

# POSTAL HISTORY OF THE DODECANESE ISLANDS SYMI, CHALKI, PISCOPI & CASTELLORIZO



This exhibit shows the postal history of the four smaller islands of the Greek Regional Unit of Rhodes in the Dodecanese from the Turkish period up to the unification with Greece in March 1948. The islands are:

**Symi**, 41 km north-northwest of Rhodes: in Turkish "Sumbeki", in Greek "Symi" and in Italian "Simi";

**Chalki**, 6 km west of Rhodes: in Turkish "Herekit", in Greek "Chalki" and in Italian "Halki", "Karki", "Kalki" and "Calchi";

**Piscopi**, 40 km north-west of Rhodes: historically Episcopi, in Greek "Tilos" and in Italian "Piscopi"; and

**Castellorizo**, 125 km east of Rhodes: in Turkish "Meyis", in Greek "Megisti", in Italian "Castelrosso" and on the above map (G. Delisle, Paris 1728) in old French "Chateau roux" (= Château rouge). The island "Limonia" to the west of Rhodes is Alinnia which may have had an Italian Postal Station (no used postal material known).

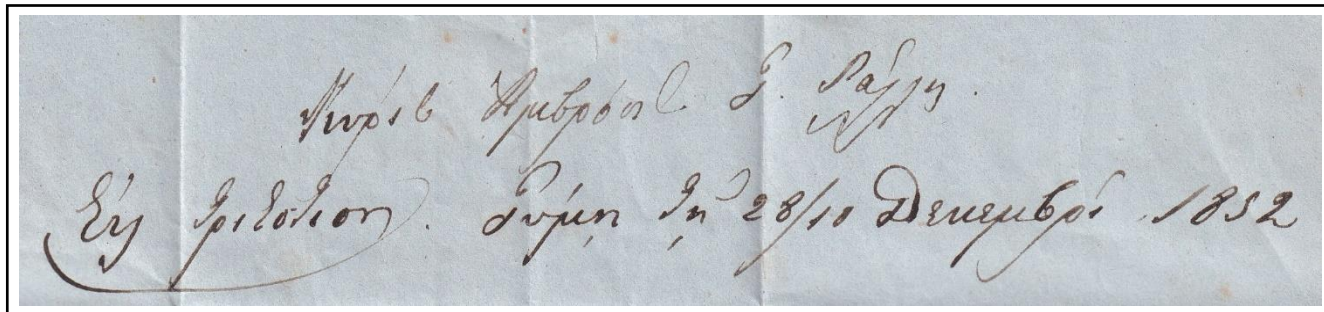
**Symi** is today a modest tourist destination with a population of only 2,500 (22,500 in 1912 thanks to shipbuilding and sponge fishing industries). **Chalki** and **Piscopi** are two of the smallest of the Dodecanese islands: the first has a population of only about 400 (1,750 in 1912) and the second 800 (2,000 in 1912). **Castellorizo** has today a population of only 500 (in 1912 ca. 11,000 thanks to its location and trading fleet).

In presenting the postal histories of these four islands, this exhibit is structured as follows:

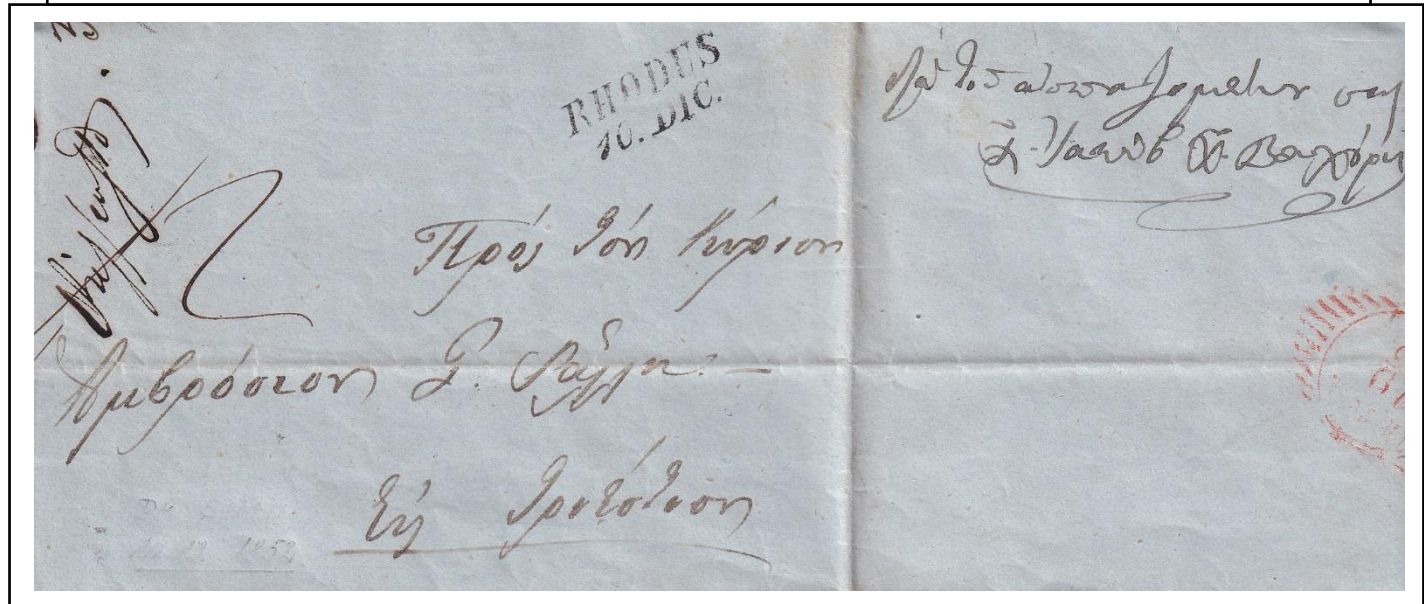
- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Turkish period up to Occupation by Italy in 1912 (Castellorizo 1921)              | ca. 1850 - May 1912  |
| 2. Occupation by Italy: Municipal and Italian Post Offices: Symi, Chalki and Piscopi | May 1912 - Sep 1943  |
| 3. Castellorizo:   | Mar 1913 - Sep 1913  |
| a. Autonomous Administration   | Sep 1913 - Dec 1915  |
| b. Greek Military (officially Samian) Administration                                 | Dec 1915 - Mar 1921  |
| c. French Naval Occupation   | Mar 1921 - Feb 1941  |
| d. Italian Post Office – First period  | Mar 1941 - Sep 1943  |
| e. Italian Post Office – Second period   | Sep. 1943 - May 1945 |
| 4. German Military Occupation  | May 1945 - Mar 1947  |
| 5. British Military Administration   | Apr 1947 - Mar 1948  |
| 6. Greek Military Administration   |                      |

The literature used includes: S. D. Tchilinghirian and R. Bernardelli: Stamps of Italy Used Abroad  
M. S. Petradakis: Postal History of Aegean Is., Italian Military P.O.'s  
M. Carloni und V. Cernenà: Storia Postale del Dodecaneso



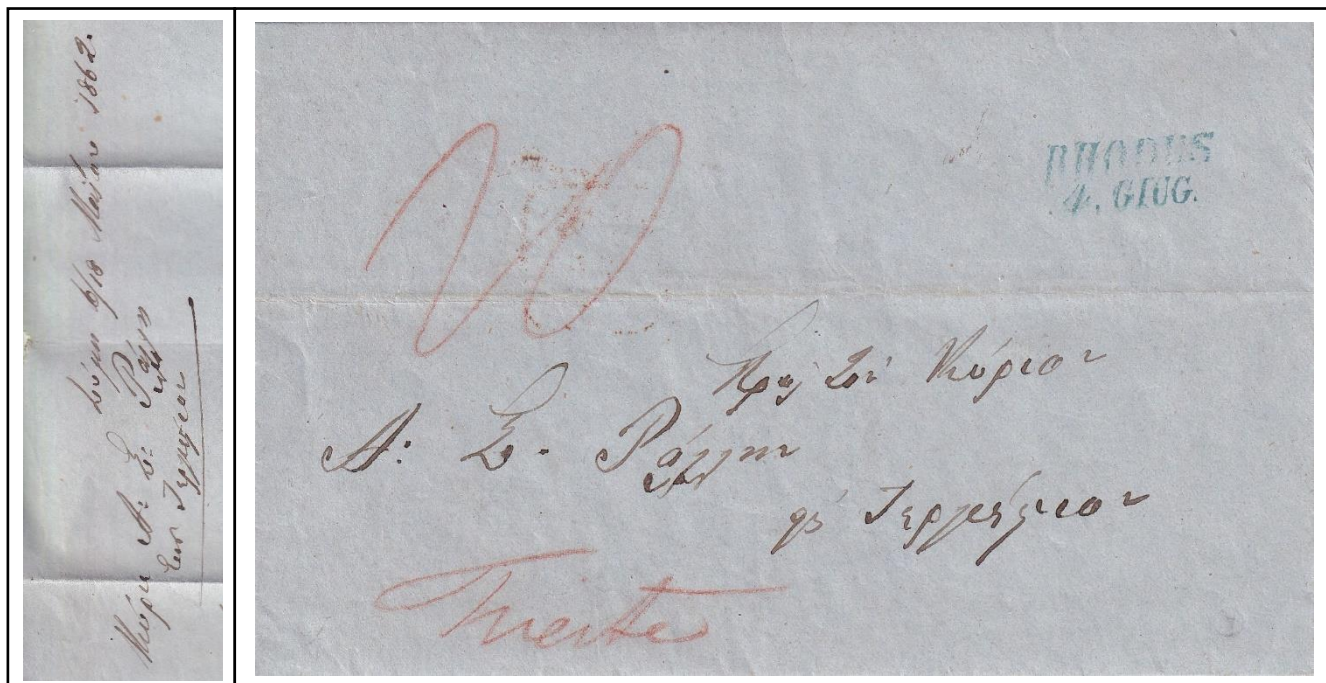


Ηρώς Ανδρόνικου Γ. Παγγ.  
 Εγ. Γκιόλιον. Συμίν 28/10 Δεκεμβρίου 1852



RHODUS  
 10. DIC.  
 12  
 Ηρώς Ανδρόνικου  
 Ανδρόνικου Γ. Παγγ.  
 Εγ. Γκιόλιον

An entire to Trieste datelined Symi 28 November/10 December 1852 (see copy of heading) carried privately to Rhodes (forwarder notation on reverse) and sent unpaid from the Austrian P.O. Marked "RHODUS / 10. DIC." and "12" (12 kr. CM Levant rate 1850-58). Trieste arrival back-stamp 29 December.



Συμίν 6/18 Μαΐου 1862.  
 Ηρώς Ανδρόνικου Γ. Παγγ.  
 Εγ. Γκιόλιον

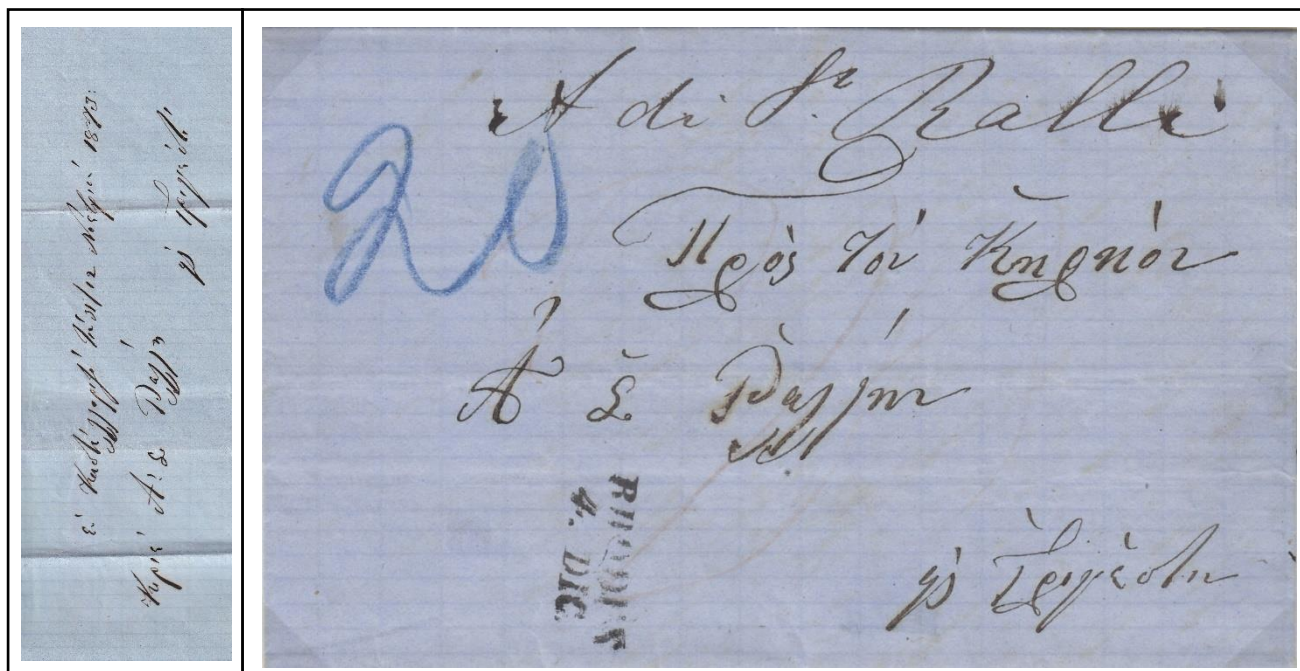
RHODUS  
 4. GIUG.  
 20  
 Ηρώς Ανδρόνικου  
 Α. Γ. Παγγ.  
 Εγ. Γκιόλιον  
 Trieste

An entire to Trieste datelined Symi 6/18 May 1862 (see copy at left) carried privately to Rhodes and sent unpaid from the Austrian P.O. Marked "RHODUS / 4. GIUG." in blue and "20" payable in red (20 Levant rate in new kr. 1858-65). Trieste arrival back-stamp 13 June.





An entire to Trieste datelined Symi 2 / 14 June 1871 correctly franked with 5s + 10s stamps (1867 issue) paying the Austrian Levant rate 1866-75. No transit markings but the stamps were cancelled on arrival at Trieste with the three-line marking "LETTERE ARRIVATE / COL VAPORE / DAL LEVANTE" (Letters arrived by steamship from the Levant); the addressee noted receipt of the letter on 23 June 1871.



An entire to Trieste datelined Castellorizo 31 October / 12 November 1873 carried privately to Rhodes and handed in unpaid at the Austrian P.O. Marked "RHODUS / 4. DIC." and "20" in red and blue (15s Levant rate + 5s unpaid letter surcharge 1866-75). Trieste arrival back-stamp of 12 December 1873.



1. Turkish period to 1912      Letters from Symi 1871/73 via the Austrian p.o's. at Smyrna and Chios



An entire to Trieste datelined Symi 19/31 March 1871 (see copy) carried privately to Smyrna and sent unpaid from the Austrian P.O. Marked "SMIRNE / 8.4.71" and "20" (unpaid Levant rate 1866-75). Trieste arrival d/s 13 April 1871.



Entire to Trieste datelined Symi 20 Feb./3 March 1873 (see copy) carried privately to Chios; sent from the Austrian P.O. on 17 May 1865 prepaid with a 15s stamp (1867 issue); cancelled "SCIO-CESME 8/3"; Trieste arr. b/s 13 March



Mail from Symi handed-in to the Agency of the Asia Minor Screw Steamship Co.



This entire addressed to Trieste was written at Symi on 2/14 November 1872 and handed-in to the Symi Agency of the Asia Minor Screw Steamship Co., receiving its three-line marling in blue; this shipping company carried the letter to Chios, where it was handed-in to the Austrian post office; duly franked with a 15s stamp (1867 issue) cancelled "SCIO-CESME" on 16 November 1872; Trieste arrival back-stamp 22 November 1872.

MARKS,	NUMBERS.	NUMBER OF PACKAGES	DECLARED CONTENTS.	WEIGHT
IP	1/37 37		Cases sponges	

Shipped by *N. Palojanni*  
 Capt. *B. M. Ewen*  
 (the Act of God, the Queen's Enemies, Fire, Mac  
 Navigation of whatever nature or kind soever exe  
 to be delivered to the order of M. *J.*

**A. M.** N<sup>o</sup> *4*

THE ASIA MINOR SCREW STEAMSHIP CO. SYMI AGENCY

A Bill of Lading for 37 cases of sponges sent from Symi to Smyrna on 30 December 1870 by the ss. "Attalo" of the Asia Minor Screw Steamship Co., receiving the three-line marking of the Symi Agency as above.



