

Post-War Greece (1945–1960)

CONTEXT

The Second World War officially ended for Greece on 10 May 1945, following the capitulation of the Wehrmacht in Crete and the Dodecanese. The country, however, would not enjoy peace for long. A third round of civil war erupted shortly after, which continued until 1949, leaving Greece once again deeply divided and exhausted. Amid this turmoil, a plebiscite restored King George II to the throne, who died a year later and was replaced by King Paul.

At the same time, the United States assumed from the United Kingdom the principal role in supporting Greece and other vulnerable nations through economic and military aid, both to curb the spread of communism and to assist in post-war reconstruction.

The 1950s marked a period of national revitalisation, with political stability, and significant investment in infrastructure, public services, housing, employment, education, and culture, largely due to the Marshall Plan and substantial financial aid from abroad.

In 1960, the first Greek Europa stamp was issued, publicising the country's orientation towards the heart of Europe. Greece's association with the European Economic Community (EEC) was realised in early 1961.

COMMUNICATIONS

As Greece entered the post-war period, it faced the immense challenge of restoring a devastated road and railway network—vital lifelines for communication and commerce. For some time, maritime transport played a crucial role in maintaining internal and external links, thanks to the country's extensive coastline and numerous islands.

ECONOMY

Severe inflation compounded these difficulties, and its effects were clearly mirrored in the rapidly changing postal rates in the earlier years. It was not until 1953 that monetary stabilisation was achieved through a successful reform that sharply reduced inflation, marking the start of a steady economic and postal era.

TIMELINE

- 1945 End of WWII.
- 1946 Start of a third round of the Civil War.
- 1947 Union of the Dodecanese with Greece.
- 1949 End of the Civil War.
- 1952 Greece joined NATO.
- 1953 The drachma was devaluated by 50%.
- 1954 One new drachma was set at 1000 old drachmas.
- 1960 The first Greek *Europa CEPT* stamp.



A miracle of typography: 798 words or 4400 characters into a postage stamp.

EXHIBIT'S PURPOSE

The early post-war years brought continuous transformation for most European nations. They were obliged to rebuild ruined infrastructures, adapt to the realities of the Cold War and the division between East and West, and find their place in a new and challenging international environment. Greece's experience followed precisely these paths.

This exhibit presents key aspects of Greece's reconstruction, its economic recovery, its propaganda strategy directed both domestically and abroad, and its foreign policy aimed at establishing the country as a resilient and influential presence in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The postage stamps of this period vividly convey many of these stories. Yet this is not a Traditional exhibit. Nor is it purely Postal History, though postal rates and other aspects are described in detail. To call it Thematic might also invite debate. Let us simply say: *A nation's post-war brief history revealed through philately.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 2–3 | 1. The end of the war in Greece |
| 4–8 | 2. Victories and Losses |
| 9–17 | 3. Consequences of the Cold War |
| 18–22 | 4. Three Pillars of Power |
| 23–33 | 5. Economy |
| 34–40 | 6. Looking Ahead |

EXHIBITOR'S MAJOR PUBLISHED WORK

- 'The 1952 Royal Birthday', *Philotelia*, 2019.
- 'Political refugees in Tashkent', *Philotelia*, 2016.
- 'Greek-Soviet Cold War disputes', *Philotelia*, 2016.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Tiberius, P., *Griechenland-Postgeschichte 1821–2001* (2002).

SYMBOLS and CONVENTIONS

- Greek currency used was the drachma (symbol D), divided by 100 lepta (symbol λ).
- All month names with five or more letters were abbreviated to their first three letters.

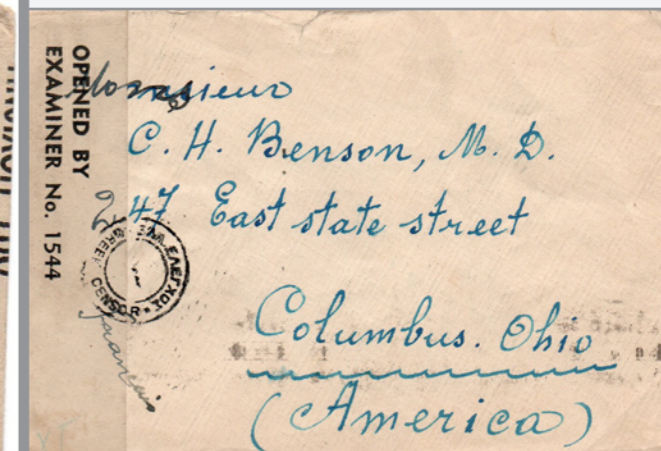
1. THE END OF WWII IN GREECE

The end of the war in Greece was a twofold process. The first step for the government was to regain control from the partisans in East Macedonia and Thrace, which was gradually achieved from late March 1945 onwards. The second step was to clear Crete and the Aegean of German forces, and thus bring the war to an end, which occurred on 10 May 1945.

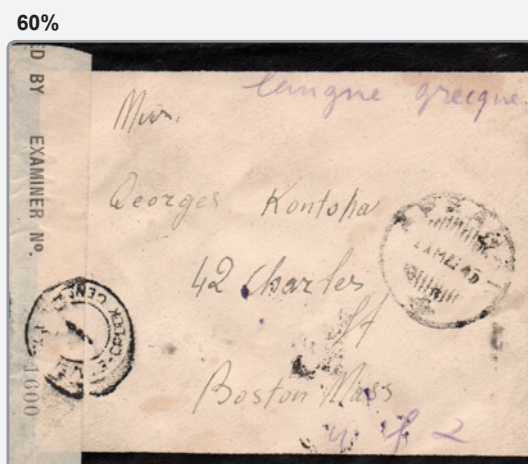
FINAL DAYS OF THE WAR

The depicted covers from Xanthi in Thrace and Heraklion in Crete bear witness to the late reintegration of formerly occupied parts of Greece, marked by the introduction of new currency and new postage stamps.

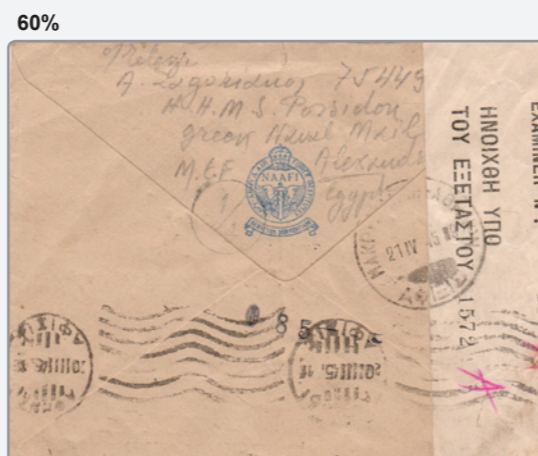
The cover from the Greek Navy in Alexandria and the one addressed to the Sacred Regiment indicate that Greek units, belonging to the M.E.F., were still alert until the very last day of the war.



60%
Early mail sent abroad from Thrace
 From Xanthi (13 Apr. 1945) via Thessaloniki (15 Apr.) and Athens (18 Apr.) to Columbus, OH, USA.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 25D from 1 Apr. to 15 Sep. 1945.
 • Censored in Athens.



60%
Early mail sent abroad from Crete
 From Arhanes village (11 May 1945) via Heraklion (12 May) and Athens (14 May) to Boston, MA, USA.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 25D from 1 Apr. to 15 Sep. 1945.
 • Censored in Athens.



60%
Incoming mail from the Greek Navy, M.E.F.
 From HHMS Poseidon, via the Greek Naval Mail Office, Middle East Forces (M.E.F.), Alexandria, Egypt, to Athens (20 and 21 Apr. 1945).
 • Censored in Alexandria and Athens with the magenta and black hands-tamps, respectively.



60%
Incoming mail to the Greek Sacred Regiment
 From Ootacamund (Ooty) camp in India (26 Apr. 1945) to British Base P.O. No. 1, Middle East Forces (M.E.F.).
 • The Greek Sacred Regiment was a special unit that fought alongside the British from September 1942 until the end of the war in the Aegean on 10 May 1945.

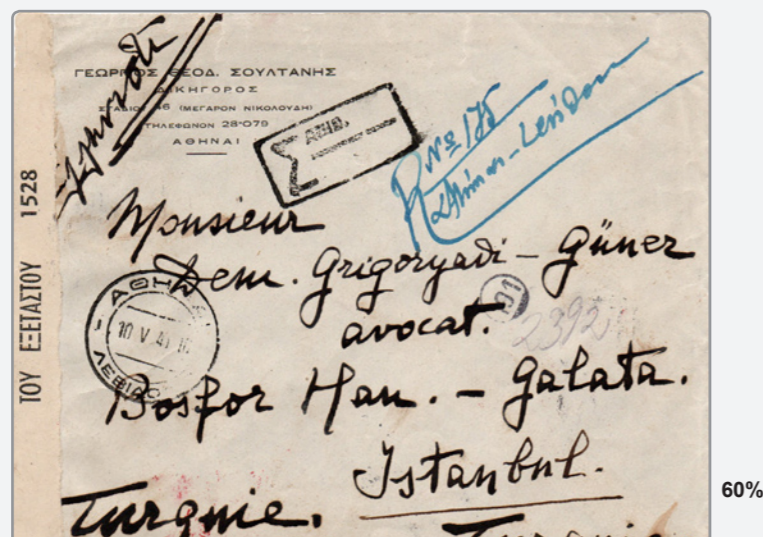


EARLY DAYS OF PEACE

In Europe, WWII officially ended at 23:01 CET on 8 May. A commemorative handstamp was used at the Central Athens P.O. on 9 and 10 May. The illustration depicts the legendary Pheidippides running to Athens to announce the joyful news of victory at the Battle of Marathon (490 BCE).

Back to reality, a population cut off from communication with relatives or business partners outside Greece was growing increasingly impatient for the resumption of airmail services, which were temporarily carried by British military aircraft.

Illustrated handstamp for the end of WWII



60%



60%



From Leonidio (2 June 1945) via Athens (5 June) to San Francisco, CA, USA.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 25D and express 50D, both from 1 Apr. to 15 Sep. 1945; total 75D.

- The 'Par Avion' handwritten indication was crossed out, as airmail service to the USA was not yet in operation.
- Athens censorship.



From Athens (10 & 11 May 1945) to Istanbul, Turkey (18 May).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 25D and registration 25D, both from 1 Apr. to 15 Sep. 1945; total 50D.

- Athens censorship.

First instances of outgoing airmail to the USA



60%

From Pyrgos (7 Aug. 1945) to Colorado Springs, CO, USA.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 25D from 1 Apr. to 15 Sep. 1945; airmail to New York up to 5g 80D from Aug. 1945 to 29 Jan. 1946; total 105D.

- Athens censorship.



5th anniversary of Greece's entry in WWII



From Athens (31 Oct. 1945) to Thessaloniki (2 Nov. on the reverse).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 20D from 16 Sep. 1945 to 20 Nov. 1945; postal staff welfare fund 2D from 1 May 1945 to 10 Mar. 1946; total 22D.

- Greece entered WWII on 28 October 1940, following the rejection of Italy's ultimatum and the Italian offensive on the Greek-Albanian border.
- The illustration on the handstamp depicts an Evzon trumpeter.

5th anniversary of the Greek army entering Përmet (ΠΡΕΜΕΤΗ)



From Athens (3 Dec. 1945) to Volos.

Rates: Postcard surface 20D from 21 Nov. 1945 to 15 Jan. 1946.

2. VICTORIES AND LOSSES

There was much for Greece to celebrate in the years following WWII. In 1945, the country marked the fifth anniversary of its entry into the war, an event that had led to a temporary liberation of Greek-populated areas in southern Albania. In 1946 came the victory over the Axis powers; in 1947, the union of the Dodecanese with Greece; and in 1949, the defeat of communism in the Civil War.

The sequence of successes came to an end with the Cyprus question. The issue of union with Greece or self-determination proved to be a clear setback, one that remains unresolved to this day, with little or no prospect of a lasting solution.

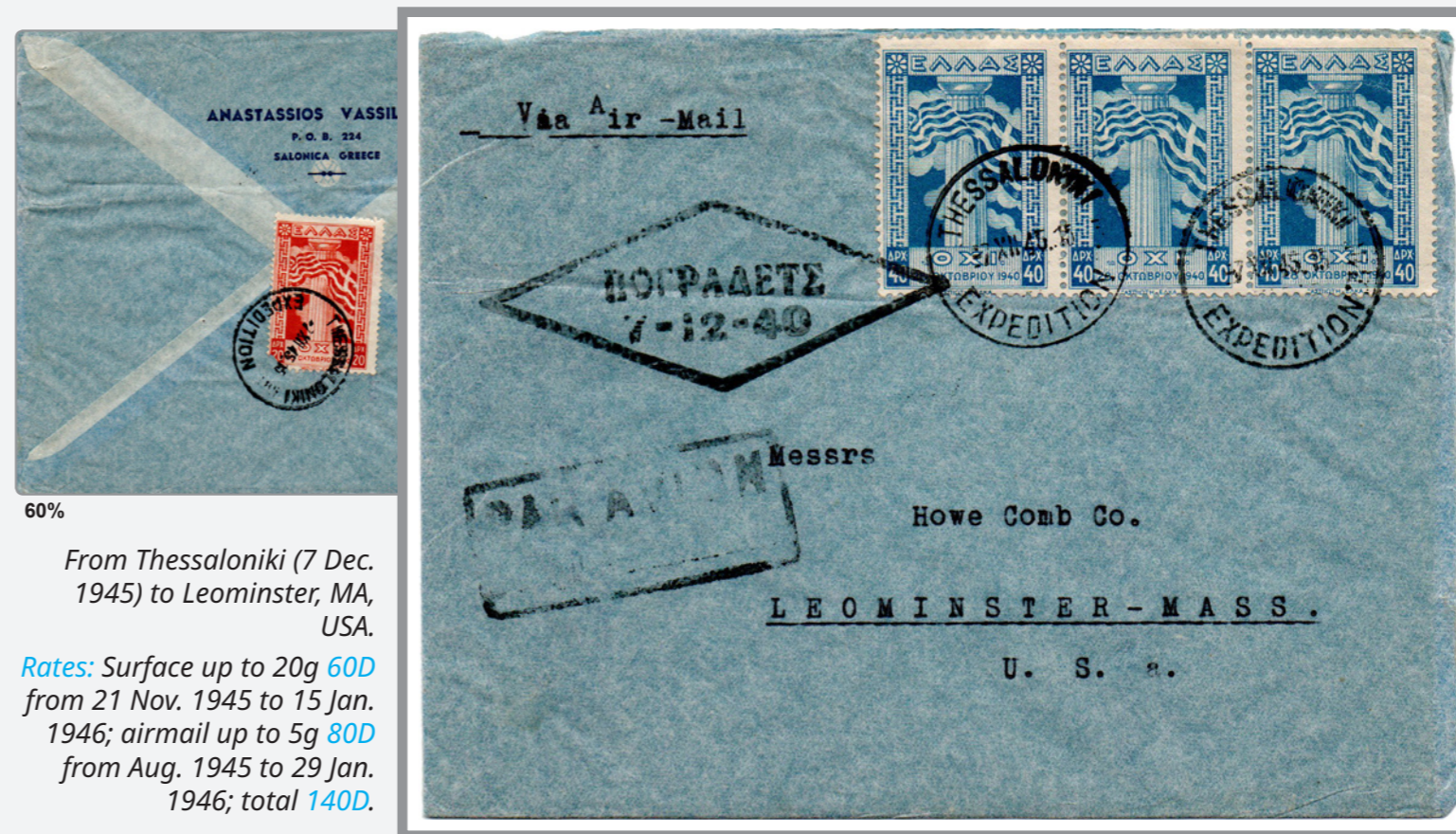
From Athens (22 Nov. 1945) to Montreal, Canada.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 60D from 21 Nov. 1945 to 15 Jan. 1946; air-mail up to 5g 80D from Aug. 1945 to 29 Jan. 1946; total 140D.

5th anniversary of the Greek army entering Korçë (ΚΟΡΥΤΣΑ)



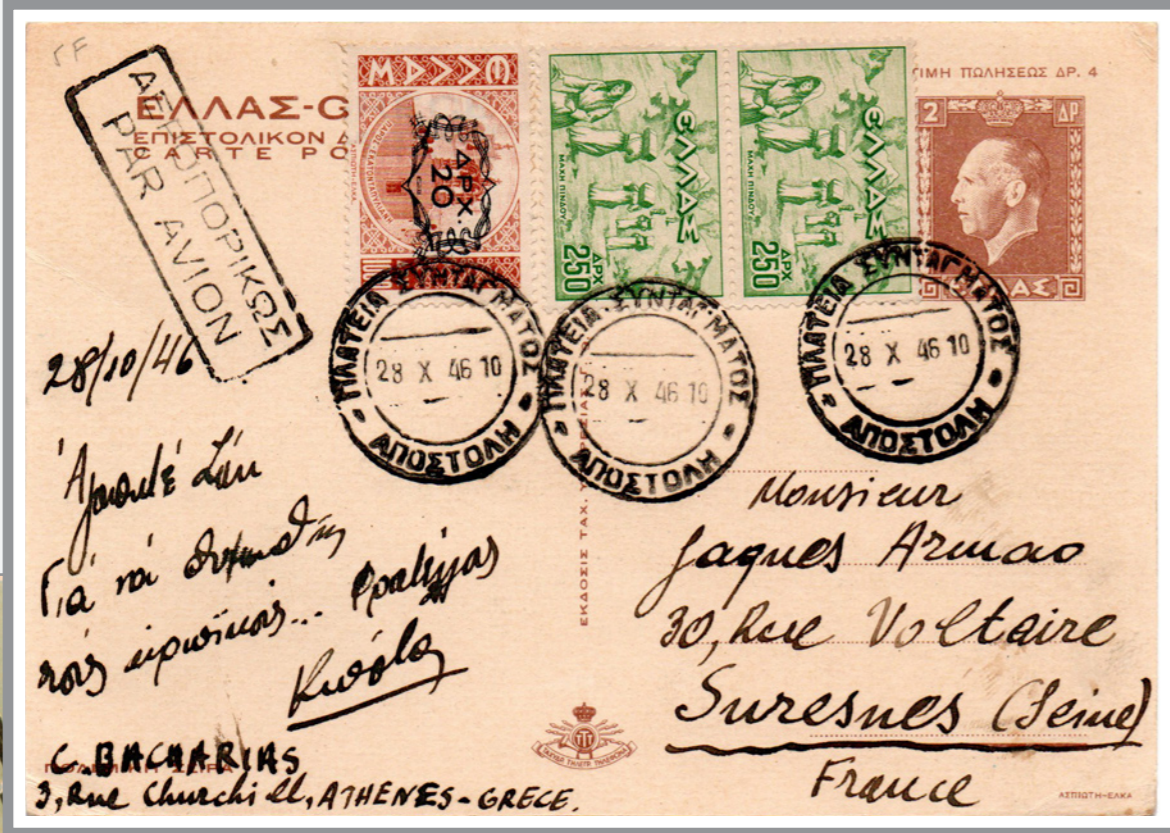
5th anniversary of the Greek army entering Pogradec (ΠΟΓΡΑΔΕΤΣ)



60%

From Thessaloniki (7 Dec. 1945) to Leominster, MA, USA.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 60D from 21 Nov. 1945 to 15 Jan. 1946; airmail up to 5g 80D from Aug. 1945 to 29 Jan. 1946; total 140D.



From Athens (28 Oct. 1946) to Suresnes (a Paris suburb), France.
Rates: Postcard surface **350D** from 10 June 1946 to 14 Nov. 1947; airmail **170D** from 30 Jan. 1946 to 15 Nov. 1947; total **520D**.
 • First day of use of the 250D Victory stamp, coinciding with the release of 11 Greek-Italian wartime postcards. These cards were not issued in time and were eventually withheld by the occupation authorities.

50%



CELEBRATING VICTORY IN WWII

Despite Greece's poor economy following the Axis occupation, it was decided to mark the end of the war with a commemorative set of stamps, printed in high-quality recess by Thomas De La Rue in London.

The earliest stamp designs were created as early as mid-1943, when the Allied victory appeared imminent.

The 250D value was released on 28 October 1946, exactly on the sixth anniversary of the Greek-Italian War. The remaining denominations followed shortly after.

