

# 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: POSTAL HISTORY OF THESSALONIKI INTRODUCTORY NOTE

## The city

Thessaloniki is a major Port of the Aegean Sea. It was founded 23 centuries ago, by Cassandros the son of Antipatros, one of the Generals of Alexander the Great. Since then, Thessaloniki has always been an important city of the Balkan Peninsula, the 2<sup>nd</sup> in importance city of the Eastern Roman empire, of the Byzantine Empire, of the Ottoman empire, and today the 2<sup>nd</sup> in importance and size city of Greece.



## The Subject of the Collection

The collection shows the development of the Postal Services of Thessaloniki from the Dark Ages of the Ottoman conquest in 15<sup>th</sup> Century to 1914, with the end of capitulations, the closing of the foreign post offices and the establishment of the Greek rule.

Thessaloniki saw rapid growth during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, being the main port of entrance to the Balkan Interior. With a multinational population of about 120.000 inhabitants during the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> C., the city flourishes financially, and, with a progressive administration, it is at the forefront in the struggle for social and constitutional reformations of the decaying Ottoman Empire.

The development of the city during the 19<sup>th</sup> century coincides with the huge growth of Human Communication through transportation, commerce, correspondence, and mail. This fact, together with the capitulations – the special legal status that allowed the operation of foreign post offices in various cities of the Ottoman Empire -, makes the Postal History of Thessaloniki a very attractive subject for the philatelist. Not less than 9 different post offices operated in Thessaloniki during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and up to 1914. Consequently, the diversity and array of the philatelic material involved is great.

## The Concept: treatment of the subject

The Postal History of Thessaloniki has been collected and presented in the past as a collection of the individual post offices and their consecutive postmarks. In my opinion, this was a traditional treatment of a Postal History subject. In the present collection, I have tried to show the important events, moments, decisions, changes etc. of the operation of the Postal System of Thessaloniki, mostly in a chronological order. Additionally, I have tried to show the development of the Postal Services in connection to the actual History of the era, i.e. the important events, the financial and commercial growth, the social evolution etc.

# 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: POSTAL HISTORY OF THESSALONIKI

## The Classification and Contents

In accordance with this concept, the collection is divided in the following Chapters:

THE BEGINNING OF COMMUNICATION

EARLY MAIL: 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

THE OPENING OF POST OFFICES 1830-50s

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

MARITIME MAIL OF Mid 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

MODERNIZATION OF THE CITY 1870-80

THE OTTOMAN BANKRUPTCY OF 1876

1870-80s OFFICIAL CORRESPONDANCE

THE FOUNDING OF THE UPU 1874

INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY

1880s: A NEW GROWTH FOR THE CITY

1890s to 1914: THE MULTINATIONAL CITY

OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

BRANCH P.Os OF THE OTTOMAN POST

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

FRENCH POST OFFICE

RUSSIAN POST OFFICE

BRITISH POST OFFICE

ITALIAN POST OFFICE

1890 to 1914: MARITIME MAIL

1912-13: THE DAYS OF LIBERATION

AFTER 1913: THESSALONIKI IS GREEK

THESSALONIKI: A RAILWAY CENTER

BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE

MAIL to or from UNCOMMON DESTINATIONS

ADVENTURES OF MAIL

The development of the Collection is mostly chronological, but some chapters (i.e., Mail with Uncommon Destinations) are treated as separate entities.



Ref.: Historical information (not directly philatelic) are printed in blue color, dates are printed in red, certificates in green.

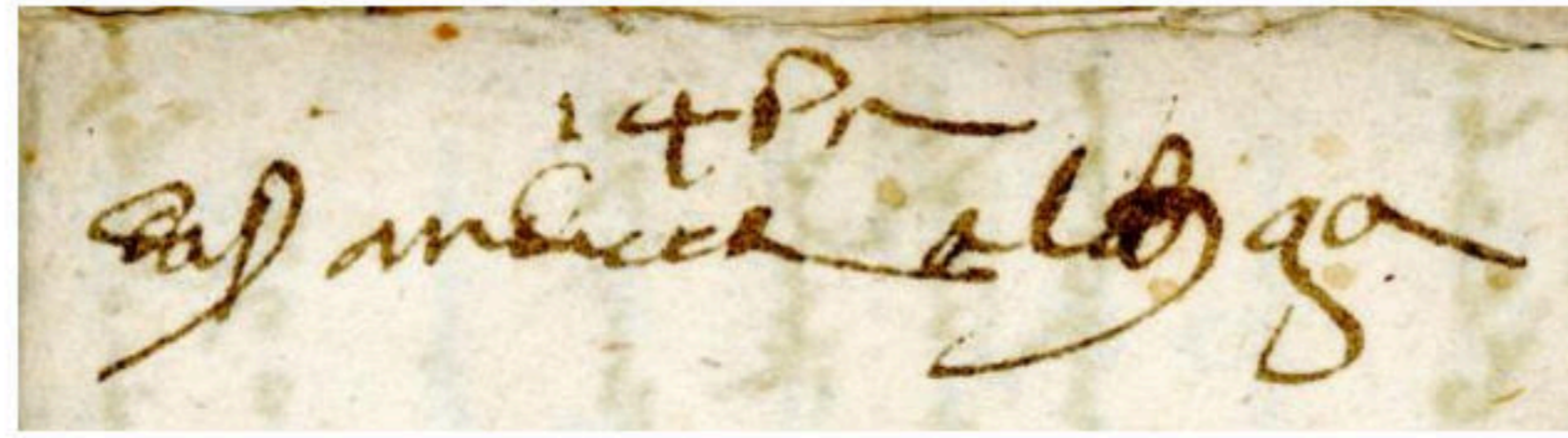
# THE BEGINNING OF COMMUNICATION

## TWO 15<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY "CAPTAIN LETTERS"

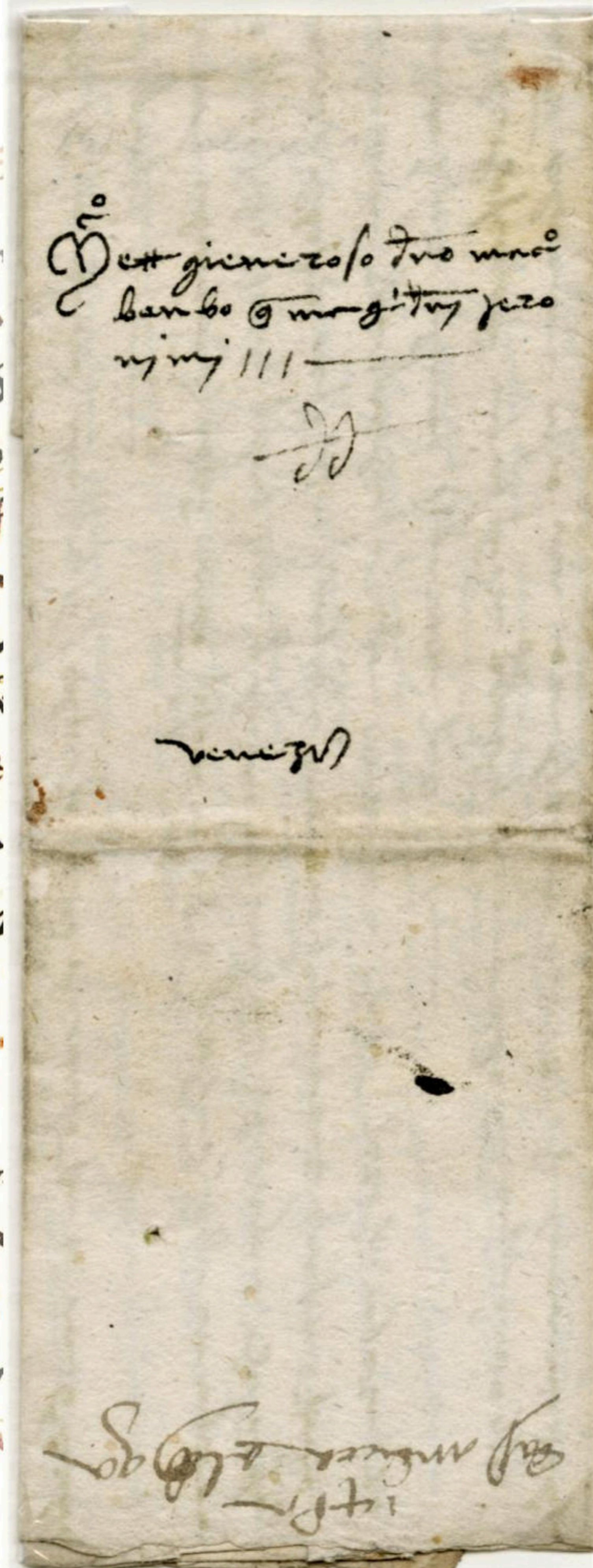
Only 50 years after the final Ottoman conquest (1430) of Thessaloniki, the once Byzantine stronghold in the Balkans began to communicate with the West again. The Ottoman Turks had largely overrun the Eastern Byzantine Empire and expelled the Seljuk Turks by 1460. They encouraged foreign merchants to settle and continue trading with the West from their ports.

At the same time, in the last quarter of the 15th century, solid Jewish populations settled in Thessaloniki (mainly Ashkenazy from Northeastern Europe and Sephardim from Spain).

### A 1482 Entire Letter from Thessaloniki to Venice



150%



+ Hno horet  
 Vpitolabili 2 Gnteroga di n  
 lacajom dila pntu fr do  
 azio fozto nam pre of  
 afan mr fia tornabo lo  
 arca dr balu vosta up f  
 abost lu poffa pro arca  
 ofto mr parfuto em d.  
 mr fiati fauocoulti / i  
 arca munda ala vrea ofet  
 ego dr abama ofta for  
 Etiam exogmano in qui  
 dr m gner dr quito  
 abonne dr non g B ca m  
 exogmano dr foemntu  
 comandamento / h i fi d  
 dur get m tamr alapon  
 ad a m m non cas  
 facer am qui foro B  
 mr comandala vrea

Det gencioso duo mao  
 benbo @ m g itoy jero  
 m j m j 111

Venice

Det gencioso duo mao  
 benbo @ m g itoy jero  
 m j m j 111

abonno / S. J. horeto dmba  
 ndaron 2 of  
 ta com p albu m  
 giat hfr mo partegano  
 etabilita qui azio dabo  
 La non fr fu justimana  
 dabo talo oficio / pro  
 vrea ofpotabilita abost  
 dr mof lufo loqualo mr  
 vrea ofog m ofogona ofogona  
 vrea ofogona ofogona  
 vrea ofogona ofogona  
 g quita g diron qui m dion  
 dacti abotmipo / vrea  
 edur namtr dmba am  
 lafoma qui h fura  
 no abiffo pumori dnr  
 ati abonne dr vrea ofafab  
 trecti m albu faluo of  
 vrea ofogona ofogona



Another 1482 Entire Letter from Thessaloniki to Venice  
(the 2<sup>nd</sup> one in this collection, out of three known to have survived)

These two letters are extremely early mailings, only 50 years after Thessaloniki fell to the Turks. Until, the introduction of relatively regular postal services in early 18<sup>th</sup> century, merchants had to rely on the services of individual ship captains. Mailing was highly uncertain and often took several months.

# EARLY MAIL: 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

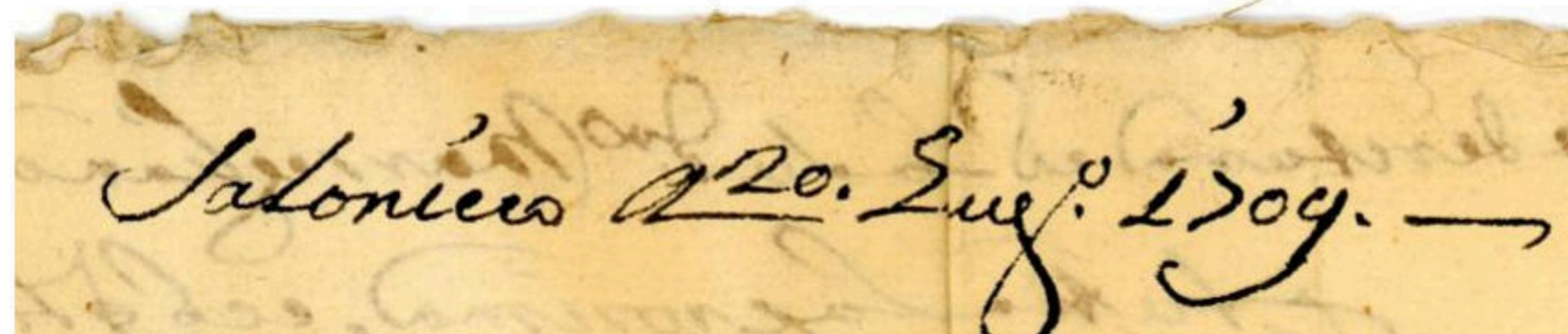
## EARLY LEVANT CAPTAIN LETTERS

### Postal Services before the Establishment of Formal Post Offices

From the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century and mostly from the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, before the establishment of regular postal routes and services, the merchants had to rely, for their mail distribution from and to Thessaloniki, on the services of individual captains.

The first that offered such, highly uncertain, services were the Venetian or Genovese Captains.

The oldest known to exist “Venetian” letter from Thessaloniki  
From the renowned Nicolo Caragiani correspondence



120%



**Thessaloniki 1709 (Aug. 20):** Folded letter via Livorno, to Venice.  
The letter traveled by boat. It was disinfected by vinegar.

*The letter is inscribed “CARICA DI LIVORNO”: Loaded for Livorno*

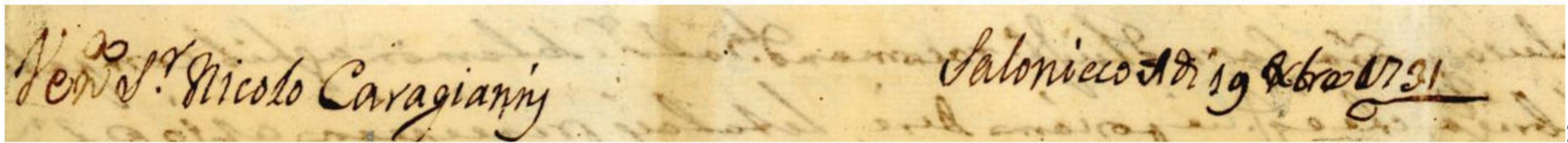
Nicolo Caragiani (1659-1734, born in Jannina) was an active and successful Greek merchant renowned in the trading circles of Venice. He was a member of the body “Capi di piazza”, he gained great wealth from trade with the Levant, and he invested in the real estate market in the city of Venice.

# EARLY MAIL: 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

## EARLY LEVANT LETTERS

Two more letters from the Caragiani correspondence

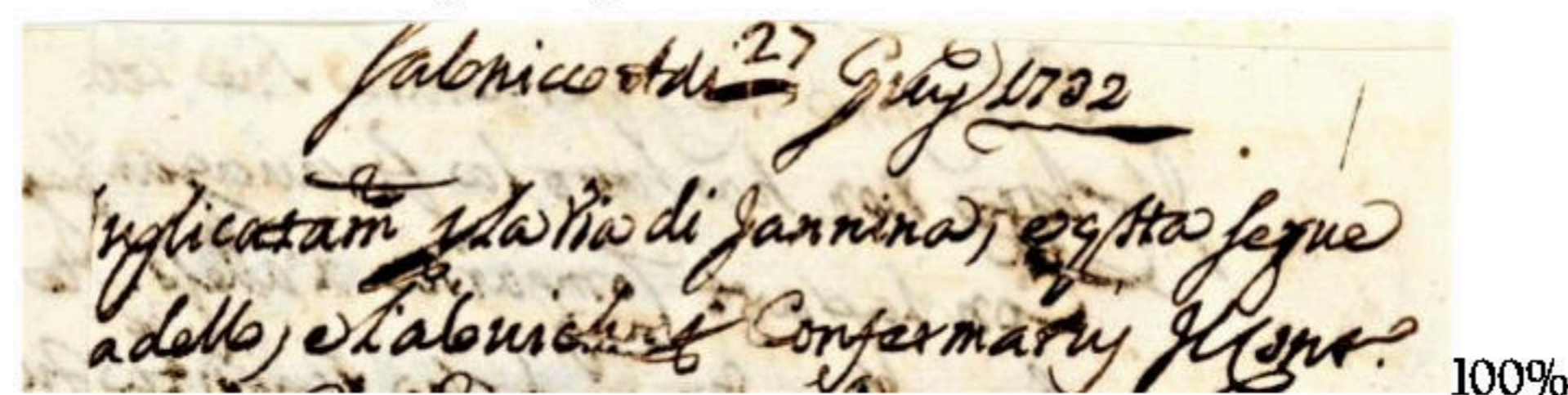
By Land (through Bosnia)



**Thessaloniki 1731 (Oct. 19):** Folded letter via Bosna (Sarajevo), to Venice. Postal fee paid 32 Sols (on reverse)

*The letter is inscribed "CARICA DI BOSNA": Loaded for Sarajevo*

By Captain Lattonich



**Thessaloniki 1732 (July 27):** Folded letter by sea to Venice.

*The letter is inscribed "Con Nave del Cap. Lattonich" and CDLS: Che Dio Lui Salve (the God should protect him)*

# EARLY MAIL: NAPOLEONIC WARS

## MAIL THROUGH KOSTANIZA

### The Napoleonic French Postal Service of the Levant

When the Illyrian Provinces came under direct French Rule in 1809 (Peace Treaty of Schoenbrunn), France had direct borders with the Ottoman Empire. The French wanted to establish their own route to the Levant, because they did not want to trust their goods and mail to the Austrians who controlled the Constantinople-Vienna route. They inaugurated their route in May 1, 1812. The mail came through France and Italy to Kostaniza (Kostajnica - a small town in today's Croatia) in Illyria. From there it was distributed to the main Levant stations, including Thessaloniki.

The French Postal Service of the Levant did not last for long. After various Napoleons' defeats, the French Illyrian Provinces ceased to exist, by Oct. 10, 1813.

Mail forwarded by Agent Mr. Rusconi at Kostaniza



100%



**Thessaloniki 1813 (Mar. 1):** Folded Letter posted from Thessaloniki, forwarded by Agent Mr. Rusconi at Kostaniza - Illyria and from there via Milano, to Firenze, June 8 arrival.

Disinfection's slits.

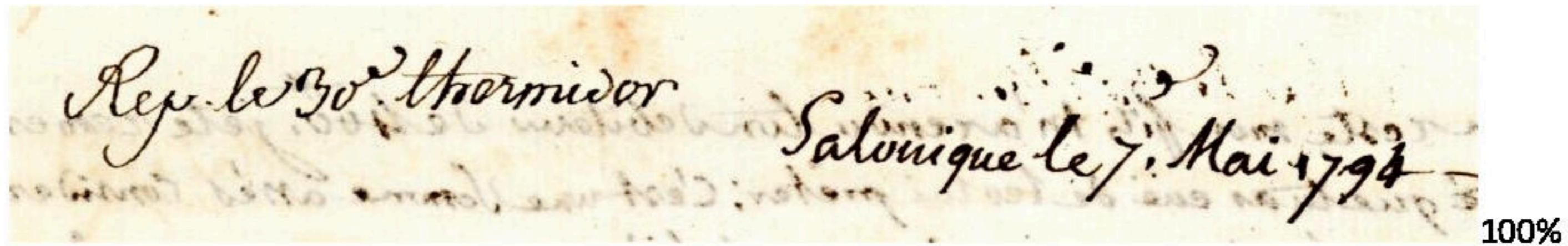
*Postal Fee paid:* Rated 8 Sols(?) to Kostaniza, paid in Thessaloniki by the sender, 7 Decimes paid at arrival in Florence

# EARLY MAIL: 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

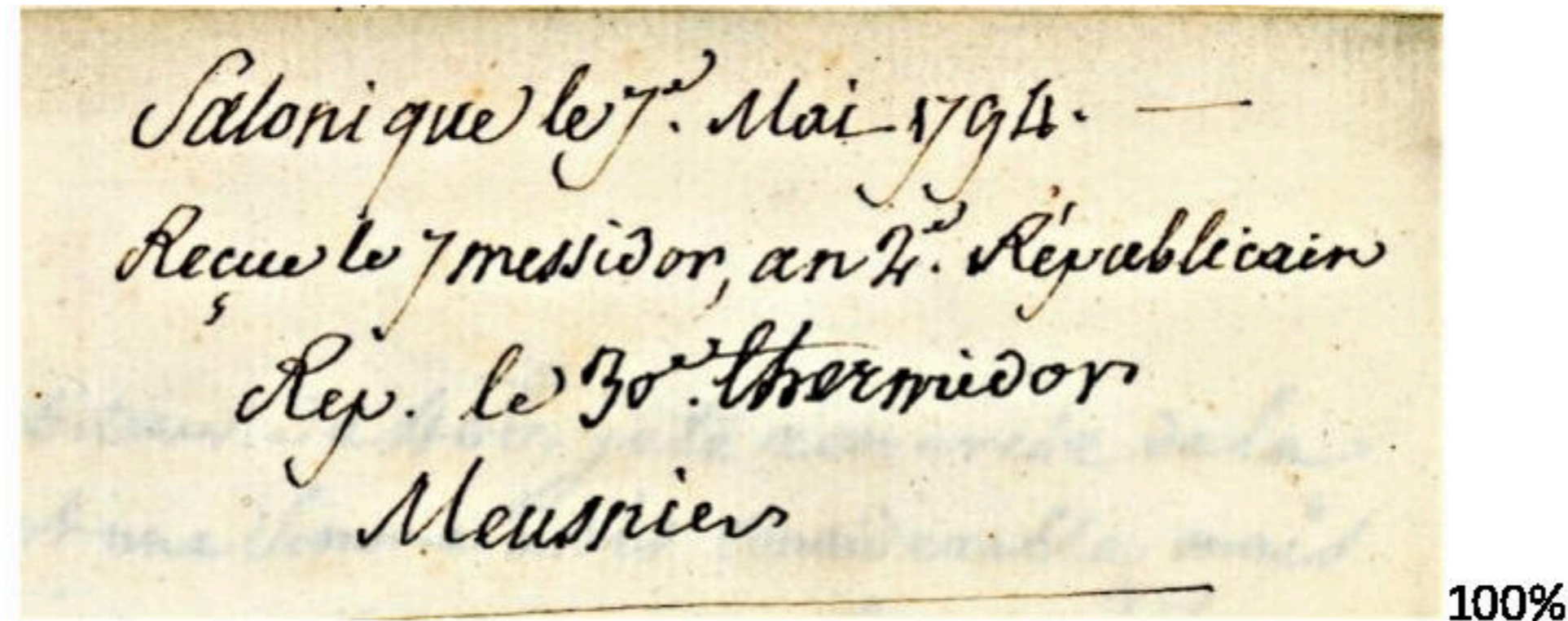
## CONSULAR MAIL SERVICES

A fine usage of the Austrian consular mail services to France via Wien and Geneve during the revolutionary wars between France and the rest of Europe showing that the mail system was not affected by the war.

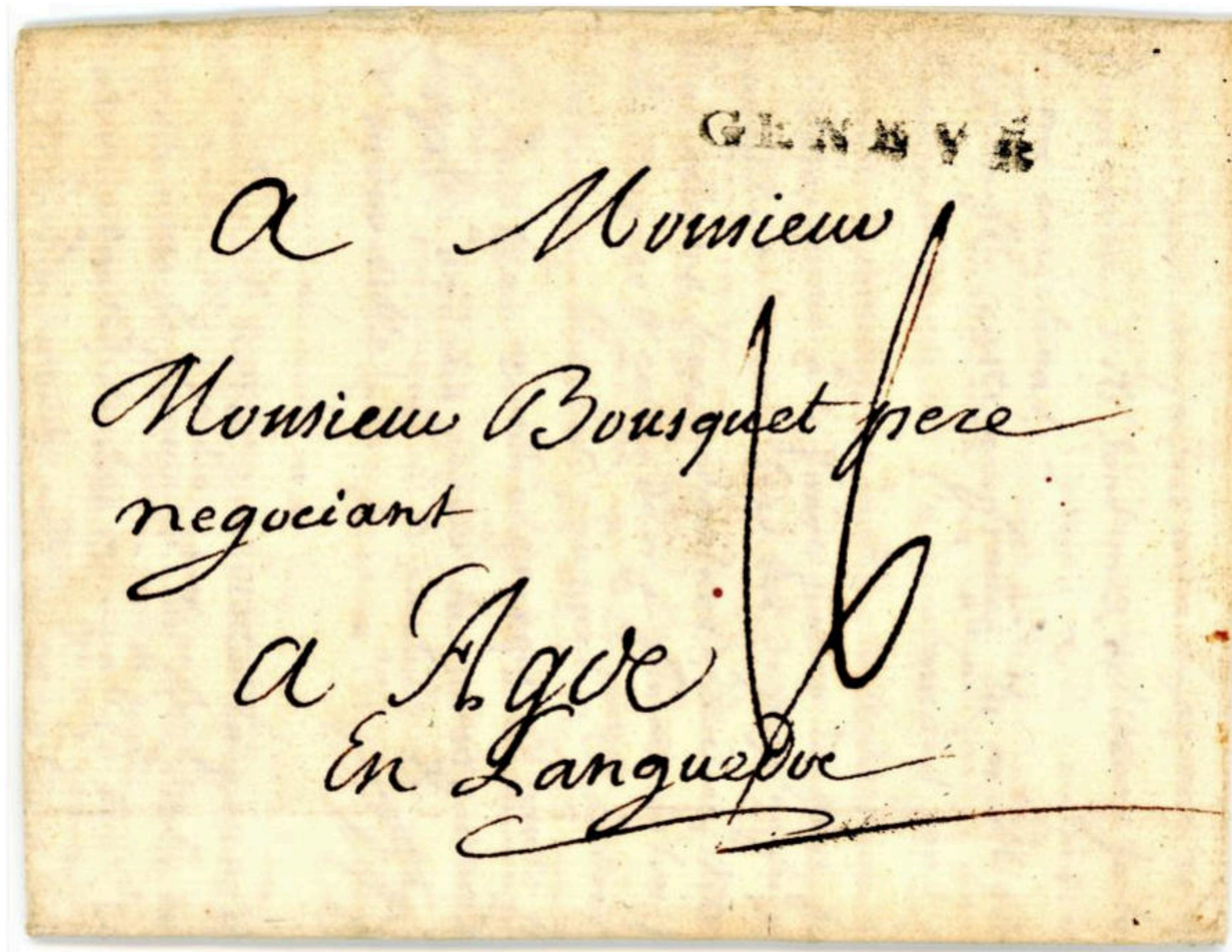
Additionally, a letter to a very rare destination: the small port of AGDE in Languedoc.



Head of the letter



Note by the recipient



**Thessaloniki 1794 (May 7):** Folded letter via Wien and Geneve to Agde.  
Straight-line postmark GENEVA (in antiqua)

*Postal Fee paid:* 16Sols(?) to Austrian mail system, paid in Thessaloniki by the sender, and 16 Sols paid at arrival in France

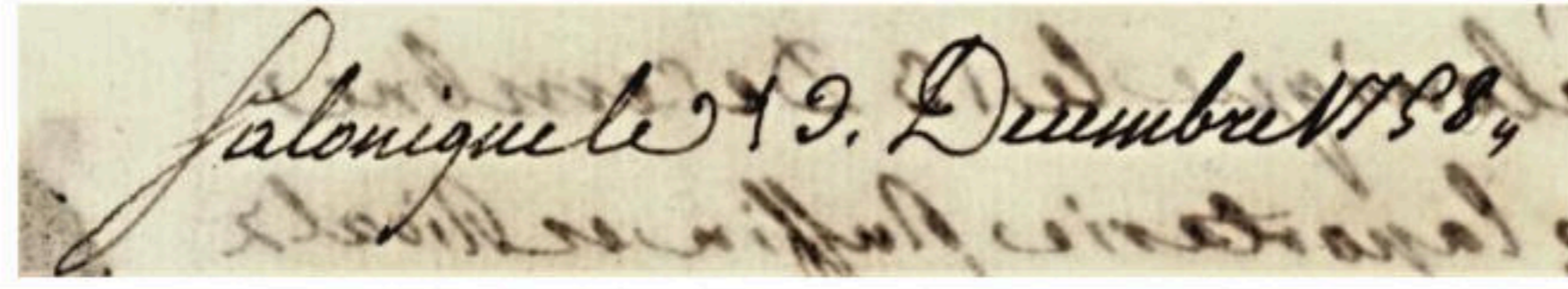
In the recipient's note, the months are written with their revolutionary names, Thermidor, Messidor (French Republican calendar)



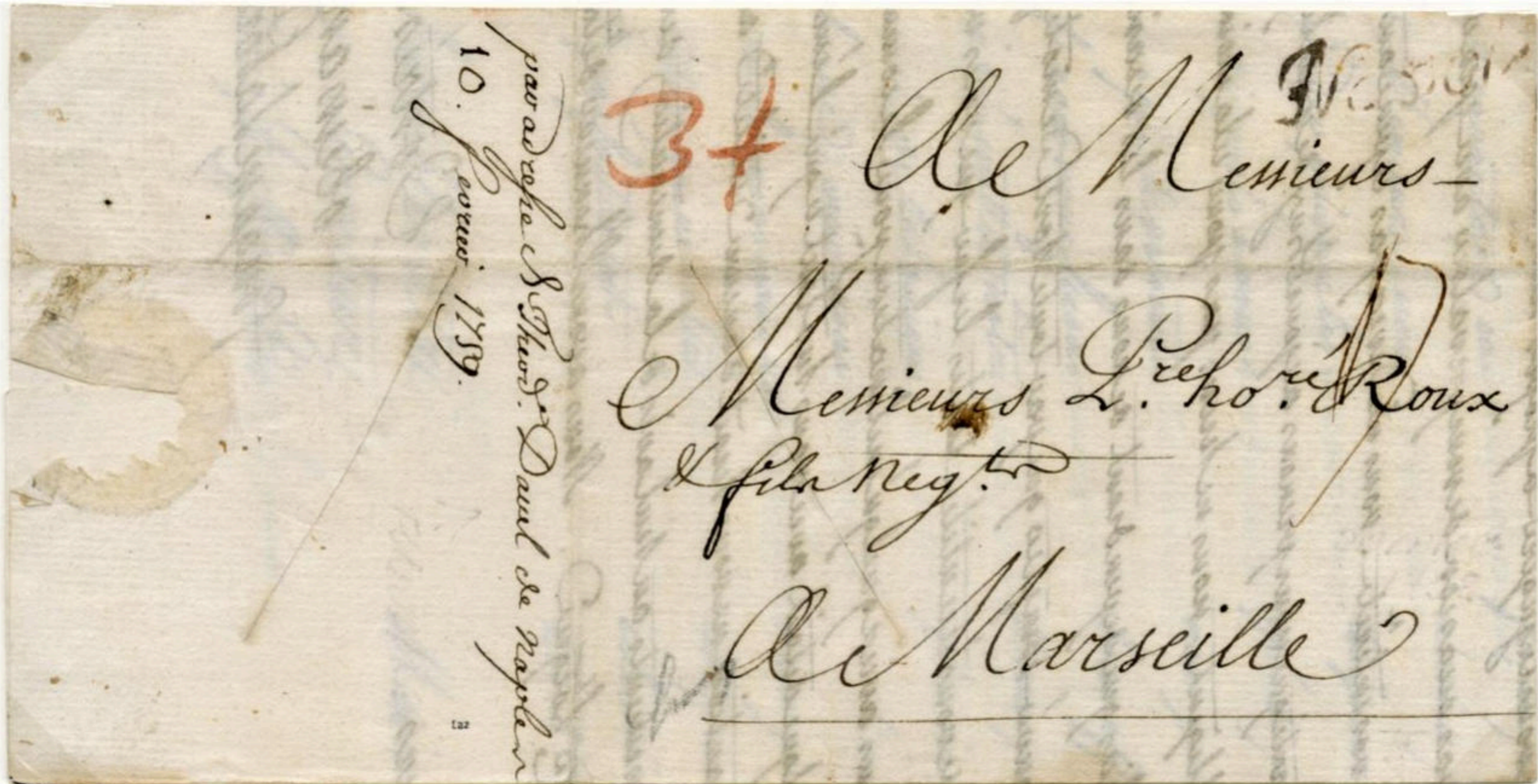
# EARLY MAIL: 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

## EARLY LEVANT LETTERS

By Forwarding Agent "Theodore David of Naples"

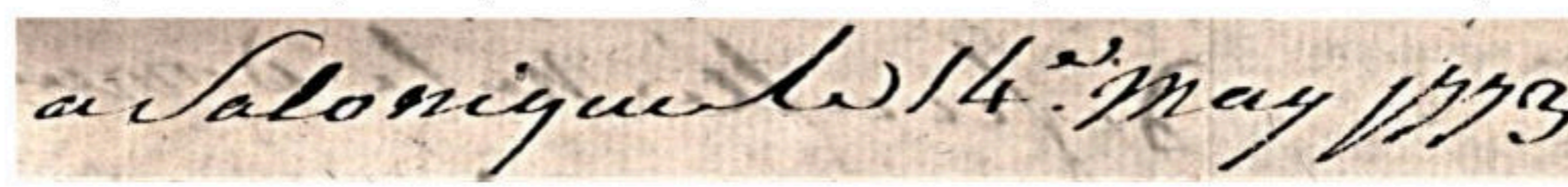


Salonique le 19. Decembre 1758,  
100%

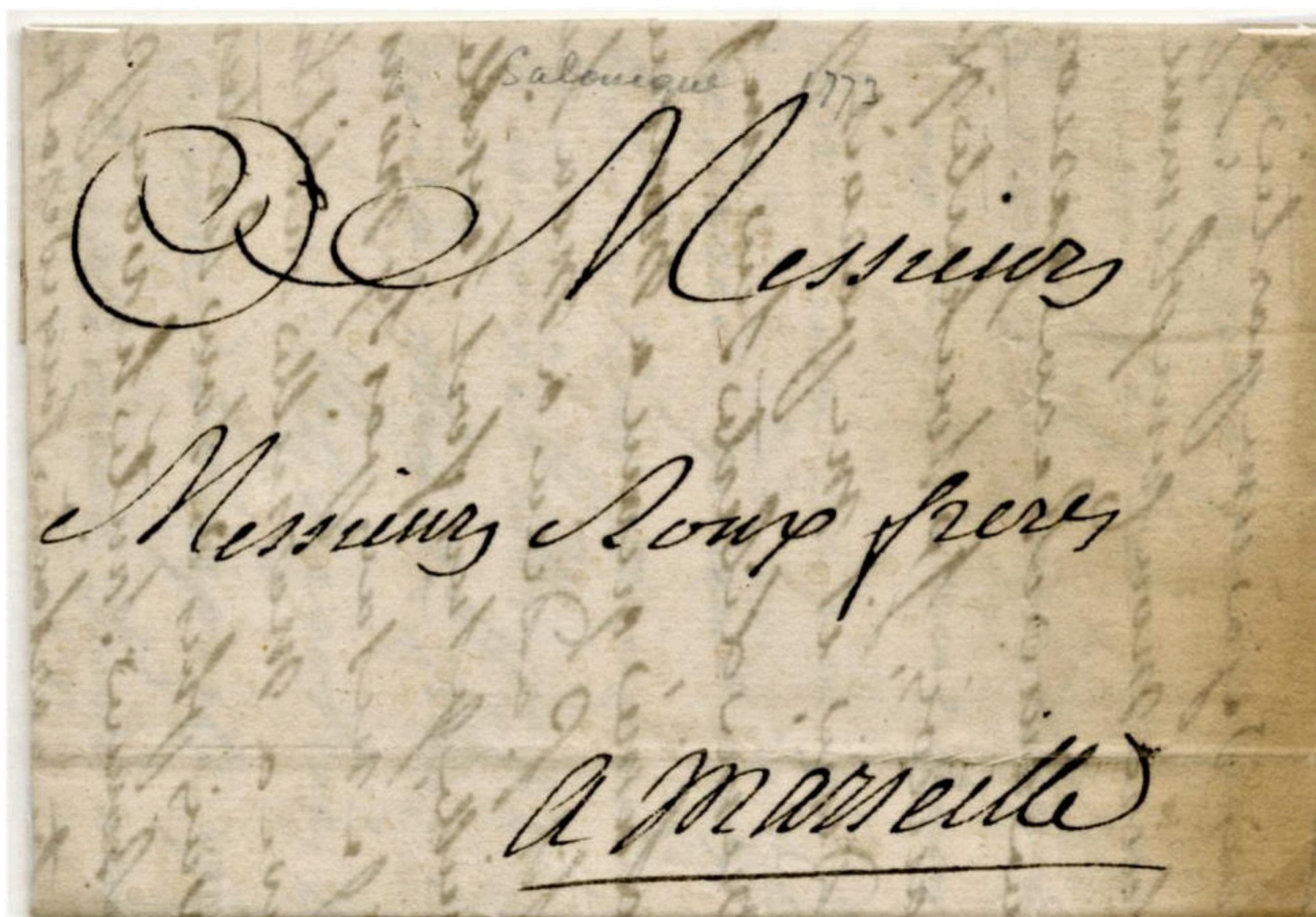


**Thessaloniki 1758 (Dec. 19):** Folded letter via Naples to Marseille. The letter is disinfected by slitting and is bearing faint red Napoli hand stamp and '3T' (Tornese) charge. On reverse Forwarding Agent's endorsement "Theodore David of Naples." The Letter was forwarded from Naples on Feb. 10, 1759, thus it took 2 months to reach its destination.