An entire letter from Symi dated 11 January 1878 (by the Julian calendar), and sent to Piraeus franked with a 10s stamp of the 1875 issue; cancelled with the double-oval marking reading "AGENZIA DEL LLOYD – AUSTRO-UNGARICO / SYMI"; transit back-stamp of the Lloyd Agency at Smyrna with illegible date, there transferred to a vessel of the Constantinople – Trieste line; Piraeus arrival date-stamp of 16 January 1878 (also by the Julian calendar). Only about four entires bearing this cancellation of the Lloyd Agency at Symi appear to exist.



1. Turkish period to 1912 Letters from Symi via the French and Austrian P.O.s at Smyrna 1879/82



This entire addressed to Trieste was written at Symi on 17 April 1879; carried privately to Smyrna and handed-in to the French post office; franked at the UPU rate (from 1.5.1878) with a 25c stamp (1878 issue of France) cancelled on 25 April 1879; Brindisi arrival back-stamp 29 April 1879 and boxed marking indicating carriage by Italian Postal Steamer; Trieste arrival back-stamp of 1 May 1879.



This letter to Trieste was written at Symi on 15 / 27 February 1882; franked at the UPU rate (from 1.7.1875) with a 10s stamp (1874 issue) cancelled in blue with an illegible oval shipping company cachet; handed-in to the Austrian post office at Smyrna, which cancelled the stamp on 2 March 1882; Trieste arrival back-stamp of 9 March 1882.



## 1. Turkish period to 1912

## Turkish post office at Symi 1868 - May 1912

Octagonal and triple-framed rectangular markings used at Symi (inscribed "Sumbeki") on 1871-84 issues



An entire datelined Symi 14/26 November 1871, weighing over 3 dirham (ca.10g) but less than 15g, sent to Trieste via the Austrian p.o. at Smyrna. Postage to Smyrna correctly prepaid for the second Turkish inland weight stage of 2 x 1½ pi. (3-6 dirham = ca.10-20g) with three 1 piastre stamps of the 1871 issue cancelled in black with the octagonal marking of Symi (**this is the earlier of the two recorded covers**). Handed-in unpaid at the Austrian p.o. at Smyrna, receiving a "thimble" transit date-stamp dated 4 November 1871 and being marked "20" Kr. due (the Levant rate for an unpaid letter of up to 15g). With a Trieste arrival back-stamp of 9 November 1871.



10pa 1884 black



Pair 20pa 1884 black



2pi 1888 black

Stamps of the 1884 and 1888 issues of Turkey cancelled with the triple-framed rectangular marking of Symi. which was used without an accompanying date-stamp up to ca.1892.



## 1. Turkish period to 1912

## Turkish post office at Symi 1868 - May 1912

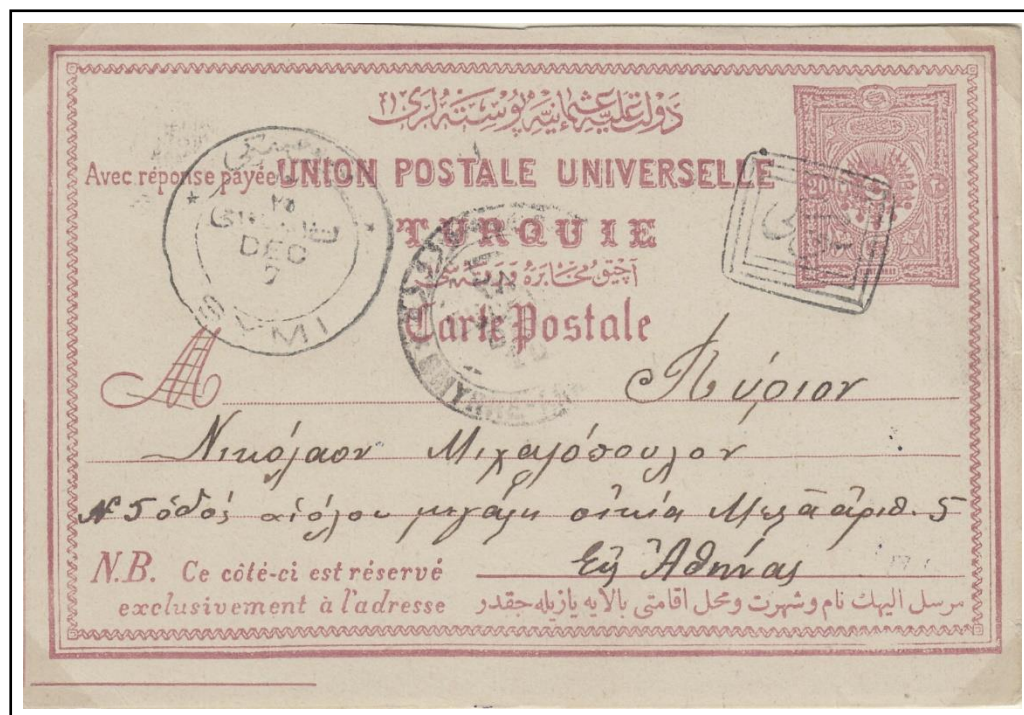
Triple-framed rectangle marking cancelling 1892 issues and accompanied by "SYMI" date-stamp



A cover to Zürich correctly franked with a 1 piastre stamp of the 1892 issue; cancelled in black with the triple-framed rectangle marking of Symi and accompanied by the double-circle "SYMI" date-stamp dated 21 December 1893; transit back-stamp of the Turkish post office at Smyrna dated 27 December 1893.



20pa 1892  
cancelled in violet



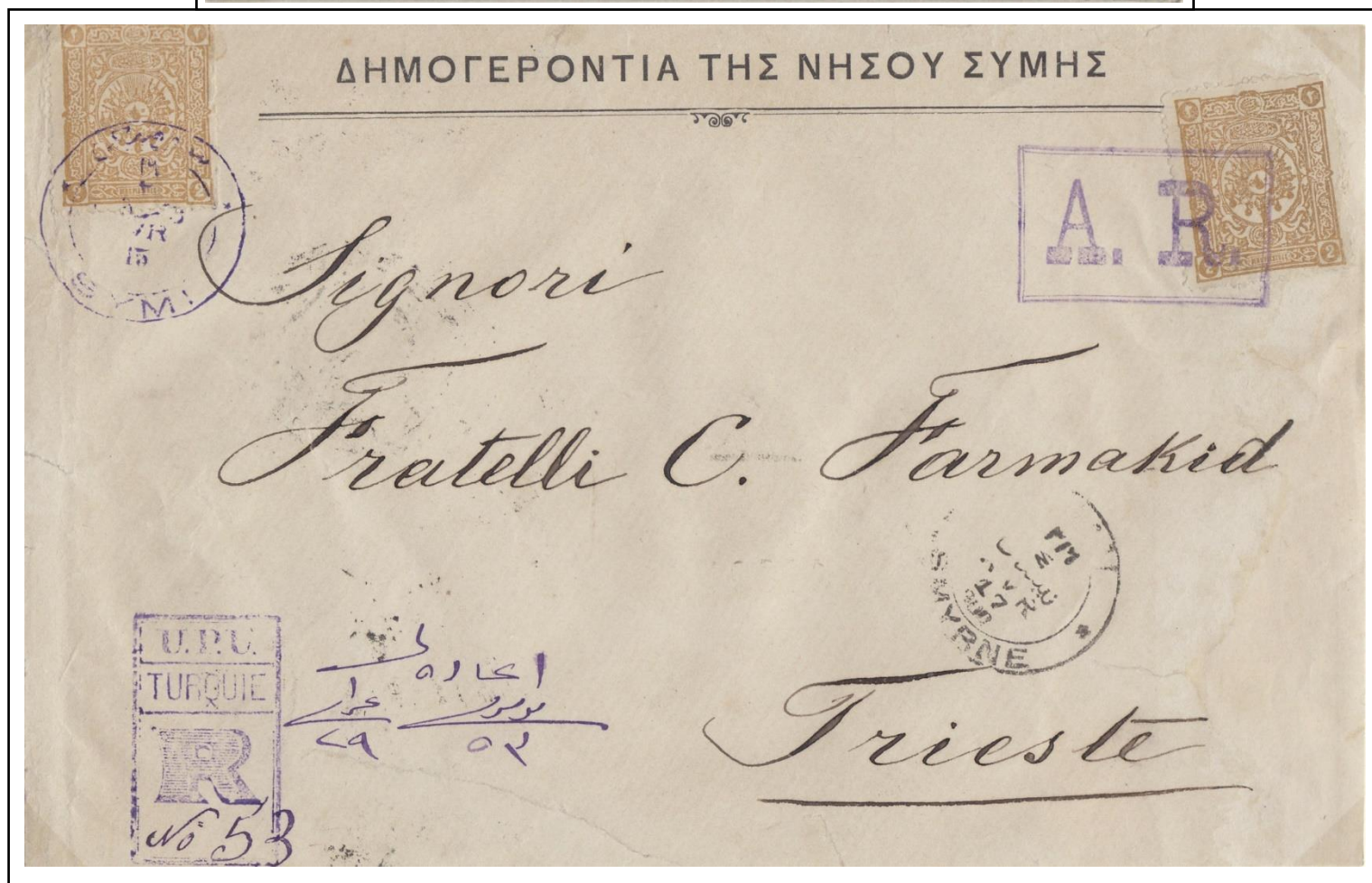
A 20 para post-card (1892 issue with reply-card) written at Symi on 25 November / 7 December 1896 and addressed to Athens; cancelled in black as above; with the same date-stamp dated 7 December 1896; transit back-stamp of the Turkish post office at Smyrna dated 10 December 1896.



# 1. Turkish period to 1912

## Turkish post office at Symi 1868 - May 1912

Double-circle with six-line date marking used at Symi 1892 - 1900



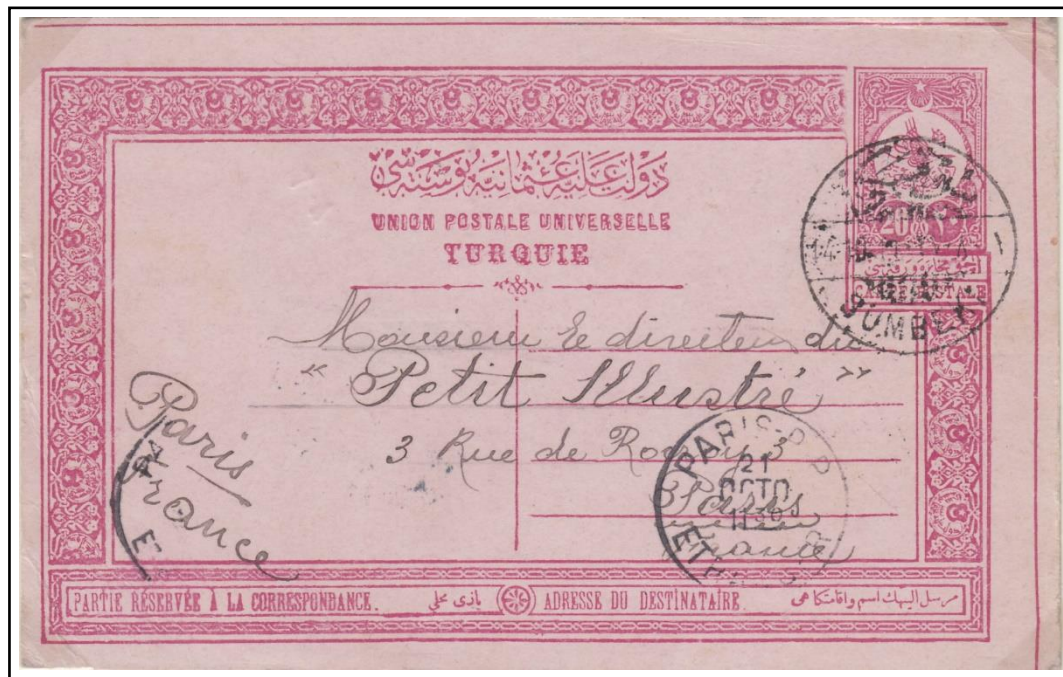
Two envelopes sent registered with advice of receipt ("A.R."), each correctly franked at 4 piastres with stamps of the 1892 issue (20-40g = 2pi + registration 1pi + return of receipt 1pi). Both bear the Symi date-stamp and boxed registration plus "A.R." markings in violet (the only recorded examples). That above, from 25 January 1898 and addressed to Paris, also bears an "A.R." registration marking in black (certificate). That below, addressed to Trieste, has the Symi date-stamp as a violet canceller of 15 April 1900.



## 1. Turkish period to 1912

## Turkish post office at Symi 1868 - May 1912

Large and small double-circle with date-belt markings used at Symi 1901-11 and 1911-12



A 20 para post-card (1909 issue) sent to France; cancelled with the small double-circle date-stamp of Symi (inscribed "Sumbeki") on 14 October 1911; Smyrna transit and Paris arrival date-stamps of 14 and 21 October 1911.



A heavy registered letter sent to Constantinople franked with a 2½ pi. stamp of the 1908 issue cancelled with the large double-circle marking Sumbeki in blue on 22 February 1911; also with a negative registration marking in blue.



## 1. Turkish period to 1912

## Turkish post office at Castellorizo ca. 1884? - February 1913

Rectangular and double-circle "MEIS - MISSIS" markings used at Castellorizo ca.1886 - 1899



Stamps cancelled with the rectangular  
"Meis Adasi" marking  
Left: 20 para 1890  
Right: Pair 20 paras 1892  
There are apparently no covers recorded



A date-stamp correctly inscribed "Meis" in Arabic, but incorrectly "MISSIS" in French, in use ca. 1892-99



A 20 pa. post-card (1892 issue) used to Germany; cancelled "MISSIS" in blue on 8 January 1893; transit d/s of the Turkish P.O. at Constantinople dated 18 January 1893; arrival d/s of Nuremberg of 26 January 1893.



A cover to "Mr. Jeanne Pappadopoulos of Castellorizo" in Cairo correctly franked with a 1 pi. stamp (1892 issue); cancelled "MISSIS" in black on 22 July 1895. Right: a reduced copy of the back with transit b/s of the Turkish P.O. at Rhodes (date illegible); transit and arrival b/s of the Egyptian P.O.s at Alexandria and Cairo dated 29 July 1895; boxed unclaimed marking in black and returned marking in red dated 5 October 1895.



## 1. Turkish period to 1912

## Turkish post office at Castellorizo 1884? - February 1913

“MEIS - CASTELORIZO” date-stamps: with 6-line date 1899-1901; with belt date 1901-1913



Pair 20pa 1892 black  
Castellorizo 15.1.1900



Pair 5pa/10pa 1897 black  
Castellorizo 30.9.1899



Pair 10pa 1901 black  
Castellorizo 11.4.190?



20pa 1901 black  
Castellorizo 11.3.19??

The large double-circle marking with 6-line date with, at the top “Meis” in Arabic and at the foot, Castellorizo, is recorded from 1899-1901 on stamps of the 1892-1901 issues (no covers recorded).



20pa 1901 blue  
Castellorizo 19.3.1904



1pi 1910 blue-black  
Castellorizo 1.1.1910



Pair 20pa 1910 black  
Castellorizo

The large double-circle with date-belt marking of the Turkish post office at Castellorizo, in Arabic “Meis” is recorded in the literature from 1905-1913 on stamps of the 1901-1909 issues.



"MEIS - CASTELLORIZO" date-stamp with belt date 1901-1913



Expertise

A letter sent from Castellorizo to Ethiopia on 16 January 1913 correctly franked at 1 piastre with a pair of 20 para stamps of the 1910 issue. It has transit date-stamps of Smyrna, Alexandria and Port-Taufiq of 19 January, 1 and 2 February 1913 and a Dire-Daoua arrival date-stamp of 15 February 1913.



A view-card sent from Castellorizo to France ca. 2 June 1909 correctly franked with a 20 para stamp of the 1909 issue. Smyrna transit d/s. At right: a reduced copy of the address-side showing the Paris arrival date-stamp of 14 June 1909.



