

GREEK CHARITY STAMPS

INTRODUCTION

Objective of this exhibit is to show the charity stamps of Greece between the years 1912 and 1958, including selected errors, varieties and related mailed material. These stamps were used in addition to the main values in order to fund specific charity purposes.

After a non adopted single stamp issue printed in 1912-1913 for the fighting of Tuberculosis (depicting the then sovereign couple), the first ever official additional rate for charity purposes was introduced in early 1914 with two values (for letter and postcard correspondence) in favour of the families of the Fallen during the Balkan Wars (1912-1913), used during Christmas and Easter only. A year later (1915), similar issues were adopted to fund the Women's Patriotic League and the Hellenic Red Cross. In 1917, a number of older stamps were overprinted (Κ.Π.) to support Social Providence schemes. Later (from 1934 onwards), additional rates were established for the funding of the Thessaloniki International Fair (used for correspondence mailed from that city) and for the fight against Tuberculosis, especially within the then heavily stricken guild of Postmen.

Finally, special issues were approved for the benefit of the victims of the disastrous earthquakes in the Ionian Islands (1953) and to fund the Centre of Macedonian Studies (1956-1958).

PLAN OF THE EXHIBIT

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------|---|--------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Introduction and Plan | 1 | 3 | Issues between 1934-1948 | 11-14 |
| 2 | Issues between 1912-1926 | 2-10 | 4 | Issues between 1951-1958 | 15-16 |

Selected Bibliography

Specialized articles at following Greek philatelic magazines:

Φιλοτελικα, Φιλοτελική Ελλάς, Φιλοτελική Ηχώ, Φιλοτελικά Νέα and Φιλοτελική Λίστος
Γύρνη; Νησί; Συναπτικοί Πινάκες; Ταχυδρομικών και Πρόσθετων Τελών από 1.10.1861 έως 1.1.2001, Athens 2010

Catalogues of Greek Stamps first edited by: D. Koumoundouros (1941), S. Rafailopoulos (1958), O. Vlastos (1967) and A. Karamitsos (2003)

Controlled Air Mail cover from Athens to Alexandria, Egypt

50 lepta Charity pair,
Christmas and 80 lepta Definitive and
5 drachmas Air Mail stamps
Currency control label ΕΛΕΓΧΟΣ
ΣΥΝΑΛΛΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ - CONTROL
EXCHANGE and circle cancel (YES)

Postmark at departure:
ΑΘΗΝΑΙ - ΠΑΤΕΛΑ
ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ
27 I. 1937 24 ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ
Postmark in transit:
ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 27 I. 37 -24
ΑΦΕΙΣ ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ
(on reverse)

Postmark at arrival:
28 I.A. 37 6.45 P
RECU PAR AVION ALEXANDRIE
[bilingual] (on reverse)

Total rate: 14,8 drachmas -
International letter: 8 drachmas
Air Mail Egypt: 5,8 drachmas
Charity international: 1 drachma



1912-13 FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

Non accepted and never circulated



Right marginal single stamp
and upper left corner block

King George I and Queen Olga of the Hellenes



Left marginal strip of three
Missing vertical perforation



1914 NATIONAL RELIEF

To support widows and children
of Fallen Soldiers of the
Balkan Wars 1912-13



2 lepta



5 lepta

Visit card cover mailed locally in Athens
2 lepta Charity and 5 lepta Lithographic
stamps, cancelled:
ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 2 - L 08 10 II KENTPIKON
Total rate: 7 lepta =
Domestic visit card: 5 lepta
Charity visit card: 2 lepta



Postcard from Drama to Thessaloniki
5 lepta Charity and
20 lepta Lithographic stamps
Postmark at departure:
ΔΡΑΜΑ 31 ΔΕΚ. 24
Postmark at arrival:
ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ 2 VIII 925 (on reverse)
Total rate: 25 lepta =
Domestic postcard: 40 lepta
Charity postcard: 5 lepta
(Insufficient rate)

1914 NATIONAL RELIEF



Postcard from Chalkis to Athens
2 lepta Charity, a pair of 1 lepton
and a 3 lepta Lithographic stamps
Postmark at departure:
ΧΑΛΚΙΣ 31 ΔΕΚ. 14
Total rate: 7 lepta =
Domestic postcard: 5 lepta
Charity postcard: 2 lepta



