

The Small Hermes Heads of Greece

THE SMALL HERMES HEADS OF GREECE (1886-1901)

The admission of Greece in 1875 to the Universal Postal Union (U.P.U.), implied the reducing of the rates, charged by the Greek postal service, for foreign mail, from 30 lepta for normal and 60 lepta for registered letter, to 25 and 50 lepta respectively. The new rates, together with the need for the value of 1 drachma for the parcel post services, all missing from the existing series of Large Hermes Heads, led the Greek postal authorities to the decision for the issue of the second Greek stamp, known to the philatelic world by the title "The Small Hermes Heads".

The Small Hermes Heads were designed, engraved and printed between April 1885 and the end of 1887, in Belgium. H. Hendrichx and the engraving by A. Doms made the design. The values of 25, 50 lepta and 1 drachma were printed first and they were sent to Greece and placed into circulation on the 1st of April 1886.

Later the supplementary values of 1,2,5,10,20 and 40 lepta were engraved, printed in 1887 and arrived in Greece and placed into circulation on February of 1888. For the construction of the printing plates of the second order, the mould of the 50 lepta was used as a base.

The printing plates arrived in Athens together with the stamps of the supplementary values early 1888. The printing in Athens started at the beginning of March 1889 and the first stamp to be issued was the value of 20 lepta.

During the second half of 1892 it was decided to increase the overseas postal rate for a simple letter from 25 to 30 lepta. Since Greece was a member of the U.P.U., was obliged to use 25 lepta stamps for this postal rate. Thus it was decided to change the colour of 25 lepta value from blue to violet. The violet 25 lepta were placed into circulation on the 1st of January 1893. They were being sold for 30 bronze lepta or 25 lepta "in gold". Meantime to avoid confusion, the violet 40 lepta were withdrawn from circulation and the blue 40 lepta were placed into circulation after the 20th of January 1893.

Depending to the colour, the quality of the printing, the quality of the paper and the type of the gum, which was used in different chronological periods during their circulation, we divide the issues which took place in Athens in three periods:

A' Athens issue from 1889 till 1890, B' Athens issue from 1890 till 1896 and C' Athens issue from 1897 till 1901.

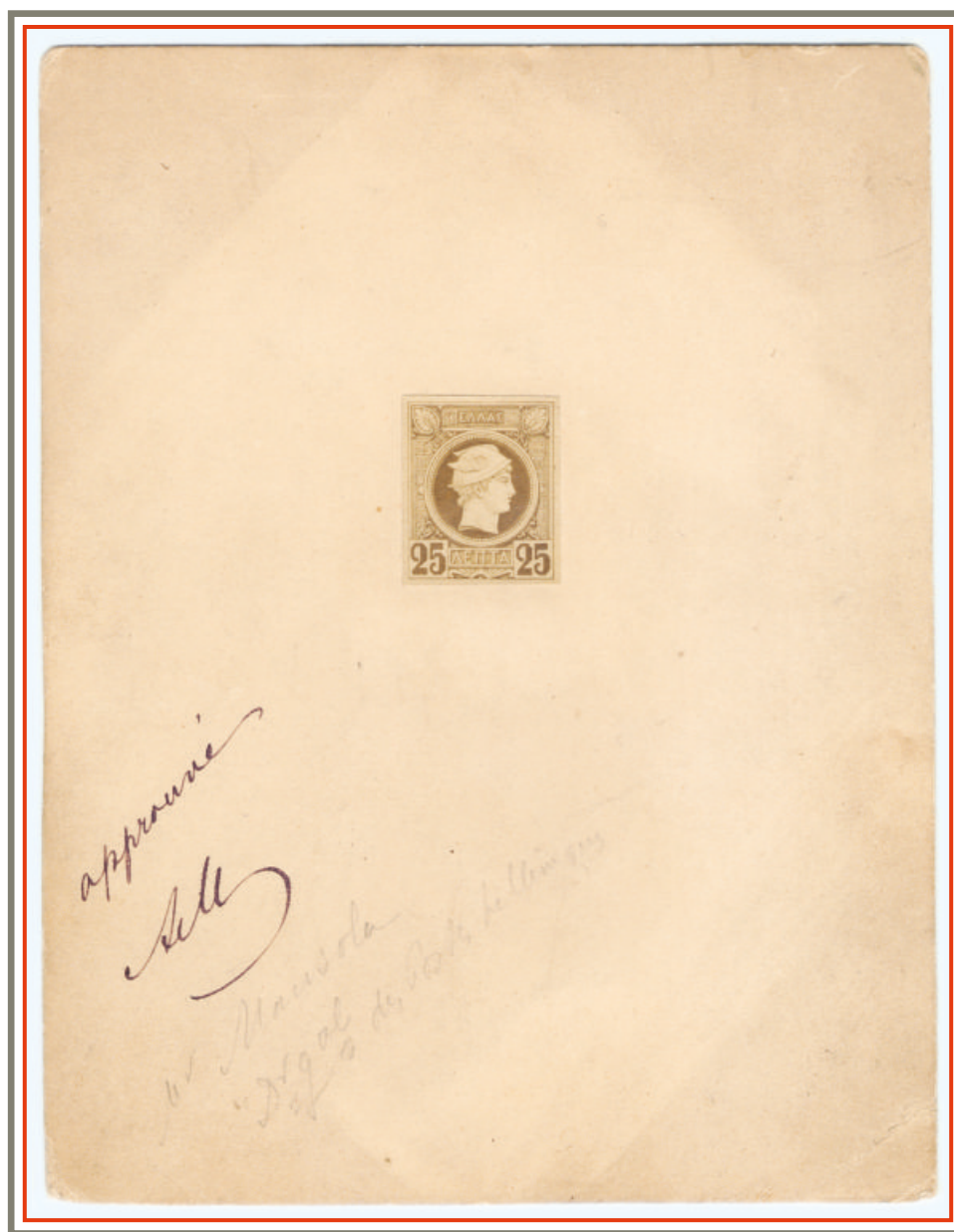
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References:

- Anestis Karagiannidis, "Belgian 25 lepta with serie 010000", HPS Philatelic Library, in Greek and English no.691, p.101-105, Athens, March-April 2015.
- The Canadian Philatelist, January - February 2016, vol. 67, p. 14-16.

**THE APPROVAL OF THE
FINAL ORIGINAL DESIGN**



*The original artwork submitted to
approved and signed by the Director General
of the Greek Postal Service Mr. A. Mansola.*

The only known copy.

ex. G. Trefonas, A. Papadopoulos collections.

COLOUR DIE PROOFS



50 lepta / Gray green
on medium (0,090 mm)
white porous paper
ex. Dr. A. Papaioannou,
M. Tseriotis, A. Kadinopoulos
collections



25 lepta / Gray-blue
on white paper



1 drachma / Pale rose
on medium (0,095 mm) bright cream paper
ex. Dr. A. Papaioannou, M. Tseriotis,
A. Kadinopoulos collections



1 drachma / Violet
Thick paper
ex. Bill Uver's collection.

SPECIMEN



One of the two pairs,
known.



The only pair,
known.

ex. A. Virvilis collection

DIE PROOFS

Four of the seven die proofs, known.



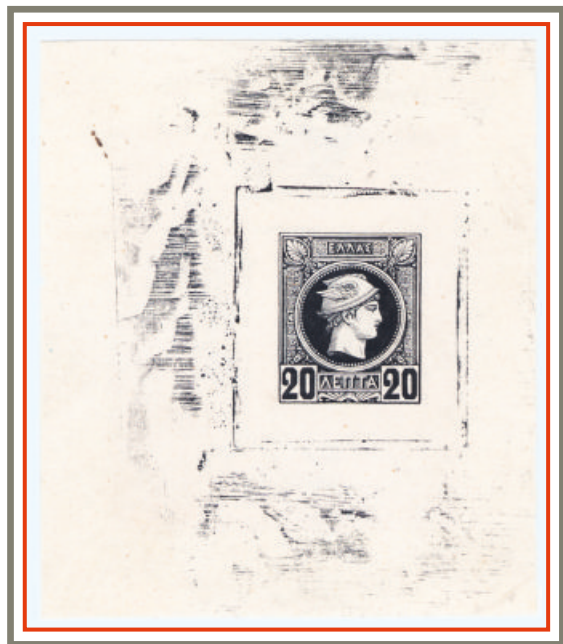
*1 lepton on thin (0,075 mm)
white paper.*

*ex. Dr. A. Papaioannou, M. Tseriotis,
A. Kadinopoulos, A. Papadopoulos collections.*



*2 lepta on thick (0,100 mm)
yellowish paper.*

ex. G. Trefonas, A. Papadopoulos collections.



*20 lepta on medium (0,095 mm)
bright cream paper.*

*ex. Dr. A. Papaioannou, M. Tseriotis,
A. Kadinopoulos, A. Papadopoulos collections.*



*40 lepta on medium (0,095 mm)
bright cream paper.*

BELGIAN PRINTS 1886-1888

The printing of the Small Hermes Heads took place at two different times. The first occurred in 1885, when the 25 and 50 lepta and 1 drachma values were printed and sent to Greece, where they were placed into circulation on April 1, 1886 by the Julian calendar (April 13, 1886 by the Gregorian calendar).

Later the supplementary values of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 40 lepta were printed in 1887 and arrived in Greece and placed into circulation on February of 1888.

Both the issues of 1885 and 1887, were printed on paper of superb quality, thin and slightly meshed, without watermarks.



Mailed in 21.8.1888 from Athens to Oldenburg.
It is franked with all the values of the Belgian prints, with exception of the 2 lepta value, which was obviously not available at that time in the Athens Post Office.



"ATHENS 6 APRIL 1886". Sixth (6th) day of circulation.

Arrival "TRIEST 22.4.86".

*The earliest day of circulation of
this stamp, known.*



*The largest used block of
this stamp known.*



**MIXED USE WITH
LARGE HERMES HEADS**

*Mailed in 15.10.1886 from Argostolion to Padova,
readdressed to Este. Total overseas postal rate 45 lepta
for a registered letter up to 15 grams.
(25 lepta per 15 grams and 20 lepta registration fee).*

Quadrillé background



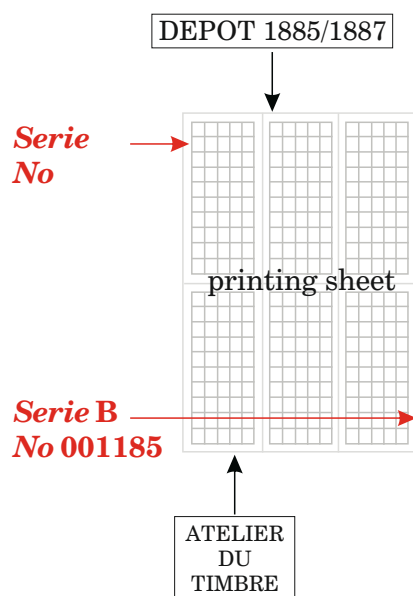
MIXED USE WITH
LARGE HERMES HEADS

Mailed in 30.3.1888 from Patra to New York.
Overseas postal rate 45 lepta for a registered letter up to 15 grams.
(Registration fee 20 lepta).



Photograph of back side
Minimized 80%

CONTROL SEALS



The sheets of the Belgian issues bear three types of control seals which were obligatory according to the regulations of the National Belgian Printing Office. These were:

Pos. 194/195
199/200

1. Boxed red “DEPOT 1885” for the printing of the first three values of 25, 50 lepta and 1 drachma, and boxed black “DEPOT 1887” for the printing of the supplementary values. Declares the year that the paper was entered into the printers inventory.

2. “Serie ... No ...” in red colour and on very rare occasions black, is used for the counting of the printed sheets. It was applied on the left upper side of the sheet in all values except the 50 lepta, in which it appears on the right lower side of the sheet. The word “Serie” is followed by a capital letter which is characteristic for each value, and a number, which concerns to each delivered paper sheet of each value. A recent discovery of a single copy of the Belgian print 25 lepta with the serial number 010000, which reads horizontally at the upper part of the salvage was acquired and this rare item is now illustrated in this study.



Pos. 286/295

3. Boxed black “ATELIER DU TIMBRE”, which usually applied on the right bottom side of the sheet, after its final quality inspection is performed by the director and the sheet is approved.



Pos. 296/300

BELGIAN PRINT - 1.4.1886

25 LEPTA / Blue

CONTROL SEALS



“Certificate of Authenticity”

*Discovery copy.
The only copy with
control seal on top.*



Mailed in 26.7.1888 from Patra to Schaffhausen (Switzerland).
Overseas postal rate 95 lepta for a registered letter from 31 to 45 grams.
(25 lepta per 15 grams and 20 lepta registration fee).



Pos. 11
16

*The
largest
copy with
Serie No*



*“ATHENS 1 APR. 1886”
First day of circulation
The only copy known.
ex. A. Papadopoulos collections.*



*The largest block of this stamp known.
ex. Dr. A. Papaioannou, M. Tseriotis,
A. Kadinopoulos, A. Papadopoulos collections.*

BELGIAN PRINT - 1.4.1886

1 DRACHMA / Gray

*The largest used block of
this stamp known.*

ex. A. Papadopoulos collection.