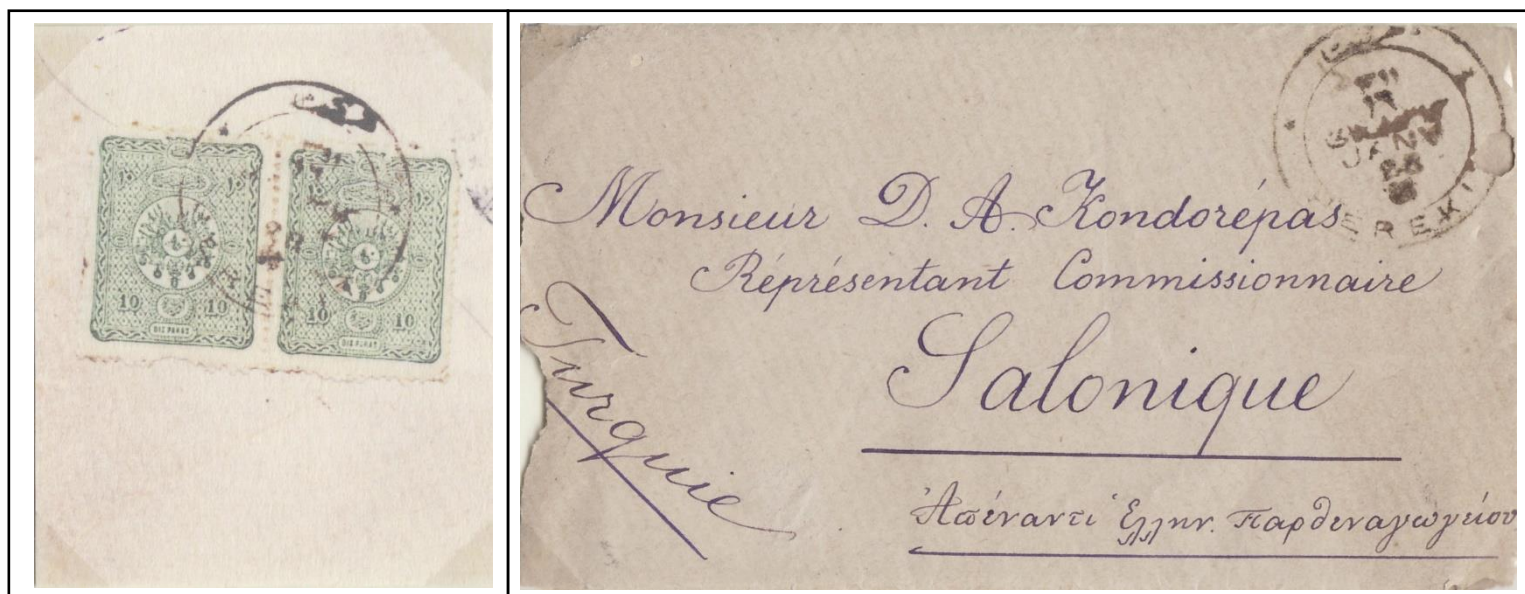
## 1. Turkish period to 1912

## Turkish post office at Chalki ca. 1890? - May 1912

The two known examples of the marking of Chalki with six-line date inscribed “HEREKIT” on cover 1896/98



A 20 para postal card (1892 issue) sent from Chalki to Holland on 4 December 1898 and cancelled with the “Herekit” date-stamp of Chalki. It has transit date-stamps of Smyrna and Constantinople of 10 September and a Dordrecht arrival date-stamp of 13 December 1898.



A letter sent from Chalki to Salonica originally correctly franked at 1 piastre with two pairs of 10 para stamps of the 1892 issue, one of which is now missing. The envelope bears a clear example of the “Herekit” date-stamp of Chalki with date 28 January 1896. At left: a 100% copy of part of the reverse showing the franking with cancellation.



## 1. Turkish period to 1912

## Turkish post office at Chalki ca. 1890? - May 1912

Covers from Chalki with the belt date-stamp inscribed "KHARKI" recorded 1905 -1910



A letter to Holland franked with a pair of 20 para stamps (1905 issue); cancelled with the above date-stamp in blue-black on 22(?) August 1907; Smyrna transit b/s of 2 September 1907; Gouda arrival back-stamp (date illegible).



A letter to Constantinople franked with a 20 para stamp (1908 issue); cancelled with the above date-stamp in blue-black on 31 December 1908; transit back-stamp of the Turkish p.o. at Smyrna dated 10 January 1909.



## 2. Occupation of Symi, Chalki and Piscopi by Italy

19 May - 8 June 1912

Italian warship "Vettor Pisani" at Stampalia and shown in the harbour of Symi

As from April 1912, the Italian Navy used Stampalia as its base and troops landed on Rhodes on 4 May 1912, occupying the walled city on 5 May. The Turkish garrison on the island surrendered on 16 April. The nearby small island of Chalki was occupied by the cruiser "Duca di Genova" already on 8 May 1912 and the island of Piscopi by the destroyer "Napoli" on 12 May. A full week after the occupation of the other islands, the "Pegaso" occupied Symi, which lies close to the Turkish mainland, on 19 May 1912. In each case, the local Municipal authorities were provided with Italian stamps and entrusted with the postal services until the opening of the Italian post offices at Symi on 9 June 1912, at Chalki on 20 July 1912 and at Piscopi (Tilos) on 7 August 1912.



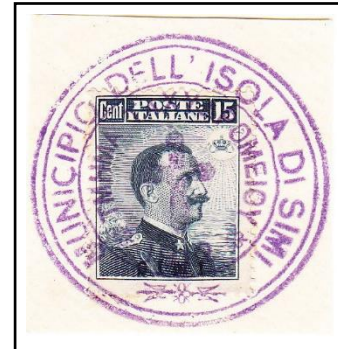
This post-card was written by a serviceman on the warship "Vettor Pisani" at Stampalia on 28 August 1912, receiving the ship's cachet and date-stamp, and was sent post-free to Italy, arriving at Ferrara on 4 September 1912.



This view-card shows the above warship "Vettor Pisani" in the harbour at Symi and bears an Italian 2c stamp with "Simi" overprint cancelled to order there on 21 July 1913.



## Markings of the Municipal post office



A new circular hand-stamp translating “Municipality of the island of Symi / Post Office Division 1912” was introduced at the end of May/beginning of June and used postally until 8 June. The left-hand piece from a legitimate item of mail bears five 5c stamps of Italy cancelled with this marking in black and a Cyprus arrival date-stamp of 20 June 1912. The right-hand piece has a 15c stamp cancelled to order in violet between November 1912 and mid-1913 after this rubber hand-stamp had become larger.



A commercial cover to Cairo correctly franked with a 5c plus two 10c stamps of Italy; cancelled with a two-line marking translating as “Municipality / of the Island of Symi” (used only in May); the stamps additionally cancelled in transit at the military post office at Rhodes on 27 May 1912; Port-Saïd transit back-stamp (date illegible); Cairo arrival back-stamp dated 3 June 1912. Apparently the only recorded cover with this marking.



These markings of the Municipal post office (K. Papadopoulos) are unrecorded in the standard literature



This cut-out from an Italian 10c post-card is cancelled with a locally-made hand-stamp translating “Municipality of Chalkis / Council of Elders” and, from the partial text on the reverse, appears to have been properly postally used. Ex Tchilinghirian.



A registered commercial cover from Chalki to Holland correctly franked with two 25c stamps of Italy; cancelled with an unrecorded marking translating as “AEGEAN CONFEDERATION \* POST OFFICE CHALKIS”; Dordrecht arrival back-stamp dated 27 July 1912. This marking clearly reflects the islanders’ hopes for an autonomous Dodecanese confederation.



Rubber date-stamp used from opening of Italian post office until April 1913



A view-card sent from Symi to Austria correctly franked with a pair of 5c stamps of Italy overprinted "Simi"; cancelled with the rubber date-stamp in violet on 18 December 1912. An early usage of the "Simi" overprinted stamps.



A letter to Constantinople correctly franked with 10c + 15c stamps of Italy; cancelled with the rubber date-stamp in violet on 27 June 1912. This date-stamp shows here some distortion after only 18 days and was apparently later repaired or replaced.



## 2. Italian post office at Symi

9 June 1912 – 2 October 1943

Rubber date-stamps used on international registered mail quickly show distortions in July 1912



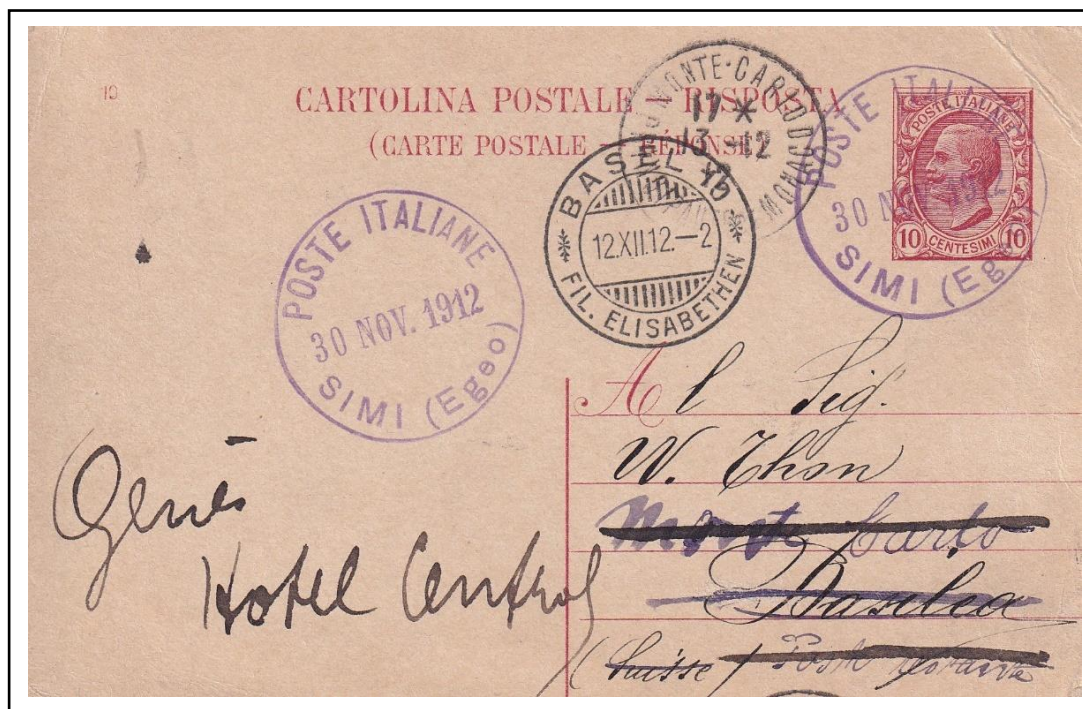
A registered letter to Egypt franked with three 40c stamps of Italy (over-franked?); cancelled with the rubber “SIMI” date-stamp in violet on 6 July 1912 (here showing some distortion); Rhodes transit and Alexandria arrival back-stamps of 10 and 17 July 1912.



A commercial registered letter to England correctly franked with five 10c stamps of Italy; cancelled with the rubber “SIMI” date-stamp in violet on 17 July 1912 (very little distortion - a spare canceller?); Manchester arrival back-stamp of 7 August 1912.



Rubber date-stamp used from opening of Italian post office until April 1913



A 10c post-card sent from Symi to Basle; cancelled with the rubber date-stamp in violet on 30 November 1912 (here showing no distortion). Arrival date-stamp of 12 December; redirected to Monte Carlo to arrive on 13 December 1912.



A letter to France correctly franked with a 25c stamp of Italy overprinted "EGEO" cancelled with the rubber date-stamp in violet on 27 November 1912 (here showing little distortion but signs of wear). Marseille arrival d/s 10 December.



## 2. Italian post office at Chalki

20 July 1912 – 11 September 1943

Rubber hand-stamps inscribed first “Halki” (July 1912) then “Karki” (August 1912 – March 1913)



A view-card of Chalki correctly franked with a 5c stamp of Italy cancelled in violet with the temporary marking inscribed “Italian Post Halki (Aegean) \* Post Office Chalkis”; Cigliano arrival date-stamp of 6 August 1912. The literature records no covers with this marking, which was made at Rhodes and used only from 20 to 31 July 1912.



This local registered letter to the Austrian vice-Consul in Rhodes is correctly franked with 5c + 2 x 15c stamps of Italy; cancelled in blue with the rubber date-stamp on 15 November 1912; Rhodes-Town arrival back-stamp of the same date.



## 2. Italian post office at Piscopi (Tilos)

6 August 1912 – October 1943

Rubber date-stamp used from opening of Italian post office until metal date-stamp arrived in March 1913



This piece bears the entire series of the 1912 "Piscopi" overprinted issue cancelled to order with the new metal date-stamp on 21 March 1913 (an extremely early date) and also in violet with the oval marking "Municipality of Tilos 1912" from the period before the opening of the Italian post office; the standard literature indicates that only one example this marking is known (this piece?)



This registered letter to Italy is franked with a 50c stamp of the 1912 "Piscopi" overprinted issue, which was sold at 40c (very early use); cancelled in blue with the rubber date-stamp on 7 December 1912; Portici arrival back-stamp of 30 December 1912.



Standard "POSTE ITALIANE" date-stamp used at Symi from March 1913 to mid 1920's



This registered letter to Italy is correctly franked with an Italian 40c stamp overprinted "Simi" cancelled with the above date-stamp on 28 May 1913; it bears a Livorno arrival back-stamp of 8 June 1913.



Letter to Italy correctly franked with a 50c/55c stamp (1923 issue of Italy) cancelled with the above date-stamp on 1 January 1924.



## 2. Italian post office at Chalki

1912 – 1943

Standard “POSTE ITALIANE” date-stamp used at Chalki from March 1913 to mid 1920's



This letter to Rhodes insured for 12 Lire is franked with 5c + 10c + 40c stamps of the 1912 “Karki” overprint issue cancelled with the above date-stamp on 23 February 1916; it bears a Rodi arrival back-stamp of ?? March 1916.



This registered letter to Italy is correctly franked with a 50c/55c stamp of the 1923 issue of Italy cancelled with the above date-stamp on 22 January 1924 and bears a further strike dated 3 February (date of despatch); it bears a Como arrival back-stamp of 19 February 1924.



## 2. Italian post office at Piscopi (Tilos)

1912 – 1943

Standard “POSTE ITALIANE PISCOPI (EGEO)” metal date-stamp used from March 1913 to late 1930’s



This letter to the USA is correctly franked with a 1L25 stamp of the 1932 Aegean issue cancelled with the above date-stamp on 5 May 1937; it bears a Rhodes transit back-stamp of 7 May 1937.



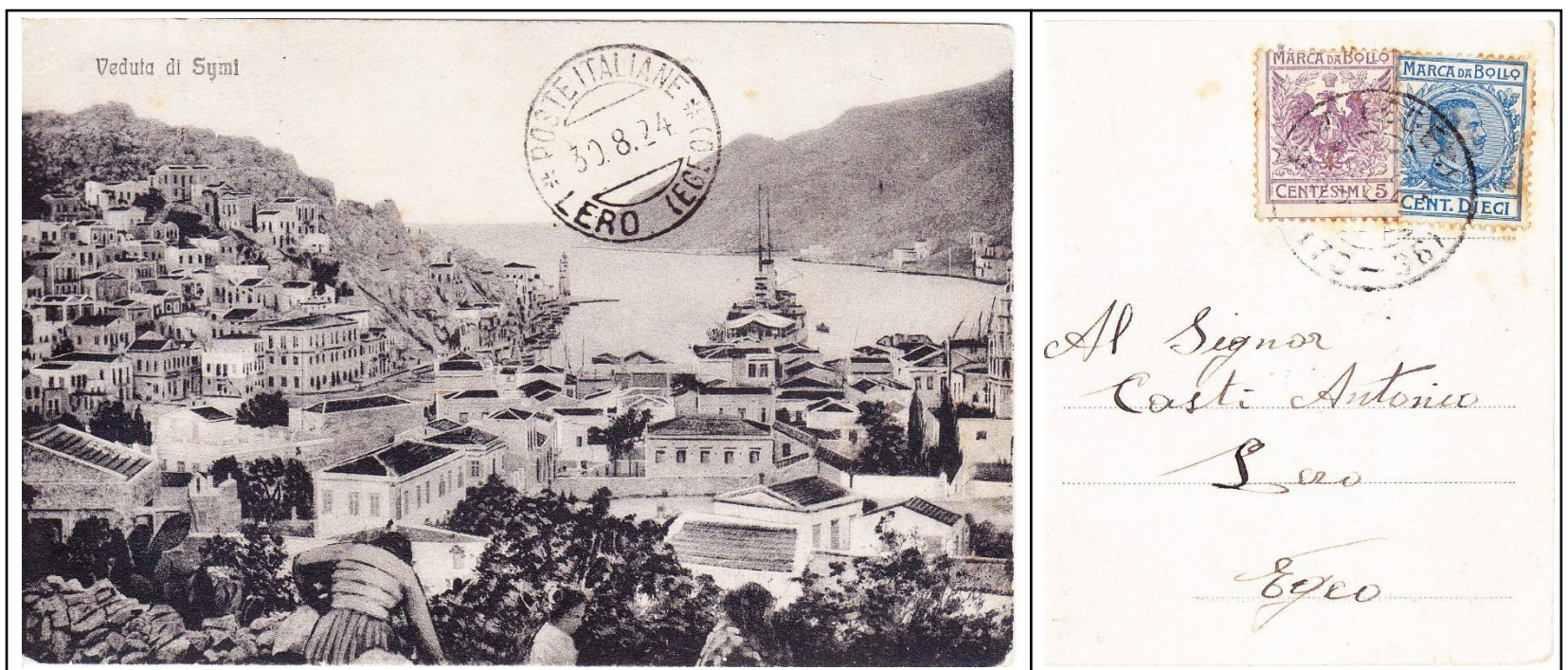
This letter to the USA is correctly franked with an Italian 25c stamp plus, very unusually, two 50c stamps of the Aegean Dante issue cancelled with the above date-stamp on 22 December 1932; it bears a Rhodes transit back-stamp of 25 December 1932.



