

# VARIETIES ON GREEK STAMPS

## Introduction

The design and production of stamps starting from the artists' drawings and ending to the post office counter is the result of a long and complex process that transforms a rough idea to the final product. During the process of creating a new stamp many decisions have to be made by all involved. Artists, printers and especially the issuing authorities have a decisive role to fulfil in order to let circulate or never issue a proposed postage stamp.

The successful outcome of these consultations is the result of a series of requested modifications, of possible accidents in the process and of final decisions taken before the circulation of a new stamp. This exercise as a whole gives us the material we define here with the general term *Varieties*. Aim of this exhibit is to show a wide range of material generated there after, items of great philatelic interest, some unique or existing in tiny quantities.

The material displayed herein is documenting these steps as far as the Greek stamps production is concerned (including New Territories). It is presented by sort of *variety* and category of *issue* and laid out in a chronological sequence. Representative as possible, it is selected to demonstrate and support every step of the aforementioned process. Special care was taken to include the best available quality. Where necessary the issued normal stamps are shown for comparison.

Note: Items marked with a ■ are highlights and of particular interest

## Plan of the Exhibit

	Introduction and Plan: A1				
1	Artists' Drawings:	A2-A3	6	Printing Errors:	C36-C46
2	Essays and Proofs:	A4-A16	7	Overprint Errors:	C47-D54
3	Specimens:	B17-B20	8	Perforation Errors:	D55-D61
4	Variations:	B21-B25	9	Imperforates:	D62-E76
5	Plate Flaws:	B26-C35	10	Never Issued:	E77-E80

### Selected Bibliography

- Catalogues of Greek Stamps* first edited by:  
D. Koumoundouros (1941), S. Raftopoulos (1958), O. Vlastos (1967) and A.Karamitsos (2003)  
*Specialized articles at following Greek philatelic magazines:*  
Φιλοτέλεα, Φιλοτελική Ελλάς, Φιλοτελική Ηχώ, Φιλοτελικά Νέα and Φιλοτελική Λέσβος  
Μ.Κ. Κωνσταντίνης; *Φιλοτελικό Ιαζικό Όργανο και Θεμάτων*, Αθήνα 2005  
J. Mackay: *Philatelic Terms Illustrated*, London 2003  
X. Νύλλτος; *Ειδικός Κατάλογος Ελλήνων Γραμματιστήνων*, Θεσσαλονίκη 1961

# 1. ARTISTS' DRAWINGS

Historical Issue (1937)

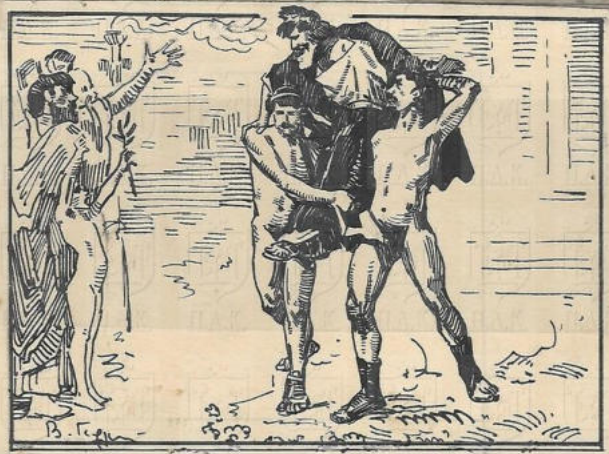
Value of 50 lepta

Accepted design



50 lepta as issued

The artist's drawings mark the first step in the process of issuing a new stamp. Until they are chosen to become postage stamps these artworks are just concept art. A variety of media is used for their preparation. Pencil, oil, airbrush and acrylic paint are some of them



Initial sketch of the proposal for the value of 50 lepta

It was painted by artist Vassos Germenis (1896-1966) and depicts the ancient Greek boxer Diagoras of Rhodes carried in the Stadium by his two sons  
*Born in Cephalonia, Vassos Germenis studied in Corfu and Athens and settled in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, where he was personal painter of emperor Haile Selassie. He also worked as sculptor and printmaker*

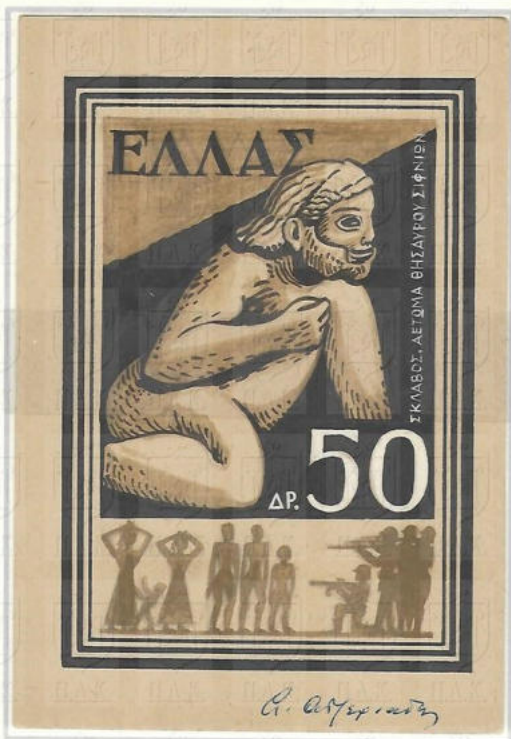
■ Unique original artwork

# 1. ARTISTS' DRAWINGS

Victory Issue (1947)

Value of 50 drachmas

Not adopted design



Final drawing of the initial proposal for the value of 50 drachmas

It was painted by artist Agenor Asteriadis (1898-1977) to honour the National Resistance and those executed during the foreign occupation

*One of the most important representatives of Greek Art during the Interwar years (the so-called Thirties Generation), Agenor Asteriadis combined in his work the European Avant-Garde with elements from the Greek Tradition*

■ Unique original artwork

# 1. ARTISTS' DRAWINGS

National Products Issue (1953)

Value of 5000 drachmas initially designed for 100 drachmas

Not adopted design



Final drawing of this proposal

It was painted by artist Jean Kefalinos (1894-1957) to promote Greek agricultural products abroad (in this case viticulture)

*One of the most important Greek engravers, Jean Kefalinos was born in Alexandria-Egypt and studied Art in Paris-France. Between 1950-1955 he designed some of the most beautiful Greek stamps.*

