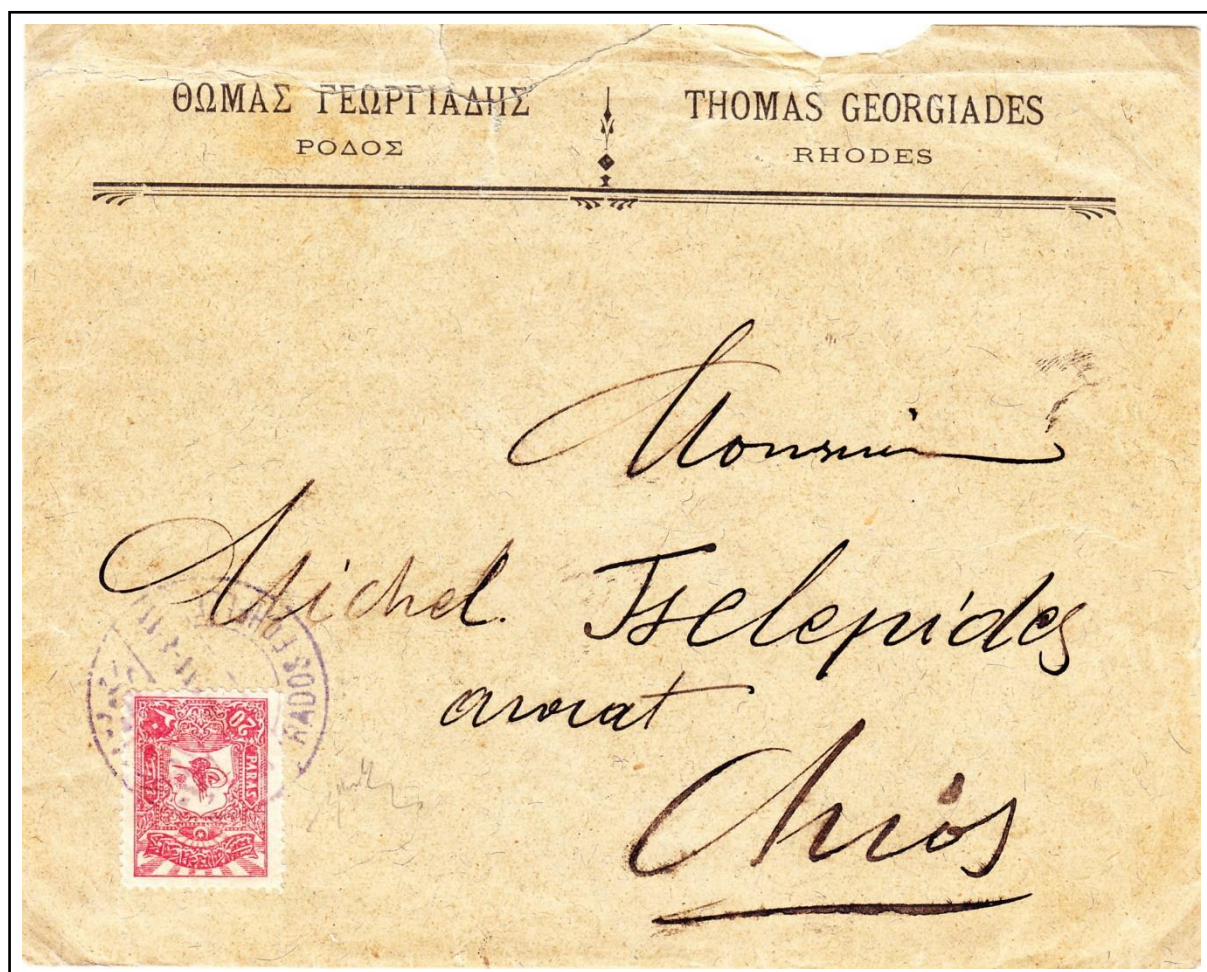
An inland letter franked at 4 pi. with eight 20 para stamps (1901 issue); cancelled with the above date-stamp in blue on 12 April 1905; with transit and arrival date-stamp of Béchik-Tache and Yéni-Djami (both in Constantinople).



Harbour Branch p.o. date-stamp with text "Rados (Echelle)" used 1905-06



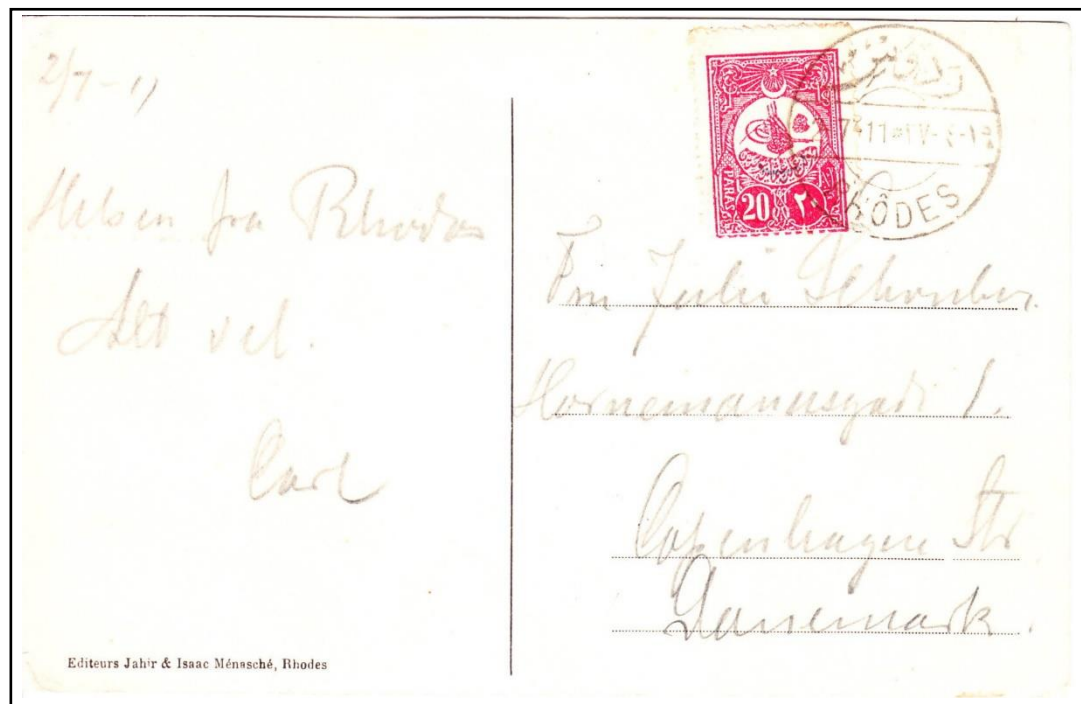
A view-card correctly franked for an inland destination with a 10 para stamp (1905 issue); cancelled with the "Rados Echelle" date-stamp in blue-black on 29 November 1905.



An inland letter sent to Chios; franked with a 20 para stamp (1905 issue); cancelled with the "Rados Echelle" date-stamp in blue-black on 5 July 1906; Chios arrival back-stamp of 8 July 1906.



28 mm "RHODES" date-stamp used 1911–12



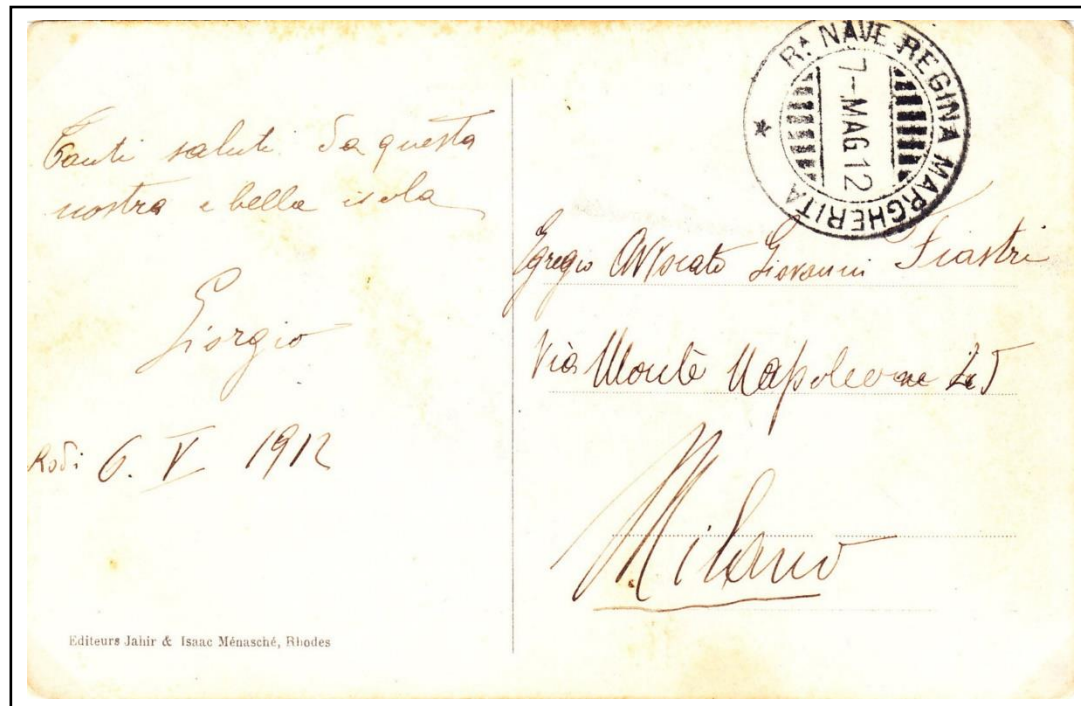
A view-card sent to Denmark; correctly franked with a 20 para stamp (1908 "Béhié" "Discount" issue); cancelled with the 28 mm "RHÔDES" date-stamp in black on 2 July 1911.



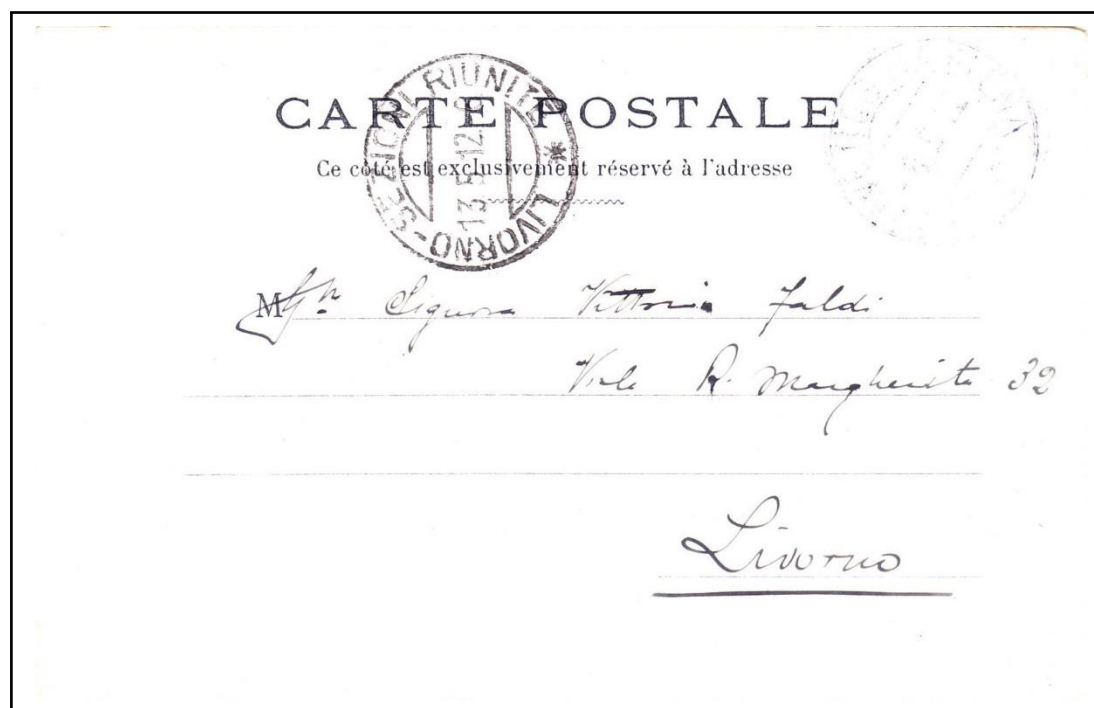
An inland letter sent to Smyrna; correctly franked at the littoral rate with a 20 para stamp (1908 issue); cancelled with the 28 mm "RHÔDES" date-stamp in black on 18 February 1911.



The Italian Navy occupied the Dodecanese island of Stampalia on 28 April 1912 and used this island as a base. The Italian 6th Division under General Ameglio came from its base at Tobruk with a naval escort, which staged a mock landing on the north coast of Rhodes on 4 May 1912. The 6th Division then landed on the south coast and entered the walled town of Rhodes on 5 May 1912.



A serviceman's postage-free view-card written at Rhodes on 6 May 1912; sent to Italy from the 13,430 ton battle-ship "Regina Margherita" with the ship's date-stamp on 7 May 1912 – **this is the first date known from Rhodes.**

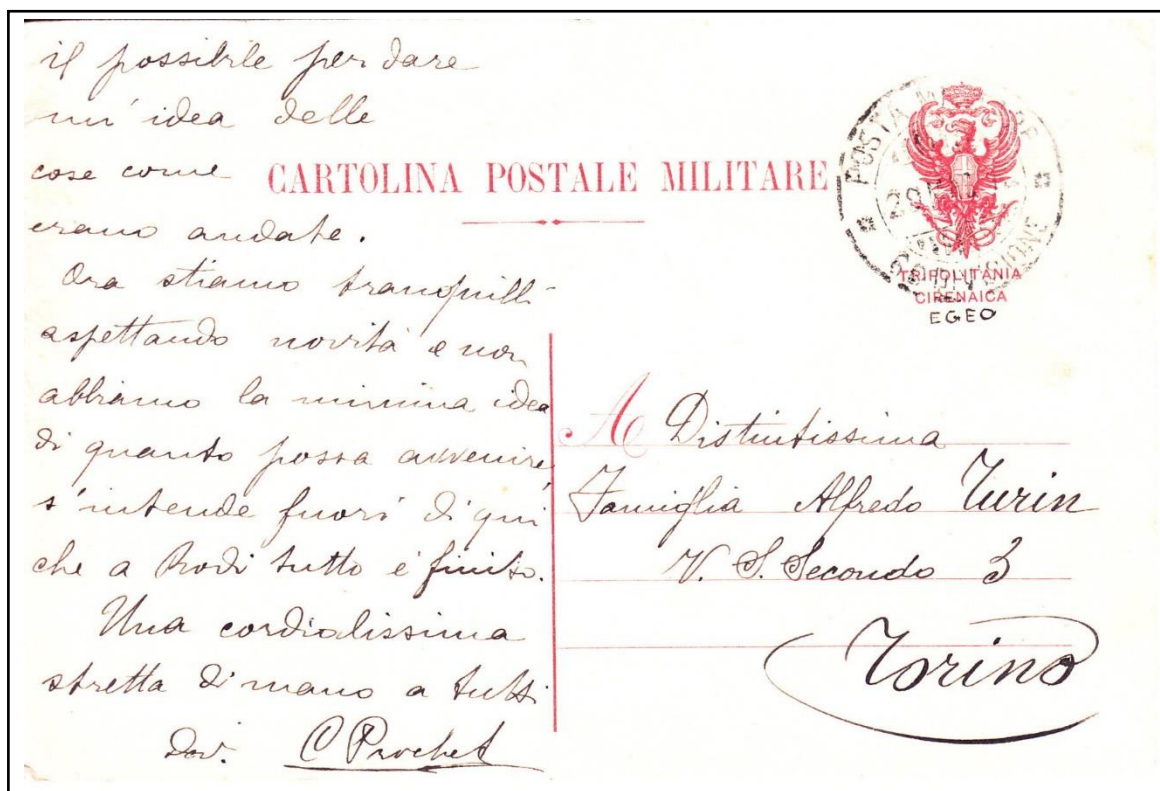


A serviceman's postage-free view-card from Rhodes; sent to Italy from the 13,430 ton battle-ship "Regina Elena" (the sister-ship of the "Regina Margherita"), with the ship's date-stamp of 8 May 1912 (the second date known from the Italian occupation of Rhodes); the view-card bears a Livorno arrival date-stamp of 13 May 1912.

This post office in the building of the old Turkish Harbour p.o. was to handle military correspondence



A cover without any military identification sent to Italy correctly franked with two 5c stamps of Italy; cancelled with the date stamp "POSTA MILITARE 6A DIVISIONE" on 10 May 1912, **the day on which this military post office opened at Rhodes-Town**; with an arrival back-stamp of S. Maria Capua Vetere of 14 May 1912.



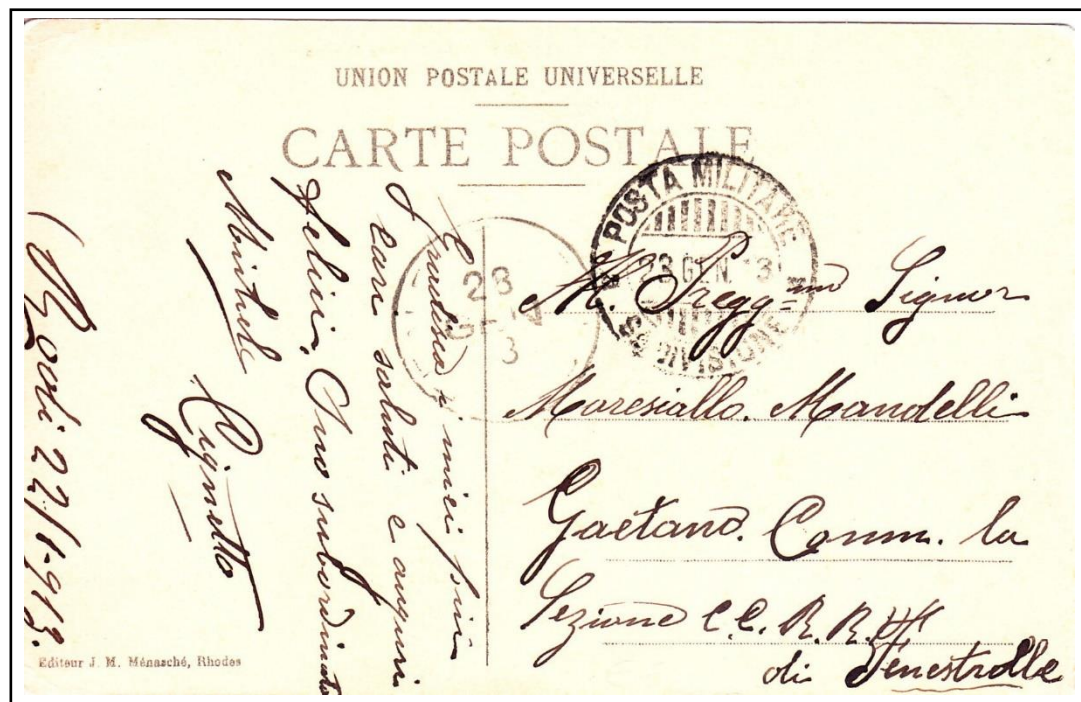
This postage-free military post-card with inscription for use in Tripolitania and Cirenaica was brought to Rhodes and the word "EGEO" added. It was accepted for use to Italy by the military p.o., which date-stamped it on 29 May 1912.



**C. Italian Occupation of Rhodes-Town**

**1. Military P.O. of 6th Division 10 May 1912 – 31 Oct. 1913**

Continued operation of the Military P.O. after the opening of the Civilian P.O. on 8 June 1912

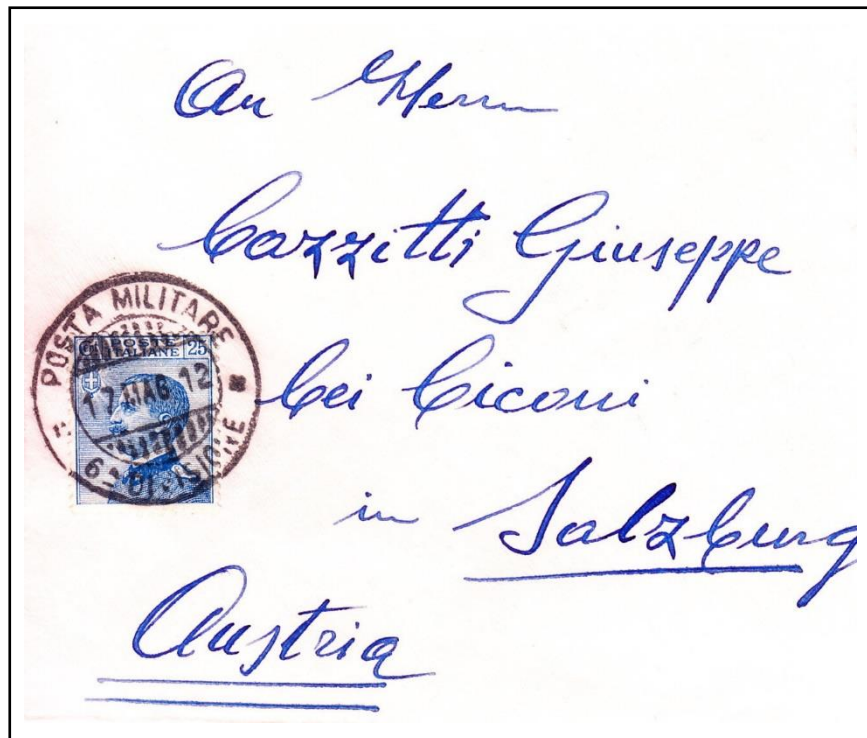


This view-card was accepted for postage-free transmission to Italy by the military p.o., which date-stamped it "POSTA MILITARE 6A DIVISIONE" on 23 January 1913; with an arrival back-stamp of 28 January 1913.