Italian metropolitan type date-stamp "SIMI (EGEO) (70 - 36)" used only at Symi from ca. 1920 to 1943



This letter to Germany is correctly franked with an Italian 1L stamp cancelled with the above date-stamp on 31 October 1924 and bears Berlin arrival back-stamps of 17 November 1924.



This view-card to nearby Leros is franked at the local rate with a 5c plus 10c fiscal stamps of Italy (not valid for postage but accepted here) cancelled with the above date-stamp on 23 August 1924. The 100% copy of the view-side shows a Leros arrival date-stamp of 30 August, a very early example of the Italianized form of "Lero" with deleted "s".



## 2. Italian post office at Symi

1912 – 1943

Italian metropolitan type date-stamp “SIMI (EGEO) (70 - 36)” used only at Symi from ca. 1920 to 1943



An airmail letter to the Red Cross in Geneva correctly franked at 2L75; cancelled with the above date-stamp on 21 September 1942; censored and re-sealed at Rhodes before despatch.



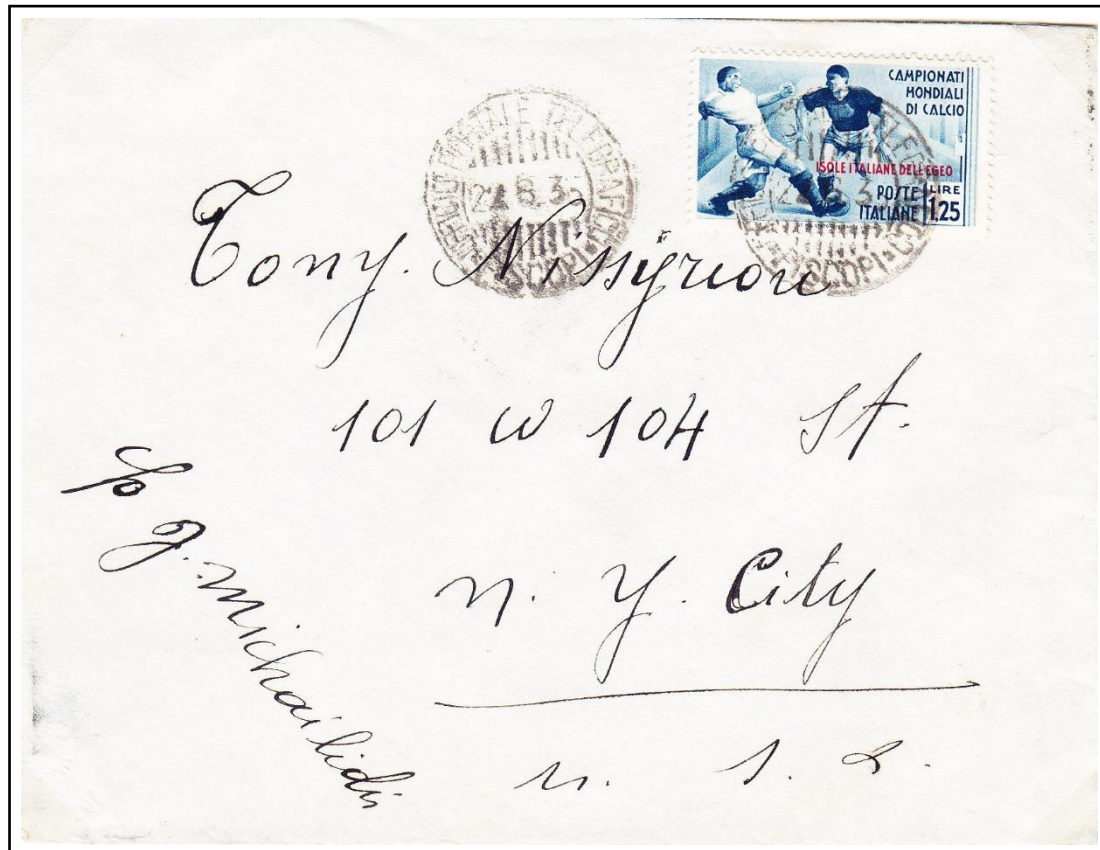
A cover sent to Brazil franked with Aegean stamps to 5L20 plus an Italian 5L airmail stamp (= postage 1L25 + registration/express 1L50 + airmail surcharge from Italy 7L + over-franking 45c?); cancelled with the above date-stamp on 11 August 1933; carried by surface mail to Friedrichshafen (via Rhodes, Brindisi and Chiasso), then by the Graf Zeppelin to Pernambuco, receiving the departure date-stamp of 19 August 1933, the red flight cachet and a Pernambuco arrival back-stamp of 23 August 1933.



## 2. Italian post offices at Piscopi and Symi

1912 – 1943

Italian standard type date-stamp type “UFFICIO POSTALE TELEGRAFICO” used from ca. 1925 to 1943



A letter to New York correctly franked with a 1L25 stamp (1934 Football issue overprinted for the Aegean) cancelled with the above date-stamp of Piscopi on 22 June 1935; it bears a Rhodes transit back-stamp of 23 June 1935.



A registered letter to Athens correctly franked with stamps of the Aegean to the value of 2L25 cancelled with the above date-stamp of Simi on 14 October 1933; it bears Rhodes and Athens transit and arrival back-stamps of 14 and 16 October 1933.



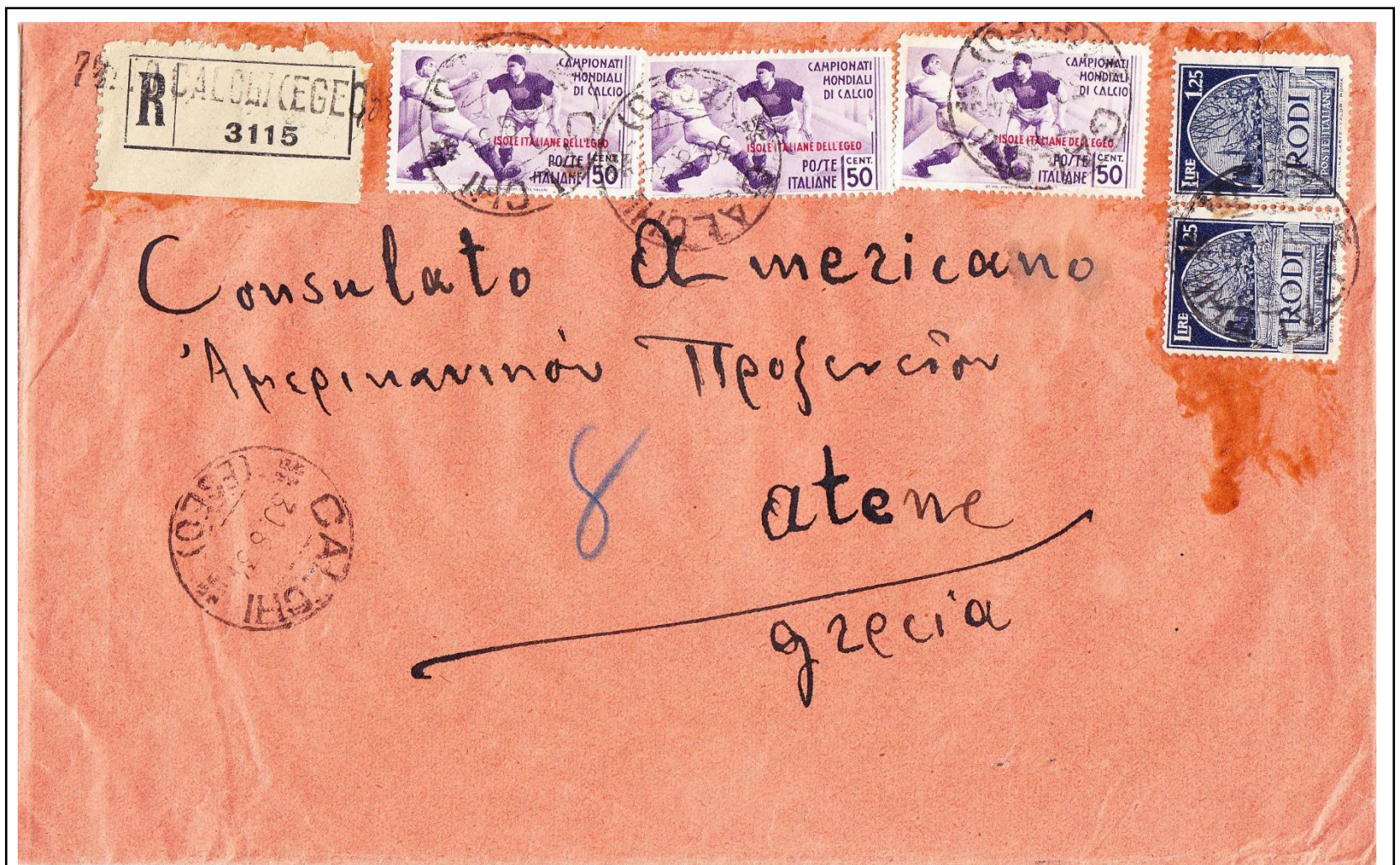
## 2. Italian post offices at Chalki and Symi

1912 – 1943

Italian standard type date-stamps “SIMI (EGEO)” and “CALCHI (EGEO)” used from ca. 1925 to 1943



An airmail letter to Rome correctly franked with Italian 50c postage and airmail stamps cancelled with the above date-stamp of Simi on 22 January 1943; censored in transit at Rhodes and again on arrival at the Ministry of the Marine in Rome on 7 February.



A heavy registered letter to Athens correctly franked with stamps of the Aegean (incl. three 50c stamps of the 1934 Football commemorative issue) to the value of 4L cancelled with the above date-stamp of Chalki on 30 August 1934; it bears Rhodes and Athens transit and arrival back-stamps of 31 August and 3 September 1934.



## 2. Italian post office at Symi

1912 – 1943

Italian metropolitan type date-stamp “SIMI (EGEO) (70 - 36)” used only at Symi from ca. 1920 to 1943



View-card (late 1920's) showing a seaplane at anchor in the harbour at Symi - but there was no regular air service to Symi



This airmail letter to Italy was correctly franked with Aegean stamps to 1 Lira; cancelled with the above date-stamp on 15 October 1942; censored on Rhodes before sealing; Milan arrival back-stamp of 20 October 1942.



### 3a. Autonomous Administration of Castellorizo

March – September 1913

The small rocky island of Castellorizo is 3 km from the Anatolian coast but ca. 100 km from Rhodes. The islanders had prospered from trade and had acquired land on the mainland to feed the population of some 11,000, almost all of whom lived in the town of Megisti. After they seized independence on 1/14 March 1913, their advantages disappeared and emigration to Rhodes, Egypt, Australia and America reduced the population to less than 2,000 by 1939.

The Greek Navy did not want to become involved with Castellorizo, which lay so close to the Turkish mainland and was separated from Greece by the Italian occupied Dodecanese. Its autonomous administration ran the island from 2/15 March 1913 to September 1913 and made various doubtful philatelic productions, which are summarized here:



A Greek stamp c-t-o as a souvenir with the Turkish date-stamp dated 14 March 1913, the date when Autonomy was declared. Not known postally used in this form.



Greek stamps with a speculative overprint "Kastellorizon" cto with a marking "Provisional Hellenic Commission of Castellorizo Postal Section" used June to August 1913.



A Turkish stamp cto with a negative marking reading "Provisional Hellenic Commission of Castellorizo" recorded March/April 1913 in blue and purple on Turkish stamps.



This envelope to Rhodes is correctly franked with 5 lepta + 2 x 10 lepta stamps of the January 1913 issue of Greece, which are cancelled with a hand-stamp which translates "Provisional Hellenic Administration of Castellorizo". This marking was in use on legitimate mail from late April and early May 1913 but the undiplomatic Greek coat of arms may have led to its withdrawal.



Greece did not formally claim Castellorizo but had been sending warships on visits to deter Turkish reoccupation. A detachment of Samian Constabulary arrived and Athens sent a Military Governor, V. Tsavellas, who took over the administration early in September 1913. A stamp dealer purchased the available Greek stamps, creating a shortage, and the Governor apparently initially approved the overprinting of Turkish stamps; but the use of these was subsequently forbidden by Athens and by the Governor.

As the existing canceller was undated, a Turkish date-stamp was adapted, deleting the Turkish name “Meyis” at the top and adding the Greek name “MEGISTI” in the centre, with the date below.



A Turkish 10 para stamp with overprint “E.D. 10” (= “Greek Administration 10 (lepta)”) cancelled on 11/24 September 1913.



A Greek 5 lepta stamp cancelled on 5/18 October 1913 with the adapted Turkish date-stamp (in use August - December 1913).



A Greek 25 lepta stamp cancelled on 19 July 1914 with the new date-stamp reading “MEGISTI (KASTELLORIZON)” (Dec. 1913–Dec. 1915).



This envelope to Syros is correctly franked with 2 x 5 lepta stamps of the 1912/13 “Greek Administration” issue, which were cancelled with the above adapted hand-stamp on 2/15 October 1913; Syros arrival back-stamp 11/24 October.



### 3b. Greek (Samian) Military Occupation of Castellorizo

September 1913 – December 1915

Philatelic mail bearing stamps overprinted locally "E.D." (Greek Administration) for the Military Governor



A philatelic cover sent registered to Rhodes franked with a pair of Turkish 5 para stamps with the double overprint "E.D. 25 (lepta)" cancelled on 10/23 September 1913 with a Turkish date-stamp with the Arabic name "Meyis" removed and the Turkish date replaced with the Greek name "MEGISTE"; sent with the first mail despatch, the envelope bears an arrival back-stamp of the Italian post office at Rhodes dated 30 September 1913.



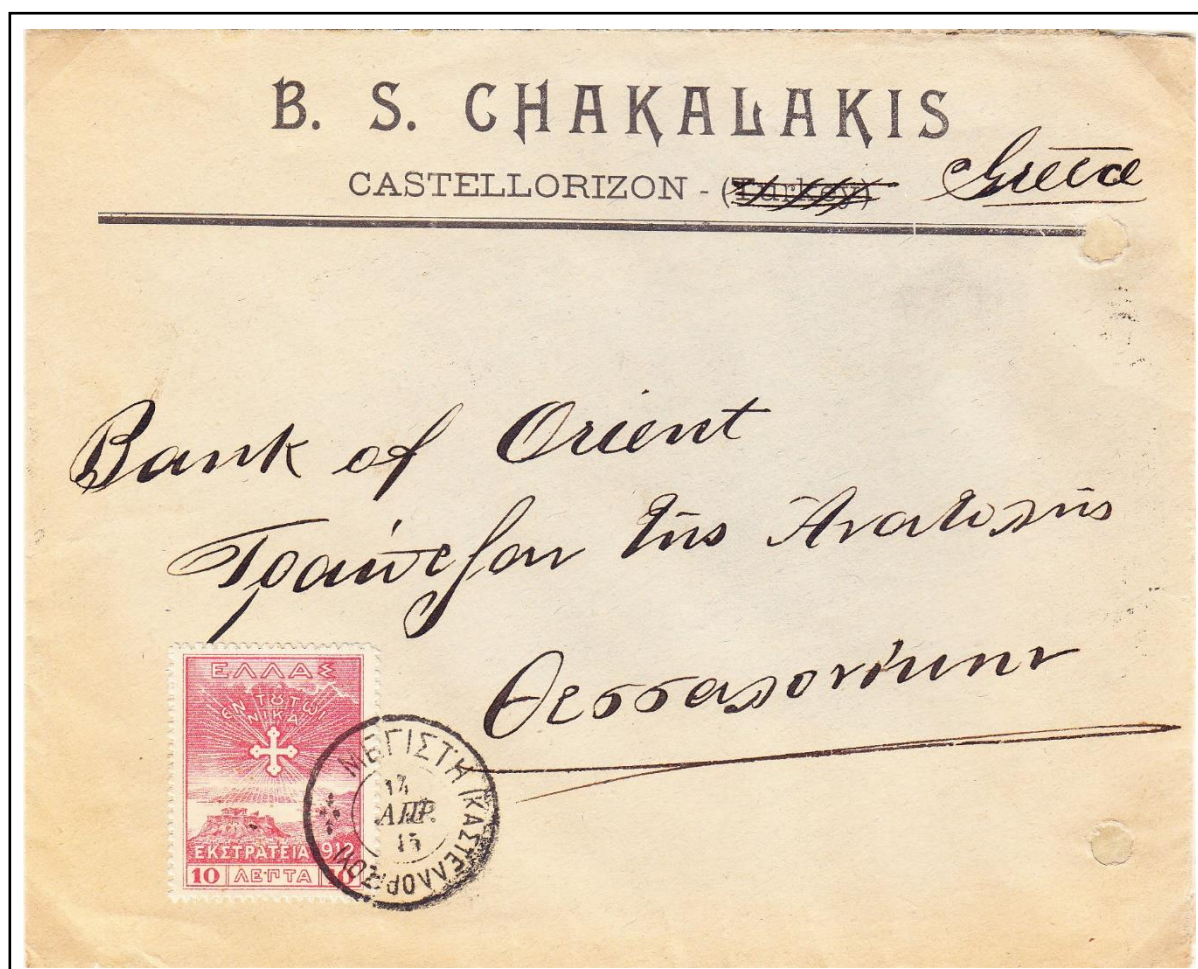
A registered cover to Paris (to philatelist Theodore Champion) correctly franked with five 10 lepta stamps of the above issue; cancelled as above but on 13/26 September 1913; sent with the second mail despatch; stopped in Piraeus by the Greek p.o., the stamps torn-off and defaced and the letter returned to Megisti for re-franking with Greek stamps. A 50 lepta stamp of the 1913 issue was added at Megisti and cancelled with the new standard Greek-type date-stamp on 6 December 1913; the envelope now received a transit back-stamp of Piraeus dated 15 December 1913 en route to France.



