

## **REGISTERED BANK CORRESPONDENCE SECURED WITH VIGNETTES (POSTER STAMPS) IN GREEK BANKS**

Registered bank correspondence until the beginning of the First World War was sent in an envelope secured with a wax seal. However, technical progress always requires the most practical and economical changes. Thus, the use of wax in official envelopes was abolished and replaced with pieces of gummed paper bearing the bank's logo (vignettes or poster stamps). When receiving registered correspondence, it is usually opened by tearing the envelope from three sides, for reasons of certain receipt of the content.

This exhibit presents Vignettes of Greek banks on registered mail.

Sample of Bank Correspondence Secured Using the Old Method with Sealing Wax  
by BANK OF ATHENS, KARDITSA BRANCH



Exhibitor: Costas Christodoulidis, Member of Panhellenic Society of Thematic Philatelists



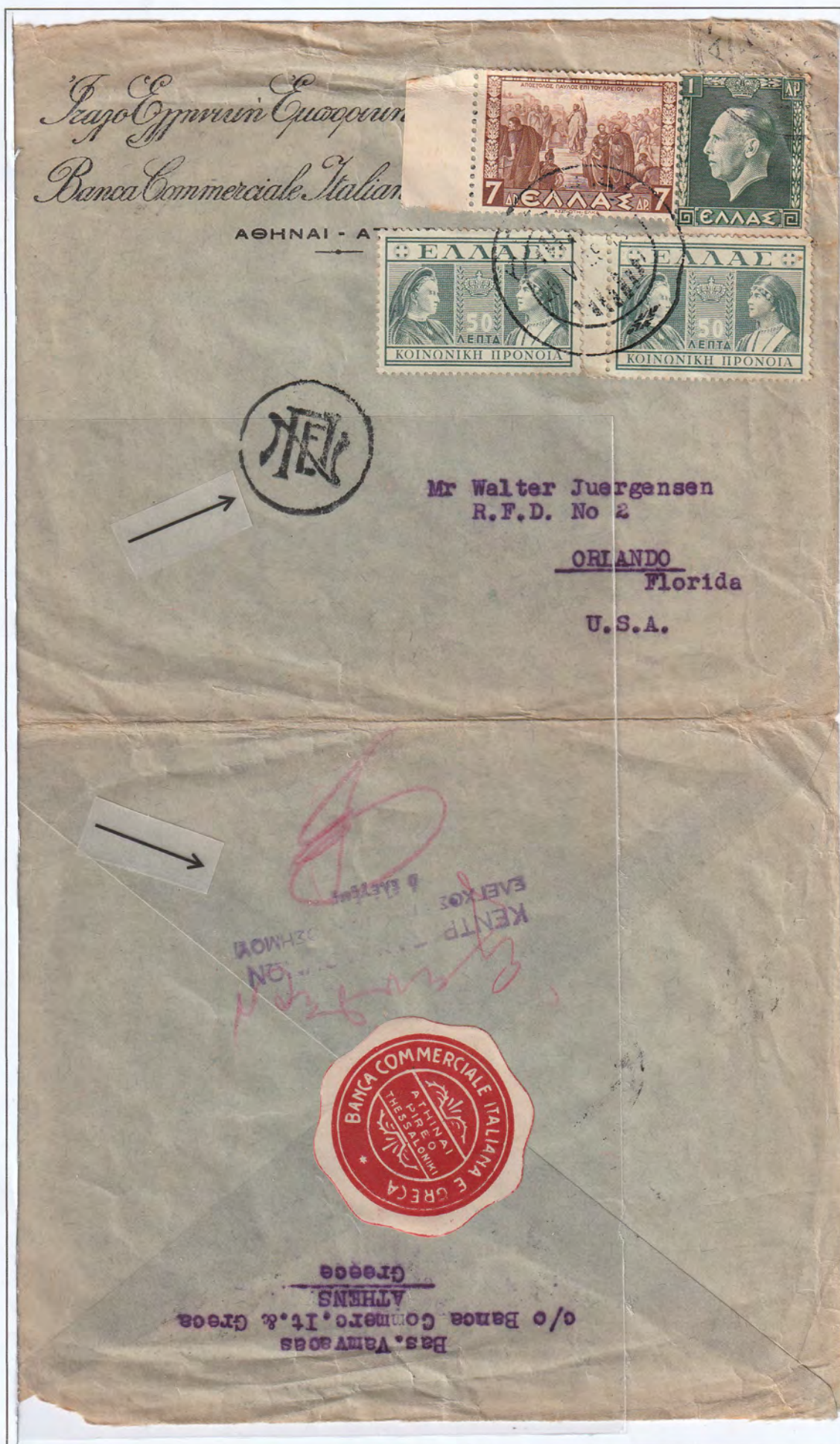
#### a. Securing registered mail with vignettes

Banca Commerciale Italiana (COMIT), founded in 1894, was one of the largest banks in Italy. In 1929 BCI founded Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca (Comitellas) in Athens and was dissolved in 1944.

In 1999 BCI merged with a banking group consisting of Cassa di Risparmio delle Provincie Lombarde and Banco Ambroveneto, which had merged in 1998.

Envelope from Athens to  
Florida USA June 1939.  
Exchange control stamp  
(ΠΕΝ).

Central post office stamp.