■ Unique original artwork



5000 drachmas as issued

# 2. ESSAYS AND PROOFS

Flying Hermes (1901)

Die proofs

Flying Hermes inspired by Giovanni da Bologna's sculpture (Florence)

*Assigned for printing to J.P. Segg & Co. were delegated to Johnstonia Engraving Co. and finally printed by Perkins, Bacon and Co. Ltd (London)*



2 lepta upper marginal block of six



3 lepta right marginal block of six

## 2. ESSAYS AND PROOFS

### Flying Hermes (1901)

#### Die proofs



5 lepta horizontal gutter strip of five (plus) on light card in lilac  
*Punched holes on two stamps - Issued colour: Green*



5 lepta upper marginal block



5 lepta horizontal pair  
*Colour variety*



5 lepta vertical upper marginal pair  
*Two colour printing (green and black)*



20 lepta pair



30 lepta  
*Soft printing*



30 lepta  
*Punched holes*



1 drachma  
*Punched holes*



50 lepta pair and lower left corner block of ten in dark gray  
*Issued colour: Violet brown*

## 2. ESSAYS AND PROOFS

Flying Mercury (1901)  
Metal Value Issue (1902)

Composite master die proof



5 and 10 lepta, two 40 lepta of Flying Hermes issue  
together with a 1 drachma and one without value of the Metal Value issue  
*All in red on a thin paper*

■ The only known to date

## 2. ESSAYS AND PROOFS

### Metal Value Issue (1902)

Due to the depreciation of the drachma, the Metal Value (AM = Αξία Μεταλλική) was introduced for use on parcels and postal checks with foreign destination. They were paid in foreign currency or drachmas according to a special parity between the latter and this new value

*Called also as "The Parcels' Issue", it had the same printing adventure as the Flying Hermes one*

#### Essays in blue



25 lepta strip of three

#### Essays in black



5 lepta



25 lepta



50 lepta



1 drachma



2 drachmas

Complete set of five values in blocks

### 3. ESSAYS AND PROOFS

#### Olympic Games (1906)

In order to strengthen the institution of the Olympic Games after the disappointing results of the II (Paris, France, 1900) and III (Saint Louis, U.S.A., 1904) Olympiads, Greece organized successfully in Athens the so called Intercalated Games of 1906. A set of fourteen stamps was issued to commemorate the event

#### Die proofs 10 and 30 lepta



In brown and violet on card  
*Issued colours: Carmine and violet*

#### Provisional Government (1917)

Issued by the rebel government  
of Salonica



Master die proof in black  
*Value is blank*

■ The only known to date



## 2. ESSAYS AND PROOFS

### Landscapes, Monuments, Costumes and Ships (1927) and (1931-1935)

This is the first definitive set since 1911 and was printed by G. Aspiotis Bros (Corfu) in cooperation with Thomas McDonald Ltd while Perkins, Bacon and Co. Ltd, Thomas De La Rue and Co. Ltd (London) and P.W.P.W (Warsaw) engraved and printed some values of the second issue

#### Die proofs in issued colours



50 lepta  
*Perkins, Bacon and Co. Ltd*  
*Never issued*



50 lepta as issued  
*Thomas McDonald Ltd*



1 drachma with and without imprint  
*Perkins, Bacon and Co. Ltd*



#### Essay in issued colour



1 drachma right marginal imperforate block with imprint on the base  
*Perkins, Bacon and Co. Ltd*  
*Frame only*

■ The only known to date

## 2. ESSAYS AND PROOFS

### Centenary of Hellenic Independence - The Heroes (1930)

#### Final proofs



To commemorate the centenary from the signing (on February 3, 1830) of the London Protocol by which the three guarantor powers of the time (United Kingdom, France and Russia) recognized Greece as an independent state, this set of eighteen stamps was issued. The recess printing was done both by Perkins, Bacon and Co. Ltd and Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co. Ltd (London)



10 lepta and 1, 1.5, 2, 5, 10 and 15 drachmas  
in blocks and marginal blocks  
*Perkins, Bacon and Co. Ltd*

## 2. ESSAYS AND PROOFS

Progressive die proofs

### Centenary of Hellenic Independence The Heroes (1930)



1.5 drachmas  
Final die proof  
Issued colour: Indigo  
Perkins, Bacon and Co. Ltd



2 drachmas  
Final die proof  
Colour as issued  
Perkins, Bacon and Co. Ltd

### Republic (1933)

50 drachmas  
Not adopted photographic essay



### Mythological Issue (1935)



Master die proof without frame and value  
Issued value: 100 drachmas  
Issued colour: Brown

75 drachmas  
Earlier photographic essay of adopted design

### King George II (1937)

3 drachmas  
Colour trial essays  
Not adopted design



## 2. ESSAYS AND PROOFS

Progressive die proofs  
Landscapes (1942-1944)



5. 75 and 100 drachmas composite colour trial die proofs horizontal strip of three in red and green  
*Issued colours: Green, red and gray*  
ΑΣΠΙΓΩΤΗ-ΕΛΙΚΑ

Union of the Dodecanese with Greece (1947-1951)



450 drachmas  
*Issued colour: Indigo*



450 drachmas  
*Issued colour: Indigo*



450 drachmas  
*Issued colour: Indigo*

## 2. ESSAYS AND PROOFS

### Victory Issue (1947)

A set of nine stamps depicting different areas of military action (from the cowardly torpedoing of cruiser EAAH to the battles at land, sea and air in mainland and abroad) was issued to commemorate the participation of Greece in World War II. The recess printing was made by both Thomas De La Rue and Co. Ltd and Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co. Ltd (London)

Essays in gray, black and blue

Not adopted designs



Values of 50 lepta, 1 and 25 drachmas

## 2. ESSAYS AND PROOFS

### Progressive die proofs

#### Crown Prince Olympic Champion (1961)

2.5 drachmas

Olympic logo, dark blue and red colours missing  
Green colour printed on reverse



Reverse view (reduced)

#### Eleftherios Venizelos (1965)

Issued to commemorate his  
Birth Centenary



2 drachmas

Issued colour: Indigo



2.5 drachmas

Issued colour: Brown  
Manuscript remark: LAST PRINT



## 2. ESSAYS AND PROOFS

### Crown Princess Alexia's First Birthday (1966)

#### Progressive die proof



2.5 drachmas indigo without background  
*King Constantine, Queen Anna-Maria and  
Princess Alexia*  
Issued colour: *Brown*