*Mailed in 23.12.1889
from Kerkyra (Corfu)
to Cairo,
where it was readdressed
to Wady Halfa.
Total overseas
postal rate
1 drachma
for a letter
from 46 to 60 grams.
(25 lepta per 15 grams).*



"Certificate of Authenticity"

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES ET DES TÉLÉGRAPHES HELLÉNIQUES ΓΕΝ. ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΙΣ ΤΑΧ. ΚΑΙ ΤΗΛΕΓΡ. COUPON DU BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION (ΑΠΟΣΤΑΣΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΕΛΤΙΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ) Timbre du bureau d'origine <i>ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ</i> 2.00 Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur Όνομα και κατοικία αποστολέως M. <i>J. T. Wourtaki</i> Kyp. <i>Corfu</i> Empreinte en cire du cachet, avec lequel l'expéditeur a fermé le colis Τύπος έξι ισπαν. κηρωθ της σφραγίδος δι' ης δ αποστολέως έσφράγισεν τὸ δέμα	ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES ET DES TÉLÉGRAPHES HELLÉNIQUES ΓΕΝ. ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΙΣ ΤΑΧ. ΚΑΙ ΤΗΛΕΓΡ. BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ CI-JOINT UN COLIS PORTANT L'ADRESSE CI-DESSOUS ΣΥΝΗΜΜΕΝΟΝ ΕΛΕ ΔΕΜΑ ΦΕΡΟΝ ΤΗΝ ΕΞΗΣ ΕΠΙΓΡΑΦΗΝ A. M. Προς τὸν Κύριον } <i>Bartolomeo Pittaluga</i> Lieu de destination } <i>Genova</i> (Τόπος προορισμοῦ) Pays } <i>Via delle Fondane 10.² piano</i> (Χώρα) Domicile } (Κατοικία) Contenu } <i>Campione Virio</i> (Περιεχόμενον) Nombre des déclarations endouane } (Ἀριθ. τελων. δηλτίων) [διασκηφύσεων] Lieu et date d'expédition } <i>Corfu 10 Octobre 1894</i> (Τόπος καὶ χρονολογία αποστολῆς) Poids vérifié par le bureau expéditeur (Βάρος επαληθευθέν ἐπὶ τὸ ἀποστέλλοντος γραφ.) N° <i>419</i> Gr. <i>1600</i> N° _____ Gr. _____ N° _____ Gr. _____ Taxe perçue Εισπραχθέν τέλος } Fr. _____ c. _____ Xώρα <i>Colis Postaux</i> 419 CORFOU ACHEMINEMENT (Ὁδὸς ἀποστολῆς) Bureau d'échange Hellénique } (Ἀνταλλακτήριον Ἑλλήν. Γραφεῖον) }
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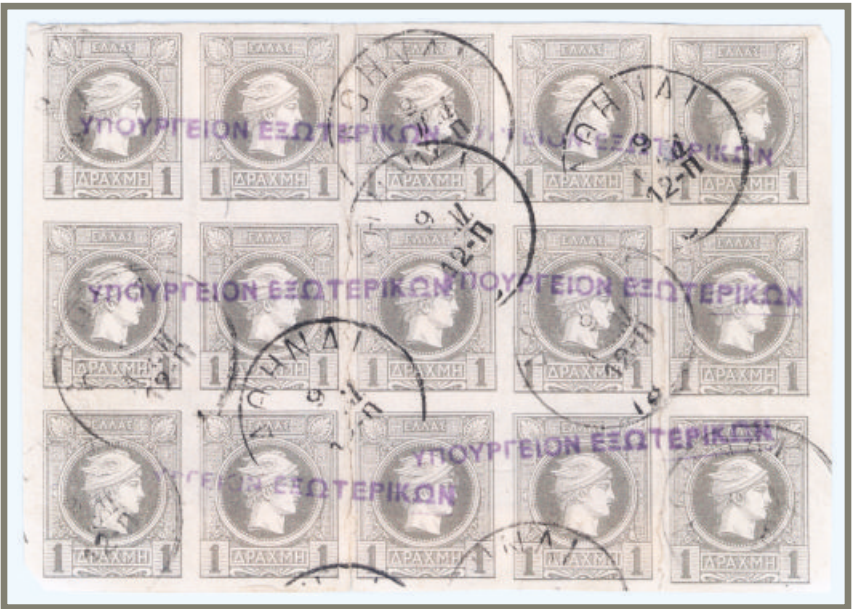
OVERSEAS PARCEL'S
DISPATCH BULLETIN

Mailed in 2.9.1894 from Kerkyra to Genova.
Overseas postal rate 3 drachmas for a parcel up to 3 kgrs.
(1 drachma per kilogram and 5 lepta extra rate in each parcel).

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

“ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟΝ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ”

Linear handstamp which was used on the official mail of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



ex. G. Photiades, Dr. A. Papaioannou, M. Tseriotis, A. Kadinopoulos collections

Mailed in
26.10.1888
from the
Ministry of
Foreign
Affairs
of Greece
to the Consul
of Greece
to Ostende.





ex. Bill Ure's collection.



Pos. 1/15



Pos. 186/200

Mailed in Athens
in 20.12.1888.
Domestic postal rate
for newspapers,
1 lepton per
25 grams,
from 30.6.1882
till 15.6.1889.
Obviously many
newspapers weighting
from 276
to 300 grams
were bundled up
and mailed
together.



MIXED USE
WITH LARGE
HERMES HEADS

Mailed in
15.12.1890
from Athens to
Alexandria.
Post card for
domestic (in town)
use only franked
with additional
5 lepta for
overseas use.
Overseas postal
rate 10 lepta for
a post card.



MIXED USE
WITH LARGE
HERMES HEADS

*Mailed in 16.2.1889
from Athens to
Livorno (Italy).*

*Overseas postal rate
45 lepta for a registered
letter up to 15 grams.
(Registration fee
20 lepta).*

*The use of the Large
Hermes Heads
continued and was
accepted by the
Postal Service during
the circulation
of the Small
Hermes Heads.*





Pos. 1/20



ex. Bill Ure's collection.



Pos. 191/200



On the supplementary values, very few of the 2 leptas sold through the post office counters and only a small quantity of these stamps were used. It is disputable and we do not have serious evidence that the value of 2 leptas was used before the circulation of the A' Athenian issue.

Fragment of cover mailed in 13.5.1892 from Zakynthos, bearing a 2 leptas Belgian print Small Hermes Head.



ONE OF THE THREE COVERS FRANKED WITH 2 LEPTA KNOWN SO FAR.



Reverse date

Mailed in 27.6.1891 from Athens to Munich. Arrival postmark on reverse "MUENCHEN B.U. 12 JUL. 91". Overseas postal rate 50 leptas for a registered letter up to 15 grams. (Registration fee 25 leptas).





Pos. 1/20



Pos. 186/200

BELGIAN PRINT - 1.2.1888

5 LEPTA / Green



*One of the two largest used blocks
of this stamp known and
the largest used block with
railway station' cachet "ATHENS - KORINTHOS"*



*Mailed in 31.12.1890 from Ithaki to Triest.
Overseas postal rate 25 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams.*



Mailed in 30.8.1889 from Pherae via Volos to Athens. Domestic postal rate 10 lepta for a post card. Post card for "in town" use with added postal rate 5 lepta for domestic use.



"Certificate of Authenticity"

MIXED USE WITH LARGE HERMES HEADS

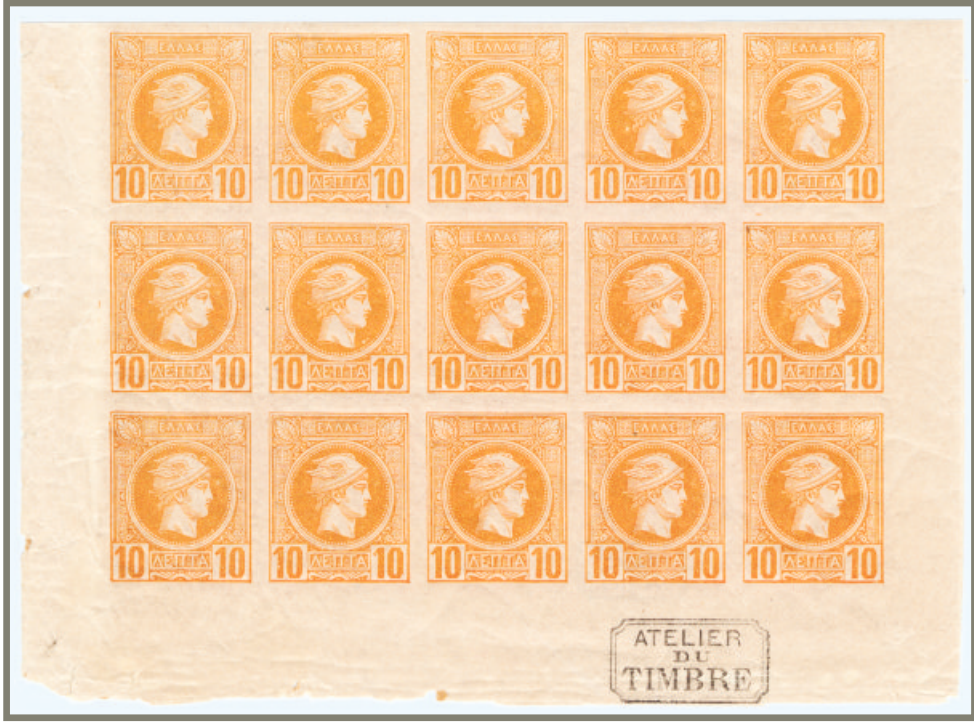
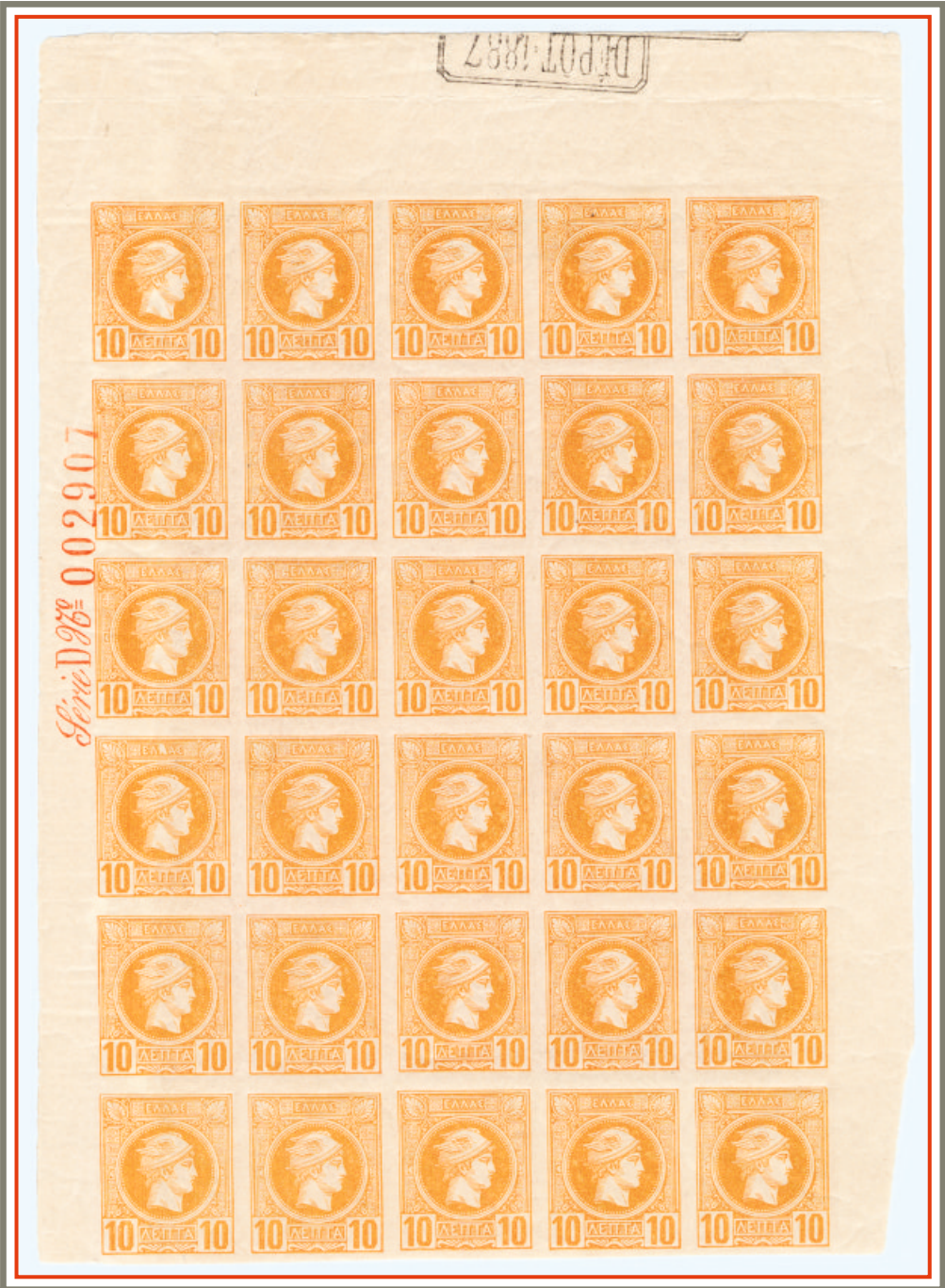
Mailed in 23.2.1888 from Athens to New York. Overseas postal rate 5 lepta for a circular or a printed matter. The two stamps of the Large Hermes Heads obviously were used in order to hold the wrapper on the object.

