

Use of Perfin Stamps in Greek Territories

Greek Perfin Stamps is a very interesting and unexplored chapter of Greek philately. Although first studied several decades ago, only the last ten years has been systematically researched and highlighted.

This exhibit presents the evolution of the stamps perforation in Greek Territories by companies that operated within its borders and in a period that begins in the early twentieth century and ends a few years after the Second World War.

Through this exhibit and the exhibited items, presented by chronological order, all the known Greek perfin patterns, their peculiarities and their basic features.

A briefly structure of the exhibit:

- Page 2 **Σ and N.C.R. perfins:** Till now the first Greek perfin patterns which possibly used by the raisin companies of Patras of the early 20th century.*
- Page 3-4 **The FF perfins:** This perfin pattern is still unconfirmed and according to the research so far, comes from the Frangoulis Brothers coal trading company which was based in Piraeus in the first decade of the 1900's*
- Page 5-8 **The B.A. perfins in Cretan State:** During the period of 1908-1910 the branch of Bank of Athens (Banque D'Athenes) in Herakleion, perforated its stamp stock with the pattern B.A.*
- Page 9 **The BAC perfins in Cretan State:** The second Cretan State perfin pattern, possibly used by the branch of Bank of Athens (Banque D'Athenes) in Chania during a very short period of one or two month on Spring 1910.*
- Page 10 **The Cretan State patterns B.A. and BAC on Austrian Levant stamps and on Italian stamps used in Crete.***
- Page 11-12 **The BC perfins:** During the last months of 1914, the Bank of Crete branches in Herakleion, Chania and Agios Nikolaos use the BC perfin pattern to its correspondence.*
- Page 13-14 **The CL complex perfins:** During the Greek Administration in Asia Minor and Eastern Thrace (1920-1922) the Credit Lyonnais branch in Constantinople perforated Greek stamps for its correspondence.*
- Page 15 **The G.S perfins:** The perfin pattern of the merchant agent George Stamenis (Geo Stameny) who maintained his business in Smyrna. Among others he rarely used Greek stamps for his correspondence.*
- Page 16-20 **The IB/L perfins:** During the period from 1921 to 1926 the Greek company Ionian Bank Limited in Athens, used this pattern to perforate its stamp stock.*
- Page 21 **The IBL perfins:** An unconfirmed perfin pattern which possibly came from a second perforation machine of Ionian Bank Limited in Athens during the middle '20.*
- Page 22-31 **The EOT perfins:** During the long period from 1913-1931 the National Bank of Greece, Athens branch, perforated the stamps of its correspondence. Envelopes taxed with various perfin stamps and postal fees are presented as well as the cessation of perfins from 1926 to 1928.*
- Page 32 **Cases of fraudulent postal use of already used perfin stamps***
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- Page 44-48 **The ΦE perfins:** From 1935 to 1942 the Ford Motor Company in Athens, used perfin stamps to its correspondence.*
- Page 49-79 **The T.E. perfins:** The use of stamps from the branches of the Bank of Greece (1928-1951). The use of different perforators and the introduction of the Franking Machines. The use of perfins before, during and after the Second World War.*
- Page 80 **A perforator hole in the airmail stamps: September – October 1942***

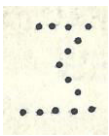
Relevant articles of the exhibitor: "Greek Perfin Stamps" Φιλοτέλεια No 691-694/2015 St.Macrymichalos Award 2015

The first perfin stamps in Greece

Perfins originated in Great Britain in 1868 and was a pattern applied to stamps as security against theft. The invention of perfins is credited to the British inventor Joseph Sloper who persuaded the British Post Office to allow the perforation of British postage stamps. The official authorization was given on 13th March 1868. This practice spread quickly to Belgium (1872), Denmark, France, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. The first Greek perfin stamps appeared in the first decade of the twentieth century. The existed material is so few that it is impossible for now to say when the first perfin pattern appeared.

The first two perfin patterns that appeared in Greek stamps were made on stamps of the Flying Mercury issue. Based on the existing items, their origin is probably in the raisin trading companies of Patras, an area with great growth in the early twentieth century and large export companies.

The Σ. perfin pattern



5 lepta Flying Mercury issue stamp with Σ. perfin. There is only one more stamp known with this perfin pattern, which is canceled with the Patras post office seal. It is still unidentified.

The N.C.R. perfin pattern



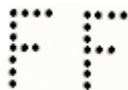
Flying Mercury issue stamps with N.C.R. perfin. Only a few stamps with this perfin pattern are known to date. All of them are canceled with the Patras post office seal. According to the research so far, the perfin pattern belongs to the Patras raisin export company “Nikolaos C. Raftopoulos”.



City of Patras and the port at the early 20th century

The FF perfin of Piraeus

According to the existing material the period of use of the FF perforation is between 1906 and 1912. It is believed that the company that used this perforation was the coal trading company “Frangoulis Freres” which was based in Piraeus. The FF perfin stamps are very rare and only a small number of them are known. All the stamps with legible postmarks have sealed with the Piraeus Post office postmark. There are no postal covers known till now, with FF perfin stamps.



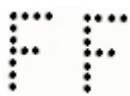
Flying Hermes issue stamps with FF perfins.



1906 Olympic Games issue stamps with FF perfins



A unique 1906 Olympic Games 20 lepta stamp with FF perfin, canceled by the Piraeus Post office postmark (February 1907)



Engraved issue FF perfin stamps



Late use of FF perforation on Engraved issue 10 lepta stamps. Both of them canceled in Piraeus Post Office on 24 June 1911, and February of 1912.



5 Lepta Engraved issue pair with FF perfins. The stamps have sealed with a clear Piraeus post office postmark dated 14 February 1912. This is the only pair of FF perfin stamps known to us until now.

B.A.

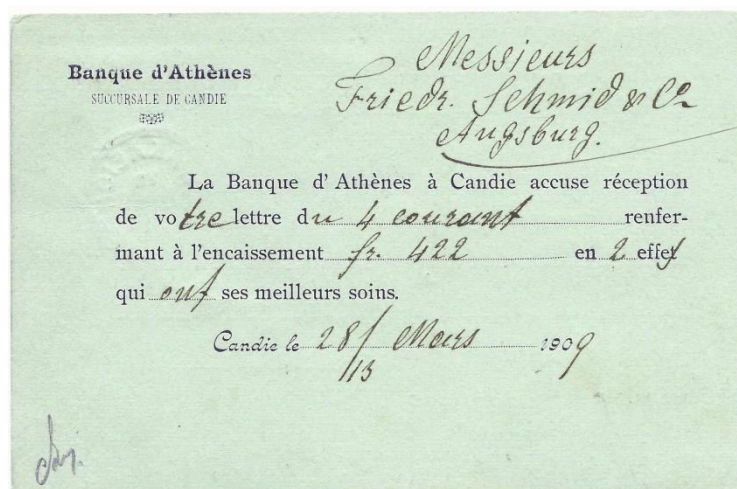
The Cretan State perfin patterns

The B.A. perfins of Bank of Athens in Herakleion

Bank of Athens was founded in 1893 and was active in several cities in Greece, including Herakleion and Chania in Cretan State (1898-1913). During the period from 1908 to 1910, the Herakleion branch of Bank of Athens used B.A. perfin stamps for its correspondence. The Herakleion branch is the only confirmed Bank of Athens branch that used perfin stamps.



Bank of Athens – Herakleion branch postal card from Herakleion (28 Febr.1909) to Augsburg. The 10 lepta small Hellas overprinted Cretan State stamp perforated with B.A. perfin. There are only three postal items with B.A. perfin stamps, known till now.



Back side 70%

B.A.

The Cretan State perfin patterns

The B.A. perfins of Bank of Athens in Definitive Issues

According to the existed material, Bank of Athens started the perforation of its stamps in 1908, the same year that Cretan State government unilaterally decided to unite with Greece. There are stamps from all the regular Cretan State issues perforated with B.A. perfin and all canceled by the Herakleion post office seal.

First issue of the Cretan State (1900)



10 Lepta and 50 Lepta first issue Cretan State stamps (1900) with B.A. perfin. Very late use of these stamps.

Second issue of the Cretan State (1905)



5 Lepta and 50 Lepta stamps of the Second Cretan State issue with B.A. perfin

Third issue of the Cretan State (1907)



25 Lepta stamp of the Third Cretan State issue with B.A. perfin



The Cretan State perfin patterns

The B.A. perfins of Bank of Athens in ΕΛΛΑΣ overprint stamps

The Small Hellas overprint issue (1908)



5 Lepta, 10 Lepta, 20 Lepta and 25 Lepta stamps of the Small ΕΛΛΑΣ overprint issue of Cretan State, with B.A. perfin

The Gothic Hellas overprint issue (1909)



10 Lepta, 20 Lepta and 50 Lepta stamps of the Gothic ΕΛΛΑΣ overprint issue, with B.A. perfin

The Large Hellas overprint issue (1910)