Non-philatelic mail to Port-Saïd and Thessalonica from 1915



A letter of 16-30g sent to Egypt correctly franked with a 50 lepta stamp cancelled on 12/25 August 1915 with the Greek-type date-stamp reading "MEGISTI KASTELLORIZON". It bears transit back-stamps of Rhodes of 5 September, of Piraeus and Alexandria with illegible dates, plus a Port-Saïd arrival back-stamp of 21 September 1915. On the front an Egyptian censor mark.



A commercial cover to Greece correctly franked with a 10 lepta stamp which was cancelled as above on 14 April 1915. It bears a transit back-stamp of Vathy, Samos, of 16 April 1915 and a Thessalonica arrival back-stamp of 20 April 1915.



Items from the first month of the occupation bearing Greek stamps and the French hand-stamp



In October 1915 the Samian garrison left Castellorizo and in mid-December the Greek warships left before replacements had arrived. On 24 December French Naval forces occupied the island, turning it into a Naval Base for the First Naval Army.

This letter to the Director of the Egyptian post office at Port-Saïd is franked at 50 lepta with stamps of Greece (3 lepta too much) and also bears the compulsory Greek Red Cross charity tax stamp; these cancelled on 15/28 December 1915 (4 days after the French occupation) with the "MEGISTI KASTELLORIZON" date-stamp. The envelope bears a strike of the French rubber hand-stamp already prepared reading "CASTELLORIZO OCCUPATION FRANCAISE / 1E ARMÉE NAVALE – 3E ESCADRE" and a Port-Saïd arrival back-stamp of 4 January 1916.



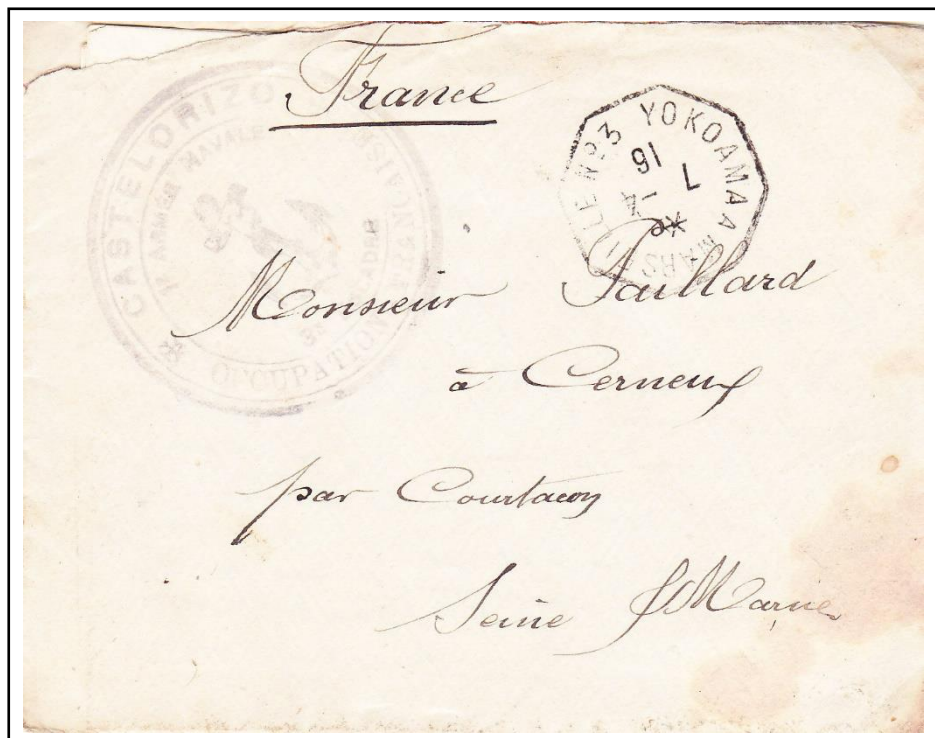
This view-card bears a 3 lepta stamp of Greece cancelled to order with the Megisti date-stamp on 13/26 December 1915 (reduced photocopy at right) plus the above French hand-stamp and was sent postage free to Port-Saïd on 25 January 1916.



### 3c. French Naval Occupation of Castellorizo

December 1915 – February 1921

Non-philatelic mail from February and April 1916 – rubber hand-stamp with inner inscriptions



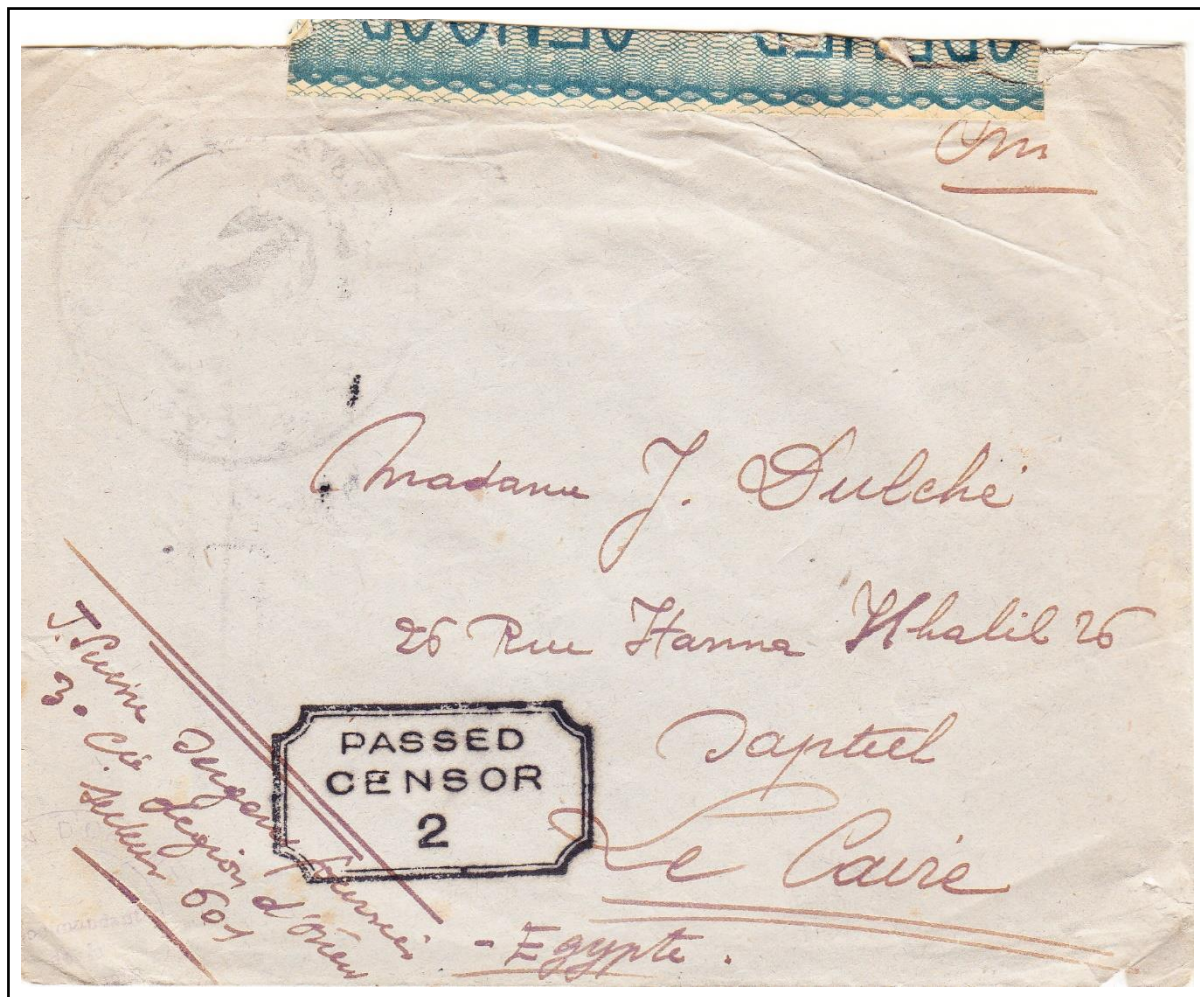
This postage-free cover to France bears the Castellorizo marking in its original state, a transit date-stamp of the ship “Atlantique” coming from Yokohama dated 7 April 1916 (when the letter was put on board at Port Said for carriage to Marseilles, arriving on 13 April 1916) and a Courtason arrival back-stamp of 16 April 1916.



This cover to Brazil bears the French marking “CASTELLORIZO OCCUPATION FRANCAISE / 1E ARMÉE NAVALE – 3E ESCADRE” in its original state and a manuscript mention “Vu par la Censure” (the censorship hand-stamp for Castellorizo was not yet in use). It is correctly franked with a 1 pi. on 25 c. stamp (1903 Levant issue), which was cancelled at the French post office at Rhodes on 7 February 1916, and bears an arrival back-stamp of Rio Grande do Sul dated 21 March 1916.



Mail of members of the French Naval Squadron - large marking with inner inscriptions



An envelope to Cairo with the above hand-stamp (a faint strike after heavy use), the cachet of the Company Commandant, an Egyptian censor mark, transit and arrival back-stamps of Port Saïd and Cairo dated 25 August 1917.



An envelope to an Ensign on board the naval vessel "Pothnan" at Port Saïd bearing unnecessary Greek stamps to the value of 25 lepta cancelled with the above marking, unusually in black; bearing a large boxed censor mark inscribed "CORPS D'OCCUPATION CASTELLORIZO / CENSURE" and arrival back-stamp of Port Saïd dated 28 May 1916.



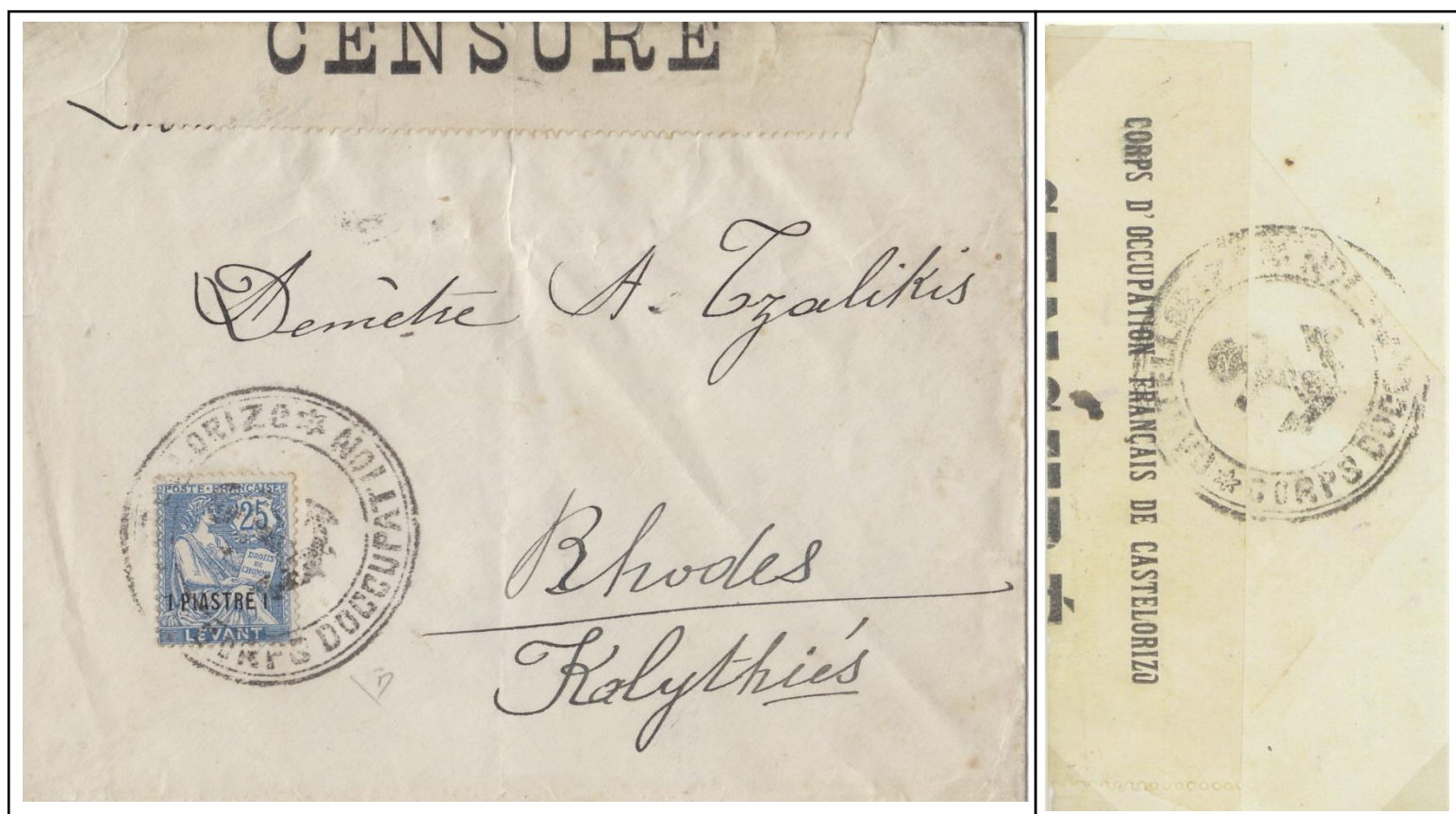
### 3c. French Naval Occupation of Castellorizo

December 1915 – February 1921

Metal hand-stamp “CASTELLORIZO \* CORPS DOCCUPATION” in use from February 1916



A registered cover to France correctly franked at 40c with stamps of the French p.o. at Alexandria (with 5c Red Cross surcharge) cancelled as above; Port Saïd and Marseilles transit and Vanves arrival back-stamps of 5, 14 and 16 March 1917.



An undated cover to Rhodes correctly franked with a 1pi on 25c stamp (1903 French Levant issue) and cancelled as above; censored at Castellorizo and sealed with tape “CENSURE / CORPS D'OCCUPATION FRANCAIS DE CASTELORIZO”.



Mail to Egypt of Dec. 1917 and March 1918 with the "CASTELLORIZO \* CORPS DOCCUPATION" marking



Two commercial covers to Egypt correctly franked at 25c with stamps of French Levant cancelled with the above marking; they were censored at Castellorizo before despatch and re-sealed with tapes reading "CORPS D'OCCUPATION FRANCAIS DE CASTELORIZO"; with Port-Said back-stamps of 28 December 1917 (below) and 19 March 1918 (above). The above also has an Alexandria arrival back-stamp of 20 March and the mute wavy-lines censor mark of British Egypt.



Post-card to Greece forwarded via Australia in June 1918 instead of using the French Naval Post Office



A reduced copy (75%) of the address-side of the view-card below showing the message date-lined Castellorizo 4 June 1918. The card was addressed to the Greek p.o. in Thessaloniki but forwarded privately via a Castellorizo emigrant in Perth. Australian censor mark of Perth and French censor mark of Thessaloniki, arrival date stamp 23 Dec. 1918.



This view-card shows French Naval vessels in the harbour of Megisti, Castellorizo, and was franked with ½d + 1d stamps of Australia cancelled "SHIP ROOM" at Perth on 4 November 1918. The card was correctly franked at 1½d, a but a War Tax of ½d was also payable as from October 1918, and 10 cents (= 1d) postage due was noted on the front



Highly speculative overprinted issues of 19 June and 22 June 1920 cancelled with metal hand-stamp



A registered cover to Smyrna correctly franked at 50c with stamps of the 1902-05 Levant issues overprinted "B.N.F. CASTELLORIZO" ("B.N.F." = Base Navale Française), the 15c inverted, issued on 19 June 1920; cancelled "CASTELLORIZO \* CORPS D'OCCUPATION"; transit and arrival back-stamps of the French p.o.'s at Rhodes and Smyrna dated 23 and 26 June 1920.