BELGIAN PRINT - 1.2.1888

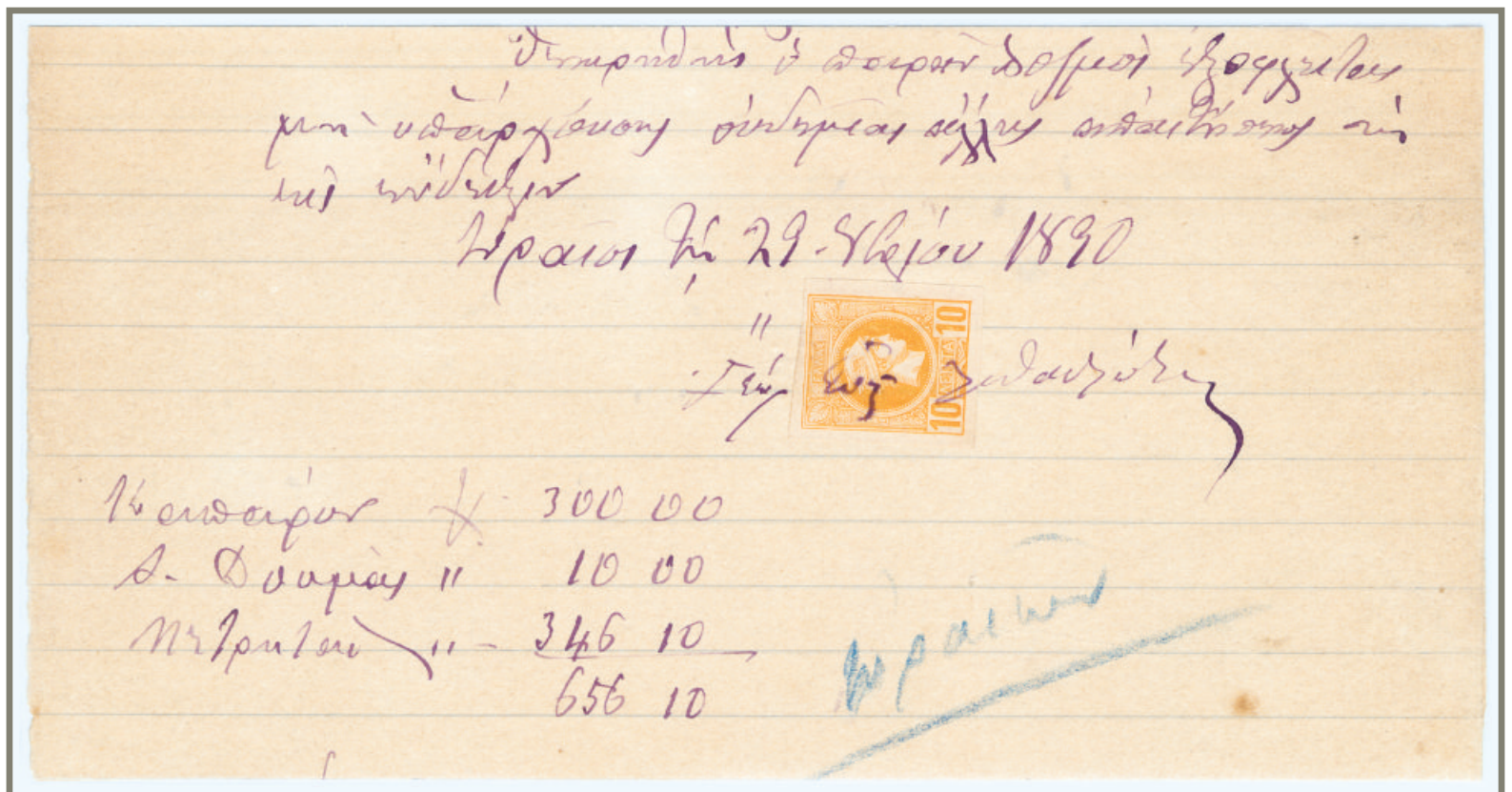
10 LEPTA / Orange

Serie D No
002907

*Serie D No 002907
overlaps slightly on to the stamp,
proving that the printing of the stamps
proceeded the numbering identification.*



Mailed in 2.9.1889
from Piraeus to Sparta.
Arrival "SPARTA 3 SEPT. 89".
Domestic postal rate 20 lepta
for a letter up to 15 grams.



Used as fiscal stamp on a deed of settlement.

*The only known block
of this stamp with
the control seal
"ATELIER DU TIMBRE".*

*ex. Cowen, M. Tseriotis, A. Kadinopoulos,
A. Papadopoulos collections.*



Pos. 191/200



*Mailed in 15.2.1888 from Patra to Athens. Arrival "ATHENS 16 FEBR. 88".
Domestic postal rate 60 leptas for a letter from 31 to 45 grams.*

MIXED USE WITH
LARGE HERMES HEADS



Mailed in 9.12.1888 from Argostolion to Munich.
Total overseas postal rate 145 leptas for a registered letter from 61 to 75 grams.
(25 leptas per 15 grams and 20 leptas registration fee).



The only known block of this stamp with the control seal “Série I No ...”.



Pos. 191/200



*Mailed in 6.3.1889 from Pyrgos to Patras.
Domestic postal rate 40 lepta for a letter from 16 to 30 grams.*



REGISTER COVER

Mailed from
Athens via London
and Liverpool
and arrived
in 30.6.1890
to Halifax.



Overseas postal rate 45 lepta
for a registered letter up to 15 grams.
(Registration fee 20 lepta).

MIXED USE
WITH LARGE
HERMES HEADS

REGISTER COVER

Mailed in April 1890
from Athens to Munich.



In spring of 1889 the Greek authorities procured a comb perforating machine gauge 13½, which was installed in the National Mint.

All the stamps of the Belgian prints, but in very limited quantities and the values of 1 and 20 lepta of the first Athens issues were perforated 13½. This machine functioned for 3 months only and in the middle of 1889 was damaged.

It was repaired in March 1891 and the values of 2 and 40 lepta of the Athenian issues of 1891 were also perforated. That machine was never used again.



Pos. 294/295
299/300

50 lepta / Gray green

The only, perforated 13½, block of this stamp, with control seals, known.

2 lepta / Bistre



Pos. 1/5

The only blocks of these stamps, perforated 13 ½, with control seals, known.

2 lepta / Bistre



Pos. 191/200

BELGIAN PRINT - 1.2.1888

1 LEPTON / *Brown*

Perforation 13½



The two blocks of these stamps - perforated 13 ½ - are the only ones with control seals, known.

Pos. 1/3
16/18



Pos. 191/200

5 lepta / Green



10 lepta / Orange



10 lepta / Orange



BELGIAN PRINT (1886 - 1888)

Perforation 11½

In 1891 the Greek authorities procured a hand operated, line perforating machine gauge 11½. It was installed in the main post office of Athens and was first used on March 18, 1891.

The perforation 11½ was applied in the post office after the unperforated sheets were received, in contrast to the perforation 13½ which was applied in the Mint before the distribution of the stamps to the post offices.

At that time the Athenian issues of the Small Hermes Heads were already in circulation.

Only a small quantity of the remaining stamps of the Belgian prints were perforated 11½.



2 lepta / Bistre



Pos. 291/292
296/297

5 lepta / Green



5 lepta / Green

The only 5 lepta perforated 11½,
with control seal recorded.

ex. Bill Ure's collection.



50 lepta / Gray green

The only 50 lepta perforated 11½,
with control seal "Série...", known.



25 lepta /
Blue



50 lepta /
Gray green

Pos. 194/195
199/200



1 drachma / Gray



**BELGIAN
PRINT
1.2.1888**

1 LEPTON /
Brown

*The only
perforated 11½
sheet of 50,
of this stamp
known.*

Perforated 11½



BELGIAN PRINT (1886-1888)

40 LEPTA / Violet

Perforation 11½



REGISTER COVER

Mailed in 2.6.1892 from Athens to Brussels.
Arrival postmark "BRUXELLES 18 JUIN 1892".
Overseas postal rate 45 lepta for a registered letter
up to 15 grams. (Registration fee 20 lepta).

ΓΕΝ. ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΙΣ
ΤΑΧ. ΚΑΙ ΤΗΛΕΓΡΑΦΩΝ
 Είδοποιήσις άφιξεως ταχ. δεμάτων
 (συμπληρωτρία παρά του αποστολέως)

Προς τον κ. *Υπουργόν*
Εξωτερικών
 εις *Παρισίαν*
Ρουάνα

Συμπληρωτέον παρά του Γραφείου
 του προς τον όρου

Αρ. *788*
 άφιξεως

Πρόσθετα τέλη ή πρόστιμον, δι' ών
 επιβαρύνεται τό δεμα

Δρ. _____ Λ. _____

ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ
ΤΑΧΥΔ. ΔΕΜΑΤΩΝ
ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ
 ΔΕΜΑΤΩΝ ΕΙΣ ΤΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΟΝ

Αρ. Υποδ. 101

Παράδίδω τον τω παρόντι *κ. Υπουργόν*
 επιγραφόμενον προς τον κ. *Υπουργόν*
 διαμένοντα έν *Παρισίαν*
 Δήλω δέ ότι περιέχει *Εξωτερικών*
Υπουργόν

Υπογραφή και κατοικία του αποστολέως
Κ. Εξωτερικών
 Έν *Παρίσι* τή *24* *εβδ.* 188*9*

Δέμα, κούτιον, καλάθος, κλινθρος κλπ. κατά τας περιστάσεις. Δύναται ο αποστολέας επίβλεψη όπισθεν του παρόντος
 την τύπον της παρακλήσεως, δι' ης εισράγεται τό δέμα.

Αριθμός του δέματος και βάρος βαδισθέν
 Αρ. *28064* Γρ. *1870*
 Αρ. _____ Γρ. _____
 Αρ. _____ Γρ. _____

ΤΑΧΥΓΡ. ΔΕΜΑΤΑ
28.064
 ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

Προς τό Ταχ. Γραφείο
Κιόρισις

Αρ. *24*
 ΟΕ
 Ε-Ε

Συμπληρωτέον από του Γραφείου του προς τον όρου

Αριθμός άφιξεως
 Τέλη ή πρόστιμον, δι' ών
 επιβαρύνεται τό δεμα.
 Δρ. _____ Λ. _____

Το Δέμα άφίκετο τή *27* *εβδ.* 188*9*
 Παρεδόθη τω παραλ. τή *27* *εβδ.* 188*9*
 Είδοποιήθη ο παραλ. τή *27* *εβδ.* 188*9*
 Επανελήφθη ή είδοπ. τή *27* *εβδ.* 188*9*

DOMESTIC PARCEL'S DISPATCH BULLETIN
 (ONE OF THE TWO DOMESTIC BULLETINS, KNOWN).

Mailed in 24.10.1891 from Athens to Kiparissia.
 Domestic postal rate 1 drachma for a parcel up to 3 kgrs.

BELGIAN PRINT - 1.4.1888

1 DRACHMA / Gray

Perforation 11½



Register cover (TRIPLE WEIGHT) with 1 drachma.
Posted from "ZAKYNΘΟΣ ΜΑΙΟΣ" via ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ 3 ΜΑΙΟΣ. 91.
Arrival cancellation "BERLIN 5.6.91".
The only known cover till today with perforated 1 drachma Belgian print



Photograph of back side
Minimized 70%.

BELGIAN PRINT

REPRINTS OF THE MAIN ORDERS

It is of a great interest in the study of the Small Hermes Heads, to testify and to confirm the aspect that some reprints of these stamps took place in Belgium, besides the main orders.

The blocks of the 25 and 50 lepta and the yellow orange issues seem to be additional printings.

It is obvious that the control seal “DEPOT 1887” in black colour instead of “DEPOT 1885” in red colour at the bottom side of the 25 and 50 lepta as well as the position to the right side of the sheet and the black colour of the control seal “Serie D No ...”, instead of the normal position to the left upper side of the sheet, in red colour, of the yellow orange 10 lepta, establishes such an aspect.



Pos. 294/295
299/300

Blue
One of the two items,
known.



Pos. 294/295
299/300

Gray green
One of the two items,
known.



Yellow orange
The only item with
control seal “Serie...”
known.



Pos. 251/254
256/257

Yellow orange
This shade is obviously a reprint of the 10 lepta value.

A' ATHENS ISSUES 1889 - 1890

The printing plates of all the values, arrived in Athens from Belgium early 1888, together with the stamps of the printed in Belgium six supplementary values of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 40 lepta.

All the values except the 50 lepta, reprinted in Athens, in different chronological order, randomly and according to the postal needs. The printing of the Small Hermes Heads, known as Athenian, occurred in Athens early in March 1889 and ended, early in 1901.

The first values of 1 to 20 lepta of the Athens issues were placed into circulation in March 1889 and within the next few months of April to June so were the first 5, 10 and 25 lepta values. The printing of these values are known as the first Athens issues, and lasted the end of 1890. The paper which was used was a local one mostly with watermark.

It was very thin, solid and strongly tinted, mainly with yellow or ash or brownish shade.



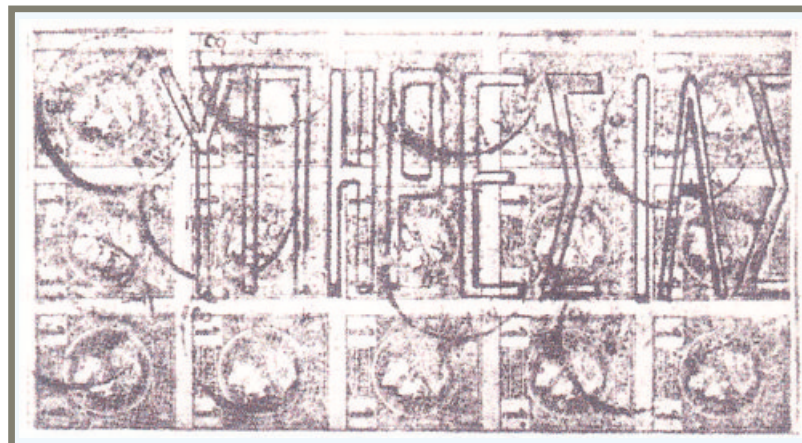
*Registered letter mailed from Athens in 5.3.1890 to Palermo,
via Brindisi, Napoli-Cotrone train and Messina.*

*It is franked obviously for philotelic purposes with all
the available at the Athens Post Office Small Hermes Heads
which is all the values of A' Athenian issues 1889-1890.*

*i.e. 1, 5, 10, 20 and 25 lepta together with 40 and
50 lepta and 1 drachma Belgian prints.*

*ex. Cowen, M. Tseriotis, A. Kadinopoulos,
A. Papadopoulos collections.*

The paper used for the Athens printing (1889 - 1893), was paper from local mill in Athens. A watermark is found only on the local papers. It consists of a two line inscriptions. The first line is three words "ΧΑΡΤΗΣ ΔΗΜΟΣΙΑΣ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑΣ" ("paper for public service"). The lower line consists of two double lined initials "Ε.Χ.". meaning "ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΧΑΡΤΟΠΟΙΙΑ" ("Greek paper mill").

