

Greece

Incoming and Outgoing Mail from 1821 before the time with stamps and up to GPU 1875 Destinations and Combination-Frankings with Large Heads of Greece

Introduction to the exhibit:

Postal History as part of philately means to me, everything which is connected with paid letters - from whom and whatsoever, with or without stamps and this is really a challenge because of its diversity with the diverging rates, routes, distances, weights and more.

Greece was a small country in the period under consideration. **Two nations ruled the postal traffic in the Mediterranean Sea. France with its port Marseille and Austria with Trieste.** With Austria, it concluded its first postal convention in 1837 – with France in 1844. When the railways reached **Brindisi in 1865, the route via Italy** become important because it was the fastest!

Contrary to some other Postal Historians it is in my opinion of great value to see the different routes inside the different countries - **first the country and second the route – in the exhibit make colours it easy to find the used route (blue for France, red for Austria and green for Italy).**

Destinations are the countries with postal relations to or from Greece from 1821 on - so the first group are letters without stamps (**pre-stamp period**) fully or partly paid or totally unpaid or later with stamps (**stamp-period**). From 1. Oct. 1861 Greece introduced stamps - the Large Hermes Heads. They were used as **Stamps for outgoing letters and as Postage Dues for not fully or unpaid incoming mail.** The exhibition period ends with the Introduction of G.P.U. on 1. July 1875 (in Greece 19.6.1875 due to Julian and Gregorian calendar with 12 days difference - and with France 1.1.1876, they join G.P.U. 6 months later).

Combination Frankings are those with stamps of Greece and one or more other countries. The reason is the use of the **Large Heads as Postage Dues** which was at the time only done in Greece and in no other European Country.

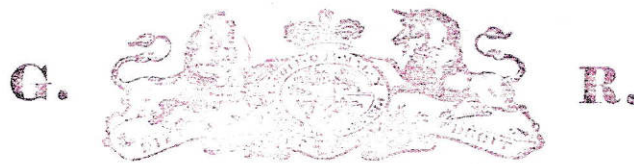
The correct Combination Franking is if the sender could only prepay to the Greek border. The amount within Greece was collected from the receiver as with Egypt to the exchange office in Alexandria, the Egyptian Levant, the Austrian Levant (but not Austria!), the Papal States, Malta, Romania via Constantinople, Russia with the exchange office Constantinople and Turkey. In the second group we find not allowed part frankings with France, Austria, Italy, Great Britain and other countries up to 1868, these frankings were not accepted, the letters had to be charged with the full amount for unpaid ones. The last group begun with the acceptance of the franking on these underpaid letters with the paid value, the missing amount to the unpaid one was collected in Greece and paid with Large Hermes Heads (because of other weight or under-franked amount or another route).

From 1. 3. 1875 Greece started with Postage Due stamps in green and black. They were used to the old pre-GPU-tariffs **only 4 months up to the 30.6.1875.** The time of Combination-Frankings with Large Hermes Heads was definitely over. **All later uses are fakes!**

Classification with countries under the described structure and with all possibilities:

Name	Frame / Sheet
1 France and the French Levant	1 + 2 / Sheet 22
2 Austria, the Austrian Levant and Hungary	2/ 023 - 3/ 046
3 Italy with the Papal States, the Old Italian States and Ital-Tunisia	3/ 046 - 4/ 064
4 Germany with the Old German States Baden, Bavaria, Brunswick, Hanover, Prussia, Saxony, Tour + Taxis, North German Federation and the German Reich	5/ 065 - 6/ 083
5 Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, The Netherlands and Switzerland	6/ 084 - 6/ 096
6 Great Britain with Malta and the Ionian Islands	7/ 097 - 7/ 106
7 Spain and Portugal	7/ 107 - 7/ 108
8 Romania	7/ 109 - 7/ 110
9 Russian Empire and the Russian Levant	7/ 111 - 8/ 115
10 Turkey, Egypt and the Egyptian Levant	8/ 116 - 8/ 122
11 India and Brazil	8/ 123 - 8/ 124
12 United States of America	8/ 125 - 8/ 127
13 Ceylon and Hawaii	8/ 128

Remarks showing the rarity of letters  1 letter known  up to 5 known



MALTA - *Disinfection Document*

SUA ECCELLENZA IL PRESIDENTE



<i>Warner</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>9th</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Frank</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>20th</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Glasgow</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>

Seabattle of Navarino

Under the photo is a diminished **Disinfection Document** of the British Sanitary Board Malta dated **Nov. 28, 1827**, about the returning of the combined fleet to Malta and the disinfection concerning. 2 French, 7 Russian and 11 English ships arriving from Nov. 5 and executing Nov. 9 except the „Glasgow“ which arrived in Malta because of an engine trouble late at Nov. 27. Original is attached.

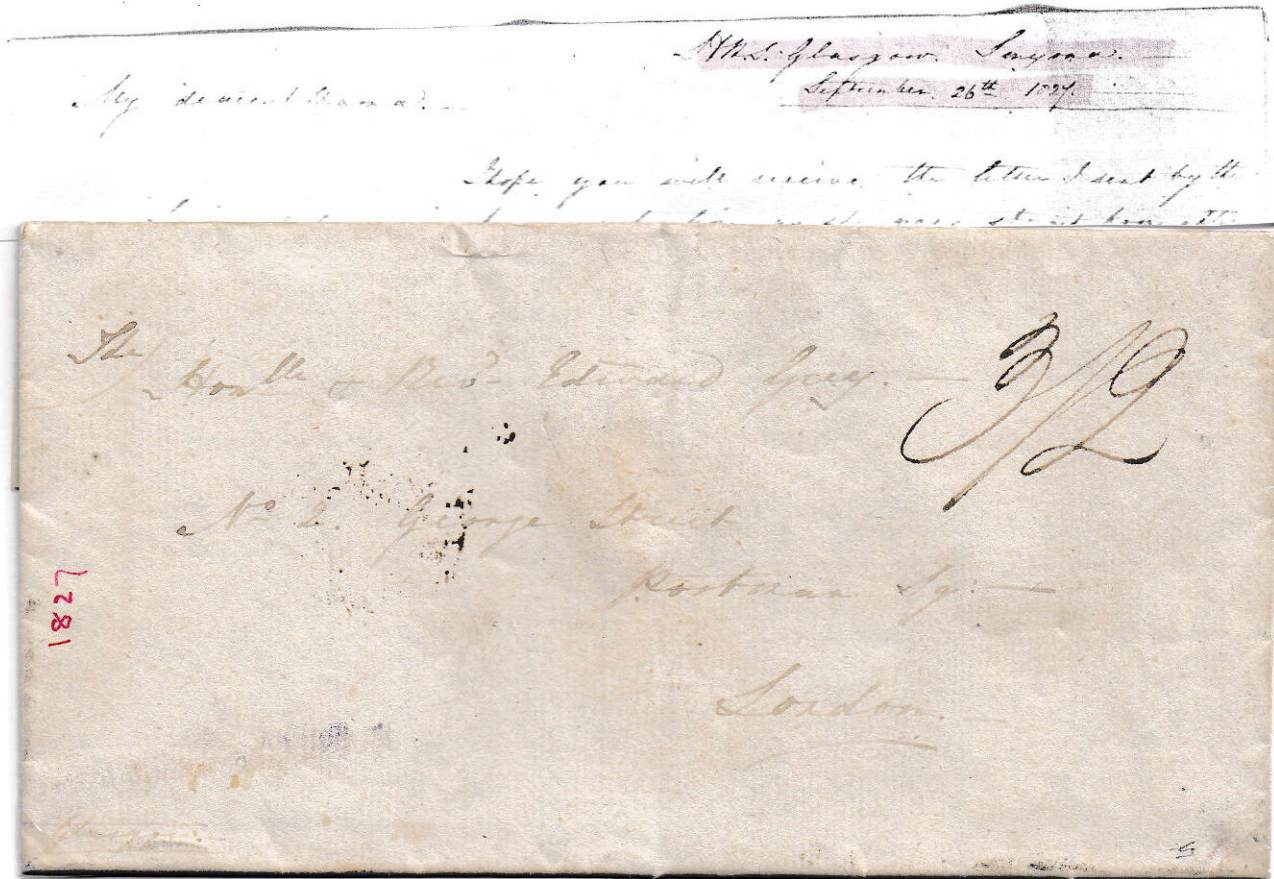
Greece was hundreds of years a completely unimportant Turkish province.

The beginning of the Greek uprising was on Dec. 21, 1821 with the first National Assembly in Nea Epidavros. After this first success against the Turks the fights become harder in the south of Greece and for years there was no change in the situation. Then foreign powers took part - a combined fleet from England, Russia and France was sent to Navarino (today Pylos). In the battle of Navarino in Oct. 1827 they shot most of the Turkish ships to the ground without own losses- it was the last big sea battle only with sailing ships!

Within the frame of the Minutes of the Convention of London 1830 was decided to found a small independent Greek kingdom. This kingdom should be ruled by the German prince Otto from Bavaria. He was an acceptable solution for the 3 big powers. He was inthronized with the treaty of Constantinople 1832. He choosed as capital Nauplion (Napoli di Romania). Bavaria was obliged to send an allotment of 3500 troops to replace the French „Armée de Morée“

Herewith begun the real sovereignty of Greece and the fight for independency was finished.

Letters associated to the "Battle of Navarino"



- One of the **earliest letters** from Greece to England was **written by an eyewitness of the Battle of Navarino 1827** abroad "H.M.S. Glasgow" as a kind of diary starting Sept. 26, 1827 from Smyrna and mentioned on p. 2 "You can have an idea what a grand sight it is to see a vessel blow up and you will be astonished to hear that no less than 49 men of War (Turkish and Egyptian) have been blown up in the harbour and most beautiful sight it is in the night to see them blow up"

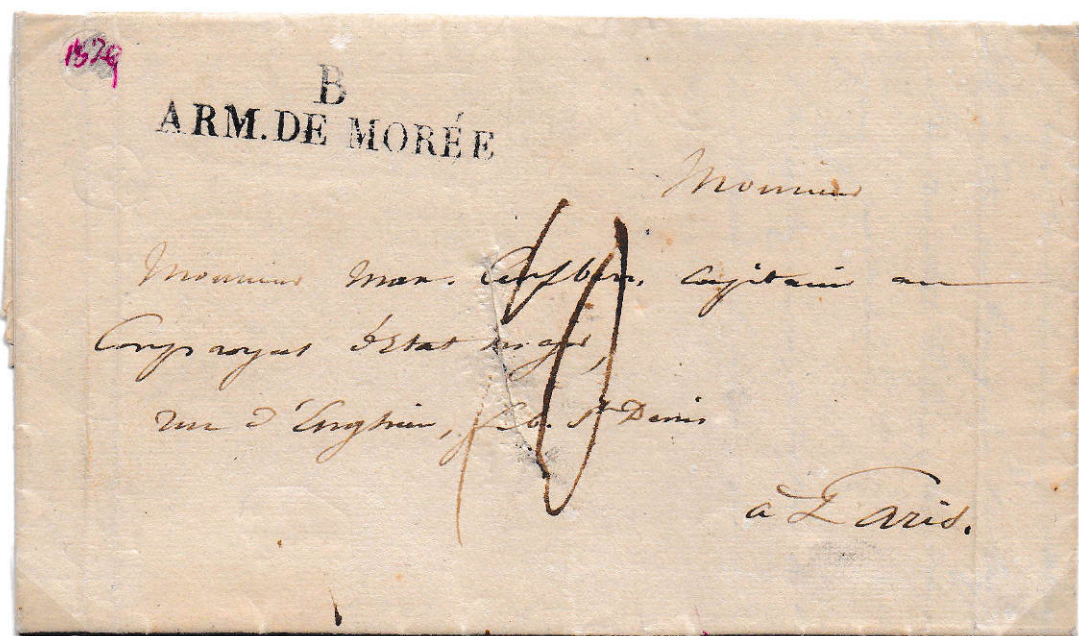
The Letter was sent immediately after the battle with "Philomel" (a British ship of the Combined fleet) with dispatches home.

It arrived in London FPO 18.12.1827 and was **charged with 3sh2d**

Postal Relations between France and Greece

No correspondence is known before the battle of Navarino. The French Expedition Corps „**Armée de Morée**“ landed at the end of August 1827 with three brigades in Greece and expelled the Peloponissos from Turkish troops. In 1833, the French troops were replaced by Bavarian troops. **Transport from and to France was executed by battleships free of charge**, but within France from the marine- port Toulon the letters had to be paid according to the distance. Mostly the receiver pays - as it was rule these days - but in rare cases the French amount was already paid in Greece, documented with a strike on the front and cancelled „P.P.“

The two used postmarks in Greece were „**QerGal Arm.de Morée**“ and „**B Arm. de Morée**“ the latter being much rarer. Most known covers were addressed to France, the ones from France or within Greece are nearly unknown.



- Letter of the Commanding General of the French troops in Greece Virgil Anton Schneider from Patras 6.2.1829 to another officer in Paris charged with 10 décimes from Toulon to Paris



- Letter from Marseille via Toulon 12.7.1829 to Modon in Greece (Methoni) charged with 3 déc for the route Marseille – Toulon

France

The first period lasted from 1844 to 31.12.1865 from France to Greece.

From France 1,20 Fr. for 7,5 gr, double 2,40 Fr. for 15 gr and triple 3,60 Fr. for 22,5 gr and from Greece to France 112 L. plus inland up to 30.9.1861 by distance generally 20 L.

The weight steps from Greece to France were different. The scale ascended from 7,5 gr to 10, 10 to 15 and so on



- Partly cash paid letter from Rueil paid on the front with the Levant-rate of 50 cts which was not enough to Greece but there was no space on the front for other stamps- marked paid in cash 7 déc on the back for 1,20 Fr for the total rate



- Double rate from Paris 17.12.1858 paid with 2,40 Fr to Athens with 12 pieces of 20 cts Postmark "Gros points"

France

Between France and Greece at that time **Mixed-Frankings** or better **Insufficient Frankings** were not allowed. We know letters to the French Levant franked with 50 cts and later with 40 cts, but this was insufficient for Greece, so this **underfranking was not accepted**, and the **letters were charged the total amount**.



- Letter from Paris 16.7.1864 underpaid with 80 cts instead of 1,20 Fr marked „Affranchissement Insuffisant“ and charged with the total amount of 132 Lepta in Athens 16.7.1864 (same date but different calendar by 12 days)



- LS from Marseille 18.10.1864 franked with the Levant-rate of 50 cts with ship „Danube“ to Syra 13.10. and charged with the full amount of 132 Lepta (7,5 to 10 g)

France

The 2nd period started 1.1.1866 and was a unilateral rate-reduction only from France to Greece from 1,20 Fr to 1 Fr – from Greece to France the rate stayed at 132 Lepta, a real uncommon attitude – but it did not change the habits of the clients! In the French literature there are no remarks about that unusual coincidence – only Michèle Chauvet in her book of 2015, 73 make a note of this reduction and the new weight step of now 10 gr.

France made the convention with Greece and reduced the fee for its clients. Greece could have done the same, since the French had also reduced the tariff from Greece to F. After all, it was a Greek decision to pass on fee reductions to customers or not. The Greek Post wanted to keep this additional revenue.



Single rate 2nd period paid with 1 Fr from Lyon 26.10.1866 via Marseille 27.10. to Athens – the last travel with the old system of ship postmarks for letters directly from Marseille here with ship "Niemen" before the transition to the new lines U and X at 1.11.1866



• Letter from Marseille 26.10.1867 unpaid with Ligne U PaqFrNo 2 "Nil" to Athens 19.10.67 charged with 132 L. This was the last travel to the old tariff ending 31.10.67

France



Franco cover paid with 132 L. from Athens 16.6.66 with ship "Amerique" to **Marseille** 4.7.66 and the **blue Athens-cancel with straight figures in use only about 10 days 9. – 19.6.66** ©



Fully paid cover from Athens 25.8.66 with ship "Issus" **via Marseille** to Lyon 13.9.
franked with 376 Lepta for 5th French weight between 20 and 25 g and 2nd Greek (15 to 30 g)
 $3 \times 112 + 2 \times 15 = 376$ Lepta
The French entrance postmark for Marseille and further were different.

France

The 3rd period began on 1.11.67 and ended on 31.12.1875 with the late entrance of France to GPU. The rates were now different for Franco-Paid (60 cts or 70 Lepta) or Porto-Unpaid (8 dec or 90 L.) Letters. Part payments were accepted – the prepaid amount was deducted from the rate of a Porto-Cover



♥ Letter from **Paris** with different Ceres.Issues to Athens 2.10.74
Rate 60 cts up to 10 g – here a **triple-rate cover between 20 and 30 g** with 180 cts

France

Paid cover from Greece 3rd Period



- Letter 3rd period 28.3.1875 from Korinthos via Kerkyra (Corfu) and Paris (Grece St. Michel 2) to Nantes 9.4.1875 prepaid with 70 Lepta and a combination of three strips (1 L. is missing right up)

France

Insufficiently paid letters from Greece to France in the 3rd period



- Letter from Andros Kastorn 3.9.1872 **paid for single weight but stated double**, PD crossed marked **Affranchissement Insuffisant** and **charged with 11 décimes**
Rate: unpaid $8 \times 2 = 16$ déc ./70 Lepta: 1,12 = counted as 5 déc = 11 déc to pay



- Letter again from Andros Kastorn 3.3.1872 was **paid only for local use with 20 Lepta**, sent to Marseille 23.3. **charged with 7 déc** - Rate unpaid 8 déc ./ 20 L. counted as 1 déc = 7 déc.

