

# THE ROLE OF HEALTH STATIONS AND LAZARETS IN GREECE

The prevention from the contagious diseases in Greece, such as plague and cholera, was one of the main concerns of the newly borne State, since the years of the Struggle for Independence (1821-1827).

The Mediterranean ports old practice, i.e. the opening and/or slitting of mail and its fumigation by sulphur or dipping in vinegar was the only known protection measure. This procedure was applied at the borders or the sea ports, before the mail was delivered to the relative post office for its onward transmission. In 1845, the detailed Bill on *Sanitary Authorities* legalized the disinfection of mail arriving from countries in which there was an epidemic or they were suspected for an outbreak.

The great danger was coming from Turkey, Egypt, Danubian Principalities and Russia with large Greek minorities and extended commerce, as Greece represented an intermediate step for the Western Europe and vice versa.

By the increase of communication due to technology (Austrian Lloyd introduced iron ships in 1852 and screw-steamships in 1853) and, consequently, the direct calls to Eastern Mediterranean ports by the Westerners, the epidemic diseases of plague and, after 1850s, cholera, were directly spread to Europe either by sea lanes (via Italy or France) or by land (via Russia, Germany, Italy, France), having as a result the special attention of Hellenic Sanitary Authorities for the postal arrivals from West as well.

The mail fumigation in Greece was abandoned in 1893, a decade after the discovery of cholera vibrio, and appropriate protection was considered the disinfection of the mail bags only.

The seals of the various temporary and permanent health offices and their depended maritime or terrestrial lazarets as well as the fumigation practices applied, are important postal history evidence for the establishment of the postal routes and the transportation means of a letter, in cases of postal markings' absence.

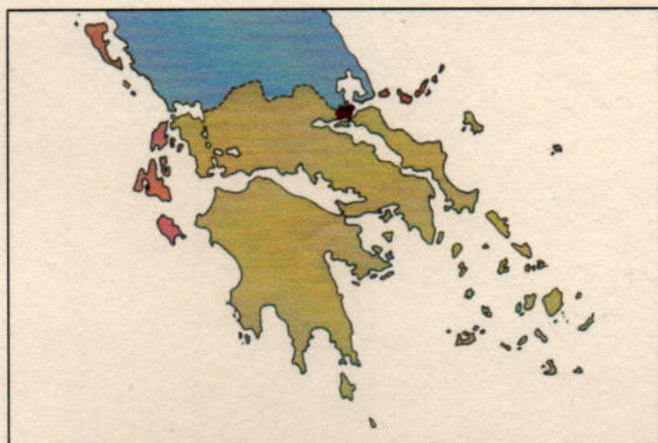
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N.B. Capital letters indicate post offices and bold types dispatch and destination places  
The difference between Julian and Gregorian calendars in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was 12 days

## References:

- K. Meyer: *Disinfected mail*, Kansas USA, 1962  
 A. Virvillis: "Fumigation dues on letters at 1836", *Philotelia* no 521/1986 and *Pratique* no 3/1986  
 A. Virvillis: "Liberty markings, the health stations cancellations", *Philotelia* nos 552-553/1992  
 A. Virvillis: "Health stations and lazarettos in Greece and their postal history. The lazaret of St. George of Salamis island", *Philotelia* nos 590-592/1998  
 A. Virvillis: "Mail transportation and fumigation of letters at Piraeus during the 1884 cholera epidemic", *Pratique* no. 2/2009 and *Philotelia* no 660-661/2010

**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS  
AMALIOPOLIS HEALTH OFFICE**



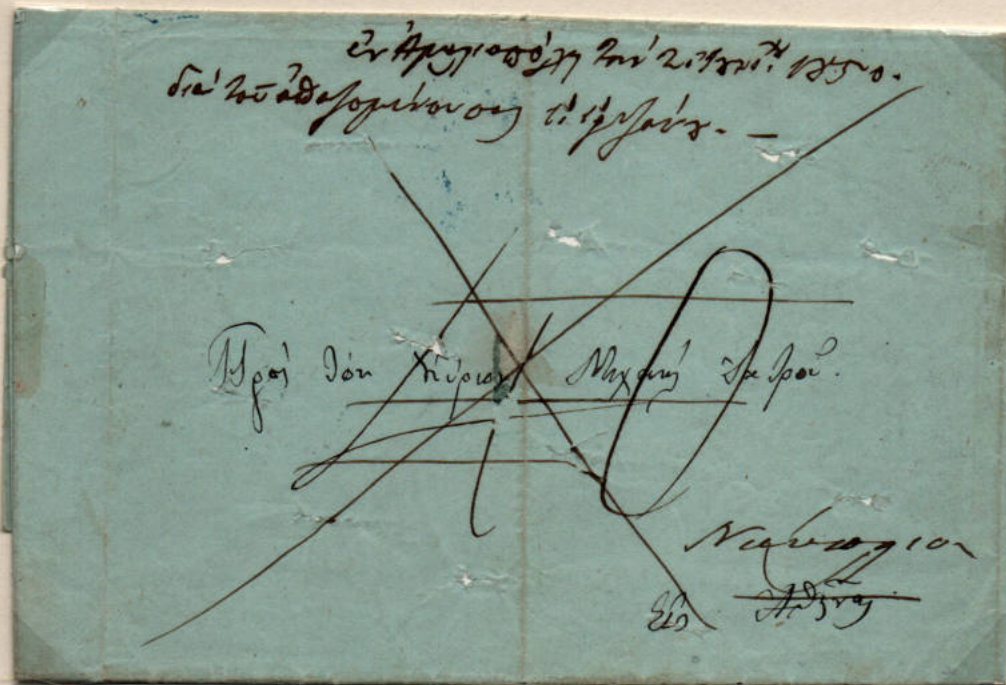
**Volo (21/9/1849) privately carried - AMALIOPOLIS H.O. - handwritten entry mark Υπερόριον  
LAMIA (25/9) - ATHENS (28/9) - NAFPLION (1/10/1849)**

*Two known letters with Amaliopolis Health Office seal (ex collections Meyer, Eylan)*

**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS**  
**AMALIOPOLIS HEALTH OFFICE**



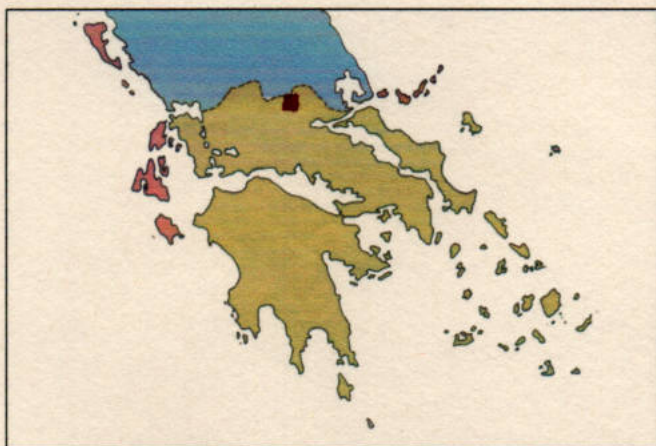
*This type of rastel was used at Amaliopolis and Taratsa Health Offices only*



**Volo** privately carried by forwarding agent at Amaliopolis (2/6/1850) - Amaliopolis h.o. (rastel slits) - LAMIA (4/6) - ATHENS (7/6) - **NAFLION (9/6/1850)**

*The only known letter disinfected with slits at Amaliopolis Health Office*

**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS**  
**TARATSA HEALTH OFFICE**



Greek p.o. **THESSALONIKI** (9/12/1839) - Taratsa h.o. (four horizontal slits) - LAMIA (16/12)  
entry mark ΕΛΛΑΣ ΔΙΑ ΛΑΜΙΑΣ - PIRAEUS (16/12) - ATHENS (16/12) - **SYRA (20/12/1839)**

**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS**  
**TARATSA HEALTH OFFICE**



Greek p.o. **THESSALONIKI** (31/8/1840) - **TARATSA H.O.** - **LAMIA** (4/9)  
entry mark **ΕΛΛΑΣ ΔΙΑ ΛΑΜΙΑΣ** - **PIRAEUS** (7/9) - **ATHENS** (7/9) - **SYRA** (8/9/1840)

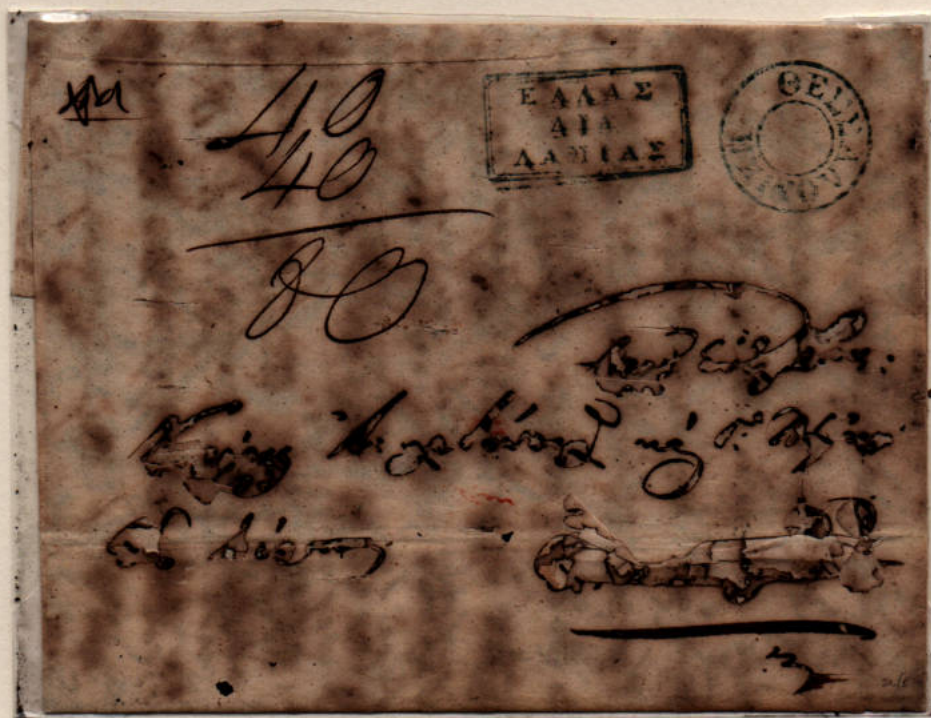


**Serres** (9/11/1840) privately carried - **TARATSA H.O.** - **Syra** (18/11/1840)

**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS**  
TARATSA HEALTH OFFICE



**Serres (28/12/1840) privately carried - TARATSA H.O. - Syra (13/1/1841)**



**Serres (30/7/1841) - THESSALONIKI - Taratsa h.o. (six horizontal slits) - LAMIA (3/9)**  
entry mark ΕΛΛΑΣ ΔΙΑ ΛΑΜΙΑΣ - PIRAEUS (6/9) - ATHENS (6/9) - **SYRA (8/9/1841)**

**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS**  
**TARATSA HEALTH OFFICE**



*The letter was not opened at Taratsa H.O. as per regulations; it was fumigated on one side only (see discolored paper of photocopy). The two strikes of the Health Office's seal applied, falsely show that the letter had been fumigated opened.*

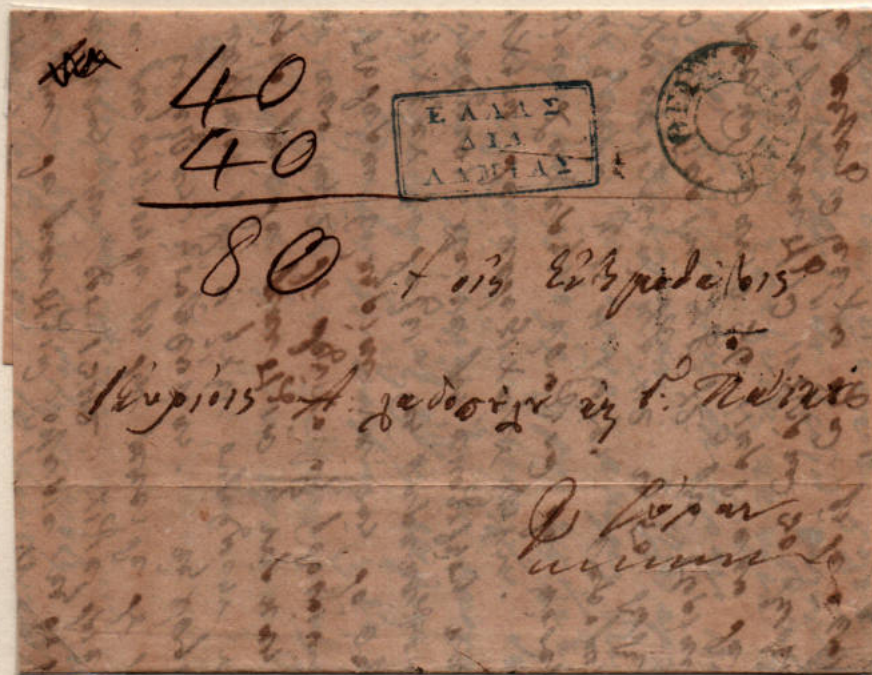


Greek p.o. **THESSALONIKI (30/8/1841)** - TARATSA H.O. - LAMIA (3/9)  
 Entry mark ΕΛΛΑΣ ΔΙΑ ΛΑΜΙΑΣ - ATHENS (6/9) - PIRAEUS (6/9) - **SYRA (8/9/1841)**

**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS**  
**TARATSA HEALTH OFFICE**



**Serres (8/10/1841) privately carried - TARATSA H.O. - SYRA (20/10/1841)**



**Greek p.o. THESSALONIKI (7/11/1842) - Taratsa h.o. (five horizontal slits) - LAMIA (11/11)**  
**entry mark ΕΛΛΑΣ ΔΙΑ ΛΑΜΙΑΣ - PIRAEUS (14/11) - ATHENS (14/11) - SYRA (15/11/1842)**



**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS**  
**TARATSA HEALTH OFFICE**



**Serres (22/8/1847) - THESSALONIKI (30/8)** - Taratsa h.o. (five slits) - entry mark **ΕΛΛΑΣ ΔΙΑ ΛΑΜΙΑΣ - LAMIA (3/9) - ATHENS (5/9) - PIRAEUS (5/9) - SYRA (8/9/1847)**

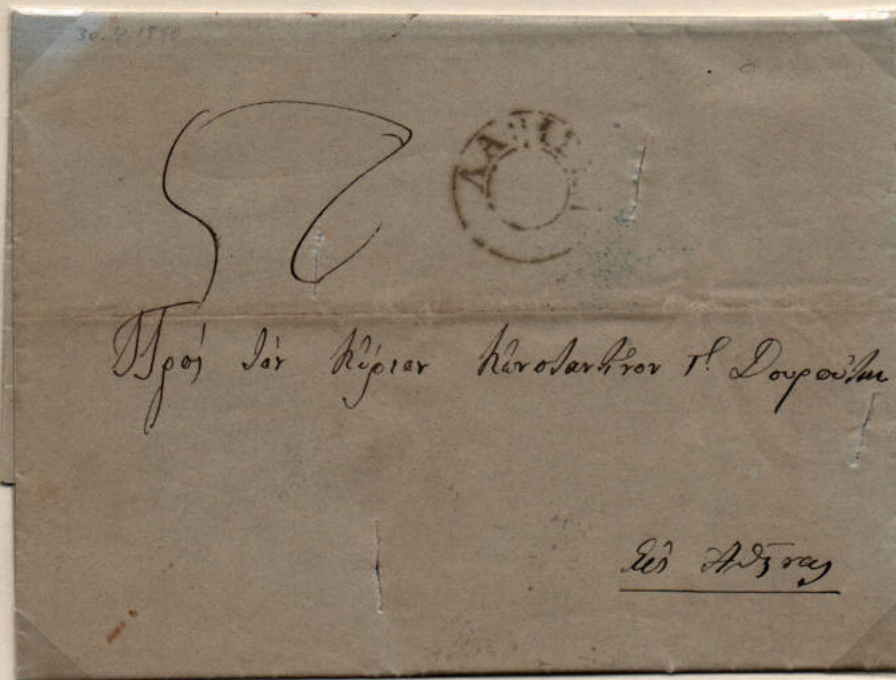


Greek p.o. **THESSALONIKI (3/7/1848)** indicated *διά του της Ξηράς ταχυδρομείου* (by the overland post) - Taratsa h.o. (two slits) - entry mark **ΕΛΛΑΣ ΔΙΑ ΛΑΜΙΑΣ LAMIA (7/7) - ATHENS (9/7) - SYRA (12/7/1848)**