*Watermarked**Photograph of back side (100%)*



CONTROL



Watermarked

It includes the value of 25 lepta,
the overseas postal rate for a letter up to 15 grams.

Emerald



Green



CONTROL

Deep green



Olive green



Dull green
on thin paper



Green yellow





Watermarked

The largest used block of this stamp, known.



*Mailed in 24.6.1890 from Athens to Patra.
Domestic postal rate 20 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams.*



Orange



Red orange

Watermarked



Shifted print

ΓΕΝ. ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΙΣ
τῶν
ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΩΝ

ΑΠΟΔΕΙΞΙΣ ΠΑΡΑΛΑΒΗΣ
Συστημένου αντικειμένου.

Υποδ. ἀριθ. 34.

Δηλῶ τὴν παραλαβὴν τοῦ ὑπ' ἀριθ. 680, ἐπὶ συστάσει (***) *κ. Ζήμα*
ἀποσταλέντος ἐκ *Αθηνῶν*, τῇ 1. *Αυγούστου* εἰς ὄνομα μου.

Ἐν τῇ 188

Ἐθεωρήθη
Ὁ ἐπὶ τοῦ Γραφείου τοῦ πρὸς ὄν ὄρου

Ὁ λήπτης
Κ. Ζήμα

ΣΥΡΟΣ
ΑΠ. 6-E
18

(*) Ἐπὶ τοῦ μέρους τούτου τίθεται τὸ τέλος τῶν λ. 40 εἰς γραμματόσημον καὶ διαγράφεται διὰ τοῦ χρονολογικοῦ
σημάντρον. (**) Ἐνταῦθα τίθεται αὖθις τὸ χρονολογικὸν σημερινόν. (***) Σημειωτέον τὸ εἶδος τοῦ ἀντικειμένου—
γράμμα—ἐφημερίδα—βιβλίον—ἐντυπον—δείγμα. (****) Ἐνταῦθα τίθεται τὸ σημερινόν τοῦ γραφείου τοῦ πρὸς ὄν ὄρου.
Σημ. Τὸ παρὸν συνοδεύει τὰ ἐπὶ συστάσει ἀντικείμενα, μνημονεύεται ἐν τοῖς φύλλοις καὶ τοῖς βιβλίοις τῆς ὑπηρεσίας
διὰ τῆς σημειώσεως Α. Π. Παραδίδεται πρὸς ὑπογραφήν πρὸς τὸν λήπτην μετὰ τοῦ ἐπὶ συστάσει ἀντικειμένου, ἐπὶ
στρέφεται δὲ ἀμέσως ἐπὶ ἀποδείξει εἰς τὸ γραφεῖον τῆς ἀποστολῆς.

137. C. S. S. de la Grèce
Redevance d'impôt d'usage
de 100 francs 1889

DELIVERY RECEIPT

Mailed in 1.8.1889 from Athens to Syros accompanying a registered letter.

It was signed from the receiver and mailed back in 3.8.1889.

Domestic postal rate 10 lepta for a delivery receipt.



Pos. 221/235

The largest used block of this stamp, known.



MIXED USE WITH LARGE HERMES HEADS

*Mailed in 16.10.1889 from Lixourion to Padova, via Kerkyra and Brindisi.
Overseas postal rate 45 leptas for a registered letter up to 15 grams.
(Registration fee 20 leptas).*

CONTROL

Purple



Pos. 104/105
109/110

Dull red



Aniline
red.
The
largest
block
of this
stamp
known.



Watermarked

CONTROL



Red

Pos. 251/260



Pale carmine

Pos. 211/220



Pale rose on tissue paper



Dull red



Aniline red
Sifted print.



Watermarked

Aniline red
One of the three largest used blocks
of this stamp, known.



Pos. 231/235
236/240

Watermarked

Purple
The largest used block of this stamp, known.

MIXED USE WITH
LARGE HERMES HEAD

Aniline red
Mailed in 6.3.1890 from
Thiva to Ireland.



Overseas postal rate
25 lepta for a letter
up to 15 grams.

Dull red
Mailed in 26.2.1890 from
Halkis to Constantinople.





POSTAL MONEY ORDER RECEIPT

Mailed in 30.8.1889 from Tinos to Piraeus together
with the amount of 80 drachmas.

It was signed from the receiver of the amount and
it was mailed back from Piraeus in 1.9.1889.

Domestic postal rate 20 lepta for a postal money order receipt.

A' ATHENS ISSUE 1889 - 1890

20 LEPTA

Perforation 11½



Carmine



Bright rose



*Red
(Oily print)*



Double print



Mailed in 11.4.1891 from Patra to Colchester.
Overseas postal rate 45 lepta for a registered letter up to 15 grams.
(25 lepta per 15 grams and 20 lepta registration fee).

*The largest used block
of this stamp,
known.*

*ex. P. Ioannides,
A. Papadopoulos collections.*



*Mailed in
6.2.1891
from Zakynthos
to Colchester.
Total overseas
postal rate
145 lepta for
a registered letter
from 61 to 75
grams (25 lepta
per 15 grams
and 20 lepta
registration fee).*



**A' ATHENS
ISSUE 1889**

25 LEPTA /
Ultramarine

*The only
perforated 11½
sheet of 50,
of this stamp
known.*

*ex. Rothchild
collection.*

*Perforated
11½*

Double
perforation ↗



A' ATHENS ISSUE 1889

1, 20 LEPTA
Paper A

Perforation 13½

CONTROL



Gray brown

Displaced
perforation

Pos. 101/110

CONTROL



Pale red

Pos. 101/110

B' ATHENS ISSUES 1890 - 1896

The run out of all reserves of Belgian printed values, apart of 50 lepta, as well as of the 5 values of the first Athenian issues, resulted the need of new issues of the Small Hermes Heads.

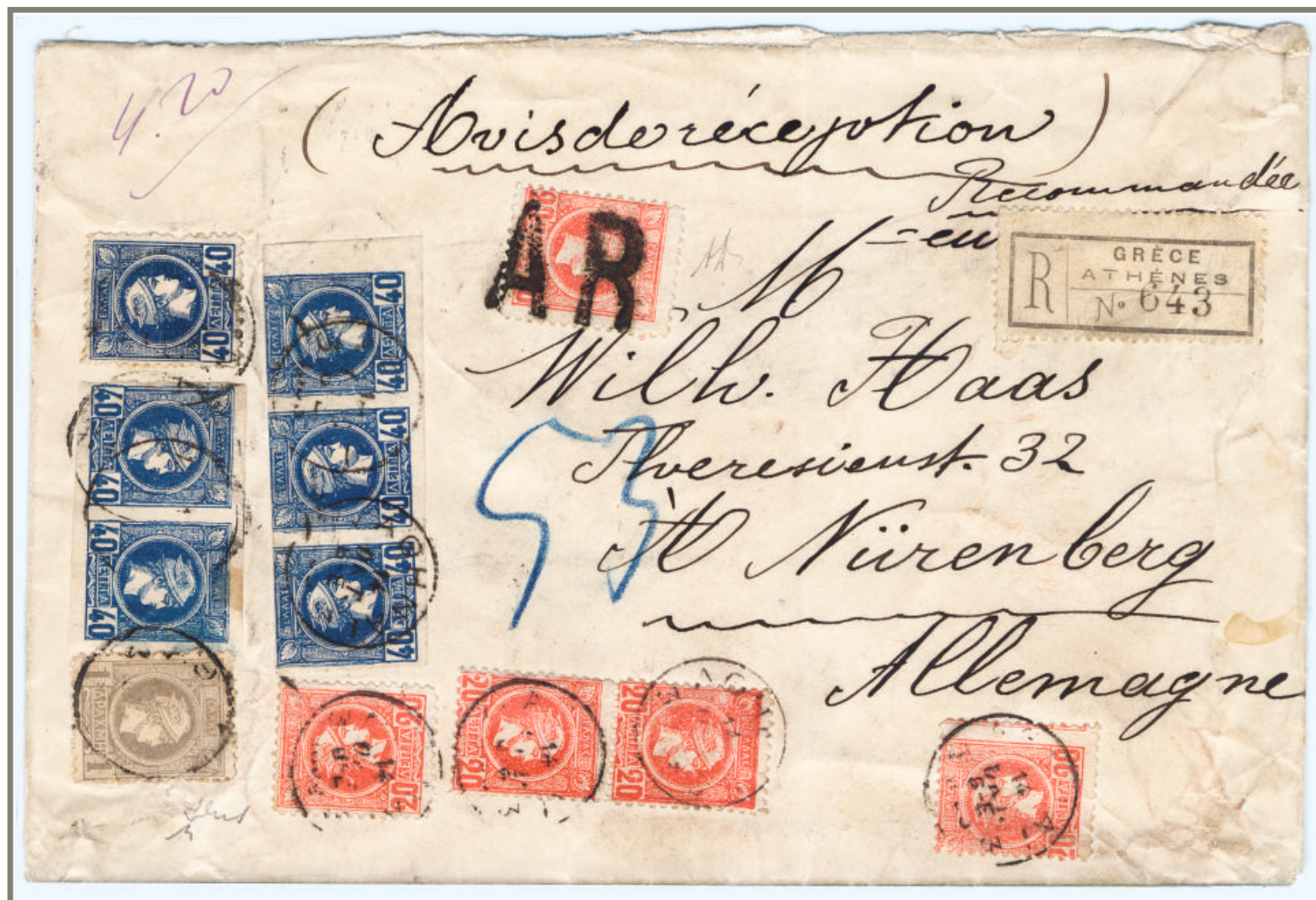
Consequently in the end of 1890, new issues of all the values, except from the 50 lepta, were issued and continued till the 25th of March of 1896 when the first Olympic games issue were put into circulation.

The printings of these values are known as the second Athenian issues.

During the second half of 1892 it was decided to increase the overseas postal rate for a simple letter from 25 to 30 lepta. Since Greece was a member of the U.P.U., was obliged to use 25 lepta stamps for this postal rate. Thus it was decided to change the colour of 25 lepta value from blue to violet. The violet 25 lepta were placed into circulation on the 1st of January 1893. They were being sold for 30 bronze lepta or 25 lepta "in gold".

Meantime, to avoid confusion, the violet 40 lepta were withdrawn from circulation and the blue 40 lepta were placed into circulation after the 20th of January 1893.

A variety of papers was used, in bad quality, from medium thickness to carton thick porous ones, with a yellow to yellowish-brown shade.



Mailed in 14.10.1895 from Athens to Nuremberg, franked with the values of 20, 40 lepta and 1 drachma of the known as second Athenian issues.

Total overseas postal rate 4 drachmas and 40 lepta.

[30 lepta per 15 grams, (195 grams) 30 lepta registration fee and 20 lepta delivery receipt].

B' ATHENS ISSUE
1890 - 1896

1 LEPTON /
Red brown

One of two,
known letters,
franked with
a sheet of
50 stamps.

The
second cover,
also franked
with a
sheet of
50 stamps,
is found in an
latest frame
within this
collection.

*Mailed in
20.12.1892
from Patra
to Leisnig.
Overseas postal
rate 95 lepta
for a registered
letter from 31
to 45 grams.
(25 lepta per
15 grams
and 20 lepta
registration fee).*



B' ATHENS ISSUES 1890 - 1896

1 LEPTON

Perforation 11½



Brown
Double print

One of the three copies known.



Red brown



Chocolate brown

CONTROL



Pos. 260

Brown

Double
perforation



B' ATHENS ISSUES
1890 - 1896

1 LEPTON
Perforation 11½

Chocolate brown

Newspaper
"ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΣ"
dated 8.3.1894.
Bundled and mailed
in Athens with the
fourth weight rate.
Domestic postal
rate for newspapers,
1 lepton per 25 grams,
from 30.6.1882
till 1.6.1900.



**A' ATHENS
ISSUE**

One of two,
known so far
letters,
franked with
a sheet of
50 stamps.

The
second cover,
also franked
with a
sheet of
50 stamps,
is found in an
earlier frame
within this
collection.

Mailed in
21 APRIL,
from
ZAKYNΘΟΣ
via Patra
22 APRIL 93.
APP LEISNIG
8.5.93.
Overseas postal
rate 95 lepta for
a registered letter
from
31 to 45 grams.
(25 lepta per
15 grams
and 20 lepta
registration
free).

"Certificate of Authenticity"



B' ATHENS ISSUE 1896

Perforation 11½

1 LEPTON / *Pale brown*

2 LEPTA / *Yellow brown*

Fine print



The largest known block of this stamp known.



*Mailed in 16.7.1892 from Patras to Munich.
Overseas postal rate 25 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams.*

The only used block of this stamp known.

B' ATHENS ISSUE 1890 - 1896

1, 2 LEPTA

Perforation 11½



Mailed in 22.8.1895 from Athens to Copenhagen. Total overseas postal rate 90 lepta for a registered letter from 16 to 30 grams. (Registration fee 30 lepta).

B' ATHENS ISSUE 1891

2 LEPTA / *Yellow wheat coloured*

Perforation 13½

CONTROL



*Mailed in 7.9.1891 from Athens to Munich.
Overseas postal rate 25 lepta for a letter up to 15 grams.*

B' ATHENS ISSUE 1890 - 1896

5 LEPTA / Green

CONTROL

DOUBLE PRINTS



The largest known block of this stamp known.