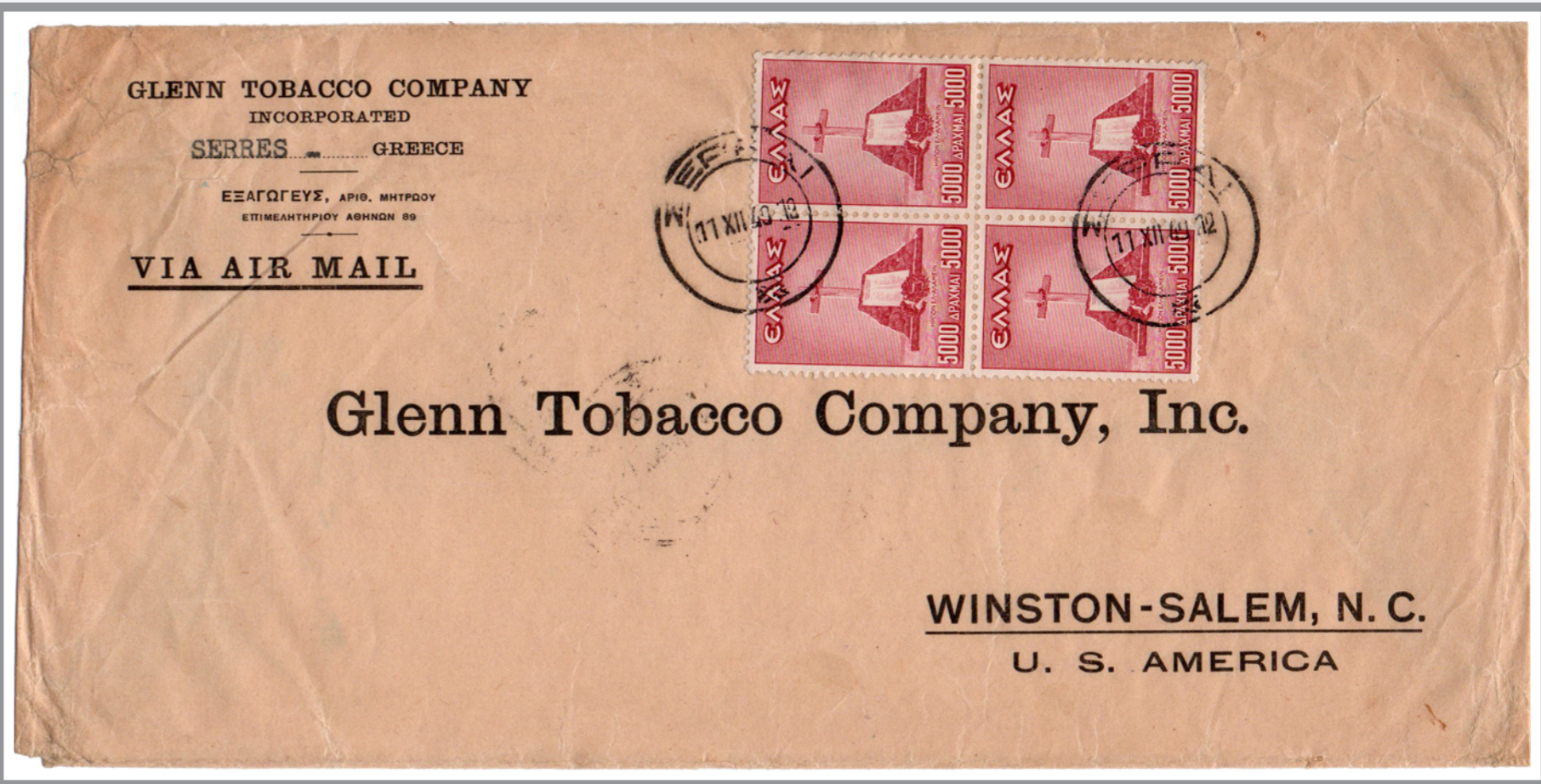
Shown here are six of the set's eight stamps.



From Athens (5 Nov. 1947) to Geneva, Switzerland. **Rates:** Surface up to 20g **600D** from 10 June 1946 to 14 Nov. 1947; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g **340D** (2x170D) from 30 Jan. 1946 to 15 Nov. 1947; total 940D conveniently overpaid at **1,000D**.



From Athens (8 June 1947) to Zurich, Switzerland.
Rates: Surface up to 20g **600D** from 10 June 1946 to 14 Nov. 1947; airmail up to 5g **170D** from 30 Jan. 1946 to 15 Nov. 1947; total 770D conveniently overpaid at **800D**.



From Serres (11 Dec. 1949) to Winston-Salem, NC, USA.
Rates: 4th weight surface 60-80g **2,800D** (1,000D + 3x600D) from 15 Nov. 1947 to 19 Aug. 1950; 13th weight airmail 60-65g **16,900D** (13x1,300D) from 5 Nov. 1949 to 30 June 1953; total 19,700D conveniently overpaid at **20,000D**.



↑ From Rhodes (2? June 1947) to Athens (27 June, on the reverse) redirected to Piraeus (30 June, on the reverse). **Rates:** Surface up to 20g 250D and registration 250D, both from 10 June 1946 to 14 Nov. 1947; total 500D.
 • The **PAR AVION** handstamp was irrelevant because the airmail rate of 100D/20g was not paid.

UNION OF THE DODECANESE WITH GREECE

Occupied by Italy in 1912, the group of islands in the south-eastern Aegean—commonly known as the Dodecanese—briefly came under German and then British control before officially uniting with Greece in 1947.

The first issue for the Dodecanese was regular Greek stamps overprinted with Σ.Δ.Δ. (Military Administration of the Dodecanese), released in April 1947, marking the start of Greek administration. In November, they were followed by new designs depicting scenes from the islands' rich history.

From Athens (26 June 1952) to Prague, Czechoslovakia (23 July, on the reverse).
Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,400D from 17 Apr. 1952 to 30 June 1953; registration 2,000D from 19 Aug. 1950 to 30 June 1953; airmail 15-20g 1,200D (4x300D) from 16 Nov. 1947 to 30 June 1953; total 4,600D erroneously overpaid at 5,300D.



From Athens (18 Nov. 1951) to New York, NY USA.
Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,300D from 20 Aug. 1950 to 16 Apr. 1952; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 2,600D (2x1,300D) from 5 Nov. 1949 to 30 June 1953; total 3,900D conveniently overpaid at 4,000D.



Postmarked in Argos (10 Feb. 1952).
Rate paid: 10,000D for 10,000 newspapers.
 • The note is referring to the daily 'Aspis', published from 1932 to 1969 in Argos.



**ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ
BY AIR MAIL**



From Thessaloniki (10 Oct. 1952) to Cairo, OH, USA.
 Surface up to 20g 1,400D from 17 Apr. 1952 to 30 June 1953;
 airmail up to 5g 1,300D from 5 Nov. 1949 to 30 June 1953; total 2,700D.



50%

THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War (1946-1949) was fought between government forces, backed by the United Kingdom and later the United States, and the communist-led Democratic Army of Greece (ΔΣΕ).

Emerging from the tensions of the wartime resistance and occupation, the conflict devastated the country, deepened political divisions, and claimed thousands of lives before ending in government victory in 1949.

To commemorate the end of the war, four stamps were issued on the third anniversary in 1952 and one on the tenth anniversary in 1959.



From Alexandroupoli (2 May 1953) to New York, NY, USA.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,400D from 17 Apr. 1952 to 30 June 1953;
 registration 2,000D from 20 Aug. 1950 to 30 June 1953;
 3rd weight airmail 10-15g 3,900D (3x1,300D) from 5 Nov. 1949 to 30 June 1953;
 total 7,900D.



From Athens (31 March 1953) to Butzbach, West Germany.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,400D from 17 Apr. 1952 to 30 June 1953;
 airmail up to 5g 300D from 16 Nov. 1947 to 30 June 1953; total 1,700D.



From Athens (7 Dec. 1959) to Seefeld (11 Dec., on the reverse) redirected to Feldkirch, Austria.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971;
 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 1D (2x0.50D) from 1 Apr. 1955 to 30 June 1971; total 5D.



From Athens (2 Nov. 1954) to Rabat, French Morocco.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 2D from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955;
 airmail up to 5g 1D from 1 July 1953 to 30 June 1971; total 3D.

THE GREECE-CYPRUS STRUGGLE FOR ENOSIS

The Greek Cypriots' demand for Enosis (union with Greece) had been a long-standing struggle, intensifying after the United Kingdom assumed control of Cyprus in 1878. The island's declaration as a Crown Colony marked the beginning of sustained tensions between the British colonial administration and the ethnic Greek population.

In July 1954, a debate in the House of Commons brought the Cyprus question to the forefront, prompting the Papagos government to raise the issue on the international stage. The following month, Greece formally appealed to the United Nations, advocating the Cypriots' right to self-determination.

To support this appeal, Greek postage stamps were issued in September, featuring excerpts from addresses in the House of Commons sympathetic to the Greek position. A deliberate 'smudge' over the printed text symbolised disapproval of the British government's rigid and negative stance.



From Thessaloniki (28 Dec. 1954) to Den Haag, Netherlands.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 2D from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955;
 airmail up to 5g 0.40D from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955; total 2.40D.



From Athens (2 Dec. 1954) to Mainz, West Germany.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 2D from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955;
 airmail up to 5g 0.50D from 1 July 1953 to 30 June 1971; total 2.50D.



From Athens (30 Nov. 1954) to Milwaukee, WI, USA.
 Rates: 2nd weight surface 20-40g 3.20D (2D+1.20D) and registration 3D, both from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955;
 6th weight airmail 25-30g 12D (6x2D) from 1 July 1953 to 31 Dec. 1974; total 18.20D.

3. CONSEQUENCES OF THE COLD WAR

A country deeply divided between communists and anti-communists became an apple of discord during the Cold War. To prevent Greece falling under Soviet influence, British troops remained in the country for several years, patrolling the Aegean Sea and assisting the government during the Civil War, particularly in maintaining during general elections. At the same time, the United States channelled substantial financial aid into the Greek economy while maintaining a presence at key levels of government and in close proximity to the royal court.

The foreign assistance proved decisive in the defeat of the communist forces and in the development of counter-insurgency tactics. These included mass displacement, imprisonment in camps on remote islands, the revocation of citizenship, and the confiscation of property.

A major positive institutional outcome of the Cold War for Greece was its accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

BRITONS and AMERICANS IN GREECE



From F.P.O. 514, Athens (7 Nov. 1951), to Marple, Cheshire, UK.

Rates: Surface (domestic to the UK) up to 2oz 2½d from 1 May 1940 to 30 Sept. 1957.



60%

From F.P.O. 782, Athens (14 May 1946), to New York, NY, USA.

Rates: 2nd weight surface 1–2oz 4½d from 1 May 1940 to 30 June 1948, overpaid at 5d.

- The **BY AIR MAIL** label was irrelevant because no airmail rate was paid.



60%



From Alexandria, Egypt (29 Apr. 1950), via Athens (2 May), to Thessaloniki (3 May).

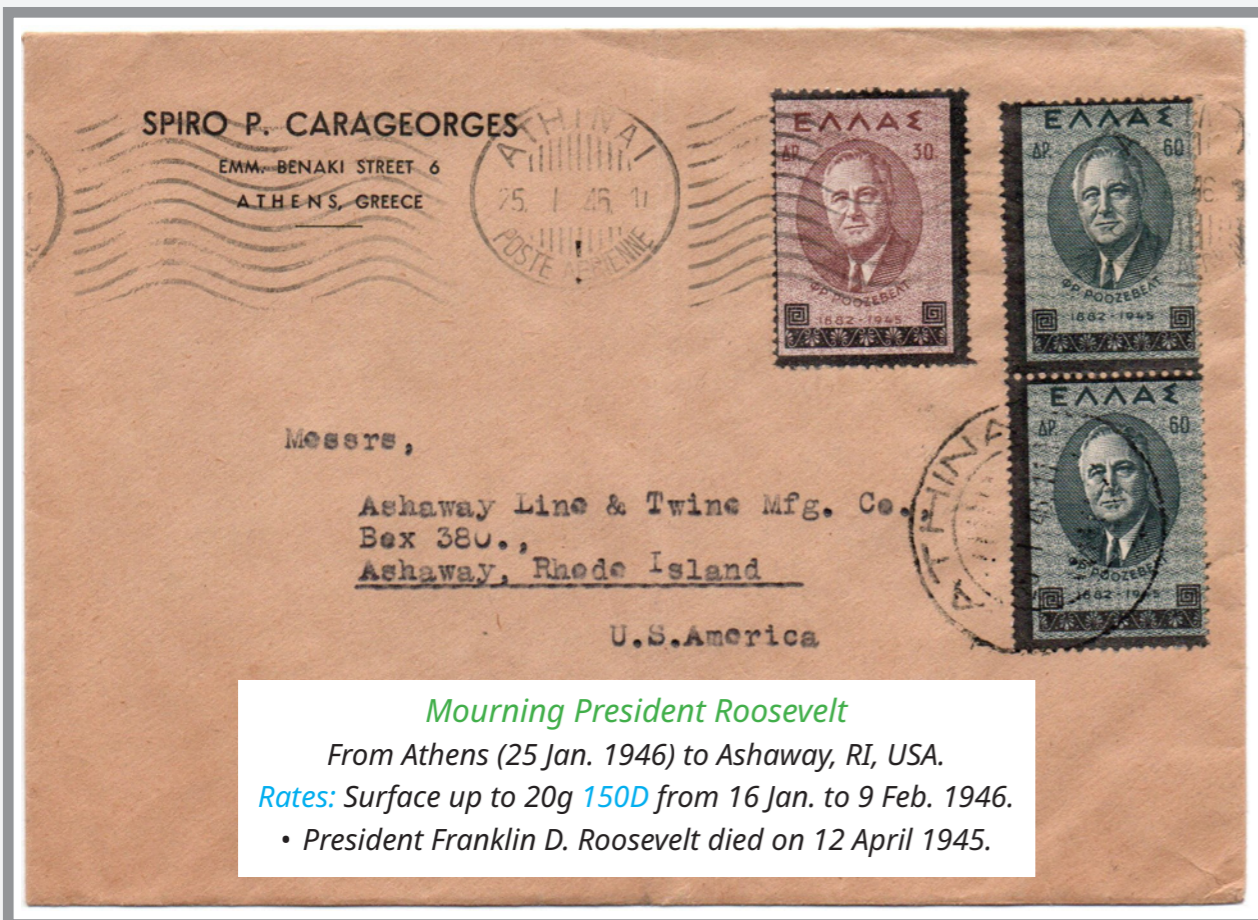
Rates: Surface up to 20g 22 m[jiliemej] from 1940 to 1951; airmail up to 5g 5 m[jiliemej] from 1947 to 1955; total 27m [jiliemej].

- Sent to a Lieutenant Forrest on board the Algerine-class mine-sweeper 'H.M.S. Fierce', which was patrolling the East Mediterranean from 1947 to 1953. When the cover was sent it was stationed in Thessaloniki.

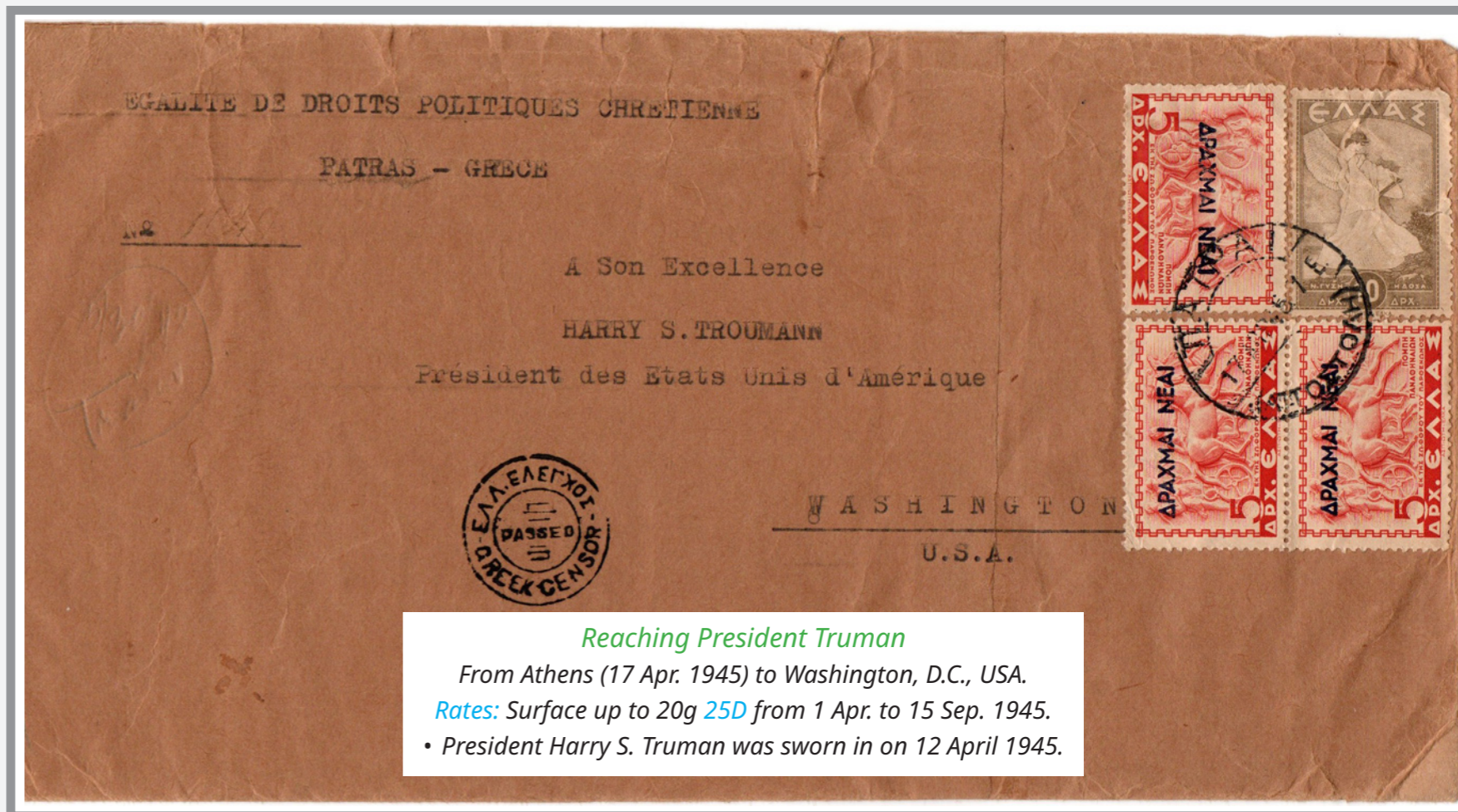


From F.P.O. 782, Athens (14 Apr. 1948), via New York (19 Apr.), to Harrisburg, PA, USA (20 Apr.).

Rates: Surface up to 1oz 3d from 1 May 1940 to 30 Sep. 1950; registration 3d from 13 June 1921 to 30 Apr. 1949; airmail up to ½oz 1s from Sep. 1945 to 30 Apr. 1952; total 1s/6d.



Mourning President Roosevelt
 From Athens (25 Jan. 1946) to Ashaway, RI, USA.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 150D from 16 Jan. to 9 Feb. 1946.
 • President Franklin D. Roosevelt died on 12 April 1945.



Reaching President Truman
 From Athens (17 Apr. 1945) to Washington, D.C., USA.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 25D from 1 Apr. to 15 Sep. 1945.
 • President Harry S. Truman was sworn in on 12 April 1945.