By Sea ? (no sign of captain, no sign of land route)



a Salonique le 14. May 1773  
100%



**Thessaloniki 1773 (May 14):** Folded letter to Marseille. Disinfected by vinegar.

Both letters from the renowned Roux Freres correspondence  
Roux Freres were Bankers and Brokers in Marseille who collaborated with the Levant merchants.

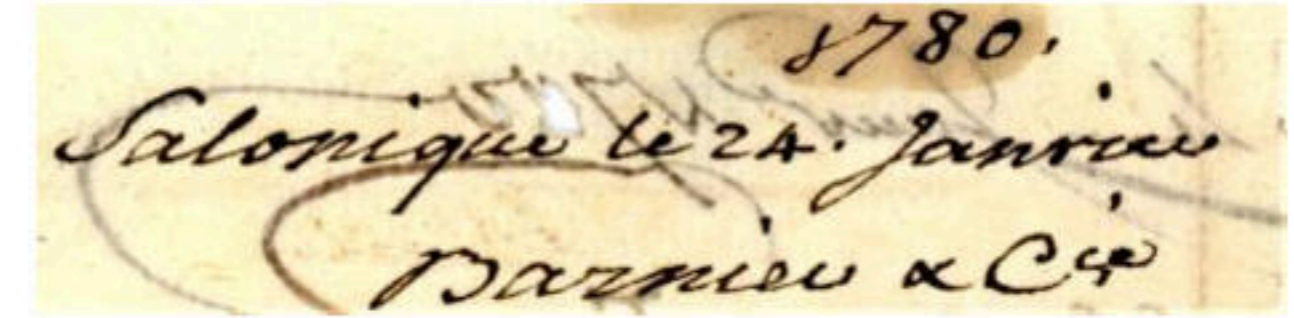
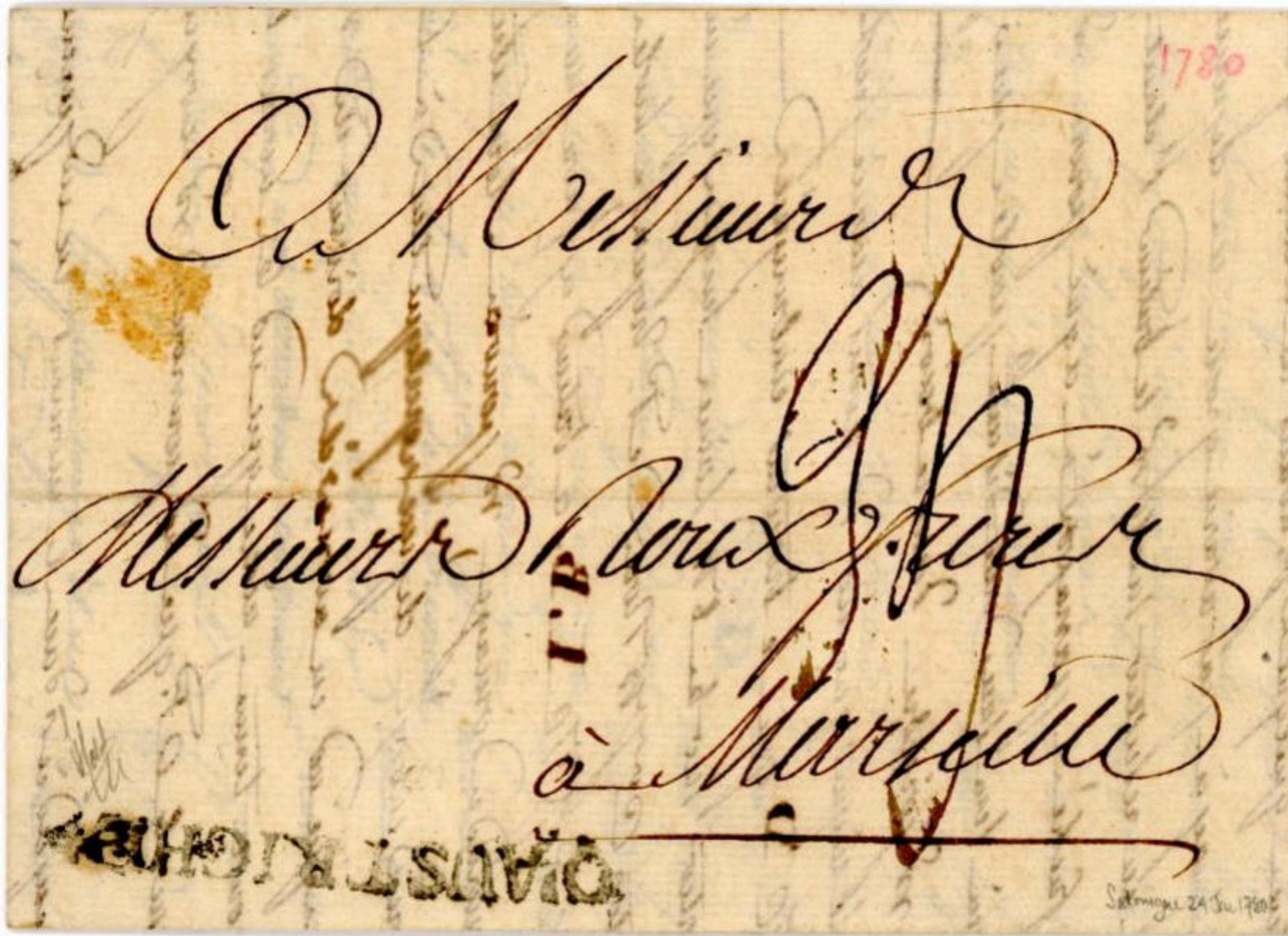
# EARLY MAIL: 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

## THE AUSTRIAN CONSULAR MAIL SERVICE

From 1746 there was a, rather erratic, consular postal service on the land route between Constantinople and Vienna, via Serres, Sofia and Semlin. Semlin (a suburb of Belgrade) was the sanitary station, in the border of the Austro-Hungarian Empire with the Ottoman Empire, for the mail coming from the Balkans.

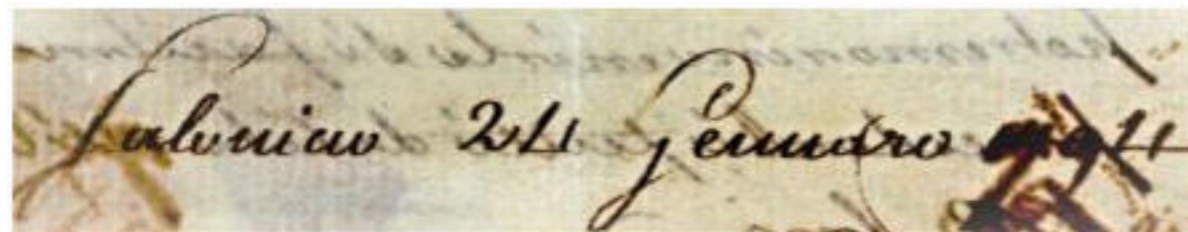
In 1777, the Austrian Consulate of Thessaloniki started a postal service by linking Thessaloniki with this main Austrian - Levant route. This Postal Service acquired legal substance under the signature of the commercial treaty between Turkey and Austria in 1784.

### A letter to France D'AUSTRICHE



**Thessaloniki 1780 (Jan. 24):** Folded letter via Austria to Marseille, by the land route. Showing French D' AUSTRICHE in black and manuscript 25 Sols due in front.

### A letter to Italy by the consular mail service



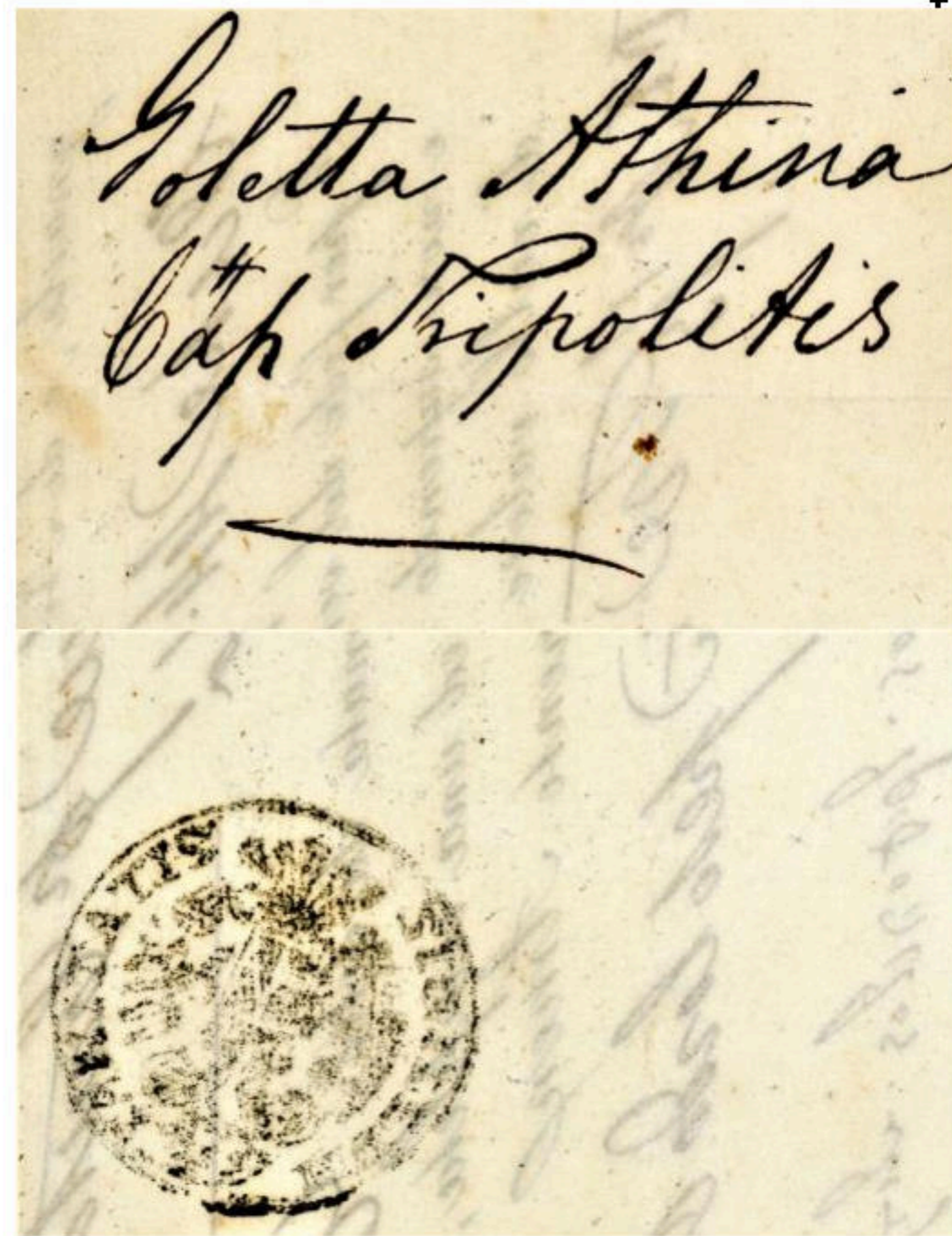
**Thessaloniki 1794 (Jan. 24):** Folded letter via Semlin and Milan, to Genova. The letter left Thessaloniki on Feb. 9, 1794 (perhaps the mail was dispatched once or twice a month) and it was received in Genova after almost 2 months, on March 21.

The letter is half-paid by the sender. There is one diagonal line on face and rate marking "8" on reverse (half of the 16 Sols letter rate).

*The letter is inscribed PCC: Pietro Cristich e Co*

# EARLY MAIL: A BILL OF LADING

**Thessaloniki, 1841 January 25:** Receipt for a Cargo loaded to Trieste, carried by Goleta (Galleon) "ATHINA" of Captain Tripolitis. The receipt was carried via the Austrian Mail services and it was disinfected in Semlin. SIGILLUM SANITATIS



Back Side

Salonico a di 25. Genajo 1841

Hanno caricato col Nome di DDO, e di buon salvamento una volta tanto in questo Porto di Salonico FIGLI CARISSE C. & C. e rischio di chi spetta

sotto coperta della Goletta nominata Athina Cap. Dem. Tripoliti Eleuo per condurre e consegnare in questo suo presente viaggio in Trieste al Sig. Aub. di S. Galli

le appce nominate, e numerate Mercanzie asciutte, intiere e ben condizionate, segnate come di contro, e i Colli intiere, così promette detto Cap. al suo salvo arrivo consegnarle, e di Nolo gli sarà pagato a firini due per Cantaro di Oche Mt. più 5% di Coppa

E per fede del vero sarà questa con altre simili firmata da detto Cap. e non sapendo scrivere, per lui da terza persona, ed una completa, l'altre restino di nullo valore. Dio l'accompagni a salvamento. Amen

IV N. 1/3 Tre Balle Stazzi di Leta per lordo Oche 183.

Δημ. Τριπολιτης. Δι. Ιεροσολ.

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

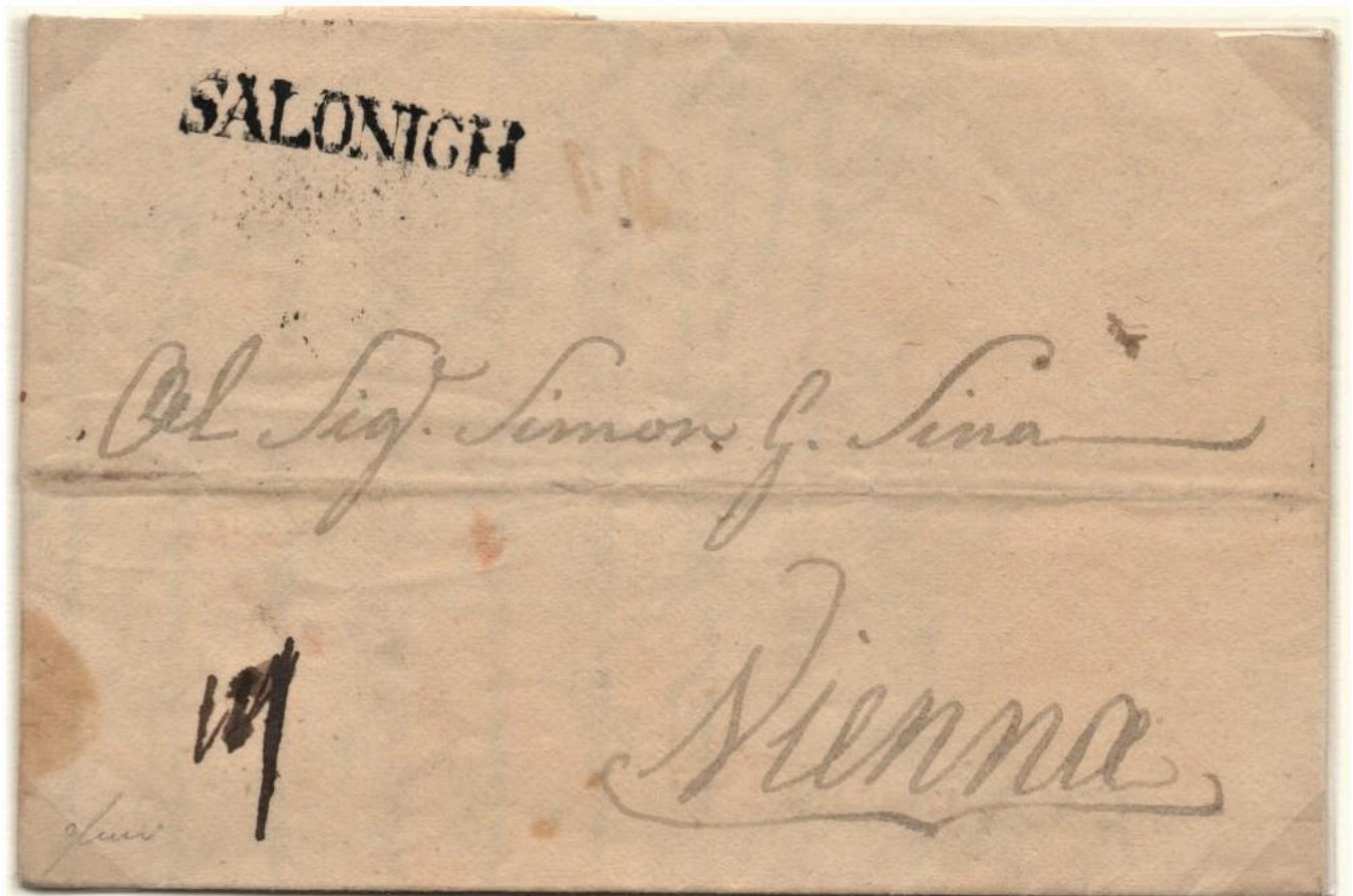
The map of Samper (Wilhelm von Chabert) shows Thessaloniki in 1832. Samper was appointed Consul of Austria in 1833, the year in which the Austrian Consular Post Office first opened. The map shows the location of the Consulate, near the "Kyverniou" stream.



In 1833, the postal service, that started around the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (via Serres and Sofia), became the Austrian Consular Post Office.

**1833 – The oldest letter with a postmark posted from Thessaloniki**  
 The straight-line SALONICH postmark was introduced in the autumn of 1833.  
 I know of two letters dated 1833, this one being the older (6 November).

50%



Folded Letter posted from **Thessaloniki, Nov. 6 1833**, to Vienna. The letter traveled by land, via Serbia and was disinfected in Semlin (19 Nov 1833).

Arrival Wien 27 November.

Postal Rate: 2 Pia (=8 Kr), manuscript on reverse, paid by the sender, 11 Kr charged in Austria.

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

Official letter from the GUBERNIUM of Trieste, capital of Litorale (Historic Austrian province of Slovenia and Istria), to the Austrian Consulate in Thessaloniki.

The Austrian post office was housed in the Austrian consulate, until the 1870s.



The seal of Litorale on reverse



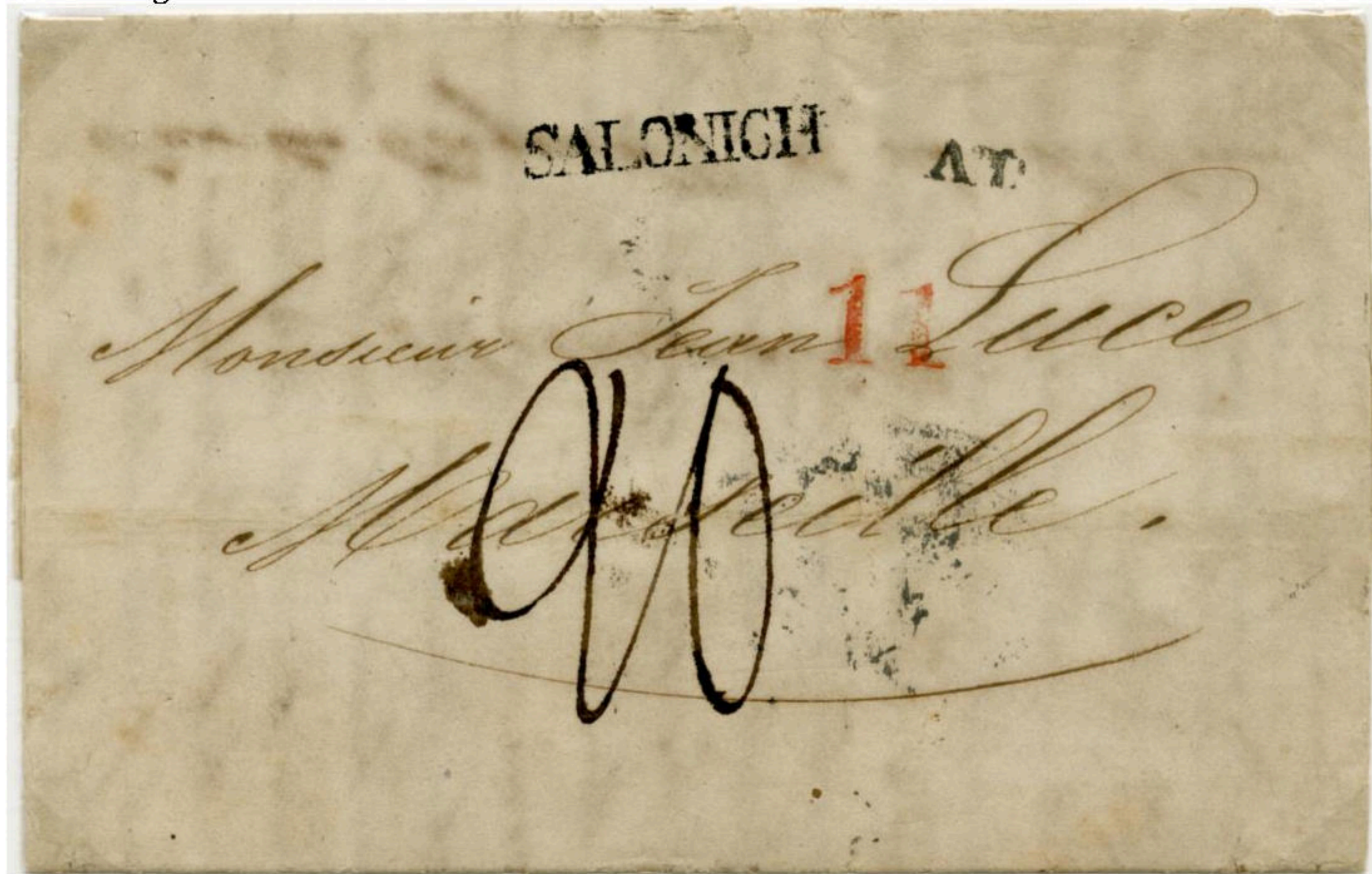
Folded Letter posted from Trieste to **Thessaloniki, Feb. 13 1836.**

## AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

The Austrian Consular P.O. of Thessaloniki gets much better organized during the 1830s and uses the 1st postmark used in Thessaloniki:

## Straight-line SALONICH

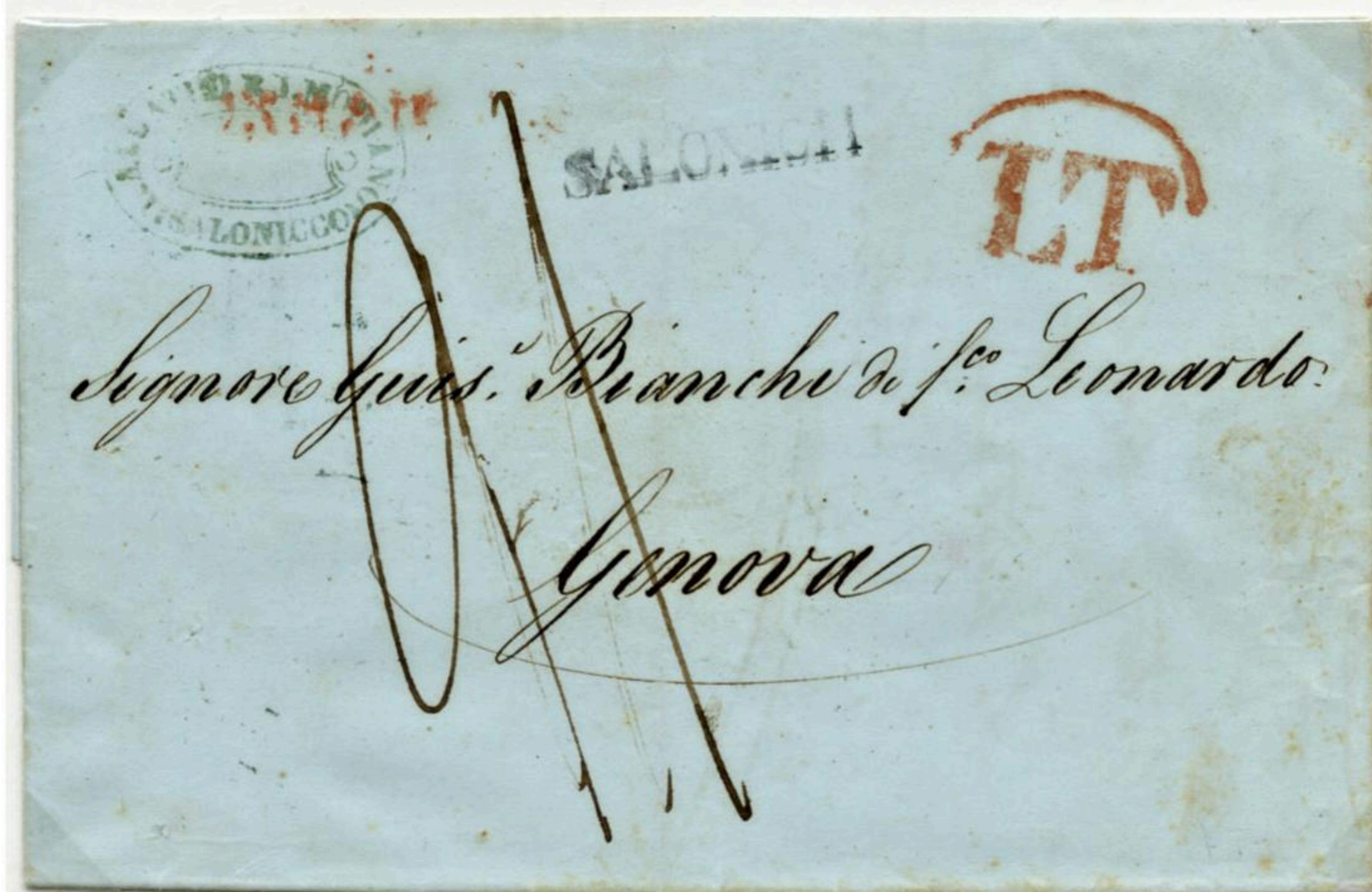
Via Huningue



**Thessaloniki 1838 (Sept. 15):** Folded Letter posted, to Marseille. The letter traveled by land, via Austria and Huningue Border Station in Alsace (transit postmark 23 Sept. 1838). Disinfection marking NETTO DI FUORA ET DI DENTRO, on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 3 Pia (=12Kr), manuscript on reverse, paid by the sender, 11 Kr charged in Austria and 20dec. charged in Marseille

Via Milan



**Thessaloniki 1838 (Mar. 7):** Folded Letter posted to Genova. LT (Lettere Transito) in Milan, arrival 25 MARZO, in red, and disinfection marking SANITATIS SIGILLUM, on reverse.

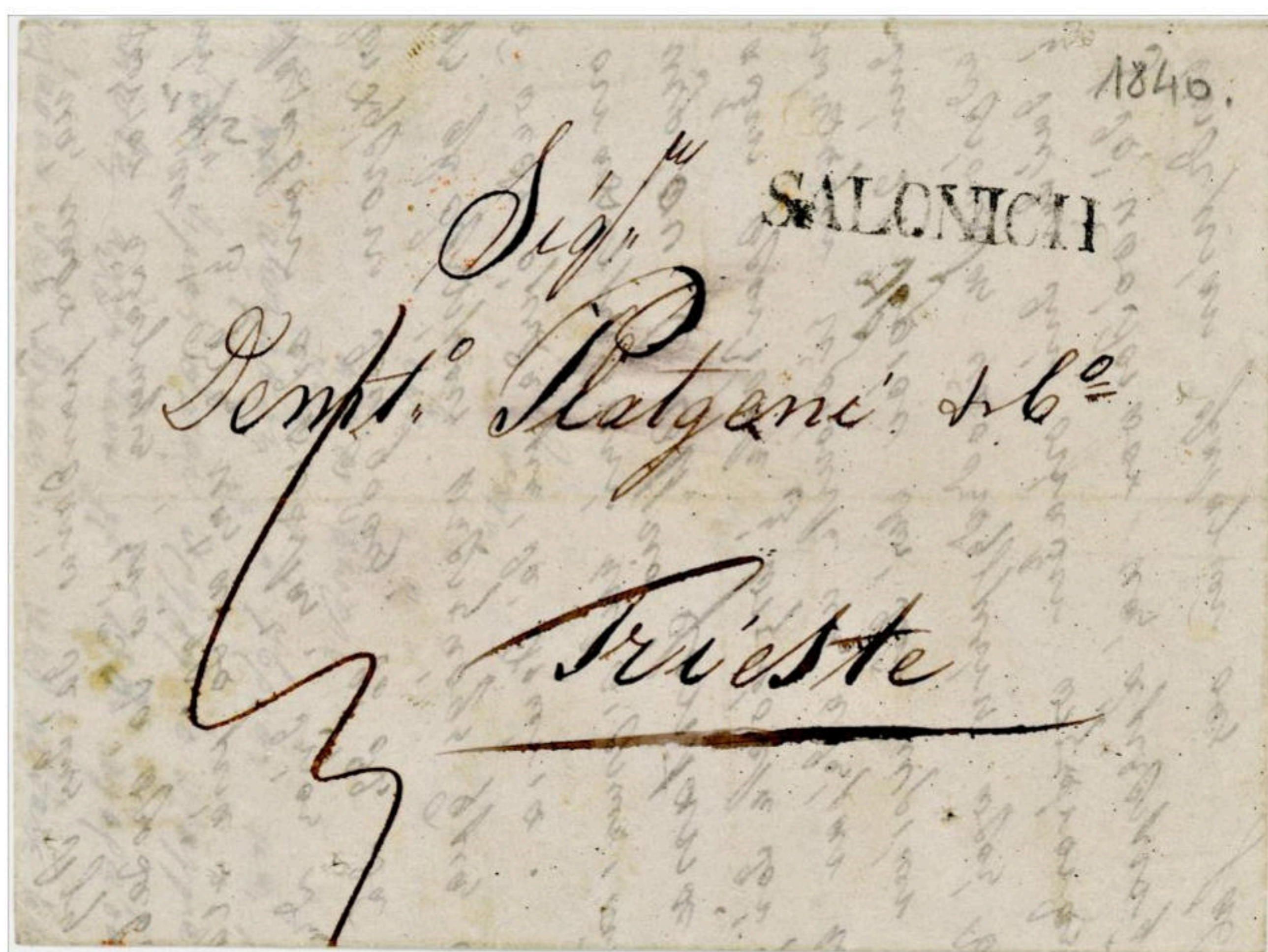
**Postal Rate:** 3 Pia (=12 Kr), manuscript on reverse, paid by the sender, and 24Kr charged in Italy, paid by the receiver.

## AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

1840: Austrian P.O. is the only one serving destinations to the West



60%



**Thessaloniki 1840 (August):** Folded Letter posted to Trieste, by the Austrian Post Office, arrival 9 Sept. Disinfection marking NETTO DI FUORA ET DI DENTRO, on reverse.

*Postal Rate:* 3 Pia paid by the sender in Thessaloniki and 24 Kr charged in Trieste.

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

The change of postmark - 1845

**SALONICH**

The straight one-line postmark SALONICH, in use since 1833, was replaced by cursive postmark SALONICH in 2 lines with date.

**SALONICH  
9. OCTOBRE.**

June 29 1845



**Thessaloniki 1845 (June 29):** Folded Letter posted to Trieste.

Disinfection marking NETTO DI FUORA ET DI DENTRO, on reverse.

**Postal Rate:** 12Kr manuscript on reverse, paid by the sender, and 12Kr charged on front, paid by the receiver. Half paid letter.

Oct. 9 1845



**Thessaloniki 1845 (Oct. 9):** Folded Letter posted to Trieste.

Disinfection marking SANITATIS SIGILLUM, on reverse.

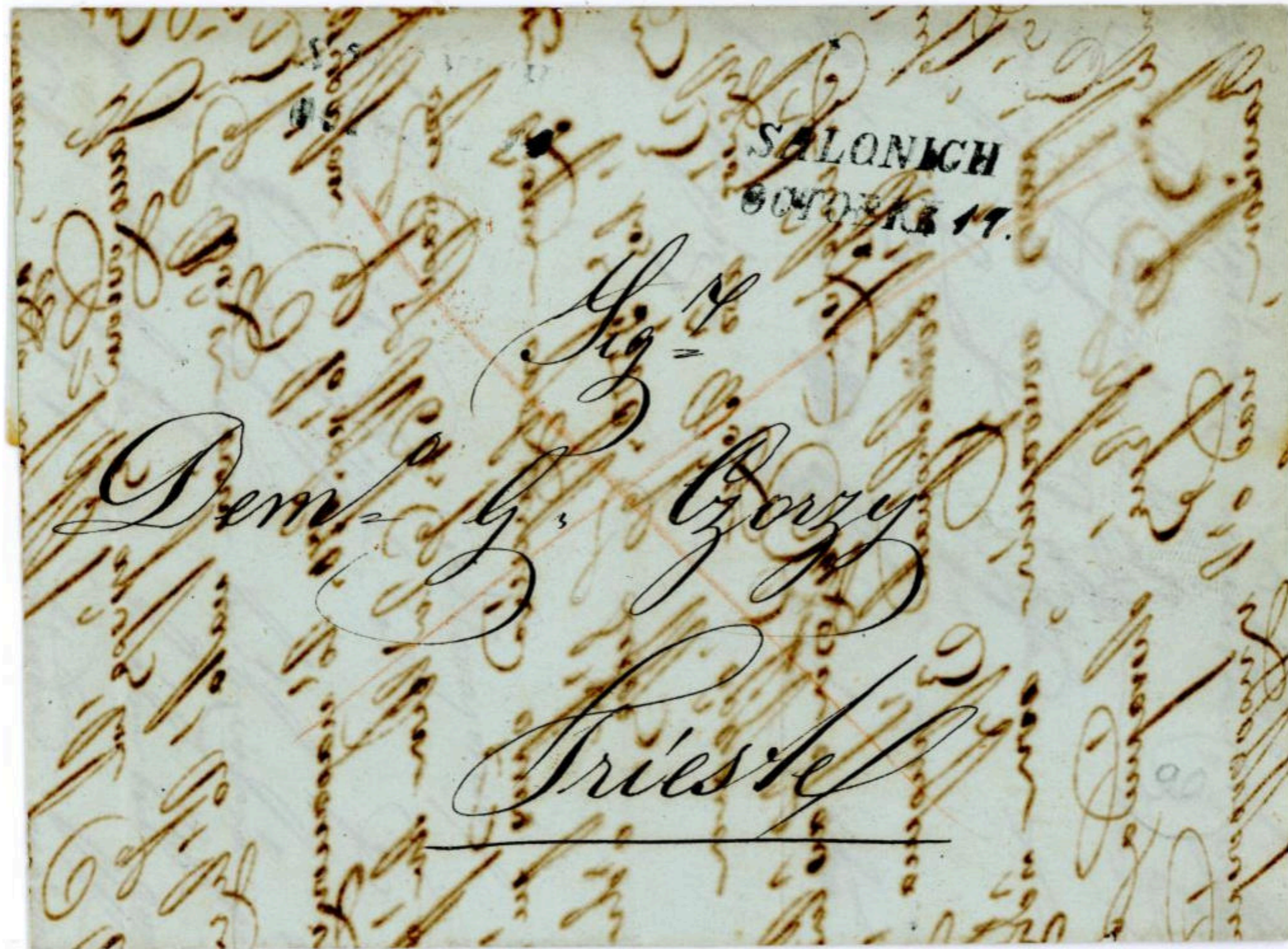
**Postal Rate:** 24Kr charged on front, paid by the receiver. Unprepaid letter



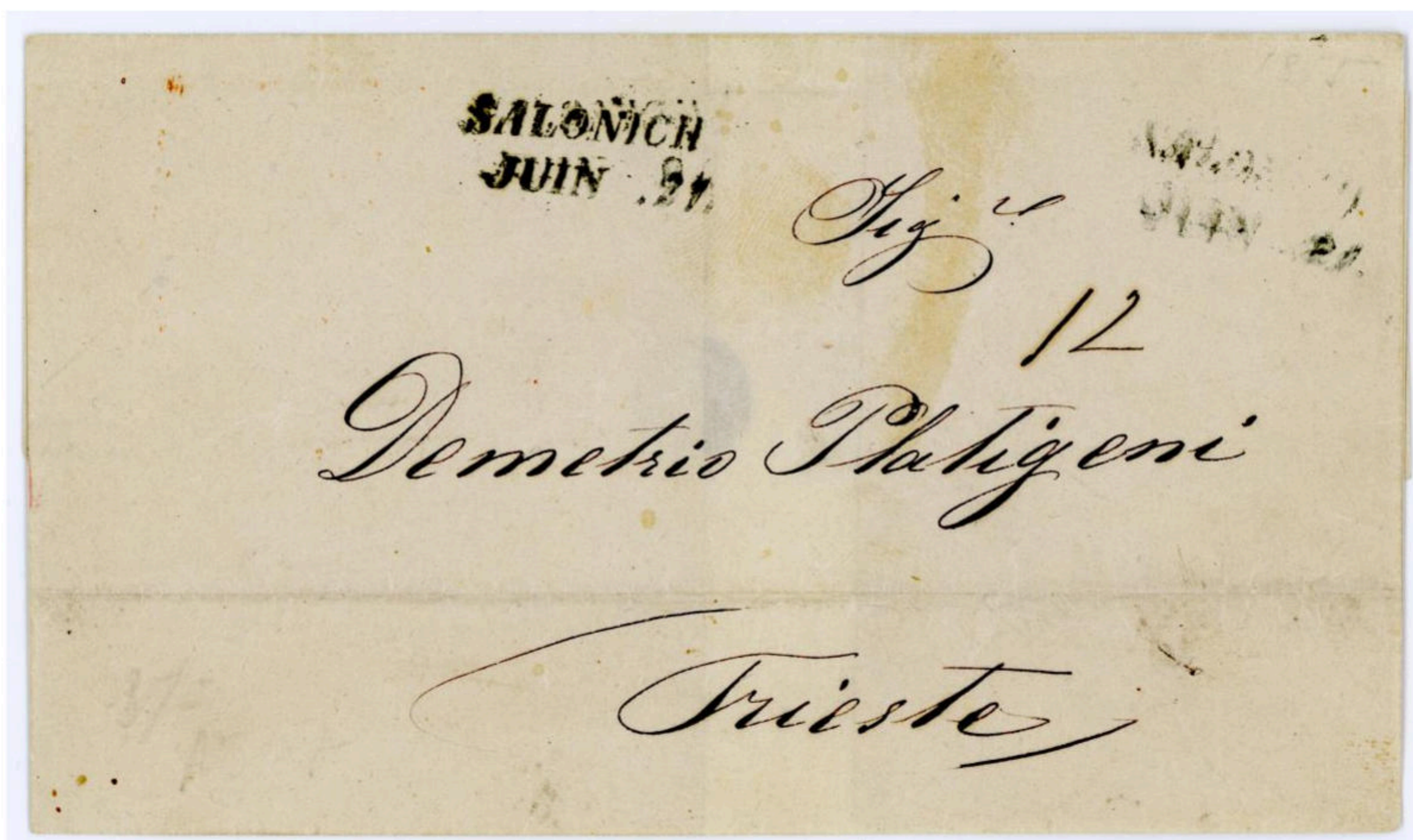
## AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

Date after month

The 2lined postmark SALONICH, in use for 30 years, from 1845 to 1875, usually has the date placed before the month. I have seen a few scarce cases (out of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of letters with this common postmark), in which the date was placed after the month.