A similar cover, under-franked with a 40c stamp (1902 Levant issue) overprinted "O.N.F. CASTELLORIZO" ("O.N.F." = Occupation Navale Française) issued on 22 June 1920; cancelled as above; Smyrna back-stamps of 3 and 4 September 1920.



Highly speculative overprint issue "OF CASTELLORISO" of 26 August 1920



A letter to New York correctly franked with a French 25c stamp overprinted "O.F. CASTELLORISO" ("O.F." = Occupation Française) issued on 26 August 1920; cancelled at Castellorizo; with a Rhodes transit back-stamp of 2 September 1920.



A philatelic registered cover to Mersina correctly franked at 50c with French stamps overprinted "O.F. CASTELLORISO"; cancelled with the metal hand-stamp of Castellorizo; with a Mersina arrival back-stamp dated 10 September 1920.



### 3c. French Naval Occupation of Castellorizo

December 1915 – February 1921

4th overprint issue "OCCUPATION FRANCAISE CASTELLORIZO" prepared end August 1920 but not issued because Paris had now seen the first three issues and ordered that the overprinting must be ended



A philatelic registered cover to Smyrna with stamps to 50c with the large rubber canceller without inner inscriptions. Arrival back-stamp of French Military p.o. no. 528 at Smyrna dated 3 September 1920 – this is the earliest usage seen.



A cover to France with stamps to 25c with the above canceller; Marseille arrival back-stamp dated 20 September 1920



Legitimate items of mail franked with the speculative overprinted issues in October and November 1920



A front of a receipt for a registered letter returned from Castellorizo to Rhodes correctly franked with a 25c stamp of France overprinted "O.N.F. CASTELLORIZO"; cancelled with the large hand-stamp (with inner inscriptions removed); with an arrival date-stamp of the French post office at Rhodes dated 8 October 1920.



A registered cover to France correctly franked at 50c with three 5c stamps (1905 Levant issue), a 10c stamp of France overprinted "O.N.F. CASTELLORIZO" and a 25c stamp of France overprinted "O.F. CASTELLORIZO" cancelled as above; transit back-stamp of the French post office at Rhodes dated 13 November; Paris arrival back-stamp dated 23 November 1920.



Legitimate items of mail from November 1920 and January 1921



A large part of the back of an envelope to Australia correctly franked with five 3c stamps plus a 10c stamp (1902 Levant issue); cancelled with the large Castellorizo hand-stamp; transit back-stamps of the Egyptian post offices at Port Taufiq and Alexandria dated 12 and 13 January 1921; Sydney arrival machine-marking with illegible date.



An envelope to France correctly franked with a 25c stamp of France (not on sale at Castellorizo); cancelled as above; transit back-stamp of the French post office at Rhodes dated 25 November 1920; Paris arrival back-stamp of 8 December.







Transfer from French to Italian rule on 1 March 1921 and use of emergency hand-stamp until May (?) 1921



This photo shows the hand-over of Castellorizo by the French Navy to the Italian Naval Authorities on 1 March 1921



A 21-40g cover sent to Taranto correctly franked with two Italian 25c stamps cancelled with a provisional marking introduced on 1 March 1921 and used until a date-stamp arrived in May 1921. The oval marking of Minesweeper No. 412 would have been a franking mark for ratings, but this letter was sent by an officer and had to be franked.



Use of emergency hand-stamp from 1 March 1921 until introduction of date-stamp in May (?) 1921



A letter to Egypt correctly franked with 10c + 50c stamps of Italy overprinted "Rodi" cancelled in violet with the emergency hand-stamp (with Arms of Savoy reading "CASTELLORIZO POSTE ITALIANE"); Alexandria arrival back-stamp of 9 May 1921.



A registered letter sent to Austria correctly franked with 20c + 2 x 50c stamps of Italy overprinted "Rodi" cancelled in violet with the emergency hand-stamp; with Rhodes and Brindisi transit back-stamps of 28 March and 4 April 1921.



Standard-type date-stamp inscribed CASTELLORIZZO (ISOLA)" introduced in May (?) 1921



A view-card sent to Milan correctly franked with three 5c stamps of Italy overprinted "Stampalia" (also valid at Castellorizzo) cancelled with the new "POSTE ITALIANE CASTELLORIZZO (ISOLA)" metal date-stamp on 24 October 1921.



A view-card sent to Milan erroneously franked at the letter rate with 10c + 15c unoverprinted stamps of Italy cancelled with the new "POSTE ITALIANE CASTELLORIZZO (ISOLA)" metal date-stamp on 29



Use of "POSTE ITALIANE CASTELLORIZZO (ISOLA)" date-stamp from May (?) 1921 to 1925



A registered letter sent to England correctly franked at 2L with stamps of Italy overprinted "CASTELROSSO" (July 1922 issue) cancelled with the above metal date-stamp on 28 November 1923; with Rhodes and Brindisi transit back-stamps of 30 November and 1 December 1923, plus a Nottingham registry arrival back-stamp of 4 December 1923.



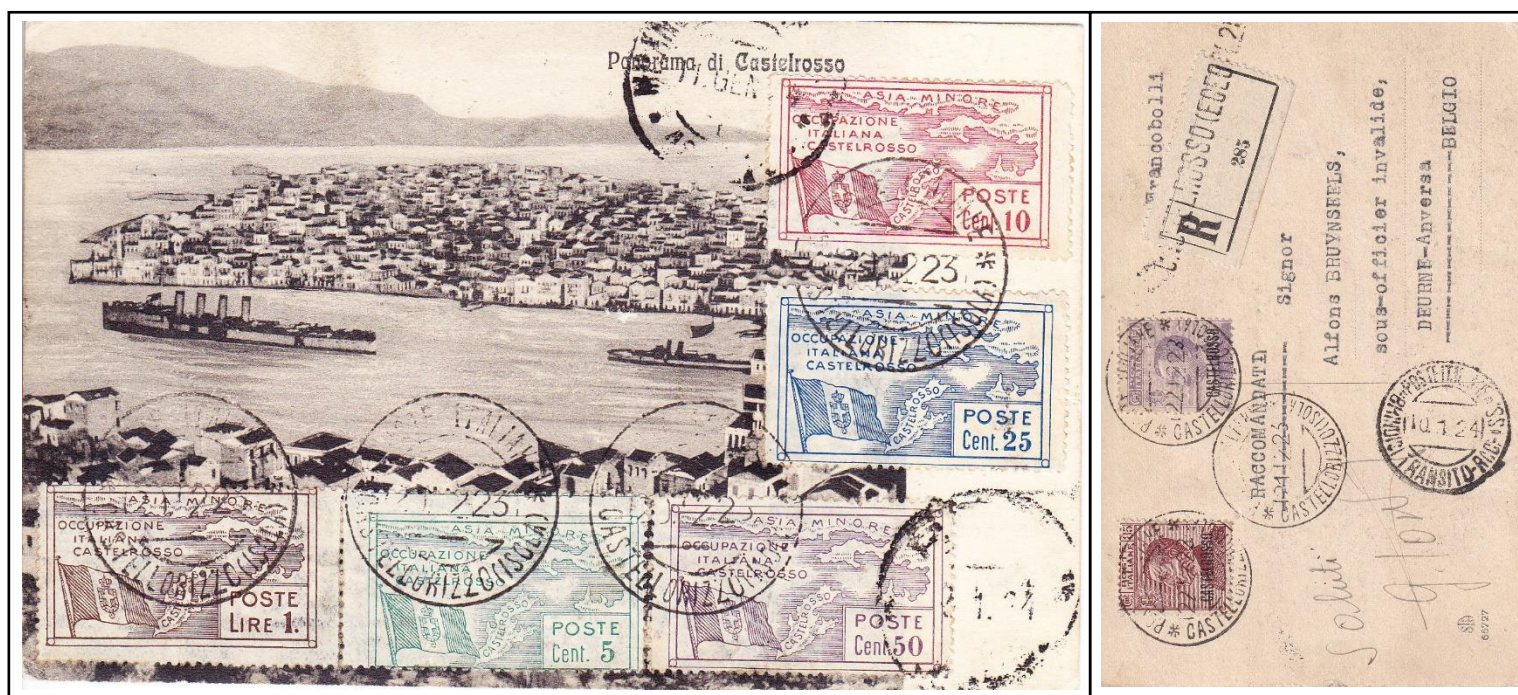
A registered letter sent to Italy correctly franked with a 5c stamp of Italy plus an 85c stamp overprinted "CASTELROSSO" cancelled with the above metal date-stamp on 21 December 1922; with Rhodes and Brindisi transit back-stamps of 22 December 1922 and 1 January 1923 plus a Rome registry arrival back-stamp of 2 January 1923.



Use of “POSTE ITALIANE CASTELLORIZZO (ISOLA)” date-stamp from May (?) 1921 to 1925



A letter sent registered to Rome correctly franked at 1L with 2 x 25c stamps of the January 1923 map series of Castellorizo, which show a map of Castellorizo and the Turkish coast, plus the Italian flag, on the front and further values to 50c on the reverse. Cancelled on 13 March 1923, the envelope bears Rhodes and Rome transit and arrival back-stamps of 16 March and 3 April 1923.



A view-card of Megisti sent registered to Belgium over-franked at 3L25 with the whole series of stamps issued in January 1923 plus 50c and 85c stamps with overprint “CASTELROSSO”; cancelled as above on 21 December 1923 and bearing transit and arrival date-stamps of Rhodes, Brindisi and Milan of 3, 10 and 11 January 1924.



## Use of "POSTE ITALIANE CASTELROSSO EGEO" date-stamp – 1924 to 1940



This letter was sent registered to Greece correctly franked with a pair of 1L stamps of Italy which were cancelled with the "POSTE ITALIANE CASTELROSSO EGEO" date-stamp on 2 September 1924 (Earliest date?). The cover has Rhodes and Piraeus transit back-stamps of 10 and 17 September plus a Thessaloniki arrival back-stamp of 19 September 1924.



This letter was sent registered to Italy correctly franked at 1L20 with 2x10c (on reverse) + 2x25/45c + 50c stamps of Italy which were cancelled with the "POSTE ITALIANE CASTELROSSO EGEO" date-stamp on 8 April 1925 (this date-stamp was withdrawn and returned to Rhodes in 1940). The envelope bears Rhodes, Brindisi and Foggia-Ancona TPO transit back-stamps of 9, 16 and 17 April 1925 plus a Como arrival back-stamp of 18 April 1925.



### 3d. Italian post office at Castellorizo

March 1921 – February 1941

Covers for the French Air Union route Marseilles – Naples – Corfu – Athens – Castellorizo – Beirut



This item of printed matter addressed to Corfu was sent via Beirut franked at 2L (no airmail rate yet published?) with stamps of the Aegean cancelled with the "POSTE ITALIANE CASTELROSSO EGEO" date-stamp on 1 July 1929. The envelope has a Beirut arrival back-stamp of the same day plus Athens transit and Corfu arrival back-stamps of 3 and 5 July 1929.



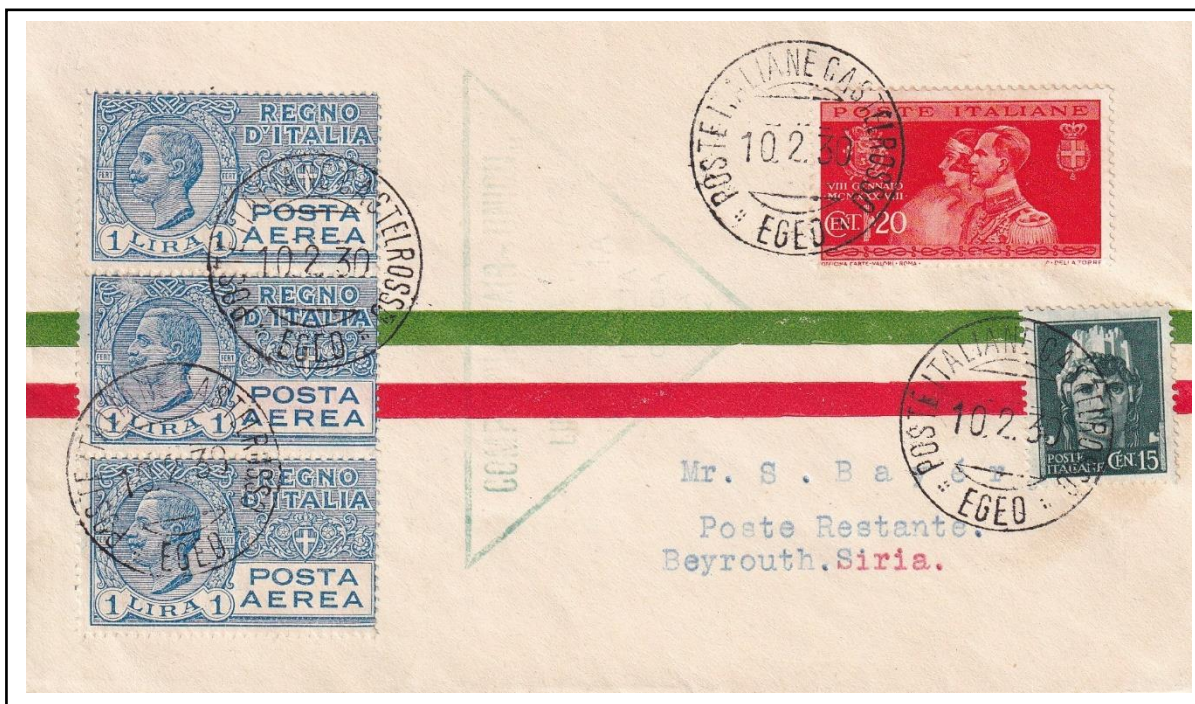
This registered airmail cover of 15-20g sent from Paris to a fictional address in Castellorizo on 1 August 1929 was correctly franked at 7F50 (= postage 2 x 1F50 plus airmail 3F + regn. 1F50). It arrived at Castellorizo by sea on 3 October 1929 and was seized.



### 3d. Italian post office at Castellorizo

March 1921 – February 1941

Covers flown on the French Air Union route Marseilles – Naples – Corfu – Athens – Castellorizo – Beirut



This item of printed matter addressed to Beirut was franked at 3L35 (25c postage + 3L10 airmail fee) with stamps of Italy cancelled with the "POSTE ITALIANE CASTELROSSO EGEO" date-stamp on 10 February 1930. The envelope has a Beirut arrival back-stamp of the same day plus a triangular flight cachet "Linea Aerea Postale – Francia.- Italia -Grecia – Siria" in green.



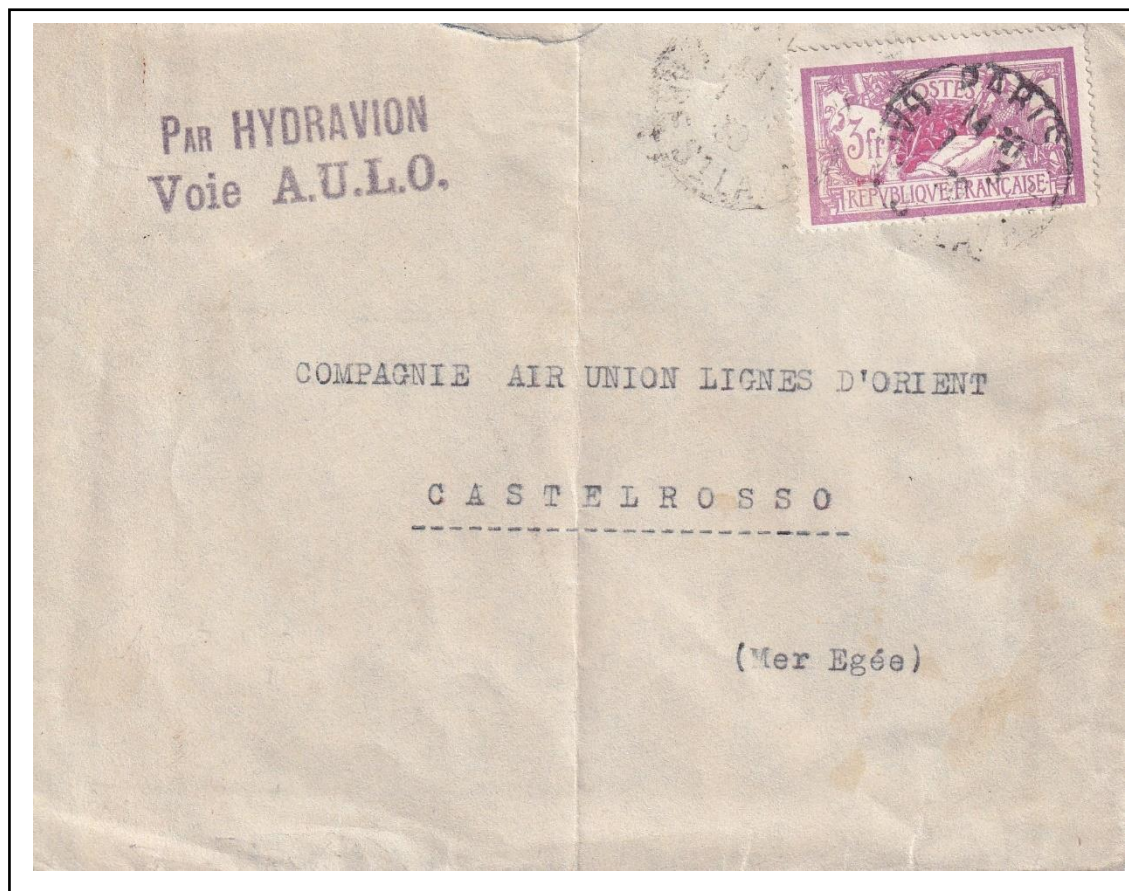
This item of printed matter addressed to Corfu was correctly franked at 2L25 (= postage 25c plus airmail surcharge 2L as from 1 January 1930) with stamps of the Aegean cancelled as above on 5 March 1930. The envelope has an Athens transit back-stamp of the same day plus a Corfu arrival back-stamp of 7 March 1930.