The American Mission for Aid to Greece (AMAG) and General Van Fleet

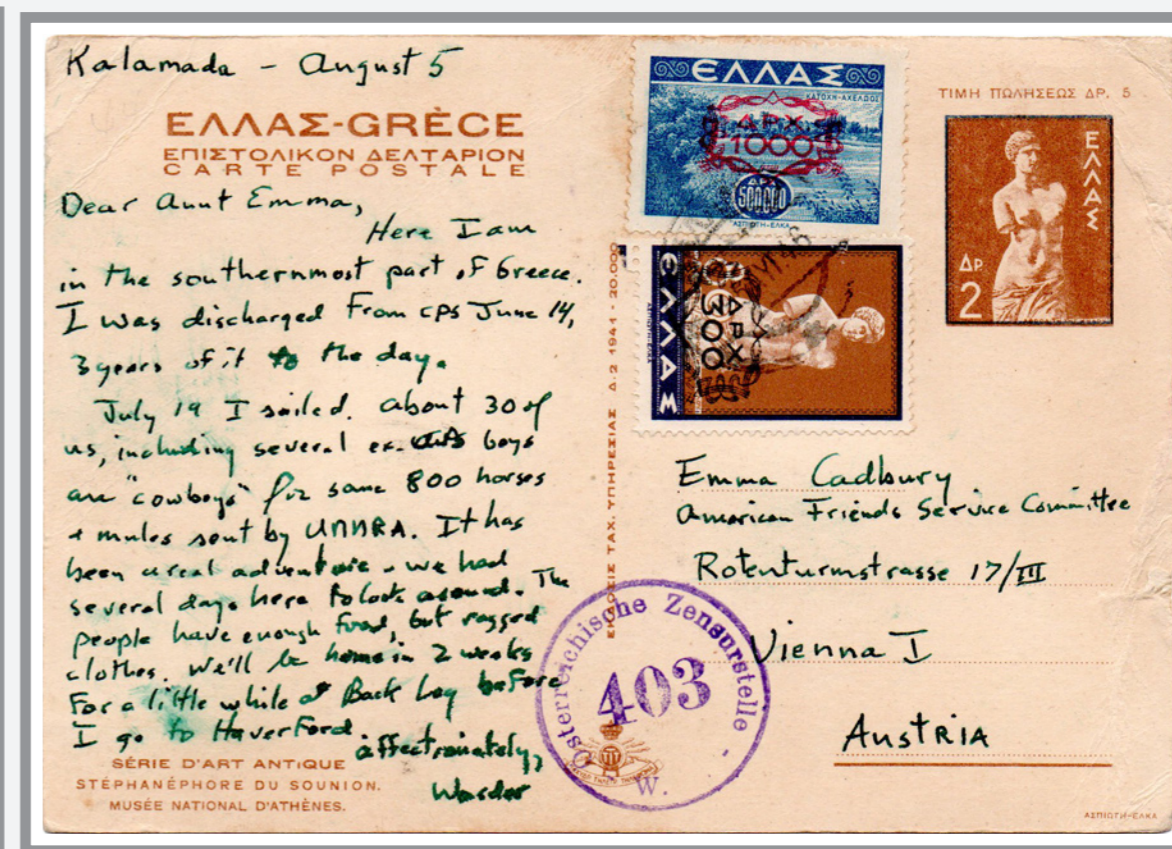
From Athens (28 Apr. 1948) to Governors Island, NY, USA. Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,000D from 15 Nov. 1947 to 19 Aug. 1950, 4th weight airmail 15-20g 3,200D (4x800D) from 16 Nov. 1947 to 4 Nov. 1949; total 4,200D overpaid at 4,800D.

- The AMAG was set up in 1948, following the Truman Doctrine (1947), aiming to provide financial assistance to Greece.
- Lieutenant General Van Fleet was sent to Greece as the chief military adviser during the Civil War. He also served as the administrator responsible for distributing 400 million US dollars. In Greece, he is regarded as a controversial figure because of his leading role in the Civil War, his close ties to the royal court, and his inevitable involvement in Greek politics.

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA)

From Kalamata (5 Aug. 1946) to Vienna, Austria. Rates: Postcard surface 350D from 10 June 1946 to 14 Nov. 1947, erroneously overpaid at 1,300D.

- The sender wrote: '...about 30 of us are 'cowboys' for some 800 horses and mules sent by UNRRA. It has been a real adventure. We had several days here to look around. The people have enough food but ragged clothes.' Censored in Vienna.

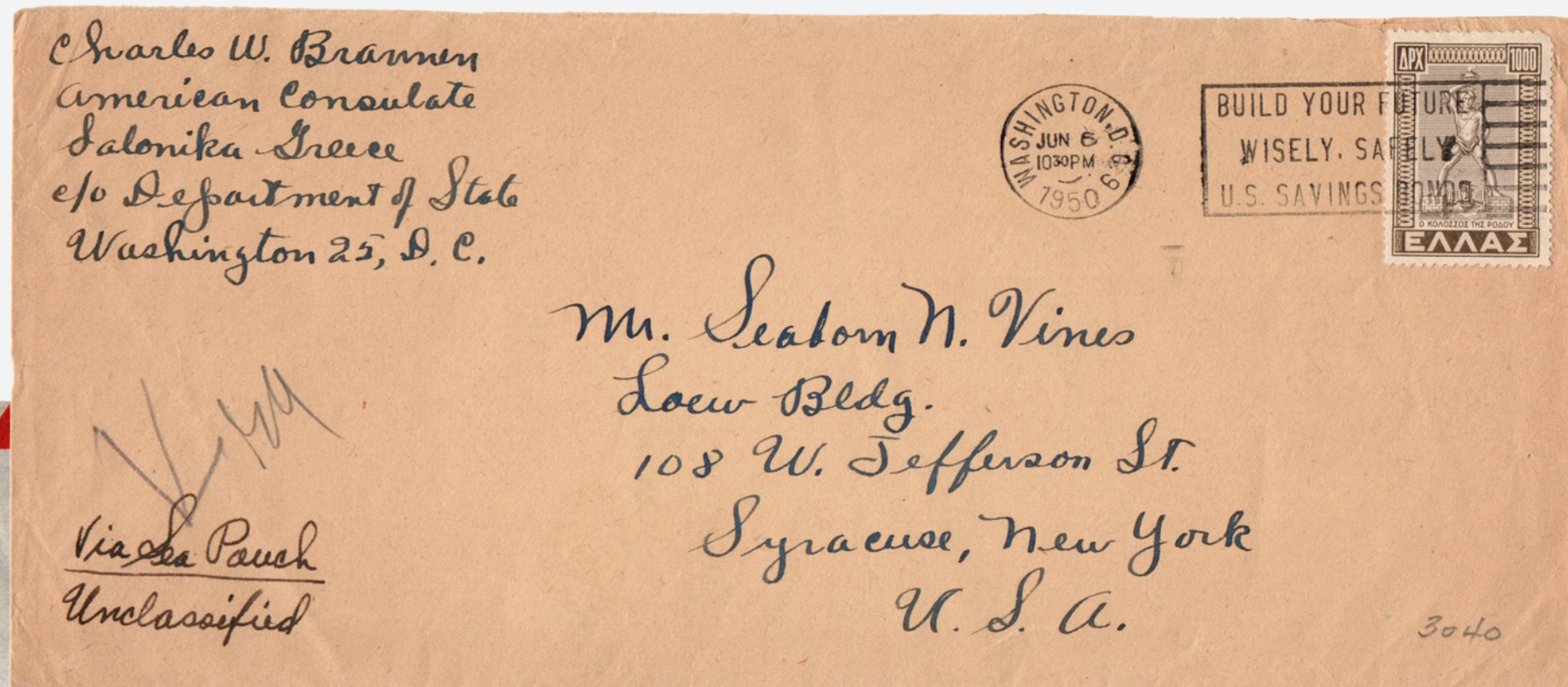


Sent inside a diplomatic pouch

From Thessaloniki via Washington, D.C. (6 June 1950), to Syracuse, NY, USA.

Rates: Surface up to 20g **1,000D** from 15 Nov. 1947 to 19 Aug. 1950.

- Items sent inside a diplomatic pouch should bear a proper stamp of the country of origin and should be cancelled when the pouch is opened. In this case, the pouch was opened in Washington, D.C., where its contents were postmarked. A manuscript note at the lower left reads *Via Sea Pouch / Unclassified* indicating transport by sea.



Agora Excavations in Athens

From Athens (17 Nov. 1947) to Princeton, NJ, USA, redirected to Toronto, Canada.

Rates: 3rd weight surface 40-60g **2,200D** (1,000D + 2x600) from 15 Nov. 1947 to 19 Aug. 1950; 12th weight airmail 55-60g **9,600D** (12x800D) from 16 Nov. 1947 to 4 Nov. 1949; total **11,800D**.

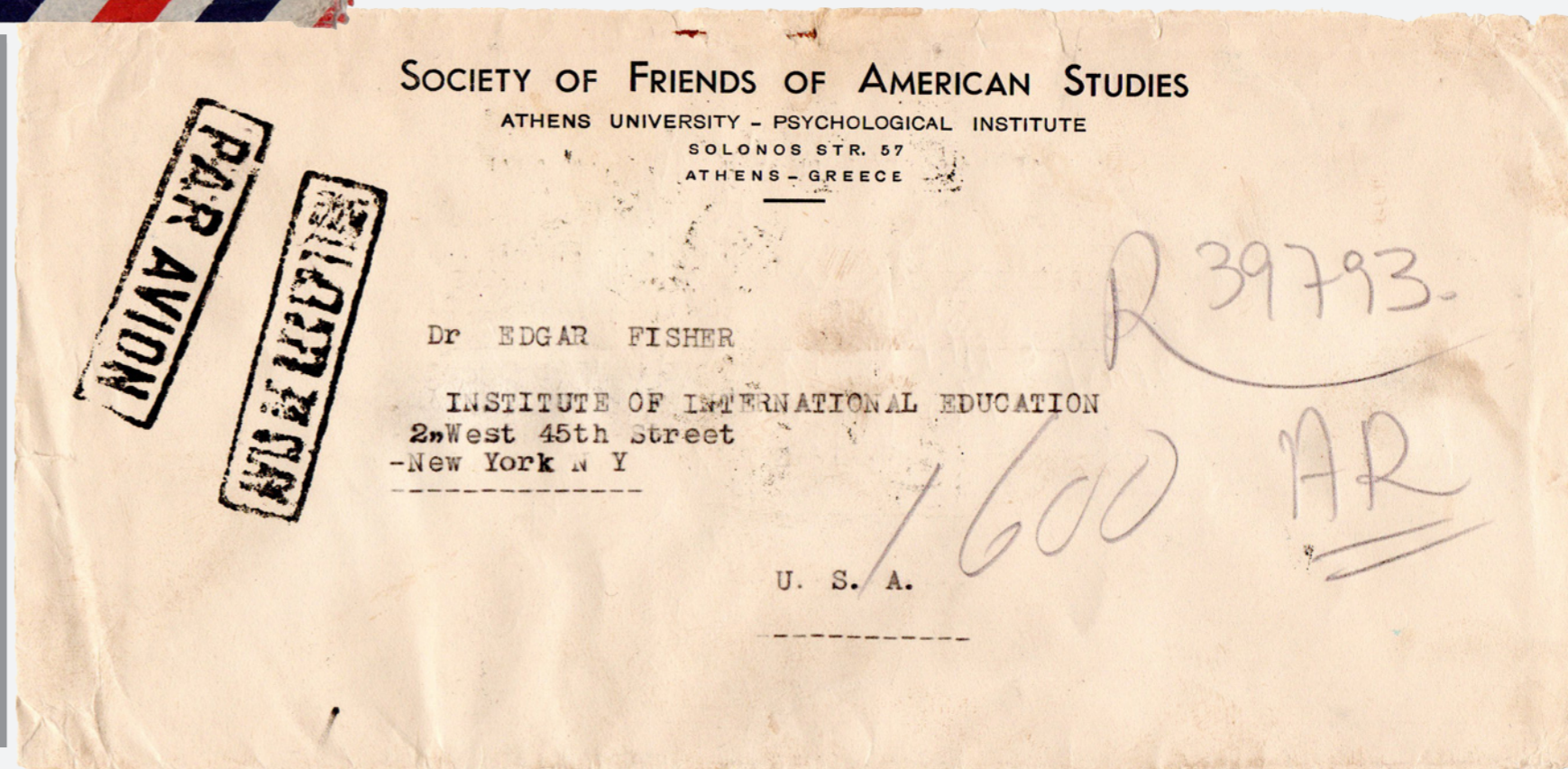
- The excavations were conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, which had begun work in the Agora as early as 1931. They were suspended during WWII (1940-1945) and resumed in 1946.

Society of Friends of American Studies

From Athens (19 June 1946) via Chicago (27 June) to New York, NY, USA (27 & 28 June).

Rates: 2nd weight surface 20-40g **950D** (600D+350D) and registration **600D**, both from 10 June 1946 to 14 Nov. 1947; 6th weight airmail 25-30g **4,200D** (6x700D) from 30 Jan. 1946 to Jan. 1947; total **5,750D**.

- Handstamped **AVIS DE RECEPTION** and marked **AR**. The A(vis) de R(eception) service required an additional fee of **600D** and involved a separate card, which was signed by the addressee upon delivery and then returned to the sender.



SWORN ENEMIES and PROPAGANDA MESSAGES



From Araxos Airport Base (on the reverse) via Military P.O. 925 (4 Oct. 1948) to Athens (8 Oct., on the reverse). **Rates:** Exempt from rates.

- Handstamped with (a) a dual-circle 925 ΣΤΡΑΤ. ΤΑΧ. ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ (925 Military P.O.), hence the postal exemption, and (b) a dual-line prop-aganda message Η ΕΛΛΑΣ ΔΕΝ ΘΕΛΕΙ ΞΕΝΑ ΕΔΑΦΗ / ΖΗΤΕΙ ΟΜΩΣ ΝΑ ΕΠΙΣΤΡΑΦΟΥΝ ΤΑ ΙΔΙΚΑ ΤΗΣ (Greece does not seek foreign lands / it only asks that its own be returned).



From Athens (13 Feb. 1951), destined for Sofia, Bulgaria, never left Athens. It was cancelled to be returned (15 Feb.).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,300D, from 20 Aug. 1950 to 16 Apr. 1952; airmail to most destinations in Europe up to 5g 300D; total 1600D.

- Postal relations with Bulgaria were suspended since the days of WWII, as the two sworn enemies only settled their differences in December 1953. To explain why the envelope was not despatched, a note was attached reading in Greek: Returned (underlined). **There is no postal communication with Bulgaria.**



From a Double Company in Agrinio, via Military P.O. 925 (24 Jan. 1949) to Athens.

Rates: Exempt from rates.

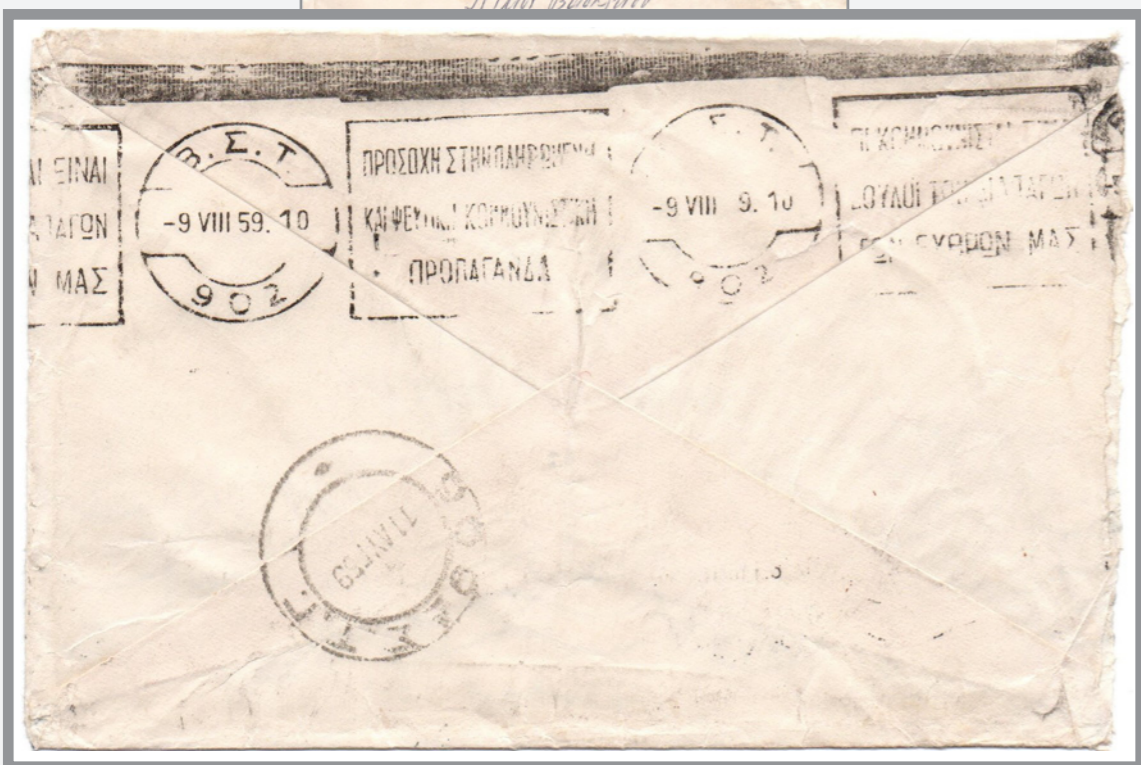
- Handstamped with (a) dual-circle 925 ΣΤΡΑΤ. ΤΑΧ. ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ (925 Military P.O.), hence the postal exemption, (b) linear ΕΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΤΗ (Censored), and (c) boxed prop-aganda message ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΣ ΙΣΟΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΣΜΟΣ (Civilization is synonym to Hellenism).



50%



50%



From Chalkis (8 Aug. 1959) via Military P.O. 902 (9 Aug.) to Military P.O. 909 (11 Aug.).

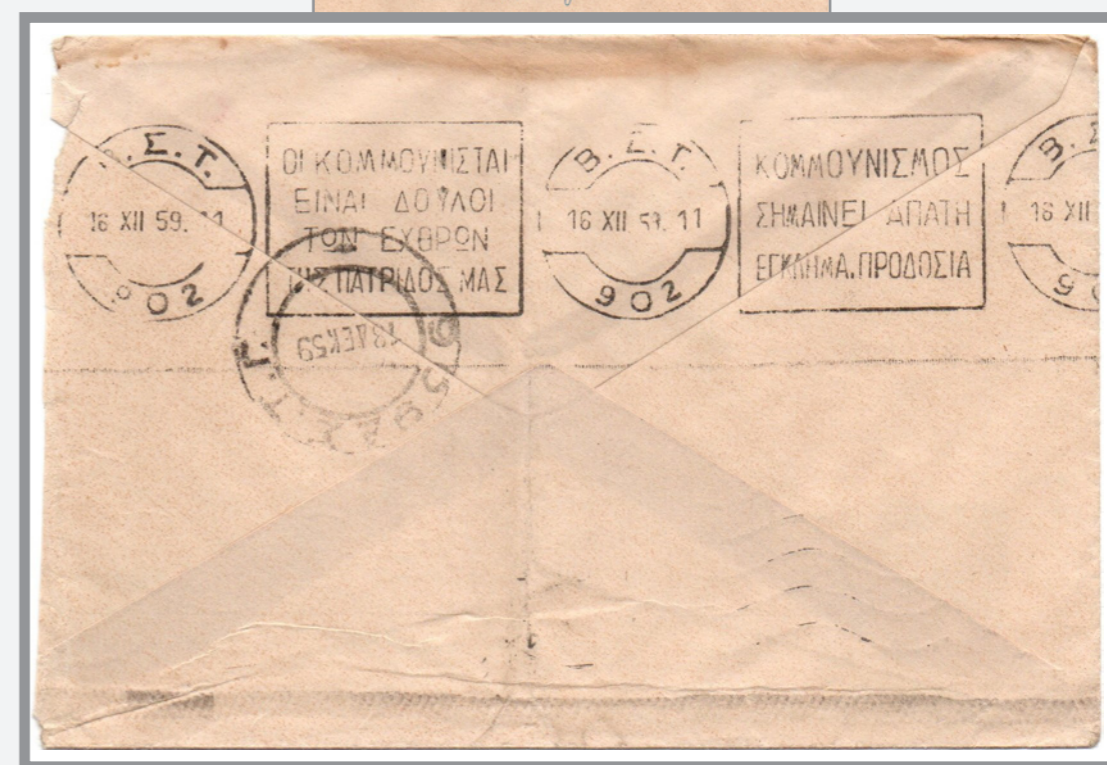
Rates: Surface up to 20g 2.50D from 16 Jan. 1959.