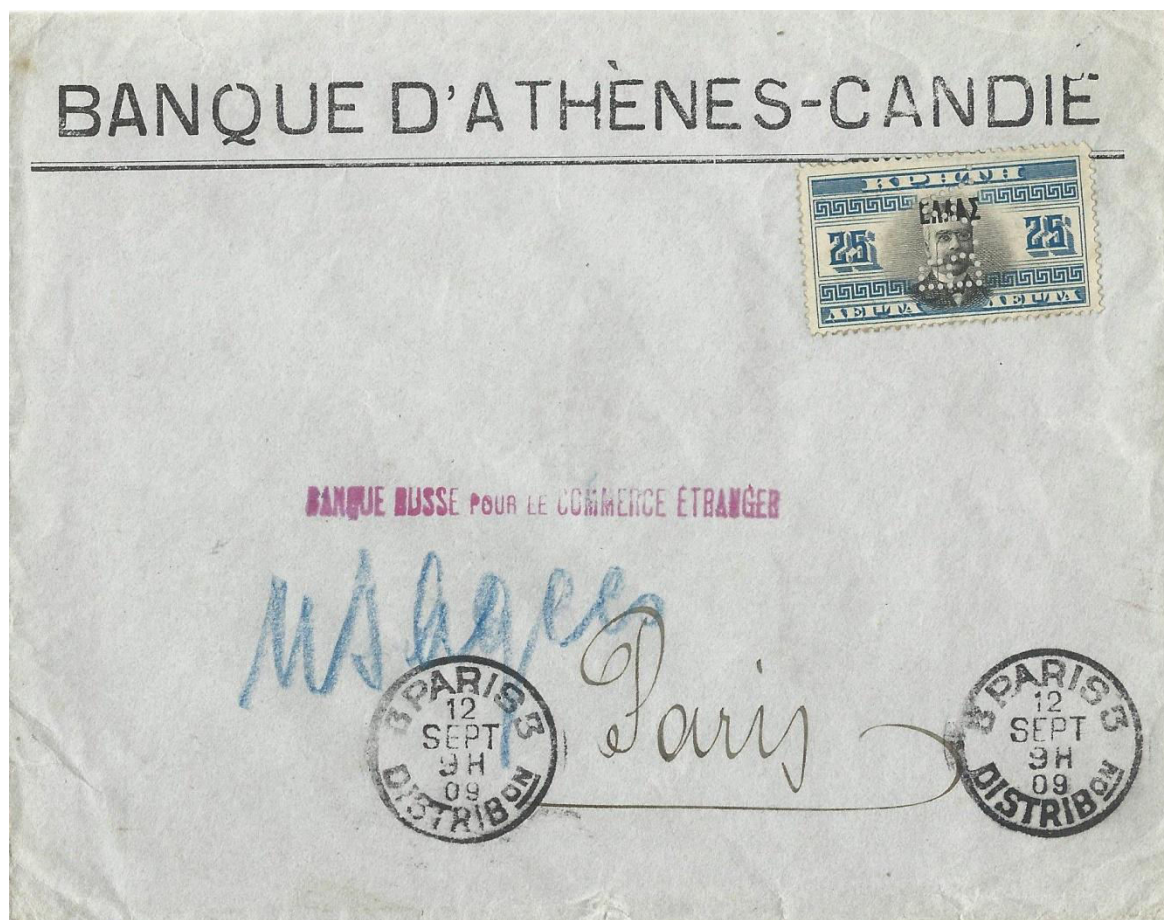
5 Lepta stamp of the Large ΕΛΛΑΣ overprint issue with B.A. perfin

B.A.

The Cretan State perfin patterns

The B.A. perfins of Bank of Athenes in Herakleion

Bank of Athens operated branches in many towns of Greek area such as Athens, Piraeus, Patras, Volos, Syros, Kalamata, and in Chania and Herakleion of Crete. The only branch which undoubtedly used perfin stamps was the one in Herakleion Crete.



Cover from Bank of Athens branch in Herakleion to Paris (12 Sep.1909). The 25 Lepta Small Hellas issue stamp for the first external postal rate, has B.A. perfin and it is not sealed with postmark. It is possible that the Herakleion post office considered the perfins on the stamp as a type of cancelation and did not proceed to the postal cancelation of the cover.

Revenue Stamps



Bank of Athens also perforated revenues. 20 Lepta and 1 Drachma Cretan State revenues with B.A. perfin. These revenues are the two from only three known revenue stamps with B.A. perfin.



The Cretan State perfin patterns

The B.A.C perfins in Chania Crete

Except the confirmed B.A. perfin, almost at the same period (1910) the B.A.C. perfin pattern was the second perfin pattern on Cretan State stamps. There are only a few BAC perfined Cretan State stamps known till today (only eleven, the eight in this exhibit) and the origin of the perfin pattern can not be confirmed yet. We can only speculate by explaining the B.A.C. initials as Banque D'Athenes Canee. The minimum sample of B.A.C. perfined stamps we know today indicates that the use of B.A.C. perfin lasted possibly only a month. All the BAC perfin stamps have sealed by the Canea post office postmark.



Block of four 10 Lepta large Hellas issue stamps on fragment with B.A.C. perfin. The date of the Chania post office seal is 20 May 1910.



Pair of 10 Lepta large Hellas issue stamps on fragment with B.A.C. perfin. The date of the Chania post office seal is 21 May 1910.



10 Lepta and 20 Lepta large Hellas issue Cretan State stamps with B.A.C. perfin

The Cretan State perfin patterns

The B.A. and B.A.C. perfins on stamps of foreign post offices in Cretan State

B.A and B.A.C. perfins are very rare on Cretan Stamps but even more on stamps from foreign post offices that operated in Crete. The number of these stamps are so small that it is impossible to extract safe conclusions about the period or the frequency of their use.



25 Centimes Commemorative issue stamp for the 60 anniversary of the Emperor Franz Jozeph for use in the Levant, with perfin B.A. One of the two known stamps of the Austrian post office with B.A. perfin.



5 centisimi stamp Italian post office issue of Crete (1907-1912) with LA CANEA overprint. The stamp has BAC perfin. It is the one of only two known stamps of Italian post office in Crete with BAC perfin.



A view of Chania Port (1910)

The B.C perfins of Bank of Crete

Bank of Crete was founded in 1899 with the aim of being the central credit institution of the then newly form Cretan State. The headquarters were located in Chania while the bank had opened branches in the major cities of Crete. Based on the existing material, Bank of Crete perforated stamps with B.C perfin pattern after the unification of Crete with Greece and especially in the second half of 1914, approximately from June to December.

The Unique Agios Nikolaos B.C perfin



1 Lepto 1912 Campaign issue stamp with B.C perfin. The stamp is canceled with Agios Nikolaos post office seal. It is the only known till now from the Agios Nikolaos Bank of Crete branch.

1912 Campaign issue



2 Lepta, 5 Lepta and 25 Lepta 1912 Campaign issue stamps with B.C perfin.

The Souda stamp



Souda issue stamp with B.C perfin



The B.C perfins of Bank of Crete

«ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ» overprint



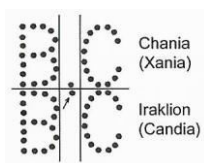
20 Lepta, 30 Lepta engraved issue and 20 Lepta Flying Mercury issue overprinted with «ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ» and perforated with B.C perfin pattern

Lithographic issue



10 Lepta lithographic issue stamp with B.C perfin. This is the only known lithographic issue B.C perfin stamp

The different perforations of Chania and herakleion branches



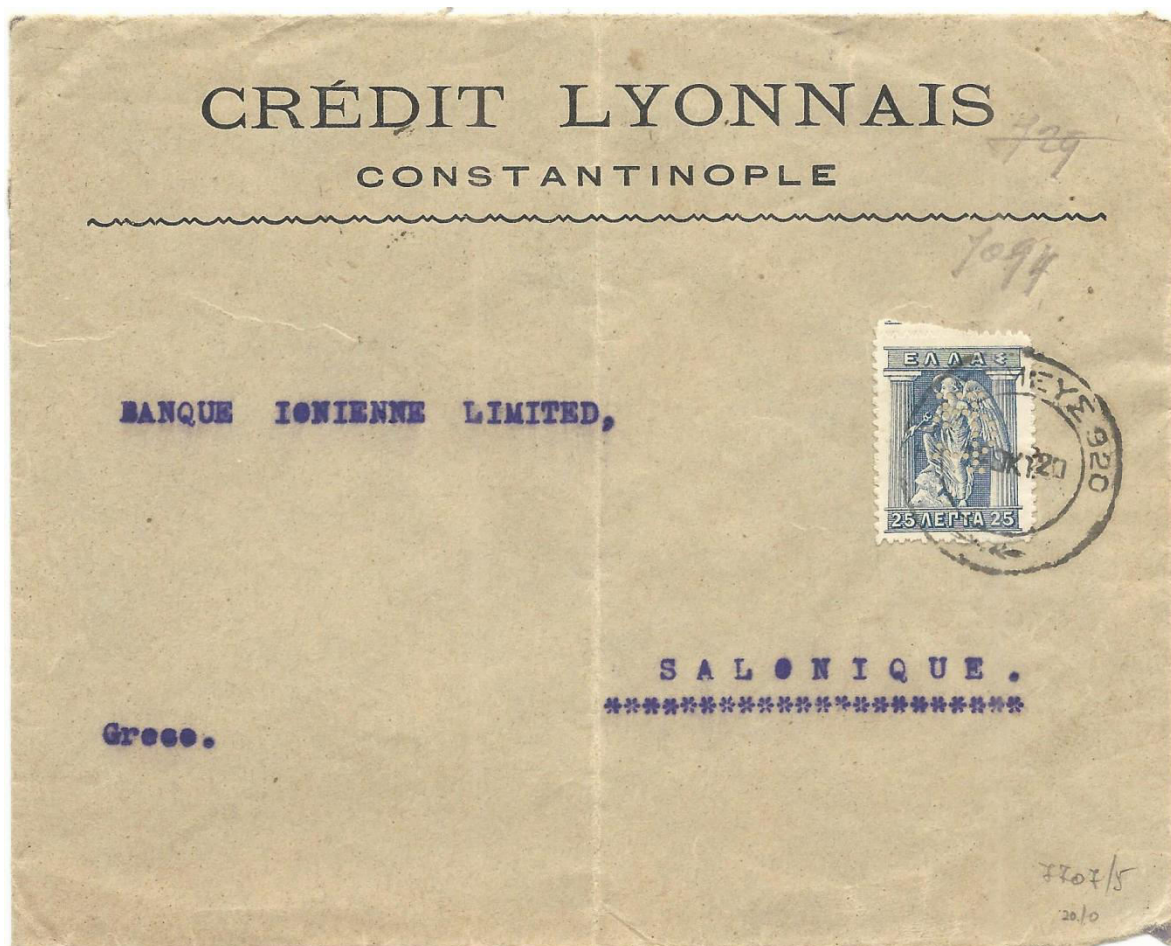
5 Lepta 1912 Campaign issue stamps with B.C perfin. The stamps are canceled with the Chania and Herakleion postal seals. The perforations look identical but they are not. Their difference, although insignificant, is on the dot that separates the letters B and C, proves that the Chania and Herakleion branches used different perforators.