2 drachmas indigo marginal pair on thin paper  
*Princess Alexia*  
Issued colour: *Olive green*



3.5 drachmas indigo pair on thin paper  
*Queen Anna-Maria and Princess Alexia*  
Issued colour: *Indigo*

#### Colour trials



2 drachmas ultramarine vertical  
marginal gutter pair on thin paper



3.5 drachmas ultramarine vertical  
marginal gutter pair on thin paper

## 2. ESSAYS AND PROOFS

### Progressive die proofs National Benefactors - Part I (1973)



6.5 drachmas  
Colour as issued



2.5 drachmas  
Issued colour: Green



6.5 drachmas  
Issued colour: Gray

### Anniversaries and Events - Part II (1980)



6 drachmas  
Negative final proof



8 drachmas  
Negative final proof

### Second Issue of the Cretan State (1905)



3 drachmas  
Colour trial in carmine and black  
Issued colour: Orange and black  
Perfin type: SPECIMEN

### Third Issue of the Cretan State (1907)



1 drachma  
Colour trial in blue and black  
Issued colour: Green and black



### 3. SPECIMENS

Specimens of the issued stamps were sent to dignitaries, postmasters and postal administrations in order to identify them and avoid forgeries. They were mainly two types of invalidating methods, either by perforating or by overprinting them in different styles, fonts and sizes both in English (SPECIMEN) and in Greek (AKYPON) languages

#### National Youth Organization (1940)

On the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the regime established on August 4th, 1936, two sets of ten stamps each were issued (one for airmail service) to honour the National Youth Organization (E.O.N.) whose founder and supreme leader was the then prime minister and dictator Ioannis Metaxas himself

#### Horizontal typographic type in red: AKYPON



Complete set (regular post)

### 3. SPECIMENS

#### Union of the Dodecanese with Greece (1947-1951)

A large definitive set of initially eight stamps and then gradually rising to twenty three (with multiple reprints) featuring themes from the Dodecanese Islands was issued to celebrate their Union with Greece officially occurred on November 20, 1947

Diagonal spotted type in black and red: AKYPON



Values of 700, 2000, 5000 and 10000 drachmas are missing

### 3. SPECIMENS

#### Boy Scouts of Greece Golden Jubilee (1960)

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Scout Movement in Greece, a set of eight stamps was issued depicting scenes from the scouting activities, their community service, their then patron Crown Prince Constantine, as well as their patron Saint, St. George, at whose Day these stamps were circulated (April 23)

Diagonal short letters multi type in black and red: AKYPON



Complete set

### 3. SPECIMENS

Postage Due - The Engraved or London Issue (1902)

Perfin type: SPECIMEN



Complete set in strips of three  
Inverted perfins à cheval two stamps each

■ The only known to date

#### 4. VARIATIONS

Small Hermes Heads (1886-1900)

Athens Printings (1897-1900)

Colour variations



Cover franked with four 5 lepta stamps, mailed from Athens to Paros, cancelled at departure with Type VI postmark ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 26 ΟΚΤ. 11Π 1898 1-1



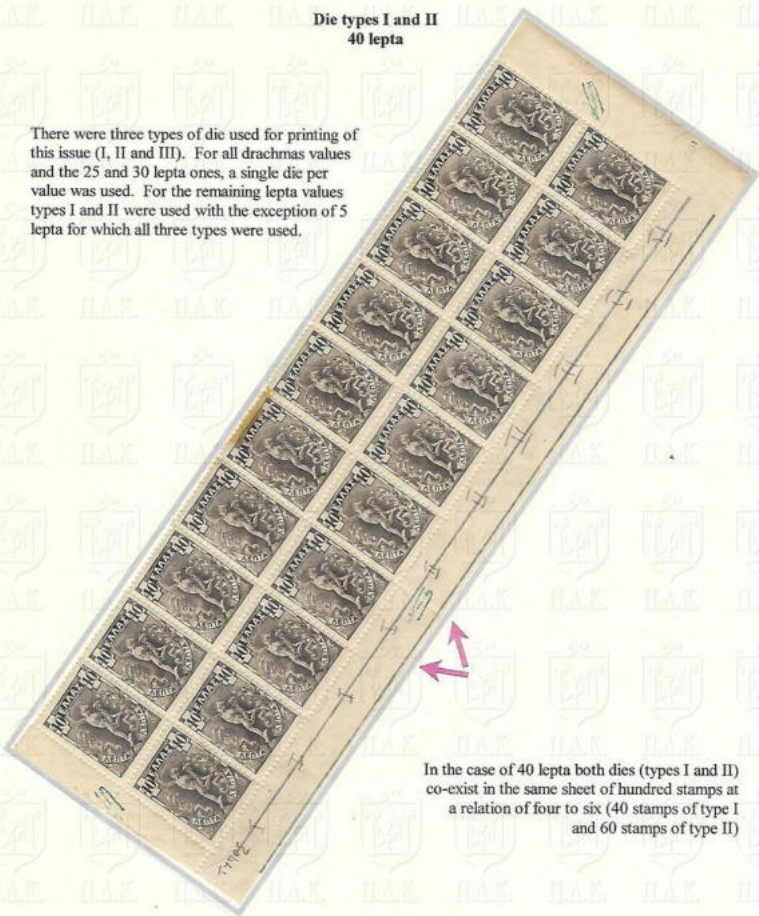
Cover franked with four 5 lepta stamps, mailed from Athens to Paros, cancelled at departure with Type VI postmark ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 29 ΝΟΕΜ. 2Ε 1899 1-1

## 4. VARIATIONS

### Flying Mercury (1901)

Die types I and II  
40 lepta

There were three types of die used for printing of this issue (I, II and III). For all drachmas values and the 25 and 30 lepta ones, a single die per value was used. For the remaining lepta values types I and II were used with the exception of 5 lepta for which all three types were used.



In the case of 40 lepta both dies (types I and II) co-exist in the same sheet of hundred stamps at a relation of four to six (40 stamps of type I and 60 stamps of type II)

Lower corner band of twenty

*Positions 81-84 and 91-94 are of type I and 86-90 and 96-100 of type II*

## 4. VARIATIONS

### King Constantine I Mourning Issue (1936)

#### White collar



3 drachmas right marginal stamp

This set of two stamps was issued on the occasion of the returning of the remains of the late King Constantine I, his mother Queen Olga and his wife Queen Sophia from Florence, Italy to Greece where they were buried at the Royal Cemetery at Tatoi



Cover mailed from Athens to Corfu, cancelled ΑΘΗΝΑΙ-ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ, 8 ΙΑΝ 37, 10, franked with two 10 lepta stamps of the Postal Staff Anti-Tuberculosis Fund and two 3 drachmas upper right corner stamps, one with the "white collar" variety



8 drachmas upper right corner stamp

#### 4. VARIATIONS

Eleftherios Venizelos 10th Death Anniversary (1946)

Gutter stamps

130 drachmas  
Lower right corner horizontal  
strip of three plus three



300 drachmas  
Lower right corner horizontal  
strip of three plus three





## 4. VARIATIONS

Eleftherios Venizelos 10th Death Anniversary (1946)

Sheetlets



130 and 300 drachmas

Sheetlets of fifteen

## 5. PLATE FLAWS

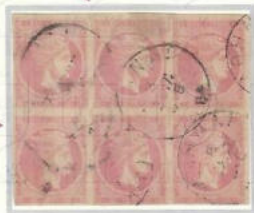
Plate flaws occur either because of etching oversight or printing carelessness  
Usually they are found to specific positions of the plate and thus easily recognizable

### Large Hermes Heads (1861-1886)

#### Various Athens printings

#### White spot at Hermes neck

Two 1 lepton deep and dull brown pairs  
The latter used, cancelled with Type VI postmark  
ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 17 ΙΑΝ. 3-Ε 1888



#### Distant, missing and broken upper margin line

20 lepta aniline rose used block of six, cancelled with  
Type VI postmark ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 3 ΣΕΠΤ. 10-Ε 1884



#### Whitish anthemion

40 lepta used stamp  
(Illegible Type I postmark)

#### Whitish "8"

Letter franked with 80 and 10 lepta stamps, mailed from Marseilles, France to Syra, Greece,  
cancelled at departure with LIGNE U PAQ. FR. No 3 - 9 DEC. 71 and at arrival with Type II  
postmark EYPA 2 ΔΕΚΕ. 71 (67) (old calendar), the total due freight of 90 lepta paid at destination

## 5. PLATE FLAWS

### Large Hermes Heads (1861-1886)

Various Athens printings

White line over the letters ΕΛΛ. ΓΡΑΜΜ. (Positions 23-29)



20 lepta cancelled with a  
Type I postmark No. 59  
[ΚΑΡΥΣΤΟΣ]



Letter franked with 20 lepta, mailed from Patras to Pyrgos, cancelled at departure with postmarks Type I No. 9 [ΠΑΤΡΑΙ] and Type II ΠΑΤΡΑΙ 4 ΜΑΡΤ. 68

Thin circle



20 lepta cancelled with Type I  
postmark No. 9 [ΠΑΤΡΑΙ]



Part of a letter franked with 20 lepta, mailed from Pyrgos to Patras, cancelled at departure with postmarks Type I No. 13 [ΠΥΡΙΟΣ] and Type II ΠΥΡΙΟΣ 15 ΟΚΤ. 65 (13) and (on reverse) at arrival ΠΑΤΡΑΙ 16 ΟΚΤ. 65 (9)

## 5. PLATE FLAWS

Large Hermes Heads (1861-1886)

Various Athens printings



Without full stop after EAA

Letter franked with 80 and 10 lepta stamps, mailed from Paris, France to Athens, Greece, cancelled at departure with PARIS R. D' ENGHEN 6E. 26 JANV 70 and at arrival with Type II postmark AΘΗΝΑΙ 22 ΙΑΝ. 70 (1) (old calendar), via MARSEILLE 7E. 27 JANV 70 (12), the total due freight of 90 lepta paid at destination



Letter franked with 80 and 10 lepta stamps, mailed from Paris, France to Athens, Greece, cancelled at departure with PARIS PL. DE LA BOURSE 6E. 25 AOÛT 70 and at arrival with Type II postmark AΘΗΝΑΙ 20 ΑΥΤ. 70 (1) (old calendar), the total due freight of 90 lepta paid at destination  
*Without flaw for comparison*

## 5. PLATE FLAWS

### Large Hermes Heads (1861-1886)

#### Various Athens printings

#### Control number errors



5, 10 and 20 lepta  
*Misplaced control numbers*



10 lepta  
*Inverted*



20 lepta  
*Inverted "0"*



20 lepta  
*"02" instead of "20"*



40 lepta  
*Disfigured "0"*

#### 10 lepta pair One "0" instead of "10"



*Pair's reverse view*

Letter franked with a pair of 10 lepta, mailed from Piraeus to Dimitsana via Athens, cancelled with postmarks Type II ΠΕΙΡΑΙΕΥΣ 1 ΜΑΪΟΣ 81 (2) at departure, ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 1 ΜΑΪΟΣ 81 (1) in transit and ΔΗΜΗΤΣΑΝΑ 4 ΜΑΪΟΣ 81 (20) at arrival

■ Only two are known to date

## 5. PLATE FLAWS

### Large Hermes Heads (1861-1886)

Athens print (1882)



20 lepta aniline rose pair  
Cancelled with Type VI postmark ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 24 ΑΙΠ. 6-Ε 1884  
*Net missing*



Letter mailed from Cephalonia, Greece to Taganrog, Russia franked with 20 and 80 lepta  
Cancelled by Type I, 110 [Argostolion] and Type II, ΑΡΙΟΣΤΟΛΑΙΟΝ (ΚΕΦΑΛΛΑ.) 9 ΟΚΤ. 1872 (110) postmarks  
Bears postage paid cancels (PD) and (ΦΡΑΝΚΙΡΟΒΑΗΟ), illegible transit cds's (on reverse) and ΤΑΓΑΗΡΟΓ' 20 ΟΚΤ 1872 upon arrival  
*Stain on cheek (80 lepta)*

### Small Hermes Heads (1886-1900)

Belgian printing (1886)



50 lepta green-gray block of six  
Cancelled with Type VI postmark ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 24 ΑΙΠ. 7-Ε (Year illegible, possibly 1887)  
*Net missing*

## 5. PLATE FLAWS

Small Hermes Heads (1886-1900)

Athens Printings (1891-1900)

Dark spots over the circle

1 lepton left marginal block of nine cancelled with Type V  
postmark ΓΑΣΤΟΥΝΗ 20 ΜΑΡΤ. (Year illegible)

Spots at positions 61 and 72



1 lepton block of sixteen cancelled with Type VI  
postmark ΒΟΛΟΣ 10 ΝΟΕΜ. 1898

Spots at positions 72, 84 and 88

## 5. PLATE FLAWS

Small Hermes Heads (1886-1900)

Athens Printings (1891-1900)

Spots on specific positions



5 lepta double marginal band of ten  
*Tiny white spot on the circle (position 236)*



20 lepta block cancelled with Type III  
postmark ΘΗΠΑ 9 ΙΑΝ. 98 79  
*Dark spot*

20 lepta right marginal stamp  
cancelled with Type VI postmark  
ΕΥΡΟΣ 30 ΝΟΕΜ. 8-Π 1895  
*Two white spots on the circle  
(position 40)*



20 lepta block of fifteen cancelled with Type V postmark  
ΚΑΑΜΑΙ 15 ΙΟΥΑ. (Year illegible, possibly 91 or 94)  
*Three white spots over Hermes head, circle and frame (position 296)*



## 5. PLATE FLAWS

### National Costumes - Part I (1972)



2.5 drachmas upper marginal block of six (first print 1972)

*Date 1972 missing (position 5)*

*Large control cross*

2.5 drachmas upper marginal pair (reprint 1974)

*Date 1972 missing (position 5)*

*Short control cross*



### 150th Anniversary of the Sortie of the Heroic Guard of Missolonghi (1976)



4 drachmas imprint upper left corner block

*A dot between the numbers 2 and 6 of the year 1826 (position 1)*

## 5. PLATE FLAWS

### Airplanes (1938-1942)

**εισποακτέα** instead of εισπρακτέα  
on the "Postage Due" stamp



50 lepta left marginal block

The small airplane design red  
typographic overprint on postage due  
stamps with or without new face value  
was introduced for airmail use

*This error is found on the  
5, 20 and 50 lepta stamps*



Reverse view (reduced)

Registered cover airmailed from Athens, Greece to New York NY, U.S.A., cancelled at departure with ΑΘΗΝΑΙ-ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΟΝ 29 VIII 40 and at arrival with NEW YORK, N.Y. REGY. DIV. 9.27 1940 and NEW YORK, N.Y. (TREMONT) REGISTERED SEP. 28 1940 cds, franked with a 2 drachmas "Historical" issue stamp, an 8 drachmas "Entente Balkanique" issue stamp and three stamps of the "Airplane" issue (50 lepta single and imprint marginal pair)

*One stamp of the pair with the aforementioned error*

## 5. PLATE FLAWS

Postage Due (1913-1923)

Lithographic printings of the similar London recess printing of 1902 now done at Corfu

εισποακτέα instead of εισπρακτέα

Plate flaw to be found at  
5, 20 and 50 lepta values



5 lepta



50 lepta lower marginal imprint block

Without accent on "O" at  
ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤ(6)ΣΗΜΟΝ

Plate flaw to be found in the 1926  
printing of this issue



Six values: 5, 10, 20 lepta and 1, 2, 3 drachmas

## 6. PRINTING ERRORS

### Large Hermes Heads (1875-1880)

Cream paper printings with  
Control Figures

10 lepta orange shades  
*Heavily printed*



### Large Hermes Heads (1880-1886)

Cream paper printings without  
Control Figures

5 lepta emerald green  
*Double impression (one reversed)*



5 lepta deep green  
*Paper folding*



### Small Hermes Heads (1886-1895)

Belgian printing



Letter franked with a 25 lepta stamp, mailed from Patras, Greece to Gössnitz, Germany, cancelled at departure with Type VI postmark ΠΑΤΡΑΙ 7 Ε 25 ΦΕΒΡ 92 and at arrival GÖSSNITZ 12.3.92. 2-3N. (SACHS.-ALTENB.) cds

*Paper folding*

## 6. PRINTING ERRORS

Landscapes, Monuments, Costumes and Ships (1927) and (1931-1935)

White spot upon the Temple due to external object intrusion during printing



1 drachma lower marginal block

Double impression of the center (Temple)



Piece of cover franked with a 50 lepta and a 1 drachma lower marginal block, cancelled ΑΕΙΒΑΡΤΙΖΙΟΝ 12 ΦΕΒ 1930

■ The only known to date



10 lepta lower left imprint corner block

Paper folding



50 lepta upper marginal strip of three

25 lepta vertical strip of three



1 drachma vertical pair



## 6. PRINTING ERRORS

Balkan Entente I (1938)

Value of 6 drachmas



White spot over the first letter "E" of the word "ENTENTE"



Vertical left marginal strip of three  
Double impression (one vertical)

■ The only known to date

Union of the Ionian Islands with Greece (1939)

Value of 20 drachmas



Lower marginal block  
Mirror printing (*dècalqué*)



Marginal band of ten on thin paper  
Mirror printing (*dècalqué*) on non printed front

## 6. PRINTING ERRORS

### Landscapes (1942-1944)



50 drachmas lower left corner block of twenty  
*Impression on the gum*

### Union of the Dodecanese with Greece (1947-1951)



100 drachmas upper marginal block  
*Double impression*



600 drachmas upper marginal block  
*Double impression (one inverted)*

## 6. PRINTING ERRORS

### Children Welfare (1943)

This is the first issue that combined basic and supplementary rates as face values, the latter being destined for the Patriotic Charity and Awareness Institution Fund (P.I.K.I.A.)