**Thessaloniki 1850 (Oct. 18):** Folded letter posted to Trieste, arrival Oct. 27.  
*Postal Rate: Paid in Trieste but no sign of Postal Rate.*

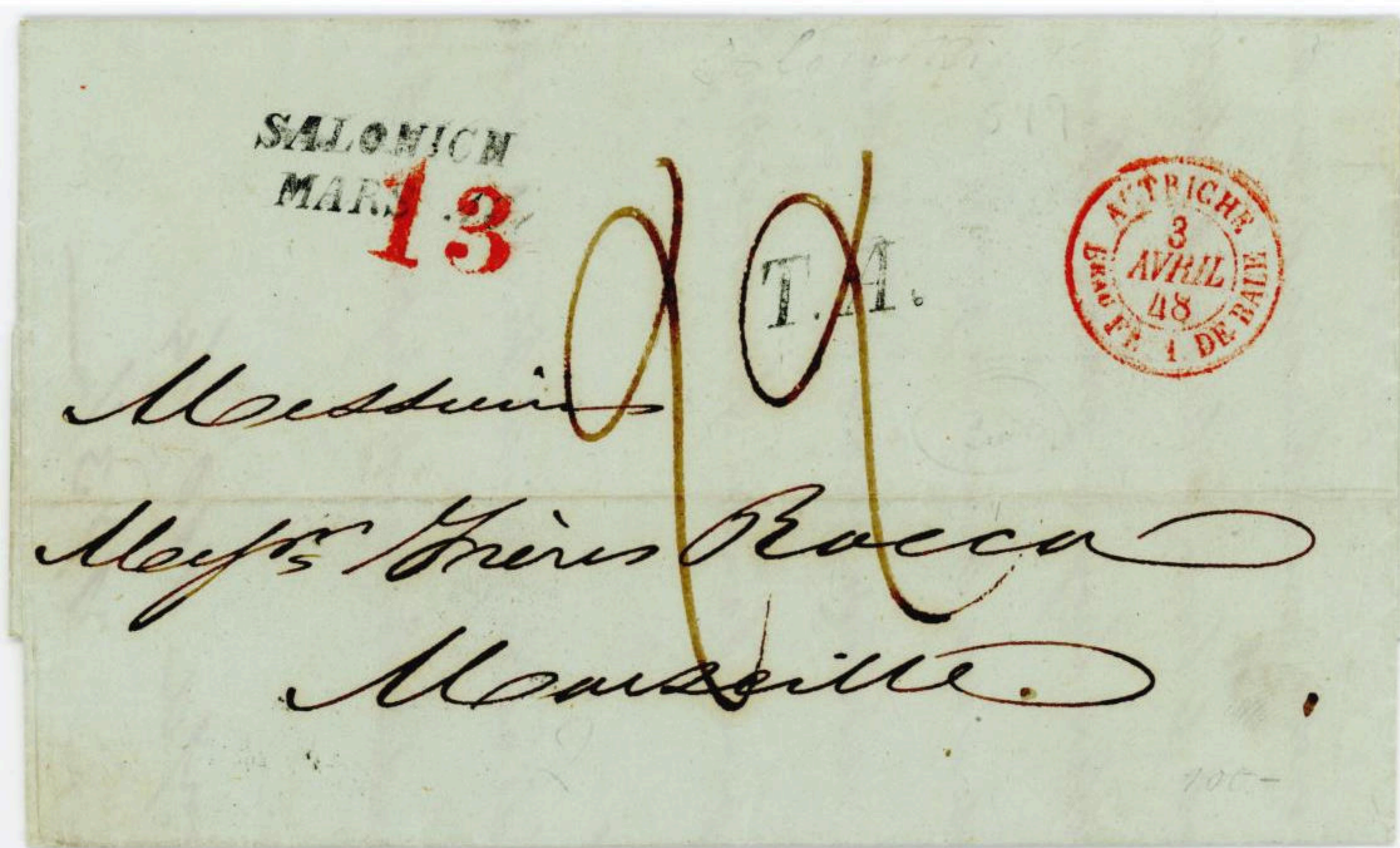


**Thessaloniki 1846 (June 21):** Folded wrapper of letter posted to Trieste, arrival July 4.  
*Postal Rate: 12Kr charged in Trieste.*

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

Handwritten date after month

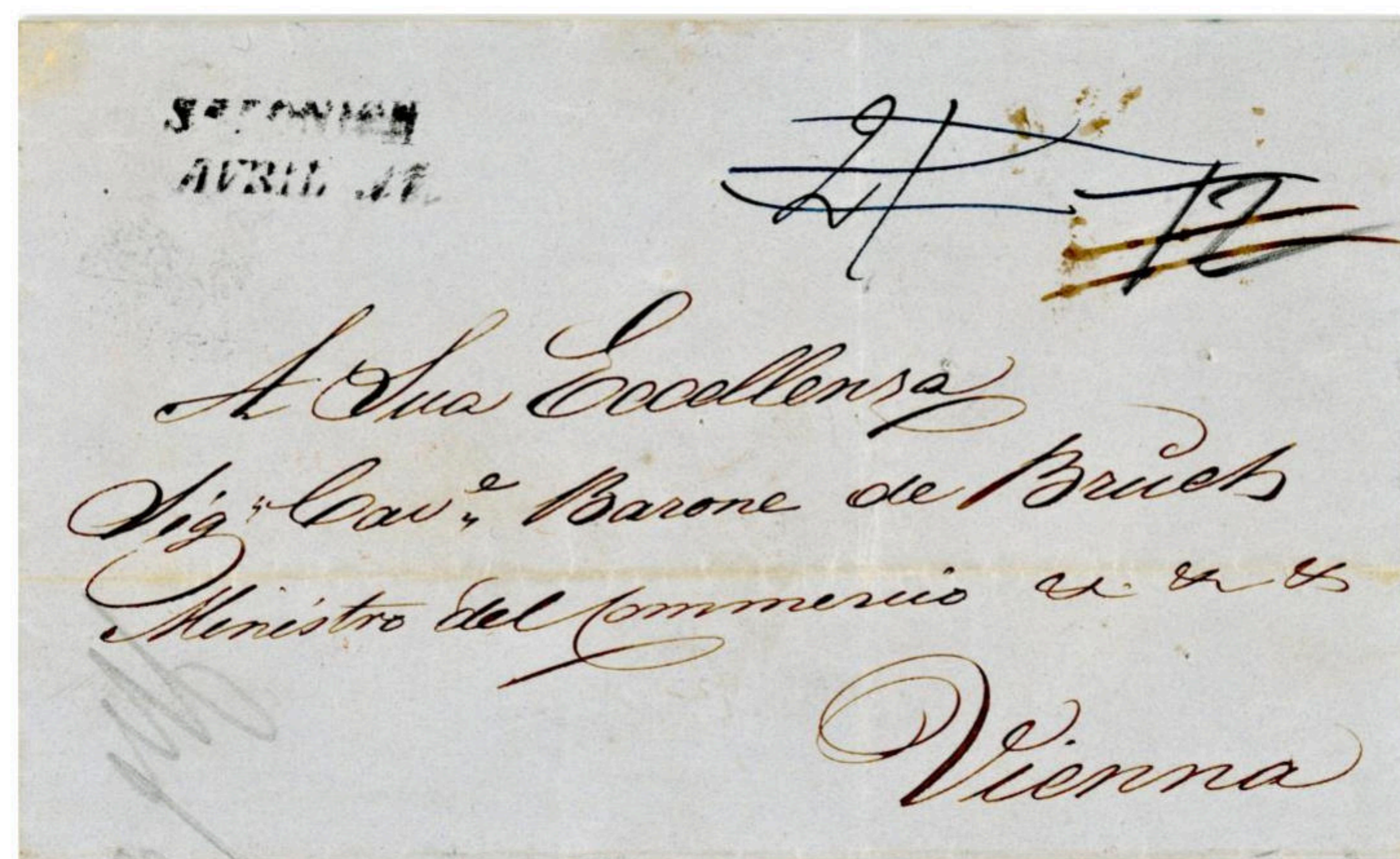
In a third rare case, the 2lined postmark SALONICH had been constructed without date, so the exact date (10) had been added by handwriting. Again, in this case, the date was placed after the month.



**Thessaloniki 1848 (March 10):** Folded Letter posted to Marseille, France, by the Austrian Post Office. The letter traveled by land, via Austria (T.A.) and Switzerland (Autriche Voie de Bale), arrival 8 April. Disinfection marking NETTO DI FUORA ET DI DENTRO, on reverse.

*Postal Rate: 60 Pa paid by the sender in Thessaloniki, 13 Kr charged in Austria and 22 Dec charged in France.*

A cash paid letter to a Minister



**Thessaloniki 1851 (April 17):** Folded Letter posted to the Minister of Commerce in Vienna, by the Austrian Post Office. The letter was paid in cash in advance (“barfrankierter”), arrival 26 April. Disinfection marking NETTO DI FUORA ET DI DENTRO, on reverse.

Again, the postmark shows the date placed after the month (one of the few rare cases).

*Postal Rate: Paid in cash by the sender*

THE OPENING OF POST OFFICES 1830-50s  
AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

A 1851 letter to Lyon France by land, via Wien and Basel



**Thessaloniki 1851 (Nov. 27):** Folded Letter posted to Lyon, France, by the Austrian Post Office. The letter traveled by land, via Austria (T.A. Transit Austriaco, Wien 8 Dec.) and Switzerland (Über Basel, Par Autriche Voie de Bale) to Lyon. Disinfection's marking on reverse.

*Postal Rate: 13 Kr charged in Austria and 18 Dec charged in France.*

# THE OPENING OF POST OFFICES 1830–50s

## FRENCH POST OFFICE

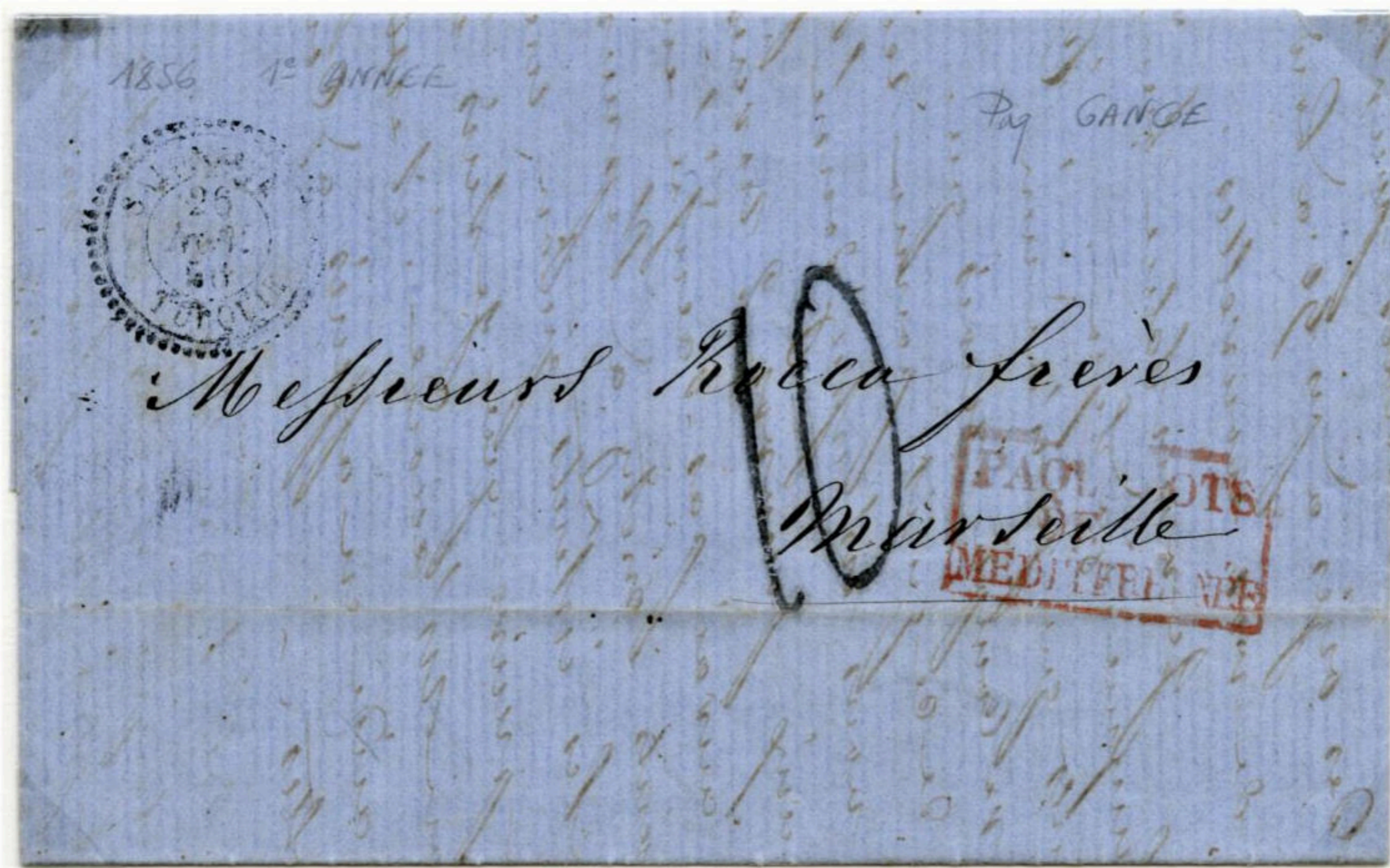


The Building of the French Post Office and Messageries Maritimes on Thessaloniki's seafront (late 19<sup>th</sup> century).

You can distinguish the initials M M on the forehead of the building's terrace. The building was destroyed by the great fire of 1917.

The French P.O. of Thessaloniki opened officially in June 1856. The service was taken over by the "Messageries Imperial" and it was successfully organized. In 1866 there was a major reorganization with an extensive network covering practically all the ports of Eastern Mediterranean. From the summer of 1856 till the 31st of October 1914, the French Postal Services never stopped to operate to and from Thessaloniki.

An early letter (1856) from the French P.O. of Thessaloniki.



**Thessaloniki 1856 (Nov. 26):** Entire letter to Marseille, via Dardanelles arrival Dec. 9.  
*Postal Rate: 10 Decimes for Single Weight Letter, charged in Marseille.*

## GREEK POST OFFICE

The Greek P.O. of Thessaloniki opened officially in December 1835. The mail was carried by horsemen via Fourka or Taratsa (near Lamia) to Greece, twice a month. Up to 1845 the operation of this mail service was vital for the Greek Postal services, because the Greek mail to Europe was delivered to the Austrian Consular P.O. of Thessaloniki to travel further, via Semlin, to Europe. After 1845, Greek Mail was also carried by ship (to Thessaloniki or elsewhere).

Postmark ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ Double Circle without Date (button, type 1)



**Thessaloniki 1840 (August 3):** Folded Letter posted to Syra Greece, showing boxed ΕΛΛΑΣ ΔΙΑ ΛΑΜΙΑΣ and oval ΠΛΗΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ (Paid), via Lamia (Aug. 7), Athinaí, Piraeus (Aug. 10), arrival Aug 12.

**Postal Rate:** Handwritten on reverse "70" and charged in front "10": 40L Thessaloniki to Taratsa (Greek-Turkish Border near Lamia), Taratsa to Syros 40L for 1st weight letter (to 7.5gr).

#### Regulations for postal rates:

A. If the sender had prepaid only for a part of the route, the fee was written on the back, while on the front was written the fee corresponding to the unpaid part of the route and which was to be paid by the recipient. This regulation applied for all Post Offices.

B. Postal rate was calculated in lepta, but it was paid in Turkish currency, depending on the exchange rate of the period.

GREEK POST OFFICE

During the 1840s, the Greek Postal Service changed the “button” type postmarks and introduced the larger “laurel” type postmarks (type 2).

In the first letter (May 1847), the postmark of Thessaloniki is “button” type (very worn), while the postmark of Syros is “laurel” type.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter (and in the letter of the next page - October 1847), the postmark is “laurel” type.

Postmarks ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ “button” type 1, and from June 25 1847, “laurel” type 2



**Thessaloniki 1847 (May 14):** Folded Letter posted to Syra, showing boxed ΠΕΔ, arrival May 18. Disinfection Slits.  
*Postal Rate:* Handwritten on reverse “70 lepta”.

And (exactly !!) one year later



**Thessaloniki 1848 (May 14):** Folded Letter posted to Syra, showing boxed ΠΕΔ, arrival May 18. Disinfection Slits.  
*Postal Rate:* Handwritten on reverse “70 lepta”.

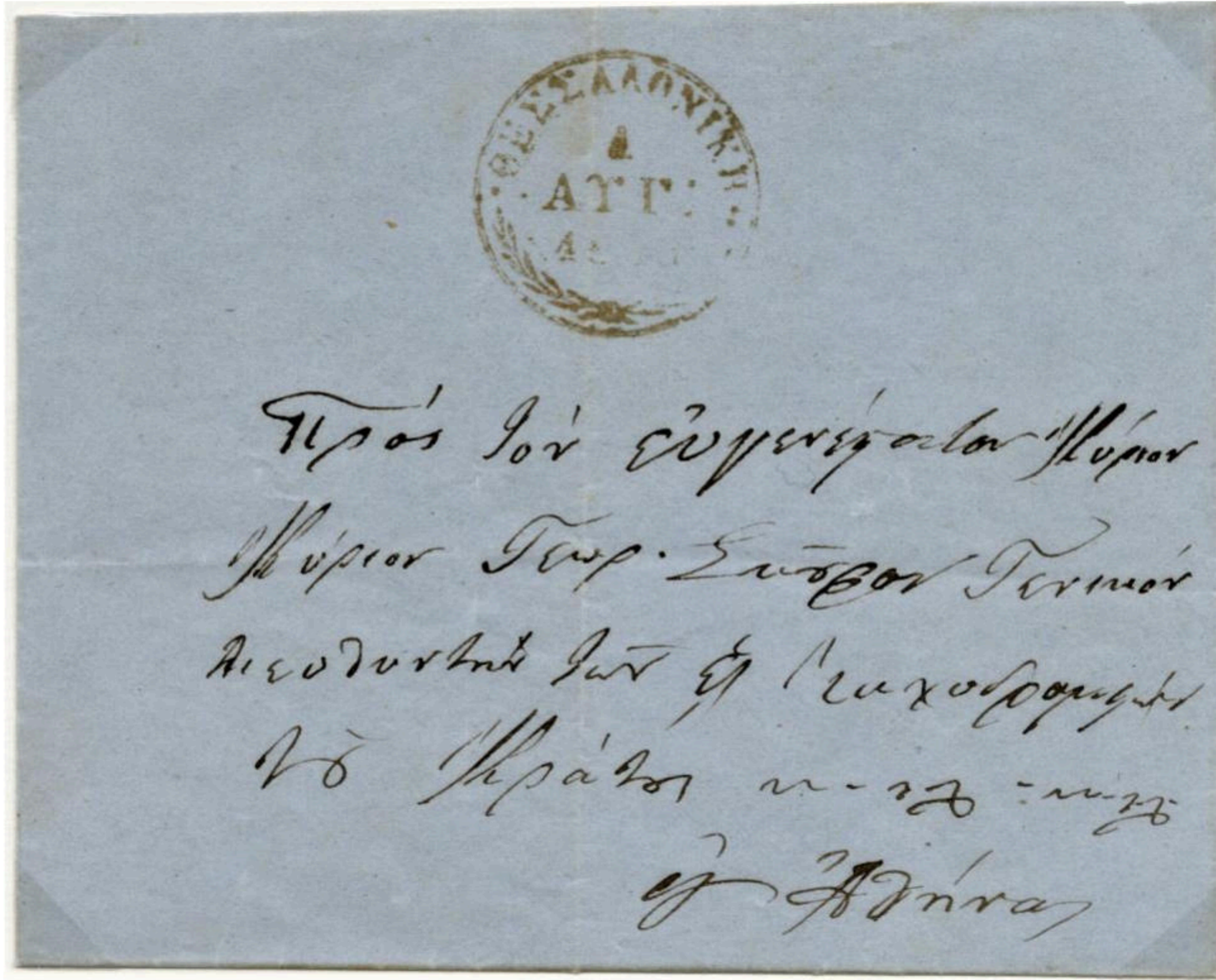
GREEK POST OFFICE

The “laurel” type postmark was in use in Thessaloniki until May 2 1854 and from July 19 1856 until July 7 1858. During the interim period the Greek post office was closed, because of the Crimean War.

Greece played a peripheral role in the Crimean war. As an Orthodox nation, with considerable support in Russia, Greece tried to expand north (and south in Crete), but the British and French occupied Piraeus from April 1854 to February 1857, and effectively neutralized Greece.

A new double circle CDS ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ (ΤΟΥΡΚΙΑ), was introduced by June 1858 (Type 3).

Postmarks ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ type 2, and from mid-1858 ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ (ΤΟΥΡΚΙΑ) type 3



**Thessaloniki 1851 (Aug.):** Folded Letter posted to the General Director of the Greek Postal Service.  
*Postal Rate: Free (Official)*



**Thessaloniki 1859 (Dec. 16):** Folded Letter posted to Syros Greece, showing boxed ΠΕΔ, arrival Dec. 27.  
*Postal Rate: Handwritten on reverse “80”: 2nd Weight Letter to Syros –Thessaloniki-Syros 2x30L + Greek Postal Service 2x10L.*

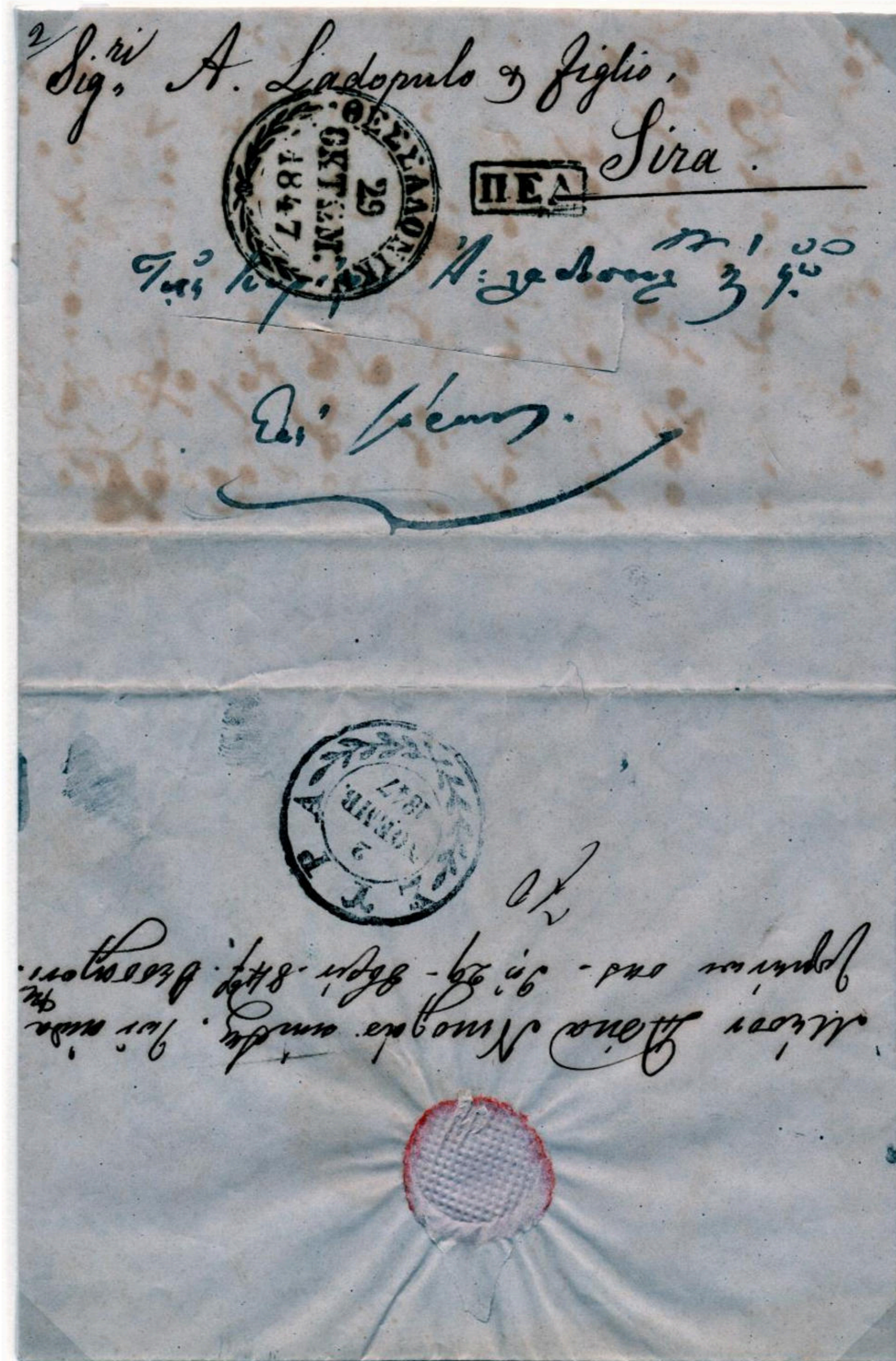
GREEK POST OFFICE

FORWARDING AGENT in THESSALONIKI: NIKOLAOS DOUKAS

*Μέσω Δόμα Νικολάου και υιού. Για αίδα  
 Σερρών ουδ. 29- Οκτωβ. 1847. Θεσσαλονίκη.*

“Through DOUKA NIKOLAOU & CO, yours faithfully 29 Oct. 1847, THESSALONIKI”

Postmark ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ “laurel” type 2



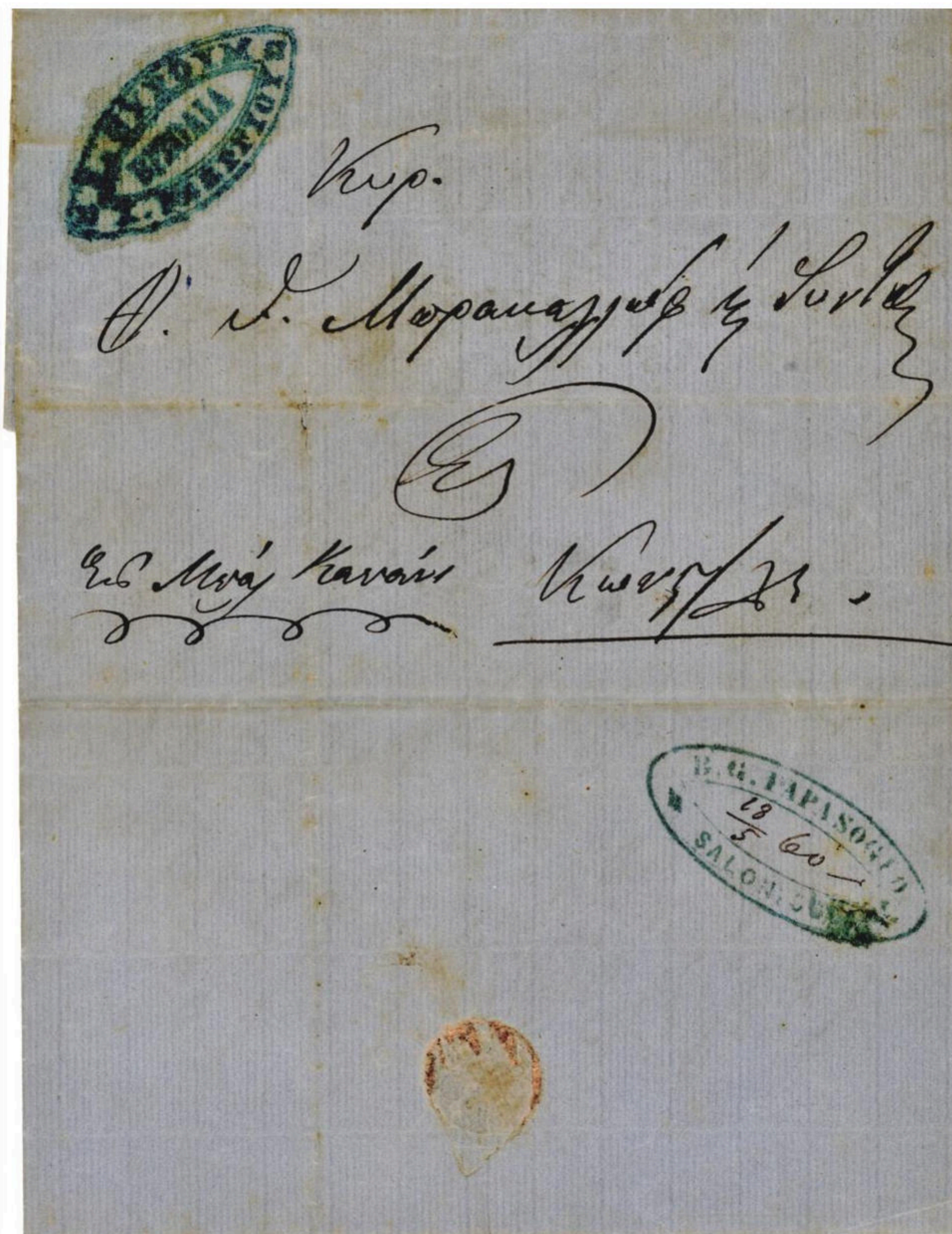
**Serres via Thessaloniki 1847 (Oct. 22):** Folded Letter posted via forwarding agent in Thessaloniki, to Syros Greece, arrival Nov. 2.

**Postal Rate:** Handwritten on reverse “70” :1st Weight (to 7.5gr) Letter to Syros - 1st weight Thessaloniki-Syros 60L + Greek Postal Service 10l. = 70l.



FORWARDING AGENT in THESSALONIKI: B. G. PAPASOGLOU

Oval marking of the Agent with date  
(not recorded by Kenneth Rowe)



**Monastir (Vitolia) via Thessaloniki 1860 (May 28):** Folded Letter posted via forwarding agent in Thessaloniki, to Constantinople.  
No sign of Postal Rate paid.

Most probably the letter was carried by the Tatar horsemen postal system.  
(Itinerary Thessaloniki-Constantinople)

## LLOYD AGENCY POST OFFICE

The LLOYD Agency Post Office 1853 - 1879

Österreichischer Lloyd (Italian: Lloyd Austriaco, English: Austrian Lloyd) was the largest Austro-Hungarian shipping company. It was founded in 1833. It was based at Trieste in the Austrian Littoral, the main port of the Austrian half of the Dual Monarchy.

They signed their first contract to carry mail to all their Ports of call in 1837. Soon they established Post Offices in every major Mediterranean port where there were no official Consular Offices. Later they signed another agreement which provided that they could carry mail from one port to the other, regardless of whether a Consular Office existed. They were always careful not to compete with the official Post Offices of Austria. The company played an important role to the operation of the Austrian Postal services in the Levant.

The Lloyd Agency Post Office of Thessaloniki was not a very active one, most probably because the Austrian Consular Post Office was very well organized and efficient.