Greek perfin stamps in Asia Minor

The Credit Lyonnais perfins in Constantinople

Between the years 1920-1922 during the short lived Greek administration in Asia Minor, Greek post offices operated throughout that territory. The famous French bank Credit Lyonnais in Constantinople, also used the Greek post offices for its correspondence. To date, very few samples of CL perforation have been found on Greek stamps.



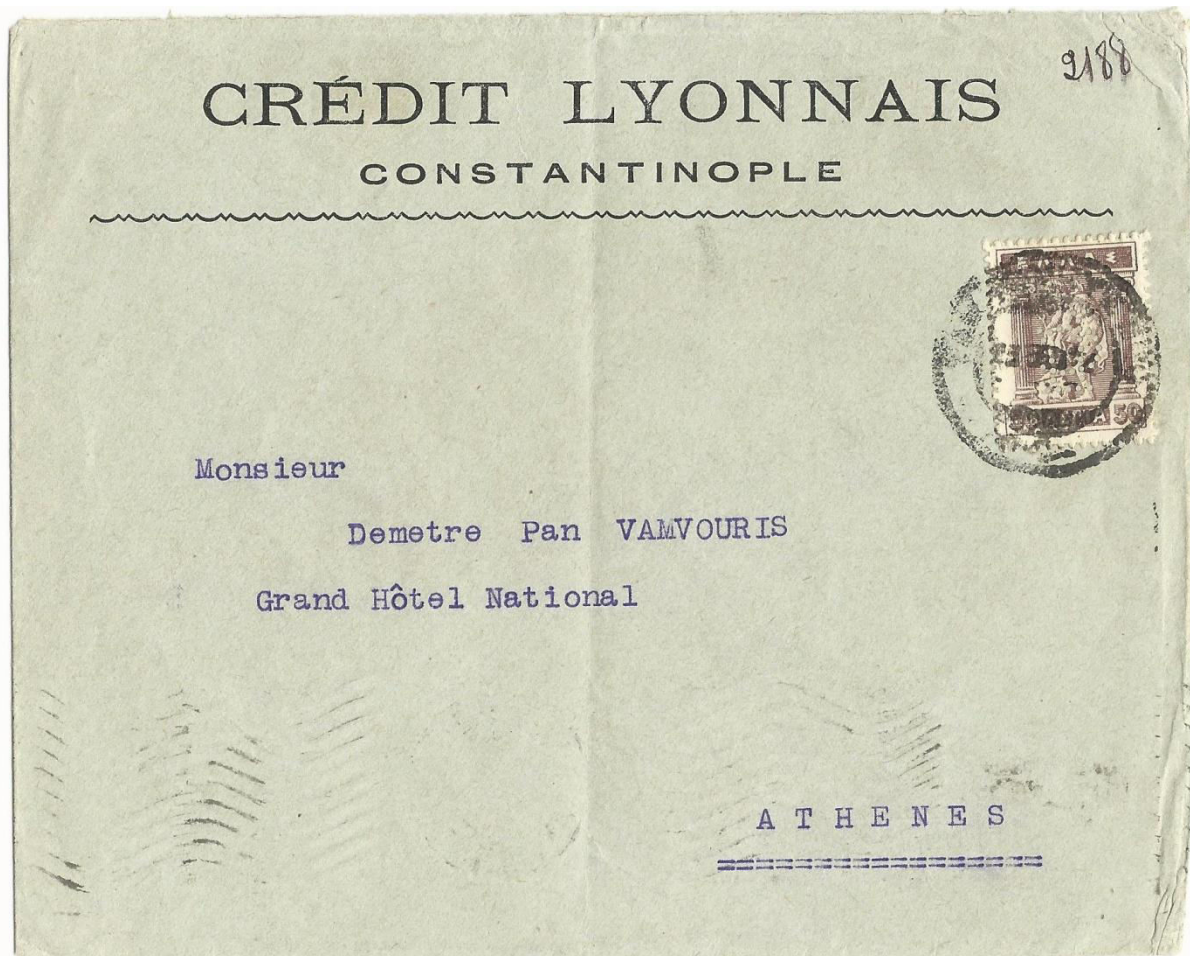
Cover sent from the Credit Lyonnais branch in Constantinople through the Greek post office, on 14 Oct. 1920 sealed with TAX.TOMEYΣ 920 cancel, to Athens. Only four covers with CL perfins, sent from the Greek post office, are known till today. This is the only cover with



. Credit Lyonnais branch in Constantinople at 1913



Greek perfin stamps in Asia Minor
The Credit Lyonnais perfins in Constantinople



Cover sent from the Credit Lyonnais branch in Constantinople through the Greek post office, on 23 Sept. 1921 sealed with TAX.TOMEYΣ 920 cancel to Athens.



10 Lepta ET overprint issue stamp with CL perfin. It is canceled by the TAX.TOMEYΣ 920 post office seal dated 3 July 1920.



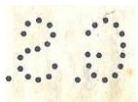
50 Lepta Litho issue stamp with CL perfin

Only four Greek stamps with CL perfin are known to us till now.

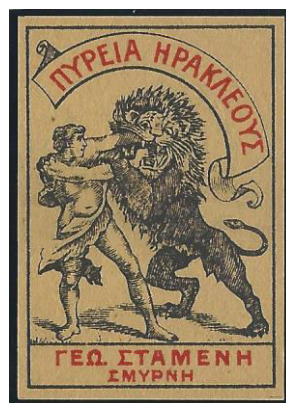
Greek perfins in Asia Minor

The G.S. perfin pattern of Georgios Stamenis in Smyrna

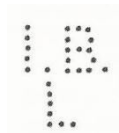
Georgios Stamenis was a Greek merchant in Smyrna, during the period of the Greek administration of Asia Minor (1920-1922). Stamenis used to perforate his stamps with the initials G.S. As a part of his correspondence were posted through Greek post office, his perfins have been also found on Greek stamps. The existed material is very few not only because Stamenis correspondence to Greece was limited but because the Greek post office in Smyrna operated only for a very short period. G.S. perfin on Greek stamps is very rare and till now the rarest perfin pattern on Greek stamps.



Two stamps 50 Lepta lithographic issue with G.S. perfin. There are only five stamps known with G.S. perfin.



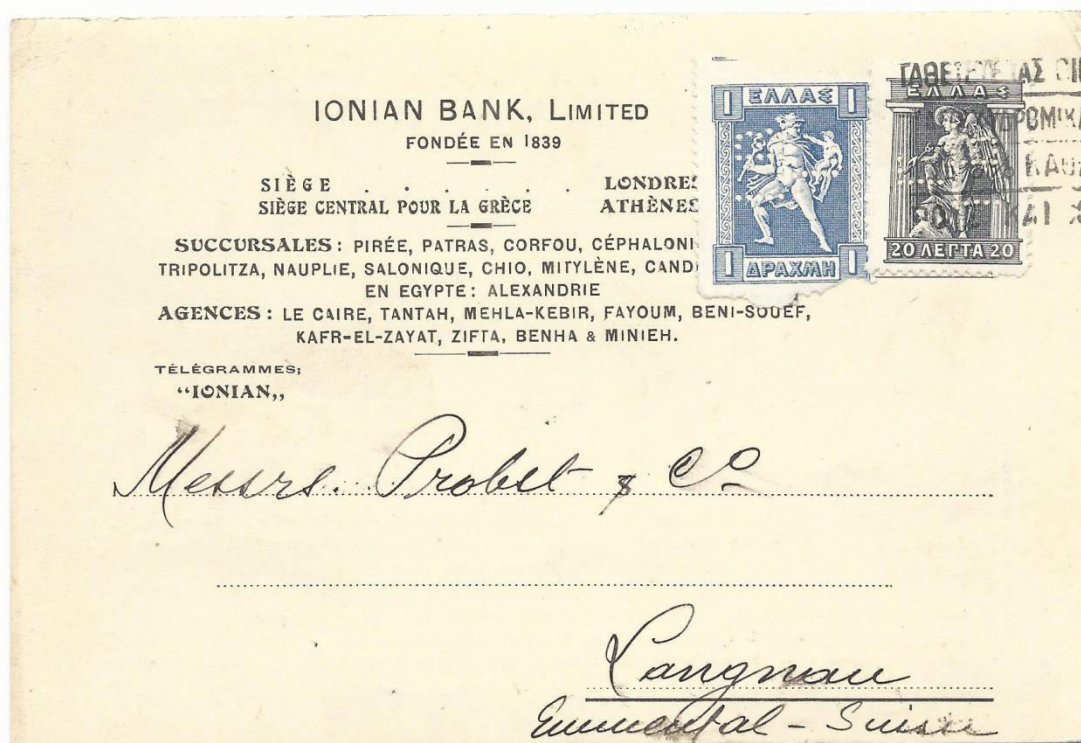
Advertising poster of the commercial agent of Smyrna Georgios Stamenis.



The two lines IB/L perfin of Ionian Bank Limited

The Ionian Bank Limited founded in 1839 in the Ionian Islands. After the unification of the Ionian Islands with Greece in 1864, the bank expanded to Greece and also to Cyprus and Egypt. A large number of branches operated throughout Greece but the only one which perforated stamps was the central branch of Athens from 1921 to 1926.

Ionian Bank Limited postal card, sent from Athens (16 July 1924) to Langnau-Emmental Switzerland. The 1 Drachma and the 20 Lepta Lithografic issue stamps have IB/L perfin.



Ionian Bank Limited cover from Athens (Apr. 1924) in town. 10 Lepta and 20 Lepta Lithografic issue stamps have IB/L perfin. This is the earliest known cover to us, with IB/L perfin.



The two lines IB/L perfin of Ionian Bank Limited

Lithographic issue stamps



In the vast majority, except extremely rare cases, the IB/L perfin is found on stamps of the Lithographic issue.



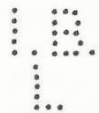
**The two lines IB/L perfin of Ionian Bank Limited
Inland Register Shipping**



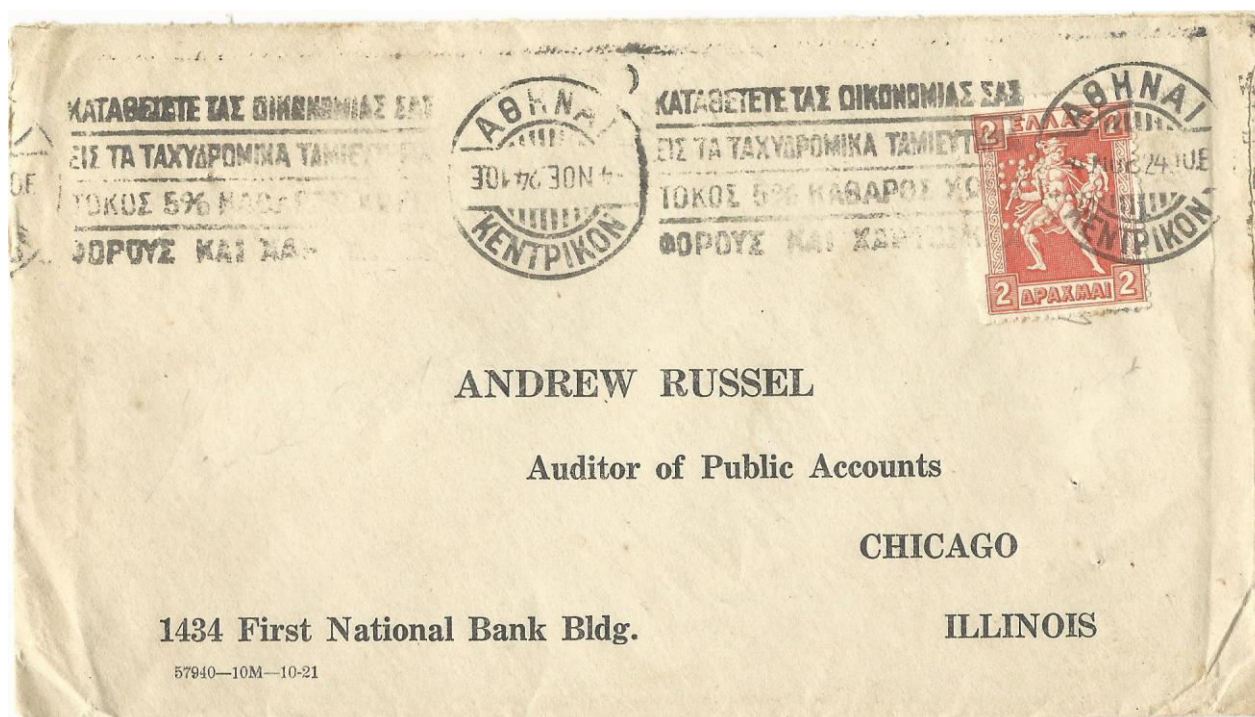
A very rare Ionian Bank Limited register cover from Athens (12 Sept.1924) to Metellin. The 1 Drachma and the 80 Lepta Lithografic issue stamps have IB/L perfins.



The back side of the cover reduced 60%. Beautiful red wax seal of Ionian Bank Limited together with the usually seen on Ionian Bank Limited covers, imprinted seal of the bank.



The two lines IB/L perfin of Ionian Bank Limited



Ionian Bank Limited cover from Athens (4 Nov. 1924) to Chicago USA. The 2 Drachmai Lithographic issue stamp has IB/L perfin.



Ionian Bank Limited cover from Athens (13 May 1924) to Saint Gall Switzerland. The couple of 1 Drachmai stamps have IB/L perfin.

IB/L

The two lines IB/L perfin of Ionian Bank Limited

Late use of IB/L perfins



Ionian Bank Limited cover from Athens (23 Jan.1926) to Herakleion Crete. The stamps have IB/L perfins. In the late spring of 1926 Ionian Bank Limited stopped perforating stamps.

«ΕΠΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ 1922» Overprint with IB/L



1 Drachma/ 1 Drachma and 2 Drachmai/ 2 Drachmai «ΕΠΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ 1922» overprint stamps with IB/L perfin. There are only a few «ΕΠΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ 1922» overprint issue stamps with IB/L perfin known to us till now. The IB/L perfin is extremely rare in all issues, except the Lithografic, from 1918 to 1926.



The straight line IBL perfin pattern.

At the same time with the IB/L perfin pattern, a new perfin appeared with the same initials arranged not in two lines but in a straight line. This perfin pattern is not confirmed and it is possible to be a second perfin pattern of Ionian Bank Limited by a second different perforator. However, this has not yet been confirmed, as the very few known items does not help to draw a safe conclusion. The only conclusion we can state for sure is that this perfin has taken place only in Athens and only on Lithographic issue stamps in a very short period between 1924 and 1926.

Lithographic issue stamps with IBL perfin



5 Lepta and 10 Lepta lithographic issue stamps with IBL perfin



25 Lepta, 40 Lepta and 1 Drachma Lithographic issue stamps with IBL perfin

Triple IBL perforation



3 Drachma Lithographic issue stamp with triple IBL perfin



The perfins of National Bank of Greece

The National Bank of Greece was founded in 1841 and for many years was the central credit institution of Greece. In 1913 National Bank adopts the practice of perforating the stamps of its correspondence, only in the central branch of Athens. The starting date of perforating procedure has not been confirmed yet, but it is placed near Autumn 1913. National Bank continued perforating its stamps until 1931.



Early National Bank of Greece cover from Athens (27 Mar. 1914) to Germany.



National Bank of Greece special National Bank of Greece letter card. The card sent from Athens (22 Apr. 1914) to New York. The extra stamp for the 10 Lepta rate has EOT perfin. Early perfin use.



Perfins of National Bank of Greece The Lithographic Issue



The Lithographic issue was in postal use for more than 25 years. The lithographic issue stamps are the most common with E.Θ.T. perfin.



Perfins of National Bank of Greece

ET overprint stamps



ET overprint issue stamp. The 10 Drachmas stamp is the only existed copy known to us.



National bank of Greece register cover sent from Athens (29 Sept.1918) to Wintertur Swiss (21 Nov.1918). The cover arrived almost two months later due to war restrictions. The 25 Lepta ET overprint issue stamps have EOT perfins.



The National Bank of Greece perfin
Lord Byron issue stamps



National Bank of Greece register cover sent from Athens (22 May 1924) to Chemnitz Germany. The Lord Byron issue stamps have EOT perfin.



The National Bank of Greece perfin
Just before the cessation of stamps perforation



National Bank of Greece cover sent from Athens (23 June 1925) to Vienna. The 2 Drachma and the five 10 Lepta Lithographic issue stamps have E.O.T. perfin.

During the period 1926-1928 the National Bank of Greece stopped perforating its stamp stock. The exact time of the interruption and the resumption of the perforations has not been determined. The cover on the right sent by the National Bank of Greece on March 19, 1926. Both stamps have EOT perfin. It is estimated that a few months later, probably on June, National Bank of Greece stopped perforating its stamps.





The National Bank of Greece perfin

The cessation of perforations from June 1926 to spring 1928

National Bank of Greece cover sent from Athens (16 Mar.1928) to Metelin. The stamps have no perfin. According to the existing material, National Bank of Greece started again the perforation of the stamps on Spring 1928.



National Bank of Greece cover sent from Athens (10 Oct.1928) to Austria. All the stamps of the cover have EOT perfin. It is obvious that in October 1928 National Bank of Greece had already started to perforate its stamp stock after a cease of two years.

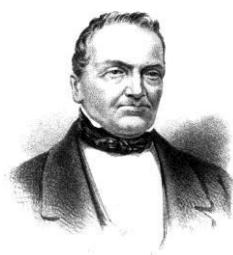


The National Bank of Greece perfin

Use of landscapes issue stamps



National Bank of Greece cover sent from Athens (22 Oct.1929) to Kozani. Internal correspondence of the bank between two branches. The stamps have ΕΘΤ perfin. The rate of 3,90 Drachmas is for the third weight sent in Greece.



The founder and the first Governor of National Bank of Greece Georgios Stavros



The National Bank of Greece perfin

Use of landscapes issue stamps



National Bank of Greece register cover sent from Athens (19 Dec.1929) to USA. All the stamps have EOT perfin. 6,40 Drachmas for the double weight abroad and 4 Drachmas for the registration.



The end of perfin process in National Bank of Greece.

In April 1930 according to a new rule about perfin, all the companies that wanted to continue perforating their stamp stock, should have to pay fees. National Bank of Greece was one of these companies. But this did not last long as the bank ceased perforating stamps about a year later in early 1931.



National Bank of Greece cover sent from Athens (4 July 1930) to Elbeuf France. The 20 Lepta, the 1 Drachma and the 4 Drachmas independence issue stamps have EOT perfin.

6,4 Drachmas Double rate for abroad



National Bank of Greece cover sent from Athens (1 Dec.1930) to Berlin Germany. The 40 Lepta and the 3 Drachmas independence issue stamps of the cover have EOT perfin. One of the latest known covers with EOT perfins.

6,4 Drachmas Double rate for abroad

The perfins of National Bank of Greece.

The independence issue



Independence issue stamps with B.C.I. perfins. All the stamps appeared except the 1,5 (Kolokotronis), the 15 and the 25 Drachmas stamps



Postal Card of National Bank of Greece sent from Athens (19 Aug. 1930) to Vienna. The 40 Lepta and the 2 Drachmas of the independence issue have E.Θ.Τ. perfin. The independence issue stamps with E.Θ.Τ. perfin are very rare on postal items.

Irregular use of EOT perfin stamps in non banking civil mail

The perforating process was used by the companies to secure their stamp stock from irregular use and thefts. In rare cases we come across perfin stamps in non-bank or other corporate correspondence.



Letter card sent from Athens (11 Jan.1918) to USA. The 5 Lepta stamp has EOT perfin. The letter card is not National Bank correspondence. The sender carefully cut the bottom of the stamp where there would be traces of previous use, and reused it, deceiving the Greek Post office.



Cover sent from Portaria (14 Dec.1931) to USA. The highest value of 3 Drachmas has EOT perfin. This is an irregular use of perfin stamp as the cover does not concern National Bank of Greece correspondence and the 3 Drachmas stamp is reused. On December 1931 National Bank of Greece had no license to perforate its stamp stock.

B.C.I

The B.C.I. perfins of Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca

Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca was founded in 1928. The headquarters was in Athens, in Sofokleous 2 street, and the bank operated branches in Thessaloniki, Piraeus and Cavalla. During the period from 1929 to 1932, Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca perforated the stamps of its correspondence with the B.C.I. perfin pattern. It was one of the companies that from April 1930 onwards took license to perforate its stamp stock.



Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca cover from Athens branch (12 Jul. 1929) to Patras. The stamps have B.C.I. perfins. Early cover.



Back of cover reduced 50%

The B.C.I. perfins of Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca

The short use of perforator by Banca Cpmmerciale Italiana e Greca as well as the rarity of the existing material make the B.C.I. perfin research and study difficult. Nevertheless B.C.I. perfin appears in almost all circulating stamp issues on the time.

Lithographic issue



5 Lepta, 30 Lepta, 2 Drachma and 5 Drachma Lithographic issue stamps with B.C.I. perfin

Landscapes issue



10 Lepta, 40 Lepta, 50 Lepta and 1 Drachma Landscapes issue stamps with B.C.I. perfin

Navarino issue



4 Drachma Navarino issue stamo with B.C.I. perfin. The postal cancellation date June 1929, is the ealiest date of the B.C.I. perfin known to us till now.

Arkadi issue



8 Drachma Arkadi issue stamp

B.C.I

**The B.C.I. perfins of Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca
Piraeus Bank Agency**

Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca was operated in Athens, as the central branch, and in Thessaloniki and Cavalla. One more banking spot operated in Piraeus as an Agency.



Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca mirror cover from the agency of Piraeus (July 1929). The 4 Drachma is perforated with B.C.I. perfin and pays for the simple postal rate abroad.

B.C.I

The B.C.I. perfins of Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca

The independence issue



Independence issue stamps with B.C.I. perfins. All the stamps appeared except the 20 and 50 Drachmas

The B.C.I. perfins of Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca Cavalla branch

It is questionable why Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca opened a branch in Cavalla instead of other big cities in Greece like Patrai, herakleion or Ioannina. The existing perfin material from Cavalla's branch is very rare and hard to find.



Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca cover sent from Cavalla (14 July 1932) to England. Only the 80 Lepta Lithographic stamps have B.C.I. perfin. This is the latest date of use of B.C.I. perfin and it is possible that the bank had no license to perforate stamps at the time.



1,50 Drachma Independence issue stamp with B.C.I. perfin. The stamp is canceled by the Cavalla post office seal.

B.C.I

Perfins of Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca

Perfin covers after 30 April 1930

Banca Commerciale italiana e Greca was one of the companies that continued to perforate its stamp stock after April 30th 1930 by paying the appropriate fee of 500 drachmas.



Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca register cover from Athens branch (22 Jul.1930) to Kozani. The bank had already taken the license to perforate its stamps from April 30th 1930.

Rate: 2,3 Drachmas for the double internal rate, 3 Drachmas for the registration

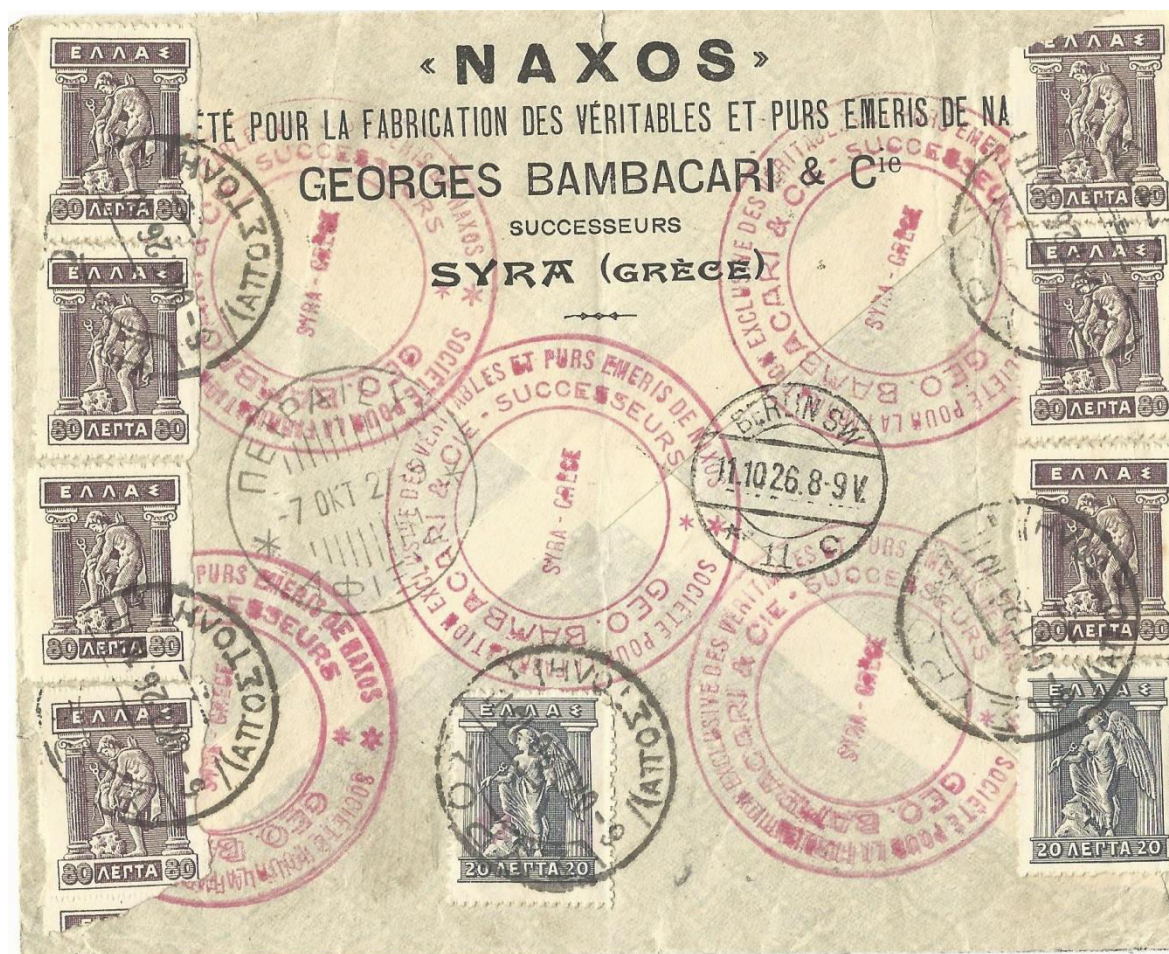


Banca Commerciale Italiana e Greca cover from Athens (17 Jan.1931) to Kozani Greece. This is the latest official B.C.I. cover known to us. Rate: 1,5 Drachmas for internal mail and 3 Drachmas for the registration



The NAXOS emery company of George Vamvakaris in Syros and the NAXOS perfin pattern

In the beginning of twentieth century, an emery exporting factory was founded in Ermoupolis Syros. The owner of the company was the Syrian businessman George Vamvakaris and the name was NAXOS. During the years 1931-1934 and 1937-1942 the company had received permission to perforate the stamps of its correspondence. The perfin pattern was the initials NAXOS.



SOCIETE POUR LA FABRICATION DES VERITABLES ET PURS EMERIS DE NAXOS emery company register cover sent from Syra (6 Oct.1926) to Germany. The name of the founder George Vamvakari is clear in the envelope. The cover has no perfin stamps as the company took license in 1931.



The NAXOS factory in 1935



The NAXOS emery company of George Vamvakaris in Syros and the NAXOS perfin pattern

NAXOS perfin stamps are very rare and difficult to find in all issues from 1931 to 1940.

Lithographic issue (1912-1939)



Landscapes issue (1931-35)



1932 Surcharges issue



Arkadi issue (1930)



The NAXOS emery company of George Vamvakaris in Syros and the NAXOS perfin pattern



The front cover reduced 60%

Naxos airmail Cover from Syros (28 Oct.1938) to Hanoi Tonkin. All the stamps have NAXOS perfin except the airpost stamps which were placed in the envelope in the post office as the company did not maintain stock.



The front cover reduced 60%



Naxos airmail cover from Syros (16 Apr.1939) to Berlin Germany. All the stamps have NAXOS perfin. Impressive GEO. BAMBACARI vignette at the back.



The NAXOS emery company of George Vamvakaris in Syros and the NAXOS perfin pattern



Naxos cover from Syros (6 Apr.1938) to Bale Swiss. The "Naxos" perfin covers are very rare and although the company had license to perforate its stamps every year till 1942, we have never seen any till now after the year 1938.