**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS**  
**TARATSA HEALTH OFFICE**

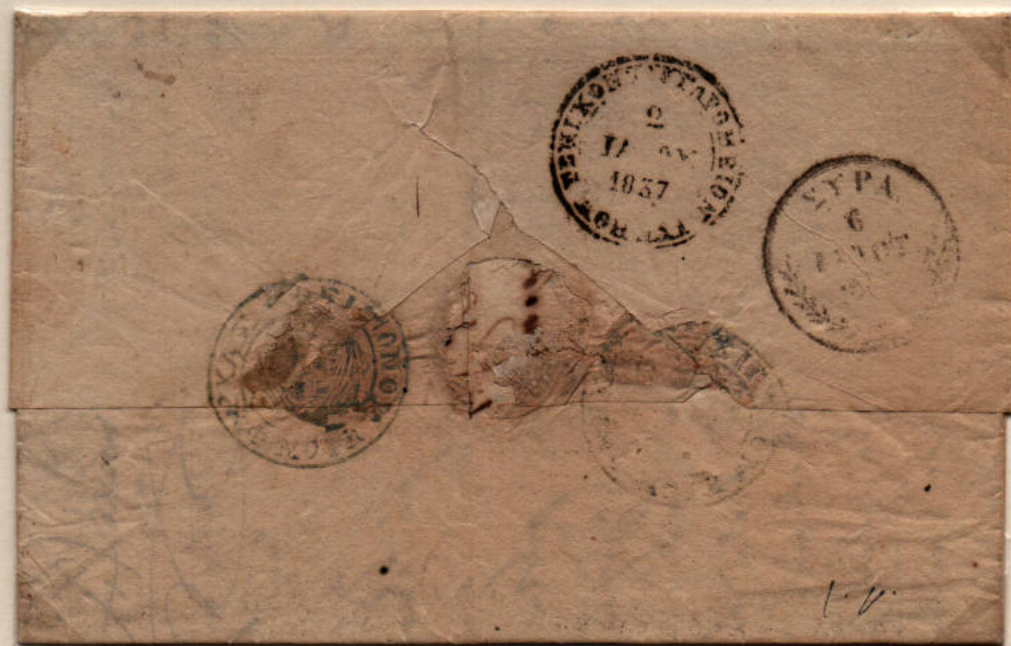
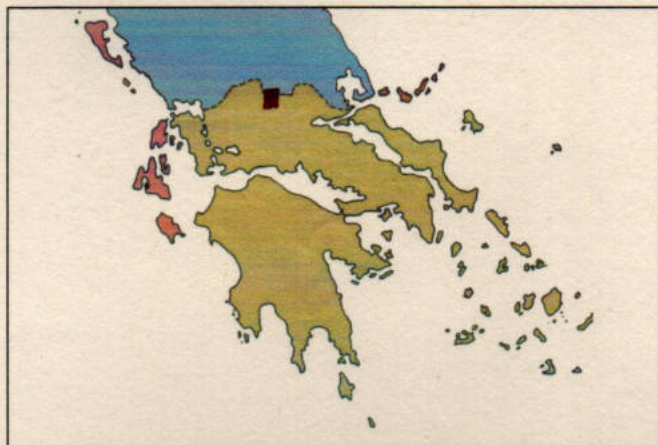


Greek p.o. **THESSALONIKI (5/11/1849)** - Taratsa h.o. (five horizontal slits) - **LAMIA (9/11)**  
 entry mark **ΕΛΛΑΣ ΔΙΑ ΛΑΜΙΑΣ** - **ATHENS (14/11)** - **SYRA (15/11/1849)**



Greek p.o. **LARISSA (30/7/1850)** - Taratsa h.o. (four vertical slits)  
**LAMIA (1/8)** - **ATHENS (4/9/1850)**

**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS**  
**FOURKA DERVENI SANITARY COMPOUND**



Greek p.o. **THESALONIKI** (24/12/1836) handwritten via Athens  
**FOURKA SANITARY COMPOUND - GENERAL ATHENS POST (2/1) - SYRA (6/1/1837)**

*The only known letter with Fourka Sanitary Compound seal (ex collections Meyer, Eylan)*

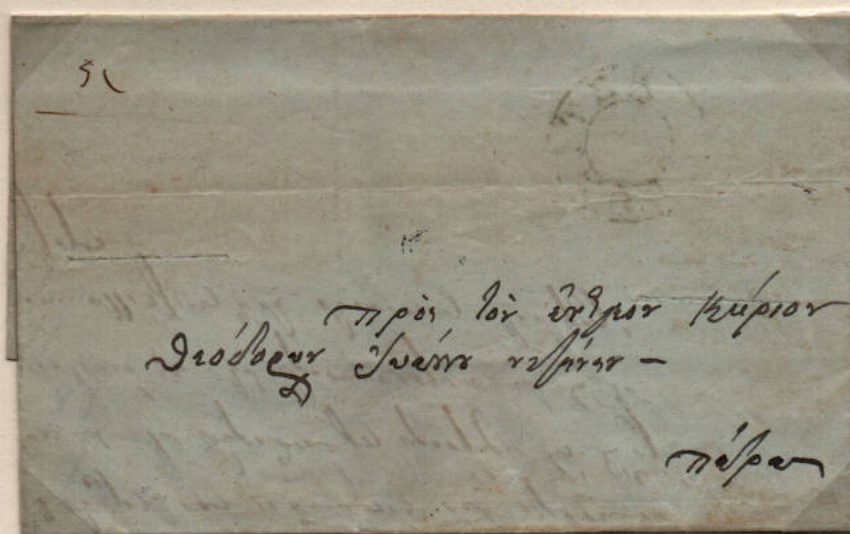
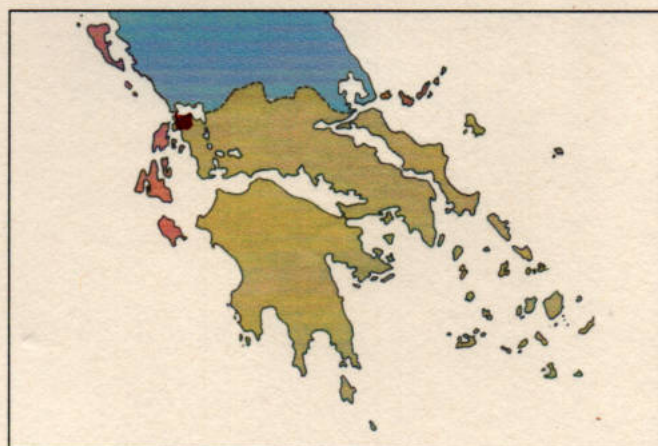
**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS  
MAKRYNOROS HEALTH OFFICE**



**Arta** (30/9/1856) privately carried - MAKRYNOROS H.O. - AMF. ARGOS (3/10)  
Handwritten entry mark Υπερόριον - **PATRAS** (7/10/1856)

*The only known letter with Makrynoros H.O. seal*

**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS**  
**VONITSA HEALTH OFFICE**

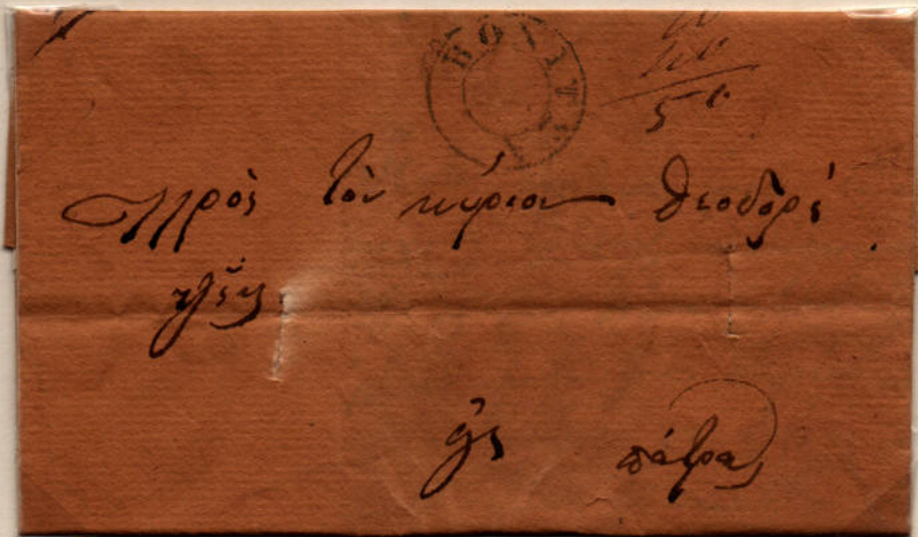


**Arta** (24/5/1844) privately carried to forwarding agent - Vonitsa h.o. (two horizontal slits)  
**VONITSA - PATRAS (16/4/1844)**

**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS**  
VONITSA HEALTH OFFICE

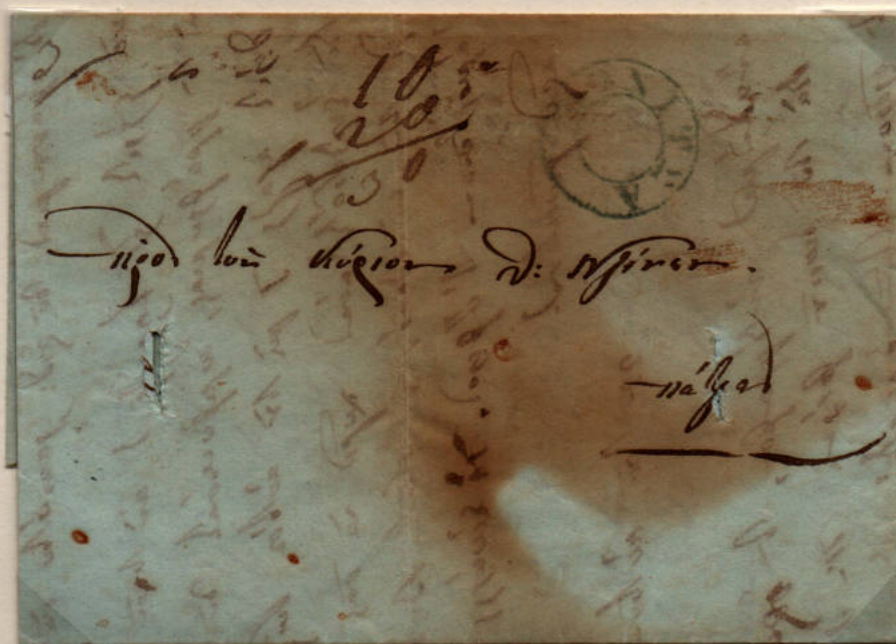


**Arta** (24/2/1845) privately carried to forwarding agent - Vonitsa h.o. (three horizontal slits)  
VONITSA - **PATRAS** (12/3/1845)



**Arta** (1/5/1846) privately carried to forwarding agent - Vonitsa h.o. (two vertical slits)  
VONITSA - **PATRAS** (8/5/1846)

**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS**  
**VONITSA HEALTH OFFICE**

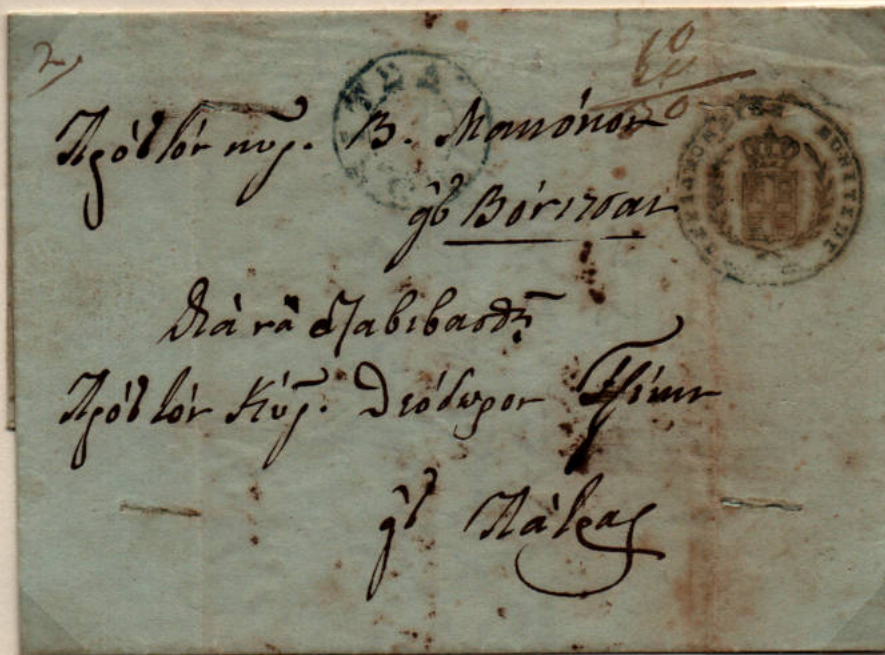


**Preveza (19/10/1846) - Vonitsa h.o. (two vertical slits) - VONITSA - PATRAS (2/11/1846)**



**Preveza (18/12/1847) privately carried for forwarding agent - VONITSA H.O.**  
**(one horizontal two vertical slits) - VONITSA - PATRAS (13/1/1847 instead of 1848)**

**A INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH LAND BORDERS  
VONITSA HEALTH OFFICE**



**Preveza (8/2/1847) privately carried for forwarding agent - VONITSA H.O.  
(four horizontal slits) - VONITSA - PATRAS (17/2/1847)**



**Preveza (27/10/1856) - VONITSA H.O. (no slits) - VONITSA (1/1) - PATRAS (20/1/1857)**



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B1 MAIL FUMIGATED ON BOARD FRENCH SHIPS COMING FROM**  
**OTTOMAN PORTS PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL TO PIRAEUS**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (7/5/1843)** - two external slits  
**PIRAEUS (30/4) - ATHENS (30/4/1843)**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (7/4/1844)** - two external slits  
**PIRAEUS (31/5) - ATHENS (31/5/1844)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B1 MAIL FUMIGATED ON BOARD FRENCH SHIPS COMING FROM OTTOMAN PORTS PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL TO PIRAEUS**



French p.o. **SMYRNE (9/6/1845)** - two external slits - **PIRAEUS (31/5)**  
**ATHENS (31/5/1845)**



**Thessaloniki (18/7/1846)** - French p.o. **DARDANELLES (8/8)**  
fumigated on board (two side slits) - **SYRA (1/8/1846)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B1 MAIL FUMIGATED ON BOARD FRENCH SHIPS COMING FROM OTTOMAN PORTS PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL TO PIRAEUS**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (17/4/1847)** - two external slits  
PIRAEUS (8/4) - ATHENS (8/4) - **PATRAS (10/4/1847)**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (27/3/1848)** - two external slits  
PIRAEUS (18/3) - ATHENS (18/3) - **PATRAS (20/3/1848)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B1 MAIL FUMIGATED ON BOARD FRENCH SHIPS COMING FROM OTTOMAN PORTS PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL TO PIRAEUS**

French vessel coming from Constantinople called Aegina instead of Piraeus;  
the Greek mail from the island was collected in Piraeus  
being also fumigated along with that from Constantinople.  
The Piraeus P.O. applied the red ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ marking indiscriminately,  
by mistake, on all -international and domestic- incoming mail.