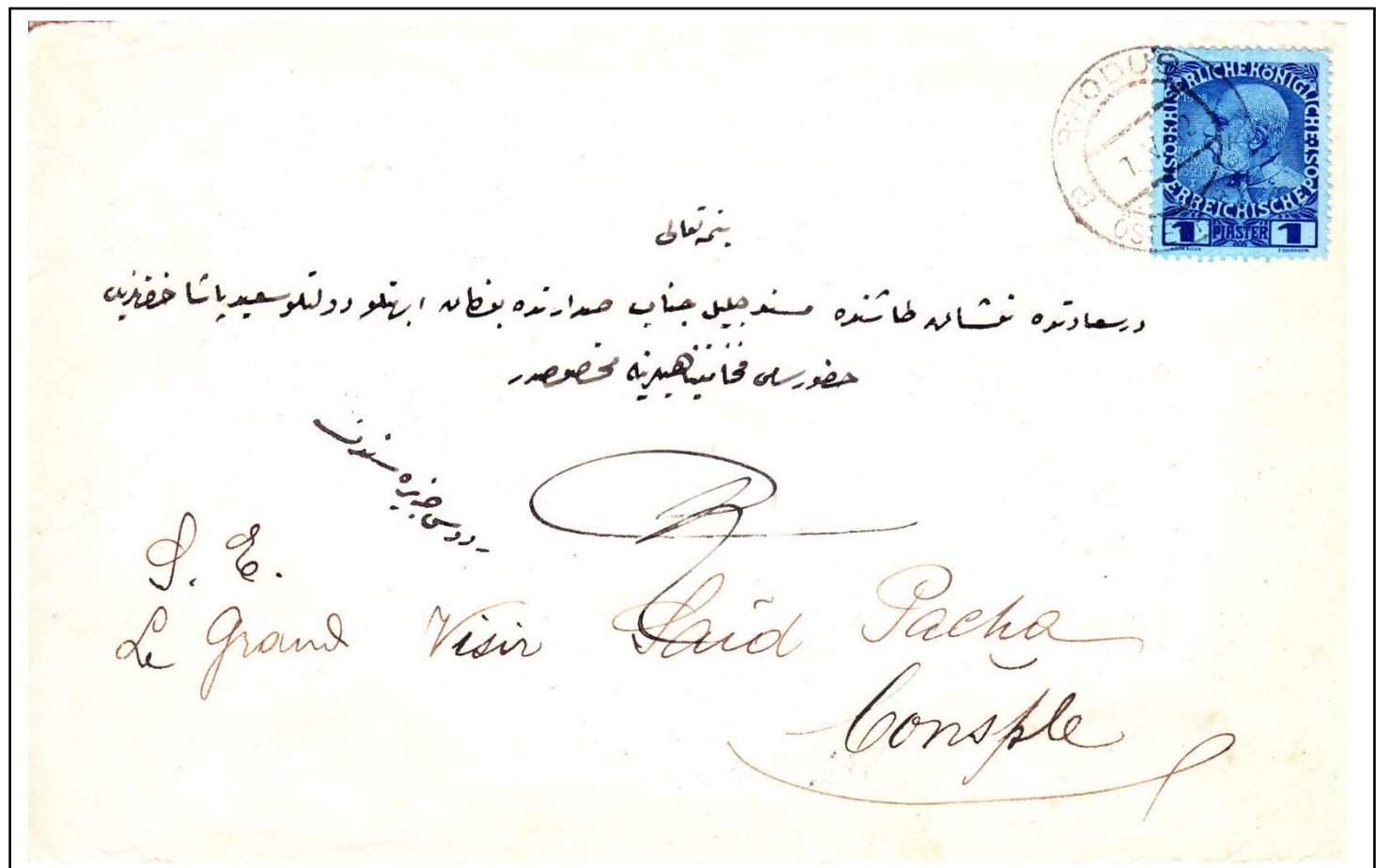


This envelope to Turin franked with 5c + 10c (+ an unnecessary 2c) stamps of the December 1912 "Rodi" overprint issue was cancelled as above on 30 October 1913, the day before the closure of this military p.o. at Rhodes-Town.

Civilian mail to foreign countries before the opening of the Italian civilian P.O. on 8 June 1912



This private letter was correctly franked at 25c and accepted for transmission to Austria by the military p.o. at Rhodes-Town, which date-stamped it "POSTA MILITARE 6A DIVISIONE" on 17 May 1912.



An envelope sent to the Turkish Prime Minister in Constantinople from the Austrian p.o. at Rhodes on 7 May 1912, two days after the Italian occupation, franked with a 1 pi. stamp (1908 issue); arrival back-stamp of Pankaldi.



Mail cancelled with the rubber date-stamp introduced on 8 June 1912



A letter to Belgium correctly franked with an Italian 25c stamp cancelled with the “POSTE ITALIANE RODI (Egeo)” rubber date-stamp on 12 June 1912 (4 days after introduction); Antwerp arrival back-stamp of 18 June 1912.



An envelope sent registered to Palous on the nearby island of Nisiros correctly franked with 5c + 10c + 25c stamps of Italy cancelled with the above date-stamp on 12 July 1912; Palous had no postal markings at this time.

A series of metal date-stamps, including one for parcels, replaced the rubber date-stamp in August 1912



Above: A letter forwarded from Palous (Nisiros) sent to Egypt from Rhodes correctly franked at 25c; cancelled with the new ordinary mail date-stamp on 25 August 1912; Piraeus transit and Alexandria arrival and customs back-stamps of 17/30 August and 1 / 2 September 1912.

Left: Part of a 1L25 parcel-card supplemented with 10c + 50c "Rodi" stamps and 2 x 1L stamps of Italy to prepay a parcel sent to the USA on 13 February 1913; still cancelled with the rubber "Poste Italiane" date-stamp, which had otherwise been withdrawn (the new metal "Pacchi" date-stamp for parcels was apparently not yet available). The parcel-card bears a transit date-stamp of Chaisso of 28 February 1913 on entry to Switzerland and probably did not accompany the parcel further.



The metal "Poste Italiane" date-stamp for registration and insurance introduced in August 1912



An envelope sent by registered express to Italy correctly franked with a 40c stamp to pay the postage plus the registration fee and a 25c express stamp; cancelled with the date-stamp for registered and insured post on 15 August 1912; Florence railway express arrival back-stamp of 20 August 1912.



An envelope sent registered to Italy correctly franked with 5c + 10c stamps to pay the postage plus a 15c stamp for the registration fee; cancelled with the above date-stamp on 27 August 1912; Livorno arrival mark of 3 September.



## C. Italian Occupation of Rhodes

## 2. Italian Civilian P.O. at Rhodes-Town 1912 - 1923

25c and 50c stamps overprinted locally "EGEO" on 22 September 1912 for sale at 1 and 2 piastres



A philatelic cover to France correctly franked with a 50c stamp with inverted "EGEO" overprint on 15 August 1912



A 240g envelope sent registered to Italy insured for 1,300 lire franked with five 25c and five 50c "EGEO" stamps on 5 December 1912



## C. Italian Occupation of Rhodes

## 2. Italian Civilian P.O. Rhodes-Town 1912 - 1923

7 values overprinted "Rodi" issued in December 1912; the 25c and 50c values were sold at 1 and 2 piastres



An envelope sent registered to Italy franked for 20-40g with 5c + 50c "Rodi" overprinted stamps to pay the postage; cancelled with the "Poste Italiane Vaglia Risparmi" date-stamp (intended for money transfer and savings bank transactions but also used for post in 1912/13) on 6 May 1913; Mantua arrival back-stamp of 12 May 1913.



An envelope sent to France correctly franked with 3 x 5c + 10c "Rodi" overprinted stamps; cancelled with the "Poste Italiane" date-stamp for ordinary mail on 1 January 1913; Orléans arrival back-stamp of 6 January 1913.

New metal date-stamps for ordinary mail inscribed "RODI (EGEO)" were in use from 1913 to the 1930's



An Italian commemorative 5c post-card correctly used to Italy; cancelled with a cachet of the Military Radio Telegraph, which did not give free postage; bearing the new metal date-stamp of 6 July 1914.



An envelope sent from Port-Said on 1 December 1914; franked at 5 mills. instead of 10 mills. and marked "T 9½" (gold cents); 25c collected with Italian postage due stamps cancelled at Rhodes as above on 14 December 1914.



## C. Italian Occupation of Rhodes

## 2. Italian Civilian P.O. at Rhodes-Town 1912 - 1923

New metal date-stamps for ordinary mail inscribed “RODI (EGEO)” were in use from 1913 to the 1930’s

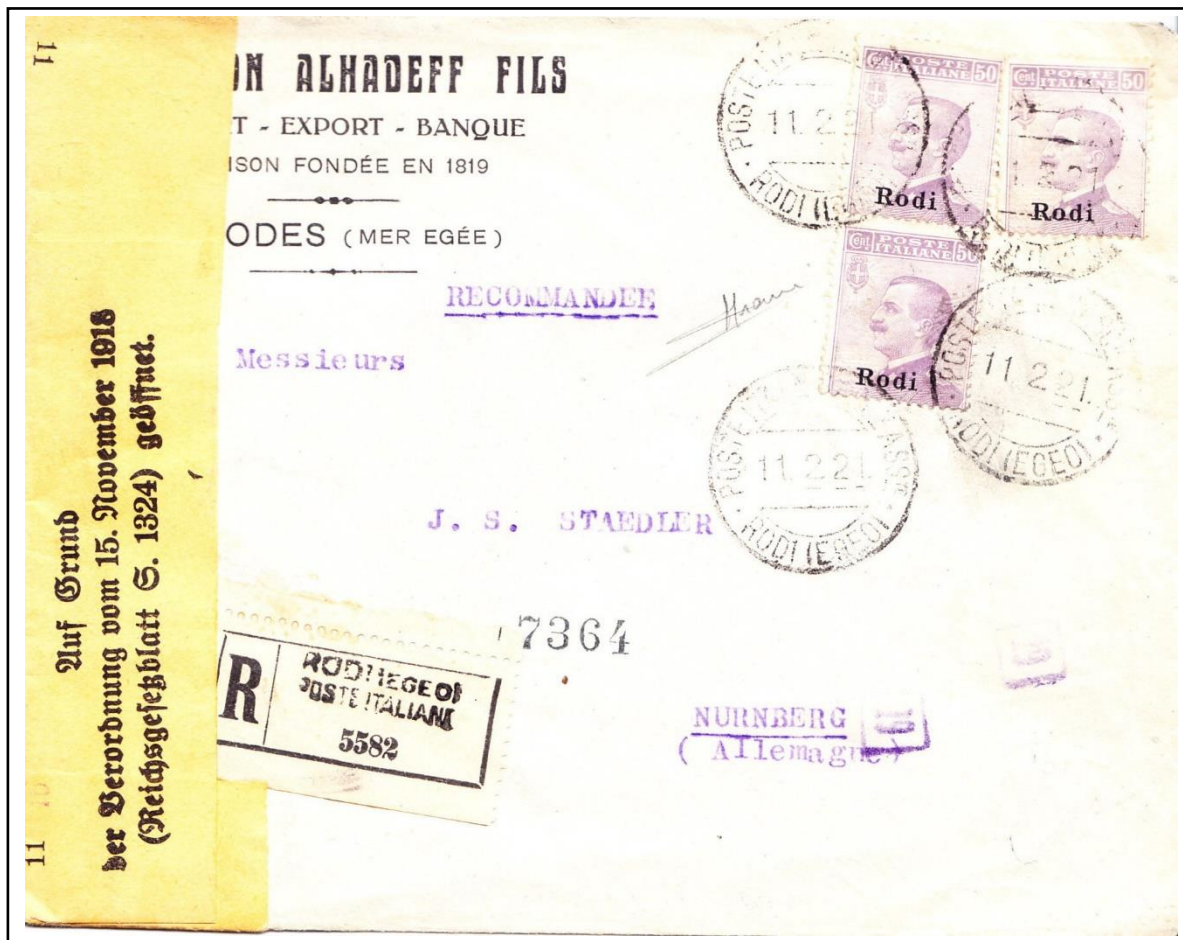


An envelope bearing with a cachet of a logistics unit sent to Paris by an Italian officer; correctly franked with a 25c Italian stamp overprinted “Piscopi” in 1912 (stamps overprinted for one island were also valid in all the other Dodecanese islands); cancelled with the metal date-stamp on 22 June 1917; censored at Rhodes before despatch.



An envelope sent to Italy; correctly franked with a 20c Italian stamp of the 1901 issue overprinted “Rodi” on the increase of the inland letter-rate to 20c in 1915; cancelled as above on 22 June 1917. The reduced copy of part of the reverse (at right) bears the cachet of the Port Health Office at Rhodes (which did not give free postage), plus Lecco arrival and Military Censor date-stamps of 10 July 1917.

"Rodi" overprinted stamps were gradually replaced by stamps of Italy after the Treaty of Sèvres of 1920



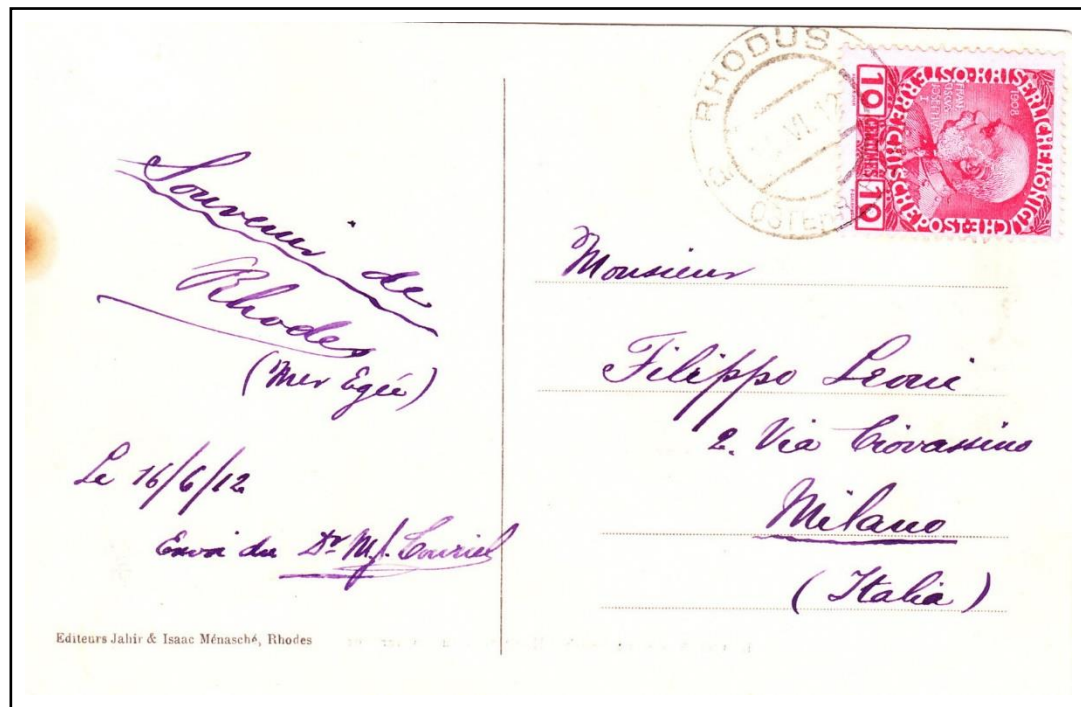
A registered cover of 20-40g sent to Germany franked with 3 x 50c "Rodi" stamps; cancelled the registration date-stamp on 11 February 1921; opened by the economic censor in Munich; Nuremberg arrival back-stamp 19 February



A cover of 61g sent to Rome insured for 7,500 lire; franked with stamps of Italy (now in general use) to the very high value of 25L75; cancelled at Rhodes as above on 1 May 1922; Rome arrival back-stamp of 9 May 1922.



Mail after the Italian occupation in May 1912 and before closure in December 1914



A view-card to Italy correctly franked with a 10c stamp (1908 issue for p.o.'s in Crete); cancelled "RHODUS ÖSTERR. POST a" in black on 16 June 1912.



An illustrated hotel envelope sent to Holland correctly franked with a 1 pi. stamp (1908 Levant issue); cancelled "RHODUS ÖSTERR. POST b" in blue on 3 July 1914; arrival back stamp of Gouda dated 11 July 1914.

Registered mail during the Italian occupation – date-stamp with code-letter “b” in black



Above: To Alexandria, correctly franked with 5c + 25c stamps (= 1pi 20pa) plus a 2pi stamp, giving postage for 40-60g of 2pi 20pa plus registration fee 1 pi; cancelled as above on 14 July 1912.

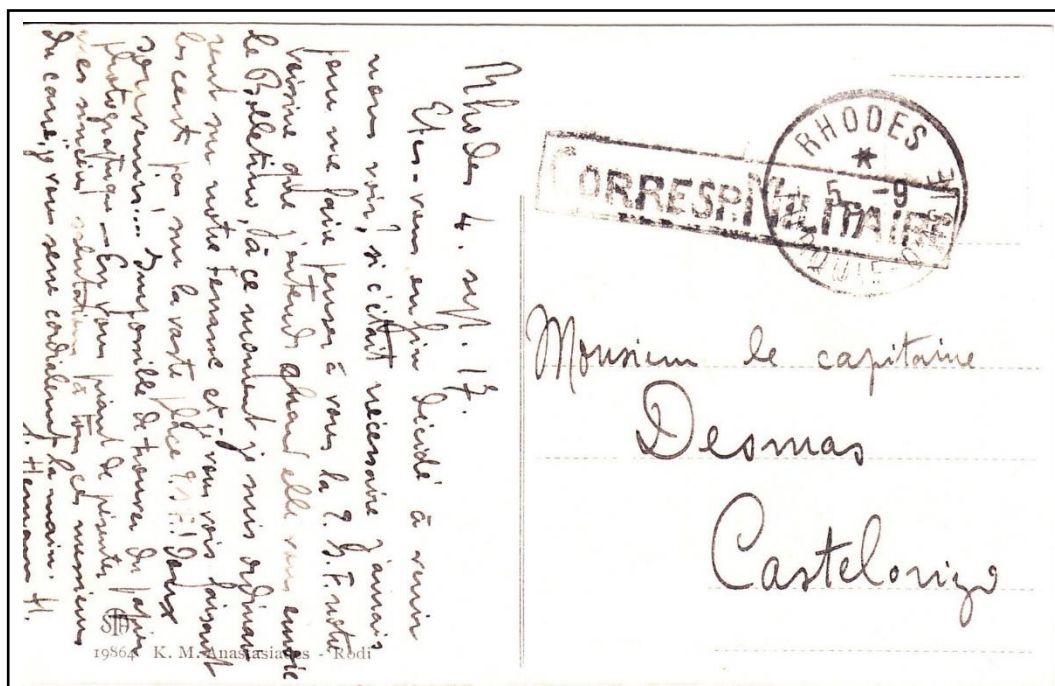
Below: To Vienna; correctly franked with a 15c stamp (= 30pa) plus a 2pi stamp, giving postage for 20-40g of 1pi 30pa plus registration fee 1 pi; cancelled as above on 27 August 1912.



### C. Italian Occupation of Rhodes

### 3.b French Bureau de Recette 1912 - 1921

The “RHODES TURQUIE D’ASIE” date-stamp used on military mail and on French Alexandria stamps



A view-card sent on 5 September 1917 postage-free to the Dodecanese island of Castellorizo, which was at this time occupied by France; bearing the above date-stamp and a boxed "Military Correspondence" mark.



A registered envelope of 20-40g sent to Egypt correctly franked with stamps of the 1902 Alexandria issue to 65c; cancelled as above on 12 November 1915; Italian censorship marking of Rhodes in violet (type recorded 1915-17); Alexandria transit and Cairo arrival back-stamps of 23 and 24 December 1915.