Postmark AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO Salonico in oval



**Thessaloniki 1856 (Apr. 11):** Folded Letter posted to Syros Greece, arrival 12 April (the next day).

*Postal Rate: 10 Kreuzer*

# THE OPENING OF POST OFFICES 1830-50s

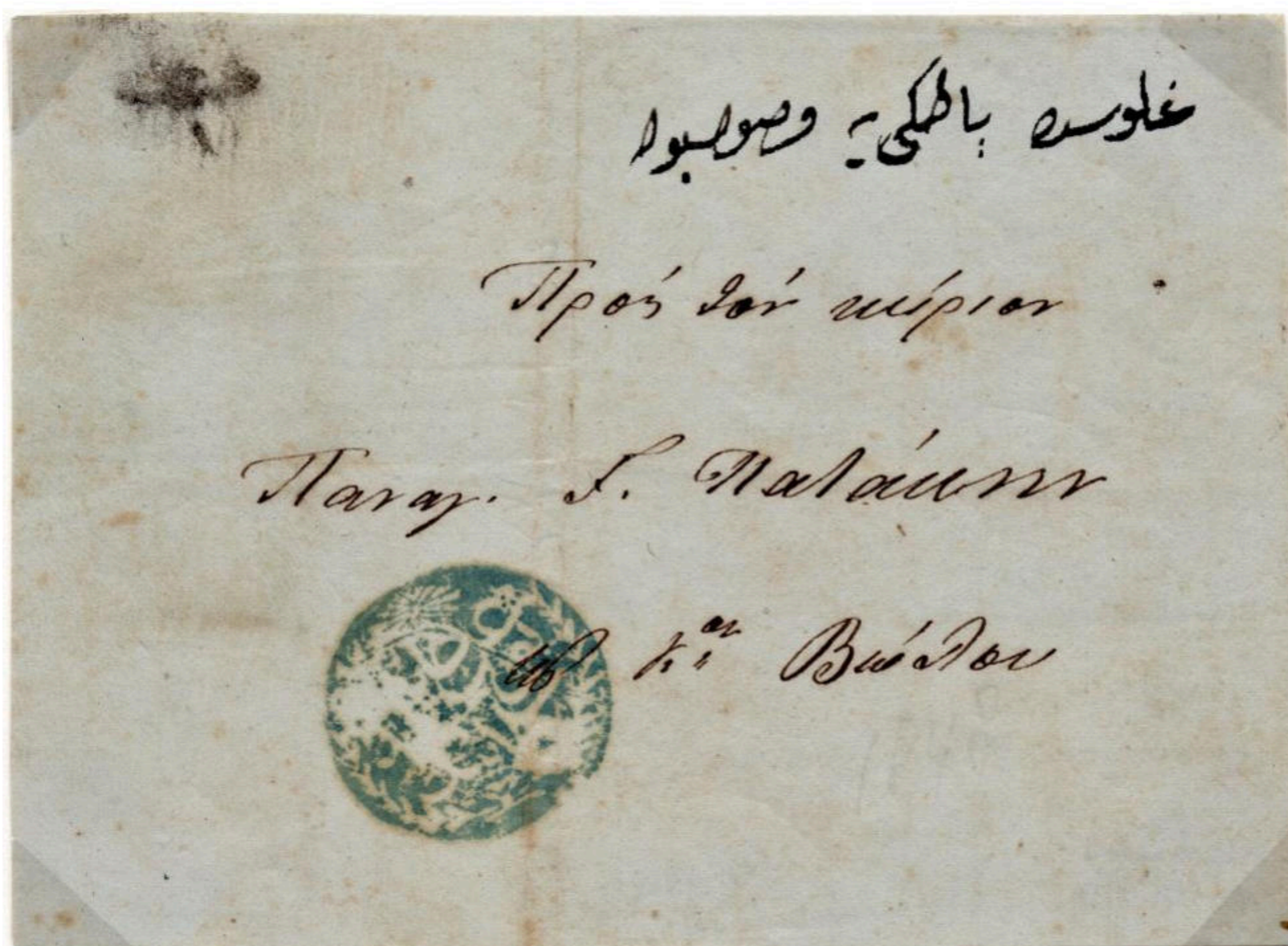
## OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

The first postmark of the Ottoman Post Office of Thessaloniki

Negative Postmark AN CANIB-I POSTA-I SELANIK 1256  
(Post office of Thessaloniki 1840)



I print reproductions of the Arabic inscription Ottoman postmarks, because, many times they are difficult to distinguish



**Thessaloniki 1840:** Front of Folded Letter posted to Volos.

This postmark is usually found on Tatar forms.

On letter, it is very rare: I know of one more letter front and one complete letter (but with a faint strike of the postmark) showing this postmark.

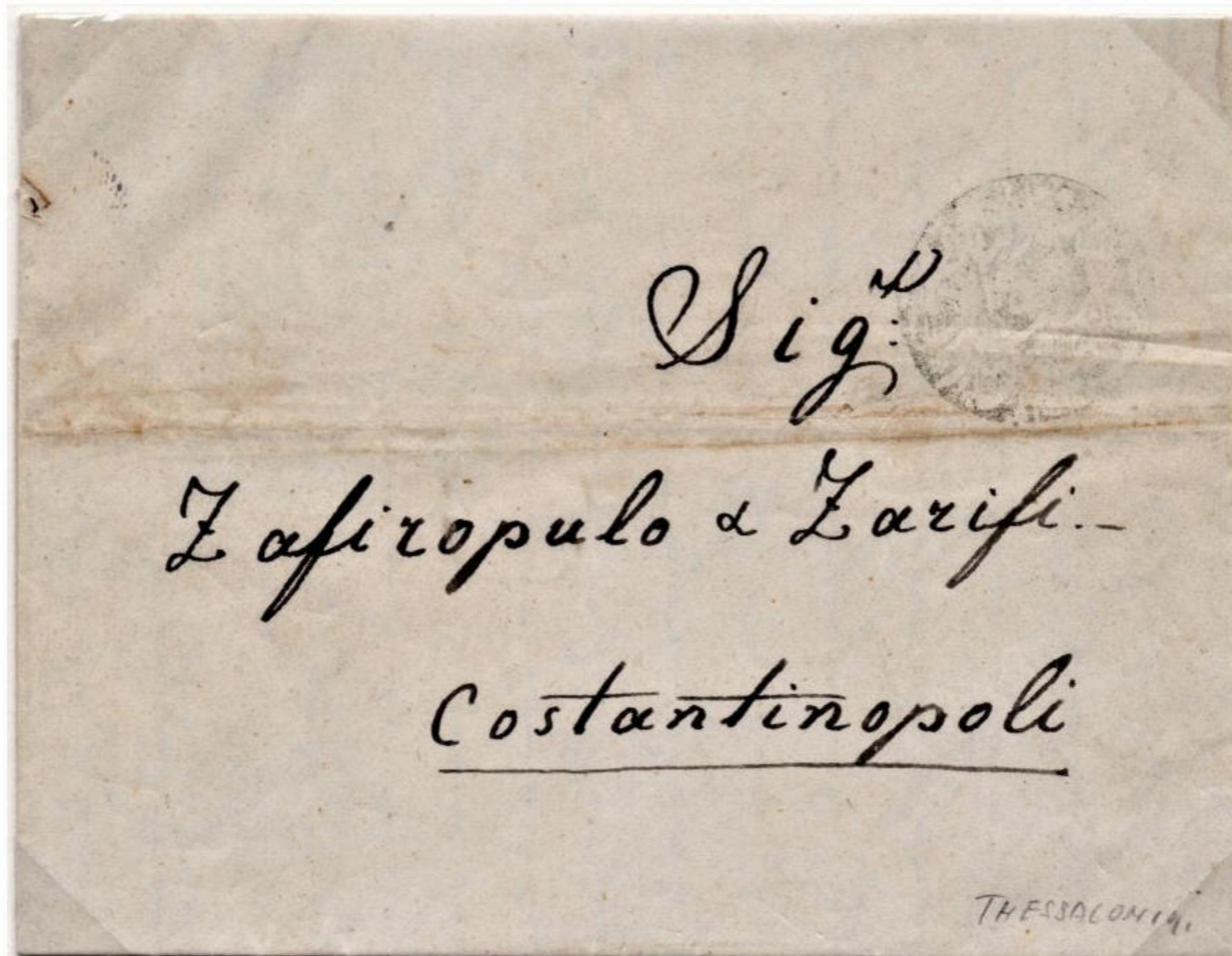
## OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

The Ottoman Post Office began to operate at 1840. The mail services provided were in general unreliable and disorganized, especially in the first decades of its operation. Due to its inefficiency, the Ottoman P.O. was handling mostly domestic mail.

Negative Postmark SELANIKTE KIRASI EDA OLUMNUSTUR  
(Has been paid in Thessaloniki)



Folded Letter posted **April 5 1848** from **Thessaloniki** to Constantinople.  
*Postal Rate: 3 Pia for Weight 3 Dirhems (=9.92 gr) and 6x16 Route Hours*

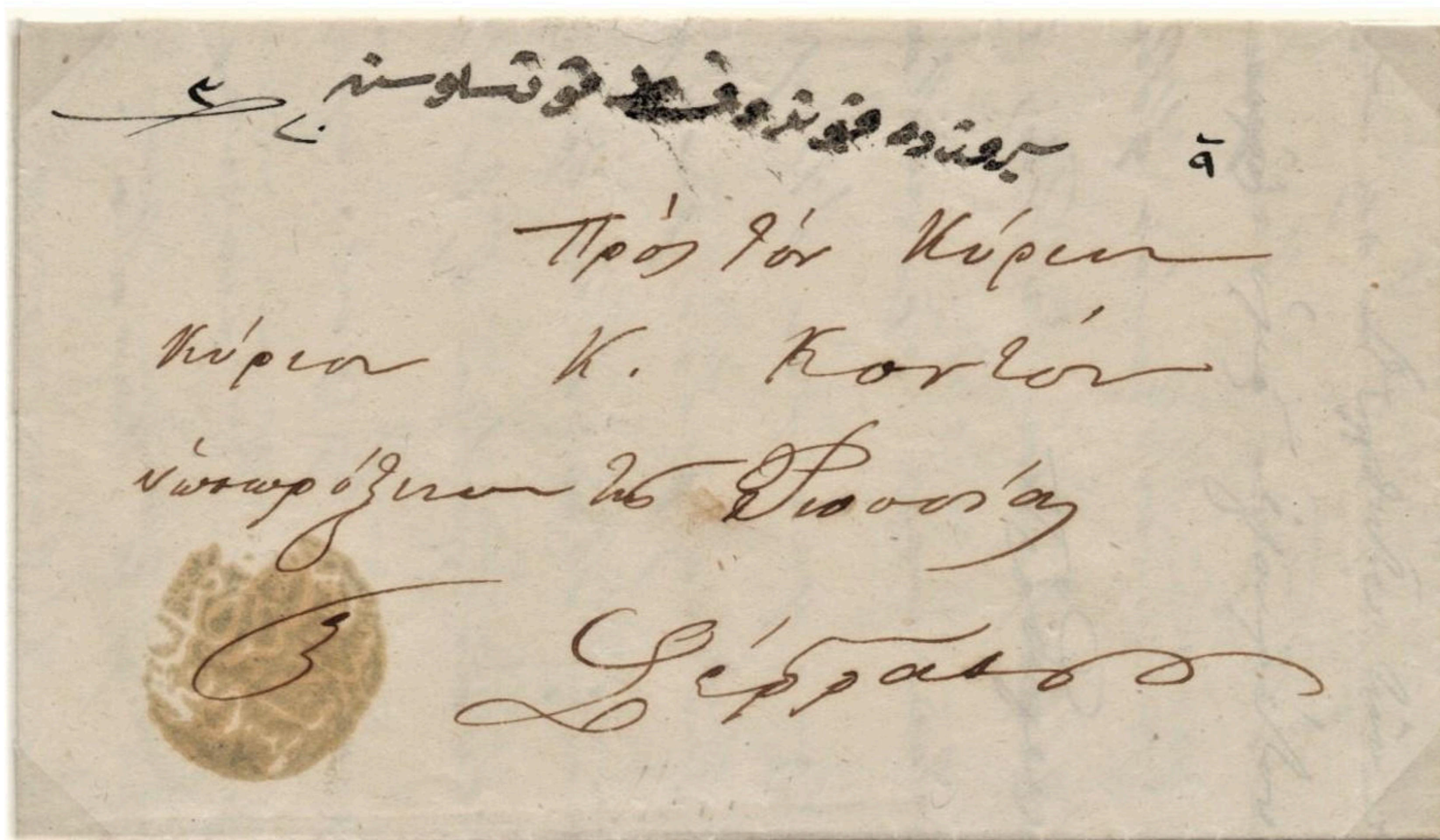


Folded Letter posted **August 4 1848** from **Thessaloniki** to Constantinople,  
*No sign of Postal Rate paid.*

Two out of 4 known letter showing this Postmark, all of them of the same correspondence.

## OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

Negative Postmark AN CANIBI POSTAHANESI SELANIK  
(Central post office Thessaloniki) 1860



Folded Letter posted **Jan. 11 1860 from Thessaloniki**, to the sub-consul of Russia in Siroz (Serres), Jan. 13 arrival.

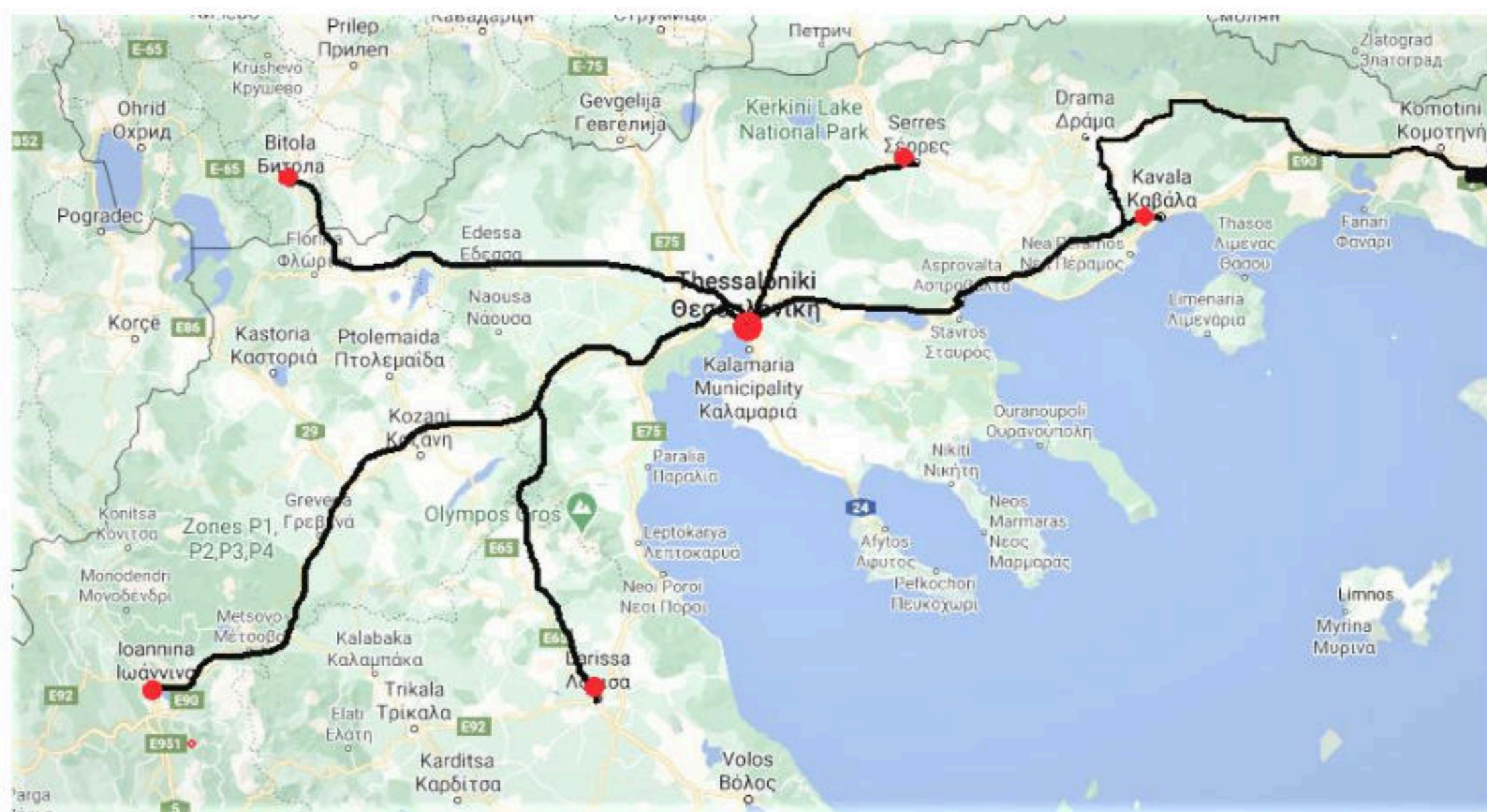
*Postal Rate: 20 Paras for Weight 3 Dirhems (=9.92 gr) and 16 Route Hours*

One of two letters, known to exist with this Postmark.



OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

The Tatar Post Itineraries



to Constantinople

Tatar Form

For mail from Thessaloniki to Monastir (1842)

Negative Postmark AN CANIB-I POSTA-I SELANIK 1258

Postmark TYPE 2 of Nicholas-Galinos

<p>سویک بوسته خانه سندن متتر                  بمقتی وصولنده مدیربولنان                  ایسه جدول شهو و خطایه وجدول                  کلور یعنی ایا</p>		<p>ایفخه                  بو حرکت تاتار عن یوسینه خانه                  کلور یعنی ایا</p>	
اوزار	مکایب	نومرو	انواع
مکایب	مکایب	مکایب	مکایب یا خود
وغزه	وغزه	وغزه	وغزه
دره	مقدار اشیا	نوع	مقدار اشیا
۴	اسمه	۱	سارک
۴	سارک	۲	سارک
۴	صبر یا تیار	۳	سارک
۴	کتابچه	۴	سارک
۴	نقد	۵	سارک
۴	صداق ریجوه	۶	سارک
۴	ایاق قولف	۷	سارک
۴	ایاقی بس	۸	سارک
۴	تاسطاسه	۹	سارک
۴	معدوم ادواریه	۱۰	سارک
۵	اسمه یا تیار	۱۱	مخبریه
۴	سارک	۱۲	مخبریه

Tatar Post Journal from Thessaloniki, cancelled with Negative Postmarks of Thessaloniki and Monastir


OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

Tatar Form

For mail from Thessaloniki to Larissa - Yenisehir Fener (1842)

Negative Postmark AN CANIB-I POSTA-I SELANIK I258

Postmark TYPE 2 of Nicholas-Galinos

<p>سوزك پوسته خانه نشدن بچمه پوسته خانه سنا رسال اولنا          بمنه تعالی وصولند مدیر بولنا نلر حساباره کوزنجه دقت ومیه          ایسه جمله سهو و خطایه وجدول میزانه سهو و خطایه بشقه بش          کلور یعنی ایلک کلور پوسته ایله اشپور</p>				<p>دفعه          یوم حرکت نانا عن پوسته خانه</p>	
				<p>SELANIK</p>	
<p>اوزان          مکتب          وغزته</p>		<p>انواع          مکتب یاخو          وغزته</p>		<p>نومرو          مکتب</p>	
<p>اجرت نقلیه          غیر محکمان</p>		<p>ایستقامت الیلر          نمونک</p>		<p>ایقتر          نوع</p>	
<p>درهم          پارہ          غوژ          مشتع          امانت</p>		<p>مقدار اشیا</p>		<p>غزته          عارس          عونه</p>	
<p>۴          ۴۰          ۰۰          ۰۴</p>		<p>محرمانه          صوبه طاقم نل برنونه</p>		<p>۱          ۵</p>	
<p>اجرت نقلیه          غیر محکمان</p>				<p>انواع          مکتب یاخو          وغزته</p>	
<p>ایستقامت الیلر          نمونک</p>				<p>ایقتر          نوع</p>	
<p>درهم          پارہ          غوژ          مشتع          امانت</p>				<p>مقدار اشیا</p>	
<p>۴          ۴۰          ۰۰          ۰۴</p>				<p>محرمانه          صوبه طاقم نل برنونه</p>	
<p>۱          ۵</p>				<p>غزته          عارس          عونه</p>	
<p>اجرت نقلیه          غیر محکمان</p>				<p>انواع          مکتب یاخو          وغزته</p>	
<p>ایستقامت الیلر          نمونک</p>				<p>ایقتر          نوع</p>	
<p>درهم          پارہ          غوژ          مشتع          امانت</p>				<p>مقدار اشیا</p>	
<p>۴          ۴۰          ۰۰          ۰۴</p>				<p>محرمانه          صوبه طاقم نل برنونه</p>	
<p>۱          ۵</p>				<p>غزته          عارس          عونه</p>	

Tatar Post Journal from Thessaloniki, cancelled with Negative Postmarks of Thessaloniki and Larissa



OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

Tatar Form

For mail from Serres to Thessaloniki (1842)

Negative Postmark AN CANIB-I POSTA-I SELANIK I258

Postmark TYPE 2 of Nicholas-Galinos (in Blue)

انواع مكاتيب		نومرو	انواع مكاتيب		نومرو
يا خود	وسايره	مكاتيب	يا خود	وسايره	مكاتيب
پاره	غرو		پاره	غرو	
		۲۱			۱
		۲۲			۲
		۲۳			۳
		۲۴			۴
		۲۵			۵
		۲۶			۶
		۲۷			۷
		۲۸			۸
		۲۹			۹
		۳۰			۱۰
		۳۱			۱۱
		۳۲			۱۲
		۳۳			۱۳
		۳۴			۱۴
		۳۵			۱۵
		۳۶			۱۶
		۳۷			۱۷
		۳۸			۱۸
		۳۹			۱۹
		۴۰			۲۰

ارسل اولنلن مكاتيب وسايره نك ژورناليد  
 دقت و ميزان ايدوب سهو و خطاسو  
 لهو و خطاير بشقه بشقه اشعار ايليو  
 ژورنالي اعاده ايليه لسر

نمونه لك  
 اشيا

ههجه باجه  
 مونسرند و نكرگاه  
 اندي با ايفونو  
 مستق  
 بافد صلدم  
 فان آندتم  
 همدان  
 قدا لدم  
 اساندر و فاباس  
 نيانده و دنقوم  
 انه با ايفوندم  
 ههجه باجه  
 مونسرند و نكرگاه  
 وانلز قدا ايفوندم  
 دنكرسي قدا ايفوندم  
 ارصانني  
 بنفوندم  
 فطره دنفوندم  
 ههجه باجه  
 قدا ايفوندم

جمع بكون اجرت

اشبوژورنال  
 ايج

جدول سهو و خطا  
 غير مجله ارسال  
 اولنق ايجون  
 امانت مشع  
 امانت

در اوله




Tatar Post Journal from Serres to Thessaloniki, cancelled with Negative Postmarks of Thessaloniki and Serres

OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

Tatar Form

For mail from Cavalla to Thessaloniki (1849)

Negative Postmark AN CANIB-I POSTA-I SELANIK

Postmark TYPE 1 of Nicholas-Galinos

قولہ پوستہ خانہ سندن سلاسلک پوستہ خانہ سنہ ارشاد اولنان مکاتب و نشانک زونالید  
 بنما وصولندہ مدیر بولناندر حسابله کوزجه دقت و میزان ایدوب سهو و خطاسی بنوریه  
 جدول سهو و خطایه وجدول میزان سهو و خطانہ بشقه بشقه اشعار ایلوب بعد از اول  
 کلور یعنی ایلک کلور پوسته ابله اشبور زورنالی اعاده ایلبلر

رقعه  
 بوم حرکت تا تار عن جانب پوسته تا  
 ۱۶ ایلول

نومرو	انواع	مکاتب	یا خود	رقعه	فونیک	اسیامر الینیر	اوزان	مکاتب	و غرنه	درهم	پاره	غروش	مشمع	امانت	غیر محله ارشاد	اولنق ایچون	جدول سهو و خطا
۰۰۱	عاری					یه صیصی سلیمان اخابه	۰۰۴										
۰۰۲	مکونه					بودغن مرفومه	۰۰۴										
۰۰۳	عاری					مال کاتبی عبدالرضی اعلی	۰۰۴										
۰۰۴	عاری					دوم نیضوله بازرکانه	۰۰۴										
۰۰۵	عاری					ظفراتی طولاریک	۰۰۴										
۰۰۶	عاری					قومیا نه صراف کیر فونک	۰۰۴										
۰۰۷	عاری					یوزباشی یحیی اخابه	۰۰۴										
۰۰۸	عاری					مدیر الاهی محمد بک	۰۰۴										
۰۰۹	عاری					الینوز فونک لونه	۰۰۴										
۰۱۰	نعره					غماخ اخابه	۰۰۴										

۱۸۴۹  
 ۱۶ ایلول  
 تا رنجی و صیصی سلیمان اخابه  
 اشبور زورنالی اعاده ایلبلر

Tatar Post Journal from Cavalla to Thessaloniki, cancelled with Negative Postmarks of Thessaloniki and Cavalla.



# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

## Austrian PO: SALONICH

During the 1830s and 1840s, the Austrian P.O. was the Dominant P.O. of the town, using mostly the land route, via Serres, Sofia, Belgrade. In the 1850s, it lost its dominant position, in favor of the French P.O., mostly because of the ships of "Messageries Imperial".

It was only the third post office in Thessaloniki to introduce the use of stamps.

The usage of Lombardo-Veneto stamps was authorized by the Austrian Postal Administration, on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863, initially only for the Alexandria Post Office.

In Thessaloniki, the use of Lombardo-Veneto stamps was only authorized from July 1864.

The Arms 1863 Perforated 14 issue had a very limited use in Thessaloniki, because, by autumn 1864, it had been replaced by the Perforated 10.5 issue. Only the 2 Soldi perf. 14 stamps had been used for a longer period (because the 2 Soldi perf. 10.5 stamp had been provided much later – if ever – I have never seen one with a persuasive genuine postmark of Thessaloniki).

Postmark straight line SALONICH with date

The only, known to me letter, letter from Thessaloniki with a 10 Soldi Perf. 14 Franking



**Thessaloniki 1864(Nov. 10):** Entire letter to Udine, franked with 10 Soldi Arms Perforated 14, tied by SALONICH, via Wien 30 Nov., arrival Dec. 2.

**Postal Rate:** 40 Soldi: 20 So for the Levant + 15 So to Wien, Austria + 5 So local service Wien to Udine.

# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

## Austrian PO: SALONICH

Postmark straight line SALONICH with date in 2 lines

A Registered Letter with an "Arms 1864 issue Perforated 10.5" Franking



**Thessaloniki 1865 (Oct. 4):** Registered entire letter (Registration Number 23 in red) to Gradisca (near Trieste), franked with 2x15So+3x5So+10So Arms Perforated 10.5, tied by SALONICH, via Wien Recommandiert (Oct. 12), arrival 14 Oct.

*Postal Rate:* 55 Soldi: 20 So for the Levant + 15 So to Wien, Austria + 10 So local service Wien to Trieste + 10 So for registration.

Ing. Alberto Diena Certificate

# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

## Austrian PO: SALONICH

Postmark straight line SALONICH with date in 2 lines

On "Arms 1864 issue Perforated 10.5" issue

Overland Mail via Wien



**Thessaloniki 1865 (Oct. 27):** Entire letter to Trieste, franked with 2x15 So+5 So Arms Perforated 10.5, tied by SALONICH, via Wien, arrival 9 Nov.

*Postal Rate: 35 Soldi: 20 So for the Levant + 15 So to Austria*



**Thessaloniki 1867 (Dec. 22):** Entire letter to Livorno, franked with 2x10 So+5 So Arms Perforated 10.5, tied by SALONICH, arrival 8 Jan. 1868.

*Postal Rate: 25 Soldi: The new Postal Treaty of 1867 between Austria and Italy unified the postal rate to 15 Kreuzer, resulting in a Levant to Italy rate, for overland mail, of 25 Soldi.*

Dr. Ferchenbauer Certificate

# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

## French PO: SALONIQUE

The French P.O. was the first to introduce the use of stamps in Thessaloniki.

A very early (1858) letter with stamps, from Thessaloniki

The use of stamps by the French Post Office of Thessaloniki started by 1858 (although I know about the existence of a letter dated 27 Dec. 1857), first of all post offices of the town.

Nevertheless, I have the opinion that, until 1860, the use of stamps was quite uncommon and elusive: in 30 years of collecting, I have only seen less than 10 letters franked with French Empire stamps dated 1858 or 1859, while I have seen hundreds of unfranked letters (with handwritten rates) of these dates. The other Post Offices, Austrian, Greek, Lloyds, and Ottoman introduced the use of stamps after 1861.

Petites Chiffres '4012' numerals (1858-62)



**Thessaloniki 1858 (July 6):** Entire letter to Marseille, France, franked with 1862 Napoléon Imperf. 40 c. + 10 c., tied by Petites Chiffres '4012', "SALONIQUE TURQUIE D'EUROPE" cds, arrival July 14.

*Postal Rate: 50c. Single rate from the Levant to France*

And the earliest, known to me, use of an envelope from Thessaloniki



**Thessaloniki 1861 (May 28):** Small cover to St. Andrews in Scotland, franked with Napoléon imperf. 3x40 c., tied by Petites Chiffres '4012', "SALONIQUE TURQUIE D'EUROPE" cds, via Les Dardanelles, Marseille, London, arrival June 8.

*Postal Rate: 120c. rate for weight 7.5 to 10 g (1.5 single).*

# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

## French PO: SALONIQUE

From the late 1850s and during the 1860s, the French P.O. is the Dominant P.O. of the town, mostly because of the ships of "Messageries Imperial", which included Thessaloniki in their regular itineraries.

Petites Chiffres '4012' numerals (1859-62)

Used on French Imperforate "Napoleon Empire" stamps



**Thessaloniki 1861 (Oct. 1):** Entire letter to Livorno, franked with Napoléon imperf. 2x40 c., tied by Petites Chiffres '4012', "SALONIQUE TURQUIE" cds, arrival Oct. 10.

*Postal Rate:* 80c. Single rate (<7.5g) to Italy.

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1861 is the day of introduction of stamps in Greece (1<sup>st</sup> Day of Issue of Large Hermes Heads). Stamps were already in use in Thessaloniki by then.**



**Thessaloniki 1862 (July 3):** Entire letter to Milano, via Genova, franked with Napoléon imperf. 80c. + 40c., tied by Petites Chiffres '4012', "SALONIQUE TURQUIE" cds., via Les Dardanelles, Genova, arrival July 17.

*Postal Rate:* 120c. rate for weight 7.5 to 10 g (1.5 single) to Italy.



# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

## French PO: SALONIQUE

### RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE AND STAMPS USED

The importance of the Thessaloniki office is confirmed by the large number of stamps listed and used. The Thessaloniki office is only exceeded by the POs of Alexandria and Constantinople. The use of stamps starts by early 1858, first of all post offices of the town and two points can be pointed out: On one hand, and compared to the other offices, it seems that the Salonika office was the one that used the greatest number of 40c stamps from the imperforate issue (1858-1862). On the other hand, one notes in Salonika a significant use of the 20 centimes of the later emissions of the empire. In relation to the total stamps used in each office, Salonika used twice as much as 20 cents as the other four main offices.

### Petites Chiffres '4012' numerals (1858-62)

### A Quintuple Weight letter from Thessaloniki

The largest known Multiple (strip of 5) of 40c Imp. Empire used on a letter from a French P.O. abroad.



**Thessaloniki 1861 (Dec. 31):** Entire letter to Genova, France, franked with 1862 Napoléon imperf. 10x40 c. (Strip of 5, strip of 3, pair), tied by Petites Chiffres '4012', "SALONIQUE TURQUIE" cds. One stamp is obliterated Petites Chiffres 3708 (Dardanelles) because the stamp was on the back and had escaped the 4012 obliteration (i.e. transit of Jan. 2, 1862)

*Postal Rate: 400c. = 4 Fr. QUINTUPLE rate to Italy*

### WEIGHT SCALE of Uniform French rate

For packet rate + French, Sardinian, and Greek internal tariffs

<u>Weight</u>	<u>Rate</u>
0 to < 7.5 g	Single rate
7.5 to < 10 g	x1.5
10 to < 15 g	x2
15 to < 20 g	x2.5
20 to < 25 g	x3 and so on

# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

## French PO: SALONIQUE

### Gros Chiffres '5095' numerals (1862-76)

Used, for a few months on French Imperforate "Napoleon Empire" stamps (withdrawn by autumn 1862) - RARE THUS - and, from 1863 on similar perforated stamps.

### Franked with Imperforate Empire



**Thessaloniki 1862 (Oct. 28):** Entire letter to Constantinople, franked with Napoléon Imperf. 20 c.+ pair 40 c., tied by Gros Chiffres '5095', "SALONIQUE TURQUIE D' EUROPE" cds, arrival Nov. 1.

*Postal Rate:* 100c. Double rate between Ottoman Empire Ports.

### A triple weight letter with a strip of 6 40c



**Thessaloniki 1863 (Oct. 20):** Entire letter to Pisa, franked with 1862 Napoléon perf. Strip of 6x40 c., tied by Gros Chiffres '5095', "SALONIQUE TURQUIE D' EUROPE" cds, , via Les Dardanelles, Livorno, arrival Oct. 29.

*Postal Rate:* 240c. Triple rate (more than 20 g) from the Levant to Italy

## French PO: SALONIQUE

### Circular Date stamp SALONIQUE TURQ. D' EUROPE

(Provided by spring 1862, together with the replacement of P.C.4012 by G.C.5095)

Unprepaid letter to Greece, with dispatch postmark SALONIQUE TURQ. D' EUROPE, franked with Large Hermes Heads on arrival to pay the Postage Due.



**Thessaloniki 1862 (May 13):** Large part of entire letter (front plus large part back) to Syros, via Les Dardanelles (transit May 15), arrival May 16, franked on arrival with 40l. + 10l. both of them Provisional 1st Athens Printing, cancelled dotted 67 of Syros.  
*Postal Rate:* 50L. Single Weight Foreign Letter (30L. Transportation Fee, via the French Ship to Piræus and 20L. Domestic Distribution Fee).

# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

## French PO: SALONIQUE

A tête-bêche pair in a vertical strip of 4 of the 20c 1862-71 Perforated "Empire" Issue

The strip comes from the second printing of the 1862-71 Perforated "Empire" Issue of 1863-64, employing six new plates, the second of which contained a reversed cliché at position 20. So, the strip of 4 includes positions 20, 30, 40, 50.



**Thessaloniki 1865 (Sept 25):** Entire letter to Milano, franked with 1862 Napoléon perf. 20 c. in a right marginal vertical strip of four including a tête-bêche pair, tied by Gros Chiffres '5095' numerals in black, "SALONIQUE TURQUIE" cds and framed PD in black alongside, reverse with Les Dardanelles Turquie (Sept 29) and Napoli transit (Oct 12) cds's, as well as Milano arrival cds's.

*Postal Rate:* 80c. From 1861 to 1865, the single rate from the Levant to Italy was 80 centimes for 7.5 gr. each.

Signed Miro, Enzo Diena and Calves; certificate Roumet

# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

## French PO: SALONIQUE

A well-organized Post Office

Two letters to different destinations, both posted on September 26, 1865 and arrived on October 11!



1865  
Salonique 26<sup>th</sup> Sept  
Alfred A. Abbott

The Sender of the letter was ALFRED ABBOTT, brother of the French Consul, who was assassinated in 1876 by the Muslim mob. The "Consuls' Massacre" is a major incident of the history of Thessaloniki in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Thessaloniki 1865 (Sept. 26):** Entire letter to Avignon, France, franked with 1862 Napoléon perf. 20 c.+40 c +4x10 c., tied by Gros Chiffres '5095', "SALONIQUE TURQUIE D' EUROPE" cds, arrival Oct. 11.

**Postal Rate:** 100c. Double rate (<15g) from the Levant to France



The Sender of the letter were FRATELLI SAIAS. The SAIAS Spinning Factory was dominant in Thessaloniki's seafront, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 19<sup>th</sup> century.



**Thessaloniki 1865 (Sept. 26):** Entire letter to Lyon, France, franked with 1862 Napoléon perf. 40 c. + 10 c., tied by Gros Chiffres '5095', "SALONIQUE TURQUIE D' EUROPE" cds, arrival Oct. 11.

**Postal Rate:** 50c. Single rate from the Levant to France

# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

## French PO: SALONIQUE

Postmark "ITALIE - 1 - SALONIQUE"

Entry datestamp, including the indication of a "1st step" (many entry postmarks in France included steps: 1, 2, 3 and more, as one penetrated further into the interior of the country). In practice, it appears that this CDS was always used on covers destined for Italy in association with the cancellation of the stamps by the G.C. 5095, the known dates ranging from July 1865 to June 1870.



**Thessaloniki 1867 (Dec. 3):** Entire letter to Chiavari, franked with 40 c.+4x10 c.+ 2x20 c., tied by G.C. 5095, "ITALIE - 1 - SALONIQUE" cds, via Genova, Firenze, arrival Dec. 14.  
*Postal Rate: 120c. Double rate (<15g) to Italy, after 1866.*



**Thessaloniki 1869 (April 21):** Entire letter to Torino, franked with Napoléon Laure strip of 3x20 c., tied by G.C. 5095, "ITALIE - 1 - SALONIQUE" cds, via Messina, arrival April 28.  
*Postal Rate: 60c. Single rate (<7.5g) to Italy, after 1866.*

# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

## FORWARDING AGENT in THESSALONIKI: GIOVANNIDI TAVOLARI

Oval marking of the Agent



**Cavalla via Thessaloniki 1864 (April 26):**

Folded Letter posted via forwarding agent in Thessaloniki, to Genova.

The letter was forwarded to Thessaloniki by the Agent.

In Thessaloniki it was shipped by the French p.o.

*Postal Rate: 80c to France.*

# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

## Greek PO: ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

The Greek Post Office of Thessaloniki was relying mostly on the active Greek population of the town, but its operation was in a large degree affected by the unstable relations between Greece and Turkey. Between 1866 and 1869, it ceased operations because of the Greek support to the Cretan Revolution.