**Aegina island (12/7/1848)** - four external slits - entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ as it was carried by the French steamship calling from Constantinople - PIRAEUS (14/7) - **ATHENS (14/7/1848)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B1 MAIL FUMIGATED ON BOARD FRENCH SHIPS COMING FROM OTTOMAN PORTS PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL TO PIRAEUS**

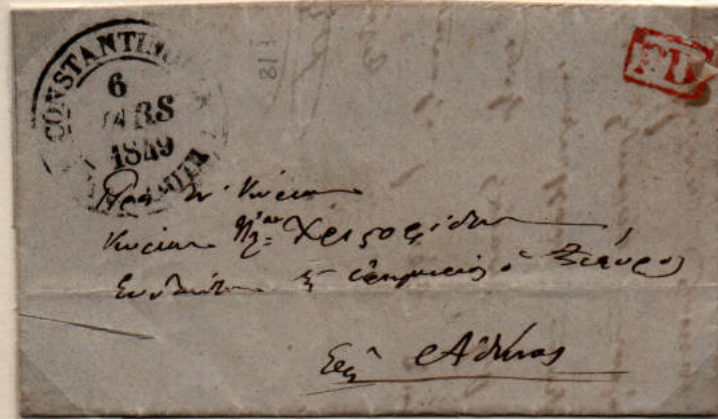


French p.o. **SMYRNE (30/8/1845)** - three external slits  
**PIRAEUS (21/8) - ATHENS (21/8/1845)**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (15/6/1849)** - two external slits  
**PIRAEUS (6/6) - ATHENS (6/8/1849)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B1 MAIL FUMIGATED ON BOARD FRENCH SHIPS COMING FROM OTTOMAN PORTS PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL TO PIRAEUS**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (6/3/1849)** - two external slits  
**PIRAEUS (?) - ATHENS (26/2/1849)**



French p.o. **SMYRNE (27/1/1849)** - two external slits  
**PIRAEUS (16/1) - ATHENS (16/1/1849)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B1 MAIL FUMIGATED ON BOARD FRENCH SHIPS COMING FROM OTTOMAN PORTS PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL TO PIRAEUS**



French p.o. **SMYRNE (27/3/1850)** - two external slits  
**PIRAEUS (16/3) - ATHENS (16/5/1850)**



**Constantinople (24/3/1852)** privately carried - two external slits  
**PIRAEUS (5/4) - entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - ATHENS (5/4/1852)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B2 MAIL FUMIGATED ON BOARD FRENCH SHIPS COMING FROM THE WEST PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL TO PIRAEUS**



**MALTA (27/7/1844) - two external slits - PIRAEUS (21/7) - ATHENS (21/7)  
NAFLION (23/7/1844)**



**Marseille (21/9/1849) to Nafplion** carried privately and fumigated on board the carrying French ship - two external slits

*The only two known covers sent eastwards*



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Volo (23/12/1836) privately carried - SYRA H.O. in recto and in verso (I type)**  
**entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - SYRA (30/12/1836)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Syra Lazaret**



**Marseilles (15/7/1837) - Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits) - entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ**  
**SYRA (28/7/1837)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Volo (22/7/1837) - SYRA H.O. - entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - SYRA (27/7/1837)**



**French p.o. CONSTANTINOPLE (28/11/1837) postage paid - Syra h.o. (three horizontal slits)  
entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - SYRA (20/11/1837)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Alexandria** (6/12/1837) handwritten *διά του Γαλλικού Ατμοπλοίου* (by the French steamship) carried privately - SYRA H.O. - **NAFPLION** (13/12/1837)



**Smyrna** (6/7/1838) - SYRA H.O. - entry mark *ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ* - **SYRA** (12/7/1838)

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Smyrna (6/10/1838) AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO SMYRNA**  
Syra h.o. (three horizontal slits) - entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - **SYRA (27/9/1838)**



**Smyrna (25/10/1838) AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO SMYRNA**  
SYRA H.O. - entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - **SYRA (26/11/1838)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



French p.o. **Alexandria (27/10/1838)** - handwritten *Licurgo* (the French steamship)  
Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits) - **SYRA (18/10/1838)**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (7/1/1839)** - SYRA H.O. - **SYRA (30/12/1838)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (17/1/1839)** - SYRA H.O. - **SYRA (10/1/1839)**



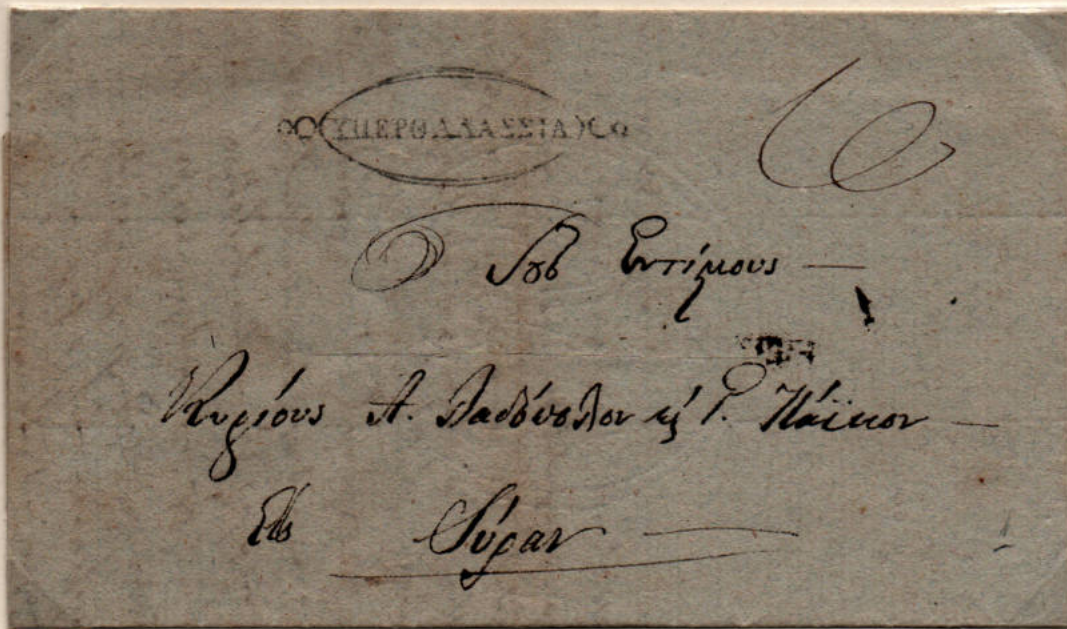
**Volo (9/5/1839)** privately carried - SYRA H.O. - **Syra (23/5/1839)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Thessaloniki** (7/3/1840) privately carried - SYRA H.O. **plus** one horizontal slit  
**Syra** (15/3/1840)

*A rare case where Syra h.o. plus disinfection slits were used combined*



**Thessaloniki** (10/3/1840) - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ  
**SYRA** (21/3/1840)



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Thessaloniki (22/4/1840) - SYRA H.O. - entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ  
SYRA (25/4/1840)**



**Serres (29/7/1840) privately carried - SYRA H.O. - entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ  
SYRA (12/8/1840)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Thessaloniki (13/1/1841) French p.o. - SMYRNE (10/1)**  
**Syra h.o. (three horizontal slits) - SYRA (30/1/1841)**



**Canea (24/2/1841) - Syra h.o. (one slit in verso two in recto)**  
**entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - SYRA (4/3/1841)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (23/2/1842)** handwritten *Per il vapore francese*  
(by the French steamship) - SYRA H.O. - **SYRA (1/3/1842)**



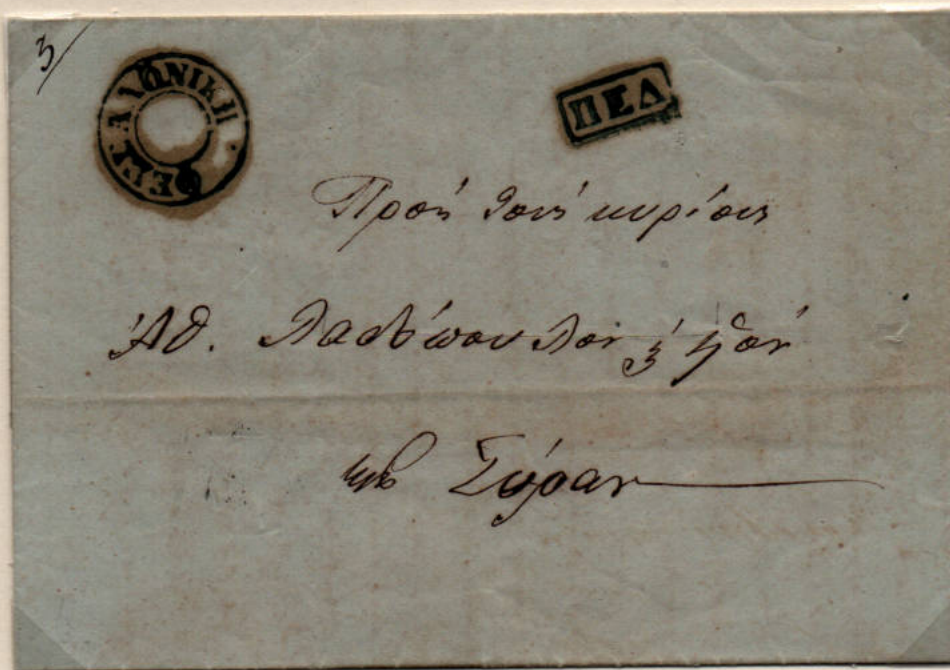
**Karlovassi, Samos (11/10/1842)** privately carried - SYRA H.O. - **SYRA (15/10/1842)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Thessaloniki (25/12/1846) AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO SALONICCO**  
Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits) - **SYRA (14/1/1847)**



**Thessaloniki (20/2/1847) - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - SYRA (11/3/1847)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Sykia** (?/8/1848) privately carried - SYRA H.O. - **Syra** (28/8/1848)

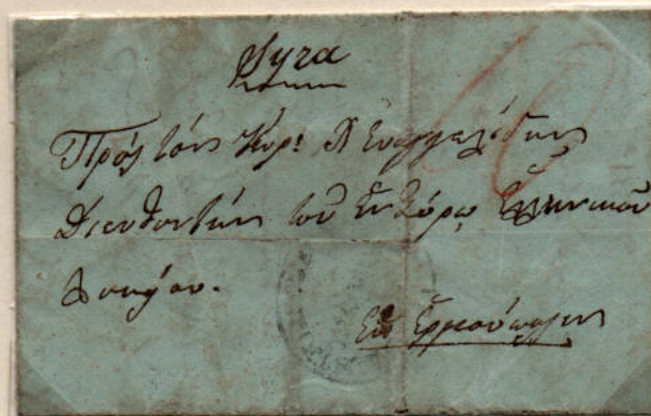


**Thessaloniki** (13/10/1848) privately carried SYRA H.O - **Syra** (18/10/1848)

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Thessaloniki (5/2/1847) AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO SALONICCO**  
**SYRA H.O. plus two horizontal slits - SYRA (23/2/1847)**



**Smyrne (29/11/1847) AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO SMYRNE**  
**Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - SYRA (30/11/1847)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



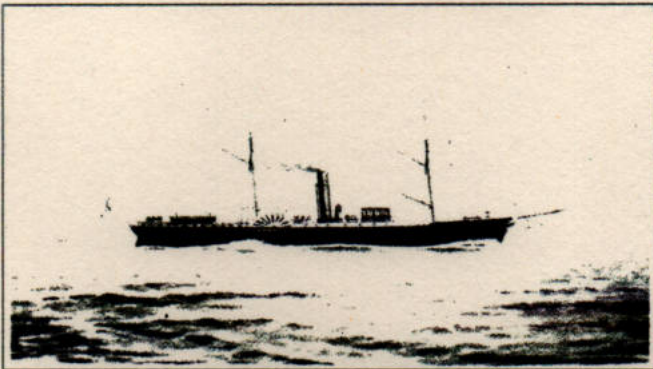
**Constantinople (21/7/1849) - SYRA H.O. - SYRA (13/7) - ATHENS (14/7/1849)**



**LIVORNO (17/10/1849)** by French vessel *Hellespont* - Syra h.o. (one vertical slit)  
SYRA (12/10) - PIRAEUS (12/10) - delivered to the addressee in **ATHENS (13/10/1849)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



The paddler ship AMERICA II (Lloyd's Archives)

The Austrian Lloyd official agency opened at Canea in 1857.

Since 1937, however, the line Canea-Syra was maintained by the cutter AMERICA and vessel AMERICA II, both owned in fact by Lloyd.

The Company's agent was entrusted with the handling of mail, who applied the "PP" handstamp shown on the cover hereunder.



**Canea (1/1/1850)** entrusted to Lloyd's agent  
Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - entry mark **ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - SYRA (2/1/1850)**

Forwarding was impressively rapid and efficient, having taken only one day to be delivered to destination



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Beyrouth** (Sept. 1850) - oval AGENZIA LLOYD AUSTRIACO BERUTTI  
Syra h.o. (one long and four short horizontal slits) - **SYRA (14/9/1850)**



**Chio** (23/10/1850) privately carried - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit)  
entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - **SYRA (24/10/1850)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



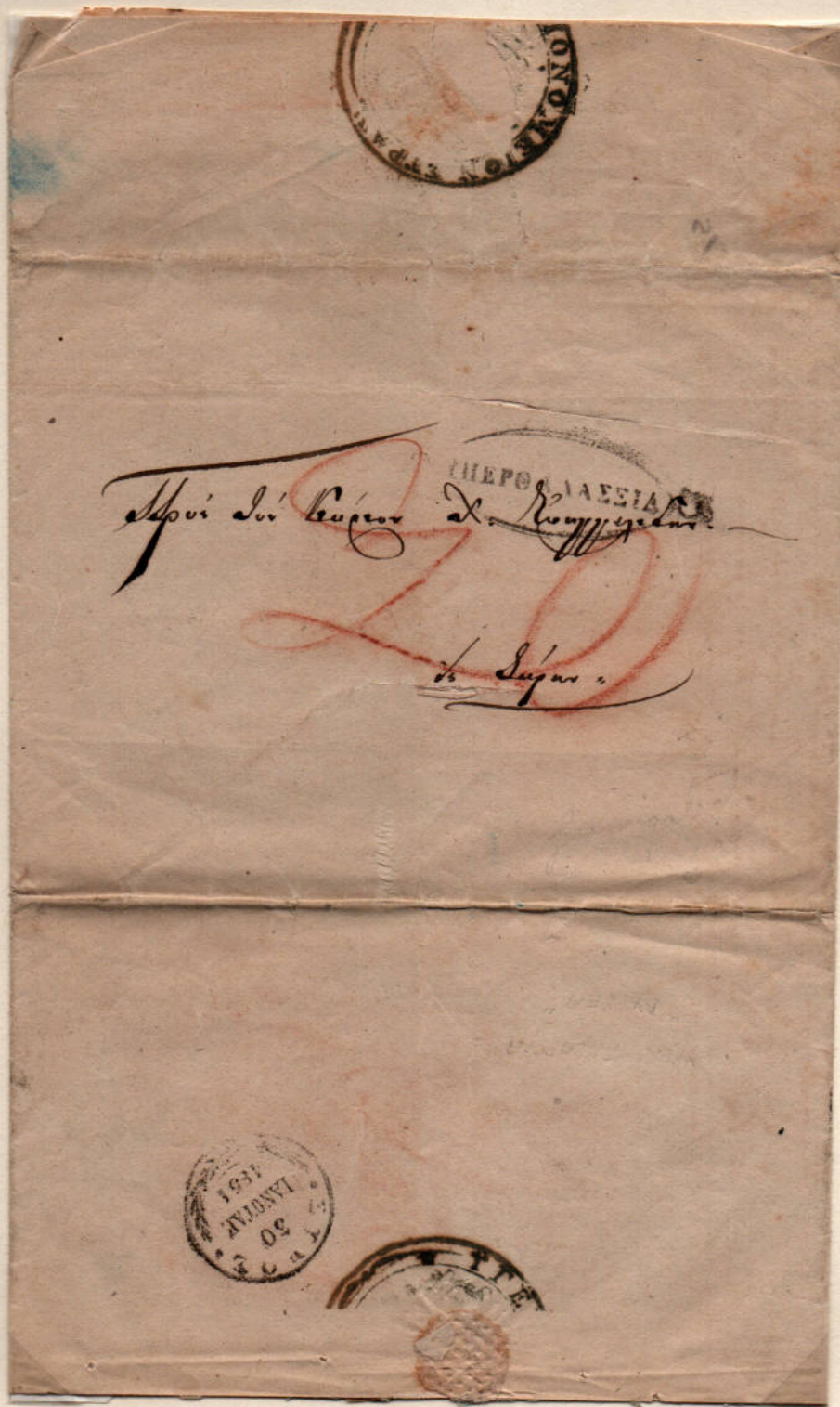
Greek p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (28/10/1850)** with Lloyd steamship *IMPERATORE*  
 Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - **SYRA (31/10/1850)**



