

GREECE: The Landscapes Issues The design, errors and varieties 1927 & 1931-35

The 1927 Landscapes definitive issue, was placed in circulation sixteen years after the previous definitive issue was released. The printers chosen, for national rather than economic criteria, was G. Aspiotis Brothers, a Corfu based printing house firm. Aspiotis worked with Thomas McDonald Ltd in order to manufacture the printing plates necessary for the production of the stamps. The issue after production was distributed in installments to the Greek public three and a half years after the acceptance of the tender. The low quality of the paper used as well as the numerous perforation errors and the inadequacy of the Greek company to employ the double recess process for printing for the production of the stamps with the two colour printing, produced a large number of printing errors. This resulted in the release of a large number of waste in the market.

The 5 and 25 lepta stamps from the 1927 issue were the only two values to be withdrawn from circulation on the 1st of September 1939 as the other values were sold out well before this date. This was the main reason for the production of the second set, consisting of seven values of re-issued stamps between the years 1931 and 1935. The second issue was produced by three printing firms. Aspiotis-Elka using printing plates produced by Thomas De La Rue this time, Perkins Bacon and Co Ltd from Britain and the Polish printing firm P.W.P.W. The order and production rate of the second issue spanned over a five year period. The only stamp being withdrawn from circulation of this issue was the 25 drachma stamp which like the first issue stamps was withdrawn on the 1st of September 1939. In 1934 and 1935 two further stamps were produced one showing the Athens stadium and the later the Church of Pantanassa of Mystras both being considered as part of the landscape set. Furthermore a number of the low values of the set were overprinted and used as taxed stamps for charity purposes, which is beyond the purpose of this exhibit.

The collection aims to present the errors produced during the printing production and the steps taken to produce the stamps. In fact what caused the disappointment amongst the philatelists at the time is the area of study of this exhibit. The exhibit is arranged primarily in the chronological order of the issues and in order of the stamps' denomination of each issue. The covers also show the variety in the postal rates being applicable during the life time of the issues.

Of particular interest and rarity are:

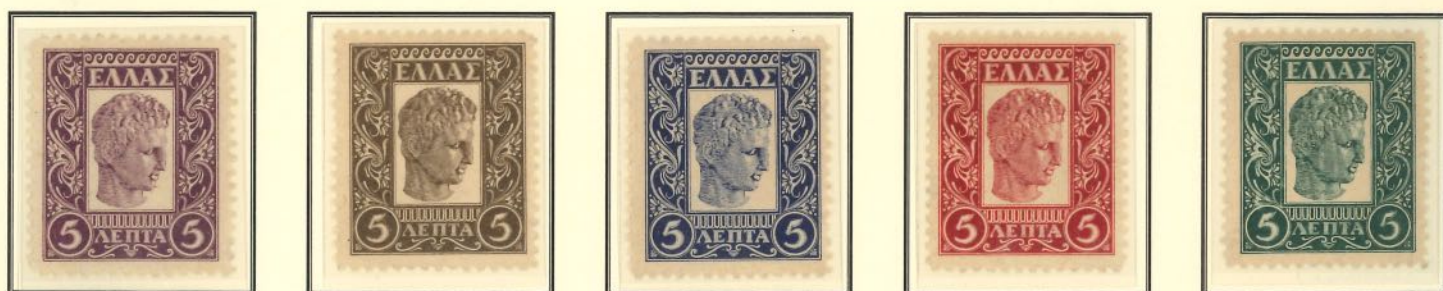
- The 5 drachma cover with the inverted center. About 20 stamps with this variety exist but this is the only one on cover recorded to date.
- The 3 drachma inverted center showing the battle ship Averof.
- The 5 lepta stamps being printed on both sides. This is believed to be one of a very few blocks in existence as it is thought that no more than a single sheet was printed on both sides.
- The 5 lepta stamps being printed on the gum side only. The block shown is the only one recorded. Not even single stamps have surfaced thus far.
- The 50 lepta un-issued stamp of which only two examples have been recorded to date.
- The 1 lepton stamp which was produced but not circulated is of note worthy significance.
- The numerous accepted and unaccepted essays throughout the exhibit . Particular emphasis must be noted to the various hand painted essays, the majority of which being unique.

N.B. The red border through the exhibit indicate items that one to three samples have been recorded to date.

Demetra, Apollo & Athena



The above un-adopted perforated essays were produced for the 1927 landscapes issue depicting what is thought to be the ancient Greek God Demetra. These were designed to be used for the 5 lepta stamp.

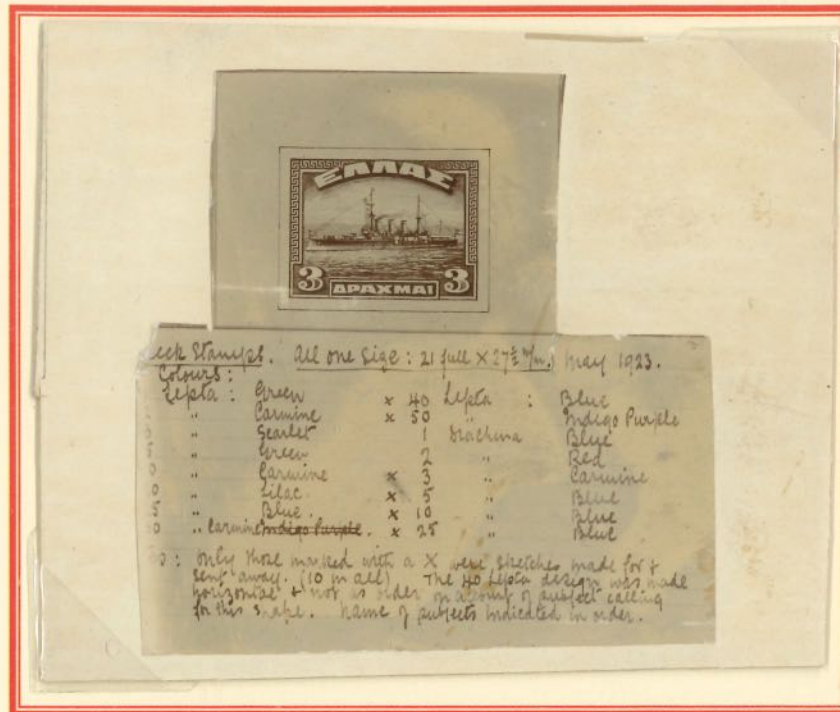


The above un-adopted perforated essays were produced for the 1927 landscapes issue depicting what is thought to be the ancient Greek God Apollo. These were designed to be used for the 5 lepta stamp.



The above un-adopted perforated essays were produced for the 1927 landscapes issue depicting what is thought to be the ancient Greek Goddess Athena. These were designed to be used for the 1 lepton stamp. Eventually a stamp was produced for this value but it was never placed in circulation.

One of the two photo essays recorded, the other one residing with the Greek National Postal Archives



The inscription states the colours chosen for each value.



Above each design, the date 8 May 1923 is written. The date indicates the preparation of the design.

Portuguese Colonial Office hand stamps



A set of fifteen values affixed to portions of an album page. Some are hand stamped "Especimen" in violet and some "SPECIMEN" in green. These stamps were applied by the Portuguese post office after receiving stamps from the UPU office in Berne. This was a common practice at the time before sending these sets to their colonial post offices abroad. The "Especimen" cancellation was the second one that was used by the Portuguese PO. The first being the "ULTRAMAR", in the early 1900's, followed by the "Especimen" that was used up to the early 1930's and finally the "SPECIMEN" that was used after that. The only stamp that has the later cancellation is the 4 drachma Mystras stamp at the top left that was issued in 1935. If course the cancellation was placed after the stamp was received in Portugal from the UPU offices in Bern and it is not known the time that had elapsed from the date that the issue was printed to the hand stamp being applied.

Un-adopted hand painted essays for the 1 lepton denomination



Colour trials



Colour trial as the final issued stamp



Grey



Red



Lilac



Green

Die proof and largest block recorded



Die proof of 1 lepton, depicting a Dodecanese costume, in black wove paper, recess McDonald of London.



The largest block recorded to date.

Although the 1 Lepton stamp was printed with a specific rate in mind, rate changes made it obsolete before circulation so it was never used. Up to the 1st January 1926, the 1 lepton rate was valid for newspapers sent directly by the publishers to subscribers per 100 gms. This rate was increased to 5 lepta on the 1 May 1926 for the same weight.

Never issued stamp and imperforated sheetlet



The perforated stamp that was never circulated in brown. The only recorded sample to date.



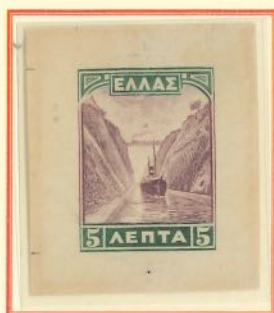
Die proof of the un-issued 2 lepta value in black on a small sheetlet with the red endorsement number 1103, recess Mc Donald. A second number 1092 has been crossed out. The sheetlet also bears an undecipherable signature in blue.

2 lepta colour trial imperforated sheetlet of sixteen stamps 4X4 with margins on wove paper of the 2 lepta value that was never issued. The design is that of the 40 lepta value showing the white tower of Thessalonica. Recess Mc Donald. A complete sheet of 100 stamps exists in the Hellenic Postal Museum and this is believed to be probably the largest piece in private hands.

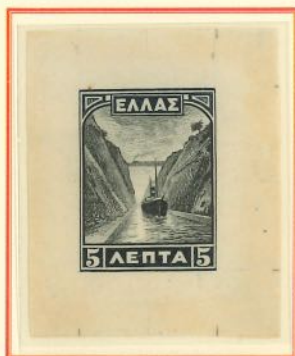
Colour trials



Colour trial as the final issued stamp



Green & Purple



Blue & Black



Orange & Black



Light green



Purple



Blue

The colour trials produced for the issue. The green and purple ones were used eventually. The former for the 1927 and the later for the 1931/35 issues respectively. These are the only set recorded so far.

Printer's Imprints

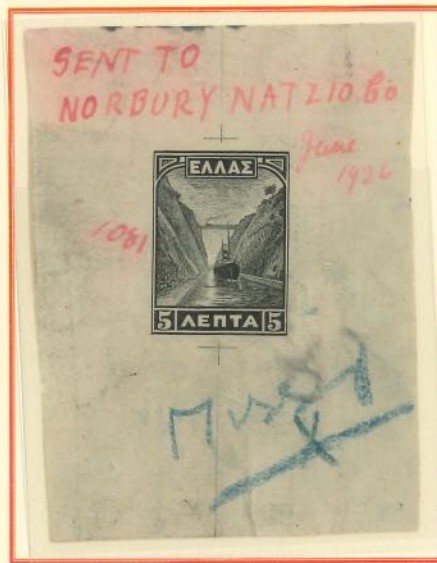


The Aspioti imprint in Greek



The Aspioti imprint in English

Die Proof



A 5 lepta die proof in black on a small sheetlet numbered 1081 and dated June 1926 in red along with the note "SENT TO NORBURY NATZIOCO". Recess McDonald. An undecipherable signature in blue at the bottom right is also present and this is the only recorded example to date.



The 5 lepta stamp with two "ΝΑΥΣΤΑΘΜΟΣ", 23 January 1936 and the rhomboidal "16" cancellation on a wrapper posted locally to Salamina.

The 5 lepta rate for wrappers that covered printed matter, newspaper send directly from the publishers for up to 100 gm, magazines, per 50 gm, books and photographs for the first 50 gm was valid from 1 May 1926 to 6 December 1940. King's decree 21 April 1926.

Printed on both sides of the stamp



The 5 lepta stamp in a block of six. The above is the reverse side (gum side) of the stamp where the printing took place as if on the front side as well. It is believed that this only happened on one sheet, thus limiting drastically the number of known samples. The above block of six is one of only two recorded so far and represents the largest block known with the variety. The image below shows the front side of the block.



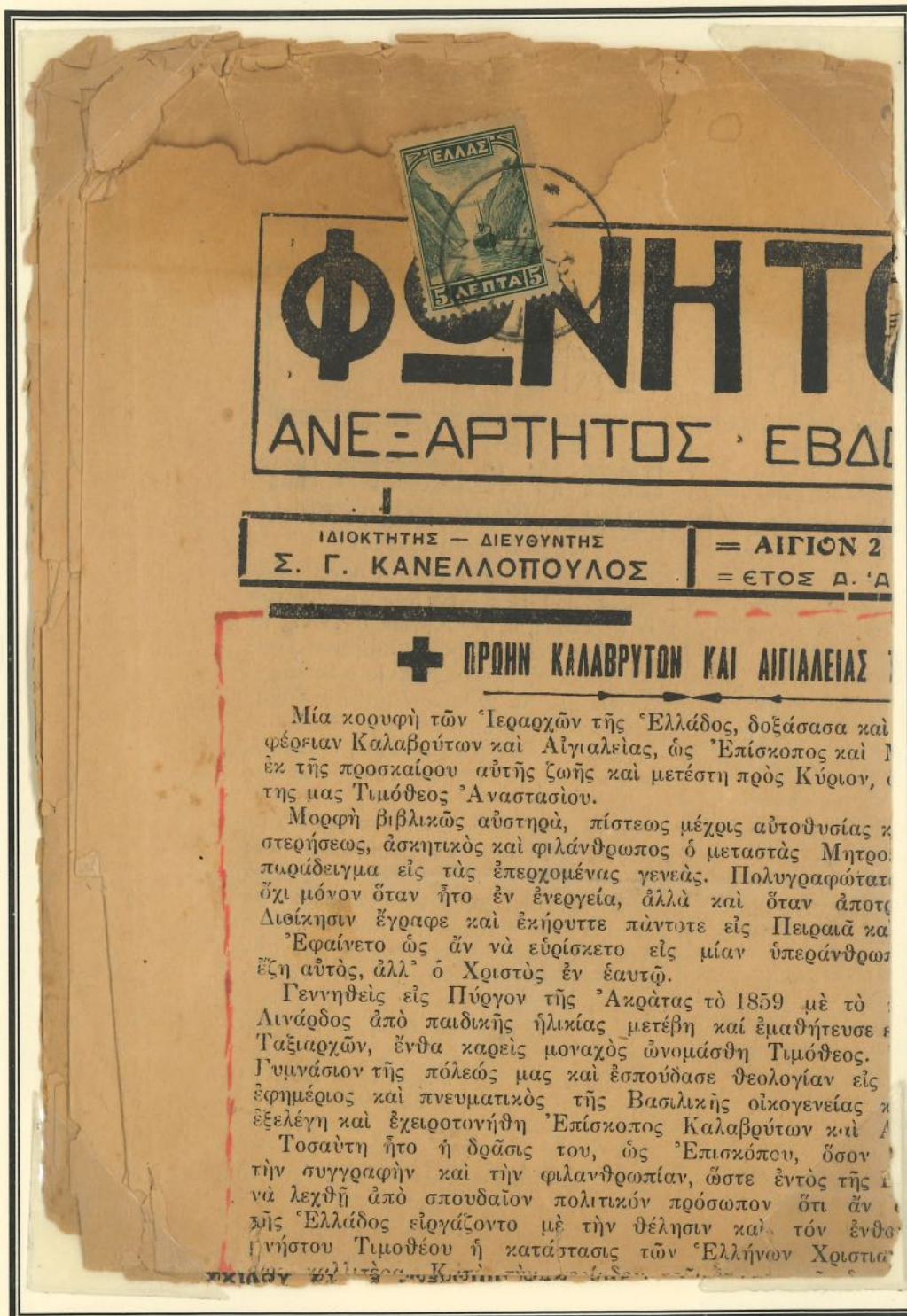
A pair of the 5 lepta stamp on a wrapper postmarked 25 June 1934 to Athens. The 10 lepta rate, for every 50 gm, was the revised rate for wrappers sending newspapers and magazines on a monthly basis valid from 30 April 1930 to 19 September 1941 by King's decree no 4581 issued on 28 April 1941.

Printed on the gum side only.



A block of eighteen stamps from the left side of the sheet, showing the only recorded example of the stamp being printed on the gum side ONLY.

Newspaper rate



The five lepta stamp on a newspaper, cancelled at Aegion in the Peloponnese on 2 August 1936, two days before the Metaxas dictatorship sent to Rododaphne, paying the newspaper rate at the time. One of the usages for the 5 lepta stamp was to replace the 1 lepton rate for newspapers send by the publishers directly to clients. The rate was changed during the printing of the issue and this made the 1 lepton stamp obsolete although it was produced as seen on a previous page on this frame.

The 1 lepton rate was valid from 7 September 1917 to 17 July 1926 and the new rate of 5 lepta was placed into practice from 1 May 1926 to 1 December 1940 by King's decree 21 April 1926

Perforation varieties



Block of four showing paper fold and extra perforated paper on the left.



A block of six from the upper part of the sheet showing the stamps imperforated horizontally. The only example recorded so far from this variety.