France

Insufficiently paid letters from France to Greece



Letter from Montpellier 20.11.1874 paid with 60 cts for single, but weighed double (15 g) marked Aff..Insuff..
via Marseille to Athens 17.11. Rate: unpaid double 180 Lepta - 60 cts on cover prepaid = 120 Lepta Debit



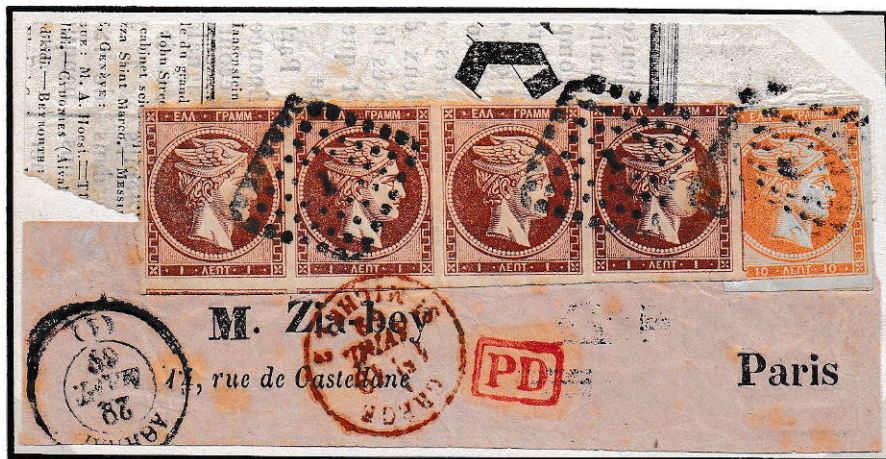
Letter from Paris 1.10.1873 with 60 cts for single paid, but weighed triple marked Aff..Insuff. P 11 (post-office 11 in Paris) to Athens 26.9. Rate: unpaid triple 270 Lepta - 60 cts (Lepta) on cover = 210 Lepta Debit

France

Special use for letters to France



Printed Matter from Piräus 27.4.1875 franked with 14 Lepta via Paris 15.5. to Lyon 16.5.



Wrapper on newspaper from Athens 29.3.1869 franked with 14 Lepta to Paris 19.4.1869
Grece St, Michel in red not known by Van der Linden #1664



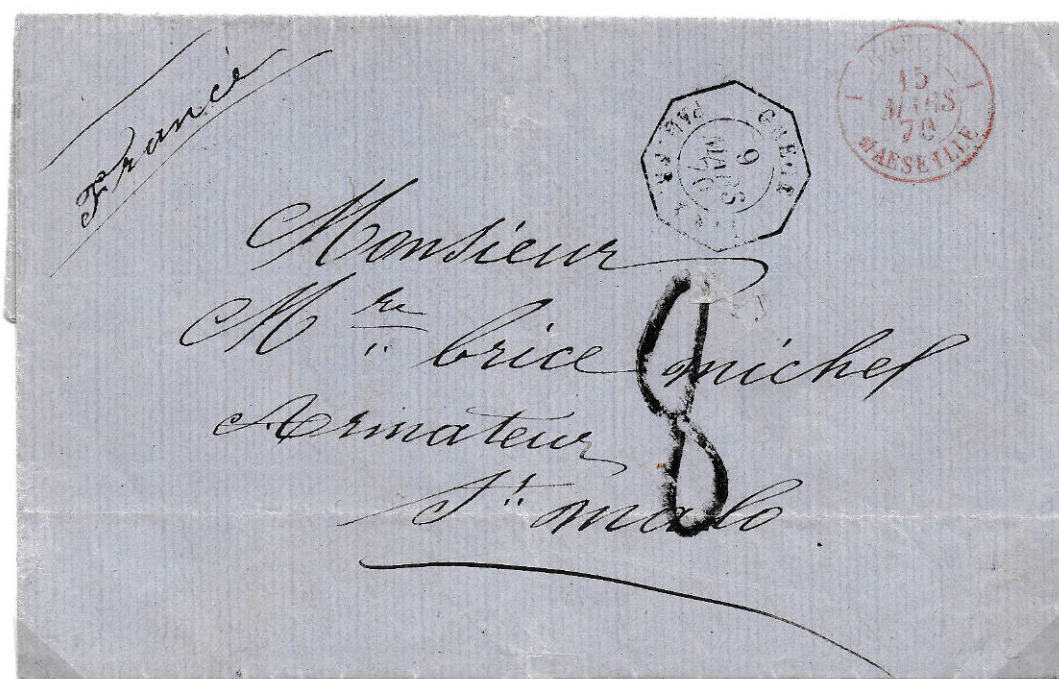
Registered letter from Athens 16.10.1869 franked with 140 Lepta for doubleweight and the same amount of 140 Lepta for Registration = 280 Lepta with ship "Ilissus" via Marseille to Lyon 4.11.

France

Unpaid covers from Greece to France - specific maritime cancels



- Letter from Athens 9.4.1870 with ship „Tibre“ and the **extremely rare octagonal Cancel of Line U „Grece Paq.Fr.U.No2“** (Salles II, 223 fig 855) to Lyon 13.4. additionally with inverted month **taxed Tampon 8 für 8 decimes or 80 cts**



- Letter from Syra 9.3.1870 with ship “Tage“ and the **extremely rare octagonal Cancel of Line X „Grece Paq.Fr.X.No 1“** (Salles II, 240 fig 912) via Marseille to St. Malo **taxed Tampon 8 for 8 decimes or 80 cts**

France

Mail from Greece **via Austria** to France



♦ Letter from Syros 23.1.1866 franked with 165 Lepta **via Trieste**, Autriche-Lans-Le-Bourg and Mont-Cenis to Marseille 11.2.1866

The route starts with ship from Syra to Trieste, with train to Susa, with coach over the Mont-Cenis to Lans-Le-Bourg and again with train to Marseille

The convention of 1860 asks for 165 Lepta according the Austrian taxes on reverse for the Lloyd 15+Austrian Transit 10+France 25 Kr = 50 Kr x3 =145 Lepta+20 L = 165 Lepta up to 1/2 Loth or 8,75 g



• **Double rate** from Syros one week earlier on **the same route** franked with 235 Lepta

Single: 95 L. to Austria + 50 L. Austria/France + 20 L. Inland = 165 Lepta

Double: again 95 L. for Austria (less as 1 Loth) + 100 L. Austria / France (between 1/2 and 1 Loth) + 40 L. Inland (between 15 and 30 g) = 235 Lepta for a final weight between 15 and 17,5 g

France

France belonged to the founders of the General Postal Union as Greece, but joined the GPU with effect from 1 Jan. 1876. The old or former rates stayed valid for the mail to or via France until 31. 12.1875



Fully paid LS from Athens 19.10.1875 franked with the old rate of 70 Lepta via Kerkyra, Brindisi and Dijon to Marseille 7.11.



Unpaid LS from Marseille 24.7.1875 B.M. (Boite Mobile) and Anchor cancel given directly to the ship to Athens 17.7. taxed with Tampon 90 Lep and franked with the corresponding Postage Due stamp

French post offices in the Levant

Even in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, The Black Sea and up the ports of the Danube as far as they were navigable from the mouth, the French Post was competing the Austrians - but **French Post was always more expensive** – the French standard rate was 45 Lepta, Greeks and Austrians took 40 Lepta



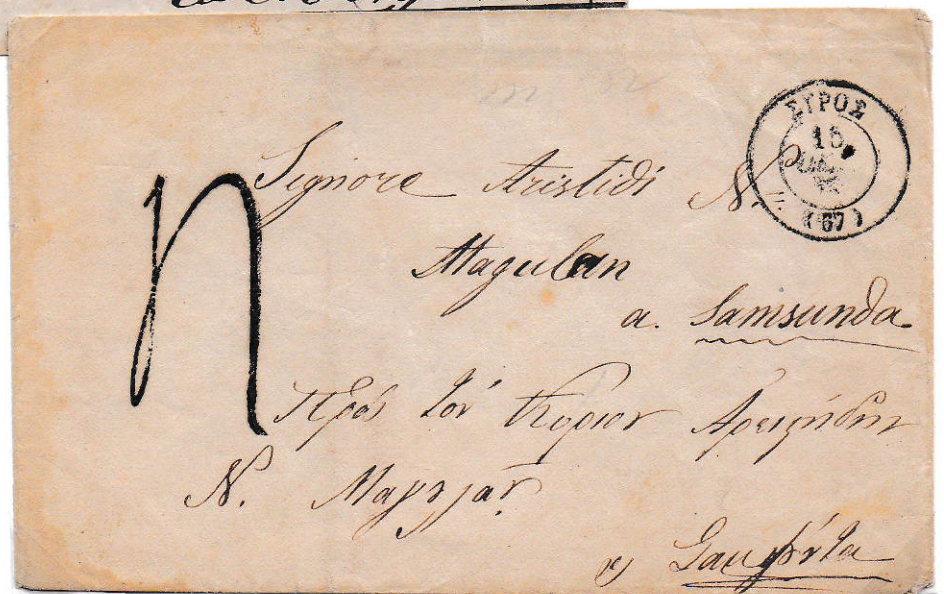
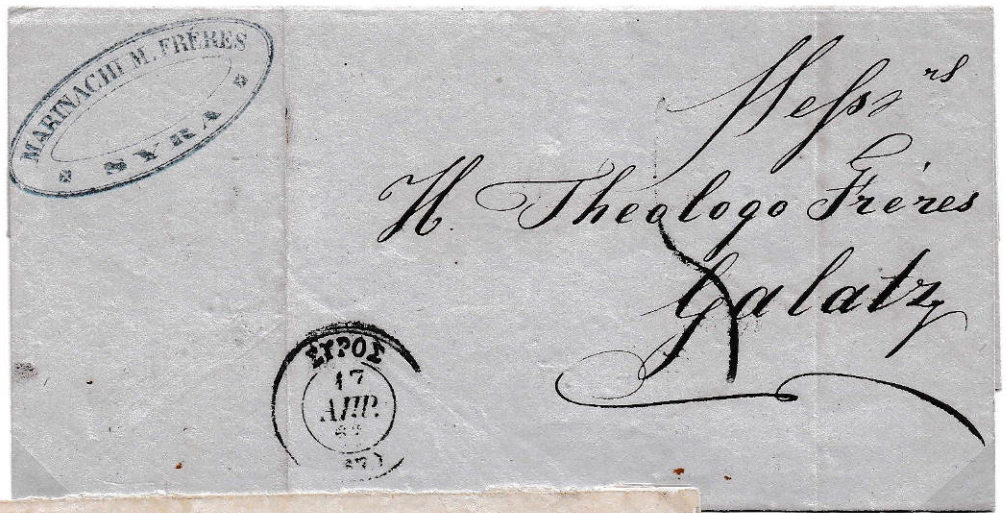
LS from Constantinople (Turquie) 18.7.1839 with ship „Minos“ and a weight of 7,5 g to Syra 8.7.1839 (Salles II, 25) on reverse the postmark of the **Sanitary Health office of Syra** in greyish-green



● **Wrapper** from Athens 25.4.1859 **unpaid** to Alexandria - Egypte 29.5.1859 wrappers took their time for transport even in the old days, **charged with 8 centimes** Mail from Greece directly to the French Post office in Alexandria and vice-versa is rare!

French Post offices in the Levant

Unpaid letters to the French Post offices are nearly unknown in all porto periods



- 1 Unpaid LS from Syros 17.4.1863 via Constantinople 2.5. to Galatz-Moldavie 7.5. charged with 5 decimes
- 2 Underpaid LS from Athens 17.4.64 prepaid 50 L. but heavier, therefore „Plir. Aneparkis“ (insufficiently paid) via Smyrne to Mételin-Turquie 7.4. charged with the total amount for double weight of 10 decimes
- 3 Unpaid LS from Syros 15.10.69 to Samsoun-Turq. d'Asie 11.11. charged with 4 decimas the reduced rate from 1.11.1867 to the French Post offices in The Levant

French Post offices in the Levant

Underpaid letter into the French Levant or further on to Turkey

Prepaid letters into the French Levant are quite rare contrary to franked or unfranked out of the French Levant - I do not know others under franked in this period.



- Letter from Athens 12.2.1869 insufficient prepaid **only 30 Lepta** via Peiraos and Les Dardanelles 26.2.to Salonique (Turquie) 28.2. there marked „Affr.. Insuff..“ **in red** and **charged with 4 déc** as unpaid forwarded to Serres in the interior of Turkey

French Post offices in the Levant

Till the end of October 1867 **insufficient frankings were not accepted and the full amount for an unpaid letter was charged**- it is easy to recognize with this pair of letters



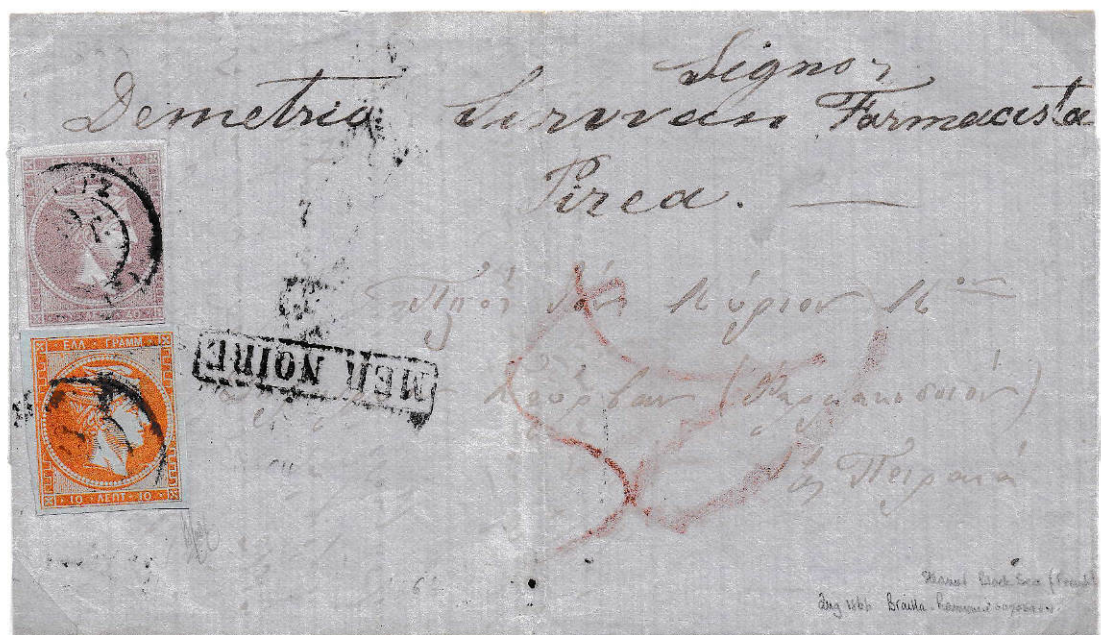
- **Underpaid LS (Aff. Insuff.)** from Constantinople 27.3.1867 **franked with 50 cts** cancelled with the **octagonal (westward bound) cancel „Paq.Fr.U No1“** ship „Nil“ in Athens 17.3. the **50 cts were not taken in account**, the letter was **charged with 65 Lepta**



Unpaid LS from Constantinople 6.3.1867 again with the octagonal cancel of the ship „Menzaleh“ to Athens 24.2., **charged with 65 Lepta for 2nd French weight between 7,5 - 10 g (as above)**

French Post offices in the Levant

Special and unusual postmarks



- Unpaid LS from **Ibraila (Moldavie)** 2.8.1866 (final station of the French Ligne de Danube).
Because of a cholera outbreak the letter was held in quarantine and arrived much later
 29.8. in Constantinople, received the postmark „**Mer Noire**“ (Salles II, 263)
 - from the Black Sea which included the Danube - and was finally charged in Peiraos **with 50 Lepta**



- Letter most probably from Constantinople (the cancel DP could be from there) paid with **40 L.**
 given directly to a ship and marked by hand „**Insuff**“ (Salles II, 271)
 in **Samsoun-Turq d'Asie** 7.3.1872 into the Postal system, **with 6 then modified to 8 decimas**

French Post offices in the Levant

Special and unusual postmarks



● Letter from **Volos to Syra** paid with a **French inland rate of 20 cts** cancelled with **the blue boxed P P** (found only on the French stamps used in Volos) and sent via Peiraios 20.1.1872 to Syros charged there 21.1.1872 with the domestic rate of 20 L. – a **unique franking**

**if the rate from abroad is not sufficient
and it is not marked as ...insufficient... it is not a problem for Greece**

French Post offices in the Levant

Postage Due stamps in the period between 1.7. and 31.12.1875



- Unpaid LS from **Jaffa-Syrie 4.10.1875** via Beyrouth, Smyrne and Syra to Athens 5.10. charged with **Tampon 45 Lep in black** and franked with the appropriate Postage Due stamps



- Unpaid LS from **Les Dardanelles-Turquie 9.12.1875** to Peiraïos 29.11. charged with **Tampon 45 Lep in blue** and adequately franked

Postal Relations between Austria and Greece

Austria and the Adriatic port of Trieste was besides France and the French port of Marseille the decisive power in the Mediterranean. Nearly all postal traffic with Austria was executed via Trieste. In the early years irregular ship service by battleships was followed 1837 by a more regular timetable from Trieste via Corfu to Syros and onwards to Constantinople (Del Bianco II, 109 and 301) - there were no exact dates as we found with Salles.