Postcard mailed locally in Athens
2 lepta Charity, 5 lepta Lithographic and
10 lepta Postage Due stamps
Postmark at departure:
ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 30 ΔΕΚ. 20 Σ.Ε. ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΟΝ
(machine cancellation)
Postmark at arrival:
ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 4 ΙΑΝ. 20 Π. (ΑΦΙΕΙΣ)
Total rate: 17 lepta =
Domestic postcard: 15 lepta
Charity postcard: 2 lepta



Cover from Etolikon to Athens
5 lepta Charity, 5 and 10 lepta ET (Royalist)
stamps, plus postman's circle cachet (90)
Postmark at departure:
ΑΤΤΩΛΙΚΟΝ 5 ΙΑΝ. 18
Postmark at arrival:
ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 9 ΙΑΝ. 18 12.Π ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΟΝ
(machine cancellation)
Total rate: 20 lepta =
Domestic letter: 15 lepta
Charity letter: 5 lepta

1915 RED CROSS

In favour of the Hellenic Red Cross



Value of 5 lepta not figured on stamp



Reverse view (reduced)



Cover from Molaoi to Pireaus

5 lepta Charity, 5 lepta and 10 lepta Lithographic stamps

Postmark at departure: ΜΟΛΑΟΙ 21 ΙΑΝ. 19

Postmark at arrival: ΠΕΙΡΑΙΕΥΣ 28 ΙΑΝ. 19 3.E (machine cancellation on reverse)

Total rate: 20 lepta – Domestic letter: 15 lepta, Charity letter: 5 lepta

1915 GREEK WOMEN'S PATRIOTIC LEAGUE

Value of 5 lepta not figured on stamp
Lower marginal stamp



1917 K.II. OVERPRINT

Stamps of Flying Mercury Issue of 1901



Twice censored registered cover from Athens to Bern, Switzerland

Greek (beneath) and Italian (VERIFICATO PER CENSURA) censorship labels and cancels ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΛΟΓΟΚΡΕΙΑ 10 and (45) VERIFICATO PER CENSURA complete set of the overprinted Flying Mercury and Campaign issues with varieties, in front and ET (Royalist) stamps (on reverse), plus postman's circle cachet (290)

Postmark at departure: TAX. ΑΘΗΝΩΝ - 3 ΙΟΥΛ. 1918 ΠΑΡΑΠΤ. 1

Postmark at arrival: BERN 29 VIII 18 IX BRIEFTRÄGER (on reverse)

Total rate: 1,35 drachmas (85 lepta in front and 50 lepta on reverse) =

International letter: 25 lepta, International registered: 25 lepta

As K.II. Charity stamps were withdrawn from circulation on September 7, 1917, this cover is overrated and all stamps in front were added for philatelic purposes

1/1 lepton brown overprint instead of black

1 lepton / 3 lepta thick and thin overprints



Stamps of Flying Mercury Issue of 19



Mourning cover from Chalkis to Athens
 5/20 lepta Charity and 10 lepta ET (Royalist) stamp
 plus postman's circle cochet (E13) (in front)
Postmark at departure:
 ΧΑΛΚΙΣ 8 ΑΥΓ. 17
Postmark at arrival:
 ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 10 ΑΥΓ. 17 12.11 ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΟΝ
Total rate: 15 lepta =
Domestic letter: 10 lepta
Charity domestic: 5 lepta

Censored registered cover from Volos to Alexandria, Egypt

(Censorship oval cancel ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΑΣ ΒΟΛΟΥ and label ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΑ - CENSURE HELLENIQUE)
 10/30 lepta Charity, a pair of 5 lepta and a 40 lepta ET (Royalist) stamps [a further stamp was removed], plus postman's circle cochet (134)

Postmark at departure: ΒΟΛΟΣ 13 ΑΥΓ. 18 12.11 ΑΠΟΤΟΜΗ

Postmark at arrival: ALEXANDRIA R 15 SE. 18 12. [Bilingual] (on reverse)

Total rate: 75 lepta (-) = International letter: 25 lepta, International registered: 25 lepta