Greek p.o. **THESSALONIKI (14/12/1850)** - Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits)  
**SYRA (19/12/1850)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Canea (27/1/1851) - SYRA H.O. plus two horizontal slits - entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ  
SYRA (30/1/1851)**

*Last recorded year of use of the Syra health office cancellation*

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (6/5/1852)** - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit)  
**SYRA (27/4/1852)**



Greek p.o. **THESSALONIKI (23/6/1852)** AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO SALONICCO  
Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - **SYRA (1/7/1852)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**

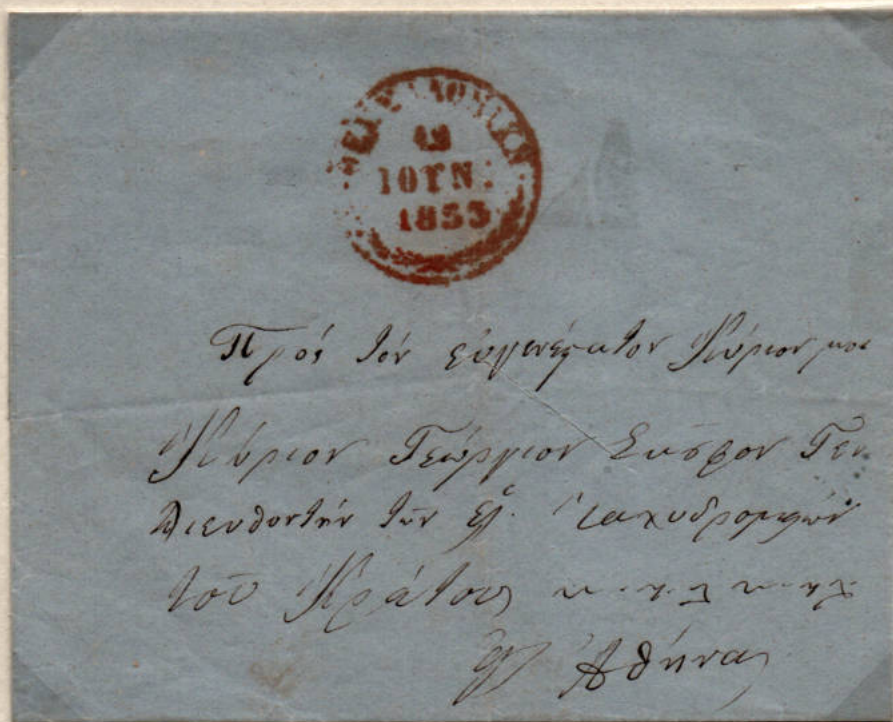


**George Scoufos (1803-1873)**

G. Scoufos served as General Director of the Hellenic Post from 1832 to 1855.

He realized the impact of the post to the progress of the country and he was the one who promoted the expansion of the service by signing contracts with various shipping companies, such as the Austrian Lloyd and the French Rostand & Cie, for the transportation of the mail abroad.

G. Scoufos served also as Mayor of Athens.



Greek p.o. **THESSALONIKI (13/6/1853)** - Syra h.o. (one diagonal slit)  
**SYRA (25/6/1853)**; forwarded to **Athens** by official mail  
as the addressee was George Scoufos, General Director of the Hellenic Post

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (5/1/1853)** - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit)  
**SYRA (28/12/1852)**



Greek p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (14/9/1853)** - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit)  
**PIRAEUS (18/9/1853)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Constantinople (31/7/1854) AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO CONSTANTINOPOLI**  
Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - PIRAEUS (23/8) - **ATHENS (23/8/1854)**



**GENOVA (11/9/1856) - Syra h.o. (one slit) - SYRA (6/9/1856)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**

**The 1865 Cholera epidemic**



**Ayvalik (14/7/1865) - Austrian p.o. SMYRNE (21/7) - Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits)**  
**SYRA (19/7/1865)**



**Kydonies (20/7/1865) - Austrian p.o. METELINE (3/8) - Austrian p.o. SMYRNE (4/8)**  
**Syra h.o. (two slits) - SYRA 20/7/1865)**



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**SCIO (24/7/1865) - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - SYRA (25/7/1865)**

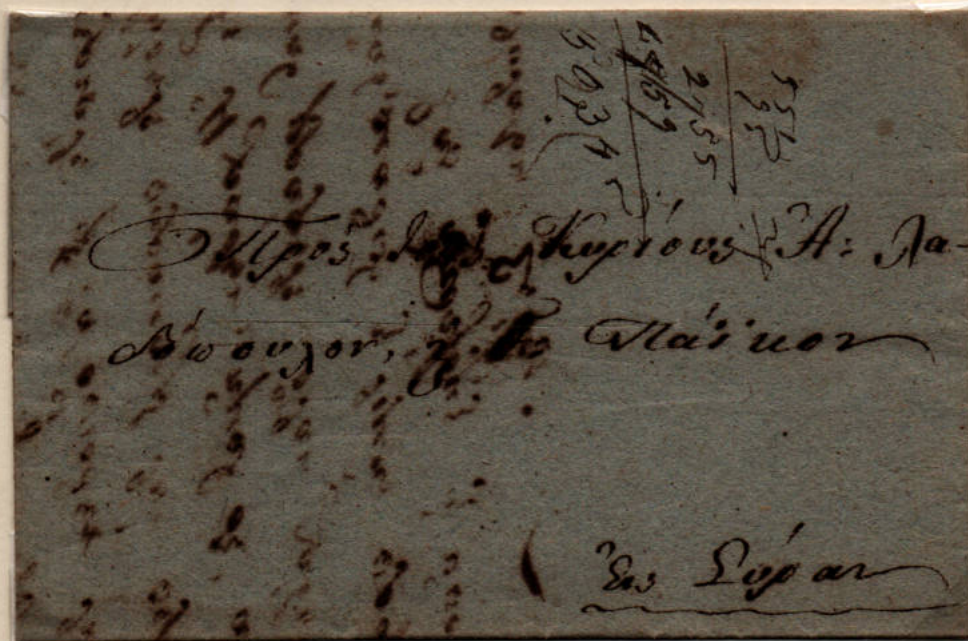


**Austrian p.o. Canea (22/10/1865) - Syra h.o. (one diagonal slit) - SYRA (12/10/1865)**

*Last recorded year of disinfection at Syra Health Station*

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Karlovassi** (Samos) (22/11/1840) privately carried  
Syra h.o. (one slit in verso two in recto) - **Syra**



**Constantinople** (25/11/1840) handwritten *per il vapore austriaco* - AGENZIA DEL LLOYD  
AUSTRIACO COSPOLI - SYRA H.O. - entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - **SYRA (28/11/1840)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Smyrne (5/3/1851) AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO SMYRNE**  
Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - **SYRA (6/3/1851)**



**Alessandria privately carried - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - SYRA (12/2/1852)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Serres (15/12/1850) privately carried - Greek p.o. THESSALONIKI (21/12)**  
Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - **SYRA (26/12/1850)**



**Smyrne (24/2/1851) AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO SMYRNE**  
Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - **SYRA (13/2/1851)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



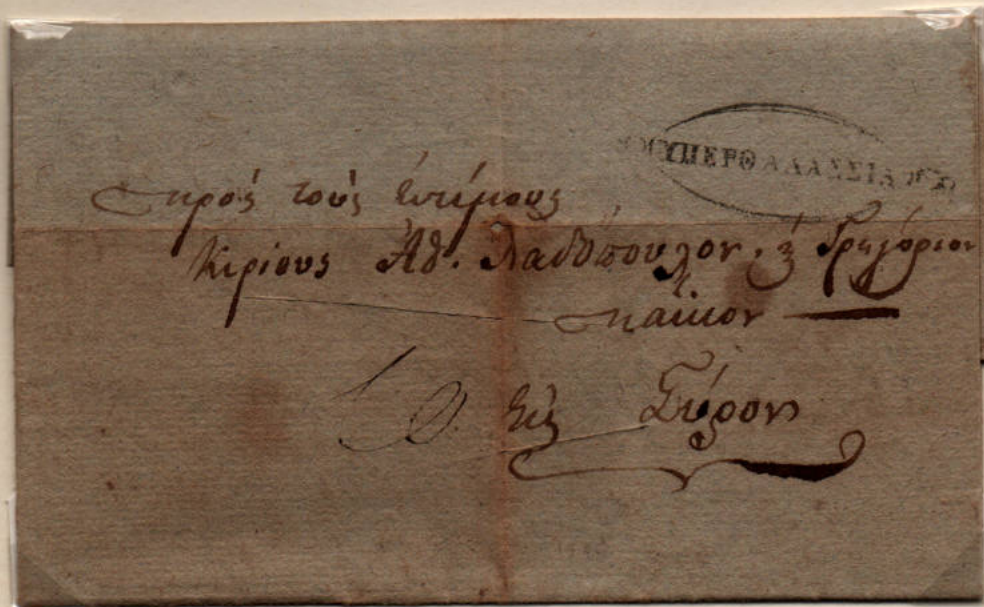
**Serres (3/1/1842) to forwarding agent French p.o. CONSTANTINOPLE (18/1)**  
**Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - SYRA (9/2/1842)**



**Thessaloniki (12/1/1842) forwarded per mezzo de Buletta che vi salutano Cospoli 27 Gen. 842**  
**french p.o. CONSTANTINOPLE (27/1/1842) per il vapore francese**  
**Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits) - SYRA (16/1/1842)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Volo (13/7/1841) privately carried - Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits)  
entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - SYRA (18/7/1841)**



**French p.o. CONSTANTINOPLE (17/9/1841) - SYRA H.O. - SYRA (9/9/1841)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Thessaloniki (5/5/1841) privately carried - SYRA H.O. - Syra (16/5/1841)**



**Thessaloniki (17/5/1841) privately carried - SYRA H.O. - Syra (31/5/1841)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Alexandria** (5/7/1850) privately carried - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - **SYRA (11/7/1850)**



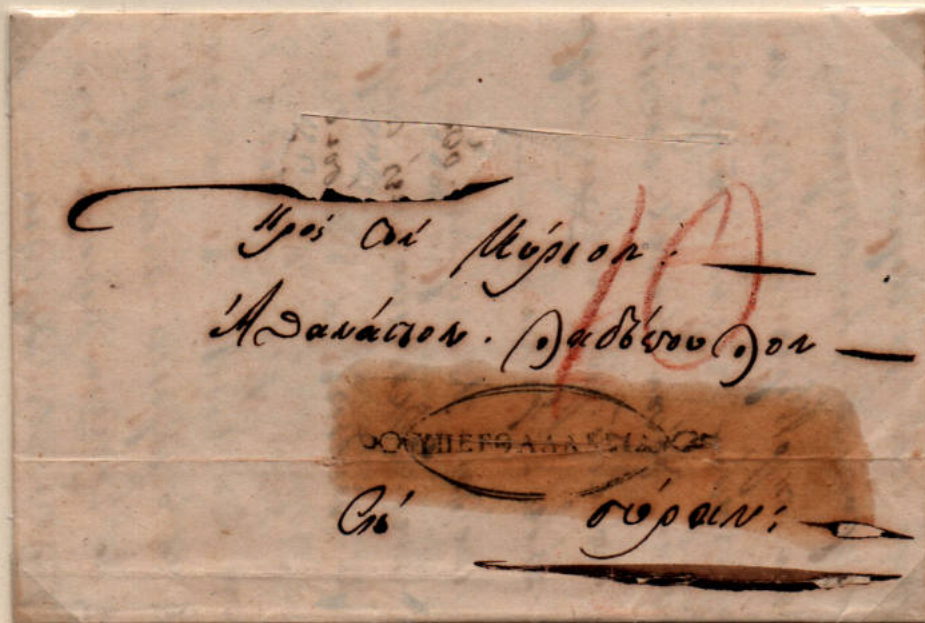
Greek p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (29/7/1850)** - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit)  
PIRAEUS (3/8) - ATHENS (3/8) - **PATRAS (5/8/1850)**



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



Greek p.o **THESSALONIKI (17/3/1848)** - Syra h.o. (one slit) - **SYRA(22/3/1848)**



**Thessaloniki (12/7/1848)** privately carried - Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits)  
entry mark **ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - SYRA (17/7/1848)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



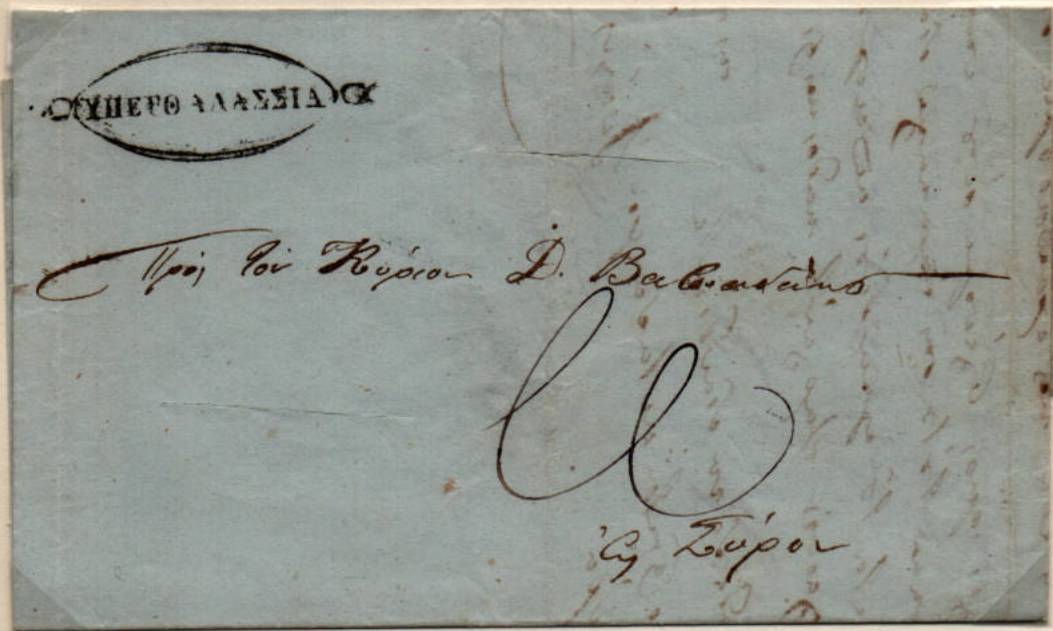
**Psarra** island (28/8/1845) privately carried - Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits)  
entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - **SYRA (30/10/1845)**