Upper vertical shifting



Downwards vertical shifting

Pos. 251
260



Right horizontal shifting

CONTROL

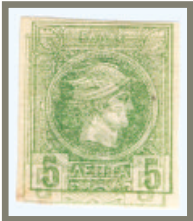


Pos. 259/260

Shifted prints



Downwards right vertical shifting



Downwards left vertical shifting



*The largest used block of
this stamp known.
Total value 1 drachma.*



MIXED USE WITH LARGE HERMES HEADS

Mailed in 6.7.1895 from Zakynthos to Mannheim. On reverse the cover is franked with (20 × 1 lepton) 20 lepta. Overseas postal rate 60 lepta for a registered letter up to 15 grams. (Registration fee 30 lepta).



Photograph of back side
Minimized 70%.

B' ATHENS ISSUE 1890 - 1896

5 LEPTA

Perforation 11½



Green - yellow

Deep green

Pos. 231/232
236/237



Cypress



Emerald

Green
Perforated 11½
in April 1891.



Cypress



Double
perforation ↗



Green

Pos. 81/90

B' ATHENS ISSUE 1890 - 1896

10 LEPTA



Pos. 213/215
223/225

Mustard



Mustard
Perforated 11½

CONTROL



Pos. 104/105



Mustard



Rose orange

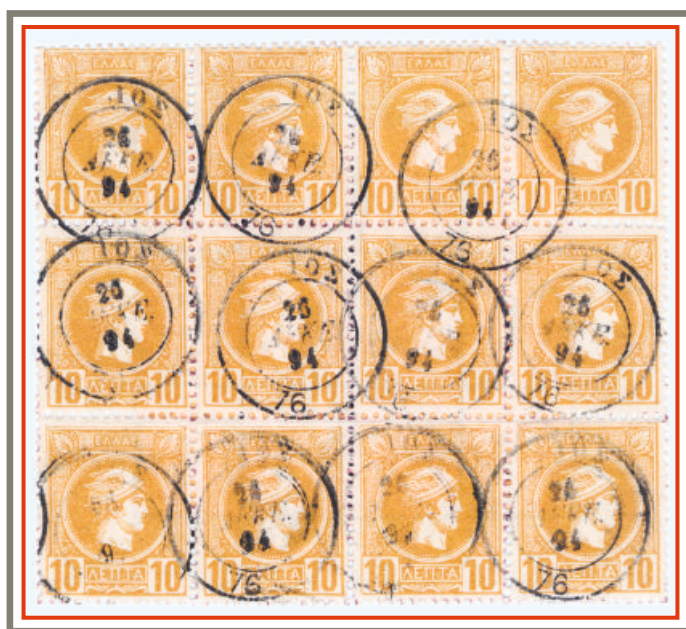


Yellow orange
Total value 2 drachmas 20.11.1896.
Use of Small Hermes Heads during the
exclusive circulation of Olympic commemorative.

B' ATHENS ISSUE 1895

10 LEPTA / *Mustard*

Perforation 13½



The only used block of this stamp known.

Total value 1 drachma and 20 lepta.

*Cancelled "IOS*26 DECE 94"*

ex. Benakis collection.

*Imp. & R. Consolato
Austria-Ungheria
in Pyrgos.*

No. 76

Eccelso

Imp. & R. Ministero degli Esteri

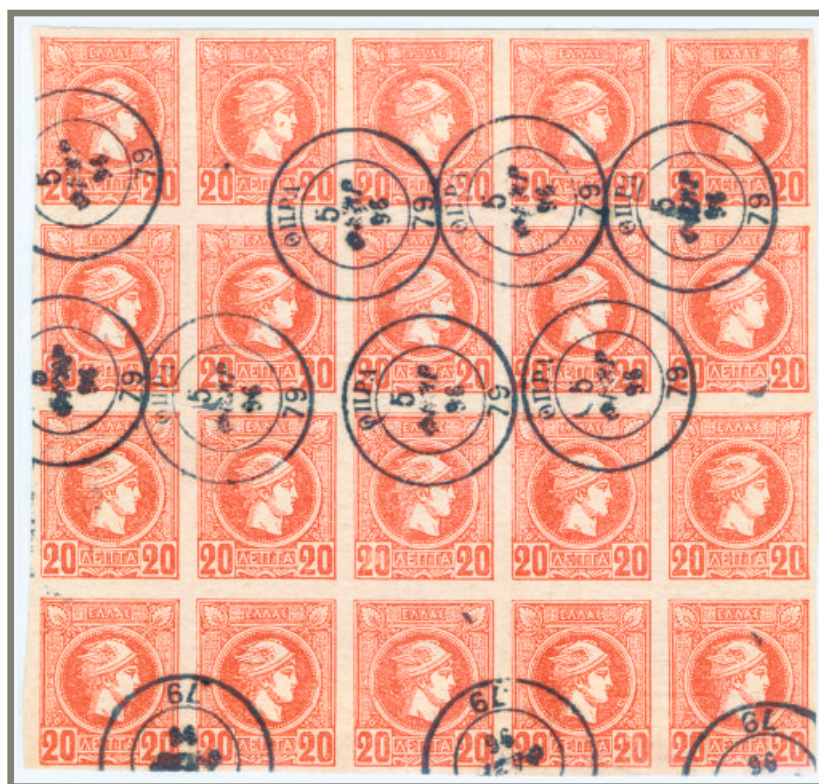


Vienna

Quotidia



Mailed
from the
Austrian
Vice - Consul
of Pyrgos
to the
Ministry
of the
Foreign
Affairs
in Vienna,
franked
with
twenty four
(24)
10 lepta.



Mailed in 25.4.1891 from Zakynthos to Colchester.
Total overseas postal rate 1 drachma for a registered letter
from 31 to 45 grams. (On reverse franked with 5 more lepta).

**RED INSTEAD OF DEEP VIOLET
USED IN «ZAKYNΘΟΣ»**



"Certificate of Authenticity"

*The only pair copy
known.*

According to certificate of authenticity, the violet color is a product of the combination of red and blue colors.

The printers at the mint in Athens, towards the end of the printing process, used less blue resulting in the color red instead of the deep violet.



*The largest used block of this stamp known.
Total value 6 drachmas.*

B' ATHENS ISSUE 1890 - 1896

20 LEPTA

Perforation 11½



Red
Double print



Rose carmine



Deep red

CONTROL





Mailed in 16.8.1893 from Athens to Kerkyra (Corfu).
Domestic postal rate 2 drachmas and 40 lepta for a letter from 166 to 180 grams.

CONTROL



Pale blue



Water marked



Blue



Blue

Blue
Perforated 11 1/2



Blue on white paper / Fine print.
The largest block of this
stamp known.

ex. A. Rothchild, M. Tseriotis,
A. Kadinopoulos collections.



Blue
The largest used block of
this stamp known.
ex. Argyropoulos collection.



Deep blue
The largest used block of
this stamp known.
Total value 6 drachmas
and 25 lepta.

ex. P. Ioannides,
A. Papadopoulos collections.



THE IRREGULAR USE OF THE
BLUE 25 LEPTA



Mailed in 15.6.1892 from Piraeus to Bucharest.
Overseas postal rate 1 drachma for a letter from 46 to 60 grams.



Mailed in 15.1.1893 from Kerkyra (Corfu) to Cairo.
On January 1st, 1893, the overseas rates were raised from 25 to 30 lepta and the blue 25 lepta were recalled from use for the overseas rates and were replaced by the violet 25 lepta. So the blue 25 lepta was not longer valid and was therefore annulled from the postal service by handwritten zeros (0). Moreover this letter was devalued and stamped "T". Obviously the receiving post office in Cairo was not yet informed about the change of the colour and delivered the letter without claiming extra tax.

"Certificate of Authenticity"

B' ATHENS ISSUE 1.1.1893

25 LEPTA / *Deep violet*

CONTROL



Violet
On a very thick paper
with "CONTROL"

25 LEPTA
Deep Violet



"Kerkyra (Corfu)
1 Jan. 93".
First day of
circulation.
The only copy
known.



B' ATHENS ISSUE 1.1.1893

25 LEPTA

Deep violet



Red violet

French letter card
mailed in April 1894
from Athens
to Bruxelles.
Overseas postal rate
30 lepta for a
letter card.
Face value of violet
25 lepta, equals to
30 lepta in
copper coins.



B' ATHENS ISSUE 1.1.1893

25 LEPTA

Perforation 11½

Deep violet



Violet



CONTROL



*Watermarked
ex. Cowen, M. Tseriotis, A. Kadinopoulos, A. Papadopoulos collections.*



*Mailed in 2.8.1892 from Pyrgos to Athens.
Domestic postal rate 40 lepta for a registered letter
up to 15 grams. (Registration fee 20 lepta).*

Mailed in
19.11.1892
from Athens
to Reichenberg.
Overseas postal
rate 65 lepta for
a registered letter,
asking for a
delivery receipt,
up to 15 grams,
till the end of
1892.
(Registration fee
20 lepta and
delivery receipt
20 lepta).



Mailed in
24.7.1892
from Argostolion
to Millau.
Overseas postal
rate 45 lepta for
a registered letter,
up to 15 grams.
(25 lepta
per 15 grams
and 20 lepta
registration fee).



B' ATHENS ISSUE 1.6.1891 - 19.1.1893

40 LEPTA / Violet

Perforation 11½



Pale violet

The largest block of
this stamp known.
Perforated 11½.



Mailed in 31.7.1892 from Athens to Bruxelles.
Overseas postal rate 95 lepta for a registered letter from 31 to 45 grams,
(25 lepta per 15 grams and 20 lepta registration fee).

B' ATHENS ISSUE 1.6.1891 - 19.1.1893

40 LEPTA / Violet

Perforation 13½

Perforated 13½ in 1.7.1891

One of the three largest
blocks known.



Mailed in 21.4.1892 from Athens to Lund.
Overseas postal rate 120 lepta for a registered letter from 46 to 60 grams,
(25 lepta per 15 grams and 20 lepta registration fee).

B' ATHENS ISSUE
20.1.1893

40 LEPTA /
Deep blue

*One of the three sheets
of 50, of this stamp
known.*





Mailed in 23.10.1893 from Karditsa to Athens.
Domestic postal rate 40 lepta for a registered letter
up to 15 grams. (Registration fee 20 lepta).

DIRECTION GENERALE
DES POSTES ET DES TELEGRAPHES
HELLÉNIQUES

Υπόδειγμα αριθ. 122

C.

SERVICE DES COLIS POSTAUX
ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΤΑΧ. ΔΕΜΑΤΩΝ

Timbre du bureau d'origine
Χρ. του γραφείου προέλευσης

DECLARATION EN DOUANE
ΤΕΛΩΝΙΑΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ (ΔΙΑΣΑΦΗΣΙΣ)

ADMINIS
ET DES TÉLÉ
ΓΕΝ. ΔΙΕΥΘ.

COUPON
DU
BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION
(ΑΠΟΣΠΑΣΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΕΛΤΙΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ)

Timbre du bureau d'origine
ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ
28.9.1894
2-Ε

Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur
Όνομα και κατοικία αποστολέως

M. J. J. Wourtakis
Kyp. Corfu

M. Corfu
Kyp.

Empreinte en cire du cachet, avec le-
quel l'expéditeur a fermé le colis
Τύπος εις Ισπαν. κηρύθ της σφραγίδος δι' η;
δ αποστολὴν: ἐσφράγιστε τὸ δέμα

BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION
ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ
CI-JOINT UN COLIS PORTANT L'ADRESSE CI-DES
ΣΥΝΗΜΜΕΝΟΝ ΔΕ ΔΕΜΑ ΦΕΡΟΝ ΤΗΝ ΕΞΗΣ ΕΠΙΓΡΑΦΗΝ

A. M.
Πρὸς τὸν Κύριον }
Lieu de destination }
(Τόπος προορισμοῦ) }
Pays }
(Χώρα) }
Domicile }
(Κατοικία) }
Contenu }
(Περιεχόμενον) }
Nombre des déclarations endouane }
(Ἀριθ. τελων. δελτίων) [διασφίγισεων] }
Lieu et date d'expédition }
(Τόπος καὶ χρονολογία ἀποστολῆς) }
Corfu 10 Octobre 1894

Τοῖς ἐπαληθευθὲν, ὑπὲρ τοῦ ἀποστέλλοντος γραφ.

N° 416 Gr. 2950

N° Gr.

N° Gr.

Taxe perçue
Εἰσπραχθέν τέλος } Fr. c.

Χώρα διὰ τὴν ἀποστολὴν

Colis Postaux
416
CORFOU

ACHEMINEMENT
(Ὁδὸς ἀποστολῆς)

Bureau d'échange Hellénique
(Ἀνταλλακτήριον Ἑλλήν. Γραφείου)

OVERSEAS PARCEL'S DISPATCH BULLETIN
WITH ITS CUSTOMS DECLARATION DOCUMENT

Mailed in 28.9.1894 from Kerkyra to Genova. Overseas postal rate 3 drachmas and 5 lepta
for a parcel up to 3 kgms. (5 lepta rate for delivering the dispatch bulletin).

B' ATHENS ISSUE 20.1.1893

40 LEPTA / *Deep blue*

Perforation 11½



Mailed in 13.1.1895 from Athens to Nuremberg. At the backside franked with 20 and 50 lepta. Total postal rate 5 drachmas and 70 lepta.

B' ATHENS ISSUE
6.2.1895

1 DRACHMA /
Gray

Very thick paper.

The only sheet of 50,
of this stamp
known.

ex. A. Papadopoulos



*The largest used block of
this stamp known.*

ex. G. Trefonas, A. Papadopoulos collections.