Imperforate vertically pair.



Colour varieties



The stamp printed on greenish-blue paper



Excessive inking on the printing plate having the effect of the green colour appearing as being applied twice.



The block of four showing green smudges from the printing not only on the stamps but on the margins as well.



A block of four of the 5 lepta stamps, five 2 drachma and one 20 lepta stamps for a total rate of 10 drachmas and 40 lepta paying the registered rate for a letter to British India, postmarked Athens, 10 Jan 32 and an arrival cancellation of 23 January.

Rate	4.00 dr
Add wgt	2.40 dr
Reg.	4.00 dr
Total	10.40 dr
	=====

Double Perforation

A vertical strip of five stamps, all showing double perforation on the top part and in between the stamps. The error was caused by the sheet being passed through the perforator machine twice.



ΕΙΣ Βολον

ΕΚΔΟΤΙΚΟΣ ΟΙΚΟΣ
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΥ ΑΘ. ΚΛΕΙΣΙΟΥΝΗ
ΝΕΟΦΥΤΟΥ ΜΕΤΑΞΕ 29
ΑΘ. ΝΑΙ

Αξιότιμον Κον

*Αρσέναν Μοσχολίου
Σοφικίων
Σοφικίων 74*

5 lepta stamps paying the 25 lepta rate for printed matter, five times the weight posted on 10 April 1935 to Volos.

Die proof



The die proof of the 10 lepta stamp of the 1927 issue, showing the traditional costume of the island group Dodecanese, as well as for the 1 lepton of the same issue which was printed but not used.



A composite die proof of the 10 lepta stamp of the issued design and a head from another issue in black wove paper - recess McDonald London.

Colour trial proof of the 10 lepta value in brown, imperforated sheetlet on wove paper.

Double and shifted printing varieties



Although the above stamp must have come from a sheet of at least 400-600 stamps, this is the only one that has been recorded so far with the double print variety as can be seen on the scan along side. The cancellation "DE DELPH" comes from the commemorative stamp at Delphi (Ατέρμονη σφραγίδα των Δελφικών εορτών) from the festival at the ancient site of Delphi that were organized by the well known Greek poet Aggelos Sikelianos.



Fifteen 10 lepta stamps for a total rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ drachma on a cover postmarked Navplion 18 October 1927 to a local address. The rate for letters posted within the same town and valid from 1 December 1926. (law 10 Nov 1926). The block of stamps bears the shifted printing variety as opposed to the double illustrated above. Although this variety is the commonest of the two, it is rarely found in such big blocks on cover.

Newspaper rate



The 10 lepta stamp on a newspaper, paying the intended rate for the stamp. The rate was valid for newspapers of at least monthly frequency (the newspaper in hand was covering two fifteen day periods, 15 & 30 November 1929). This rate was valid from 1 December 1926 through to 19 September 1941. The decree date was 10 November 1926.

Major paper-fold error



The 10 lepta stamp in a sixteen block from the top part of the sheet showing major pre-printing perforation errors in the two vertical columns of the block.



A private postcard with five 10 lepta and two 25 lepta stamps for a total rate of 1 drachma, paying the correct rate for postcards between towns as ordered by the presidential decree of 11 November 1926 and 30 April 1930. The card was posted in Athens on 15 December 1931 with an arrival stamp at Patra of 16 December 1931.

Perforation errors



The 10 lepta stamps in a block of four showing the stamps imperforated between the stamps vertically.



Block of six stamps with perforation error running through the middle of the bottom stamps as well as on the bottom margin.



Cover franked with an 80 lepta lithographed stamp as well as the 10, 20 and 40 lepta stamps (total rate of 1drachma and 50 lepta) from the 1927 issue cancelled with a rhomboid 334 cancellation, arrived at Athens 30 Oct 1931 with the 10 lepta stamp imperforated on the left and at the same time perforated diagonally. The rate being the correct one as per the presidential decree dated 30 April 1930.

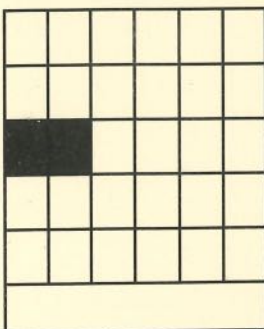
Red lines and spots



The 10 lepta stamp showing extra inking on the bottom left corner.



The 10 lepta stamp showing a spot above the letter "λ".



A block of 50 stamps showing a major red line through the two stamps of the centre row of the stamps.

Paper colour and dequalque printing



Dequalque printing



The 10 lepta stamp printed on white and green paper as opposed to the normal red paper.



Two 10 lepta on a folded printed matter paying the local rate at the time, postmarked Athens 2 August 1927, marked as not delivered at the front and a further back stamp of 24 October at Peireas indicating its long waiting at the local post office. Presidential decree of 1 May 1927 paying 20 lepta for 30 grams.

Perforation errors



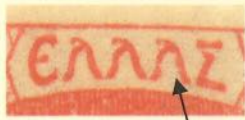
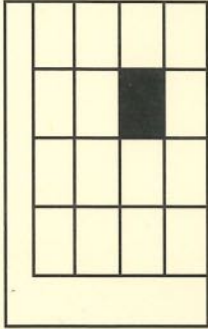
The 10 lepta stamp with the left side imperforated probably caused by movement of the sheet during the perforation process.

The 10 lepta stamp showing miss-perforation after the printing of the stamps on white paper.

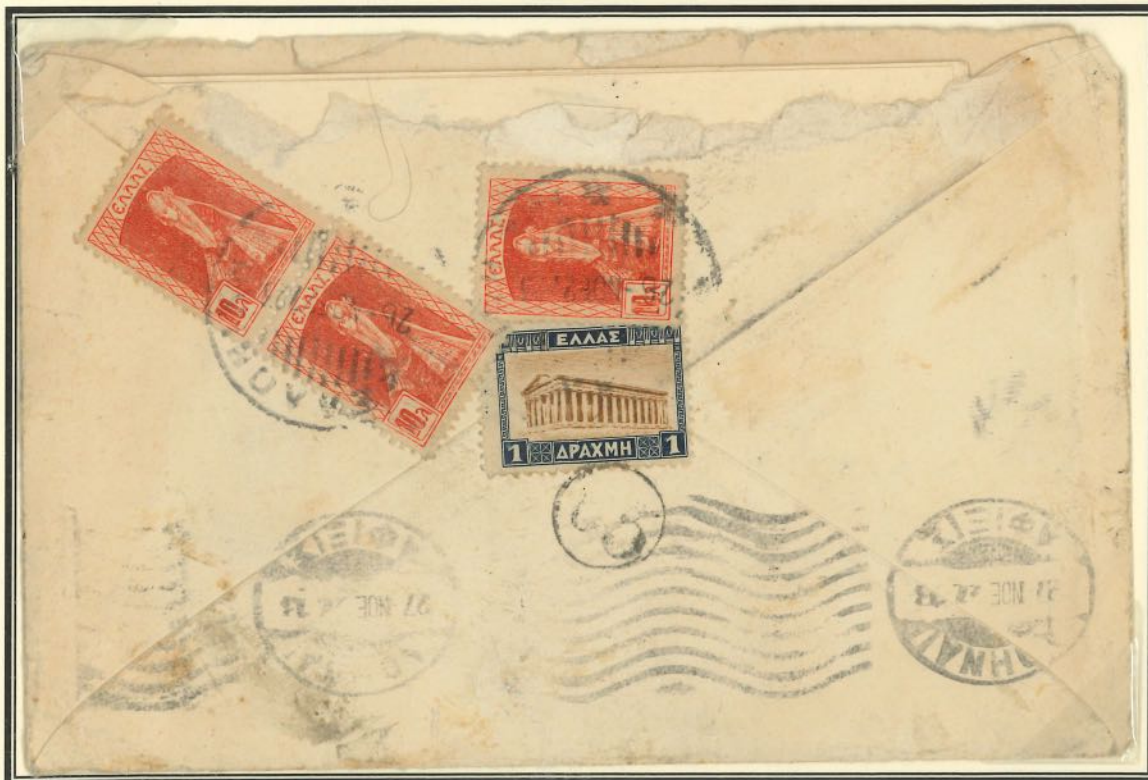


A postcard from the island of Mykonos to Switzerland dated 16 October 1936, which should have paid 1 drachma and 60 lepta but had only one 10 lepta stamp on it. The remaining fee was added on as postage due by 3 x 50 lepta adhesives. The rate was applicable from 1 May 1933.

ΕΛΛΑΣ instead of ΕΛΛΑΣ error

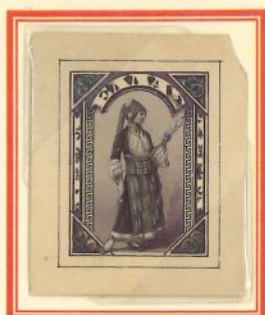


The 10 lepta stamp with the constant variety, having a third "Λ" instead of "Α".



A cover postmarked Thessalonica 26 November 1927 to Athens, bearing one 1 drachma and three 10 lepta stamps, all of which showing the «ΕΛΛΑΣ» instead of the «ΕΛΛΑΣ» variety with an arrival stamp of the next day. The rate of 1 drachma and 30 lepta paying the inland rate at the time (order 1 May 1927).

Un-adopted hand painted essay for the 20 lepta denomination



Colour trials



Colour trial as the final issued stamp



Black



Red



Green

Colour trial



Colour trial proof of the 20 lepta value in olive-green, imperforated sheetlet on wove paper. The stamp was finally issued in the violet colour as on the adjacent pages. Recess McDonald (London)

Die proof



Die proof of the 20 lepta value in black of the issued design marked "1218" in black and "SENT TO NORBURY NATZI June 1926" with red crayon. A further mark "10..." and a blue mark at the bottom right corner are also present. The proof was printed on wove paper. Recess McDonald (London).



Postcard from Agrinion to Patra with five 20 lepta, paying the internal rate of 1 drachma valid from 1 December 1926 to 30 April 1932, decree number 10 November 1926. The card is postmarked 6 April 1932.

Pre-printing paper folds



The 20 lepta stamp in an English imprint block from the lower left part of the sheet, showing an extensive pre-perforation corner paper folding.

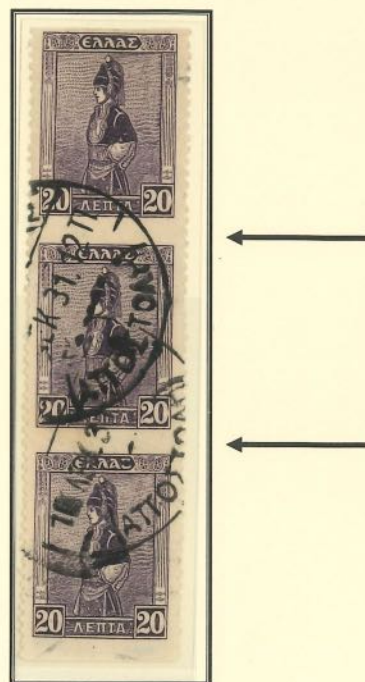


A strip of seven stamps with Greek imprint showing a major displacement of the perforation due to a pre-printing paper fold which was held after the perforating as well as the printing operation.

Imperforate vertically and horizontally



A pair of stamps imperforate vertically between.



A strip of three showing imperforate horizontally.



Nine 20 lepta stamps on a stationery card postmarked Xylokastro 28 March 1934 to Patra, underpaying the normal postcard rate without limitation of the number of words from one town to another by 20 lepta. The normal rate of 2 drachmas was valid from 5 April 1933 by decree number 4.4.33 . The card seems to have escaped the detection of the postal authorities and reached its final destination.

Discoloration error, colour varieties and paper fold errors



The stamp in blue colour showing complete discoloration.



Major paper folds resulting in the enlargement of the stamps shown on stamps with colour variations

Perforation errors



The miss-perforation in this case seems to cut the stamp in the lower stamp while giving the impression that the stamp is imperforate at the top and bottom.



Miss-perforation causing two stamps being unequally cut.

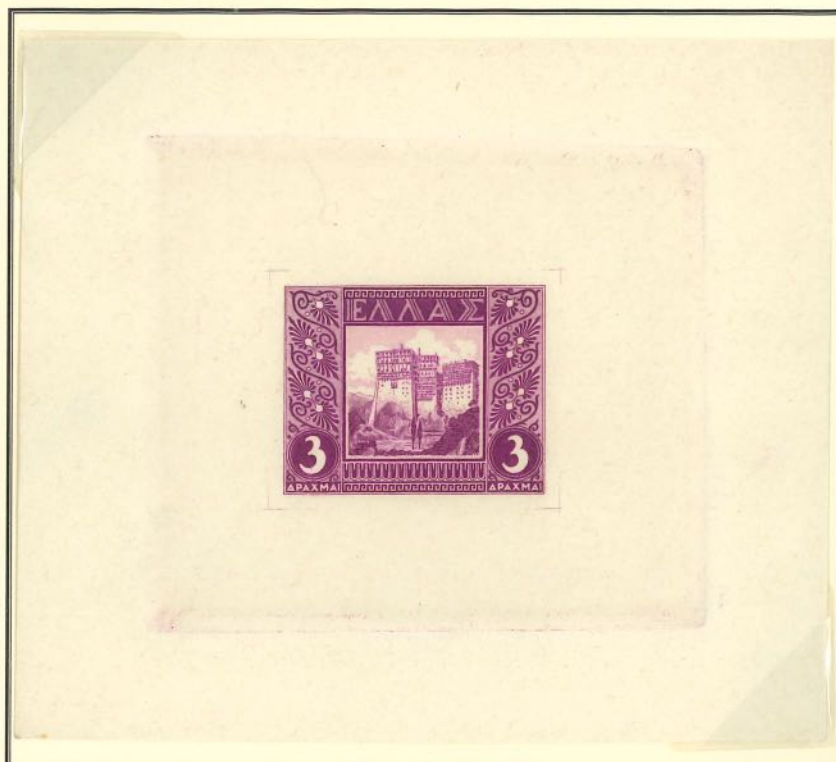


Two blocks with major miss-perforation errors.



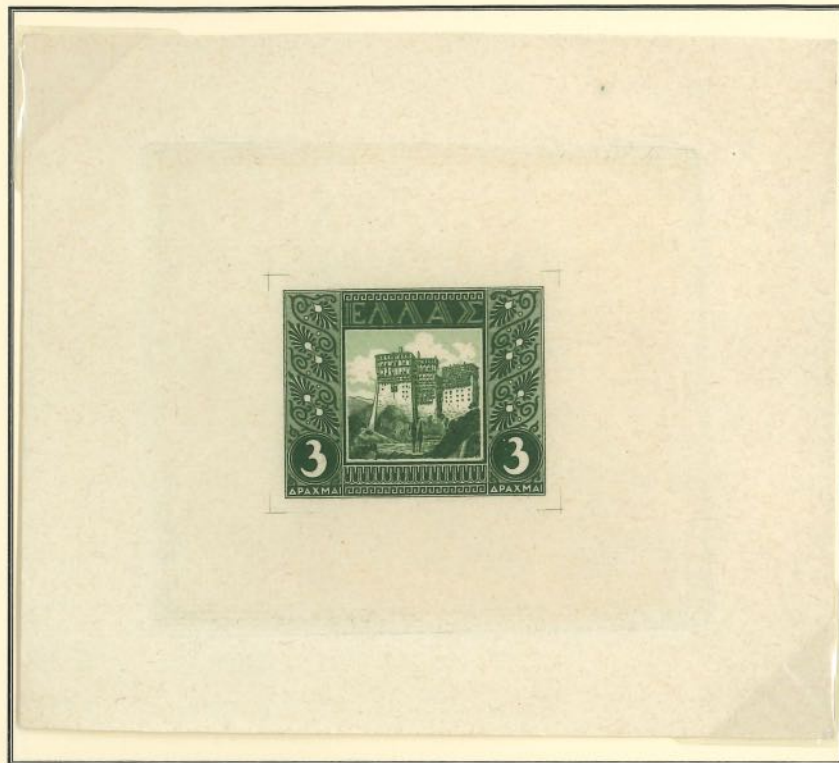
A block of sixteen from the bottom of the sheet showing major miss-perforation due to shifting of either the printing plate or the sheet.

Un-adopted Essays



The Simon of Petra monastery has one of the most beautiful landscapes on Mount Athos at Halkidiki in Greece. The design was initially intended to be for the 3 drachma stamp but eventually it was used for the 25 lepta stamp.

Un-adopted Essays



The designs in purple (light and dark) on the adjacent sheet as the blue and green on this were initially tried as trials for the stamp. Eventually the adopted colour was light green. These two pages show the large format of the essays.

Un-adopted Essays



The number of these essays has not been recorded to date. A large number of colors was tried but the eventual green colour was chosen from the colour trials of the eventual design shown on the next page.