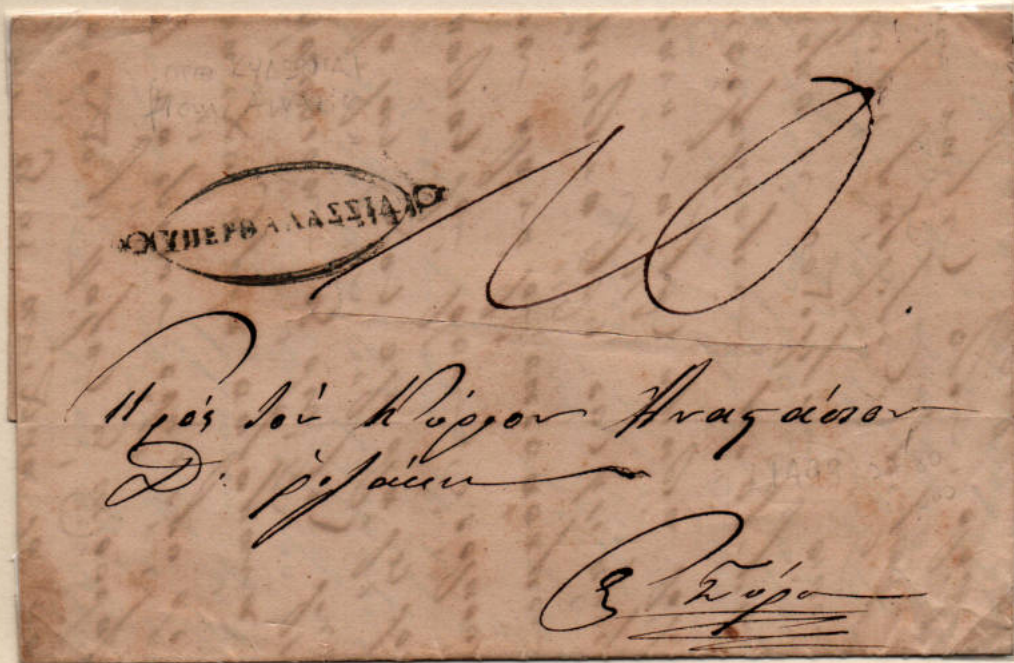
**Thessaloniki** (21/8/1846) AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO SALONICCO  
Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits) - **SYRA (25/8/1846)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B3 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: SYRA**



**Candia (7/6/1843) - Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits) - entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ  
SYRA (10/6/1843)**



**Aivalik (16/8/1845) - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit)  
entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - SYRA (21/8/1845)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



Type I

Type II

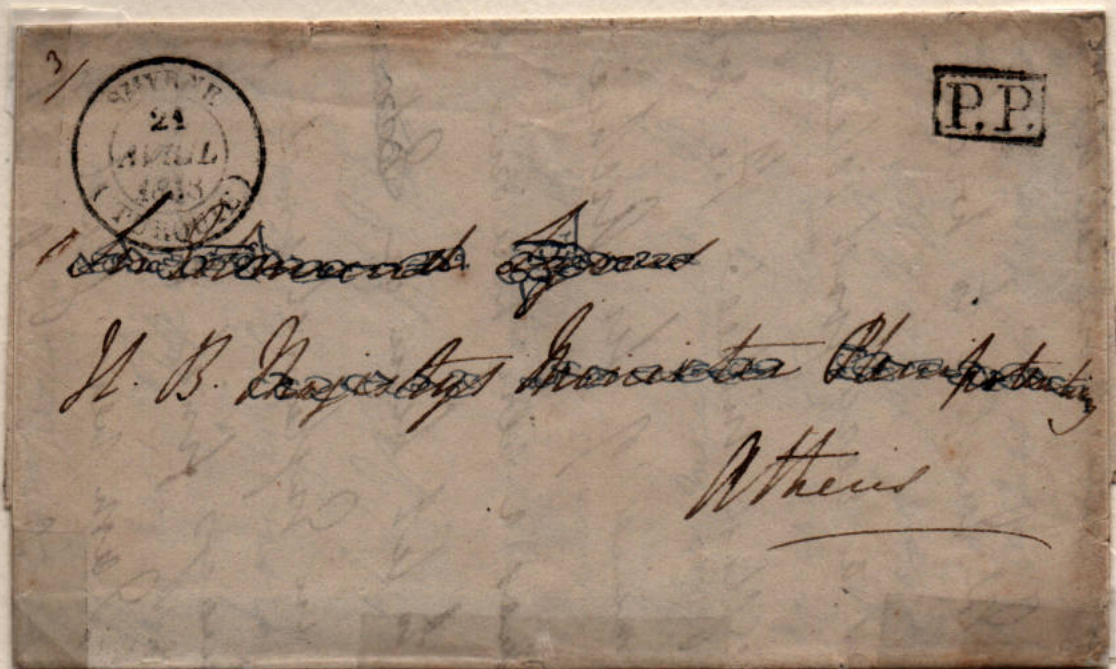


Letter written onboard **HMS Sapphire**  
dispatched through the French p.o. **SMYRNE (19/3/1838)** - shipping mark **PP**  
Piraeus h.o. (six horizontal slits) collected there;  
forwarded to the British Ambassador Sir Edmond Lyons in Athens

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (16/3/1838)** - Piraeus h.o. (six horizontal slits)  
**PIRAEUS (11/6) - NAFPLION (13/6/1838)**



French p.o. **SMYRNE (21/4/1838)** - shipping mark **PP** - PIRAEUS H.O. - **Athens**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (16/7/1838)** - PIRAEUS H.O.  
NAFPLION (13/7) - **KALAMAI (16/7/1838)**



French p.o. **ALEXANDRIA (27/8/1838)** - Piraeus h.o. (six horizontal slits)  
PIRAEUS (21/8) - **ATHENS (21/8/1838)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



**Cesme (13/7/1839) - Piraeus h.o. (five horizontal slits) - PIRAEUS (21/7)**  
Entry mark **ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - ATHENS (22/7/1839)**



**Constantinople (15/7/1839) - Piraeus h.o (six horizontal slits) - PIRAEUS (21/7)**  
**ATHENS (21/7/1839) - NAFPLION (23/7/1839)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



**Odessa** (12/10/1840) AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO COSPOLI - PIRAEUS H.O.  
entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ - PIRAEUS (31/10) - **ATHENS** (31/10/1840)



**Livorno** (10/9/1840) carried privately - Piraeus h.o. (six horizontal slits)  
ATHENS (11/9) - **NAFLION** (13/9/1840)



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (27/1/1840)** - Piraeus h.o. (six horizontal slits)  
 PIRAEUS (21/1) - entry mark ΕΛΛΑΣ ΔΙΑ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΩΣ - ATHENS (22/1/1840)  
 PATRAS (23/1/1840) - **CORFU (11/2/1840)**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (28/10/1840)** - PIRAEUS H.O. - PIRAEUS (21/10)  
 entry mark ΕΛΛΑΣ ΔΙΑ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΩΣ - ATHENS (21/10) - **NAFLION (24/10/1840)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (6/1/1841)** - Piraeus h.o. (four horizontal slits)  
PIRAEUS (4/2) - entry mark *ΕΛΛΑΣ ΔΙΑ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΩΣ* - ATHENS (4/2) - **NAFLION (6/2/1841)**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (7/6/1841)** - Piraeus h.o. (**three** horizontal and **two** vertical slits) - PIRAEUS (31/5) - **ATHENS (31/5/1841)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**

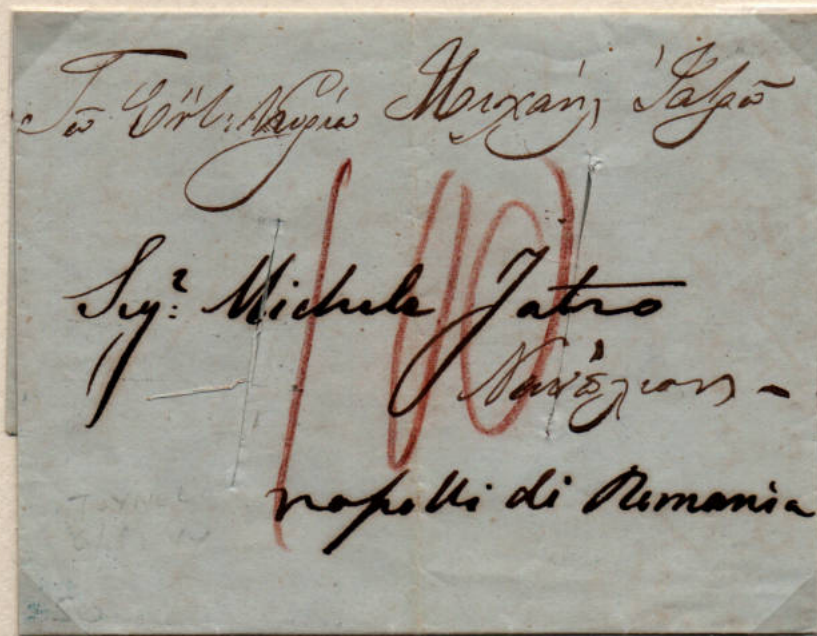


French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (27/2/1844)** - PIRAEUS H.O.  
PIRAEUS (20/2) - **ATHENS (20/2/1844)**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (27/3/1844)** - PIRAEUS H.O. - PIRAEUS (21/3)  
**ATHENS (21/3/1844)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



**MALTA (27/5/1844) - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits) - PIRAEUS (21/5)**  
**ATHENS (21/5/1844) directed privately to Nafplion**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (28/12/1844) - PIRAEUS H.O.**  
**PIRAEUS (21/12) - ATHENS (21/12/1844)**



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (27/11/1845)** - PIRAEUS H.O.  
PIRAEUS (18/11) - **ATHENS (18/11/1845)**



ΠΕΙΡΑΙΕΥΣ Λυμεναρχεῖον καὶ Ὑγειονομεῖον  
*Le Pirée. Capitainerie du port et bureau de santé.*

*The Port Authority and Sanitary Office buildings at Piraeus*

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (27/6/1846)** - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits)  
**PIRAEUS (18/6/1846)**



French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (25/11/1850)** - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits)  
**PIRAEUS (19/11/1850)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



**Odessa (20/12/1850)** privately carried - French p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (5/1)**  
Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits) - **PIRAEUS (27/15)** - **ATHENS (27/12/1850)**

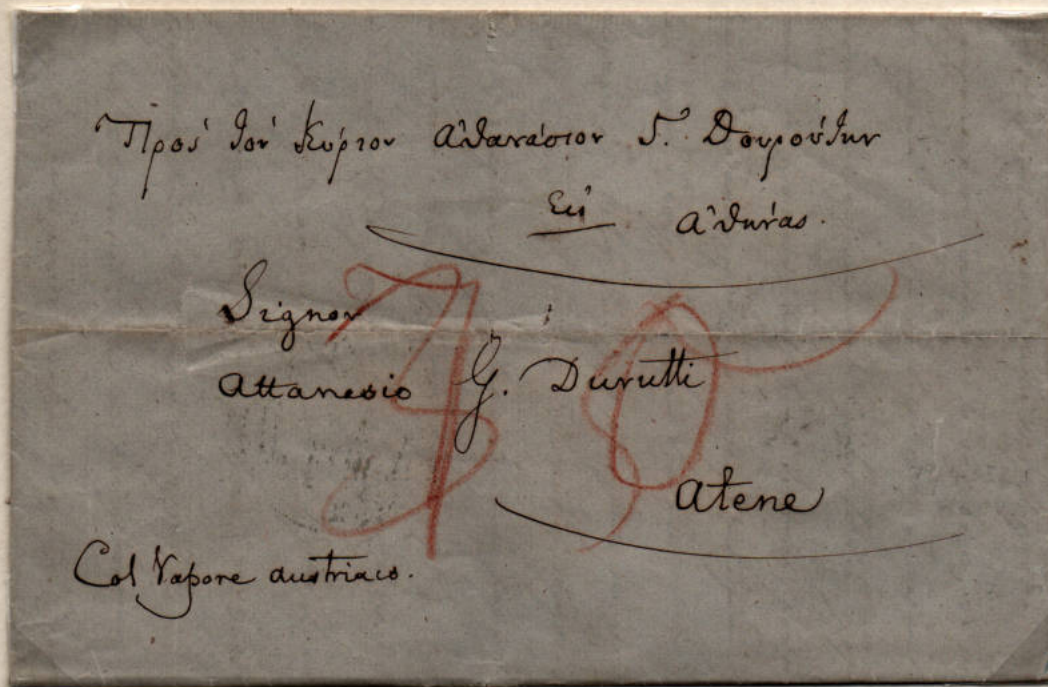


French p.o. **SMYRNE (27/1/1851)** disinfected on board the French ship  
and **PIRAEUS H.O. - PIRAEUS (16/1)** - **ATHENS (16/1/1851)**

*Last recorded year of use of the Piraeus health office cancellation*



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



**Ancona (27/6/1852) - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits) - PIRAEUS (2/6) - ATHENS (2/6/1852)**



**French p.o. CONSTANTINOPLE (15/10/1852) - Piraeus h.o. (two horizontal slits)**  
**PIRAEUS (1/10) - ATHENS (1/10/1852)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



Greek p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (10/8/1853)** - Piraeus h.o. (one slit)  
**PIRAEUS (14/8) - ATHENS (14/8/1853)**



French p.o. **SMYRNE (3/8/1858)** - Piraeus h.o. (three vertical slits) - **ATHENS (23/7/1858)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**

**The 1865 cholera outbreak**

In 1865, cholera was spread in Italy, the Adriatic, Austria, Egypt, Marseilles, Asia Minor, Ottoman areas in Europe etc.



**Marseilles (28/10/1865) - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits)**  
**PIRAEUS (21/10) - SYRA (28/10/1865)**



**Marseilles handed over to paquebot NIL (16/10/1865) - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits)**  
**PIRAEUS (10/10) - ATHENS (10/10) - PATRAS (12/12/1865)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



**Galatz** handed over to paquebot **CYDNUS (2/11/1865)** - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits)  
PIRAEUS (20/11) - **ATHENS (20/11/1865)**



**MANCHESTER (8/11/1865)** handwritten *Via Marseilles* - LONDON (9/11) - CALAIS (9/11)  
Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits) - ATHENS (6/11) - **PATRAS (8/11/1865)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



**TRIEST (2/12/1865) - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits) - ATHENS (25/12/1865)**

"...I forgot to write you that the steamship due to cholera did not accept the cargo (of ink).  
 Now, as cholera stopped, I hope she will start accepting cargo..."