As K.II Charity stamps were withdrawn from circulation on September 7, 1917, it is presumed that the missing stamp is a K.II variety too and were added for philatelic purposes, thus rendering this cover overrated



Double overprint

Reverse view (reduced)

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΑ

1917 K.II. OVERPRINT

Stamp of Olympic Games Issue of 1906



1917 K.II OVERPRINT

Stamps of Flying Mercury Issue of 1901



1 lepton / 3 lepta block
Dot missing after K and οὐ distanced from λειτ
Overprint λειτρου instead of λειτου



1 lepton / 3 lepta
Double overprint



5/50 lepta left marginal block of six
Misplaced overprint



1917 K.II OVERPRINT Stamps of Campaign Issue of 1913-1914

Cover from Pyrgos to Athens
5/25 lepta Charity and a pair of 5 lepta ET (Royalist) stamps,
plus postman's circle cachet (118)

Postmark at departure: ΠΥΡΓΟΣ 19 ΑΥΓ. 17 (ΗΛΕΙΑΣ)

Postmark at arrival: ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 21 ΑΥΓ. 17 9.Π
(machine cancellation, on reverse)

Total rate: 15 lepta = Domestic letter: 10 lepta, Charity letter: 5 lepta

Reverse view (reduced)



Cover from Pyrgos to Athens
5/25 lepta Charity and 10 lepta ET (Royalist) stamps,
plus postman's circle cachet (118)

Postmark at departure: ΠΥΡΓΟΣ 22 ΑΥΓ. 17 (ΗΛΕΙΑΣ)

Postmark at arrival: ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 24 ΑΥΓ. 17 9.Π
(machine cancellation, on reverse)

Total rate: 15 lepta =
Domestic letter: 10 lepta
Charity letter: 5 lepta



5/50 lepta
Triple overprint



5/50 lepta block
Double overprint

1918 RED CROSS

In favour of the Hellenic Red Cross



Left marginal stamp



Lower right imprint
corner block



Pair
Misplaced horizontal perforation

1918 PATRIOTIC RELIEF FOUNDATION

Stamps of the Red Cross Issue of 1918

Black overprint Π.Ι.Π.



Lower left imprint corner block
Second full stop missing: Π.Ι.Π.



Lower right imprint
corner block

1919 GREEK WOMEN'S PATRIOTIC LEAGUE



1922 GREEK WOMEN'S PATRIOTIC LEAGUE

Carmine overprint on 1919 stamps



Lower marginal pair
Vertical perforation missing and lower horizontal perforation misplaced



1924 and 1926 RED CROSS

Aspiotis Bros and M. Erginos Printings



Lower vertical marginal pair
Vertical perforation missing



Used stamp
Lined instead of lined

Lower marginal imprint block

1924 and 1926 RED CROSS

In favour of the Hellenic Red Cross



Imperforate block
Other than blue colours missing



Block
Other than blue colours misplaced



M. Erginos Printing
Lower left corner block
Imperforate

Pair
Vertical perforation missing



Block
Misplaced vertical perforation



Vertical upper marginal block of six
Missing horizontal perforation

Lower marginal block
Red Cross misplaced and
mirror printed (décalqué)

Aspiotis Bros Printing
Blue colour mirror printed
(décalqué)



Horizontal marginal block of six
Missing horizontal and misplaced
vertical perforation leaving an
entire block imperforate



1934
THESSALONIKI
INTERNATIONAL
FAIR
Saint Demetrius



1934
TUBERCULOUS
POSTMEN
PROTECTION
Without ΕΛΛΑΣ



Left marginal block
Misplaced vertical and missing
horizontal perforation

Lower marginal block
Imperforate

1935-1939 TUBERCULOUS POSTMEN PROTECTION
With ΕΛΛΑΣ



1937/1938 PROVIDENCE
Revenue (1923) and Landscapes
(1927 and 1933) Issues stamps
Blue and red overprints with or without new values



Cover from Kifissia to Paris. Fra
50/20 lepta Charity pair and
8 drachmas Definitive stamps
Currency control circle cancel
(YES)
Postmark at departure:
ΚΗΦΙΣΣΙΑ 21 ΑΥΓ. 39
Postmark in transit:
ΑΘΗΝΕΣ 21 VIII 39 20 ΑΘΗΝΑΙ
(machine cancellation on reverse)
Postmark at arrival:
PARIS XVII 25 15H AOUT 39
DISTRIBUTION
(machine cancellation on reverse)
Total rate: 9 drachmas --
International letter: 8 drachmas
Charity international: 1 drachm

Paper folding

1939 SOCIAL WELFARE

Queens Olga and Sophia of the Hellenes



1940 TUBERCULOUS

POSTMEN PROTECTION

Red overprint



**1941 K.II.
OVERPRINT**
Stamp of Landscapes
Issue of 1927
Double overprint with new value

**1941 TUBERCULOUS
POSTMEN PROTECTION**
Stamps of the 1934 and 1935 Issues
New values black overprint



**1942
THESSALONIKI
INTERNATIONAL
FAIR**
Stamp of the 1934 Issue
Green overprint



50/10 lepta with ΕΑΛΛΑΣ block
Overprint's mirror printing
(décalqué)

1942-1943 TUBERCULOUS POSTMEN PROTECTION

Stamps of Landscapes Issue of 1927

Red overprint with new values



10 drachmas / 5 lepta
upper marginal pair
Double overprint



10 drachmas / 25 lepta upper marginal block
Double overprint

1944 TUBERCULOUS POSTMEN PROTECTION

Stamp of Landscapes Issue of 1942
Red and blue overprints with new values



1945 TUBERCULOUS POSTMEN PROTECTION

Stamps of Historical Issue of 1937
Blue and red overprints with new values

1946/1950 P.T.T. PERSONNEL PROVIDENCE
Stamps of Historical Issue of 1937
Red and blue overprints with new values



Overprint Errors



100 drachmas upper right corner block
Double overprint



100 drachmas upper right corner block
Double and misplaced overprint



100 drachmas upper right corner block
Inverted overprint and colour variation

100 drachmas upper right corner block
Inverted overprint



2 drachmas / 40 lepta left marginal block of ten
Misplaced overprint leaving two stamps without overprint

50 drachmas / 10 lepta lower imprint marginal block
Inverted overprint

1946/1950 POST PERSONNEL PROVIDENCE



2 drachmas / 40 lepta lower left corner block
Inverted overprint



Overprint's mirror printing (dcalique)



1946-1947 P.T.T. PERSONNEL PROVIDENCE

New overprint and values on 1939 stamps

Maximum postcard (Children abduction)

Cancelled to order ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 29 XII 49 19 ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ

(slogan postmark: Η ΕΛΛΑΣ ΘΡΗΝΕΙ ΤΑ ΑΠΑΧΘΕΝΤΑ ΠΑΙΔΙΑ ΤΗΣ)

Double overprint



**1947
TUBERCULOUS
POSTMEN
PROTECTION**
New value on 1940
overprinted stamp



**1948 THESSALONIKI
MONUMENTS
RESTORATION**
Imperforate Colour Variations



Lower imprint marginal block
Inverted
overprint



As issued



Specimen



Colour variation

Lower imprint
marginal block
Printed on
both sides
One inverted
No gum



Upper marginal block



Lower marginal block



Upper left corner block

1951-1952 POST PERSONNEL PROVIDENCE

Stamps of King George II Issue of 1937

1951 POST PERSONNEL PROVIDENCE

Stamp of the Historical Issue of 1937

Overprinted with
new value in red



Overprinted with
new values in blue
and red



50/3 drachmas
Invalidated with AKYPON
(Specimen) typographic type in red

1953 IONIAN ISLANDS EARTHQUAKE



The destroyed islands of Zante and Cephalonia
(300 and 500 drachmas respectively)

Fund for the reconstruction of the
Ionian Islands that were leveled
following a devastating earthquake

500 drachmas pair and upper
marginal block of sixteen
Misplaced perforation



1956-1958 MACEDONIAN CULTURAL FUND



50 lepta and 1 drachma



Invalidated with ΑΚΥΡΟΝ
(Specimen) spotted type in red



1 drachma right imprint
double corner block of ten
Aspiotis-Elka Printing



Colour variation

1 drachma right double corner
block of ten
Perivolarakis-Lykoyannis Printing