Un-adopted Essays



The small essays are of the same design as the small ones. The two top are bi-colour and the others single colour.

Un-adopted hand-painted essay for the 25 lepta denomination



Colour trials



Colour trial as the final issued stamp



Red



Purple



Grey



Orange

Die proofs



25 lepta denomination die proofs, one with and without the denomination showing the Simon Petra Monastery at Mount Athos. From the right proof, the value was cut out. The stamp was only issued in the 1927 set.



Postcard from Aktaion to Athens with two 25 lepta on a pre-paid 1 drachma stamp for the total rate of 1.50 drachma, paying the internal rate for Post Office postal stationery cards from town to town, valid from 1 May 1932, decree no 7.5.32. The card is postmarked 29 June 1932.

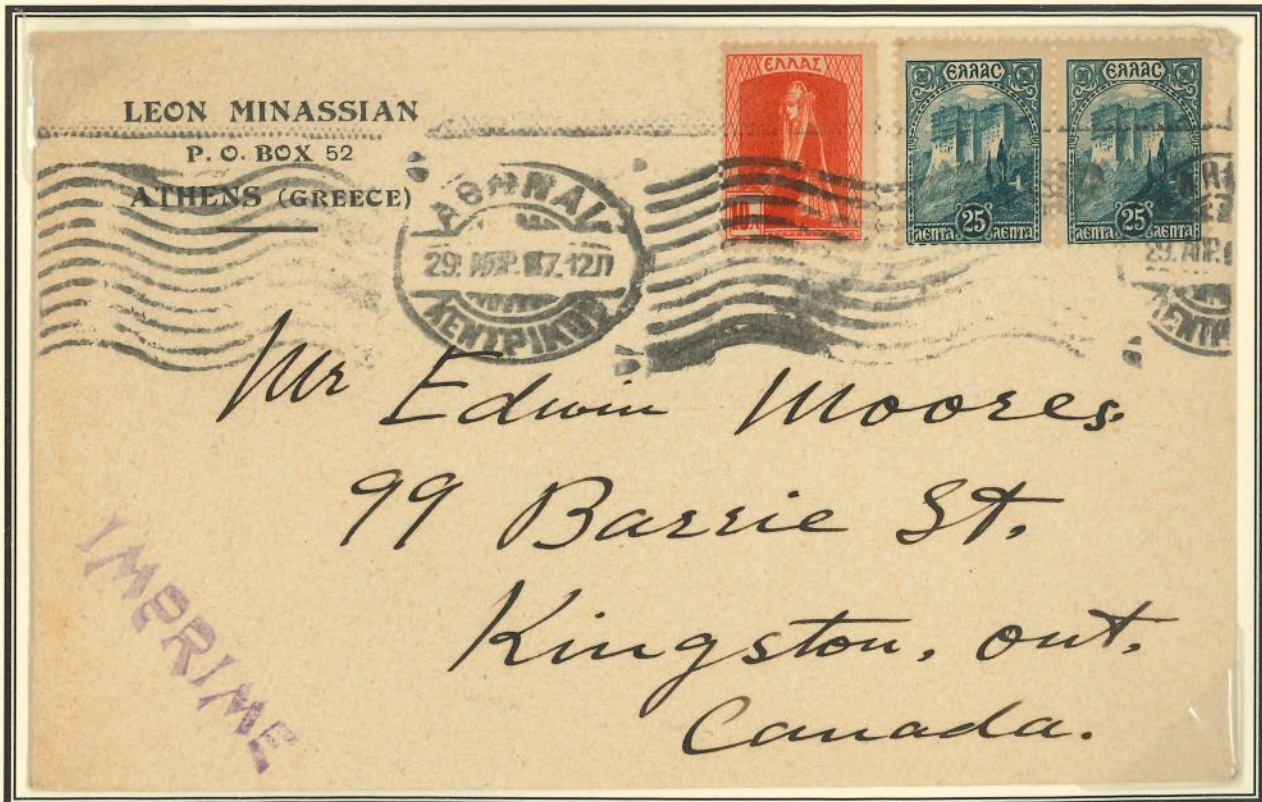
Imprimatur and misprint



The 25 lepta stamp in the imprimatur format.



The 25 lepta stamp partly misprinted on the reverse of the normal stamp, strip of four. The probable cause of this misprint is to excessive ink placed on the sheet below, thus causing the effect.



Two 25 and one 10 lepta stamps for a total rate of 60 lepta, paying the printed matter rate, as the "IMPRIME" hand stamp at the bottom left states. This being valid for overseas printed matter from 1 June 1926 to 31 April 1927 under the decree of 21 May 1926, postmarked 29 April 1927 Ontario, Canada.

Perforation errors



The strip of three showing misperforation at the top with a small gap between.



Double perforation at the top margin.



The top part of the margin showing repeated perforation attempts.



Ten stamp with a total rate of 16 drachmas on a cover to Costa Rica post-marked July 1927 covering the rates stipulated by decree 15.4.27 valid from 1 May 1927 to 31 May 1932. The rate break down is :

1st wt	4.00
5 extrax wt	
2.40 x 5	12.00
	<hr/>
	16.00 Dr
	=====

Un-adopted hand-painted essay for the 40 lepta denomination



Colour trials



Design in grey from a different plate



Grey



Red



Green



Brown

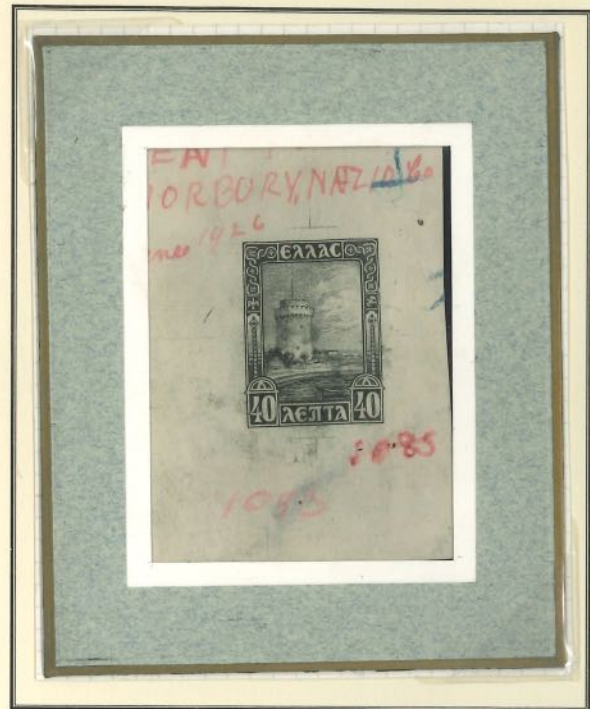


Blue

Die proofs



The die proof for the 40 lepta stamp depicting the White Tower of Thessaloniki, issued in 1927.

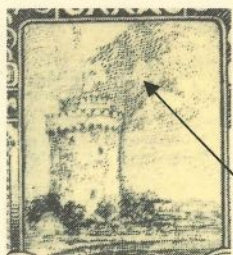
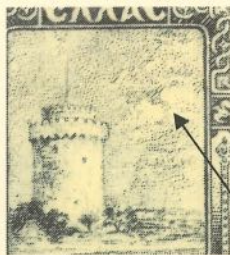


1927 die proof of the 40 lepta stamp of the approved design in sheetlet, black on wove paper. Recess McDonald, London.



The 40 lepta stamps paying the printed matter rate to Patra, postmarked Argos 19 October 1936. The rate was valid from before the beginning of the issue until 6 December 1940. Decree 4.4.33

Cloud variety



The 40 lepta which depicts the White Tower at Thessaloniki, at various constant positions of a number of sheets show a variation in the clouds above and to the right of the tower as illustrated on the left. Furthermore it is noted that the variation on the leftmost column is the same and on the bottom middle stamp this is shifted to the left .

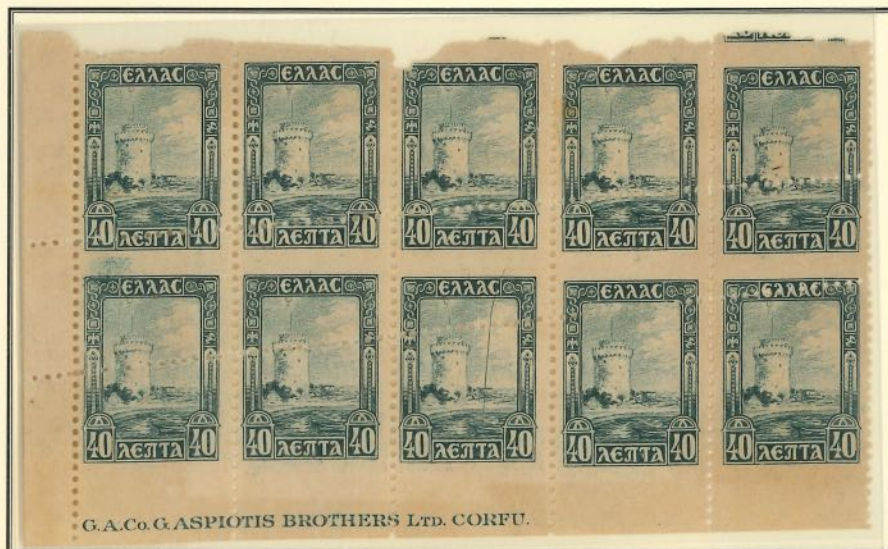
Perforation varieties



Doubly miss-perforated on the upper part between the two stamps.

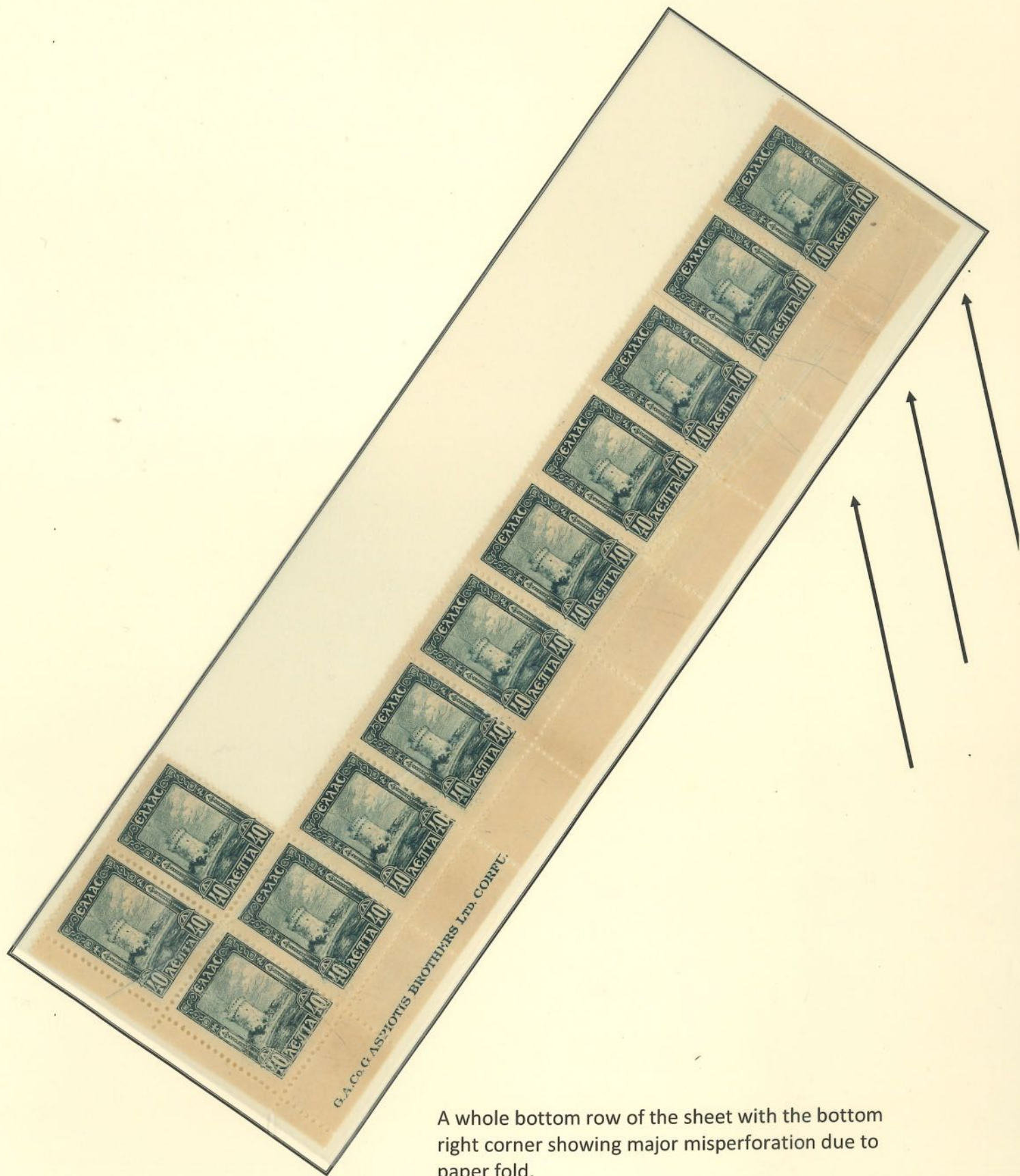


Both blocks above showing misperforation at the corners and margin.



Extreme misperforation error with the horizontal perforations applied at an angle almost diagonally across the stamps.

Paper fold variety



A whole bottom row of the sheet with the bottom right corner showing major misperforation due to paper fold.

Mirror printing and plate numbers



A pair of stamps showing intense mirror printing on the back of the stamps on the gum side.



Three stamps from printing plates 71, 72 & 73



Two each of the 10 and 40 lepta stamps on a stationery post card, postmarked "ΣΕΡΡΑΙ", 15 December 1931 to Patra with an arrival postmark of the recipient of 17 December. The rate was valid from 1 December 1926 (Decree 10.11.1926) to 30 April 1932 (Decree 7 May 1932) but reconfirmed on 30 April 1930 (decree 458, dated 28 April 1930).

Foreign rates



A postal stationery card with the indication "ΕΝΤΥΠΑ" (printed matter), with two 40 lepta stamps for the printed matter rate for letters abroad, postmarked 13 August 1927 to Switzerland. The rate of 80 lepta was for 50 gm and valid from 1 May 1927 to 31 May 1932 with decree 15 April 1927.

23, 40 lepta stamps, 2 each of 1 and 4 drachma stamps for a total rate of 19,20 drachmas on a registered cover from Athens to Jerusalem, dated 19 May 1932.



Local rates



One each of the 10, 40 lepta and 1 drachma stamps for a total rate of 1½ drachmas, this being the normal letter rate within the country on a covered postmarked "Alexoxorion Arkadia", 4 September 1927 with a next day delivery arrival stamp at Athens. Decree no 28 April 1927. The rate was valid from 1 May 1927 to 30 April 1932.



Five 40 lepta stamps for a total rate of 2 drachmas, paying the rate for internal letters not exceeding 20 gm, postmarked Nafplion 19 May 1932 to Athens. The rate being valid from 1 May 1932 to 4 April 1933 (decree 7 May 1932.)

Hand-painted essay for the 50 lepta denomination



Colour Trial in sheetlet form

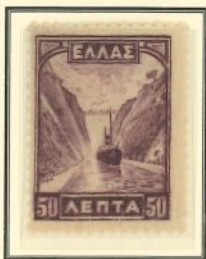


Colour trial proof of the 50 lepta value in olive-green, imperforated sheetlet on wove paper. The stamp was finally issued in the violet colour as on the adjacent pages. Recess McDonald (London)

The 1927 issue stamp showing the characteristics of the issue



The Thomas McDonald 1927 issued stamp has an image width of 17,6mm, the right anchor is blurred and the left anchor is marginally visible.



The 50 lepta stamp showing the double print variety.



A small cover, posted locally 5 April 1929, with the 50 lepta stamp. The rate was valid from 1 Dec 1926 to 29 Apr 1930.

Paper fold varieties



A vertical strip of four with the distinct error of paper folding before printing, causing the white unprinted line diagonally across the stamps and resulting in the widening of the size of the stamp as we move from top to bottom on the left strip of stamps. On the example above the variety is even greater as a wider part of the paper was folded before the printing process.



Two 50 lepta stamps paying the stationery rate to Patra, postmarked Athens 19 January 1929. The stamp show an unusual printing flaw with a crooked line going through both stamps.

Colour shifts and smudges



The top of both stamps showing excessive ink, mostly on the left stamp.



The frame of the stamp seems to have been printed twice. It is showing on the border of the stamps both on top and the right margin.



The 1 drachma and 50 lepta stamps on a cover between Athens and Paros of 8 June 1927 to the village of Xylokastron with an arrival stamp of 12 June. The rate of 1.50 drachma was the town to town rate for letters not exceeding 20 gm between the dates 1 May 1927 to 30 April 1932 (Decree number 28 April 1927). The 50 lepta stamp has traces of double print showing better at the bottom.