Greek p.o. **SMYRNE (18/12/1865) - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits) - PIRAEUS (20/12/65) - ATHENS (20/12/65)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



**LYON (28/9/1866)** - MARSEILLES (28/9 rectangular APRES LE DEPART and 29/9) Piraeus h.o. (two horizontal slits) - **ATHENS (23/5/1866)**



**GENOVA (8/11/1866)** - BRINDISI (11/11) rectangular PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits) - **ATHENS (3/11/1866)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



**TRIEST (24/8/1867) - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits) - PIRAEUS (10/8) - ATHENS (12/8)**  
**PYRGOS (22/8) - Andraida**



**MESSINA (21/10/1867) - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits) - ATHENS (19/10/1867)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



**TRIESTE (30/9/1871) - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits) - ATHENS (25/9/1871)**



Greek p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (20/10/1871) - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits)**  
**PIRAEUS (22/10) - ATHENS (22/10/1871)**



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**

**The 1873 cholera outbreak**

In August 1873 cholera was raging in Northern Italy, Venice and Triest



"...we have here cases of cholera since last month but due to God's grace this terrible disease could not be stabilized as our Municipality has taken all the precautionary measures..."  
**TRIEST (23/8/1873)** - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits) - **ATHENS (15/8/1873)**

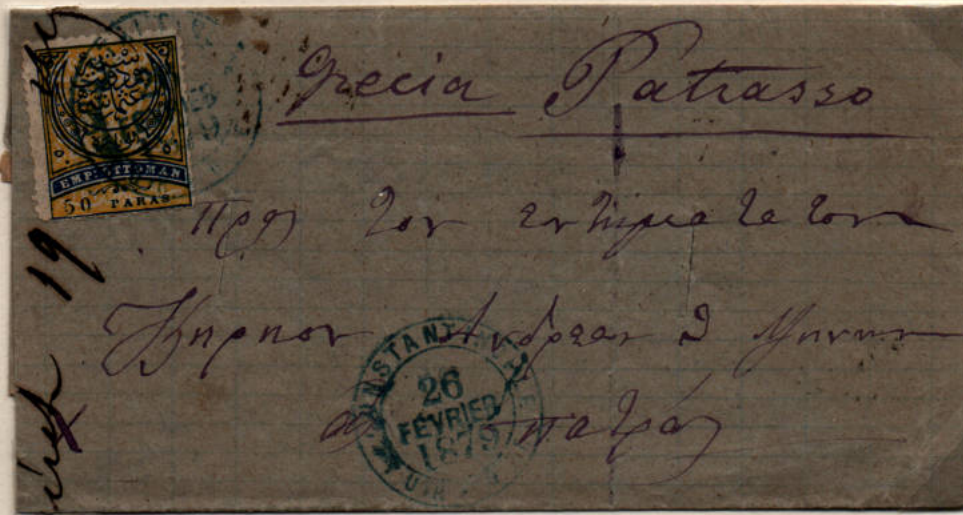


**TRIEST (6/9/1873)** - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits) - **ATHENS (29/10/1873)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**

Mail from Turkey to Greece was mostly entrusted  
 either to the Greek, French or Austrian Post Offices  
 or even to vessels calling at Greek ports

Two known examples of franked letters with Ottoman stamps  
 entrusted to the Greek p.o. of Constantinople



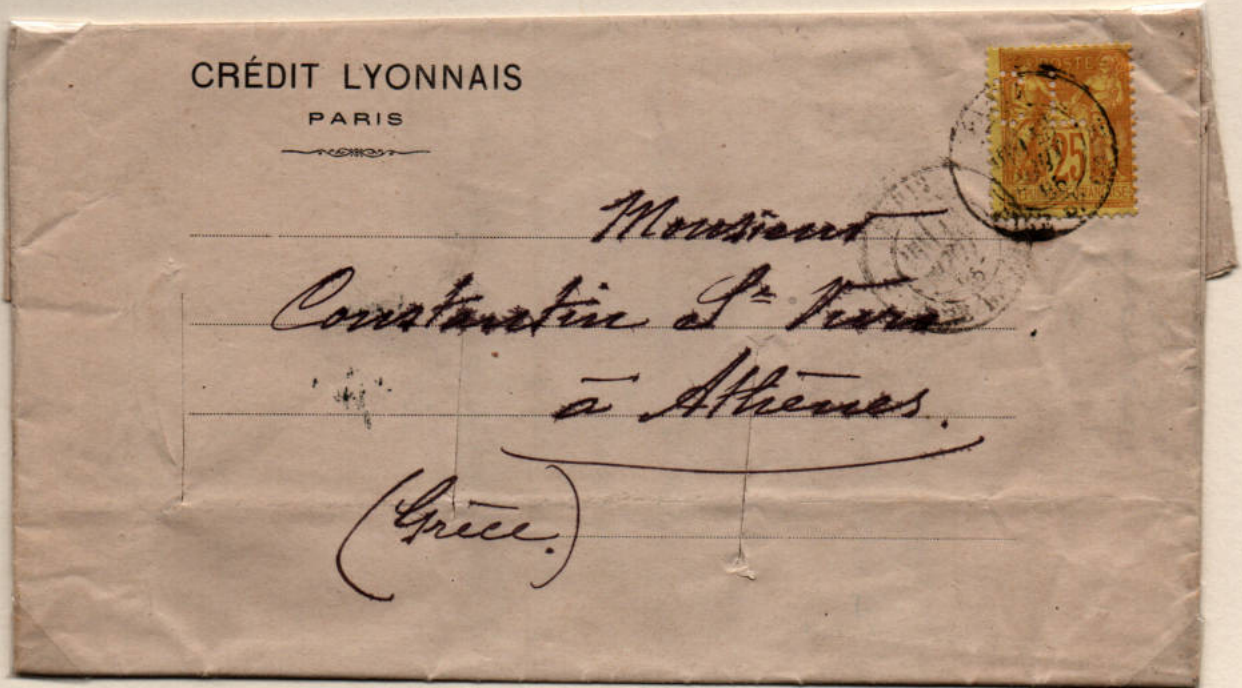
Ottoman p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (26/2/1879)**  
 transmitted to the Greek p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (14/2)**  
 PIRAEUS h.o. (two vertical slits) - PIRAEUS (16/2) - ATHENS (16/2) - **PATRAS (18/2/1879)**



Ottoman p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (14/3/1879)**  
 Transmitted to the Greek p.o. **CONSTANTINOPLE (2/3)**  
 PIRAEUS h.o. (two vertical slits) - **CORFU (6/3/1879)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**

**The 1883 Alexandria cholera outbreak**



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B4 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: PIRAEUS**



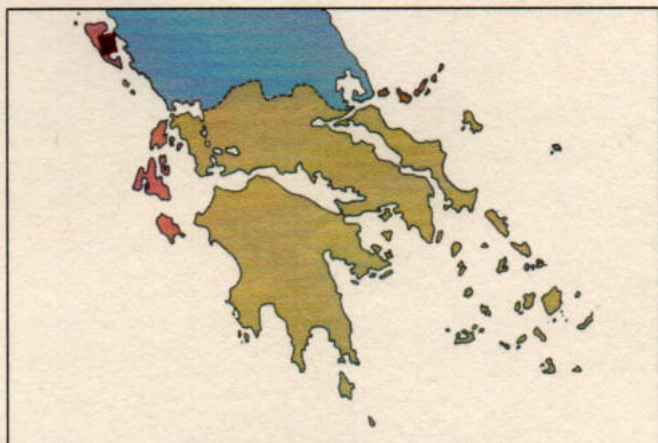
**TRIEST (7/7/1886)** - Piraeus h.o. (two vertical slits)  
**ATHENS (5/7/1886)** - forwarded to Galaxidi



**CATANIA (9/10/1892)** - Piraeus h.o. (two horizontal slits) - **PIRAEUS (31/10)**  
**PATRAS (1/11/1892)**

*The last recorded letter disinfected by Piraeus health office*

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B5 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: CORFU**



**The 1865 cholera outbreak**

In 1865, cholera was spread in Italy, the Adriatic, Austria, Egypt, Marseilles, Asia Minor, Ottoman areas in Europe etc.



**NAPOLI (8/8/1865) - MESSINA (10/8) - GALLIPOLI (20/8) - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits)**  
**CORFU (9/8) - PATRAS (9/8/1865)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B5 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: CORFU**



**TRIESTE (13/8/1865) - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits) - PATRAS (3/8/1865)**



**WIEN (6/9/1865) - TRIEST (7/9) - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits)**  
**CORFU (1/9) - PATRAS (4/9/1865)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B5 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: CORFU**

**Transportation by ADRIATICO ORIENTALE liner**  
(Brindisi - Corfu - Alexandria)

"... the delay is not because of me but to the way of transportation as Ancona port refuses to accept cargo due to cholera and the mail ships refuse to receive parcels..."



**LIVORNO (3/9/1865) - BRINDIZI (8/9) - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits) - CORFU (28/8/1865)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B5 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: CORFU**



**TRIEST (9/9/1865)** - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits) - **PATRAS (2/9/1865)**



**VENEZIA (22/9/1865)** handwritten *Colla Ferrata - Trieste* (by train to Triest)  
**TRIESTE (25/9)** - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits) - **PATRAS (15/9/1865)**



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B5 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: CORFU**

**Transportation by ADRIATICO ORIENTALE liner**  
(Alexandria - Corfu - Brindisi)



Greek p.o. **ALEXANDRIA (5/10/1865)** handwritten *Διά Κερκύρας* (via Corfu)  
Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits) - **CORFU (10/10)** - **ATHENS (15/10/1865)**



**Arta (18/10/1865)** sent to forwarding agent at Preveza (21/10) - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits)  
**CORFU (22/10/1865)** collected by the addressee (25/10)

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B5 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: CORFU**



*The remains of the lazaret building on the islet of Lazaretto opposite to Gouvia*



Austrian Levant p.o. **PREVEZA (17/12/1865)** - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits)  
**CORFU (6/12/1865)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B5 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: CORFU**



**VERCELLI (7/12/1865) - BRINDIZI (10/12) PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI**  
Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits) - **CORFU (29/11/1865)**



**LIVORNO (9/1/1866) - BRINDIZI (10/1) boxed PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI**  
Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits) - **CORFU (4/1/1866)**

Although the sender indicated via d'Ancona, the letter was expedited via Brindisi

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B5 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: CORFU**



**TRIESTE (12/10/1866) - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits) - CORFU (3/10/1866)**



**LIVORNO (14/11/1866) - BRINDISI (16/11) - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits) - CORFU (5/11)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B5 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: CORFU**



*The islet of St. George, Gouvies, Corfu, used as a lazaret*

*I received your letters of last 9. 26 September. We are always in the situation that the steamers do not load goods (merchandises). It is said that the epidemic ended from 22 of October but at this part they [Authorities] do not release clean navigation passports. Goods and men from Napoli are always in quarantine and steamers do not want merchandise...*



**NAPOLI (13/11/1866) - FRANCOBOLLI INSUFFICIENTE - BRINDIZI (14/10) - PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits) - CORFU (5.11.1866)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B5 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: CORFU**



**NAPOLI (1/7/1867)** handwritten VIA BRINDIZI - BRINDIZI (6/7)  
 Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits) - **CORFU (26/6/1867)**



**LIVORNO (13/7/1867)** - PISTOIA (14/7) - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits)  
 CORFU (8/7) - **ZANTE (13/7/1867)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B5 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: CORFU**



**MANCHESTER (16/7/1867)** handwritten *VIA BRINDIZI* - LONDON (17/7) - CALAIS (illegible) Brindizi (20/7) - Corfu h.o. (two horizontal slits) - CORFU (10/7) - **PATRAS (12/7/1867)**



**VENEZIA (13/9/1867)** handwritten *Col vapore* - BRINDIZI (13/9) *PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI* - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits) - CORFU (4/9) - **PATRAS (6/9/1867)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B5 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: CORFU**



*The islet of Vido was used as a lazaret*



Greek p.o. **THESSALONIKI (13/12/1871)** - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits)  
**CORFU (28/12/1871)**



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B5 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: CORFU**

**The 1884 cholera outbreak**

In 1884, cholera was spread from Alexandria to Italy.



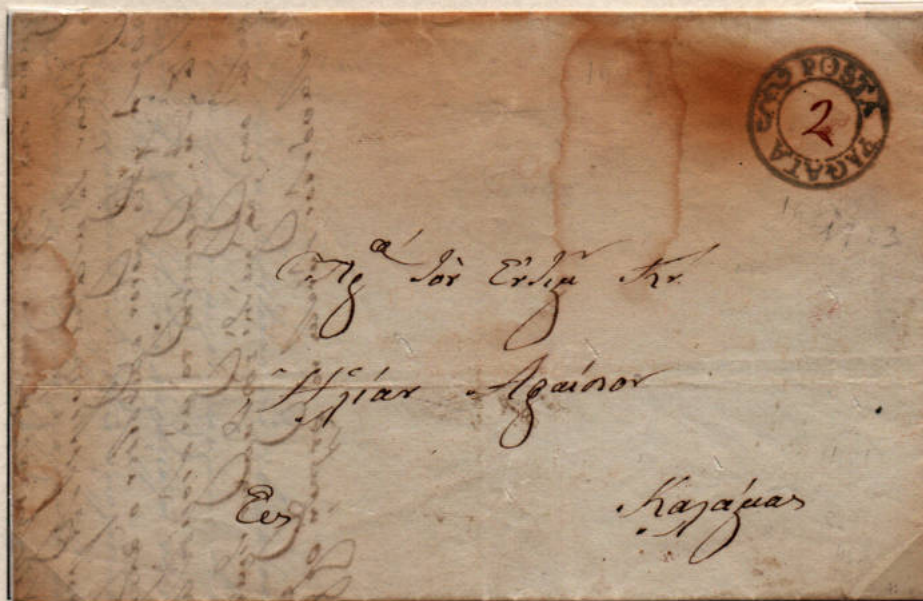
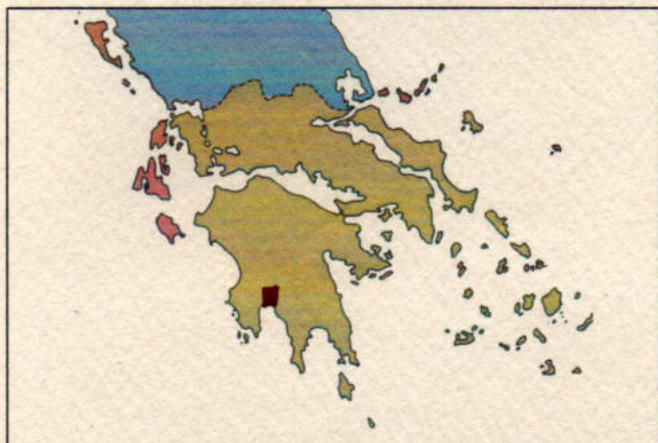
**VENEZIA (22/8/1884) - BRINDIZI (24/8) - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits)**  
**ATHENS (13/12/1884)**

*Delayed for over three months due to suspension of mail transportation*



**CATANIA (30/11/1884) - NAPOLI (1/12) - BRINDIZI (2/12)**  
**Corfu h.o (two vertical slits) - PATRAS (22/11/1884)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B6 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: KALAMAI**



**Zante (1/6/1841)** - fumigated only at Kalamai h.o.  
collected privately by the addressee

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B6 DISINFECTED MAIL AT GREEK PORTS: KALAMAI**



**Tunis (15/8/1836) - KALAMAI h.o. (rastel slits) - handwritten entry mark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ  
ΚΑΛΑΜΑΙ (6/9/1836)**

*Early use of the term "ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ", prior to the distribution of the corresponding official seals  
to the entry ports post offices*

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B7 TRANSIT MAIL DISINFECTED IN GREECE (Single Disinfections)**



**Canea (5/3/1840)** forwarded per mezzo Petrocochino Cavalli e Co, che alli vi salutano distintamente Syra 9/11 marzo 1840 -SYRA H.O. - SYRA (9/3) - **LIVORNO (1840)**



**Canea (9/6/1843)** con vapore austriaco  
 Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits) - SYRA (14/6) - **TRIESTE (3/7/1843)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**  
**B7 TRANSIT MAIL DISINFECTED IN GREECE (Single Disinfections)**



**Canea (5/2/1846)** carried by Lloyd steamship - Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits)  
SYRA (11/2) - **TRIESTE (28/2/1846)**