Stadium Issue (1934)



King George B' issue (1937)



The NAXOS emery company of George Vamvakaris in Syros and the
NAXOS perfin pattern



Naxos register cover from Syra (7 Mar.1937) to Anvers Belgium. 8 Drachmas for the external simple rate and another 8 Drachmas for the registration and 1 Drachma social welfare fee.



Back side 60% reduced

The Motor Company “Ford” in Greece and the ΦΕ perfin

In 1932 a giant in car industry “Ford Motor Company Ltd” decides to establish in Greece the ΦΟΡΔ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ ΚΙΝΗΤΗΡΩΝ Α.Ε with a capital of 3.000.000 Drachmas. At that time, Ford was the first company in Greece in sales of vehicles, cars, trucks and buses. In 1936 it opened the new buildings in Syggrou Avenue and expands its activities. In the period 1936-1942 the company perforated the stamps of its correspondence with the initials ΦΕ (Φορδ Ελληνική).

Lithographic issue



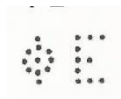
This is the only ΦΕ perfin Lithographic issue stamp known till today.

Landscapes issue (1932)



Stadium issue (1934)





The Motor Company “Ford” in Greece. The ΦΕ perfin

The Republic issue 50 Drachmas (1933)



King George B' issue (1937)

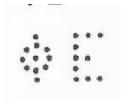


The only strip of three ΦΕ perfin known to us till now

The Motor Company "Ford" in Greece and the ΦΕ perfin



Impressive Ford Motor Company envelope from Athens (19 Jul.1936) to Egypt. Double external rate 13 Drachmas and 20 Drachmas airmail rate..



The Motor Company “Ford” in Greece. The ΦΕ perfin

Historical issue (1937)



Mythological issue (1935-1937-1939)



Social Welfare issues (1934-1939)



The Motor Company “Ford” in Greece and the ΦΕ perfin

During the German Occupation of Greece , 1941-1945, the company’s facilities were also occupied by the German army. The company did not continue its operations after the Second World War.



Ford Motor Company airmail cover from Athens (20 July 1939) to Dearborn Michigan USA. 6 Drachmas and 2 Drachmas stamps of the Historical issue, the couple of 7 Drachmas of the Mythological Airmail issue and the couple of 50 Lepta Queens charity issue, are perforated with ΦΕ perfin



The perfins of Bank of Greece

At the end of 1927 the Bank of Greece was established in order to become the central credit institution of Greece. The operations of the Bank officially began in 14 May 1928 and almost immediately used the practice of perforating the stamps of its correspondence with the T.E. initials. According to the existed material, Bank of Greece was the only company which perforated stamps for more than 20 years, even the harsh war period of 1941-1944, from 1929 to 1951.

The first T.E. perfins



1.5, 4 and 5 Drachmas Navarino issue stamps with T.E. perfins. These stamps are the earliest known with T.E. perfin. The Navarino issue stamps withdrawn from circulation on 30 June 1929, so their use with T.E. perfin is very early and rare. The 1.5 Drachma stamp is the earliest known to us, T.E. perfin stamp (November 1928)



Bank of Greece cover sent from Athens (21 Jan. 1929) to Piraeus. All the stamps have T.E. perfin. This is the earliest known cover of Bank of Greece with T.E. perfin.



The perfins of Bank of Greece - The central Athens branch

During the period from 1929 to 1934, and although the bank expanded its branch network, the central branch of Bank of Greece in Athens was the only one that use perforator machine and perforating stamps for its correspondence.



Bank of Greece cover from Athens (17 Apr.1930) to Trikala. A few weeks after the cover was sent, on 30 of April 1930, the Bank of Greece take official license to continue perforating its stamp stock.

Bank of Greece perfins on high value stamps



Bank of Greece register and express cover sent from Athens (14 Febr.1933) to Paris France. The stamps have T.E. perfins. Impressive rate of fifth weight abroad 23,80 Drachmas, 7 Drachmas for the registration and 14 Drachmas for the express.



25 Drachmas Lithographic issue stamp with T.E perfin (the only known to us)

The Republic issue with T.E perfins



The expansion of Bank of Greece –Use of perfin in small branches

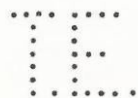
From 1930 to 1934 the Bank of Greece expand its branch network throughout Greece, in cities like Piraeus, Salonica, Patrai, Herakleion, and others. Until 1934, only the central branch of Athens used perfin stamps. From 1934 gradually all the branches used perfin which they received directly from the headquarters in Athens.

Salonica Branch



Bank of Greece Salonica branch coversent from Salonica (25 Jun. 1934) to USA. This is the earliest small branch perfin cover known to us till now. Down, the Bank of Greece Salonica branch before the War





The expansion of Bank of Greece – Use of perfins in small branches

Piraeus Branch



Bank of Greece Piraeus branch cover sent from Piraeus (19 Nov.1934) to Germany. The stamps have T.E. perfins. Early date Bank of Greece cover from a small branch.

Volos Branch



2 Drachmas landscapes issue block of four with T.E. perfin. The stamps are sealed with the Volos post office seal, sent from the Bank of Greece Volos branch (4 July 1938)

T.E.

The expansion of Bank of Greece – Use of perfins in small branches

Kalamai Branch



Band of seven stamps of the 3Drachmas/3Drachmas value Restoration of Monarchy issue with T.E. perfin. The stamps are sealed with “Καλάμαι Συστημένα 25 Αυγ.1936” post office cancellation



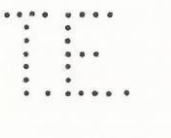
Bank of Greece Kalamai branch cover sent from Kalamai (4 Dec.1936) to Amsterdam. The stamps have T.E. perfin.

TE

Use of airmail perfin stamps Government's Issue



Bank of Greece airmail cover from Athens (18 Jan.1935) to Bruxelles Belgium. All stamps, including airmail stamps, have perfins. It is very unusual for this period of time to find airmail stamps with perfins. Bank of Greece did not hold airmail or other special rate stamps, in its stock. 18 Drachmas for the third weight abroad and 30 Drachmas for the airmail post.



Use of airmail stamps The Mythological Airmail issue



Bank of Greece airmail cover from Salonica (13 Dec. 1935) to Vienna. The 5 Drachma and the 1 Drachma Landscapes issue stamps have T.E. perfin. The airmail stamps, 7 Drachmas Mythological issue, are without T.E. perfin. The central branch of Athens sent only simple rate stamps to the smaller branches.

The expansion of Bank of Greece –Use of perfins in small branches

Kalamai Branch



Bank of Greece Kalamai branch cover sent from Kalamai (29 May 1937) to Swiss. 13 Drachmas for the second weight cover abroad and 8 Drachmas for the registration, all stamps with perfins. The 28 Drachmas airpost stamps and the welfare stamps, have no perfins. The central branch of Bank of Greece in Athens did not send, at that time, perforated special rate stamps to the small branches.

T.E.

The expansion of Bank of Greece –Use of perfins in small branches

Herakleion Branch



Front cover reduced 50%

Bank of Greece Herakleion branch cover sent from Herakleion (6 Apr.1938) to Czechoslovakia. First weight international rate of 8 Drachmas and 1 Drachma social welfare. All the stamps including the welfare issue, have T.E. perfins. It is worth mentioned that in 1938 the central branch of Athens sent special rate perfin stamps, such as welfare and airpost, to the small branches.

T.E.

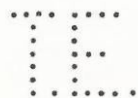
The use of the postage meter machine and the large hole perforators

In 1938, Bank of Greece proceed to another important move. In addition to the purchase of the two postage meter stamps, purchased a number of perforators, one for every single small branch. The exact date of this purchase is unknown, but the existing material show us that it was about June of 1938. By this investment, Bank of Greece avoided sending perfin stamps in small branches and moved all the perforating procedure to them. All these perforators had thick tubes, much thicker than the existed Athens branch perforator, leaving as result perfins with large holes.