Postmarks "98 in lozenge of dots" and ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ (ΤΟΥΡΚΙΑ)  
Used on Large Hermes Heads of Greece



**Thessaloniki 1862 (Aug. 30):** Entire letter via the port of Piraeus to Athens, franked with 2 x 20l. + 2 x 5l. all of them Provisional 1st Athens Printing, showing boxed ΠΕΔ, arrival Sept. 10.  
ΠΕΔ (ΠΛΗΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟ ΔΙΚΑΙΩΜΑ): Fee for transportation paid  
*Postal Rate: 50L Single Weight Foreign Letter*

The Greek Post office was using the Julian Calendar for the dated postmarks, while the Austrian and French Post offices were using the Gregorian Calendar (minus 12 days)



# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

Greek PO: ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

Postmarks “98 in lozenge of dots” and ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ (ΤΟΥΡΚΙΑ)  
Used on Large Hermes Heads of Greece



On Pair 20l. 1872 Printing



**Thessaloniki 1863 (Apr. 21):** Entire letter to Argos Greece, franked with pair 20l. 1862 early Consecutive Athens Printing plus 10l. Provisional Athens Printing, arrival Apr. 25.

*Postal Rate: 50L. Single Weight Foreign Letter*

# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

LLOYD Agency PO: SALONICHIO

Postmark LLOYD AGENZIE SALONICHIO



On 2x3 So Coarse Whiskers, Postmark in Blue

A Double Weight Letter to Constantinople  
On "Arms 1864 issue Perforated 10.5" issue



**Thessaloniki 186.. (June 19):** Entire letter to Constantinople, franked with 15So+5So Arms Perforated 10.5, arrival June 26.

The only recorded, so far, Double Weight Letter of the (rather inactive) Lloyd Agency of Thessaloniki.

**Postal Rate:** 20 So Double Weight Letter between Ottoman Empire Levant Ports : after the Levant rate unification in 1866, only 10 Soldi had to be paid to the Lloyd.

# THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

## Ottoman PO: SELANIK

During the 1870s, the Ottoman P.O. gradually improves its credibility and organization, although it is not yet trusted for commercial international correspondence, but mostly for domestic and official mail.

The first stamps used by the Ottoman P.O. of Thessaloniki, are the Duloz Issues of Turkey.

**Double Circle (small) Postmark SELANIK (12)81 (late 1860s to 1876)**

In Black and in Blue



50%

**Thessaloniki 1874 (Feb.?):** Entire letter to Constantinople, franked with 1 Pia Duloz 1874 printing, to Constantinople. On arrival, it was additionally franked with 1 Pia Postage Due, overprinted "Schehir" of the City Post for Local Delivery and cancelled Galata Feb 23.

**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia for Domestic Single Weight Letter plus 1 Pia for Local Delivery into Constantinople.



50%



**Thessaloniki 1875 (Nov.?):** Entire letter to Constantinople, franked with 1 Pia Duloz 1875 printing, to Constantinople. On arrival, it was additionally franked with 1 Pia, overprinted "Schehir" of the City Post for Local Delivery and cancelled Galata Nov. 11.

**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia for Domestic Single Weight Letter plus 1 Pia for Local Delivery into Constantinople.



## Les Quais et le Débarcadère

The maritime companies Lloyd's, Messageries Maritimes, ROPHT, Khedivial from Egypt and other smaller ones, were, during 1840s to 1870s, the main forwarders of postal communication. The Dardanelles were the central point where correspondence arrived, and letters were forwarded to their destination.

### Postmark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ of the Greek Postal Service



**Thessaloniki 1848 (July 9):** Entire letter to Syros, handled to "Captain S...", then forwarded by the Captain to the Greek Postal Service and sent to Syros Greece, arrival July 17.

*Postal Rate:* 10l. charged (in front) for the Greek Postal Service.

*No compensation for the Captain is shown on the letter.*

## French correspondence before the official opening of the French Post Office through Dardanelles or Gallipoli.

From the late 1830s, the French Post Office - "Administration de Postes" - organized the Levant Maritime Postal Service, with ships going to and from Marseilles and the major ports of the East. Correspondence was usually sent through the Dardanelles. In the last months before the official opening of the French Post, in June 1856, French correspondence from Thessaloniki was forwarded via Gallipoli. The service was taken over by the "Messageries Imperial" and it was successfully organized.

### Messageries Maritimes

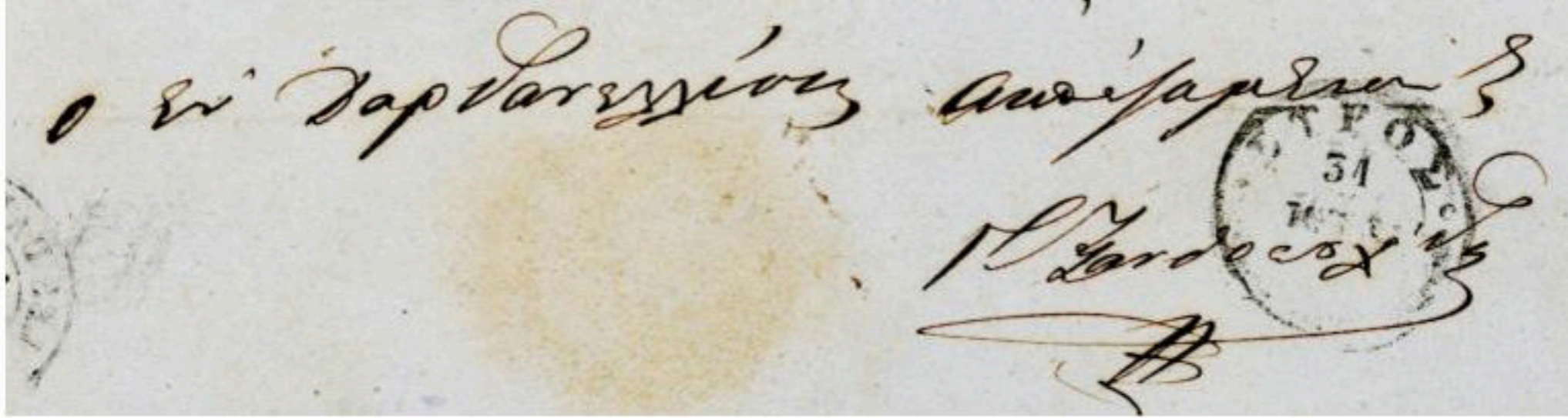
In 1835 the French Government created a state-owned steamship service between Marseilles and the Levant. This continued until 1851 when it was transferred to the management of Messageries Nationales (the state operated road and shipping communication activities). The shipping part of the business was split from the road activities in 1852 under the name Compagnie des Services Maritimes des Messageries Nationales. With the return of the French monarchy in 1853 this became Compagnie des Services Maritimes Imperiales and the company expanded dramatically over the next few years and by 1857 owned 57 ships. After the Franco-Prussian War and the abolition of the monarchy in 1871, the company became Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, usually shortened to MM.



**Thessaloniki 1853 (April 1):** Entire letter via Dardanelles to Marseille, arrival Apr. 16.  
*Postal Rate: 10 Dec for Single Weight Letter charged in Marseille.*

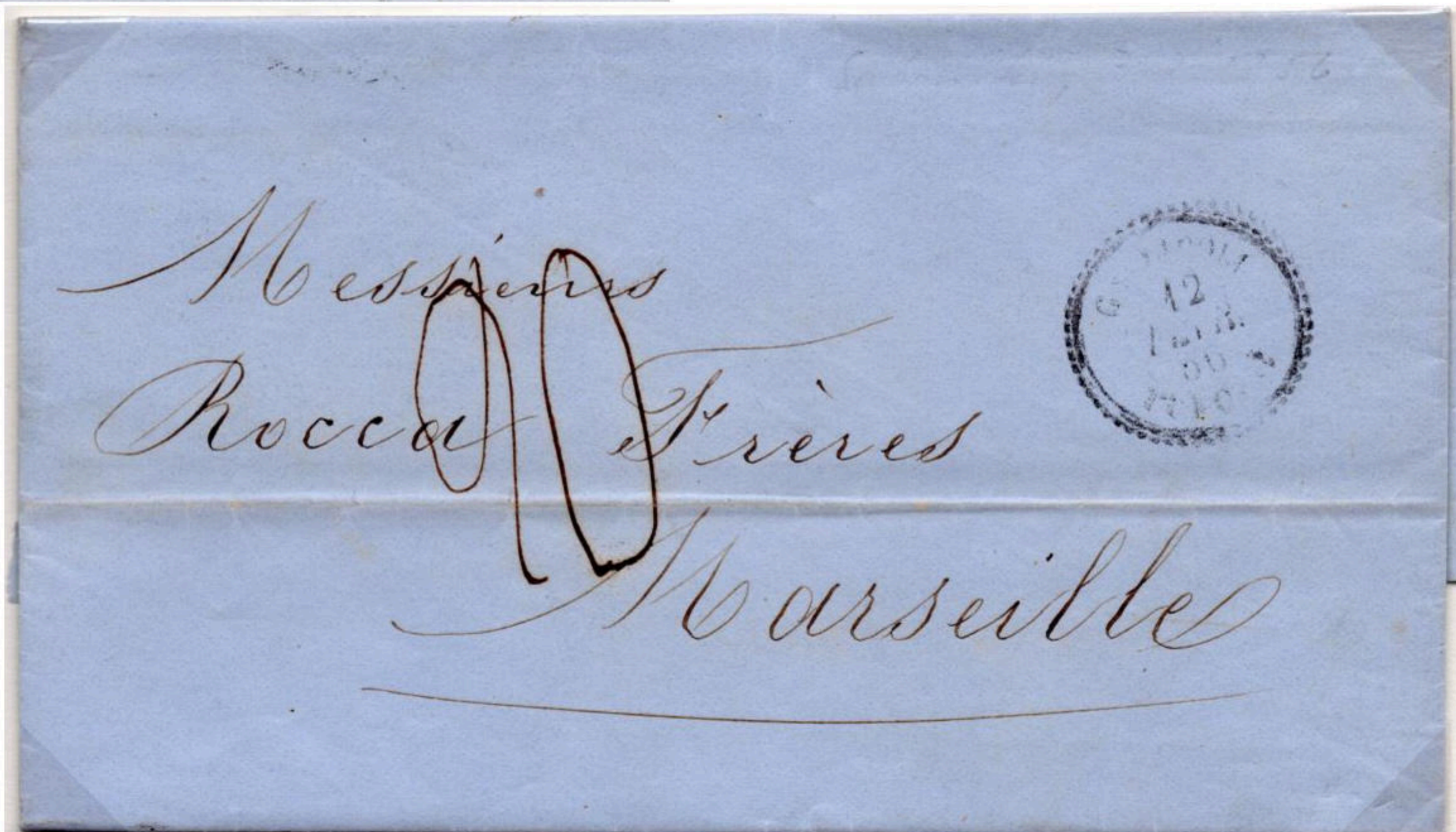
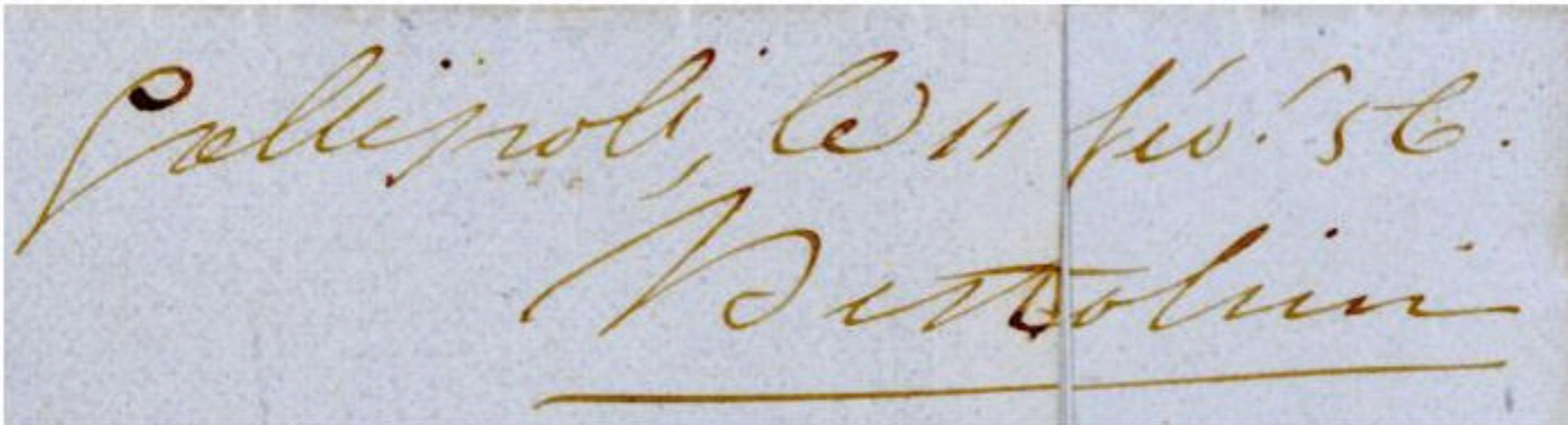
Forwarding Agents in Dardanelles and Gallipoli

Forwarding Agent in Dardanelles: Xanthopoulidis



**Thessaloniki 1855 (Aug. 9):** Entire letter via Dardanelles to Syros, arrival 31 July (Aug. 11).  
*Postal Rate:* 40l. for Single Weight Letter charged in Syros.

Forwarding Agent in Gallipoli: Bertolini



**Thessaloniki 1856 (Feb. 12):** Entire letter via Dardanelles to Marseille, arrival Feb.19.  
*Postal Rate:* 20 Dec for Double Weight Letter charged in Marseille.

## Steamships of French Postal Administration

During this period, the ships of of Messageries Maritimes were accepting postage on board, and they were using as canceller, CDS with the name of the ship.

List of ships of Messageries Maritimes known to have serviced Thessaloniki during the 1850-70s

NAME	BUILT		TONS
Lycurgue	1836	1857 scrapped.	688
Pericles	1852	1871 scrapped.	465
Carmel	1854	1858 on River Plate - Rio feeder service, 1876 scrapped.	932
Euphrate (1)	1854	ex- Menura, built for Australian Pacific Mail, 1854 purchased renamed Euphrate, 1887 scrapped.	1,643
Gange (1)	1854	ex- Black Swan, built for Australian Pacific Mail, 1854 purchased renamed Gange, 1887 scrapped.	1,483
Caire	1843	1866 scrapped.	806
Vatican	1854	1873 scrapped.	466
Tamise (1)	1854	1880 scrapped.	717
Indus (1)	1854	ex- Dinornis, built for Australian Pacific Mail, 1854 purchased renamed Indus. 1884 scrapped.	1,643
Ville de Bordeaux	1855	purchased from Caussac & Vautier, 1855 rammed, sunk Piraeus harbour.	250
Ville de Marseille	1836	Ex Marseille	unknown

### Mail of Ship PERICLES

Pericles was on station at Piraeus and serving Greek Ports from July 1852 to May 1853.



**Thessaloniki 1852 (Aug. 14):** Entire letter to Marseille, arrival Aug. 26.  
 This is the Earliest Recorded Date of Use of the Pericles CDS.  
*Postal Rate: 10 Decimes for Single Weight Letter charged in Marseille.*

## Steamships of French Postal Administration

### Mail of Ship LYCURGUE

Lycurgue was assigned to Piraeus and serving Greek Ports from April 1853 to April 1854.



**Thessaloniki 1853 (Aug. 13):** Entire letter to Marseille, arrival Aug. 26.  
*Postal Rate: 10 Decimes for Single Weight Letter charged in Marseille.*

### Mail of Ship VILLE DE MARSEILLE



**Thessaloniki 1855 (Jan. 31):** Entire letter to Marseille, arrival Feb. 10.  
This is the Earliest Recorded Date of Use of the Ville de Marseille CDS.  
*Postal Rate: 10 Decimes for Single Weight Letter charged in Marseille.*





Gruss aus Salonik.

Mail of Ship CARMEL



**Thessaloniki 1857 (Oct. 27):** Entire letter via Dardanelles to Marseille, arrival Nov. 9.  
*Postal Rate:* 20 Decimes for Double Weight Letter, charged in Marseille.

Steamships of French Postal Administration

Mail of Ship GANGE



**Thessaloniki 1858 (Feb. 5):** Entire letter to Marseille, arrival Feb. 10  
*Postal Rate: 10 Decimes for Single Weight Letter charged in Marseille.*

Mail of Ship EUPHRATE



**Thessaloniki 1857 (Mar. 18):** Entire letter to Marseille, arrival Mar. 31.  
*Postal Rate: 10 Decimes for Single Weight Letter charged in Marseille.*

Steamships of French Postal Administration

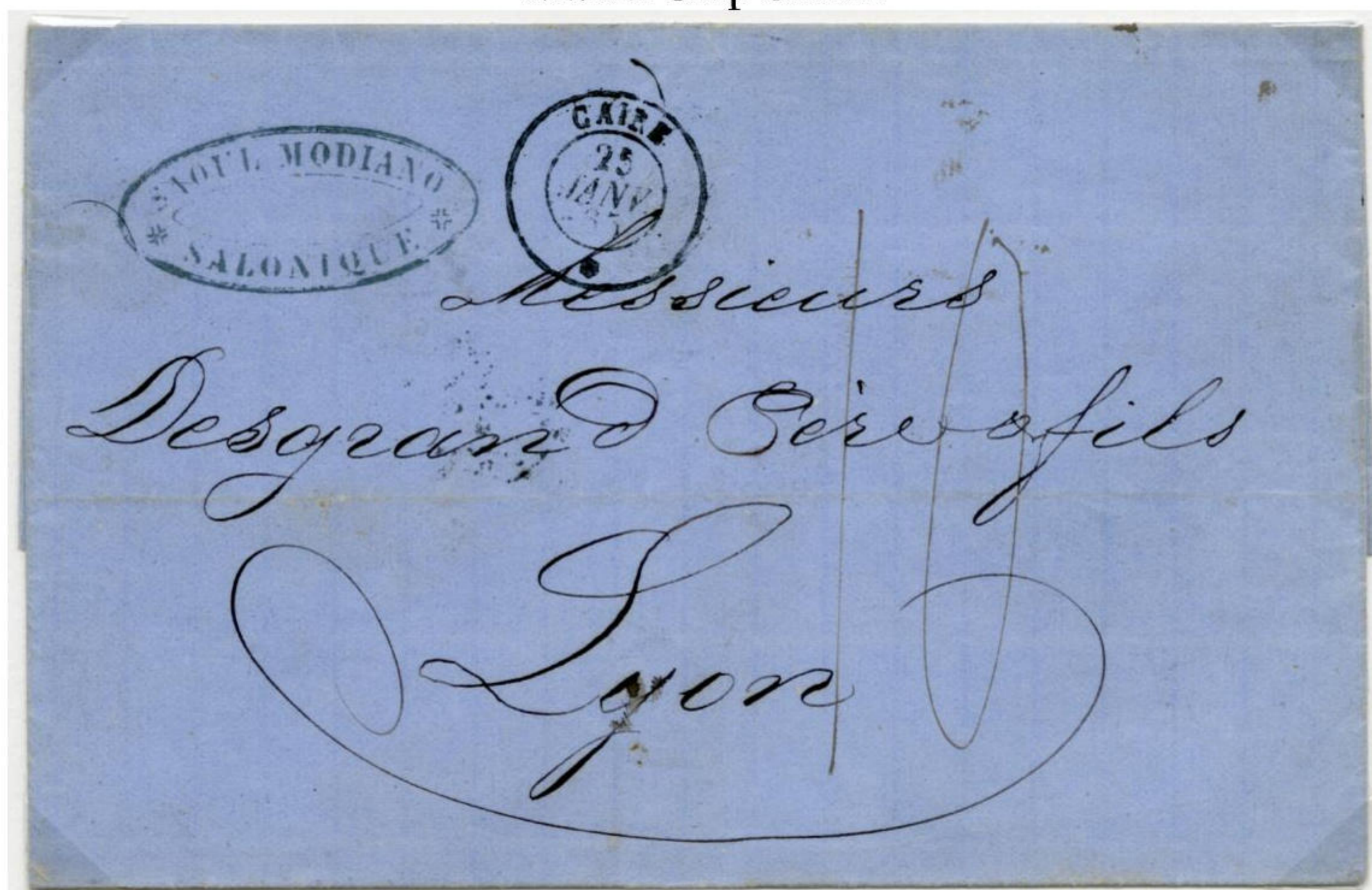
Mail of Ship INDUS



**Thessaloniki 1858 (May 23):** Entire letter to Marseille, arrival Apr.3.  
Postmark in bleu.

*Postal Rate:* 20 Decimes for Double Weight Letter, charged in Marseille.

Mail of Ship CAIRE



**Thessaloniki 1865 (Jan. 25):** Entire letter to Lyon, via Les Dardanelles, arrival Feb. 1.

*Postal Rate:* 10 Decimes for Single Weight Letter, charged in Marseille.

Mail carried by the so-called Thessaly and Levant line.

Before 1874 the service was operated by Steamships of French Postal Administration.

Postmark Anchor

## Mail of Ship VATICAN



**Thessaloniki 1866 (Jan. 23):** Entire letter to Constantinople, franked with Napoléon 40 c., arrival Jan. 25.

*Postal Rate: 40 Cent for Single Weight Letter to Constantinople.*

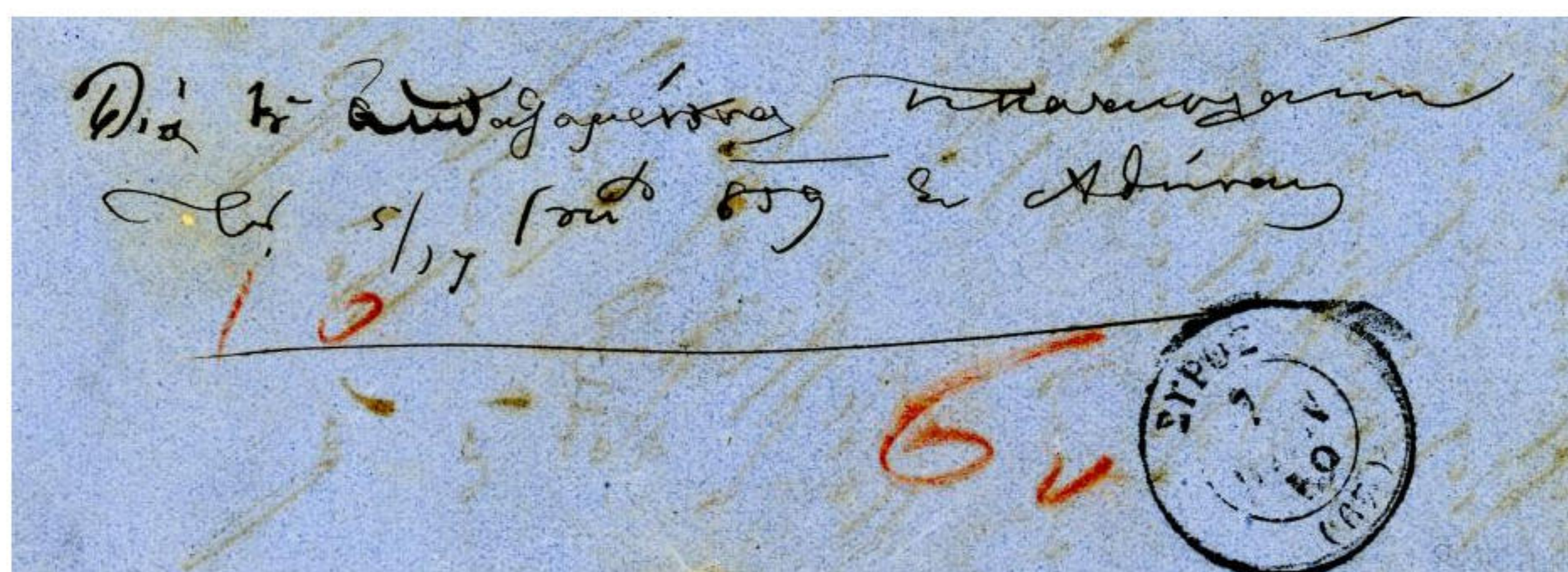
## Mail of Ship TAMISE



**Thessaloniki 1866 (Sept. 4):** Entire letter to Lyon, franked with Napoléon 20 c pair, via Les Dardanelles, arrival Sept. 13.

*Postal Rate: 40 Cent for Single Weight Letter to France.*

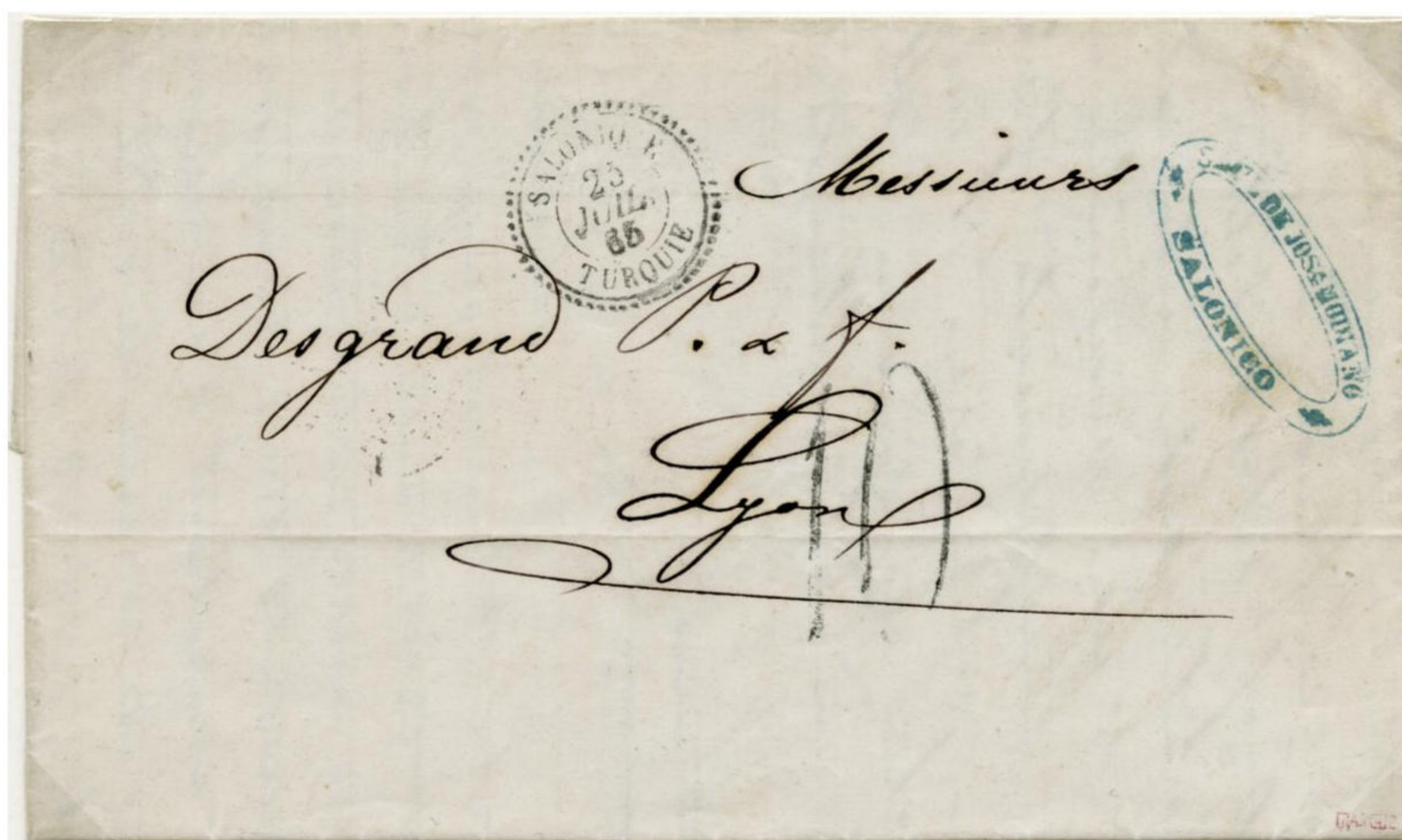
## Forwarding Agent in Athens: Papanikolakis



Detail 100%



**Thessaloniki 1859 (June 2):** Entire letter to Syros, forwarded via Athens, arrival June 7.  
*Postal Rate:* 60l. 2<sup>nd</sup> weight (over 7.5 gr) Thessaloniki to Syros 2x30l.  
 + 1<sup>st</sup> weight (less than 10 gr) Greek Postal Service 10l.



**Thessaloniki 1865 (July 25):** Entire letter to Lyon, via Les Dardanelles, arrival Aug. 2.  
 Without ship's CDS, date stamp SALONIQUE TURQUIE.  
*Postal Rate:* 10 Decimes for Single Weight Letter, charged in Marseille.

Mail carried by the so-called Thessaly line,  
from Istanbul to Stylida, via Thessaloniki, Carizza (port of Larisa), Volos.  
After 1874, the service was operated by Compagnie Fraissinet.

Compagnie Fraissinet was founded in January 1836 in Marseilles by Marc Fraissinet, the son of a Protestant merchant from Languedoc. Fraissinet extended his lines to Naples and Levant, increased the capital of the company and purchased six new ships in 1865. In 1870, Fraissinet owned 20 vessels, operating scheduled lines to Bombay, Malta, Port Said, Constantinople, Italy, Corsica. Due to the Franco-Prussian war, most services were postponed, and several ships were sold. Fraissinet resurfaced in 1874 as *Nouvelle Société Maritime de Navigation à Vapeur (Compagnie Fraissinet)*. The company was granted the postal service to Corsica by the French government, while the existing Levant and Thessaly lines were extended to Palestine and Odessa.

Postmark "MER. MEDIT. CONSTANTINOPLE" (used on this service)



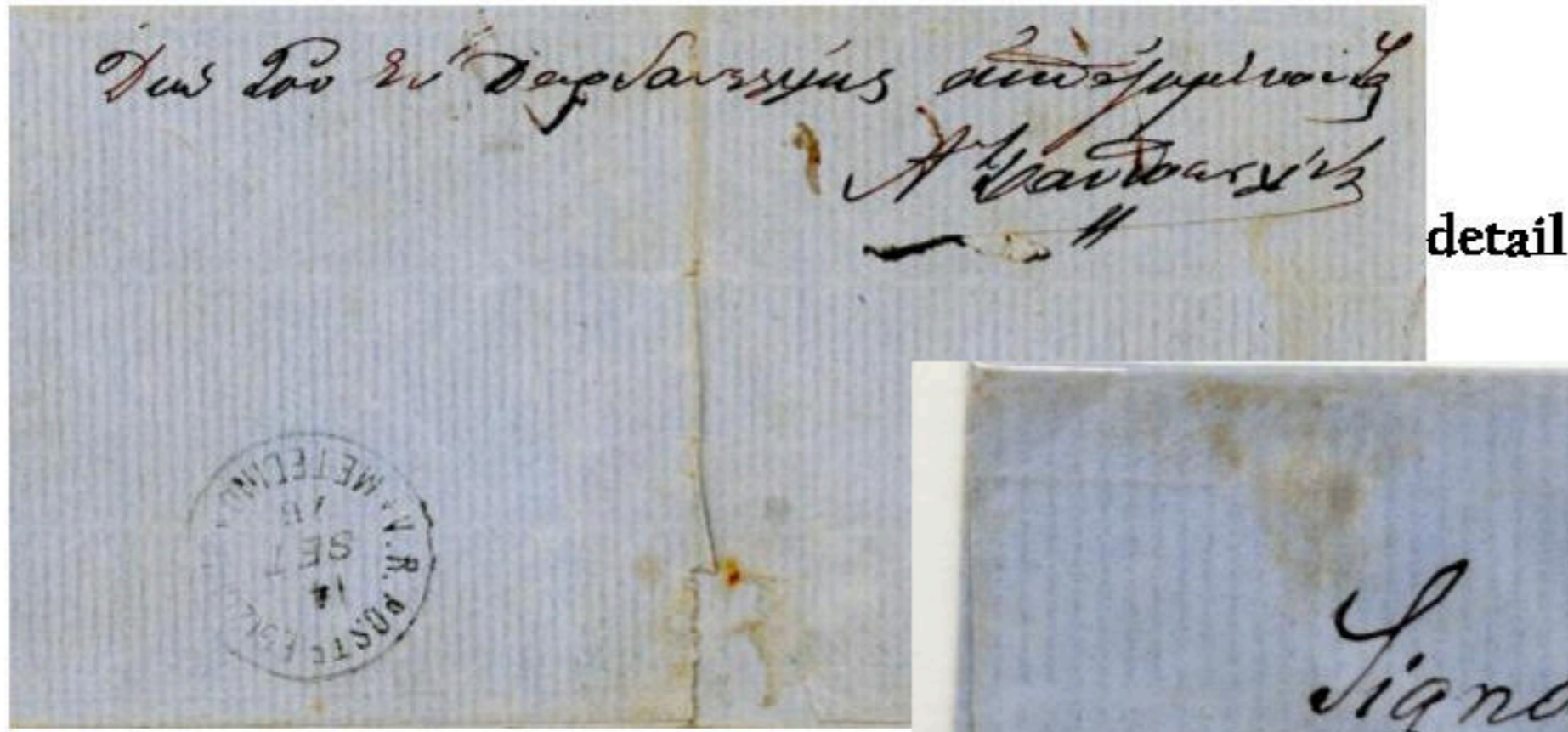
**Thessaloniki 1877 (Mar. 7):** Entire letter to Constantinople, franked 30c Sage.  
*Postal Rate: 30c. UPU single rate.*



**Thessaloniki 1879 (Dec. 7):** Entire letter to Constantinople, franked 30c Sage, arrival Dec. 13.  
*Postal Rate: 25c. Reduced UPU single rate.*

# MARITIME MAIL OF Mid 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

## Thessaloniki to Mytilene: Forwarding Agent XANTHOPOULIDIS in Dardanelles

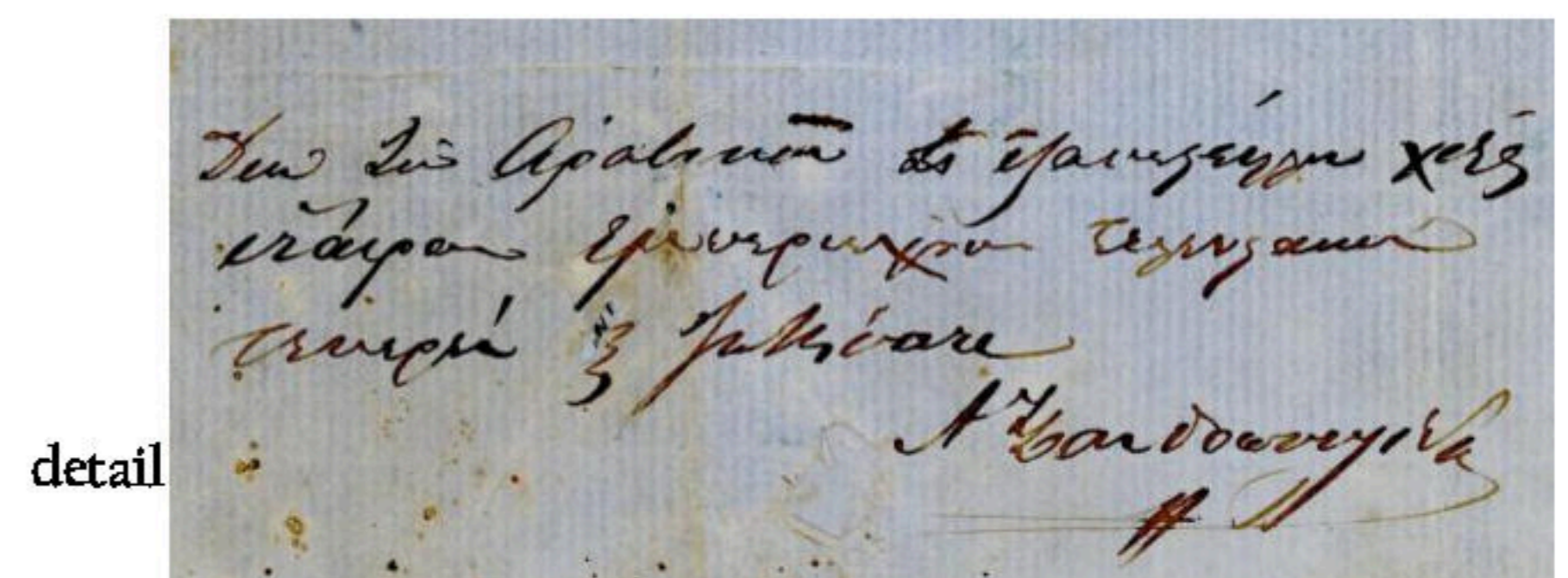


By the Egyptian Post Office: Postmark  
POSTE EGIZIANE DARDANELLI



**Thessaloniki 1876 (Aug. 29):** Entire Letter via Les Dardanelles to Mytilene, arrival 14 Sept (minus 11).  
*Postal Rate:* Charged by Xanthopoulidis 3 Piastres (It is a heavy letter >20gr).