Austrian p.o. **CANEA (12/5/1847)** FRANCA  
Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits in verso) - **TRIEST (25/5/1847)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B7 TRANSIT MAIL DISINFECTED IN GREECE (Single Disinfections)**



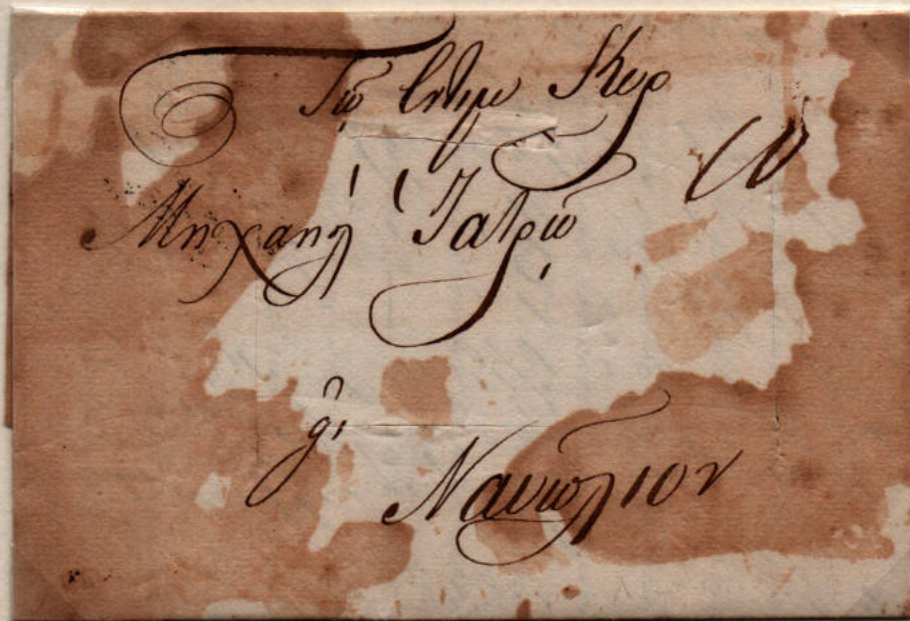
**Canea (15/9/1849)** - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - SYRA (14/9)  
transferred by French steamship - **GRÈCE-MARSEILLE (6/10/1849)**



**Canea (6/2/1850)** - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - SYRA (28/1/1850)  
transferred by French ship - **MARSEILLE (13/2/1850)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B8 TRANSIT MAIL DISINFECTED IN GREECE (Double Disinfections)**



**Livorno (5/12/1837) - Corfu h.o. (two vertical slits; splashed with vinegar)**  
**Syra h.o. (two horizontal slits) - NAFPLION (15/1/1838)**



**Alessandria (20/7/1838) - SYRA H.O. (opened, fumigated and cancelled)**  
**ANCONA H.O. (opened, fumigated and cancelled) - Livorno (18/8/1838)**

**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B8 TRANSIT MAIL DISINFECTED IN GREECE (Double Disinfections)**



**Canea** (June 1839) handwritten **VF** carried by Lloyd to Syra - first fumigation (one horizontal slit) and SYRA H.O. (III type) - transferred by French steamship to Malta - second fumigation (two vertical slits) and *PURIFIÉ AU LAZARET MALTE* (II type) - **MARSEILLE (13/7/1839)** - entry mark *PAQUEBOTS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE* - forwarded to Falmouth for onward transmission to **N. York** and entry mark **SHIP**



**Canea** (7/11/1843) carried by Lloyd steamship to Syra forwarding agent (30/11) - first fumigation (two horizontal slits) - **SYRA (30/10)** - transferred by French steamship to Malta second fumigation (two vertical slits) and *PURIFIÉ AU LAZARET MALTE* (II type) **GRÈCE-MARSEILLE (22/11/1843)** first known date



**B INCOMING FOREIGN MAIL THROUGH SEAPORTS**

**B8 TRANSIT MAIL DISINFECTED IN GREECE (Double Disinfections)**



**Canea** (3/3/1844) carried by Lloyd steamship to Syra forwarding agent (28/11) - first fumigation (two horizontal slits) - **SYRA (28/2)** - transferred by French steamship to Malta second fumigation (two vertical slits) and *PURIFIE AU LAZARET MALTE* (II type)  
**GRÈCE-MARSEILLE (13/3/1844)**



**Canea** (9/1/1845) carried by Lloyd steamship to Syra forwarding agent (10/1) - first fumigation (two horizontal slits) - **SYRA (20/1)** - transferred by French steamship to Malta second fumigation (two vertical slits) and *PURIFIE AU LAZARET MALTE* (II type)  
**GRÈCE-MARSEILLE (12/2/1845)**

**C DOMESTIC DISINFECTED MAIL**



**The Poros island plague of 1837**

In April-June 1837, the plague was transferred to Poros from Constantinople. Due to the strict sanitary blockade of the island there was a great wheat shortage and Piraeus Municipality provided bread every two days

No 238

21 June 1837

By the Captain Manolis Karatakis we received 630 oka of bread as you advised us with your letter no 7.

To the Mayor of Piraeus

**The special representative**

J. Tambakakis



**Poros (21/7/1837) - PIRAEUS H.O. - PIRAEUS**

*The only known letter from the Poros plague*

C DOMESTIC DISINFECTED MAIL



KORONI (2/8/1850) - PIRAEUS H.O. - ATHENS (5/8) - SYRA (9/8/1850)

**C DOMESTIC DISINFECTED MAIL**

**The Piraeus cholera of 1854**

During the summer of 1854 there was an outbreak of cholera in Piraeus brought from Marseilles by French troops that had occupied the city, due to Greece's favorable position towards Russia in the Crimean War.

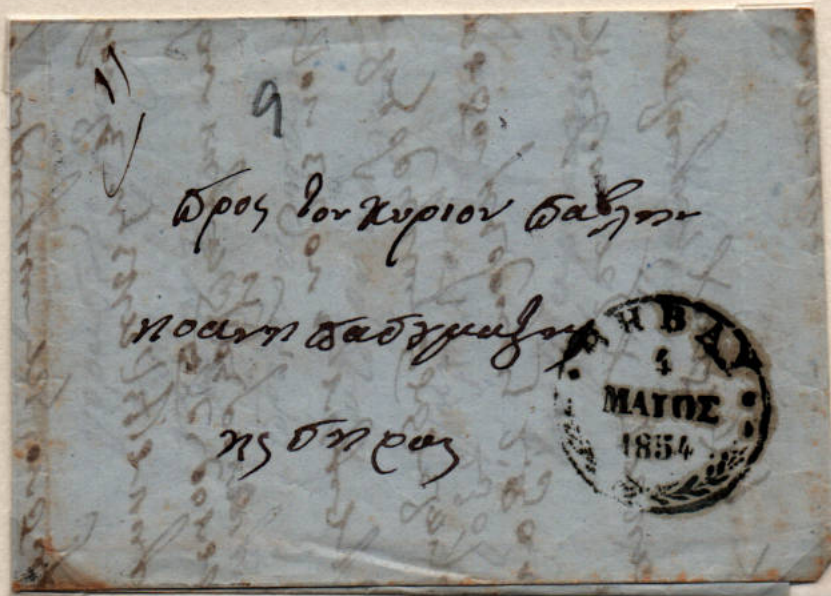
Piraeus was sanitary blockaded with mail being diverted to Athens post office for onward transmission.



**KALAMAI (8/8/1854) - ATHENS (11/8) - Syra h.o. (one horizontal slit) - SYRA (12/8/1854)**

C DOMESTIC DISINFECTED MAIL

The Piraeus cholera of 1854



**THIVAI (4/5/1854)** - diverted to ATHENS (5/5)  
forwarded from another port to **SYRA (6/5/1854)**

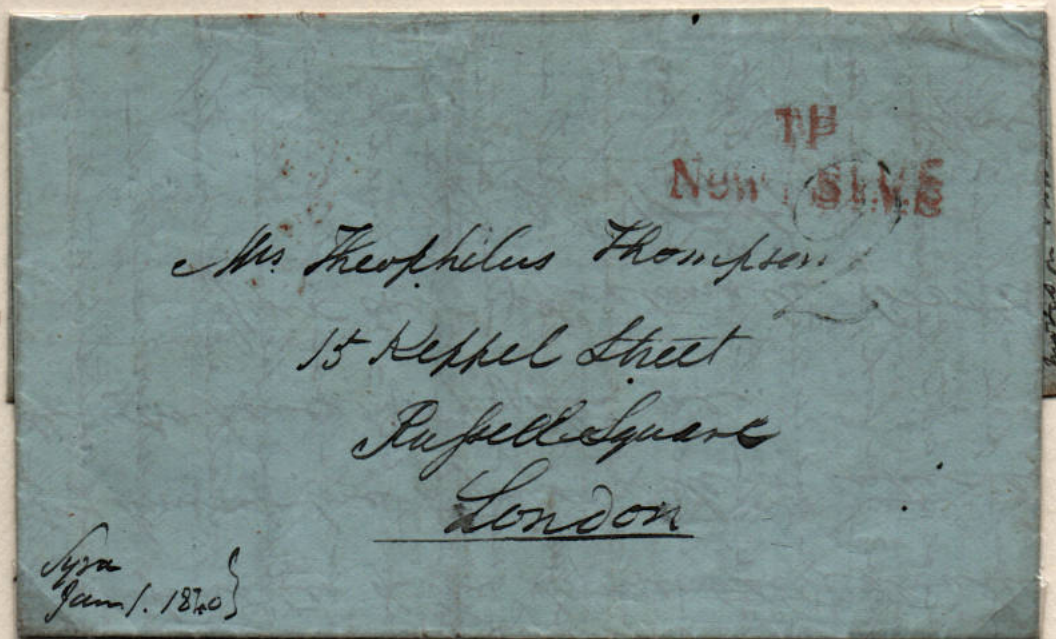


**PIRAEUS (24/12/1854)** - ΔΠ (fully paid) 40 *lepta* in verso  
Zante h.o. (three vertical slits) - **ZANTE (1/1855)** - charged 3 *oboli* in verso  
The earliest known date so far,  
when the Piraeus P.O. re-started operating after the sanitary blockade lifting

**D MAIL ORIGINATING FROM AND DISINFECTED AT LAZARETS**  
SYRA LAZARET

Lazaretto, Syra December 28<sup>th</sup> 1839  
Saturday night

Tomorrow morning shall be let loose from quarantine and these last hours imprisonment I devote to you. As you might have learnt from my last letter I arrived at this island this day week. It occurred for tunately the son of the British Consul here, was on board the same steamer....of course was also obliged to perform quarantine and...have been together taking the same room and the same guardian of health (whose functions .... to those of jailer in a prison). His father is a great man with the authorities here, and this had saved much trouble of inconvenience. On landing we found that the quarantine to all coming from Smyrna was fixed at present at 17 days, or to those who chose to go through the "Spoglio" 9 days, and after little deliberation we determined upon the last. This Spoglio in our case consisted at nothing more than laying out the contents of our portmanteaus.... in a room to be purified by the fumes of some burning.....and immersing the body in sea water....



Letter written in Syra lazaret, privately carried to London  
and posted as an unpaid letter within town

**D MAIL ORIGINATING FROM AND DISINFECTED AT LAZARETS**  
SYRA LAZARET

Letter written by a traveller coming from Constantinople and confined  
at the Syra lazaret for quarantine



The letter was delivered to the lazaret's superintendent, fumigated, sealed with wax  
by the sender and cancelled with SYRA H.O. - **SYRA (30/7/1840)**  
carried by French boat - French p.o. **ALEXANDRIA (1/8/1840)**

**D MAIL ORIGINATING FROM AND DISINFECTED AT LAZARETS**  
SYRA LAZARET

Letter written by a traveller arriving from Alexandria on 11 March 1842 and confined  
at the Syra lazaret for 16 days quarantine

*At Syra, 12 March 1842*

*"...I am going to receive free pratique on the 28 instant and at 29  
I shall be directed there through Athens..."*



The letter was delivered to the lazaret's superintendent, fumigated, cancelled with SYRA H.O.  
and privately carried to **Nafplion** to a forwarding agent for onward transmission



**D MAIL ORIGINATING FROM AND DISINFECTED AT LAZARETS**  
**TARATSA LAZARET**

Letter written on 20/5/1845 by a traveler coming from Janina and confined at the Taratsa lazaret  
(called Zitouni Lamias), for quarantine



The letter was delivered to lazaret's superintendent, fumigated, sealed with senders' personal seal, forwarded for onward transmission to **LAMIA (21/5/1845)**, ATHENS (25/5), PIRAEUS (25/5) and via Patras by the English packet to **LONDON (23/7/1845)**

*The only recorded letter sent from Taratsa lazaret (Pratique no. 3-4/1995)*

**D MAIL ORIGINATING FROM AND DISINFECTED AT LAZARETS  
ST. GEORGE ISLAND**

**1892 Cholera outbreak**

At the second semester of 1892 cholera ravaged Central Russia, Budapest, Hamburg, Paris, Marseilles etc.

Letter written by E. Gardner, Director of the British Archaeological School of Athens, arriving from Marseilles on 5 October 1892 and confined on board the ship at Salamis Bay, next to St. George island lazaret, for 5 days quarantine.

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SCHOOL,

ATHENS.

Bay of Salamis

7. Oct. 1892.

Dearest May,  
We have now got through two days of our quarantine, and so far it is certainly in no way to be dreaded. Everybody seems to make the best of it. As arrived, the captain, his crew, had the upper part of the ship converted into a pavilion with flags lighted up with the gas, & they try to get up & dancing etc. We have on board, a Belgian, who really plays well - & very good music. I hope we can get off in a few days, & being as much as we like. I have even allowed to land with certain



Mrs. E. A. Gardner  
C/o Mrs Simpson  
4. Clifton Place  
Sandgate, Kent

Amia

The letter was delivered to the lazaret's superintendent and fumigated  
**PIRAEUS (7/9/1892) - FOLKESTONE (16/10/1892)**

The only recorded letter sent from St. George lazaret

**D MAIL ORIGINATING FROM AND DISINFECTED AT LAZARETS  
ST. GEORGE ISLAND**

*En Karantaine  
Giorgio Piraeus, den 17. 10. 1911.  
Lieber Arnold!  
Karantaine ist nicht schön, vor allem  
nicht hier, unbeschreiblich. - Gestern bin  
ich mit dem italienischen Schiff "Giava"  
von Catania über Canea auf Kreta*

*In Quarantine, [Ag.] Giorgio, Piraeus on 17.10.1911*

*Dear Arnold,*

*Quarantine is not good, particularly here; unbearable. I arrived here yesterday by the Italian vessel "Giava" from Catania via Canea Crete, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Taormina; the one more beautiful from the other, with splendid marine views. Tomorrow I leave for Athens and later via Volos and Thessaloniki to Turkey.*

*.....  
Here there are a lot of shortages, even of ink and pen. I apologize.*



Postcard written by a traveler on 17(4)/10/1911, arrived from Canea, Crete, onboard the Italian ship 'Giava' who was detained under quarantine at the lazaret. Stamps were cancelled by the lazaret's Post Office

**ΑΓ. ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ (ΛΟΙΜΟΚ.) 5/9/1911** [St. George Lazaret; V type postmark];  
forwarded via **PIRAEUS** the same day to Germany

*The only recorded item sent from St. George lazaret post office*

**D MAIL ORIGINATING FROM AND DISINFECTED AT LAZARETS  
ST. GEORGE ISLAND**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Greek Army stationed at Kavala, surrendered to Germans as pro Royals in September 1916 and transferred as POW to Goerlitz, Germany till 1919. Upon their return they were primarily detained in St. George Lazaret and then dispersed to other units.