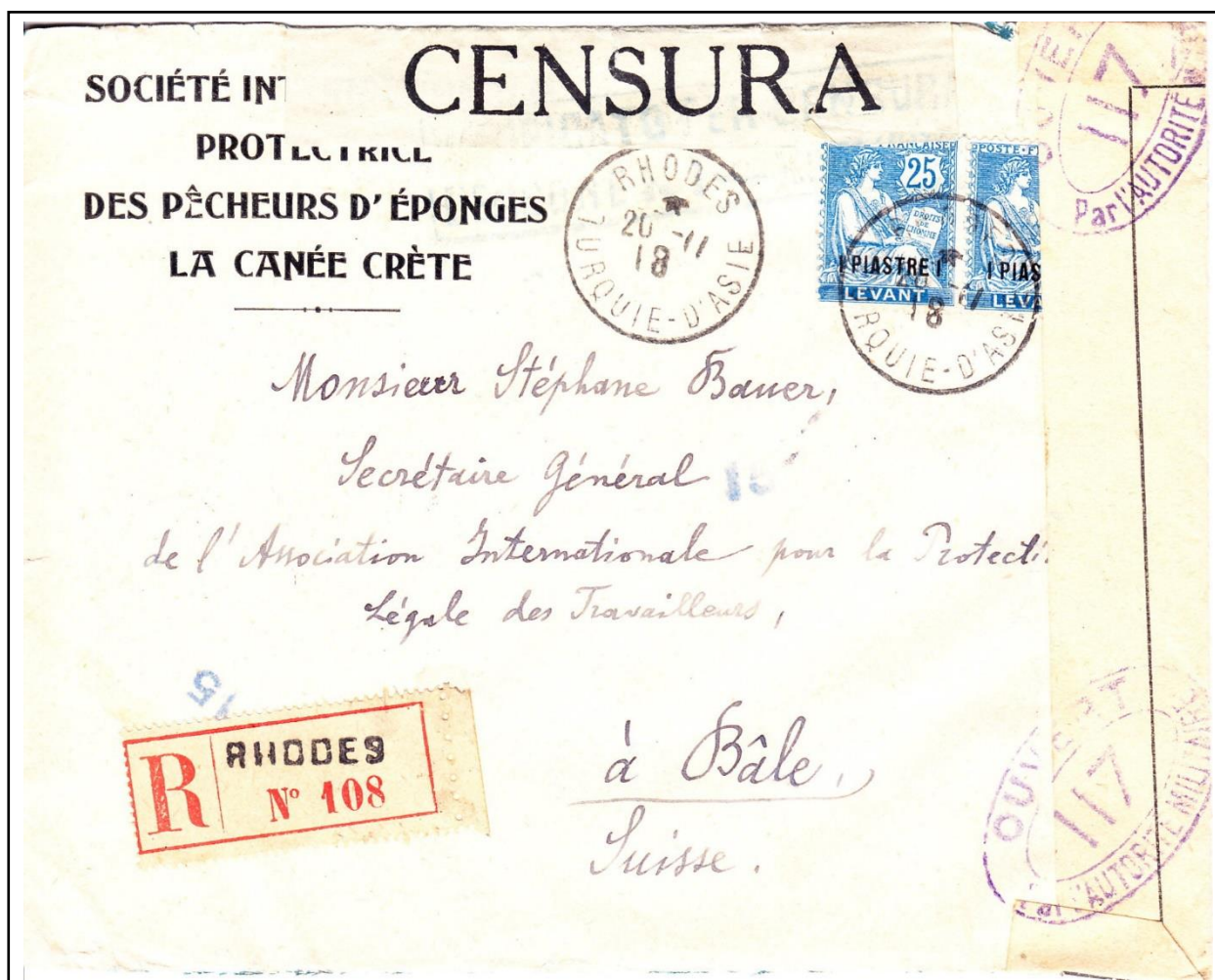
### C. Italian Occupation of Rhodes

### 3.b French Bureau de Recette 1912 - 1921

Use of French Levant stamps cancelled with the solid-line "RHODES TURQUIE D'ASIE" date-stamp



A registered envelope to USA correctly franked at 2pi.; cancelled as above on 1 August 1916; Italian censorship marking in violet (type recorded 1915-17); censored by the French authorities at Dieppe; London and New York transit back-stamps dated 28 August and 8 September 1915; Morrisville arrival back-stamp of 9 September 1915.



A registered envelope to Switzerland correctly franked with two 1pi. stamps; cancelled as above (but curved date) on 20 November 1918; Italian censorship marking of Rhodes in blue (type recorded 1918-21); censored in transit by the French authorities at Belfort; Basle arrival back-stamp of 14 December 1918.



At the end of WW I, in March 1919, a section of the Anatolian Coast became formally a zone of Italian influence. An Expeditionary Force based on Rhodes occupied Smyrna. Military P.O. No. 94 operated at Rhodes from 29 May 1919 and was transferred to Anatolia on 19 December 1919. Under pressure from Kemal Ataturk's troops, this P.O. returned to Rhodes on 16 June 1920 and closed 2 weeks later.



A view-card written at Rhodes by a member of the Anatolia Expeditionary Force and sent to Italy correctly franked with a 5c "Rodi" stamp and a 10c "Stampalia" stamp; cancelled with the "Posta Militare 94" date-stamp at Rhodes on 1 June 1919; with a San Remo arrival date-stamp of 12 June 1919.



An envelope sent to Italy by a member of the Anatolia Expeditionary Force and marked "Urgent"; correctly franked with a 25c stamp of the 1912 "Rodi" overprinted issue; cancelled with the "Posta Militare 94" date-stamp at Rhodes on 8 October 1919; with a Siena express arrival back-stamp of 16 October 1919.

A view-card of Rhodes, with a text written at Rhodes by a member of the French Navy dated 28 September 1920; the card was sent post-free to France from French FPO No. 502 located at Thessalonica on 2 October 1920.



## C. Italian Occupation of Rhodes

## 5. French Bureau de Distribution 1921 - 1924

The Dodecanese were formally ceded to Italy by the Treaty of Sevres in 1920 and the French P.O. at Rhodes was demoted to a Bureau de Distribution in 1921 thereafter using a date stamp with dotted outer circle. This post-office was closed in 1924 after the ratification of the Treaty of Lausanne.



A 10c Levant post-card used to France correctly supplemented with a 20c stamp of the 1903 Levant issue (30c rate 1.4.21-1.4.24); cancelled with the dotted "RHODES TURQUIE D'ASIE" date-stamp on 15 May 1922.



A registered letter to Birmingham, England correctly franked for postage 11pi10pa = 75c for 20-40g plus registration 7pi20pa = 50c (rates 1.4.21-31.3.24) with stamps of the 1921 new currency Levant issue; cancelled as above on 1 January 1923; with a London registered transit back-stamp of 19 January 1923.

### C. Italian Occupation of Rhodes

### 5. French Bureau de Distribution 1921 - 1924

Use stamps of France as from 1923 cancelled with the dotted "RHODES TURQUIE D'ASIE" date-stamp



Above: A cover sent to Paris correctly franked with a 1Fr. stamp paying postage 50c + registration 50c and cancelled on 23 June 1923  
Below: A cover sent to Constantinople franked at 2Fr25 (including a partial 15c stamp) paying postage for first 20g at 50c + 5 x 20g at 25c + registration 50c (rates 1.4.21 - 1.4.24) on 22 January 1924; Turkish arrival back-stamp of "Stamboul" dated 29 January 1924.



## C. Italian possession of the Island of Rhodes

## 6. Italian village post offices/agencies 1912 -1945

Italy occupied Rhodes-Town on 5 May 1912; the Turks capitulated after a battle at Psinthos on 16 May.



Post offices opened at Castelllos and Lindos in Sept. 1912 with "Island of Rhodes" date-stamps; closed on 31 October 1912 and re-opened in 1914.



A 2c stamp c-t-o at Castelllos on 31.10.1912, the date of closure.



Illustr. Tchilinghirian ("unique ex Kohane").



A 15c stamp with the Lindos pen-cancel of 31.12.1913 plus a Rhodes date-stamp of 3.1.1914.

This section of the exhibit is structured as follows (based on :

- a. Post offices were opened in 1914 at Castelllos, Cattavia, Lindos, Monolithos and Villanova (names in large **heavy type** on the above map) and postal agencies at 16 villages (names in small **heavy type**), receiving date-stamps with the inscription "RR. POSTE ITALIANE \* AGENCY NAME (RODI EGEO)".
  - i. The date-stamps of 9 villages with names ending in "OS" or "ES" were italianized in the 1920's? by removing the final "S" in the name.
- b. The postal agencies at Alaerma and Malona, which were apparently opened after 1914 as the inscriptions of their date-stamps no longer included "RR." ("Royal").
- c. New, larger-type date-stamps were introduced as from the late 1920's and are recorded from:
  - i. Four new postal agencies at Apollona, Campochiaro, Embona and Peveragno Rodio, (names in *italics* on the above map).
  - ii. The existing post offices and agencies at Aphandos, Iannadi, Monolithos and Salakos (names in *italics* on the above map).

Non-philatelic material from these offices is often of some rarity.

## C. Italian possession of the Island of Rhodes

### 6.a Italian post office at Castellòs 1914 - 1945

Use of the "ISOLA DI RODI" date-stamp in 1922 and the "RR" date-stamp still with "S" in 1928



A view-card with 5-word greeting sent to Italy correctly franked with a 20c Italian stamp; cancelled with the "RR. POSTE ITALIANE \* CASTELLOS (RODI EGEO)" date-stamp (still with final "S") on 1 May 1928.



A cover sent to Italy insured for 25 lire; franked for 25c postage + 60c registration + 15c insurance with 2 x 20c Italian stamps plus a 40c "Rodi" stamp; cancelled with the "CASTELLOS \* ISOLA DI RODI" date-stamp on 14 July 1922; transit back-stamps of Rhodes-Town and Brindisi; Castelfidardo arrival back-stamp of 25 July 1922.



Use of the "RR. POSTE ITALIANE \* CATTAVIA (RODI EGEO)" date-stamp in 1921 and 1940



A view-card with 5-word greeting sent to Italy correctly franked with a 2 x 10c RODI stamps; cancelled as above on 8 September 1940; with a violet censor marking "Verificato per Censura" (probably from Rhodes-Town).



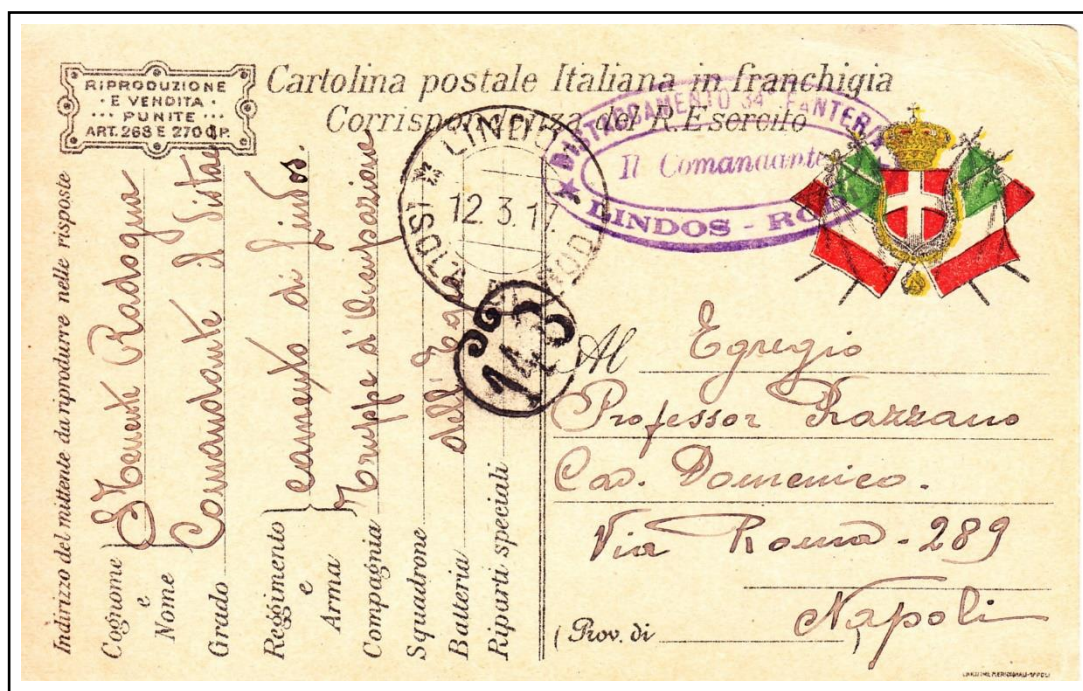
A 22g cover sent to Italy insured for 753L20; franked at 3L60 (postage 2 x 50c, regn. 50c, ins. 2L10); cancelled as above on 1 February 1924; Rhodes-Town transit and Florence arrival back-stamps of 6 and 20 February 1924.



## C. Italian possession of the Island of Rhodes

### 6.a Italian post office at Lindos 1914 - 1945

Continued use of the "LINDOS \* ISOLA DI RODI" date-stamp after re-opening in 1914 to 1920's



A postage-free military post-card with 5-word greeting sent to Italy and bearing the cachet of the Commandant of the Infantry Detachment at Lindos; cancelled as above on 12 March 1917; with Naples delivery mark "143".



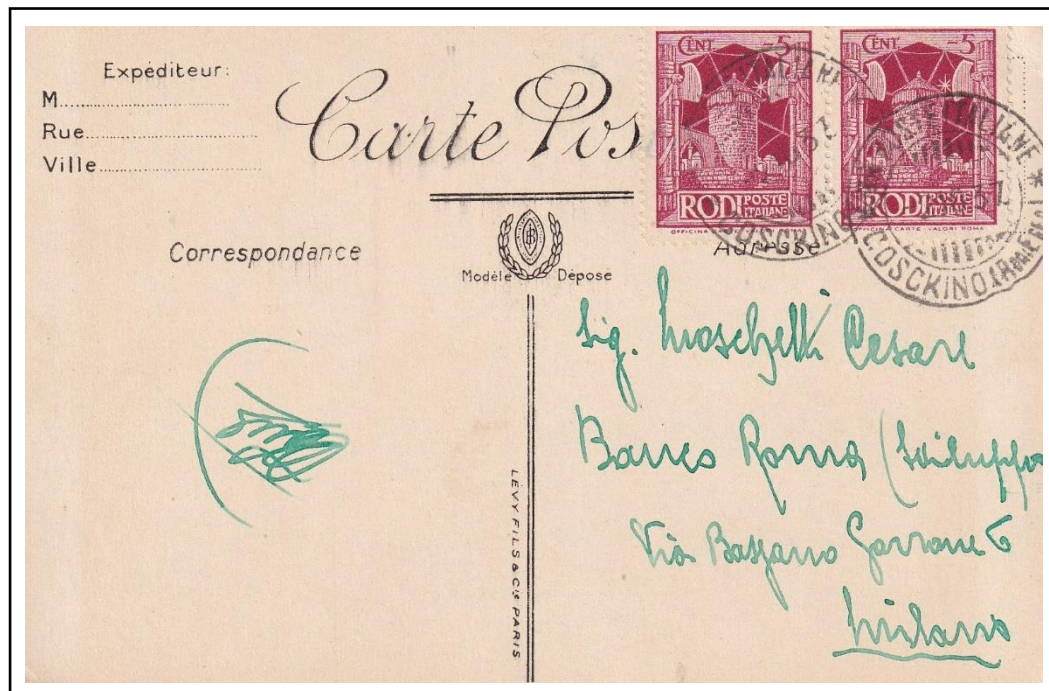
A cover also sent to Italy by the Commandant (who did not enjoy free postage); franked with a 25c "Rodi" stamp (sold at 20c, the postage amount); cancelled as above on 19 June 1917; Caserta arrival back-stamp (date illegible).



## C. Italian possession of the Island of Rhodes

## 6.a Italian postal agency at Cosckino 1914 - 1945

Examples of the continued use of the 1914 date-stamp of this small village agency up to 1940



A vie-card sent to by air Italy correctly franked with 2 x 5c "RODI" postage stamps; cancelled with the "RR. POSTE ITALIANE \* COSCKINO (RODI EGEO)" date-stamp on 2 October 1937.



An official form sent from the Community of Cosckino to the Registry Office in Rhodes-Town but not bearing an official cachet to make it postage-free; franked with a 10c "RODI" stamp cancelled with the "RR. POSTE ITALIANE \* COSCKINO (RODI EGEO)" date-stamp on 1 May 1940.

Use of the "RR. POSTE ITALIANE \* VILLANOVA (RODI EGEO)" date-stamp in 1915 and 1940



A cover sent registered to Turkey correctly franked with a 2 x 25c "Rodi" overprinted stamps; cancelled as above on 17 June 1915; censored and re-sealed at Rhodes-Town on 18 June 1915 and again on arrival in Constantinople.



A cover to Italy correctly franked with a 50c "RODI" stamp; cancelled as above on 11 November 1940; censored and re-sealed (probably in Italy); Rome arrival back-stamp of 18 November 1940.



## C. Italian possession of the Island of Rhodes 6.a Italian postal agencies with names ending in “s”

i. Examples of 1914-type date-stamps where the final “s” of the village agency’s name was later removed



A view-card sent postage-free thanks to the cachet of the Military Commandant in Archangelos; with the “RR. POSTE ITALIANE \* ARCHANGELOS (RODI EGEO)” date-stamp of 27 July 1916 (still with the “s”).



A letter sent to Athens from the small village of Fanes correctly franked at 1 lira (rate 1923-26) with 20 x 5c stamps of Italy; the 5 on the front were cancelled with the “RR. POSTE ITALIANE \* FANES (RODI EGEO)” date-stamp (still with the “s”) on 23 December 1925. The reduced copy of the back at the right shows that the 15 stamps on the back were first cancelled in transit at Rhodes-Town on 24 December 1925.



**C. Italian possession of the Island of Rhodes    6.a Italian postal agencies with names ending in “s”**

i. Examples of 1914-type date-stamps with the final “s” of the village agency’s name removed



An airmail letter to Italy correctly franked with 2 x 50c “RODI” airmail stamps cancelled “RR. POSTE ITALIANE \* ARCHANGELO (RODI EGEO)” on 11 February 1941 (the “s” now removed); censored in transit at Rhodes-Town.

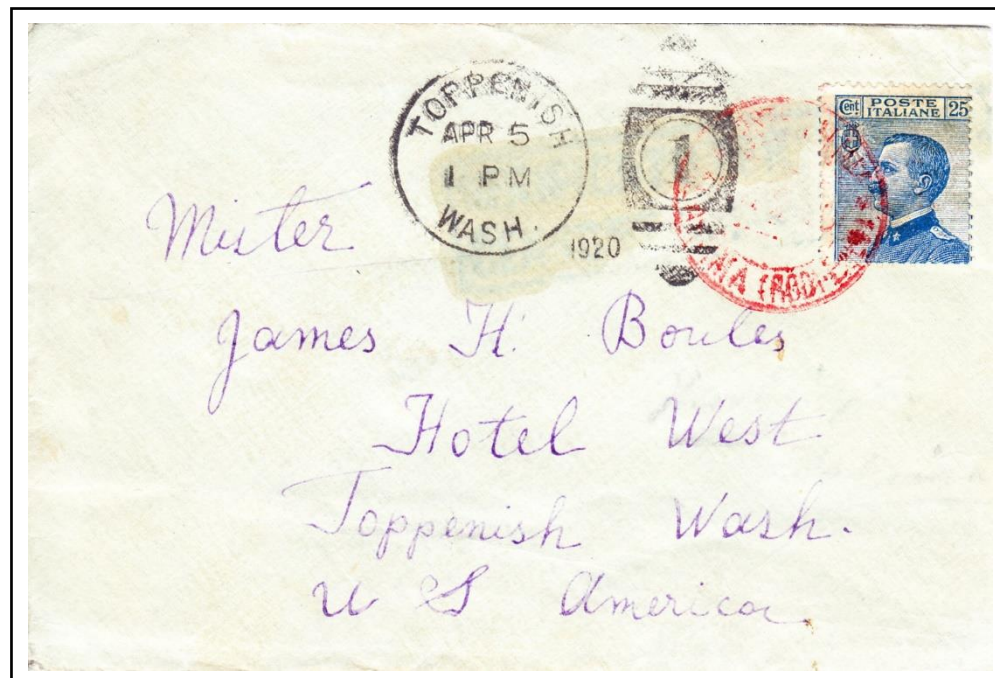


An over-franked philatelic cover sent to Italy from Lardos cancelled with the “RR. POSTE ITALIANE \* LARDO (RODI EGEO)” date-stamp (with traces of the “s”) on 15 December 1929; Rhodes-Town transit b/s 16 December.



**C. Italian possession of the Island of Rhodes      6.b Italian po's at Alaerma & Malona ca 1917 - 1945**

Date-stamps of type "POSTE ITALIANE \* ALAERMA / MALONA (RODI EGEO)" without "RR." issued after 1914



A cover sent to the USA correctly franked with a 25c stamp of Italy; cancelled "POSTE ITALIANE \* ALAERMA (RODI EGEO)" in red in March 1920; weak censor mark of Rhodes-Town; Toppenish arrival mark of 5 April 1920.



A cover to Greece correctly franked with 5 x 25c "RODI" stamps; cancelled "POSTE ITALIANE \* MALONA (RODI EGEO)" on 12 January 1930; Rhodes-Town transit and Athens arrival back-stamps of 13 and 15 January 1930.

C. Italian possession of the Island of Rhodes

6.c Larger-type date-stamp from the late 1920's

i. Larger-type date-stamps from new agencies at Campochiaro and Peveragno Rodio



A postage-free official form sent from the Community of Peveragno Rodio to the Registry Office in Rhodes-Town bearing the "PEVERAGNO RODIO RODI \* EGEO" date-stamp of 12 September 1942.



A view-card with 5-word greeting sent to Italy correctly franked with a 20c "RODI" stamp; cancelled with the "CAMPOCHIARO RODI \* EGEO" date-stamp on 21 December 1939.



C. Italian possession of the Island of Rhodes

6.c Larger-type date-stamp from the late 1920's

ii. Larger-type date-stamps of the office/agency at Aphandos and Jannadi



A commercial reply-card sent to France franked with 2 x 20c "RODI" stamps; cancelled with the "AFANDO \* RODI EGEO" (Italianized version of "Aphandos") date-stamp on 25 July 1937; Paris arrival mark of 1 August 1937.



A philatelic envelope bearing five Aegean stamps cancelled with the "JANNADI \* RODI EGEO" date-stamp on 6 February 1940.