- Message 1: ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΕΝΗ ΚΑΙ ΨΕΥΤΙΚΗ ΚΟΜΜΟΥΝΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΠΑΓΑΝΔΑ (Beware of the paid and fake communist propaganda).
- Message 2: ΟΙ ΚΟΜΜΟΥΝΙΣΤΑΙ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΔΟΥΛΟΙ ΤΩΝ ΔΙΑΤΑΓΩΝ ΤΩΝ ΕΧΘΡΩΝ ΜΑΣ (The communists are slaves to the commands of our enemies).

From Chalkis (15 Dec. 1959) via Military P.O. 902 (16 Dec.) to Military P.O. 909 (18 Dec.).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 2.50D from 16 Jan. 1959.

- Message 1: ΟΙ ΚΟΜΜΟΥΝΙΣΤΑΙ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΔΟΥΛΟΙ ΤΩΝ ΕΧΘΡΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΔΟΣ ΜΑΣ (The communists are slaves to the enemies of our homeland).
- Message 2: ΚΟΜΜΟΥΝΙΣΜΟΣ ΣΗΜΑΙΝΕΙ ΑΠΑΤΗ, ΕΓΚΛΗΜΑ, ΠΡΟΔΟΣΙΑ (Communism means deceit, crime, treason).





From Athens (17 Oct. 1951) to Paris, France.

Rates: Surface to 20g 1,300D from 20 Aug. 1950 to 16 Apr. 1952; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 600D (2x300D) from 16 Nov. 1947 to 30 June 1953; total 1,900D.

ABDUCTION of CHILDREN DURING THE CIVIL WAR

'Greece mourns for her thousands of children abducted by communists into enemy countries. Give them back!' This was the government's slogan during the Civil War. According to official claims, the abductions were intended to relieve communist fighters of parental responsibilities while ensuring that the children were educated in communist ideology in Eastern Bloc countries.

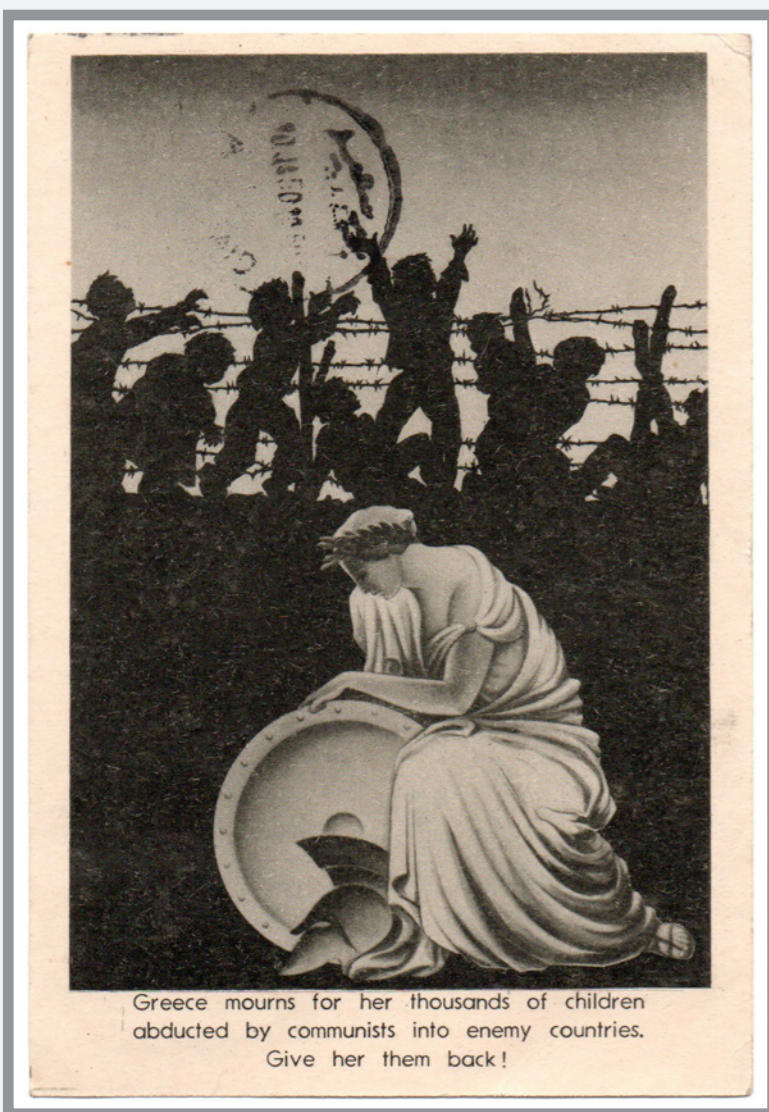
The communist side, by contrast, maintained that the children were evacuated from remote and impoverished rural communities to protect them from the conflict and to provide them with adequate nutrition and care.

To publicise its position, the government issued three postage stamps.



From Athens (6 Mar. 1949) to Detroit, MI, USA.

Rates: Surface to 20g 1,000D from 15 Nov. 1947 to 19 Aug. 1950; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 1,600D (2x800D) from 16 Nov. 1947 to 4 Nov. 1949; total 2,600D.



Greece mourns for her thousands of children abducted by communists into enemy countries. Give her them back!

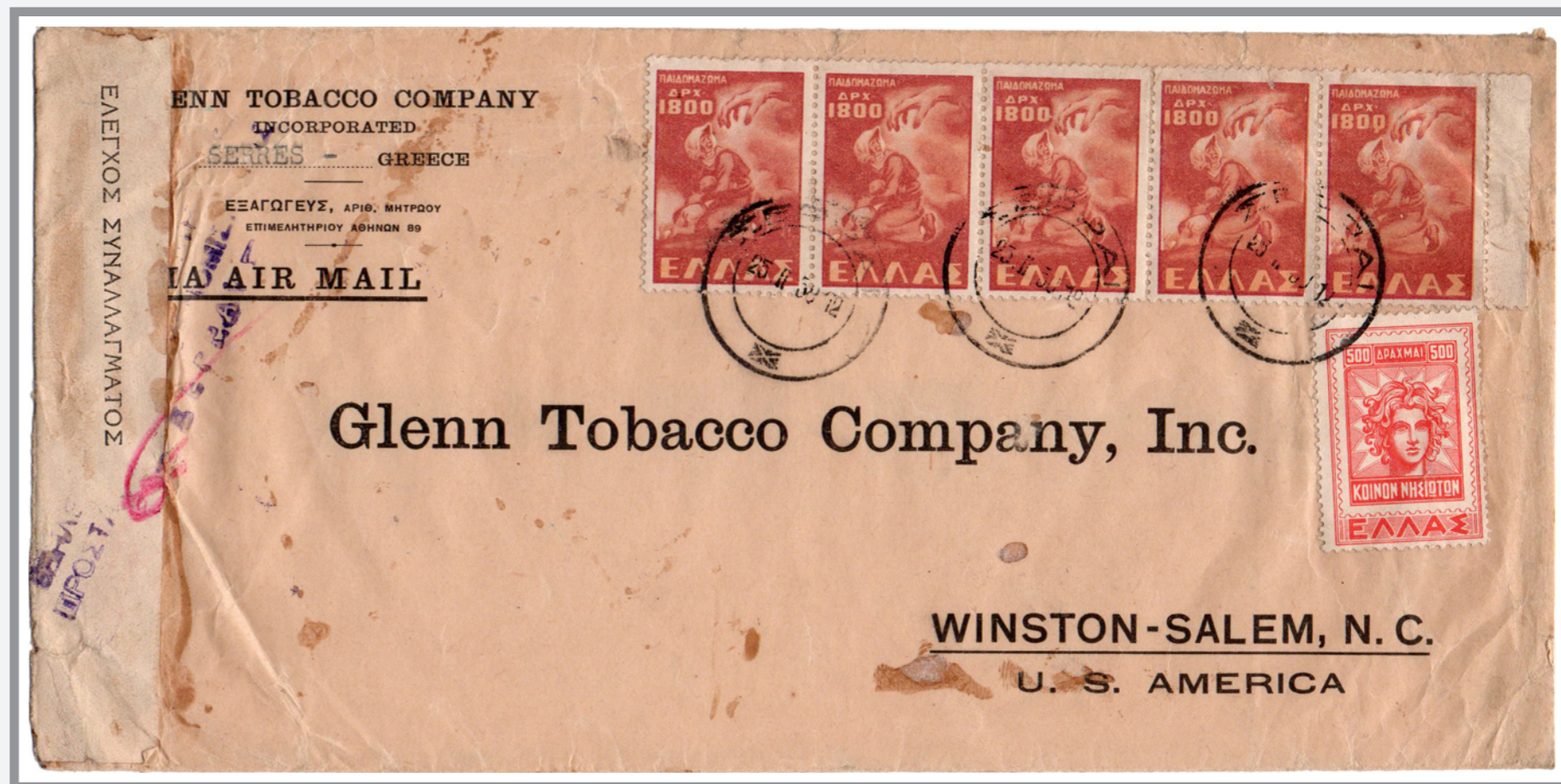


70%

Propaganda postcard on Children Abduction

From Athens (2 Jan. 1950) to Port Said, Egypt (illegible postmark).

Rates: Surface 600D from 15 Nov. 1947 to 19 Aug. 1950; airmail 300D from 5 Nov. 1949 to 30 June 1953; total 900D overpaid at 1,800D, as the sender's sole purpose was to chose the 'perfect' stamp and place it on the postcard.



From Serres (25 Feb. 1950) to Winston-Salem, NC, USA.

Rates: 2nd weight surface 20-40g 1,600D (1,000D+600D) from 15 Nov. 1947 to 19 Aug. 1950; 6th weight airmail 25-30g 7,800D (6x1,300D) from 5 Nov. 1949 to 30 June 1953; total 9,400D conveniently overpaid at 9,500D.

Makronisos: Displaced Persons Area



Written by an inmate at the Displaced Persons Area, and mailed from Lavrion (29 July 1949) on the mainland opposite Makronisos to Athens.

Rates: Postcard surface 300D from 15 Nov. 1947 to 19 Aug. 1950.

- Handstamped with boxed ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΑΤΕ ΕΥΚΡΙΝΩΣ / ΜΟΝΟΝ ΜΕ ΔΕΚΑ ΓΡΑΜΜΕΣ / ΕΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΤΗ (reply clearly / only in ten lines / censored).

Makronisos: 2nd Soldiers' Battalion & Citizens' Reformation School



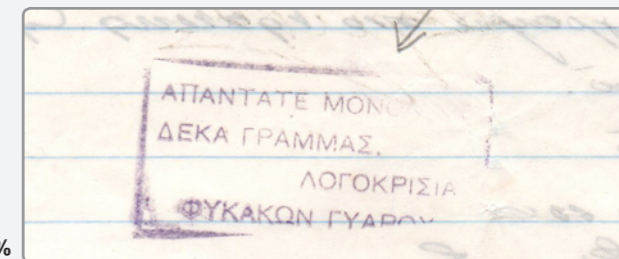
Written by an inmate at the 2nd Soldiers' Battalion & Citizens' Reformation School mailed from 902B Σ.Τ.Γ. (Military P.O. No. 902B, 1 Feb. 1950) based in Lavrion on the mainland opposite Makronisos, and sent to Peristeri, Athens.

- Handstamped at the camp with linear ΕΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΤΗ (censored).

POLITICAL PRISONERS ON THE UNINHABITED ISLANDS OF MAKRONISOS AND GYAROS

As soon as the Civil War broke up, two notorious military camps were established on the uninhabited islands of Makronisos and Gyaros. This formed part of the state's effort to remove and 'rehabilitate' all sorts of government's enemies, both real and imagined.

Among those imprisoned were communists, left-wing activists, Jehovah's Witnesses, members of the Roma communities, and even ordinary criminal offenders.



70%

Gyaros 3rd Bay: Cancelled in Syros

Written by an inmate in the 3rd Bay of the Gyaros prison-island in the Cyclades and mailed from the adjacent island of Syros (20 Feb. 1950), as a post office had not yet been established on Gyaros. The letter was addressed to his family in Kozani (12 Mar. 1950, on the reverse).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 450D from 15 Nov. 1947 to 19 Aug. 1950; airmail to 20g 100D from 14 Nov. 1946; historical monuments rate, mandatory all year round, 50D from 30 Oct. 1947; postal staff welfare fund rate, mandatory during the first ten days of each month, 50D from 11 Sep. 1946 to 17 Apr. 1952; total 650D.

- The boxed handstamp on the reverse of the letter reads in Greek: ΑΠΑΝΤΑΤΕ ΜΟΝΟΝ ΜΕ / ΔΕΚΑ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΣ / ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑ / ΦΥΚΑΚΩΝ ΓΥΑΡΟΥ (Reply using ten lines only. Gyaros prison censorship).

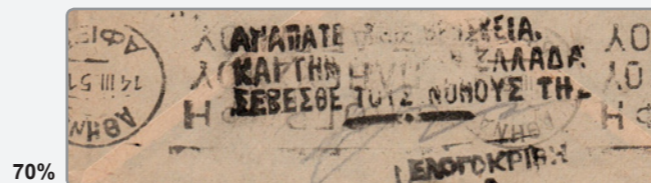


From Gyaros prison-island 2nd Bay: Cancelled in Gyaros

Written by an inmate in the 2nd Bay of the Gyaros prison-island in the Cyclades. The letter was mailed from the newly established post office on the island and postmarked by ΓΥΑΡΟΣ (7 Mar. 1951), and sent to Athens (14 Mar. 1951, on the reverse).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 700D from 20 Aug. 1950 to 16 Apr. 1952; postal staff welfare fund rate, mandatory during the first ten days of each month, 50D from 11 Sep. 1946 to 17 Apr. 1952; total 750D.

- A three-line handstamp on the reverse of the cover reads in Greek: ΑΓΑΠΑΤΕ ΤΗΝ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΙΑ / ΚΑΙ ΤΗΜΑΤΕ ΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ / ΣΕΒΕΣΘΕ ΤΟΥΣ ΝΟΜΟΥΣ ΤΗΣ (Love the religion / and honour Greece / respect its laws) while another handstamp reads: ΕΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΤΗ (censored).



70%



POLITICAL REFUGEES SENT TO UZBEKISTAN



The end of the Civil War in 1949 could have marked the conclusion of a long and excruciating chapter in Greece's history. Instead, the victors chose to impose the harshest possible punishment on the defeated. Tens of thousands were not only treated as malignancies to be excised by the state—they were effectively erased from the national landscape. This was accomplished through two decisive measures: the revocation of their Greek citizenship and the confiscation of their property.

The political refugees' long journey from Dures to Tashkent in 1949.

A heterogeneous group of approximately 100,000 refugees—including not only committed fighters of the Democratic Army of Greece (DSE) and members of the Communist Party, but also civilians forcibly conscripted, National Army soldiers captured by the DSE, peasants swept up in the general retreat, and victims of the so-called 'child abductions'—had no choice but to flee across Greece's northern borders. The majority found refuge in Eastern European countries, while around 12,000 were sent as far as Uzbekistan.

Eventually—albeit belatedly, in 1982—the fever of national hysteria began to subside. Return was finally permitted for those who still wished to come back and for those who dared to place their trust in the fledgling democratic institutions of a still-maturing political system, following the fall of the military junta and the restoration of democracy in 1974.

A heterogeneous group of approximately 100,000 refugees—including not only committed fighters



From Tashkent, Uzbek SSR (20 Sep. 1954), to Athens (3 Nov., on the reverse).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 40k(opeks) from 10 June 1950; airmail 1R(uble) from 10 June 1950; total 1R/40k.

- Handstamped **МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЕ** (international).
- The small circular 6 (on the reverse) was the insignia of the city postman in Athens.



From Tashkent, Uzbek SSR (24 Dec. 1956), via Athens (30 Dec., on the reverse) to Thessaloniki (2 Jan. 1957, on the reverse).

Rates: Unified surface plus registration up to 20g 1R(uble) 10k(opeks) from 10 June 1950; airmail 1R from 10 June 1950; total 2R/10k.

- Handstamped **МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЕ** (international).
- The small circular 14 (on the reverse) was the insignia of the city postman in Thessaloniki.



From Muinak, Karakalpakstan Autonomous SSR, part of the Uzbek SSR (6 Dec. 1960), via Athens (20 Dec., on the reverse) to Thessaloniki (22 Dec., on the reverse).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 60k(opeks) from 1 Sep. 1957; registration 1R(uble) from 1 Sep. 1957; airmail 1R from 10 June 1950; total 2R/60k overpaid at 3R.

- Handstamped **МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЕ** (international).
- The small circular 71 (on the reverse) was the insignia of the city postman in Thessaloniki.



From Athens (28 July 1954) to Frankfurt, West Germany (2 Feb., on the reverse).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 2D from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955; 3rd weight airmail 10-15g 1.50D (3x0.50D) from 1 July 1953 to 30 June 1971; total 3.50D conveniently overpaid at 3.60D.

- On 1 May 1954, one new drachma replaced 1,000 old drachmas.

GREECE JOINED NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was established in 1949 by twelve founding members. Greece and Turkey joined the Alliance in 1952, followed by West Germany in 1955 and Spain in 1982. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, a further sixteen countries became members of NATO.

Greece entered NATO under the short-lived government of Nikolaos Plastiras. One month after the country's accession, the execution of communist Nikos Belogiannis and his comrades proved to be the final blow, an event that led to the collapse of the government, a few weeks later.

The three depicted stamps commemorate the 5th anniversary of NATO, while the slogan mechanical cancellation commemorates the 6th anniversary.



From Athens (6 Apr. 1955) to Modena, Italy.

Rates: Visiting card surface 1.20D from 1 July 1953 to 21 Apr. 1959; airmail 0.50D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 30 June 1971; total 1.70D.

- Propaganda message on the mechanical cancellation: 4-4-(1949/1955) GREECE STANDS FOR NATO.
- On 1 May 1954, one new drachma replaced 1,000 old drachmas.



From Chios (28 Jan. 1955) via Athens (29 Jan., on the reverse) to Philadelphia, PA, USA (2 Feb., on the reverse).

Rates: 2nd weight surface 20-40g 3.20D (2D + 1.20D) and registration 3D, both from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955; total 6.20D conveniently overpaid at 6.50D.

- On 1 May 1954, one new drachma replaced 1,000 old drachmas.



From Athens (22 July 1954) to Nice, France (24 July, on the reverse).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 2D and express 4D, both from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 0.80D (1x0.40D) from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955; total 6.80D.

- On 1 May 1954, one new drachma replaced 1,000 old drachmas.

'HEROES OF THE PEOPLE'

In June 1959, the Soviet Union issued a stamp to honour the Greek activist and politician Manolis Glezos (1922-2020), with the caption 'Freedom to the hero of the Greek people, Manolis Glezos!' At the time, Glezos, a former member of the Greek Parliament, was serving his second prison term on charges of espionage.

The Greek government responded immediately by issuing two stamps in honour of Imre Nagy (1896-1958), the Hungarian Head of State during the 1956 revolution, who had been tried and executed for treason by the Soviets. The Greek caption, in reply, reads 'Freedom to the people'.