## A. GREEK BANKS

### a. Securing registered mail with vignettes

#### Bank of Greece

The Greek Government decided, based on an Annex to the Geneva Protocol of 15 September 1927, to establish the Bank of Greece. Its operations began on 14 May 1928. From then until the replacement of the national currency by the euro in 2002, the Bank of Greece had the exclusive privilege of issuing banknotes.

Foreign exchange control by the Bank of Greece in a letter from the National Bank of Greece to the Bank of Sicily





## A. GREEK BANKS

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#### Ioniki and Laiki Bank

Ionian Bank was the first Greek bank. It was founded on January 17, 1839 with its headquarters in London, drawing funds mainly from British investors. Its original name was the Ionian State Bank and it served the transactions between Great Britain and the Ionian Islands which at that time were a protectorate of Great Britain. In 1938 it buys 2/3 of the shares of the People's Bank which was founded in Athens in 1905 and after a merger the "Ionian and People's Bank" emerges.

*Envelop of 'I. L.B.' recommended from Athens to Arta 1958.*





## A. GREEK BANKS

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#### Banque d' Orient

At the beginning of the 20th century, (1904), the National Bank of Greece establishes the "Banque d' Orient".

In 1932 the "Banque d' Orient" was acquired and merged with its parent bank. In our days its invalid shares have been the object of duping the naive.

Recommended cover from Mytilini, Plomari to Thessaloniki, December 1926





## A. GREEK BANKS

### a. Securing registered mail with vignettes

#### Banque de Salonique

Banque de Salonique was founded in 1888 in

Thessaloniki .

A building was constructed to house the bank in 1905 in the garden of the Allatini

Villa. In 1909 the bank moved to Constantinople.

The Thessaloniki branch continued to operate until the Second World War,

after which the bank merged with the then

British-owned Banque Nationale de Turquie..

*Registered letter from Istanbul*

*(Konstantinopolis) to USA*





## A. GREEK BANKS

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#### Banque Imperiale Ottomane

The Ottoman Bank (Turkish: Osmanlı Bankası) was founded in 1856 in Galata, Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire, as a joint venture between British interests, the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas of France, and the Ottoman government. It operated under the name Imperial Ottoman Bank from 1863 to 1924. Having the privilege of being a state bank, it functioned as the central bank.

*Envelope from  
Banque Ottomane,  
Smyrna, with  
Vignette Osmanlı  
Bankası, Smyrna, to  
Mytilene, via  
Constantinople  
November 1945*





## A. GREEK BANKS

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#### Laiki Bank (Banque Populaire S.A.)

In November 1905, Laiki Bank started its operations.

The share of Laiki Bank on the Stock Exchange when it started its operations was 94 drachmas to reach, fifteen years later, 1025 drachmas. In 1953, after 48 years of operation, Laiki merged with Ionian Bank.

Letter Air post From Thessaloniki to Athens June 1932





## A. GREEK BANKS

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### National Bank of Greece

On March 30, 1841, the private company 'Ethniki Bank' was established with a capital of 5,000,000 Drach. in 5,000 shares. With the Greek state, Nikolaos Zosimas, John Zosimas, the King of Bavaria, Louis I, Theodore Ralli and the Rothschild Freres Paris bank as their shareholders.

1927 Letter from Piraeus to England to Patrai





National Bank of Greece

National Bank of  
Greece. Another type of  
Vinietta

1935 Letter from  
Drama to Athens.

## ΕΘΝΙΚΗ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ

Υψηλὰ Δράμα  
26

2495-2498

Σ. ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΝ

ΕΘΝΙΚΗΣ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΗΣ

ΕΙΣ ΑΘΗΝΑΣ



## A. GREEK BANKS

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#### Banque d' Economie Nationale

With the name "Banque d' Economie Nationale ", at the address "Piraeus Branch", it most likely refers to the National Bank of Greece, one of the country's leading banks, which has branches in Piraeus.

*Letter from Piraeus to  
Marseille, September  
1924*





## A. GREEK BANKS

## a. Securing registered mail with vignettes

### Crédit Commercial Hellénique

Establishment 1924.  
Not long after it was  
established, the Banque  
de Crédit Commercial  
Hellénique network  
included branches in  
most areas of the  
Peloponnese. The  
Banque de Crédit  
Commercial Hellénique  
1924 logo commemorates  
the 2 undertakings that  
were merged to create it.

*Letter registered  
June 1935 from  
Athens to  
Grossröhrsdorf  
Germany*





## A. GREEK BANKS

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### Banque d' Athenes

The Bank of Athens operated as a banking organization from 1893 to 1953 with the aim of operating in the field of trade and industry in Greece and abroad with an emphasis on the areas where the economic activity of the Greek element was important. In 1953 it merged with the National Bank of Greece

*Cover from Athens to Mytilini registered 1936*





## A. GREEK BANKS

### a. Securing registered mail with vignettes

#### Banque d'Athenes, other types

Two different  
vignettes of  
Athens bank  
branches

Athens 1905



London 1911





## A. GREEK BANKS

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#### Commercial Bank of Greece

The Commercial Bank of Greece S.A. was founded in 1907 and was one of the largest financial groups in the country. From 28.6.2013, the Commercial Bank of Greece S.A. does not exist as a separate legal entity, as it merged with one of the largest private sector banks in Greece, Alpha Bank, by which it was fully absorbed.

1932 Letter from Drama to Patrai





A. GREEK BANKS

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Commercial Bank of Greece

Another type of  
Commercial Bank  
vignette

March 1930 from  
Patrai to Egion