By the Austrian Post Office: Postmark  
IN DEN DARDANELLEN  
+ Austrian Tax Marking "T"



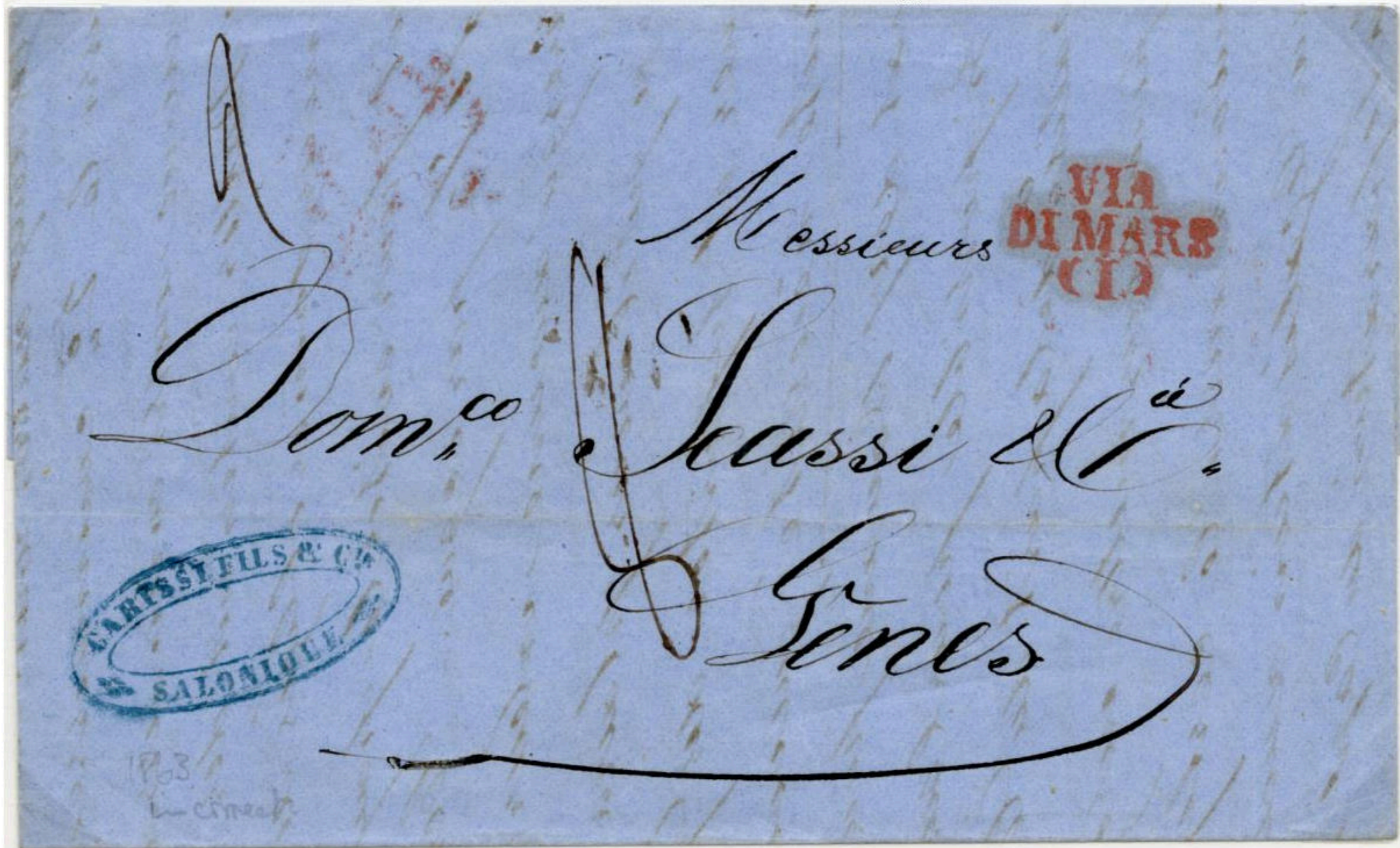
**Thessaloniki 1876 (Sep. 1):** Entire Letter (of the same correspondence, 3 days later) via Les Dardanelles to Mytilene. The Letter (in text) refers to difficulties in direct correspondence between Thessaloniki and Mytilene ("direct letters not accepted"), although both were ports of the Ottoman Empire at that era.  
*Postal Rate:* Charged by Xanthopoulidis 20 Para and taxed in Dardanelles for 10 So (?).

*Although we are in 1876, both letters are NOT treated as UPU Letters.*

# MARITIME MAIL OF Mid 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

Mail carried by steamships of the Austro - Hungarian Lloyd

Postmark VIA DI MARE (I)



**Thessaloniki 1863 (Dec. 9):** Entire letter to Genova, arrival Feb. 17.

*Postal Rate:* 8 + 2 So for Single Weight Levante Letter Rate to Italy.

The Letter was wrongly cancelled on arrival with VIA DI MARE (I), as if it was coming from Italy.

Postmark LETTERE ARRIVATE COL VAPORE DAL LEVANTE  
placed in Trieste



**Thessaloniki 1874 (Feb. 6):** Entire letter to Trieste, franked with 3x5 So (strip of 3).

*Postal Rate:* 15 So for Single Weight Letter Levant rate to Austro-Hungarian Empire.



Load carried by steamship of the Austro - Hungarian Lloyd

The seal of the Lloyd Austro-Ungarico agency in Thessaloniki



li 7 Novembre 1881

vs D. Dare

**l' Agenzia del Lloyd Austro-Ungarico qui**

Cise:

2 Bll pelli per Volos	\$	2,54
3 Colli scope	"	,04
<b>Totale</b>		<b>2,58</b>

per l' Agenzia suddetta

**Thessaloniki 1881 (Nov. 7):** Debit note for the dispatch of two bundles of hides and bristles to Volos, showing the Lloyd Agency seal.

## Donau-Dampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft (First Danube Steamboat Shipping Company)

The D.D.S.G. Postal Agency of Thessaloniki.

A shipping agency of DDSG was opened at Thessaloniki in 1839. It began to accept letters from March 6th, 1839, when the s/s MARIA DOROTHEA started to link Thessaloniki with Dardanelles and from there with the main DDSG Constantinople to Smirne line.

This service ended in 1845 when the DDSG withdrew from the Levant and its services were transferred to the Austrian Lloyd Agencies.

No postmarks of the Thessaloniki agency have been recorded up to now. I know of one letter (and I have heard about a 2nd one), bearing the marking of the ship MARIA DOROTHEA, servicing Thessaloniki.



50%

Doch immer schnellen Absatz bei steigenden Preisen. Noch vor | liche Häfen begeben.

[1534-49]



## Oesterreichische Donau-Dampfschiffahrt.

Linz, Wien, Pesth, Semlin, Orsova, Galatz, Konstantinopel, Trapezunt, Smyrna, Salonich.

Die Preise sind im Tarif ersichtlich.

50 Pfund Gepäcke frei.	}	Von Linz nach Wien (früh 7 Uhr)	} täglich.
		Von Wien nach Linz (früh 9 Uhr)	

Von Wien nach Pesth, so wie von Pesth nach Wien täglich.  
 Von Pesth nach Semlin und Orsova jeden Dienstag und Freitag.  
 Fahrten von Pesth nach Effege einmal in der Woche.

Anzeige für Passagiere nach dem Oriente

Von Wien nach Konstantinopel auf der wallachischen Seite.	}	am 2, 16, 30 Mai	} Die ferneren Fahrten werden später angezeigt.
		„ 13, 27 Junius	

Von Wien nach Konstantinopel auf der türkischen Seite.	}	am 9, 23 Mai	} Die ferneren Fahrten werden später angezeigt.
		„ 6, 20 Junius	

I. Platz: 120 fl. | II. Platz: 80 fl.  
 Preise: Von Wien nach Konstantinopel  
 „ „ Konstantinopel nach Wien 100 fl. | 70 fl.  
 200 Pfund Gepäcke frei.

Wegen Waarentransport, Affecuranzen und der Fahrten der Dampfboote in der Levante bezieht man sich auf die betreffenden Tarife. — Weitere Auskunft und Tarife sind zu bekommen bei Gebrüder Frommel in Augsburg.

[2449] In der C. J. Edler'schen Buchhandlung in Hanau ist so eben erschienen und in allen Buchhandlungen Deutschlands und der Schweiz, in Augsburg in der Matth. Kieger'schen Buchhandlung, zu haben:

# HERMINE.

May 25, 1844 Original newspaper of that era, advertising the services and the itineraries of DDSG, including SALONICH

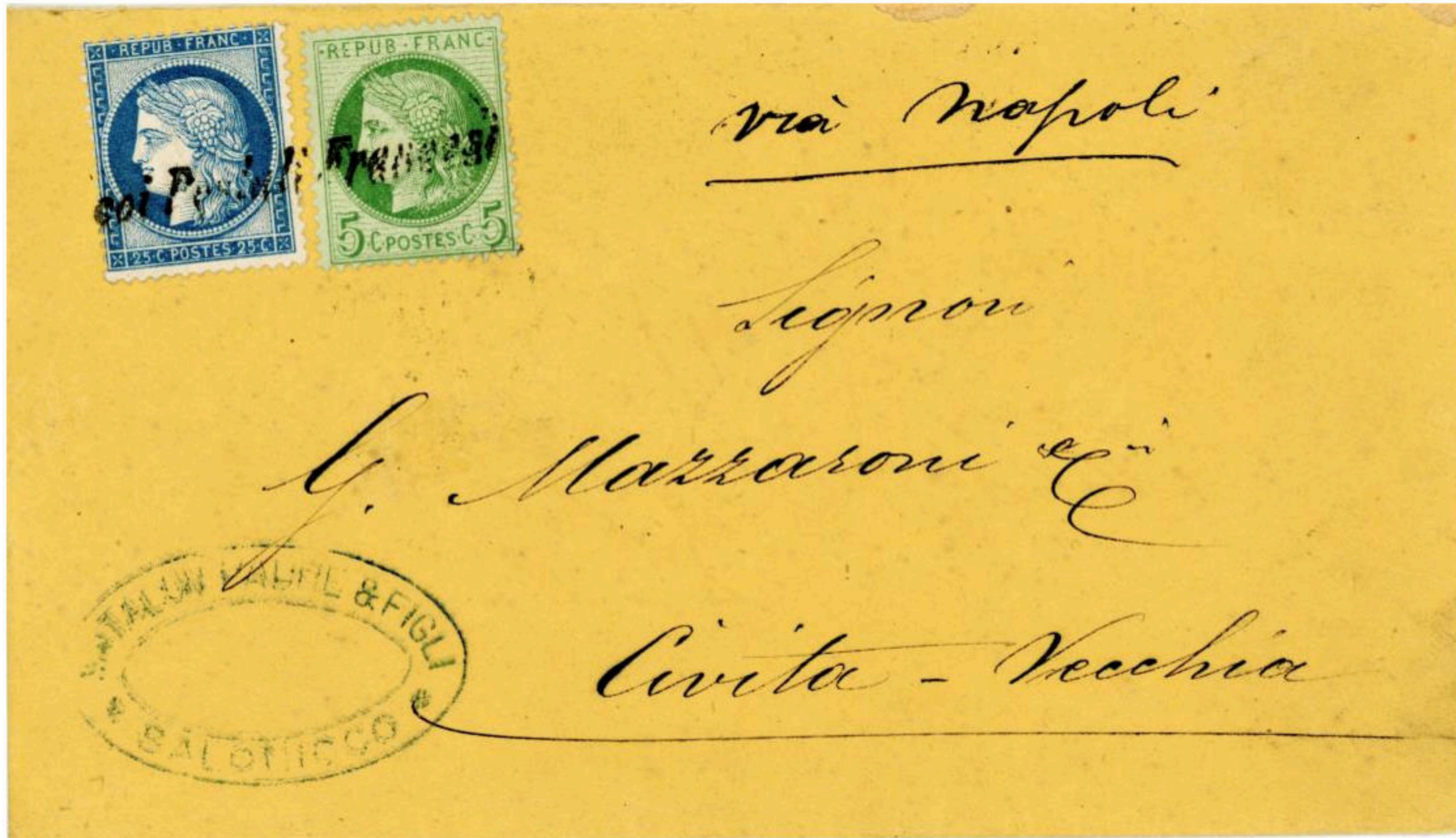
# MARITIME MAIL OF Mid 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

Mail carried by steamships of French Postal Administration.

Linear postmark "*coi Postali Francesi*"  
placed upon entry in Naples.

This postmark was used in Naples, usually to cancel letters from ports, serviced by the French ships but without an official post office, for example VOLOS.

A cover from Thessaloniki given directly to the vessel - the stamps were cancelled in Naples.



**Thessaloniki 1876 (July):** Envelope to Civita Vecchia, endorsed "via Napoli", bearing Cérès 5 c. green and 25 c. blue type III, transit Napoli and arrival July 7, 1876.  
*Postal Rate: 30c Single Weight Letter UPU rate.*

Another cover from Thessaloniki - the stamps were properly cancelled 5095.



**Thessaloniki 1873 (July 8):** Cover of folded letter to Genova, bearing Cérès 30 c., transit Napoli July 14 and arrival Genova July 16, 1873.  
*Postal Rate: 60c Single Weight Letter to Italy (pre UPU).*

# MODERNIZATION OF THE CITY 1870-80

The unique surviving photograph of the sea walls of Thessaloniki,

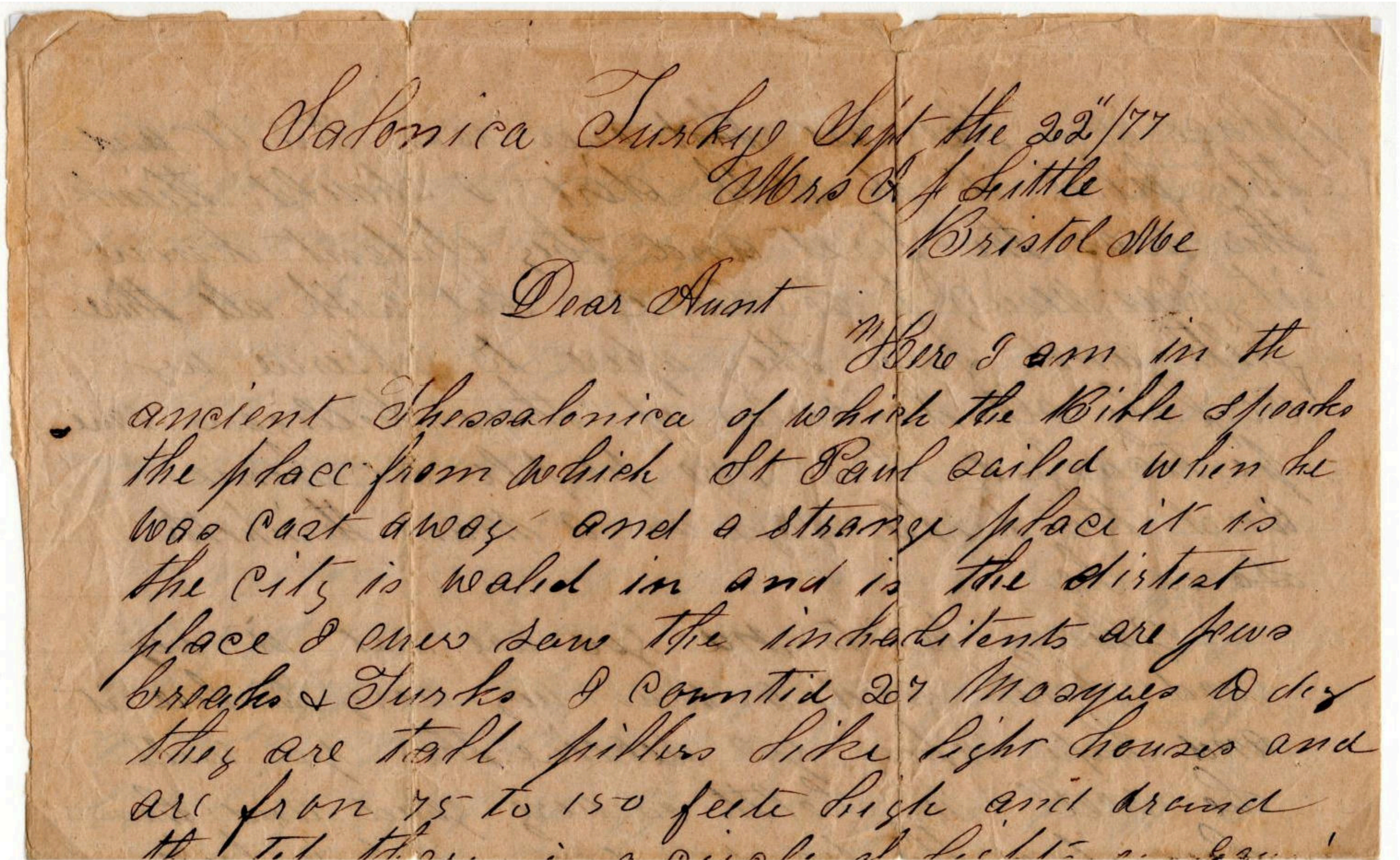
by the Armenian brothers Abdul-Lah, taken from the White Tower around 1866 [Hungarian National Archives]. The city is still enclosed within its walls. After the signing of Hat-i Humayun, who allowed the construction outside the walls of the cities of the empire, Thessaloniki will demolish its sea walls and will extend to the west and, mainly, to the east (district of Exochon).

The progressive local Administration decides to demolish the seaside city walls in 1869. The demolition of the walls will begin in December 1869 and will be completed by the late 1870s.



This was a huge improvement for the cleaning and opening of the city to the sea and the creation of its modernized seafront

A Letter sent on September 22, 1877, from an American Traveler from Thessaloniki to his aunt in Bristol, Maine, USA. The letter describes the city, under Ottoman Rule - in black!!.



"Here I am in the Ancient THESSALONIKA, of which the Bible speaks, the place from which St. Paul sailed when he was cast away, and a strange place it is. The City is walled in and it is the dirtiest place I ever saw. The inhabitants are Jews, Greeks & Turks. I counted 27 Mosques today. They are tall pillars, like light houses, and are from 75 to 150 feet high and around the top there is a circle of lights.... And the Priests go up there and call on all the believers in Mohammed to come and pray, and of all the dismal noises I ever heard, it is the worst. I have not seen but one man here that speaks English, and I can hardly understand him. The city is said to be 2000 years old, and I should think it was, if filth, dirt... is a sign of age. I wish you could see how things look here and see how the men dress. The Turks wear skirts like women, ...."

## AUSTRIAN PO: SALONICH

The 1870s is a decade of steady growth for the town. As a result of the demolition of the seaside city walls, the town cleans up and it is developed into a major commercial port for the interior of the Balkans.

The ships of the Austrian Lloyd start to include Thessaloniki in their regular itineraries. The mail handled by the Austrian P.O. does not any longer travel by land, via Semlin, because of the creation of the new Serbian State. The Austrian P.O. competes again for the leading position in the handling of the town's correspondence.



**Thessaloniki 1871 (June 27):** Entire letter to Ragusa (Dubrovnik), Dalmatia, franked with 15 Soldi (Coarse Whiskers) tied by SALONICH, via Wien, Zara, arrival July 14.  
*Postal Rate: 15So rate for Single Weight Letter to Austro-Hungarian Empire.*



**Thessaloniki 1873 (Jan. 23):** Entire letter to Genova, franked with 2 pairs 10 + 15 Soldi (Coarse Whiskers) tied by SALONICH, via Brindisi, arrival Jan. 31. The Letter traveled by sea.  
*Postal Rate: 46So for Double Weight Letter to Italy (overfranked by 4So).*

AUSTRIAN PO: SALONICH

On Franz Joseph issues



**Thessaloniki 1874 (April 23):** Entire letter to Torino, franked with pair 10 + single 3 Soldi (Coarse Whiskers) tied by SALONICH, via Brindisi, arrival May 1st. The Letter traveled by sea.  
*Postal Rate:* 23So rate for Single Weight Letter to Italy (Convention rate from 1872).



**Thessaloniki 1874 (Sept. 10):** Entire letter to Milano, franked with pair + single 5 + single 10 Soldi (Coarse Whiskers) tied by SALONICH, via Brindisi, arrival Sept. 17. The Letter traveled by sea.  
*Postal Rate:* 23So for Single Weight Letter to Italy (overfranked by 2So).

## SALONICCHI



The first International Postal service in Egypt was Posta Europea, a private company founded by Carlo Moratti an Italian entrepreneur around 1840, Moratti obtained a contract to distribute mail to and from Europe. In 1865 the concession was terminated, and Posta Europea became part of the Khedivial Mail Line, the Egyptian maritime company. G. Muzzi, a relative of Moratti, became General Manager, hence the use of the Italian language as the official language of the postal services of that period. The Khedivial Mail Line established post offices in all the ports of call of its ships. These ports were the following: Alexandria, Port Said, Jaffa, Beirut, Tripoli, Lattakia, Alexandretta, Mersina, Chios, Smyrna, Mytilene, Tenedos, Dardanelles, Gallipoli, Constantinople, Porto Lagos, Cavalla, Thessaloniki, Volos, Syros.

The Egyptian Post Office of Thessaloniki operated for a short period, from July 1870 to February 1872. The stamps used by this office were mainly those of the third issue of Egypt, the cancellation was a single circle with inscription in Italian and the name of the city was misspelled SALONICCHI. Due to the intense competition of the Ottoman, Austrian, French and Greek post offices that were operating in Thessaloniki at the time, the Egyptian post office could not obtain enough business and closed after a year and a half of operation.

The Interpostal Seal of the Egyptian Post Office of Thessaloniki



Mint



As used (attached on the letter fold)

Postmark SALONICCHI on 1Pia, 2Pia and 5Pia



The 5Pia stamp is the only, known to exist, example of this high value with the Thessaloniki postmark.

French PO: SALONIQUE

Postmark 5095 (1862-1876) on perforated Ceres issues



**Thessaloniki 1873 (April 1):** Entire letter, via Napoli, to Livorno, franked with 15c + 25c + 80c, arrival April 8.  
*Postal Rate: 120c for Double Weight Letter to Italy.*

Letter dispatched into the mobile p.o. box of steamship CAMBODGE (Postmark BM in oval: Boite Mobile), cancelled in Dardanelles (Postmark 5084)



**Thessaloniki 1874 (Mar. 30):** Entire letter to Genova, franked with pair 30c tied by 5083, via Dardanelles, Napoli, arrival April 7.  
*Postal Rate: 60c for Single Weight Letter to Italy.*



## GREEK PO: ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

After the temporary closure of the Greek Post Office (from 21-8-1866 to 17-7-1869, due to the support of Greece to the Cretan Revolution), from July 1869, it is back into normal operation. It operates continuously during the 1870s and it closes on 18 November 1881, after the occupation of Thessaly by the Greek Army.

### Postmark ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ (ΤΟΥΡΚΙΑ) on Large Hermes Heads

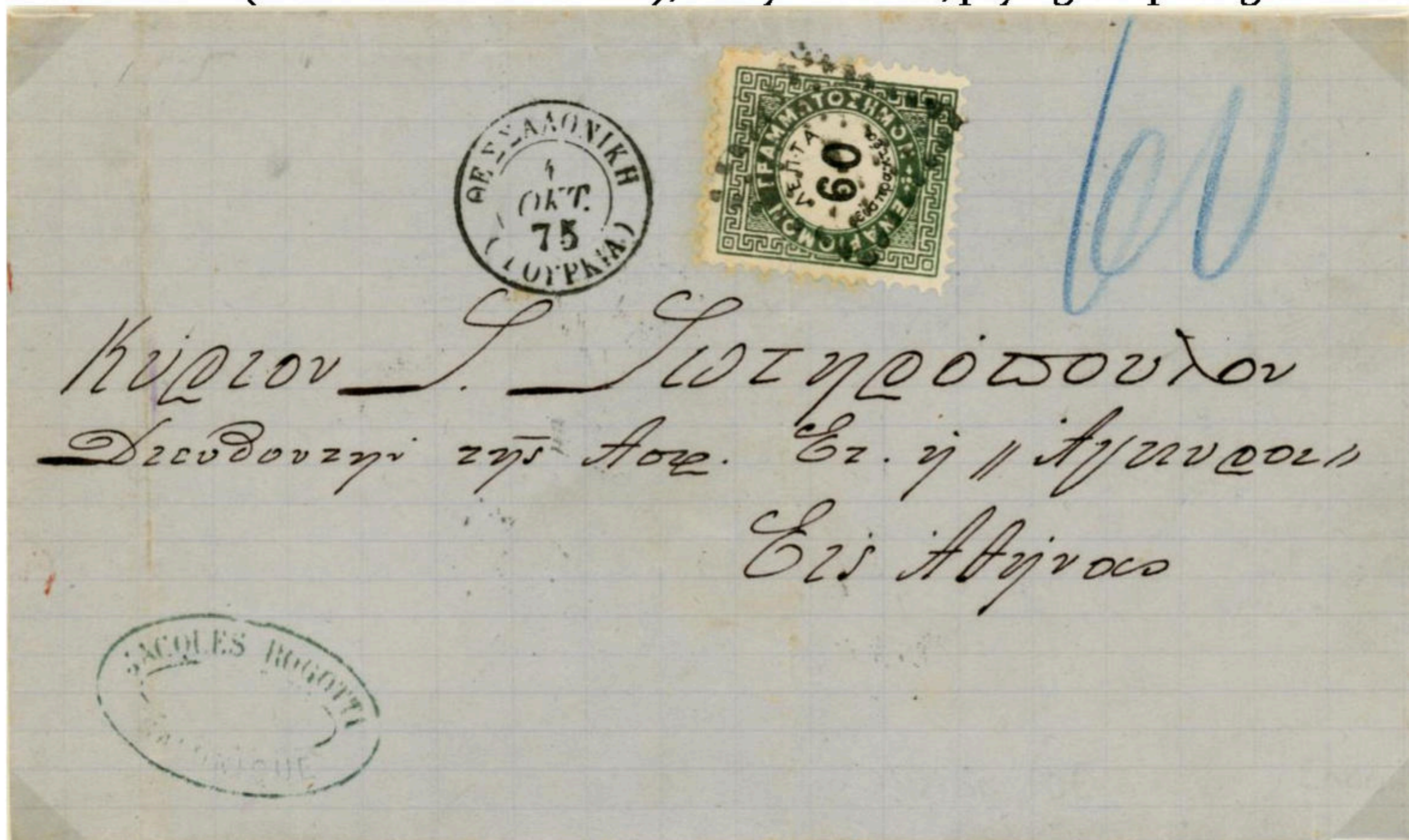
A nice and rare case of use of two exactly similar stamps as Dispatch franking and as Arrival Postage Due franking, on the same letter. Additionally, a mixed franking of Greek Post Offices, abroad and domestic.



**Thessaloniki 1873 (Feb. 8):** Entire letter via Syra, to Athens, franked with 40L. LHH of the 1872 printings, showing boxed ΠΑΛΗΡΩΜΗ ΑΝΕΠΑΡΚΗΣ (Insufficiently Prepaid), arrival Feb. 12. In Athens, the letter was charged 40L. as insufficiently prepaid, and franked additionally with a similar 40L. cancelled dotted 1 of Athens.

*Postal Rate: 80L. for Double Weight Letter to Athens.*

And a similar letter (Thessaloniki to Athens), two years later, paying the postage due UPU rate




**Thessaloniki 1875 (Oct. 1):** Entire letter to Athens, charged 60l. Greek postage due 1<sup>st</sup> issue, cancelled dotted 1 of Athens, arrival Oct. 4.

*Postal Rate: 2x30=60l. Single Weight, Double UPU Rate for postage due.*

Postmark ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ (ΤΟΥΡΚΙΑ) on Large Hermes Heads

Advice of Receipt for a Registered Letter

Αριθ. εντύπου 32.

<p>ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ.</p>	<p>ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ ΤΩΝ ΕΠΙ ΣΥΣΤΑΣΕΙ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΩΝ.</p>	<p>Τοῦ διπλοτύπου βιβλίου ἀριθ. <i>1685</i></p>
<p>ΑΠΟΔΕΙΞΙΣ ΕΠΙ ΕΠΙΣΤΡΟΦΗ.</p>		
<p>Βεβαιῶ διὰ τῆς ἰδίας μου ὑπογραφῆς ὅτι ἔλαβον τὴν ἀπὸ <i>18 Μαΐου</i> 18<i>77</i> ἐν τῷ Γραφείῳ τοῦ Ταχυδρομείου <i>ὑποῦ</i> συγτιθεῖσαν ἐπιστολὴν ἐπιγραφομένην πρὸς <i>τὸν κ. Themistocles Lagounas</i></p>		
<p>ΣΗΜΕΙΩΣΙΣ. α) Ὁ συσταίνων Διευθυντῆς ὀφείλει νὰ συμπληρῇ τὴν παροῦσαν ἀπόδειξιν. β) Ὁ παραλαμβάνων ὀφείλει νὰ προσθέτῃ τὴν χρονολογίαν καὶ τὴν ὑπογραφήν του.</p>	<p>Ὁ παραλαβὼν <i>Themistocles Lagounas</i> </p>	
<p>Ἡ παροῦσα θέλει ἐπιστρέφασθαι διὰ τοῦ πρώτου Ταχυδρομείου εἰς τὸ Γραφεῖον.</p>		

**Thessaloniki 1877 (May 21).** Advice of Receipt for a registered letter delivered at the Syros P.O., on May 18, 1877 to Themistoclis Lagounas, who signed the Receipt. The Receipt was posted back to the sending P.O. (the Greek Post Office of Thessaloniki), where a 20 Lepta Fee was collected and the representing LHH stamp was cancelled ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ (ΤΟΥΡΚΙΑ), 21 May 1877.

Postal Rate: 20L. for Advice of Receipt.



# THE OTTOMAN BANKRUPTCY OF 1876

During the Crimean War (1853-1856), the Ottoman Empire borrowed for the first time from European banks. About twenty years later, in 1876, the country would declare a moratorium on payments. In 1881 a committee of seven representatives of the lending countries would be set up in all the key ministries to collect direct state revenue to service the debt (salt and tobacco monopolies, taxes on stamps, alcohol, fisheries and silk, taxes on the subjugation of Bulgaria and Egypt, etc.).

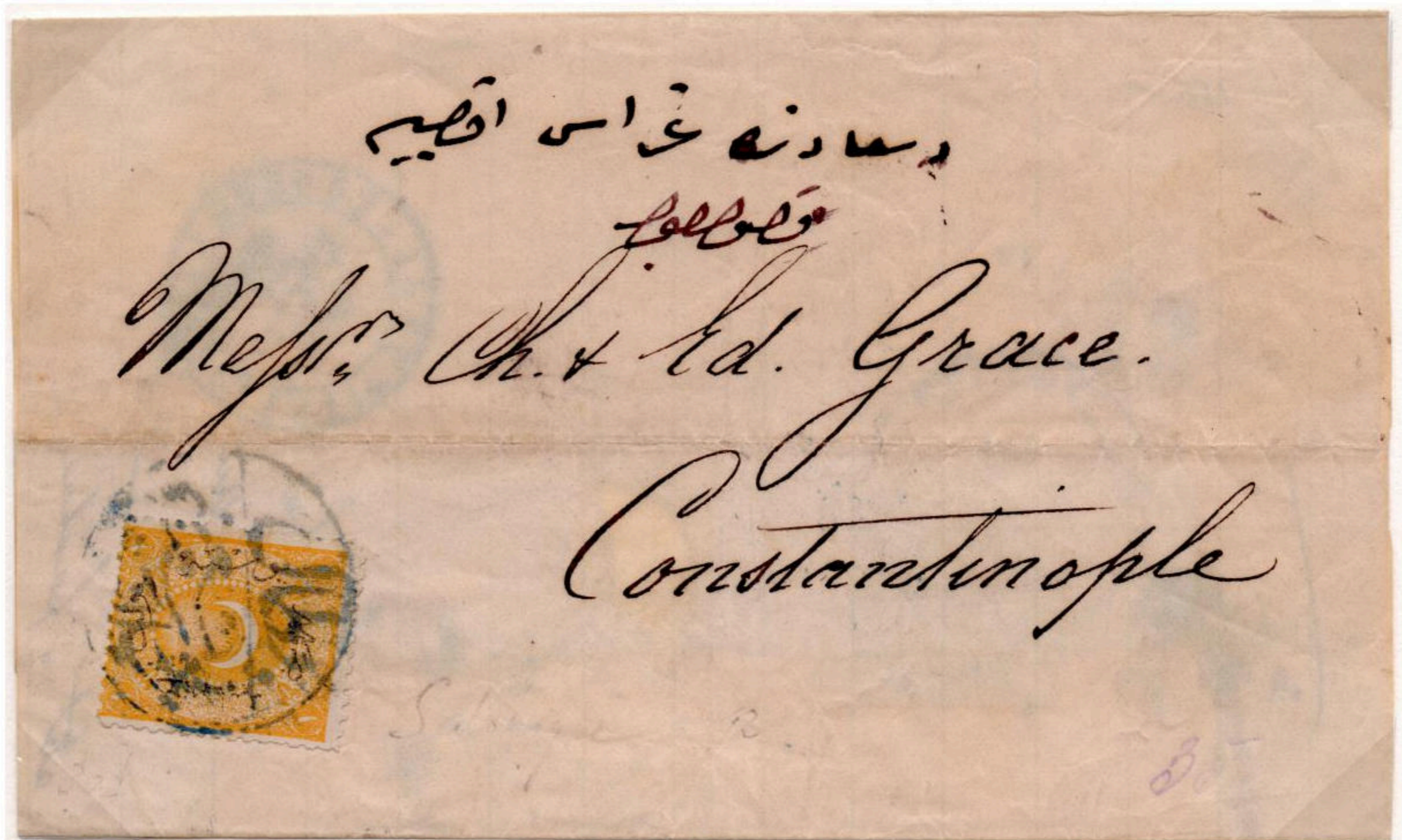
It is the infamous Conseil d'Administration de la Dette Publique Ottomane, which also had a branch in Thessaloniki. After the imposition of the terms of the lenders, the country entered a deep economic crisis, the consequence of which is the reasonable reduction of all financial and commercial activities in Thessaloniki, which will not be overcome until late 1880s.



As a result, the main foreign post offices show a significant reduction in their activity. Only the Ottoman Post Office seems to be reorganized under the direction of Dette Publique.

## Ottoman PO: SELANIK

The Arabic inscription postmarks of Thessaloniki  
Single Circle Postmark BATTAL POSTA SUBESI SELANIK 93 (1877)



**Thessaloniki 1877 (Oct.).** Entire letter to Constantinople, franked with 1 Pia Duloz 1874 printing. On arrival, it was additionally franked with 1 Pia Duloz 1876 printing, overprinted "Schehir" of the City Post for Local Delivery and cancelled Galata Nov. 11.

**Postal Rate:** 1 Pia for Domestic Single Weight Letter plus 1 Pia for Local Delivery into Constantinople.

No more than 2 or 3 letters are known with this postmark.

Ottoman PO: SELANIK

The Arabic inscription postmarks of Thessaloniki

Double Circle Postmark SELANIK (1875-80)



**Thessaloniki 1877 (Oct.)**. Entire letter to Constantinople, franked with 1 Pia Duloz 1874 printing. On arrival, it was additionally franked with 1 Pia Duloz 1876 printing, overprinted "Schehir" of the City Post for Local Delivery and cancelled Galata Nov. 11.

*Postal Rate: 1 Pia for Domestic Single Weight Letter plus 1 Pia for Local Delivery into Constantinople.*

The Senders of the letter are the ALLATINI BROTHERS. Allatini is the name of a historic flour milling company, founded in 1858 by Moses Allatini and his brother, in Thessaloniki, Greece. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 19th century, the Allatini family founded the famous Allatini flourmills, in a large industrial area of the city, near Kalamaria.





Ottoman PO: SELANIK

The Arabic inscription postmarks of Thessaloniki

Rectangular Postmark SELANIK 302 (1887-88)



Thessaloniki 1887 (June 22). Cover to Constantinople, franked with 20 Pa Empire, arrival June 24.  
Postal Rate: 20 Pa for Domestic Single Weight Letter.