OVERSEAS PARCEL'S DISPATCH BULLETIN

*Mailed in 18.4.1895 from
Piraeus to Genova.*

*Overseas postal rate
6 drachmas for two parcels
weighting from 5 to 6 kgrs.
(3 drachmas per parcel and
60 lepta rate for
return of mail).*

ex. M. Tseriotis, A. Kadinopoulos
collections.

BU1
CI-J

Timbres-Postes (Ταχυμηνία)

A. M. } *Valerio Benigno e Comp*
Προς τὸν Κύριον }
Lieu de destination } *Genova*
(Τόπος προορισμοῦ)
Pays } *Italie*
(Χώρα)
Domicile } *Via al. Sante Reule N° 2*
(Κατοικία)
Contenu } *Campione vino -*
(Περιεχόμενον)
Nombre des déclarations endouane }
(Ἀριθ. τελων. δελτίων [διασπήσεων])
Lieu et date d'expédition } *Pirée 18 Avril 1895*
(Τόπος καὶ χρονολογία ἀποστολῆς)

Colis Postaux
1565
PIRÉE

Colis Postaux
1566
PIRÉE

ACHEMINEM
(Ὅδε ἀποστέλλω)

Bureau d'échange Hellénique
(Ἀνταλλακτήριον Ἑλλήν. Γραφείου)

B' ATHENS ISSUE 6.2.1895

1 DRACHMA / Gray

Perforation 13¼



*The largest, perforated 13¼ block
of this stamp known.*

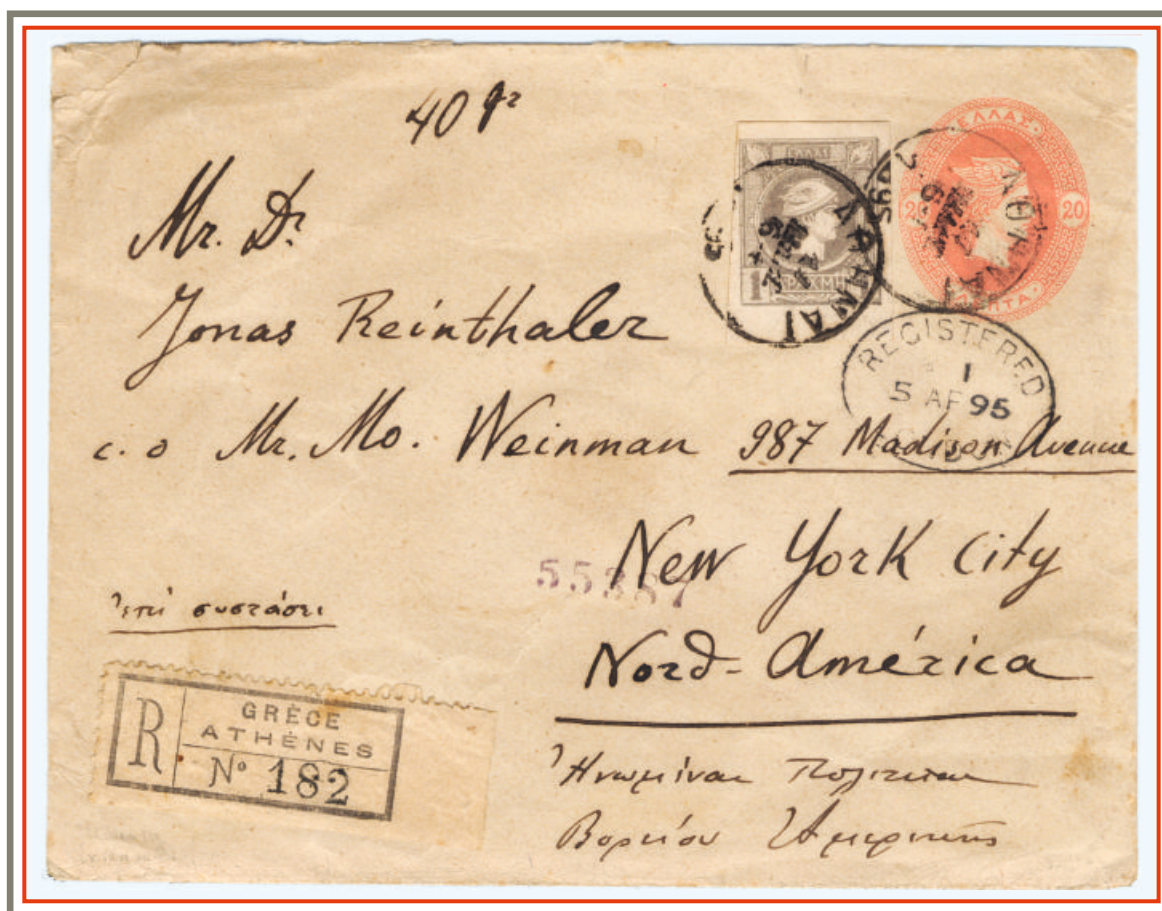
ex. J. Haidopoulos, P. Molfetas, A. Papadopoulos collections.



THE HIGHEST POSTAL RATE ON A REGISTERED PARCEL
Registered parcel posted from ΠΕΙΡΑΙΕΥΣ 18 NON ..18
(Aproximethy) to TRIEST 3.12.1895.
(The highest postal rate on a registered parcel).



THE ONLY KNOWN ONE DRACHMA STAMP
ON POSTAL STATIONERY



Mailed in 17.3.1895 from Athens via London to New York.
Arrived to London in 5.4.1895 and to New York in 13.4.1895.

Total overseas postal rate 1 drachma and 20 lepta
for a registered letter from 31 to 45 grams.
(30 lepta per 15 grams and 30 lepta registration fee).

Perforated 11½



Mailed in 25.1.1896 from Athens to Paris.
Total overseas postal rate 1 drachma and 20 lepta for a registered letter
from 31 to 45 grams. (30 lepta per 15 grams and 30 lepta registration fee).

2 LEPTA / *Bistre*



*Cancelled with a commemorative
red carmine cancellation for the
entry of the 20th century.*

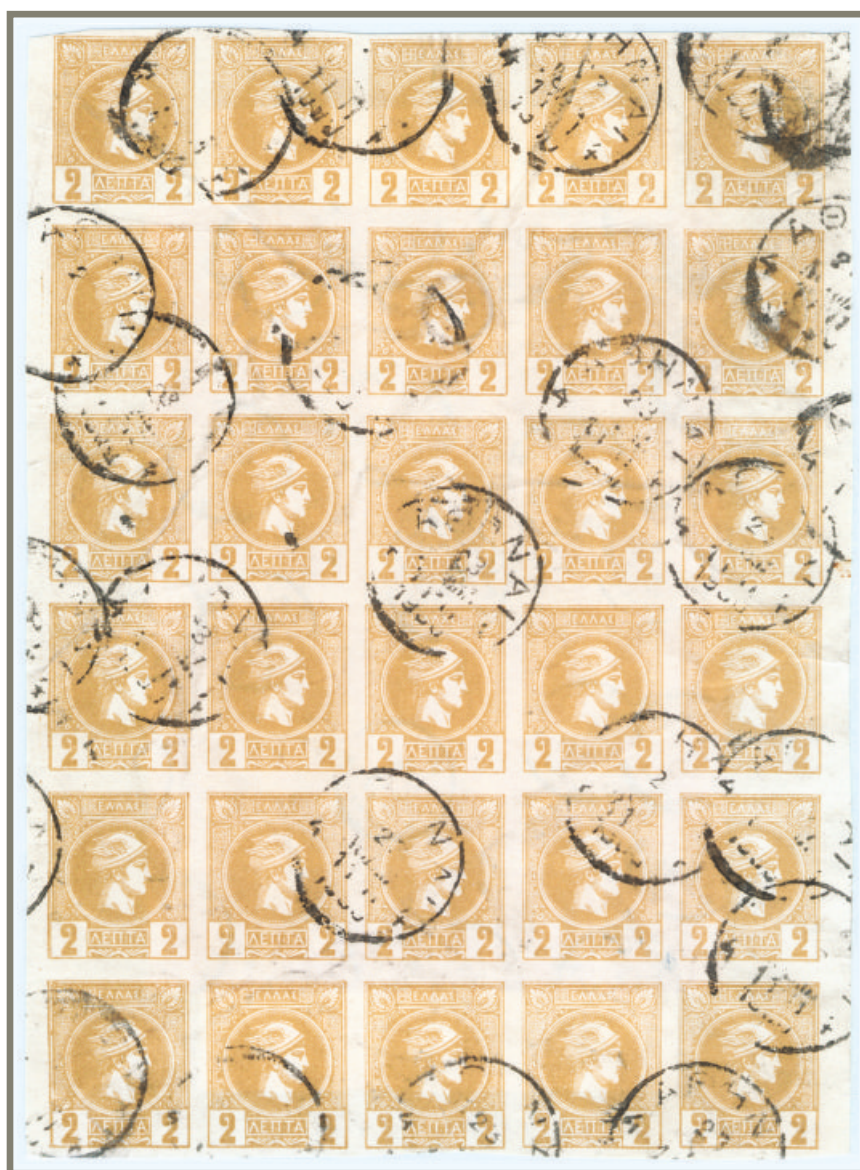


*Mailed in 15.4.1900 from Piræus to Berlin.
Overseas postal rate 50 lepta for a
registered letter up to 15 grams.
(Registration fee 25 lepta).
On reverse two lepta.*



*Mailed in 19.6.1900
from Athens to Constantinople.
Overseas postal rate 30 lepta
for a letter up to 15 grams.*





Pos. 171/175
196/200

*The largest used block of this stamp, known so far.
It represents a value of 60 lepta, indicating
heavy registered internal mail.*

C' ATHENS ISSUES 1897-1901

In view of the circulation of the issue of first Olympic Games, in 25.3.1896 it was decided to withdraw the Small Hermes Heads from circulation. A small quantity of the Small Hermes Heads was used in combination with the A' Olympic Games issue values, due to the lack of some values in certain post offices.

Due to the delay of the new regular set, the Small Hermes Heads were placed again into circulation in April the 6th, 1897 till June the 31st, 1901.

New printings of the values of 1,2,5,10,20 and 25 (violet) lepta took place, starting from 1897 and continued till the end of 1900 when the red lilac gray 20 lepta value - the last Small Hermes Head - was issued.

The printings of these values are known as the third Athenian issues.

A bright white and shiny paper was used without watermark and of a medium thickness.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF SMALL HERMES HEADS FROM CIRCULATION IN 25.3.1896



Mailed in 26.3.1896 from Athens to Paris. Small Hermes Heads were withdrawn from circulation on March 25, 1896, because of the circulation of the First Olympics issue, so the stamp of 25 lepta was invalid.

The postal service marked zero (O), next to the stamp, stamped the cover with the postmark "T" and wrote on it the amount of 50 cents, the double of the missing sum.

The French postal service charged the letter with the additional tax of 50 centimes.

Double print



Olive green



Deep emerald

C' ATHENS ISSUE May 1901

5 LEPTA / Olive green

Perforation 11½

The latest printing
of all the
Small Hermes Heads.

*The largest block of this stamp known.
Perforated 11½.*



*The largest used block of this stamp known.
Perforated 11½.*



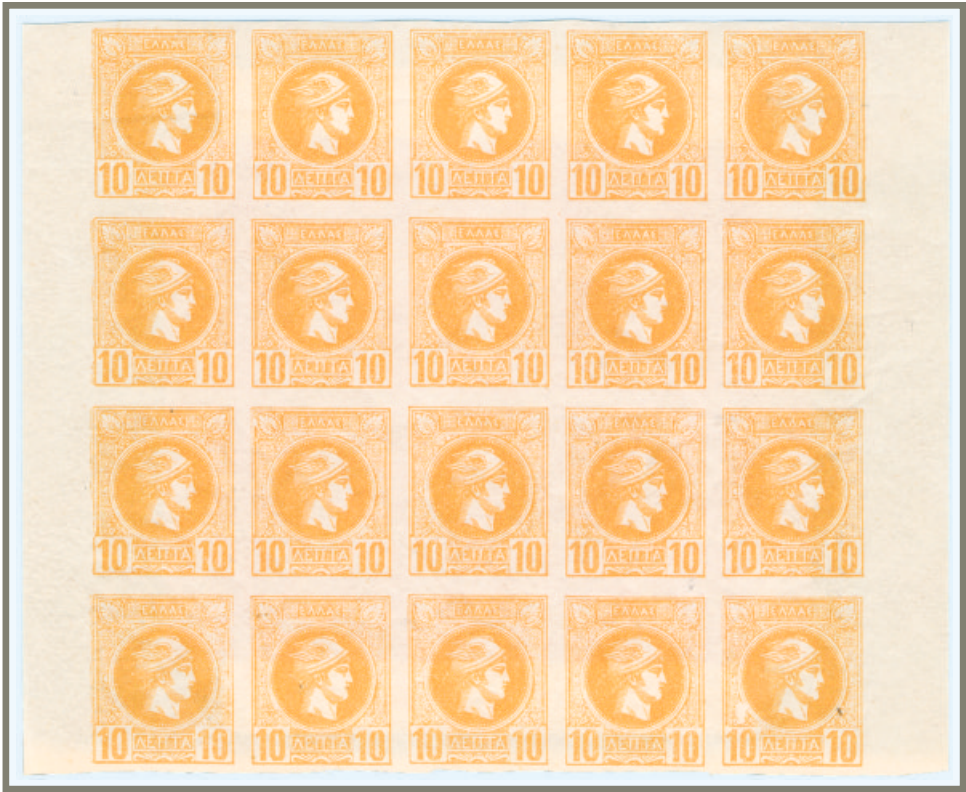
Mailed in 1.6.1901 from
Athens to the Consul of
Greece in Thessaloniki.
Postal rate 23 lepta,
as obviously many printed
matters were bundled up
and mailed together.