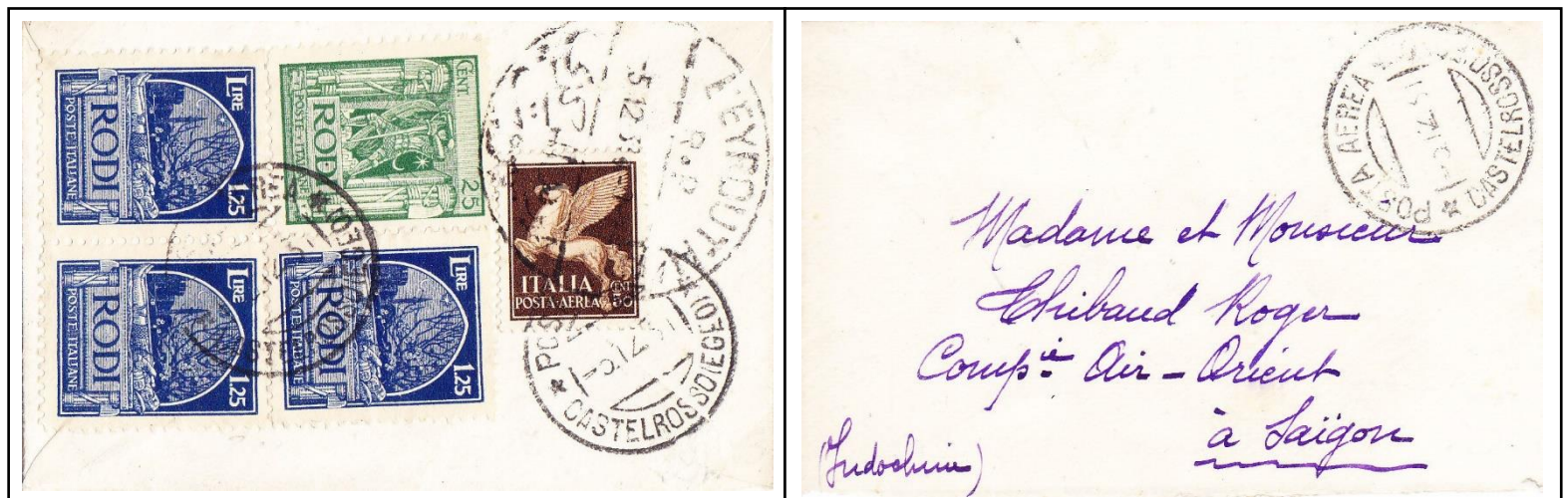
### 3d. Italian post office at Castellorizo

March 1921 – February 1941

Covers flown on the French Air Union route Marseilles – Naples – Corfu – Athens – Castellorizo – Beirut



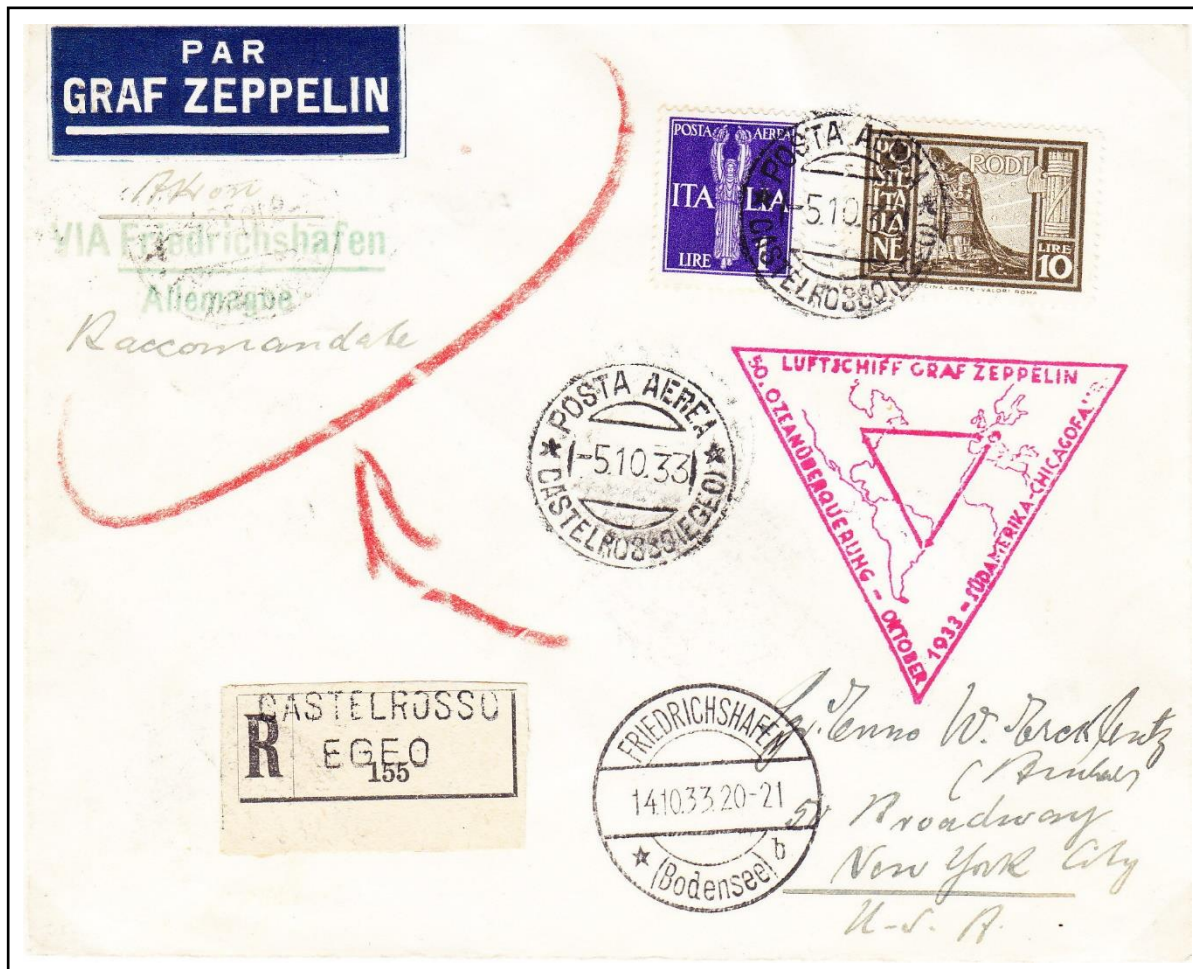
A cover sent by Air Union from Paris on 7 March 1930 to its office in Castellorizo correctly franked at the airmail rate of 3F; with an arrival back-stamp of Castellorizo of 10 March 1930.



A letter to French Indochina correctly franked at 4L50 (= letter 1L25 + 3L10 airmail surcharge for Air Union route from Italy to Beirut + over-franking 15c) with ordinary stamps of the Aegean plus a 50c airmail stamp of Italy, which were cancelled with the airmail date-stamp of Castellorizo on 5 December 1931; with a Beirut transit back-stamp of the same date. Copy of front (100%)



## Zeppelin covers with the airmail date-stamp of Castellorizo



A philatelic envelope to USA sent from Castellorizo franked with an Aegean 10L stamp plus an Italian 1L stamp (= postage 1L25 + registration/express 1L50 + airmail surcharge from Italy 7L + in USA 1L25); cancelled as above on 5 October 1933; by surface mail via Turin (transit back-stamp 9 October) to Friedrichshafen (date-stamp of 14 October), then on the 50<sup>th</sup> Atlantic Crossing of the Graf Zeppelin to Akron, Ohio (back-stamp of 25 October), New York arrival back-stamp of 27 October 1933.



An envelope to Brazil sent from Castellorizo franked with an Aegean 10L stamp plus an Italian 35c stamp (= postage 1L25 + regn./expr. 1L50 + airmail surcharge from Italy 7L + over-franking 60c?); cancelled as above on 23 April 1933; by surface mail via Rome (transit back-stamp 30 April) to Friedrichshafen, then on the 1<sup>st</sup> South America flight of 1933 of the Graf Zeppelin to Pernambuco; with departure date-stamp of 6 May 1933, the black flight cachet and a Pernambuco arrival back-stamp of 9 May.



Commercial covers flown to Australia but the route not evidenced directly



This airmail cover to Sydney was correctly franked for 5g at 5L75c with stamps of the Aegean (= postage 1L25 + airmail surcharge 4L50 for carriage by KLM via Brindisi/Naples and Bandung); cancelled with the airmail date-stamp on 17 February 1938. The envelope has a Sydney arrival back-stamp of 9 March 1938.



This airmail cover to Perth was correctly franked at 4L75c with stamps of the Aegean (= postage 1L25 + airmail surcharge 3L50 for carriage either by KLM or by Imperial Airways); cancelled with the airmail date-stamp on 5 January 1940. The envelope has no arrival back-stamp but bears an Australian censor tape and marking, both with the 5-dot code of Perth.



New "CASTELROSSO EGEO" date-stamp from mid-1930's up to British Occupation in February 1941



Printed matter to Switzerland correctly franked at 25c with stamps of the Aegean still cancelled with the old "POSTE ITALIANE CASTELROSSO EGEO" date-stamp on 20 May 1935; Rhodes transit and Münster arrival back-stamps of 22 and 30 May 1935.



A registered letter to Rhodes correctly franked at 1L75 with stamps of the Aegean which were cancelled on 20 August 1940 with the "CASTELROSSO EGEO" date-stamp. The letter was censored after arrival at Rhodes on 22 August 1940.



British forces occupied Castellorizo in February 1941. When the Italians re-occupied the island in March, the existing date-stamps had disappeared. A new "CASTELROSSO \* EGEO" date-stamp (now with hatching) was supplied some time after the post office reopened in March 1941.

A joint British force arrived after the Italian armistice in September 1943 and the joint defence of the island was planned; but the Germans made such a heavy bombing raid in October that the British evacuated the civilian population. It is unclear whether the British and Italian forces left in November 1943, but there is no evidence that the Germans occupied the island and the British certainly used it from early 1944, and in December 1944 as a base for the re-occupation of Symi.

A British Field Post Office is reported to have been located on Castellorizo from 13 August 1944 to 21 December 1944, when it was transferred to Symi, but material has not been seen.



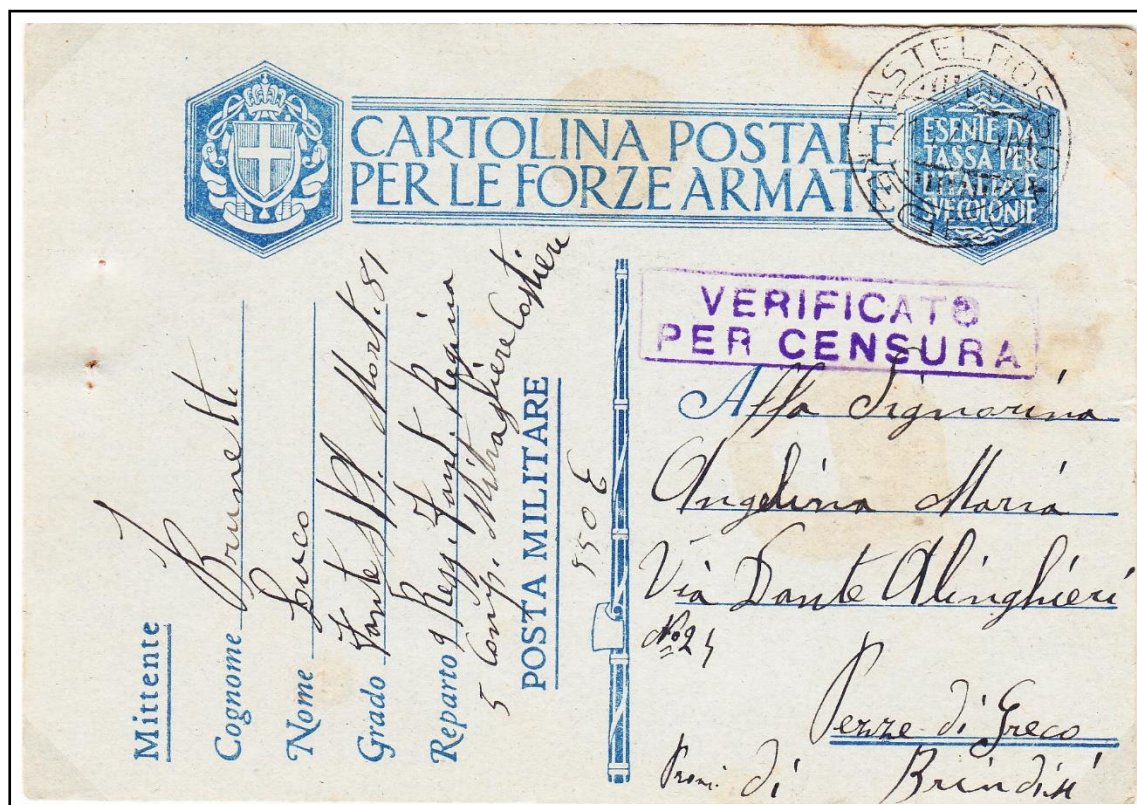
A letter sent registered to Rhodes correctly franked with 50c and 1L25 RODI stamps cancelled with the new "CASTELROSSO \* EGEO" date-stamp on 16 March 1942; it bears a Rhodes arrival back-stamp of 20 March 1942.



The existing date-stamps disappeared during a brief British occupation in February 1941 and a new "CASTELROSSO \* EGEO" date-stamp (now with hatching) was supplied after the re-opening in March 1941.



A letter sent to Italy correctly franked for airmail with a 1L RODI airmail stamp cancelled with the new "CASTELROSSO \* EGEO" date-stamp on 1 June 1942; censored in transit at Rhodes; with a San Gimignano arrival back-stamp of 6 June 1942.



A soldier's post-free military post-card sent to Italy and cancelled with the above date-stamp at Castellorizo on 21 July 1941; the card was censored in transit at Rhodes.



Little material from Castellorizo is seen from the year 1943



A notification sent by the registration office at Castellorizo to that at Rhodes correctly franked as printed matter with a 10c RODI stamp cancelled with the hatched "CASTELROSSO \* EGEO" date-stamp on 1 February 1943.



An official letter sent by the Police Station at Castellorizo to the Accident Insurance Office in Rhodes. It does not bear a date-stamp of Castellorizo, but has an arrival date-stamp of Military P.O. No. 550 of 14 June 1943; 25c postage due was charged on delivery on 15 June using a 10c RODI postage due stamp plus an Italian 5c stamp, cancelled with the airmail date-stamp.