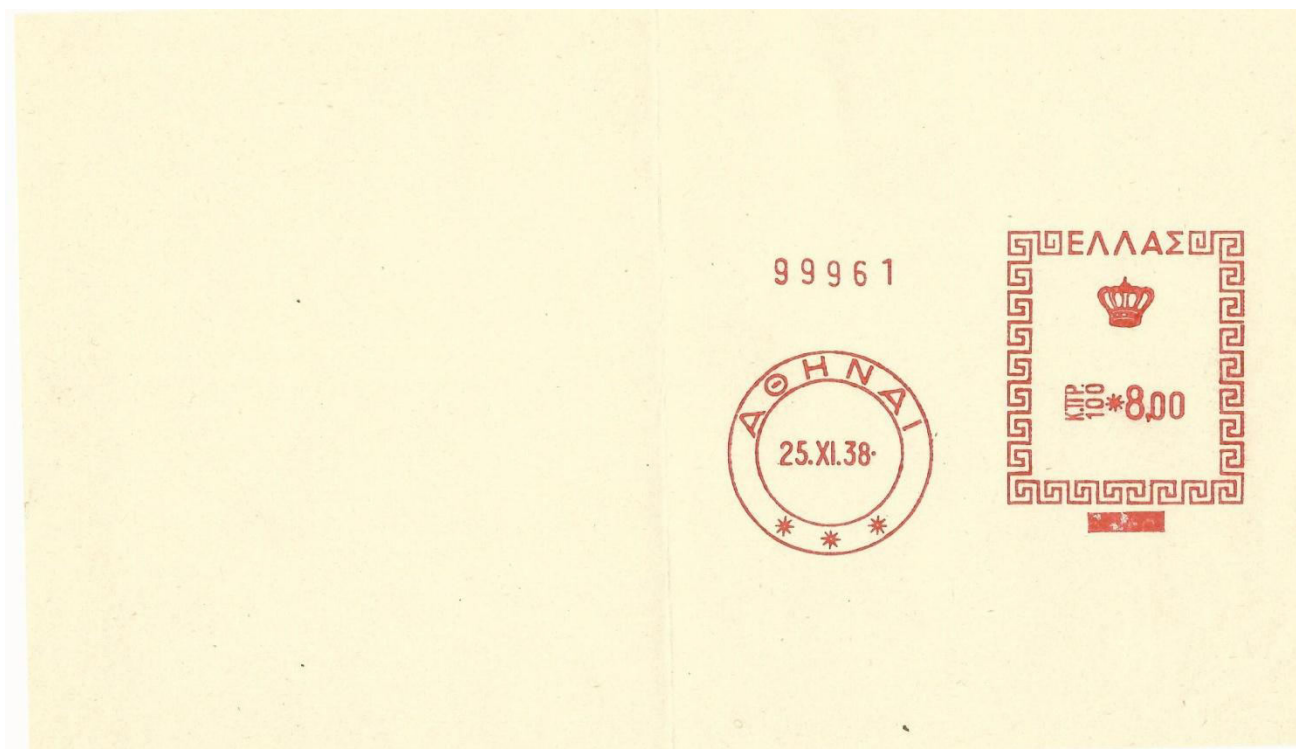
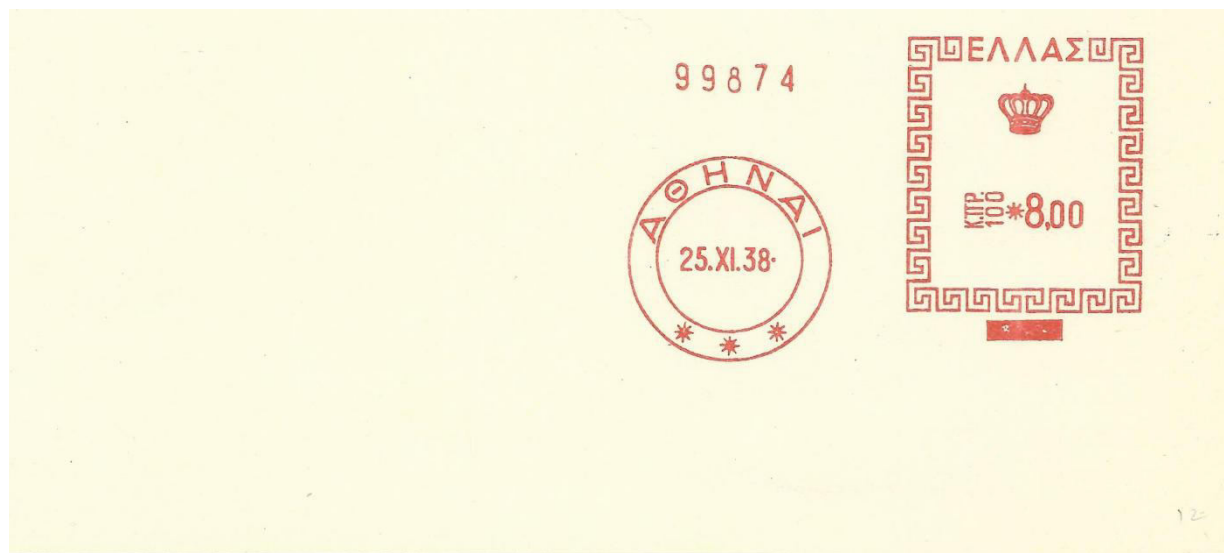
Airmail cover sent from the Bank of Greece branch in Volos (21 Jun. 1938) to Budapest. The 8 Drachma stamp have large holes T.E. perfin from the Volos branch perforator. This is the earliest recorded use of the new perforation machines. The airpost and the welfare stamps have no perfin, probably because at the time, Volos branch did not maintain special postal rate stamps stock.





The use of the postage meter machine and the new large hole perforators

The increase in the operations of Bank of Greece after 1936, also resulted in an increase in correspondence. The bank had to deal with a rapid increase in its internal and especially its external correspondence and needed an immediate solution. In Autumn of 1938, Bank of Greece made a very important move by buying two postage meter machines. The one for the central branch in Athens and the other for the branch of Piraeus. By these purchases, Bank of Greece aimed to reduce its stamp stock and significantly to reduce the cost of lost and stolen stamps.



Essays of Bank of Greece meter stamp machine of Athens branch. The essays have code serial numbers 99874 and 99961, date 25 November 1938 and postage of 8 Drachmas (the simple external rate in 1938) and 1 Drachma social welfare rate.

T.E.

The use of the postage meter machine and the new large hole perforators



Bank of Greece register perfin cover from Athens (13 Sep.1938) to London England. All the stamps have T.E. perfin stamps. A few weeks later, on the first of October of 1938, Bank of Greece started using the meter machine for the mail. This is the latest known use of simple and welfare T.E. perfin stamps from the central branch of Athens.

8 Drachmas for the simple external rate, 8 Drachmas for the registration, 14 Drachmas airmail post and 1 Drachma social welfare.



The front cover reduced 60%

The use of the postage meter machine in Athens branch



The use of the postage meter machine began in October 1st 1938. The postage meter machine replaced the basic fees as well as the welfare fees. By this method, Bank of Greece stopped perforating simple and welfare stamps, reduced the risk of maintaining stamp stocks for its correspondence and improved its mail service.



The back of cover reduced 40%

Bank of Greece cover from Athens (10 May 1939) to Sofia Bulgaria. The simple external rate of 8 Drachmas has been set by the meter machine. The 1 Drachma welfare stamp and the 4 Drachmas airpost stamps have T.E. small hole perfins. It is interesting that the welfare rate has not been charged by the meter machine.

The use of the postage meter machine and the new large hole perforator in Piraeus branch



In addition to the Bank of Greece branch in Athens, Piraeus branch also received a meter machine in Autumn of 1938. According to the existing material its use probably started later in relation to that of Athens. At the same period the Bank of Greece branch in Piraeus received the new large hole perforator, to perforate its own stamp stock.



The back of cover reduced 50%

Bank of Greece register cover sent from Piraeus (25 June 1940) to Bourgas Bulgaria. The simple rate of 8 Drachmas and the registration fee of 8 Drachmas has been set by the meter machine, as well as the welfare rate of 1 Drachma. The 6 Drachmas airport stamps have T.E. large holes perfins from the Piraeus branch perforation machine. The only cover known to us with the postage meter machine stamp of Piraeus branch.

Bank of Greece perfins. Simultaneous use of perfins with small and large holes in small branches.



During the first months after the arrival of the postage Metter machines and the new perforators, the small branches employees used simultaneously for the bank correspondence, the perfin stamp stock that already had, all perforated with small holes, and the stamps perforated by the new perforators, with large holes T.E. perfins. This practice last only a few months, until the small holes stamp stock exhausted.



Bank of Greece register cover sent from Patras (15 Oct.1938) to Brazil. The cover have taxed both with small and large T.E. perfin stamps. The new perforator has been received from Patras branch a few weeks earlier. The 8 Drachmas George B' issue stamps and the 50 Drachmas Mythological issue airmail stamps have T.E. small holes perfins from the remained stock of Athens. The welfare stamps and the 10 Drachmas Mythological issue airmail stamps have large holes T.E. perfins. They all have been perforated by the recently arrived perforator of the branch.



The large holes Bank of Greece perforators - the small branches T.E. perfin patterns

Soon after the purchase and use of the new perforators, the remained small hole T.E. perfin stamp stock was exhausted. The branches began to use stamps perforated only by the new perforator machines. The new T.E. perfin patterns have large holes and have specific differences that make them unique. Until now we have recognize 20 different T.E. perfin patterns in 20 different branches: Piraeus, Patrai, Salonica, Herakleion, Chania, Kalamai, Agrinio, Larisa, Volos, Drama, Serres, Ioannina, Florina, Corfu, Samos, Mytilini, Pyrgos, Kavala, Lamia and Tripolis.



Patras Branch T.E. perfin pattern

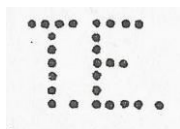


Bank of Greece register cover sent from Patras (7 Mar.1939) to Argentina. All the stamps have T.E. large hole T.E. Patras perfin pattern. 16 Drachmas for the external rate and the registration, 1 Drachma welfare rate and 300 Drachmas airmail charges.



Front cover 60%

The large holes Bank of Greece perforators - the small branches T.E. perfin patterns



Salonica Branch T.E. perfin pattern



Bank of Greece register cover sent from Salonica (25 Jun.1940) to Boulgaria. All the stamps have large hole T.E. perfin pattern of Salonca branch. 16 Drachmas for the simple external rate and registration, 1 Drachma welfare and 6 Drachmas airmail fees.



Front side 50%

The large holes Bank of Greece perforators - the small branches T.E. perfin patterns

T.E.

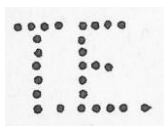
Piraeus Branch T.E. perfin pattern



Bank of Greece register cover from Piraeus (29 Nov. 1939) to Brno. All the stamps have large hole perfins from the branch perforator. The cover has no postage meter machine cancelation. According to the existed material, Piraeus branch began to use the postage meter machine in 1940, a lot after the purchase in October 1938.

The large holes Bank of Greece perforators - the small branches T.E. perfin patterns

Herakleion Branch T.E. perfin pattern

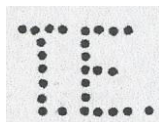


Bank of Greece register cover from Herakleion (27 Aug. 1939) to Prag Czechoslovakia. All the stamps have Herakleion branch T.E. perfin pattern. 31 Drachmas for the fourth weight abroad, 1 Drachma welfare rate and 45 Drachmas for the airpost rate. The only T.E. large hole perfin cover from Herakleion known to us till now.



Back side 60%

The large holes Bank of Greece perforators - the small branches T.E. perfin patterns



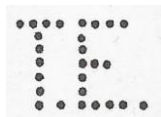
Corfu Branch T.E. perfin pattern



Bank of Greece cover from Corfu (14 Oct. 1939) to Berlin Germany. The stamps have T.E. perfin from the Corfu branch perforator. Only two perfin covers from Corfu are known to us till now.



Back side 60%



The large holes Bank of Greece perforators - the small branches T.E. perfin patterns

Volos Branch T.E. perfin pattern



Bank of Greece register and airmail cover from Volos (26 Oct.1940) to London England. All the stamps have Volos branch T.E. perfin pattern. The cover sent two days before the beginning of War between Italy and Greece. 21 Drachmas for the second weight abroad, 1 Drachma welfare rate and 100 Drachmas for the airpost rate.



Back side 60% reduced

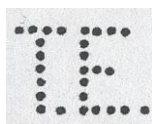
The large holes Bank of Greece perforators - the small branches T.E. perfin patterns

Volos Branch T.E. perfin pattern



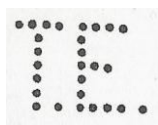
2 Drachmas Landscapes issue block of four and 50 Lepta Queens issue stamps with Volos T.E. perfin pattern. Very late use of 2 Drachmas landscape issue stamps 13 April 1939.

Kalamai Branch T.E. perfin pattern



5 Drachmas Historical issue, 50L/20L Social welfare fund overprint issue and 8 Drachma Balkan Games issue stamps. The 5 Drachmas date 1 September 1938, is the earliest we know for large holes T.E. perfin in Kalamai branch.

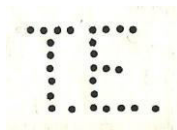
Pyrgos Branch T.E. perfin pattern



5, 7 and 10 Drachmas of Historic issue with T.E. perfins from Pyrgos branch of Bank of Greece. The 5 Drachmas are dated 25 September 1939 and the other two values also dated October and November 1939

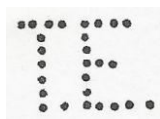
The large holes Bank of Greece perforators - the small branches T.E. perfin patterns

Drama Branch T.E. perfin pattern



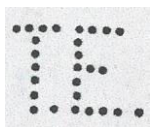
4 stamps of 2 Drachmas Historical issue and a pair of 50L/20L Social Welfare Fund overprints issue all with T.E. perfin pattern of Drama. All the stamps become from the same cover (Date 13 Dec.1939)

Chania Branch T.E. perfin pattern



8 Drachmas Stadium issue, 10 Drachmas and 25 Drachmas Historical issue stamps with T.E. Chania perfin pattern. Very late (1939) use of the Stadium stamp.

Kavala Branch T.E. perfin pattern



6 Drachmas historical issue, 1,5 Drachmas King Constantine I statue issue and 8 Drachmas Balkan Entente II issue stamps, all with T.E. Kavala perfin pattern.

The large holes Bank of Greece perforators - the small branches T.E. perfin patterns

Agrinio Branch T.E perfin pattern



Mytilini Branch T.E. perfin patern



Larisa Branch T,E, perfin pattern



Florina Branch T,E, perfin pattern



Samos Branch T.E. perfin pattern



Serres Branch T.E. perfin pattern



Ioannina Branch T.E. perfin pattern



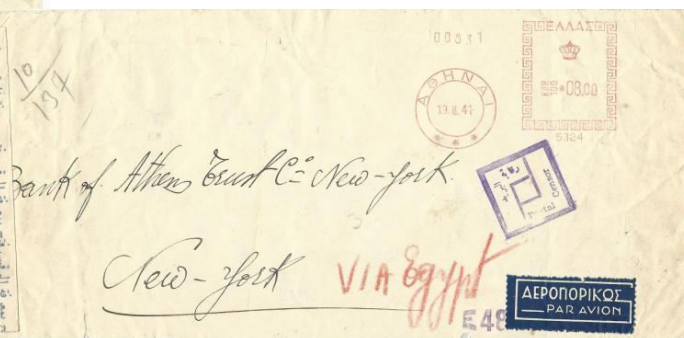
Use of T.E. perfins in World War II

Perfins just before the beginning of War

The World War II was a hard period for Bank of Greece. Even from the beginning of 1941 the existing perfin material decreases and we know a very small number exist, to help the research. The postage meter machine was still in operation in the central branch of Athens the same as the small hole perforator of the branch which was in charge from 1929.



Bank of Greece cover sent from Athens (20 Febr. 1941) to U.S.A. The first external rate of 8 Drachmas and the 1 Drachma welfare has been charged by postage meter machine. The airpost rate stamps of 128 Drachmas, have T.E. small hole perfins. There are only three T.E. perfin covers known to us till now, sent during the war period of 1941-1944.



Front side 40%

Use of T.E. perfins in World War II

The War period April 1941 – 1944

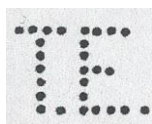
The very small existed material of T.E. perfins known to us till now, used during the World War II, is not enough to extract safe conclusions about them. It is interesting that our knowledge for T.E. perfins from 1942 and then it is based on a few stamps only. There are four stamps known to us till now with T.E. perfin during the War period. It is very interesting that all of them are from small branches: Serres, Pyrgos, Samos and Kalamai. The last two are on this exhibit.

The Samos Branch specimen



25 Drachmas Landscapes issue with T.E. Samos branch perfin pattern. This stamp released in 1 September 1942 and withdrawn from sale in 1 July 1944. It was clearly used during the war period.

The Kalamai Branch specimen of 1943



25 Drachmas Landscapes issue with T.E. Kalamai branch perfin pattern sealed with Kalamai post office seal dated November 1943



Το υποκατάστημα της Τράπεζας Ελλάδος στην Καλαμάτα στην Πλατεία Βασιλέως Γεωργίου Β' (1940)

Bank of Greece perfins after the World War II

After the end of World War II, Bank of Greece returned to its normal procedures and become again the reconstruction and development vehicle of Greek economy. Due to the very small amount of Bank of Greece perfin items known, it is hard to conclude if perforating procedure continued in every branch of the Bank after the war, or been canceled. The few existed samples lead us to the conclusion that only a few Bank of Greece branches perforated stamps and for a short period of time. Until now we have seen T.E. perfin samples only from Herakleion and Patra branches, which they perforated stamps for many years since 1951.

The Herakleion branch



5 Drachmas Glory issue stamps with T.E. perfins from Herakleion branch. The Herakleion perfin pattern is perfectly shown on the stamps. Both stamps have canceled by the Herakleion post office seal dated December 1945 and possibly they came from the same cover. The 5 Drachma Glory issue stamp released in 1 March 1945.



100/2.000.000 Drachmas Chains surcharges issue with T.E. perfin from Herakleion branch. The stamp has sealed by the Herakleion post office seal dated 1946. This stamp released in 1 March 1946.



50 Drachmas Reastoration of Thessaloniki Monuments Fund issue with T.E. perfin from Herakleion branch. This stamp released in 25 January 1948. It is the latest sample of Herakleion T.E. perfin pattern known to us.

Bank of Greece perfins after the World War II

The Patras Branch case

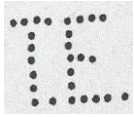
The Patras branch perfin pattern is a very interesting case. Although we have not seen a simple specimen of Patras perfin pattern during the World War II, the T.E. perfins from Patras branch are the strongest evidence, together with the samples from Herakleion, of the use of perforators in Bank of Greece after the War.



Bank of Greece register cover sent from Patras (19 Dec. 1946) to Sweden. The stamps have no perfins although we have evidence of use of the perforators at the time. It is possible a part of the correspondence was sent without perfin stamps.



50 Drachmas new currency issue stamp with T.E. Patras perfin pattern. This issue released in 11 November 1944 and the stamp has sealed with the Patras post office seal dated 13 April 1945. This is the earliest “after the war” T.E. perfin known to us till now.



Bank of Greece perfins after the World War II

Perfins from Patras Bank of Greece branch after the War

Until now there are less than fifteen stamps known with T.E. perfins after the War. The vast majority of them came from the branch of Patras

Chains Surcharges issue (1946-1948)



The Chain Surcharges issue stamps are the most common with T.E. perfins. This is logic because this issue was in circulation from 1946 to 1948.

Reinstatement of King George II (Sept.1946)



Victory issue (May 1947)



Dodecanese union issue (Sept.1950)



300 Drachmas and 500 Drachmas Dodecanese union issue stamps with T.E. Patras perfin pattern. The 300 Drachmas stamp released in 15 September 1950 and this is a very late use of T.E. perfin.



Bank of Greece perfins after the World War II The latest known Greek perfin cover

Bank of Greece perforated stamps until 1951. The Patras branch is the only branch which perforated its stamp stock for six years, from early 1945 to middle 1951.



Bank of Greece cover from Patra (7 Aug.1951) to Stockholm Sweden. The 1.000 and the 500 Drachmas stamps of the Dodecanese union issue have T.E. perfins. The lowest value stamp of 100 Drachmas has no perfins. This is the latest use of Greek perfin stamps known to us and the one of only two existed covers with T.E. perfins after the World War II.

September – October 1942 - A hole in the airmail stamps

In the Autumn of 1942, in the middle of World War 2, air mail stamps were perforated by the post office in Syntagma Square. This perfin was essentially a small hall that was probably made to prevent the use of stamps as exchangeable goods on the black market due to hyperinflation.



Cover sent from Athens Syntagma Square post office (21 Sept.1942) to Zlin. The airmail stamps have perforated with a small hole. This process seems to have lasted for two months in September and October 1942 and only from the Syntagma Square post office.



Postal Card sent from Athens (16 June 1946) to Stuttgart Germany, redirected to Gettlingen. The Chains Surcharges issue stamps are perforated with a small hole. They appear to be remnants of the Wind issue part II unused stock of the Syntagma Square Post Office.