Pos. 211/220

Yellow orange



Orange

Yellow orange



Orange



Mustard





Red



Gray lilac red

Pos. 278/279
283/284



Gray rose



Rose carmine



Gray rose
The largest used block of this stamp known.



Crimson red
Double print.



Gray lilac red
The largest used block of this stamp known.

Emmanuel Aron

(Article IX du Règlement) **A.** Υπ'δ.ἀριθ.42

DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES POSTES ET DES TÉLÉGRAPHES HELLÉNIQUES
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΩΝ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΛΕΓΡΑΦΩΝ

**AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
ΑΠΟΔΕΙΞΙΣ ΠΑΡΑΛΑΒΗΣ**

recommandé enregistré sous le N° *301*
 επί συστάσει ἀντικειμένου ἐγγεγραμμένου ὑπ' ἀριθ. *301*
 et adressé à M. *Mitropoliti*
 και ἀποσταλέντος πρὸς Τ. Κυρ. *La Durazzo*
 le *30/11* 189 *9*
 τῇ *30/11* 189

Le soussigné déclare qu' un objet recom-
 'Ο ὑπογεγραμμένος δηλοῖ ὅτι ἐπὶ συστάσει ἀντι-
 mandé à l' adresse susmentionnée et prove-
 κείμενον ὑπὸ τὴν ἀνωτέρω ἐπιγραφὴν καὶ καταγόμε-
 nant de *Syros*
 μενον ἐκ *Syros*
 a été dûment livré le _____ 189
 παρεδόθη προσηκόντως τῇ _____ 189

Signature* Υπογραφή*
 Du destinataire *Μ. Μιτροπολίτη* Du chef du bureau
 Τῷ παραλήπτη Τῷ προϊσταμένῳ τοῦ Γραφείου

* Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et envoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.
 * Ἡ ἀπόδειξις αὕτη δεῖν νὰ ὑπογραφῇ πρὸς τὸ παραλήπτην, ἢ, ἐὰν εἰ κανονισμοὶ τοῦ τόπου τοῦ προορισμοῦ τὸ ἐπιτρέπουσιν, ὑπὸ τοῦ προϊσταμένου τοῦ Γραφείου τῆς διανομῆς, νὰ τεθῇ δὲν φακέλλῳ καὶ ἀποσταλῇ ἐπὶ συστάσει διὰ πρῶτον ταχυδρομείου, εἰς τὸ γραφεῖον τῆς καταγωγῆς τοῦ περὶ τὸ πρόκειται ἀντικειμένου.

DELIVERY RECEIPT

Mailed in 18.11.1899 from Syros to Durazzo accompanying a registered letter which was cancelled "AR." on the cover. It was signed from the receiver in 30.11.1899 and mailed back from the Postal Office of Durazzo to Syros in 8.12.1899. Overseas postal rate 20 lepta for a delivery receipt.

C' ATHENS ISSUE 1897 - 1901

20 LEPTA

Perforation 11½



CONTROL

Red



CONTROL

Gray rose

The largest block of this stamp known.
Perforated 11½.

C' ATHENS ISSUE 1897 - 1901

20 LEPTA

Perforation 11½



Rose carmine



Gray rose



Gray lilac red

**C' ATHENS
ISSUE
1898**

10 LEPTA /
Yellow orange

*Mailed in
6.3.1899
from Arta
to Athens.
Domestic
postal rate
3 drachmas
for a
registered letter
from 196
to 210 grams.
(20 lepta per
15 grams
and 20 lepta
registration fee).*

*ex.
Dr. A. Papaioannou,
M. Tseriotis,
A. Kadinopoulos
collections*



Perforation 11½



This stamp and shade was first mentioned at the study of Ph. Walravens and its characteristic is that in most copies the colour is absorbed on the gum.



Mailed in 8.11.1897 from Athens to Helsingfors (Finland).
Overseas postal rate 60 lepta for a letter from 16 to 30 grams.

COARSE PERFORATIONS 8 - 9½

cds. ZAVERDA
Perf. 9



cds. KATOUNA
Perf. 8½



cds. MYTIKA
Perf. 9½



cds. ASTAKOS
Perf. 9



cds. VONITSA
Perf. 8½



**THE
ONLY
KNOWN
COVER
FRANKED
WITH
A STAMP
PERF. 8 ½**

*Mailed in
21.12.1900
from Patra
to Brunn
(Austria).
The 40 lepta
stamp is
perforated 8½.*



PERFORATION 13¼



*Belgian
print 1.4.1886
Gray*



*Athens
issue 1891
Mustard*



*Athens
issue 1.1.1893
Red violet*



*Athens issue 6.2.1895
Gray*



*Athens issue 1898
Yellow orange*



*Athens
issue
1898
Violet*



*Athens issue 1893
Gray brown*

Pos. 282/285
287/290

THE ONLY KNOWN COVER FRANKED WITH A STAMP PERFORATED 13¼

ATHENS ISSUE 1.1.1893 /
25 LEPTA
Red violet / Perforation 13¼

*Mailed in 20.9.1894
from Athens to Millau.
Overseas postal rate 30 lepta
for a letter up to 15 grams.
Face value of violet 25 lepta,
equals to 30 lepta
in copper coins.*



PIN PERFORATION

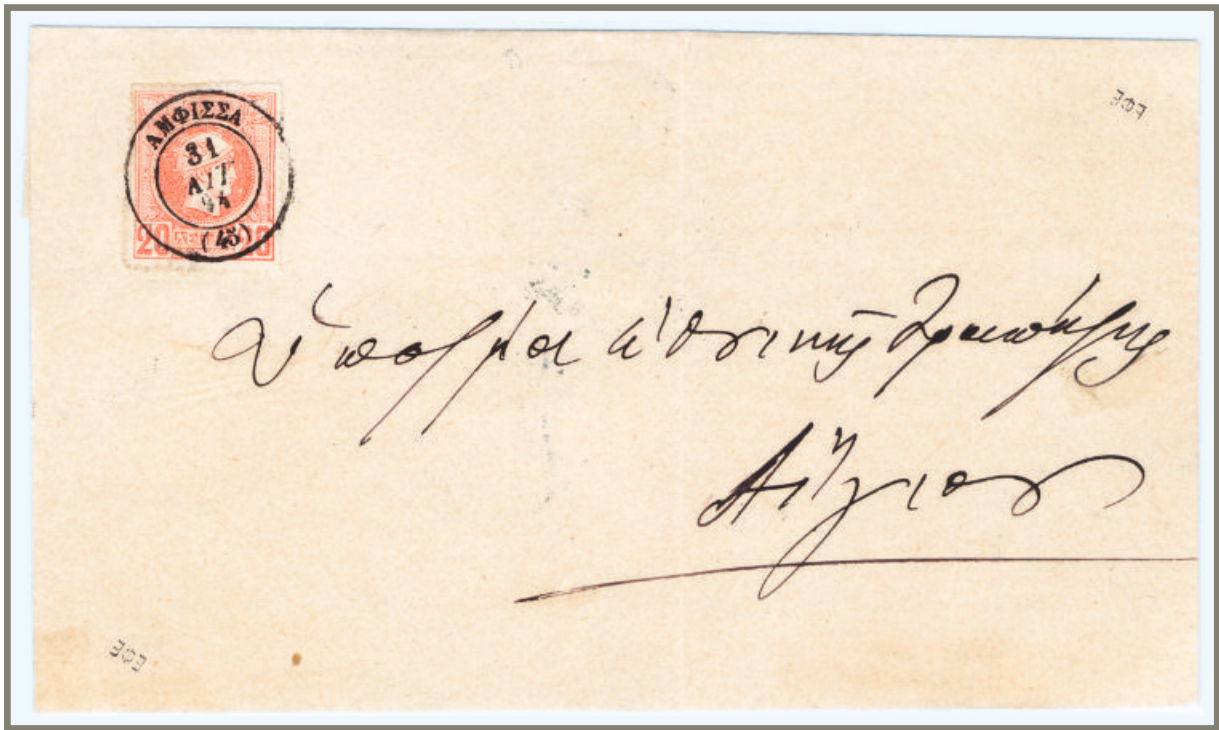
Postmark “AMFISSA 19 SEPT. 94” /
“ΑΜΦΙΣΣΑ 19 ΣΕΠΤ. 94”.



Postmark “AMFISSA 21 APR. 95” /
“ΑΜΦΙΣΣΑ 21 ΑΠΡ. 95”.



Postmark “KALAVRITA 31 OCT. 95” /
“ΚΑΛΑΒΡΥΤΑ 31 ΟΚΤ. 95”.



Wrapper, mailed in 31.8.1894 from Amfissa to the branch of
National Bank of Greece in Aegio, through Athens.
Domestic postal rate 20 lepta for a parcel up to 15 grams.

THE USE OF SMALL HERMES HEADS
DURING THE CIRCULATION OF
THE FIRST OLYMPIC GAMES ISSUE



Mailed in August 1896 from Athens via London to Kansas City.
Arrived to London in 19.8.1896 and to Kansas in 30.8.1896.
Total overseas postal rate 1 drachma and 20 lepta
for a registered letter from 31 to 45 grams.
(30 lepta per 15 grams and 30 lepta registration fee).

MIXED USE WITH A' OLYMPIC GAMES ISSUE

*Mailed in
1.4.1896 from the
Central Post Office
No 1 of the
Athens to Cannes.
Overseas postal
rate 85 lepta for a
registered letter
from 16 to 30
grams.
(30 lepta per 15
grams and 25 lepta
registration fee).
Mixed franking
during the first
week of the
Olympic games.*

ex. M. Tsironis collection.



MARITIME CANCELLATION ON MIXED FRANKING WITH A' OLYMPIC GAMES ISSUE

*Mailed in 1897
to Massa Carrara (Italy).
Handed over to the steam ship's
personnel on the high seas.
Cancelled by "PAQUEBOT".
On the backside postmarked
"AMB. BRINDISI -
FOGGLIA 30.12.97".*



**MIXED USE WITH
A' OLYMPIC GAMES
ISSUE**

*Mailed in
6.5.1897
from Athens
to Rome.
Overseas
postal rate
1 drachma and
45 lepta for
a registered letter
from 46 to
60 grams.
(30 lepta per
15 grams and
25 lepta
registration fee).*



*Mailed in
15.5.1899
from Athens
to Smyrne
FRENCH P.O.
Overseas
postal rate
1 drachma and
50 lepta
for a
registered letter
from 46 to
60 grams.
The letter was
torn up and
closed with
official postal
strip according
to the official
regulations.*



Photograph

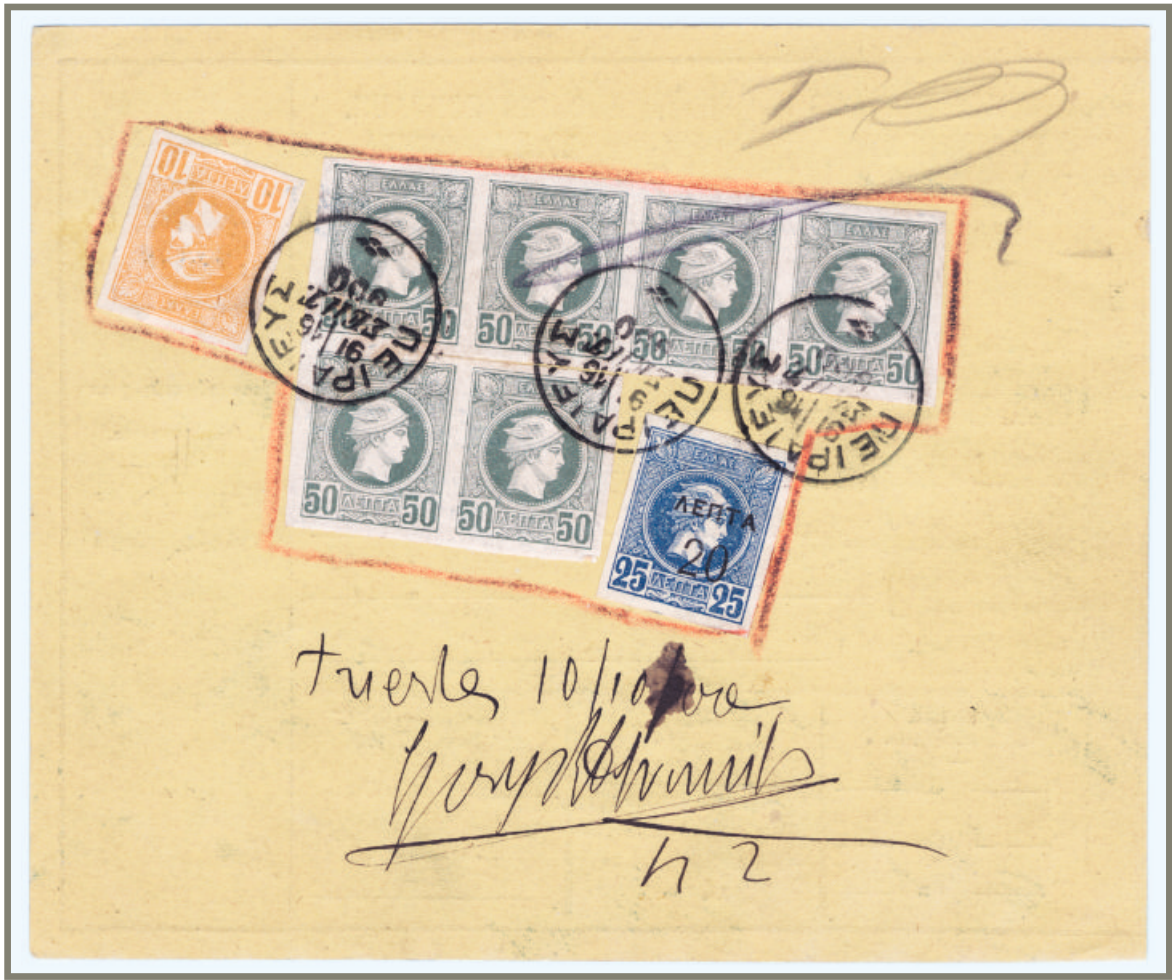
MIXED USE WITH OVERPRINTED
SMALL HERMES HEADS



ATHENS ISSUE 1898 / 10 LEPTA / Orange / Perforation 11½

Mailed in 25.9.1900 from Athens to Hanover.
Total overseas postal rate 1 drachma and 50 lepta for a registered letter from 46 to 60 grams.
(30 lepta per 15 grams and 30 lepta registration fee).