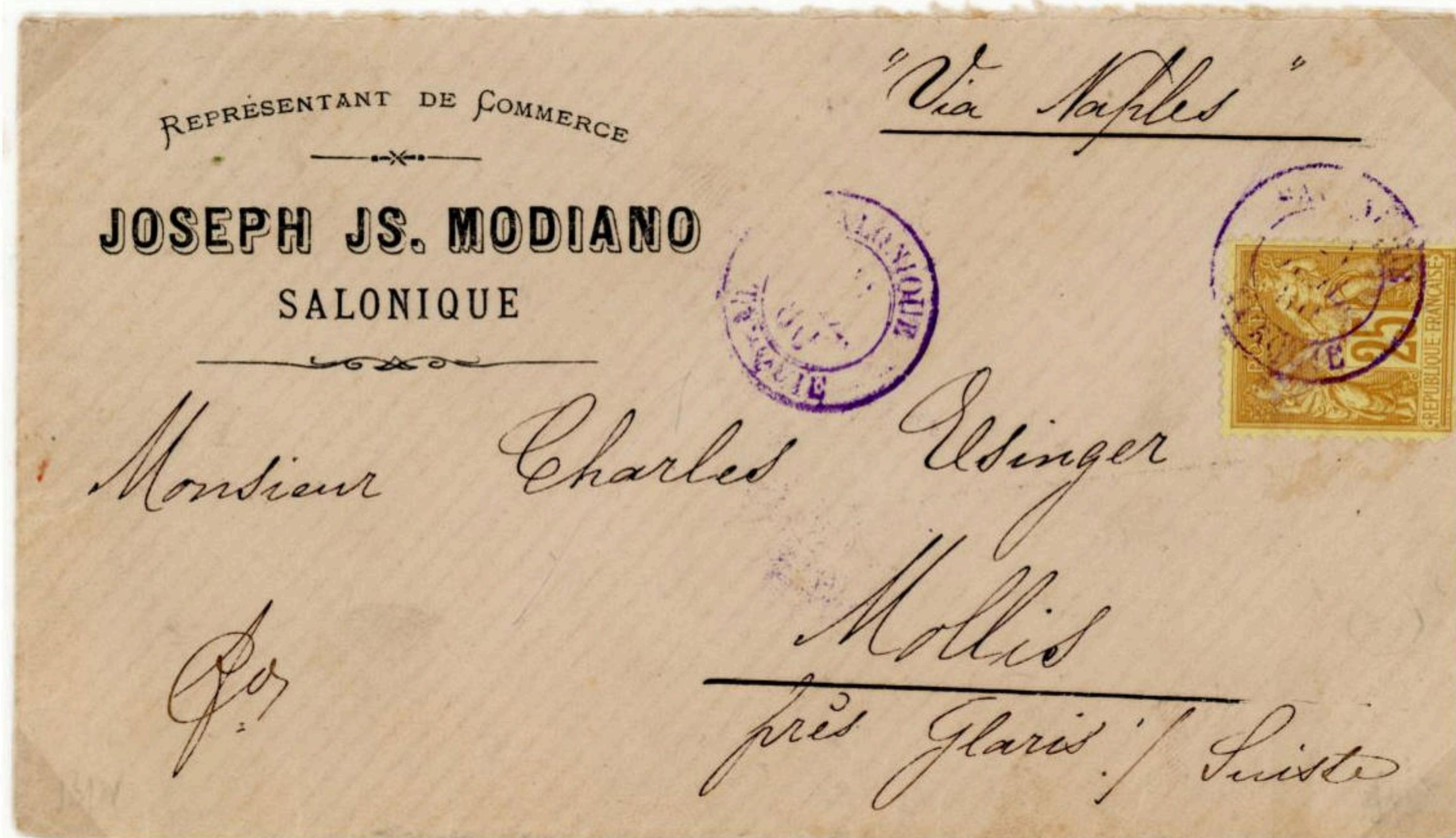
Thessaloniki 1887 (July 12). Small cover to Constantinople, franked with block of 4 x 5 Pa Empire, arrival July 17.  
Postal Rate: 20 Pa for Domestic Single Weight Letter.

# THE OTTOMAN BANKRUPTCY OF 1876

## French PO: SALONIQUE

Postmark SALONIQUE TURQUIE smaller with single outer circle

Postmark in Violet



**Thessaloniki 1880 (July).** Cover to Switzerland, franked with 25 c. Sage.  
Postal Rate: 25 c. Foreign Single Weight Letter.

Postmark in Black



**Thessaloniki 1881 (Sept. 14).** Cover to Switzerland,  
franked with 2x25 c. Sage, arrival Sept 22.  
Postal Rate: 25 c. Foreign Single Weight Letter.

JOSEPH JS MODIANO: important rabbinical author and entrepreneur of Thessaloniki  
Both letters are from his correspondence.

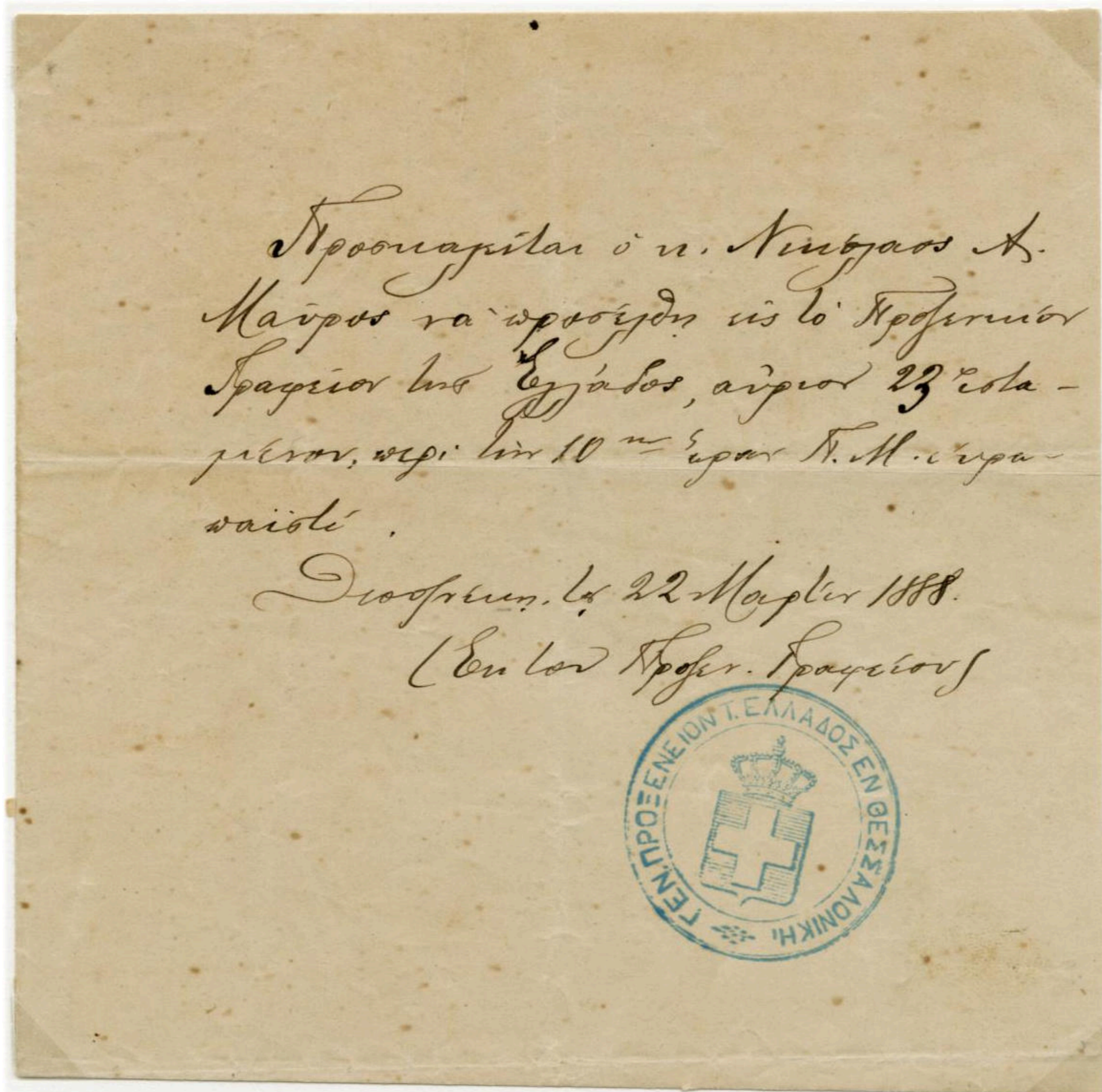
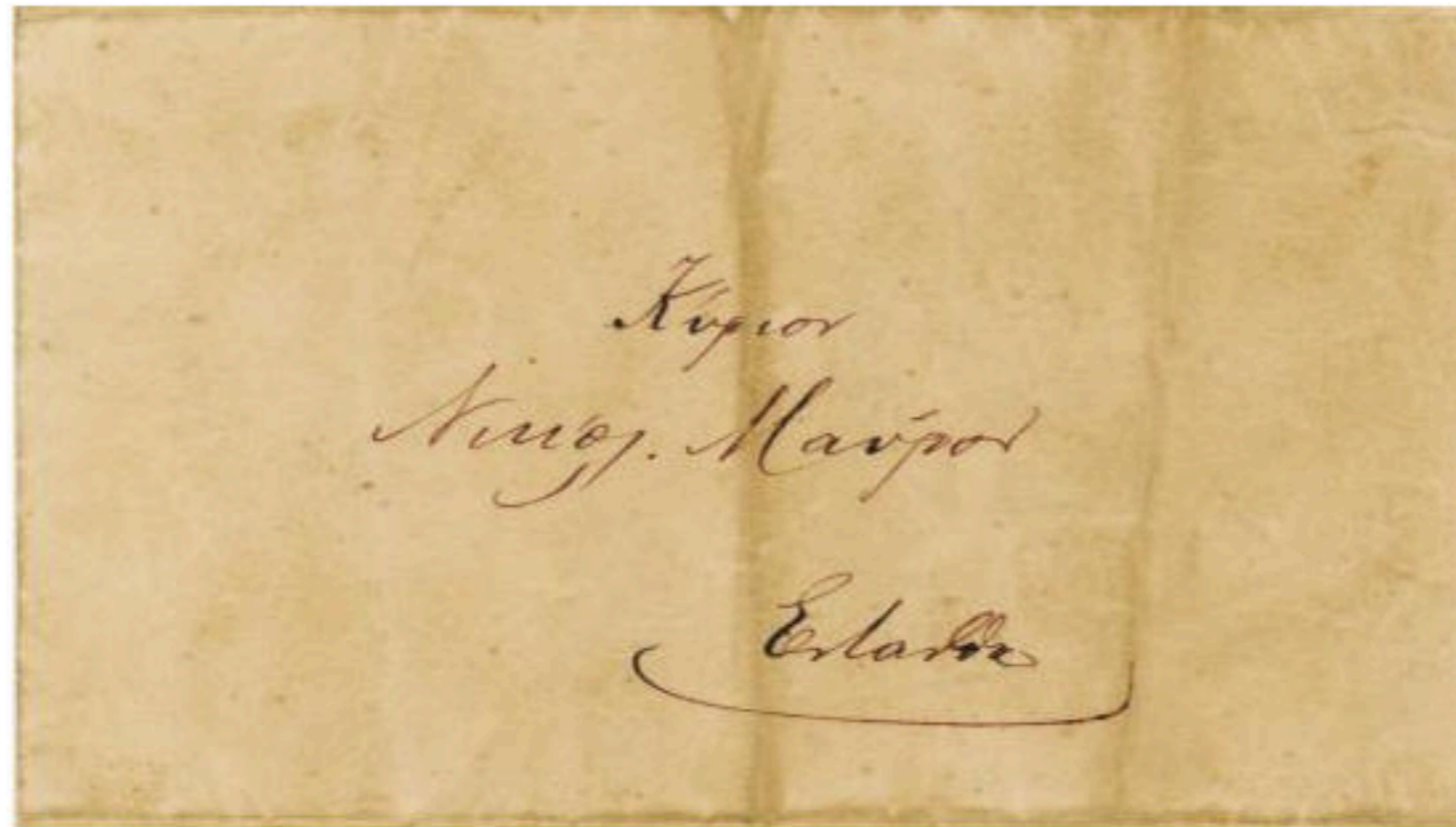


Greek Consular Mail

In City Posting



The Greek Consulate in the 1880s



**Thessaloniki 1888 (Mar. 22).** Entire Letter posted in town, by the Consular Authority, showing the Cachet of the Greek Consulate.

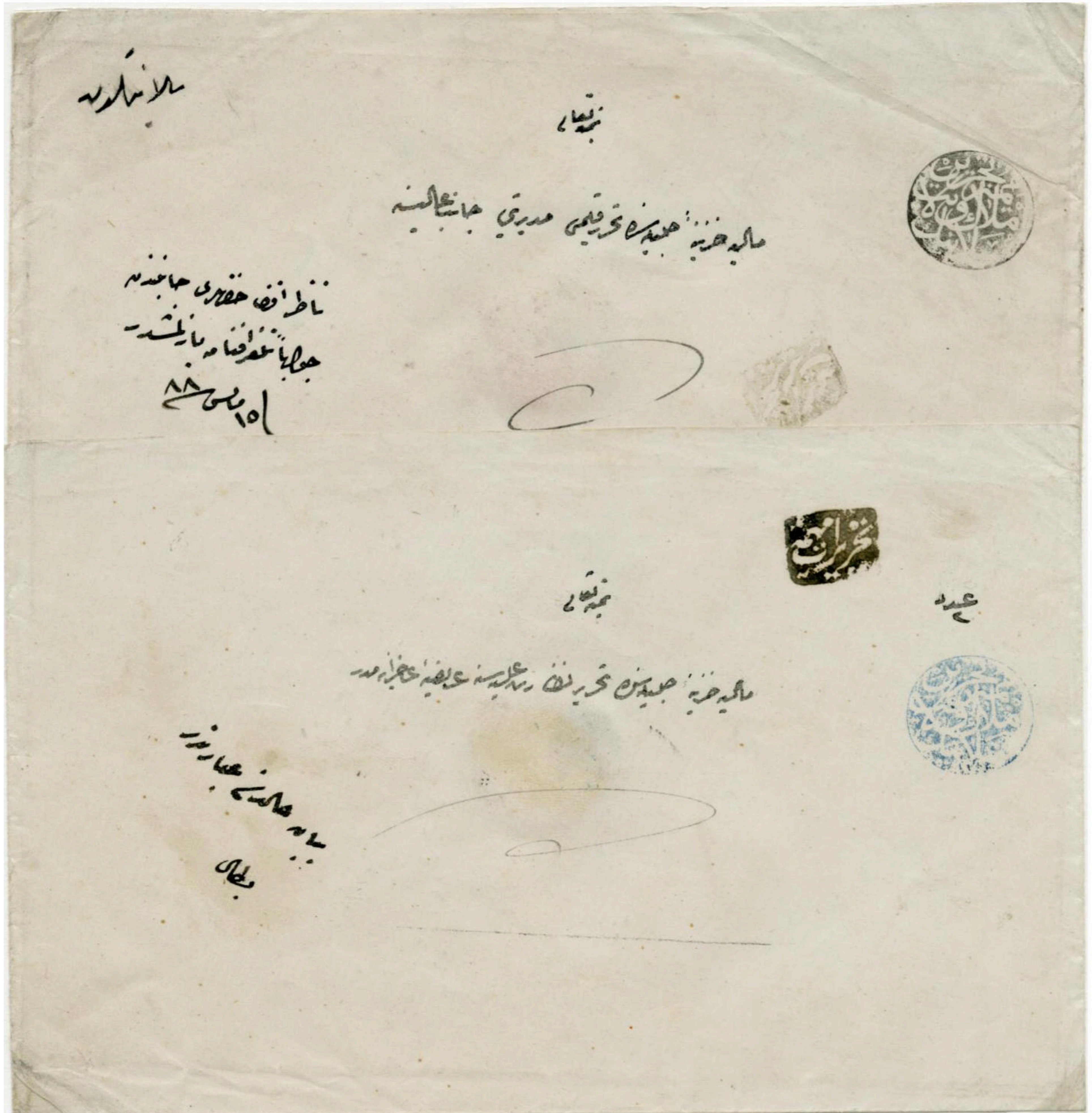
*Postal Rate: Free (Consular mail)*

# 1870-80s OFFICIAL CORRESPONDANCE

Under the direction of Dette Publique, the administration of many public services of the obsolete Ottoman state has been improved.

Most important are the **CUSTOMS AND REAL ESTATE SERVICES** and **HEALTH AND QUARANTINE SERVICES**.

Administrative Negative Marking  
Selanik Vilayet Emlaki Tahriri Muhimme  
(Province of Thessaloniki, Official Survey and Register of Estates)



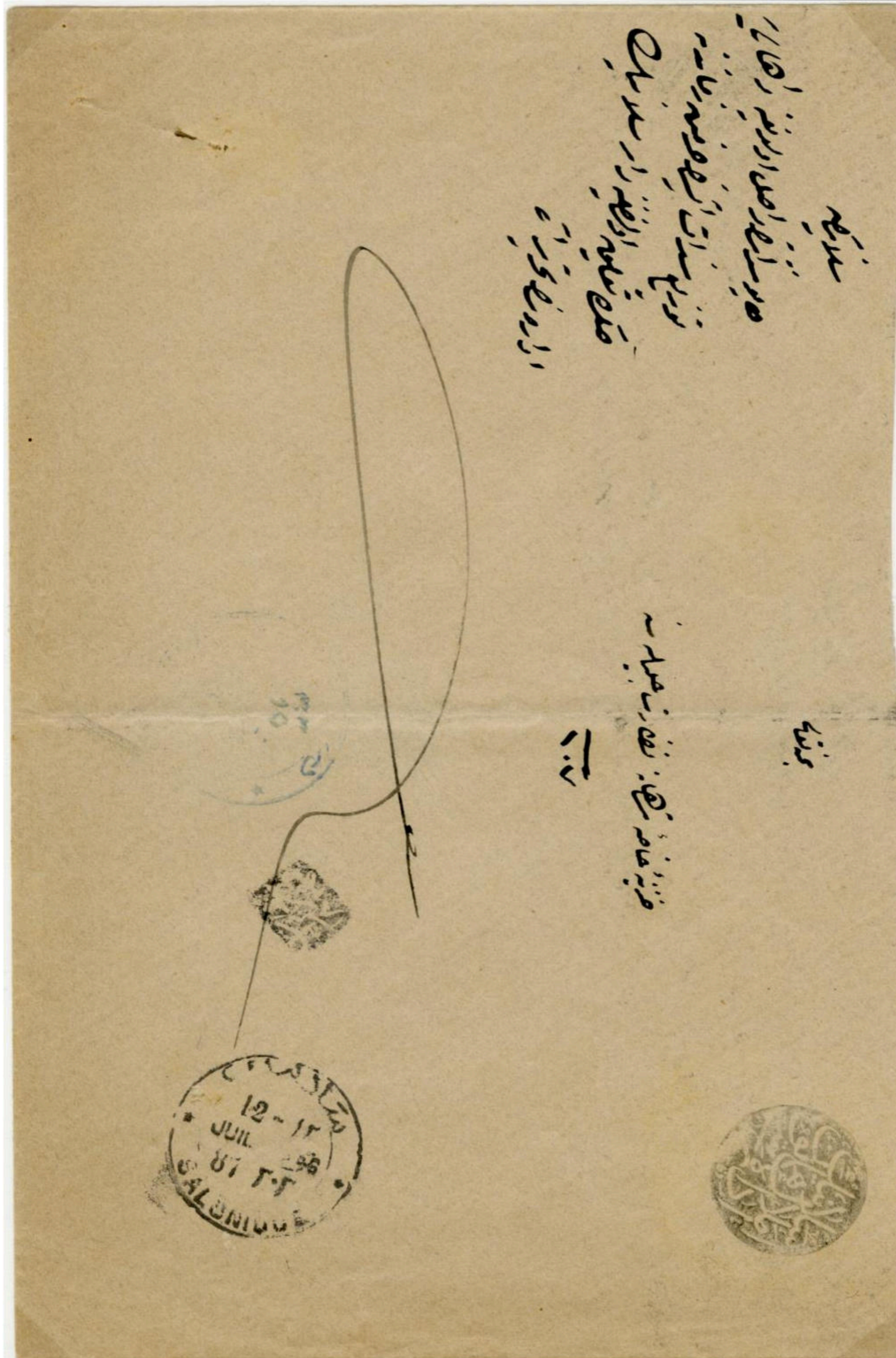
**Thessaloniki, 1870s:** Two Official Covers to Istanbul, both showing the Administrative Negative Marking in Black and in Blue, used as dispatch postmark.

*Postal Rate. Free for Official Correspondence*

# 1870-80s OFFICIAL CORRESPONDANCE

The building of Customs and Real Estate service around 1880

Administrative Negative Marking  
Selanik Emlaki Humayun Idaresi  
(Thessaloniki, Service of Real Estate)



**Thessaloniki 1887, (July 12):** Official Cover to Istanbul, showing the Administrative Negative Marking, used as dispatch postmark, together with the SALONIQUE with stars large postmark.

*Postal Rate: Free for Official Correspondence*

SELANIK KARANTINA

The demolition of the sea walls resulted in the embankment of the coastal front of the Port, while the construction of the new Customs and Real Estate House was planned, in front of the Vardari fortress (Tophane). This was also accompanied by a new building for public health services. The two new buildings appear in photographs dating back to 1882.

The first envelope bears postmark with the old name Quarantine and was posted in 1876. The second envelope was posted in 1890 but the Health Service Marking reads 1877, apparently the year of its inauguration, from which it can be concluded that the last year of operation of Old Quarantine was in 1876, when the first envelope with the old postmark was posted.



Administrative Negative Marking  
**Selanik Karantina**  
 (Thessaloniki, Service of Quarantine)



Thessaloniki 1876 Jan.. Official Cover to Istanbul, showing the Administrative Marking, used as dispatch postmark, arrival Feb. 7, 1876.  
 Postal Rate: Free for Official Correspondence

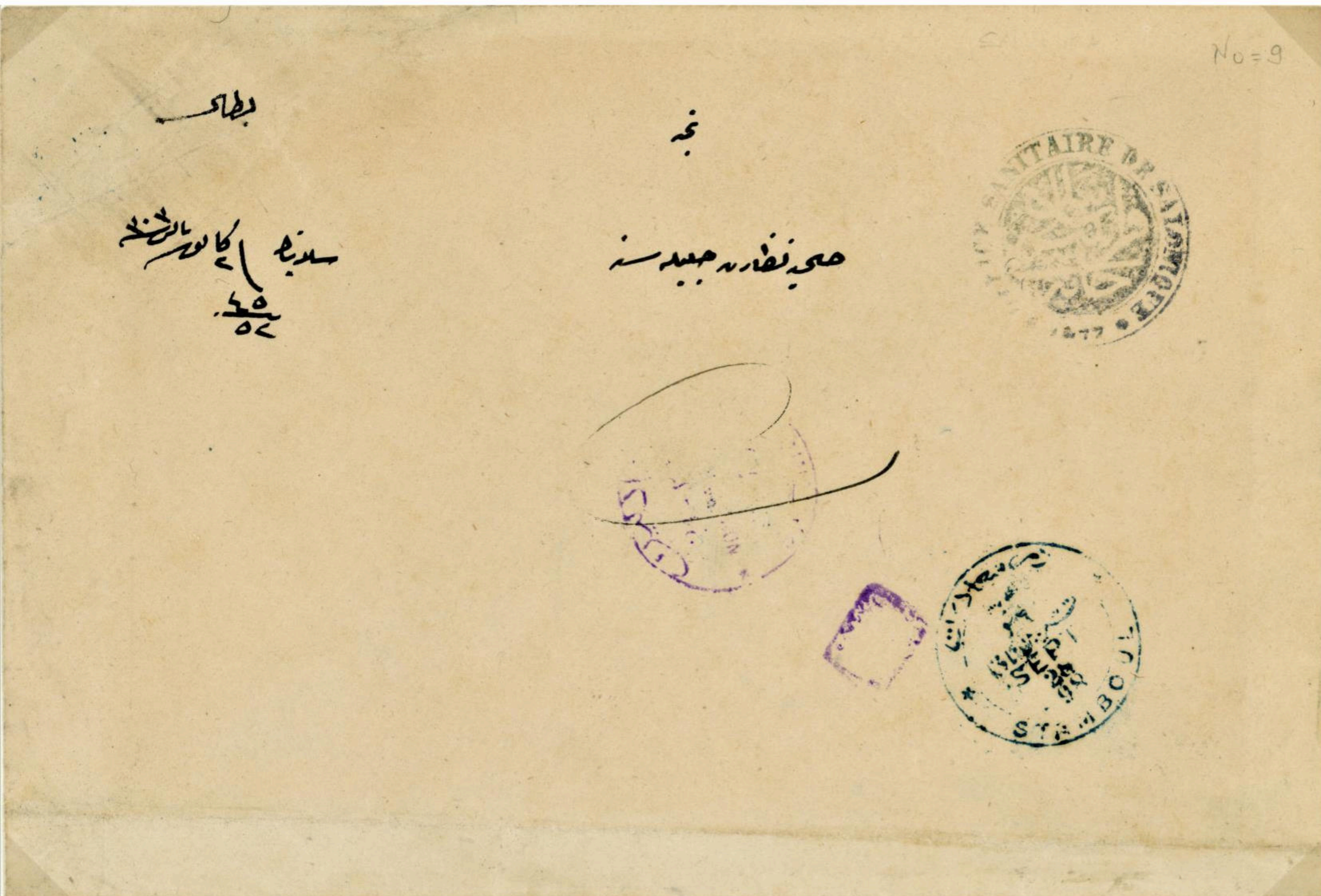
# 1870-80s OFFICIAL CORRESPONDANCE

The new Quarantine building (built 1877) near the Customs and Port store houses

OFFICE SANITAIRE DE  
SALONIQUE



Administrative Marking  
Office Sanitaire de Salonique 1877  
in French and in Arabic (Negative)



**Thessaloniki 1890.** Official Cover to Istanbul, showing the Administrative Marking, used as dispatch postmark, together with the SALONIQUE with stars large postmark, arrival Sept. 1890.

*Postal Rate: Free for Official Correspondence*

## The Treaty of Bern

The Treaty of Bern was signed on October 9, 1874, establishing what was then known as the General Postal Union. The Treaty provided that:

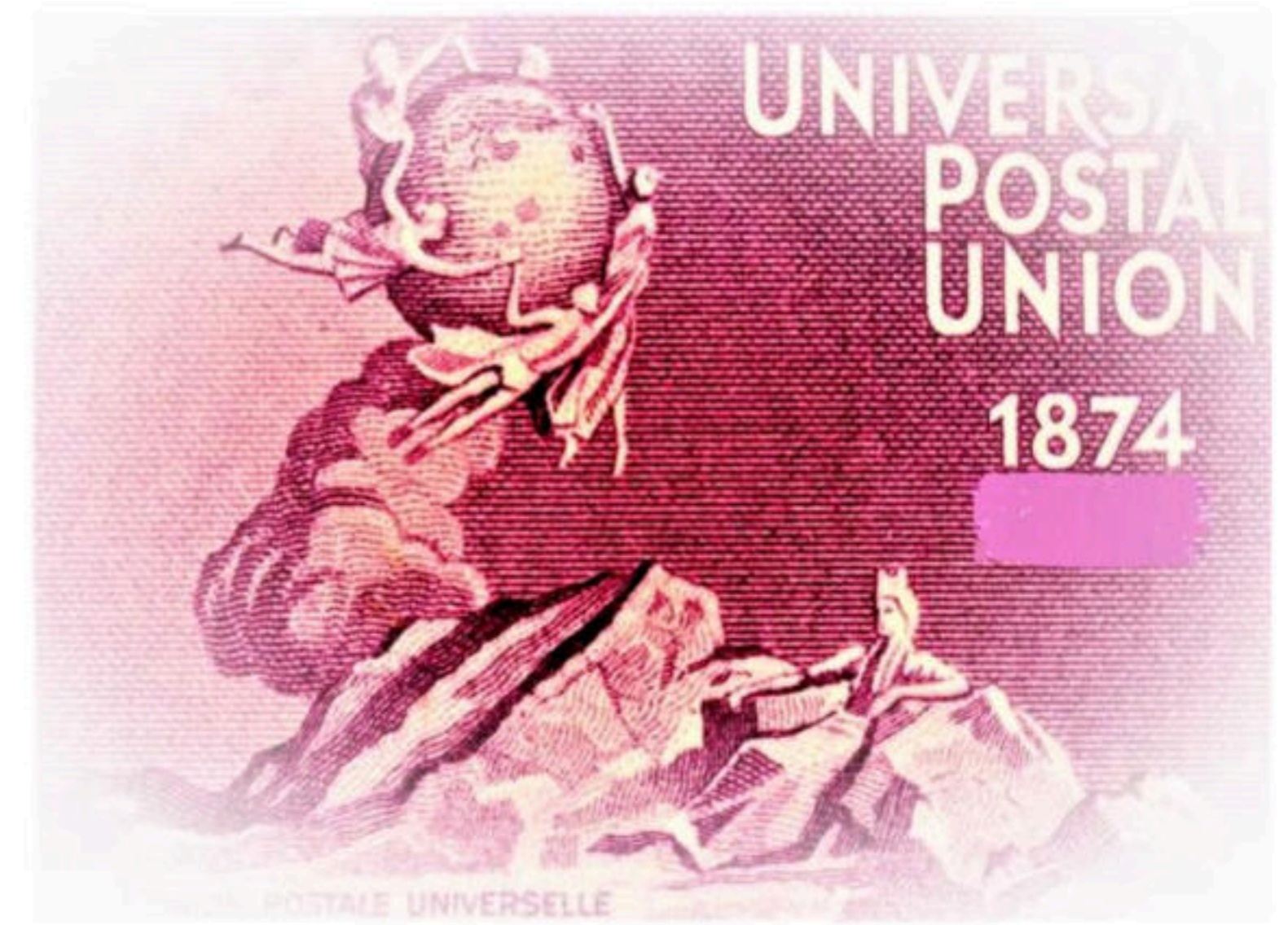
There should be a uniform flat rate to mail a letter anywhere in the world

Postal authorities should give equal treatment to foreign and domestic mail

Each country should retain all money it has collected for international postage.

One important result of the Treaty was that it was no longer necessary to affix postage stamps of countries that a mail piece passed through in transit. The UPU provides that stamps from member nations are accepted along the entire international route. The Treaty of Bern had been signed by 21 countries, 19 of which were located in Europe. After the General Postal Union was established, its membership grew rapidly as other countries joined. At the second Postal Union Congress in 1878, it was renamed the Universal Postal Union.

The founding of the UPU in 1874 was a huge step towards the massive expansion of global correspondence. The UPU convention rates were simple to apply and, mostly, cheaper. The various mail forwarding States, Companies, Agencies etc. were forced to cooperate to improve their services.



## AUSTRIAN PO: SALONICH

### The Austrian UPU Rate

A rare case of use of the old Postmark with the new UPU rate.

October 1875: the UPU Rates were introduced since 1 July 1875, while the old Postmark SALONICH (in use for 30 years, since 1845) was withdrawn by the autumn of 1875.

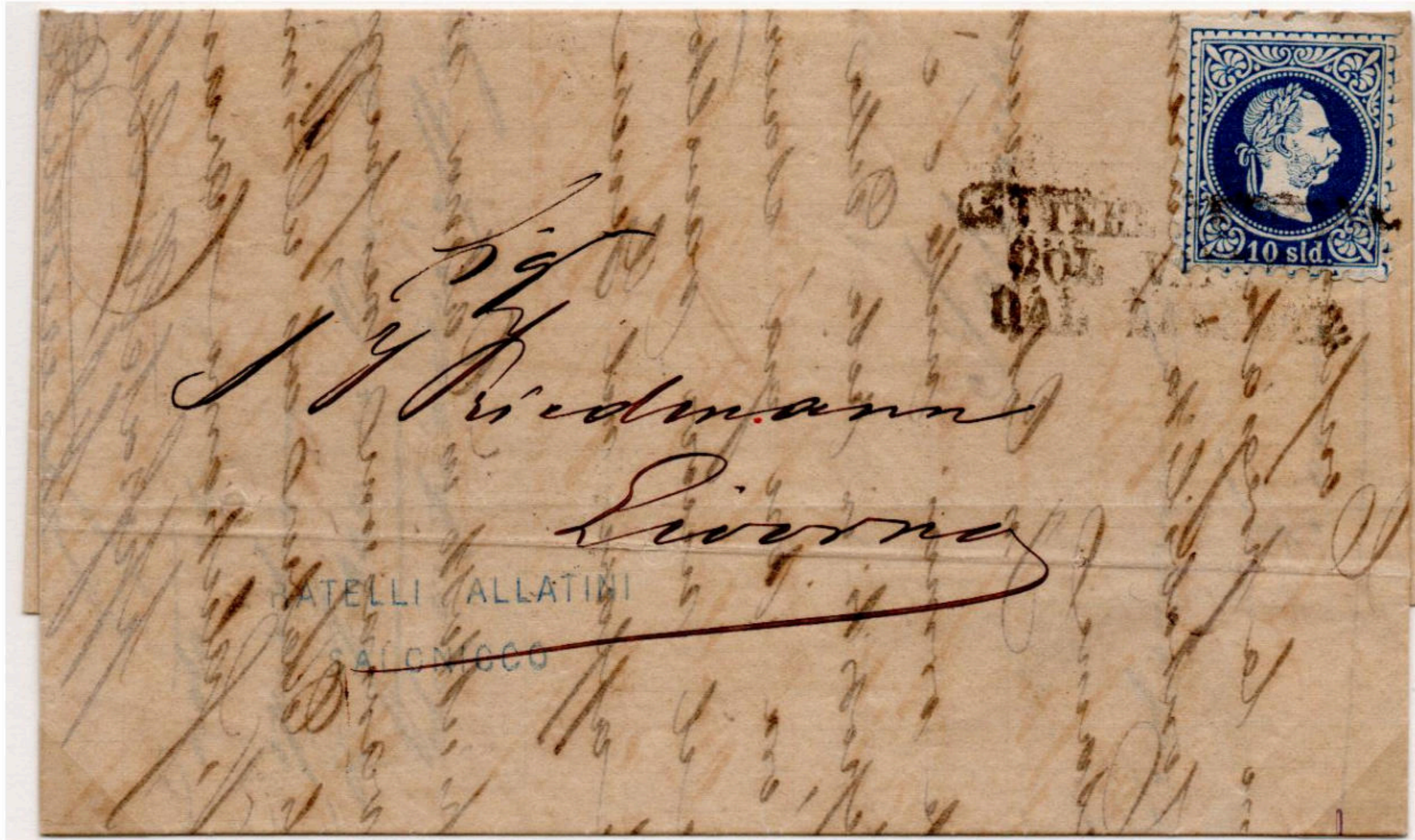


**Thessaloniki 1875 (Oct. 20):** Entire letter to Bologna, franked 10 Soldi, tied by straight-line SALONICH.

*Postal Rate:* 10So Single Weight Letter to Italy, UPU Rate.

The UPU Rates

LLOYD AUSTRO-UNGARICO POST OFFICE



**Thessaloniki 1877 (Aug. 1):** Entire letter to Livorno, via Trieste, franked 10 Soldi, tied by LETTERE ARRIVATE COL VAPORE DAL LEVANTE., arrival 11 Aug.  
*Postal Rate:* 10So Single Weight Letter to Italy, UPU Rate.