25+25 drachmas right corner band of ten  
*Paper folding and partial impression*



25+25 drachmas lower left corner block  
*Colour variety due to poor impression*



100+50 drachmas left marginal pair  
*Paper folding*



## 6. PRINTING ERRORS

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1945)

### Double impression



30 drachmas left marginal stamp



60 drachmas



200 drachmas

### Inverted center



30 drachmas upper left corner block



200 drachmas upper left corner block of six



60 drachmas lower marginal block

## 6. PRINTING ERRORS

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1945)

Paper folding



30 drachmas lower left corner block



200 drachmas block  
*Paper folding and  
partial impression*

Chains New Values Overprint  
(1946-1947)



60 drachmas upper marginal block  
*Frame printed on reverse (gum)*  
*Misplaced perforation and colour variation*



*Reverse view (reduced)*



5000 on 15000 drachmas lower left  
vertical corner strip of four  
*Paper folding*

## 6. PRINTING ERRORS

### Eleftherios Venizelos 10th Death Anniversary (1946)



Letter addressed to New York, N.Y., U.S.A. franked with two strips of five 130 drachmas stamps each (one left marginal), cancelled BOAOE 23 SEPT. 46 VOLO eds  
*Double Impression*

### Panagis Tsaldaris 10th Death Anniversary (1946)



250 drachmas left corner back  
*Partly mirror printing (décalqué)*



600 drachmas right marginal strip of three  
*Double impression*

## 6. PRINTING ERRORS

### National Products (1953)



1000 drachmas imperforate pair  
*Misplaced green colour*



1000 drachmas lower left corner block  
*Mirror printing (décalqué)*



1300 drachmas (used)  
*Stain over the value  
due to external object  
intrusion during printing*



2000 drachmas block  
*Mirror printing (décalqué)*



2000 drachmas upper  
marginal block  
*Partial mirror printing  
(décalqué)*

## 6. PRINTING ERRORS

U.P.U. (1950)



1000 drachmas  
*Background double impression*

Marshal Plan (1951)



1300 drachmas  
*Diagonal double impression*



1600 drachmas horizontal pair (used)  
*Corner paper folding and partial impression*

Ancient Art I (1954)



100 drachmas block  
*Paper folding*



2400 drachmas block  
*Double impression*

Union of Cyprus (1954)



Merchant Marine (1958)



2.50 drachmas upper left  
corner block  
*Small contour of the map  
of Cyprus at upper left  
corner of the stamp  
(Position 1)*

Monasteries and Churches (1972)



4.5 drachmas upper left corner imprint stamp  
*Corner paper folding and partial impression*

Rome Olympic Games (1960)



3.50 drachmas lower right  
corner imprint block  
*Double impression of the  
black colour*

4.50 drachmas lower right corner imprint pair  
*Double impression of the black colour*

## 6. PRINTING ERRORS

Greek Mythology Part III (1974)

Value of 10 drachmas



**National Costumes  
Part I (1972)**

2.50 drachmas upper  
marginal block  
*Misplaced impression of  
the center*



Vertical lower right corner imprint block of six

**Stain over Hermes broad-brimmed hat (due  
probably to minor dust) progressively moved  
during the printing process (position 40)**

Vertical right double corner imprint band of ten



## 7. OVERPRINT ERRORS

### Small Hermes Heads overprinted with New Values (1900)

#### Imperforate and perforate

20 lepta on 25 lepta



Right marginal strip of three  
*Overprint horizontally and vertically misplaced*



Left marginal stamp  
*Triple overprint*



*Inverted overprint*



*Inverted and  
misplaced overprint  
(Indigo)*



*Inverted and partially  
misplaced overprint*



*Inverted overprint*



*Inverted and  
misplaced overprint  
(Indigo)*

## 7. OVERPRINT ERRORS

### Large Hermes Heads overprinted with New Values (1900)

Main set: Imperforate

Overprint lines distance: 3 mm

Issued form: Narrow "0"

30 lepta on 40 lepta



Right marginal pair  
One overprint with a large "0"



Right marginal pair  
One overprint with a large "0"  
The other with ΛΕΠΤΑ instead of ΛΕΠΤΑ



Partially printed overprint

40 lepta on 2 lepta



Right marginal stamp  
Double overprint



Right marginal strip of three  
One overprint with a large "0"



Two right marginal pairs (narrow margins)  
One overprint with a large "0"  
One pair (left) with shorter distance between lines and the other (right) with larger



## 7. OVERPRINT ERRORS

Hellenic Administration (1912-1913)

**Overprint: ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ**

As a result of the liberation of large territories following the military victories of the I and II Balkan Wars (1912-1913), the Greek government proceeded in overprinting stamps in circulation with this two lined black overprint reading up

3 lepta right marginal block  
*Double overprint*



1 lepton upper marginal block of six  
*Double overprint*



1 lepton lower left imprint corner block of six  
*Overprint error: Large "E" (position 91)*  
*Plate error: No dot after ΕΛΛΑΣ (position 81)*



5 lepta horizontal left marginal strip of six  
*Inverted overprint*  
*Initial letters "Α", "Ε" and "Α" respectively are missing*



10 lepta (engraved) vertical lower left corner imprint pair  
*Misplaced overprint*  
*Large "E" (position 91)*



10 lepta (engraved) block  
*Double overprint*

## 7. OVERPRINT ERRORS

Hellenic Administration (1912-1913)

Overprint: ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ

Two lined black overprint reading up



10 lepta (lithographic) block  
*Double overprint*



20 lepta upper marginal block  
*Double overprint*



20 lepta pair  
*One with large "E"*



20 lepta lower marginal block  
*Double overprint, one inverted*



25 lepta block  
*Double overprint*

## 7. OVERPRINT ERRORS

### General Administration of Samos I (1914)

Stamps of Samos already overprinted with large ΕΛΛΑΣ now with an additional new overprint *Γενική Διοίκησης Σάμου* in black or red



5 lepta lower left gutter imprint block  
*Red overprint instead of black*



1 drachma vertical pair  
*Double overprint  
Black overprint instead of red*



10 lepta lower marginal block  
*Inverted overprint*



1 drachma block  
*Inverted overprint*

## 7. OVERPRINT ERRORS

Airplanes (1938-1942)

Typographic overprint of a small airplane on postage due stamps of various issues with or without new values



1 on 2 drachmas lower marginal imprint block  
*Inverted overprint*

Overprint in red



25 drachmas  
*Inverted overprint*



Registered pre-printed and overprinted cover (new value 15 on 3.5 drachmas) airmailed from Salonica to Athens, cancelled at departure with THESSALONIKI 30 V 42, 15 and at arrival with ATHINAI-POSTE AERIENNE, 30 V 42, 21 cds, franked with a 5 and 15 drachmas "Historical" issue left marginal stamp, a 20 lepta "Thessaloniki International Fair Fund" issue lower marginal stamp and two stamps of the "Airplane" issue (a 1 on 2 drachmas and a 5 drachmas left marginal stamp)

The latter: *Double overprint*

## 7. OVERPRINT ERRORS

### New Drachmas (1944-1945)

Stamps of the "Historical" issue (1937) overprinted with ΝΕΑΙ ΔΡΑΧΜΑΙ in violet to reflect the first post-war monetary reform



2 drachmas upper left corner block  
*Double overprint*



5 drachmas  
*Inverted overprint*

### Referendum for the Return of King George II to Greece (1946)

Stamps of the "King George II" issue (1937) overprinted with 1-9-1946 plus new values in black or blue to mark the favorite plebiscite for his return after his WWII self-exile.



250 over 3 drachmas pair  
*Inverted and slightly misplaced overprint*



600 over 8 drachmas stamp  
*Red overprint instead of blue  
Misplaced*



250 over 3 drachmas block  
*Inverted overprint*



600 over 8 drachmas pair  
*Red overprint instead of blue  
Slightly misplaced*

## 7. OVERPRINT ERRORS

### Chains New Values Overprint (1946-1947)

In order to meet constant readjustments of postal rates, stamps in stock from earlier issues (Historical of 1937, Landscapes of 1942-1944 and Winds of 1942-1943) were overprinted in the form of a closed chain with new values

### Overprint in black and red



500 on 500000 drachmas  
vertical strip of four  
*Partially missing overprint*

2000 on 5000 drachmas  
*Misplaced overprint*



Cover airmailed from Athens, Greece to Baltimore MD, U.S.A., cancelled with ATHINAI - POSTE AERIENNE, 31.1.43, 11, franked with a 500 on 5000000 drachmas "Landscapes" issue stamp, a 20 on 50 drachmas "Winds" issue right marginal stamp and a 250 drachmas on 20 lepta "Historical" issue upper marginal pair with a misplaced overprint

## 8. PERFORATION ERRORS

### New Values (1900)

Stamps of the Large and Small Hermes Heads issues overprinted with new values in black

#### Over Large Hermes Heads



30 over 40 lepta vertical pair  
*Missing perforation in between*



50 over 40 lepta lower marginal stamp (used)  
*Margin perforation missing*



50 over 40 lepta lower marginal stamp (used)  
*Margin perforation missing*



40 over 2 lepta horizontal pair  
*Missing perforation in between*

#### Over Small Hermes Heads



20 over 25 lepta gutter corner block of six  
*Missing vertical perforation in between*

## 8. PERFORATION ERRORS

Olympic Games (1906)  
Intercalated Athens Games

Various perforation error varieties



1 lepton lower left corner stamp



5 lepta lower right corner block



10 lepta lower right vertical corner pair



20 lepta lower marginal stamp



1 drachma



## 8. PERFORATION ERRORS

**Child Welfare (1943)**

**100+50 drachmas  
Maternal Affection**

Upper left corner block of sixteen

*Partial, disorderly and multiple perforation  
leaving an upper left corner block of six  
imperforate (positions 1-3 and 11-13)*



**Greek Royalty II (1957)**

**3.5 drachmas left marginal strip of four**  
*Double perforation*

**Europa (1973)**

**2.5 drachmas horizontal lower left  
corner imprint strip of three**  
*Double perforation*



## 8. PERFORATION ERRORS

Popular Musical Instruments (1975)

Value of 7 drachmas

Misplaced right marginal vertical perforation



Full sheet of 50 stamps

Only five stamps at the right margin are affected

■ The only known to date

## 8. PERFORATION ERRORS

### Popular Musical Instruments (1975)



Right marginal pair  
Misplaced perforation

Value of 11 drachmas  
Misplaced vertical perforation

Imprint lower left corner block  
Misplaced perforation



As issued (left) and with misplaced perforation (right)  
Cancelled to order with postmark  
ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ ΦΙΛΑΤΕΛΙΚΟΝ-ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 11 III 76

Only one sheet of 50 stamps with misplaced vertical perforation is known to exist. The misplaced perforation resulted in having one full vertical line of 5 stamps without value (left margin) and all other stamps with the value on the upper left side of each stamp instead of the upper right as issued

Three out of five of these left marginal pairs are shown here



Reduced

Registered express cover franked with a single stamp as issued and a left marginal pair with misplaced perforation, cancelled ΓΑΛΑΤΣΙΟΝ-ΣΥΣΤΗΜΕΝΑ, 2 II 76 17 and ΑΘΗΝΑΙ-ΑΦΙΞΙΣ-ΣΥΣΤΗΜΕΝΑ 2 II 76 19 on reverse  
Left marginal pair: One stamp without value, the other with it on its upper left side instead of its upper right

## 8. PERFORATION ERRORS

### Aerospreso Italiana - Patagonia (1926)

This is the first of three preferential issues granted to the company by the Greek government for airmailed correspondence forwarded by its airplanes between Greece, Italy and Turkey

#### Values of 2 and 5 drachmas



Left marginal stamps  
*Missing margin perforation*



Right marginal strip of three  
*Missing vertical perforation*



Upper left corner vertical strip of two  
*Missing margin perforation*



Vertical left marginal strip of two  
*Missing margin perforation*

## 8. PERFORATION ERRORS

Winds - Part II (1943)

Oblique perforation



50 drachmas left marginal block of eight



200 drachmas right corner block of eight

Postage Due (1943)

Lithographic Issue



10 drachmas right corner block of six  
*Missing vertical perforation*  
*Misplaced horizontal perforation*



25 drachmas left corner block of six  
*Misplaced vertical perforation*

## 9. IMPERFORATES

### Flying Mercury (1901)



1 lepton left marginal block



2 lepta lower marginal block



3 lepta block



5 lepta upper marginal block



25 lepta block

## 9. IMPERFORATE

### Castles of Samos (1913)

To commemorate the  
Victory of the Greek Fleet  
at Gerontas Bay (1824)  
and the declaration of  
Union with Greece (1912)



### First Issue (Three values)

1, 2 and 5 drachmas



## 9. IMPERFORATES

### Provisional Government (1917)

Issued by the provisional rebel government of Salonica as a response to the measure taken by the loyal government of Athens to overprint all stamps in circulation with the compound design of the letters ET (Hellenic Post) and the royal crown in order to prevent their use by the rebels  
They were printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd



Complete set in pairs

Never issued



4 drachmas pair



## 9. IMPERFORATES

Landscapes, Monuments, Costumes and Ships  
(1927) and (1931-1935)



1 drachma upper marginal block without imprint on the base  
(Positions 4, 5 and 14, 15 from sheet B)



Reverse view (reduced)

Cover mailed locally in Athens, Greece, franked with a 1 drachma stamp without imprint on the base, cancelled at departure ΑΘΗΝΑΙ - 31 ΙΙΙ 31 9 Π - ΑΓ. ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ ΜΥΛΩΝ plus control circle cancel 131 (on reverse) and at arrival ΑΘΗΝΑΙ - [date illegible] 3Ε - ΑΦΕΙΞ plus illegible control circle cancel (in front)

■ The only known to date

100th Anniversary of the Naval Battle of Navarino (1927)



1.5 drachma horizontal pair

## 9. IMPERFORATES

### Landscapes (1942 and 1944)

Issued during the foreign  
occupation of the country  
to replace the pre-war  
"Historical" issue



10 drachmas left marginal block  
*Control No 5*



1000 drachmas lower marginal block



2000 drachmas left marginal block



50000 drachmas left marginal block

## 9. IMPERFORATES

Landscapes (1942 and 1944)

Impression on reverse (gum)



15000 drachmas right marginal block



25000 drachmas right marginal block

Trailing impression and mirror printing (décalqué)



5000 drachmas right marginal block

Double impression



500 drachmas right marginal block



5000000 drachmas upper marginal block

## 9. IMPERFORATES

### Winds - Part II (1943)

This lithographic issue was a reprint in new colours of three values from part I (10, 25 and 50 drachmas) with the addition of three more (100, 200 and 400 drachmas) due to the then growing inflation. They were designed by artist Othon Perivolarakis (1887-1974) and printed on watermarked paper (royal crown) by Aspiotis ELKA



10 drachmas right marginal block



25 drachmas left marginal block



50 drachmas left marginal block



100 drachmas left marginal block



200 drachmas upper marginal block



400 drachmas left corner block

Complete set

## 9. IMPERFORATES

Winds - Part II (1943)

Double impression



100 drachmas lower left corner block of six

Impression on reverse (gum)



25 drachmas lower right corner block



50 drachmas left marginal block



100 drachmas lower right corner block

Paper folding



10 drachmas right marginal block  
*Control No. 4*

## 9. IMPERFORATES

Postage Due (1943)

Lithographic issue of four values  
of the 1902 and 1913 types



10 drachmas lower left corner block



25 drachmas lower right corner block



100 drachmas lower left corner block



25 drachmas lower left corner block of six

Partial impression



10 drachmas lower left corner block

Double impression



200 drachmas lower right corner block

## 9. IMPERFORATES

Panagis Tsaldaris 10th Death Anniversary (1946)

### Children Welfare (1943)



25+25 drachmas lower left corner block of six



200+100 over 25+25 drachmas upper left corner block of six  
Impression of one value over the other (First value's colour)



250 drachmas lower left corner block



600 drachmas upper left corner block  
Both blocks mirror printing (décalqués)

### The Battle of Crete (1950)



1000 drachmas vertical pair

## 9. IMPERFORATES

"OXI" Anniversary (1945)



20 drachmas vertical pair



20 drachmas upper right corner block  
*Mirror printing (dècalqué)*



40 drachmas lower left corner block



40 drachmas upper marginal block  
*Colour variation*



40 drachmas upper left corner block  
*Control No. 2*  
*Paper folding*



40 drachmas left marginal block  
*Control No. 1*  
*Lower pair partially printed*



## 9. IMPERFORATES

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1945)

### Imperforates with double impression

### Double face impression



200 drachmas right marginal stamp

30 drachmas right corner block

60 drachmas right-left corner block  
*No gum - Printing essay*



### Imperforates with impression on reverse (gum)



30 drachmas left corner block



200 drachmas lower marginal block

## 9. IMPERFORATES

Eleftherios Venizelos 10th Death Anniversary (1946)



130 drachmas  
Upper marginal block of six  
*Printed on reverse (gum)*



300 drachmas  
Lower right corner block



300 drachmas pair  
*Double vertical impression*



300 drachmas  
Sheetlet of fifteen stamps  
*Double horizontal impression*

## 9. IMPERFORATES

### Union of the Dodecanese with Greece (1947-1951)



20 drachmas left marginal block



100 drachmas right marginal block



30 drachmas lower left corner block of six  
*Paper folding*



250 drachmas upper right corner block of six

## 9. IMPERFORATES

Union of the Dodecanese with Greece (1947-1951)



500 drachmas unprinted right marginal corner block  
*Mirror printing (décalqué)*



600 drachmas pair



1000 drachmas upper marginal block



2000 drachmas block

# 10. NEVER ISSUED

## King George I - First Essay (1863)

**Engraved:** King's head narrower at top - Large letters at foot



**Lithographic:** King's head broader at top - Short letters at foot



*Numerous colours and shades*

**One denomination for all essays: 20 lepta**

# 10. NEVER ISSUED

Republic Issue (1933)

Value of 100 drachmas



Final plate proofs and colour trials in blocks of six

## 10. NEVER ISSUED

Landscapes (1942 and 1944)

Value of 200.000 drachmas



Left marginal block

Upper left imperforate corner block of six

■ The only known to date



Franklin D. Roosevelt (1945)

Values of 20, 40 and 150 drachmas



Die proof on watermarked paper of the three values of the not adopted design plus their blank frames in black

■ The only known to date

## 10. NEVER ISSUED

### The Aeroespresso Italiana - Sounio (1926)

Aeroespresso Italiana proposed this set of postage stamps (printed in Rome, Italy by Cav. D. Squarci & Figli) to be used on airmail to Greece and Turkey transported by its airplanes, but was rejected by the Greek Government and returned back



Complete set of three values (3, 5 and 10 drachmas)  
depicting Poseidon Temple at Sounion

### Landscapes, Monuments, Costumes and Ships (1927) and (1931-1935)



1 lepton lower left imprint  
corner block

### Aeroespresso Italiana (1933)



3 drachmas block  
Colour variety



3 drachmas original stamp as issued