Austria and Greece had different distance- and weight steps - they were described with each letter. At the beginning in Trieste was an additional disinfection fee noted in front by the containing sheets of the letter.



1 Fully paid letter from Syra 15.11.1840 to Trieste to be paid by sheets 18 sheets cost 48 KrCM

2 Trieste 1.10.1839 via Patras 24.9. to Nauplion 27.9. Franco – fully paid to the Greek harbour with 18 KrCM the Greek entry mark „Ellas dia Patron“ and -PEMS means - fully paid from abroad the local rate Patras - Nauplion was 30 Lepta

Austria

Because of the differences in the rates in both directions - north- and southbound - we find **90% prepaid letters from Greece to Austria** - and the same relation for the unpaid from North to South. Merchants and we found nearly never private letters observe each Kreuzer in difference. Compared a letter from Triest to Greece was 28 NKreuzer = 84 Lepta and from Greece to Trieste only 75 Lepta.



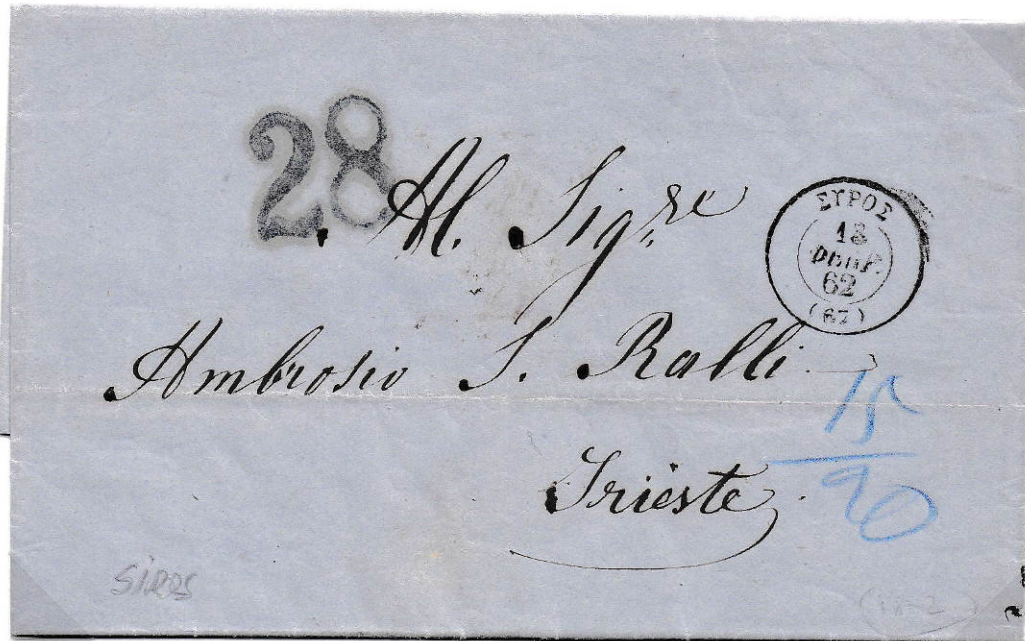
- Letter from Triest 10.6.1856 Früh fully paid (Andreas-cross) to Athens 5.6. with 17 Kreuzer C.M. (2 for Trieste + 9 for sea to Greece + 6 in Greece) all stamps from the 1st issue ©



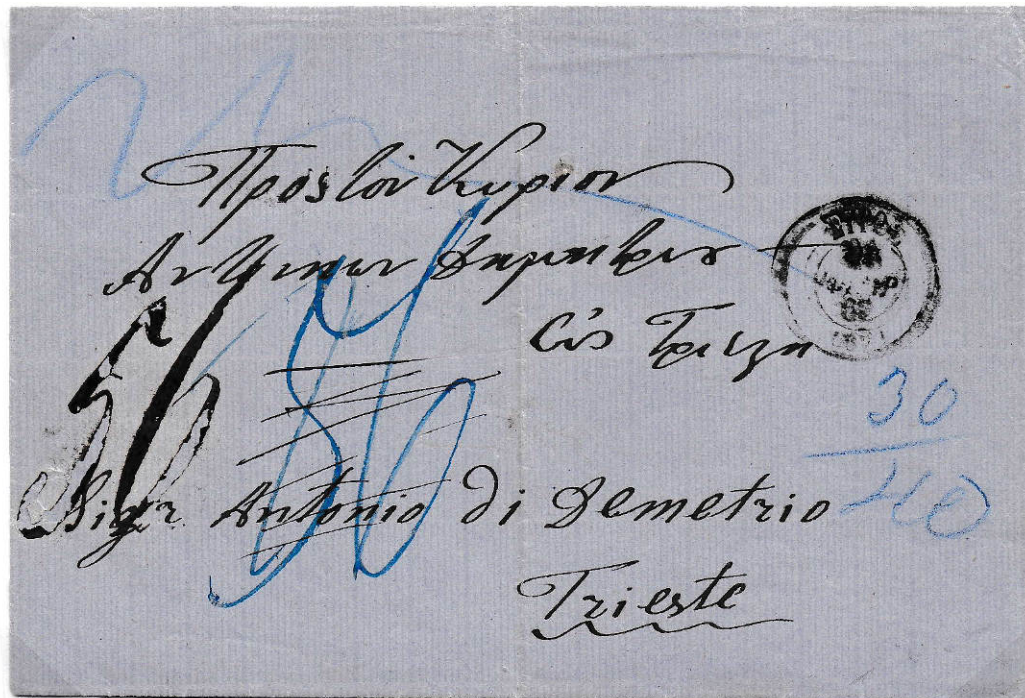
- Fully paid letter from Trieste 26.5.1860 via Athens to Nauplion 20.5. paid with 28 Neukreuzer all 2nd issue (3 Nkr for Trieste + 15 Austrian Lloyd + 10 Greece domestic) The name of the Austrian Currency changed from kreuzer (kr to neukr)

Austria

Unpaid Letters cost the same as paid ones and are hard to find from Greece to Austria except for Trieste.



- Unpaid letter from Syros 13.2.1862 to Trieste 6.3. taxed with the "large 28"
This rate tampon was only in use for a short time in February 1862
and only 3 letters are known



- Unfranked double-rate LS from Syros to Trieste charged with 56 kr and the double Lloyd rate 30/40
Only this letter is known

Austria



- Registered letter with the red cancel of „K.K. Brief-Filialamt - Recomandiert 15.1 1863 Wien fully paid with **40 Kreuzer of the 3rd issue** (15 Kreuzer in 3rd distance step to Trieste + 15 Kr. sea + 10 Kr. Greece 10 Kr. for registration (on reverse is normal missing) arrived in Athens 11.1.1863 ©

Austria



Normal Combination-Frankings 1862 consists of two parts - the insufficient and therefore not accepted franking and the debit in Greece for the complete unpaid rate

- ♦ Here we find an **extraordinary exception** together with the **interception of letters in the Post office in Vienna** by the employee **Mr. Kallab**, In his cabinet were found a lot of withheld letters.

This one was with 15 nkr. to Berlin prepaid correctly, sent after the discovery 15.4.1862 to Berlin, arriving 17.4. and sent the same day to Athens, at 19.4 again in Vienna and via Trieste to Athens, charged there with the

full rate of 110 L. for covers coming from the German-Austrian Postal Union
The letter bears a printed label: "Been fraudulent withheld and now accomplished"

An extreme scarce Combination-Franking originating of a redirected LS via a foreign country ©

Austria



♥ Unpaid LS from Trieste 15. Dec. 1863 **completely unfranked to Athens**

On the front there is no postmark or notice at all, the revers shows the solution:

In Trieste the cover was **handed over to a captain and fully cash paid**, as shown by the blue Lloyd-figures 15Kreuzer/20Lepta. Arriving in Greece the captain delivered according to the convention the LS to the Greek Post office, as shown by the postmark Athens 11.12.63.

Up to now this is the only known Captains' letter to Greece

Austria

Partly paid letters were handled until the new convention was valid in May 1868 as unpaid and charged as unpaid so the amount on the cover was lost. The following covers belong to the rate period up to 31.10.1866.



- Cover front from Trieste 1. Sept. 1866 to Syra 25.8.
underpaid with only 25 neukreuzer instead of 28 nkr. 3 nkr. are missing
AFFRANCATURA INSUFFICIENTE
and collect of the total amount of 75 Lepta. ©



- Underpaid LS from Vienna 22.9.1864 with only 35 instead of 40 nkr - 5 nkr. are missing
Full charge of 110 Lepta as an unpaid letter

Austria

Connections to Greece with the Austrian Issue of 1867

Greece and Austria were with France the most important nations in the Mediterranean Sea. Nevertheless, the connections were different. In the beginning from 1861 95% of the covers were sent unpaid from Austria to Greece and taxed and paid in Greece. Even from 1867 fully paid letters to Greece were not common – only from Trieste you find a reasonable number, from Vienna not!

After the new Treaty from 13.5.1868 a lot of covers from Austria especially from Trieste to Syra were sent insufficiently paid and brings us the so-called **Combination-Covers** – Covers with Austrian and Greek Stamps with very different Taxes! Some of them are shown here. We could not find neither in Greece nor in Austria official notes about these different rates.

This Group contains letters with under franked ones – contrary to the **Austrian-Levant** ones. It was only possible to pay the rate to the Greek boarder with Levant-Stamps and the Greek inland-rate was extra!



- Triple-rate letter paid with 3 pieces of 25 nkr. (coarse printing) = 75 nkr. from Vienna 13.4.1875 via Triest 15.4.

to Athens 9.4. LS from Greece to Trieste in the 3rd porto-period sent to the famous geologist Theodor Fuchs.

Up to now the **only known triple-rate franking from Austria to Greece** ©

Austria

Connections to Greece with the Austrian Issue of 1867



- Letter from Triest 18.10.1872 paid with 80 nkr. In the 4th weightstep of 20 nkr. the reduced rate from port to port of 20 nkr via Kerkyra 8.10. Patras 12.10. and Korinthos 13.10. to Kalamata ©

Austria

There was a special rate of 15 nkr. between Trieste and the Ionian Islands up to 1867 – the Austrian Lloyd had treaties with the Ionian Islands, which must have been overtaken by Greece after the Ionian Islands came to Greece April 1864 politically and January 1865 postally. Up to now nothing could be found in the agreements between Greece and Austria neither in Greece nor in Austria - but the examples show the existence of this rate after 1865.



- **Registered letter from Trieste 2.3.1867 franked with 30 Neukreuzer including the fee for registration**
 Contrary to the treaty between Austria and Greece was the postage equal to the registration fee
 the total amount was $15 + 15 = 30$ Kreuzer and applied even on the front.
 Registration fee was the same as for the cover



- **Underpaid cover from Trieste 4.8.66 franked with 10 instead of 15 nkr., taxed with the missing 5 nkr**
 $5 \times 3 = 15$ L. + 20 L. = 35 Lepta in stamps, the underfranking was accepted. The complete handling here
 was different as between Austria and Greece

Austria



- Usually with 55 Lepta fully paid LS from the harbour of Kalamai 15.3.1875 to Trieste but the transport did not take the direct way as we can see with the postmark on reverse in the upper left corner, for the routing via Athens the postage was 70 L. so it was underpaid. The original charge of 5 nkr was cancelled, a new calculation brought a final debit of 10 nkr to be paid in Trieste

Austria

Underpaid letters from Austria to Greece



- LS from Trieste 23.3.1874 **underfranked with 10 instead of 20 nkr rated** $(10 + 5 =) 15$ nkr. **charged with 41 Lepta** in Corfu 13.3., exactly the unchanged conversion-rate
Combination-franking group 3 **because of underfranking**



- LS franked single weight with 20 nkr in Trieste 28.11.68, weighed double and charged **with the correct conversion-rate in Patras 20.11. with** $(20 + 10 \text{ Kr.} =) 82$ L.
Combination-franking group 3 **because of excess weight**

Austria

Postal fraud with 2 instead of 10 Lepta



- The normal rate from Austria to Greece was 75 Lepta. Here you can find a **postal fraud** which was extremely seldom in Greece. The postman who collected the money for the letter put a **brown-orange 2 Lepta instead an orange 10 Lepta stamp** on the letter to make a profit of **8 Lepta for his pocket**.

Austria

Greece issued Postage Due stamps in black and green on 1. March 1875. This was the end of using Large Heads as Postage Dues. If there are those Dues after this date it could only be **fakes to the disadvantage of collectors.**

From 1.3. to 30.6.1875 these Dues were used to complete the rates valid before UPU - so we find them only for 4 months with the old rates, they are scarce.



- Unpaid LS from Trieste 15.5.1875 to Patras 7.5. charged with the **new Postage Dues with 70 Lepta** the rate for the unpaid covers from Austrian ports to Greece

After the installation of GPU on 1. July 1875 all letters had to be prepaid to the members of GPU with **30 Lepta for single weight. Unpaid incoming letters were charged with the double rate of 60 Lepta**

Unpaid covers become really expensive now and accordingly rarer.

Austria - Lombardy-Venetia

Lombardy - Venetia as part of Austria was issuing its stamps in the centesimi-currency (100 centesimi = 20Kr C.M.) and from 1.11.1858 with Soldi as in the Austrian-Levant and instead of neukreuzer like in Austria. The value of both currencies was the same.



- Fully paid cover from Milano 27.12.1839 Franca – P.E.M.S. (paid to the Greek border) and via Patras (Ellas Dia Patron) to Athens 27.12.1839 paid with 32KrCM to the border and 30L in Greece the earliest recorded cover from Lombardy to Greece



- Fully paid cover from Athens 30.6.1862 franked with 95 L. for the 2nd distance step to Conegliano Provincie Venete 18.7.

Austria - Lombardy-Venetia



- Fully paid letter from Argostolion **with the rare cancel Kefallinia 110 5.2.1865** (this cancellation was used for less than a month) via Kerkyra 6.2. to Venice 24.2. Two different DP-Cancels: the old oval Ionian and the new rectangular Greek Weight and rate are as follows:
Between 3 and 4 Loth Austrian in the range of 52,5 and 70 g are 300 L. (4 x 75 L.)
3rd step Greek 60 L. up to 60 g show a total weight between 52,5 and 60 g and cost 360 Lepta

Austrian Post offices in the Levant

Outgoing letters from Greece into the Austrian Levant Post offices had to be fully paid, incoming from the Levant could only be paid to the Greek harbour - only the Greek inland rate had to be collected from the addressee. If the incoming mail was going **via Austria - It had to be fully paid and no Greek inland rate was necessary as with Austria)**



- Franco from Athens 3.10.1861 (3rd day of use) to Larnaca / Cyprus single 60 + 20 L. = 80 Lepta



- Double rate LS from Syros 29.11.1861 to Cyprus 120 + 20 L. = 140 L. (10 - 15 g) franked 3 days earlier as the cover to Trieste (at the beginning of Austrian letters) even with a strip of 5 of the 1 L. Paris, the other four stamps are Paris-Prints too ©

Austrian Post offices in the Levant



- Registered letter from Canea 16.11.1872 to Athens 9.11. franked with 10 Soldi and on reverse for registration – preserved - another 10 Soldi in Athens charged with 20 L. for the letter and 20 L. for registration = 40 Lepta
contrary to Austria the registration fee was like the letter-rate



- Letter from Jerusalem 12.2.1875 paid with 15 Soldi (5 more as the from the ports to Greece) via Lloyd Ag. Smirne to Athens 17.2.1875 there charged 20 L. domestic fee

Austrian Postoffices in the Levant

Here were shown all three possibilities of handling letters with the Austrian-Levant regarding the small village of Valona (now in Albania)



- 1 Cash paid letters with 10 Soldi to the Greek border from Valona (Albania) 17.12.1874 "Franco"
In Corfu/Kerkyra taxed and franked with 20 L
- 2 From Valona 6.8.1874 franked with 10 Soldi (strip of 5 of 2 Soldi!) taxed in Kerkyra with 20 L
- 3 Letter from Kerkyra 30.12.1866 fully franked with 50 L "DP"

Austrian Post offices in the Levant



- Unpaid LS from Galatz (Romania) with handwritten Galatz from DDSG-Office 1865 (Donaudampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft) via Vienna and Trieste to Cephalonia taxed with 155 L. (30 Kr. from Galatz to Trieste + 15 Kr. Searate to Greece = $45 \times 3 = 135 + 20$ L. local = 155 Lepta) franked with 7 pieces of 5 Lepta and 40 and 80 L. definitive printings

Austrian Post offices in the Levant

The new Postage Dues were used to the old letter-rates only from 01.03.1875 until 30.06.1875



- Letter from **Kerassunde on the shore of the Black Sea** 16.4.1875 franked with 10 Soldi and cancelled with the thimble-cancel via Constantinople 22.4. to Athens 14.4. there charged with 20L **Postage Due**

Hungary

Letters to and from the real heart of Hungary are not known in this period. But **Croatia came to Hungary after the „Ausgleich“ in May 1867 and part of Croatia were on the shore of Dalmatia with the harbours of Fiume and Zengg**, so one letter from there is known. The rates were the same as in the Austrian time:



• Fully paid letter from Kerkyra 5.3.1874 via Trieste to Fiume 20.3. franked with 55 Lepta

Hungarian Post offices in the Levant

6 Postoffices in Romania, up to May 1867 administered from Lemberg for Austria, now belonged to Hungary: Galatz, Giurgevo, Ibraila, Ploeschti, Fokschan and Bucharest. Romania took over the mail service from Austria on 1.4.1869



• Unpaid LS from the intermediate period Nov 1866 - May 1868 from Galatz (Tchil. 744) 1.2.1868 via Vienna and Trieste to Syra 8.2. taxed with 95 Lepta - 15 Kr. to Trieste + 10 Kr. Sea + 20L Greek inland

Papal States

The Papal States were a **political and postal unit**. But in 1859 and 1860 it lost more and more territories inclusive the important Adriatic harbour Ancona to the Kingdom of Sardinia. In **Sept. 1870 Italy finished the independence of Rome - the Papal States became part of the Kingdom of Italy**.