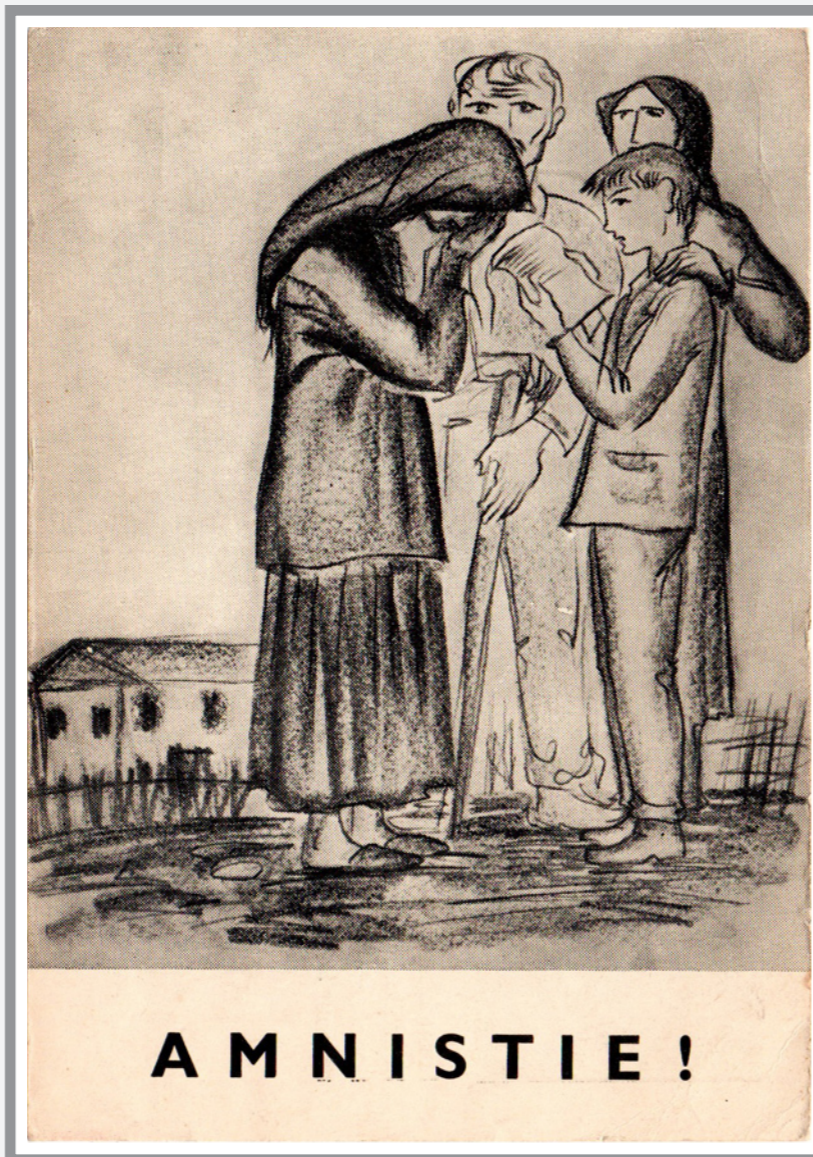
The Imre Nagi stamps were released on 8 December but were withdrawn ten days later, on the 18th, after both sides reached an agreement for mutual withdrawal.

Greek propaganda efforts aimed at an international audience, as the two selected values corresponded to the first weight surface-plus-airmail rate for Europe and the USA.

Glezos' postage stamp on Soviet postal stationery of philatelic nature, cancelled on 21 Nov. 1959 before its withdrawal from the P.O. counters, presumably sometime in December.

Rates: Unified surface plus registration up to 20g 1R(uble) from 16 Sep. 1948.

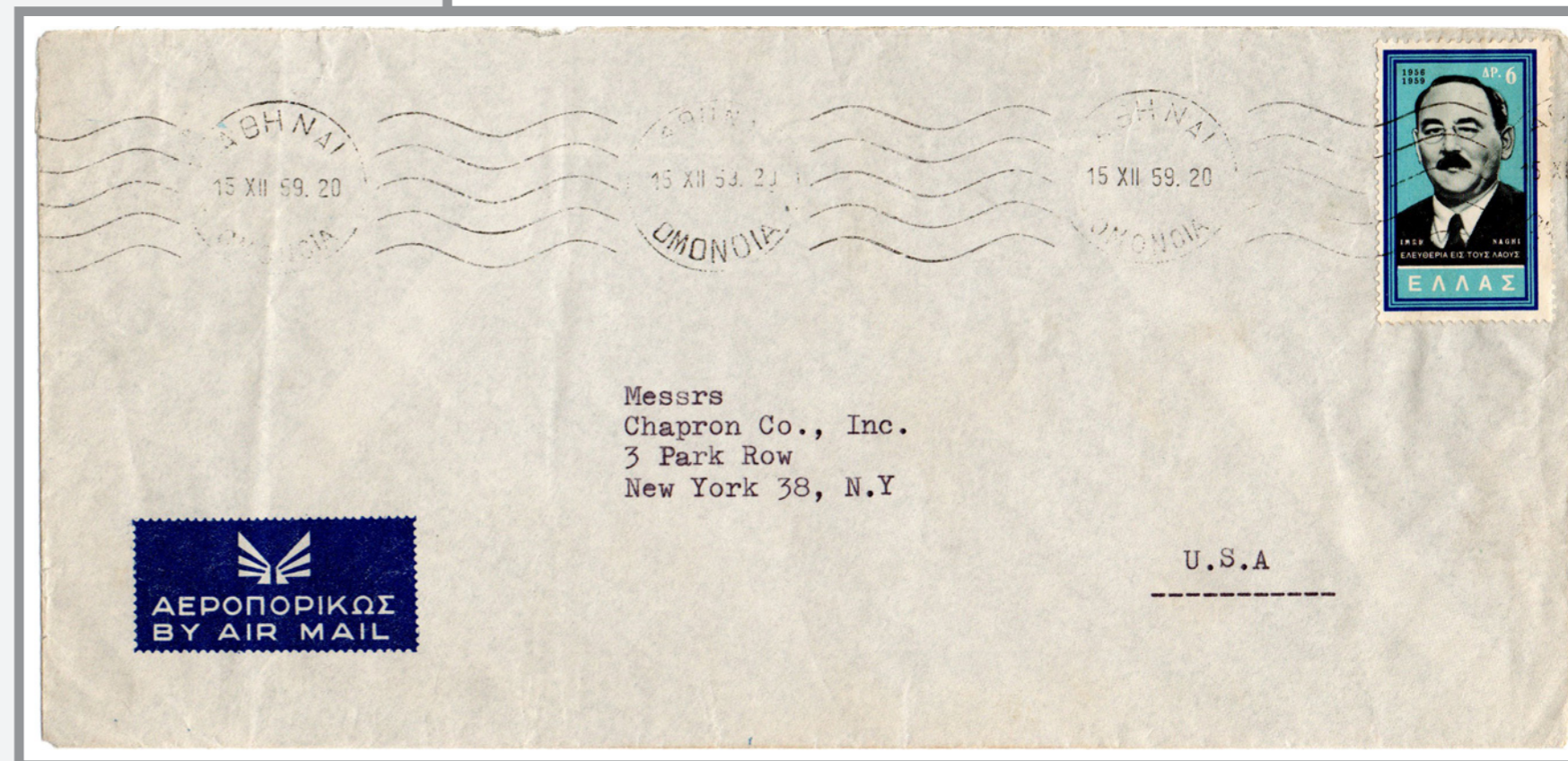
- Postmarked in Peski, Voroshilovgrad Oblast, USSR. Today, it is Peski in Russian and Piski in Ukrainian, located in Donetsk Oblast, part of Ukraine de jure, or Russia de facto.



[Left]: Postcard issued by FIR (International Federation of Resistance Fighters, Vienna, 1951), addressed to the Greek Minister of Justice with a message in French: 'Europe's activists demand the release of Manolis Glezos, national hero of the resistance in Greece, and amnesty for the imprisoned Greek fighters'.

[Top]: From Athens (16 Dec. 1959) to Khartoum, Sudan (19 Dec. 1959, on the reverse). Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; airmail up to 5g 1D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 30 June 1971.

[Bottom]: From Athens (15 Dec. 1959) to New York, NY, USA. Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; airmail up to 5g 2D from 1 July 1953 to 31 Dec. 1974; total 6D.



4. THREE PILLARS OF POWER

- (a) A powerful royal court, especially after the 1946 plebiscite.
- (b) Conservative and anti-communist politicians.
- (c) A dominant Greek Orthodox Church within a religious society.

KING GEORGE II
r. 1922–1924
and 1935–1947

- Came to the throne in moments of deep national trauma (Asia Minor disaster, dictatorship, occupation, and civil war). His reign was overshadowed by instability and repeated interruptions.
- Associated with authoritarian regimes (Kondylis' coup, Metaxas' dictatorship). Even if he wasn't the instigator, he legitimized these regimes, which tarnished his image.
- A polarising figure, mistrusted by republicans and leftists, viewed by monarchists as a necessary stabiliser. His cautious, aloof style made him seem detached.
- Remembered as a king defined by exile, dictatorship, and division — reactive rather than proactive. His sudden death in 1947 closed a chapter of instability but left little personal legacy of constructive leadership.



King George II—death on 1 April 1947—mourning issue
From Larissa (30 Apr. 1947) to Athens.
Rates: Postcard surface 200D from 10 June 1946 to 14 Nov. 1947.



King George II plebiscite issue (monarchy was reinstated by 68%)
From Athens (14 Sep. 1948) to Wellington, New Zealand.
Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,000D from 15 Nov. 1947 to 19 Aug. 1950;
airmail up to 5g 2,000D from 20 Apr. 1948 to 4 Nov. 1949; total: 3,000D.

KING PAUL
r. 1947–1964

- Took the throne in the midst of the Civil War but inherited a monarchy that had already been institutionalised. His reign began in turmoil but evolved into a period of stability.
- Although not free of political controversy, he generally allowed parliamentary democracy to function after the Civil War. His reign coincided with Greece's gradual democratisation and integration into the Western sphere.
- More visible, approachable, and paternal in image, presenting himself as a unifying figure in a recovering nation. Despite criticism (especially of Queen Frederica's political involvement), Paul was less divisive than his brother.
- His reign saw Greece stabilise politically, recover economically, and secure its Western alignment (NATO membership in 1952). He is often remembered as the last Greek monarch to enjoy broad legitimacy before the monarchy's decline in the 1960s–70s.



King Paul's 50th birthday issue
From Athens (19 June 1953) to New York, NY, USA.
Rates: 4th weight surface 60–80g 4,100D (1,400D + 3x900D) from 17 Apr. 1952 to 30 June 1953; 14th weight airmail 65–70g 18,200D (14x1,300D) from 5 Nov. 1949 to 30 June 1953; total: 22,300D.

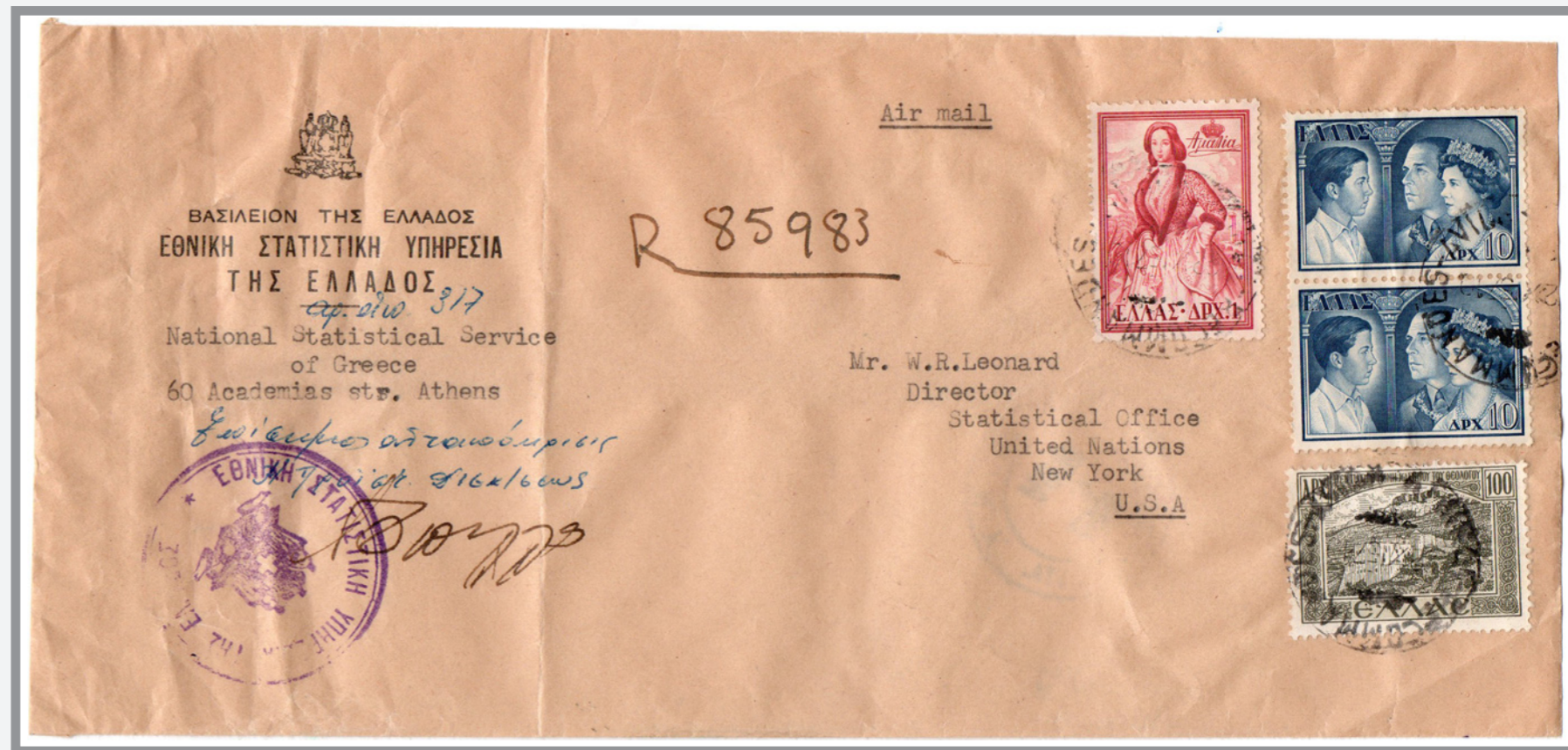
A POWERFUL ROYAL COURT (version I)

The Greek monarchy was relatively short-lived, spanning the period from 1832 to 1973. It was initially abolished in 1924 and replaced by a republic, only to be reinstated by referendum in 1935. Following Greece's liberation in 1944, the monarchy was questioned once more but was officially restored after another referendum in 1946.

Over its lifespan, Greece was ruled by seven monarchs—four of whom were forced to abdicate on separate occasions amid prolonged political instability.

In the aftermath of the Civil War in 1949 and as part of efforts to foster national unity under the monarchy while further distancing the country from communist influence, a set of postage stamps was issued in 1956, featuring members of the Greek Royal Family.

The first of the two highest denominations depicts King Paul, and the second illustrates King Paul, Queen Frederika, and Crown Prince Constantine.



From Athens (22 Oct. 1957) to New York, NY, USA (2 Nov. 1957, on the reverse).

Rates: 2nd weight surface 20-40g 4.80D (3D+1.80D) from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; registration 5D from 16 Oct. 1956 to 21 Apr. 1959; 6th weight airmail 25-30g 12D (6x2D) from 1 July 1953 to 31 Dec. 1974; total 21.80D underpaid at 21.10D.



From Piraeus (17 May 1958) to Cardiff, UK.

Rates: 3rd weight surface 40-60g 6.60D (3D + 2x1.80D) from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; registration 5D from 16 Oct. 1956 to 21 Apr. 1959; 10th weight airmail 45-50g 5D (10x0.50D) from 1 July 1953 to 30 June 1971; total 16.60D.



From Athens (26 Feb. 1957) to Stockholm, Sweden (28 Feb. 1957, on the reverse).

Rates: 2nd weight surface 20-40g 4.80D (3D+1.80D) and express 5D, both from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; 6th weight airmail 25-30g 3D (6x0.50D) from 1 July 1953 to 30 June 1971; total 12.80D.



From Athens (25 May 1958) to Baden, Switzerland.
 Rates: 3rd weight surface 40-60g 6.60D (3D + 2x1.80D) from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; 9th weight airmail 40-45g 4.50D (9x0.50D) from 1 Apr. 1955 to 30 June 1971; total 11.10D underpaid at 10.10D.

A POWERFUL ROYAL COURT
 (version II)

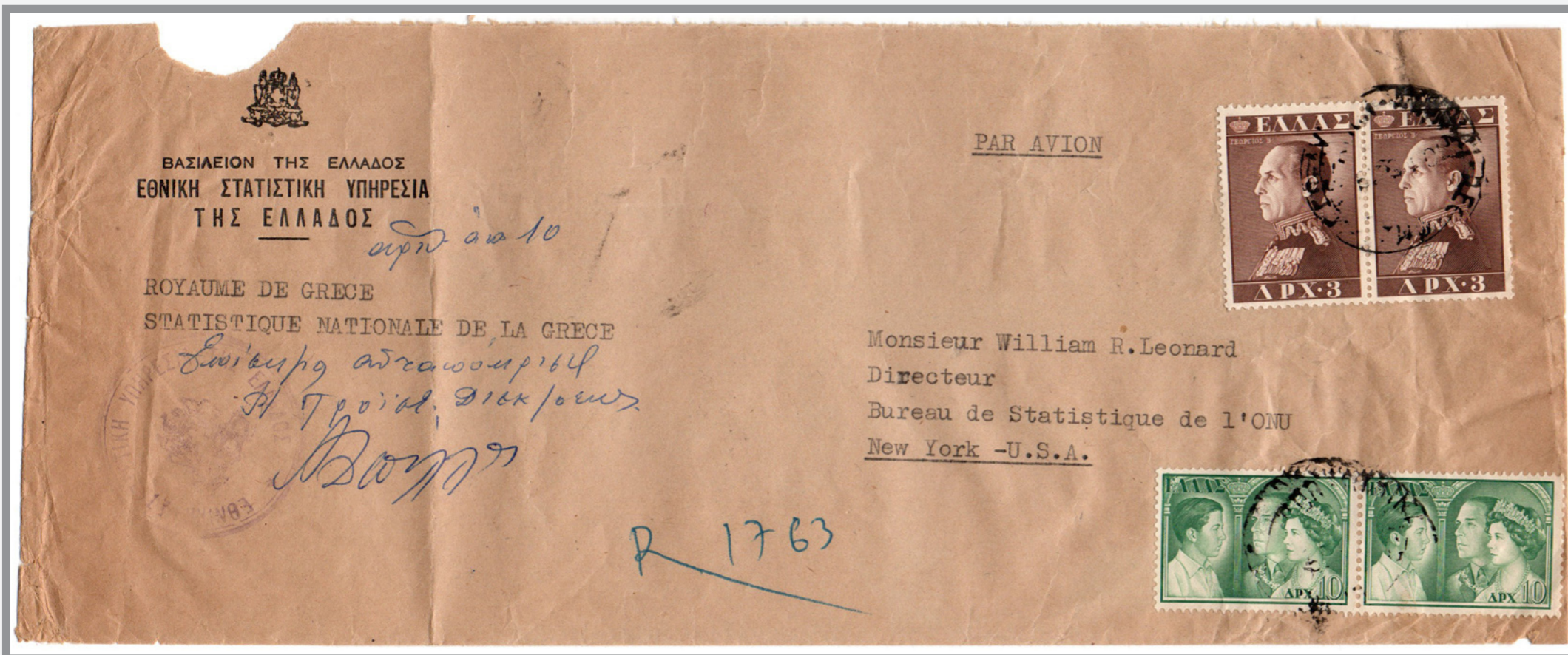
In response to criticism from the philatelic community about the confusing colour scheme of part I, the second issue of the Royal Family set used the same designs at exactly the same denominations while introducing a more carefully selected and coherent palette.

From Athens (8 Sep. 1960) to Ringwood, Victoria, Australia.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; airmail up to 5g 4.50D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 30 June 1971; total 8.50D.



Parcel post fragment from Samos (25 Nov. 1957) to the USA.
 Rates: Total paid 66.50D (more stamps on the reverse).

From Athens (28 Dec. 1957) to New York, NY, USA (13 Jan. 1958, on the reverse).
 Rates: 2nd weight surface 20-40g 4.80D (3D+1.80D) from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; registration 5D from 16 Oct. 1956 to 21 Apr. 1959; 8th weight airmail 35-40g 16D (8x2D) from 1 July 1953 to 31 Dec. 1974; total 25.80D conveniently overpaid at 26D.



CONSERVATIVES AND ANTI-COMMUNISTS

In the first elections after WWII, which were held in 1946, the Communist Party chose to abstain. The best result achieved by any left-wing party until the 1980s came in 1958, when it became the Official Opposition.

It was therefore no surprise that the government was monopolised by conservative and anti-communist politicians while the public sector was flooded with their supporters.

**ΤΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΛΑΙΟ
ΤΟΥ ΣΤΡΑΤΑΡΧΟΥ ΜΕ ΤΟ ΛΑΟ**

ΠΡΩΤΟΝ: Ἡ Ἑλλάς θὰ ἀποκτήσῃ ἐκ νέου τὸ διεθνὲς κύρος της.

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟΝ: Ἑλληνικὸς Συναγερομὸς σημαίνει ἀσφάλεια καὶ τάξις.

ΤΡΙΤΟΝ: Ὁ τόπος θὰ ἀποκτήσῃ χρηστὴν διοίκησιν.

ΤΕΤΑΡΤΟΝ: Θὰ ἀρχίσῃ ἡ μάχη τῆς παραγωγῆς.

ΠΕΜΠΤΟΝ: Οἰκονομία παντοῦ.

ΕΚΤΟΝ: Ἔργασία εἰς ὅλους.

ΕΒΔΟΜΟΝ: Ἡ ἀγροτικὴ τάξις θὰ ἀποτελέσῃ τὸ κέντρον τοῦ ἐθνικοῦ ἐνδιαφέροντος.

«...Συνάπτεται μεταξύ σας καὶ ἐμοῦ ἓνα σύμφωνον. Θὰ τὸ ὀνομάσωμεν Σύμφωνον Θεσσαλονίκης καὶ θὰ ἀποτελέσῃ τὸν Καταστατικὸν Χάρτην τῆς τετραετίας... Θέσατε, ἂν ἐπιθυμεῖτε καὶ σεῖς τὴν ὑπογραφήν σας. Ψηφίζοντες τὸν Ἑλληνικὸν Συναγερομὸν **ΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΕΤΕ ΤΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΛΑΙΟΝ ΑΥΤΟ.** Ὑπόσχομαι νὰ τὸ τηρήσω. Καὶ γνωρίζετε **ΟΤΙ ΤΗΡΩ ΤΙΣ ΥΠΟΣΧΕΣΕΙΣ ΜΟΥ**»

ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΣ ΠΑΠΑΓΟΣ

«Ἀπὸ τὸν λόγο τοῦ Ἀρχηγοῦ τοῦ Ἑλληνικοῦ Συναγερομῶ Στρατάρχου ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ ΠΑΠΑΓΟΥ στὴν Παλλαϊκὴ συγκέντρωσι τῆς Θεσσαλονίκης».



↑ Konstantinos Karamanlis served as Prime Minister from 1955 to 1963, following the death of his predecessor, Alexandros Papagos.

After the fall of the dictatorship in 1974, he returned to office as Prime Minister for a further six years and later served as President of the Hellenic Republic for ten years. He was undoubtedly the most talked-about Greek politician in the second half of the twentieth century.

The depicted propaganda leaflet is the so-called 'Contract of Thessaloniki', drawn up prior to the 1952 general election between former Field Marshall Alexandros Papagos and the people of Thessaloniki.

Papagos, who led the Greek army during WWII and the Civil War, won the election in 1952 and held the office of Prime Minister until his death in 1955.

Ἡ ΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΣ ΚΟΙΝ. ΠΡΟΝΟΙΑΣ

Ἀθῆναι τῆ 31/5/1956

Ἀριθ. Πρωτ. 983/Π

Φίλε κ. Νομάρχα,

Σᾶς ἀποστέλλω ἐσωκλειστῶς ἐπιστολήν τῆς Κυρίας Ἀγγελικῆς Γαλάκη ἐκ Πυρσόγιαννης-Κονίτσης καὶ σᾶς παρακαλῶ θερμότατα, ὅπως εἰ δυνατόν τῆς παράσχητε κάθε δυνατὴν βοήθειαν καὶ ἐνίσχυσιν.

Ἐπίσης σᾶς παρακαλῶ θερμῶς, ὅπως θελήσῃτε καὶ ἐνδιαφερθῆτε ἰδιαιτέρως διὰ τὸν κ. Παναγιώτην Κ. Μάντην ἐκ Μαντείου - Δωδώνης Ἰωαννίνων, παλαιὸν προστατευόμενον μου καὶ θερμόν πατριώτην, προκειμένου νὰ τακτοποιηθῇ εἰς οἰανδήποτε ἐργασίαν αὐτόθι.-

Θὰ σᾶς ἤμην λίαν ὑπόχρεως ἂν εἶχατε τὴν καλωσύνην καὶ μοῖ ἐγνωρίζετε σχετικᾶς ἐνεργείας σας.-

Θερμοτάτας εὐχαριστίας καὶ φιλικούς χαιρετισμούς

Πρὸς τὸν Κύριον
Κυριαζῆν Σταμουλᾶν
Νομάρχην Ἰωαννίνων
Ἰωάννινα

ΛΙΝΑ Π. ΤΣΑΛΔΑΡΗ

↑ Lina Tsaldari was a conservative politician and the first female minister in a Greek government, taking office in 1956 at the age of 69. The daughter and wife of former Prime Ministers, she was involved in politics throughout her life.

Less than three months into her tenure, she signed the depicted document, requesting the Prefect of Ioannina (Jannina) to favour two local citizens. In the document, she refers to one of them as 'an early protégée of mine and an ardent patriot'.



From Athens (1 Aug. 1951) to New York, NY, USA.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,300D from 20 Aug. 1950 to 16 Apr. 1952; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 2,600D (2x1,300D) from 5 Nov. 1949 to 30 June 1953; total 3,900D.

A DOMINANT GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

An overwhelming 95% of the nation's native population has traditionally been Greek-Orthodox, granting the Church of Greece and its clergy considerable influence and authority.

St Paul's visit to Athens and the sermon he delivered at the heart of the city's pagan temples are highly symbolic of the conversion of Greeks to Christianity.

It came as no surprise that, 1900 years later, a set of four stamps was issued to commemorate this important anniversary.



From Athens (1 July 1951) to Tonkin, Indochina (12 July, on the reverse).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,300D from 20 Aug. 1950 to 16 Apr. 1952; airmail up to 5g 2,000D from 5 Nov. 1949 to 30 June 1953; total 3,300D erroneously paid 4,600D.



From Kavala (20 June 1951) to Winston-Salem, NC, USA.

Rates: 3rd weight surface 40-60g 2,900D (1,300D + 2x800D) from 20 Aug. 1950 to 16 Apr. 1952; 12th weight airmail 55-60g 15,600D (12x1300D) from 5 Nov. 1949 to 30 June 1953; total 18,500D.

- Three-line purple handstamp ΕΞΗΛΕΓΧΘΗ ΥΠΟ ΤΗΣ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑΣ / ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΝΟΜΙΣΜΑΤΟΣ / ΚΑΒΑΛΑ (Inspected by the National Currency Protection Commission Kavala).



5. ECONOMY

The economic recovery was the outcome of strengthened ties with European industry, the effective use of Marshall Plan funds, the currency reform of 1953–54, the promotion of Greece as a tourist destination, and the export of high-quality agricultural products while also relying heavily on Greek shipping. A major setback was the devastating earthquake in the Ionian Islands.

REBUILDING THROUGH TRADE

The samples without value sent abroad bear witness to Greece's efforts to re-establish commercial ties with major Western European industries after World War II.

Despite the high cost of airmail compared to surface mail at the time, the commercial samples shown here were sent by air, reflecting the urgency and importance of post-war economic recovery.



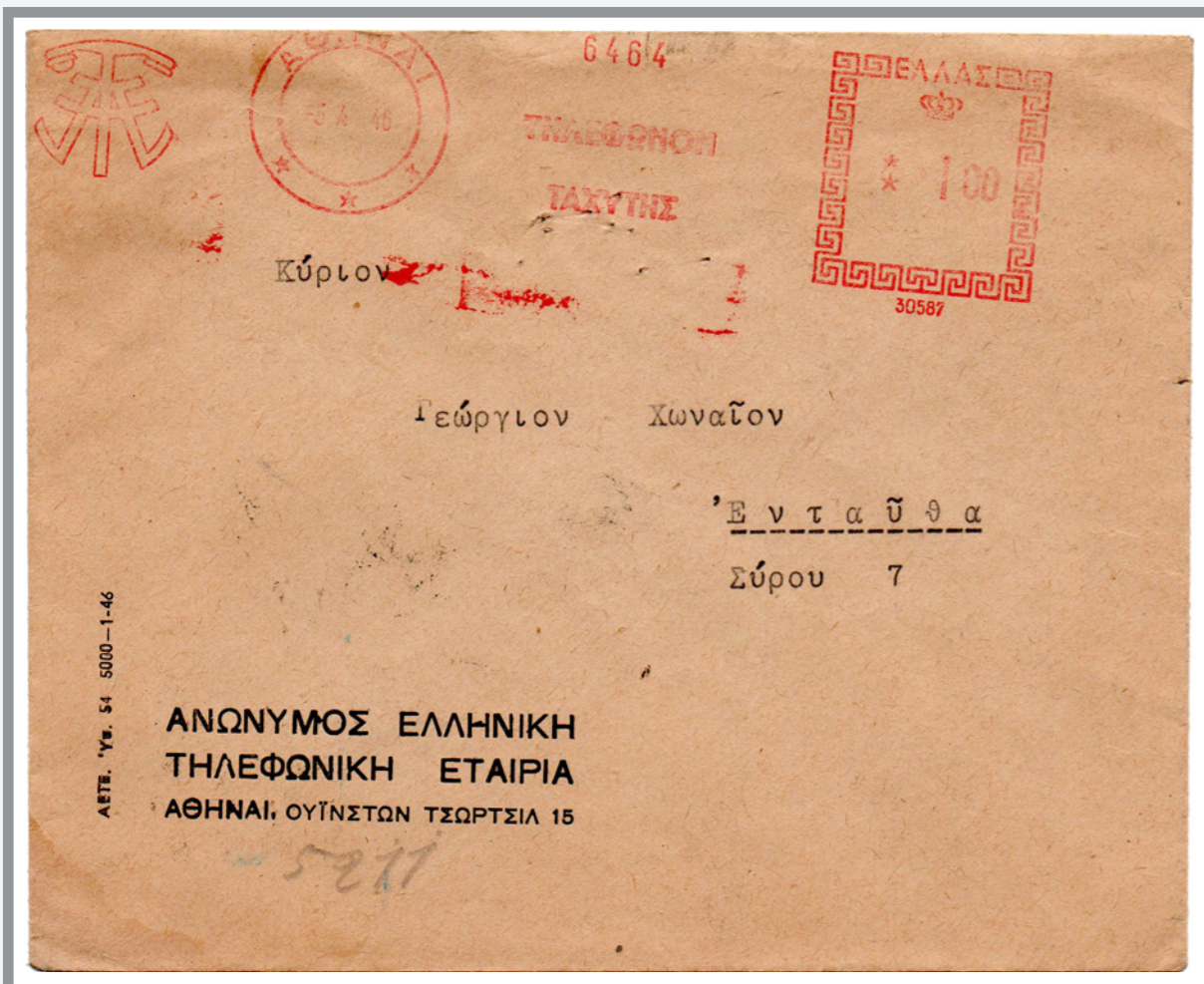
70%



From Thessaloniki (6 Apr. 1946) to Copenhagen, Denmark.
Rates: 5th weight surface 200–250g **350D** (5x70D) from 10 Feb. to 9 June 1946; 50th weight airmail 245–250g **8,500D** (50x170D) from 30 Jan. 1946 to 15 Nov. 1947; total **8,850D**.

- Handstamped **PAR AVION / Jusq'à...** (left blank).
- Also handstamped in Greek at the local Tobacco Commission with the Director's manuscript **Exportation permitted...** all in Greek.

From Athens (?? Apr. 1949) to Herzogenburg, Austria. ↑
Rates: 3rd weight surface 100–150g **800D** (400+2x200D) from 1 July 1948 to 19 Aug. 1950; registration **1,500D** from 15 Nov. 1947 to 19 Aug. 1950; 28th weight airmail 135–140g **8,400D** (28x300D) from 16 Nov. 1947 to 30 June 1953; total 10,700D overpaid at **10,750D**.



MAJOR COMPANIES ADOPT FRANKING DEVICES

Mechanical franking of postage was introduced in Greece as late as 1938, and only eight devices were installed before WWII.

Following the end of the war, an increasing number of companies began adopting the 'new technology', and by 1960 the number of devices used had reached 200.

Frankotyp device No. 30587 used by the Greek Telephone Company

From Athens (5 Apr. 1946), sent in-town (6 Apr., on the reverse).

Rates: Letter in-town up to 20g 100D from 10 Feb. 1946 to 9 June 1946; postal staff welfare fund rate 20D (on the reverse) from 11 Mar. 1946 to 10 Sep. 1946; total 120D.



Hasler device No. 9888 used by Shell Oil Company

From Athens (13 Oct. 1956) to London, UK.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 3D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; airmail 5-10g 1D (2x0.50D) from 1 July 1953 to 30 June 1971; total 4D.



Universal device No. U1 used by Purfina Oil Company

From Athens (13 Dec. 1955) to Brussels, Belgium.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 3D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; airmail up to 5g 0.50D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 30 June 1971; total 3.50D.

Hasler device No. 5413 used by the Greek Fertilisers Company

From Athens (16 Dec. 1947) to Philadelphia, PA, USA.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 1000D from 15 Nov. 1947 to 19 Aug. 1950; airmail up to 5g 800D from 16 Nov. 1947 to 4 Nov. 1949 underpaid at 300D; total 1300D.





From Athens (20 Dec. 1951) to Cleveland, OH, USA.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,300D, from 20 Aug. 1950 to 16 Apr. 1952; Airmail up to 20g 1,300D from 5 Nov. 1949 to 30 June 1953; total 2,600D.



From Athens (30 Apr. 1952) to Langwiesen, Switzerland.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,400D from 17 Apr. 1952 to 30 June 1953; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 600D (2x300D) from 16 Nov. 1947 to 31 Mar. 1955; total 2,000D.

RECONSTRUCTION

The European Recovery Program (1948-1952) or Marshall Plan was designed to support the reconstruction of European economies severely damaged during World War II.

In Greece, the financial aid revitalised every sector of the economy, laying the foundation of the successful monetary reform of 1953. At the same time, military assistance played a key role in helping to defeat the communist forces and bring the Civil War to an end.



However, it also opened the door for increased American influence in Greek politics, ensuring that pro-American governments would remain in power for years to come.

The stamps bearing **ΑΝΑΣΥΓΚΡΟΤΗΣΙΣ** (Greek for reconstruction) and **ERP** were designed by Jean Kephallinos, a prominent engraver and professor at the Athens School of Fine Arts.

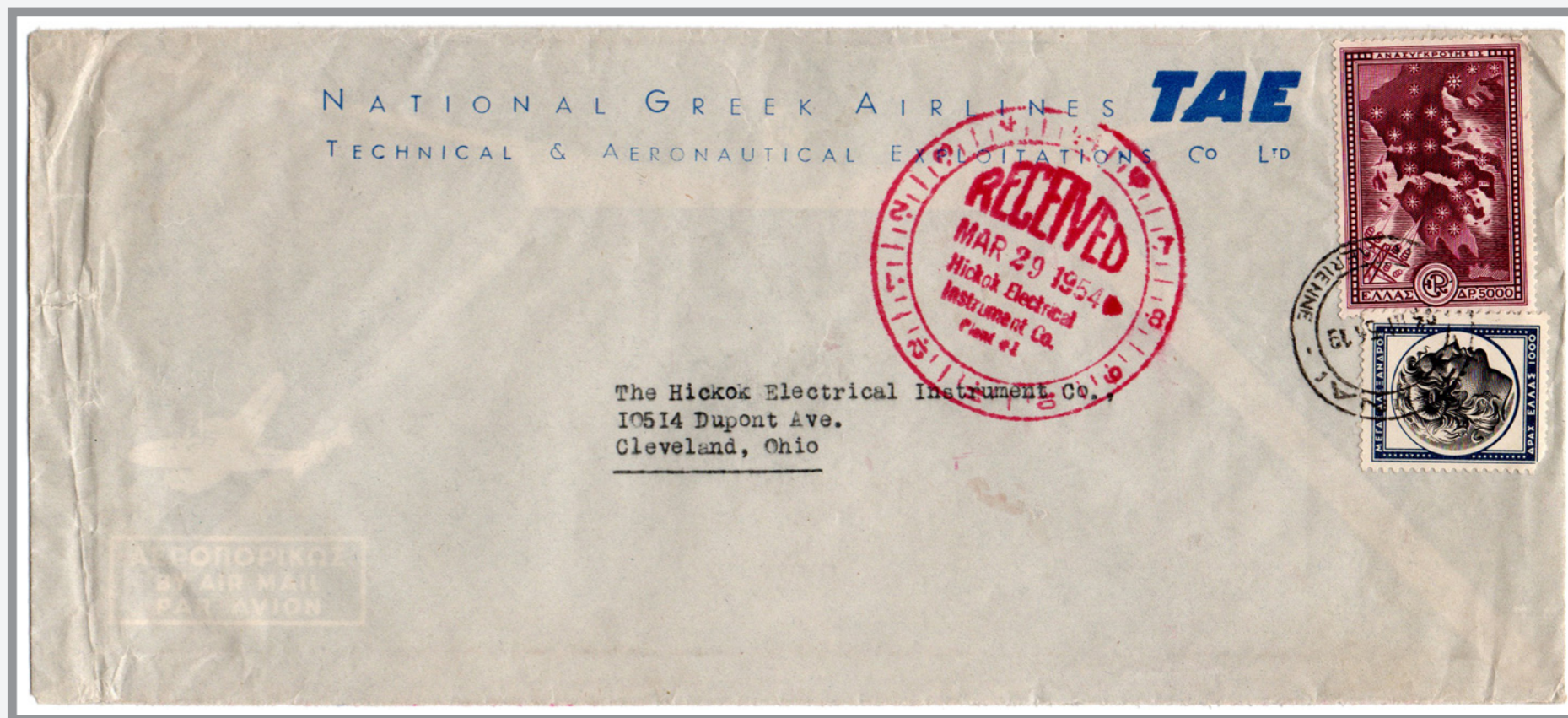


From Athens (29 Dec. 1951) to Cleveland, OH, USA.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,300D, from 20 Aug. 1950 to 16 Apr. 1952; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 2,600D (2x1,300D) from 5 Nov. 1949 to 30 June 1953; total 3,900D.

From Athens (23 Mar. 1954) to Cleveland, OH, USA (private handstamp on 29 Mar.).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 2,000D from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 4,000D (2x2,000D) from 1 July 1953 to 1 Jan. 1975; total 6,000D.





From Athens (20 July 1953) to Hillsboro, OR, USA.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 2,000D from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955.

- The AIR MAIL imprint on the cover was crossed out, as airmail rates were not paid.

GREEK PRODUCTS

Agriculture in Greece has always faced challenges, largely due to the predominance of small farms, a situation made worse by the severe damage to infrastructure after the war.

The illustrations on the set of stamps issued in 1953 of grapes and wine, figs and oranges, olives and olive oil, and, of course, wheat—intended as a promotion of Greece's products—serve as a reminder of how modest and limited agricultural production was in the early 1950s.



From Athens (15 May 1954) to Paris, France.

Rates: 2nd weight surface 20-40g 3,200D (2,000D+1,200D) and 5th weight airmail 20-25g 2,000D (5x400D), both from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955; total 5,200D.



From Athens (25 Aug. 1953) to Brussels, Belgium.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 2,000D and 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 800D (2x400D), both from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955; total 2,800D.



From Athens (13 Oct. 1953) to Paris, France.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 2,000D and airmail up to 5g 400D, both from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955; total 2,400D conveniently overpaid at 2,500D.



From Athens (3 Dec. 1950) to Washington, D.C., USA.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,300D, from 20 Aug. 1950 to 16 Apr. 1952;

2nd weight airmail 5-10g 2,600D (2x1,300D) from 5 Nov. 1949 to 30 June 1953; total 3,900D.

- Mechanical franking **WAR IS OVER / RECONSTRUCTION / NOW BEGINS**.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

The first slogan referring to the end of the Civil War appeared on a mechanical cancellation used at the Athens post office in late 1950. It read: 'War is Over Reconstruction Now Begins'.

Around the same time, the government declared 1951 as Greece's Homecoming Year, an initiative aimed at showing the world that Greece was finally a free and peaceful country, ready to welcome visitors.

The campaign primarily targeted Greek immigrants in the United States, encouraging them to visit their homeland. However, as much of the country's infrastructure remained in a primitive state, the emphasis was on short-term visits rather than permanent repatriation.



From Athens (14 May 1951) to Venice, Italy.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,300D from 20 Aug. 1950 to 16 Apr. 1952; airmail up to 5g 300D from 16 Nov. 1947 to 30 June 1953; total 1,600D.

CRUISING ACROSS GREECE

[Left]: An air letter posted on board the British ocean liner *MV Britannic* during its 1954 winter cruise in the Mediterranean.

The sender writes about the leg of the voyage from Cyprus to Athens, eventually reaching Istanbul.

MV Britannic was owned by White Star Line, which merged with Cunard Line in 1950. In the 1950s, the ship operated on the Southampton–New York route during the summer, while in the winter it undertook extended 65-day cruises in the Mediterranean.

[Right]: A postcard posted on board the British ocean liner *HMS Orcades* during a summer cruise in Greek waters.

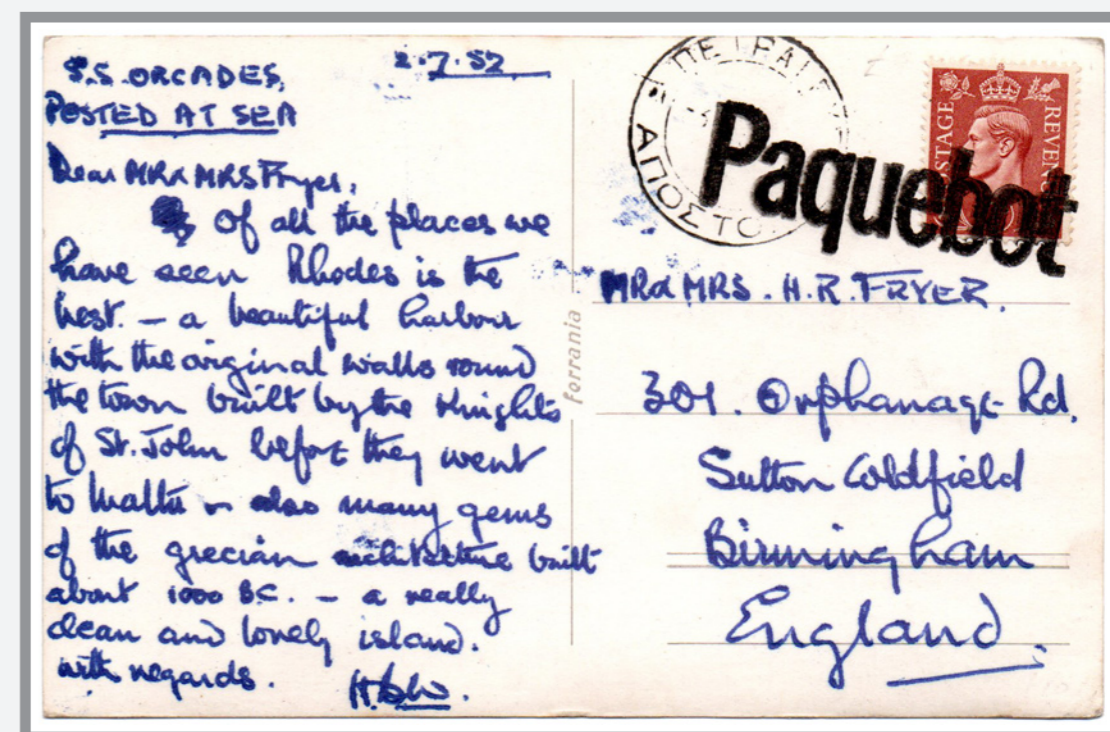
The sender expresses admiration for Rhodes, mentioning the castle of the Knights of St John, and various treasures of Greek architecture dating back to around 1000 BCE.

HMS Orcades was originally deployed on the UK–Australia route and later served as a cruise ship. She was owned by Orient Line.



Posted at sea, cancelled in Piraeus (27 Feb. 1954) to be forwarded to Atlanta, GA, USA.

Rates: Air letter 6d from 7 June 1944 to 2 Oct. 1966.



Posted at sea, cancelled in Piraeus (3 July 1952) to be forwarded to Birmingham, UK.

Rates: Postcard surface 2d from 1 May 1940 to 30 Sep. 1957.



A GLORIOUS PAST

In an effort to further support the tourism industry, the Hellenic Post seized every opportunity to promote Greece's illustrious past, issuing stamps that drew deeply from the nation's ancient heritage.

Depicted here are Philip II of Macedon and Alexander the Great, the most renowned father-and-son rulers of the 4th century BCE (top left).

Also shown is Homer, the legendary author of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, dated to the 12th century BCE, alongside the *Charioteer of Delphi*, a masterful 5th-century BCE bronze statue of classical Greek art (top right).

A pair of coins from Knossos is also illustrated, bearing the design of the Labyrinth on one side and Apollo on the other, the patron deity of the ancient Cretan city (bottom).



From Volos (10 March 1955) to Athens (12 Mar., on the reverse).
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,200D and registration 1,500D, both from 15 Sep. 1953 to 31 July 1955; earthquake victims fund mandatory rate 300D from 15 Nov. 1953 to 31 July 1955; total 4,000D.

From Thessaloniki (17 Aug. 1957) to Athens.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 2D from 1 Aug. 1955 to 15 Jan. 1959; Macedonia fund mandatory rate applicable to letters from Macedonia 50λ from 6 Sep. 1956 to 5 March 1959; total 2.50D.

From Athens (16 Feb. 1960) to Panama City, Panama (22 Feb., on the reverse).
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 5D (2x2.50D) from 1 July 1953 to 31 Dec. 1974; total 9D.



From Athens (16 Feb. 1960) to Panama City, Panama (22 Feb., on the reverse).
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 5D (2x2.50D) from 1 July 1953 to 31 Dec. 1974; total 9D.



*Spyridon Markezinis campaigning around Greece in the 1950s
A photo postcard printed on Mimosa Kiel photo paper.*

THE 1953–1954 CURRENCY REFORM

On 9 April 1953, at 9:00 pm, the Greek currency was devalued by 50%. The exchange rate between the drachma and the US dollar shifted from 15,000:1 to 30,000:1.

A year later, on 1 May 1954, as a second step of the currency reform, a new drachma was introduced, replacing 1,000 old drachmas. The thirteen-month interval between the reform and the issuance of the new currency allowed time for the production of new coins and banknotes.

As Minister of Coordination (Economic Planning), Spyridon Markezinis is credited with designing and orchestrating Greece's highly successful monetary reform. However, following a disagreement with Prime Minister Field Marshal Alexandros Papagos, he resigned from his post at the ministry on 2 April 1954, only one month before the new currency was introduced.

Old and new currency postage stamps were available concurrently at the post offices until 15 February 1958.



*Spyridon Markezinis' personal stationery and monogram
The Minister's reply expressed gratitude for the best wishes he had received.*



The new 100D banknote

The first banknote issued following the introduction of the new drachma.



An example of mixed franking with old and new currency postage stamps

From Kifissia, Athens (18 Aug. 1955), to Toronto, Canada.

*Rates: 2nd weight surface 20–40g 4.80D (3D+1.80D) from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959;
5th weight airmail 20–25g 12.50D (5x2.50D) from 1 Apr. 1955 to 30 June 1971; total 17.30D.*

- The cover was apparently underpaid. The *T* and *100c* markings indicate postage due of 100 gold centimes (1 gold franc), the equivalent of *33 Canadian cents*, exactly the boxed marking of the Canadian Post. In 1955, 1 gold franc was equivalent to 10D. As postage due was assessed at double the postage deficiency, the cover was short by 5D (2x2.50D), corresponding to two airmail weight steps. It indicates that the cover was weighed at a higher bracket, namely 30–35g.



IONIAN ISLANDS EARTHQUAKE

Between 9 and 12 Aug. 1953, three major earthquakes struck the Ionian Sea, destroying the infrastructure of Cephalonia, Ithaca, and Zakynthos. It killed 476 people and left thousands homeless.

Two special stamps were issued to support earthquake victims: the 300D, depicting the collapsing bell tower on Zakynthos, mandatory on domestic letters; and the 500D, featuring the stone bridge in Cephalonia, mandatory on parcels and money orders.

From Chalkis (7 Sep. 1954) to Pyrgos (8 Sep., on the reverse).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 1,200D from 15 Sep. 1953 to 31 July 1955; earthquake victims fund mandatory rate 300D from 15 Nov. 1953 to 31 July 1955; total 1,500D.

- A special 300D stamp was used to pay the supplementary rate.

Parcel post form from Athens (5 Nov. 1955) to New York, NY, USA.

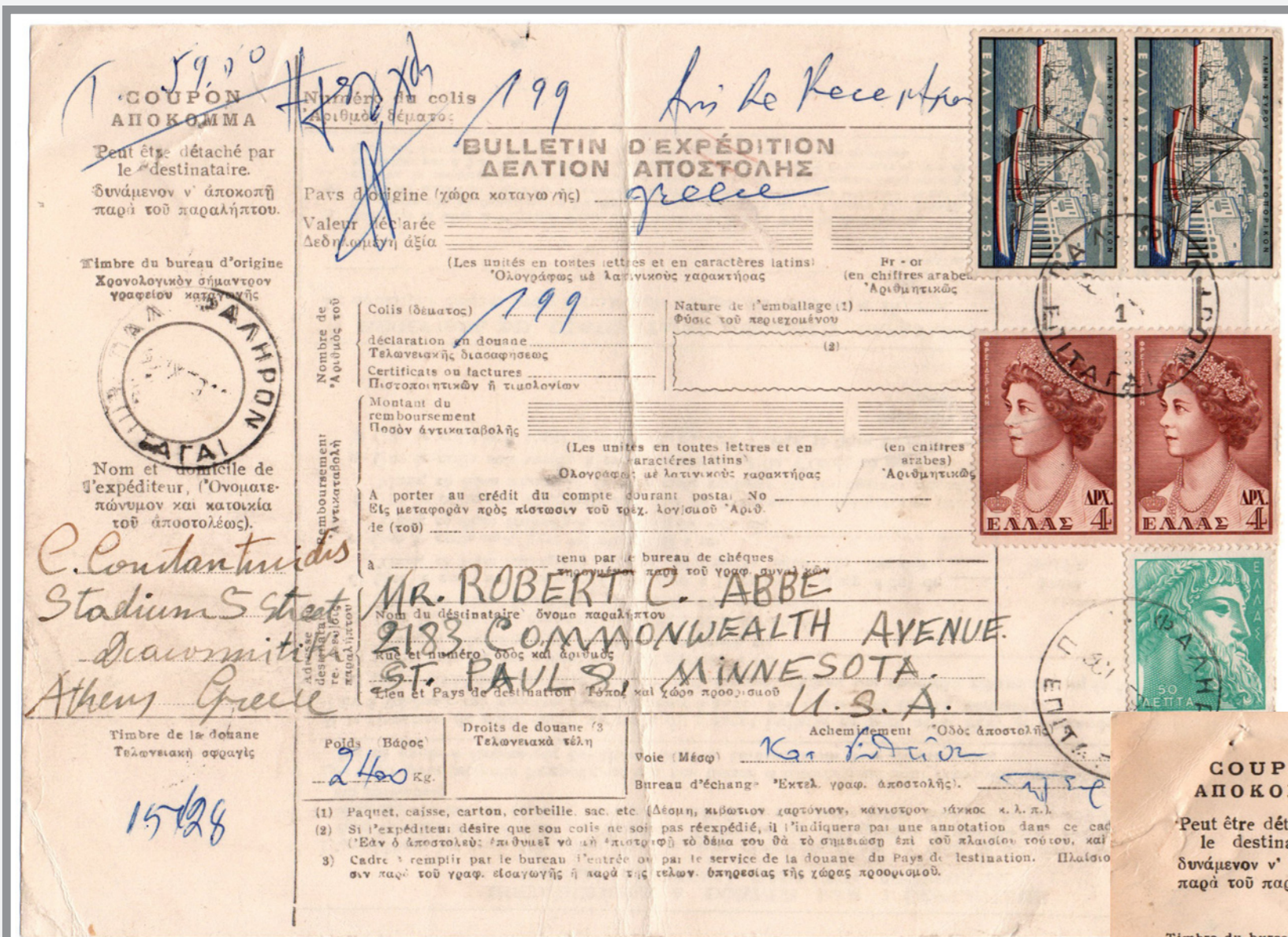
- Scarce use of the Earthquake Victims Fund special 500D yellow-brown stamp, optionally paid to destinations abroad. The 500D stamp was withdrawn from sales in late 1961.



[Top left]: From Argostoli, Cephalonia (23 Oct. 1953) to Athens (25 Oct.). Rates exempt.
 • Preprinted envelopes from stock were distributed free of charge by the post offices regardless of their outdated face value.

[Bottom left]: From Athens (2 Nov. 1953) to Geneva, Switzerland.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 2,000D from 1 July 1953 to 31 Mar. 1955; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 600D (2x300D) from 16 Nov. 1947 to 31 Mar. 1955; total 2,600D.
 • Boxed message in Greek within the mechanical cancellation 'Support the Earthquake Fund'.

(1) Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'entrée ou par le service de la douane du pays de destination. Στήλη συμπληρωτέα παρά του γραφείου εισαγωγής ή παρά της τελων. υπηρεσίας της χώρας προορισμού.



GREEK HARBOURS

A set of seven high-value definitive stamps was finally issued in 1958, following the 1953-1954 currency reform, which appeared to stabilise the Greek drachma, at a time when airmail communication had become the rule rather than the exception.

As postage was calculated per 5g of letter weight, these high-value stamps were primarily intended for overweight international airmail correspondence and parcel post.

Although inscribed with ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΟΝ (airmail), the stamps depict harbours, a surprising choice. At that time, Greece had only one international airport, so portraying airports was not considered a viable option.

According to the Hellenic Post, the inscription also commemorated the 40th anniversary of airmail service in Greece.

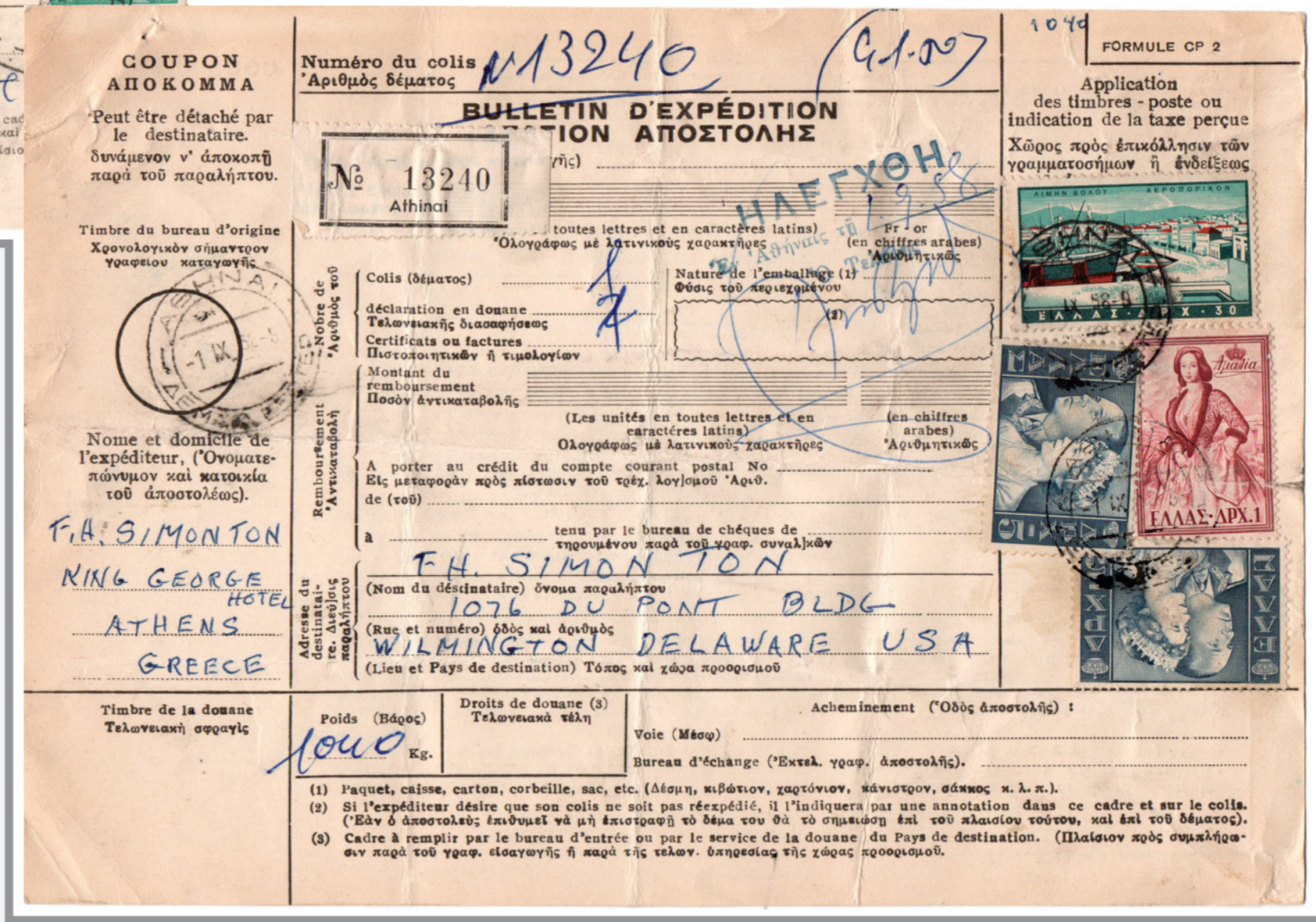
Thanks to the country's near-zero inflation over the following fifteen years, these stamps remained in widespread use until the mid-1970s.

From Athens (1 Sep. 1958) to Wilmington, DE, USA.

- Parcel sent by surface mail. Handwritten 1040, indicating the parcel weight in g; 41.50D, indicating the total rate; and handstamped ΗΑΕΓΧΘΗ (inspected).

From Palaio Faliro (30 Nov. 1959) to St Paul, MN, USA.

- Parcel sent by surface mail. Handwritten 2400, indicating the parcel weight in g; 59.50D, indicating the total rate; Ηλέγχθη (Inspected); and Avis de Reception.



- (1) Paquet, caisse, carton, corbeille, sac, etc. (Δέση, κιβώτιον, χαρτόνιον, κάβιστρον, σάκος κ. λ. π.).
- (2) Si l'expéditeur désire que son colis ne soit pas réexpédié, il l'indiquera par une annotation dans ce cadre et sur le colis. (Εάν ο αποστολέας επιθυμεί να μη επεξεργαστεί το δέμα του θα το σημειώσει επί του πλαισίου τούτου, και επί του δέματος).
- (3) Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'entrée ou par le service de la douane du Pays de destination. (Πλαίσιον προς συμπλήρωσιν παρά του γραφ. εισαγωγής ή παρά της τελων. υπηρεσίας της χώρας προορισμού).



From Athens (19 May 1958) to Geneva, Switzerland.

Rates: Postcard surface 1.80D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959.

CONQUERING THE SEAS

Greek colonists had been sailing the waters of the East Mediterranean since the Copper Age, establishing settlements along its long coastline.

The birth of the modern Greek state in 1830 was largely attributed to its seamen. Likewise, it was the mariners' skill, intelligence, and quick reflexes that contributed significantly to the nation's recovery after WWII.

A 6th-century-BCE vessel, a commercial boat from the era of the 1821 War of Independence, an ocean liner, and a tanker are exemplary milestones in this maritime tradition are all part of the Greek Merchant Marine set of stamps, released by the Hellenic Post.

The Hellenic Shipyards, the largest of its kind in Greece, was established in 1937 by the renowned Stavros Niarchos. It is represented here by its illustrated meter stamp.