C. Italian possession of the Island of Rhodes

6.c Larger-type date-stamp from the late 1920's

ii. Larger-type date-stamps of the office/agency at Monolithos and Salakos



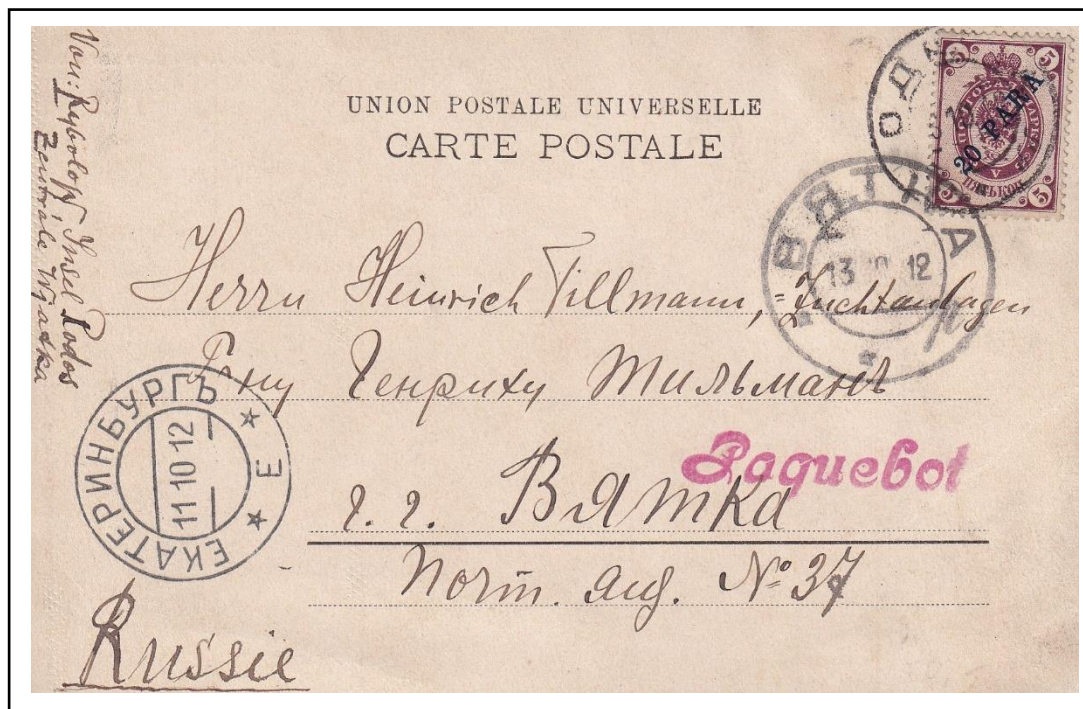
A letter to Italy correctly franked with a 50c Aegean stamp cancelled with the "SALACO \* RODI EGEO" date-stamp on 14 December 1939; Rome arrival back-stamp of 19 December 1939.



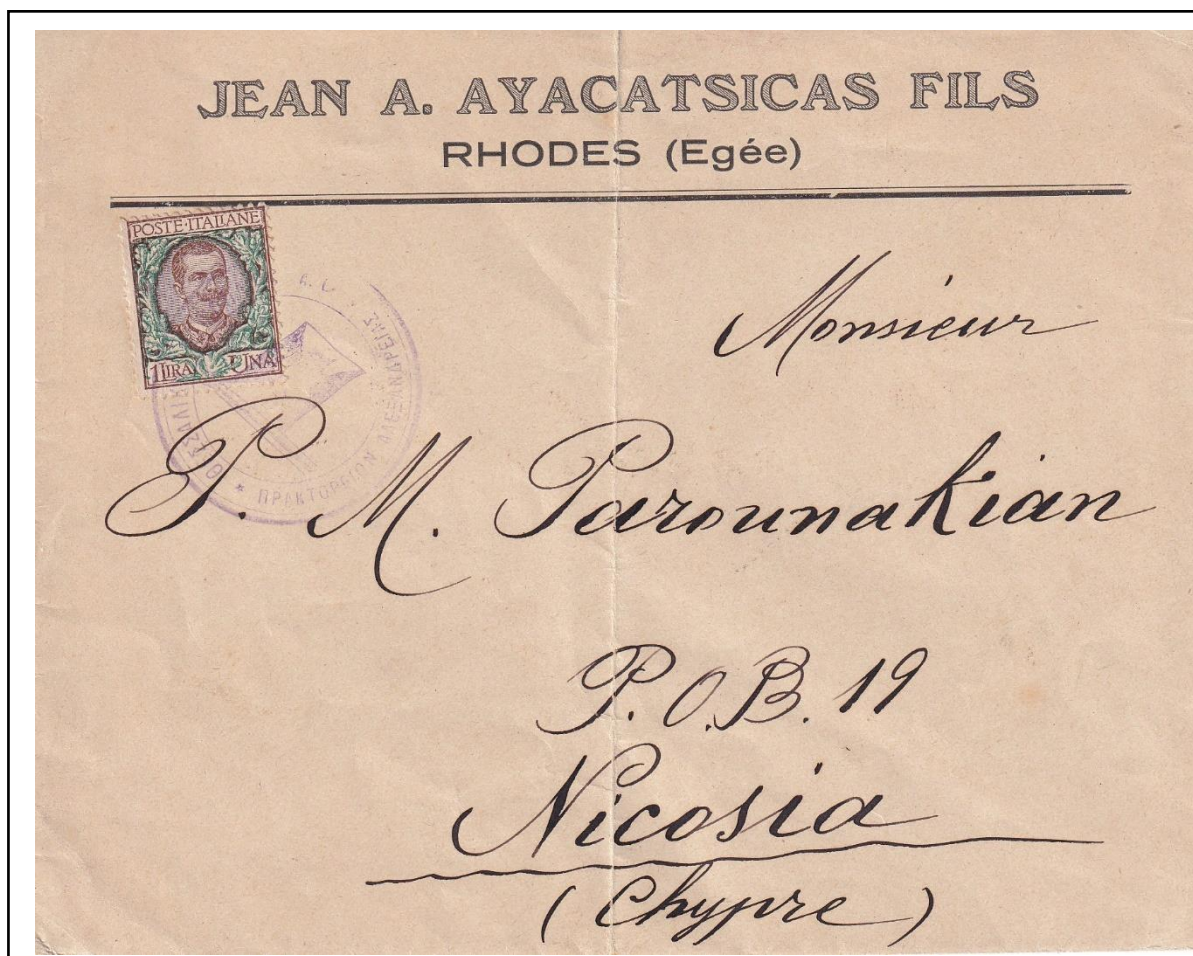
A postage-free official form sent from the Community of Monolito (Italianized version of "Monolithos") to the Registry Office in Rhodes-Town bearing the "MONOLITO \* RODI EGEO" date-stamp of 17 December 1941.



## Ship letters – a long tradition in the Aegean



A view-card to Russia written at Rhodes handed-in directly to a ROPIT vessel franked with a 20 para on 5 kop. Russian Levant stamp; this was cancelled on arrival at Odessa on 10 October 1912, receiving the red "Paquebot" marking (recorded only 1910). Ekaterinburg transit and Batka arrival date-stamps of 11 October and 13 October 1912.



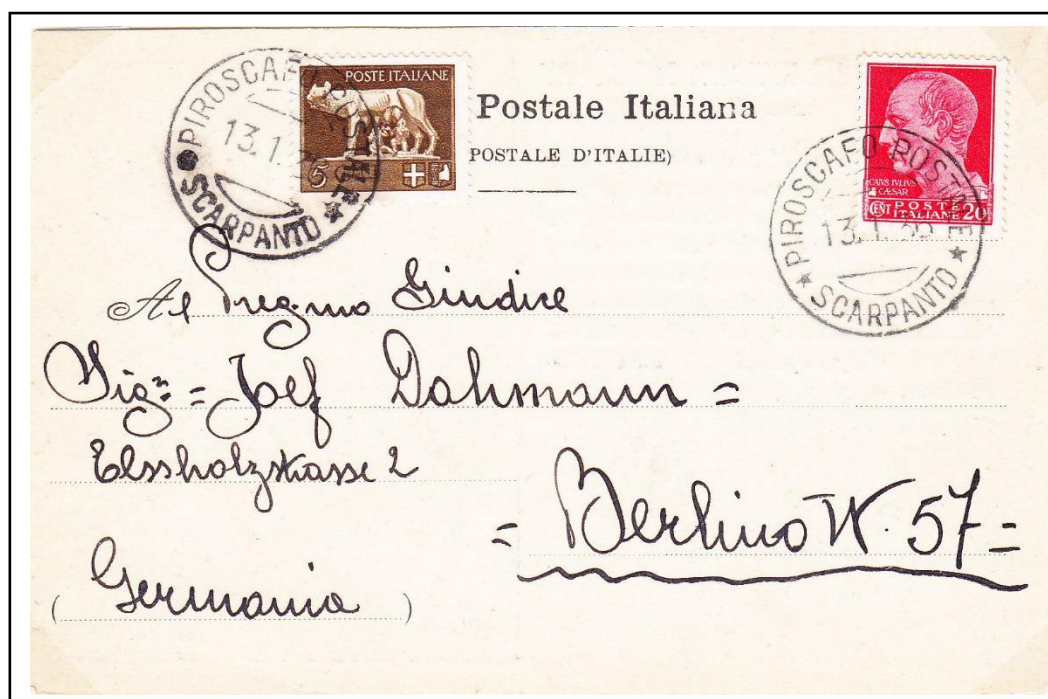
A letter to Cyprus from a firm in Rhodes handed to a vessel of the Greek Thessalonica Steamship Company franked at 1L (rate 1923-26); cancelled by the Agent in Alexandria on arrival and forwarded by post (b/s 27 August 1925).



## Inter-island lines within the Dodecanese based on Rhodes



A cover to Italy sent by the Port Office at Calymnos correctly franked with a 20c on 15c "Caso" overprinted stamp which was cancelled on arrival at Rhodes with the "Postal Messenger" inter-island line date-stamp on 20 April 1916 (listed in the standard literature with no examples on cover recorded); Livorno arrival back-stamp dated 29 April 1916.



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



## Ship-mail to Italy via the Puglia and Adriatica Lines



This view-card sent to Switzerland from Rhodes was handed-in on the MS. "Egeo" correctly franked with a 75c Italian stamp (rate and stamp from 1926), which was cancelled on board the ship on 19 March 1930. The ship was at this time owned by the Puglia Line and the card will have been put ashore at Brindisi for onward rail transit.



This envelope sent to Italy has the printed heading of a firm in Rhodes. It was handed-in to the MS. "Piero Foscari" (owned by Adriatica and serving on the line to Venice) correctly franked with a pair of 25c "RODI" stamps, which were cancelled on board the ship on 21 January 1933; the cover has a Trieste arrival back-stamp (date illegible).

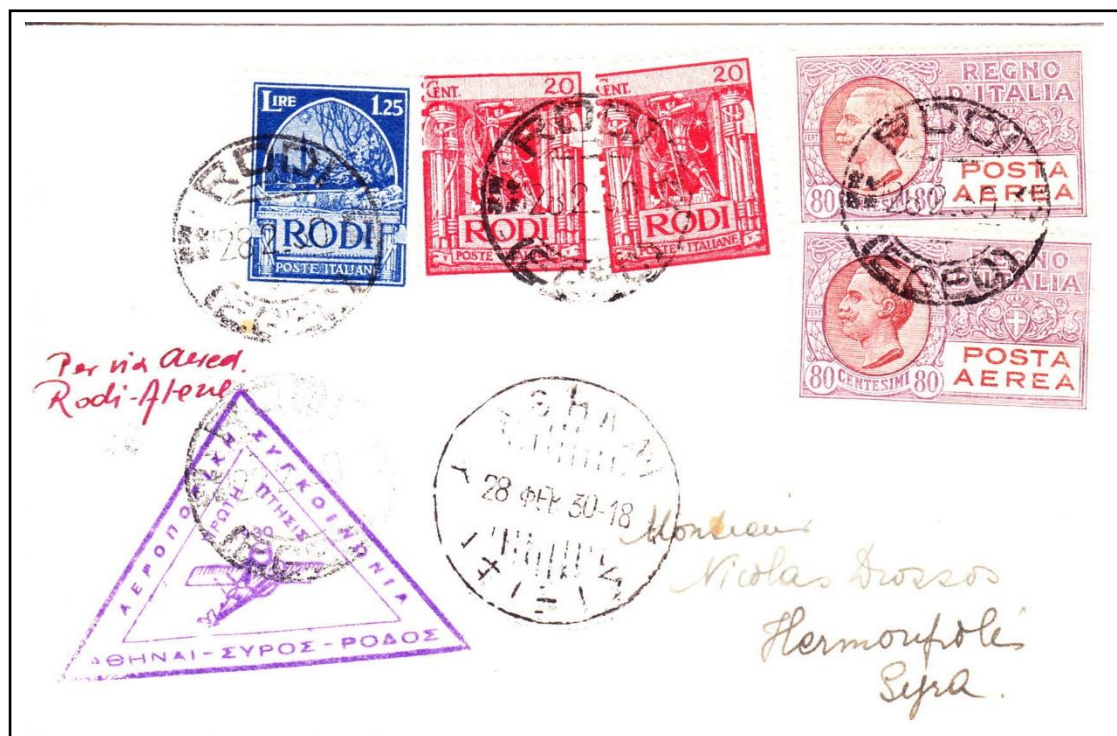
Ship-mail to Venice and Trieste via the Lloyd Triestino Line



Two envelopes to Italy with the printed headings of firms in Rhodes correctly franked with 50c "RODI" stamps. Above: Handed-in to the SS. "Stella D'Italia" on 22 January 1933; with Milan arrival back-stamp of 25 January 1933 Below: weight 20-40g handed-in to the MS. "Calitea" on 25 November 1934; Trieste arrival back-stamp 28 November 1934.



Italian Aero Espresso route Rhodes - Athens opened 28 February 1930 – this became the normal route



Covers to Athens by 1st flight: Above: Postage 25c (printed matter to Greece) + airmail 3L (via Italy); Athens transit d/s and Greek cachet added (prepared for return flight on 21 March); by ship to Syros (arrival b/s 2 March 1930). Below: Postage to Italy 50c + airmail 50c (rate Italy); flown from Athens to Brindisi on next day (arrival d/s 1 March).



French Air Union route Marseilles–Beirut via Naples & Castellorizo from 1929 – rare route for Rhodes mail



A philatelic post-card franked with a 20c “Virgil” stamp to pay the 5-word postcard rate plus a 50c “Virgil” air stamp for the airmail surcharge; sent from Rhodes to Naples via Castellorizo on 28 January 1931 in order to use the faster Air Union Orient route service. A special vignette was affixed to indicate this routing. The card went by sea to Castellorizo (date-stamp of 29 January 1931) and was flown from there to Naples (date-stamp 2 February 1931).



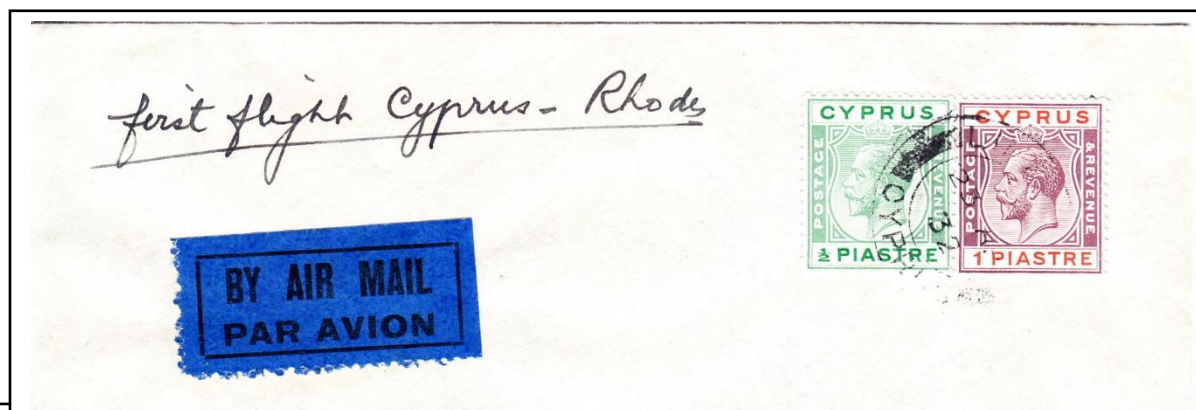
This 30c post-card supplemented with 20c + 25c stamps to pay the 75c postcard rate was sent from Rhodes to Berlin via Castellorizo on 3 June 1930 in order to use the faster Air Union service and bears two Italian 1L airmail stamps to pay the airmail surcharge (rate as from 1 January 1930). The card went by sea to Castellorizo (date-stamp of 4 June 1930) and was flown to Naples (back-stamp 5 June), from Rome (date-stamp 5 June) and from Basel (date-stamp 7 June); Berlin arrival date-stamp 7 June 1930 plus red boxed airmail confirmation hand-stamp.



## C. Italian possession of Rhodes

## 7. Airmail services 1930 – 1943

British Imperial Airways: London-(Rhodes)-Cyprus-(Karachi) from 16 April 1932 – unusual route for Rhodes mail



Covers to/from Rhodes by the above route: Above: First return flight from Cyprus 24 April 1932. Centre: First outward flight from Rhodes 10 May 1932. Below: First airmail from London for Rhodes 14 May 1932, flown only to Athens (transit b/s 16 May), then apparently ship to Rhodes (arrival b/s 23 May).

## C. Italian possession of Rhodes

## 7. Airmail services 1930 – 1943

Use of air stamps to prepay the airmail fee – first Aegean air stamps in first commemorative issue 1930



An airmail letter to France franked with a 1L25 stamp to pay the postage plus four Italian 50c “Ferruci” air stamps for the airmail fee; sent from Rhodes via Brindisi on 7 September 1930; Paris arrival back-stamp 12 September 1930.



A philatelic registered airmail letter to England heavily over-franked with postage stamps of the “Ferruci” issue overprinted “RODI” to 2L25 plus air stamps of the same issue to 5L50 overprinted for the Aegean. This issue of 20 October 1930 was this first issue of airmail stamps for the Aegean. Cancelled at Rhodes on 16 November 1930 and flown to Brindisi (transit back-stamp 17 November); Italian TPO’s indicate rail to Paris, flown from there to the UK.



Confirmation of carriage by air – also exceptionally when not prepaid for air-mail



A letter sent from Rhodes to Rome on 6 August 1933 franked only for surface mail. Flown first to Brindisi (transit d/s 8 August) then to Rome, arriving on the same day. Brindisi to Rome air carriage confirmed with two-line marking.



A letter sent from Rhodes to Turin on 15 July 1932 franked with Italian 50c postage and airmail stamps. A Turin back-stamp indicates arrival on 17 July and a bi-lingual two-line marking confirms carriage by air.



Acceptability of air stamps to prepay the postage – definitive issue of Aegean air stamps in Jan. 1934



A letter sent from Rhodes to Venice by airmail on 3 May 1934 over-franked with air stamps of the 1934 Aegean issue (to a value of 1L80). The post office noted that the air stamps were not valid to pay the postage and postage due of twice the 50c postage was marked collected on delivery in Venice on 5 May 1934.



An air express cover sent from Rhodes to Italy on 17 August 1938 correctly franked with stamps of the appropriate issues prepaying the postage, airmail and express fees. Fiorenzuola d'Arda arrival back-stamp of 19 August 1938.



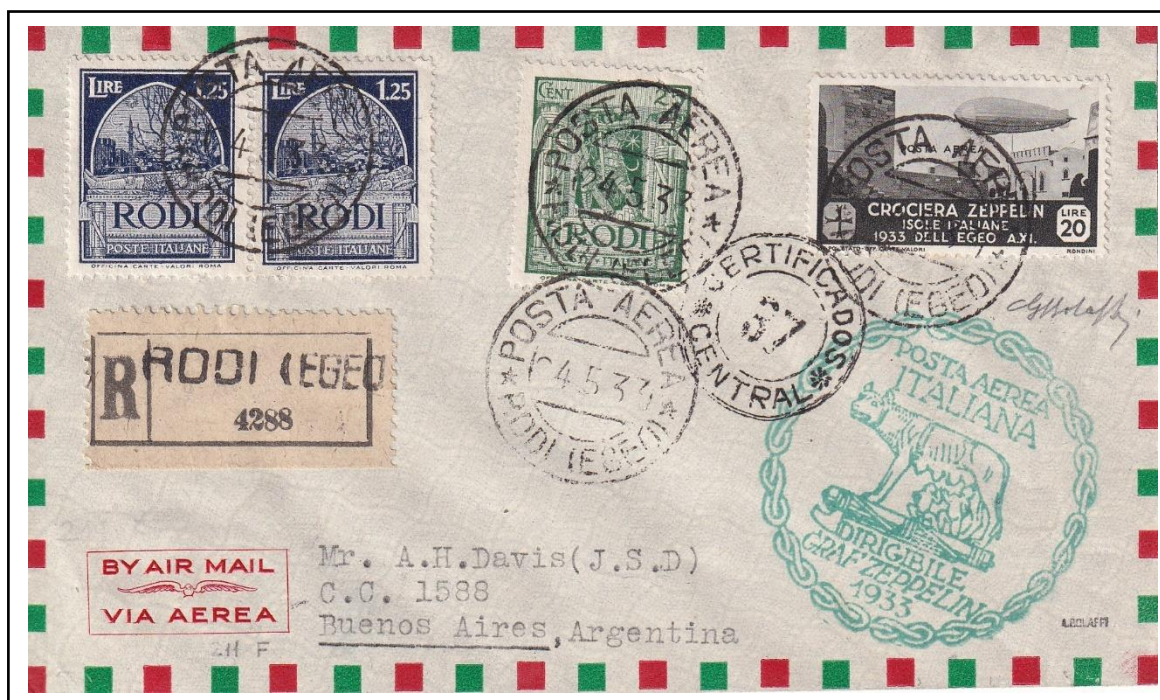
## C. Italian possession of Rhodes

## 7. Airmail services 1930 – 1943

Philatelic mail with full Aegean franking for forwarding to German Zeppelin flights – August 1932 to 1934



A Zeppelin flight card to Brazil sent on 19 August 1932 (first flight with full Aegean franking) with stamps to the total value of 9L75 paying postage 1L25, registration 1L50 and the Zeppelin rate to Brazil of 7L (letter rates applied here). Flown to Rome, rail transit to Marseilles for feeder flight to Friedrichshafen; violet flight cachet and Friedrichshafen despatch date-stamp of 29 August 1932 added; Pernambuco arrival back-stamp of 1 September 1932.