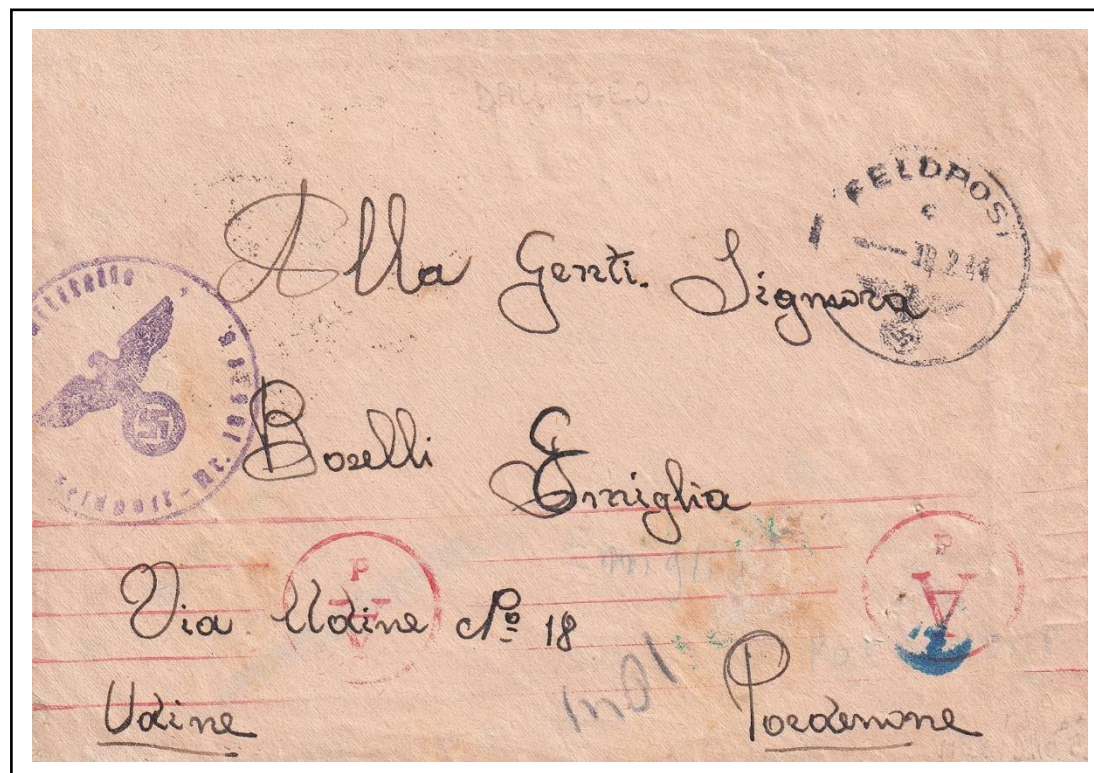


German Field Post No. 17669 allocated to units on Symi

After the Italian Armistice in September 1943, further Italian and British troops arrived on Symi and repelled a German attack on 7 October. The Allied troops were evacuated after continued aerial bombardments, which destroyed the post office and its date-stamps. German forces, supported by Italian servicemen, who had joined the RSI, occupied the island from November 1943 but abandoned it in September 1944.



This reduced copy (75%) of the reverse of the envelope below shows the sender's name and Field-Post Number 17669, which identifies him as a member of the Security Force attached to the Presidium of the Island of Symi. It also shows the Pordenone arrival date-stamp of 1 March 1944 of Pordenone in Northern Italy.



This serviceman's letter to Pordenone was sent from a member of the RSI on Symi correctly and bears the cachet of Field-Post Number 18538 B. It bears the "Feldpost" date-stamp with code-letter "c" used at Asguro airfield on Rhodes dated 18 February 1944 (recorded from 5 January to 22 February 1944). The envelope bears the red machine mark of the Munich sector censor.



## 5. British Military Administration - Post Office at Symi

May 1945 – Mar 1947

British Civilian Post Office on Symi opened on 21 May 1945



A letter to Sweden correctly franked with a 5d British stamp, overprinted “M(iddle).E(ast).F(orces).”. It was cancelled on 4 June 1945 with a mute date-stamp locally amended to read “SIMI (EGEO)”. With a Rhodes transit back-stamp of 11 June; censored and re-sealed with a ZD/5 tape of Rhodes and again with an Egyptian censor tape.



A letter to Sweden sent from Symi by airmail franked with a 9d British “M.E.F.” stamp cancelled on 22 November 1945, still with the provisional date-stamp. The two-line marking “BY AIR MAIL / PAR AVION” was probably added at Rhodes and the boxed marking in red “O(nward).A(ir).T(ransmission).” Was applied at London (only to the top item of a bundle).



Symi remained the only post office in the four islands. Its provisional date-stamp continued in use until April 1946. Illustrated post-cards air airmail letters were permitted to most countries after November 1945.



A letter to Greece sent from Symi by registered airmail franked with British 5d (registration) and 2/6 (2 x 1/3 per 1/2oz) "M.E.F." stamps cancelled on 21 February 1946 with the provisional date-stamp. The two-line marking "BY AIR MAIL / Par Avion" was probably added in transit at Rhodes on 25 February (back-stamp); Athens transit and Piraeus arrival back-stamps 4 and 5 March



A view-card sent from Symi to Rhodes franked with two 1d British "M.E.F." stamps cancelled on 2 April 1946, still with the provisional date-stamp reading "SIMI (EGEO)", which now shows considerable signs of wear.



New standard date-stamps with the name of the island in English plus “Dodecanese” after April 1946

Mail from Symi, still the only post office in the four islands, with the new standard-type date-stamp



This letter was sent from Symi to USA by surface mail over-franked by 1d with 1d + 5d British stamps overprinted “M.E.F.”. These were cancelled on 21 March 1947 with the new date-stamp reading “SYMI DODECANESE”.



This envelope was sent from Symi to Athens franked at the overseas airmail rate with 6d + 9d British stamps overprinted “M.E.F.” and cancelled on 13 September 1946 with the new date-stamp. It has a transit back-stamp of Rhodes (where the “BY AIR MAIL / Par Avion” mark was added), dated 17 September and an Athens arrival back-stamp of 22 September 1946.



After the fall of Mussolini in September 1943, Castellorizo was bombed by the Germans and the British evacuated the civilian population to Syria and Palestine. British forces had continued to use the island since early 1944, but the date of opening of the British civilian post office at Megisti is uncertain.



This envelope to Palestine (where there were many evacuees from Castellorizo) was sent from Megisti correctly franked with a British 5d stamp overprinted "M.E.F.". This was cancelled on 28 February 1946 with the old Italian date-stamp reading "POSTE ... \* CASTELLORIZZO (ISOLA)" from which the word "ITALIANE" had been deleted. **This is the earliest recorded example.** The copy of part of the back of the envelope (at the right) shows a Rhodes transit back-stamp of 1 March 1946.



An envelope to England sent from Castellorizo franked at the correct inland rate of 3d, but with un-overprinted British stamps. These were cancelled on 11 July 1946 with the above date-stamp. The envelope bears a Rhodes transit back-stamp of 13 July 1946 and the "T" marking was apparently applied there as the un-overprinted British stamps were not valid in the Dodecanese.



Of the civilian population of Castellorizo evacuated to Syria and Palestine by the British in September 1943, many had taken up an offer to emigrate to Australia. In August 1946, several hundred of the remainder were being repatriated to the island on a ship, the "Empire Patrol", but this caught fire and sank, with heavy casualties.



This envelope was sent by the Survivors' Committee of the sunken vessel "Empire Patrol" to the Greek Embassy in Cairo by registered airmail from Castellorizo on 22 August 1946. It was correctly franked with four British 5d stamps overprinted "M.E.F." for 1/3 airmail to 1/2oz plus 5d registration. These were cancelled with the adapted Italian date-stamp reading "POSTE ... \* CASTELLORIZZO (ISOLA)". The reduced copy of the back of the envelope below shows a Rhodes transit back-stamp of 23 August 1946, a Cairo transit back-stamp and a Gizira arrival back-stamp of 27 August 1946.

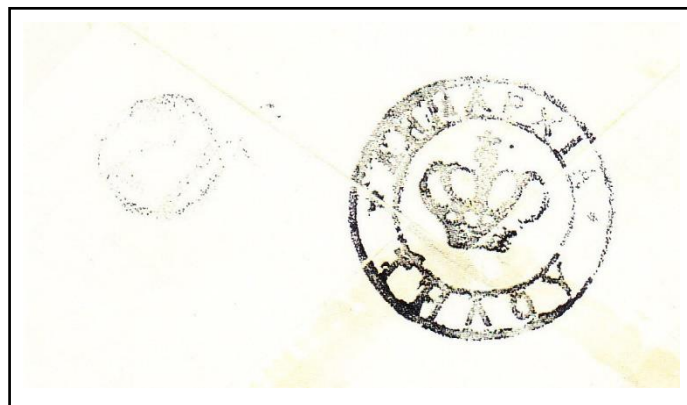


This letter to Athens was sent from Castellorizo on 31 December 1946 correctly franked with British 1d + 5d stamps overprinted "M.E.F." which were cancelled as above. With Rhodes transit and Athens arrival back-stamps of 6 and 8 January 1947.



British Civilian Postal Agency on Piscopi (Tilos) operated by the Greek Elderman

No British Civilian post office was opened on Piscopi but the local Elderman operated a postal agency already as from June 1945. Mail items from Piscopi (Tilos) were sent un-cancelled to the next post office (Rhodes or Symi) by the next available vessel and can be identified from the senders' addresses.



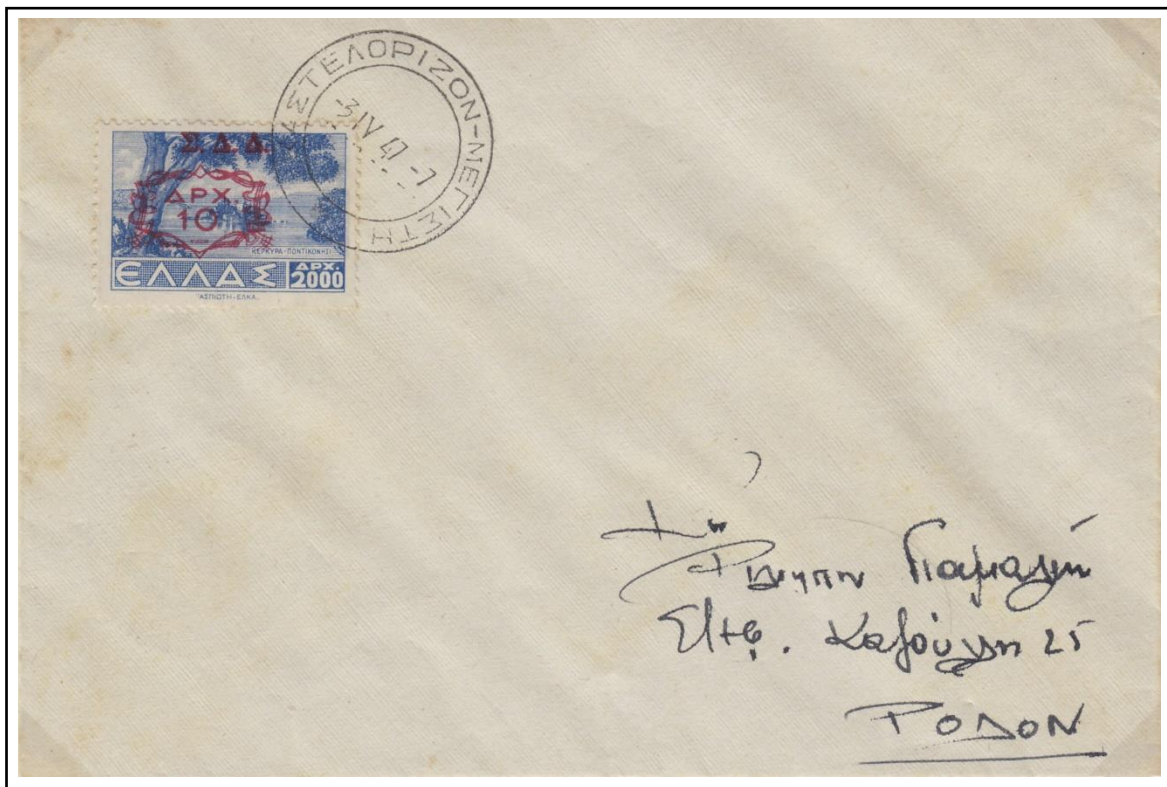
This envelope with the printed heading of the Municipality of Tilos and its cachet on the rear (100% copy above) is addressed to the Dodecanese commission in Athens and was sent correctly franked with British 2d + 3d stamps overprinted "M.E.F.". These were cancelled in transit at Rhodes on 13 June 1946.



Greek Post Offices opened on Chalki and Castellorizo on 1 April 1947



A philatelic cover from Chalki from 1 April 1947, the day of the opening of the Greek Post Office, bearing a Greek 10dr on 2000dr stamp without the “S.D.D.” overprint of the Greek Military Administration.



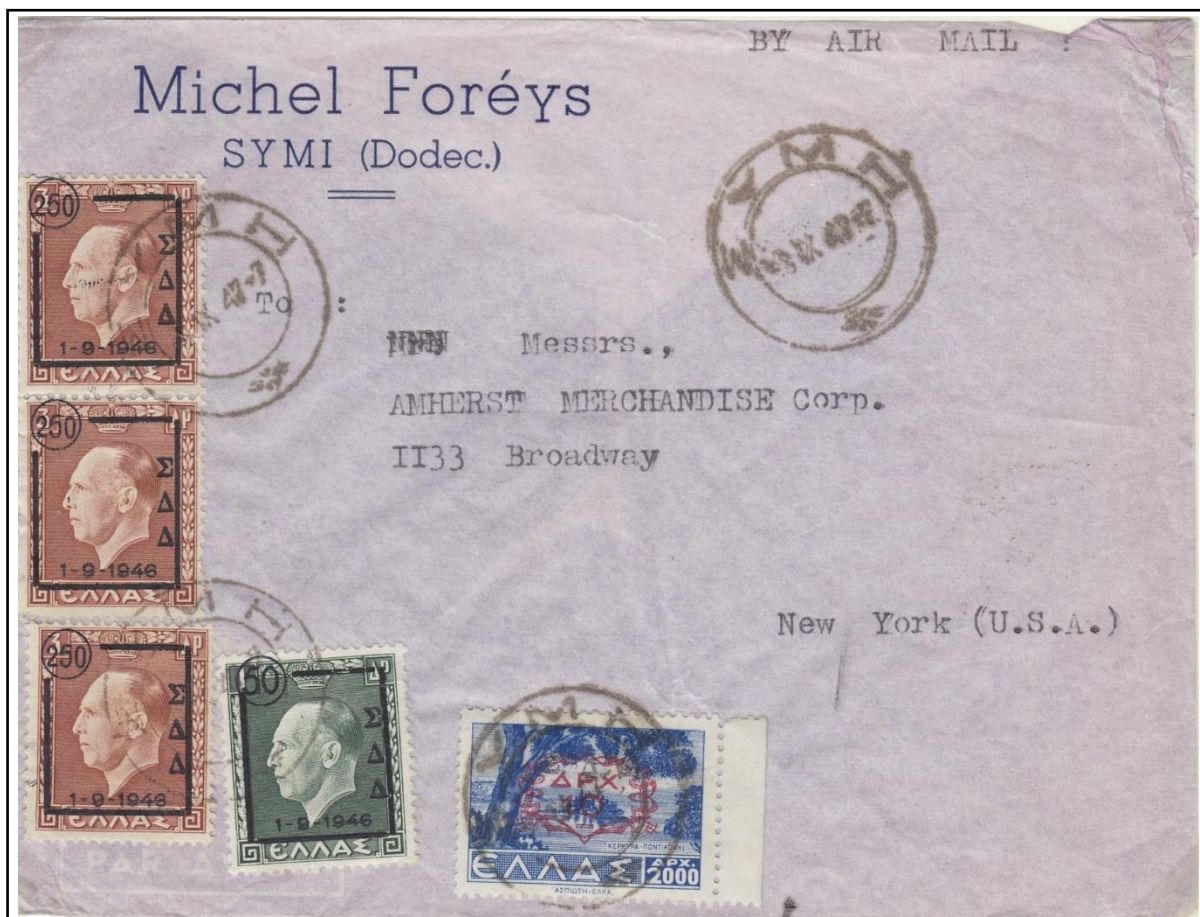
A philatelic cover from Castellorizo bearing a Greek 10dr on 2000dr stamp with the red “S.D.D.” overprint of the Greek Military Administration cancelled on 3 April 1947, the first day on which these stamps are recorded from Castellorizo.



Greek Post Office on Symi opened on 3 April 1947



This envelope was sent by airmail from Symi to London on 15 December 1947 apparently correctly franked with Greek stamps of the "Restoration of the Dodecanese" issue of 20 November 1947 to the value of 1,300 dr; with Rhodes transit back-stamp of 15 December 1947 and Sydenham re-direction back-stamp of 23 December 1947.



This envelope was sent by surface mail from Symi to New York on ? September 1947 apparently correctly franked with Greek stamps overprinted "S.D.D." to the value of 900 dr (the 10 dr stamp with silver overprint was sold at 100 dr.).



Greek Post Office on Tilos (Piscopi) opened first in Autumn 1947



This envelope from Tilos was forwarded to Rhodes by the local postal agent and sent to New York apparently correctly franked with Greek stamps overprinted "S.D.D." to the value of 500 dr. These were cancelled at Rhodes on 25 June 1947. The above copy of part the back of the envelope (100%) shows the sender's Tilos address and a Rhodes transit date-stamp.



This envelope was sent by surface mail from Tilos to New York apparently correctly franked with Greek stamps overprinted "S.D.D." to the value of 900 dr. These were cancelled with the new Tilos date-stamp on 5 October 1947 (the only recorded date?). The copy of part the back of the envelope at the right (100%) shows a Rhodes transit date-stamp of 11 October 1947.