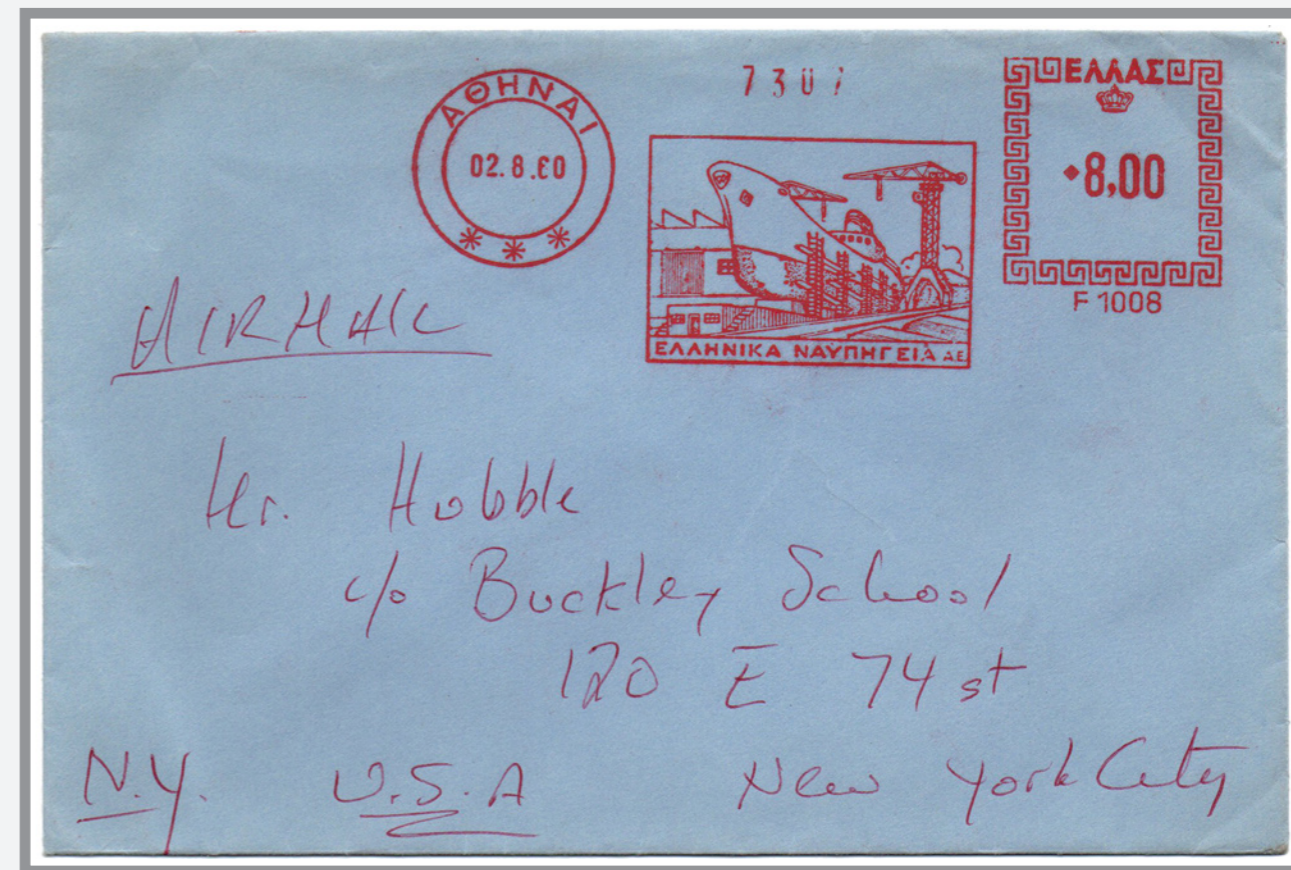
From Agios Kirikos, Ikaria (17 May 1958), via Samos (18 May, on the reverse) to Brooklyn, NY, USA.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 3D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; airmail up to 5g 2D from 1 July 1953 to 31 Dec. 1974; total 5D.



From Thessaloniki (3 Aug. 1958) to Höchst im Odenwald, West Germany.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 3D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959.



From Athens (2 Aug. 1960) to New York, NY, USA.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; airmail 10-20g 4D (2x2D) from 1 July 1953 to 31 Dec. 1974; total 8D.

• Frankotyp device No. F1008 used by the Hellenic Shipyards



A village renamed in honour of Pythagoras

This photo postcard, printed by an unknown publisher, depicts a view of the harbour of Tigani village on the island of Samos. In 1955, given the opportunity of the World Congress of Pythagorean Organisations, Tigani was renamed Pythagoreion, honouring the renowned philosopher. Coincidentally, the handwritten inscription on the postcard reads in French: 'Tigani (île de Samos) Vendredi 2 Septembre 1955'.

6. LOOKING AHEAD

Besides the persistent bleak political and economic climate, the nation was obliged to move forward and look ahead. A range of humanitarian (Red Cross, refugees, and nature) and cultural subjects (Pythagoras, theatre, and the Olympic Games) made headlines and were simultaneously featured on postage stamps. However, the primary objective was to align with Western countries in their pursuit of a United Europe.

TRIBUTE TO PYTHAGORAS

In July and August 1955, the First World Congress of Pythagorean Organisations was held in Athens, Samos—the birthplace of Pythagoras—and Brussels, uniting scholars and admirers of the ancient philosopher's enduring legacy.

To mark the occasion, Greece issued stamps featuring three distinct illustrations spread across four denominations. The one that stands out is the universally celebrated Pythagorean Theorem, depicting the timeless symbol of mathematical harmony and the pursuit of knowledge that has inspired thinkers for over two millennia.



From Athens (11 Oct. 1955) to Saigon, Vietnam. (20 Oct.).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 3D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; airmail up to 5g 3D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 30 June 1971; total 6D.

From Athens (14 Sep. 1955) to Philadelphia, PA, USA.

Rates: 2nd weight surface 20-40g 4.80D (3D+1.80D) from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; 6th weight airmail 25-30g 12D (6x2D) from 1 July 1953 to 31 Dec. 1974; total 16.80D underpaid at 16.50D.



From Athens (19 Dec. 1959) to Hannover, West Germany.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; airmail up to 5g 0.50D from 1 July 1953 to 30 June 1971; total 4.50D.

From Athens (1 Apr. 1960) to Höchst im Odenwald, West Germany.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 1D (2x0.50D) from 1 July 1953 to 30 June 1971; total 5D.



INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

The 25th International Conference of Red Cross Representatives, held in Athens in 1959, was an excellent opportunity for the Red Cross to be honoured in Greece.

The Hellenic Red Cross was founded in 1877. Since its earliest days, its members became widely recognised among the native population for their efforts in caring for and nursing the wounded during difficult periods in the nation's history.

Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, stands as a compelling figure in its legacy. Alongside the image of Achilles, binding the wound of Patroclus, and the parable of the Good Samaritan, aiding an injured traveller, these symbols reflect the spirit of solidarity as understood in Ancient Greek tradition and Christian teaching. Together they form the conceptual foundation of the Red Cross mission.



From Athens (18 Dec. 1959) to Ithaca, NY, USA.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; airmail 2D from 1 July 1953 to 31 Dec. 1974; total 6D.

A Hellenic Red Cross nurse offers orange juice to a Navy captain after he donates blood.

- The note on the wall reads in Greek: 'Blood donation by regular blood donors. Your ID card is necessary.'
- The photograph was printed on Agfa Protriga Rapid paper and was handstamped in Greek on the reverse, 'Photo Reportage by Chatzi-georgiou-Lazarou.'



WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

The United Nations declared the World Refugee Year to focus interest on the refugee problem, encourage financial contributions, and provide opportunities for permanent refugee solutions through voluntary repatriation, resettlement or integration. It opened on 29 June 1959 and ended on 1 July 1960. It was the first ever International Year declared by the United Nations.

On 10 December 1959, the United Nations issued two postage stamps to commemorate the World Refugee Year. On 7 April 1960, several countries from all around the world joined the promotion by issuing their own examples. Greece was no exception, with two stamps, one for domestic and one for international use.

A United Nations original photo taken in 1954 (caption on the reverse): An older inmate sewing garments at the refugee settlement on Tinos island. The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided vocational training in small trades and crafts for men and in sewing, embroidery, hairdressing, weaving, and rug-making for females.



A United Nations original photo taken in 1953 (caption on the reverse): A 21-year-old Greek, a member of a family of twelve refugees, ploughs a field in Rizianni village (today Agios Georgios Drame-sis) in Epirus. The tractor is part of the equipment purchased for the project with funds from the Ford Foundation. The experiment in resettling refugees in an abandoned Greek village was launched at Rizianni by the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and the Greek government.



From Athens (7 Apr. 1960) to Vienna, Austria.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D; airmail up to 5g 0.50D; total 4.50D.
 • Posted on the first day of release of the Refugee stamps.



From Corfu (21 Jan. 1959) to Trieste, Italy (23 Jan., on the reverse).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 3D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; airmail up to 5g 0.50D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 30 June 1971; total 3.50D.



From Athens (19 Feb. 1959) to Geneva, Switzerland.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 3D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; airmail up to 5g 0.50D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 30 June 1971; total 3.50D.

NATURE PROTECTION

Not everything was the result of strategic propaganda, the country's reconstruction programme, or manoeuvring in foreign policy.

In September 1958, Athens hosted an International Congress for the Protection of Nature, sending a clear message to the world that the nation had fully recovered and was ready to address more humane and environmental concerns.



The selected floral specimens still remain abundant in the Greek landscape: the rose associated with the myth of Aphrodite and Adonis, a cluster of tulips, *Crocus atticus*, the myth of Narcissus, the myth of Daphne and Apollo, *Cyclamen graecum*, and *Iris cretica*.



From Athens (5 Feb. 1959) to Munich, West Germany.

Rates: Postcard surface 1.80D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; airmail 0.50D from 1 July 1953 to 30 June 1971; total 2.30D.



From Athens (8 Jan. 1959) to New York, NY, USA.

Rates: 4th weight surface 60–80g 8.40D (3D + 3x1.80D) from 1 Apr. 1955 to 21 Apr. 1959; 14th weight airmail 65–70g 28D (14x2D) from 1 July 1953 to 31 Dec. 1974; total 36.40D conveniently overpaid at 37D.



From Mykonos (11 Sep. 1959) to Williamstown, MA, USA.

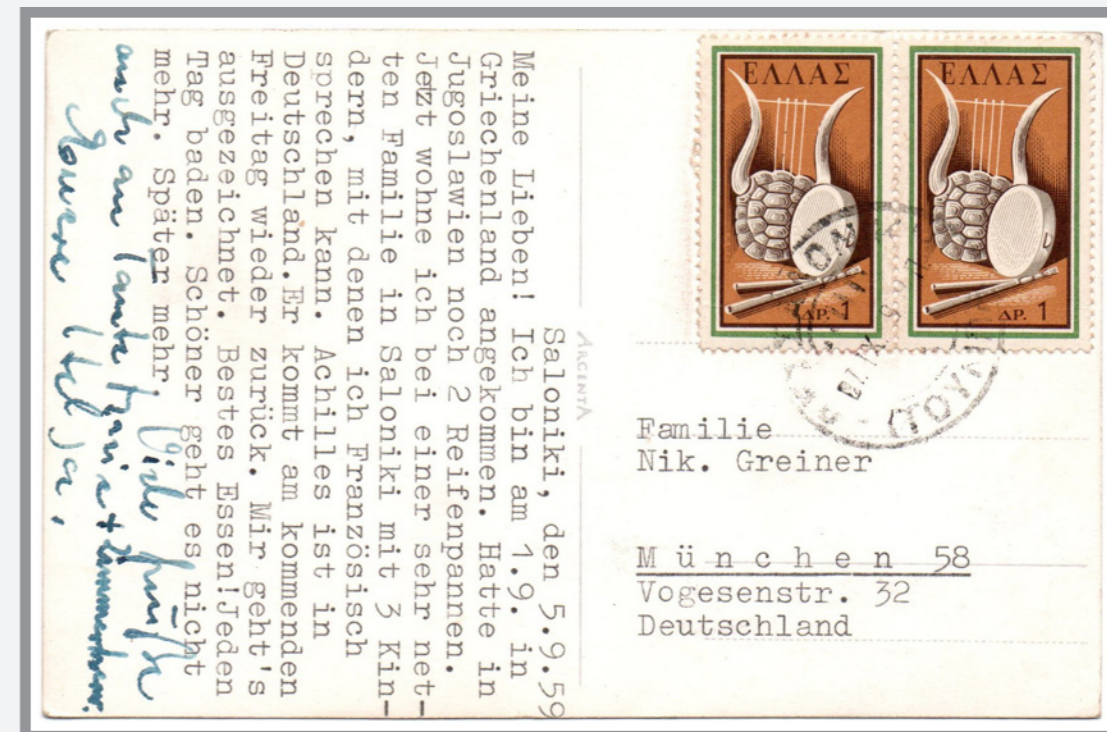
Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 4D (2x2D) from 1 July 1953 to 31 Dec. 1974; total 8D.

RE-OPENING OF THE ANCIENT THEATRE OF EPIDAUROS

In 1954, the Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus reopened after having been closed since 1940 due to WWII. In 1955, theatre enthusiasts welcomed the announcement that the ancient theatre would thereafter open every summer with a regular programme of performances.

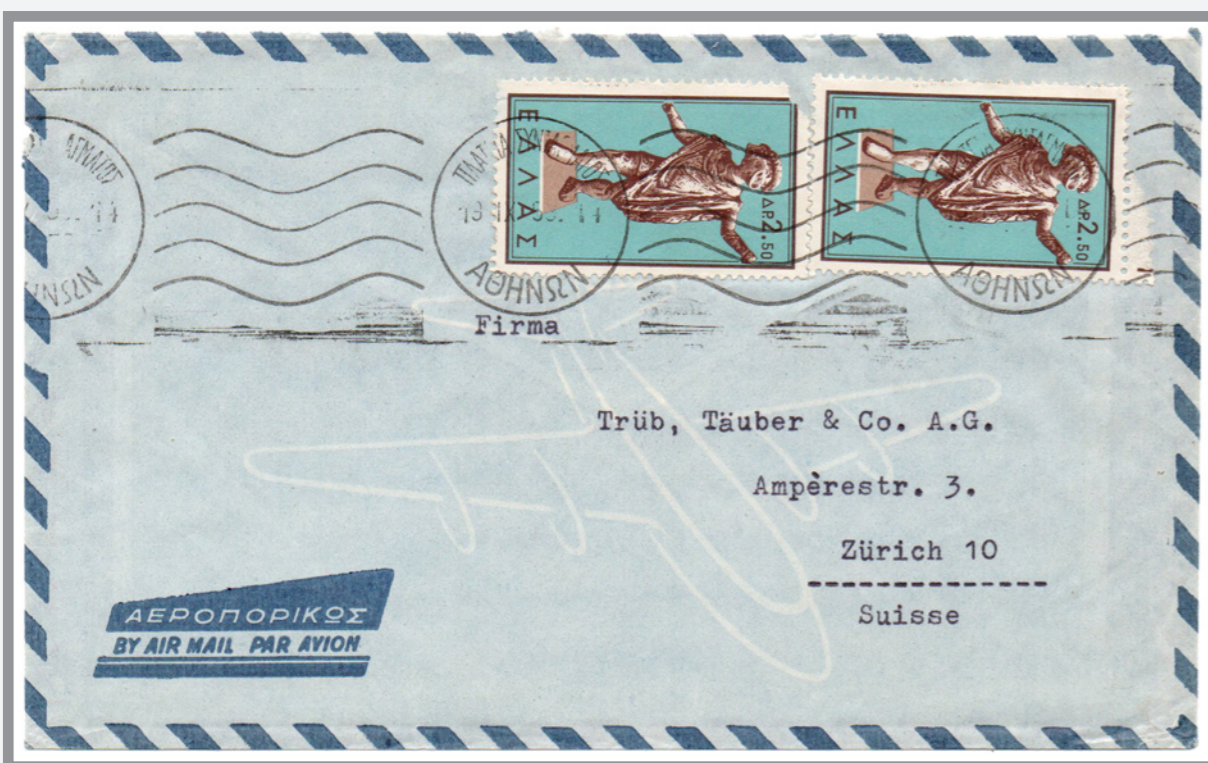
Since then, most productions have filled the theatre's impressive capacity of 13,000 to 14,000 spectators.

A clay mask of a tragedy performer, a terracotta figurine of a comedy actor, two actors from a satirical play, the theatre at Delphi, the flute, drum and lyre, and a scene inspired by the Euripidean drama *Perseus and Andromeda*, all the depicted stamp illustrations stand as eloquent reminders of the theatre's modern revival and enduring legacy.



From Thessaloniki (7 Sep. 1959) to Munich, West Germany.

Rates: Postcard surface 2.50D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971 underpaid at 2D.



From Athens (19 Sep. 1959) to Zurich, Switzerland.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 1D (2x0.50D) from 1 Apr. 1955 to 30 June 1971; total 5D.

From Athens (21 Oct. 1959) to Hannover, West Germany.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; 2nd weight airmail 5-10g 1D (2x0.50D) from 1 July 1953 to 30 June 1971; express 6D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 Dec. 1974; total 11D.



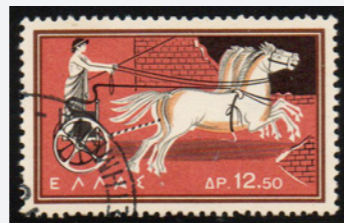
THE 1960 ROME OLYMPICS

The 1960 Rome Olympics marked the second time that the Hellenic Post issued stamps to celebrate the Games, following the internationally acclaimed Athens Olympics of 1896.

The stamp illustrations depict symbols, ideals, and events from the ancient Olympics, all of which continue to play a major role in today's Games.



The scenes shown here reflect the artist's interpretation of the Olympic flame, the crowning of victors with olive wreaths, the sprint race—a timeless central event—the javelin throw, and the winners' triumphant entrance into their hometown in a chariot drawn by four white horses.



Greece participated with an all-male team of 48 athletes, and won its first 20th-century gold medal in sailing (Dragon Class) with a three-man crew comprising Crown Prince Constantine, Odysseus Eskitzoglou, and Georgios Zaimis.

From Athens (21 Dec. 1960) to Vienna, Austria.

Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; airmail 5–10g 1D (1x0.50D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 30 June 1971; total 5D.



From Athens (6 Sep. 1960) to New Bedford, MA, USA.

Rates: Newspaper up to 50g 0.80D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971.

The headlines are referring to the results on day 4 of the track and field events of the 1960 Rome Olympics.



From Athens (6 Dec. 1960) to Brussels, Belgium (7 Dec., on the reverse).

Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; express 6D from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 Dec. 1974; airmail up to 5g 0.50D from 1 Apr. 1955 to 30 June 1971; total 10.50D.

TOWARDS A UNITED EUROPE

In 1948, eighteen countries came together to form the *Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC)*, fostering a new spirit of partnership to address challenges ranging from food, transport, and education to health, social systems, and trade. Its primary function was to coordinate the allocation of Marshall Plan aid.

Within a few years, Europe was getting back on its feet. Various multinational organisations were formed with the aim of promoting European cooperation and eventual integration. On the eve of a new decade, in December 1960, the OEEC was transformed into the *Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)*, further strengthening the vision of a United Europe.

Meanwhile, in 1956, the first *Europa stamp* joint issue—featuring a common design—was released by a limited number of countries. In the following years, participation in the joint issue continued to expand, with Greece joining in 1960.



Διαφημιστική „άφφισ“, Έλληνας καλλιτέχνης, που έβραβεύθη σε Διαγωνισμό της Αμερικανικής Αποστολής Ελλάδος της Διοικήσεως Οικονομικής Συνεργασίας. Η Αποστολή αυτή ρυθμίζει την εφαρμογή του Σχεδίου Μάρσαλ στην Ελλάδα.



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Three postcards produced in the early 1950s promoting the partnership of the OEEC with the American Commission in Greece were distributed free of charge (ΔΙΑΝΕΜΕΤΑΙ ΔΩΡΕΑΝ printed on the reverse). The postcards were designed by unknown Greek artists, winners of the competition set up by the Commission. They were produced locally by the Vassilios Papachrysanthou litho plant.

From Athens (29 Sep. 1960) to Beckum, West Germany.
 Rates: Surface up to 20g 4D and registration 4D, both from 22 Apr. 1959 to 30 June 1971; 4th weight airmail 15-20g 2D (4x0.50D) from 1 July 1953 to 30 June 1971; total 10D.

The 19 spokes of the wheel on the common design of the Europa CEPT stamps are symbolic of the 19 nations that founded the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) in 1959.