A Zeppelin flight cover sent on 24 May 1933 franked at 1L25 for postage plus registration 1L50 and with a 20L Aegean Zeppelin stamp for the special letter rate to Argentina. The Rome back-stamp and green flight cachet confirm carriage on the Rome round trip on 29 May; a Buenos Aires back-stamp confirms arrival on 10 June 1933.



Under- and over-franked letters sent by air via Italy by persons on board ships visiting Rhodes



A letter intended for airmail sent to Hungary from Rhodes on 20 August 1934 franked at 1L50. After postage of 1L25, this left only 25c, not 75c for the airmail fee. Marked "After the departure". The 75% copy of the reverse shows a Brindisi airmail back-stamp of 24 August; a Rome airmail back-stamp of 25 August, and T.P.O. back-stamps indicating carriage by rail via Venice and Trieste to arrive at Szombathely on 27 August 1934.



A registered airmail letter sent from Rhodes to Split in Croatia on 11 April 1939 heavily over-franked at 16L for postage 1L25 plus registration 1L50 and airmail 1L. The 75% copy of the reverse shows arrival by rail at the port Ancona, then arrival by air at Zara, an Italian enclave in Croatia, on 14 April and surface carriage to arrive at Split on 16 April 1939.



## C. Italian possession of Rhodes

## 7. Airmail services 1930 – 1943

The air services continued after Italy entered WW2 in June 1940, plus a new L.A.T.I. route to Brazil in 1941



An airmail letter sent registered to Milan on 17 August 1941 correctly franked with 1L25 postage and 1L airmail stamps of the only Italian Aegean issue after June 1940. The letter was censored at Rhodes, flown to Italy, and by rail to Milan.



A letter sent from Rhodes to Chile by the L.A.T.I. route on 8 July 1941 (discontinued in December 1941). The 26L75 franking pays postage 1L25, registration 1L50 and airmail fees of 50c per 15g from Rhodes to Italy plus 2 x 11L75 per 5g to Chile. Flown first to Italy, then by L.A.T.I. to Brazil and by Condor to Santiago de Chile (arrival b/s 26 July).





A registered letter sent by air to Rome on 28 November 1942 franked: postage 50c, regn. 1L25, airmail fee 3 x 50c.



A letter sent by air to Belgium via Italy on 9 September 1942; over-franked by 10c: postage 1L25, airmail fee 1L. Censored and resealed first in Rhodes, then in the German Munich sector. Antwerp transit back-stamp 20 September.





A commercial letter sent to Rome on 23 November 1942 correctly franked for postage 50c and airmail fee 50c with stamps of the Aegean. Censored at Rhodes before despatch.



An official registered airmail letter to Italy from 30 September 1942; franked as above (plus registration 1L25) but with Italian stamps; not censored and marked "Free Passage" to show this; Milan arrival back-stamp 2 October 1942.



### C. Italian possession of Rhodes

### 7. Airmail services 1930 – 1943

Airmail services to Italy and postal connections to neutral countries were maintained after Italy entered WW2



A registered airmail letter to the Red Cross from 19 December 1941. The franking of 4L25 pays postage 1L25, registration 1L50 and 3 x 50c for airmail to Italy. Censored in Rhodes. Geneva (delivery b/s 26 December 1941).



A registered express airmail letter to Switzerland from 15 February 1943. The franking of 6L75 pays postage 1L25, registration 1L50, express fee 2L50 and 3 x 50c for airmail to Italy. Delayed through censorship in Rhodes and again in Milan (despatch back-stamp 26 February) and Zürich (express delivery back-stamp 27 February).



## C. Italian possession of Rhodes

## 8. Italian Military Post Offices 1940 - 1943

Italian Military Post Office No. 550, assigned to the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces in the Aegean and the 50th Infantry Division "Regina", was located on Rhodes from 25 June 1940 to 8 September 1943; it used date-stamps reading "POSTA MILITARE" with "NRO 550" or "N. 550" at the foot.



An uncensored letter sent to Italy with a 50c "RODI" stamp, paying the airmail fee, cancelled with the "POSTA MILITARE NRO 550" date-stamp on 10 July 1940 with the fascist year "XVIII" in the date



A letter to Italy with a boxed postage-free marking of Military P.O. no. 550 (with an "E" indicating units on other islands) cancelled with the above date-stamp on 23 April 1941 (early use); Monte Sant Angelo arrival back-stamp 28 April.



A series of “mute” date-stamps – civilian cancellers with inscriptions defaced – were issued to units trained at Campochiaro in late 1940. These date-stamps went with the units and give no indication of location.



A letter sent to Italy with a 50c “RODI” stamp cancelled with a 29mm mute date-stamp on 16 January 1941; censored and re-sealed, presumably at Rhodes; Bassano arrival back-stamp of 31 January 1941.



A letter to USA with two 50c “RODI” air stamps paying the airmail fee to Rome cancelled with a 27mm mute date-stamp on 29 June 1941; censored and re-sealed at Rhodes; the straight-line mark confirms air transit just to Rome.



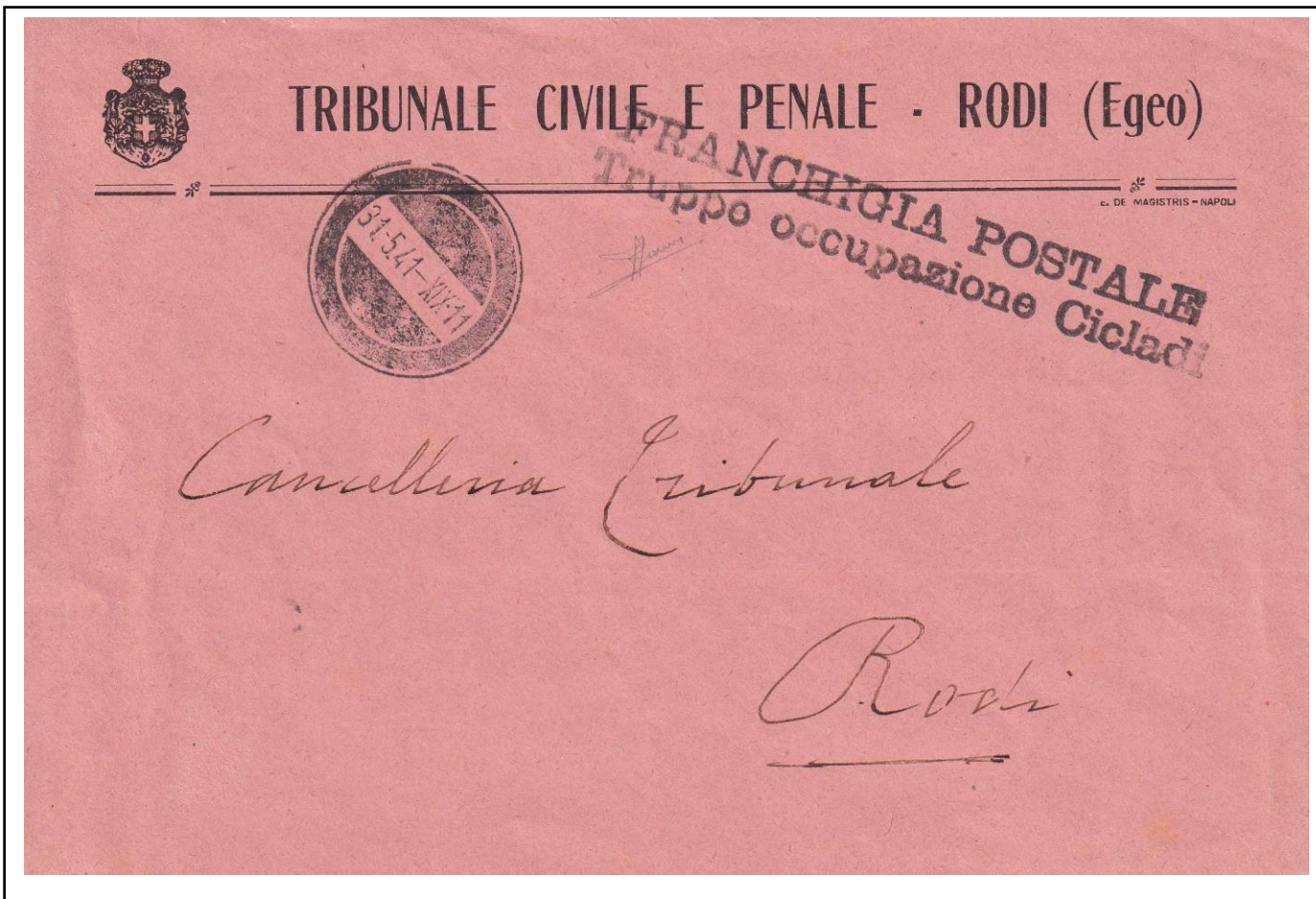
## C. Italian possession of Rhodes

## 8. Italian Military post offices 1940 - 1943

The "Regina" Division served by Military P. O. No. 550 occupied Cyclades islands from May to July 1941



A view-card sent from Syros by a member of the "Regina" Division from Rhodes, franked with two 10c stamps cancelled on 25 June 1941 with this unit's "CICLADI" date-stamp. It was sent to Military P.O. No. 550 at Rhodes, arriving on 29 June 1941. In August this unit was replaced by members of the "Cuneo" Division from Samos.



This envelope was returned to Rhodes by a member of the "Regina" Division with a 30mm mute date-stamp of 31 May 1941. It bears the 2-line frank "Postal Frank / Cyclades Occupation Troops" used before the Cicladi date-stamp.



The "mute" date-stamps with no indication of location introduced in 1940 were in use until September 1943



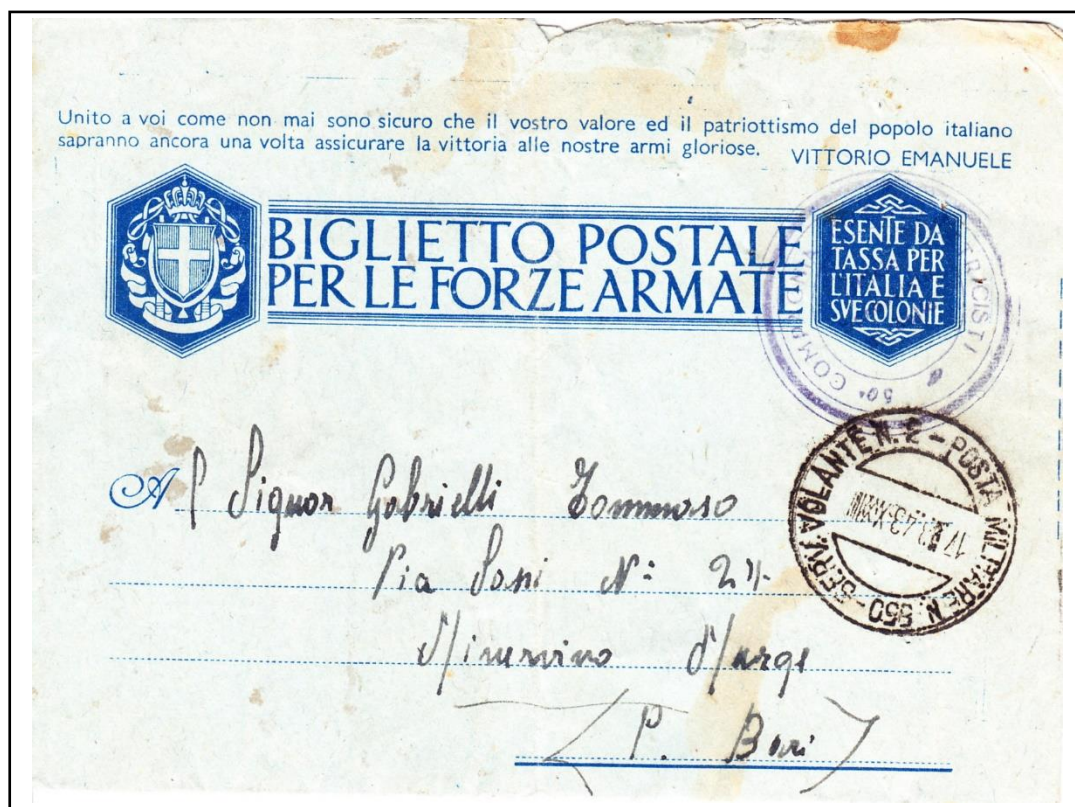
A letter to the Red Cross in Geneva franked with an Italian 1L25 stamp cancelled with the 30mm mute date-stamp on 20 December 1941; censored and re-sealed at Rhodes; the red straight-line mark was added by the Red Cross.



A propaganda envelope sent to Rhodes-Town by the lighthouse-keeper at Cattavia in the south of the island franked with a 50c Italian air stamp cancelled with the 30mm mute date-stamp on 10 March 1943 and censored on arrival.



The "Flying Services" using the date-stamps "POSTA MILITARE N. 550 – SERV. VOLANTE N. 1 (& 2)"



A military letter-form sent to Italy by a member of the "Regina" Division from Flying Service No. 2 at Rhodes on 17 August 1943. The date-stamp still shows the Fascist date, which was blocked-out shortly afterwards.



An envelope sent locally through Flying Service No. 1 at Rhodes on 12 December 1941 franked at 50c for postage.



## C. Italian possession of Rhodes

## 8. Italian Military Post Offices 1940 - 1943

An "N. 550" date-stamp with "SEZ. A" was prepared (one known) but later used with just "E" and without



An officer's envelope sent to Italy franked at 50c postage + 50c airmail from St. Nicolas, Crete, via Rhodes on 5 October 1941 showing the "N. 550 SEZ. A" date-stamp altered to just "N. 550 E" (**only this one example is recorded**).



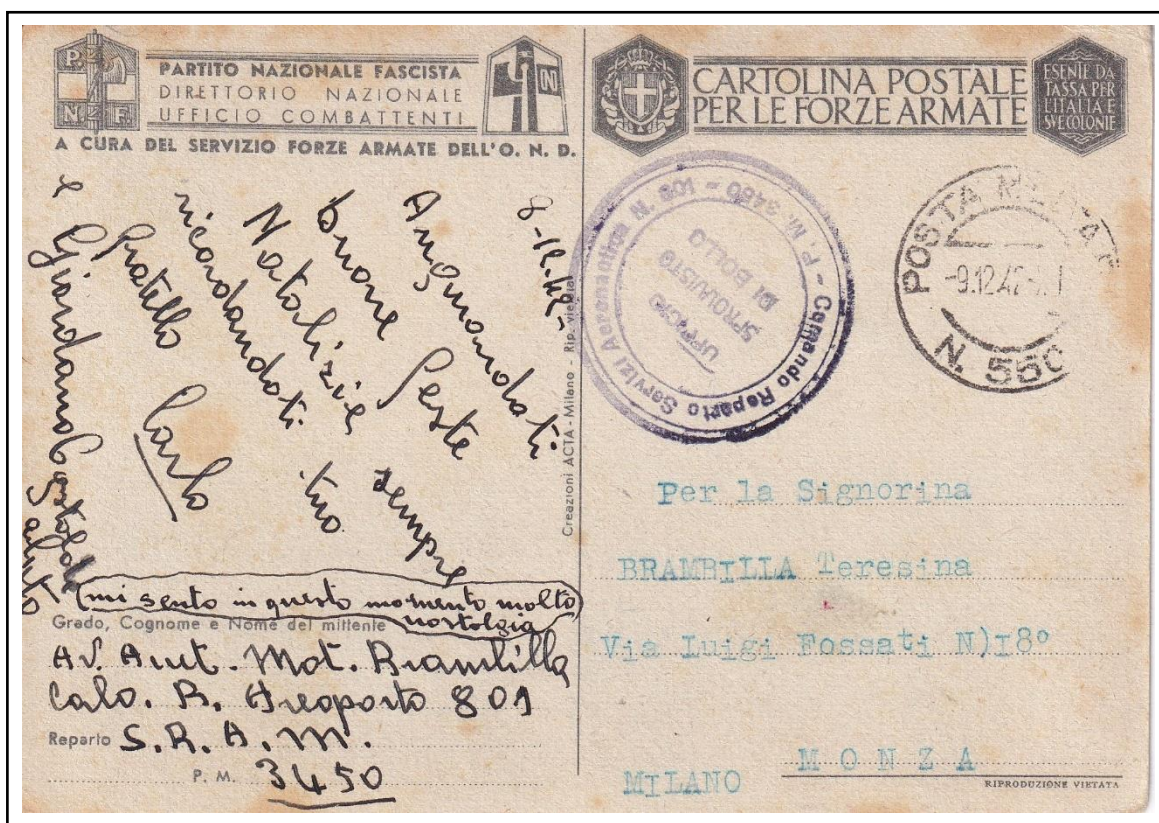
A military post-card sent to Italy from Military P.O. No. 550 at Rhodes on 3 September 1943. It bears the date-stamp in its final form, with the Fascist date blocked-out after the fall of Mussolini. Censored at Rhodes.



## C. Italian possession of Rhodes

## 8. Italian Military Post Offices 1940 - 1943

A series of "POSTA MILITARE" date-stamps with just "N. 550" below was also used from 1940 to June 1943



A post-card sent post-free to Italy with the cachet of the Airport Services Dept. and the "POSTA MILITARE N. 550" date-stamp of 9 December 1942. The cachet bears the P.M. no. 3450 which was the collection office in Bari.



A postage-free letter from the HQ of the Armed Forces (oval frank mark) with PM date-stamp of 14 February 1943 to a P.O.B. in Rhodes-Town; the stamps for the 25c P.O.B. fee were cancelled at the civilian p.o. on 16 February 1943.

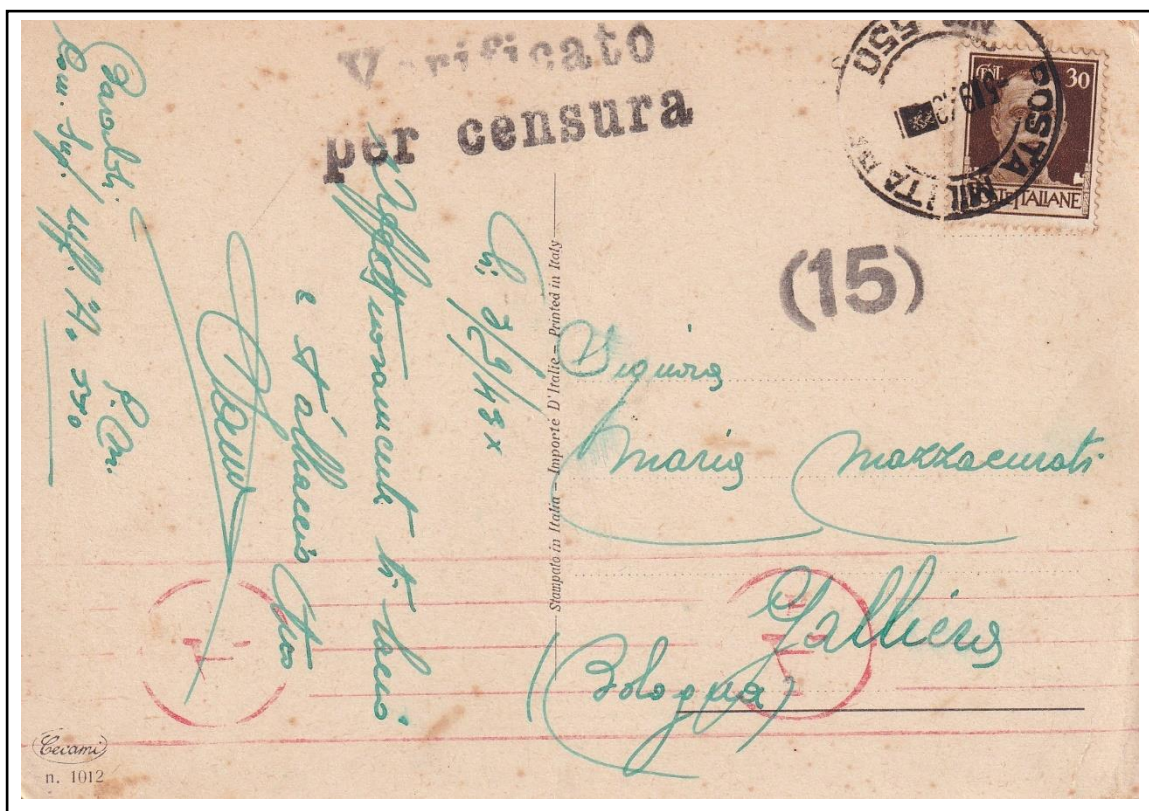


## 8. Italian Military Post Offices 1940 - 1943

After the fall of Mussolini in mid-August 1943, the “POSTA MILITARE 550” date-stamps were used with the fascist year blocked-out. German Forces took-over after the Armistice of 9 September 1943.



Regd. express letter to Italy franked at 1L80, cancelled "POSTA MILITARE N. 550" on 5 September 1943. Despatched uncensored, it received a back-stamp of P.M. no. 3300 in Rome on 7 September 1943. The last letter to get out?



A post-card to Italy correctly franked with a 30c stamp also cancelled "POSTA MILITARE Nro. 550" on 5 September 1943. Delayed for censorship, it remained until the German take-over and was censored again by the Munich sector.



The postal service within the island of Rhodes continued as before. Between November 1943 and February 1945 five different issues with 100% charity surcharges were made locally. It has been suggested that the German Army benefitted from these surcharges. Items with these stamps are usually c-t-o.



A card sent locally correctly franked at 30c with 5c + 25c stamps of the 15 November 1943 "Pro Assistenza Egeo" issue (the 25c with inverted overprint is only recorded unused) cancelled at Rhodes Town on 30 November 1943; arrival date-stamp of Malona Village of 2 December 1943. The only recorded genuinely used item with this issue.

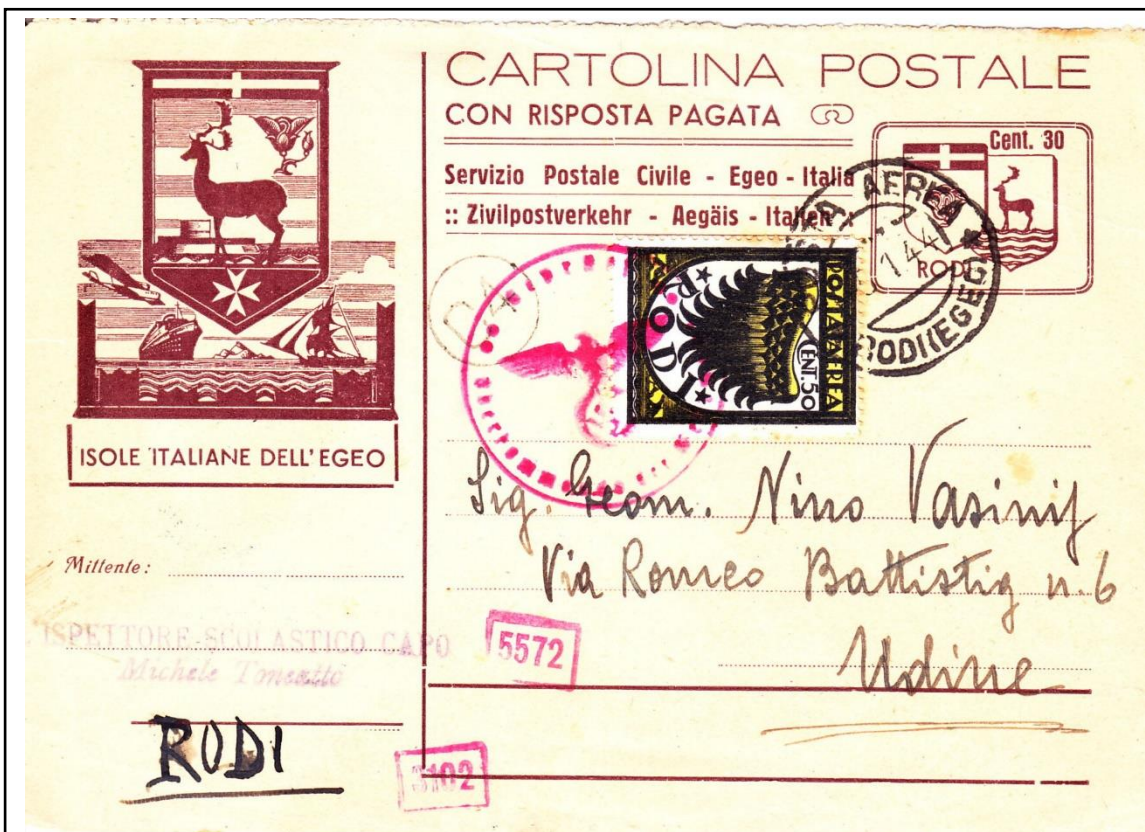


A locally-addressed view-card bearing 5L and 10L stamps each overprinted with a red cross, "+ 10" and "FEBBRAIO 1945", cancelled at Rhodes Town on 18 February 1945, the first day of issue.

The Italian Post Office on Rhodes continued to operate after September 1943, but the forwarding of civilian mail beyond the island depended on its acceptance by the German Luftwaffe.



A 30c post-card addressed to Italy supplemented by a 50c airmail stamp and cancelled at Rhodes on 16 November 1943. It bears a violet cachet "German- Military Administration Rhodes", possibly confirming acceptance for the one flight to Italy before regular communications were resumed; black Italian censorship mark "C3" of Rhodes.



A locally prepared rationed 30c reply-card (issued on 28 November 1943) sent to Italy and cancelled at Rhodes on 5 January 1944; it bears a black Italian censorship mark "C4" of Rhodes and German censor markings in red.



The only recorded reply card where the two properly used halves have remained together



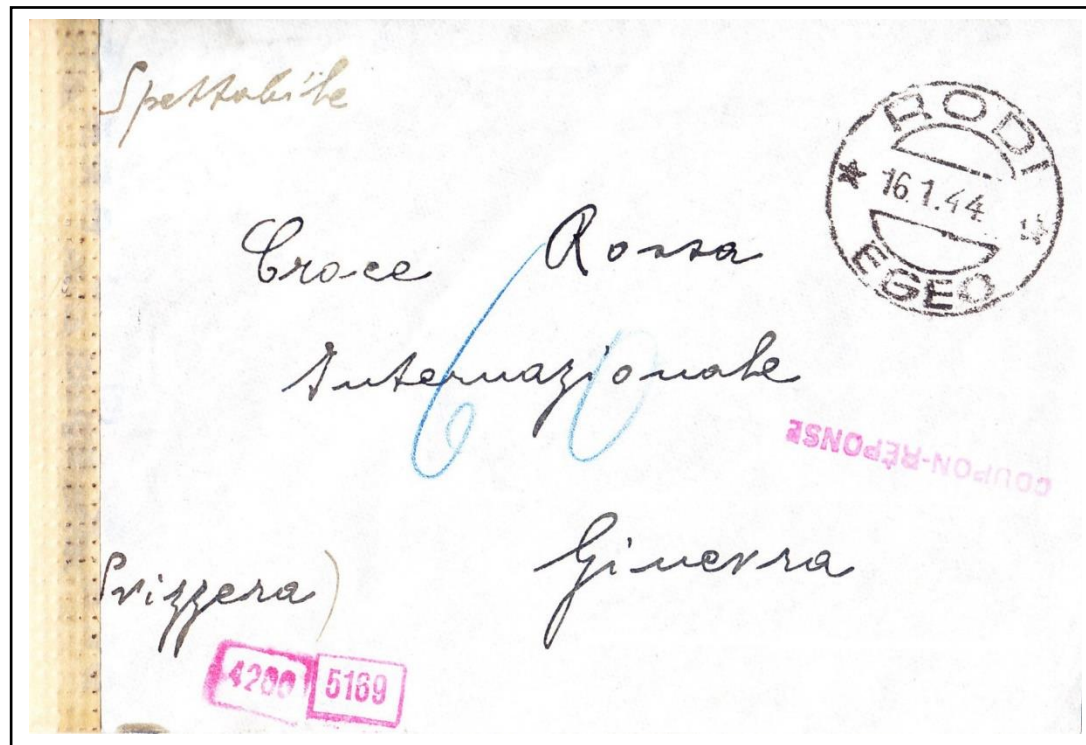
The outward card with a 50c stamp for airmail cancelled at Rhodes on 28 December 1943 and addressed to Anzio near Rome. It was censored in Rhodes and by the German Munich sector and arrived at Rome in January 1944. However, allied troops landed at Anzio on 22 January so the card probably remained in Rome until they arrived in Rome after 4 June. The card was later sent on to Anzio but remained undelivered and was marked "Return to sender".



Both halves the card were returned to Rome and received a Nettunia Centro transit date-stamp on 25 September 1945 before being sent on Cairo, where they were censored and remained, being sent on to Rhodes after May 1945.



After regular communications with Italy were resumed, the intention was that only the rationed reply cards were used for civilian mail, but ordinary envelopes were accepted as exceptions.



An envelope sent un-franked to the Red Cross in Geneva bearing a Rhodes date-stamp of 16 January 1944. It was censored and re-sealed in transit by the German Munich sector and postage-due of 60c was noted (not collected).



The 2nd issue of the rationed 30c reply-card was on blue-grey paper; this one supplemented with a 50c airmail stamp was cancelled on 15 March 1944 and bears Italian and German (Munich sector) censorship marks



On 11 September 1943 the Italian garrison on Rhodes surrendered to the German forces. The Italians could either swear allegiance to Germany as part of the fascist "Guardia Nazionale Repubblicana" or be interned.



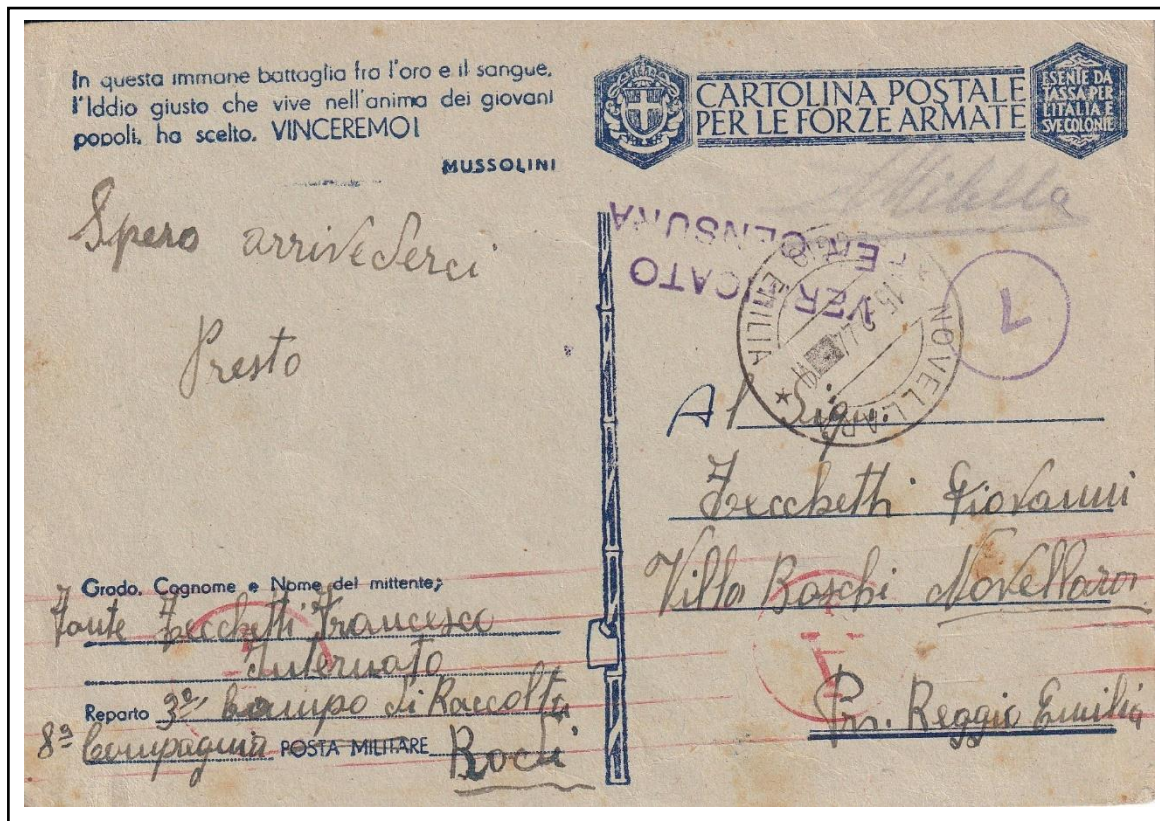
A card sent to Brescia, Italy, by a member of the GNR; with FPO No. 06665 of the liaison office and date-stamp "FELDPOST b" of 30 October 1943 (apparently the first recorded date); German censorship in the Munich sector.



An envelope sent to Ferrara, Italy, by a member of the GNR; it bears the cachet of FPO No. 58610 and the date-stamp "FELDPOST b" of 13 December 1943; the red "A d" indicates German censorship in the Munich sector.



On 11 September 1943 the Italian garrison on Rhodes surrendered to the German forces. The Italians could either swear allegiance to Germany as part of the fascist "Guardia Nazionale Repubblicana" or be interned.



A Italian military card dated 19 January 1944 sent to Reggio Emilia, Italy, by an interned soldier; German censorship in the Munich sector plus Italian censorship; Novellara arrival date-stamp of 15 February 1944.



This Prisoner of War letter-form was sent to Reggio Emilia, Italy, by an interned Italian serviceman; it has the FPO No. 58610 and date-stamp "FELDPOST d" of 16 June 1944; the violet censor mark "21 R" is from Reggio Emilia.



МИНИСТАРСТВО ПОШТА, ТЕЛЕГРАФА И ТЕЛЕФОНА

ТЕЛЕГРАМ

SILBERNAGL OBGFR LUIS SIELBERNAGERL 47099 768 BEL GRAD

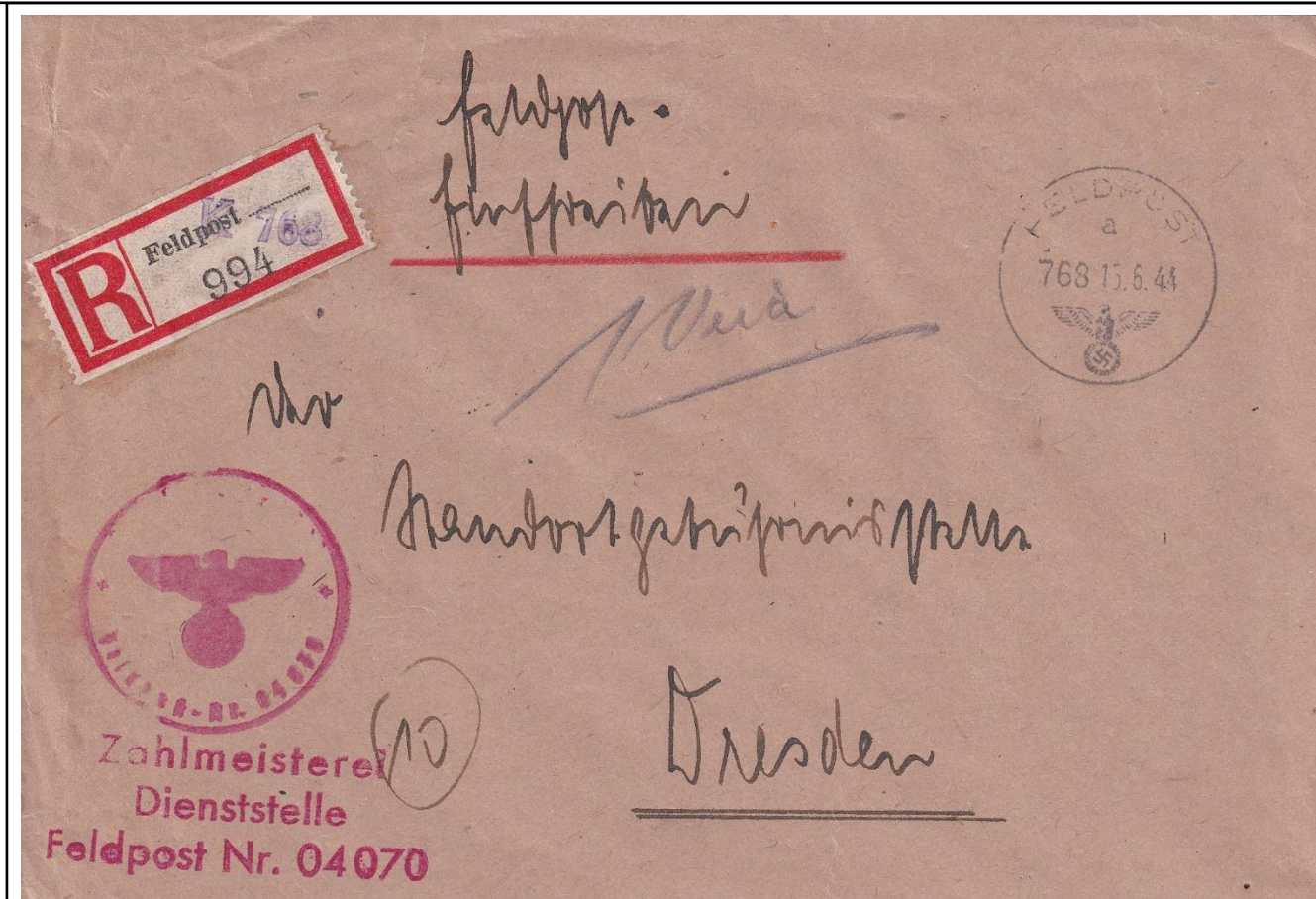
H 3	Број телеграма	Врста	Број речи	Време предаје			Службени подаци	Време пријема			Потпис телеграф. чиновника
				дана	час	мин.		дана	час	мин.	
2562	SALZBURG	4	15	23	15	40	=	23	24	-	50

GUENTHER LUIS AM 17 MAERZ GEBOREN SIND BEIE GESUND

GRUSS HANSI

Wien

FELDPOST a 768 01.4.44



The number of the Rhodes FPO for official mail was 768. Above: Telegram sent by mail from Belgrade arrival "768 FELDPOST a" 1 April 1944. Below: Registered letter to Germany with the same date-stamp of 15 June 1944.





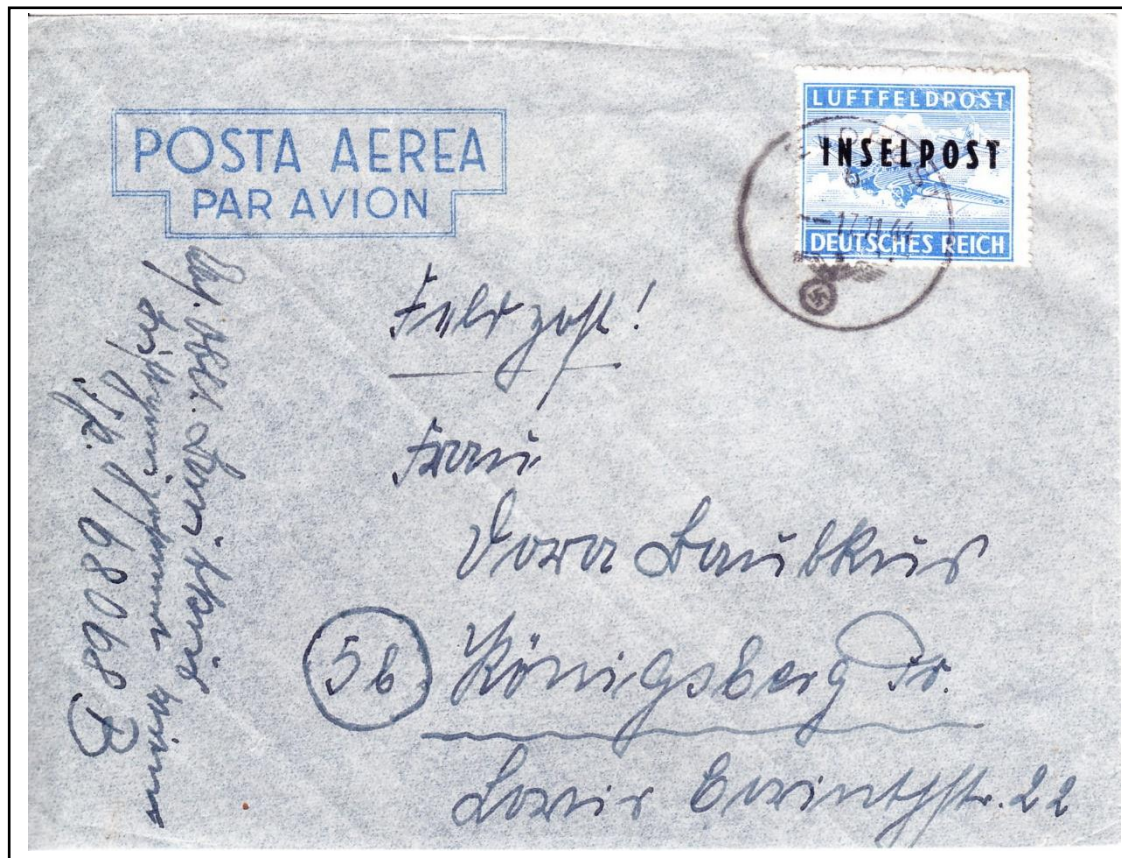
An envelope sent to Parma, Italy, by a member of the GNR, at Fieldpost No. 82610A; it bears the cachet of FPO No. 59537 and one "LUFTFELDPOST" stamp cancelled "FELDPOST b" on 19 May 1944; with a red "A d" censor mark of Munich sector. Soldiers received 8 of these "LUFTFELDPOST" stamps per month.



An envelope sent to Domodossola, Italy, by a member of the GNR; it bears the cachet of FPO No. 47099 and two "LUFTFELDPOST" stamps with the date-stamp "FELDPOST f" of 3 September 1944; arrival back-stamp 17 October 1944. With a red "A d" mark of Munich sector and violet censor mark "46 R" from Borgosesia. From 1 June 1944, letters to 10g required two of these airmail stamps, but letter-forms only one unless they had enclosures.



As the Aegean could only be reached by air, soldiers' letters were to be limited to one per week by requiring that each bore a special "Inselpost" stamp. Stamps on hand were overprinted at Rhodes, the blue stamps being recorded as from 13 November 1944 and the brown stamps a month later. To identify the field post offices concerned, they were re-numbered (unusually, consecutively), Rhodes received nos. 68060-85.



A letter sent to Germany by an Artillery Lt. served by FPO No. 68068B bearing a rouletted blue stamp cancelled "FELDPOST b" on 17 November 1944. Probably carried to Zagreb by the 3rd Inselpost flight on 27 November 1944.



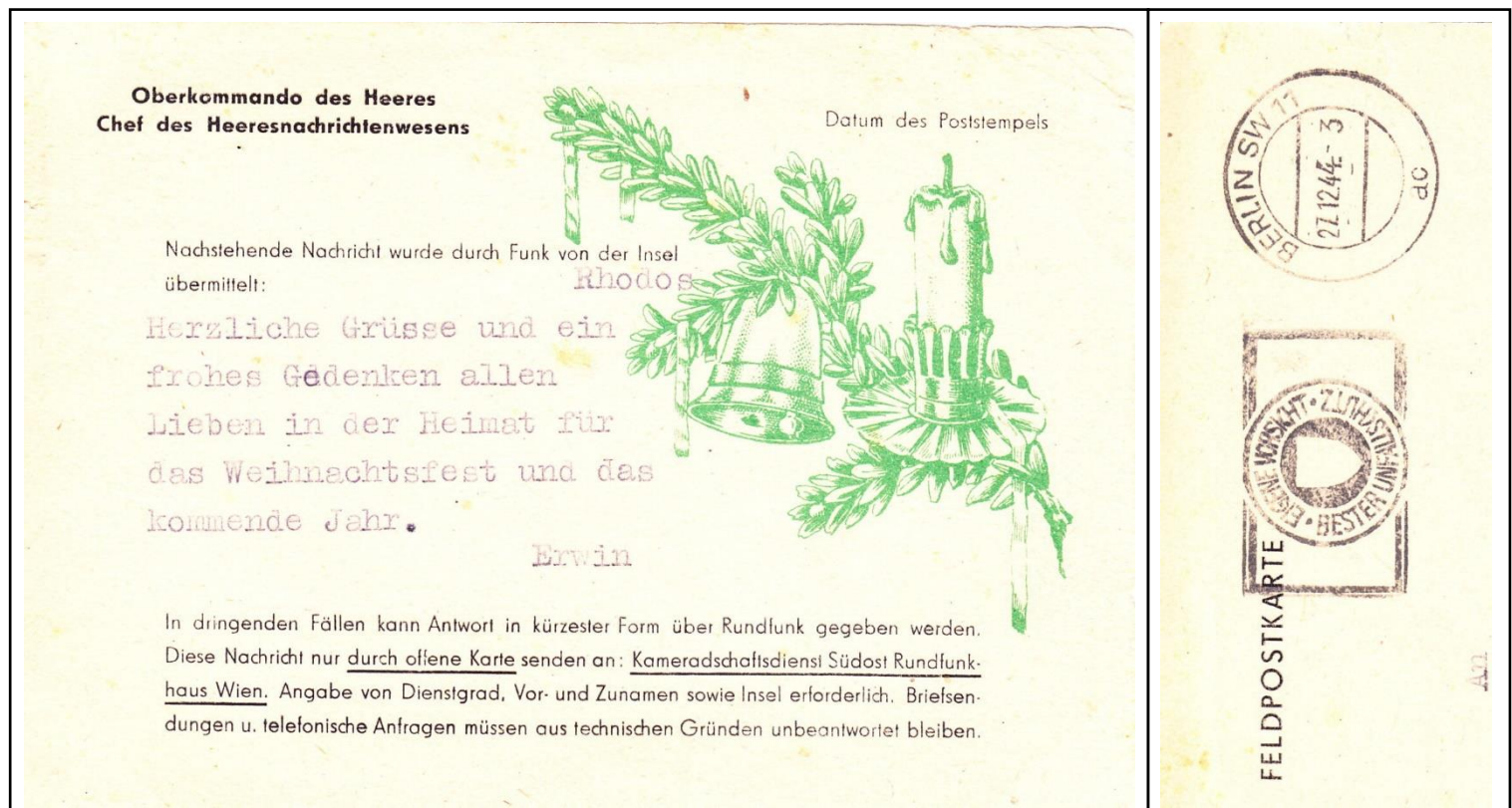
A letter from FPO No. 68066C bearing a perforated blue stamp with a mute date-stamp of 2 December 1944. Probably carried to Vienna by the 4th Inselpost flight on 1 December 1944 and cancelled there on arrival.



The Commandant gave the soldiers two extra stamps for "Inselpost" letters at Christmas by having 25,000 Italian 5 cent "Rodi" stamps overprinted "WEIHNACHTEN 1944" at Rhodes on 20-22 December 1944.



An Italian propaganda envelope sent to Germany from FPO No. 68079 bearing a Christmas stamp with overprint Type II (only 10%) cancelled "FELDPOST d" on 25 December 1944. Most of the mail with Christmas stamps was destroyed when the 9th Inselpost flight of 16 January crashed; this probably went later on the delayed 8th flight.



A Christmas greeting card with a radio message received from Rhodes; posted from Berlin on 27 December 1944



## C. Italian Possession

## 10. German Military Post Offices 11 September 1943 to 9 May 1945

A definitive issue of "Inselpost" stamps was prepared at Zagreb in November 1944 by overprinting some 1.5 million of the brown stamps diagonally in blue. These are known used from Rhodes from 8 December.



A letter sent to Italy from FPO No. 68077 bearing a rouletted brown stamp with Zagreb overprint cancelled "FELDPOST b" on 15 January 1945. Probably carried to Vienna by the 9th Inselpost flight on 16 January 1945. With the red censor mark of the Munich sector, then censored and resealed by the Italian authorities to arrive on 21 March 1945. Expertise.



A letter to Germany from FPO No. 68067D bearing a brown stamp with Rhodes overprint cancelled "FELDPOST b" on 13 February 1945. Probably carried to Vienna by the 13th Inselpost flight on 26 February 1945. Expertise.



## C. Italian Possession

## 10. German Military Post Offices 11 September 1943 to 9 May 1945

The issues of "Inselpost" stamps overprinted at Rhodes and at Zagreb continued to be used at Rhodes up to the 17th Inselpost flight on 1 April 1945. The 18<sup>th</sup> flight arrived on 3 May 1945 and remained at Rhodes.



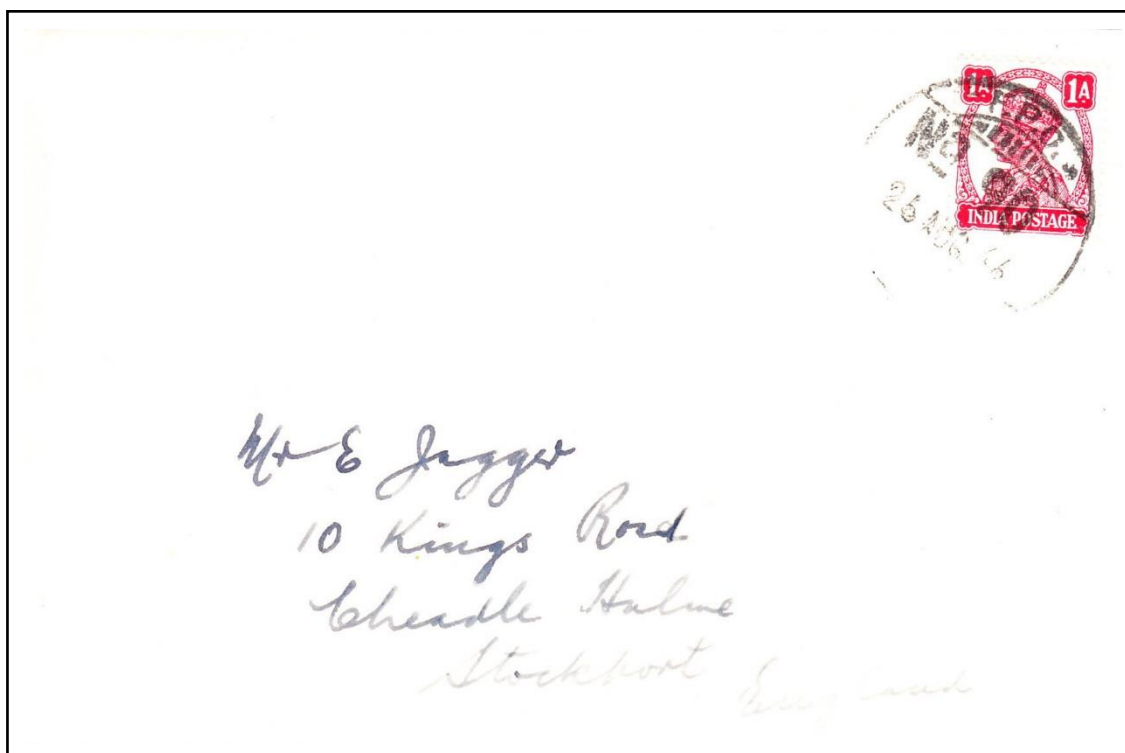
A letter sent to Germany from FPO No. 68082A bearing a rouletted blue stamp with Rhodes overprint cancelled at Vienna on 26 February 1945 after being flown overnight from Rhodes on the 13th Inselpost flight.



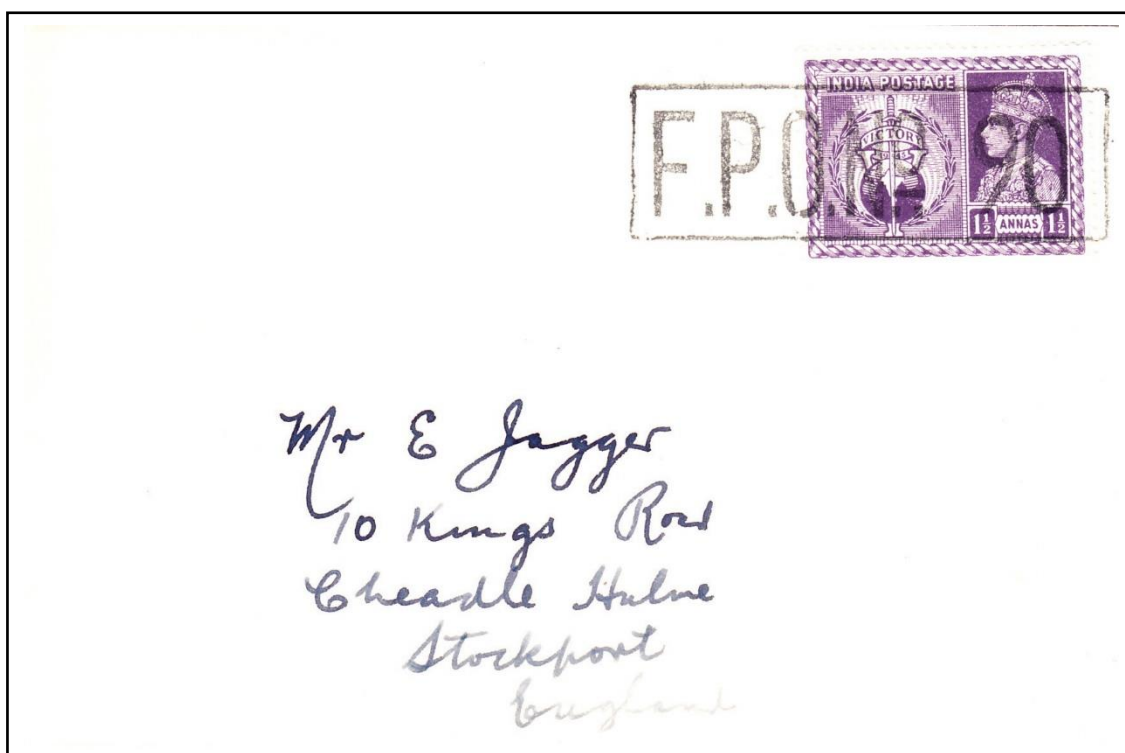
A letter sent to Germany from FPO No. 68077A bearing a rouletted brown stamp with Zagreb overprint cancelled "FELDPPOST b" on 30 March 1945. Probably carried to Vienna by the 17th Inselpost flight on 1 April 1945.



Although British and Indian Field Post Offices had operated earlier on other islands, those on Rhodes were first opened after the surrender of Germany on 9 May 1945.



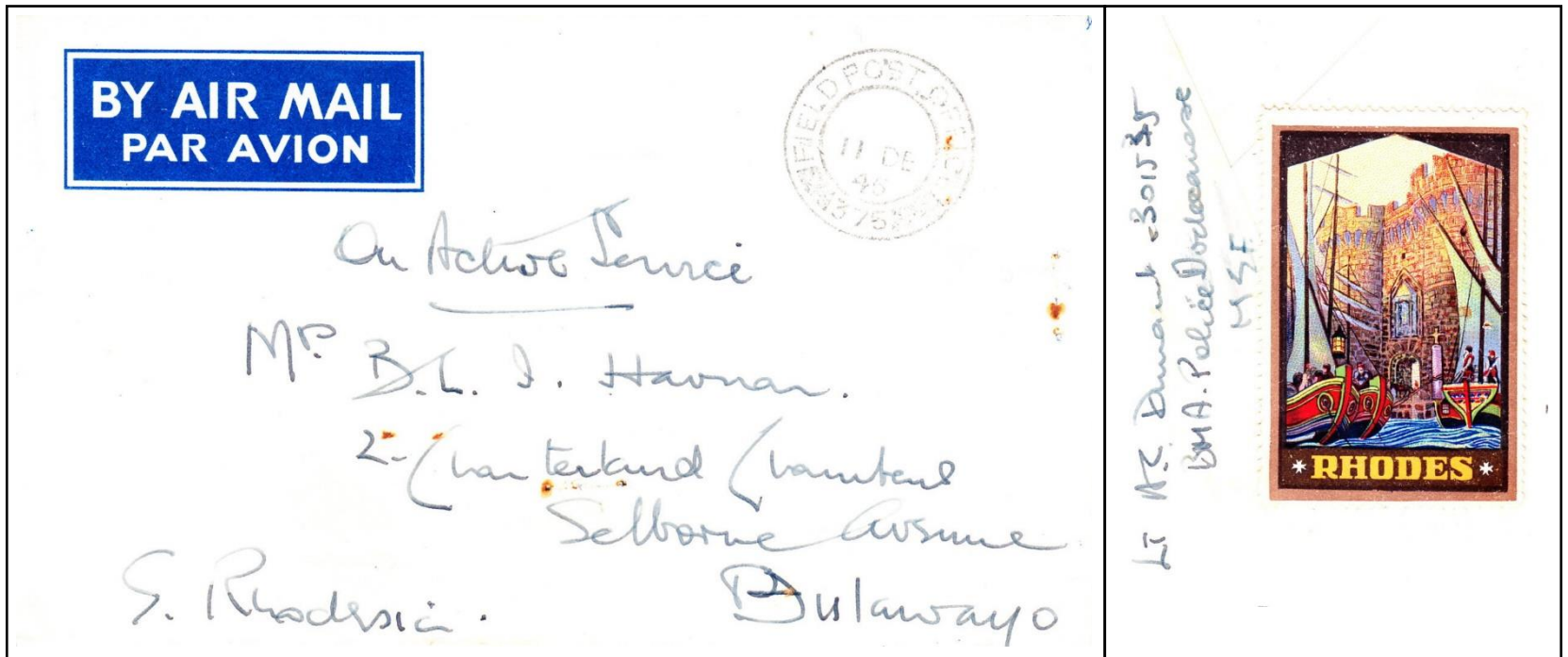
A collector's envelope sent through the mails to England correctly franked with a 1 anna stamp of India, which was cancelled on 26 August 1946 with the standard date-stamp of Indian F.P.O. No. 90 which was located Rhodes.



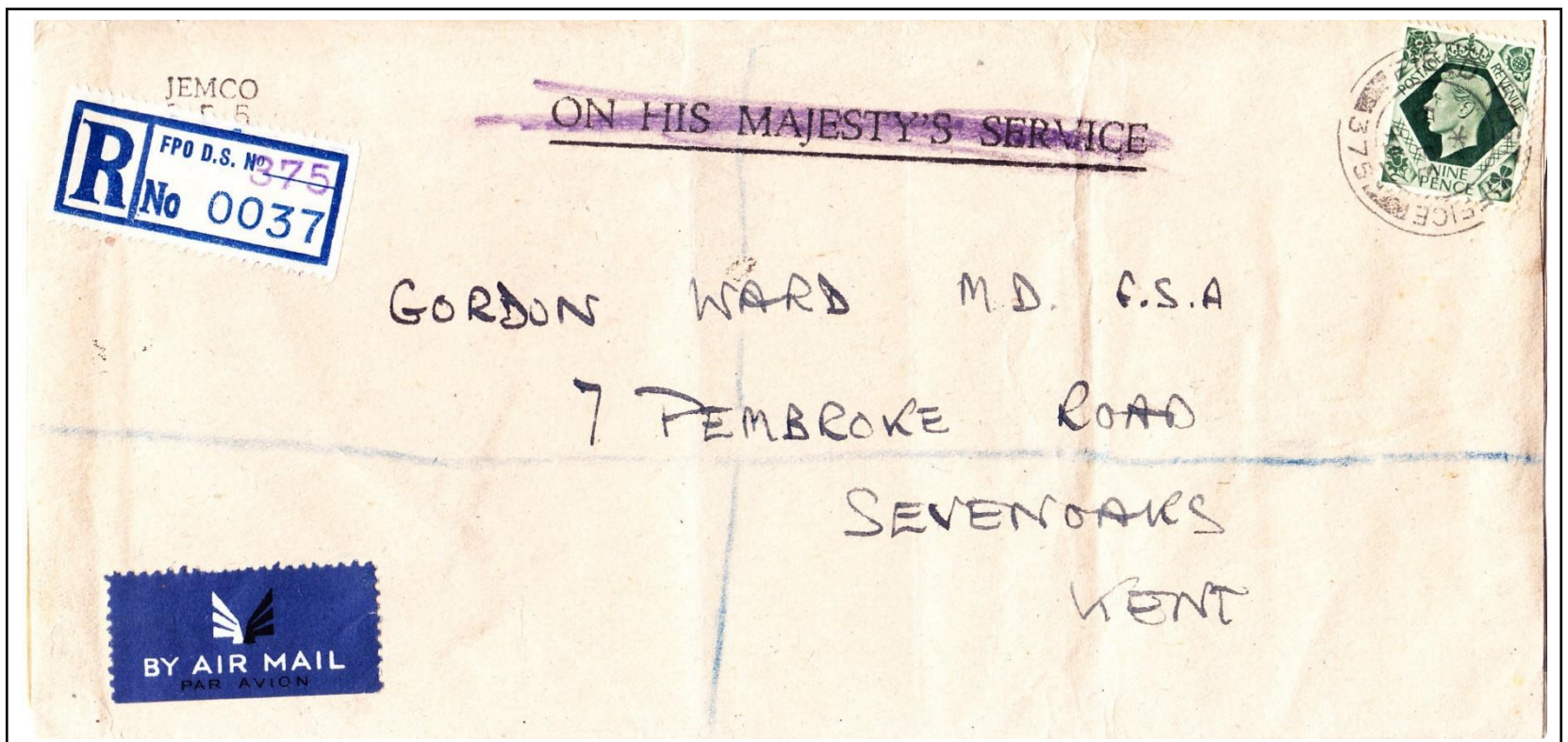
This envelope from the same correspondence as that above is over-franked with a 1½ anna commemorative stamp of India, which was cancelled (probably at the same time) with a parcel-post date-stamp of Indian F.P.O. No. 90.



The British Field Post Office on Rhodes was No. 375, which operated throughout the British period



A postage-free envelope to Southern Rhodesia sent from F.P.O. No. 375 at Rhodes on 11 December 1946 by a member of the British Military Administration Police. Right: a copy (100%) of part of reverse with a Rhodes vignette.



An envelope sent postage free to England from F.P.O. No. 375 at Rhodes on 5 February 1946 franked with a 9d British stamp to pay the 3d registration fee and the 6d airmail fee.

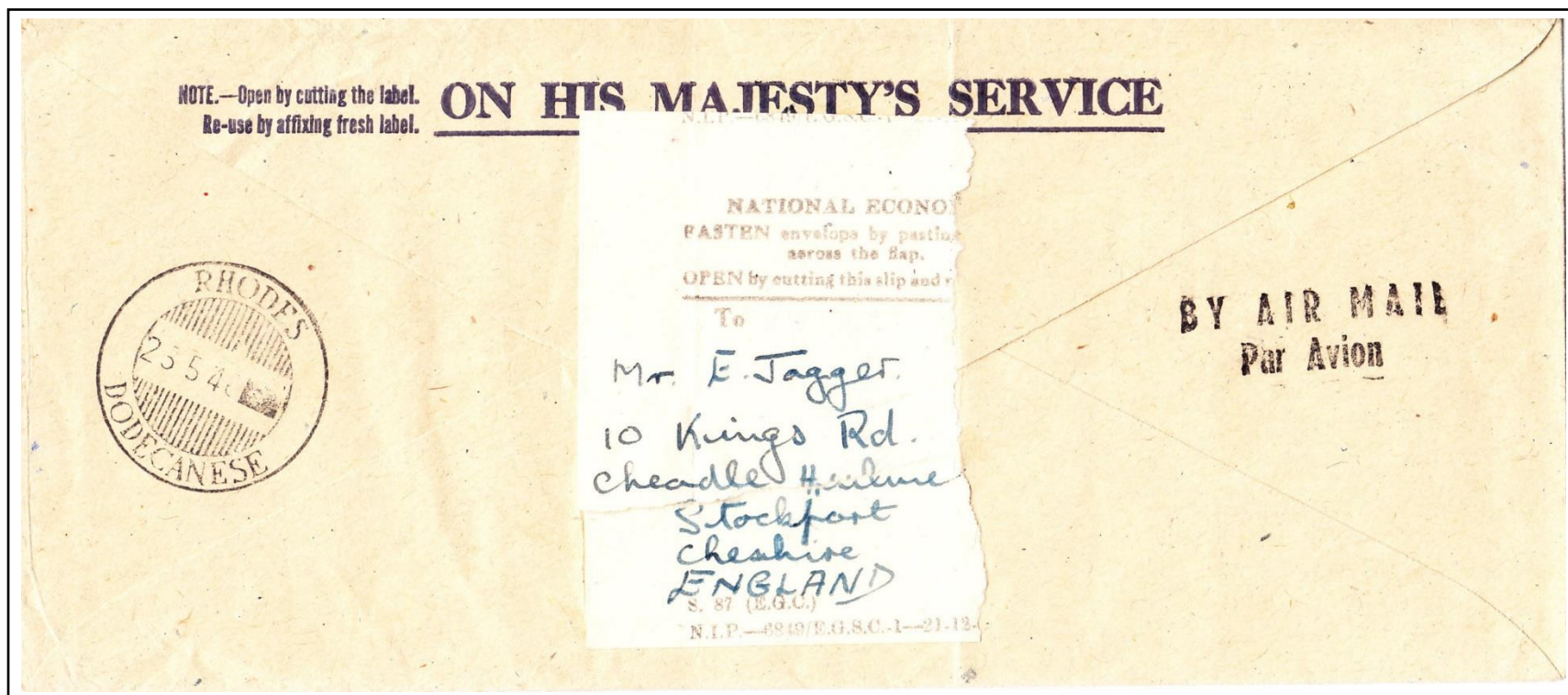


**D. British Military Administration    3. British Civilian P.O. at Rhodes 11 June 1945 to 31 March 1947**

The Italian P.O. closed down on 11 May 1945 and the British Civilian P.O. opened a month later, using British stamps overprinted "M.E.F." (Middle East Forces) and a dozen of the existing Italian date-stamps.



An envelope sent to England franked at the 5d UPU rate; cancelled with the 28mm Italian date-stamp on 22 June 1945 (**earliest recorded date**); censored at Rhodes before despatch; Cairo transit back-stamp with illegible date.

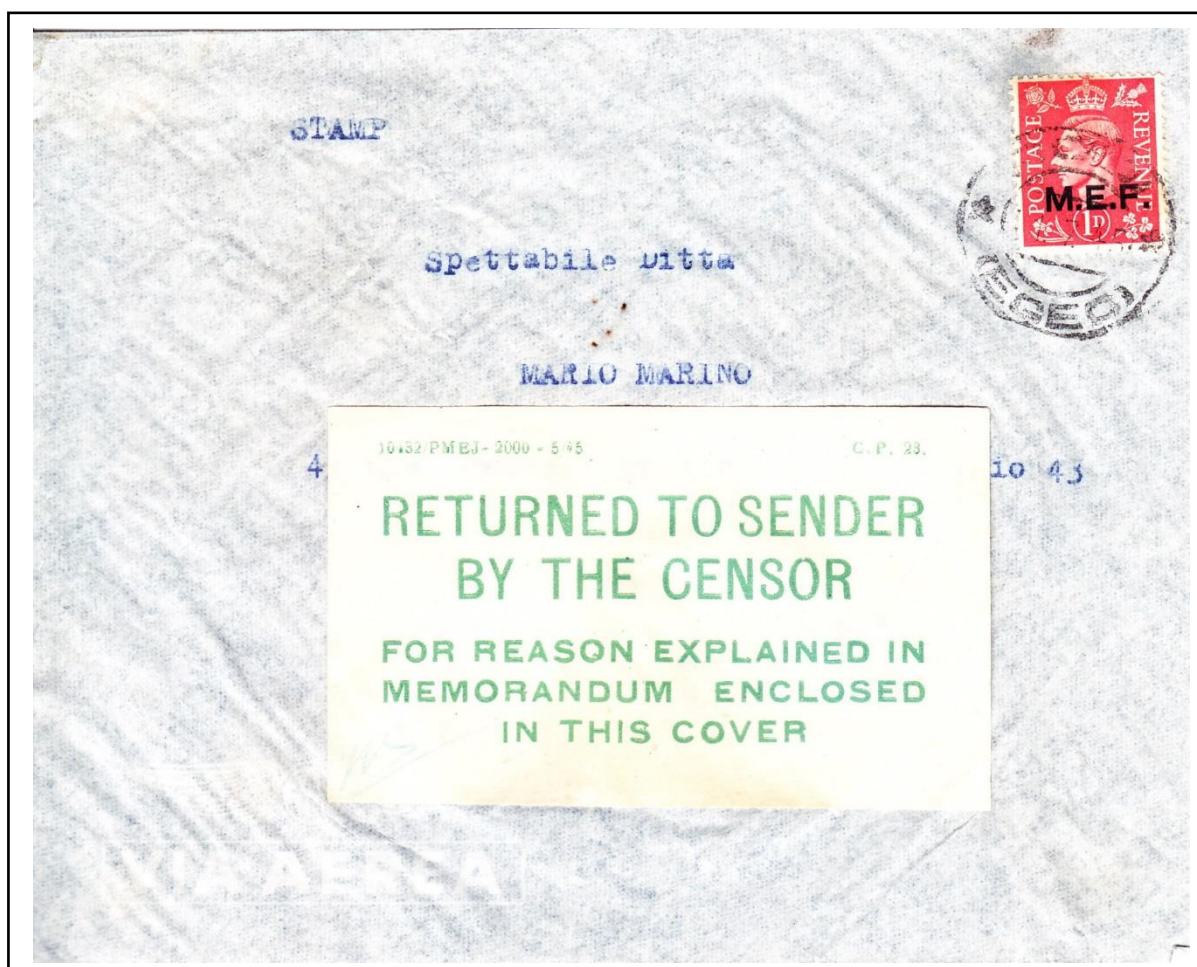


An official envelope sent postage free by airmail to England, receiving the new British "RHODES DODECANESE" date-stamp on 25 May 1946. This date-stamp is otherwise first recorded from 17 June 1946.



**D. British Military Administration    3. British Civilian P.O. at Rhodes 11 June 1945 to 31 March 1947**

Civilian mail service to Italy and other foreign countries restored on 27 July 1945



An envelope sent to Italy franked at the 1d printed matter rate; cancelled with a 28mm Italian date-stamp on 1 July 1945 (this type first recorded 20.2.1946); returned to the sender because mail could not yet be sent to Italy.

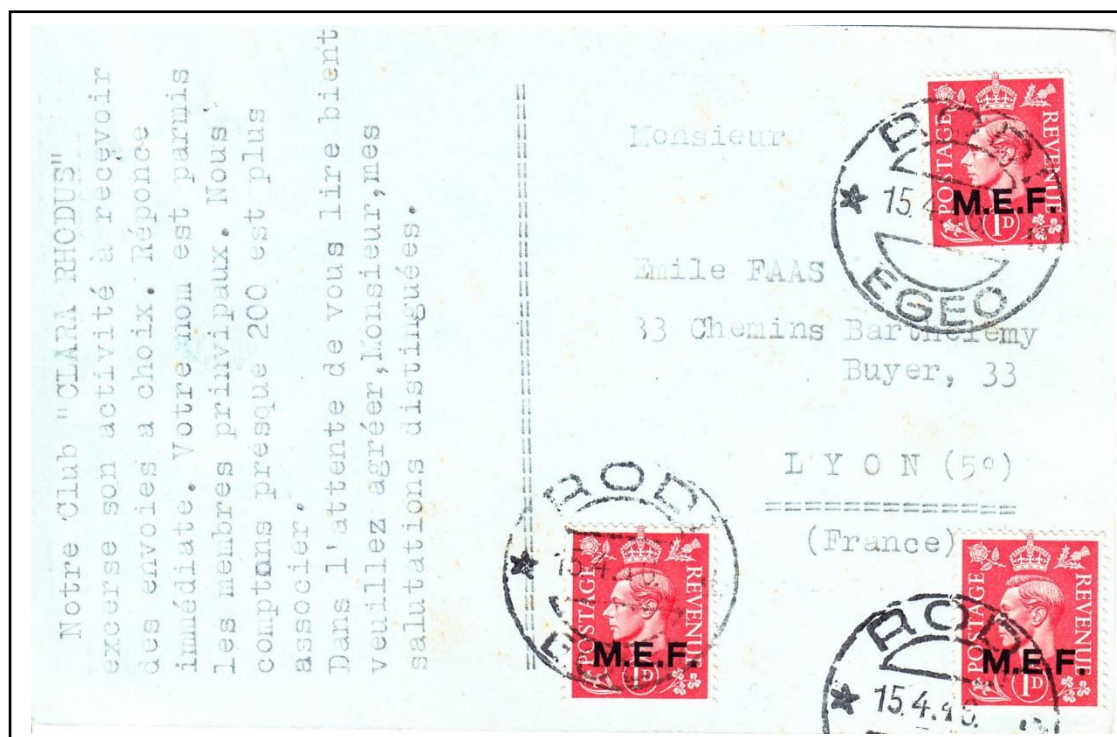


A notification form sent to a Community in Brindisi Province, Italy by the Registration Office in Rhodes franked at the 5d UPU rate; cancelled with the 31mm Italian date-stamp on 18 January 1946.

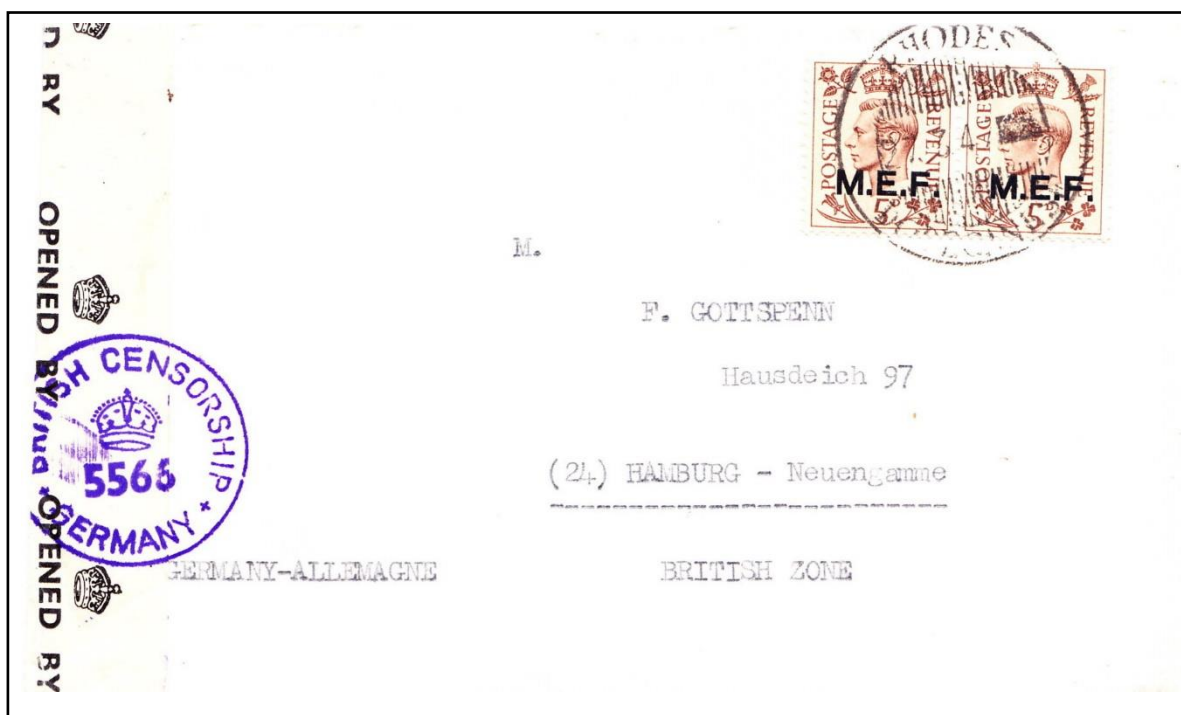


D. British Military Administration 3. British Civilian P.O. at Rhodes 11 June 1945 to 31 March 1947

Surface mail to European countries



A post-card sent to France franked at the 3d UPU rate; cancelled with a 31mm Italian date-stamp on 15 April 1946. Only a few post-cards are recorded from this British period in the Dodecanese.



A double-weight letter sent to Hamburg in the British Zone of Germany franked at twice the 5d UPU rate; cancelled with the British date-stamp on 27 March 1947; censored by the British Authorities on arrival in Germany.



Airmail to Athens



A letter sent by air to Greece franked at the standard British airmail rate of 1/3d per ½ oz.; cancelled with a 31mm Italian date-stamp on 18 May 1946. Marked for airmail and, erroneously, also for the North Atlantic Air Service.



A registered letter of 15g sent by air to Greece, now franked at 3 x 6d per 5g plus 5d registration; cancelled with an Italian registered mail date-stamp on 10 February 1947; Athens arrival back-stamp of 14 February 1947.

Airmail to Eastern Europe and Egypt



A registered letter of 10g sent by air to Czechoslovakia franked at 2 x 9d per 5g plus 5d registration; cancelled with an Italian registered mail date-stamp on 17 August 1946; Prague transit back-stamp of 28 August 1946.



A registered letter of over ½ oz sent by air to Egypt, franked at 2 x 1/3d per ½ oz plus 5d registration; cancelled with an Italian registered mail date-stamp on 27 December 1946; Kaf el Zayat arrival back-stamp of 1 January 1947.



After the signature of the Treaty of Paris on 10 February 1947, the British transferred the Dodecanese to a Greek Military Administration on 31 March 1947. The postage rates differed from those in Greece.

26,000 of the current 10 new drachma (on 2000 old dr.) Greek stamps were specially overprinted "S.D.D." (Military Administration of the Dodecanese) in silver and issued at Rhodes on 1 April 1947. A further 160,000 were overprinted in carmine and issued on 2 April 1947. The Greek Post Office subsequently ordered the preparation of a further 500,000 overprinted stamps of each colour. These 10 drachma stamps were sold for 5 Lire or 100 drachmae, the rate for an ordinary inland letter.



This envelope sent to Athens has the printed heading of the Bank of Greece and was franked with three silver overprint "SDD" stamps, which were cancelled with the new standard Greek date-stamp of Rhodes on 1 April 1947, the first day of issue; it was apparently sent by airmail and has an Athens arrival back-stamp of 3 April 1947.

The Military Administration made two further "SDD" overprint issues:

1. Stamps the 1937 definitive issue of Greece had been reissued with new values in September 1946 to commemorate the restoration of the monarchy. 200,000 of the 50 and 250 new drachma values of this issue were overprinted with "S.D.D." plus bars at Rhodes as a mourning issue on the death of the King and issued on 20 April 1947. This was done without the agreement of the Greek Post Office, which had itself made such an issue. A further printing of 300,000 of each value followed.
2. Almost 500,000 of each of 6 values of the current Greek (new drachma on old dr.) stamps were overprinted "S.D.D." at Rhodes and issued on 21 September 1947. These were in use for 2 months.

The "SDD" overprinted stamps were withdrawn on 20 November 1947 and superseded by the "Restoration of the Dodecanese" definitive issue.

Mail of April 1947 franked with the 10 drachma stamps overprinted "SDD" in silver and carmine



A registered inland airmail letter franked at 400 dr. with four carmine overprint "SDD" stamps; cancelled with the wide lettered date-stamp of Rhodes on 4 April 1947; with an Athens arrival back-stamp of 11 April 1947.



A philatelist's letter to Italy franked with two 100 dr. stamps with double "SDD" overprints (left silver + carmine, right two carmine); cancelled as above on 16 April 1947; Turin arrival back-stamp of 4 May 1947.



Letters to Great Britain – transported by airmail?



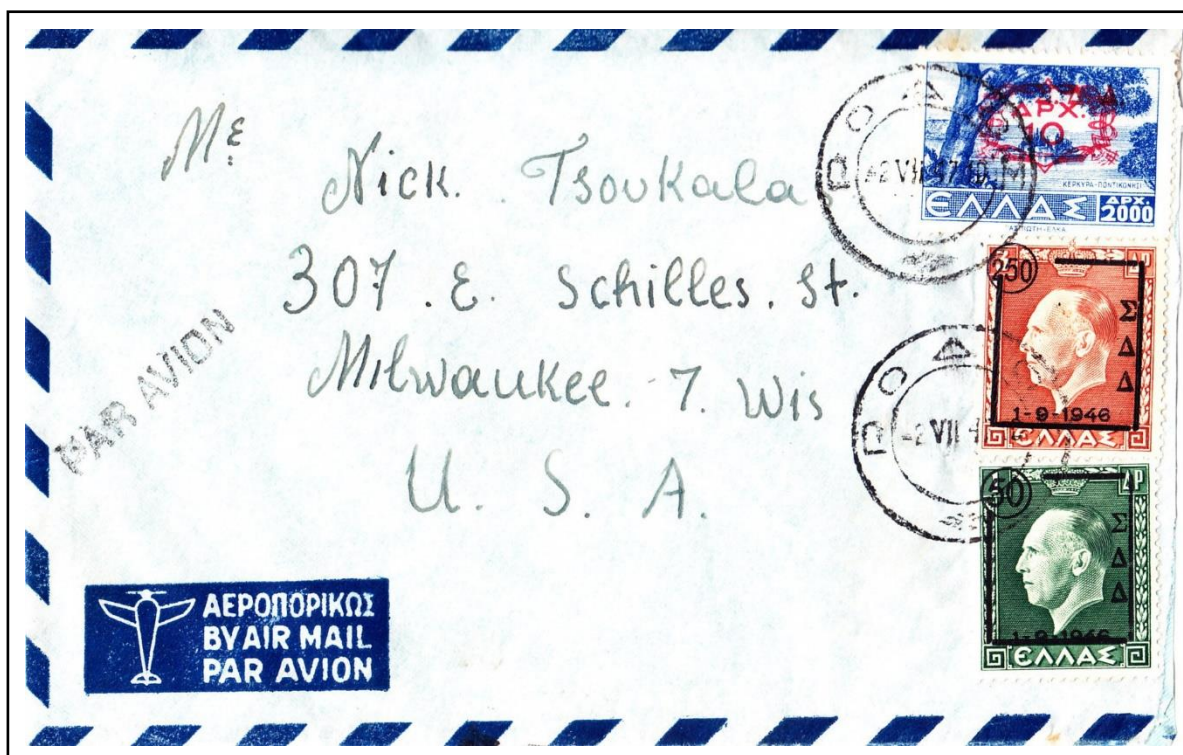
This overweight commercial letter to England was franked at 800 dr. for postage plus British airmail with “SDD” stamps (1 on the back) and also bears a 50 dr. charity tax stamp; cancelled at Rhodes on 18 September 1947. Although “AIR MAIL” was noted by the sender the envelope was not marked “PAR AVION” by the post office.



A 5g letter sent to England and marked for airmail cost only 250 dr.; cancelled at Rhodes on 25 April 1947; after arrival at Hungerford it was forwarded to Halifax on 6 May 1947.



Overseas mail franked with stamps of the second "SDD" overprint issue



An airmail letter to the USA franked at 250 dr. for UPU postage plus 150 dr. British airmail with the three "SDD" stamps; cancelled with the wide lettered date-stamp of Rhodes on 2 July 1947.



A registered airmail letter to Ethiopia franked for UPU postage 250 dr. plus registration 600 dr. plus 750 dr. British airmail with 8 "SDD" stamps (2 on back); cancelled with the registration date-stamp of Rhodes on 17 July 1947; with Athens transit and Addis Abeba arrival back-stamps of 18 and 22 July 1947.



Mail franked with stamps of the third "SDD" overprint issue and the new definitive issue



A registered airmail letter to France with the "SDD" stamps of 21 September 1947; cancelled at Rhodes on 27 September 1947; Athens transit b/s of 29 September 1947 and a postal cachet of the Panhellenic Nautical Games.



A local envelope bearing the 50 and 250 dr. values of the "Restoration of the Dodecanese" issue plus a 50 dr. compulsory charity stamp; cancelled at Rhodes on 9 March 1948 and still receiving the special unification cachet.