MIXED USE WITH OVERPRINTED
SMALL HERMES HEADS



"Certificate of Authenticity"

OVERSEAS PARCEL'S
DISPATCH BULLETIN

Mailed in 16.9.1900 from Piraeus to Trieste.
Arrived to Trieste, received and signed
in 10.10.1900 from the receiver.
Overseas postal rate 3 drachmas and 30 lepta
for mailing back to the sender
the delivery receipt.
ex. G. Trefonas collection.

Photograph of back side
Minimized 60%

**MIXED USE WITH OVERPRINTED
LARGE HERMES HEADS**

*Mailed in
28.12.1900
from Athens
to Paris.
Overseas postal
rate 75 lepta
for a registered
letter from 16
to 30 lepta.*



*Mailed in
26.3.1901
from Athens to
Massachusetts
USA.
Overseas postal
rate 90 lepta
for a letter from
31 to 45 grams.
Face value of
25 lepta, equals
to 30 in copper
coins.*



MARITIME CANCELLATIONS

PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI

*Mailed from Syros
to Ancona via
Brindisi by way of
steam ship in
October 1888.*

*Tied on board by
"PIROSCAFI
POSTALI
ITALIANI".*

*Manuscript
cancellation with
pen strokes.*

*Total overseas
postal rate 25
lepta for a letter up
to 15 grams.*



PAQUEBOTS VIA BRINDISI

*Delivered to a
steamship in
2.6.1899 on board
to Santena,
cancelled with
"PAQUEBOTS".*

*First postmark
"AMB. BRINDISI -
FOGLIA 6.6.98"*

*and on reverse
"ROMA 6.6.98".*

*Arrival cancellation
"SANTENA 10.6.98".*



MARITIME CANCELLATIONS

LLOYD AUSTRIACO

*Delivered to a steamship
in 22.8.1900 on board to
Warnbach, cancelled with
LLOYD AUSTRIACO XXIV.*

*Number of the
ship XXIV.*

*Overseas postal rate
30 lepta for a letter
up to 15 grams.*

*Face value of 25 lepta,
equals to 30
in copper coins.*



GREEK STEAMSHIP COMPANY "Δ.Π. ΓΟΥΔΗ"

*Mailed from
Piraeus to
Kardamili.*

*Cancelled with
the Greek
steamship's
handstamp*

*"ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ
ΑΤΜΟΠΛΟΪΑ
Δ.Π. ΓΟΥΔΗ
ΕΝ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΕΙ".*

*Domestic postal rate
20 lepta for a letter
up to 15 grams.*



MARITIME CANCELLATION

LLOYD AUSTRIAKO.

*Delivered to a steamship
in 10.5.95 in blue:
handwritten via
Bridisi Livorno.*

Trans

*"BASTIA - CORSE *
15.MAY.MAY"*

arrival

*"BELGODERE * 16.MAI.95"
(ITALY)*



*Delivered in
21.3.1900
on board to Trieste
to the steamship
MONTENEGRO
and
cancelled with
"MONTENEGRO
PIROSCAFO
POSTALE
ITALIANO".*

*Total overseas
postal rate 30 lepta
for a letter
up to 15 grams.*



"Certificate of Authenticity"

**MARITIME
CANCELLATION**

*Delivered in 10.9.1899
on board to Trieste
to the steamship
BOSNIA and
cancelled with
"MONTENEGRO
PIROSCAFO
POSTALE
ITALIANO".
Total overseas
postal rate 30 lepta
for a letter
up to 15 grams.*



*Delivered in
20.4.1899
on board to Trieste
to the steamship
PELORO and
cancelled with
"MONTENEGRO
PIROSCAFO
POSTALE
ITALIANO".
Total overseas
postal rate 30 lepta
for a letter
up to 15 grams.*



INSUFFICIENT FRANKING



THE IRREGULAR USE OF A LETTER CARD IN 1901

Mailed in 12.3.1901 from Kerkyra to Munich. Overseas postal rate 25 lepta for a letter card. The "10 lepta" letter cards could be used only for internal circulation. So the printed 10 lepta were nullified with the marking "O" next to it, the letter card stamped with "T" as being insufficiently franked and the double of the deficit - "20" - was indicated.

LATENESS IN USE

Mailed in 15.6.1908 from Piraeus to Paris. Small Hermes Heads were withdrawn from circulation on the 1st of July 1901, so the stamp of 25 lepta was invalid.

The postal service marked zero (O), next to the stamp and stamped the cover with the postmark "T".

The French postal service charged the letter with the additional tax of 50 centimes.



INSUFFICIENT FRANKING



MOURNING COVER

*Posted from "CORFOU 17 SEPT 1888" and
cancelled "T" for insufficient rate 5 L.*

*Arrival cancellation "CONSTANTINOPLE 8 OCTOMBRE 1888"
ANT. TAXE 20 pa EMPIRE*

INSUFFICIENT FRANKING



Mailed in 1.12.1899 from Patra to Brussels. Overseas postal rate 10 lepta for a postcard.
 Stamped with "T" as being insufficiently franked. The exchange office in Brussels
 charged it with 15c, the double of the deficit.



Mailed in 24.12.1899 from Athens to Brussels. Overseas postal rate 10 lepta for a postcard.
 Stamped with "T" as being insufficiently franked. The exchange office in Brussels
 charged it with 10c, the double of the deficit.

INSUFFICIENT FRANKING

Mailed in 30.11.1891
from Kerkyra (Corfu)
to Genova.

Overseas postal rate
25 lepta for a letter
up to 15 grams.

Stamped with "T"
as being insufficiently
franked and
the missing sum
of 5 lepta was indicated
close to the stamp.
According to the
regulations of the
International Postal
Conventions,
the exchange office
of Genova where
the letter is addressed,
charged it with the double
of the certified deficit
and franked it
with Italian
10 centesimi Segnatasse.



Mailed in 1899
from Piraeus to Paris.

Overseas postal rate
10 lepta for a postcard.

According to the
International Postal
Convention when
a postal item is found
to have been insufficiently
franked the dispatching
postal service,
dispatches the item
but it seals it with
the postmark "T"
and indicates close to
the stamps the missing sum
in franks and cents.

ex. P. Ioannides collection.



CONTROL SEALS OF STATE REVENUE OFFICES
STAMPED IN 1897 ON FRONT SIDE



" TAMEION ΣΥΡΟΥ "
STATE REVENUE OFFICE "SYROS"



" TAMEION ΛΕΥΚΑΔΟΣ "
STATE REVENUE OFFICE "LEYKAS"

When the Greeks withdrew from Northern Thessaly in the middle of 1897, the Turkish army defalcated large amounts of stamps from the Greek treasuries. Immediately, the Greek government gave order to all the Revenue Offices of the State, which distributed the stamps, to apply their seal onto the front side of all stamps so that those stolen stamps could not be used to their disadvantage. Since these stamps that way appeared like used ones, the government a few days later, ordered to stamp the control seals onto the back side of the stamps.

The used pieces with a control seal on the front are particularly rare.



" TAMEION ΚΑΡΥΣΤΟΥ "
STATE REVENUE OFFICE "KARYSTOS"



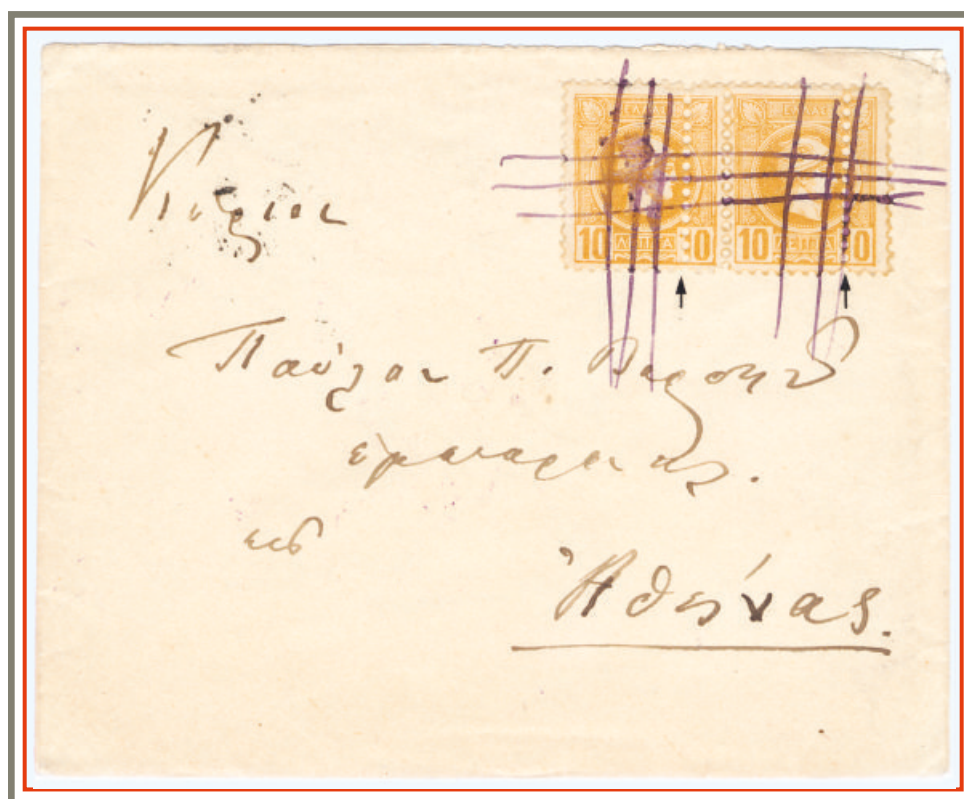
" TAMEION ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΟΣ "
STATE REVENUE OFFICE "LAKEDAIMONOS"

HANDWRITTEN PEN CANCELLATIONS

Used occasionally instead of normal Post Office cancellers by the clerk, who struck a few pen marks on the face of the stamp to render it used.



A UNIQUE COVER



*Mailed from KYLLINI Health Spa (30.3.1893)
near Patrae to ATHENS (31.5.1893) and
franked with pair 10 lepta with double perforation 11 1/2 and
cancelled with linear pen strokes.
ex. Papaioannou collection.*

FOREIGN CANCELLERS



LONDON



CHIASSO



VOLOS
Turkish P. Office



CONSTANTINOPLE
TURQUIE
French Post Office



TRIESTE
Shore Arrival canceller



SALONIQUE-TURQUIE
French Post Office



OFFICIAL EMBOSSED 5 Lepta POSTCARD

Picturing music score of the Greek National Anthem mailed with 5 lepta Athens (period E) to a German seaman aboard S.M.S. VINESA.

Routed through Marin Post Office of BERLIN, where a 5 Pf Reichpost is added and both stamps cancelled with "Kaiserliche Deutsche Marine Schiffspost No 1" dd 7.3.1901.

RAILWAY STATIONS

The railway stations' cachets were used for accounting purposes and internal correspondence. They are rarely used cancellers on stamps.

LARISSA RAILWAY STATION / ΛΑΡΙΣΣΑ ΣΤΑΘΜΟΣ Σ.Θ.

*Mailed in 19.9.1892 from the
Railway Station in Larissa to Naples.
Overseas postal rate 5 lepta
for an unsealed envelope.*



SIKIA RAILWAY STATION / ΣΙΔΗΡΟΔΡ. Π.Α.Π. ΣΥΚΙΑ

*Mailed in 29.9.1889
from Sykia to Patra.
Domestic postal rate 20 lepta
for a letter up to 15 grams.*



SOFADES STATION / ΣΟΦΑΔΕΣ ΣΤΑΘΜΟΣ

*Mailed in
1.3.1893
from a citizen
to the director of
the Railway
in Thessaly.
Domestic
postal rate
20 lepta
for a letter
up to 15 grams.*



JOURNEYS AROUND THE WORLD

U.S.A. letter card
mailed from Chicago
to Athens,
where it was
readdressed franked
with 25 lepta
deep indigo,
Athens issue 1889
and mailed
to Shanghai
forwarded
to Yokohama,
where from,
it was franked with
5 sen, Japanese stamp
and mailed back
to Chicago.



Mailed in 2.3.1891
from Morristown N.J. and
arrived in 12.3.91 to London.
Readdressed and forwarded in 13.3.1891
from London to Athens.
Arrived in 5.3.91
(17.3.91 according to
the Julian calendar)
and it was further readdressed
and mailed in 7.3.91
(19.3.1891 according to
the Julian calendar) to Rome.
Arrived to Rome in 25.3.1891
and mailed back immediately
to London where it arrived
in 30.3.1891.
USA overseas postal rate
5 cents (equal to 25 lepta)
during this period for
a letter up to 15 grams.



The letter was overcharged with double rate. The English postal office recognized that it was overrated and forwarded it to Athens without charging it. The postal office of Athens forwarded it to Rome by charging it with the proper standard rate of 25 lepta. The Italian postal office as it doesn't bear any address in Italy didn't keep it and send it immediately back to London without tax, considering that they only intervened between Athens and London.