Die proofs



Frame and vignette of the "Canal of Corinth" stamp that was issued in the 5, 50 & 80 lepta denominations for the 1927 issue and the two 50 lepta for the 1931-35 issue, one of which was never circulated.

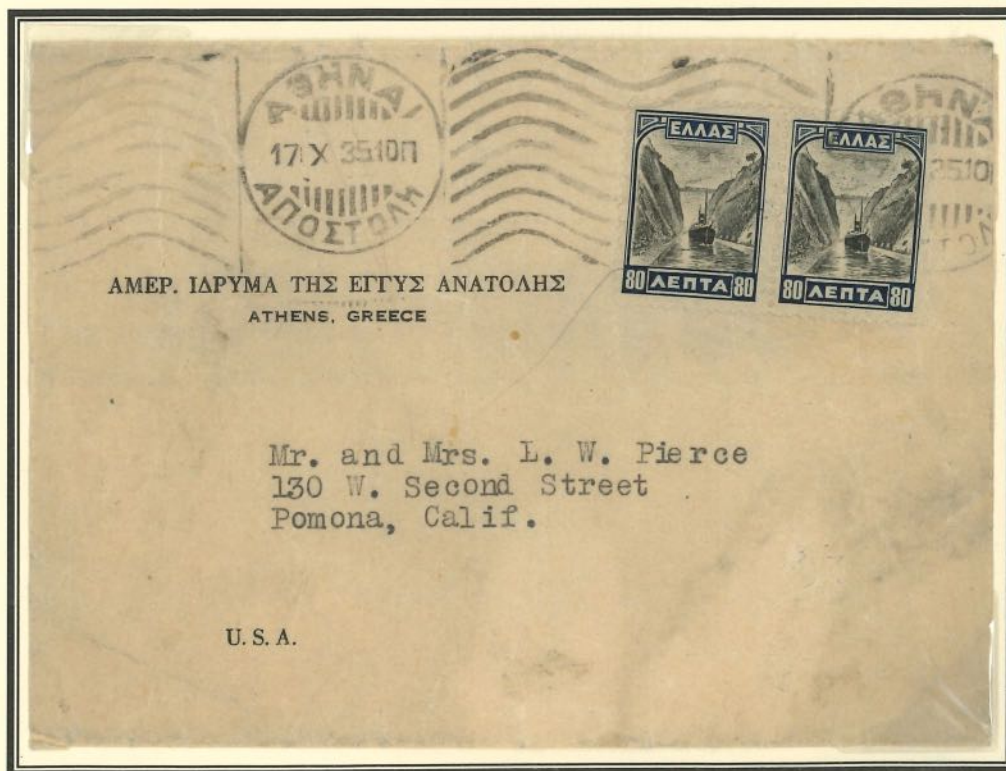


Composite die proof of the 50 and 80 lepta stamps of the final accepted design in black on wove paper. Recess McDonald of London.

Imperforate pair



A pair of imperforate stamps from the imprimatur sheet with part inscription at the bottom from the «ΑΣΠΙΟΤΗ» printing works at Corfu. This is the first recorded imperforate example although it is logical to assume that there should be more of these stamps as a whole sheet must have been printed. However, no other example has been ever recorded and in fact this has surfaced in 2010.



Two 80 lepta stamps on a wrapper to the USA, paying the correct rate for papers / magazine at the time for a foreign destination postmarked Athens 17 October 1935. The rate under decree 15 April 1927 was valid from 1 May 1927 to 31 August 1932.

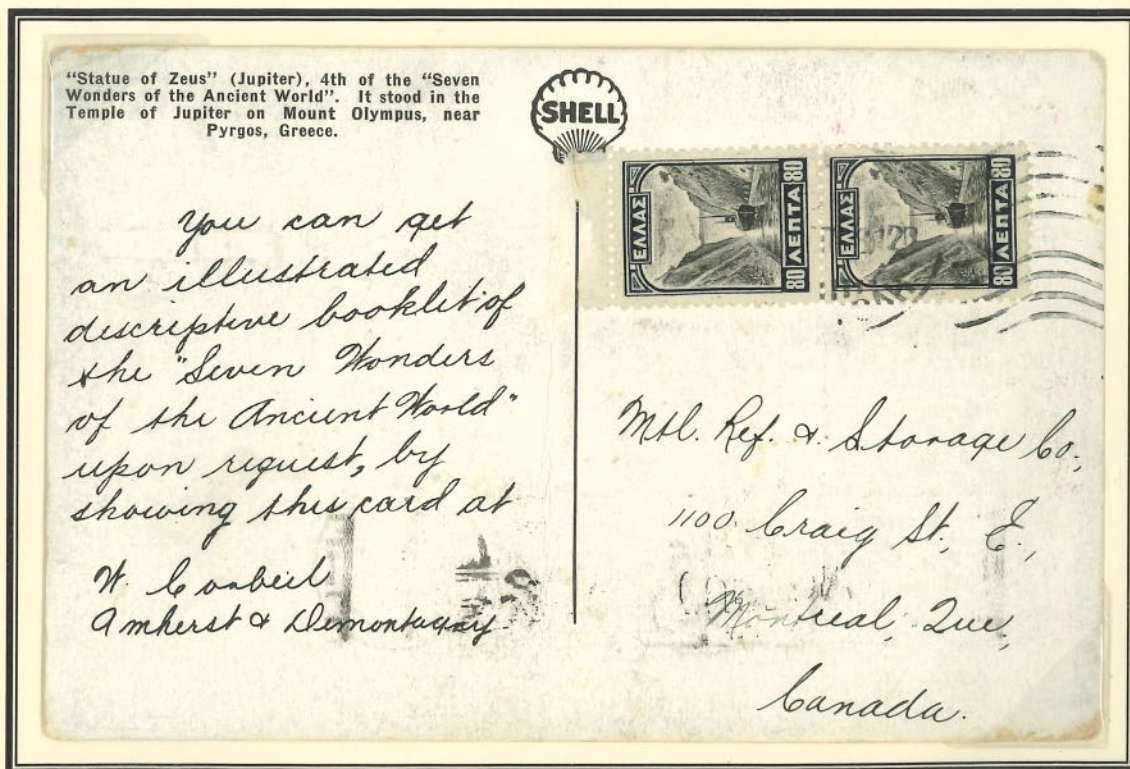
Double and triple printing of the centre



Double printing of the centre.



Triple printing of the centre.



Two 80 lepta stamps on a picture post card paying the correct rate for foreign post-cards to Canada. The decree was placed in force on 4 April 1933 and was valid from 1 May 1933 to 31 August 1939.

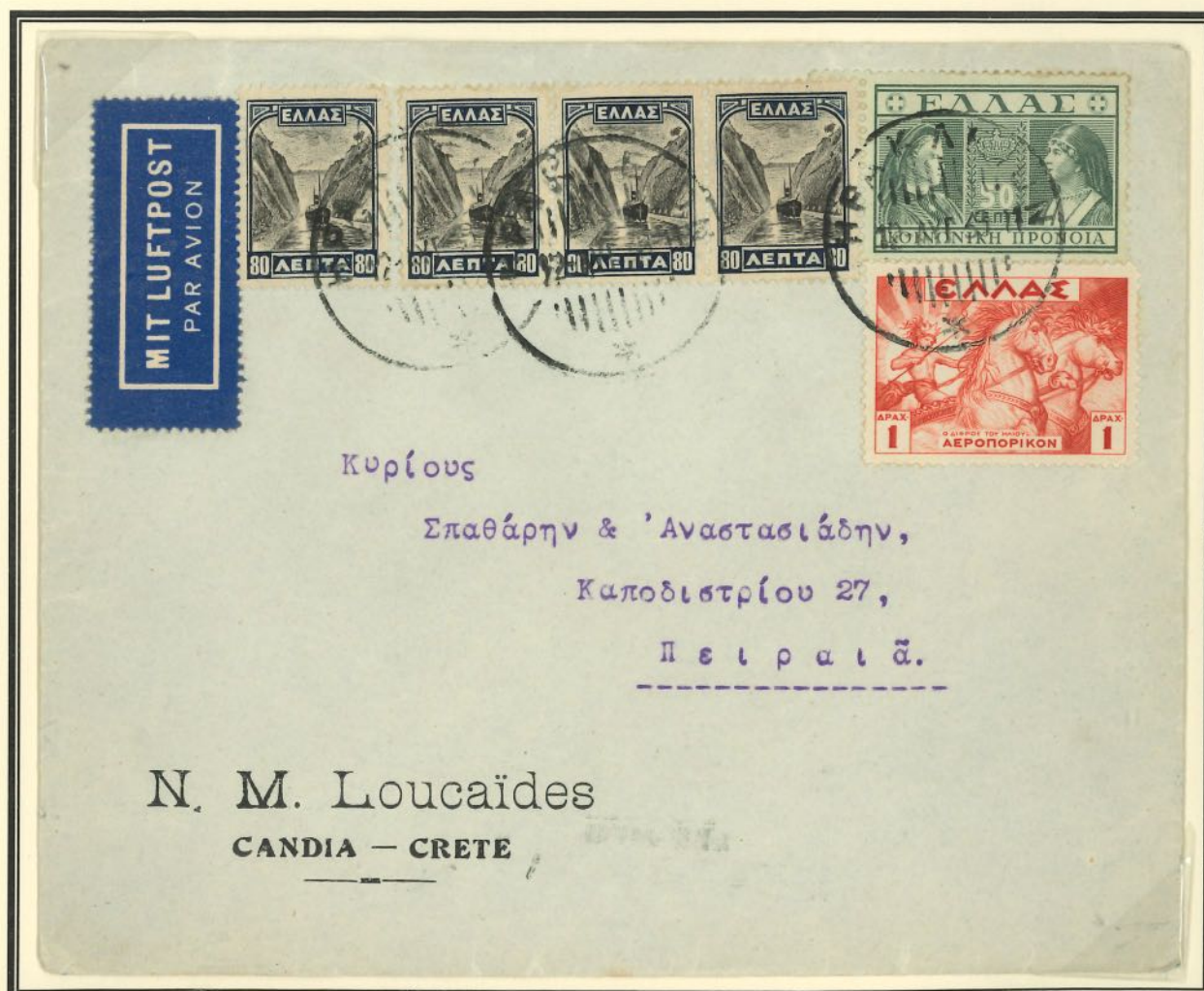
Misperforation and partial printing on the back



A pair of 80 lepta stamps with a major shift during the perforation process showing part of the bottom stamps.



Top marginal pair of the 80 lepta stamp with the frame of the stamp being printed on the reverse as a mirror



Four 80 lepta and one 1 drachma for the total airmail internal rate of 4.20 drachmas on an internal airmail letter postmarked 10 August 1930 from Crete to Pireas. The compulsory 50 lepta social welfare tax added.

Shifting of centres



Both stamps showing the centre shifted to the left.



A block of four showing major shift of the centre to the right.



Five 80 lepta and five 1 drachma stamps for a total rate of 9 drachmas on the reverse of an air mail cover, postmarked from the island of Spetsai, 16 June 1931, to Chechoslovakia, via Athens (17 June 1931). 4 drachmas for the first 20 gm, 3 drachmas for the additional weight and 3 drachmas for the airmail fee, total 9 drachmas.

Colour varieties



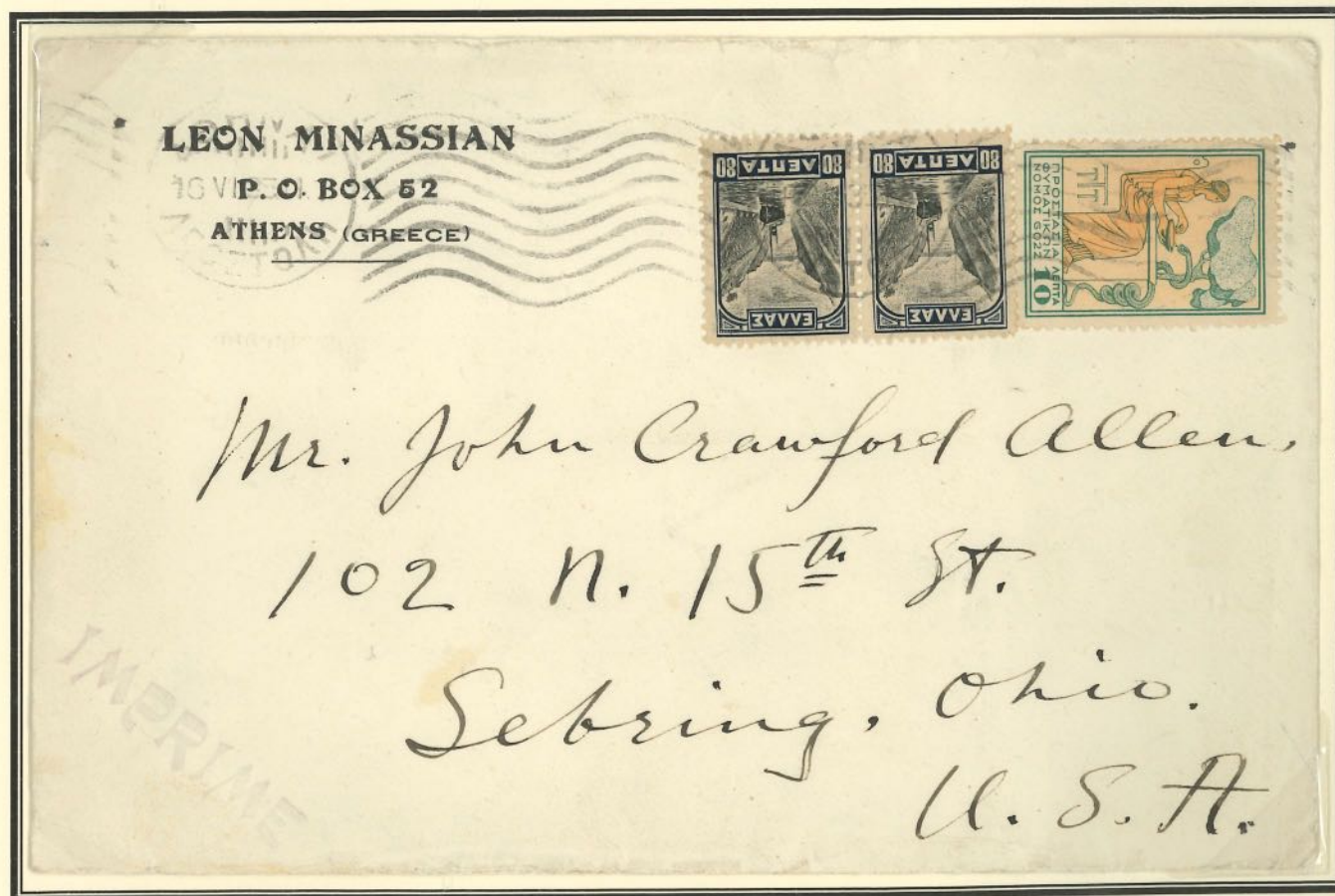
Indigo & Black



Blue & Black



Bright Blue & Black



Two 80 and one 10 lepta stamps on a cover to the USA, paying the correct printed matter rate at the time for a foreign destination postmarked Athens 16 June 1935. The 10 lepta stamp on the right is for the Anti Tuberculosis fund. Decree 4 April 1933, valid from 1 May 1933 to 31 August 1939.