Franking was possible either to the Greek or the border of the Papal States, French ships transported the mail from/to the harbour of Civitavecchia on the west coast of Italy. Mail via the Papal States was difficult because Greece remarked this mail as from Italy and not from the Papal States so the Papal prefranking was lost!



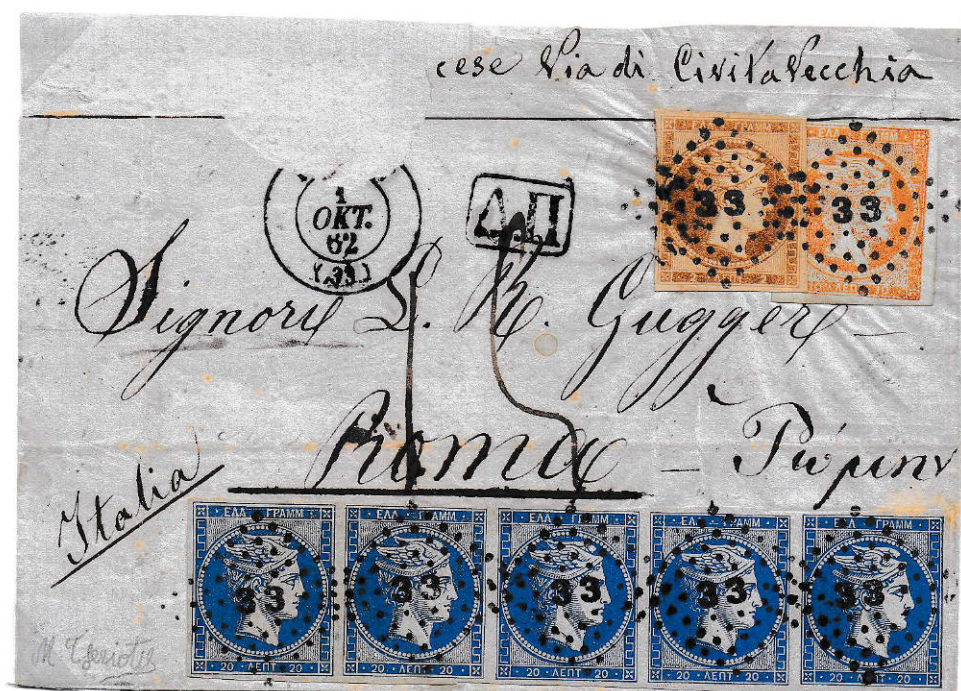
- **Double-rate** letter from Rome 29.11.1858 franked with **two strips of 3 of 7 = 42 Bajocchi** to Athens for Rev. John H. Hill (the founder of the first Girls School in Athens) and charged in Athens with 10 Lepta the local rate for letters from abroad



- **Letter 3rd weight** from Rome 7.1.1859 to Athens 4.1.1859 franked with **50 Bajocchi**. + 8 + 5 = 63 Bajocchi. **The only known 50 Bajocchi on a cover to Greece**

Up to 1859 letters were sent to Greece only via Ancona with Lloyd for 21 Baj pro 17,5 g
After the loss of Ancona only with French ships via Civitavecchia for 21 Baj. pro 7,5 g ©

Papal States



- LS from Gytheion 1.10.1862 paid to the border of the Papal States with 112 L. to 7,5 g with French ship via Civitavecchia to Rome.

The Greek franking consists of a strip of 5 of the 20 L. Prov. Printings
The domestic fee of 15 Bajocchi is Impostazione for letters from abroad

Papal States



- Letter from Rome 14.11.1863 with a **special rate of 3 Bajocchi because of „Propaganda Fide“** treated as fully paid and not additionally taxed in the Papal States (even in Italy was no explanation found for this special rate) in Athens taxed 7.11.63 with **the inland rate of 20 L.**



- LS from Civitavecchia 28.2.1868 **franked with 85 cmi** - after the conversion of Bajocchi to Centesimi 18.10.1866 in relation 1:4 this corresponds with 21 Baj. **correctly cancelled with P.P.** and in Athens taxed with **20 L.**

Papal States

Special routes of mail to Greece



- LS from Rome 27.10.1865 **franked with 21 Bajocchi** - enough for the directed way „Via di mare colle messaggere Imperiali Francese“ - but the letter was transported via Italy and Brindisi to Athens 8.11.65 and therefore charged with **112 L. for an unpaid letter from Italy**.
The Papal franking was lost



- LS from Rome 14.6.1867 **franked with 4 Bajocchi** to the French ship at the border of the Papal States in Civitavecchia. The French ship rate to Athens 7.6. was now 90 Lepta ©

Old Italian States

Before the establishment of the Italian State 17.3.1861 Italy was like Germany divided in various states with different postal organisations and stamps. A lot of small and smallest governments started to unify into one Italian Kingdom in 1859 - 1861. Some examples regarding the mail with Greece will be shown here.

Naples – Napoli



- Letter from **Napoli** 10.10.1859 „Col Vap. Postale“ by hand and „Servicio dei vapori francesi nel Mediterraneo – Posta di Napoli“ in red and Annulato with **24 Grana** to **Pireo** 1.10.1859 where 10 L.as domestic fee were asked



- with the same address (a well-known company in Napoli 15.10.1859 just 5 days later again 24 Grana and 10 Lepta, but the **20 Grana** is a contemporary Postal Forgery (Sassone F 13) on cover and unique on a cover to Greece sign. Raybaudi

Sicily



- Letter from **Trapani** 6.3.1860 via Palermo 8.3. to Sira 5.3.1860 with French packet and **23 Grana** (10 Grana azzurro cupo, 10 Grana indaco, 2 Grana azzurro III Tavola and 1 Grano verde oliva chiaro III Tavola) and 10 L. inland.
The rate is very rare because from Trapani it is 2 Grana more instead of the **normal rate of 21 Grana** ©

Sardinia

The following two covers belong to the group of stamps from Sardinia used after the founding of the Italian State – these Sardinian stamps were used as stamps for the Kingdom of Italy.



- Cover from Milano 03.10.1861 (written on Oct 1 the first day of Greek stamps) franked with 100 cmi containing 5 pieces of 20 cmi formed like a strip of 5, sent via Genova 03.10 and Pireo 28.09. to Athens 28.09.1861 and taxed there with 10 L. 2 days later it had to be charged with 20 L on a First Day Cover for Large Heads



- Letter from Livorno 26.4.1862 paid with Sardinia 10 c (Sassone 14C) and 80 c (17B) and Kingdom of Italy 20 c perf (Sass 2) marked PD to Syra 21.04.62

Italy

The Kingdom of Italy was founded on March 17, 1861. But because no Italian stamps were printed, these former old Italian states were used up like **from Sardinia and Tuscany**. The first Italian stamps were in use in spring 1863 with a blue 15 cmi.

The postal rates with Greece belong to the country of origin, from Sardinia p.e. it was 1 Lira plus the Greek inland rate which was marked before 1.10.1861 as tax and after that date **a stamp was used as tax**.

It was only possible to pay or frank to the next border, so the domestic fee was charged in both countries. Beginning with a new contract between Italy and Greece in April 1862 prepaying to the receiver was obligatory.

1 Lira or 112 Lepta (P D). The weight steps in Italy and Greece were equal with 15 g and there were no distance steps anymore.

Important in the relations between the two countries was the ship transportation. **The whole west coast was served by French ships from Messina to Genova, but they were more expensive as the Italian or Austrian ships in the Adriatic Sea.**

After the railways via Ancona reached **Brindisi in May 1865** the **postal routes** in Middle-Europe on the way to Greece **changed tremendously**. **The railway was faster than the ship even if the distance was longer** and there was **no influence of weather anymore**. Most of the countries in Northern Europe used from that time on the routing via **Brindisi**, even mail from France was sent in an increasing amount via Brindisi to Greece.

Part- or underfranking's were accepted from July 1st, 1866, much earlier than with other countries.

We have to remark a speciality early at the beginning: The mail **via Austria** between Italy and Greece could only be **franked to the Italian - Austrian border**, as the cover on this page shows

This was a result of the wars between Austria and Sardinia. The Postal Convention Austria - Italy was out of function since April 1859 and was activated again on 15.5.1862.



- ◆ **Partly paid LS from Ancona 21.11.1861 franked with 20 cmi Sardinia to the Italian-Austrian border**
 at Desenzano via Austria to Greece
rate postmark 15 nkr. for 3rd distance step in Austria from the border (more than 20 miles)
 and a handwritten **15 for sea transport from Trieste to Athens**
 Rate: 15 Kr + 15 Kr = 30 x 3 = 90 L. + 20 L. = 110 Lepta Tax ©

Italy

Use of „Old Italian“ stamps leads to **combination-frankings**



- Partly paid LS from Livorno 21.12.1861 **franked with 1 Lira consisting of 80 cmi Governo Provisorio Tuscany and 20 cmi Sardinia** wrongly marked PD but only prepaid to the Greek border, in Greece taxed and franked with domestic rate of 20 L.
On this cover are stamps of three countries.



- Partly paid LS from Naples 30.12.1861 **franked with 24 Grana (about 1 Lira)** of the **Neapolitan Provinces** correctly marked PP to the Greek border in Peiraios 21.12. taxed with 20 L.

Italy

Letters from former Sardinia

both parts of Sardinia - the northern part with Genova and the southern part - the former Sicily - with Messina transported the mail to Greece with French ships



- Partly paid LS from **Genova** 13.12.1861 franked with 80 and 20 cmi = 1 Lira to Athens 7.12.61 taxed with 20 L.



- Partly paid LS from **Messina** 19.12.1861 again franked with 80 and 20 cmi = 1 Lira, this time PD correctly crossed with P.P. and taxed in Patras with 20 L.

Monfrè Starnati
Decosi Viro
11/6
Alberne
Piaffumais

- ©

Italy

Unpaid covers from Italy to Greece



Unpaid LS from **Livorno 8.3.1862** with French ship taxed with 2 décimes (20 cmi) for inland and 10 décimes for the route to Greece **via Athens 2.3.62 to Spetsai arrived 11.3.62 and taxed with 112 Lepta**



- ◆ Unpaid **double rate** (7.5 to 15 g - French 2nd weight) from **Naples 17.3.1862 via Athens 8.3. to Spetsai 11.3.** as the letter above at the same day with the same ship sent to Spetsai taxed with 224 Lept

Italy

Special uses: Registration and Printed matters



- Triple rate Registered LS from Syros 19.1.1864 to Livorno 7.2. via Bologna franked with 250 Lepta ($3 \times 65 = 195 + 55$ for Reg. = 250 L.)



- 1 Printed matter from Kerkyra 29.7.1871 franked with 10 Lepta (printed matter up to 40 g) to Genova 13.8.
- 2 Printed matter from Gallipoli 25.7.1866 franked with 10 centesimi (printed matter up to 40 g) to Corfu these are the only Printed matters known up to now to and from Greece

Italy

Single letters uprated to doubleweight.



🍀 **Single rated LS from Peiraios 2.9.1872 with 65 Lepta cancelled PD, but weighed double and taxed with another 65, PD was crossed and replaced by „Aff..Insuff..“, to San Remo in Italy taxed with 6 décimes and franked with an Italian Postage Due stamp of 60 cmi**



Printed advertisement letter from Milan 11.11.1874 franked with **single rate of 60 cmi und PD, weighed double, 60 cmi marked as missing and taxed in Corfu with 65 Lepta**

Italy

Underfranked letters to Greece - Conversionrate 100 cmi : 110 Lepta

The rates for an Italian ship were for a single letter 60 cmi and for a French ship 80 cmi



- 1 Underfranked letter from Ancona 24.2.1873 **franked with 40 cmi instead 60 cmi** „Francob..Insuff..“ the missing 20 cmi noted by hand, via Foggia and Corfu to Cefalonia 18.2. and **taxed with 22 Lepta**
- 2 Underfranked letter from Naples 20.3.1872 **franked with 20 cmi instead 60 cmi** „Francob..Insuff..“ the missing 40 cmi noted by hand via Brindisi to Corfu 11.3 and **taxed with 44L**
- 3 Underfranked letter from Catania 12.2.1868 **franked with 20 cmi instead 80 cmi** „Francob..Insuff..“ 80 cmi because mailed with French ship, the missing 60 cmi noted by hand, in Patras 10.2.1868 **taxed with 66 Lepta**

Italy

Letters from Italy after 1.3.1875 with Greek Postage Dues



Under franked letter from Bologna 22.3.1875 franked with 60 cmi for single weight cancelled PD, but in Gytheion uprated double and taxed additionally with 65 Lepta Dues



Unpaid doubleweight letter from Messina 14.6.1875 to Corfu taxed with 130 Lepta Postage Dues

Italian Postoffices in Tunisia

The Italian Postoffices in Northern Africa as Tunis had the same rates as Italy



- Fully paid double-rate LS from *Tunisi Poste Italiane* 21.2.1867 via Cagliari (Sardinia), Foggia 25.2. and Brindisi to Corfu 18.2. paid with 120 cmi (largest strip of 30 cmi - acc. to Zanaria)

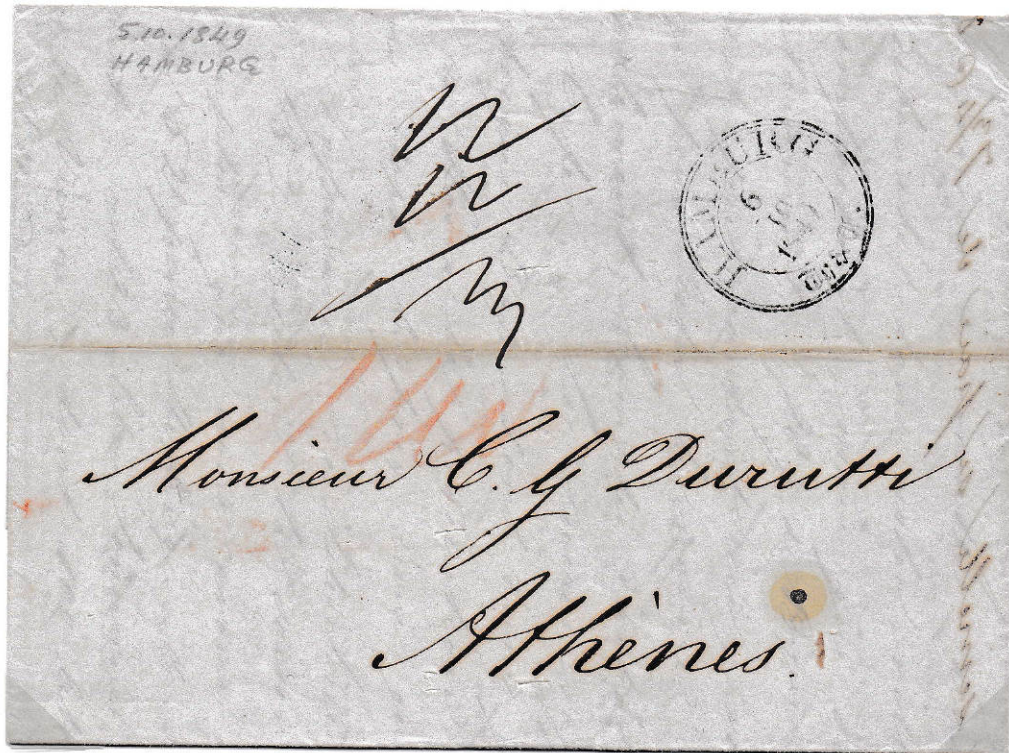


- Unpaid triple weight from Tunis 26.3.1873 on the same route to Corfu 24.3. taxed with 195 Lepta (consisting of three different issues)

Old German States

The Postal relations between the Old German States and Greece were **attached to other Postal Conventions and from 1851 to the German-Austrian Postal Union**. The rates for all these states were equal regarding the difference between the currencies as Groschen, Kreuzern, Schillingen and others. Not only the way **Austria** was used, even via **Marseille** in France (especially for mail from Thurn-and-Taxis) was a transitplace. Sometimes the route depends on the fastest connection.

Hamburg



Duplicate

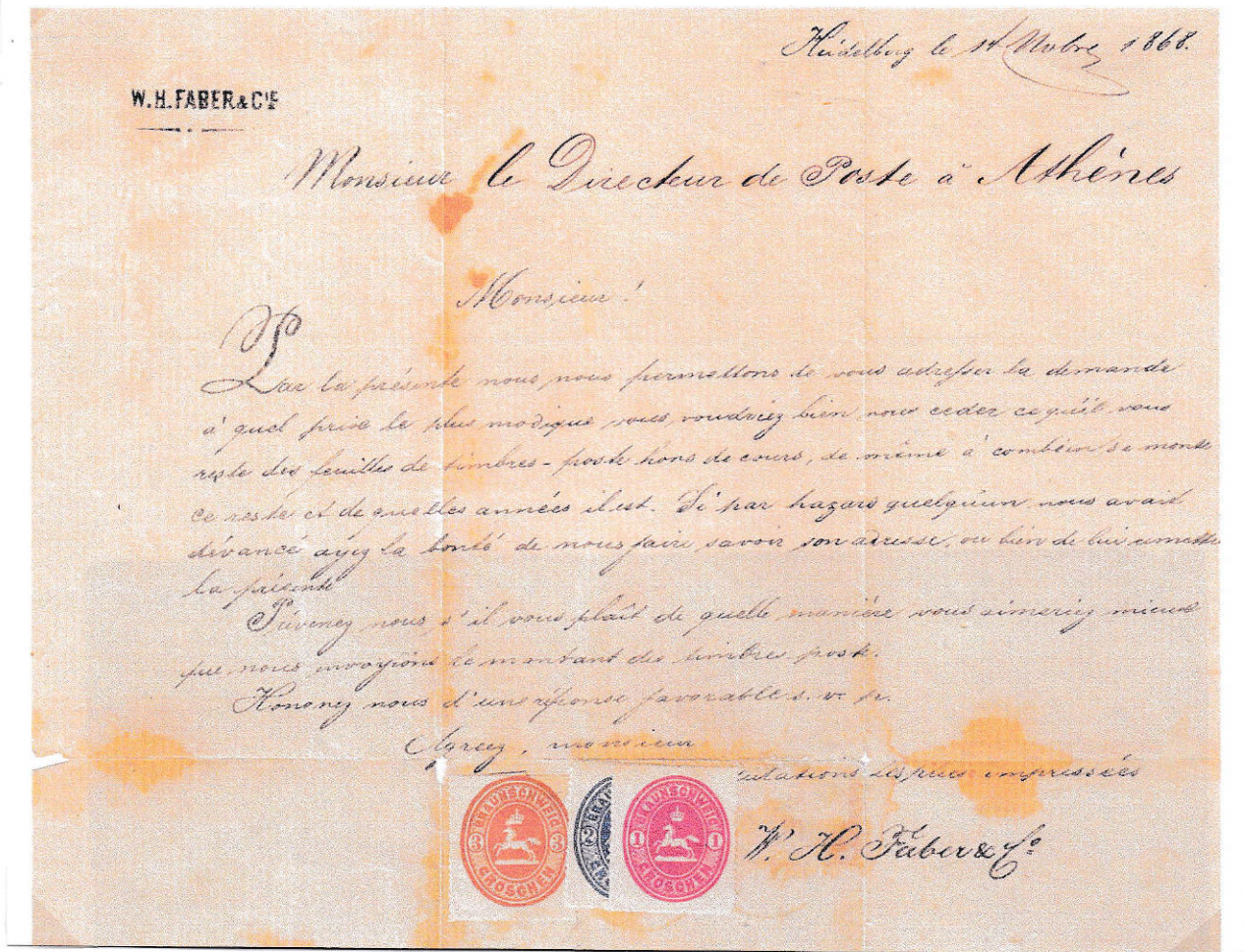


- These two LS are up to now the **only known LS from Hamburg to Greece** before 1868 NGFed **they show exemplary both routes to Greece** - they were sent unpaid. The upper one 6.10.1849 was sent **via Austria** to Athens 6.10. taxed with 24 Kr. C.M. = 120 L. + 20 L. inland = **140 Lepta** the lower one was **written the same day in Hamburg** given to the post 16.10 **directed „via Marseille“** „nach Abgang der Post“ via **Valenciennes 2 Tour - T** in red 20.10. to Athens 30.10 the tax was **183 Lepta** for a weight between 7,5 and 10 g, the LS used 14 days longer on this route **the letter was sent as „Duplicate“ for security on the other possible route - a unique couple**

Old German States

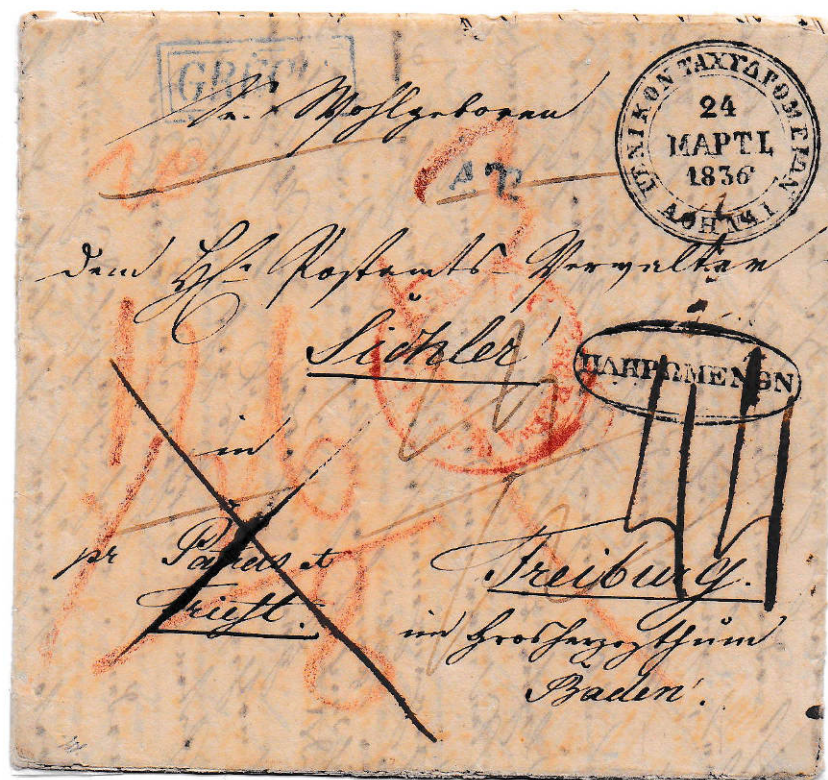
Baden via Austria

Nearly all Old German States joined the North German Federation with 1.1.1868 - but Baden gave up her philatelic independence finally at 31.12.1871 with the beginning of Deutsches Reich 1.1.1872



Printing matter from Heidelberg 14.11.1869 via Ulm 15.11. and **Vienna** 16.11. to Athens 14.11.1869 franked with 4 Kr. the printing matter rate to abroad (3 Kr. Weiterfr.)

Content: a stampdealer sent invalid stamps for exchange to the Athens General Postmaster - the answer: we do not do this; we send the money for the stamps back!
up to now the only known Printed Matter from Old German States to Greece



◆ LS from Athens 24.3.1836 (Genikon Taxydromeion)
Pliromenon paid with 1 Drachma - Greece (Trieste) and AT (**Austrian** Transit)
and in **Freiburg** finally charged with 44 Kr.



◆ Unpaid LS from Athens 21.3.1864 to Pforzheim (Baden) **via Trieste** and
Königl. Württ. Fahr Postamt
franked with the GAFU - Rate of 110 Lepta

Old German States

Bavaria via Austria

With the Treaty of London 1832 the Bavarian King Ludwig I. accepted for his son Otto the Greek crown. He obliged himself, to send 3500 troops to Greece to replace the French „Armée de Morée“. Normally we should find a lot of correspondence but there is nearly nothing left. The according conventions between **Bavaria and Austria** containing the Greek relations were from 1819 and 1842.



- LS from Athens 15.9.1840 with Austrian Lloyd to **Trieste** and via Munich and Augsburg to Würzburg - in Athens had been paid DP 10 Lepta internal and 120 Lepta as double weight to **Trieste** the Austrian transit A.T. cost 20 kr. C.M. converted to 24 kr. rh. plus 14 kr. rh. inner Bavaria domestic rate, the addressee had to pay 38 kr rh. but the family left already to their water castle in Mitwitz (even Bavaria) which was charged with the Bavarian domestic rate of 6 kr. – in sum, a debit of 44 kr

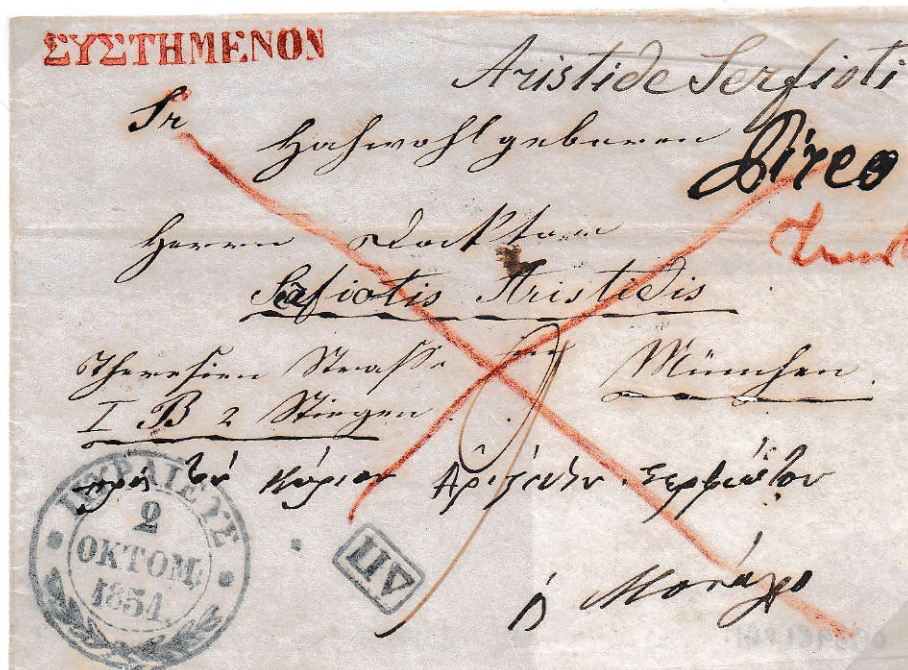


- LS from Kronach 21.10.1841 to Trieste 29.10. paid to the Bavarian border and inner Austrian 14 Kr. C.M. to **Trieste** - redirected to Athens paid with 18 Kr. C.M. Trieste 1.11.1841 Franco in red and cross P.E.M.S. paid to the harbor in Greece „Ellas dia Patron“ in Athens taxed with 30 Lepta

Old German States



- LS from Athens 12.8.1835 paid with 84 Lepta + 10 for the intra-Greek share (Pliomenon and AT Austrian Transit) finally paid with 30 Kreuzer total in Munich paid Transported to Trieste by the Feraldi shipping company which for a short period to Trieste with monthly transports.



- Registered front from Peiraiois 2.10.1854 to Munich fully paid - only 9 Kreuzer to pay for Trieste Munich for the DÖPV rate



- Letter from Straubing (Bavaria) 22.6.1862 **fully franked with 27 Kr.** (12+9+6=27) nach dem Tarif von 1858 via Vienna 23.6., **Trieste** 25.6. to Athens 20.6.1862 ©

Old German States

In the years up to 1867 more than 10 German States were postally independent - a few were shown here like Baden, Bavaria, Saxony, Hamburg, Brunswick and Hanover, Thurn and Taxis, but there were more. They all used either the route **via Trieste** or **Marseille** and they had different currencies - all these covers are very scarce.

Braunschweig (Brunswick)



♦ Unpaid double rate-letter from Peiraios 15.11.1867 **via Trieste** 29.11. to Braunschweig with Austrian charge of 10 Neukreuzer/40 Lepta which shows a weight between 15 and 16,6 g and finally, a payment in Brunswick of 13 groschen

Hannover



• Partly paid letter from Göttingen 21.9.1859 **via Austria** to Athens 21.9.1859 prepaid with 5 Groschen which are not enough to Greece the rate was 8 Groschen but Austria marked as a payment 15 Kr./10 Lepta on the reverse so in Greece was no debit necessary (only 2 covers are known to Greece)

Old German States

Prussia **via Austria**



- ◆ Prepaid letter from Athens 15.7.1839 **via Trieste** - where it was disinfected with a lot of vertical slits - Austria Transit "AT".

The sender paid 95 Lepta: Athens-Patras 6 KrCM + Patras-Trieste with Austrian Lloyd 18 Kr.
= 24 Kr. therefore "DP" for the way Athens - Trieste

The mark of 15 ½ Sgr was **deleted** containing the price Trieste - Berlin, because in the lower left corner was signed "königl. Dienstsache" as a free royal matter! Free in Prussia with 7 Sgr but not in Austria 15 ½ - 7 silvergroschen had to be paid for the route in Austria = 8 ½ sgr for foreign expenses
Arrival in Berlin 12.8.1839

Mr. Philipsborn later became General Postmaster of the Prussian Post

Old German States

Prussia **via Austria**



• **Prussian Stationary 5 A with 5 groschen Berlin Stadtpostexp. XIV 23.1.1861**
via Trieste 25.1. noted „reicht nicht“ (insufficient) and **fr. Gr. (franco border)**

The open amount of 2 sgr = 10 nKr. was insufficient for the route to Greece, so it was lost.

The way to Greece was charged as an unpaid letter 15 NKr. = 45 L. + 20 L. local = **65 L. debit in Athens** ©



• **Prussian stationary 5 A with 5 groschen Berlin Stadtpostexp XIV 17.12.**
Prepaid 8 sgr. -The only cover fully franked with Prussian stamps (I saw in 30 years!)

Old German States

Prussia **via Austria**



- Letter from **Coelleda** (prephil. Cancel) 29.10.1861 fully franked with 110 L. (all Paris Prints)
Via Trieste 2.11.to Athens 26.10.1861 – Taxe 15 + 15 Kr. = $30 \times 3 = 90 + 20 \text{ L} = 110 \text{ L}$.
one of the most beautiful Greek covers ©

Old German States

Prussia via Austria



- 3rd weight cover of 2 ⁵/₁₀ loth from Weissensee 28.1.63 as a Royal Prussian matter free in GAPU to be paid for Greece for the route Trieste – Athens and 45 Kreuzer or 175 Lepta

Old German States

Bavaria and Prussia **via Austria** after 1861 with Greek stamps

These letters were exempt of postage in the sending country because of their official character.



- Diplomatic letter from the Foreign Office in Athens 10.12.1861 to the Hellenic Consul in Munich 2.11.1861 prepaid only with the foreign part of 90 Lepta – Inland in Greece with 20 L was free.



- Letter from Berlin (Prussia) 22.6.1864 to Nauplia (Greece) as an official Marine matter to the Prussian Consulate in Nauplia - 3 sgr. In Prussia were free – 5 sgr prepaid with stamps for foreign expenses.

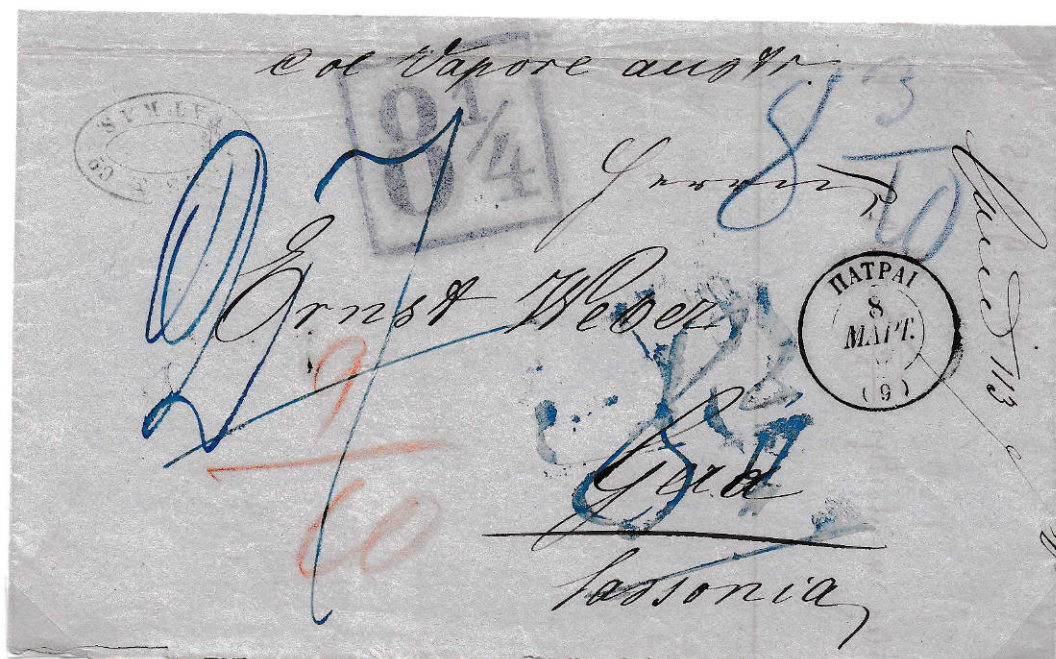
This letter is the only one with only Prussian stamps I know

Old German States

Saxony **via Austria**



- Unpaid LS from **Dresden** 5.3.1862 **via Trieste** to Athens 28.2. charged for single weight. within 1 Loth or up to 15 g with 110 Lepta
in Dresden an adhesive of 1 neugroschen on rosy paper stuck at the lower left side on the cover
Traces of the rosy paper and the margins of the cancel with a number could be seen
because the stamp had fallen off, I replaced it with a similar one.



- Letter from Patras 8.3.58 **via Trieste** to Gera (Saxony)
Greek domestic rate 6 kr CM = 2 sgr
Austrian Lloyd 9 krCM = 3 1/4 sgr GAPU 9 krCM = 3 sgr **TOTAL 24 kr CM = 8 1/4 sgr**
Trieste marked blue 8 1/4 rounded from blue handwritten 8 3/10
On front marked finally 27 krCM including 3 krCM as **penalty** for an unpaid cover

Old German States

Thurn und Taxis **via Marseille**



- Unpaid double rate letter from Großneuhausen in the Thurn und Taxis - territory 14.11.1861 via Weimar, Frankfurt and Tour T. Forbach **via Marseille** to Athens 16.11. charged with 360 Lepta for the weight between 10 and 15 g (170 x 2 + 20 L.) The letter was only 4 days longer on the route as via Trieste but **much more expensive**.

Old German States

Thurn und Taxis **via Austria**



• Letter from Nikolaus, **Duke of Württemberg**
written to his mother Maria Countess of Hessen-Philippsthal from Peiraos 13.3.1858
via Trieste and Eisenach 4.4. to Philippsthal in Hessen

Herrschaftlich frei Lt. Postvertrag § 27 – free of charge for Sovereigns



• Insufficient paid cover (**Plir. Aneparkis**) from Athens - (with the **rare cancel with straight letters 24.Deke 66**)
franked with 60 Lepta – the rate only to Trieste 10/20 – via **Vienna** 11.1.67 to Frankfurt 13.1.67 but **the stamps**
were not accounted for and the full amount to Frankfurt was charged with 21 kreuzer in blue
the only known combination up to now

Old German States

North German Federation **via Austria**



• Fully paid cover with **5 silbergroschen** from Hamburg 3.4.1869 **via Trieste** to Athens



• Fully paid double rate cover with **10 silbergroschen** from Berlin 22.6.1868 **via Trieste** to Athens 19.6 the used stamp on an official letter is "Innendienst" but not free of charge (wfr. 8)

the only known cover with this 10 sgr stamp to Greece

Old German States

North German Federation **via Austria**



- Cash paid cover from Berlin 29.2.1868 **via Trieste** 3.3. to Athens 29.2.1868
The cash paid amount of with 3 sgr. to Trieste and 3 1/2 sgr. further on to Athens as Wfr. from the intermediate period with reduced sea rate to Athens of 20 kr. (reverse)



- Cash paid cover from Berlin 3.3.1868 **via Trieste** to Athens 29.2.1868 fully paid with 6 1/2 Sgr exactly treated as the cover above but no duplicate as with the Hamburg-cover but now **faked with a Greek tax franking of 120 Lepta** without any philatelic basis - the faker apparently did not know the sense of a Franco-notation these covers are up to now the only known F-Cancels to Greece

Old German States

North German Federation **via Austria**



♥ Insufficient prepaid cover from **Berlin 14.1.1868** prepaid only the domestic rate of 1 gr.
(Remark: out of the letterbox „Kastenbrief - Schneider“) **via Trieste** and „Aff.. Insuff“ to Athens 12.1. and
charged with the full rate of 95 Lepta (valid til 12.5.1868). ©

German Empire **via Austria**



● Partly prepaid cover from **Chemnitz 17.6.1874** with 3 groschen Shield via Eger, Vienna and **Trieste**
to Syra with some not identifiable tax marks and finally charged in Syra **with 5 Lepta**
no trace of another stamp (40 Lepta?) could be **up to now the only known mixed-franking with**
German Shields

German Empire

via Austria



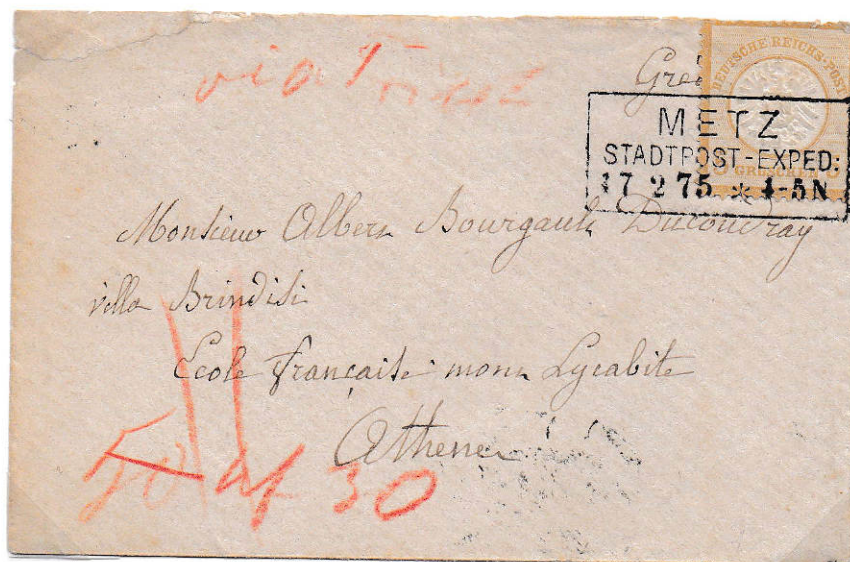
Underpaid Cover from Kerkyra 3.10.1874 franked with 60 instead 70 Lepta
 (PD replaced by „Affr.. Insuff), **via Trieste** in Dresden charged with 2 groschen
 Rate for the unpaid letter 6 Groschen - 60 Lepta or 4 Groschen on the cover = Debit 2 groschen



Registered letter from Athens 30.10.1874 franked with 100 Lepta
 70 Lepta for the cover and 30 Lepta für registration **via Trieste** to Dresden 21.10.1874

German Empire

Germany issued stamps at 1.1.1875 with the new currency "**Pfennige**".
 Their use to the old pre-GPU-tariffs was **only possible for 6 months up to 30.6.1875**.
 The former issue with **Brustschildern** („Shields“) was still accepted for these months –
 The conversion was 1 gr = 10 Pfennige or 5 gr. = 50 pfge



- Fully paid letter from Metz (former French Alsace-Lothringen) 17.2.1875 with 5 Gr (= 50 Pfennige) **via Vienna** 19.2. to Athens 13.2.1875 with a credit of 30 Pfennige. ©



- Fully paid letter from Hamburg 8.4.1875 **prepaid 50 Pfennige** **via Trieste** and Korfu to Cephalonia (Argostolion) 6.4.1875

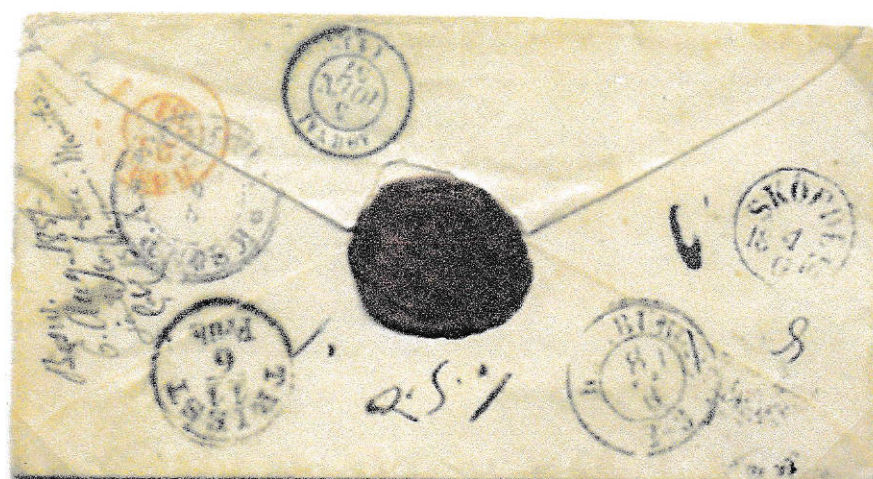
Norway

only 2 letters to Norway are known, both were mailed **via Trieste**



- LS from **Athens** Swedish and Norwegian Consulate in Greece 2.12.1852
paid to Hamburg PED **via Trieste** 19.12., Berlin-Minden, Hamburg Prussian PA 22.12.,
K.S. & N.P.A. Hamburg (Königlich Schwedisches und Norwegisches Postamt), the exchange office
in winter for Norway - the cover is **Franco Grenze marked but it was corrected to Fco Hamburg; in
Christiania were charged 21 Norwegian skilling for the normal route from Hamburg**
15 sk for Prussia, Sea, Danish and Swedish Mail and 6 sk. Norwegian domestic rate

Sweden



• **Route:** Unpaid cover from Sköfde 4.6.1857 to Athens 5.6.1857 (greg. 17.6.57) via Royal Swedish Norwegian Post office in Hamburg 8.6. on the same day given to the Prussian Post office (postmark "Aus Schweden") Transit Trieste 11.6. and arrival in Athens 5.6.57 (greg. 17.6.57) kept there and redirected 2.7. (14.7). further to Rome with French ship (*via di mare in red*) arrived in Rome 23.7.1857

Rates: 5 sgr in blue – 2 ½ for Sweden and 2 ½ shared Sweden and Prussia plus 3 sgr GAPU for Prussia not noted but added to 5 sgr to a total of 8 sgr and converted into 9 (Hamburg to Trieste) +15 (Trieste to Greece) = 24 kr CM for Austria. The transport Athens to Rome cost 150 L. or 1,50 Dr. The addressee in Rome had to pay 30 Bajocchi of which 20 were for France

Denmark

Mail was transported **via Trieste** and **via Brindisi**

via Austria



♥ Registered letter (NB = Nota Bene) from Copenhagen fully paid with 54 Skilling for a weight of 3/10 Loth

Postage Paid 52 sk + 2 sk for receipt – Danish share 9 sk + Registration fee 8 sk = 17 sk

Foreign amount 52 - 17 = 35 sk converted to 8 ¼ sgr

German share 3 sgr – open 5 ¼ sgr or 15 Kreuzer:

Sea postage from Trieste 9 Kreuzer and Greek share 6 Kreuzer

Denmark

Mail was transported **via Trieste** and **via Brindisi**



- Fully franked letter with 21 Rigsbankskillings from Denmark 10.8.1863 via Train Kiel - Hamburg 11.8. and **Trieste** 13.8. to Athens 8.8.1863
This cover is up to now the only known fully paid to Greece (Jensen p. 174)



- Letter written in **Santorin (Greece)** from the French archeologist Delenda 25.1.1863 to his colleague Michaelis in Kiel given to the post in **Trieste** 11.2. charged there with 3 Silbergroschen for GAPU and finally via Hamburg 17.2. to **Danish Kiel** with a charge of 22 Rigsbankskillings (13 sk for GAPU, 9 sk for Denmark)

Denmark

Mail was transported **via Trieste** and **via Brindisi**



- **Double rate letter** from Copenhagen 26.5.1873 to the King of Greece in Athens via Kiel – Hamburg with credit of 6 sgr - **a unique cover**
not noted in Karsten Jensen: Franked Danish Covers to abroad 1851 - 1905

Belgium

Belgium used all three routes to Greece. At the beginning the route **via Marseille** was preferred, later the **Trieste** route became more important, finally the cheapest and fastest way was via Brindisi in Italy.

via Trieste



Cover from **Peiraio** 7.8.1851 **prepaid (DP) with 70 L. to Trieste** 24.8. Where the 3 sgr Austrian transit where charged in red crayon forwarded over Berlin to Aachen where 6 sgr in blue ink where claimed (3 for Austrian Lloyd + 3 transit GAPU = 75 cts (Belgian) + Verviers to Brussels 28.8.1851

Allemagne Chemin de fer in green (not known by van der Linden)

Of 5 déc = 12 ½ decimas rounded up to 13 decimas ©



This cover is a special one because it was directed from Bruxelles 14.11.1859 „Via Trieste“ franked with 1 Fr. PD via the Verviers – Cologne Route by the Belgian East TPO Aachen 15.11. who observed and respected the PD and proved it by the manuscript note **“forcement opéré”** (forwarded by force) because of the PD.

The Aachen exchange office marked the incoming Franco as a statement of the foresaid notice and credited 5 Sgr (Weiterfranco)

A unique case of respecting the PD marking worldwide

Belgium

via Marseille



The first three French weight steps up to 7,5 g, 7,5 - 10 g and 10 - 15 g are within
the 1st Greek weight step up to 15 g
Letters from Belgium via Marseille were charged 124 (single) + 186 (1 1/2) + 248 (double) Lepta +20 Greek
local Rate 144 + 206 + 268 Lepta

Belgium

via Marseille



Fully paid single rate from Spa 19.7.1870 P.D.
franked with 30 (1869) + 40 (1866) cts via Paris-Etranger
and **Marseille** 21.6. to Athens 16.7.1870

via Brindisi



● Fully paid **double rate** LS from Verviers 20.10.1871 **franked with 2 x 70 = 140 cts** for 15 - 30 g
acc. Tariff 2.3.1870 with Wfr of 90 cts **via Brindisi** to Syra 26.10.

The Netherlands

All routes **via Marseille** and **via Trieste** and finally **via Brindisi** were used from The Netherlands



- Unpaid LS from Patras 2.8.1858 **via Trieste** (Lloyd 9 Kr. C.M. - 15 Lepta), tax in Trieste 8 1/4 sgr to the Netherlands and finally to pay from the receiver 60 NL cent

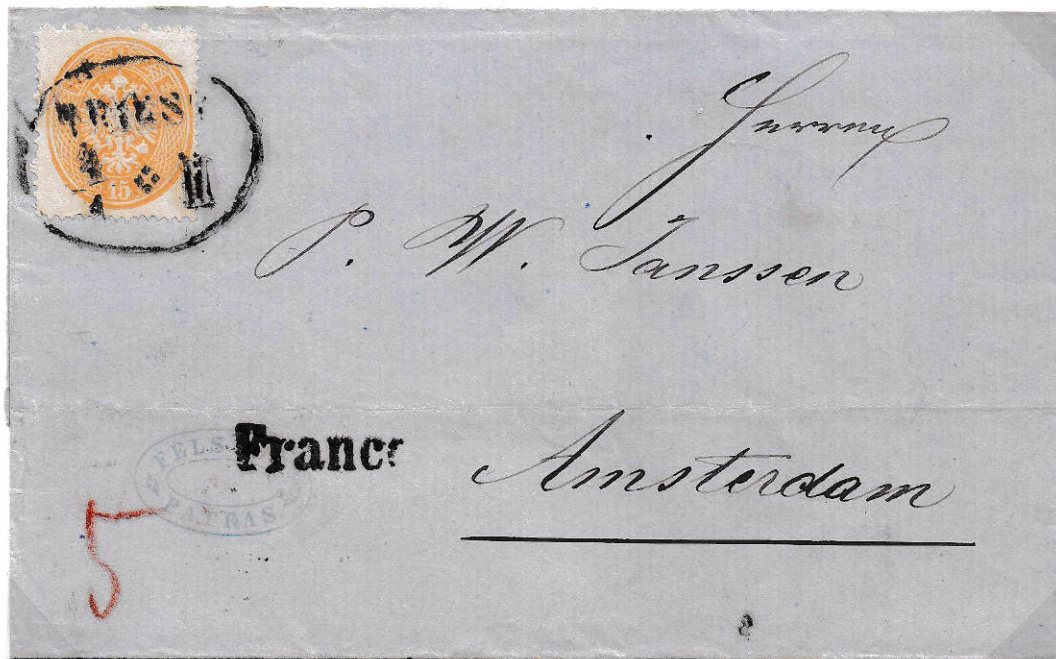


- Fully paid LS from Patras 6.8.1867 **franked with 120 Lepta via Brindisi** (Piroscafi Postali Italiani) Bellinzona, Schweiz über Baden, Heidelberg to Amsterdam 28.4. different PD-marks and Wfr 4 sgr.

The Franco-mark was struck at the border in Emmerich to indicate the cover was fully paid

The Netherlands

Forwarder letters from Greece posted in **Austria** or even in Bavaria



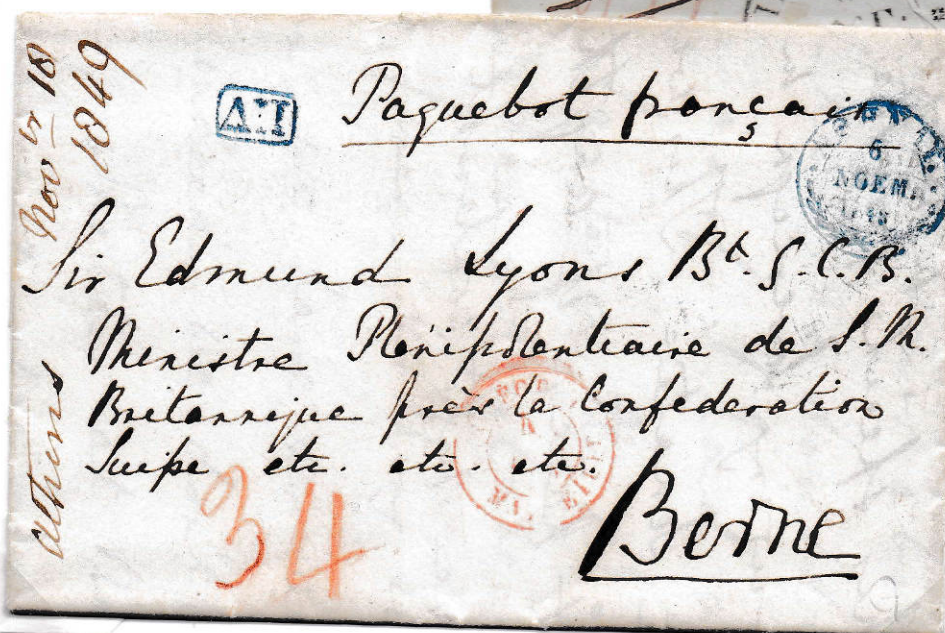
- Letter written in Patras 16.12.1866 and given in the mail 4.1.1867 in **Trieste** and franked with 15 Kreuzer to Amsterdam 7.1.
Wfr 5 kreuzer (=10 cent=1 sgr). **The Franco mark was used at the border to indicate full payment to the recipient**



- Printed matter **from Patras 18/30.6.1870** posted **6.7.1870** in **Lindau** in Bavaria and franked with 3 Kreuzer to Amsterdam 8.7. wfr 3/12 (Groschen) or 3 Pfennig

Switzerland

During the pre-stamp period the conventions between Switzerland and France 1828 and 1845 directed the letters **to Greece via Marseille**



- 1 **Double rate** from Syra 9.9.1839 paid with 20 Lepta - Purifié au Lazaret Malte with disinf.slits- direct with Ship „Scamandre” **to Marseille** 2.10. (in red!) via Lyon direct to Rolle 5.10. charged **102 Kreuzer** Convention France - Canton Vaud from 1.10.1828, 3rd weight step 11g = 102 kr.:ca 2,6 exch-rate = 40 déc
- 2 LS from Peiraios 8.8.1841 via Syra 9.8. paid with 20 L. via Malta with ship „Mentor” **to Marseille** 1.9. via Geneva 3.9.1841 Entrance-canc. „Lettre France 10 D” (Schäfer 274), **weight in 2nd step costs 30 déc**, noted on the cover, finally **paid in Rolle 78 kr.**
- 3 LS from Athens 6.11.1849 paid with 15L **via Marseille** 4.12. with ship „Telemaque” via Besancon 7.12. to Berne 9.12., Convention France - Canton Berne 26.7.1845, **charged with 34 kr.**

Switzerland

During the time before the use of stamps the conventions between Switzerland and France 1828 and 1845 directed the letters to Greece [via Marseille](#)



- Unpaid letter from Athens 18.9.1844 via Peiraios and Malta (very clear "Purification...") to Marseille 12.10 with ship "Rhamses" (Salles II, 10), Paris 13.10 charged with 19 déc, the forwarded to Geneva 17.10 and Rolle 19.10.1844. 21 déc converted to 58 kr. (rate 2,8) to be paid finally

Switzerland

via Brindisi



- **Double letter** St. Gallen 7.4.1870 via Brindisi and Kerkyra 28.3 to Patras 3.4. prepaid with 10 rp. Tübli stationery + 1 fr. + 10 rp. Sitting Helvetia



- Fully paid letter from Kerkyra 8.3.1873 franked with 6 pieces of 10 L. instead of 7 to pay the rate of 70 L.
The letter was marked PD i.e. fully paid – no sign of a missing stamp, no Affr. Insuff. – **ok for Greece nothing to do for the Swiss Post**
via Italy **Brindisi** 21.3.– (Piroscafi Postali Austriaci) – Geneve 23.3. to Neuchâtel 23.3.1873

Great Britain

Great Britain was a common destination from Greece, because there were a lot of commerce connections - steel and iron came from Britain. The routes were again **via Marseille** and **via Trieste**. The passages through these countries were organized in the respective conventions between Greece and France and Austria. In 1865 the route **via Brindisi** become more and more important. Paid and unpaid letters cost the same. Part payments were accepted according to these conventions.

A convention between Greece and Great Britain came into function only 4.12.1869



- LS London Paid P.D. 5.5.1841 **for Britain 1sh/8 and 5sh/7 1/2 via France and Marseille** as directed mailed with ship „Leonidas“ (Salles II,28) leaving Marseille 11.5. altogether the really high amount of **7sh/3 1/2d exactly prescribed for a weight up to 1/2 oz** (Moubray p.359) to Syra 9.5.1841



- Letter written in Cove near London **26.7.1848 paid with 1 d to London and sent unpaid** via London to Athens arriving 6.8.1848 and charged 320 L. for a double rate letter (150 L. x 2 = 300 + 20 local up to 15 g = 320 L.)
- **This letter to Greece is the earliest with a stamp affixed**

Great Britain

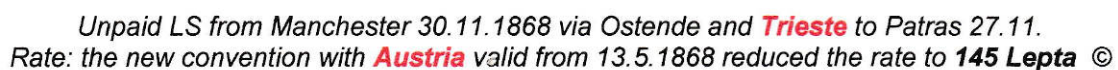
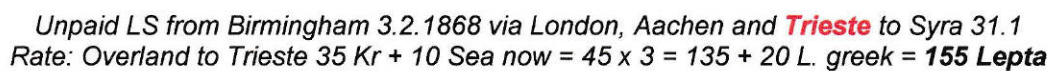
via Marseille



- Unpaid LS from London 16.2.1867 via Marseille to Athens 16.2. with straight figures charged with 320 Lepta
Rate 3 x French 10 - 15 g = 300 L. + Greek first weight up to 15 g = 20 L. = 320 L.



- ♥ Fully paid LS from London 28.12.1865 via Marseille to Patras 25.12. franked with 34 d or 2sh/10 over franked with 1 d up to 3/4 oz (Moubray 359)

via Trieste

Great Britain

via Trieste



- Unpaid cover from Liverpool 11.10 1858 which in Aachen 13.10. Bahnpostamt X with 7 Silbergroschen GB-DÖPV (3 1/2 + 3 1/2) noted and in the trainpost Berlin-Minden converted to 21 kr.C (7 sgr for destination Austria). On the way to **Atens in the German Grand Duchy of Oldenburg it was realised** this cover had to be sent **via Trieste** to Athens in the Kingdom of Greece (noted on the reverse!). All German markings were crossed and the correct rate for Athens in Greece noted with $9/9/12=30 \text{ Kr.} \times 5 = 150 \text{ Lepta} + 10 \text{ local}=160 \text{ Lepta}$. This is the only cover to Greece which touched the Old German State of Oldenburg!



Letter from Athens with the blue cancel to Varel in Oldenburg paid with 1/30 Thaler

Great Britain

Insufficient prepaid from England to Greece



Underfranked LS from Bristol 26.7.1870 franked with 6 d, PD killed by the General Post office in London (all letters to abroad must pass there) and marked „insuff..stamped“ to Athens 23.7. indicated via Marseille charged with 46 Lepta with the rare 1 Lepton 1870
Rate: 115 L. for unpaid letters $6 \times 11,5 = 69$ d on cover = 46 Lepta tax (number on cover)



Underfranked letter from London 8.10.1872 franked with 3 d, „insuff..stamped“ marked the respective amount in Lepta $34 \frac{1}{2}$ and the difference with $80 \frac{1}{2}$ was noted the missing amount to the rate of 115 L. was charged with 80 Lepta

The route can not be identified as all routes cost the same, and there were no transit postmarks on the letter.

Great Britain

via Trieste



- LS from Liverpool 8.2.1867 fully paid PD via London 9.2., Vienna 11.2. and Trieste 12.2. to Athens 11.2.
7th British weight step up to 1 3/4 oz or 49,6 g, on reverse 30/60 triple Austrian 45 to 60 g
altogether 4sh/10d
Since the cover was fully paid, the Large Heads do not belong originally to the cover



- Unpaid letter LS from Athens 2.10.1865 via Trieste 19.10. to London 23.10.1865
Rate and taxes: 15 Kr/20 L. Austrian Lloyd, 8 sgr Trieste, 8 1/2 sgr in Aachen, finally 1sh/2 d
to pay in London

Great Britain

via Marseille and via Brindisi

Registered covers from and to Greece were scarce in these times with all countries. Very few are known. With the two shown here is also obvious how tremendously the rates became smaller in short time! The beginning of registration to Greece in 1855 asks for **the same rate as the letter**, so it was finally **doubled**. After 1.1.1870 with the first treaty between Britain and Greece the rate for registration was only **4 d for a letter independent of the weight**.



- ♦ **Registered letter** from London 30.3.1865. For a weight between 3/4 and 1 oz the receiver had to be paid with 3/8 sh for the letter and the same amount for Registration, **all together 7/4 sh** via Paris 31.3. to Athens 26.3.1865. **The stamps are the highest amount in British stamps on a letter to Greece**



- ♦ **Registered letter** from London 8.5.1875 with the **same weight as the letter above** up to 1 oz as double weight via Brindisi to Corfu 3.3.1875. The fee was **16 d + 4 d registration = 20 d** (5 x 4 d)

Great Britain

Unpaid letters from Britain **via Brindisi** between 1.4. and 30.6.1875 and **via Marseille** between 1.4. and 31.12.1875 were charged with Postage Dues.



- Unpaid letter from London 23.6.1875 **via Brindisi** to Patras 18.6. charged with 115 Lepta paid according to the convention with Britain - **only possible between 1.3. and 30.6.1875**



- Unpaid letter from Manchester 8.9.1875 via Marseille to Patras 6.9. charged with 140 Lepta the old but reduced rate valid til 31.12.1875

Great Britain

France joined the GPU on 1. Jan. 1876, six months later than the other European countries.

On 1 July 1875, all mail **via France** had to be paid to the old rates which were only slightly reduced. These rates were valid only for 6 months from 1.7.1875 to 31.12.1875.



- Fully paid letter from London 17.11.1875 **franked with 6 1/2 d** (instead of 8 d) **via France** and Italy to Patras 13.11.1875

Malta

Letters between Malta and Greece could only be franked to the border of the respective country.



- **Double weight** from Malta 19.4.1862 prepaid with 6 d for 1/2 oz (14,2 g) up to the Greek border and in Athens 12.4. charged with the Greek domestic rate of 20 L. up to 15 g



- **Triple weight** from Malta 15.8.1862 prepaid with 9 d for 3/4 oz (21,3 g) up to the Greek border and charged in Peiraia 9.8. with the double domestic rate of 40 L. from 15 to 30 g the Greek stamps are 20 L. Provisional Athens Printings

Ionian Islands

The **Ionian Islands** are made up of seven islands (septinsular): Kerkyra (Corfu), Paxos, Lefkas, Ithaka, Kefallonia, Zante und Cerigo (Kythira) - **they were independent but under the protection of Great Britain.**



1 p blau from Zakynthos
24.6.59 to Athens 15.6.59 ©



Cover posted in **Monza (Italy)**
13.01.1865 for Corfu 4.1.1865.
the earliest known
Greek Government postmark
used in any of the islands
charged with 6 d



Paid at Corfu 19.6.52
transported with **British ship**
and paid with 5 d
It is the **only cover**
transported with a
British ship
in the whole collection

Spain

Like Portugal Spain had a lot of possibilities or routes to send mail to Greece. All the routes were open but only 2 or 3 covers are known up to now to connect the two countries.



• Unpaid letter from Barcelona 6.3.1861.
to the French-Spanish border at Le Perthus 3 Amb.F. 7.3.
and **Marseille** 8.3. to Athens 2.3. and finally, to Marathonisi (now Gytheion)
charged with 154 Lepta



■ Fully paid letter from Malaga 5.11.1870 franked with 90 L.
(Convention France – Greece valid 1.12.1867) – marked in France with the very rare F.52
(van der Linden 1189 for letters from Spain to Greece via France) Madrid 11.11. –
Esp. St.Jean 12.11. Marseille 14.11. – Athens 12.11. to Patras 14.11.1870

Portugal

Even to a country like Portugal all possibilities of sending mail were given as well as **via France** as **via Austria** or **Italy** or even **via Great Britain**. All countries in transit had different determinations, regarding if it was facultative to send letters paid or unpaid to the same price as with France, or if it was only possible to pay to the French-Spanish border as with Italy, if Franco was cheaper as Porto as with Austria or Great Britain, but this route was more expensive as via Austria. The weight progression was also differed from country to country and from route to route. What a variety of possibilities regarding Postal History! It is a challenge but also a great pleasure!

But all is idle – **this is the only recorded cover up today from Greece to Portugal.**

via Marseille



- Fully paid letter from Athens 16.1.1869 to Marseille with ship „Tibre“ (Salles II, 225), via Cette and Bordeaux **to Lisbon 7.2.1869** cancelled with oval **FRANCA** franked with **110 Lepta** for weight to **7,5 g** (Convention with France valid from 20.8.1867)

Romania

Romania had a quite different peculiarity. Up to **31.3.1869** all mail to abroad was executed by the Austrian or Hungarian Postal Service, only from **1.4.1869** the **Romanian Post** was responsible for the mail with abroad.

Via Austria paid and unpaid letters were possible with Greece. But mail via Constantinople to Greece from the Romanian harbours at the Danube **could only be franked to the Greek border**, the Greek domestic rate was collected from the receiver. In the other direction from **Greece letters had to be prepaid to Constantinople and not to the Romanian border** and charged for the way to Romania in **Soldi** then transferred to Bani to collect.

via Trieste



- Fully paid LS from Syros 25.12.1866 **franked with 140 Lepta** via **Trieste** and Pest to Bukarest 9.1.67 (Heimbüchler S. 325) Rate: 20 L. Greek + 10 Kr. Sea + 15 via Austria + 15 to Bukarest = 140 Lepta **Austrian mail**



- Fully paid LS from Galati 23.3.1875 **now Romanian Mail** via **Trieste** 8.3. to Kerkyra 1.3.1875 paid with a strip of 3 of 25 Bani = 75 Bani - covers via **Trieste** are really scarce

Romania

Mail via Constantinople to Greece could only be paid to the Greek border, the Greek domestic rate was collected from the receiver. The Romanians marked wrongly with P.D. but it was substituted by Austria (Levant) P.P. Mail from Greece. on the other hand, must be paid to Constantinople and further charged with 10 Soldi converted to 45 Bani - this clearing with Romania was unique.

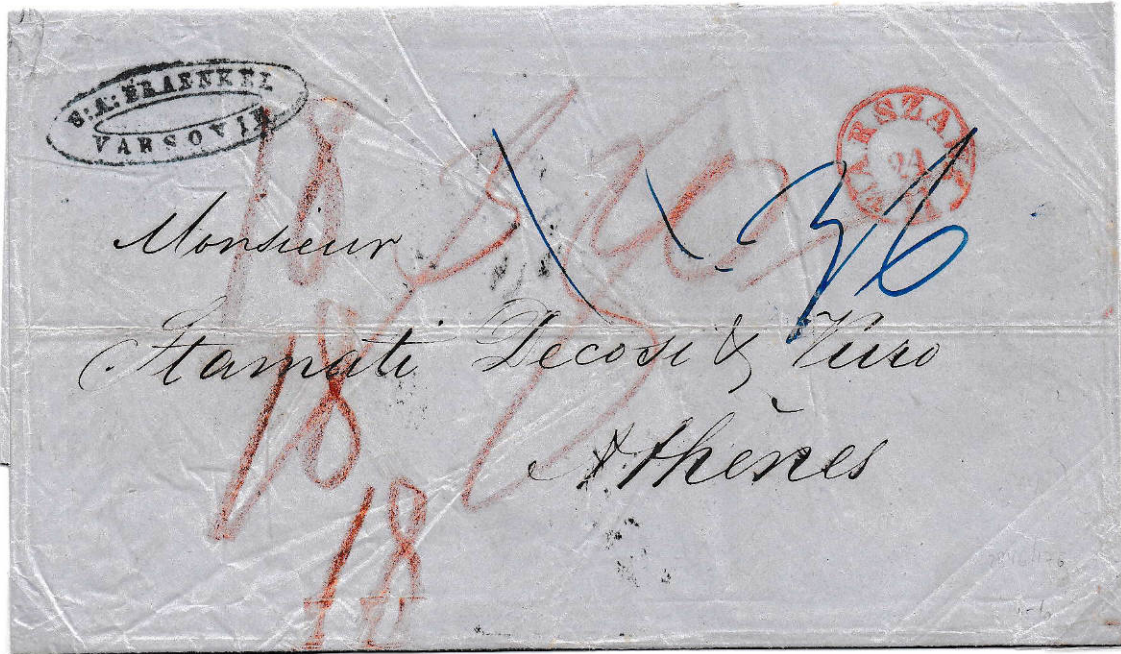


- 1 LS from Ismail 23.12.1870 PD franked with 50 Bani blue/red via Galatz, Bucuresti and Lloyd Agenzie Constantinople 12.1. to Syra 3.1.71 charged with the inland rate of 20 Lepta
- 2 LS from Giurgiu 17.10.1874 franked with 50 Bani rose (very scarce) via Varna and Constantinople 20.10. to Syra 13.10. charged with 20 Lepta
- 3 Partly paid LS from Zakynthos 5.11.1872 with 40L paid via Syra and Constantinople (Austrian PA), to Galatz 26.11. charged with 10 sdi converted in 45 Bani – PD was the wrong postmark

Russian Empire

Mail from Russia was either transported **via Austria** as far it came from the North with St. Petersburg or Moscow or via Constantinople from the South as **Odessa, Rostov or Taganrog**. The relation **via Austria** or **via Constantinople** is about 1:30

Mail from the North **via Austria** (Poland was in this time part of Russia)



● **Unpaid double rate LS** from Warsaw (Russian - Poland) 24.11.1857 via Vienna and **Trieste** to Athens 22.11.1857 - **charged with 18 + 18 Kr. C.M. to Trieste and another 18 Kr. to the Greek border**
8 Kr. more are charged on top = $62 \times 5 = 310$ L. + 10 inland = **320 Lepta to pay in Athens**



■ **Unpaid LS** from **Moscow** 26.9.1864 via Vienna and **Trieste** to Athens 10.10.1864 (both countries used the **Gregorian Calendar**) **taxed with 140 Lepta**
15 Kr. from Russia to Austria + 10 Kr. via Austria + 15 Kr. Sea = $40 \times 3 = 120$ + 20 inland = **140 Lepta**

Russian Empire

Paid or even more underpaid letters on the Northern route from Russia are extremely scarce



- Fully paid Cover from St. Petersburg 27.6.1872 to Heinrich Schliemann **franked with 26 Kop.** via Vienna and **Trieste** to Athens 10.7. and a wfr of 25 Kr. for Austria up to now the only known fully franked cover from Russia to Greece



- Underpaid cover from St. Petersburg 23.9.1872 **franked only with 22 Kop.** via Warsaw and **Trieste** „Unzureichend Frankiert“ 10 + 5 Kr. as missing marked and in Athens 5.10. taxed with 40 Lepta even this underpaid cover is the only known up to now to Greece

Russian Empire

On the **Southern-Route** it was only possible to frank for both countries to the **Greek Exchange Postoffice in Constantinople**, the way from there must be paid from the addressee. The Greek part was fixed from 1861 with Large Hermes Heads, the Russian part marked with tax-figures to Russia or with Franco postmarks.

Only from 1864 it was possible to frank the covers with Russian adhesives.



- Double rate LS (2) from Taganrog 22.1.1866 **paid with 30 Kop.** for a single not enough for double rate via Odessa in closed mail via Constantinople to Syra 5.2 charged with 130 L the rate for French ship with 20 - 25 g from Constantinople only known cover with such a franking



- Real double rate LS with both weights up to 30 g from Rostow 5.7.1868 to Syra 20.7 paid with 68 Kop for Russia and 180 L for the 4th French weight 25 - 30 g to Greece

Cover with the highest franking between Russia and Greece

Russian Empire

The payments system to the Exchange Office in Constantinople was held until 30.6.1875.
In the last 4 months, postage dues have been necessary for taxation.



- Double rate LS from Taganrog 14.2.1875 **franked with 32 Kop.** (2 x 16 Kop) via Odessa paid to Constantinople in Peiraios 7.3.1875 - short after the introduction of Postage Dues - charged likewise **with double weight of 90 Lepta** between 15 and 30 g

Russian Levant

Letters from the Russian Levant had to pass the **Exchange Office in Constantinople** and then to Greece. **They are extremely scarce.**



- Letter from the **Russian Post office** in Constantinople **franked with 6 Kop** (acc. Tchilinghirian the use of this 3 Kop. is unknown on cover) given to the Greek Post office 23.8.1874, a prefranked **40 L. was hit with the cancel for the route to Syra 25.8. cancelled again completely there** The only known Combination-Franking with Russian Levant. ©

Turkey

Between Greece and Turkey there were always **postal rowing's** for political reasons. Letters from Greece had to be **franked or charged to the Greek Post office as exchange office in Constantinople** – it is difficult to find out who paid the tax there – but most companies had an agent to do so. **Entering the Turkish mail, the amount for Turkey was collected with Postage Dues** from the receiver.



♥ **Unpaid LS** from Astros 3.11.1873 via Athens 7.11. with French ship to the **Greek Post office in Constantinople**, they charge the letter **with 45 Lepta** - the stamps are cancelled with the cancel 95 of Constantinople, an agent named in the letter paid this amount - the **Turkish Mail** cancelled the letter with the oval cancel of Bachtsche - Kapussi 19.11., **the Due of 1 Ghrusch or Piaster was obliterated in Galata** ©

Turkey



● Fully paid registered letter - Systemenon - with the doubled normal rate of 40 L. = 80.L. from Athens 11.4.1872 to the Greek Post office of Constantinople, it was given to the Turkish post and delivered by the city post. paid with 1 piaster boxed Galata cancel. ©

Turkey

The following letter was franked with stamps of three countries, one after another, following the route



LS from **Cesme in Turkey** franked with **20 Para** cancelled with double framed octagonal cancel of Cesme (Brandt Typ XV/15) in blue with Arabic letters (partly repainted) for the postal charge in Cesme, via **Scio-Cesme**, where the **Austrian Levant post office** took over and prepaid with **10 Soldi** to the Greek border in Syros, there finally charged 20.8.1872 with domestic charge of **20 Lepta**. ©

- a unique combination with stamps of three countries on one route

Egypt

Mail from or to Egypt could only be franked to Alexandria. From there, all letters - coming from where so ever - were directed via the Greek Post office as an Exchange Office except with Austrian connections directly to Greece - these are extremely scarce (Alexandria und Port Said).

Mail to Greece was charged to the receiver and taxed with Greek adhesives. In these cases, the Greek frontier was in relation to Egypt already the Greek Post office in Alexandria.

Mail to Egypt was taxed with 4 for 40 Para = 1 Piaster for single weight to 10 g (in Egypt 3 Dirham or about 10g) or 80 Para = 2 Piaster for 10 to 20 g



- ◆ **Double rate** LS from Egypt to the Archimandrite and Exarch of **St. Catherines Cloister at Sinai**
 - on the reverse is the seal of the „**Burning Bush**“ -
 carried privately to Cairo and posted there 4. March 1874
franked with 2 Piaster to Alessandria (Poste Egiziane) 5.3., Greek P.O. Alexandria 21.2.,
charged with 80 L. for the route to Athens 25.2.1874

It is again to point out the **Difference of the Gregorian and the Julian calendar of 12 days**, which were used in the Mediterranean and in Russia. **With this difference it happened often that a letter arrived before it was sent - by cancelled date!**

Egypt



- Letter from Syros 8.2.1868 paid with 80 L. to the Greek Exchange Office Alexandria marked PD which means fully paid to Alexandria - given to the Poste Vice-Real-Egiziane-Alessandria charged with **1 (Piaster) for single local rate** – via Zagazik to Porto Said



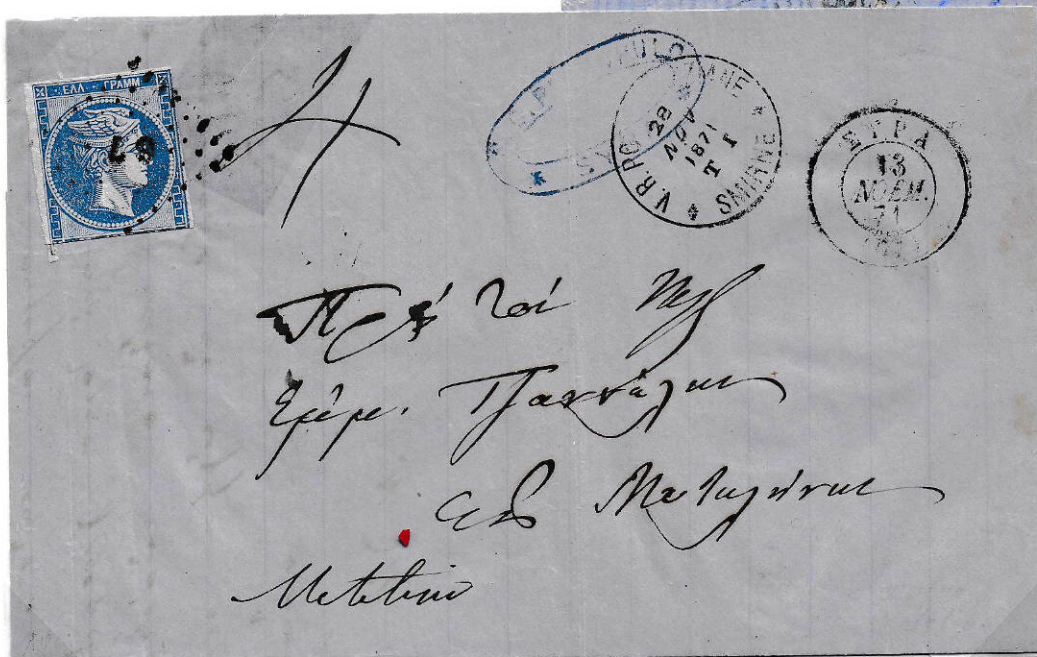
- Single rate letter from Syros 31.12.1869 **paid with 40 L.** to the Greek Exchange Office in Alexandria 12.1.1870 given to the V.R. Poste Egiziane Alessandria 25.1. sent to V.R. Poste Egiziane Porto Said 27.1. and **charged with 2 Pi – double the local rate**

Egyptian Post offices in the Levant

Contrary to letters in connection with Egypt the Egyptian Post offices were treated differently.

Mail to Greece had to be paid resp. charged to the Greek border.

Mail from Greece was prepaid only for the Greek domestic rate and the Egyptian rate was charged.



- 1 LS from Chios 15.12.1873 paid with 1 Piaster to the Greek border, in Syra taxed with 20 L.
- 2 LS from the **Egyptian P.O. Constantinopoli 31.8.1870 with the tax cancel 80 (Para = 2 Piaster)** most probably paid in cash, in Syra 23.8. taxed with 20 Lepta – for a weight between 10 and 15 g
- 3 LS from Syra 13.11.1871 franked with inland rate of 20L and mailed with Egyptian post via V.R. Poste Egiziane in Smyrna 28.11 to Meteline 29.11 **taxed with 4 (40 Para = 1 Piaster)**

Egyptian Post offices in the Levant

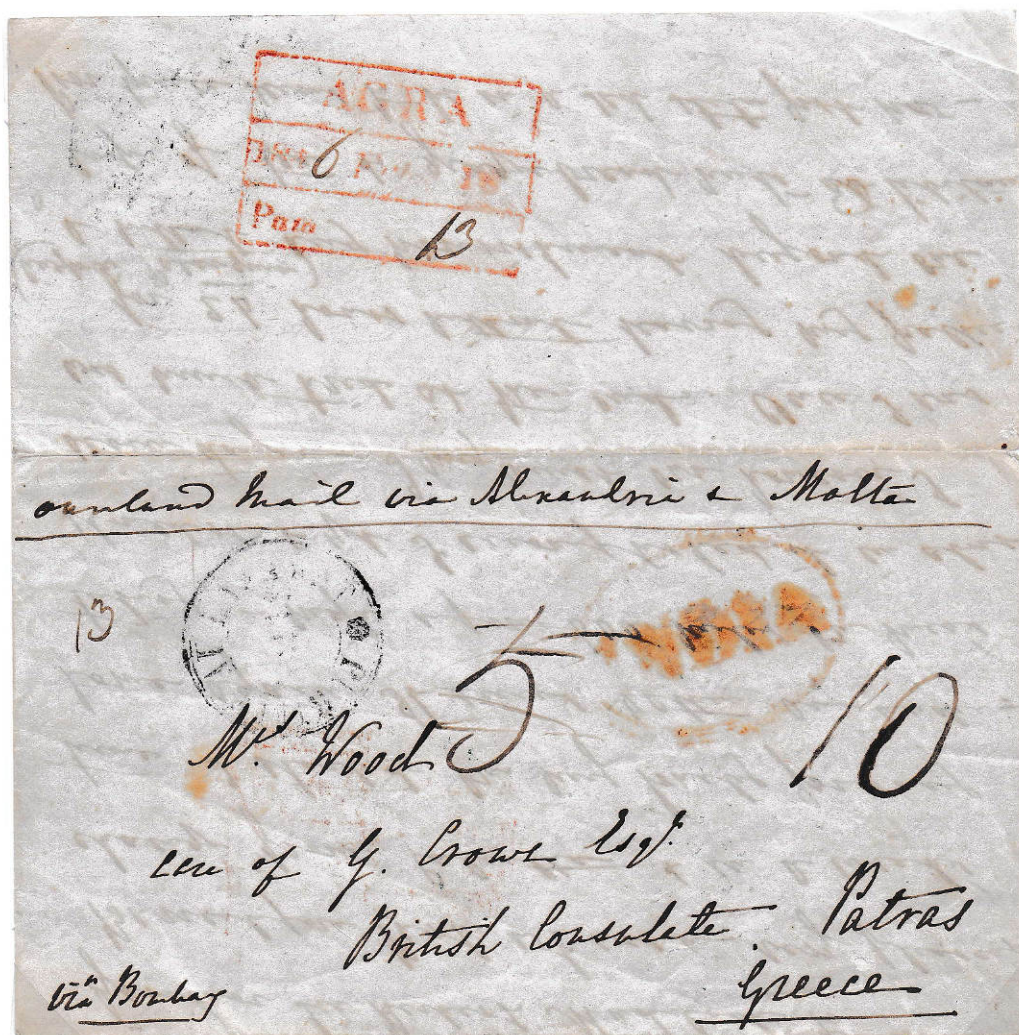
The Egyptian Post office in Salonicchi opened 14.7.1870 and closed Febr. 1872



- The letter was **posted in Salonica 23.9.1871 on board of a ship** tied by the large **oval Khedivial Mail Line cachet and 2x20 Para 2nd issue**, manuscript „from Thessalonika“ in blue via Syra and Athens to Patras 29.9. where it was charged with 20 Lepta for the Greek inland.

India

Mail from India to Greece is extensively scarce (this is the oldest or first one known) - from Greece to India unknown! So, it is really difficult to find exact rates for this cover, but Postal History sometimes trying to find solutions, so we will do.



- LS written in a camp two Marches (days) from **Cawapore 14.2.1846** „Valentine Day“ mailed in **Agra 18.2.46** (red rectangular cancel on back with preprinted 18 and handwritten 6 - described in Giles „Handstruck stamps of India“) and **paid with 13 annas** as necessary to the port of shipment in Bombay - 13 annas was the postage for 2nd weight of under 1 Tola (2/5 brit. ounce) for a distance between 800 and 900 miles (Agra to Bombay are 839 miles) the red oval India proves the sending as **paid Overland Mail from Bombay 2.3.** with „Acbar“ of the East-India Comp. via Aden 10./11.3. to Suez 17.3. overland by dromedar to Cairo, down the Nile to Atfeh, shipped on the Mahmoudieh Canal and brought the last few miles by **mule to Alexandria.** Now we come in the field of speculation because further postmarks for transport are nearly none. Apparently with the British ship „Styx“ 22.3. to Malta „**Purifie au Lazaret/Malte**“ and from there 28.3 with the French „Mentor“ (Salles II, 30) to Peiraios 30.3. and finally, to Patras. The small 13 in the upper left corner is a French weight of 13 g for 2nd French step which would explain the changing of 5 into 10 décimes postage from Malta to Greece.

Brazil

Only two covers were known – both came to Europe via England



- Letter written in Rio de Janeiro 16.12.1848 and prepaid 2sh/9 d to England carried on the „Linnet“ to Falmouth 21.1.1849, Colonies & c - Art. 13 Accountancy mark, with the Channel line to Boulogne sur Mer 23.1.1849 – overland via Trieste 12 krCMr. Austrian transit and Austrian Lloyd to Greece 2.2.1849 another 12 krCMr. = 24 kr.x 5= 120 Lepta + 10 inland = 130 Lepta tax in Syra

United States of America

Letters to the **United States** in the early times from Greece were sent on different routes as **via Great Britain** connection with Austria and German States and Belgium. Via France was also common - Prepayment was often only possible to the port of shipment and the receiver overseas had to pay the Transocean and US-way (**Richard Winter: Understanding Transatlantic Mail**). All routes were possible, and it depends often on the route to the port and the departure of ships - the knowledge of these dates was very important and well known.



Letter from Syra 9.3.1844 fully paid with 234 L.
Purifié au Lazaret Malte **via Marseille** Grece Marseille 2 6.3.1844 -
cancelled AED - Affranchissement Etranger Destination - via Paris 6.4. und Le Havre 7.4.
to New York 22.5.1844 - please observe the times! This was not a direct connection!



- Unpaid double weight LS from Athens 4.9.1860 Greece and Lloyd-fee 30nkr/40L **via Trieste** and Aachen 24.9.
34 cts (= 14 Sgr in blue) for Prussia + 4 cts Belgian transit
+ 36 cts GB incl. Sea + 10 cts US = 84 cents silver or 119 cts paper
arrival in New York with American Packet 10.10.1860

United States of America

Letters from the United States to Greece

Via Trieste



- Letter 29.10.60 paid in New York **with 1 ct just for the way to the General Post office in N.Y.**
sent via Aachen and **charged 2.55** to Athens 3.11.60
no Greek stamps in 1860 available



- Unpaid LS from New York 26.2.1862 via Aachen 12.3. and **Trieste** to Reverend John Hill, the founder of the first Girls' school in Athens 7.3.1862 **charged with 260 Lepta**
Rate: 55 neukreuzer overseas to Aachen + 10 nkr. for Transit to Trieste (Prussian Closed Mail)
+ 15 nkr. Sea = $80 \times 3 = 240 + 20 \text{ L. Inland} = 260 \text{ L.}$
up to now the only known cover solely charged with Large Hermes Heads

United States of America

Fully paid cover out of the US via GB and **Trieste**



- Fully paid LS **triple weight** from New York 24.1.1872 **franked with 45 cts** and ship „Wisconsin“ cancelled with NY Foreign Mail cancel (Type TR-W 1a F 7c) via England, Vienna and **Trieste** 9.2. wfr 9sgr to **H. Schliemann in Athens** 3.2.

Fully paid letter to the US via London



- Fully paid letter from Corfu 6.4.1871 **franked with 92 Lepta** to New York (NY Paid All) 8.5. this is the only known letter with British Open Mail and the same rate as for Britain **but with credit of 2 (cents) in red** to the US

Eastbound Greece - Ceylon, Brit. India
Westbound Greece - Hawaiian Islands Honolulu