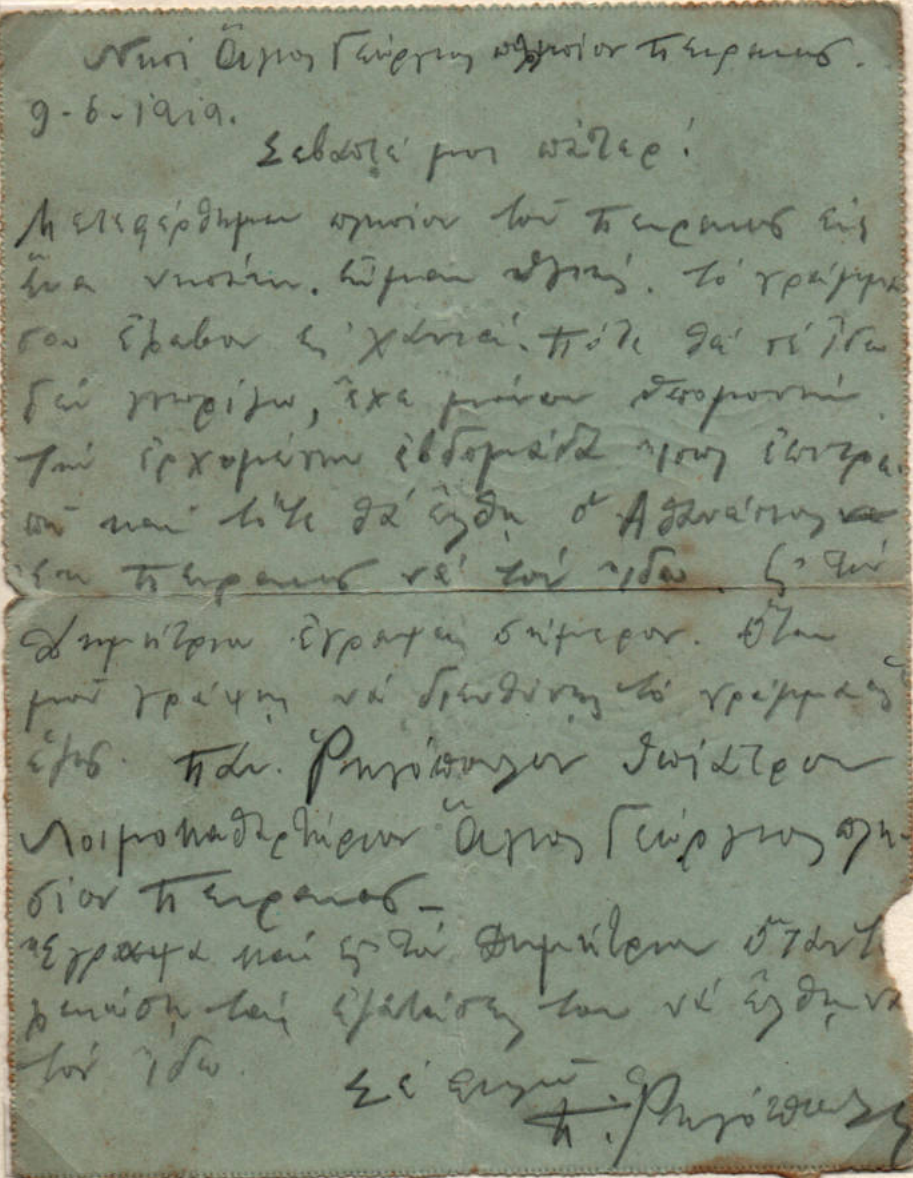
St. George island off  
Piraeus

9.6.1919

Respected father,  
We were transferred in  
an islet off Piraeus. I am  
healthy...

...When you shall write  
me, address your letters  
as follows:

P. Rigopoulos  
Medical Lieutenant,  
St. George lazaret  
off Piraeus...



Αγαπητέ πατέρα μου  
9-6-1919.  
Σεβαστή μου αδελφή!  
Αναγκασθήκαμε να μεταφερθούμε  
σε ένα νησί. Είπαμε όμως, το γράμμα  
σου έβαλα με χάρη. Η δεισιπνοία  
δεν υπάρχει, όλα είναι απογοητευτικά.  
Τοις στρατιωτικοίς έβγαλαν τους ένοχους  
από τον τόπο και έβγαλαν από Αθηνών  
και το έγραψα σε τούτο γράμμα. Είπα  
δυστυχώς έγραψα στην αδελφή μου  
και γράψα να έβγαλε το γράμμα  
έτσι. Η δεισιπνοία σου είναι  
απογοητευτική. Αγαπητέ πατέρα μου  
δεν υπάρχει.  
Αγαπάει και σου αγαπάει ο αδελφός  
σου και σου αγαπάει τον αδελφό σου  
και σου.  
Σε αγαπάει  
Α. Ριγούπουλος

Letter written on 9/6/1919 in St. George lazaret by a detainee, posted in Piraeus on 12/6, passed through Kalavryta 14/6 and arrived at Mazeika (date illegible)

**D MAIL ORIGINATING FROM AND DISINFECTED AT LAZARETS  
SPINALOGA ISLAND**

The leprosy lazaret of Spinalonga operated during the period 1903-1958



ΣΠΙΝΑΛΟΓΚΑ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ  
CRÉTE. SPINALONGA

*Spinalonga island Lazaret*



**Spinalonga Lazaret (22/2/1923) with ΑΠΕΛΥΜΑΝΘΗ (disinfected) linear handstamp  
privately carried - AGHIOS NIKOLAOS (27/2) - NEAPOLIS (23/2/1923)**  
*One of two covers recorded so far*

**D MAIL ORIGINATING FROM AND DISINFECTED AT LAZARETS  
SPINALOGA ISLAND**

Εν νοσηλευτηρίω Αγκιστρών νησιού  
την 7 Μαΐου 1941

Νεοφιλέτατε  
ἡ Δ. Κερωσάνα χόρτη  
ἐπίσης πῦρ ἐδῶ μίφαί εἰς  
τὴν ἡγεσία τὴν ἀποδομένην  
ὅσοι εἶναι ἀγαπᾶται  
καὶ οὐδὲν ἕτερον πιστο-  
ποιήσω  
+ ἀποδομένη

ΑΠΕΛΥΜΑΝΘΗ

Ἐν Νοσηλευτηρίῳ τῆς 8. 5. 1941

Ὁ Απολυμαντής  
Ε. ΔΡΑΚΩΝΑΚΗΣ



Letter sent from Spinalonga Lazaret Hospital on 7/5/1941 with ΑΠΕΛΥΜΑΝΘΗ / Εν Νοσηλευτηρίῳ  
τη 8.5.1941 / Ο Απολυμαντής / Ε. Δρακωνάκης (DISINFECTED / At Hospital 8.5.1941 / The  
Disinfector / E. Draconakis) 4-line handstamp and the Lazaret's vicar cachet

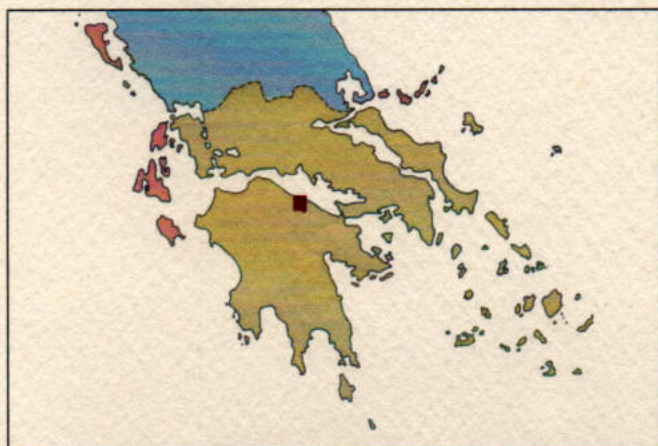
**E THE USE OF HEALTH STATIONS AND LAZARETS OFFICIAL SEALS**  
**E1 ON GENERAL DISPATCHED MAIL: SYRA HEALTH OFFICE**



Cover letter from Syra to Nafplion  
bearing the administrative seal of Syra health office (ca 1833-1836)

*Four known letters with this seal (ex collections Schatzkes, Meyer, Eylan)*

**E THE USE OF HEALTH STATIONS AND LAZARETS OFFICIAL SEALS**  
**E1 ON GENERAL DISPATCHED MAIL: VOSTITSA HEALTH & PORT OFFICE**

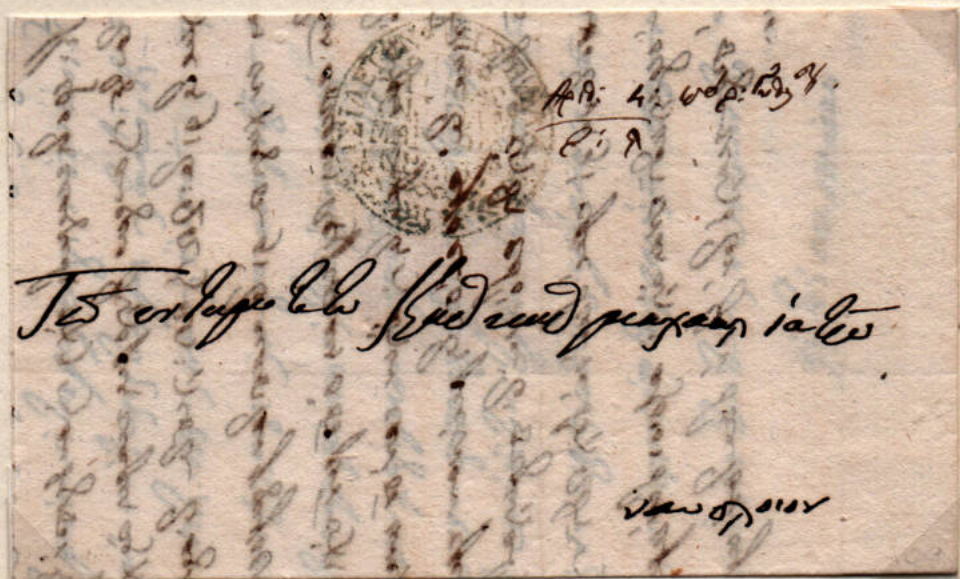


**Vostitsa (7/1/1834) - Nafplion**

*Three known letters with this seal (ex collections Lefkofridis, Meyer, Eylan)*



**E THE USE OF HEALTH STATIONS AND LAZARETS OFFICIAL SEALS**  
**E1 ON GENERAL DISPATCHED MAIL: MARATHONISSION HEALTH OFFICE**



Large part of letter from **Marathonission** (later renamed Gytheion) to **Nafplion**  
Estimated written in early 1833

*Two items known so far, both shown in this exhibit*

**E THE USE OF HEALTH STATIONS AND LAZARETS OFFICIAL SEALS**  
**E1 ON GENERAL DISPATCHED MAIL: MARATHONISSION HEALTH OFFICE**

*For the period 1828-1844, Health officers, Port masters etc.  
were also appointed as postal clerks.  
They were using the seal of their public service  
to indicate the place of origin on dispatched mail.*



**Marathonission** (later renamed Gytheion) (7/11/1833) to **Nafplion** (11/11/1833)

*The second item known so far*

**E THE USE OF HEALTH STATIONS AND LAZARETS OFFICIAL SEALS**  
**E2 ON POSTMASTER'S MAIL: SYRA HEALTH OFFICE**



Syra Health Station Circular no. 90,  
dated 28/7/1832, addressed to:  
*Consuls and Vice-Consuls in town.*

*...those present at the Lazaret during  
the last incident of pest were  
transported to the opposite islet for  
cleaning, as the sanitary regulations  
stipulate...*

*First of four known letters with this seal*



**E THE USE OF HEALTH STATIONS AND LAZARETS OFFICIAL SEALS**  
**E2 ON POSTMASTER'S MAIL: SYRA HEALTH OFFICE**

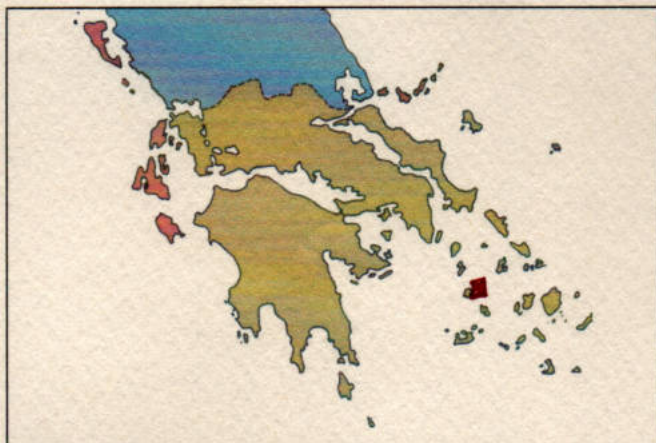
Syra Health Station Circular no. 98,  
dated 8/8/1832, addressed to:  
*Consuls and Vice-Consuls in town.*

*...as of today, free pratique is granted  
to the vessels arriving from the  
various Aegean islands which till  
today were subject to quarantine...*

*Second of four known letters  
with this seal*



**E THE USE OF HEALTH STATIONS AND LAZARETS OFFICIAL SEALS**  
**E2 ON POSTMASTER'S MAIL: SERIFOS HEALTH STATION**



**SERIFOS (2/4/1856) - SYROS (3/4) - ATHENS (6/4/1856)**

*The only known cover with this seal*

**E THE USE OF HEALTH STATIONS AND LAZARETS OFFICIAL SEALS**  
**E2 ON POSTMASTER'S MAIL: MAKRONISSOS LAZARET**



**The cholera outbreak in Macedonia, 1912-1913**

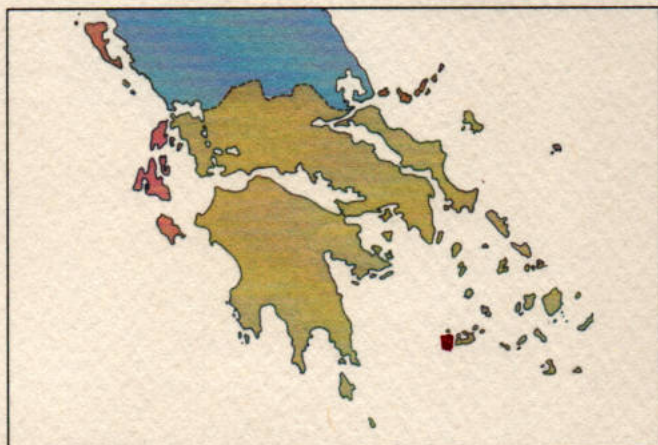
During the Balkan Wars, Bulgarian troops in the Macedonia front suffered from cholera. The Greek authorities established a temporary lazaret on Makronissos island, where Bulgarian prisoners-of-war were confined and put under quarantine.



Makronissos lazaret - **PIRAEUS (9/9/1912)** - Kimi-Oxylithos village

*The only known cover from Makronissos Lazaret with this seal*

**E THE USE OF HEALTH STATIONS AND LAZARETS OFFICIAL SEALS**  
**E3 ON OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS: MILOS HEALTH STATION**



Sanitary certificate and receipt of quarantine dues for three days  
of an Ottoman fishing boat carrying a corps.  
Countersigned and stamped by Port Authorities and Vice Consul of Spain on Milos island.

Two known documents with this seal

**E THE USE OF HEALTH STATIONS AND LAZARETS OFFICIAL SEALS**  
**E3 ON OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS: PATRAS HEALTH OFFICE**



Printed free pratique  
for a fishing boat in 1847

Three known items of Patras health office

Αριθ. 424



ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ.

ΥΓΙΟΝΟΜΙΚΗ ΠΙΣΤΟΠΟΙΗΣΙΣ.



Ο Υγειονόμος

*[Handwritten signature]*

Ο Γραμματέας

*[Handwritten signature]*