Un adopted essays



Blue



Grey



Light Brown



Brown

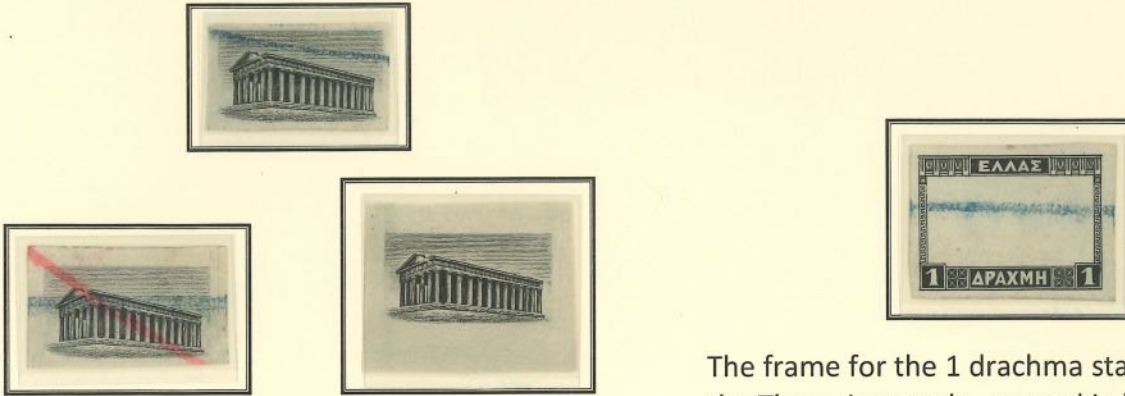


Red



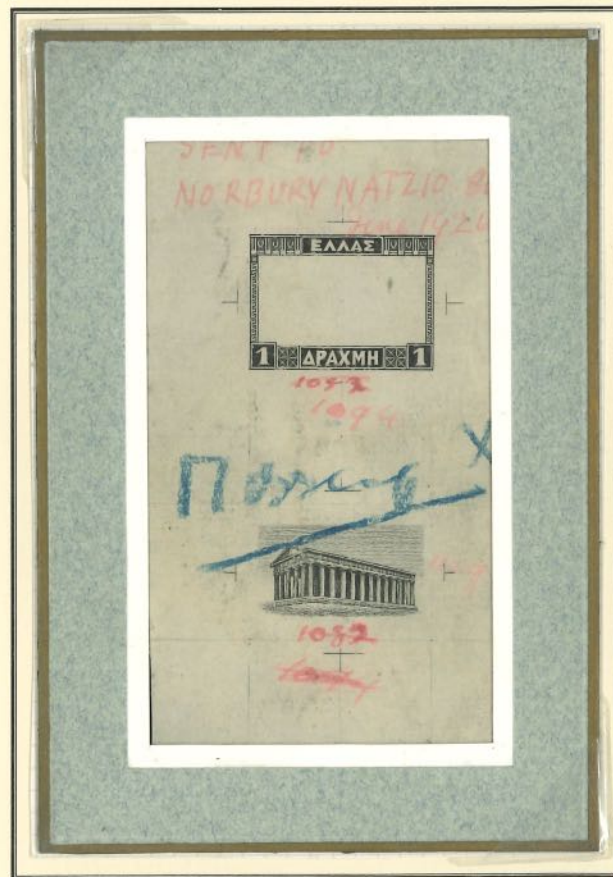
Purple

Proof



The frame for the 1 drachma stamps depicting the Theseeio temple, as used in both issues.

Three vignettes of varying size as used in the small sized stamp of the Theseeio Temple in both issues of 1927 and 1931-35.



Composite die proof of the 1 drachma value frame and vignette of the accepted design in black on wove paper. Recess McDonald of London.

Colour Trials



Colour Trials



e



e



e

Die proof and final trial colour



Die proof of an unapproved design



Complete pane of 25 trial colours as the final stamp.

Colour Varieties



Yellow brown & blue



Bistre brown & indigo



Dull brown & blue



Dull reddish brown & indigo



Red brown & indigo



Dull brown & indigo



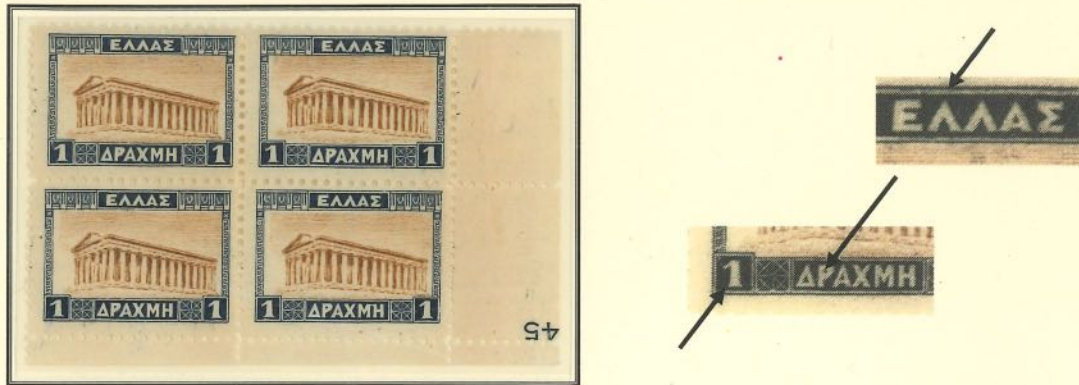
Red brown & indigo



Brick red & indigo

The Aspiotis / Thomas Mc Donald issue

There are distinctive differences between the three separate issues of the 1 drachma stamps. These can be categorized in two types. The ones that deal with the actual design of the stamp itself and the ones dealing with the printing of the stamp.



Stamp characteristics: There are three distinctive features to recognise the 1927 issue of the stamp. These are:

- The two letters "Λ" of "ΕΛΛΑΣ" at the top of the stamp are oblique in shape as in the 1931 stamp but it is flat in the 1933 issue.
- The left base of the "1" at the bottom two corners are apparent but smaller in size comparatively to the 1933 issue. In the 1931 issue this is very small.
- The centre of the letter "Ρ" in "ΔΡΑΧΜΗ" is smaller in relation to the other two issues.



One 1 drachma stamp paying the postcard rate from town to town, postmarked Thessaloniki 28 April 1927 to Alexandroupolis. The rate was valid from 1/12/1926 to 1/5/1932.

Impeforates



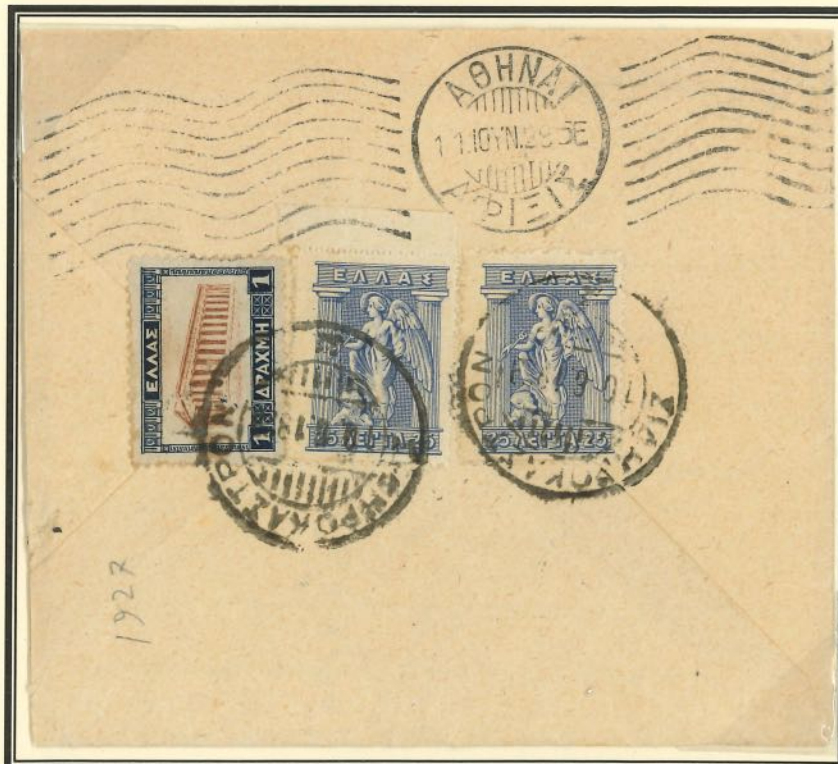
Imperforated at the top



Imperforated top and bottom



Imperforated at the bottom



The 1 drachma and 50 lepta stamps on the back of a cover postmarked, ΣΙΔΗΡΟΚΑΣΤΡΟΝ, 10 June 1928 to Athens. An arrival stamp of 11 June is also present. This was the rate for letters from town to town, valid from 1 May 1927 to 30 April 1932 under decree of 28 April 1927.

Colour spot errors



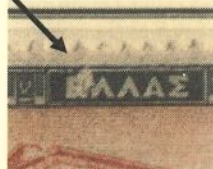
A large blue spot on the right of the bottom stamp and several more in the margins.



White spot on the corner of the temple.



Brown Spot at the base of the column of the bottom stamp.



White spot on "E" of the first stamp.



Brown spots in the middle of the temple.

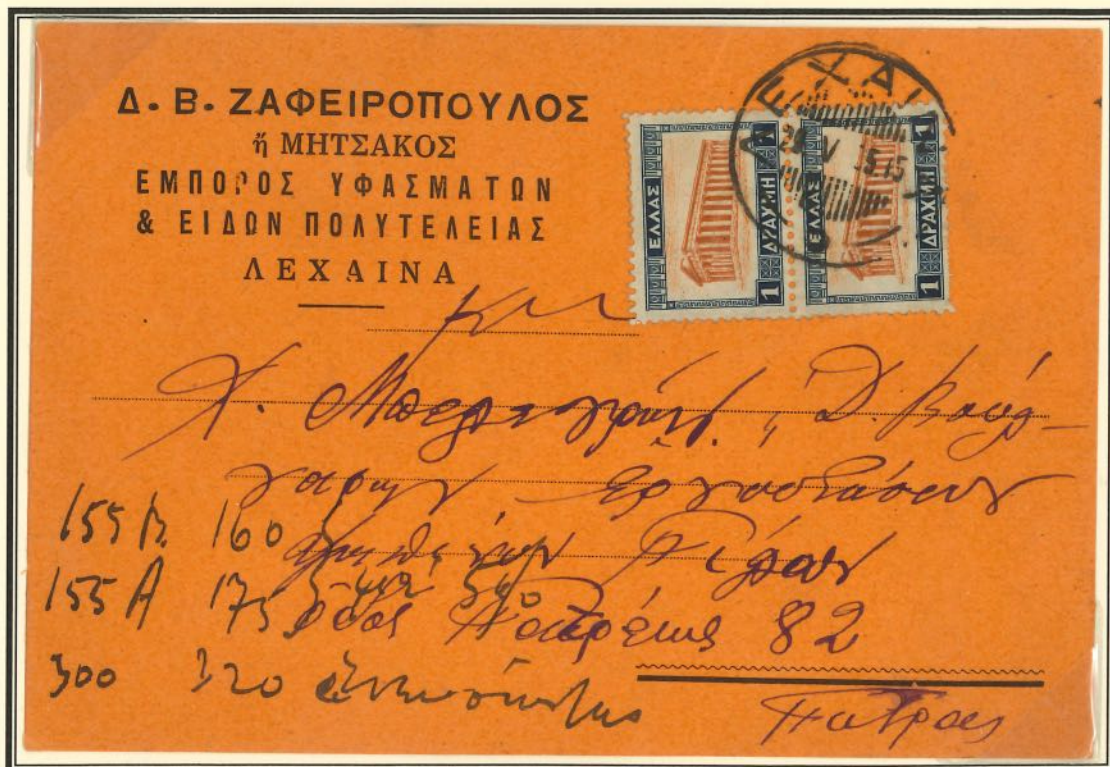
Double printing of frame and vignette



Doubling of the vignette



The two bottom stamps showing a major double print of the top part of the frame



Two 1 drachma stamps on a local postcard postmarked Lexena, in the western Peloponnese, 21 May 1935 to Patra paying the local postcard rate between 1 May 1926 to 1 January 1942 under decree number 4.4.33 with effect from 5 April 1932.

Paper folds



Major paper fold variety above the temple, misplacing the frame on both sides.



The fold occurring via the middle of the front of the Phestus temple.



The fold occurring at the bottom and top of the frame of the left and right stamp respectively.



A block of six showing a major pre-printing folding error resulting in two white, un-printed lines, diagonally across the block resulting in the top stamps becoming larger in size than the normal ones.

Shifting of centre vignette



Shift in the vignette of the stamps resulting in the centre being displaced down and to the left.



Dramatic shifting of the centre to the left.



Shifting of the centre to the left.



Shifting of the centre downwards and to the left.



The 1 drachma and 50 lepta stamps on a cover postmarked with an undecipherable rhomboidal village postmark to Athens with an arrival postmark of 4 July 1931. The rate was valid from 1 May 1927 to 30 April 1932 under order dated 28 April 1927 with number 28/154, 259.

Perforation varieties



Major perforation error on the left margin resulting in the miss-perforation of the bottom two stamps.



Misperforation resulting in the splitting of both stamps.



Miss-perforation resulting in the appearance of two stamps on the same piece.



Miss-perforation resulting in the appearance of a large margin at the bottom.



Major perforation error resulting at the perforation through the middle of the stamp.

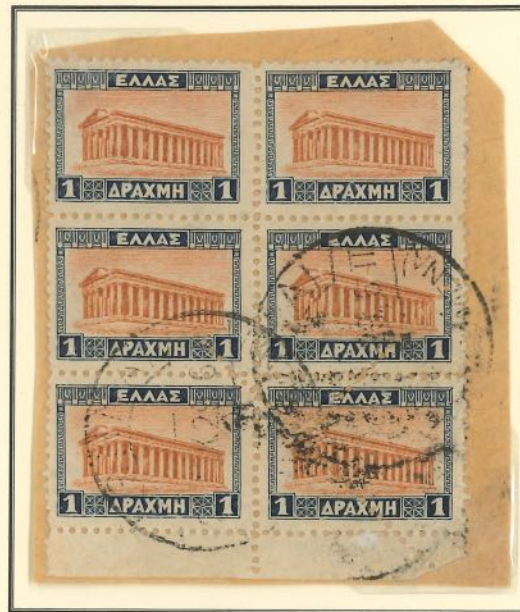


The miss-perforation resulting in the elongation of the top margin of the stamp.



A bottom marginal block of twenty-five showing double horizontal perforations throughout the block, this being more predominant at the bottom where the two separate processes are most apparent. In Between the stamps, upon close examination, the doubling of the perforation can easily be seen.

Perforation varieties



Double perforation diagonally from the right bottom stamp to the middle left stamp.



A bottom marginal block of twenty five stamps showing double horizontal perforations through the block, this being more predominant at the bottom where the two separate processes are most apparent.

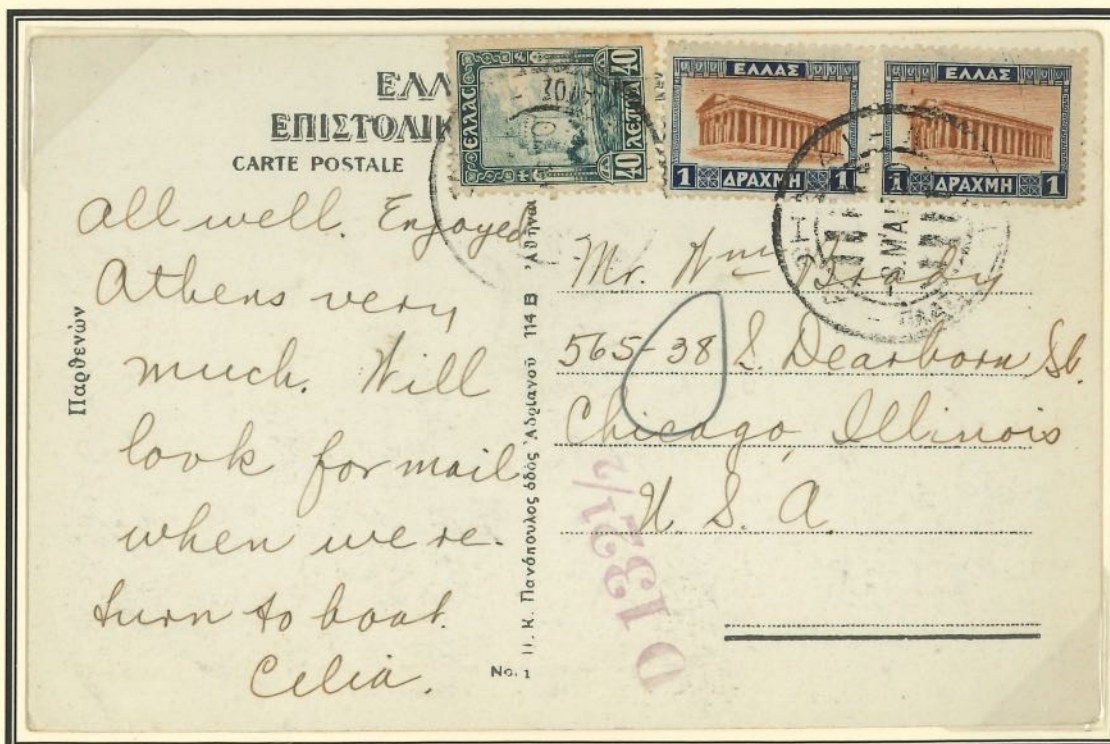
Various errors



Both stamps showing a broken left side of the temple on the first pillar.



Major paper fold causing displacement of image.



Two 1 Drachma and a 40 lepta stamps on a postcard from Athens to the USA paying the correct rate valid from 1 May 1927 to 31 May 1932.

The Aspiotis / Thomas Mc Donald issue

During the printing of the stamps the space between the Greek imprint of the printers and the top of the stamps can be found in two distinctive variations. The space between the English printers and the stamps has three distinctive variations.



Type 1 - the letter "A" of the imprint and the top of the stamp are almost aligned.



Type 2 - The space between the "A" of the imprint and the top of the stamp is approximately 9 mm.



Type 3 - The space between the top of the imprint and the top of the stamp is -2 mm.



Type 4 - The space between the top of the imprint and the top of the stamp is 1 mm.



Type 5 - The space between the top of the imprint and the top of the stamp is 1½ mm.

Various errors



White line across the top part of "ΕΛΛΑΣ"



Break of the border below the letters "MH"



Break of the border below the letters "MH"



Break in the lines above "ΕΛΛΑΣ"



Break in the lines above "ΕΛΛΑΣ"

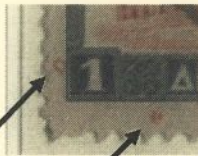
Brown spot errors



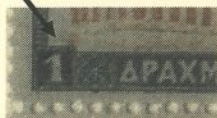
Brown spot above the temple on the left stamp and deformation of the top frame of the right stamp.



Spot in the middle of the last column of the temple of the stamp on the left.



Brown spots on the margin of the bottom left stamp of the



Brown line raising from the left numeral of the bottom left stamp of the block.

Colour trials



Grey



Green
The issued colour



Red & black



Colour trial proof of the 2 Drachma value, with 1 drachma in the value tablet, in carmine and black, imperforated sheetlet on wove paper. The stamp was finally issued in the green and black colours as on the adjacent pages. Recess McDonald (London)

Die proofs



Composite die proof for the 2 drachma value of the centre and a 40 lepta part frame along with a second frame partly readable, probably 20 lepta in black and in sheetlet form, not approved. The piece is numbered 1099 in red with the additional information "SENT TO NORBURY". Recess McDonald.



The frame and vignette of the 2 drachma stamps as issued in both sets. This stamp was issued in two sizes, this being the smaller of the two. Both depicting the Acropolis.



Die proof of the accepted design in sheetlet form and in black. The usual red crayon marking "SENT TO NATZIO June 1926" and the record number "1086". Recess McDONALD, London.



Die proof of the accepted design in sheetlet form and in the final colours without the engraver's inscription. Recess McDONALD, London.

Double printing of the centre



Centre printed double. In the 1927 issue the double printing appears as overprinting of the vignette.



Four 2 Drachma stamps for a total rate of 8 drachmas on a registered cover, postmarked Thessaloniki 7 July 1927 to Vienna in Austria. 4 drachmas paying for the 20 gm letter and the remaining four for the registration. The rate was valid from 1 May 1927 to 31 May 1932 under decree 15 April 1927.

Perforation faults



Perforation fault on left margin

Major perforation shift resulting in the stamps being shifted downwards.



Two drachma stamps on a cover postmarked Athens 28 January 1929 to Kassel in France, paying the foreign letter rate for 20 gm. The rate was valid from 1 May 1927 to 31 May 1932. The decree passed on 15 April 1927.

Essay



Essay for the 3dr stamp

Colour Trials



Gray



Purple and black
Actual colour of the stamp



Light purple and black

Die Proofs



Two each of vignettes and frames of the 3 drachma stamp of both issues of the Battle Cruiser "Averof".

The 3 Drachma Inverted Centre variety



e

One of the four recorded 3 drachma stamps from the 1927 issue with inverted centre.

The first example of the 3 drachma inverted centre stamp, was discovered at a coffee shop at Larissa (central Greece) where the custom was that the shop was also acting as the post-office. On a board, the letters were pinned for the recipients to find them and take them home. A local collector saw the inverted centre on the cover, pinned on the board and asked the owner of the shop if he could have the stamp. As the addressee was unknown and the cover was not claimed for more than a year, the coffee-shop owner allowed the gentleman to cut out the stamp in such a way that the content of the letter was left inside the rest of the cover and pinned to the board.

Since that time, three more copies of the variety have been recorded.

Type characteristics and colour varieties



Extreme discoloration



Intense carmine

The differences between the 1927 and 1931 issues are the differences in dimensions (24.3X17.5 and 24.3X18.2), the frame colour (intense violet vs dull violet) and average quality printing vs high quality printing.



Both stamps showing major under inking at the bottom of the stamps.



Part of centre missing

Monsieur A. KURKJIAN

62, Boulevard Pasteur

(Somme)

AMIENS

The 3 drachma stamp on a cover postmarked Thessaloniki 26 April 1927 to France. The 3 Drachma rate was valid for overseas letters up to 20 gm and was valid from 1 June 1926 to 30 April 1927. The decree date that the rate was validated was 21 May 1926

Shifting of vignette



Ship floating above water.
(Centre vignette shifted upwards)



Slow ship! (Centre vignette shifted
to the right).



An airmail cover with two each of the 1 and 3 drachma stamps and an additional 5 drachma airmail stamps (total rate of 13 drachmas), postmarked Athens 23 November 1933 to Rome. Two arrival stamps on the back dated 28 November 1933 postmarked Brindisi and Rome. Both 3 drachma stamps showing the ship sinking (centre shifted downwards).

The rate was made up with 8 drachmas for the first 20 gms and 5 drachmas for the airmail rate.

Perforation varieties and colour smudges



Printing smudges at the bottom part of the stamp and margin..



The stamp on the right showing a major purple spot from over inking during the printing of the frame.



The block of four showing major perforation errors on the top left stamp.



Paper fold variety showing on the top part of the stamp.



Perforation errors

Essay

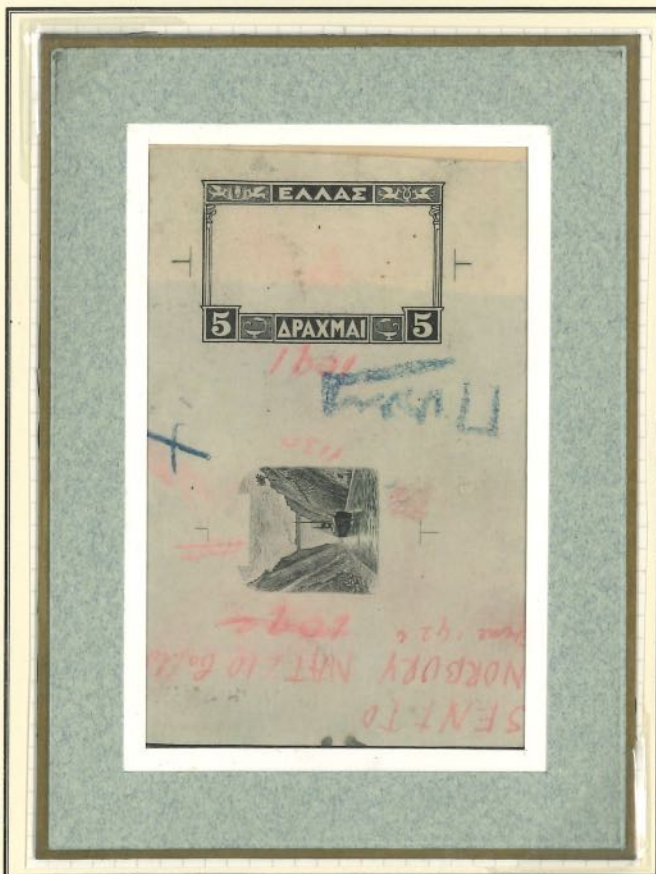


Essay for the 5dr stamp

Die Proofs



The frame and vignette of the 5 drachma stamp as issued in the 1927 set only, showing the building of the Academy of Athens.



Composite die proof of the frame for the 5 drachma stamps and the centre of the 5 lepta stamps on wove paper - Recess McDonald, with the usual annotation in red, "SENT TO NORBURY NATZIO... June 1926 - 1130 & 1091" with additional blue crayon markings.

The 5 Drachma Inverted Centre variety on cover

Two 5, one 2 and one 1 drachma stamps on a cover postmarked Athens 13 December 1934 to France. The total rate of 13 drachmas being the double weight foreign letter rate at the time (8 Drx + 5 Drx = 13 Drx). Upon arrival in France it received an arrival cancellation oot Mouvoux on 17 December 1934.

The top right, 5 drachma stamp, is of the inverted centre variety. The cover is the only one recorded so far with the variety. Ex A de Rothchild & ex King Peter & King Carol II of Romania.



Straight

Inverted



Colour varieties



Three different colour shades of the 5 drachma stamp.



Three 5 drachma and two 8 drachma "Stadium" stamps on the back of an express and registered cover, postmarked "Registered Foreign Mail", December 1934, from Athens to Germany. The total rate of 31 drachmas is made up:

- 8 Drachmas for the first 20 grams
- 8 Drachmas for the registration
- 15 Drachmas for express

31 Drachmas
=====

The rate was valid from 1 May 1933 to 31 August 1939 under decree dated 4 April 1933

Varieties



Triple print of the border. The only example recorded so far.



Part of the academy miss-printed



The right border of the frame completely missing.



Perforation error on the top of the stamp.



The 5 and 1 drachma stamps from the issue along with a 15 surcharged stamp from the 1935 "Restoration of monarchy" issue, on a parcel label postmarked Piraeus (no date visible) to Werdau in Germany. The front of the label illustrated on the right.



Hand Painted Essay



Colour Trials



Grey

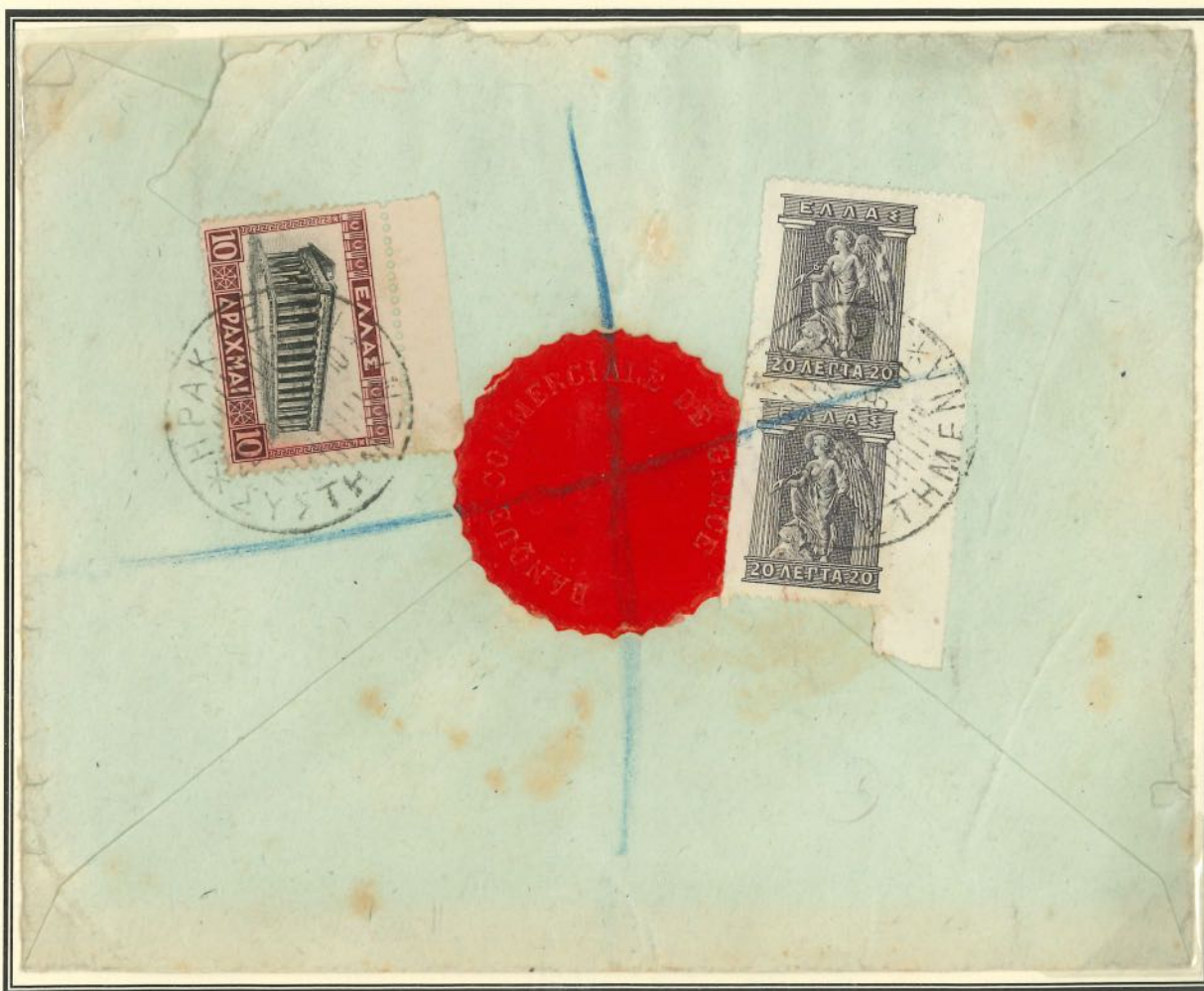


Red & Grey

The colours of the actual stamps



Purple & Green



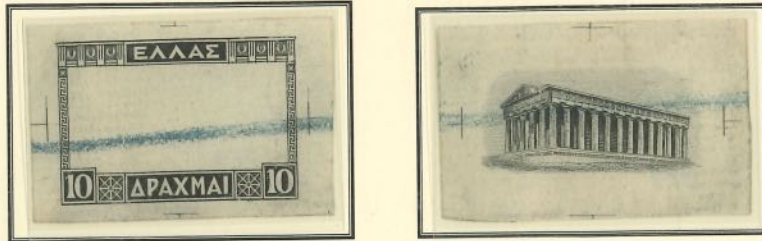
A registered cover from Athens to Manchester in the UK, postmarked .../1928 with one 10 drachma and two 20 lepta stamps for a total rate of 10,40 drachmas. The rate is made up of

4,00 Dr 1st 20 gms
2.40 Dr 2nd weight
4.00 Dr Registration

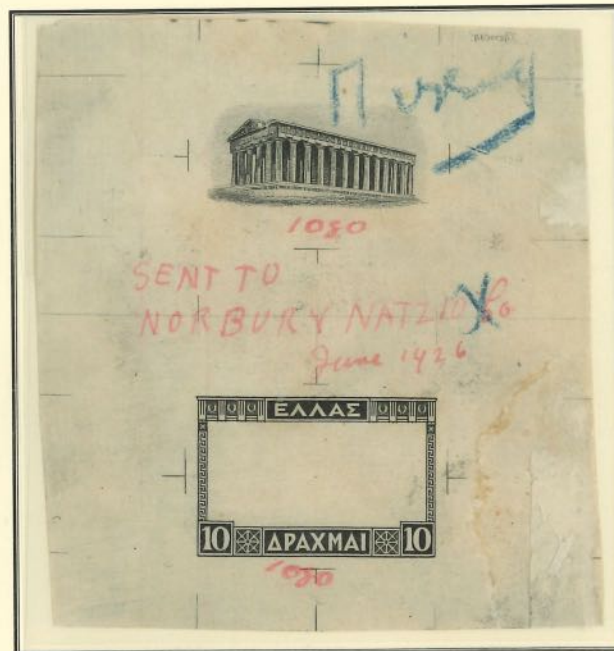
10.40 Dr

The rate was valid from 1 May 1927 to 30 April 1932 under decree dated 15 April 1927.

Die Proofs



The frame and vignette of the 10 drachma stamps as issued in both sets. This stamp was issued in two sizes, this being the larger of the two, both depicting the Thesio Temple.



10 drachma die proof with the complete centre and frame in black on a small sheetlet, stamp size, with the red endorsements 1080 for the vignette and 1080 for the frame, dated June 1926. Not approved and with the note "SENT TO NORBURY NATZIOCO". Recess McDonald. An undecipherable signature in blue at the bottom right is also present and this is the only recorded example to date.

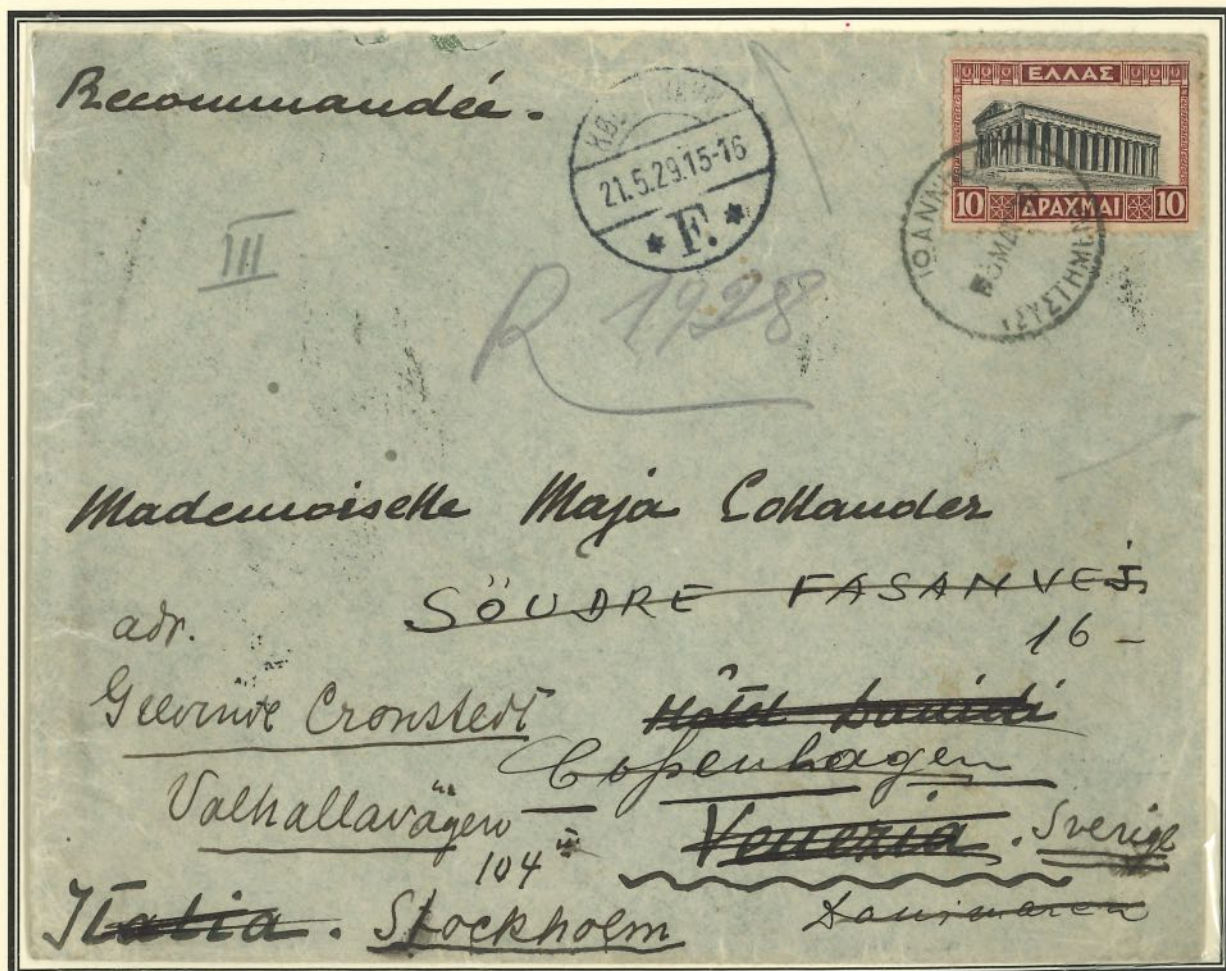
Characteristics of the issue and variety



The 1927 issue of the 10 drachma stamp is easily distinguishable by the lack of vertical lines below the third column. The one on the left is the 1927 characteristic and the one on the right the 1931/35 issue.



A block of four from the 1927 Aspioti - McDonald issue of the 10 drachma stamp with an intense pre-printing paper fold.



A registered cover postmarked Ioannina 5 May 1929 to Sweden with an arrival stamp on the front of 21 May 1929, franked by one 10 drachma stamp and a large number of intermediary cancellations on the reverse, including Venice and Milano.

Colour Trials



Orange and black
actual colours



Green & Black



Red & Grey



Grey



Purple & Green



The 1927 15 Drachma stamp on a cover post-marked Athens 23 August 1933 to Austria. The rate is made up with :

8 drachmas for the foreign letter rate and 7 drachmas for the airmail rate.

There are two arrival back stamps both on the 30th of August 1933, one from Vienna and one from Flugpost.

Die Proofs and imperforates



An imperforate pair from the imprimatur sheet that came to the post office for inspection.

Two each of vignettes and frames for the 15 drachma stamp for both issues of the Academy of Athens (large format). On the left vignette, the denomination has been cut out whilst it is present on the one on the right.



The difference between the 1927 and the 1931/35 issue of the 15 drachmas stamp is the shading in the bottom corners of the stamps. The one above is from the 1927 issue.



The 1927 15 Drachma stamp on a cover post-marked Athens 23 August 1933 to Austria. The rate is made up with :

8 drachmas for the foreign letter rate and 7 drachmas for the airmail rate.

There are two arrival back stamps both on the 30th of August 1933, one from Vienna and one from Flugpost.

Essay



Hand painted essay

Colour Trials



Green



Grey



Light green & brown

Die Proofs



The frame and vignette of the 25 drachma stamp as issued in both sets, showing the Acropolis. This was a larger format from the 2 drachma stamp.



Die proof in black on wove paper sheetlet form with red and blue crayon inscriptions, "1093 border only 1091, 1086. Recess McDonald of London



The 1927 issue of the 25 drachma stamp can be distinguished as the top part of the numeral "5" is curved.

Photo Essays



One of the two known photo essays of the issue. The other one resides with the Greek National Postal Archives. The piece above shows the Thesion (1 Drachma), Stadium (8 Drachmas), the Corinth Canal (50 lepta) and the Mystras (4 Drachmas) stamps.

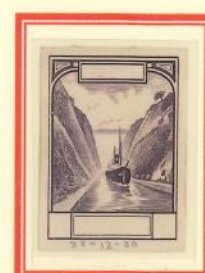
Six stages of the design process of the 1931/35 stamp - Progressive Essays



18-12-1930: The first stage of the design showing only the two sides of the isthmus and the ship, along with the boxes that eventually the country and duty details would be placed. It is the only design recorded in the final colour that the water is missing completely.



22-12-1930: During the second design stage, water was added and the overall colour becomes lighter. The first appearance of the bridge with the train and the clouds begin to emerge at the top of the design.



23-12-1930: The third design stage, shows a better clarity of the details as well as the colour. This is more apparent on the tree on the top of the right side of the isthmus. The colours are stronger and the features of the stamp begin to approach the final stage of the design.



29-12-1930: The clarity of the design is distinctive and all the final details seem to have been sorted out. This is the final stage of the proving before the country and duty tablets will be filled. In the last three stages, including this one, the anchor resembles the one on the unissued stamp.



31-12-1930: It took five stages in the design before the stamp was ready to accept the country and duty. This is the first complete stage of the design with slight deviation from the final stamp only in the intensity of the colour.

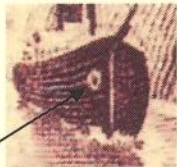


Undated: The six and final stage of the design. This example is not from the imprimatur sheet as the block on the adjacent page. Differences can be seen in the colour application which are more distinctive on the water.

The unique 50 lepta stamp



The stamp that was not supposed to have been issued. There are only two-three examples of this stamp that have been recorded to exist.



The characteristics of this stamp apart from the well defined right anchor and the invisible anchor on the right side of the ship. The width of the printed stamp is 17mm.

Die proof



The die proof of the 50 lepta stamp prepared by Perkins Bacon that was not supposed to have been issued. The preparatory work had been carried out for the 1931-1935 re-issue of the landscape set.



Four 50 lepta stamps from the 1931-35 issue on a post card, with a Zakynthos cancellation of 15 October 1935 to Patra, paying the increased 2 drachmas rate. The rate was valid for postcards send from town to town from 5 April 1933 to 19 September 1941 with decree date 4 April 1933.

Imprimaturs



An imperforate block of 12 from the proof sheet. This was the final stage before the actual printing of the stamp that was not supposed to have been performed.

The design can be distinguished from the other two printings as the left anchor of the ship is invisible and the right is clearly shown as a well defined circle with an equally well defined purple spot in the middle as shown in the illustration.

Perkins, Bacon & Co Issue: Colour trials and plate characteristics



Grey



Brown & Black

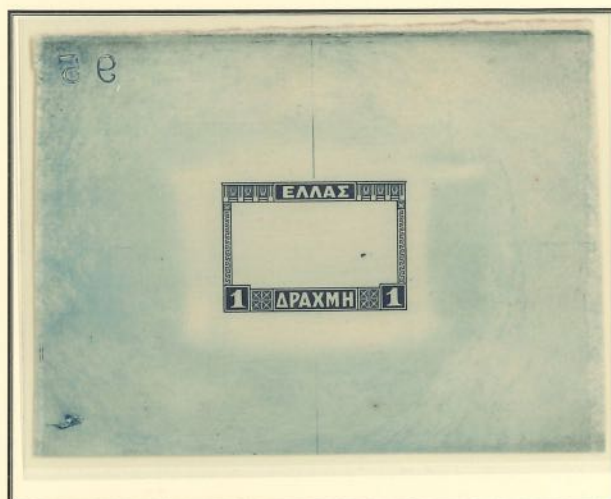


Blue & Brown



The Perkins Bacon issue features major differences as the top part of "ΕΛΛΑΣ" are flat, the base of the left numeral "1" thick and the inside of "P" large and semi circular in shape.

Perkins, Bacon & Co Issue: Frame proof and printer's imprint on complete proof



Progressive proof of the final frame of the 1d stamp for the 1933 issue. On the top left of the paper the mirror image of number 95 can be seen. Also, a small thin vertical line runs on the top and bottom of the frame splitting the paper in two equal halves, probably to centre the printing process of the trial.

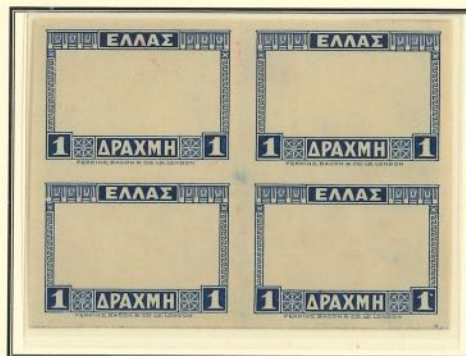


The sheetlet showing the final proof of the 1 drachma denomination for the 1933 issue with the same line characteristics as the two sheetlets above. The above example showing the "PERKINS, BACON & CO. LONDON" inscription just below the design. Two numbers on the top left of the paper one each in the colours used for the stamp are present but undecipherable. These must refer to the colour plates used to print the proof.

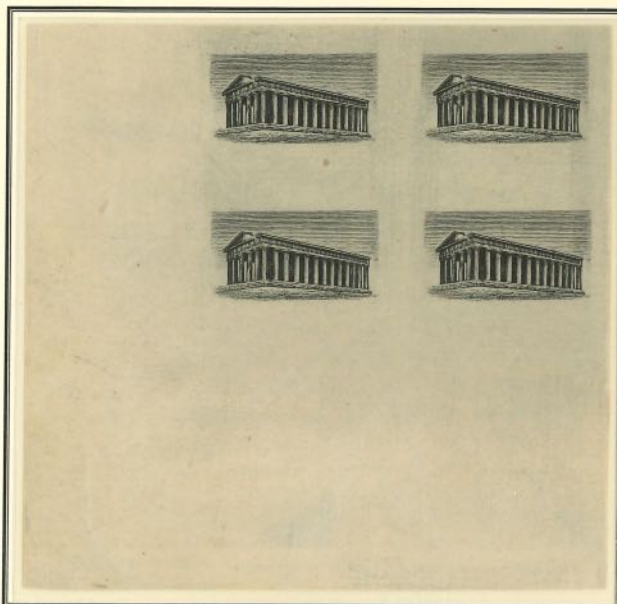
Perkins, Bacon & Co Issue: Proofs, Imprimatur frames and vignettes



Two proofs of the final stamp in different shades of colour. In both cases the middle of the margins show the two colours used to make up the frame and the vignette in the middle of the margin, carrying through vertically and horizontally towards the stamp by about one centimeter.



The frame of the 1 drachma denomination in an imperforate block of four form with the printer's imprint below each one of the frames.



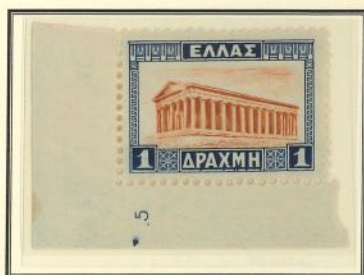
The vignette of the 1 drachma stamp in black and yellow, the final colour of production showing two stages of the colour trials for the centre of the stamp.

Perkins, Bacon & Co Issue: Imprimatur and plate characteristics



An imperforate vertical pair, probably from the imprimatur sheet of the stamp, this being the sheet that is sent to the post office for final approval before the commencement of the production of the stamps.

Three pieces showing the vignette plate number / letter. The top two A & B and the bottom block no 2. Unfortunately it is not known the total number of plates and their numbers used for the printing of the stamps.



Three pieces showing the plate number for the frame as this appears in the bottom left corner. This is not always apparent on the sheets. The above example showing number 4, the one at the top left number 5 and the bottom left is number 2.



The Aspiotis - De La Rue Issue 1931 - Specimen



A complete pane of the 1 drachma specimen "AKYRON" showing the upright and upside down overprints

The Aspiotis - De La Rue Issue 1931 - Complete sheet



The complete pane of the 1 drachma stamp, showing plate number 2A for the frame.

Varieties within the vignette



A strip of three showing a white blob on the roof of the monument on the middle stamp and a blue spot on the fourth side column .



Centre shifted to the right on the lower stamp and to the right and bottom on the upper stamp.



Two 1 drachma stamps on a postcard from Filiattra to Patra, postmarked 20 November 1936, paying the inland postcard rate that was valid from 5 April 1933 to 19 September 1941

Varieties



A strip of three showing the paper fold variety on the upper stamp.



The 1 Drachma stamp with double printing of the frame.



Major perforation error on both of the stamps on the right.



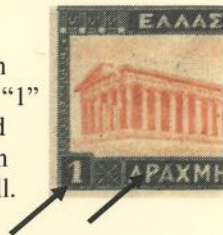
Two 1 drachma stamps on a postcard from Agrinion to Patra, postmarked 20 May 1937, paying the inland postcard rate that was valid from 5 April 1933 to 19 September 1941. additionally the 10 lepta Social welfare stamp is added . This being compulsory for mail valid from 20 January 1937 to 15 June 1942.

Plate numbers and issue characteristics



Vignette

The bottom left part of "1" is short and the space in "P" is small.



Frame plate 1A



Frame plate 1B



Frame plate 2B



Two 1 drachma stamps underpaying the overseas postcard rate and thus taxed in the UK by 1½ d. Postmarked Kafousades, 18 April 1934

Perkins, Bacon & Co Issue: Errors & varieties



The bottom right stamp showing a blob of blue ink below the letter "M".



Blue spots on the tip of the left and right number "1" on the left and right of the respective stamps.



The middle stamp showing traces of blue inking between the letters of "ΕΛΛΑΣ" as well as brown hairlines below the country's name.



Two Perkins Bacon & co 1 Drachma stamps on a cover postmarked Agia Efymia 1 August 1932 to Athens. The 2 Drachmas rate paying the rate valid from 1 May 1932 to 4 April 1933. An arrival stamp at Athens of the next day on the reverse.

Perkins, Bacon & Co Issue: Errors & varieties



White spots showing on both of the right "1" on both stamp on the right.



White spots in the squares of numeral "1".



White spots in a large number of the squares surrounding the number "1". The image on the right is only an example.



Two Perkins Bacon & co 1 Drachma stamps on a postcard from Korinthos to Patra, postmarked 10 May 1933. The rate was valid fro postcards from town to town and valid from 5 April 1933 to 18 September 1941 under decree dated 4 April 1933.

Varieties on "X" of "DPAΧΜΑΙ"



White spot on "X" and "M" of "DPAΧΜΑΙ"



Top marginal strip of five with the vignette number 1 showing Green spot on "X" of "DPAΧΜΑΙ"



A single 2 Drachmas stamp on a locally send postcard wrongly postmarked 10 July 1936 as on the card the date 12 September 1936 is hand stamped, to Patra. On the reverse, the message has the 10 September 1936 date as well as an arrival date of 11 September 1936. The rate was correct for post cards with more than five words written and valid from 5 April 1933 to 29 June 1935.

The unique double centre variety

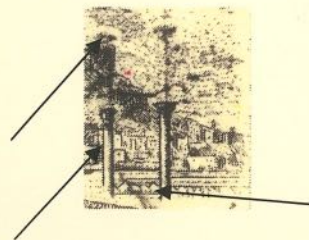
The stamp showing the double center variety. This is the only recorded centre from the 1933 re-issue of the landscape issue. Both the Karamitsos and Vlastos catalogues indicate the presence of double centres or frames on several of the values of the 1927 issue only.

The significance of this double is that it is the only one recorded to date, without it having surfaced in any other collection or auction catalogue or in any archive.

A further significance is the displacement between the two centres. The size of this difference not showing in any other double of the ones that have been recorded from the 1927 issue, as the doubling in all other cases is in very close proximity to each other.



The diagram shows the double vignette covering the Acropolis and the surrounding hill.

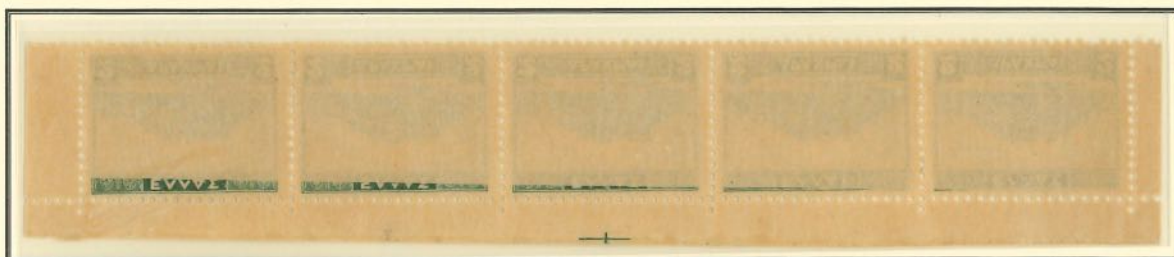


The diagram shows the most indicative identification of the 1933 re-issue, the clear shape of the rocks.

Various Varieties



White spot next to left "2" of the left stamp

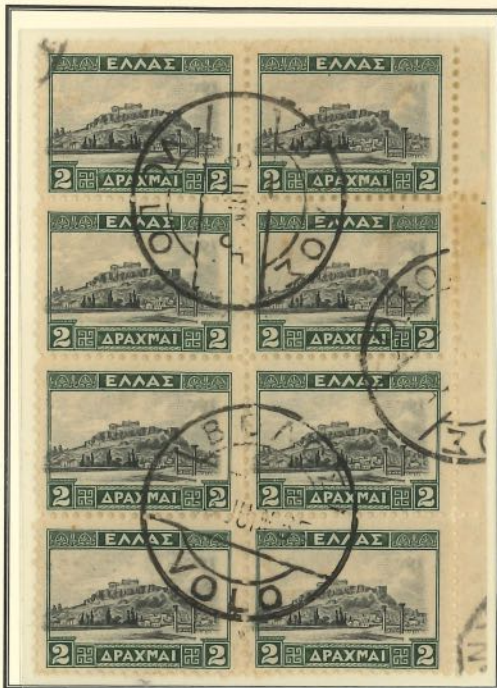


Top marginal strip of five with the vignette number 1 showing partial dequalque printing on the reverse of the stamps.



Cover postmarked Athens 28 October 1933 with a 2 Drachmas stamp, send locally with a poste restante indication. A 1 drachma postage due stamp to be paid by the recipient. The 2 drachmas covered the town to town fee under decree dated 4 April 1933 and the post restante fee of 1 Dr for a letter not exceeding 20 gm.

Various Varieties



Centre shifted to the left.



Centre shifted down and to the left.



Perforation error vertically and more apparent horizontally through the middle of the stamp.



Centre shifted to the right.

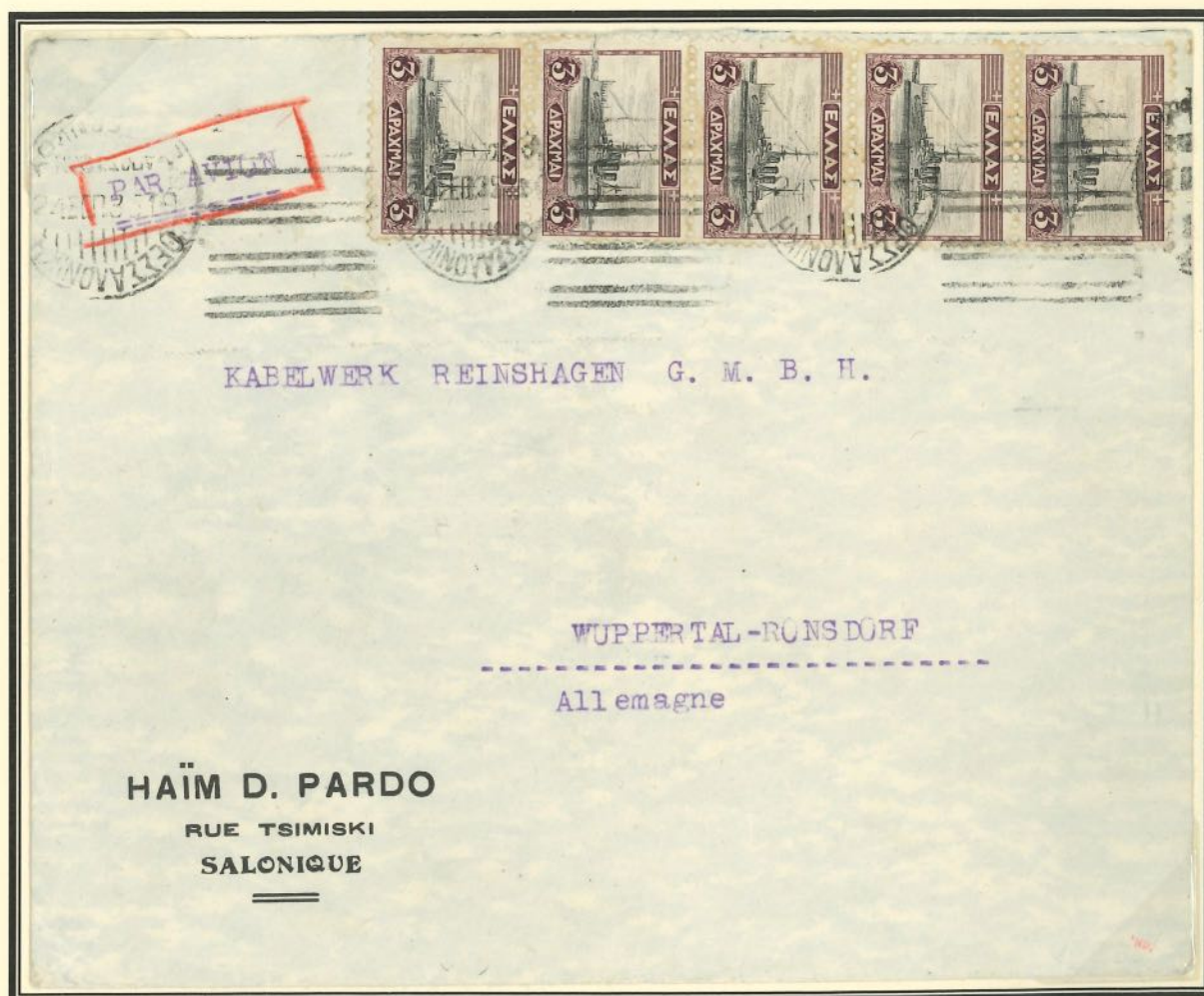


Two 3 and one 2 Drachmas stamps and the obligatory 1 Drachma charity stamps of Social Welfare on a printed matter cover, postmarked Patra to Washington D.C. With a currency control sealing tape. The 1 Drachma tax stamp was valid between 20 January 1937 to 20 November 1941 and the rate was valid from 1 May 1935 to 19 September 1941.

Imperforates



Imperforate vertical pair, probably from the first sheet, imprimatur.



Five 3 Drachmas stamps on an airmail cover from Thessaloniki, postmarked 24 September 1935 to Germany. The rate is made up of 8 Dr for a foreign letter and 8 for the airmail fee. These rates were valid from 1 May 1933 to 6 February 1936.

Centre not printed



The centre of the stamp almost completely missing.



Two 3 and two 1 Drachmas stamps to make up the 8 Drachmas foreign letter rate to the China. Postmarked Patra 9 March 1936 with an arrival postmark of 16 March 1936 on the reverse. The rate was valid from 1 May 1933 to 20 September 1941.

Centre vignette varieties



The centre of the vignettes show the ship on the left up and on the stamp on the right moved back.



Double printing of the vignette of the stamp.



Major blurring of the centre caused by over inking.



The 3 Drachmas stamp on a cover postmarked Athens 19 July 1933 to Tripoli on a cover paying the town to town rate valid from 5 April 1933 to 1 March 1935. the decree was dated 4 April 1933.

Paper fold varieties



Paper fold, showing at the top left of the stamp.



Double printing of the vignette of the stamp.



The 3 Drachmas stamp with the 5 Drachmas overprinted stamp of the 1935 issue of "Restoration of Monarchy" to make up the 8 Drachmas foreign letter rate to the USA. The stamps are covered with the spotted Nestorion cancellation of 17 August 1936. The rate was valid from 1 May 1933 to 20 September 1941.

Imperforates



The 1931-35 issue of the 10 drachma stamp is easily distinguishable by the six vertical lines below the third column.



e

A pair of the 10 drachma plate proof from the De La Rue issue.



The 10 drachmas stamp along with the 3 Drachmas and three of the 7 Drachmas airmail stamps on a cover from Pireas 25 August 1936 to Sweden. The total rate of 34 drachmas is made up from 13 drachmas for the double weight letter and the 21 drachmas for the air mail rate at the time.

Specimens



A pair of the 10 drachma stamp cancelled "AKYPON", specimen, twice and inverted.



A pair of the 10 drachma stamp cancelled "AKYPON", specimen, twice.



A cover from Athens to Mytilini ...1936 with the 1, 2 and 10 Drachms stamps for a total rate of 13 Drachmas made up of 3 Drachmas (town to town) and 10 Drachmas for the Express service. The rate and service were valid from 5 April 1933 to 15 May 1942. The rate was placed under decree dated 5 February 1935.

Perforation Types



The 1931-35, 15 drachma stamp was printed in Poland by the P.W.P.W. printing works. The result was a high quality print and the frame colour slightly lighter than the 1927 issue.



11½ X 11¾



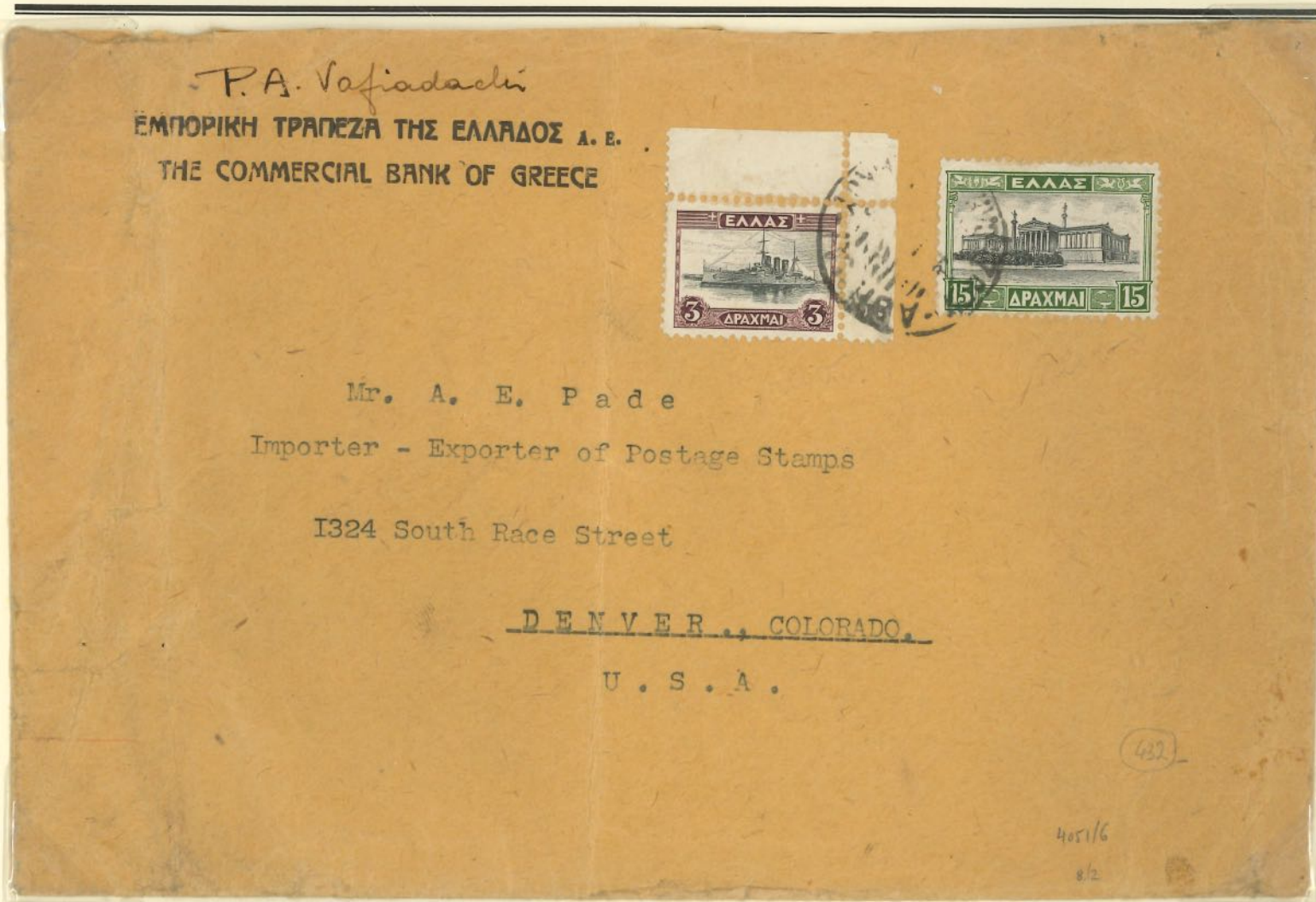
12¾ X 11¼



12½ X 13



12½ X 12¾



(432)

4051/6
8/2

The 1931/35 issue of the 15 drachmas stamp used with the 3 drachmas stamps for a total rate of 18 drachmas on a cover from Athens to the US, paying the rate for double the weight (8 Dr for the first 20 gm and 5 Dr for the second lot of 20 gm). The rate was valid from 1 May 1933 to 20 September 1941.

Imperforates, Specimen and varieties



The 1931-35 issue of the 25 drachma stamp can be distinguished as the top part of the numeral "5" is flat.



e

A vertical plate proof from the imprimatur sheet of the issue.



Major shift of the centre up and to the right.



A vertical pair overprinted "ΑΚΥΡΟΝ", specimen.



A vertical pair overprinted "ΑΚΥΡΟΝ", specimen with the bottom overprint upside down.

Essay and usage



Unaccepted essay of the stadium designed by De La Rue and Co. Ltd, London, 6 January 1931. A totally different design of the final stamp, showing the front of the stadium.

The stamp was meant to be of 4 Drachmas but the rate changed in 1932 and the denomination was uprated to 8 Drachmas. The stamp was a supplementary to the Landscapes set as was the 1935 issue of the Mystras stamp.



The 8 Drachmas stadium and the 5 Drachmas stamps for a total rate of 13 Drachmas paying the foreign letter rate on a cover postmarked Piraeus, 5 May 1935 to Switzerland with the 5 Drachmas stamp paying for the extra weight of an extra 20 gm. The rate was valid from 1 May 1933 to 19 September 1941, under decree dated 4 April 1933.

Essay, Specimen and usage



Unaccepted essay of the Mystras Pantanassa Monastery seen from the east. Designed by De La Rue and Co. Ltd



AKYRON (Specimen)
The top with one cancellation and the bottom with two.

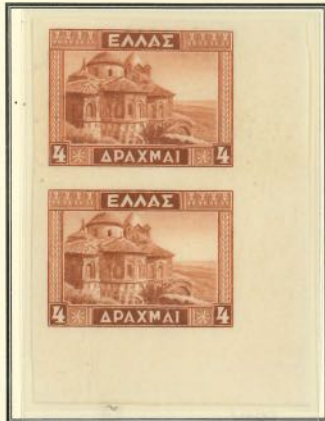


A strip of three 4 Drachma , Mystras stamps, along with a 1 Drachma stamp from the 1937 King George II definitive issue for a total rate of 13 Drachmas with a 50 lepta obligatory welfare stamp. The cover postmarked Larissa 23 March 1937 to Athens with an arrival back stamp at the central post office in Athens of 27 March with the express «ΚΑΤΕΠΕΙΓΟΝ» handstamp on the front. 3 Drachmas paying the inland rate and the remaining 10 for the express fee.

Imperforates



Strip of three , imperforated between all stamps



An imperforate pair and a block of four of the Mystras stamp from at least two imprimatur sheet of different shades.



Four 4 drachms stamp for a total rate of 16 drachmas. 8 paying the overseas letter rate and the remaining 8 the registration fee on a cover postmarked Athens 25 June 1936 to Dresden (arrival stamp) of 29 June 1936. All the stamps have the Bank of Greece (TE) perfin. The rate was valid from 6 February 1936 to 19 September 1941 and the registration fee from 1 May 1933 to 19 September 1941.

Plate numbers and perforation types



The stamp was to be issued with the 1927 issue. However, a change in the rates at the time made the 4 drachma stamp of a lower priority than the rest, hence the delay in the placing of the order and the printing.

The stamp was issued on 1 November 1935 and withdrawn on 1 September 1939. It was printed by Aspioti ELKA and the plates prepared by De La Rue of London.

3.740.000 stamps were printed in sheets of 50x50. The adjacent samples show stamps from plate numbers 1B, 2C and 2D.



13½ X 12½



13 X 13



13 X 12½



13¼ X 12¾