AUSTRIAN PO: SALONICCO

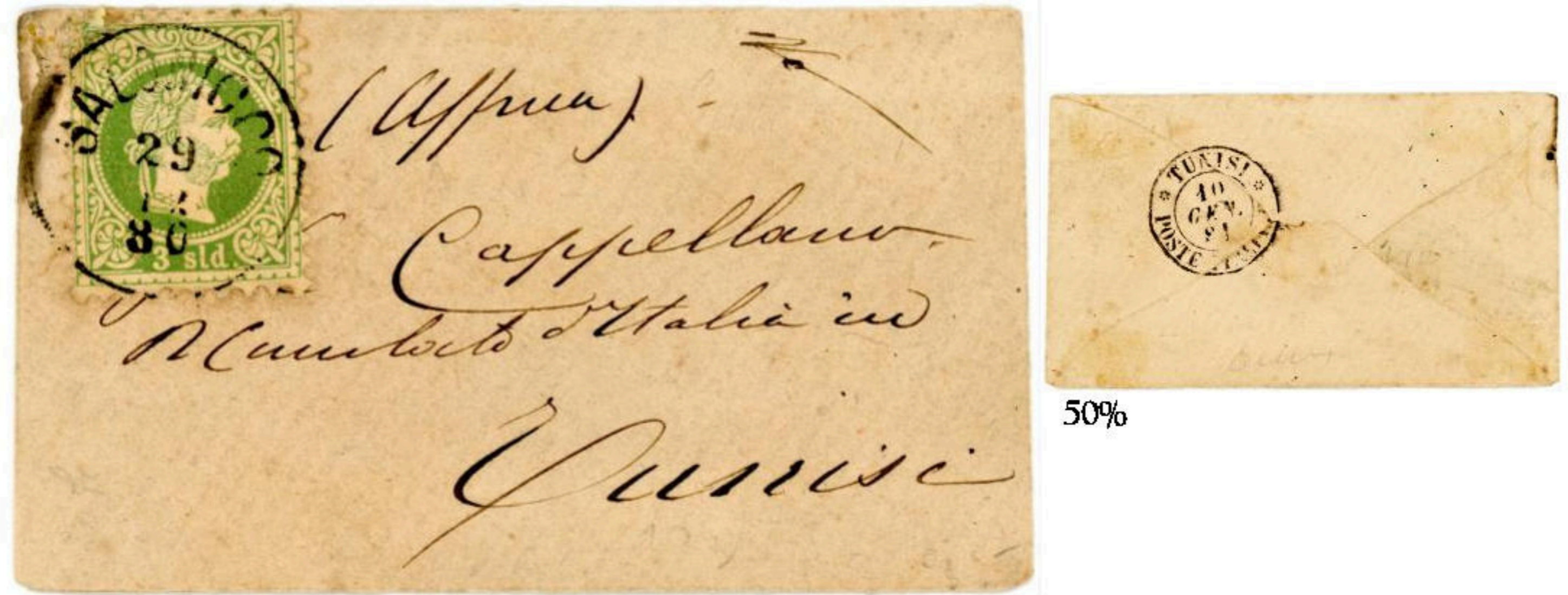


**Thessaloniki 1884 (Apr. 11):** Entire letter to Livorno, via Brindisi, franked 10 Soldi, tied by circular SALONICCO, arrival 21 Apr.  
*Postal Rate:* 10So Single Weight Letter to Italy, UPU Rate.

AUSTRIAN PO

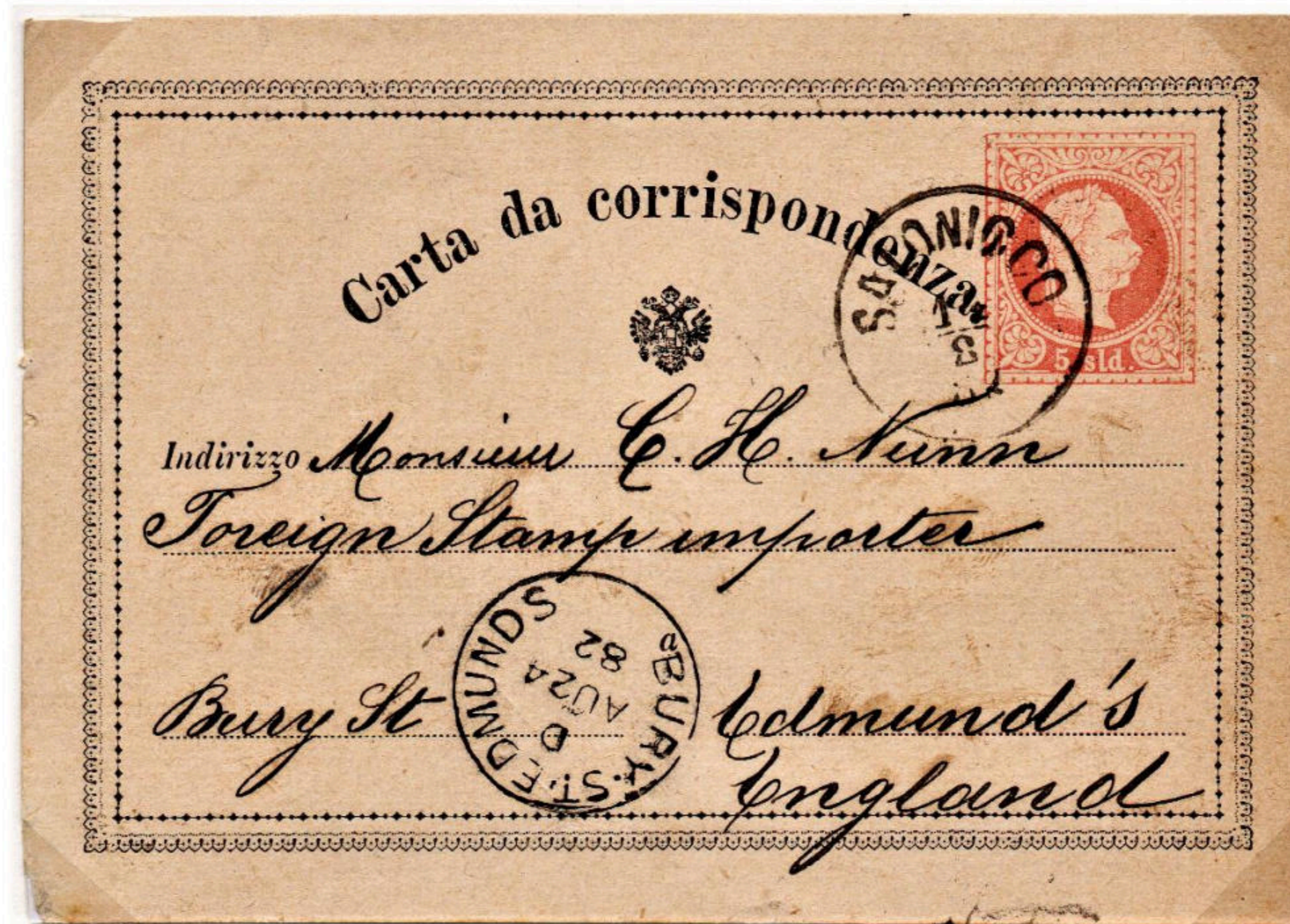
The UPU Rates

The small open envelope (carte visit) rate: 3 Soldi



**Thessaloniki 1880 (Dec. 29):** Small envelope to Tunis, franked 3 Soldi, arrival 10 Jan.  
*Postal Rate: 3So Carte visit UPU Rate.*

The postal card rate: 5 Soldi



**Thessaloniki 1882 (Aug. 14):** Austrian Levant 5 So Stationery Postcard, posted to Bury St. Edmund's England, arrival Aug. 24.  
*Postal Rate: 5So Postal Card UPU Rate.*



French Post Office: The UPU Rates

The UPU Convention Rate



**Thessaloniki 1877 (April 11):** Entire letter via Lyon to Villeurbanne, France, franked 30c Sage, arrival April 22.

*Postal Rate: 30c Single Weight Foreign Letter, UPU Rate.*

The Reduced UPU Convention Rate – after May 1878



**Thessaloniki 1878 (June 5):** Front (and part back with arrival) of a letter to Villejuif, France, via Brindisi, franked 25c Sage, arrival June 14. Handwritten "Per Fraissinet"? (which operated the line to Dardanelles at 1878)

*Postal Rate: 25c Single Weight Foreign Letter, UPU Rate.*

## Greek Post Office: The UPU Rates

The Greek UPU Rate:

30 Lepta paid by the newly printed, in Paris and Athens, Large Hermes Heads



Paris print

Athens print



**Thessaloniki 1877 (Jan. 13):** Entire letter to Argos, Greece, franked 30l. LHH Greek Large Hermes Head, Athens printing, cancelled ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ (ΤΟΥΡΚΙΑ) postmark of Greek post office, arrival Jan. 15.

*Postal Rate: 30l. Single Weight, UPU Rate.*

Double UPU Rate for Postage Due:

60 Lepta paid by the newly printed, in Athens, Greek postage due stamps



**Thessaloniki 1878 (Dec. 14):** Entire letter to Athens, charged 60l. Greek postage due 1<sup>st</sup> issue, cancelled dotted 1 of Athens arrival Dec. 17.

*Postal Rate: 2x30=60l. Single Weight, Double UPU Rate for postage due.*

# INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY FRENCH PO

## The Forerunner Stationery Card of the French Post Used in Thessaloniki

The first cards circulated from January 15, 1873, this date is considered the 1st day of the forerunner ("precursor") card.

The face value of this card was interesting since it saved 10c for the office-to-office domestic (in France) correspondence, but of course there was no confidentiality of the correspondence. The traders and the companies were very much in favor of this economical way to communicate.

This card, although popular in France during the 1870s, had a very limited use in the French post offices abroad.



**Thessaloniki 1879 (Feb. 20):** "Precursor" stationery card  
franked 15 c. Sage, posted to Brighton, England  
*Postal Rate: 15 c. for Card*

This card was missing from all the collections of Postal History of Thessaloniki or Foreign Post Offices in Greece of the past. I know of one more such card in a large collection of French Stationeries.

# INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY AUSTRIAN PO

The first two types of Austrian Levant Stationery Cards used in Thessaloniki



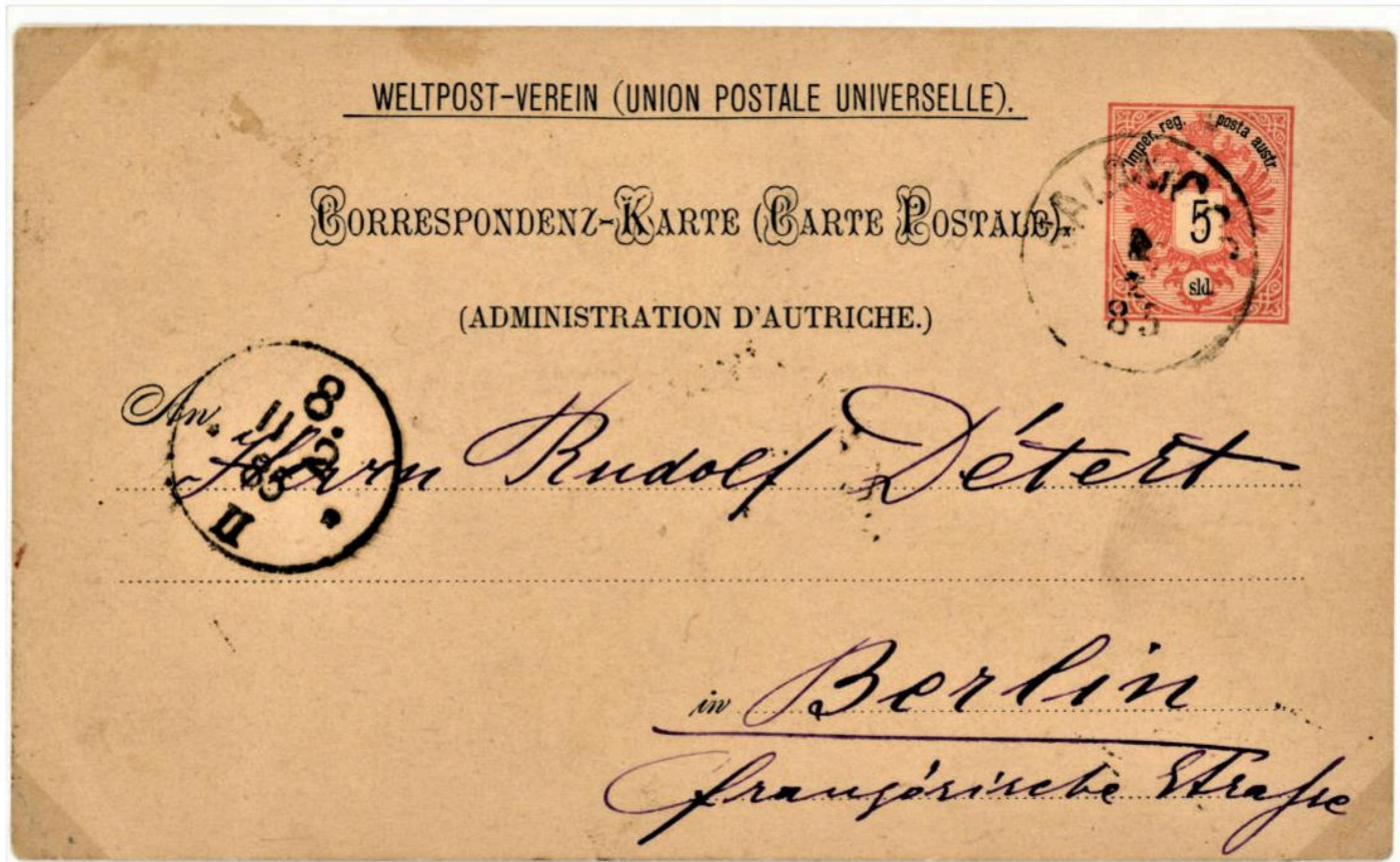
**Thessaloniki 1882 (Dec. 13):** First type of Franz Joseph stationery card posted to Brussels  
*Postal Rate: 5 So for Card*



**Thessaloniki 1884 (May 5):** Second type of Franz Joseph stationery card posted to München  
The use of the 2<sup>nd</sup> type in Thessaloniki is quite elusive  
*Postal Rate: 5 So for Card*

# INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY AUSTRIAN PO

Further Austrian Levant Stationery Cards used in Thessaloniki in the 1880s



**Thessaloniki 1885 (Feb. 3):** "Double headed eagle" stationery card, posted to Berlin  
Postal Rate: 5 So for Card



**Thessaloniki 1889, 1890:** Two overprinted "double headed eagle" stationery cards, posted to Germany  
Different shades.  
Postal Rate: 20Pa for Card

# INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY

## AUSTRIAN PO

German Reply Stationery Cards accepted by the Austrian Post Office

In both cases, correct commercial use of the reply part of a double card.



**Thessaloniki 1880 (Oct. 11):** "Double headed eagle" stationery card, posted to Hamburg, arrival 22 Oct.

*Postal Rate: 10 Pf for Reply Card, paid by the sender*



**Thessaloniki 1905 (Feb. 28):** "Germania" stationery card, posted to Dresden, arrival 4 March.

*Postal Rate: 10 Pf for Reply Card, paid by the sender*

# INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY

## FRENCH PO

French stationery envelopes Type "Sage"

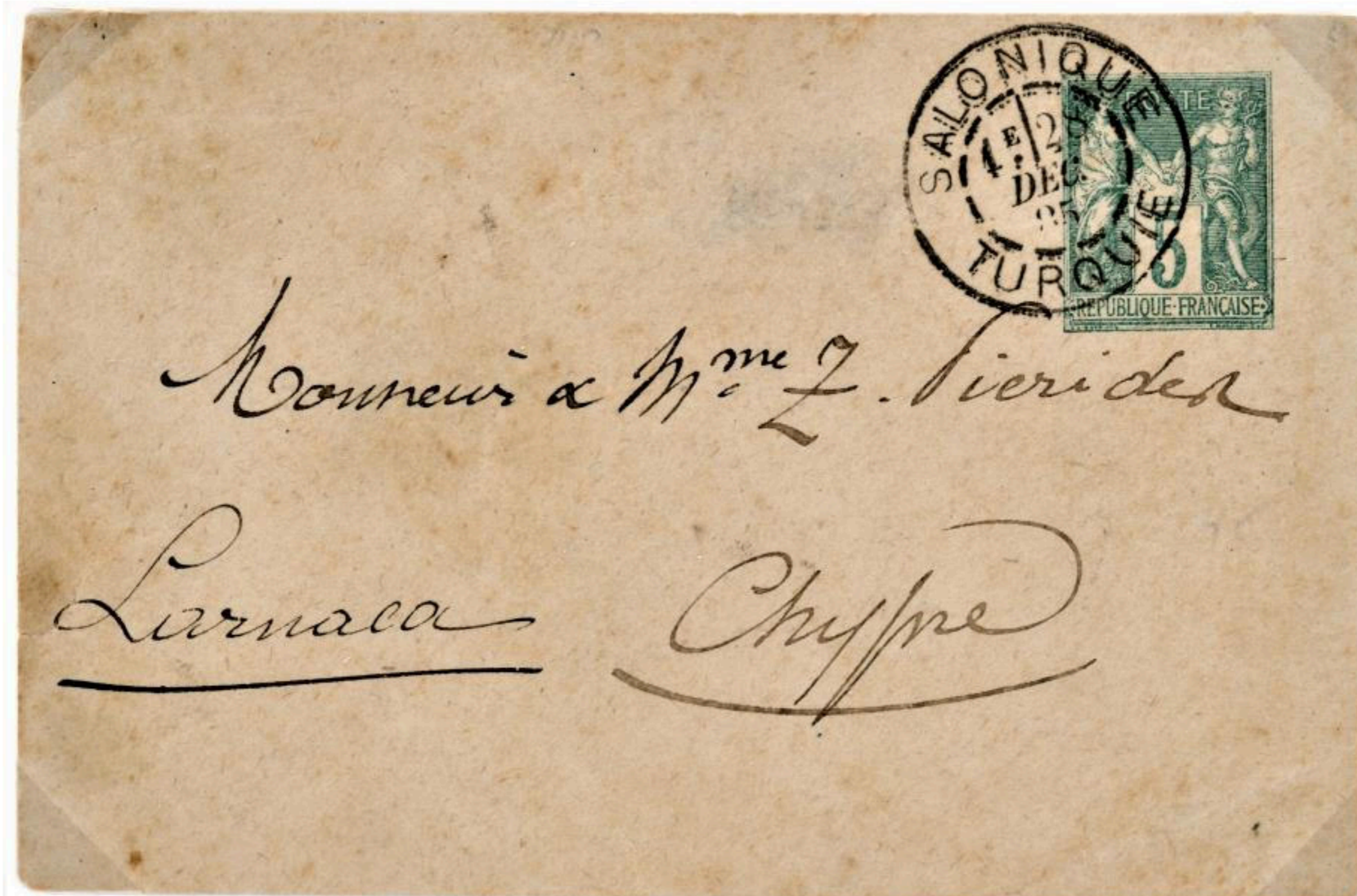
Postmarks: Until mid-1885 "small double circle"  
From mid-1885 "large double circle"

Green Envelope



**Thessaloniki 1883 (Dec. 26):** French small Stationery Envelope ("Carte Visit" size) posted to Constantinople.  
*Postal Rate: 5c for Foreign Small Open Envelope.*

Cream Envelope



**Thessaloniki 1885 (Dec. 28):** French small Stationery Envelope ("Carte Visit" size), posted via Smyrna and Beyrouth, to Larnaca Cyprus.  
*Postal Rate: 5c for Foreign Small Open Envelope.*

# INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY

## FRENCH PO

### French 1880s stationery postcards Type "Sage"

Postmarks: Until mid-1885 "small double circle"  
From mid-1885 "large double circle"

Address in 3 lines



**Thessaloniki 1885 (Feb. 23):** French Stationery Postcard posted to Stuttgart.  
*Postal Rate: 10c for Foreign Postcard.*

Address in 4 lines



**Thessaloniki 1887 (Mar. 11):** French Stationery Postcard posted to Athens.  
*Postal Rate: 10c for Foreign Postcard.*

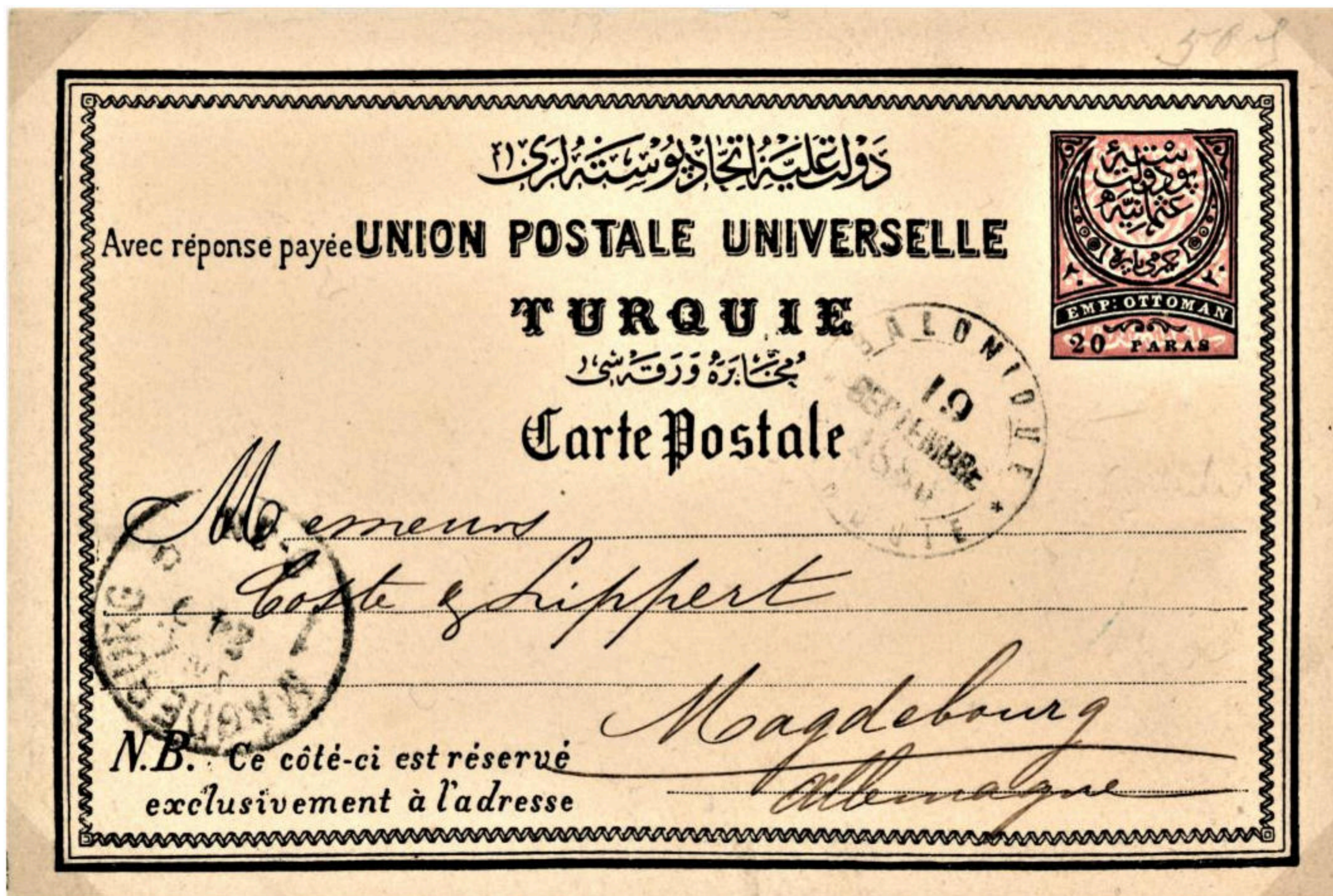


# INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY

## OTTOMAN PO

Ottoman 1880s stationery postcards Type "Empire"

Double Card: 1st part "Avec reponse payee"  
2nd part "reponse payee"



**Thessaloniki 1886 (Sept. 19):** Stationery Card posted to Magdeburg, Germany.  
Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Card.



**Thessaloniki 1886 (Mar. 25):** Reply Stationery Card to Paris,  
arrival Apr. 2.  
Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Card.

# INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY OTTOMAN PO

## Ottoman 1880s stationery postcards Type "Empire"

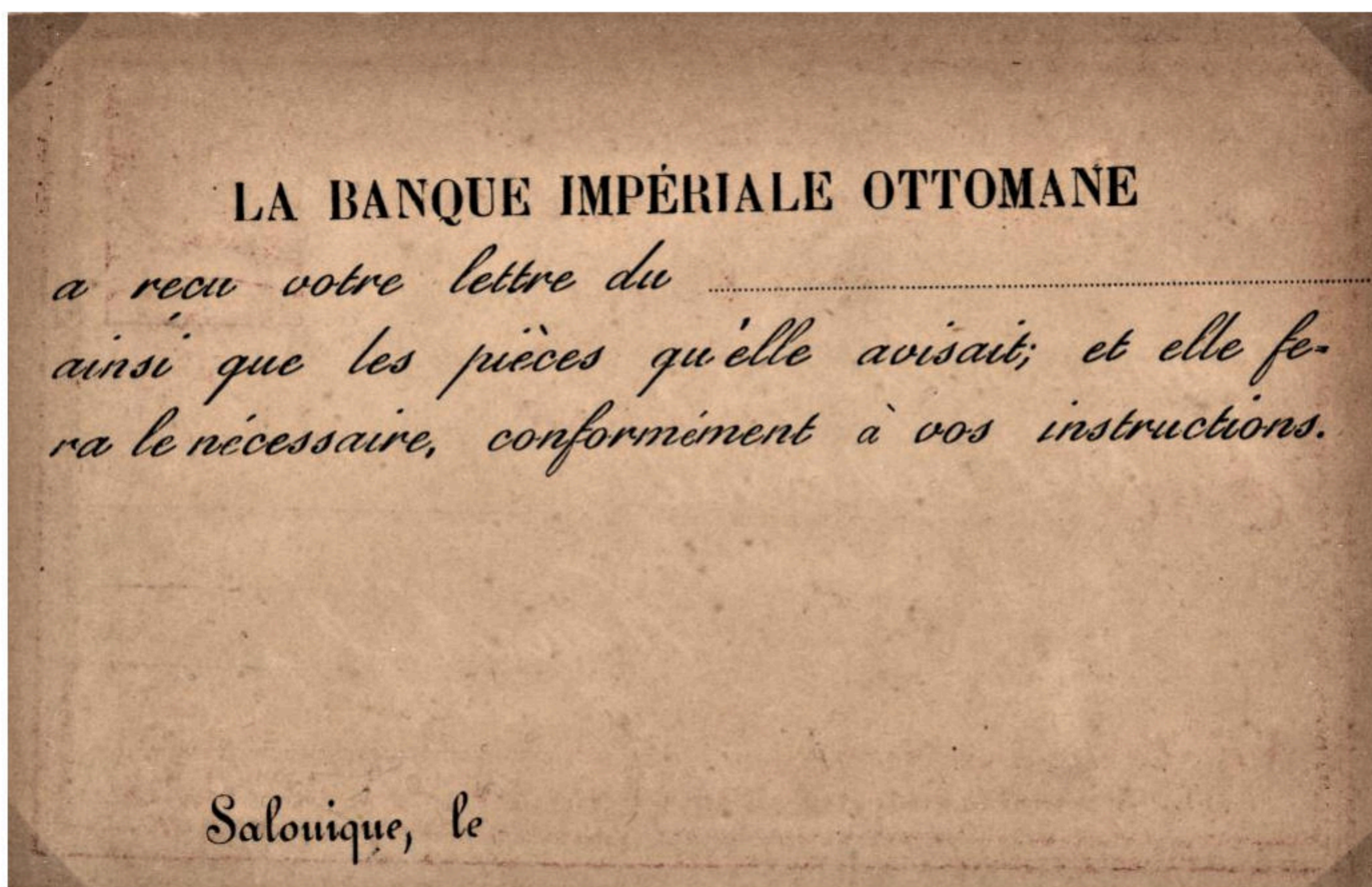
Single Card and a mint Private Stationery Post Card printed for the Ottoman Bank



**Thessaloniki 1885 (May 16):** Stationery Card posted to Berlin.

The card is inscribed "Via Varna" – perhaps to be carried by the DDSG steamships ?

*Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Card.*



Mint Stationery Post Card printed for the Thessaloniki Branch of the Ottoman Bank

# 1880s: A NEW GROWTH FOR THE CITY

## SELANIK

The increased western influence during the 1880s, the flourishing of the Levantine population and the reorganization of the public services, resulted in an increased credibility of the Ottoman post office and in a substantial increase of its activity.

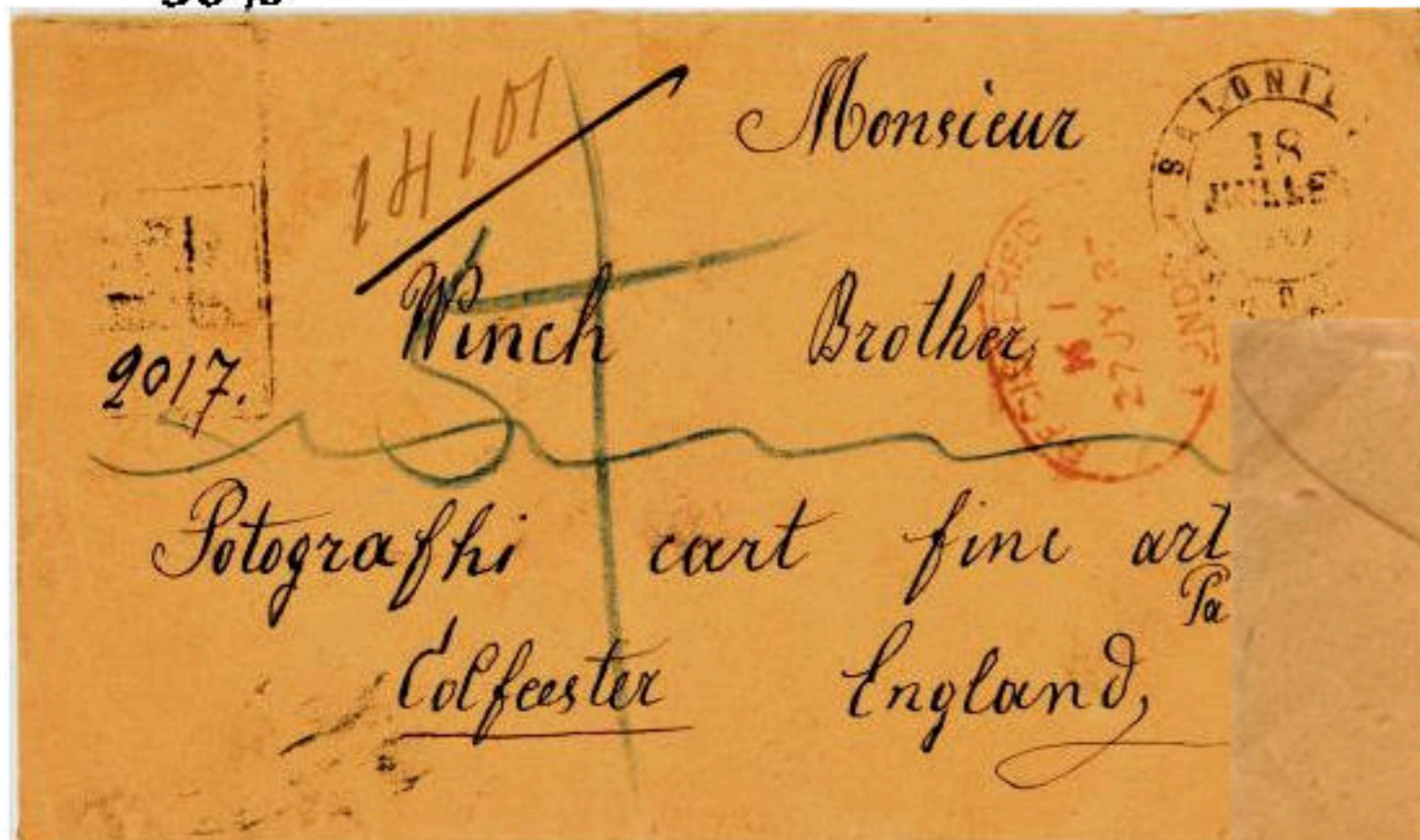
A new series of Ottoman postmarks is introduced, in FRENCH.

Double Circle Postmark SALONIQUE TURQUIE  
(only in French, for letters going abroad)



**Thessaloniki 1884 (June 4):** Entire letter to Napoli, franked two pairs x 10Pa Empire, arrival June 10.  
*Postal Rate: 40Pa for Single Weight Foreign Letter.*

50%



**Thessaloniki 1887 (July 18):** Registered cover to Colchester, franked strip of 4 x 20Pa Empire, arrival July 27.  
*Postal Rate: 80Pa=2Pia:1Pia for Single Weight Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration.*

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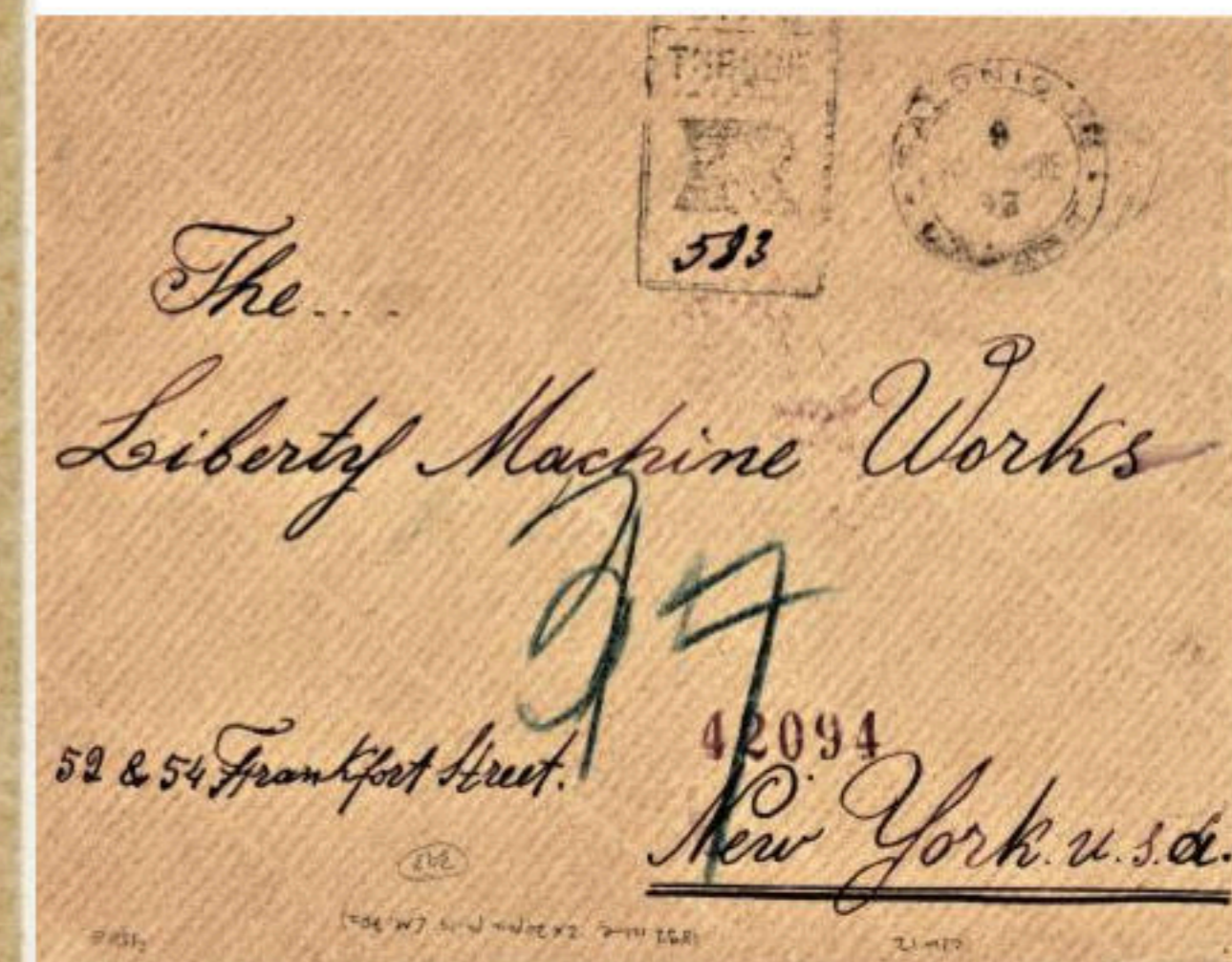
Postmarks SALONIQUE in Oval with Bars  
accompanied by double circle SALONIQUE DEPART CDS  
French Inscription SALONIQUE for correspondence going abroad.  
Arabic Inscription SELANIK for domestic correspondence



50%



**Thessaloniki 1889 (May 14):** Cover to Cavalla, franked 1Pia Empire.  
*Postal Rate:* 1Pia Single Weight Letter between ports of the Ottoman Empire.



40%

**Thessaloniki 1893 (Nov. 9):** Registered cover to New York, franked two pairs x 20Pa Armali, arrival Nov. 20.  
*Postal Rate:* 80Pa=2Pia:1Pia for Single Weight Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration.