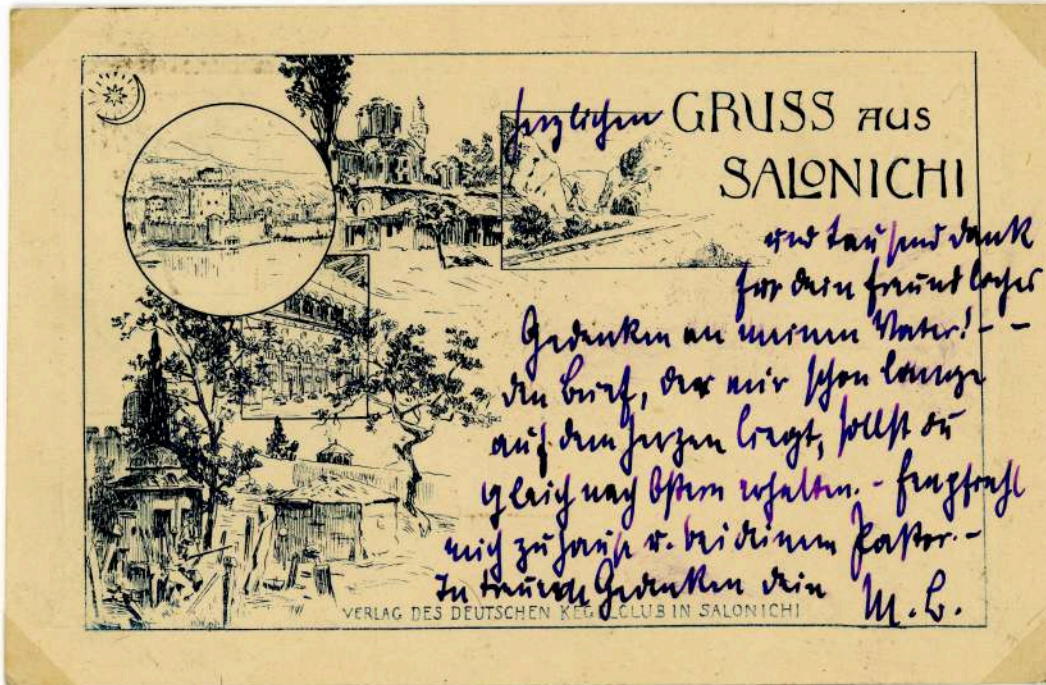


15th to 20th CENTURY: POSTAL HISTORY OF THESSALONIKI

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The city

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



The oldest known to exist Postcard of Thessaloniki, posted 1896

The Subject of the Collection

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

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

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

The Concept: treatment of the subject

The Postal History of Thessaloniki has been collected and presented in the past as a collection of the individual post offices and their consecutive postmarks. In my opinion, this was a traditional - marcophily treatment of a Postal History subject. In the present collection, I have tried to show the important events, moments, decisions, changes etc. of the operation of the Postal System of Thessaloniki, mostly in a chronological order. Additionally, I have tried to show the development of the Postal Services in connection to the actual History of the era, i.e., the important events, the financial and commercial growth, the social evolution etc. Related historical (non- philatelic) information was included (at limited space) because I strongly believe that they increase the interest of the viewers.

15th to 20th CENTURY: POSTAL HISTORY OF THESSALONIKI

The Classification and Contents

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

THE BEGINNING OF COMMUNICATION

EARLY MAIL: 18th CENTURY

THE OPENING OF POST OFFICES 1830-50s

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

MARITIME MAIL OF Mid 19th CENTURY

MODERNIZATION OF THE CITY 1870-80

THE OTTOMAN BANKRUPTCY OF 1876

1870-80s OFFICIAL CORRESPONDANCE

THE FOUNDING OF THE UPU 1874

INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY

1880s: A NEW GROWTH FOR THE CITY

1890s to 1914: THE MULTINATIONAL CITY

OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

BRANCH P.Os OF THE OTTOMAN POST

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

FRENCH POST OFFICE

RUSSIAN POST OFFICE

BRITISH POST OFFICE

ITALIAN POST OFFICE

1890 to 1914: MARITIME MAIL

1912-13: THE DAYS OF LIBERATION

AFTER 1913: THESSALONIKI IS GREEK

THESSALONIKI: A RAILWAY CENTER

BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE

MAIL to or from UNCOMMON DESTINATIONS

ADVENTURES OF MAIL

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

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



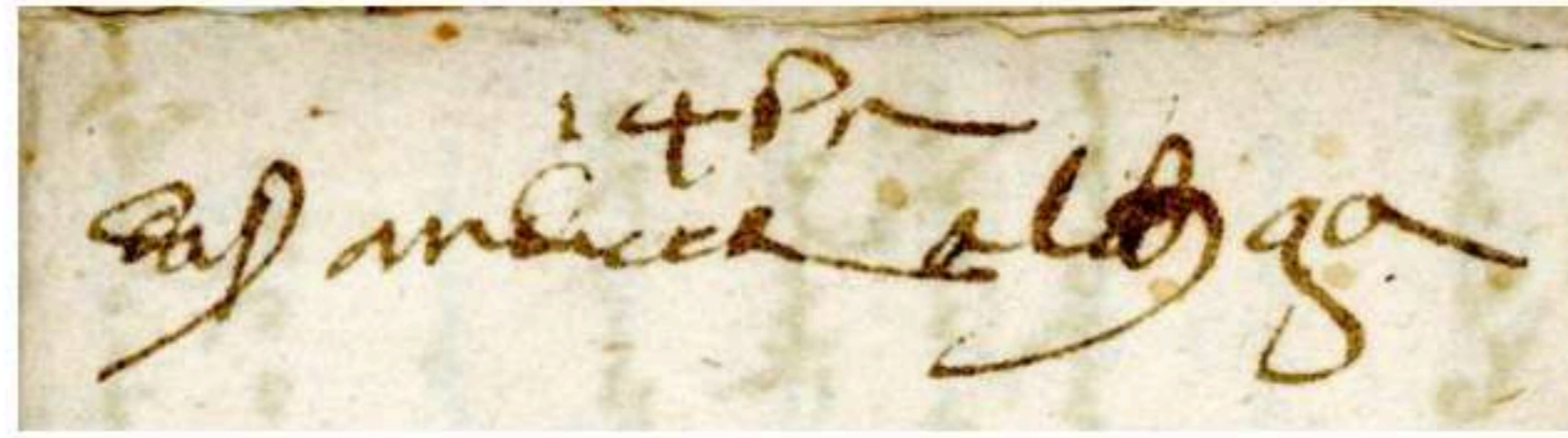
THE BEGINNING OF COMMUNICATION

TWO 15TH CENTURY "CAPTAIN LETTERS"

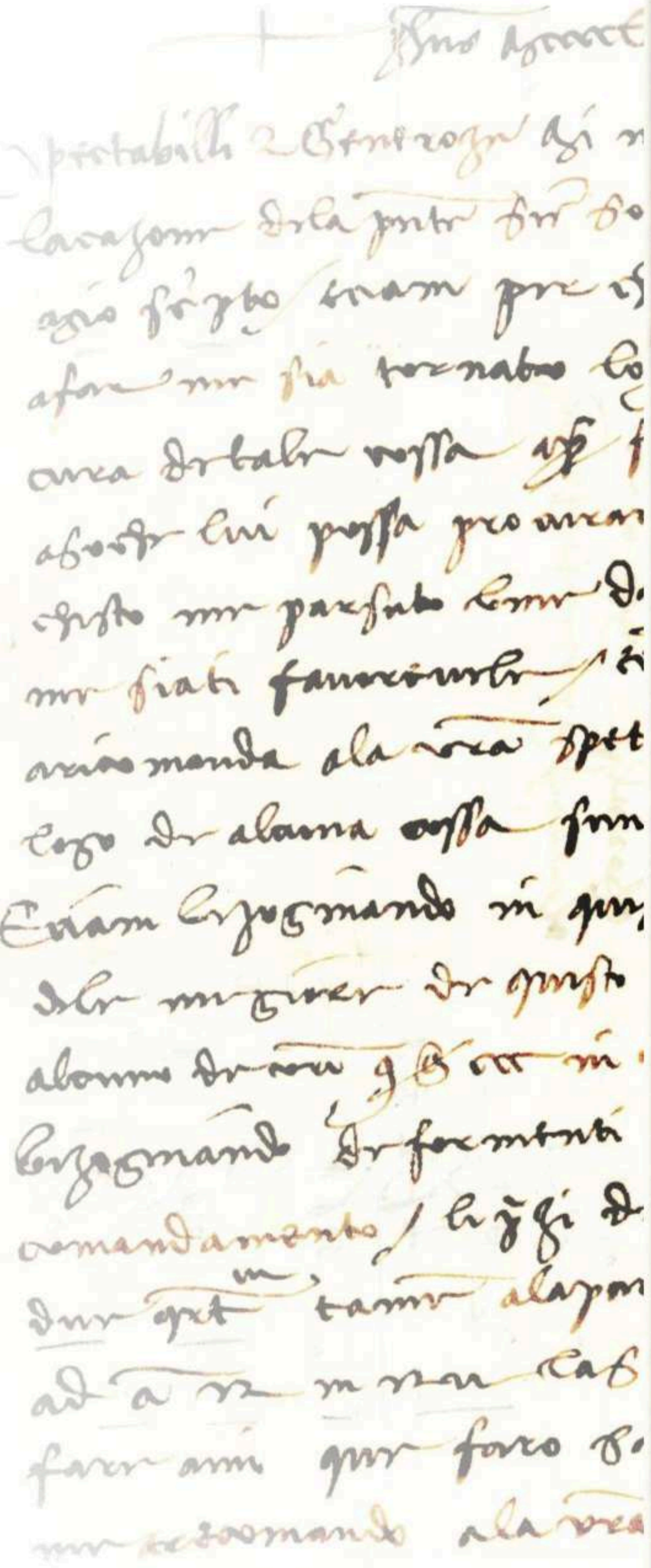
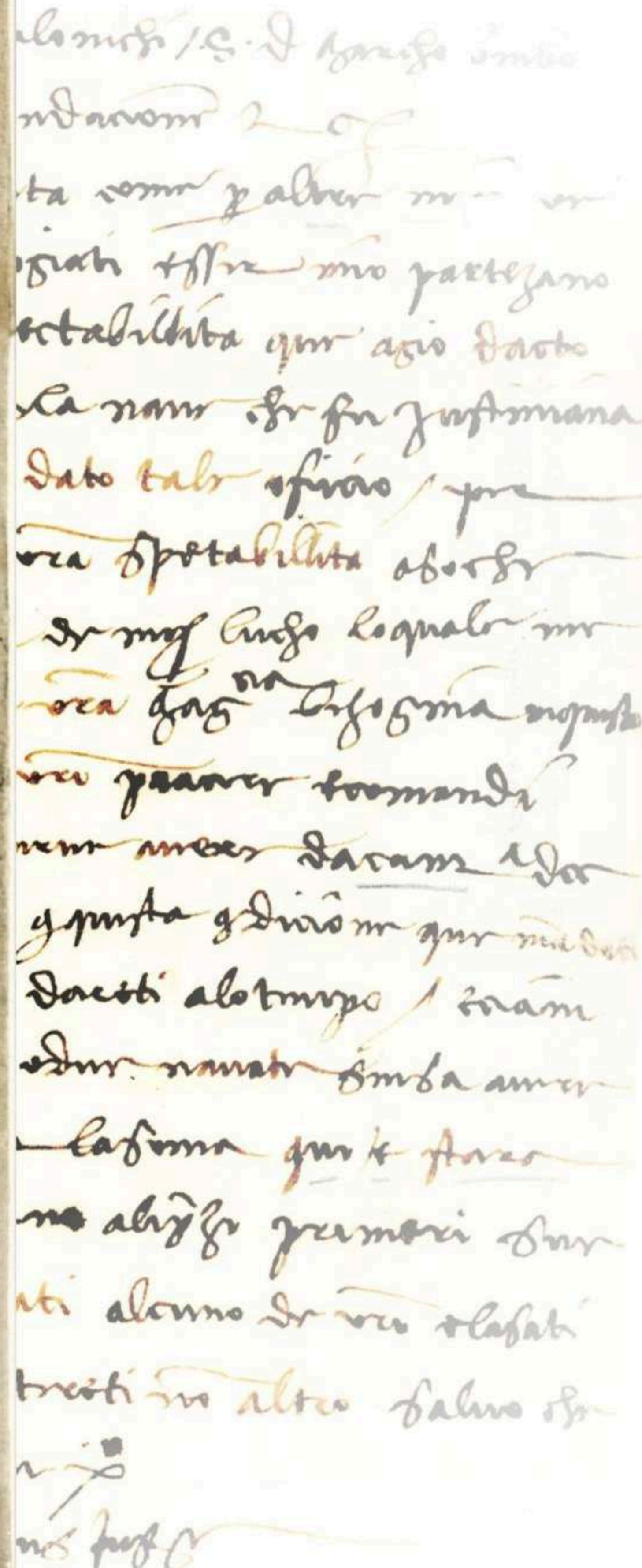
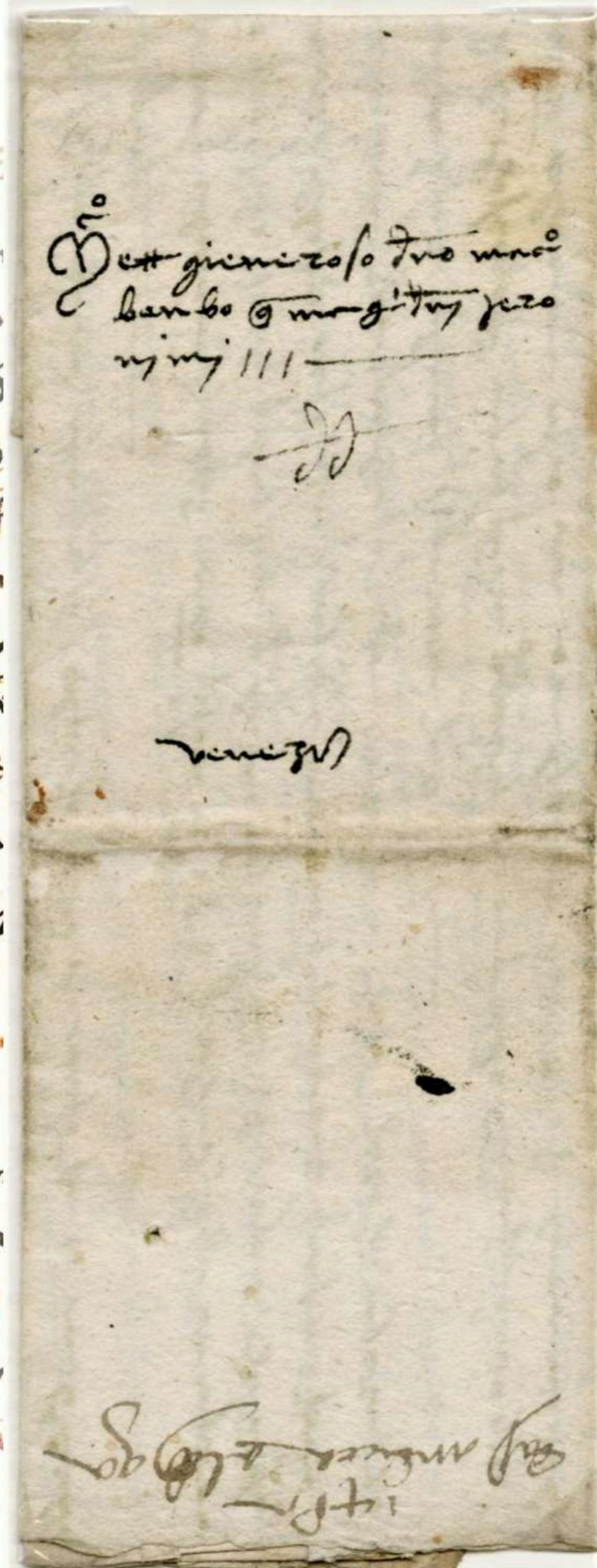
Only 50 years after the final Ottoman conquest (1430) of Thessaloniki, the once Byzantine stronghold in the Balkans began to communicate with the West again. The Ottoman Turks had largely overrun the Eastern Byzantine Empire and expelled the Seljuk Turks by 1460. They encouraged foreign merchants to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

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

A 1482 Entire Letter from Thessaloniki to Venice

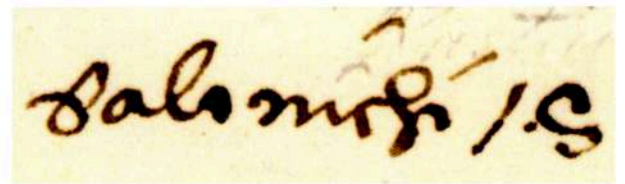
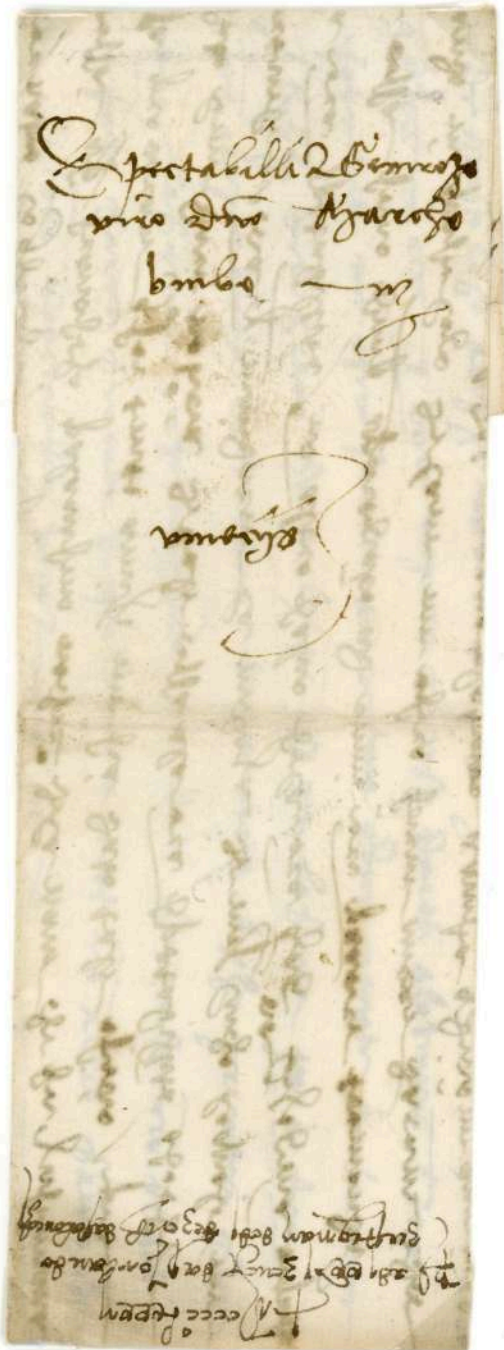


150%





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



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

EARLY MAIL: 18th CENTURY

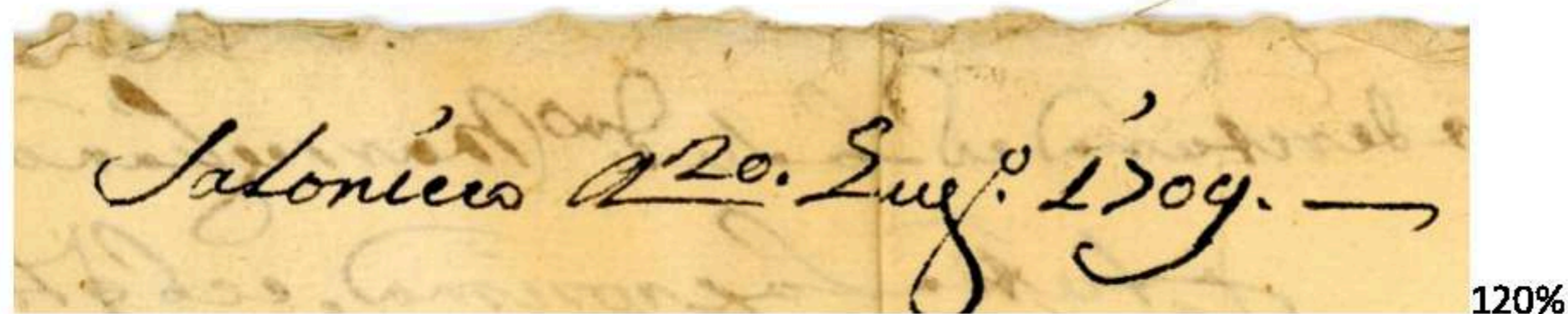
EARLY LEVANT CAPTAIN LETTERS

Postal Services before the Establishment of Formal Post Offices

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

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

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



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

The letter is inscribed "CARICA DI LIVORNO": Loaded for Livorno

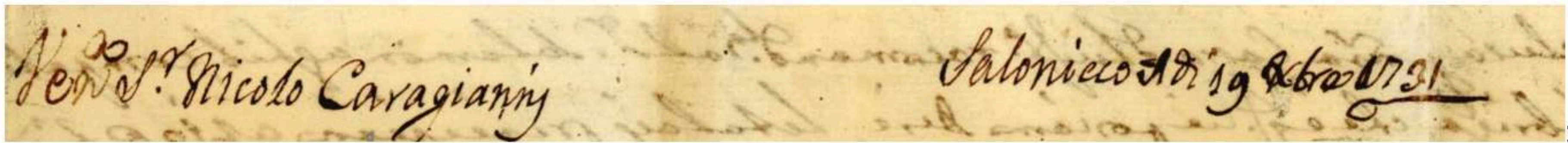
Nicolo Caragiani (1659-1734, born in Jannina) was an active and successful Greek merchant renowned in the trading circles of Venice. He was a member of the body “Capi di piazza”, he gained great wealth from trade with the Levant, and he invested in the real estate market in the city of Venice.

EARLY MAIL: 18th CENTURY

EARLY LEVANT LETTERS

Two more letters from the Caragiani correspondence

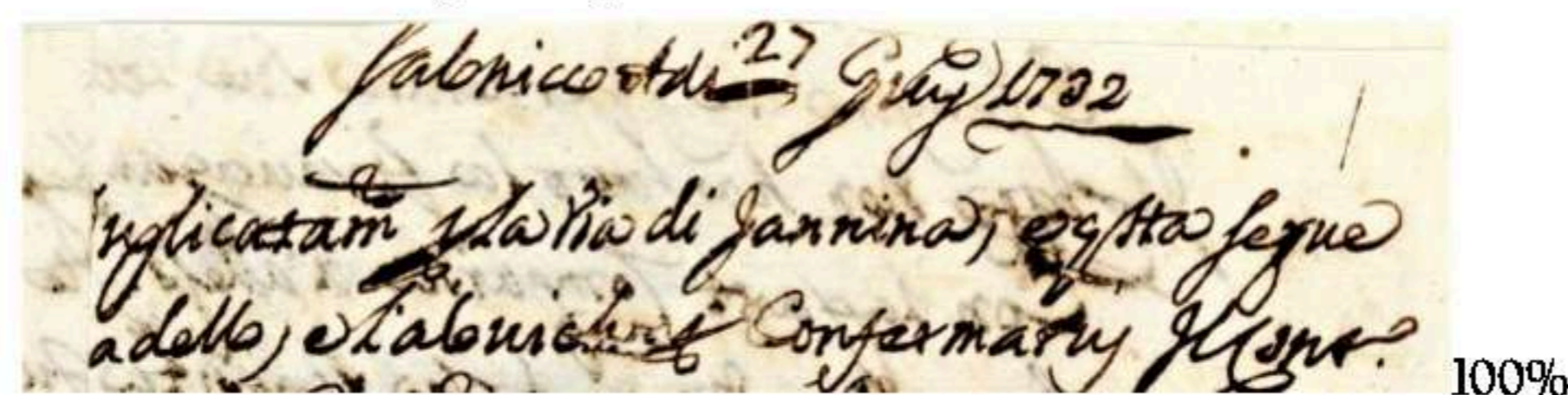
By Land (through Bosnia)



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

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

By Captain Lattonich



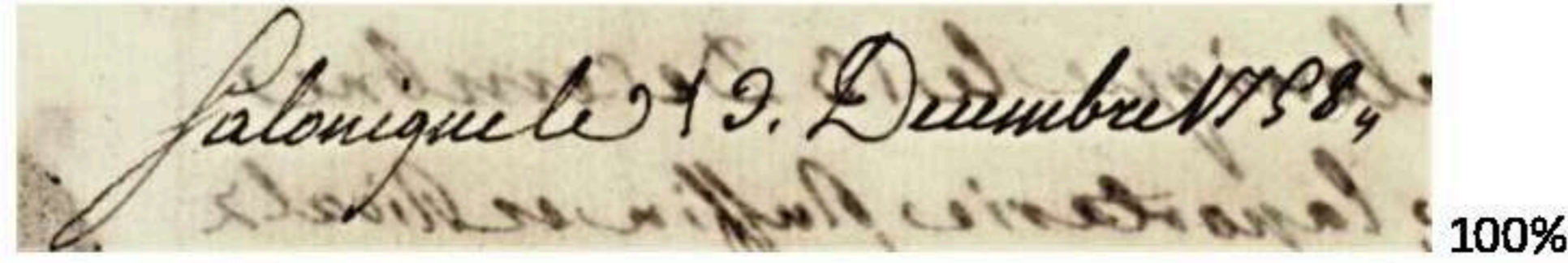
Thessaloniki 1732 (July 27): Folded letter by sea to Venice.

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

EARLY MAIL: 18th CENTURY

EARLY LEVANT LETTERS

By Forwarding Agent "Theodore David of Naples"

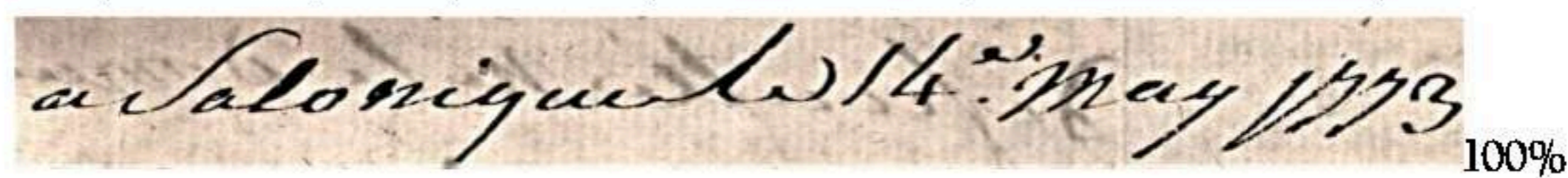


Salonique le 19. Decembre 1758,
100%

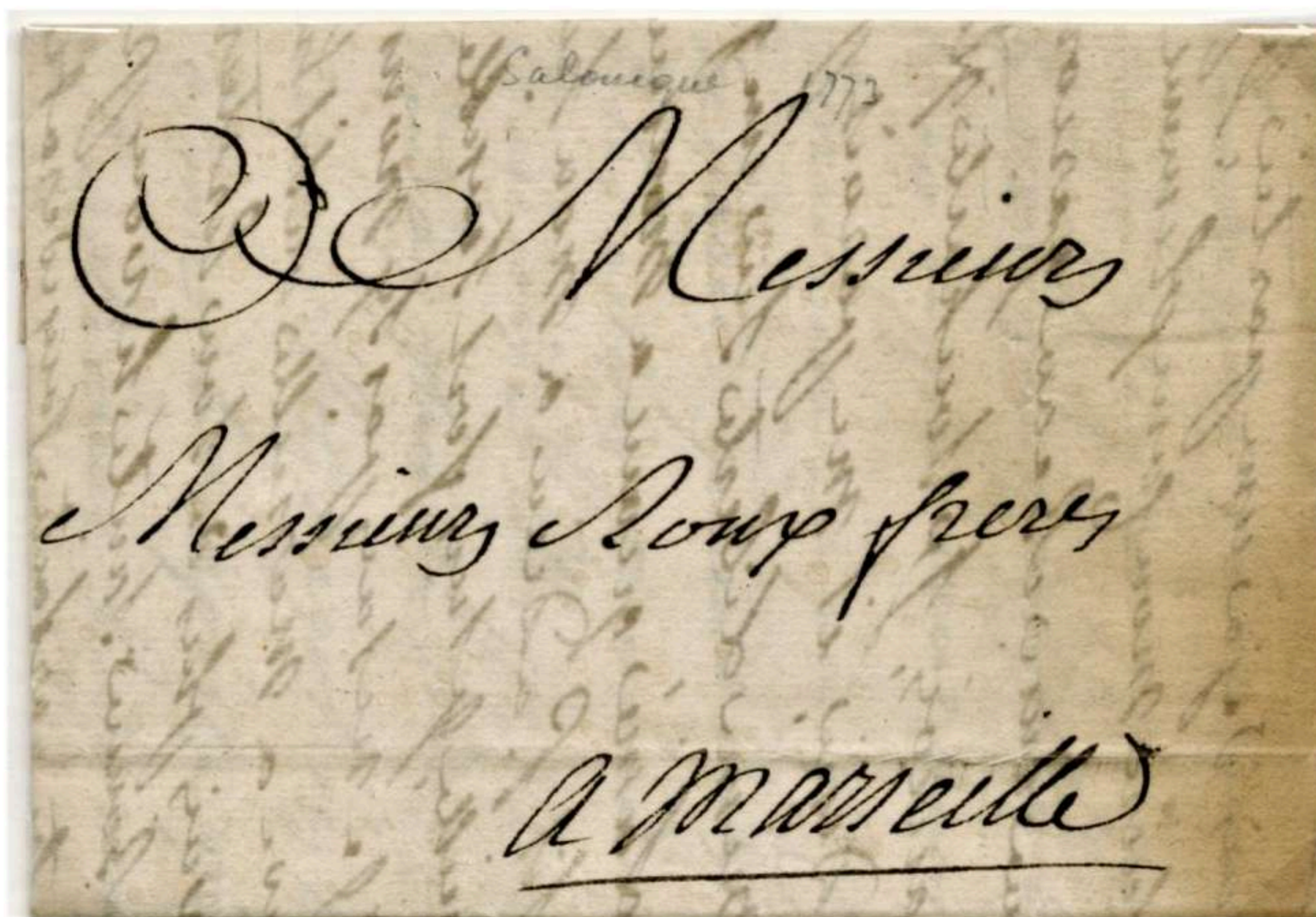


Thessaloniki 1758 (Dec. 19): Folded letter via Naples to Marseille. The letter is disinfected by slitting and is bearing faint red Napoli hand stamp and '3T' (Tornese) charge. On reverse Forwarding Agent's endorsement "Theodore David of Naples." The Letter was forwarded from Naples on Feb. 10, 1759,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

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



a Salonique le 14. May 1773
100%



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

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

EARLY MAIL: 18th CENTURY

MAIL TO NAPLES

Calligraphic Postmark Salonico

placed in Naples and used exclusively on incoming mail from Thessaloniki

All the few known examples of this rare postmark come from the Conte Lucca Doria correspondence.

A horizontal strip of a handwritten letter in cursive script. The text reads: "Napoli Sig. Lucca D'oria conte di Capaccio Salonico 18. Gen. 1765."



Thessaloniki 1765 (Jan. 18): Folded letter to Naples.
Postal Rate: manuscript 12 Kr(?) due in front.
Disinfection slits.

The Doria family palace was built in 1760. A hundred years later, Garibaldi announced from the balcony of this palace, the annexation of the kingdom of Naples and the Two Sicilies. Signor Luca Doria came from a distinguished noble family in Genoa connected to the House of Doria in Castile and bore the title of Conte di Capaccio, Patrizio Genovese, Patrizio Napoletano.



The letter arrived at this historic palace 5 years after the palace was built !!

EARLY MAIL: 18th CENTURY

THE AUSTRIAN CONSULAR MAIL SERVICE

Manuscript place of origin “Salonique” in front (the only known so far)
and “Par le Courrier de Semlin”

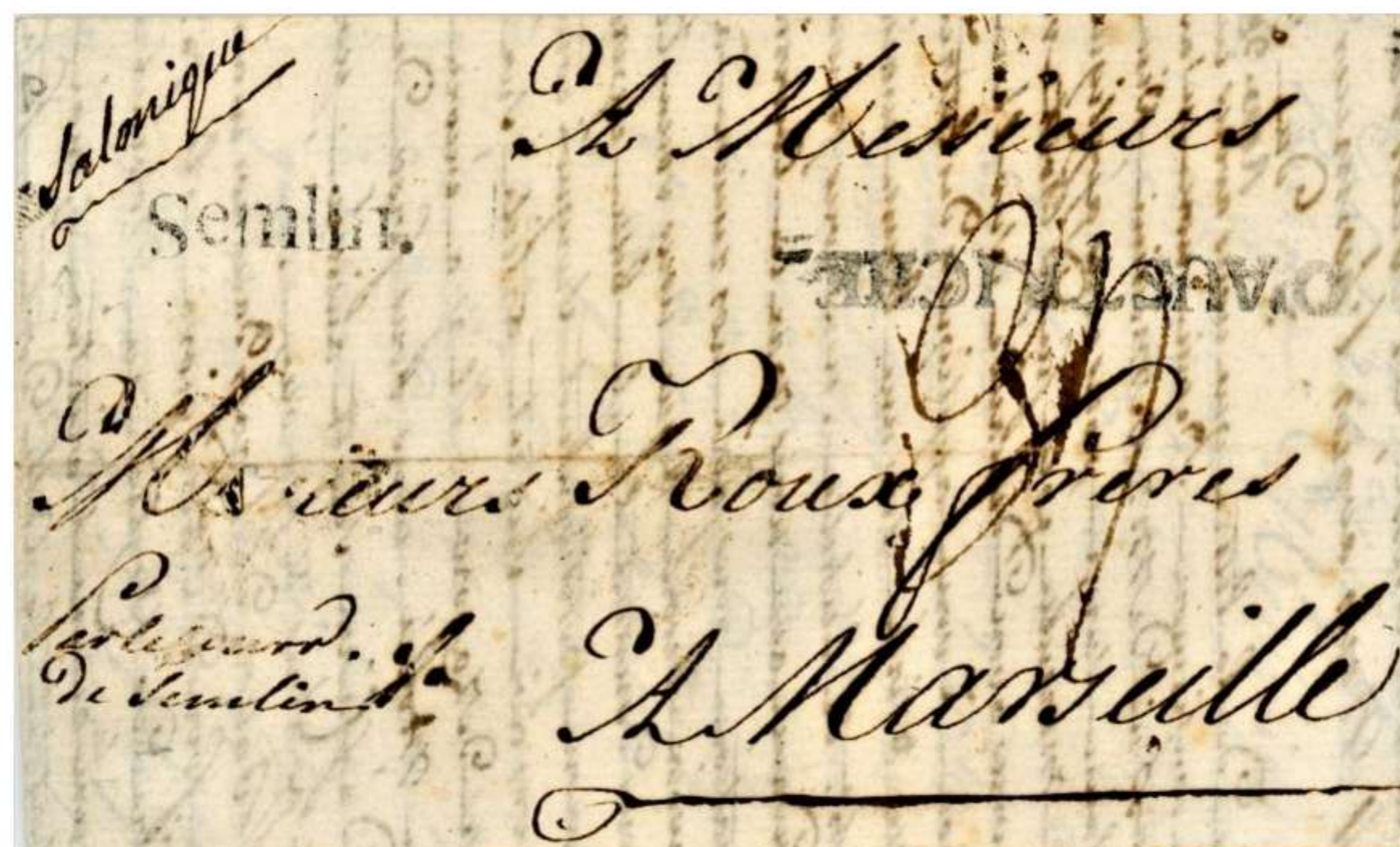
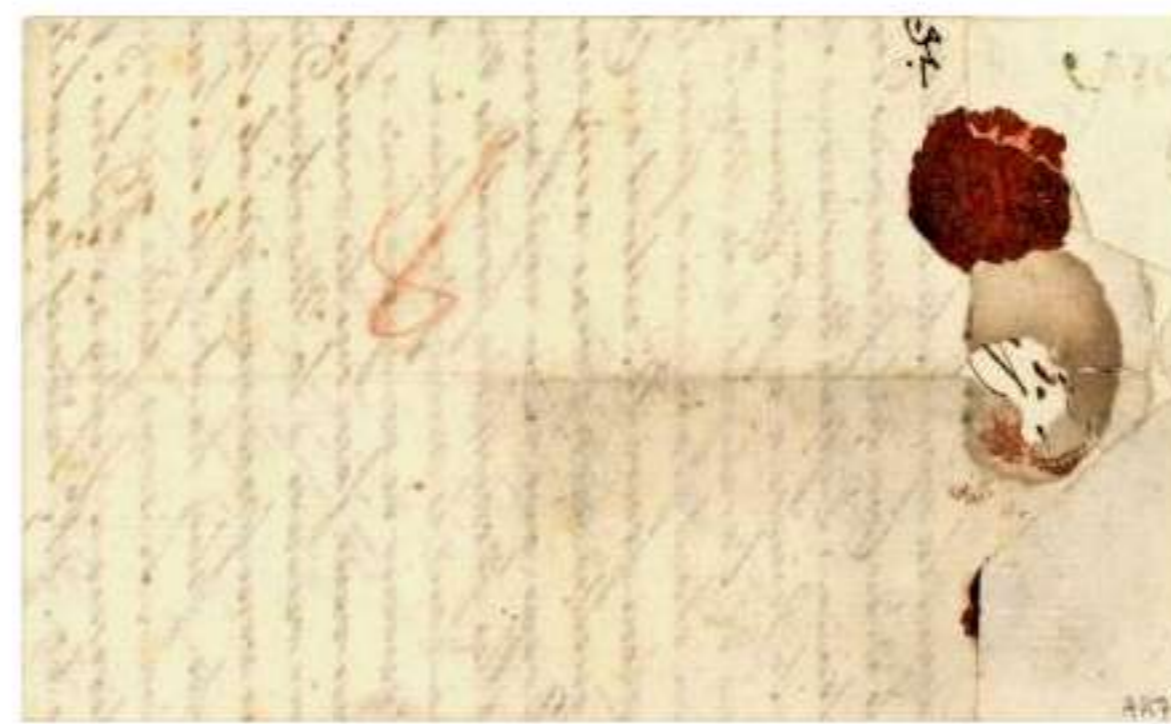
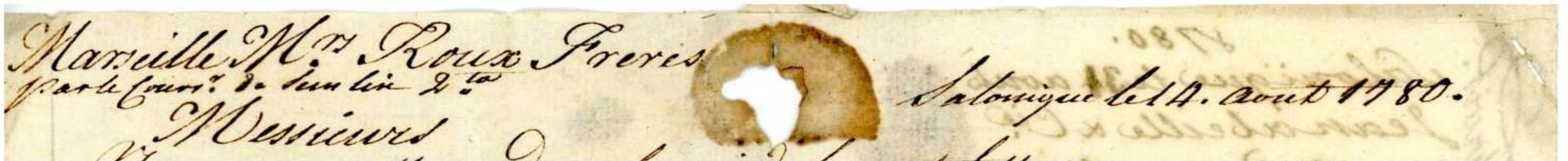
Postmark Semlin. – rare early use, also showing the importance of Semlin in the mail services between
the Ottoman Empire and the West.

Postmark D’AUSTRICHE (placed in France)

The entire shows traces of vinegar disinfection from outside without slitting.

Disinfection wax seal on reverse.

Disinfection notations at Semlin were introduced in 1779.



Thessaloniki 1780 (Aug. 24): Folded letter via Austria to Marseille, by the land route.
Postal Rate: manuscript 25 Sols due in front, 8 Sols (on reverse) to Semlin, paid in Thessaloniki by the sender.

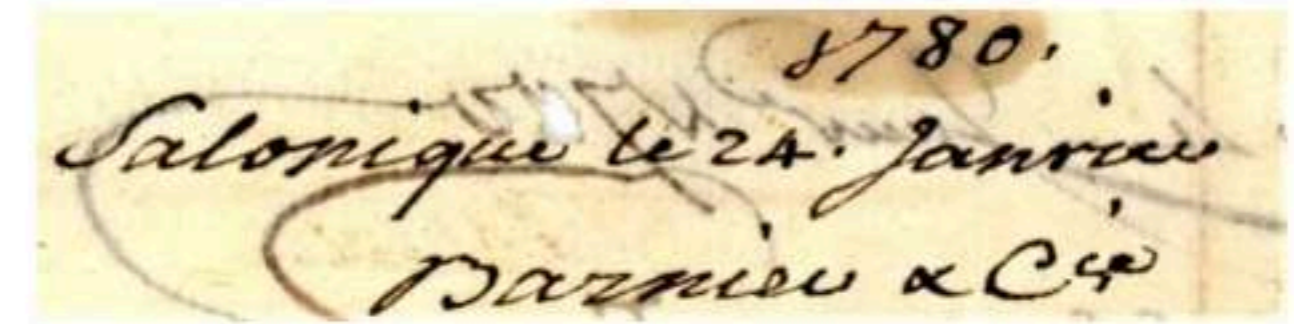
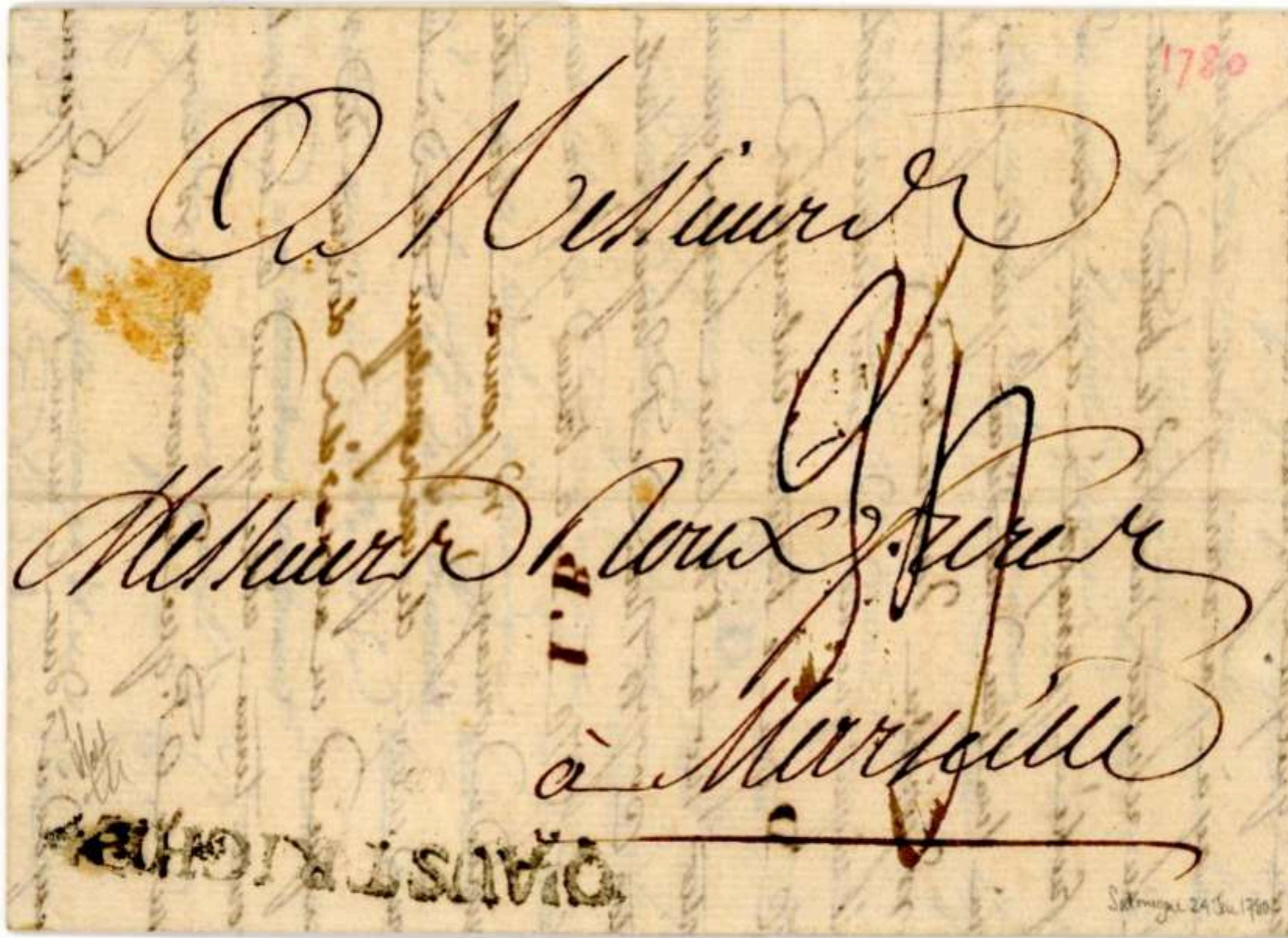
EARLY MAIL: 18th CENTURY

THE AUSTRIAN CONSULAR MAIL SERVICE

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

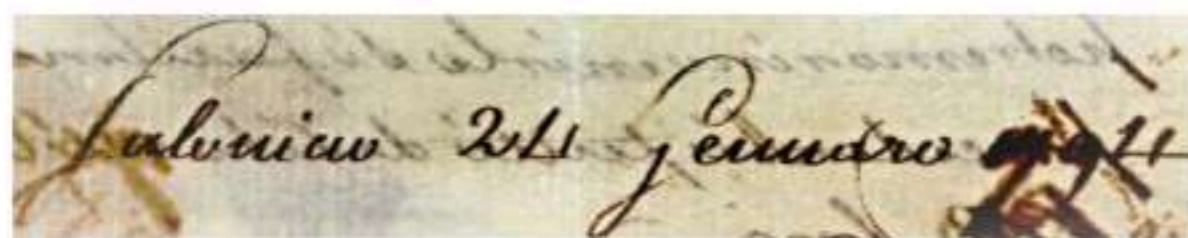
In 1777, the Austrian Consulate of Thessaloniki started a postal service by linking Thessaloniki with this main Austrian - Levant route. This Postal Service acquired legal substance under the signature of the commercial treaty between Turkey and Austria in 1784.

A letter to France D'AUSTRICHE



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

A letter to Italy by the consular mail service



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

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

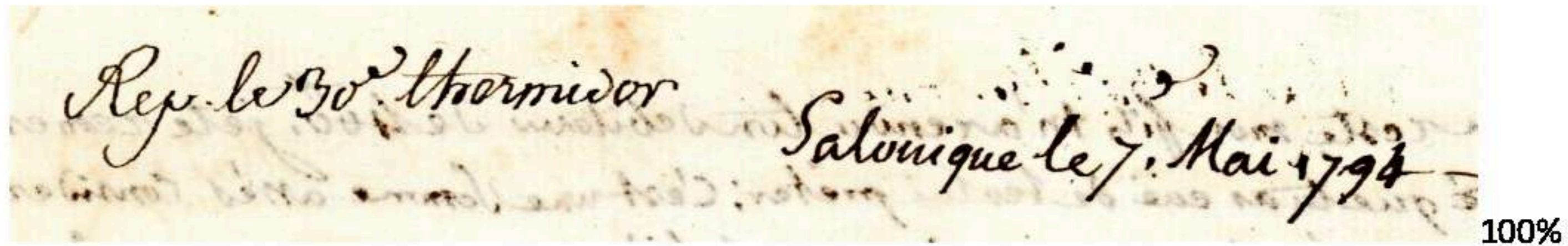
The letter is inscribed PCC: Pietro Cristich e Co

EARLY MAIL: 18th CENTURY

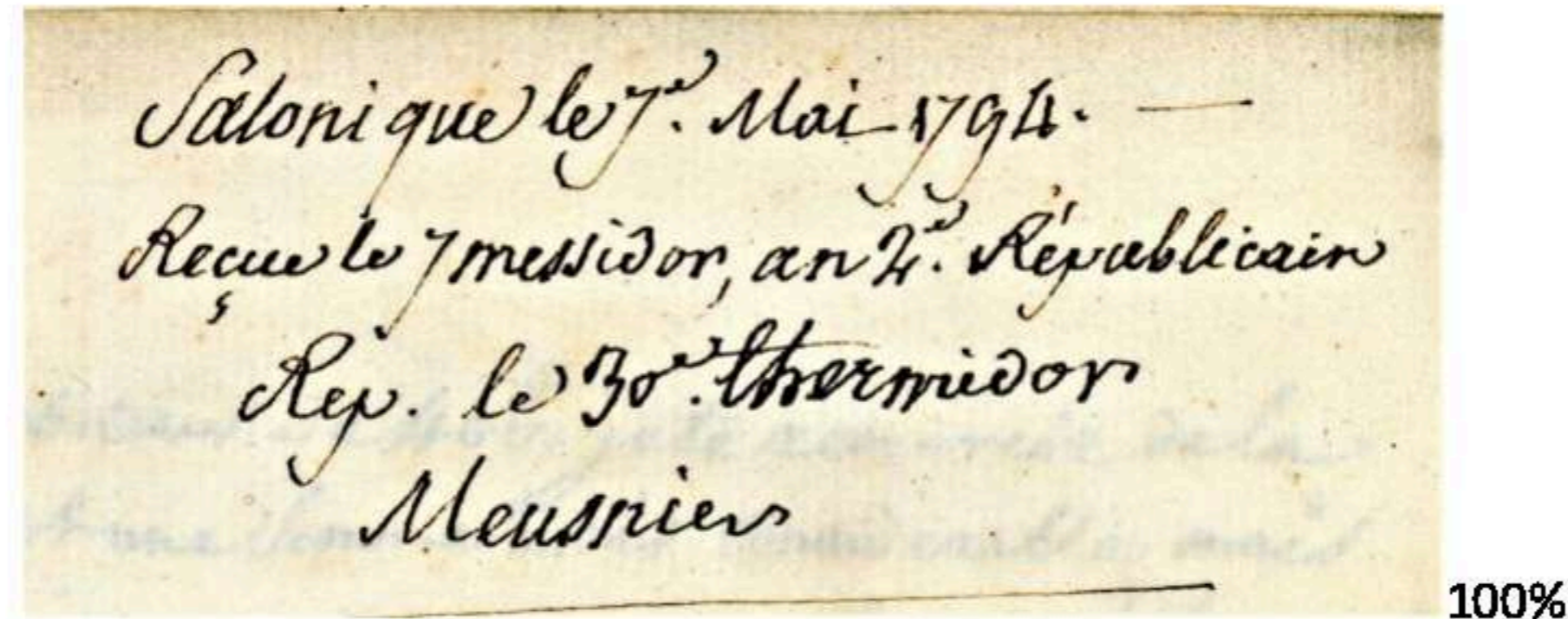
CONSULAR MAIL SERVICES

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

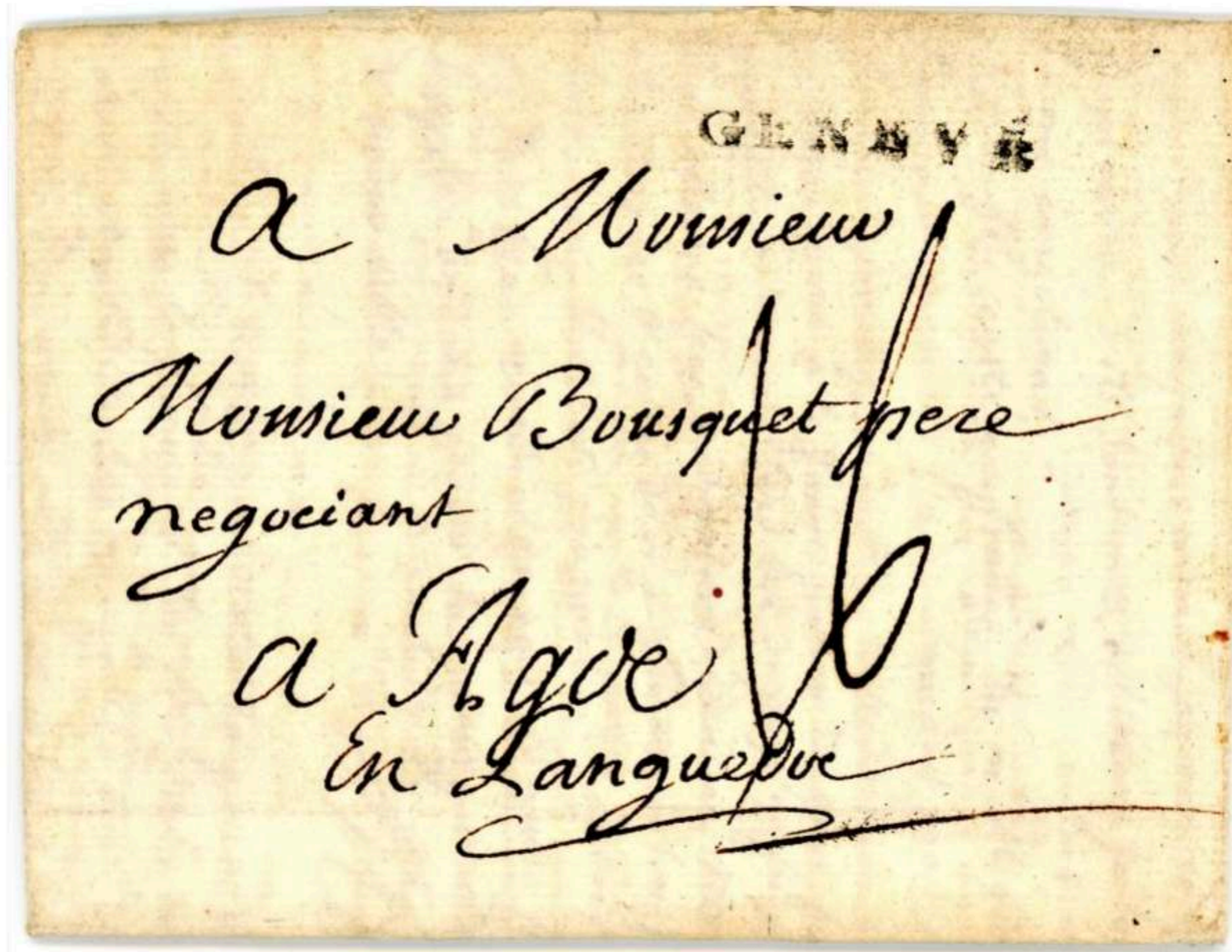
Additionally, a letter to a very rare destination: the small port of AGDE in Languedoc.



Head of the letter



Note by the recipient



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

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

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

EARLY 19th CENTURY MAIL

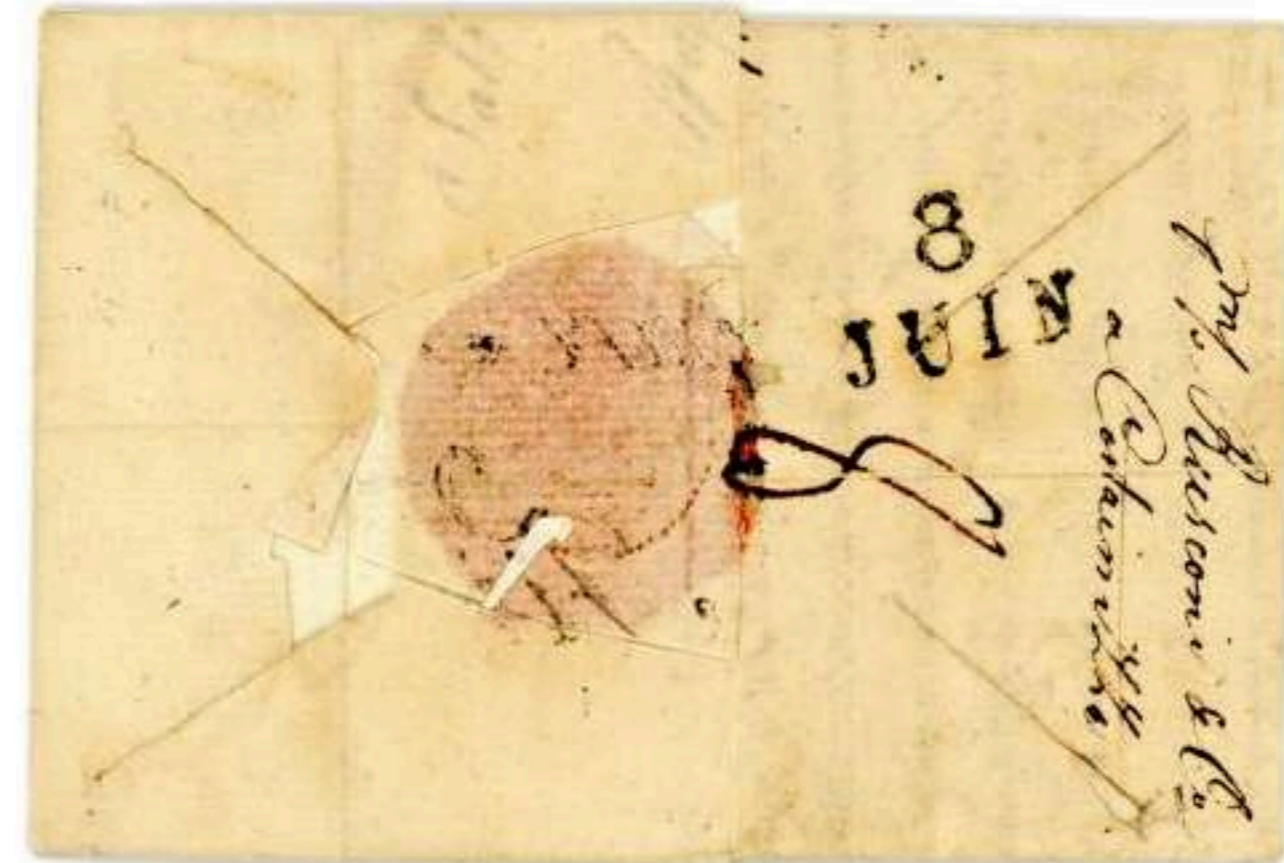
NAPOLEONIC WARS : MAIL THROUGH KOSTANIZA

The Napoleonic French Postal Service of the Levant

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

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

Mail forwarded by Agent Mr. Rusconi at Kostaniza



Thessaloniki 1813 (Mar. 1): Folded Letter posted from Thessaloniki, forwarded by Agent Mr. Rusconi at Kostaniza - Illyria and from there via Milano, to Firenze, June 8 arrival. Disinfection's slits.
Postal Fee paid: Rated 8 Sols(?) to Kostaniza, paid in Thessaloniki by the sender, 7 Decimes paid at arrival in Florence

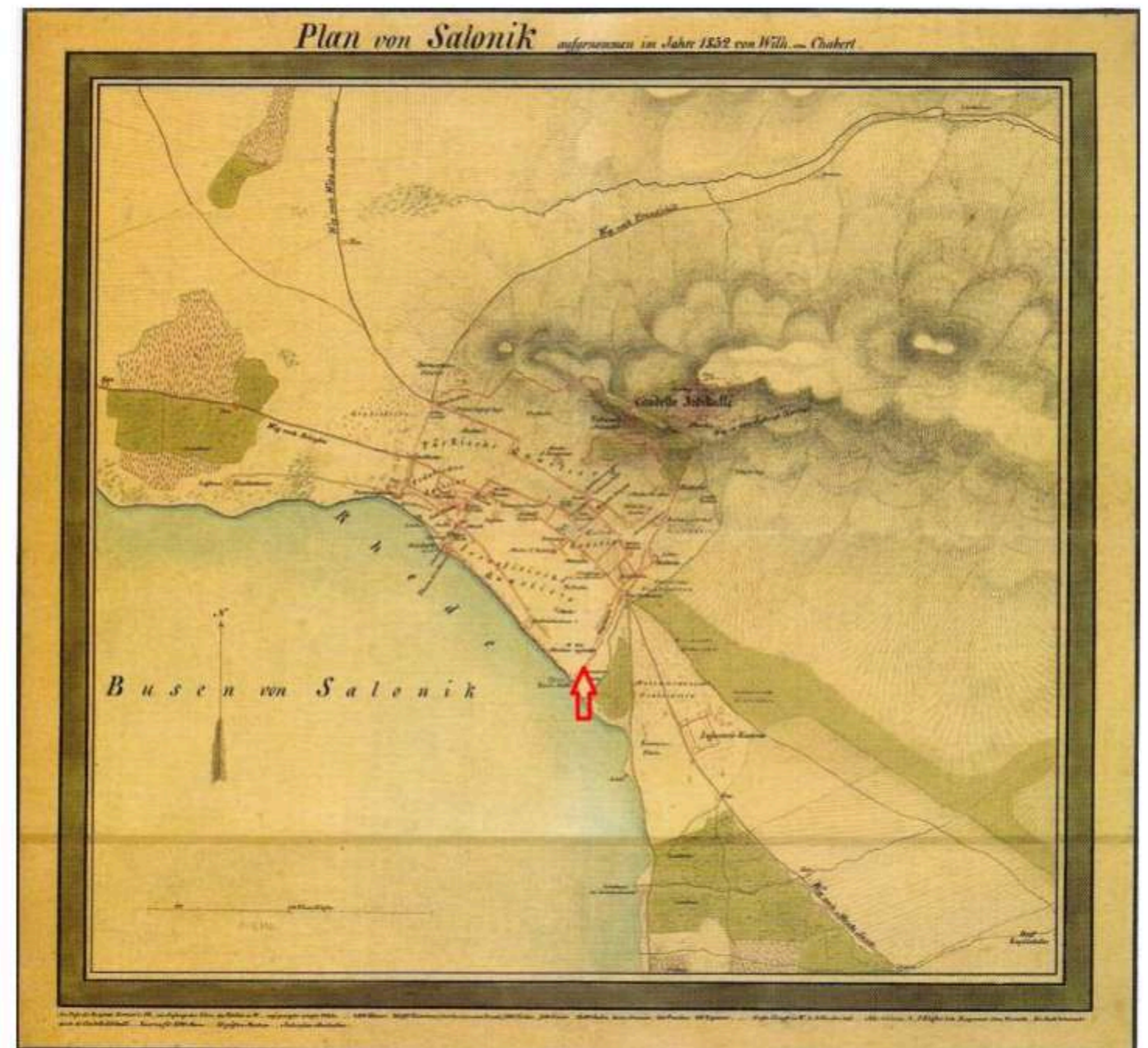
MAIL THROUGH SEMLIN



Thessaloniki 1831 (Mar. 4): Folded Letter posted from Thessaloniki, via Semlin, to Trieste, showing Turquie (for origin). Disinfected in Semlin and showing wax seal
Postal Fee paid: 12 Kr paid at arrival in Trieste

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

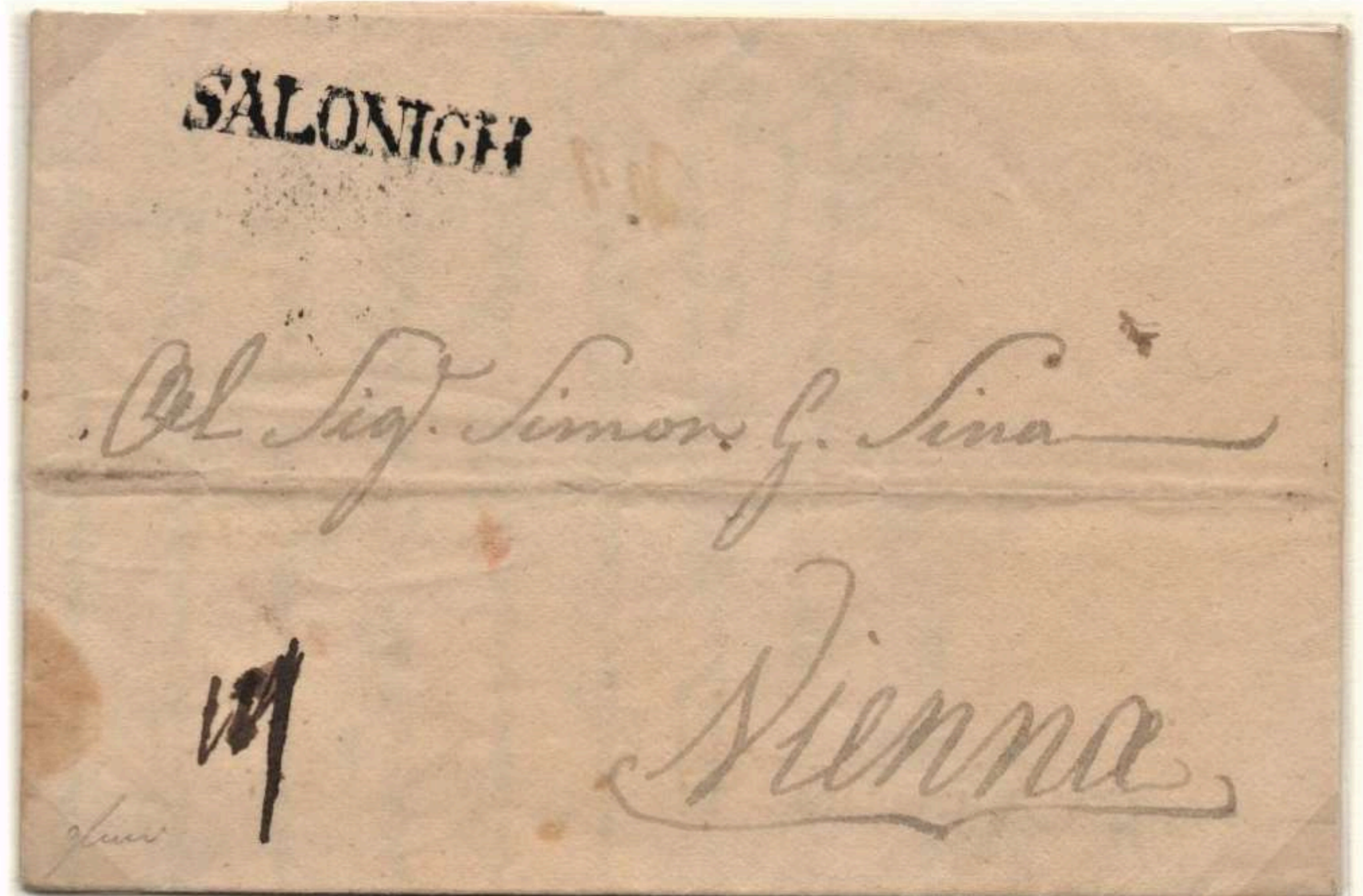
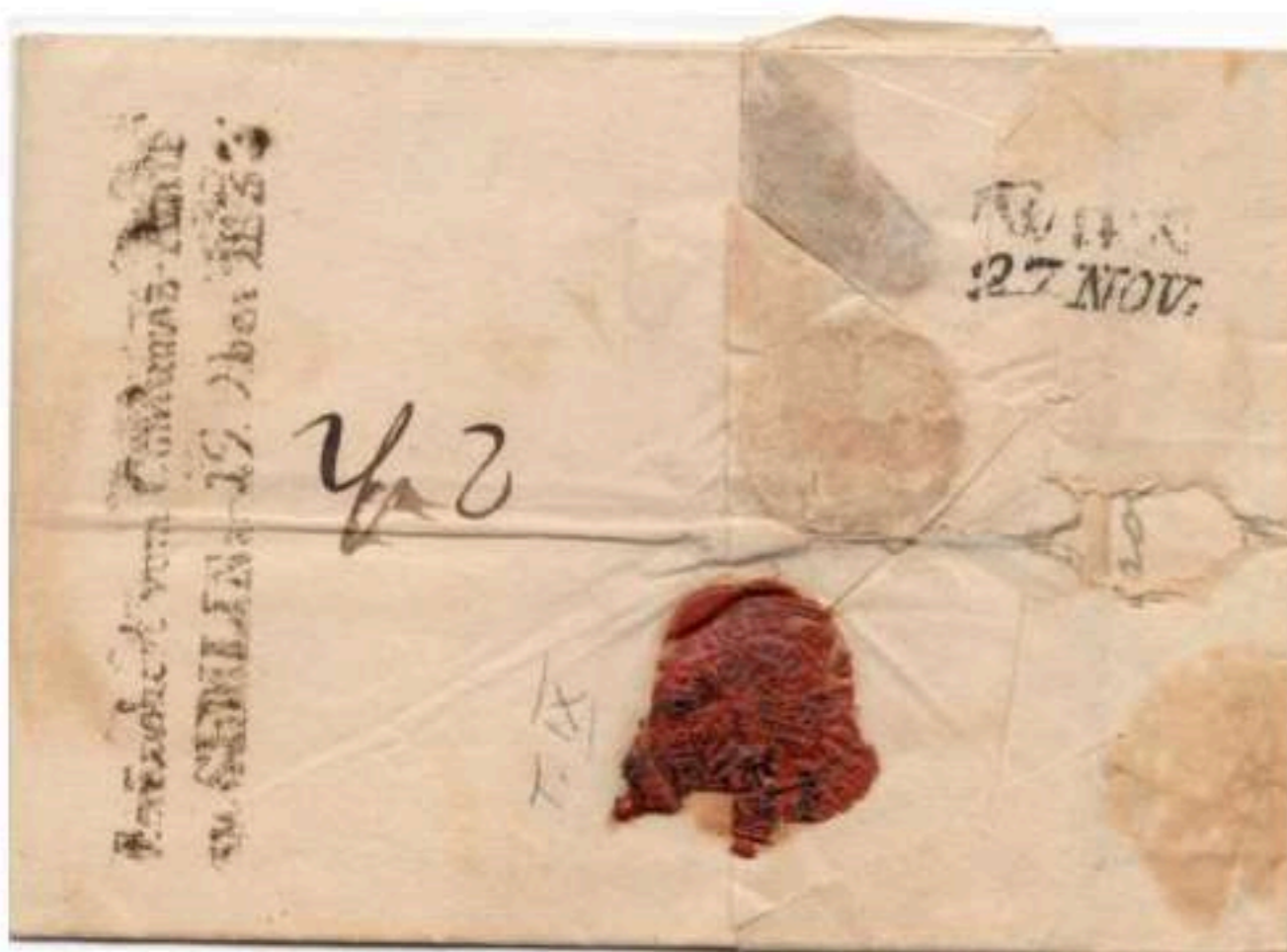
The map of Samper (Wilhelm von Chabert) shows Thessaloniki in 1832. Samper was appointed Consul of Austria in 1833, the year in which the Austrian Consular Post Office first opened. The map shows the location of the Consulate, near the "Kyvernion" stream.



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

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

50%



Folded Letter posted from **Thessaloniki, Nov. 6 1833**, to Vienna. The letter traveled by land, via Serbia and was disinfected in Semlin (19 Nov 1833).
 Arrival Wien 27 November.

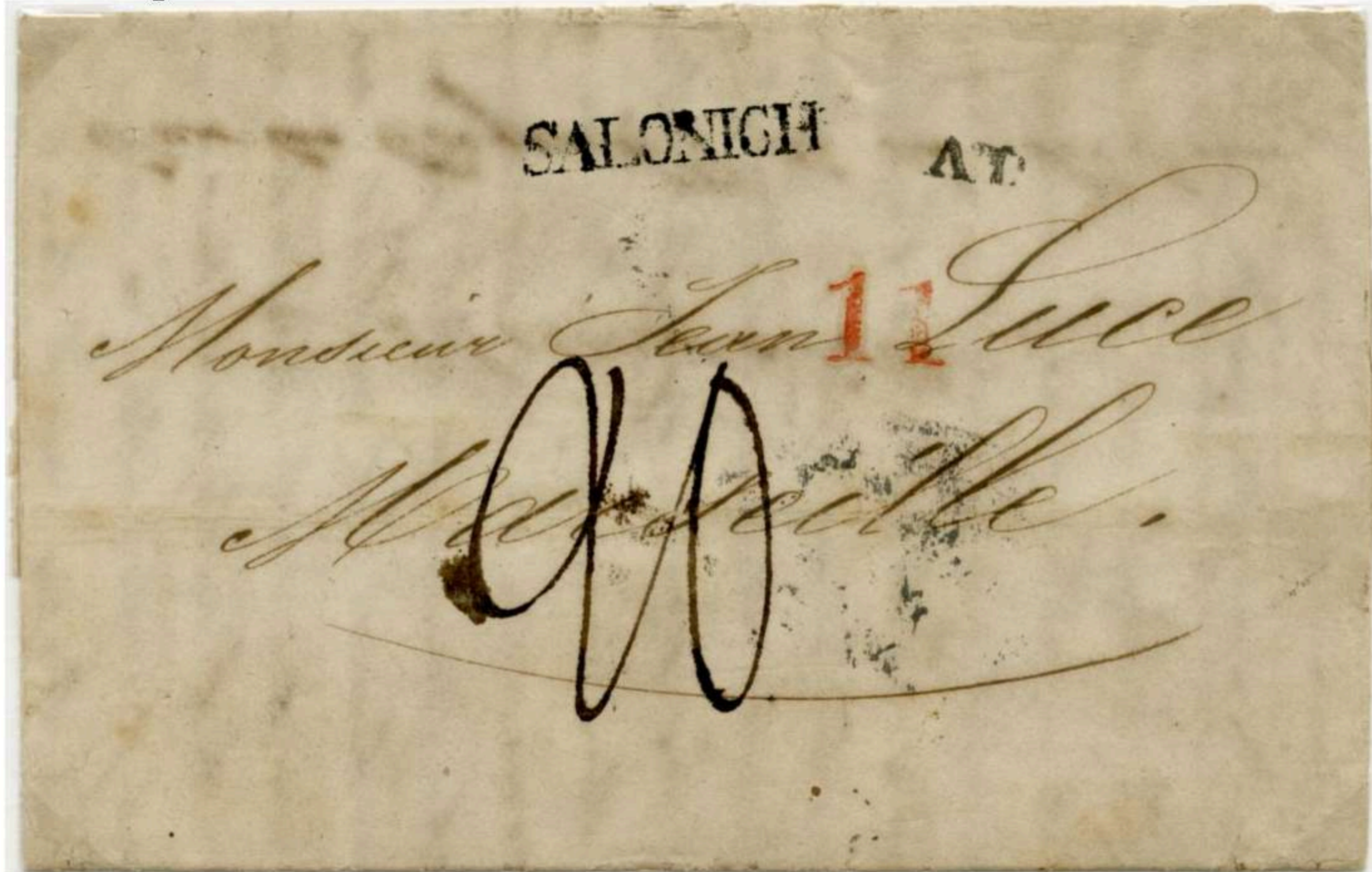
Postal Rate: 2 Pia (=8 Kr), manuscript on reverse, paid by the sender, 11 Kr charged in Austria.

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

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

Straight-line SALONICH

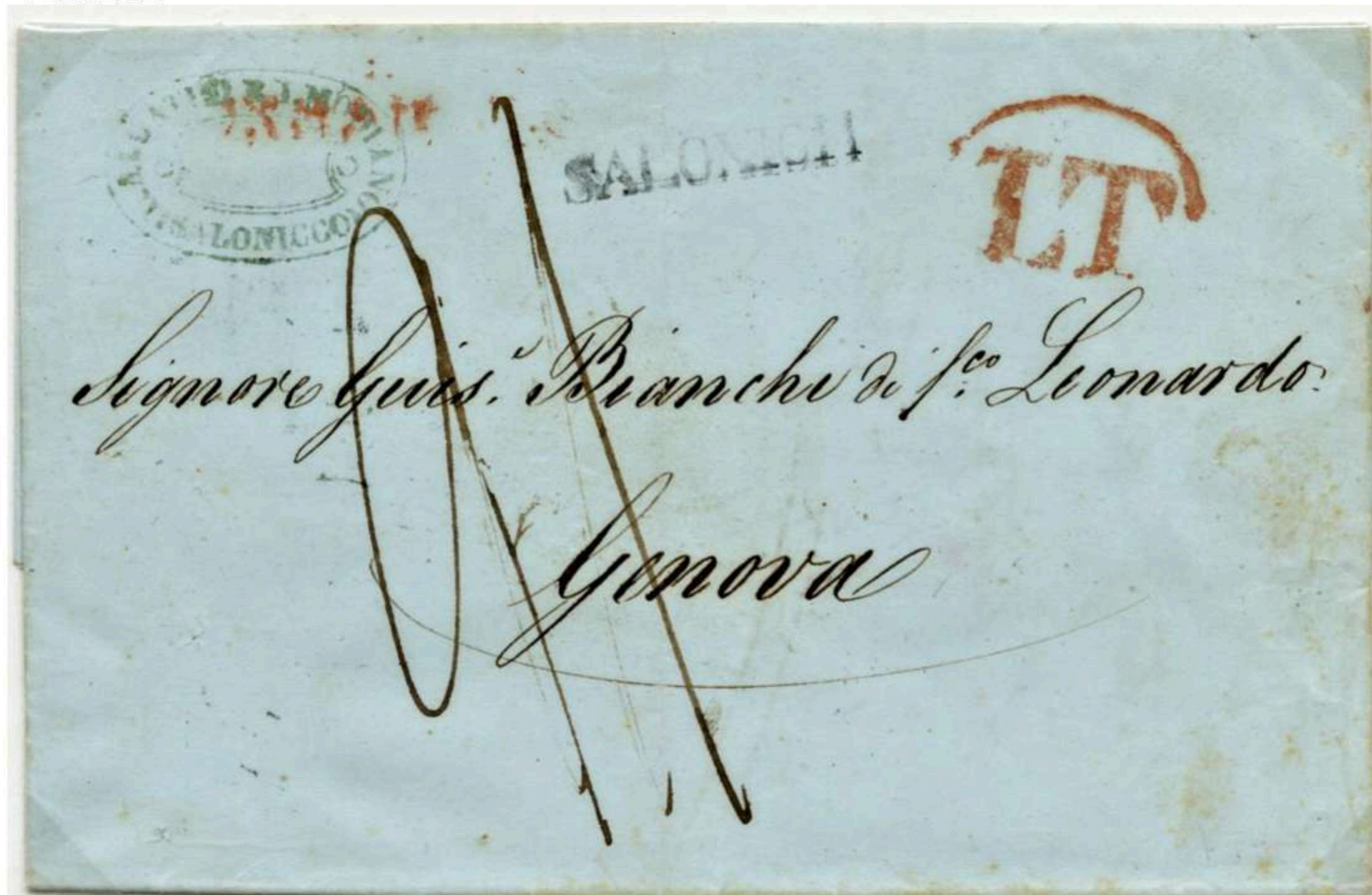
Via Huningue



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

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

Via Milan



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

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

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

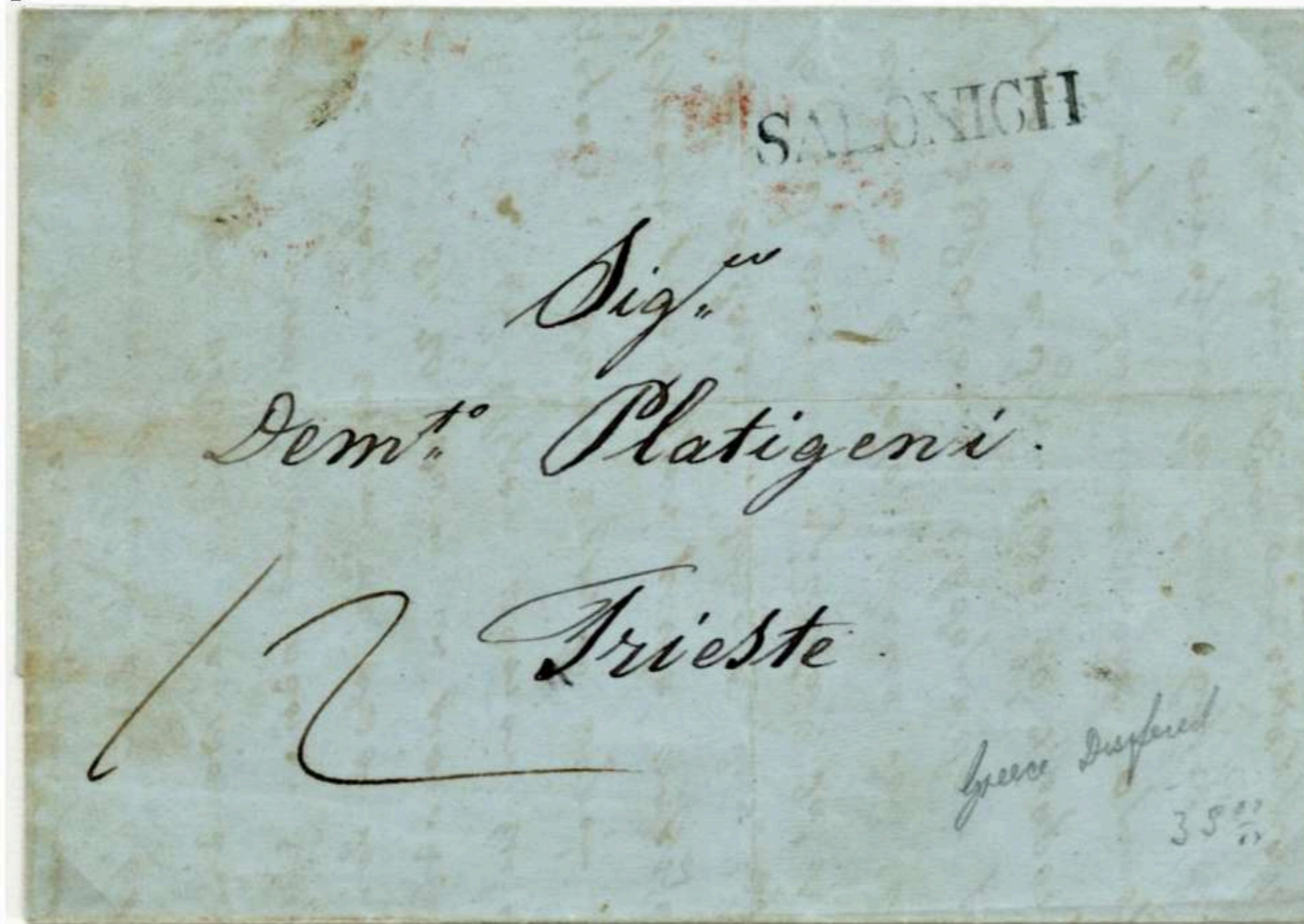
The change of postmark - 1845

SALONICH

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

**SALONICH
9. OCTOBRE.**

June 29 1845

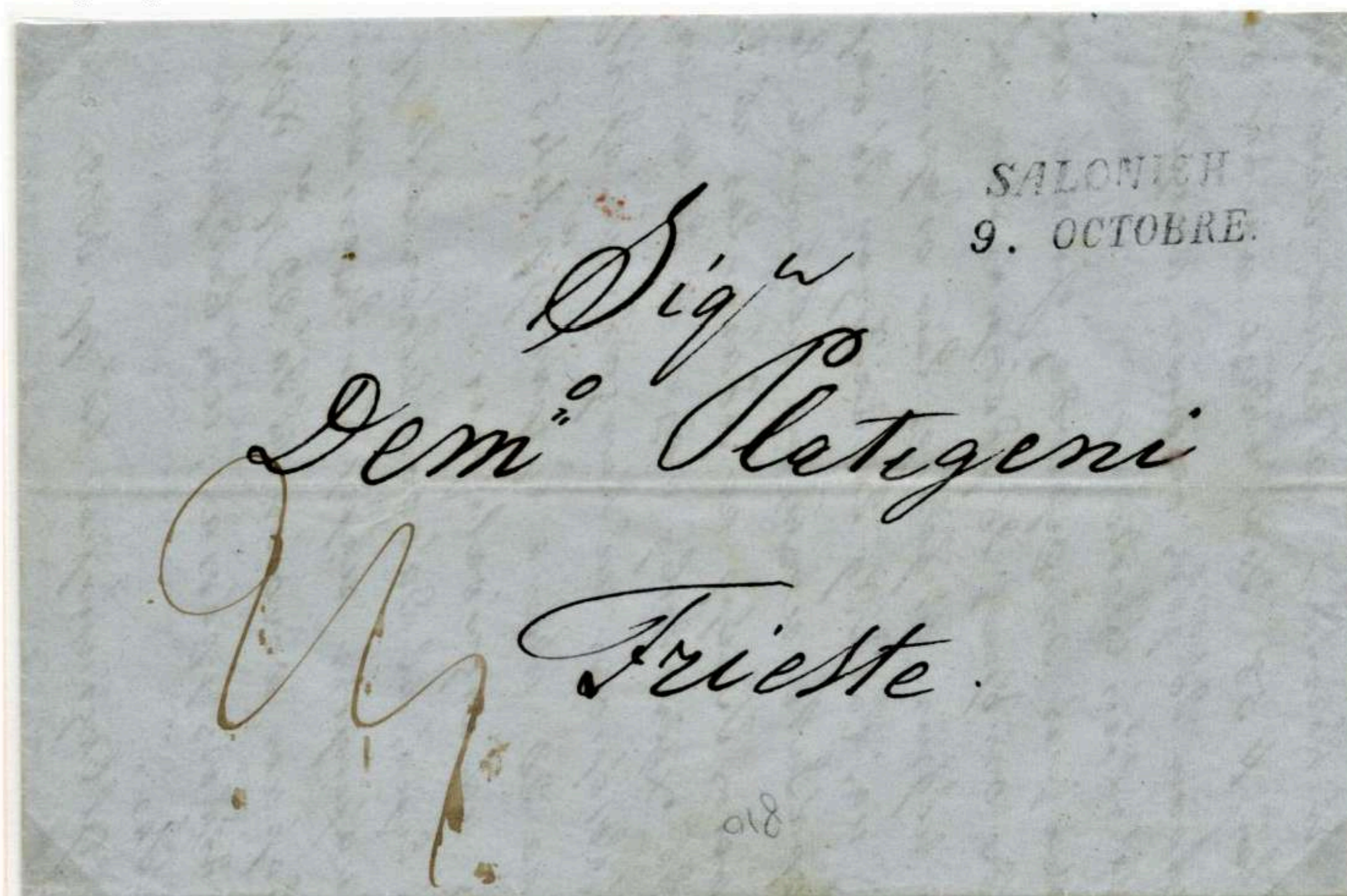


Thessaloniki 1845 (June 29): Folded Letter posted to Trieste.

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

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

Oct. 9 1845



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

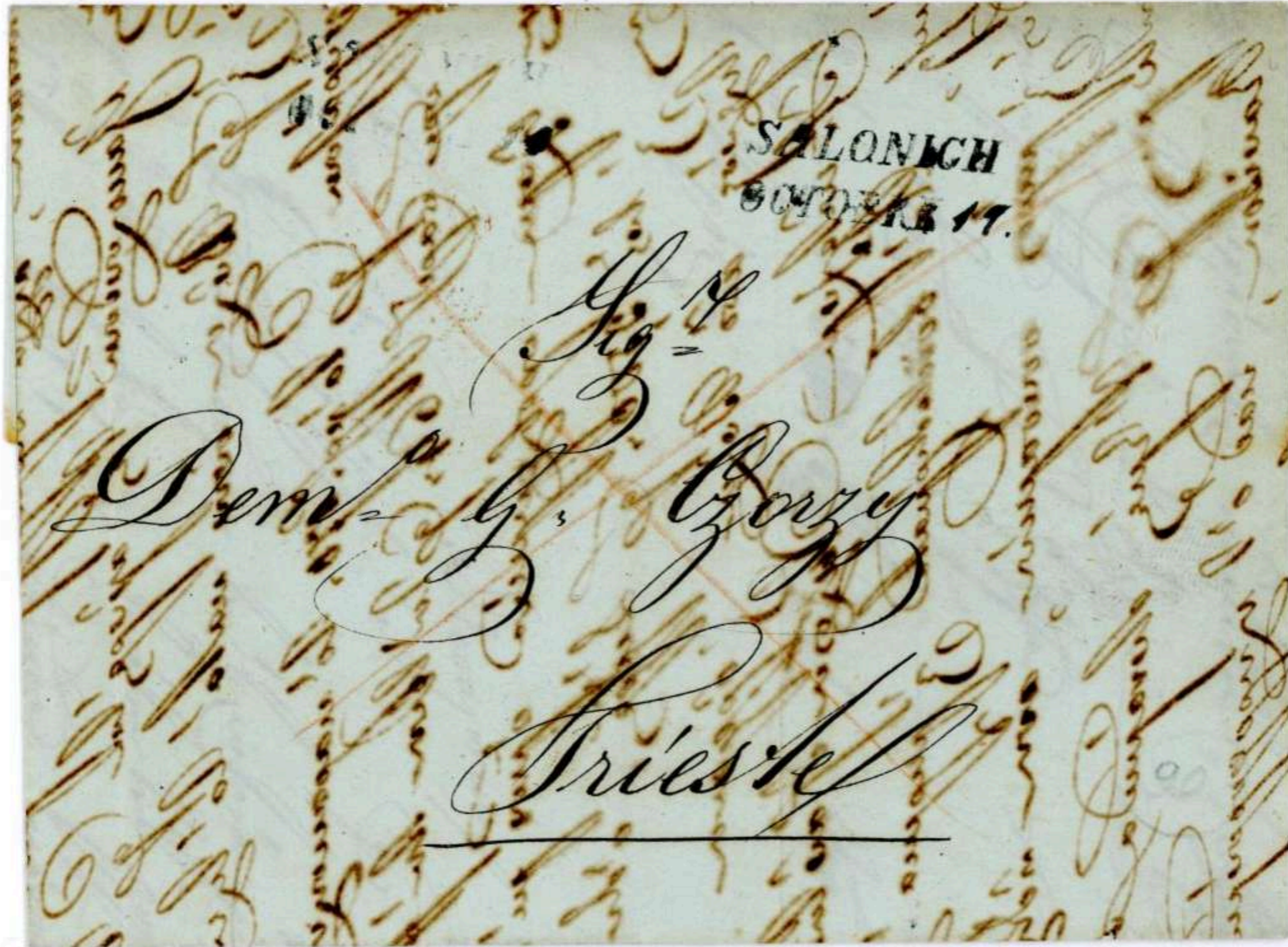
Disinfection marking SANITATIS SIGILLUM, on reverse.

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

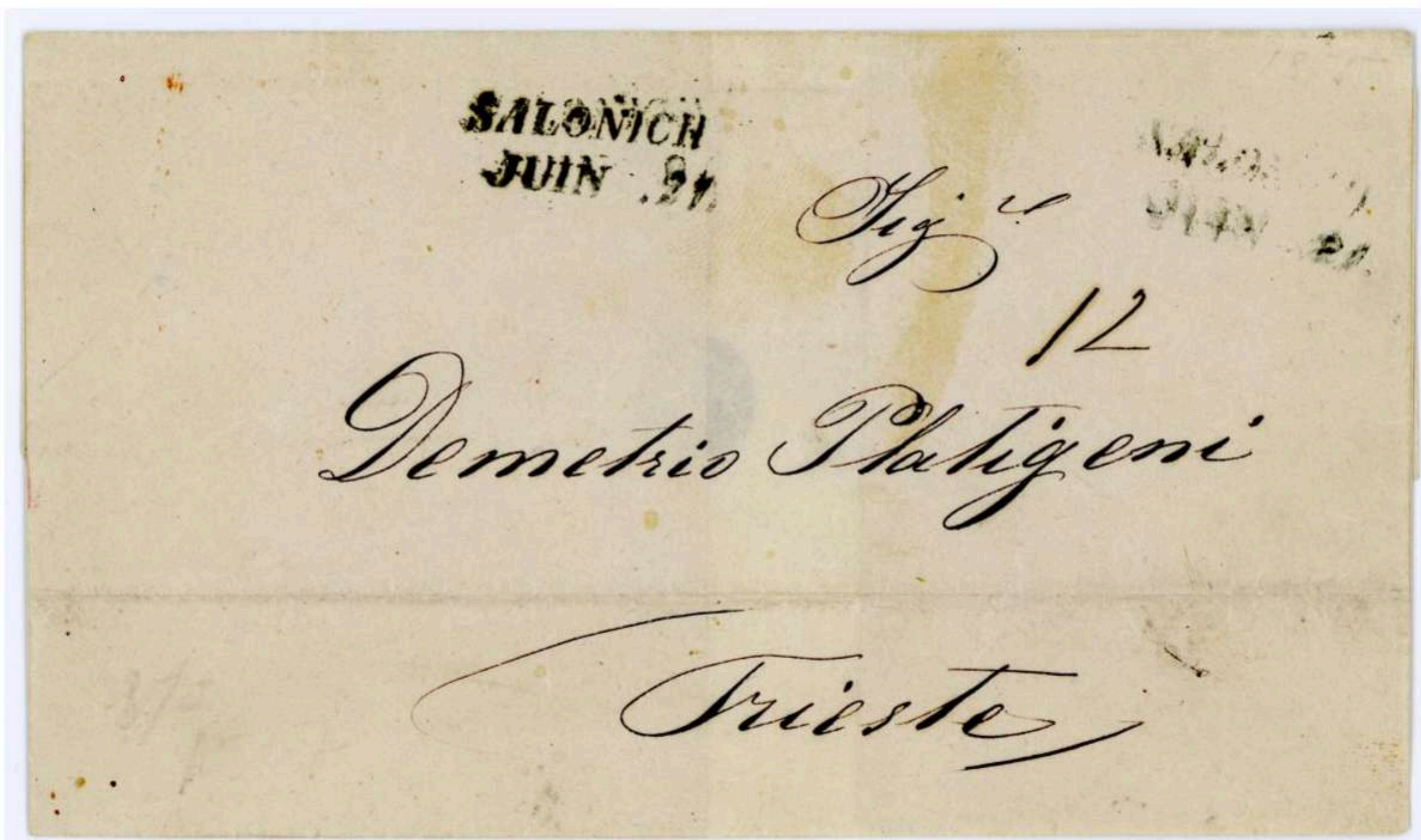
AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

Date after month

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



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

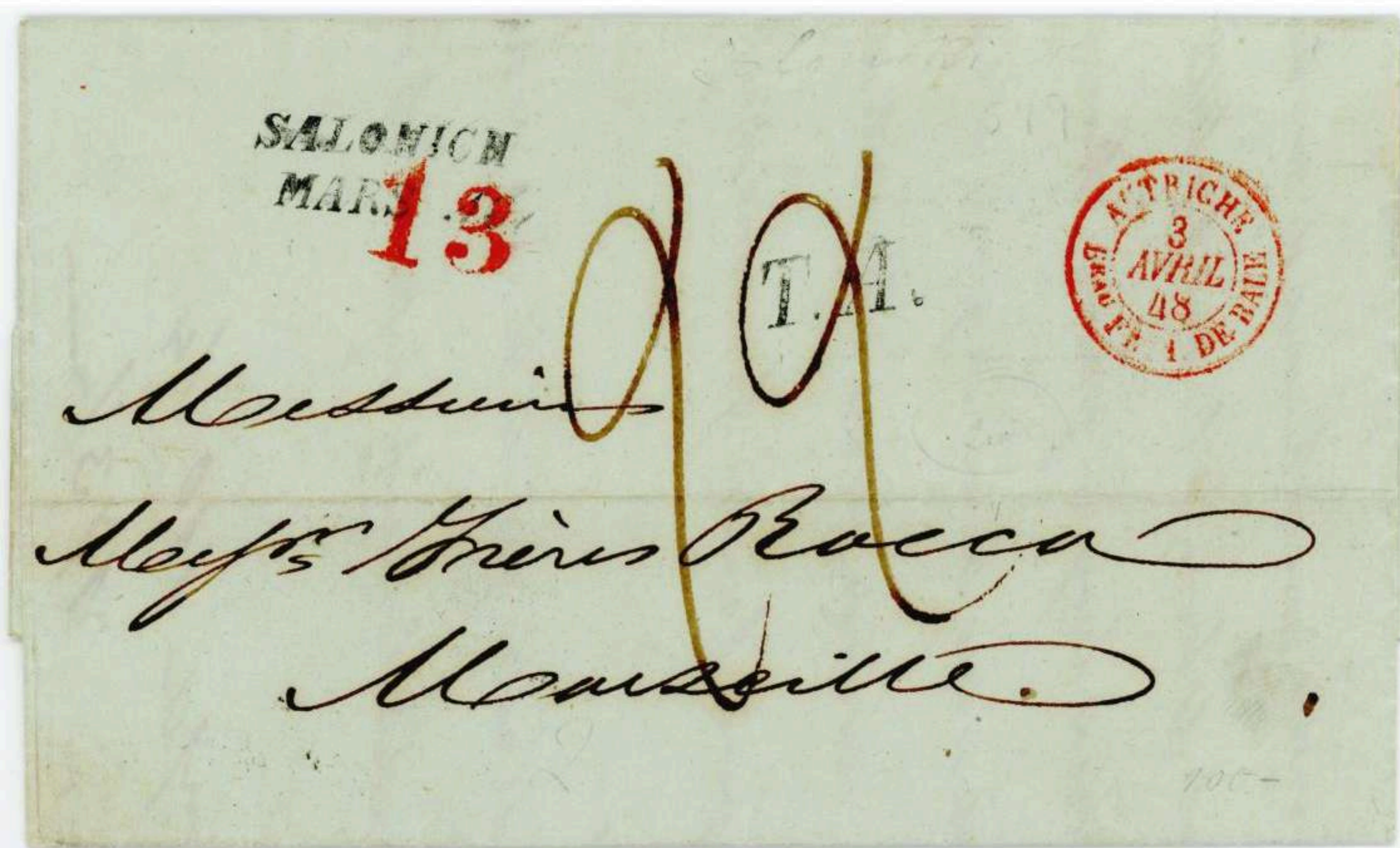


Thessaloniki 1846 (June 21): Folded wrapper of letter posted to Trieste, arrival July 4.
Postal Rate: 12Kr charged in Trieste.

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

Handwritten date after month

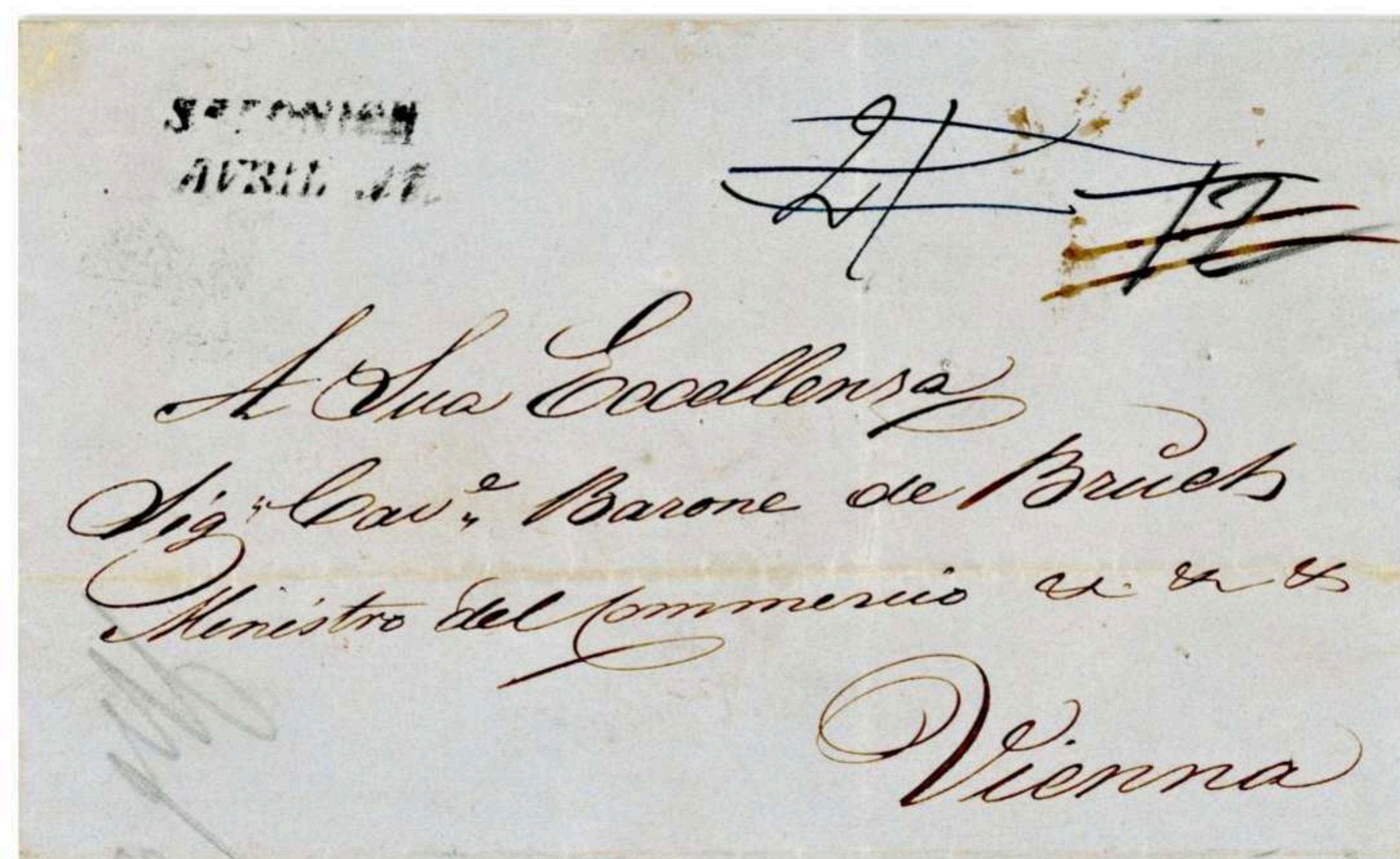
In a third rare case, the 2lined postmark SALONICH had been constructed without date, so the exact date (10) had been added by handwriting. Again, in this case, the date was placed after the month.



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

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

A cash paid letter to a Minister



Thessaloniki 1851 (April 17): Folded Letter posted to the Minister of Commerce in Vienna, by the Austrian Post Office. The letter was paid in cash in advance (“barfrankierter”), arrival 26 April.

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

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

Postal Rate: Paid in cash by the sender

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

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



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

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

A 1854 letter to Genova by land, via Wien



Thessaloniki 1854 (Oct. 5): Folded Letter posted to Genova, by the Austrian Post Office. The letter traveled by land, via Austria (Wien 15 Oct.) Showing D.A.a.L. : Diritto Austriaco Austriache Lire

Postal Rate: 11 Kr charged in Austria and 24 l charged in Genova.

FRENCH POST OFFICE

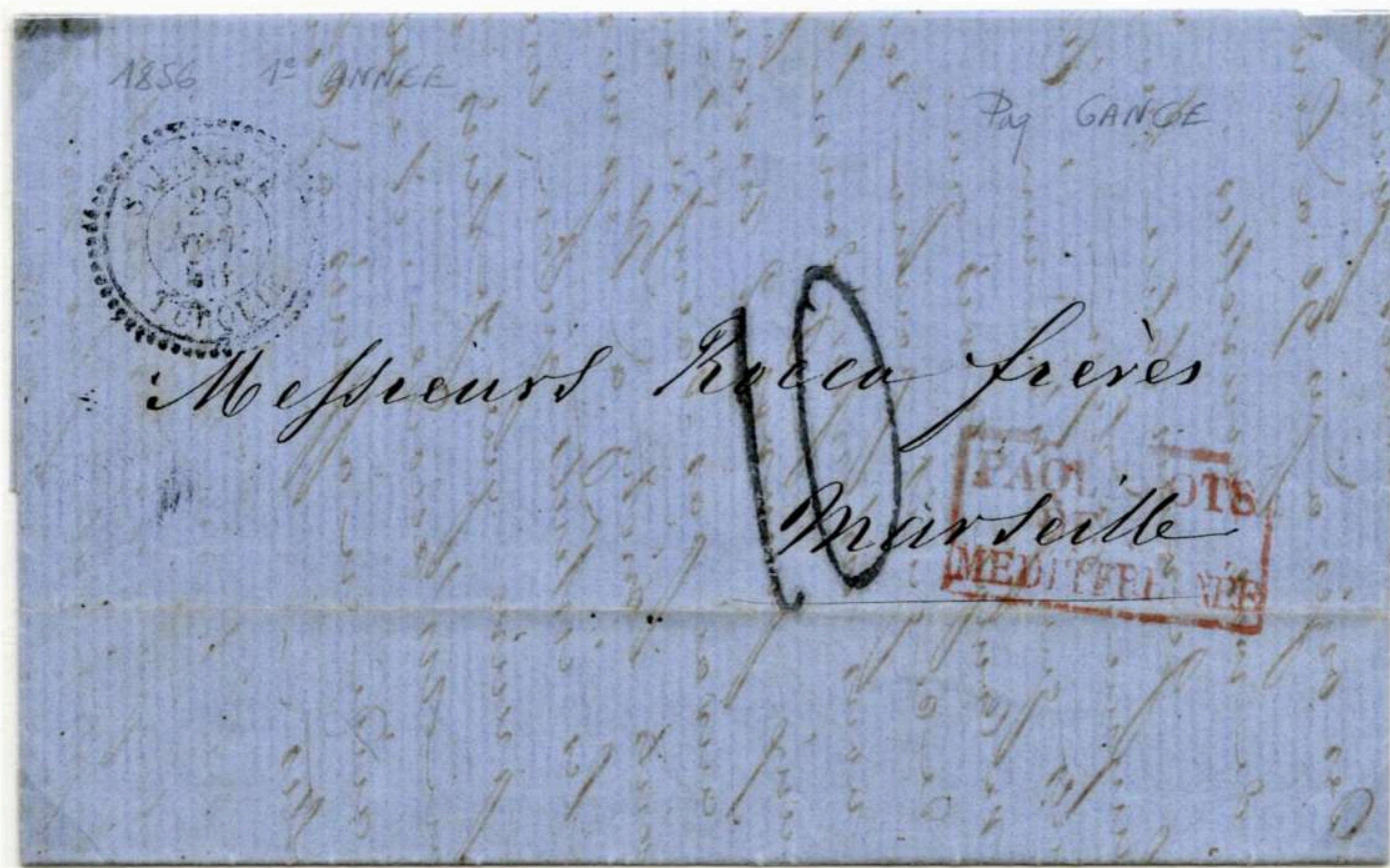


The Building of the French Post Office and Messageries Maritimes on Thessaloniki's seafront (late 19th century).

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

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

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



Thessaloniki 1856 (Nov. 26): Entire letter to Marseille, via Dardanelles arrival Dec. 9.

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

GREEK POST OFFICE

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

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



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

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

Regulations for postal rates:

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

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

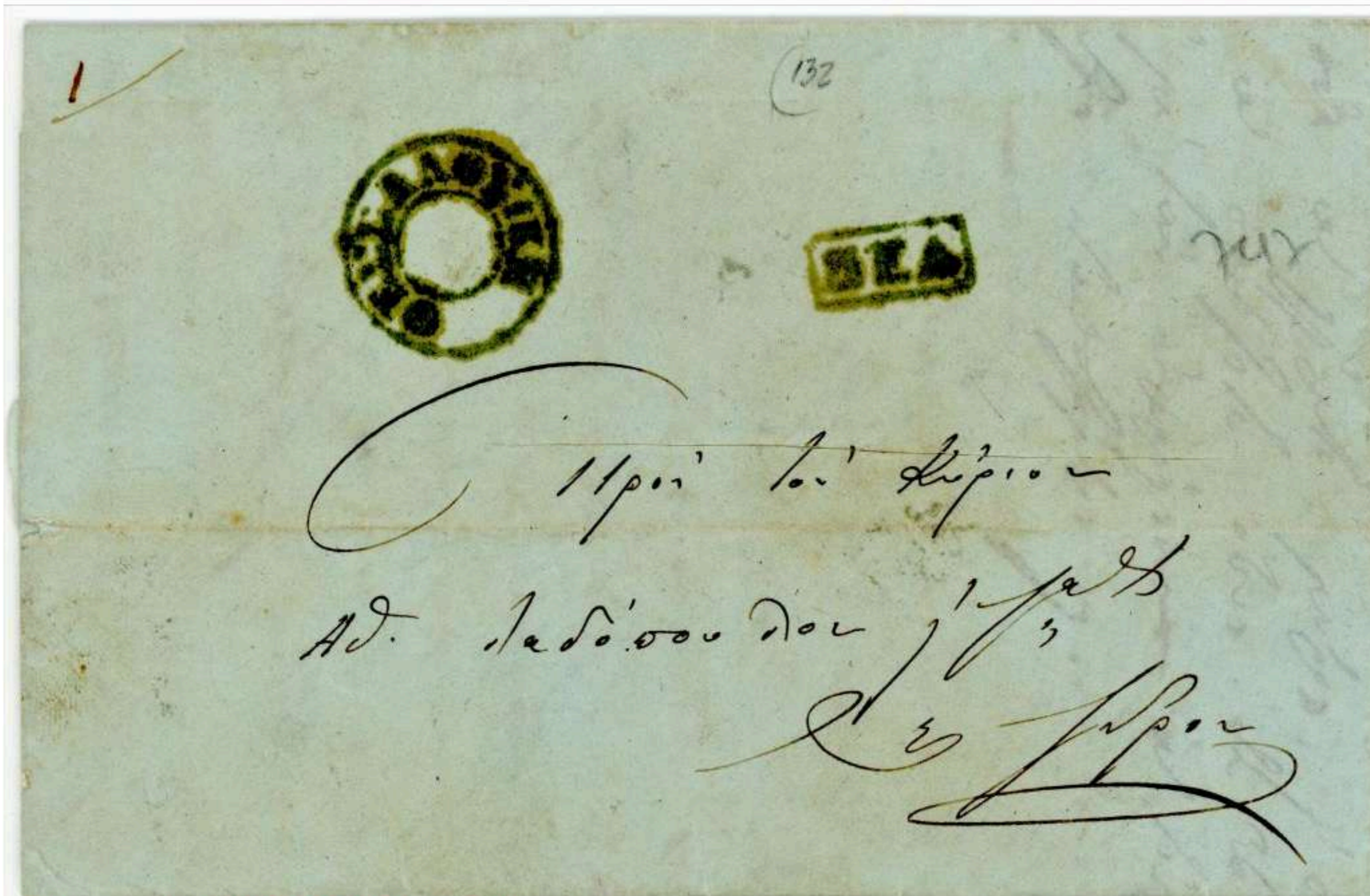
GREEK POST OFFICE

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

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

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

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



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

And (exactly !!) one year later



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

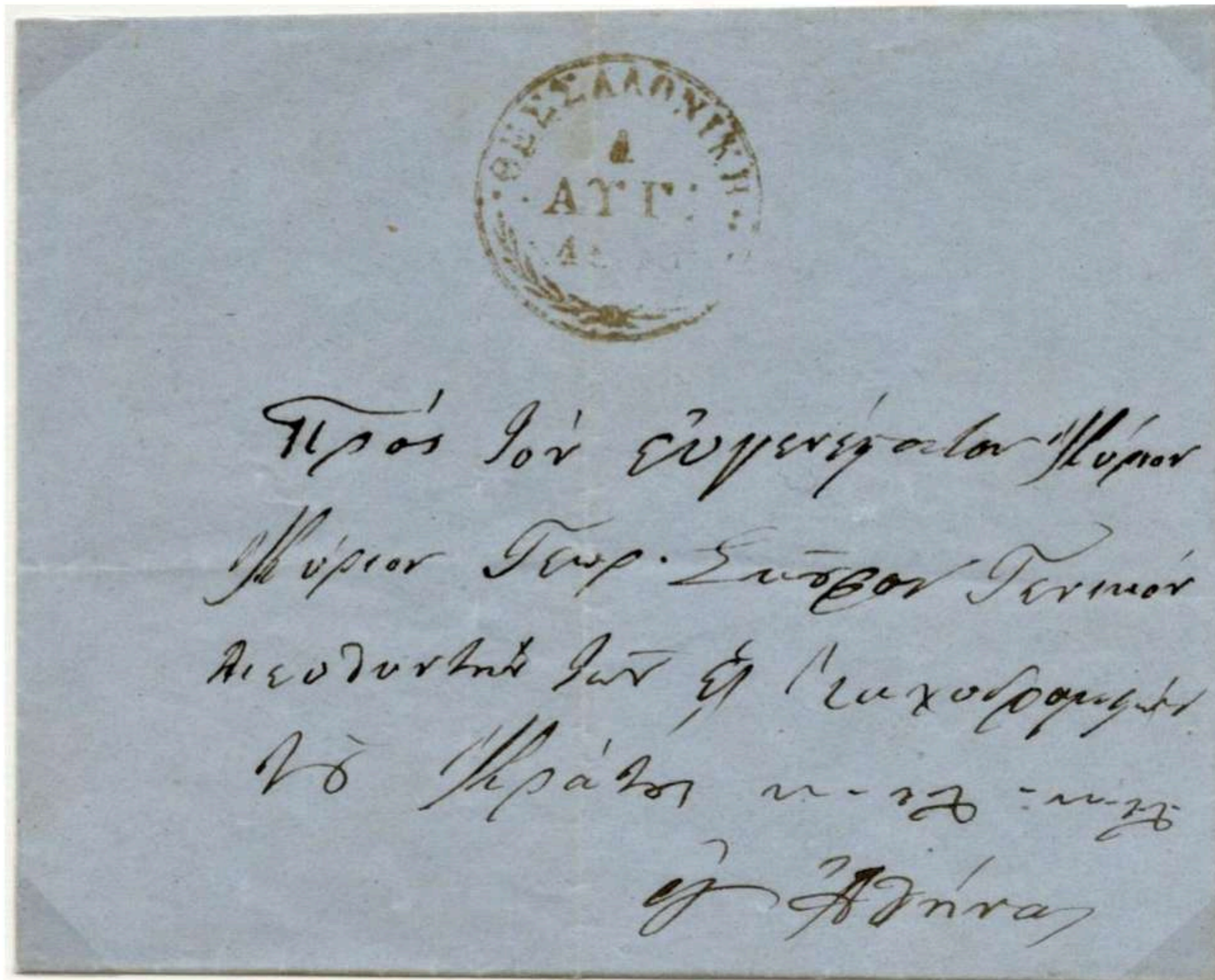
GREEK POST OFFICE

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

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

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

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



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



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

THE OPENING OF POST OFFICES 1830-50s

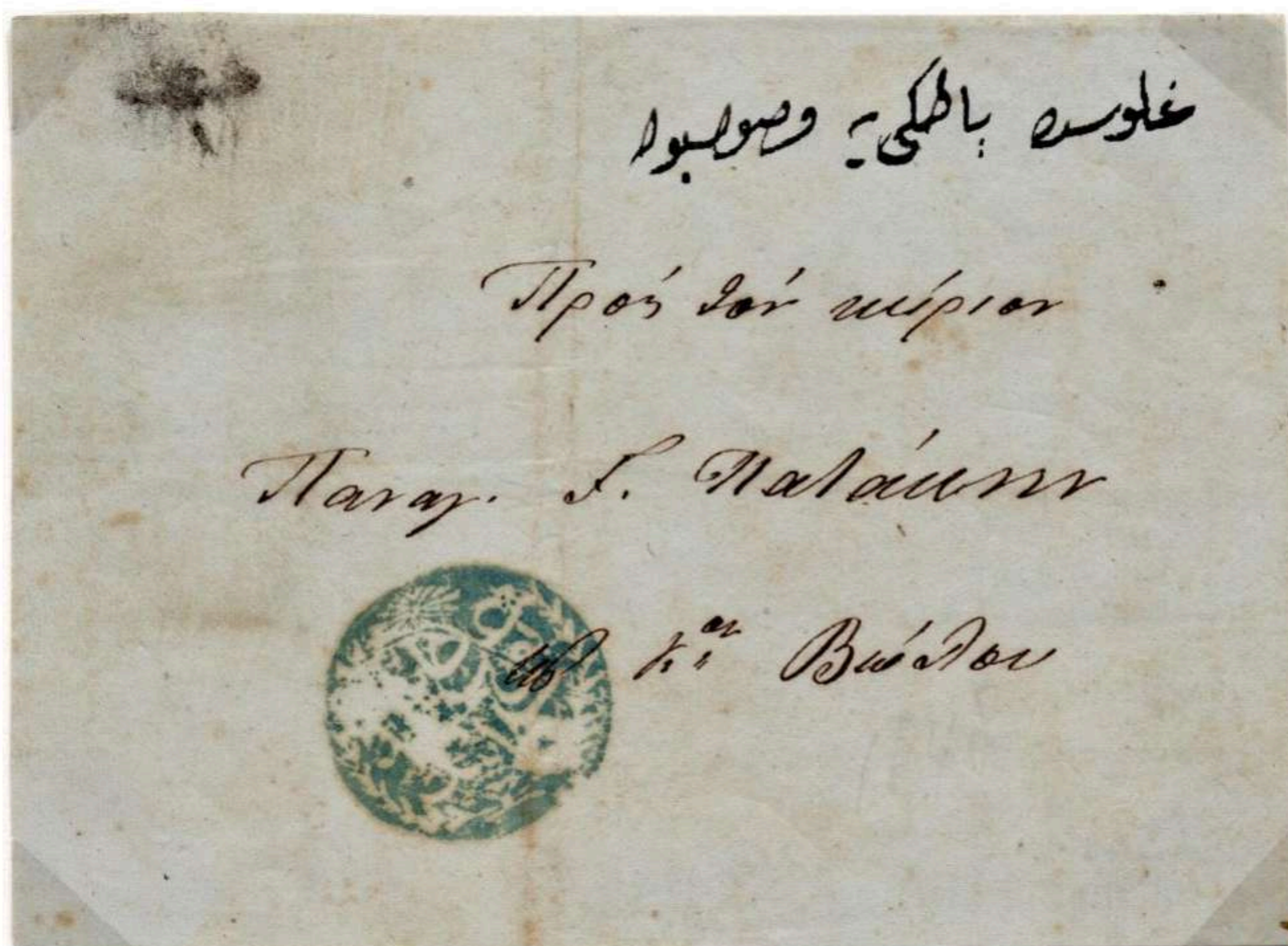
OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

The first postmark of the Ottoman Post Office of Thessaloniki

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



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



Thessaloniki 1840: Front of Folded Letter posted to Volos.

This postmark is usually found on Tatar forms.

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

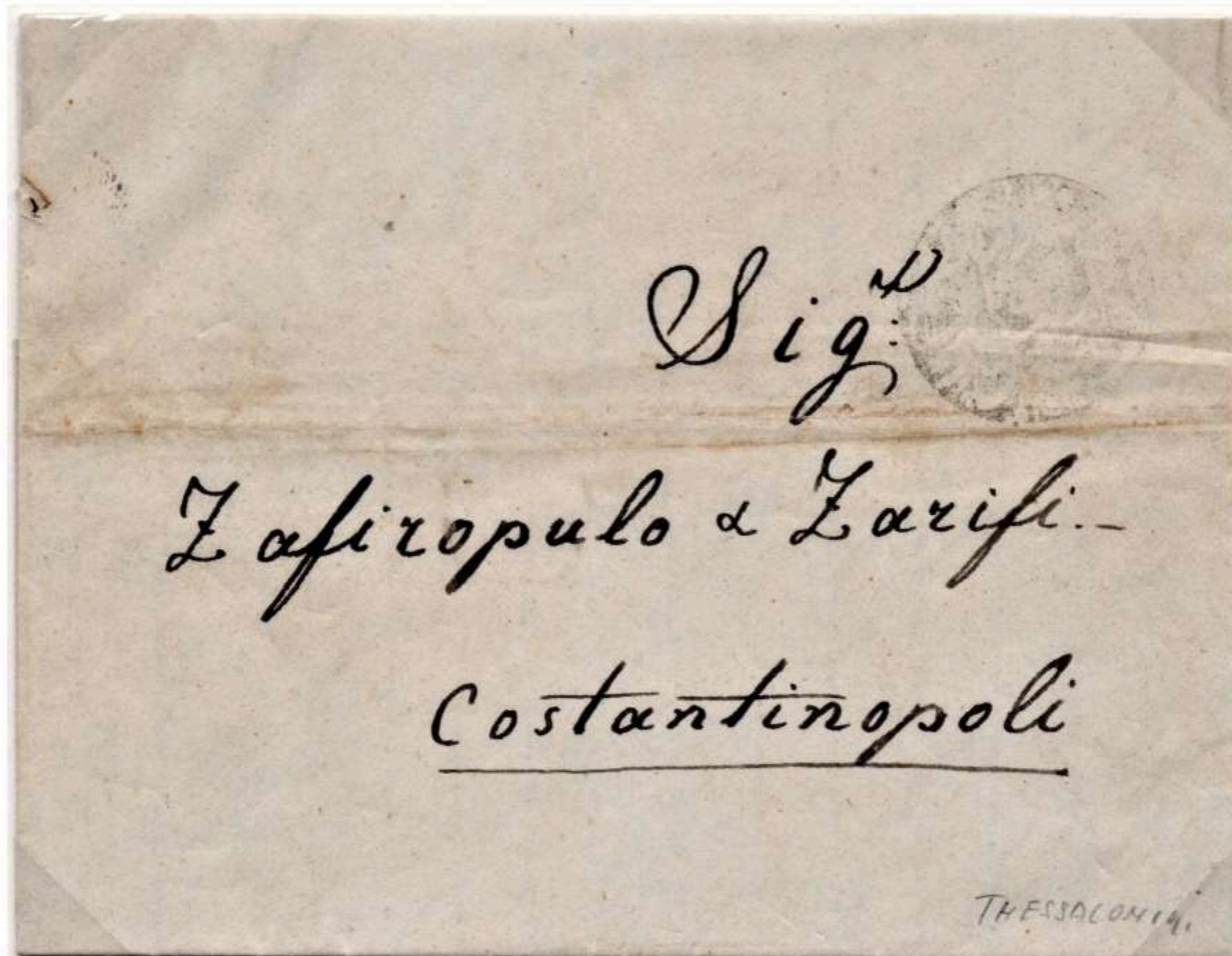
OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

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

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



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

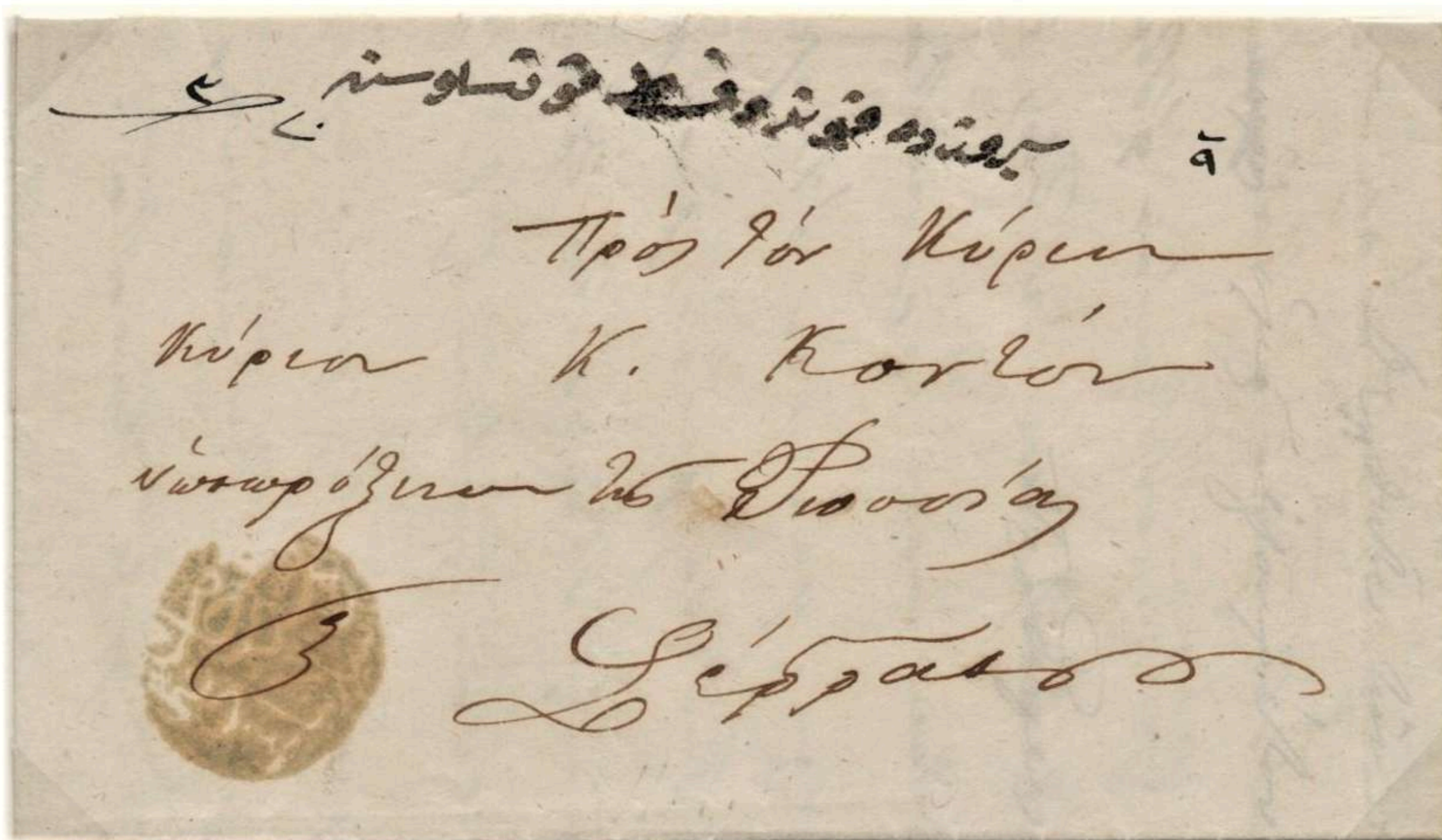


Folded Letter posted **August 4 1848 from Thessaloniki** to Constantinople,
No sign of Postal Rate paid.

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

OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

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



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

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

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

LLOYD AGENCY POST OFFICE

The LLOYD Agency Post Office 1853 - 1879

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

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

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

Postmark AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO Salonico in oval



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

Postal Rate: 10 Kreuzer

OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

The Tatar Post

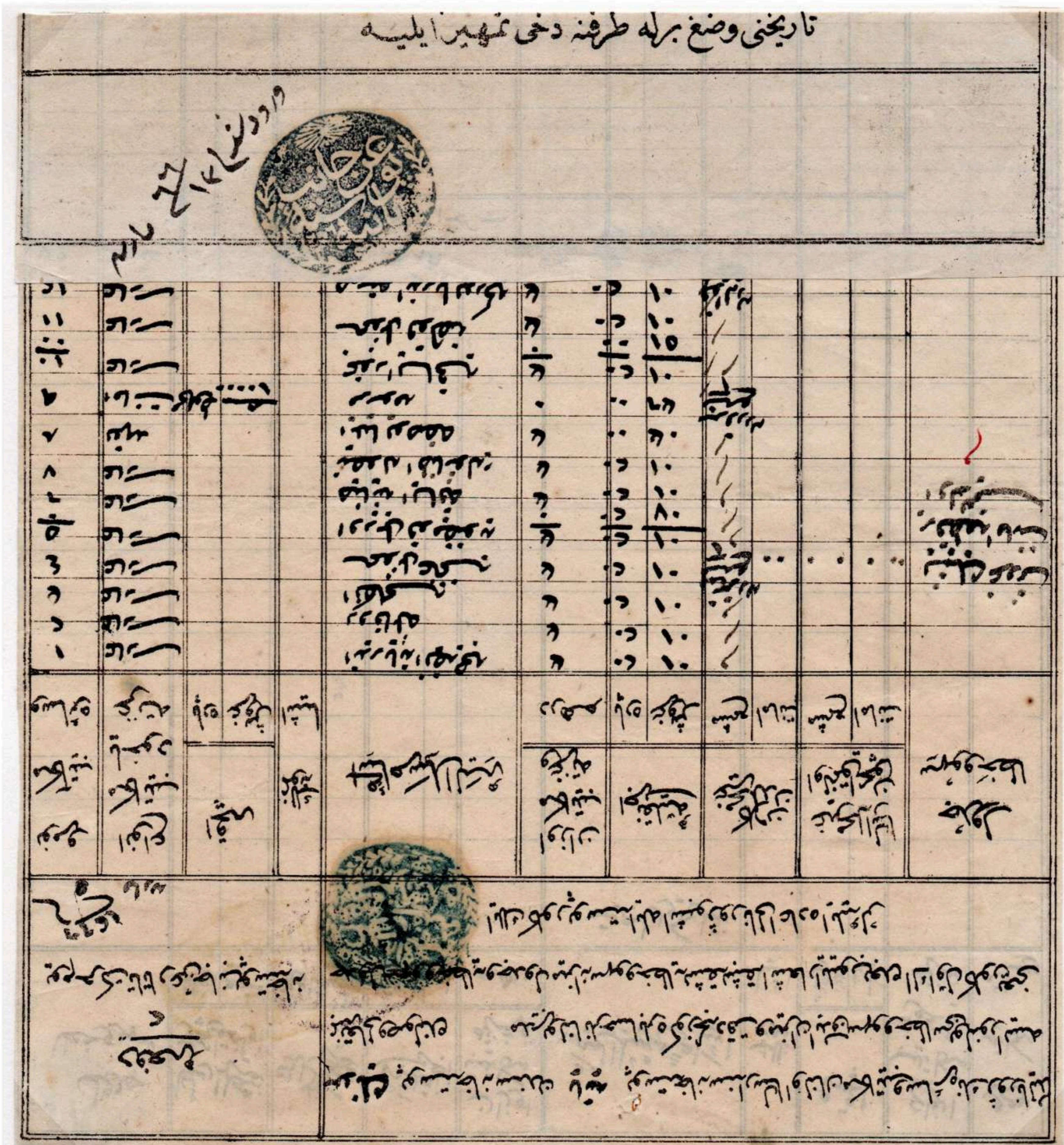
During the first period of the Ottoman Post, specially chosen strong, healthy, honest and trustworthy horsemen called Tatars (from Tataristan) accomplished the distribution of the mail. The Tatar, upon the receipt of mail, described them on a form called TATAR BEYANAMELERI. The clerk of the Post Office weighed the letter, noted the postal rate fees, inscribed the date and cancelled the form with the negative postmark of the P.O. When the Tatar reached his destination, he delivered the mail to the clerk of the local Post Office, who also stamped and signed the form. The Tatar had to return the form to the originating Post Office.

Tatar Form

For mail from Thessaloniki to Jannina (1840)

Negative Postmark AN CANIB-I POSTA-I SELANIK I256

Postmark TYPE 1 of Nicholas-Galinos



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

OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

The Tatar Post Itineraries



Tatar Form

For mail from Thessaloniki to Monastir (1842)

Negative Postmark AN CANIB-I POSTA-I SELANIK 1258

Postmark TYPE 2 of Nicholas-Galinos

Handwritten text at the top of the document:

سوزنك پوسته خانه سندن مستر
 بمقتضا وصولنده مدير بولنان
 اينه جدول شهو و خطايه و جدول
 كلور يعني ايد

Official stamp: **سلطان محمد**

Handwritten text on the right side:

رفع
 بو حرکت تاتار عن پوسسته خانه

نومرو	انواع	مكاتب	مكاتب	مكاتب	مكاتب
وغزته	وغزته	نوع	مقدار	اشيا	دره
۱	عارس	نمونك	۱	اسما من سئل الين	۴
۲	عارس	۲	۲	اسما من سئل الين	۴
۳	عارس	۳	۳	اسما من سئل الين	۴
۴	عارس	۴	۴	اسما من سئل الين	۴
۵	عارس	۵	۵	اسما من سئل الين	۴
۶	عارس	۶	۶	اسما من سئل الين	۴
۷	عارس	۷	۷	اسما من سئل الين	۴
۸	عارس	۸	۸	اسما من سئل الين	۴
۹	عارس	۹	۹	اسما من سئل الين	۴
۱۰	عارس	۱۰	۱۰	اسما من سئل الين	۴
۱۱	مخبرانه	۱۱	۱۱	اسما من سئل الين	۵
۱۲	مخبرانه	۱۲	۱۲	اسما من سئل الين	۴

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

SALONICCHI



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

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

The Interpostal Seal of the Egyptian Post Office of Thessaloniki



Mint



As used (attached on the letter fold)

Postmark SALONICCHI on 1Pia, 2Pia and 5Pia



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

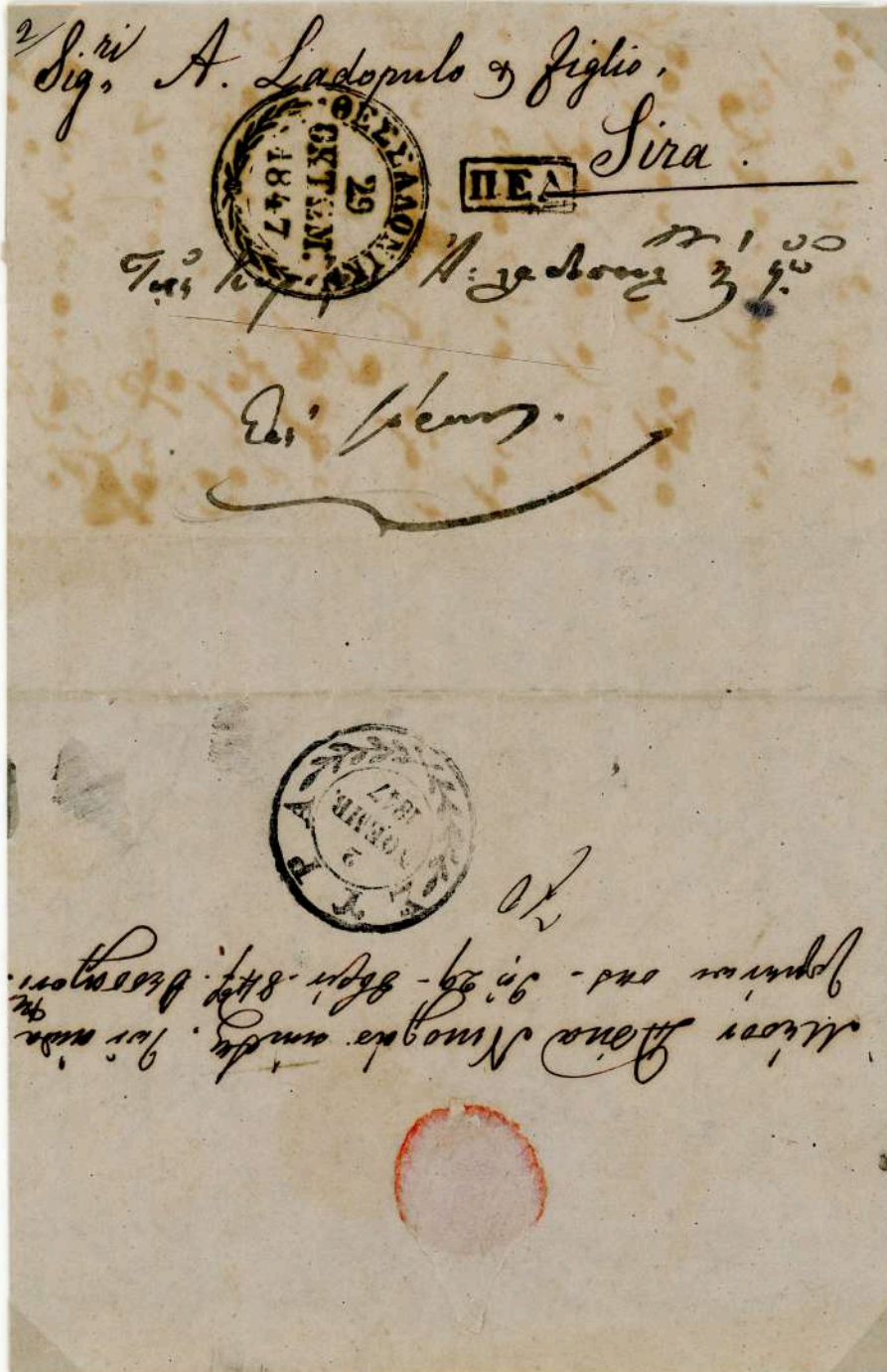
GREEK POST OFFICE

FORWARDING AGENT in THESSALONIKI: NIKOLAOS DOUKAS

*Μέσω Δόνα Νικολάου υπόψη. Για νίδα
Πομπήν εν - 29 - Σεπτ. 847. Βεσσαγίου.*

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

Postmark ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ “laurel” type 2

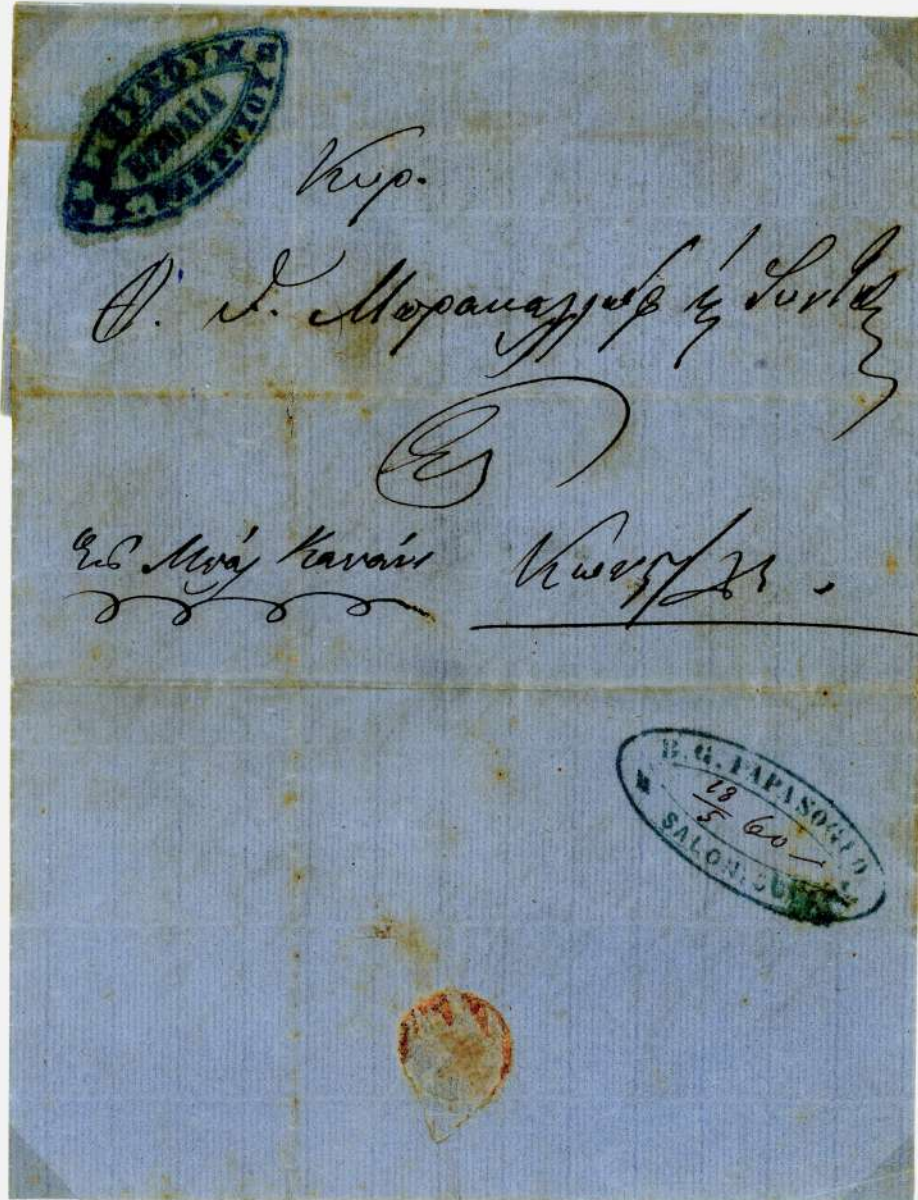


Serres via Thessaloniki 1847 (Oct. 22): Folded Letter posted via forwarding agent in Thessaloniki, to Syros Greece, arrival Nov. 2.

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

FORWARDING AGENT in THESSALONIKI: B. G. PAPASOGLOU

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



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

Most probably the letter was carried by the Tatar horsemen postal system and the rate was calculated according to the distance. (Itinerary Thessaloniki-Constantinople)

FORWARDING AGENT in THESSALONIKI: GIOVANNIDI TAVOLARI

Oval marking of the Agent with date
(recorded by Kenneth Rowe)

Forwarded to the French post office,
Postmark SALONIQUE TURQUIE



Cavalla via Thessaloniki 1864 (April 26):

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

The letter was forwarded to Thessaloniki by the Agent.
In Thessaloniki it was shipped by the French post office.

Postal Rate: 80c to France.

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

Austrian PO: SALONICH

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

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

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

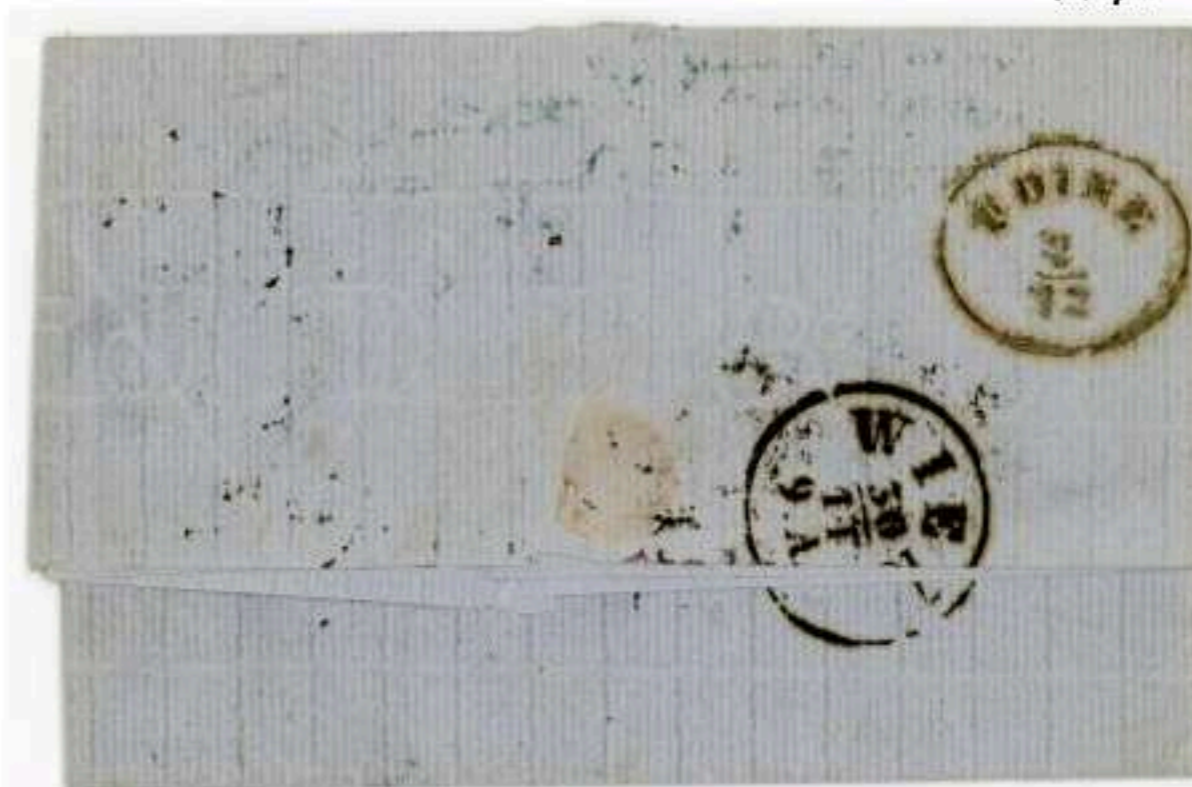
In Thessaloniki, the use of Lombardo-Veneto stamps was only authorized from July 1864.

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

Postmark straight line SALONICH with date

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

40%



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

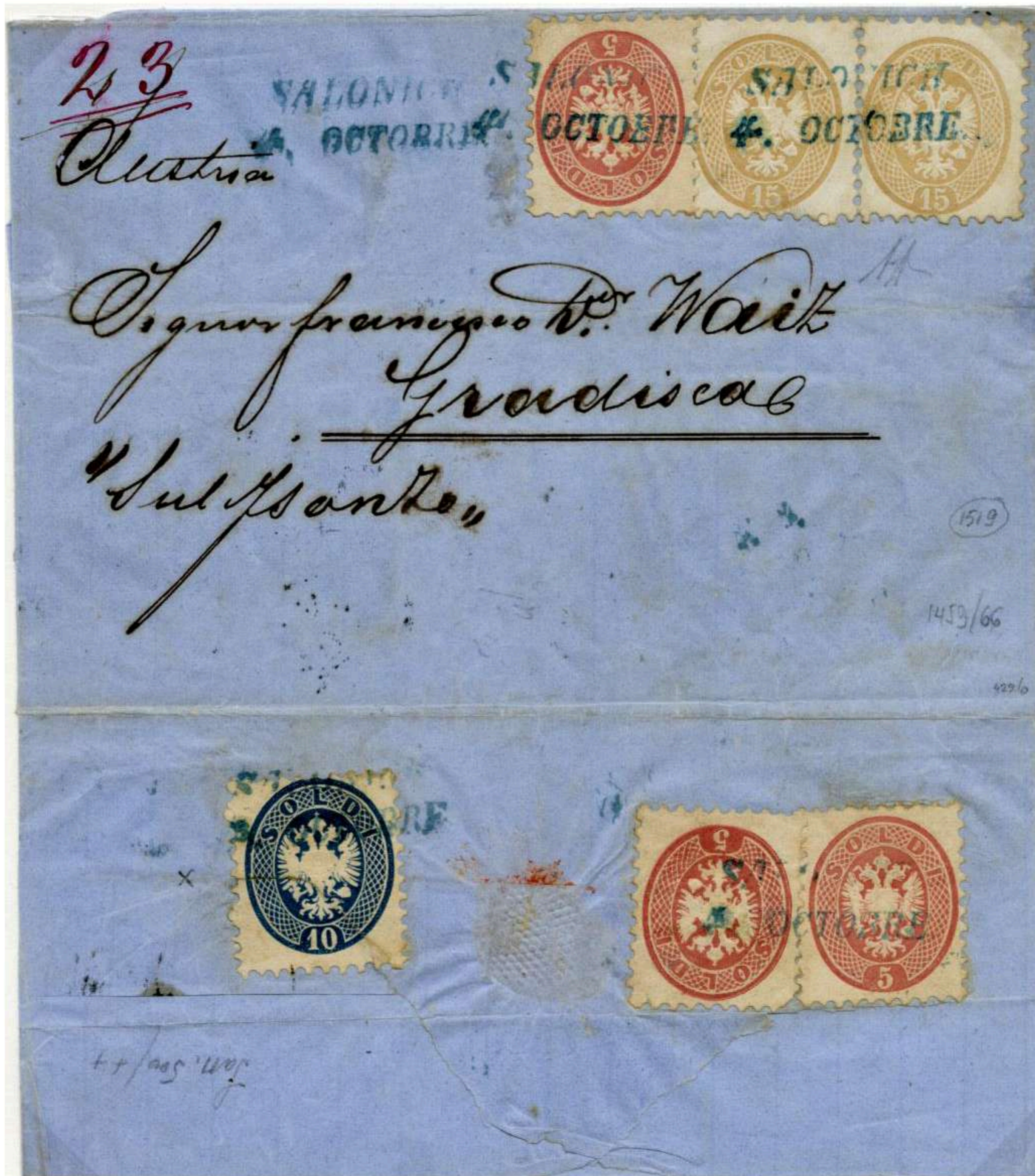
Postal Rate: 40 Soldi: 20 So for the Levant + 15 So to Wien, Austria + 5 So local service Wien to Udine.

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

Austrian PO: SALONICH

Postmark straight line SALONICH with date in 2 lines

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



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

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

Ing. Alberto Diena Certificate

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

Austrian PO: SALONICH

Postmark straight line SALONICH with date in 2 lines

On "Arms 1864 issue Perforated 10.5" issue

Overland Mail via Wien



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

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



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

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

Dr. Ferchenbauer Certificate

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

French PO: SALONIQUE

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

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

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

Petites Chiffres '4012' numerals (1858-62)



Thessaloniki 1858 (July 6): Entire letter to Marseille, France, franked with 1853 Napoléon Imperf. 40 c. + 10 c., tied by Petites Chiffres '4012', "SALONIQUE TURQUIE D' EUROPE" cds, arrival July 14.

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

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



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

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

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

French PO: SALONIQUE

Another very early (1858) letter with stamps, from Thessaloniki, showing additionally the use of a very rare stamp.

I have the opinion that, until 1860, the use of stamps was quite uncommon and elusive:

In 30 years of collecting, I have only seen less than 10 letters franked with French Empire stamps dated 1858 or 1859, while I have seen a lot of unfranked letters (with handwritten rates) of these dates.

The other Post Offices, Austrian, Greek, Lloyds, and Ottoman introduced the use of stamps after 1861.

Exceptional use of 80c in the very rare VERMILLONNEE shade (Yvert et Tellier 17d) at the French SALONIQUE office

Petites Chiffres '4012' numerals (1858-62)



Thessaloniki 1858 (Nov. 30): Entire letter to Genova, Italy, franked with 1852 Napoléon Imperf. 80 c. + 20 c., tied by Petites Chiffres '4012', "SALONIQUE TURQUIE D' EUROPE" cds, PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI in red, arrival Dec.10.

Postal Rate: 100c. Double rate from the Levant to Italy

Signed Scheller (for Vermillionnee)

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

French PO: SALONIQUE

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE AND STAMPS USED

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

Petites Chiffres '4012' numerals (1858-62)

A Quintuple Weight letter from Thessaloniki

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



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

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

WEIGHT SCALE of Uniform French rate

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

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

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

French PO: SALONIQUE

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

Petites Chiffres '4012' numerals (1859-62)

Used on French Imperforate "Napoleon Empire" stamps



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

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

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



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

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

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

French PO: SALONIQUE

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

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



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

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

Signed Miro, Enzo Diena and Calves; certificate Roumet

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

French PO: SALONIQUE

Circular Date stamp SALONIQUE TURQ. D' EUROPE

(Postmark in use since 1858 - see previous pages -, although, in the past, French scholars claimed that it only came into use in 1861, together with the replacement of P.C.4012 by G.C.5095)

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



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

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

French PO: SALONIQUE

Gros Chiffres '5095' numerals (1862-76)

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

Franked with Imperforate Empire



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

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

A triple weight letter with a strip of 6 40c



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

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

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

French PO: SALONIQUE

A well-organized Post Office

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



1865
Salonique 26 Sept
Alfred A. Abbott

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

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

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



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



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

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

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

French PO: SALONIQUE

Postmark "ITALIE - 1 - SALONIQUE"

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



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



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

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

Greek PO: ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

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

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



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

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

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

Greek PO: ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

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



On Pair 20l. 1872 Printing



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

Postal Rate: 50L. Single Weight Foreign Letter

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

LLOYD Agency PO: SALONICHIO

Postmark LLOYD AGENZIE SALONICHIO



On 2x3 So Coarse Whiskers, Postmark in Blue

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



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

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

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

THE INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS

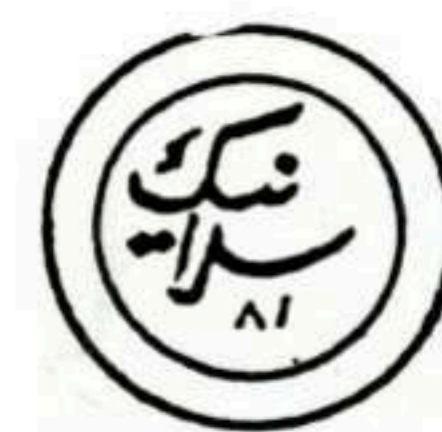
Ottoman PO: SELANIK

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

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

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

In Black and in Blue



50%

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

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



50%



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

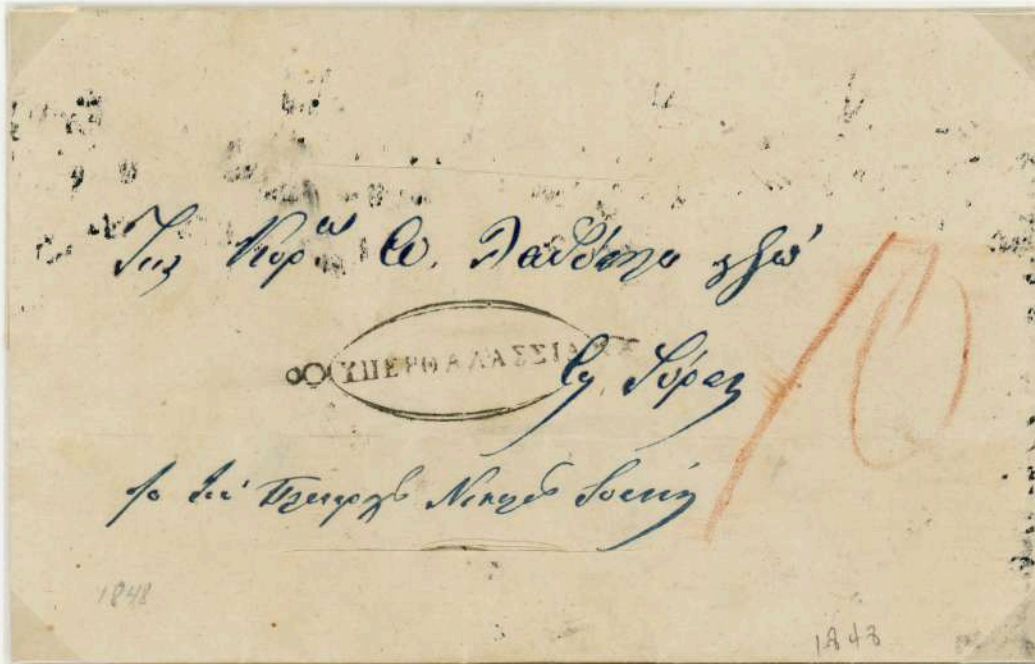
Postal Rate: 1 Pia for Domestic Single Weight Letter plus 1 Pia for Local Delivery into Constantinople.



Les Quais et le Débarcadère

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

Entry postmark ΥΠΕΡΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΑ of the Greek Postal Service



Thessaloniki 1848 (July 9): Entire letter to Syros, handled to “Captain Νικόλαος Συ...”, for private transportation, then forwarded by the Captain to the Greek Postal Service and sent to Syros Greece, arrival July 17.

Two horizontal disinfection slits.

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

No compensation for the Captain is shown on the letter.

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

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

Messageries Maritimes

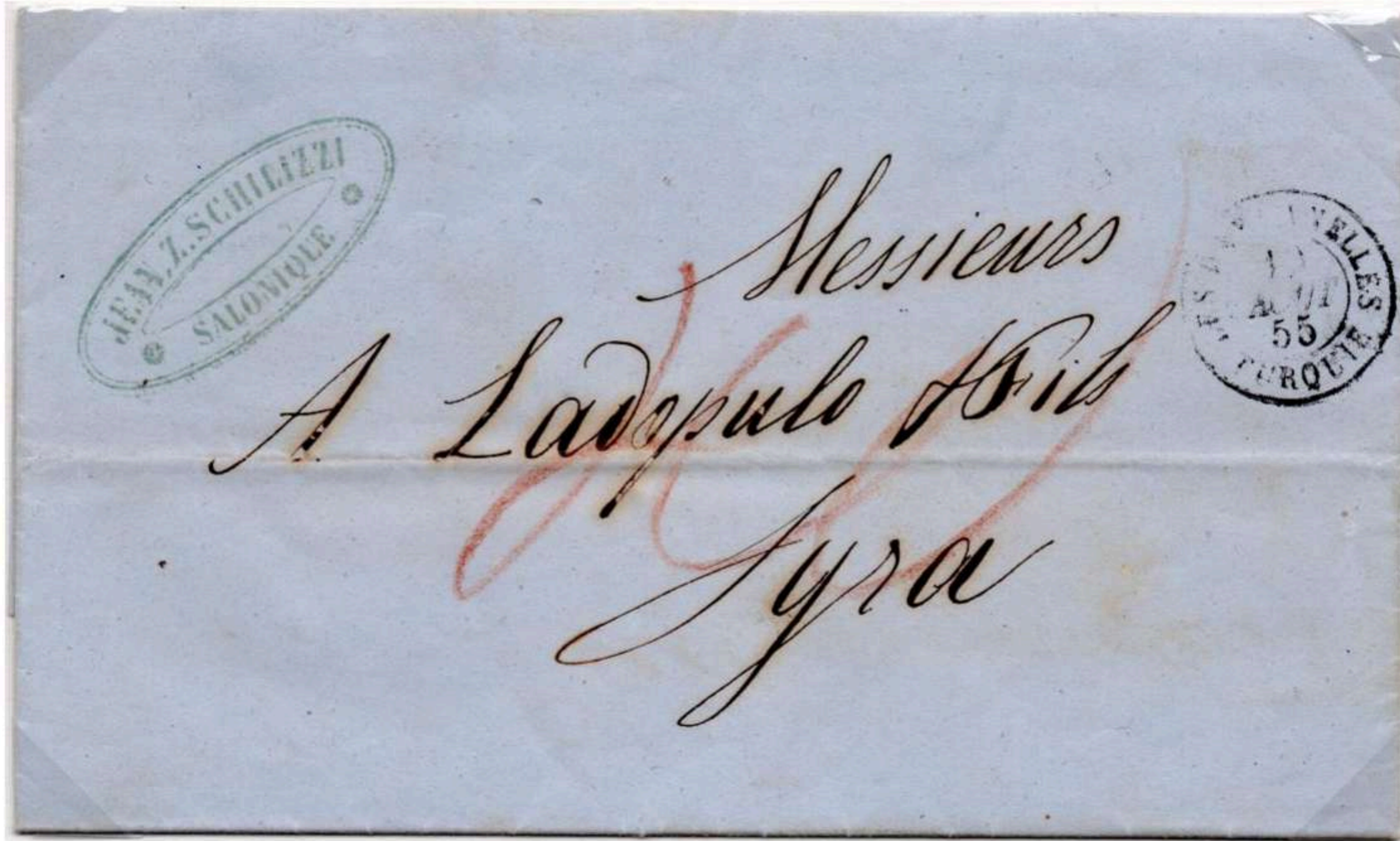
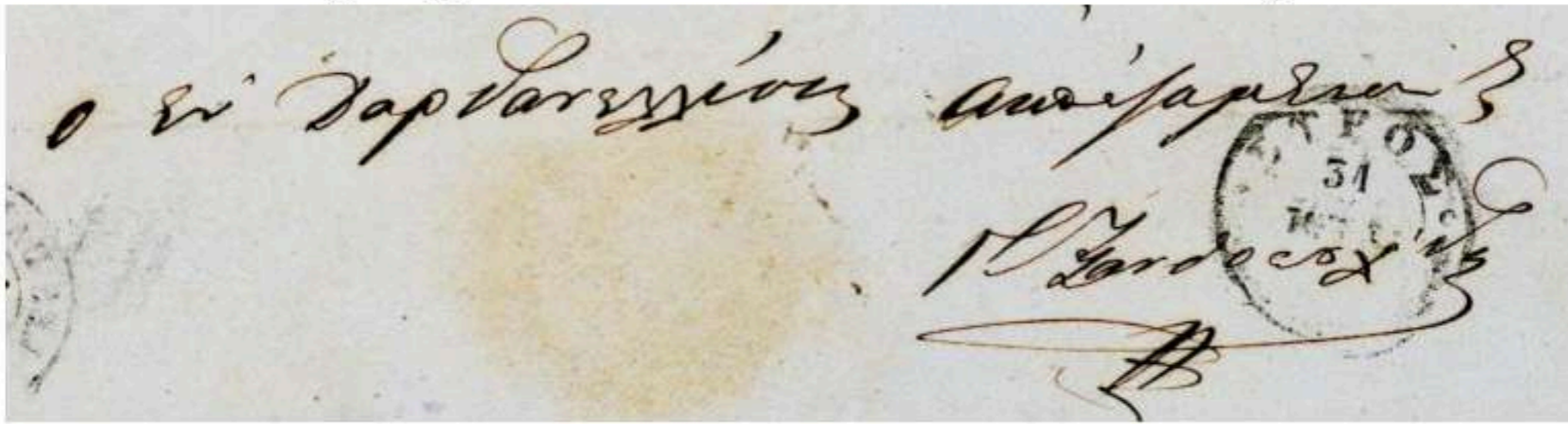
In 1835 the French Government created a state-owned steamship service between Marseilles and the Levant. This continued until 1851 when it was transferred to the management of Messageries Nationales (the state operated road and shipping communication activities). The shipping part of the business was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



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

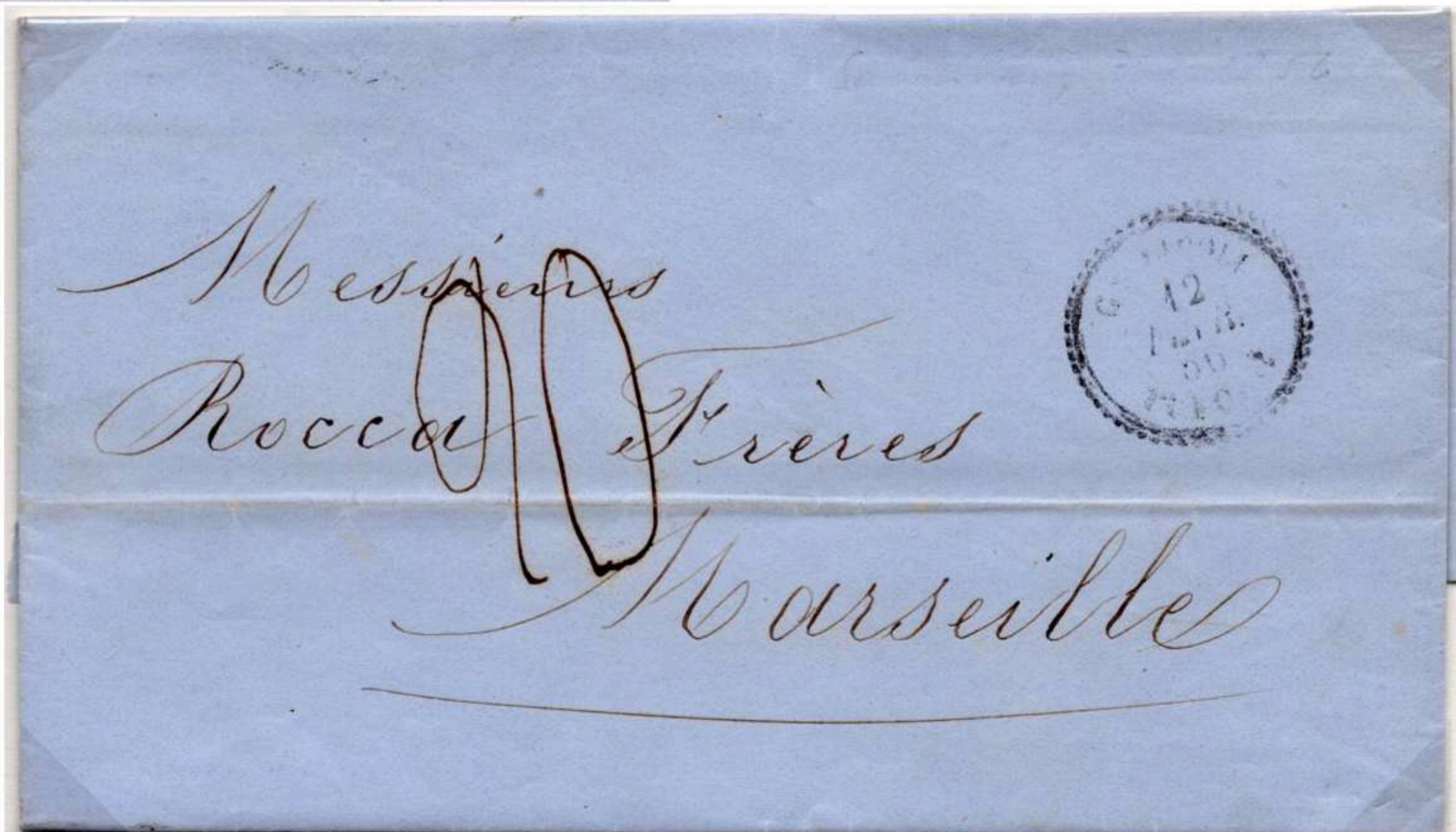
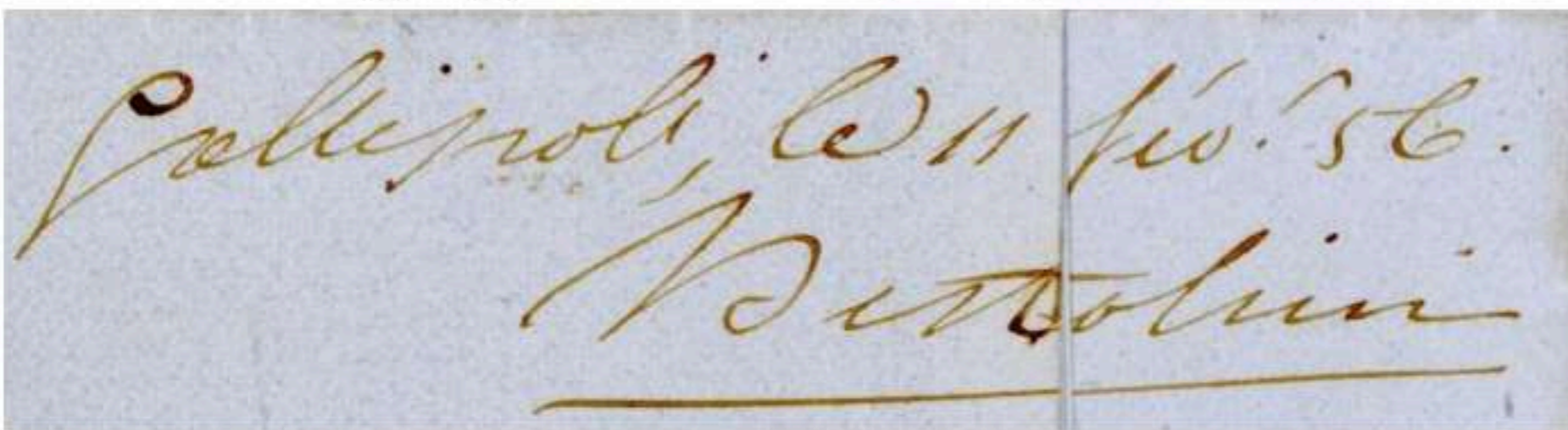
Forwarding Agents in Dardanelles and Gallipoli

Forwarding Agent in Dardanelles: Xanthopoulidis



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

Forwarding Agent in Gallipoli: Bertolini



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

Steamships of French Postal Administration

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

List of ships of Messageries Maritimes, in this collection, that have serviced Thessaloniki during the 1850-70s

NAME	BUILT		TONS
Lycurgue	1836	1857 scrapped.	688
Pericles	1852	1871 scrapped.	465
Carmel	1854	1858 on River Plate - Rio feeder service, 1876 scrapped.	932
Euphrate (1)	1854	ex- Menura, built for Australian Pacific Mail, 1854 purchased renamed Euphrate, 1887 scrapped.	1,643
Gange (1)	1854	ex- Black Swan, built for Australian Pacific Mail, 1854 purchased renamed Gange, 1887 scrapped.	1,483
Caire	1843	1866 scrapped.	806
Vatican	1854	1873 scrapped.	466
Tamise (1)	1854	1880 scrapped.	717
Indus (1)	1854	ex- Dinornis, built for Australian Pacific Mail, 1854 purchased renamed Indus. 1884 scrapped.	1,643
Ville de Marseille	1836	Ex Marseille	unknown
Clyde	1853		482

Mail of Ship PERICLES

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



Thessaloniki 1852 (Aug. 14): Entire letter to Marseille, arrival Aug. 26.
 This is the Earliest Recorded Date of Use of the Pericles CDS.
 The ship left the yard on July 12, 1852
Postal Rate: 10 Decimes for Single Weight Letter charged in Marseille.

Steamships of French Postal Administration

Mail of Ship LYCURGUE

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



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

Mail of Ship VILLE DE MARSEILLE



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



Gruss aus Salonik.

Mail of Ship CARMEL



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

Steamships of French Postal Administration

Mail of Ship GANGE



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

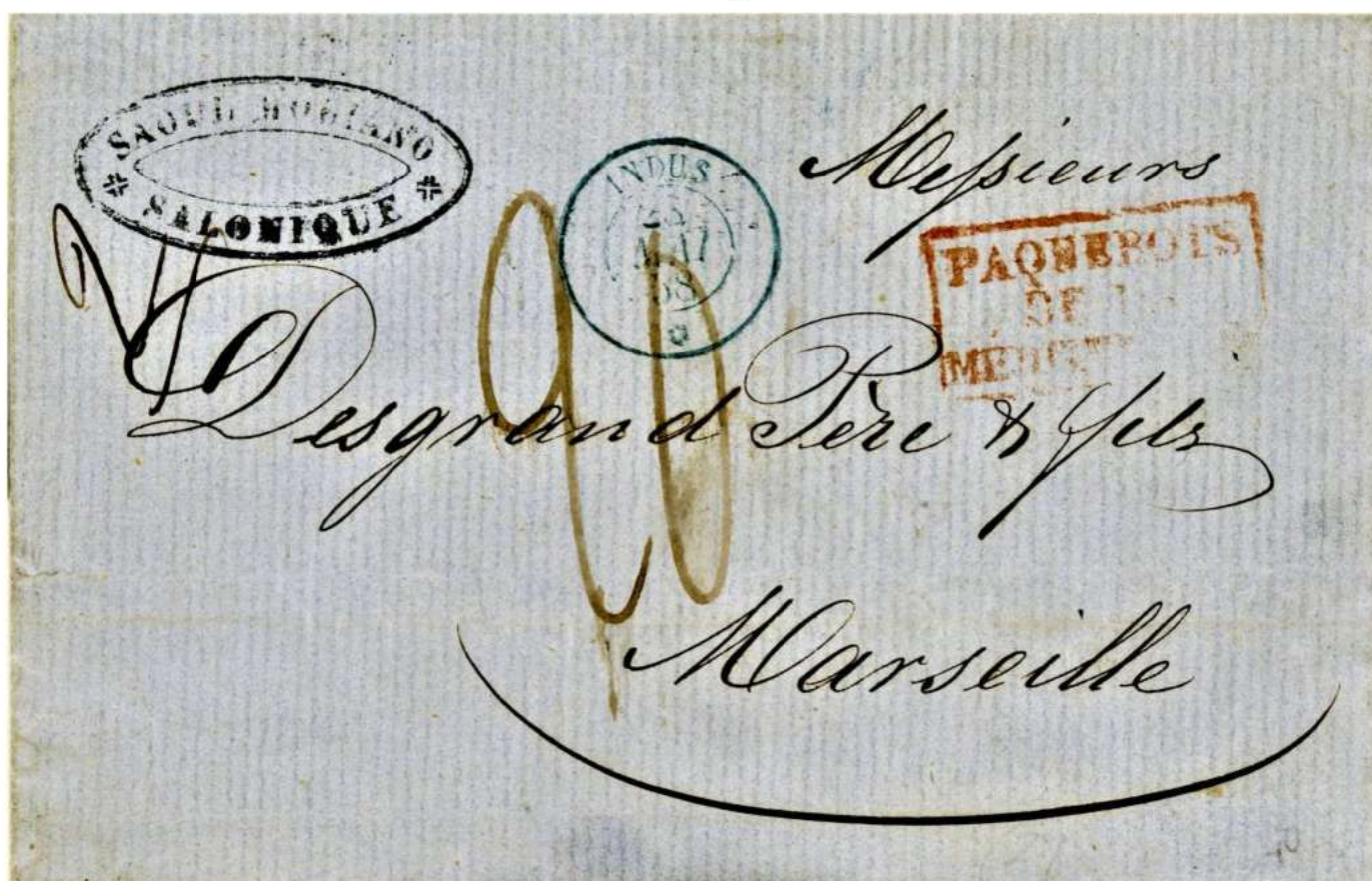
Mail of Ship EUPHRATE



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

Steamships of French Postal Administration

Mail of Ship INDUS



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

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

Mail of Ship CAIRE



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

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

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

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

Postmark Anchor

Mail of Ship VATICAN



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

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

Mail of Ship TAMISE



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

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

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

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

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



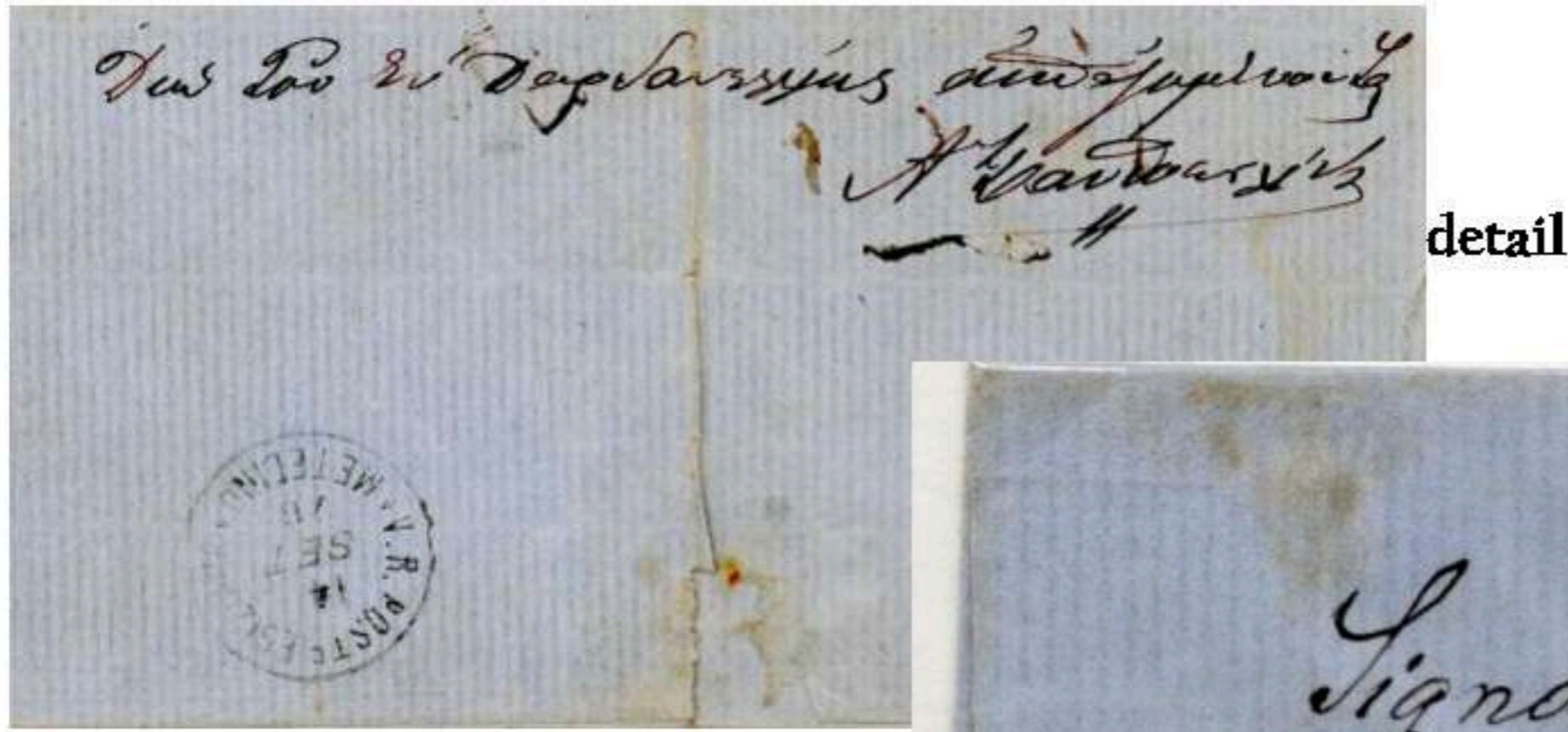
Thessaloniki 1877 (Mar. 7): Entire letter to Constantinople, franked 30c Sage.
Postal Rate: 30c. UPU single rate.



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

MARITIME MAIL OF Mid 19th CENTURY

Thessaloniki to Mytilene: Forwarding Agent XANTHOPOULIDIS in Dardanelles

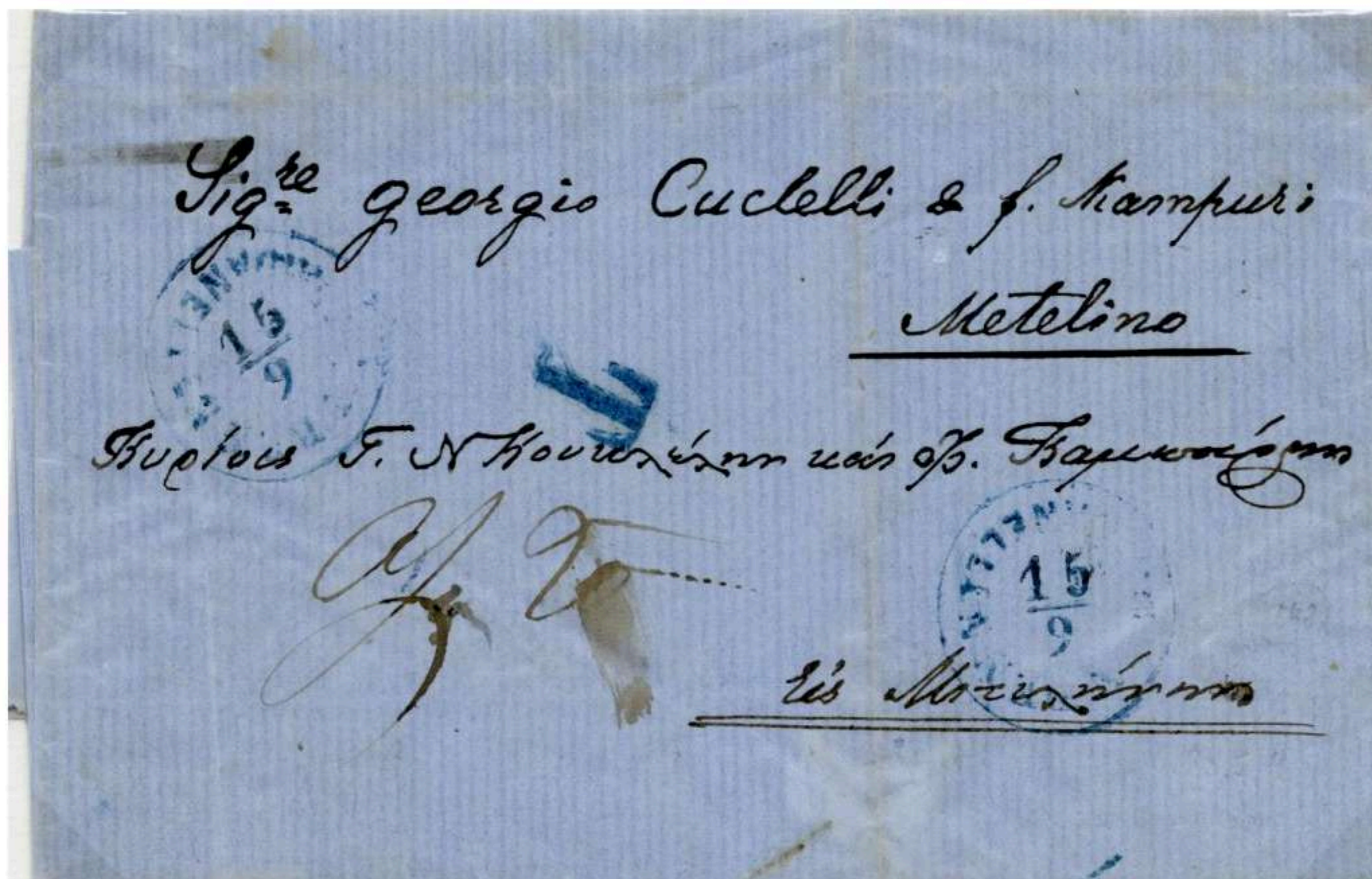
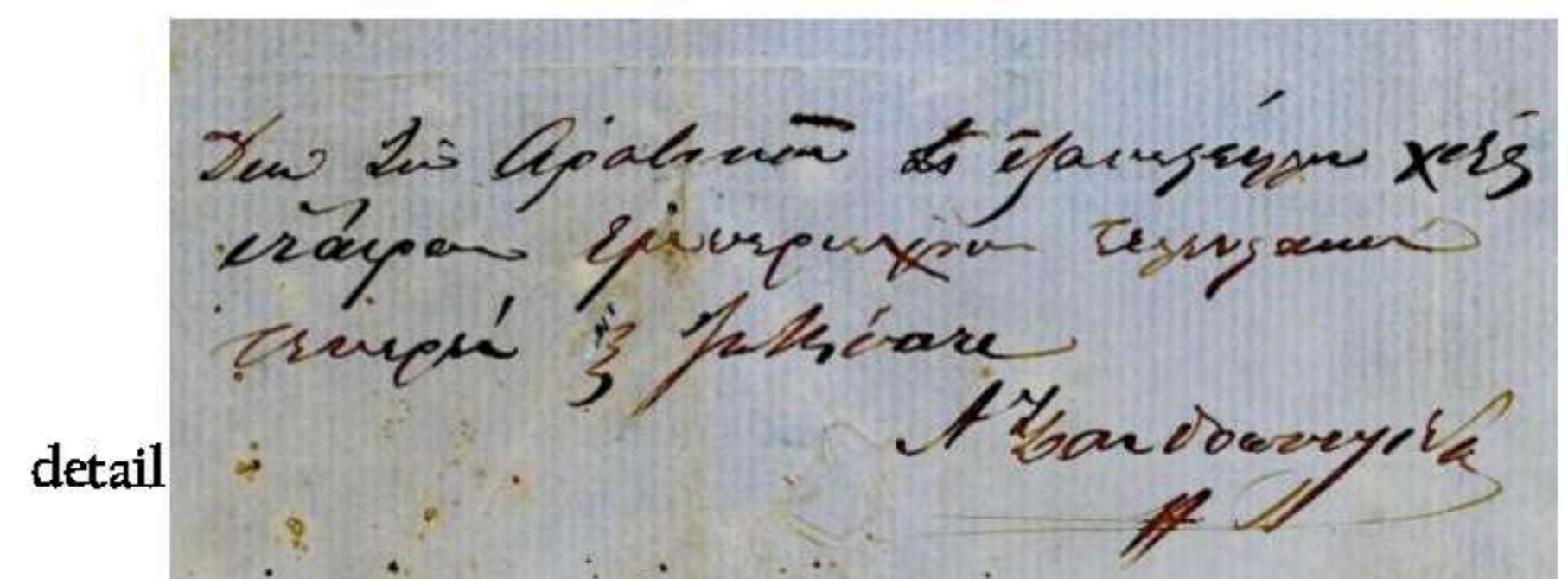


By the Egyptian Post Office: Postmark
POSTE EGIZIANE DARDANELLI



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

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



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

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

Load carried by steamship of the Austro - Hungarian Lloyd

The seal of the Lloyd Austro-Ungarico agency in Thessaloniki



li 7 Novembre 1881

vs D. Dare

l' Agenzia del Lloyd Austro-Ungarico qui

Cise:

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

per l' Agenzia suddetta

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

Mail carried by steamships of the Austro - Hungarian Lloyd

Postmark VIA DI MARE (I)



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

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

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

Postmark LETTERE ARRIVATE COL VAPORE DAL LEVANTE
placed in Trieste



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

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

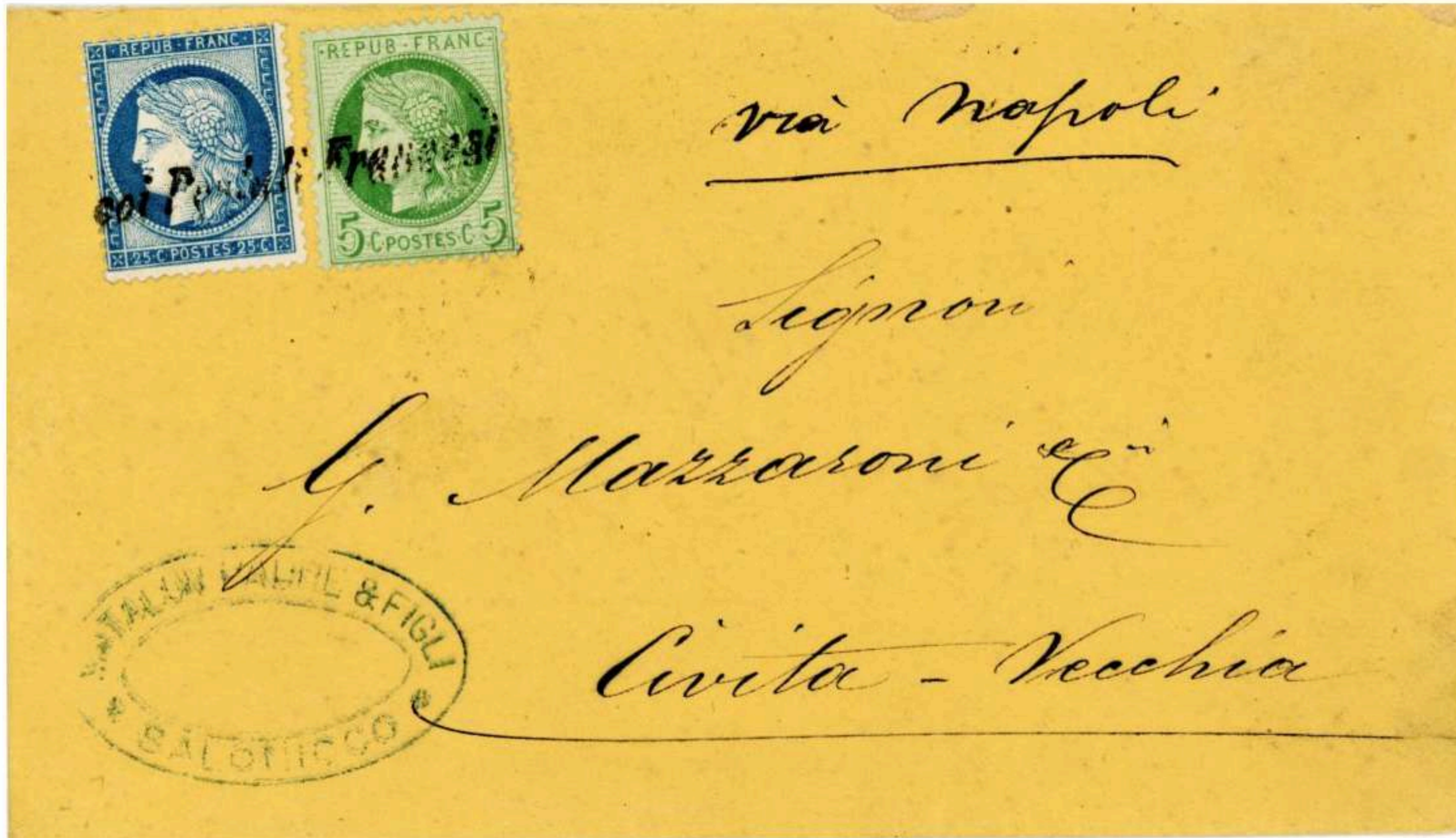
MARITIME MAIL OF Mid 19th CENTURY

Mail carried by steamships of French Postal Administration.

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

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

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



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

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



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

MARITIME MAIL OF Mid 19th CENTURY

Mail cancelled in Dardanelles (Postmark 5084)

Letter given to the steamship CLYDE



Thessaloniki 1868 (June 9): Entire letter to Oran, Algeria, via Les Dardanelles (June 10), arrival June 20.
Postal Rate: 40c Napoleon

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

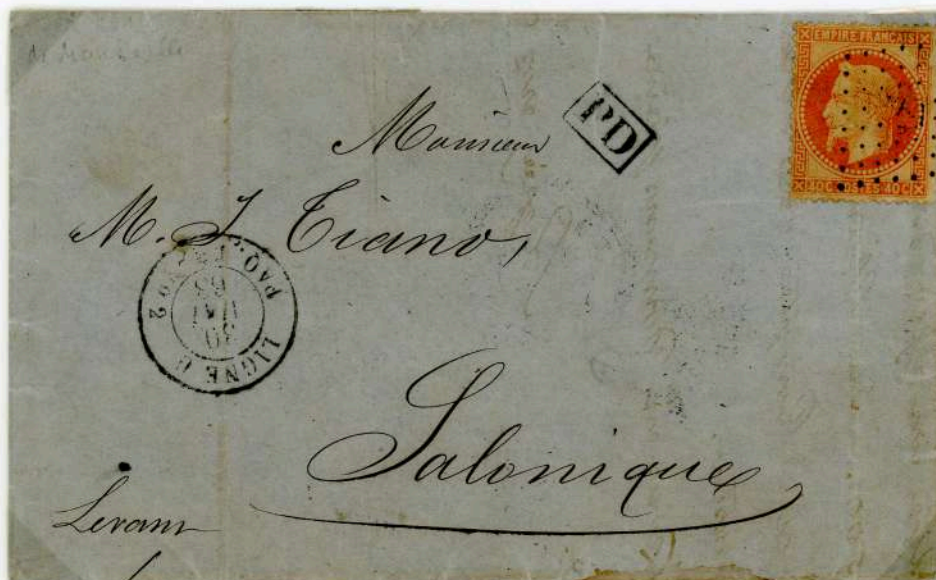


Thessaloniki 1874 (Mar. 30): Entire letter to Genova, franked with pair 30c tied by 5083, via Dardanelles, Napoli, arrival April 7.
Postal Rate: 60c for Single Weight Letter to Italy.

Ligne U (the Levant Line)

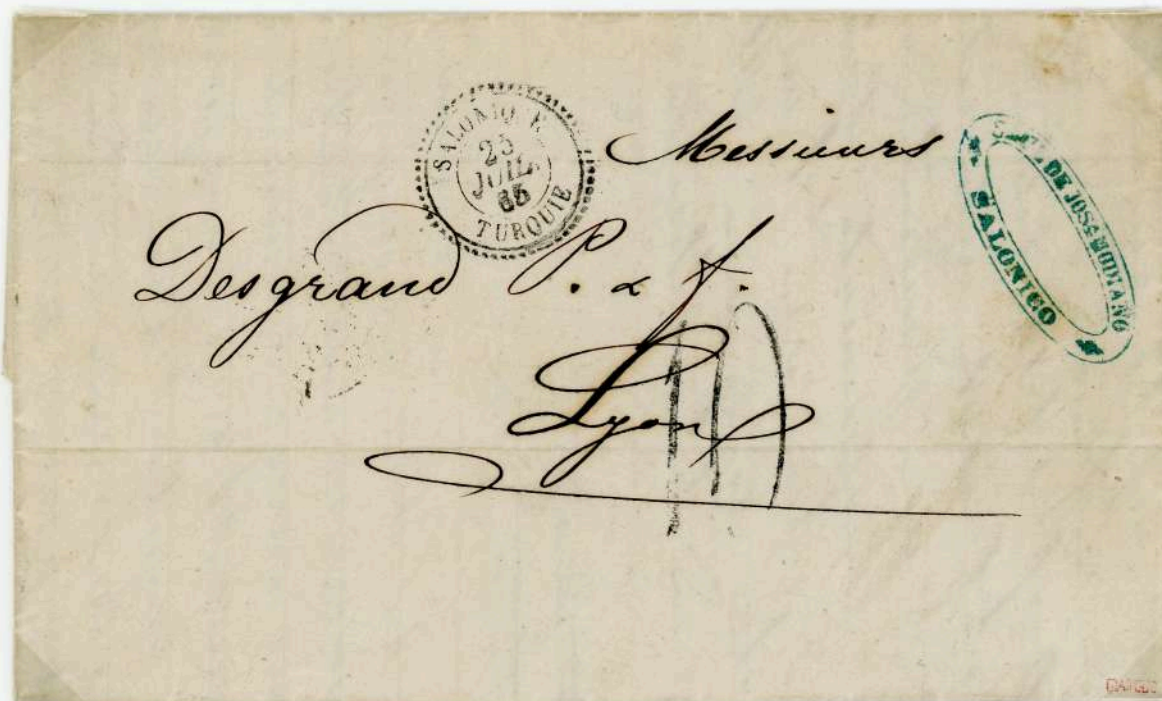
The Levant Line (Marseille – Constantinople) did not normally serviced Thessaloniki.
The postal bag had to change vessel in Dardanelles.

Postmark “LIGNE U PAQ. FR. No 2” on mail to Thessaloniki



Marseille 1868 (May 30): Entire letter to Thessaloniki,
via Les Dardanelles (June 4), arrival June 6.
Postal Rate: 40c Napoleon Laure

“Service Regulier Fraissinet” Steamship Junon

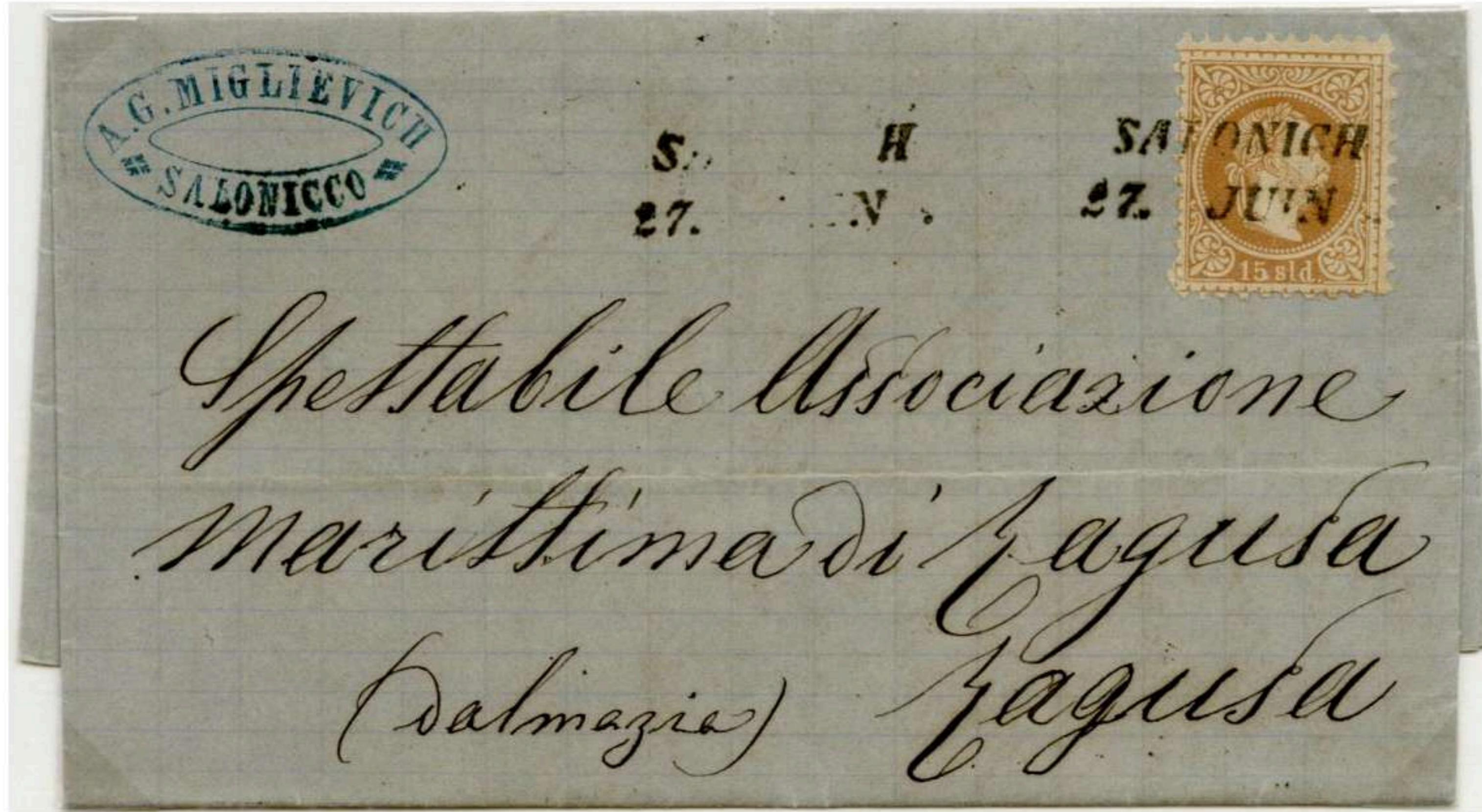


Thessaloniki 1865 (July 25): Entire letter to Lyon, via Les Dardanelles, arrival Aug. 2.
Without ship's CDS, date stamp SALONIQUE TURQUIE.
Postal Rate: 10 Decimes for Single Weight Letter, charged in Marseille.

AUSTRIAN PO: SALONICH

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

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



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



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

AUSTRIAN PO: SALONICH

On Franz Joseph issues



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



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

MODERNIZATION OF THE CITY 1870-80

French PO: SALONIQUE

Postmark 5095 and "ITALIE - 1 - SALONIQUE" in use till mid 1870



Thessaloniki 1869 (Mar. 23): Entire letter, via Messina, to Genova, franked with strip of 6 x 20c, arrival April 1.
Postal Rate: 120c for Double Weight Letter to Italy.

Postmark 5095 (1862-1876) on perforated Ceres issues



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

GREEK PO: ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

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

Postmark ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ (ΤΟΥΡΚΙΑ) on Large Hermes Heads

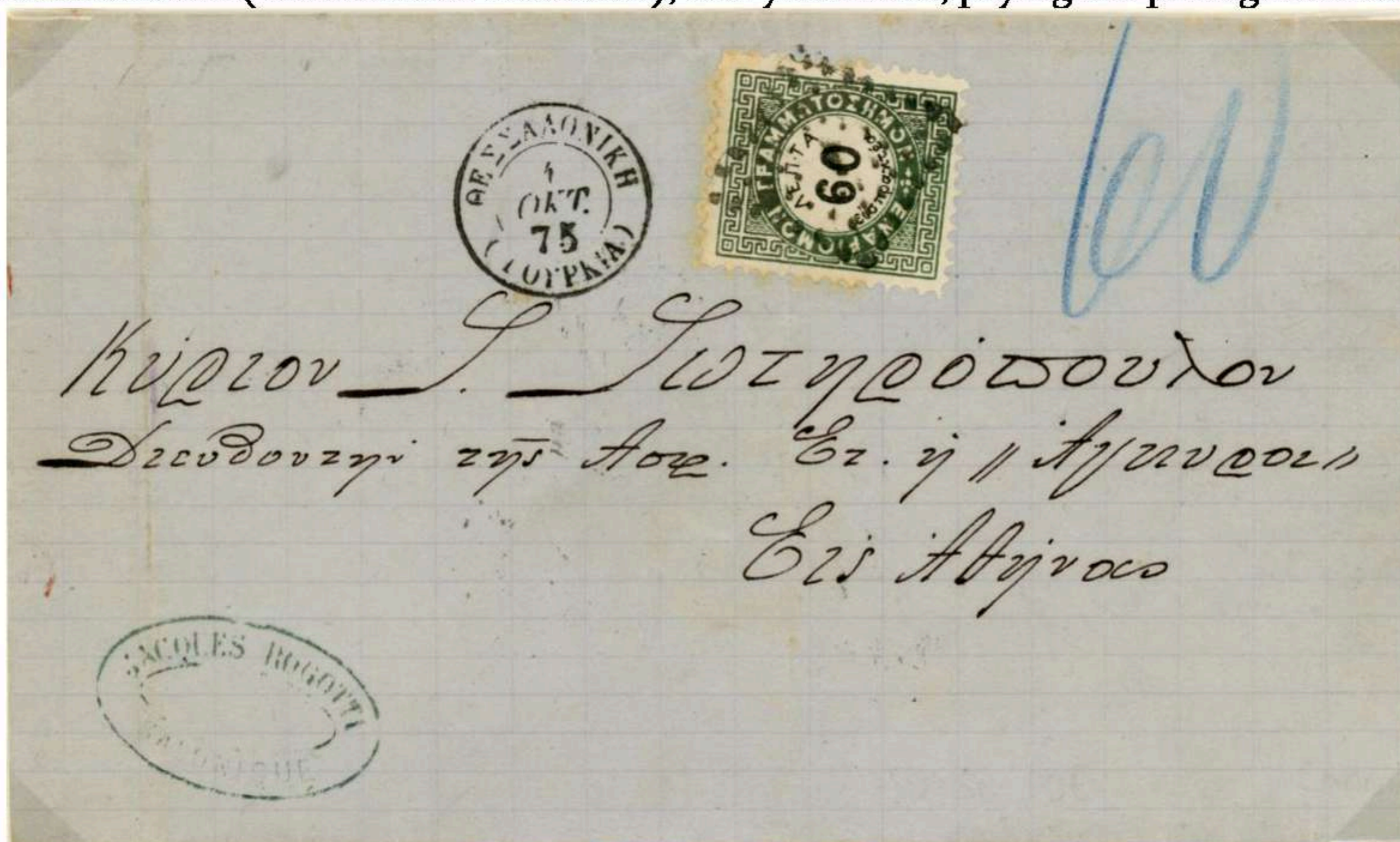
A nice and rare case of use of two exactly similar stamps as Dispatch franking and as Arrival Postage Due franking, on the same letter. Additionally, a mixed franking of Greek Post Offices, abroad and domestic.



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

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

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



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


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

GREEK PO: ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

Postmark ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ (ΤΟΥΡΚΙΑ) on Large Hermes Heads

Advice of Receipt for a Registered Letter

Αριθ. εντύπου 32.

<p>ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ.</p>	<p>ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ ΤΩΝ ΕΠΙ ΣΥΣΤΑΣΕΙ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΩΝ.</p>	<p>Τοῦ διπλοτύπου βιβλίου ἀριθ. <i>1685</i></p>
<p>ΑΠΟΔΕΙΞΙΣ ΕΠΙ ΕΠΙΣΤΡΟΦΗ.</p>		
<p>Βεβαιῶ διὰ τῆς ἰδίας μου ὑπογραφῆς ὅτι ἔλαβον τὴν ἀπὸ <i>18 Μαΐου</i> 1877 ἐν τῷ Γραφείῳ τοῦ Ταχυδρομείου <i>Συρος</i> συστηθεῖσαν ἐπιστολὴν ἐπιγραφομένην πρὸς <i>τὸν β' Θεμιστοκλῆς Λαγουνᾶς</i></p>		
<p>ΣΗΜΕΙΩΣΙΣ.</p>	<p>Ὁ παραλαβὴν <i>Λαγουνᾶς</i> </p>	
<p>α) Ὁ συσταίνων Διευθυντῆς ὀφείλει νὰ συμπληρῇ τὴν παρούσαν ἀπόδειξιν. β) Ὁ παραλαμβάνων ὀφείλει νὰ προσθέτῃ τὴν χρονολογίαν καὶ τὴν ὑπογραφήν του.</p>		
<p>Ἡ παρούσα θέλει ἐπιστρέφῃ διὰ τοῦ πρώτου Ταχυδρομείου εἰς τὸ Γραφεῖον.</p>		

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

Postal Rate: 20L. for Advice of Receipt.

The Treaty of Bern

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

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

Postal authorities should give equal treatment to foreign and domestic mail

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

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

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



AUSTRIAN PO: SALONICH

The Austrian UPU Rate

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

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



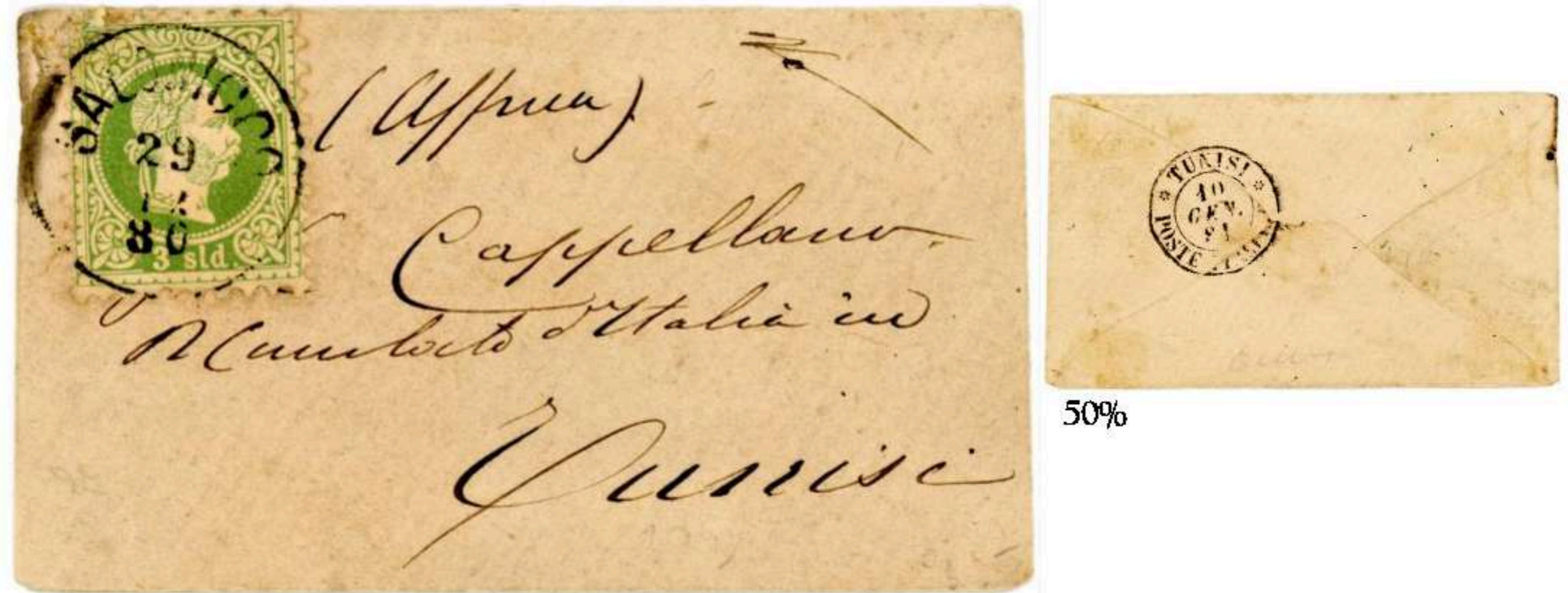
Thessaloniki 1875 (Oct. 20): Entire letter to Bologna, franked 10 Soldi, tied by straight-line SALONICH.

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

AUSTRIAN PO

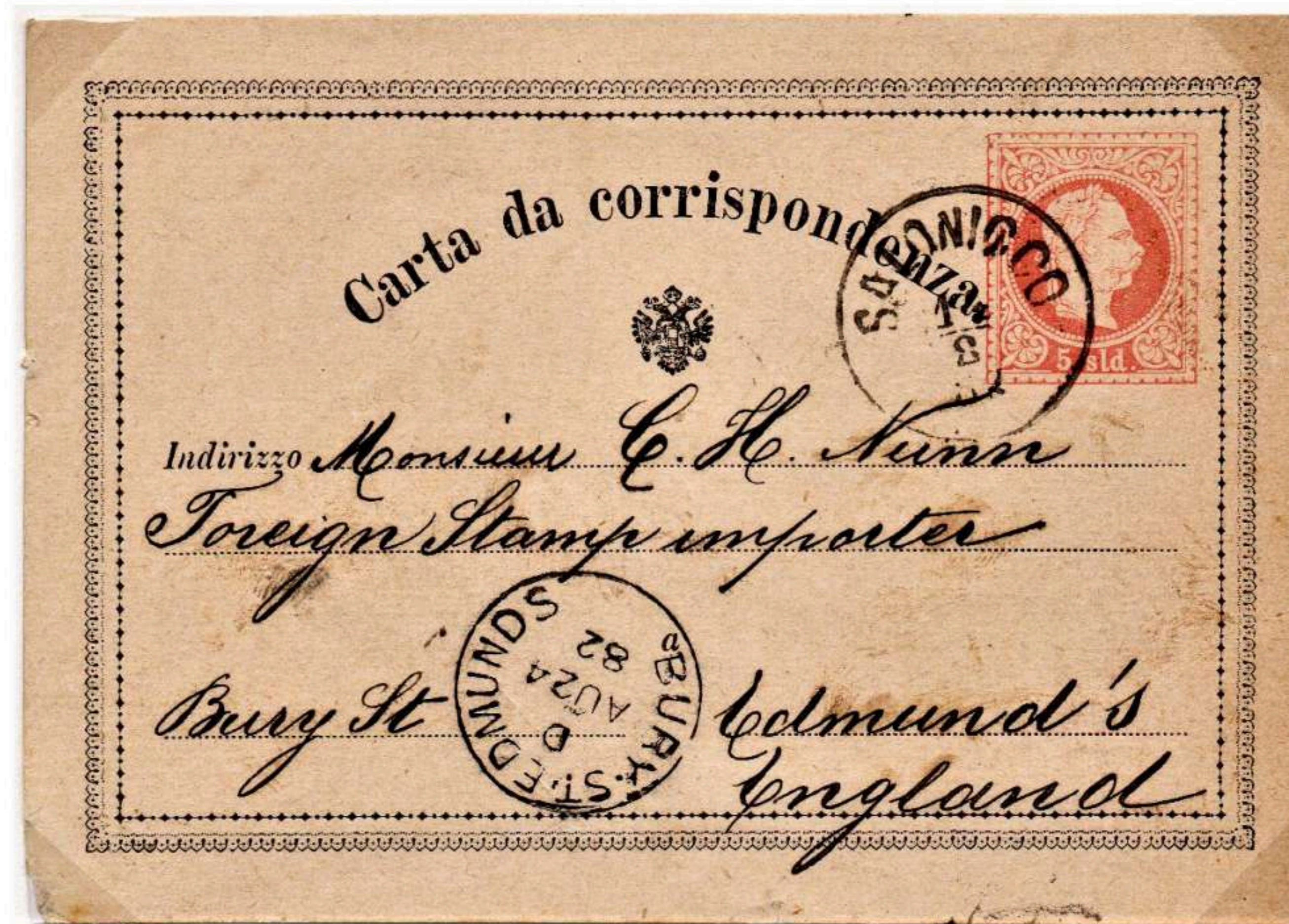
The UPU Rates

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



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

The postal card rate: 5 Soldi



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

French Post Office: The UPU Rates

The UPU Convention Rate



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

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

The Reduced UPU Convention Rate – after May 1878



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

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

Greek Post Office: The UPU Rates

The Greek UPU Rate:

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



Paris print

Athens print



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

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

Double UPU Rate for Postage Due:

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



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

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

THE OTTOMAN BANKRUPTCY OF 1876

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

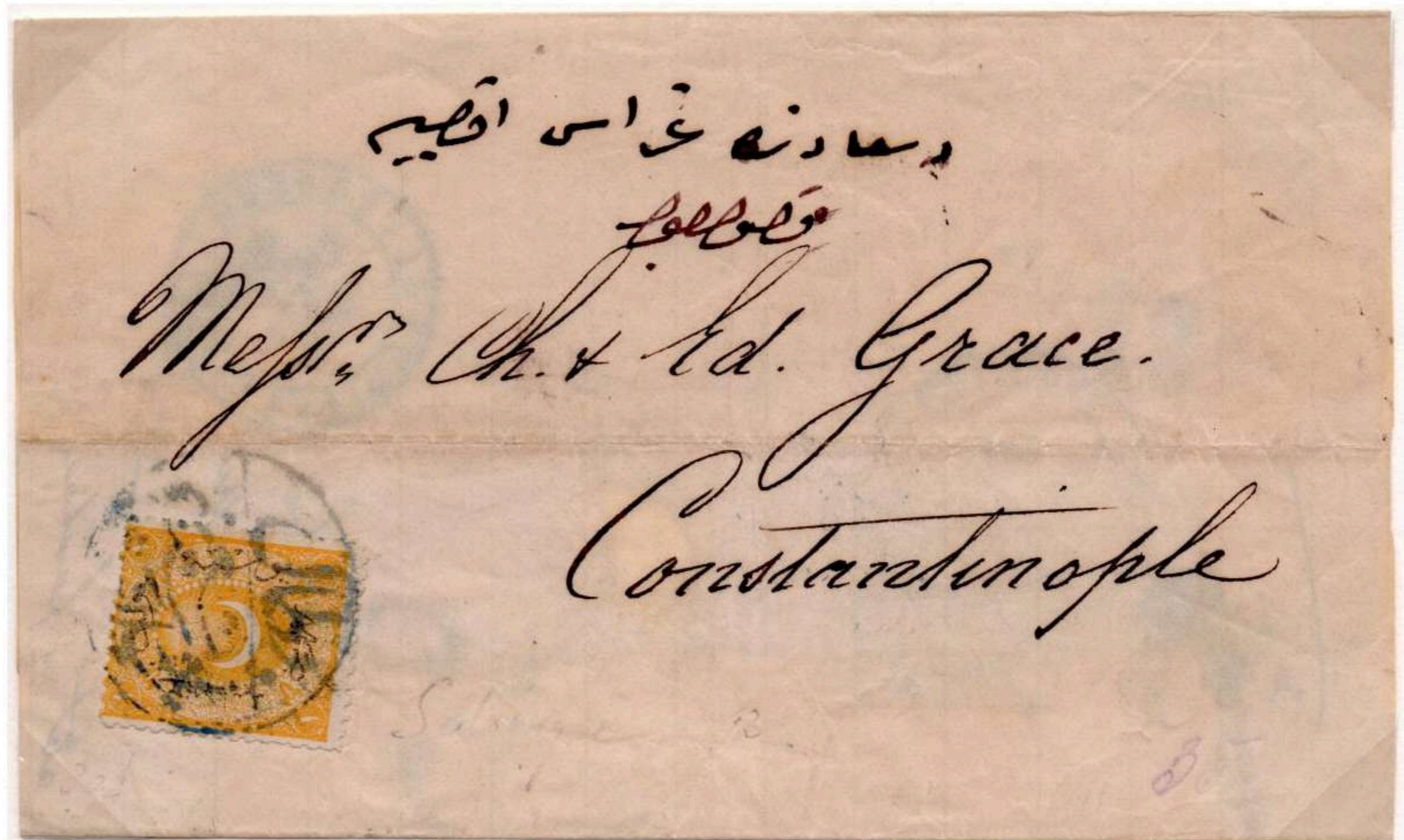
It is the infamous Conseil d'Administration de la Dette Publique Ottomane, which also had a branch in Thessaloniki. After the imposition of the terms of the lenders, the country entered a deep economic crisis, the consequence of which is the reasonable reduction of all financial and commercial activities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



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

Ottoman PO: SELANIK

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



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

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

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

THE OTTOMAN BANKRUPTCY OF 1876

Ottoman PO: SELANIK

Arabic inscription postmarks used in Thessaloniki

A very rare case of use of the "Battal" (Annule) Double Circle Postmark in Thessaloniki



Thessaloniki 1877 (Oct.). Entire letter to Constantinople, franked with 1Pia Duloz 1876 printing.
Postal Rate: 1 Pia for Domestic Single Weight Letter between ports of the Ottoman Empire

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



THE OTTOMAN BANKRUPTCY OF 1876

Ottoman PO: SELANIK

The Arabic inscription postmarks of Thessaloniki

Rectangular Postmark SELANIK 302 (1887-88)



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



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

THE OTTOMAN BANKRUPTCY OF 1876

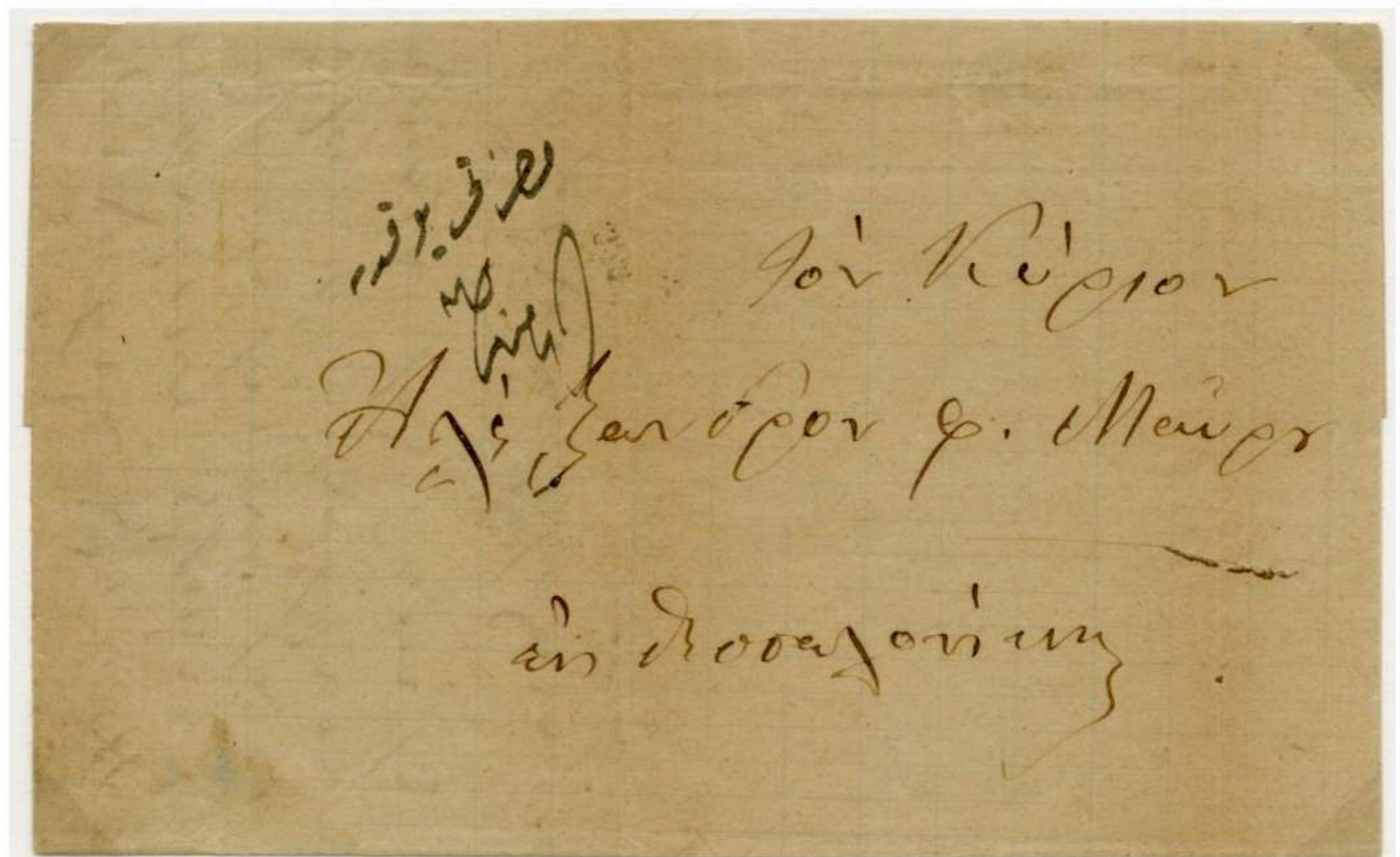
Ottoman PO: SELANIK

The Arabic inscription postmarks of Thessaloniki

Double Oval Postmark SELANIK 97 (1878-84)



Thessaloniki 1881 ? Letter front to Constantinople, franked with pair 1 Pia plus pair and single 2 Pia Duloz 1876-77 printing.



Volos 1885 (Sept. 9). Entire letter from Volos to Thessaloniki (from the Mavros Correspondence), carried most probably by a passenger or crew member on board of steamship. On arrival, the breach of the Post Office monopoly was discovered by the authorities. One 1Pia Empire stamp was affixed, cancelled by a rectangular cancellation, which bears the inscription KACAK (smuggled).

Postal Rate: 1 Pia: 20 Pa single rate between ports of Ottoman Empire + 20 Pa taxed for Illegal Transportation.

THE OTTOMAN BANKRUPTCY OF 1876

French PO: SALONIQUE

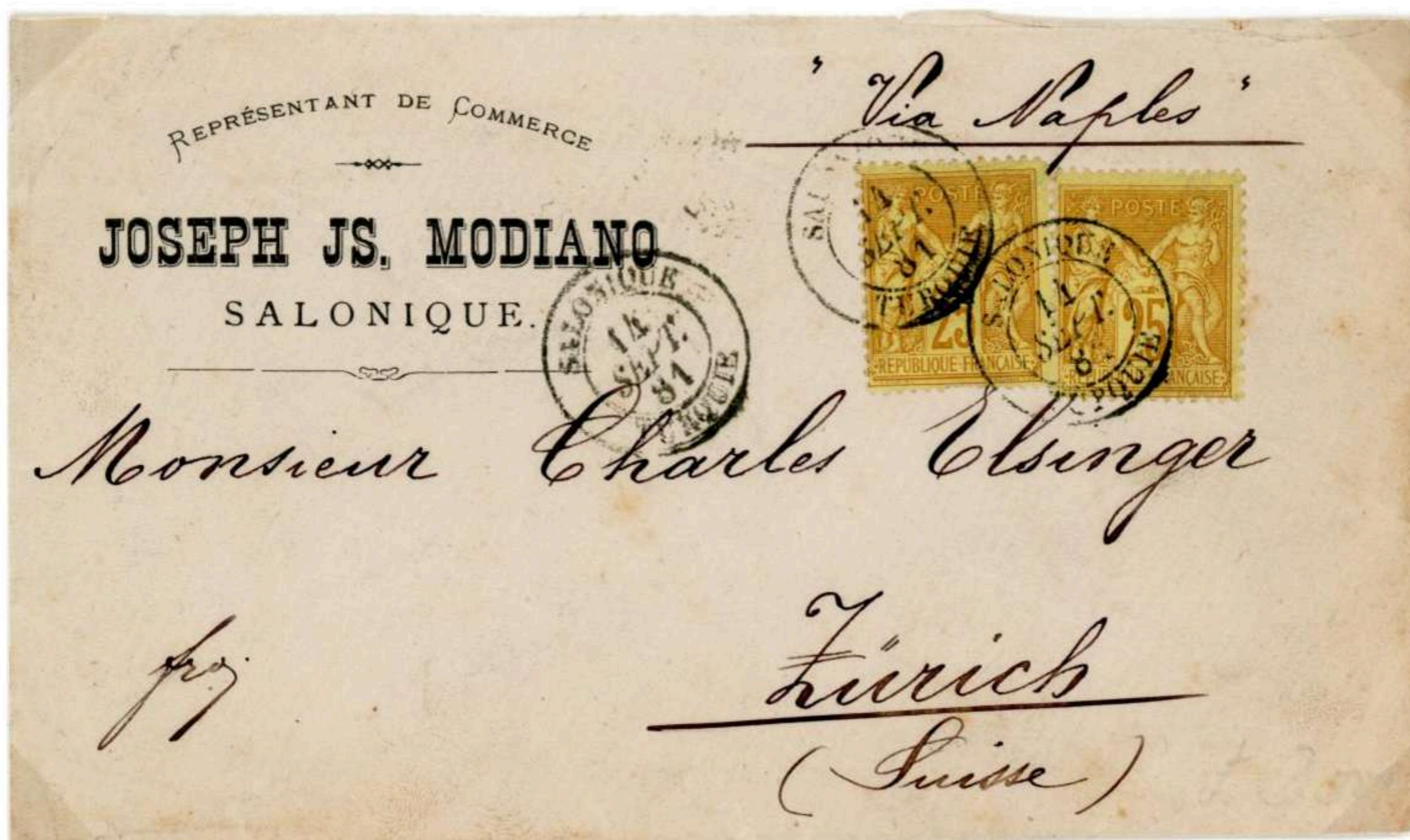
Postmark SALONIQUE TURQUIE smaller with single outer circle

Postmark in Violet



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

Postmark in Black



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

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

1880s: A NEW GROWTH FOR THE CITY

SELANIK

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

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

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



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

50%



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

1880s: A NEW GROWTH FOR THE CITY

SELANIK

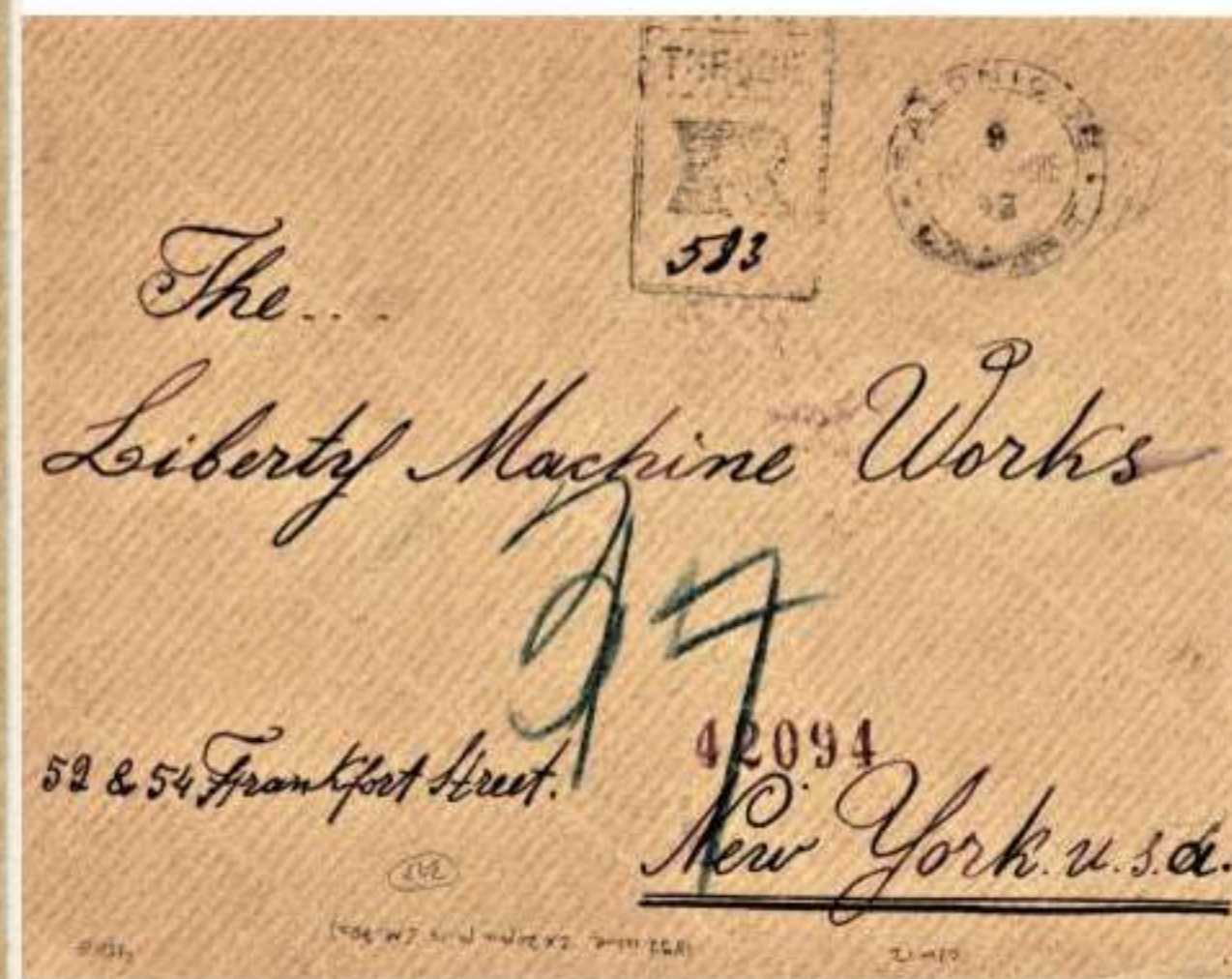
Postmarks SALONIQUE in Oval with Bars
accompanied by double circle SALONIQUE DEPART CDS
French Inscription SALONIQUE for correspondence going abroad.
Arabic Inscription SELANIK for domestic correspondence



50%



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



40%

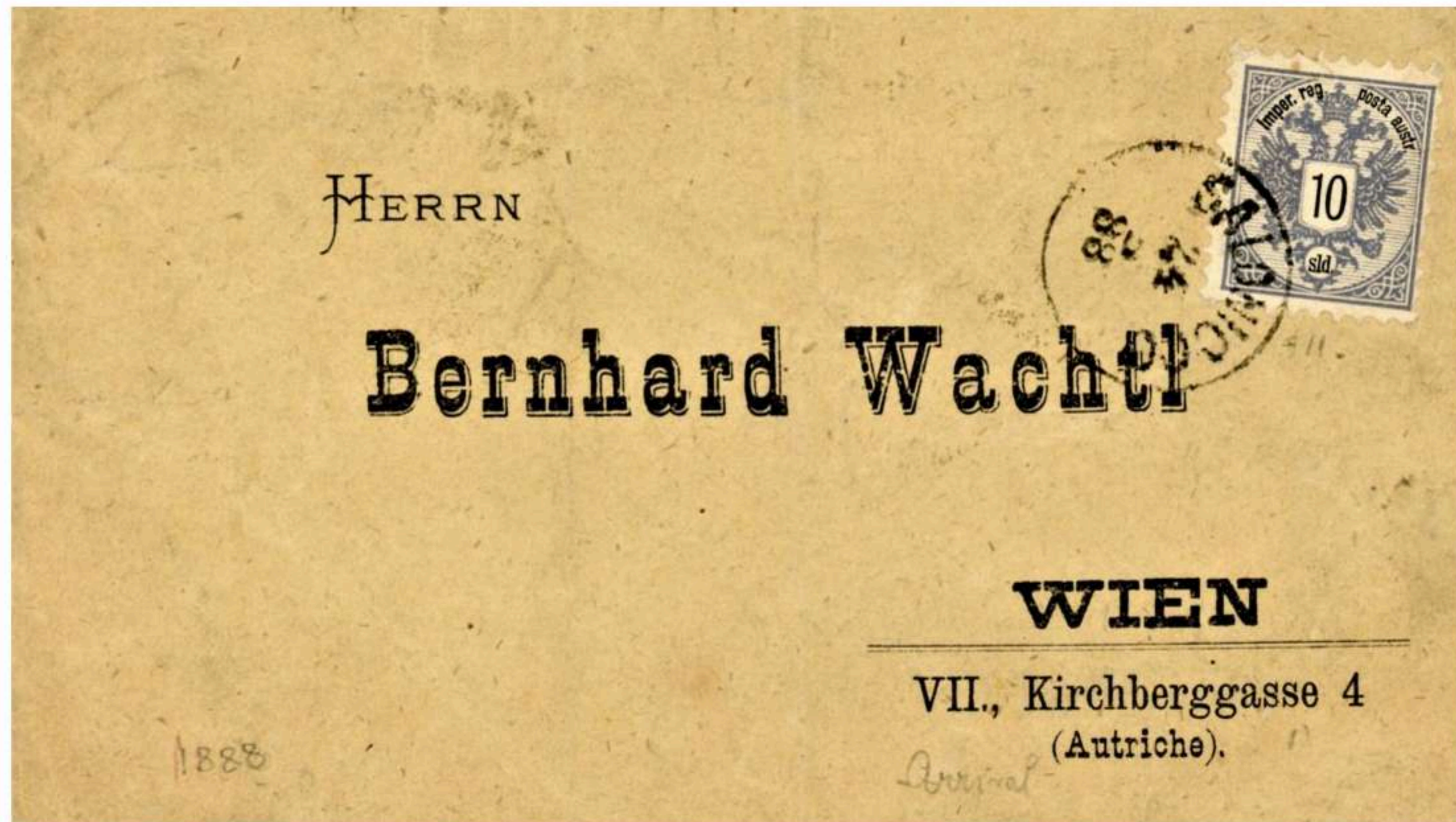
Thessaloniki 1893 (Nov. 9): Registered cover to New York, franked two pairs x 20Pa Armali, arrival Nov. 20.
Postal Rate: 80Pa=2Pia:1Pia for Single Weight Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration.

1880s: A NEW GROWTH FOR THE CITY

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

Single circle postmark SALONICCO date in 3 lines (1875-1893)

Although the first postmarks of the consular P.O. had the name in German language, this date stamp is in Italian and the next type used in the 1880s is in bilingual Italian - German form. The reason for this anomaly is not known but this practice continued until the consular P.O. was raised to the status of an official Austrian O.O. in 1895, when the postmarks were redesignated SALONICH in German.



Thessaloniki 1888 (May 24): Cover posted to Vienna, franked 10 Soldi.

Postal Rate: 10 Soldi Single Weight Foreign Letter



Villa SARIDAKI,
Thessaloniki



Thessaloniki 1888 (Feb. 24): Registered Cover posted to Paris, and redirected to Lisieux, Calvados, franked 2 x 10 Soldi, arrival March 3. The sender A. Saridakis (of the Saridakis - Weisskopf Family) was big merchant of this period, while the addressee Paul Duchesne Fournet was famous Banker and Senator of Calvados.

Postal Rate: 10 Soldi Single Weight Foreign Letter +10 So (reverse) for Registration

The Double Eagle stamps of 1883 show a rather limited use by the Austrian post office of Thessaloniki. During this period (1883 to July 1888 – date that these stamps were withdrawn) the Austrian P.O. continued to use mostly the Franz Joseph “fine whiskers” stamps.

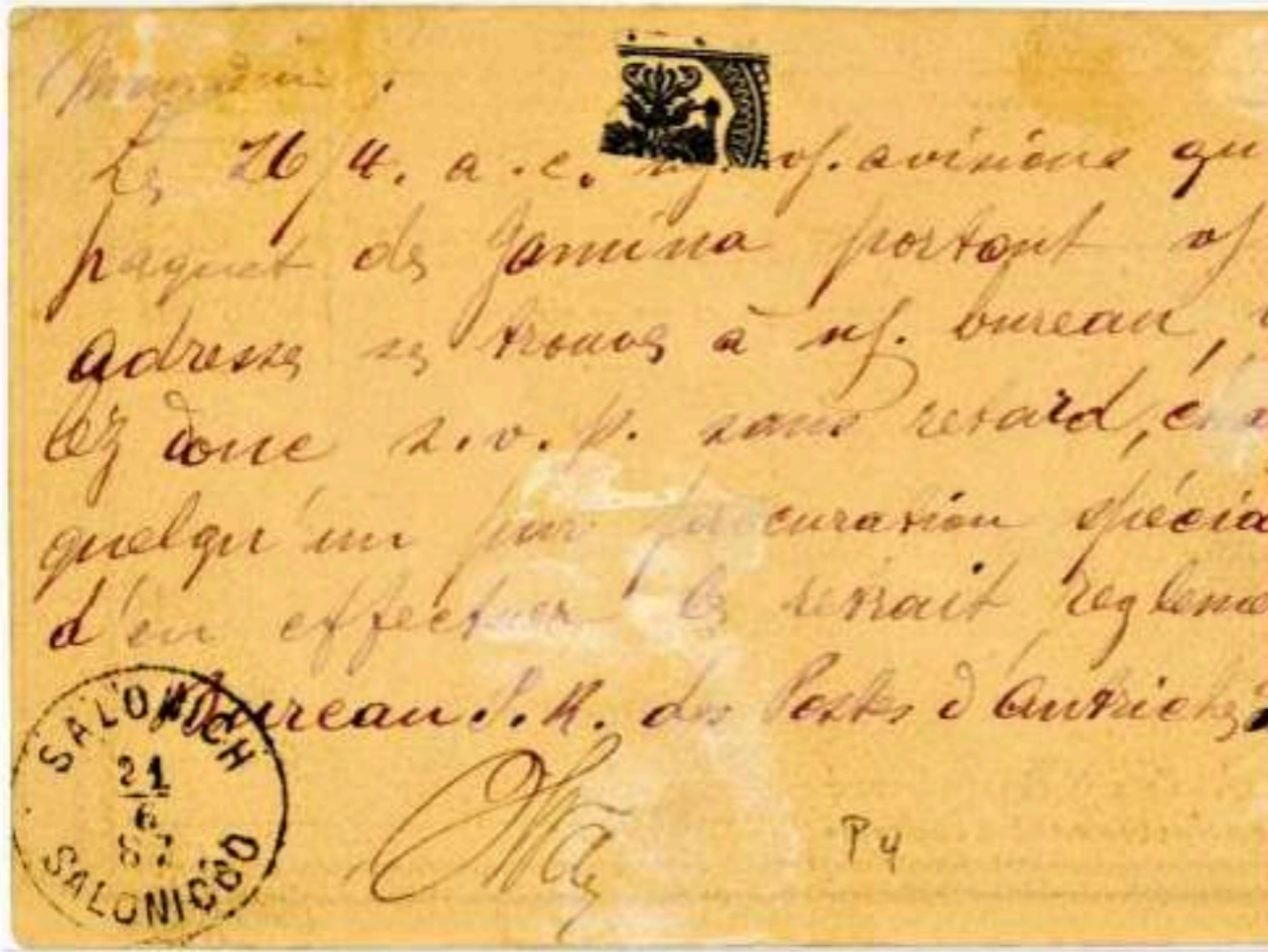
1880s: A NEW GROWTH FOR THE CITY

Austrian Post Office to Ottoman Post Office

A case of Collaboration between Post Offices

The Austrian P.O. uses the Ottoman P.O. to send “Notifications of Reception of Registered Letter” to the Balkan mainland – Pristina and Uskub in these cases - for registered letters that arrived from Europe. In both cases, the Austrian P.O. requests the addressees that they must authorize someone in Thessaloniki to receive their correspondence (Since there was no branch Austrian P.O. in Pristina or Uskub).

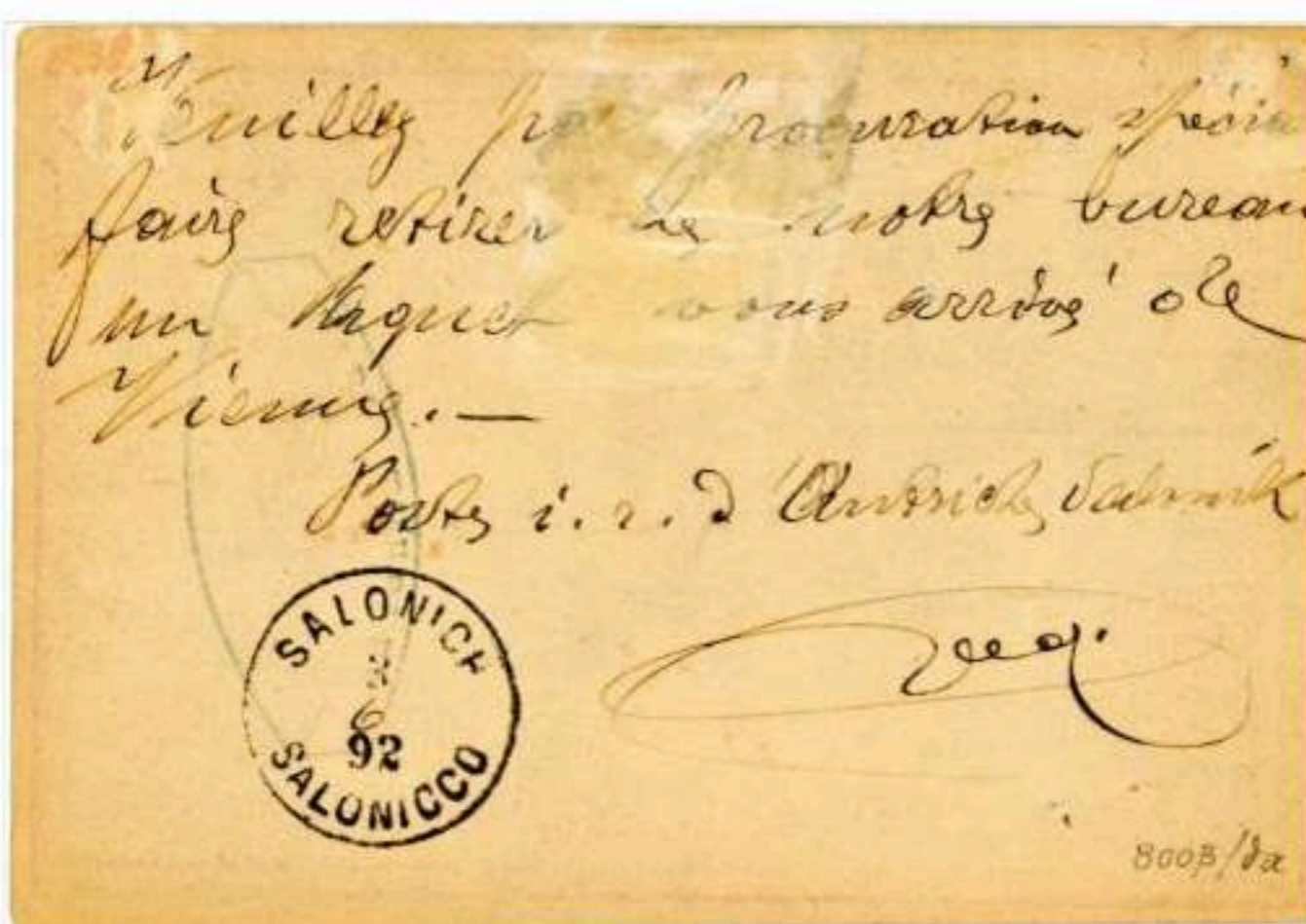
Later on (20th century), Austrian P.O. will operate branch offices in Uskub, Monastir, Mitrovitsa and Pristina.



50%



Thessaloniki 1887 (June 21): Ottoman Stationery Card posted to Pristina. The Austrian P.O. is the sender.
Postal Rate: 20Pa Inland Card



50%



Thessaloniki 1892 (June 3): Ottoman Stationery Card posted to Uskub. The Austrian P.O. is the sender.
Postal Rate: 20Pa Inland Card

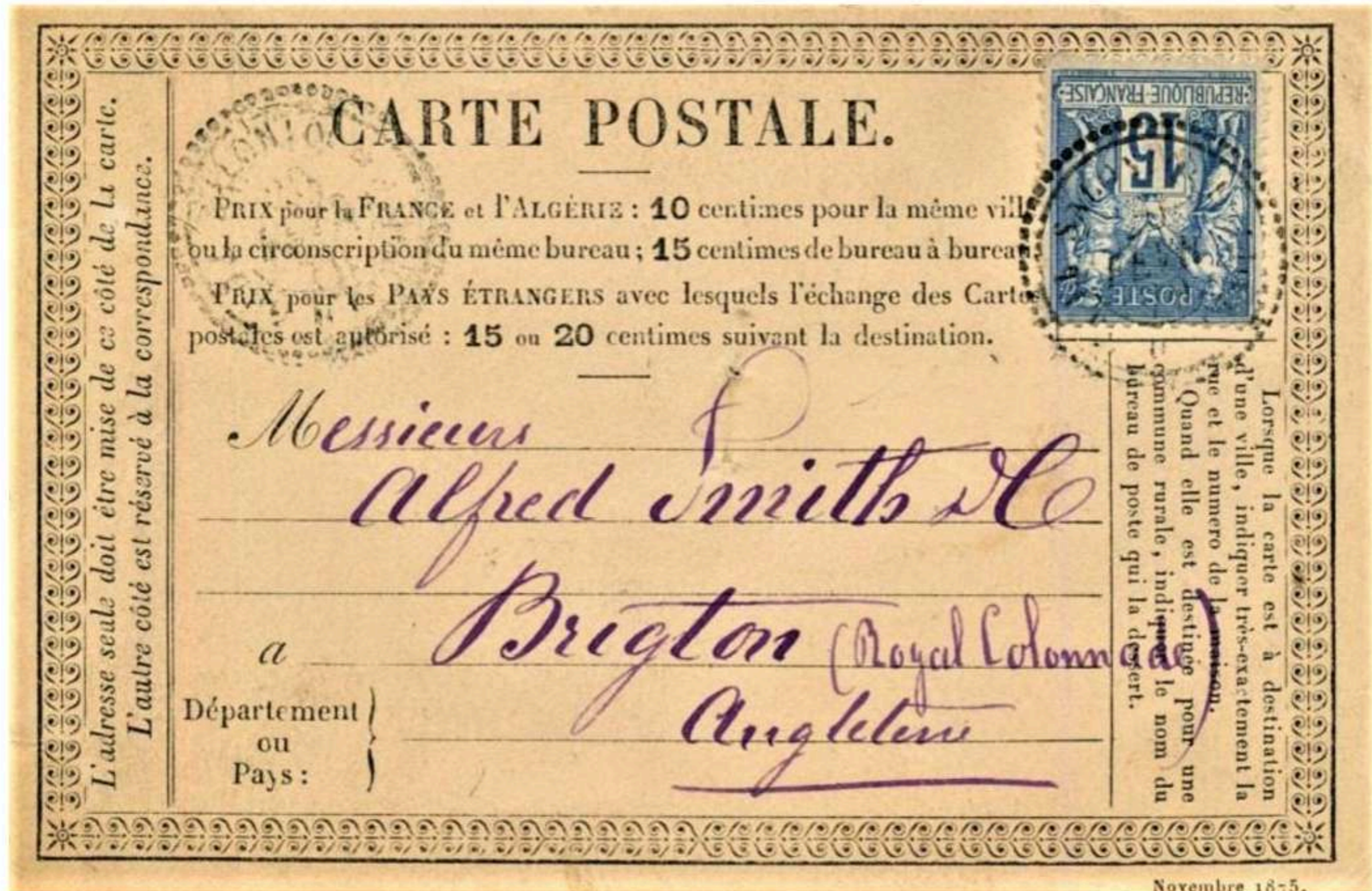
INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY

FRENCH PO

The Forerunner Stationery Card of the French Post Used in Thessaloniki

The first cards circulated from January 15, 1873, considered thus the 1st day of the forerunner ("precursor") card. The face value of this card was interesting since it saved 10c for the office-to-office domestic (in France) correspondence, but of course there was no confidentiality of the correspondence. The traders and the companies were very much in favor of this economical way to communicate.

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



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

Postal Rate: 15 c. for Card

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

French stationery envelopes Type "Sage"

Green Envelope

Cream Envelope



Thessaloniki 1883 (Dec. 26) + Thessaloniki 1885 (Dec. 28): French small Stationery Envelopes ("Carte Visit" size) posted to Constantinople and via Smyrna and Beyrouth, to Larnaca Cyprus.

Postal Rate: 5c for Foreign Small Open Envelope.

INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY AUSTRIAN PO

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



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



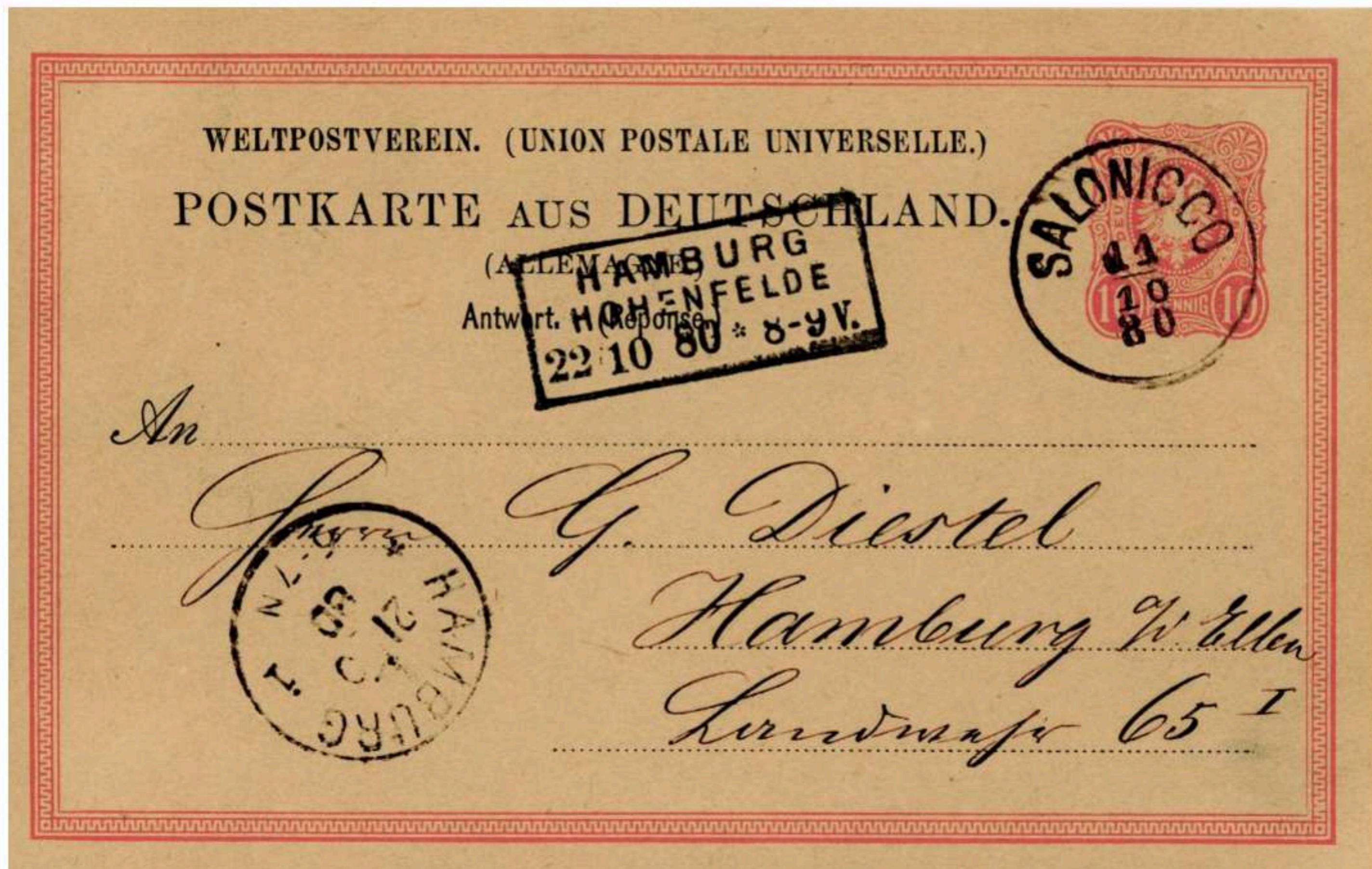
Thessaloniki 1884 (May 5): Second type of Franz Joseph stationery card posted to München
The use of the 2nd type in Thessaloniki is quite elusive
Postal Rate: 5 So for Card

INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL STATIONERY

AUSTRIAN PO

German Reply Stationery Cards accepted by the Austrian Post Office

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



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

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



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

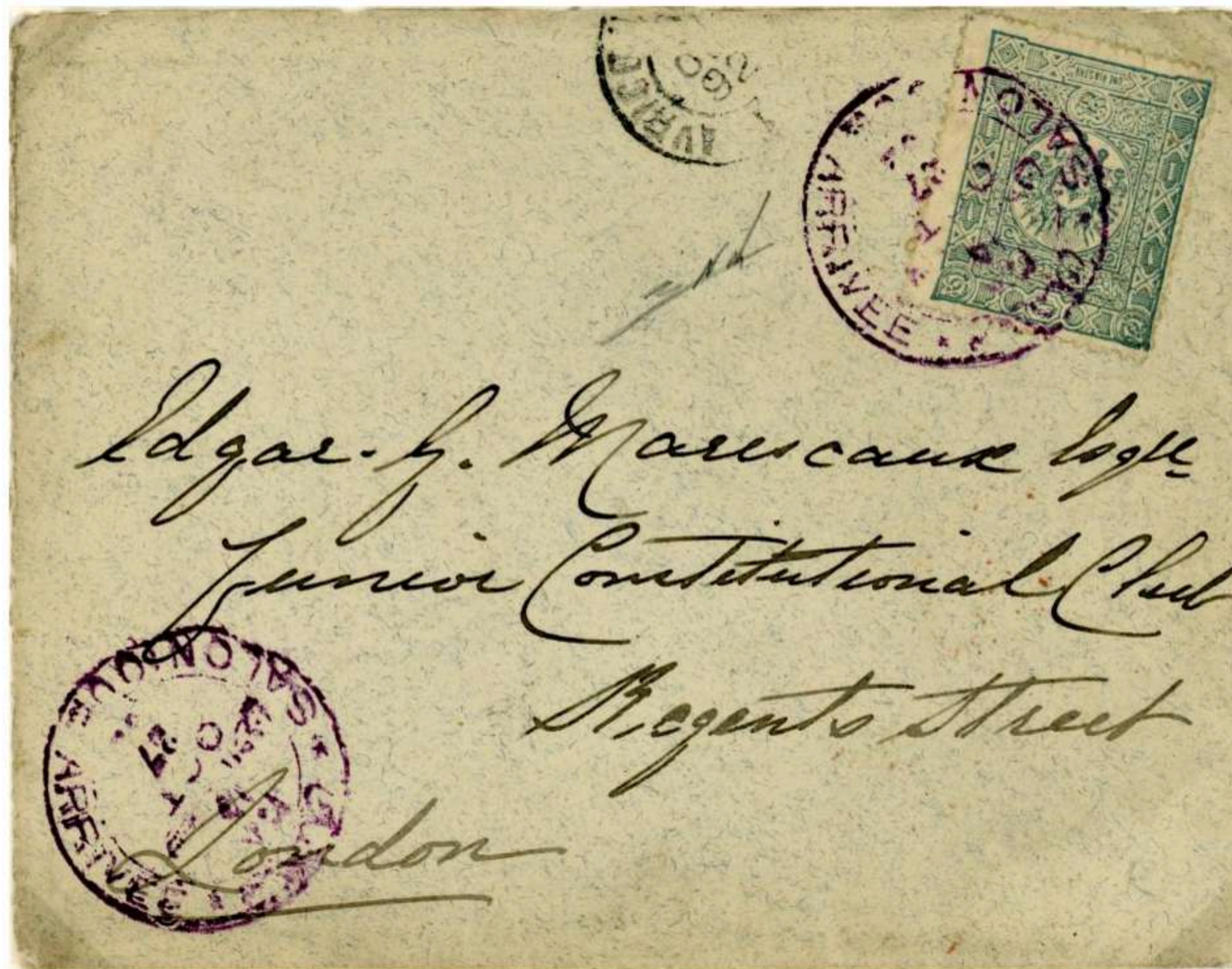
Postal Rate: 10 Pf for Reply Card, paid by the sender

1890 to 1912: OTTOMAN POST OFFICE SELANIK

From 1890 until 1912 the Ottoman - official state - post office, became the dominant post office of the city. It establishes branches throughout the city, provides improved services, covers almost all domestic mail and a significant part of foreign mail. Foreign post offices mainly serve business interest groups.

During this period the Ottoman Post Office uses several different postmarks, starting with the double circle SALONIQUE DEPART, bilingual SALONIQUE (in various sizes) and, from 1899, bilingual double circle postmarks with bridge.

Unique use of SALONIQUE ARRIVEE as Dispatch Postmark,
on a cover from the H.M.S. INFLEXIBLE in the port of Thessaloniki.



Thessaloniki 1892 (Oct. 27): Cover posted to London,
arrival Oct. 21, franked 1 Pia.

Postal Rate: 1Pia Single Weight Foreign Letter

This is a very rare postmark, which has not been found used, even as arrival postmark - I guess because it was destroyed or lost. It is shown only as partial imprint in the Books of Nicolas - Galinos (p. 413 "only the lower part of the datestamp has been found on a postage stamp"), and Prodromos Mellon.

This is the only known cover with this postmark.

1890 to 1912: OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

SELANIK

Double circle bilingual postmark SALONIQUE



Thessaloniki 1894 (Dec. 2): Stationery Card posted to Goritz, Austria. Postmark in Red.
Postal Rate: 20 Pa Foreign Card

Registered and Insured



Thessaloniki 1895 (May 19): Registered and Insured Cover posted to Constantinople,
franked pair x 2 Pia + 1 Pia Armali.
Postal Rate: 5 Pia: 1 Pia Single Weight Letter + 1 Pia for Registration + 3 Pia Insurance for 8 Gold Groshes

1890 to 1912: OTTOMAN POST OFFICE
SELANIK

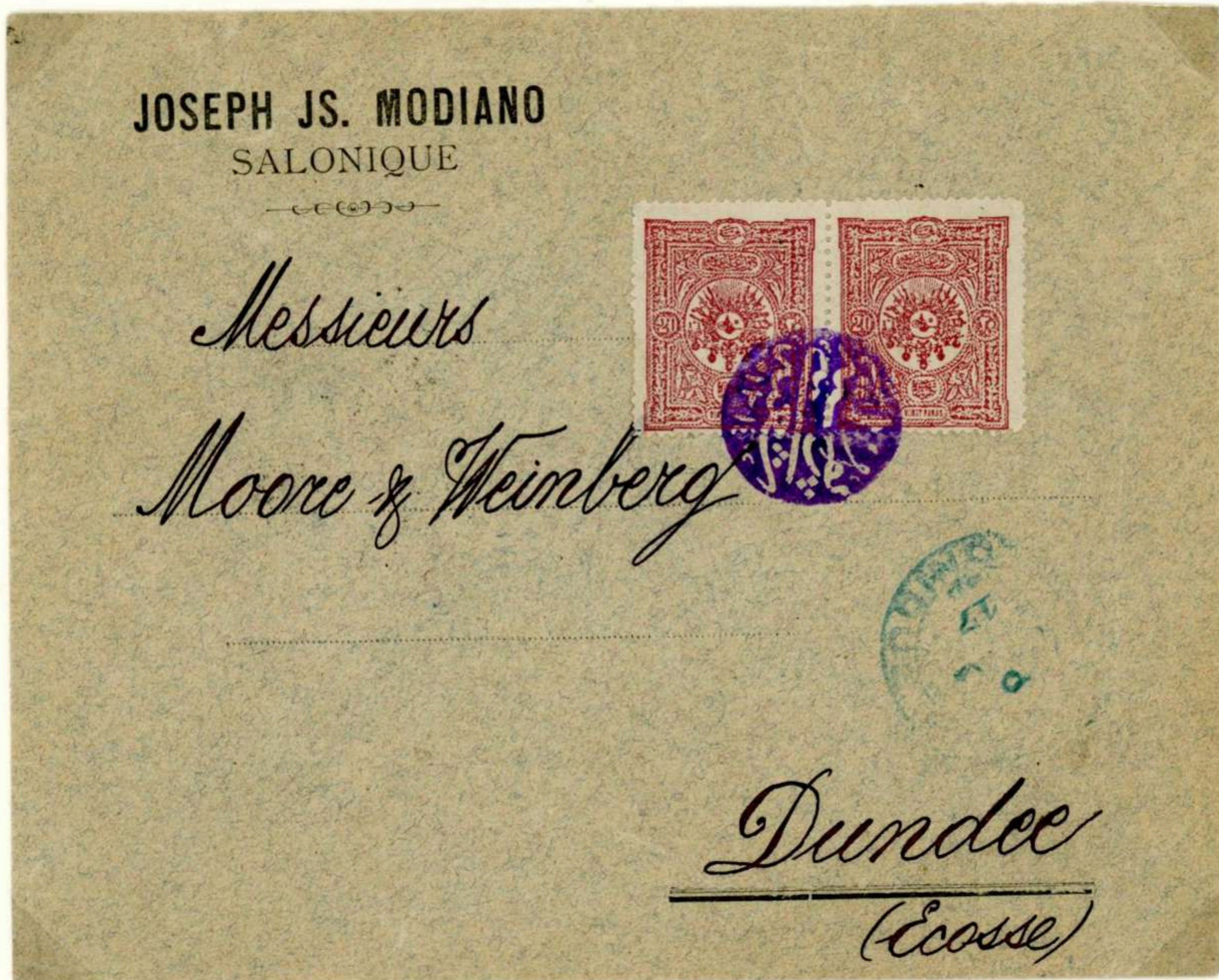
Negative Ottoman Postmarks of the 1890s

POSTA SUBESI SELANIK 3/1314

This postmark is not mentioned in Mellon, Coles & Walker and Nicolas - Galinos studies.

It is only recorded in the Agaogullari & Papuccuoglu work.

Perhaps the only known cover with this postmark (and, for sure, the best).



Thessaloniki 1897 : Cover posted to Dundee, Scotland, franked with pair 20 Pa.
Postal Rate: 40 Paras (1Pia) for foreign single weight cover.

1890 to 1912: OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

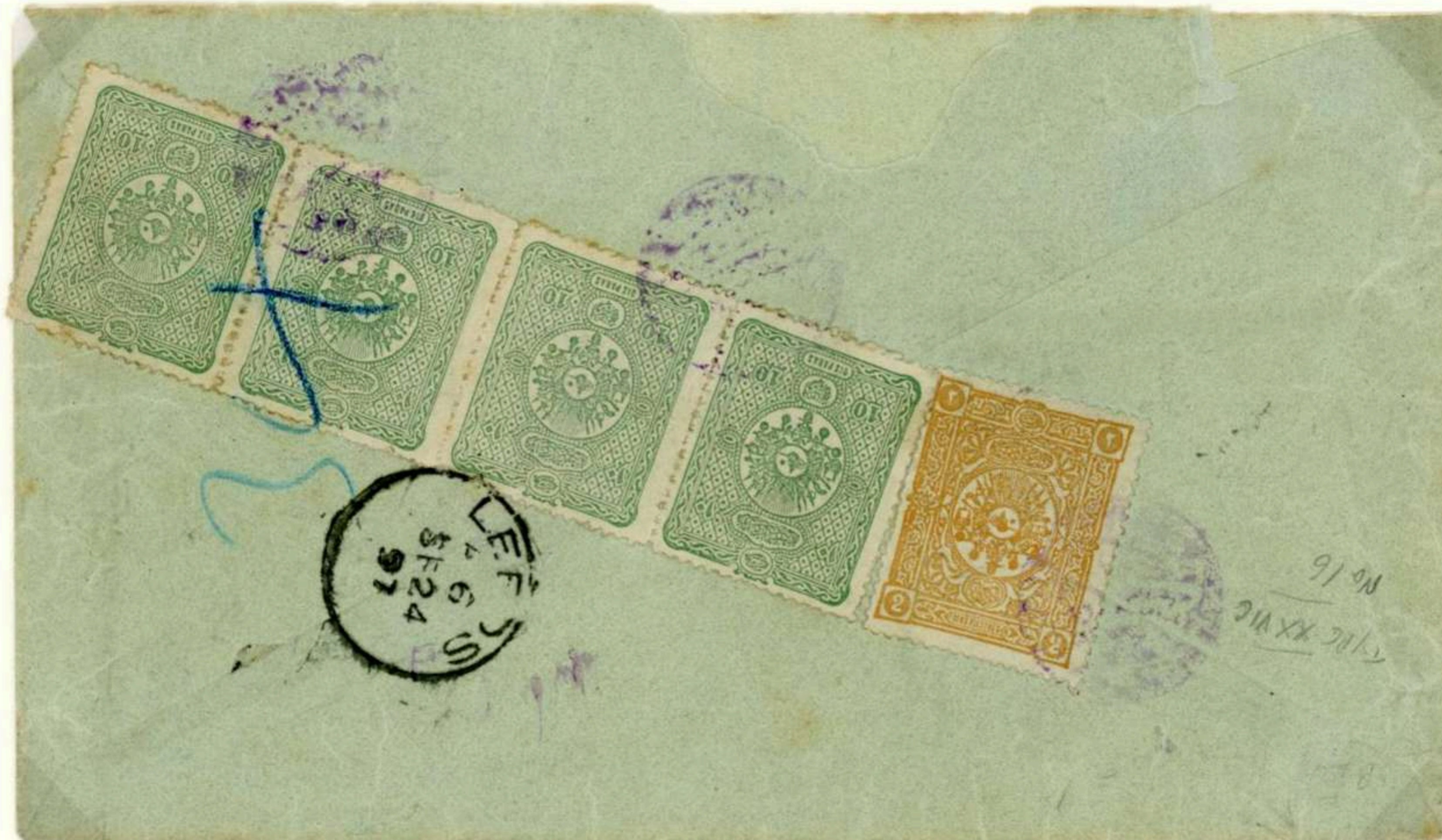
SELANIK

Branch Offices:

Negative Ottoman Postmark of 1895: POSTA SUBESI SELANIK 1311



40%



Thessaloniki 1897 (Sept. 20): Registered cover posted to Leeds, England, franked with strip of 4x 10 Pa + 2 Pia, arrival 16 Sept. (+12).

Postal Rate: 40 Paras + 2Pia = 3 Pia: 2 Pia for foreign double weight cover and 1 Pia for registration.

Branch Offices: Post Office at the Prefecture

Arabic inscription postmark: SALONIQUE 5 HUKUMET KONAGHI SUBESI (1901)

Very Rare postmark



Thessaloniki 1901: Small open cover posted to Constantinople. + The postmark on fragment and pair

Postal Rate: 10 Paras Open Cover

1890 to 1912: OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

SELANIK

Bilingual postmark with bridge SALONIQUE
Exists in several types with minor differences in dimensions and writing



Thessaloniki 1900 (April 14): Picture Post Card, franked 10Pa + pair overprinted 5Pa, posted to Dresden. *Postal Rate: 20 Pa Foreign Card*

Registered and Insured



Thessaloniki 1899 (Dec. 14): Registered and Insured Cover posted to Constantinople, franked pair 2 Pia + 3 x 20Pa Armali. *Postal Rate: 3 Pia+ 20 Pa : 1 Pia Single Weight Letter + 1 Pia for Registration + 1,5 Pia Insurance for 5 Gold Groshes*

According to bibliography, the postmarks with bridge came into use from the beginning of 20th Century (1-1-1900). This is a December 1899 cover and postmark - so far, the earliest use of this postmark and the only one known to me, from the 19th century.

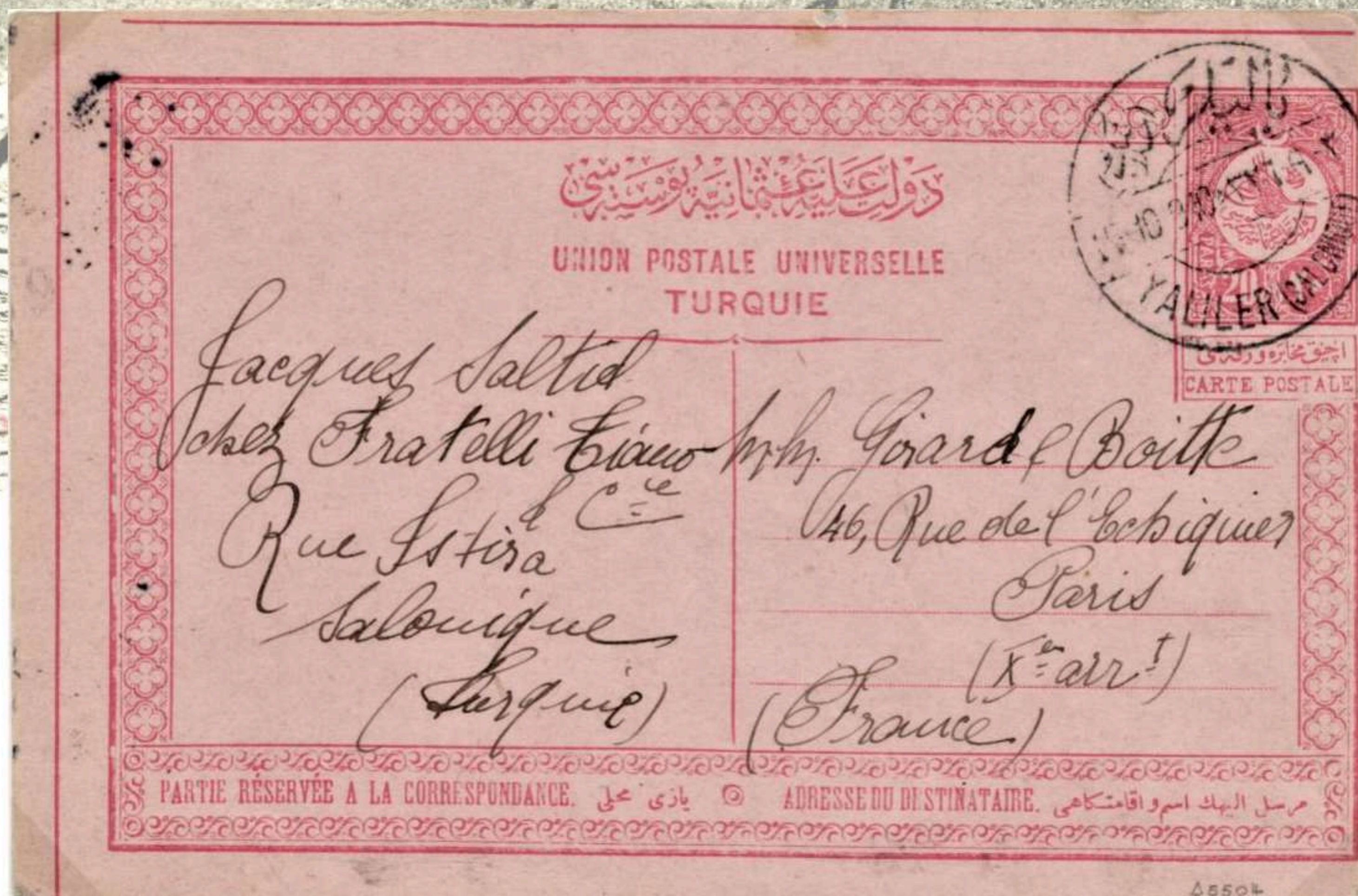
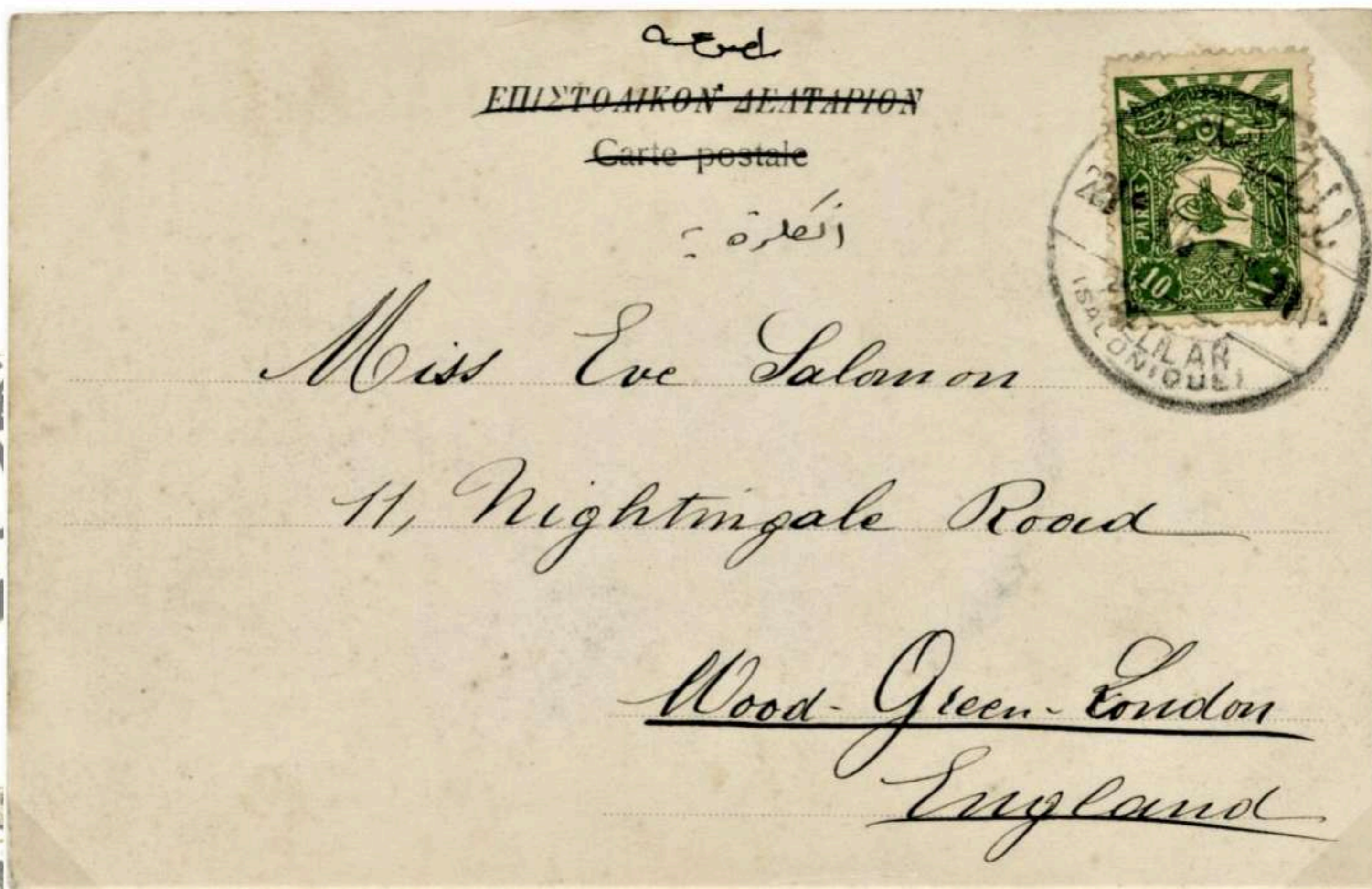
1890 to 1912: OTTOMAN POST OFFICE

SELANIK

Branch Post Office at the Suburb of Exoches (Campagnes - Yaliler)

Postmark YALLILAR (SALONIQUE) in 2 lines (1901 - 1909)

Postmark YALILER (SALONIQUE) in 1 line (1909 - 1912)



THE SUBURB

OF EXOCHES

Thessaloniki 1906 (Sept. 22): Postcard posted to London.

Thessaloniki 1910 (Oct.): Stationery postcard posted to Paris.

Postal Rate: 10 Para for Foreign Post Card (without text) - 20 Para for Foreign Post Card (with text).

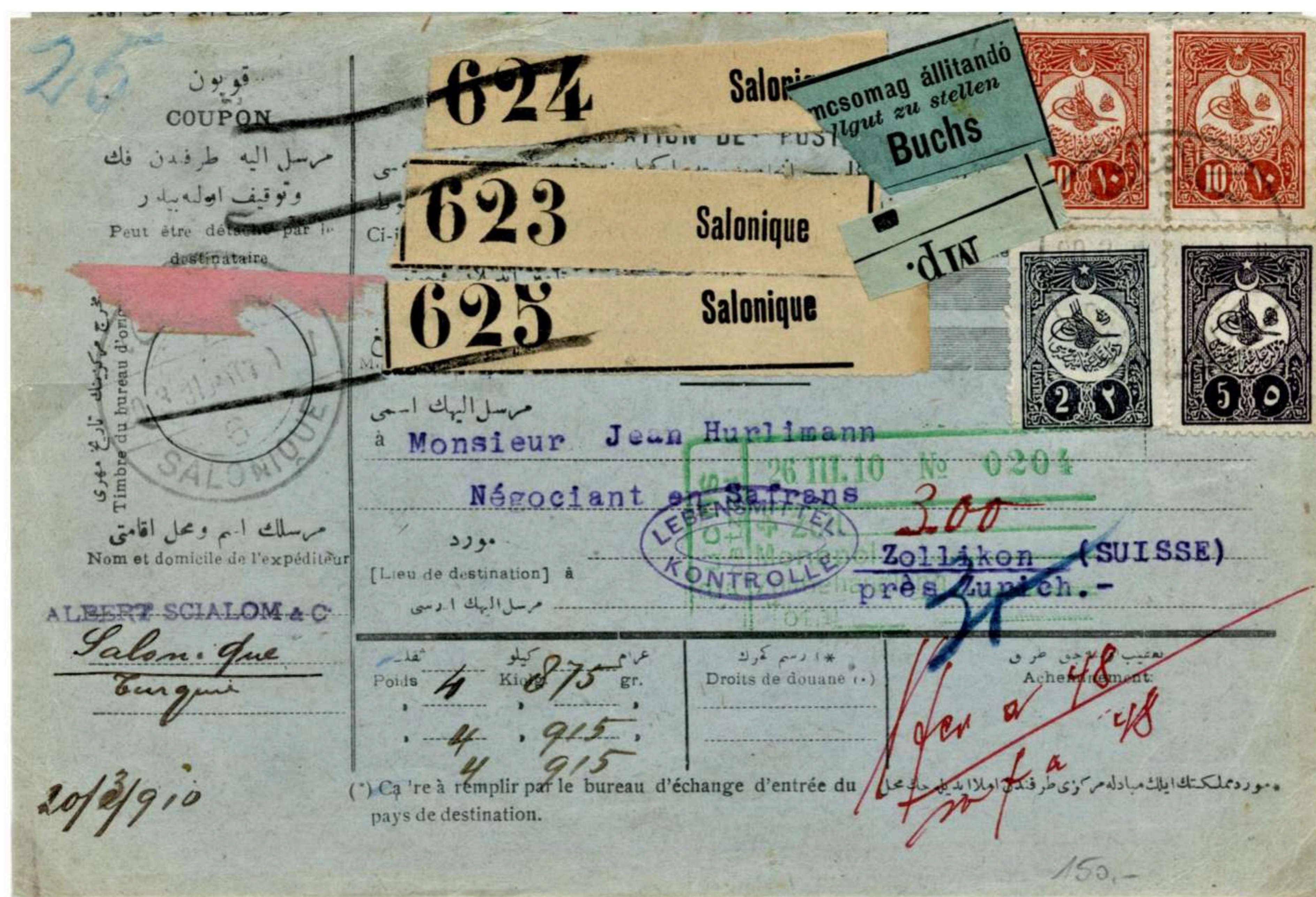
The Numbered Postmarks

From 1904 on, the Ottoman P.O. introduced the classical double circle postmarks with bridge with a number, usually in the segment. The numbers applied are from 1 to 12. Numbers 1, 2, 3 were used extensively, while the other numbers, and especially the large ones, had a very limited use. It is not known if the different numbers corresponded to a different sub-office or to different services offered.



SUCCURSALE POSTE IMPERIALE OTTOMANE

SALONIQUE 6



Thessaloniki 1910 (Mar. 20): Parcel form for 3 parcels with books, posted to Zollikon Switzerland, franked pair of 10 Pia + 5 Pia = 2 Pia = 27 Piastres.

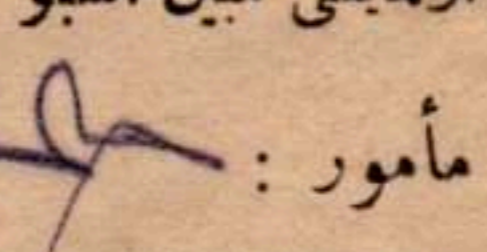
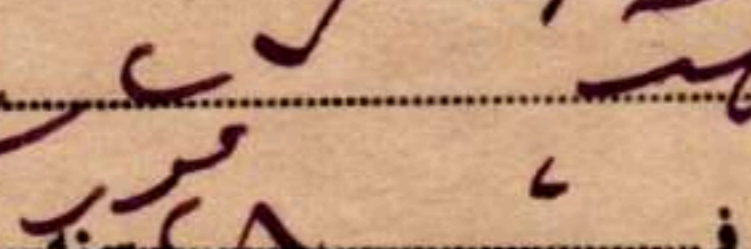
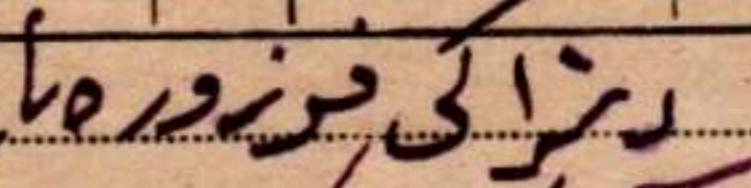
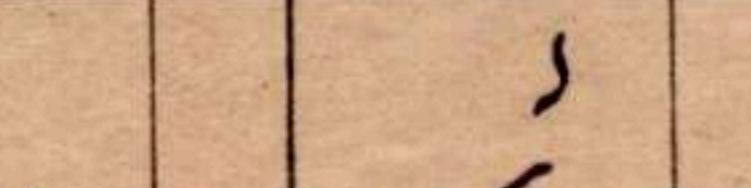

Postal Rate: 27 Pia for 3 parcels of 4,875 + 4,915 + 4,915 Kg. (the rate was 9 Pia for 5 Kg.)

SALONIQUE 10

Rare case of use of this postmark on outgoing mail



Thessaloniki 1907 (Aug. 20): Cover posted to Constantinople, arrival Aug. 31.
Postal Rate: 20 Pa single weight domestic letter

<p>مأمور: </p> <p>اخذ اولتمش اولدیفنی مبین اشبو علم و خبر مرسله اعطا فلندی فی </p> <p>اخذ اولتمش اولان بالاده محرر (۱) </p> <p>رأیه صدقا از طرف اولتمش اولدیفنی او زده </p>									
اجرت مقداری		قیمت مقدره لی مکاتیب و قوطی		بوسته پاکتی		بشرط التأدیة مقداری		مردم	
پاره	غروش	ثقلت	قیمت	ثقلت	قیمت	سائیم	فراقق	پاره	غروش
۴		۵۰	۱						
<p>تودیع علم و خبری </p> <p>صره نومروسی ۲۴۴</p> <p>مرسوله دفترینک نومروسی</p> <p>نمونه ۹۳</p>									

Thessaloniki 1911 (Aug. 10): Notification for the receipt of a parcel, franked 10 Pa fiscal stamp.

SALONIQUE 5 Small + Large



Serbian stationery Card of 10Pa, posted from Belgrade to **Thessaloniki, Oct.1910.**
Postal Rate: 10 Pa Foreign Post Card

Back side 2/3



Thessaloniki 1912 (June 30): Registered cover posted to Munich, franked block of 4 + 2 singles x 10 Pa + 20 Pa, overprinted discount stamps.
Postal Rate: 80 Pa: 40 Pa single weight foreign letter + 40 Pa for registration

1890 to 1914: AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE SALONICH

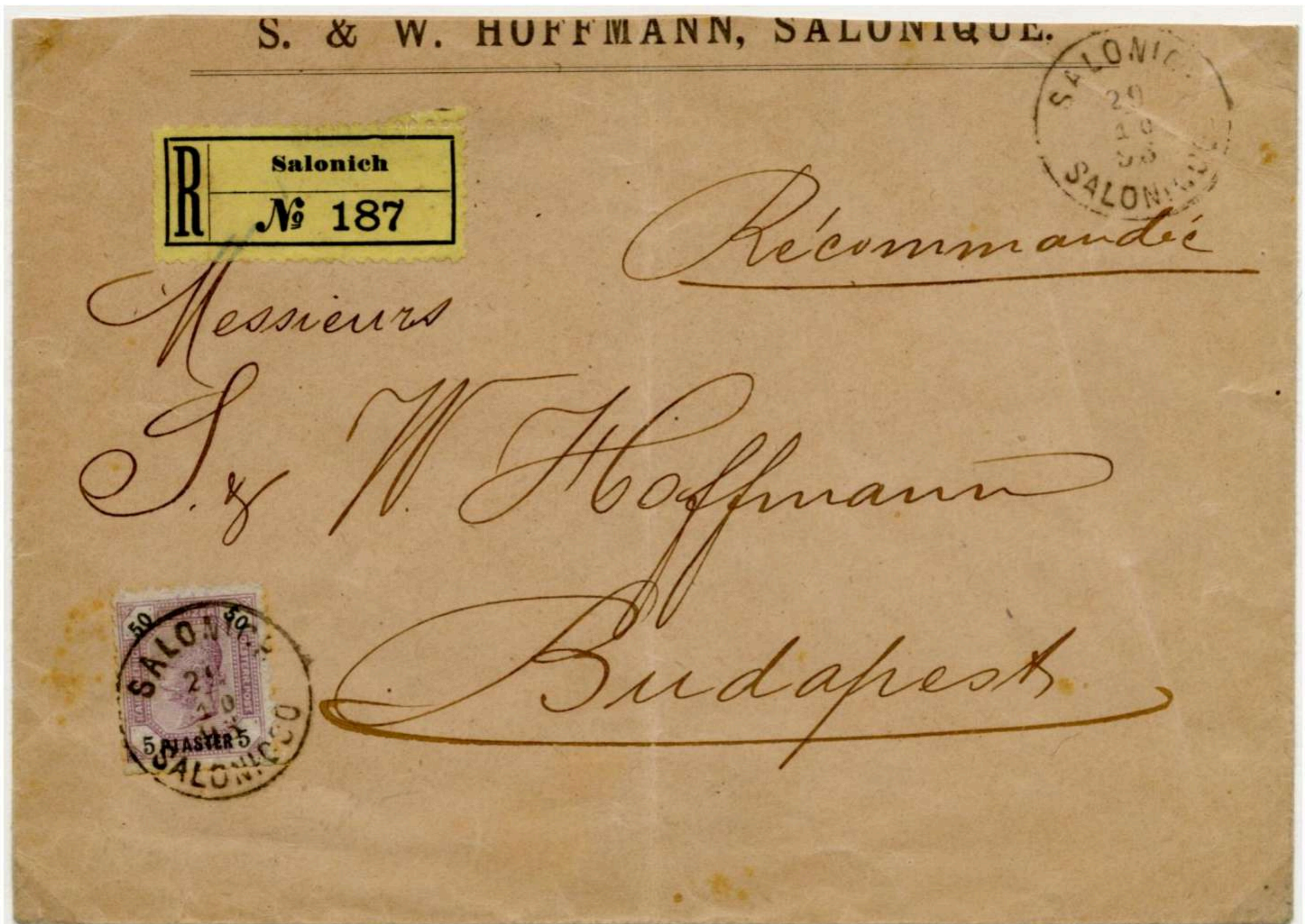


In the early 1890s the Consular post office became an official Austrian post office. In 1895, a branch office was opened at the Frankish quarter of Thessaloniki. Both offices were closed by autumn 1914.



Single Circle Postmark SALONICH SALONICCO (1882-1895)

A 5 Piastres Franking



Thessaloniki 1893 (Oct. 29): Large registered cover to Budapest, franked 5Pia/50Kr Austrian Levant 1891 issue c., arrival Oct.31.

Postal Rate: 5Pia: 4Pia Quadruple Weight Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration

1890 to 1914: AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

SALONICH

In the first years of the 1890s the Austrian P.O. uses the two postmarks of the previous decade. These postmarks from June 1895 were given to the Branch office opened in the Frankish Quarter.

Single circle postmark SALONICCO (1875-1893)
Single circle Postmark SALONICH SALONICCO (1882-1895)



Thessaloniki 1893 (Nov. 16):
Cover to München, arrival Nov. 19. The cover comes from the German Consulate in Thessaloniki and shows its seal on reverse.
Postal Rate: 1Pia+2x20Pa= 2Pia
Double Weight Foreign Letter



Thessaloniki 1893 (Mar. 2):
Registered Cover to Parthenay France, arrival Mar. 7, franked 2 pairs 10Pa/3Kr + 1 pair 1Pia/10Kr Austrian Levant 1891 issue.
Postal Rate: 3Pia
(2x1Pia+4x10Pa): 2Pia Double Weight Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration

1890 to 1914: AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

SALONICHI I

Mail with Insufficient payment: Use of Austrian Levant Postage Due Stamps in Thessaloniki



Picture Postcard posted from Austria, **March 1904, to Thessaloniki**, arrival Mar. 22, 1904, franked with 5He. As it was insufficiently prepaid (the 5He = 10Pa rate for Post Card without text was not accepted because the card was written in front), it was charged 10Pa x 2.

Postal Rate: 20 Para for Foreign Post Card (with text).



Cover posted from Constantinople, **27 Oct. 1902 to Thessaloniki**, arrival 30 Oct. 1902 franked 1 Pia. It was double weight, so it was charged 2 Pia, paid by Austrian Levant 1 Pia postage due pair.

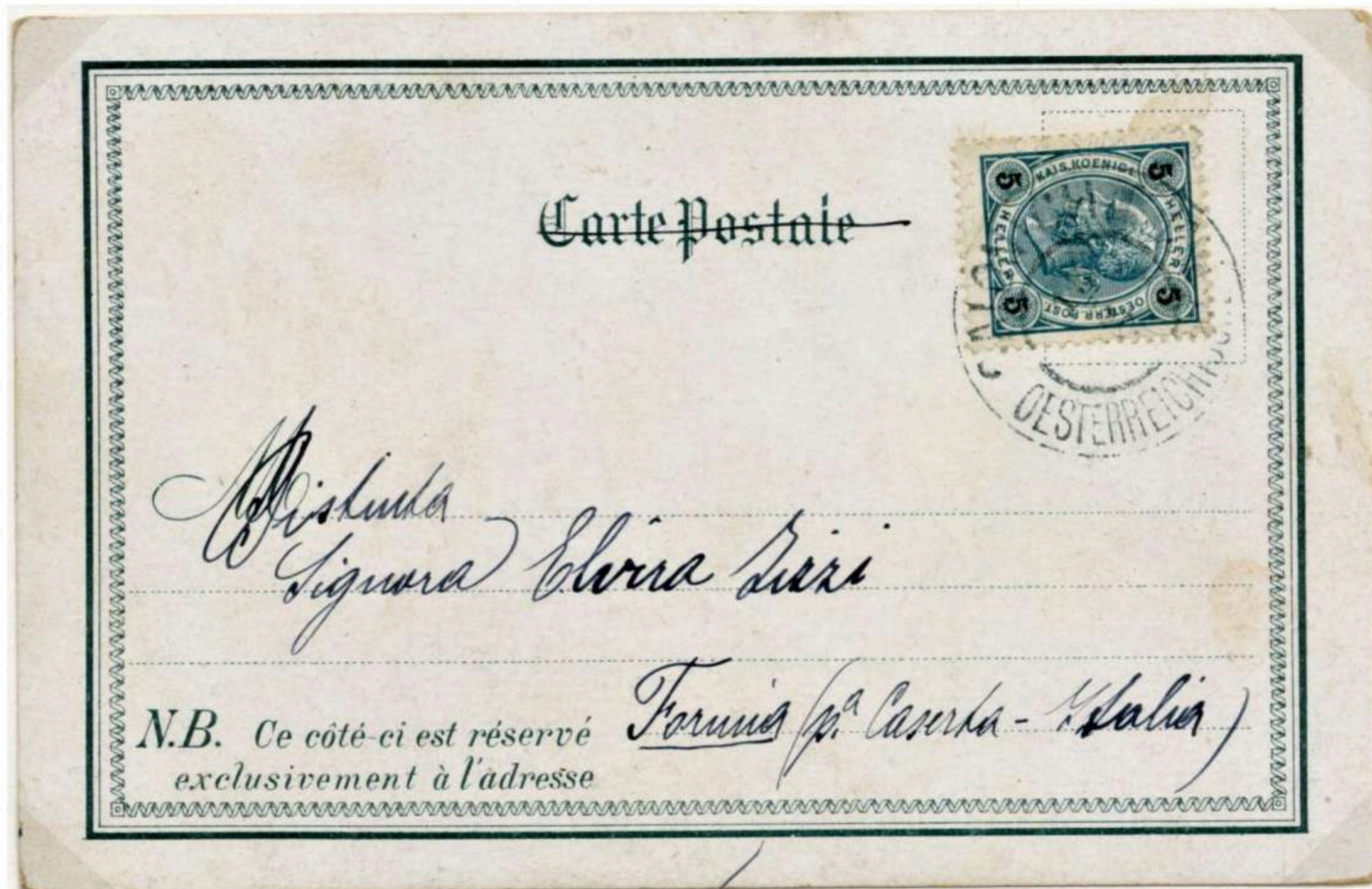
Postal Rate: 1 Pia + 2x 1 Pia due for double weight Foreign Letter.

1890 to 1914: AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

SALONICH I

Illegal Use of Stamps of Austria

Although the use of Austrian stamps was illegal (only the stamps of Austrian Levant and Austrian Offices in Crete were authorized for use in the Austrian Levant post offices), in some rare cases, it was tolerated and a few known covers with Austrian stamps have passed through the Post.



Thessaloniki 1904? (Aug. 15): Picture Postcard franked with 5He, posted to Formia, Italy
Postal Rate: 5He-10Pa for post card (without text)



Thessaloniki 1905 (Nov. 29): Cover franked pair 10He, posted to Braunschweig, arrival Dec. 2.
Postal Rate: 20He-40Pa for Foreign Letter.

1890 to 1914: AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

SALONICH I

Double circle postmarks with bridge

A Cover with AVIS DE RECEPTION – ADVICE OF RECEIPT

Type C

Serial c (only)



60%



Thessaloniki 1913 (Oct): Registered cover with “Advice of Receipt”, franked 2 x 1 Pia + pair 20 Pa, posted to Nidda (Oct. 27, 1913), readdressed to Budingen Germany, arrival Oct. 27, 1913.

The cover comes from the German Consulate in Thessaloniki and shows its seal on reverse.
Postal Rate: 1 Pia for Single Weight Foreign Letter + 1 Pia for Advice of Receipt + 40 Pa for Registration.

1890 to 1914: AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

SALONICH II

The Mysterious Reappearance of a Postmark.

The single circle postmark SALONICCO had been withdrawn (after a long use) in 1893. The Stationery Postcard shown here, shows the same postmark, with replaced the year digits (button type), used on July 17 1895.

To my opinion, it is very probable that the Branch Post Office SALONICH II, which opened at the Frankish Quarter, temporarily used this old date stamp from June to July 1895.

This is the only recorded example of the repaired postmark. And no other example of this postmark is known to exist with date after 1893. This opinion is also consistent with Mueller's information that the new branch office was provided with the old postmark because, when it opened, the new date-stamp intended for it, had not yet been manufactured.

Salque 17/7/95



Thessaloniki 1895 (July 17): Austrian Levant Stationery Card posted to Liegnitz, Germany, arrival July 20.
Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Card.

See article, by the collector, in ΦΙΛΟΤΕΛΕΙΑ (October 2008).

1890 to 1914: AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

SALONICH II

The Postmark with the wrong spelling.
Registration Label "Salonich Osterr. Post" with added II, by a rubber stamp.
The only recorded up to now example of this type of Registration Label



Thessaloniki 1895 (Dec. 6). Registered Letter Card posted from to Liege, Belgium, arrival Dec. 12.

Postal Rate: 1Pia Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration.

The Postmark with the corrected spelling.
Registration Label "Salonich Osterr. Post II"



Thessaloniki 1899 (Feb. 12): Registered Cover posted from to Buchbrunn, Germany, franked pair + single 1Pia.

Postal Rate: 3Pia: 2Pia for Double Weight Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration.

CALONIKI

The Russian Post Office

After the Crimean War, in 1858, the Russian Company of Steam Shipping and Trade (ROPHT) signed a contract with the Russian Government to offer Postal services to the Ports of Black Sea, the Aegean Sea and Eastern Mediterranean. By 1863 there were ROPHT Postal agencies in eleven ports of this area, among them the port of Thessaloniki. But for a long period of 30+ years (1858-1892), no postal objects originating from the Russian Post Office of Thessaloniki, are known to exist, apart from 2 or 3 loose stamps (mentioned by Tchilingirian).

To my opinion, this is a clear indication that, up to 1892, the Postal Services offered by the ROPHT Agency of Thessaloniki were very limited, if any.

Double Circle Postmark CALONIKI – date in one line



Thessaloniki 1899 (Feb. 24): Cover to Athens, Greece, arrival Feb. 25. The cover is franked with 5x2Kop Russian Levant, Numerals issue.

Postal Rate: 10Kop for Foreign Letter.



1890 to 1914: RUSSIAN POST OFFICE

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Russian Parcel Post Form showing 22 Piaster franking.

15 Dec 1910

Приложение к циркуляру отъ 12-20

COUPON — КУПОН
Peut être détaché par
Может быть отрезанъ
la destination
адресатомъ

RUSSIE.
РОССІЯ.

Bulletin d'expres
Сопроводительный адресъ.

Сi-joint
При семъ

Nombre de déclarations en douane
(число таможенныхъ декла-
раций)

Обязанная стоимость:
Montant du
Сумма подлежащаго
remboursement
платежа:

А.
(Наименованіе получателя).

Тимbre du bureau d'origine:
Штемпель посылного
учрежденія посылки:

Тимbre de destination:
Штемпель посылки
адресата:

Nom et domicile de
Наименованіе и мѣсто
l'expéditeur:
жителя отправления

(Lieu de destination):
(Мѣсто назначенія):
(rue et n°)
(улица или №)

Poids:
Вѣсъ:

Acheminement:
Путь:

Form. 2. 11.

40%

циркуляру отъ 12-20

RUSSIE.
РОССІЯ.

1857
1907
100
20
1
РУБ.
РУБ.

Bulletin d'expres
Сопроводительный адресъ.

Nombre de déclarations en douane
(число) таможенныхъ декла-
раций:

ГО

получателя).

1):

Acheminement:
Путь:
Direct

Тип. Акц. Ю.-Р. О-ва Печ. Дѣла, въ Одессѣ.

Thessaloniki 1910 (Dec. 5): Parcel Post Form for a Parcel of 31.200Kgr, sent to Jaffa, arrival Dec. 15, franked with 10Pia/1R and 2Pia/20K 1900 issue and 10Pia/1R 1909 issue.

Postal Rate: 22Pia for 1 Parcel of 31 Kg. + 200 Gr.

1890 to 1914: RUSSIAN POST OFFICE

CALONIKI

OLYMPUS PALACE HOTEL



Thessaloniki 1909: Picture Postcard of Olympos Palace Hotel posted to Germany.

Overprinted Russian stamps



Thessaloniki 1914 (Apr. 24): Registered Cover posted franked Russian Levant 21/2 Pia, to Sonderburg, Germany, arrival May 10.

Postal Rate: 2Pia: 1Pia Single Weight Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration (overpaid by 1/2 Pia, or, perhaps, a "reduced 2nd weight rate" as applied by other Foreign Post Offices at that period— but I have never seen such a regulation from the Russian Post Office)

1890 to 1914: RUSSIAN POST OFFICE CALONIKI

A Registered Cover with Advice of Receipt

Double Circle Postmark ROPhT CALONHKH – year in middle row.
Scarce type of postmark, which had a very limited use, after 1911.



Thessaloniki 1914 (Jan. 27): Registered Cover posted to Zavidovici, Bosnia, arrival Feb. 12,
franked 2 ½ Pia + 2x10Pa Russian Levant Romanoff issue.

Postal Rate: 2 ½ Pia + 2x10Pa = 3Pia: 1Pia Single Weight Foreign Letter, plus 1Pia for Registration, plus 1Pia
for Advice of Reception.

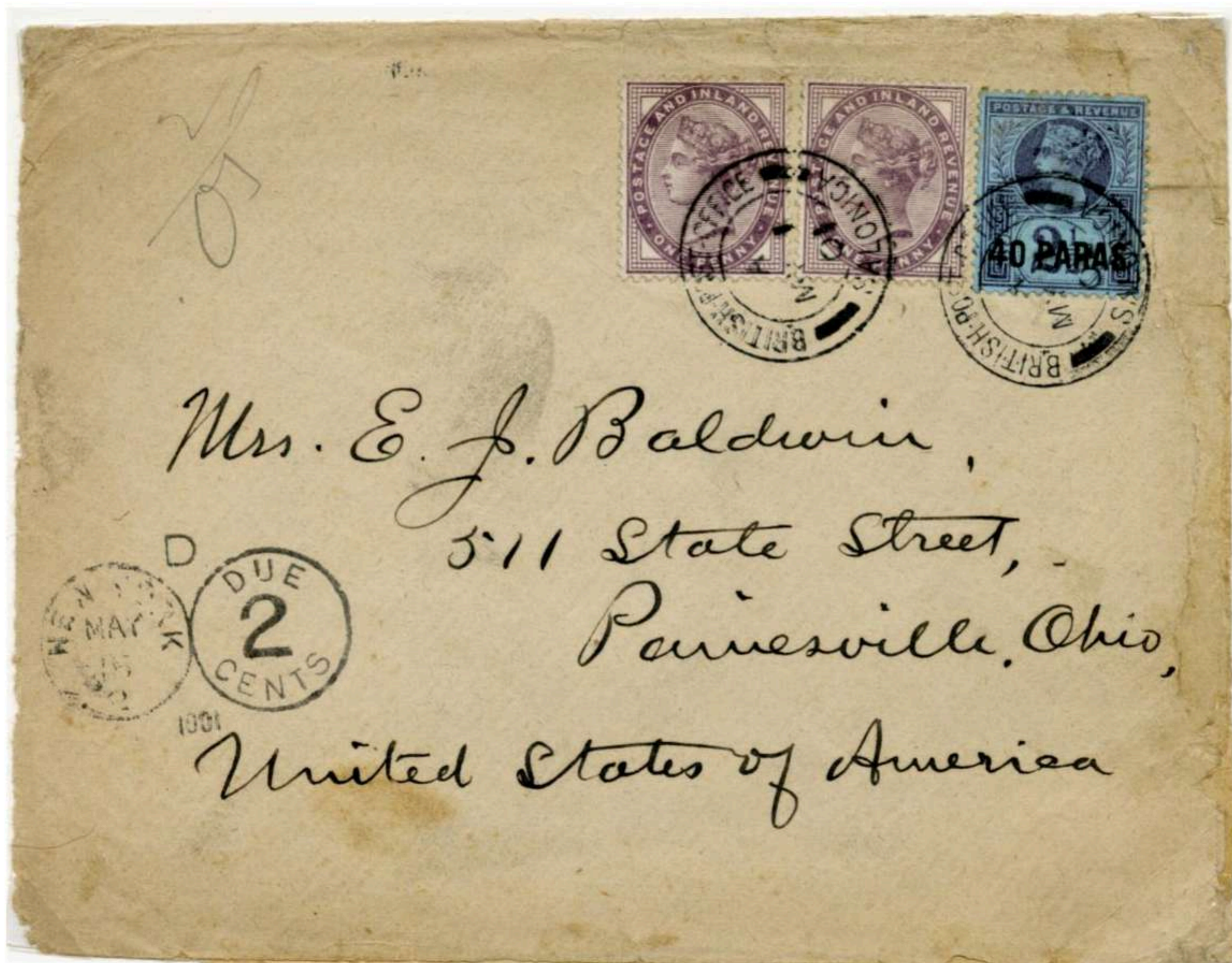
1900 to 1914: BRITISH POST OFFICE SALONICA

The British Post Office 1900 – 1914

The British Post Office of Thessaloniki opened in May 1900. For years the British Commercial Chamber in Constantinople and strong local financial groups of interests, including Banker Allatini, were pressing the Ottoman administration to give permission for one more British Post Office in the Empire. The British Post Office of Thessaloniki was the last and latest British P.O. to be established in the Ottoman Empire.

Double Circle Postmark BRITISH POST OFFICE SALONICA A

Mixed use of British and British Levant stamps



Thessaloniki 1901 (May 1): Envelope, franked with 40 Paras plus 2x1d Victorian, posted to Painesville, Ohio, USA, arrival May 16. The British stamps were still accepted (even unoverprinted) in the Levant Post Offices, but the American Post Office clerk was very well informed: the extra 40 Paras requested for the 2nd weight were equivalent to 2.5 d, so half a penny (equivalent to 2 Cents) was missing from the cover's franking and it was charged in New York, on May 15th.

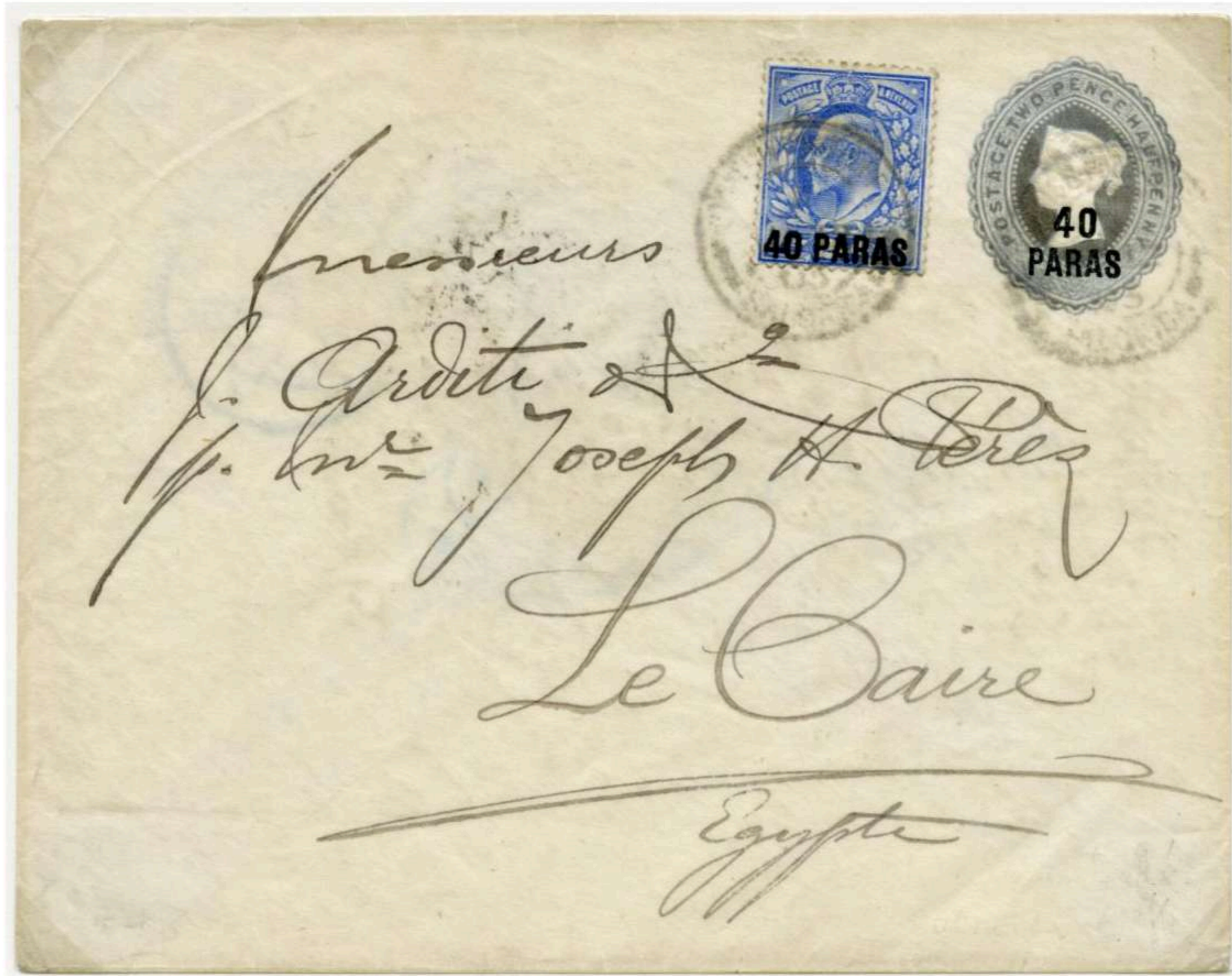
Postal Rate: 2d (British) + 2c (American) + 40Pa = 80Pa = 2Pia: Double Weight Foreign Letter

1900 to 1914: BRITISH POST OFFICE

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

British Levant Stationery Envelope

Mixed use of Victorian and Edwardian issues



Thessaloniki 1903 (January): British Levant Stationery Envelope, franked additionally Edward 40Pa/2.5d, posted via Alexandria to Cairo, arrival Jan. 16.

Postal Rate: 80Pa = 2Pia: Double Weight Foreign Letter

SALONICA

AVIS DE RECEPTION - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DELIVERY

Postmasters—No. 68.

Administration des Postes de la Grande Bretagne.
Post Office of the United Kingdom.

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DELIVERY



d'un objet recommandé }
of a Registered Article }

d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de }
of a letter insured for }
d'un colis postal avec valeur déclarée de }
of a parcel insured for }

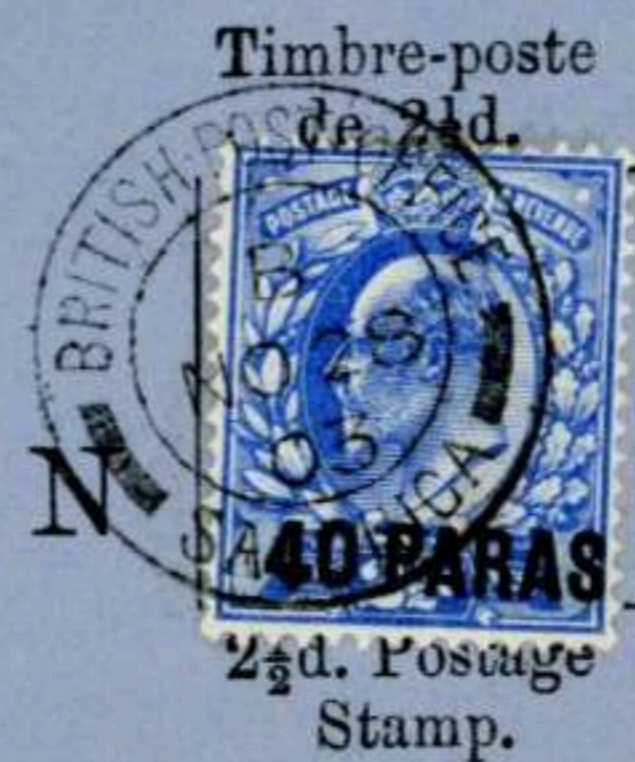
de } La Poste Anglaise-Salonique
of }

et adressé à } M. Lancia
and addressed to }

de Bretagne.

RÉCEPTION

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DELIVERY



Le soussigné }
déclare } (1)

The undersigned }
_____ }

Numéro ()
No.

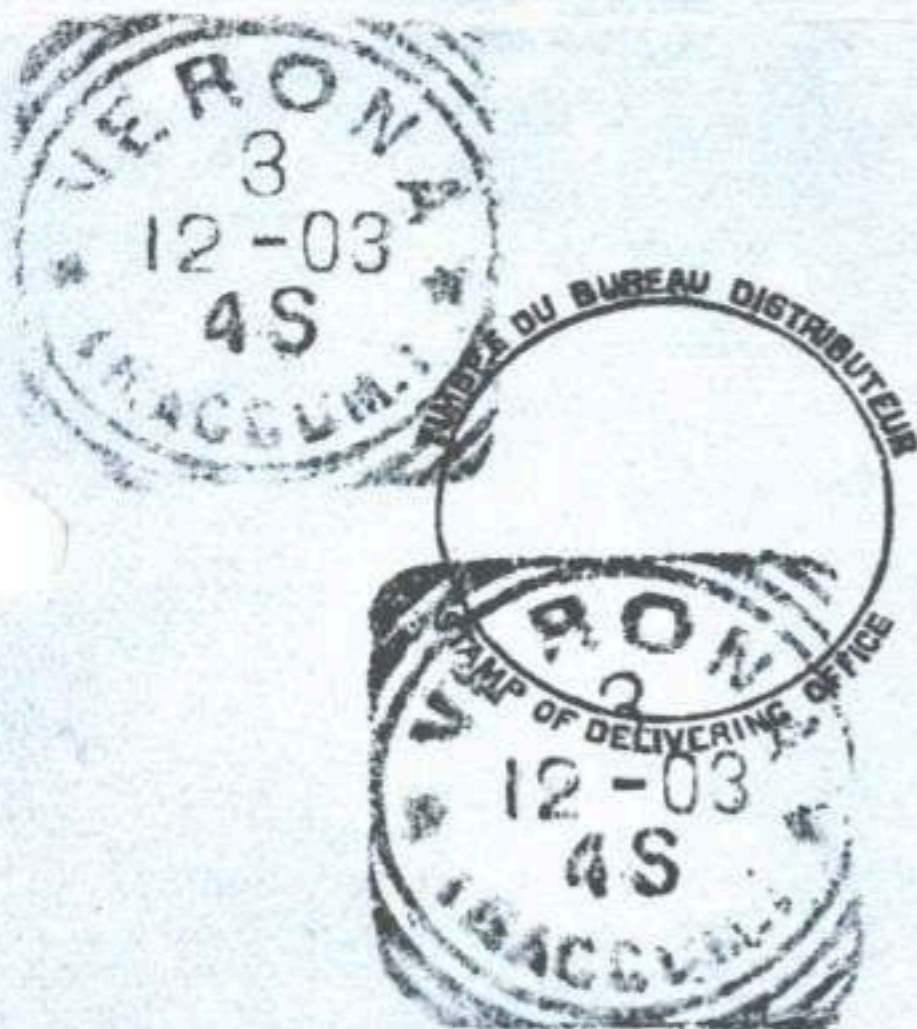
et provenant de }
and sent by (3) }

enregistré ou valeur
déclarée au bureau
registered or insured at
the Office

le } 28. Novembre 1903, (2)
(on the }

livré le
delivered on the

du } ostino } à } Verona (Italia).
of t } {at }



- 1. Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé)
2. Bureau d'origine, numéro; date de dépôt
3. Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur.

Nota.—Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, et lorsque l'avis est dressé par le bureau distributeur le destinataire doit désigner le nom et l'adresse de l'expéditeur.

Lorsque cette formule n'accompagne pas l'objet recommandé ou avec valeur déclarée dont il s'agit on doit

Acknowledgement of Delivery Document for a Letter posted, November 28, 1903, from Thessaloniki to Verona, franked 40 Paras, cancelled British Post Office SALONICA B. The only such document known to exist from the British Post Office of SALONICA

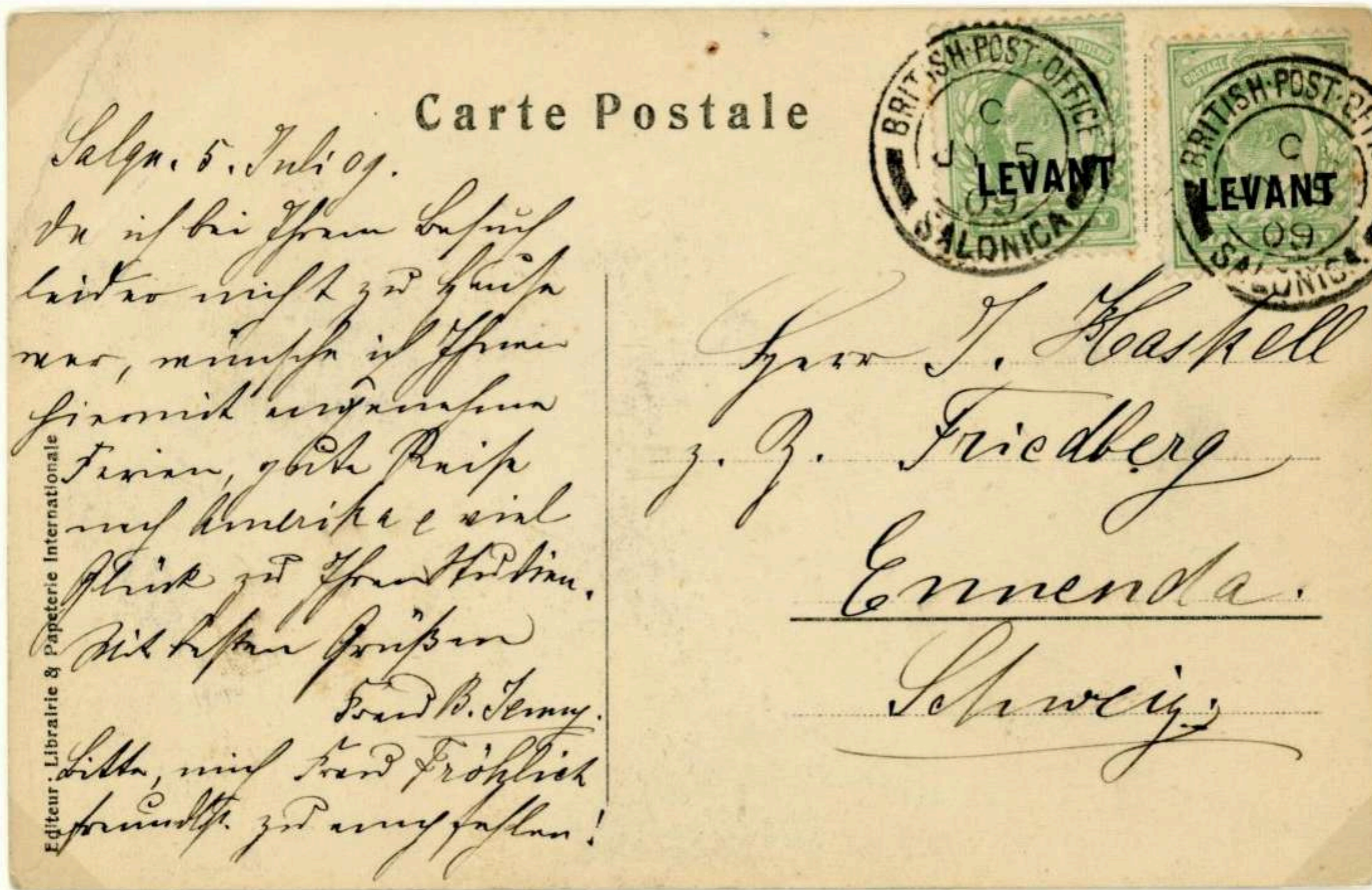
1900 to 1914: BRITISH POST OFFICE

SALONICA

Double Circle Postmarks BRITISH POST OFFICE SALONICA C

The British Post Office of Thessaloniki used extensively the double circle postmarks BRITISH POST OFFICE SALONICA A and B, from 1900 to 1914.

A 3rd type BRITISH POST OFFICE SALONICA C had a very limited use, with a few loose stamps and 3 or 4 complete postal documents known bearing this postmark.



Thessaloniki 1909 (July 5): Picture postcard posted to Enneda, Switzerland.

The card shows Villa Allatini, work of the famous Levantine architect Vitaliano Pozelli, where the Sultan Abdul Hamid was imprisoned after the Young Turks revolution in April 28, 1909.

Postal Rate: 1d Foreign Post Card

Detail



Thessaloniki 1914 (June 10): British Levant 1d Stationery Post Card (George V) posted to New York, USA.

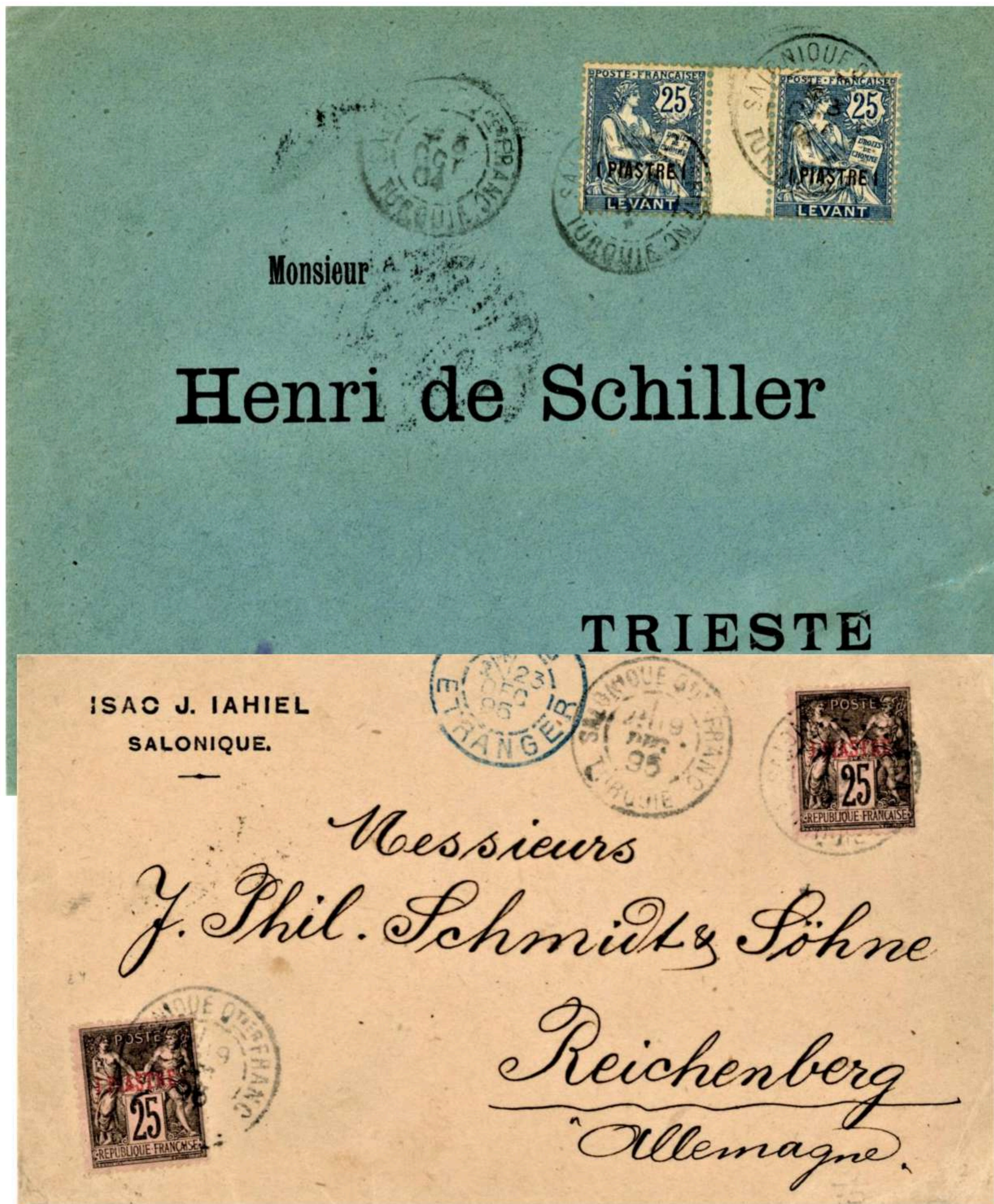
Postal Rate: 1d Foreign Post Card

1890 to 1914: FRENCH POST OFFICE SALONIQUE

The Opening of the French Branch Post Office in the European Quarter

From the early 1890s, a branch office of the main French post office began to operate in the European (Frankish) Quarter of the town, in Francon Street, which was a very active trading center. The move was so successful that, by mid 1890s, the volume of mail handled by the branch office was much bigger than the mail of the main post office. The competing Austrian post office tried a similar move in 1895 but the results were much less successful.

Postmark SALONIQUE QUARTIER FRANC



Thessaloniki 1904 (Oct. 4): Cover to Trieste,
franked Gutter pair 1Pia/25c French Levant 1902 issue c., arrival Oct. 6.

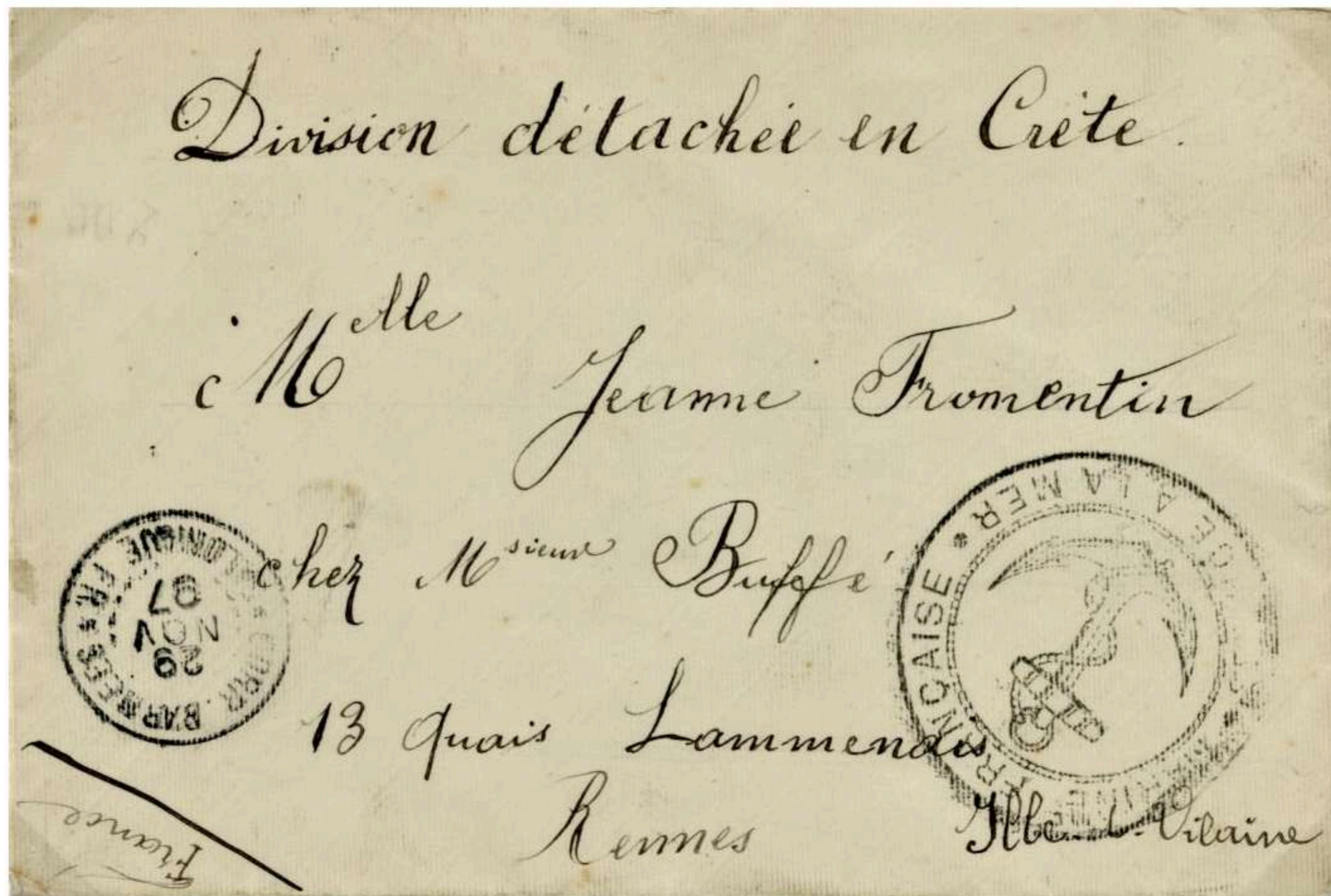
Thessaloniki 1895 (Oct. 29): Cover to Reichenberg, Germany,
franked 2x1Pia/25c French Levant 1891 issue, arrival Dec. 25.
Postal Rate for both covers: 2Pia for Double Weight Foreign Letter.

1890 to 1914: FRENCH POST OFFICE SALONIQUE

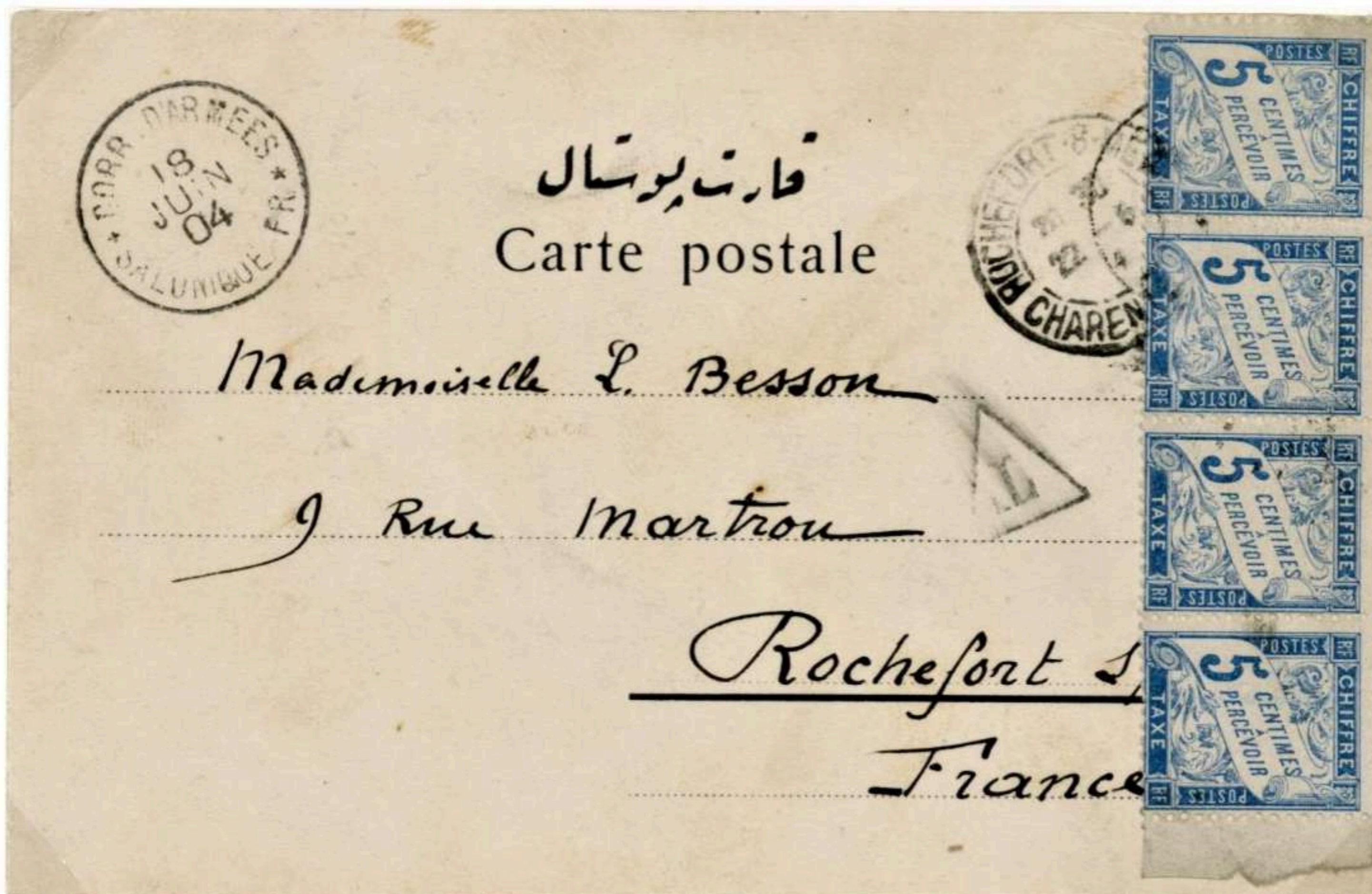
Sub-office for Military Correspondence

A Sub-office of the main French Post Office was handling Military Correspondence. In some cases, use by Civilians (of French interests!) was tolerated.

Postmark CORR. D' ARMEES FR SALONIQUE (1897-1909)



Thessaloniki 1897 (Nov. 29): Cover from the French Division on their way to Crete, posted to Rennes, France
Postal Rate: Free – Military Correspondence



Thessaloniki 1904 (June 18): Picture Postcard posted to Rochefort, France. As it was posted by a Civilian (obviously because it was written on the front side), it was charged 20c and franked with a strip of 4 x 5c Postage Due.
Postal Rate: 2x10c Foreign Post Card (with text).

60%



1890 to 1914: FRENCH POST OFFICE

SALONIQUE

Insufficiently pre-paid mail

From Thessaloniki



Front of card with franking

50%



Thessaloniki 1910 (Apr. 28): Picture Postcard posted to Liege, Belgium. As it was insufficiently prepaid (the 5c rate for Post Card without text was not accepted because the card had a few notes) it was charged 5c x 2.

Postal Rate: 10c for Foreign Post Card (with text).

To Thessaloniki



50%

Double-fold picture postcard posted from Cahors to **Thessaloniki**, franked 15c Semeuse.

It was treated as lettercard, thus it should have been franked 25c. So it was charged 20c and franked at arrival with a pair of 10c Postage Due, tied **SALONIQUE TURQUIE** Jan. 21, 1905.



1890 to 1914: ITALIAN POST OFFICE SALONICCO

The Italian Post Office 1908 – 1914

For years, the Italian Government was pressing the Ottoman Government to allow the operation of 3 more Italian Post Offices in the Ottoman Empire (in Thessaloniki, Valona, and Jerusalem). The High Gate was refusing and only after the display of Naval Force in 1907 by the Italians, permission was finally granted.

The Italian Post Office started operations on May 26th, 1908 and it was the last of the long series of foreign post offices that operated in the town until Nov. 1914.

On September 29, 1911, we had the beginning of the Italian-Turkish war. Consequently, the Italian P.O. ceased operation. It started again on November 26, 1912, under Greek supervision.



Up-rated Letter Card of Bayern, posted from Würzburg to the non-existent, by then, Italian post Office of **Thessaloniki, Nov. 30, 1907**, 5 months before the Official opening. Obviously, the New post Office was advertised by the Italians, but its opening was delayed because of the Ottoman objections. The Austrian Post Office returned the Letter card to Würzburg.

1890 to 1914: ITALIAN POST OFFICE

SALONICCO

Use of stamps

The Italian p.o. of Thessaloniki used:

- Italian stamps (mostly during the first months of operation)
- Italian stamps overprinted in Paras and Piastres (Italian Levant stamps)
- From February 1909, a special issue for Thessaloniki: Italian stamps overprinted SALONICCO and new value in Turkish currency.

A cover from the first days of the Italian post office

Single Circle Postmark SALONICCO UFF. POSTALE ITALIANO

Franking of Italian Levant stamps

Registration Label with rubber handstamp SALONICCO POSTE ITALIANE (Large Letters)



Thessaloniki 1908 (June 25 -less than a month after the opening of p.o.):

Registered Envelope franked 20Pa/10c, 40Pa/25c and 80Pa/50c Italian Levant stamps,
posted to Budapest, Hungary.

Postal Rate: 140Para: 100Pa Triple Weight Letter (40+30+30) + 1Pia (40Pa) for Registration

1890 to 1914: ITALIAN POST OFFICE SALONICCO

The Italian Post Office seized operations from 10 October 1911, during the Italian-Turkish War and re-operated after 25 November 1912 (under Greek authorization).

Just after the War and for a short period of 2 months (December 1912 to January 1913), the Post Office used a rarely seen Double Circle type of postmark with bridge. From Feb. 1913, the 2 common types (Single Circle + Circles in a Square) were back in everyday use.
(see Ath. Paschos "The Italian P.O. of Thessaloniki")

Double Circle Postmark SALONICCO UFFICIO POSTALE ITALIANO

Use of Salonico overprinted stamps

Registration Label with rubber handstamp SALONICCO POSTE ITALIANE (Small Letters)



Thessaloniki 1913 (Jan. 16): Registered cover franked with 20Pa, 2x10Pa, 1Pia overprinted Salonico stamps, posted to Milano, arrival Jan. 21.
The only Recorded, up to now, use of the Double Circle Postmark on a registered cover.
Postal Rate: 40Pa Single Weight Letter to Italy + 1Pia for Registration

1890 to 1914: ITALIAN POST OFFICE

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Italian Levant Parcel Post Card of 60 CENTS

Mod. 251
BULLETTINO di SPEDIZIONE
di Pacco Postale
diretto nel fegno od all'estero
ove esista ufficio Italiano.

Numero del Pacco
417

Si spedisce un *nu* (involto, cassetta, cestino, rotolo, pacco)

Valore dichiarato Lire _____ Cent. _____

Dichiarazione del contenuto *Libri*

Assegno Lire _____ Cent. _____

Al *Signor* *Ambrogio Bisio*
Prov^a di *Genova*

Nome, cognome, condizione e domicilio del mittente
Casareto, Capartes - Salonico

Impronta del suggello col quale è stato chiuso il pacco (obbligatoria per pacchi con dichiarazione di valore)

Da riempirsi dall'ufficio speditore

Peso del Pacco	Tasse riscosse	Lire	Ot.	Ufficio che deve distribuire il pacco
<i>4800</i> grammi	per trasporto	60		Prov ^a di <i>AZ</i>
	„ assicurazione			
	„ assegno			
	„ pacco ingombrante			
	Totale			

Postage stamps: PACCHI POSTALI LEVANTE CENT. 60, POSTE ITALIANE 25, POSTE ITALIANE 15.

Postmark: CATANIA 24-11-1913, SALONICO 1-12-13.

Thessaloniki (1913, Nov. 16):

Italian Levant Parcel Post Card of 60 Cent (= 3 Piastres) for a Parcel of 4,800 Kgr, to Italy, franked additionally 1Pia/25c + 30Pa/15c overprinted SALONICCO, via Catania (Catania Dogana 24-11-1913, on reverse), to Genova, arrival December 1, 1913.

Postal Rate: The Rate was 60C = 3 Piastres for a Parcel of 3 Kgr.

For this parcel of 4,800 Kgr, the payment was
4,8/3 Kgr x 3 Piastres = 4.8 Piastres = 4 Piastres + 30 Paras

The Rates for Parcels to Italy, by the Italian Post Office, were really promotional.

1912-13: THE DAYS OF LIBERATION

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the signs of decay and disintegration of the once powerful Ottoman Empire are strong, despite economic growth or perhaps because of it. This would lead, on the inner front of the empire, to the Neo-Turkish revolution, to the dismemberment of the Sultan and to the struggle for democratic reforms. However, the enslaved ethnic groups of the Balkan Peninsula (Greeks, Bulgarians, Serbs, etc.), who in recent decades have gained economic power and national cohesion, are seeking a greater share of power, while communicating and referring more and more to their national states, creations of the 19th century (Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia). The result was the 1st Balkan War, the apple of contention was Thessaloniki. The protocol of surrender of Thessaloniki between the Ottoman administration and the Greek officials was signed on October 26, 1912. After 482 years of Ottoman occupation, the City was back in Greek and Christian hands.

King George A' of Greece entered the City in head of the Greek Army on October 29th, 1912.



The first postmark (type V) of the Greek post office in blue color.

Post Card "The Entrance of King George in Thessaloniki"



Post Card "The Reception of King George in Thessaloniki"

Thessaloniki 1913 (Feb. 20): Picture Postcard posted to France, franked 2x2l.+1l.

Postal Rate: 5 Lepta Postcard without text.

Thessaloniki 1913 (Mar. 12): Picture Postcard posted to Austria, franked 3x3l.+1l.

Postal Rate: 10 Lepta Postcard with text.

1912-13: THE DAYS OF LIBERATION

GREEK ADMINISTRATION

The use of ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ Overprinted Issues

The financial and administrative management of the liberated areas, based on international treaties and until the final settlement of the borders, was subject to international accounting and control.

For this reason, it was mandatory to use stamps other than metropolitan ones. In particular, to cover the postal needs, the Greek Government proceeded to overprint Greek stamps with the words GREEK ADMINISTRATION : ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ. The overprinted stamps were immediately promoted for use in Thessaloniki and other areas that were liberated. Only after a series of procedures that included the ratification of international treaties, the integration of the postal services in the respective metropolitan areas and the publication of decrees for the validity of the new areas of Greek postal legislation, the legal use of Greek stamps in Thessaloniki and other liberated areas was allowed.

Postmark ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ Type V



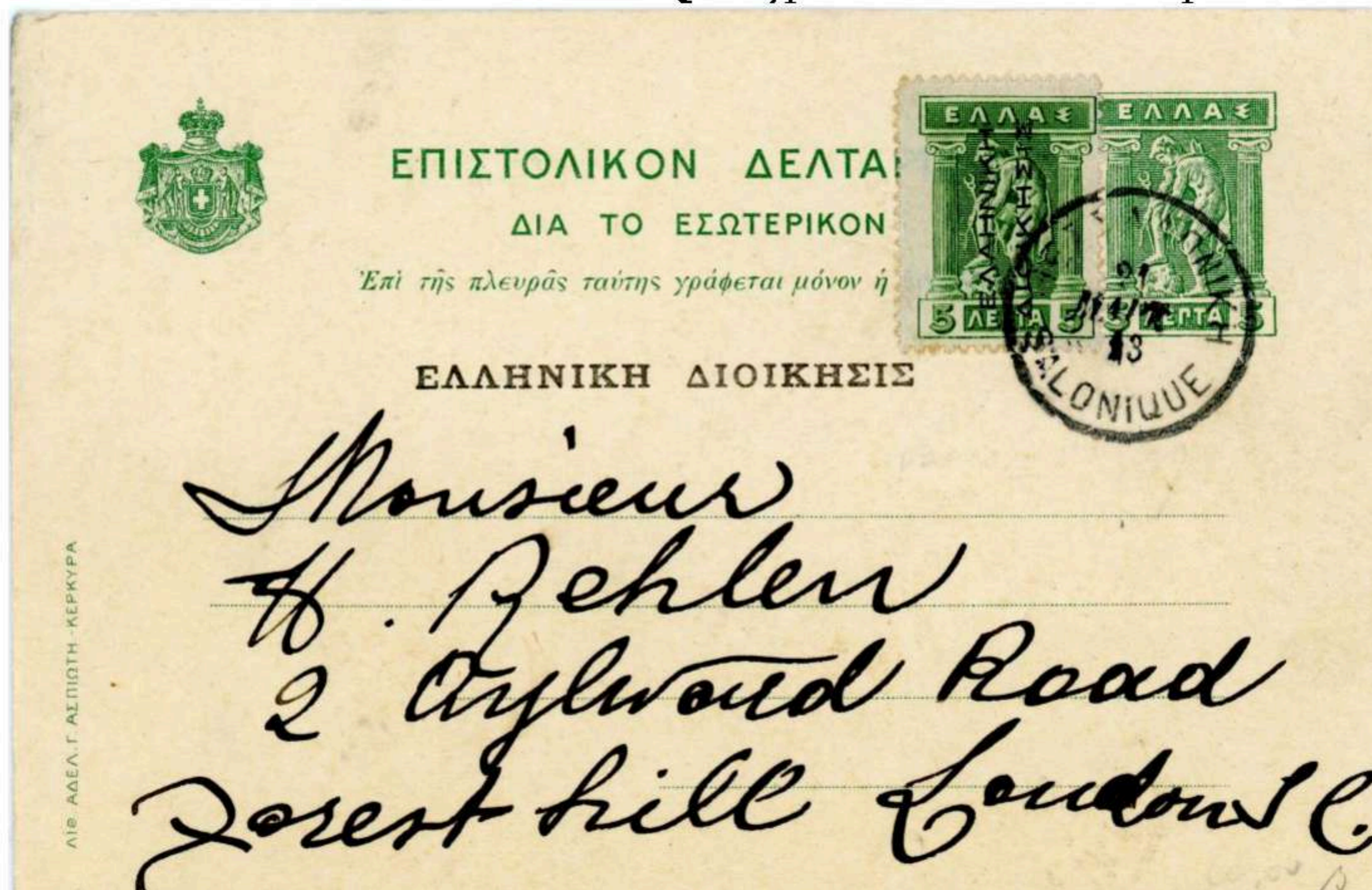
Thessaloniki 1912 (Nov. 3): Picture Postcard posted to Athens.

The sender expresses his great joy for the liberation.

The first Non-Philatelic use of a Greek stamp in Thessaloniki that I have ever seen.

Postal Rate: 5 Lepta Domestic Postcard.

Postmark ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ SALONIQUE Type V for international correspondence.



Thessaloniki 1913 (May 13): Stationery Postcard posted to London, uprated by 5l.

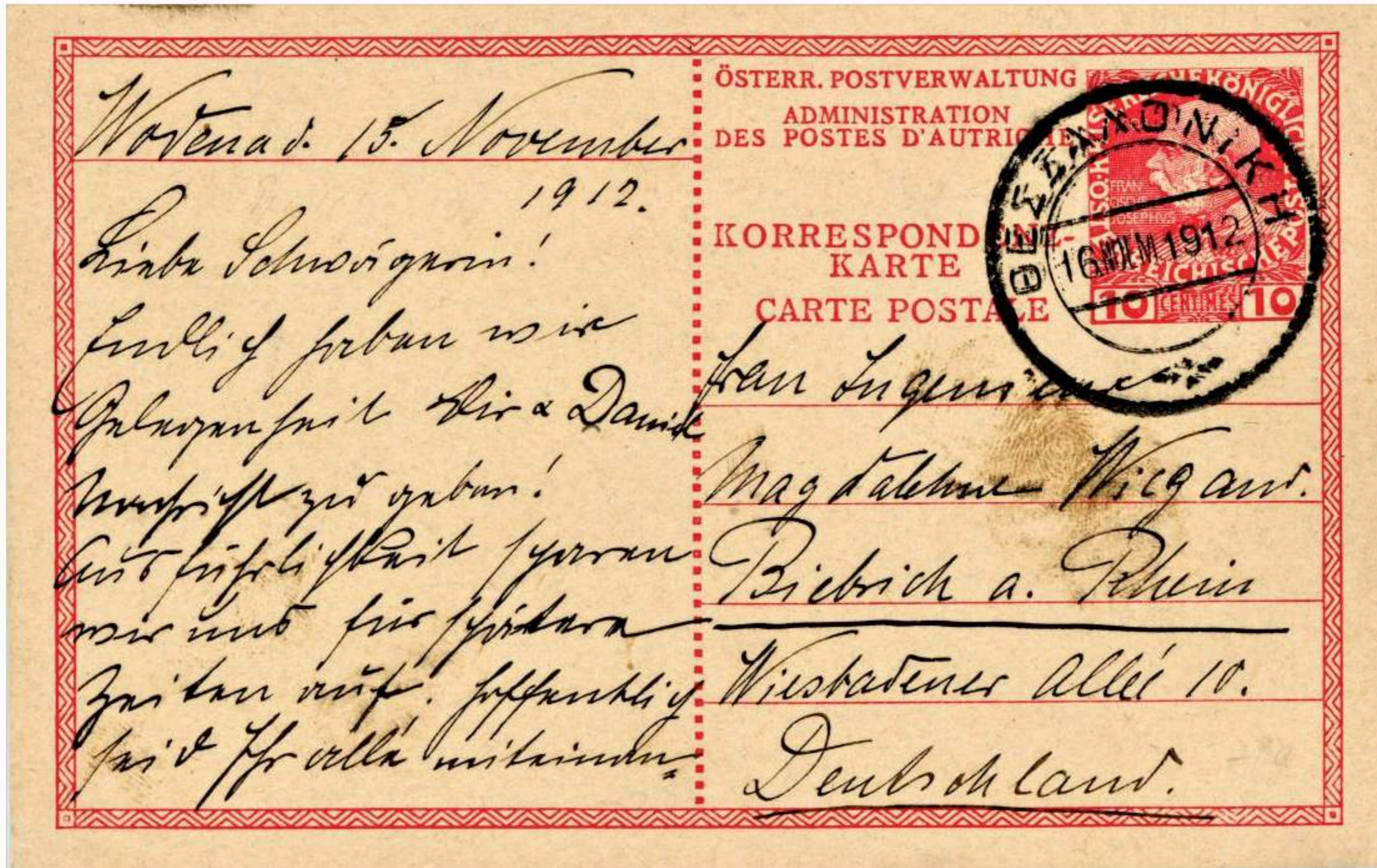
Postal Rate: 10 Lepta Foreign Postcard

1912-13: THE DAYS OF LIBERATION

GREEK ADMINISTRATION

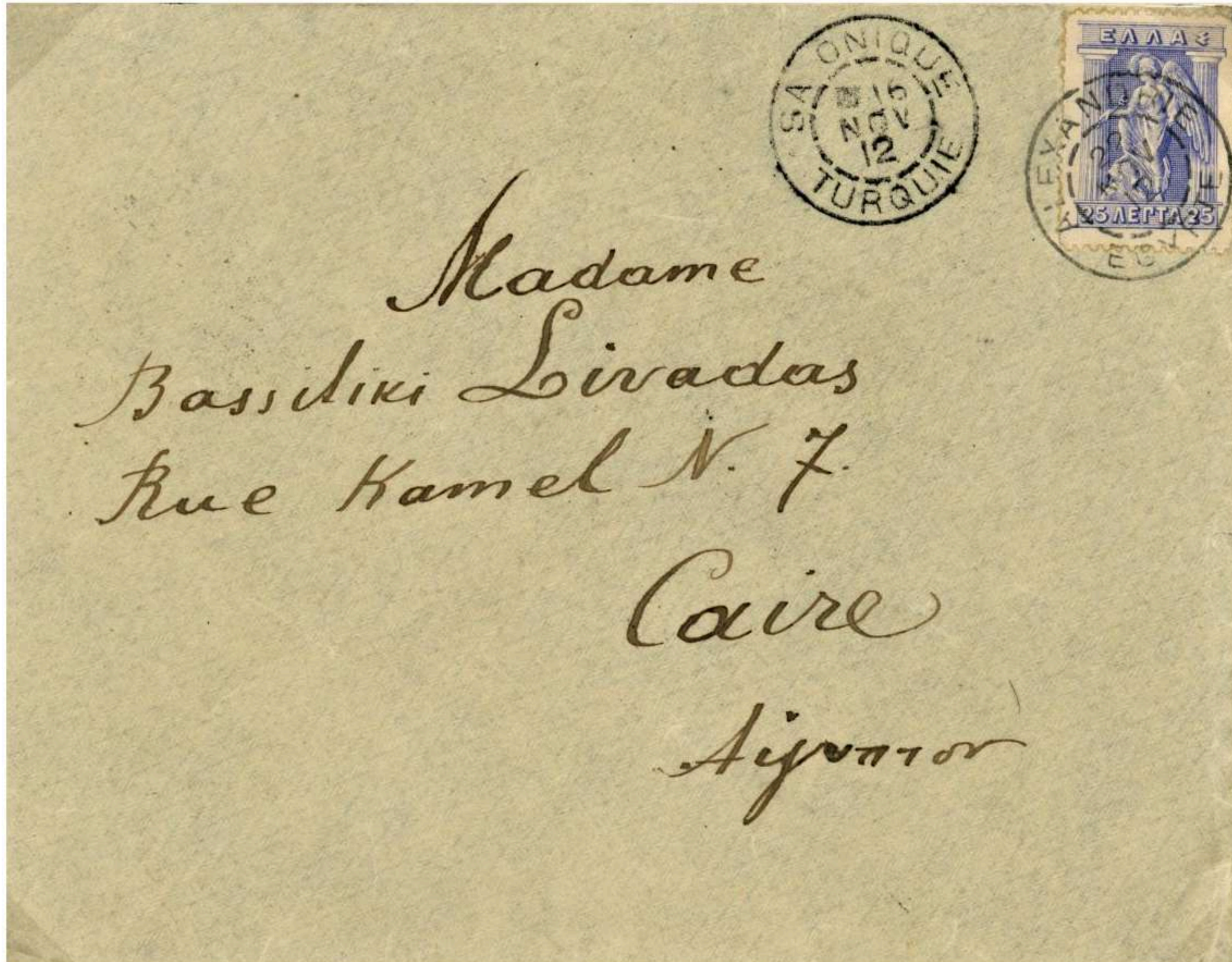
Postal Abnormalities during the chaotic first days of liberation

As the communications were irregular, the various P.Os of the town had to collaborate and, on a few occasions, they entrusted their bags to the Greek warships for conveyance to Piraeus



Thessaloniki 1912 (Nov. 16): Austrian (P.Os in Crete) Stationery Postcard posted to Germany, handled to, and accepted by the Greek Post Office and cancelled by the new Greek Postmark. The Card was written in VODENA (Edessa).

Postal Rate: 10 cent Foreign Postcard



Thessaloniki 1912 (Nov. 16): Cover, posted to Cairo, franked with a 25l. Greek stamp, which was not yet authorized for use in Thessaloniki (only stamps overprinted ΕΜΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ were authorized for use). The cover was given to the French post office, where the clerk put the postmark SALONIQUE TURQUIE, without cancelling the stamp. The stamp was accepted and cancelled by the ignorant clerk of the French post office at Alexandria, ALEXANDRIE EGYPTE. On reverse, arrival postmarks of Alexandria – French and Egyptian post offices – and Cairo, Egyptian post office.

Postal Rate: 25 Lepta Foreign Cover

1912-13: THE DAYS OF LIBERATION GREEK ADMINISTRATION

A Booty Card and a Patriotic Cover



Thessaloniki 1913 (June 9): Ottoman postal stationery card used as booty, hand stamped with ΓΕΝΙΚΟΝ ΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΕΙΟΝ ΣΤΡΑΤΟΥ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΙΑΣ (General Headquarters of the Thessalian Army, with Coat of Arms), written in Thessaloniki, sent to Piraeus.



Thessaloniki 1912 (Dec. 23): Patriotic cover posted to Volos.
Postal Rate: 5 Lepta Domestic Open Cover

1912-13: BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE

SOLOUN

The Bulgarians operated a regular civilian post office in Thessaloniki from November 1912. The Bulgarian Postal Administration used Bulgarian metropolitan stamps and postcards - in contrast to the very careful handling of the Greek Postal Administration, which only used special overprinted stamps for the occupied areas, in accordance with UPU regulations. The Bulgarians did this, in violation of international practice and law, in all areas occupied by the Bulgarian army and establishing a Bulgarian administration.



Изгледъ на Солунъ — Беазь-Куле

Single Circle Postmark SOLOUN on stamps of Bulgaria



Thessaloniki, 1913 (Apr. 14): Registered commercial cover, posted to Budapest, franked 25Ct + pair 10Ct + 5Ct Bulgarian stamps.

Postal Rate: 25Ct for Single Weight Foreign Letter plus 25Ct for registration.

Very few letters known to Foreign Destinations (outside Greece or Bulgaria)

1912-13: BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE

SOLOUN

A Historically Important Registered Cover
23 November 1912, from Xanthi, Thrace



The cover was handled for shipping, as written, on Nov. 22, 1912 and posted registered, on Nov. 23rd, from the, just occupied by the Bulgarians, ex Ottoman Post Office of Xanthi. It was cancelled by the, only existing by then, Ottoman postmark XANTHI, but Bulgarian stamps were not available. The Bulgarians occupied Xanthi around November 20th. The cover was forwarded to Thessaloniki, where the Bulgarian Post Office was now in operation and Bulgarian stamps of 25 Ct (Registered Internal Postal Rate) were affixed and cancelled SOLOUN **Thessaloniki 27 November 1912**. The cover was again forwarded for delivery to the much better organized Austrian P.O. (reverse, 1st December 1912).

A unique combination of Post Offices and the only known cover of the Bulgarian Post Office of Thessaloniki with the stamps affixed and cancelled on arrival (although, I would not exactly characterize this case as "Postage Due"). The cover comes from the Archives of the "BANQUE D'ORIENT" (filling holes).

I do believe that the Bulgarian stamps were affixed in Thessaloniki - and not in Xanthi -, because we know of existing covers posted a few days later, with Bulgarian stamps cancelled with the Ottoman postmark of Xanthi. So, if the stamps were available and affixed in Xanthi, the post office clerk would have cancelled them.

1912-13: BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE

SOLOUN

The Bulgarian Claim for the City was one of the reasons for the 2nd Balkan War, which started on June 1913. The Bulgarian Post Office closed on June 17th, 1913 because of the outbreak of the 2nd Balkan War .

Single Circle Postmark SOLOUN on stamps of Bulgaria
Letters to Bulgaria were treated as Internal Mail!



Thessaloniki, 1913 (June 16 - last day of operation of the Bulgarian Post Office):

Registered commercial cover, posted to Ichtib,
franked 2 x 15Ct + 5Ct Bulgarian stamps.

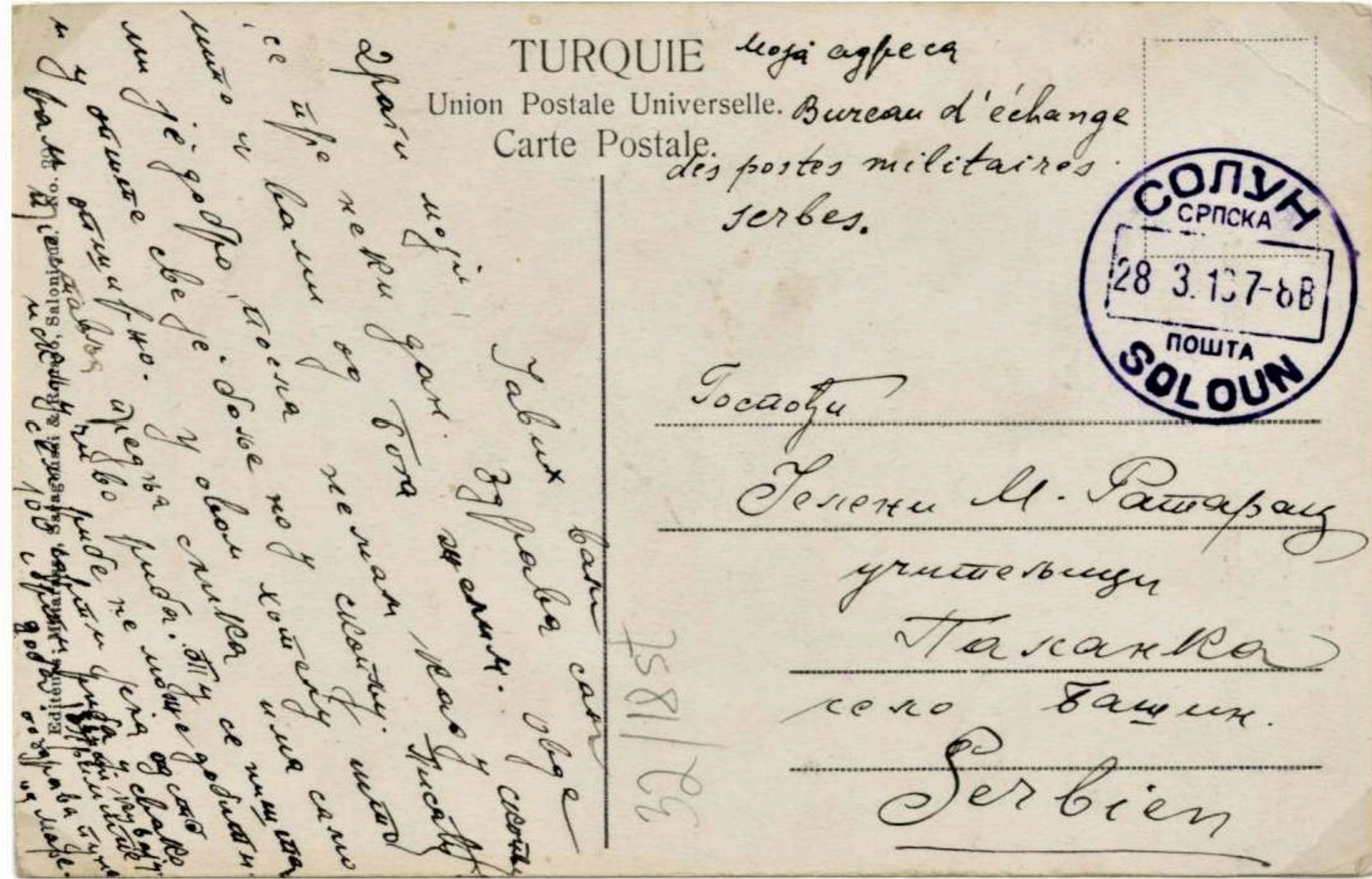
Postal Rate: 10Ct for Single Weight Letter to Bulgaria (treated as internal) plus 25Ct for registration.

1912-13: BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE

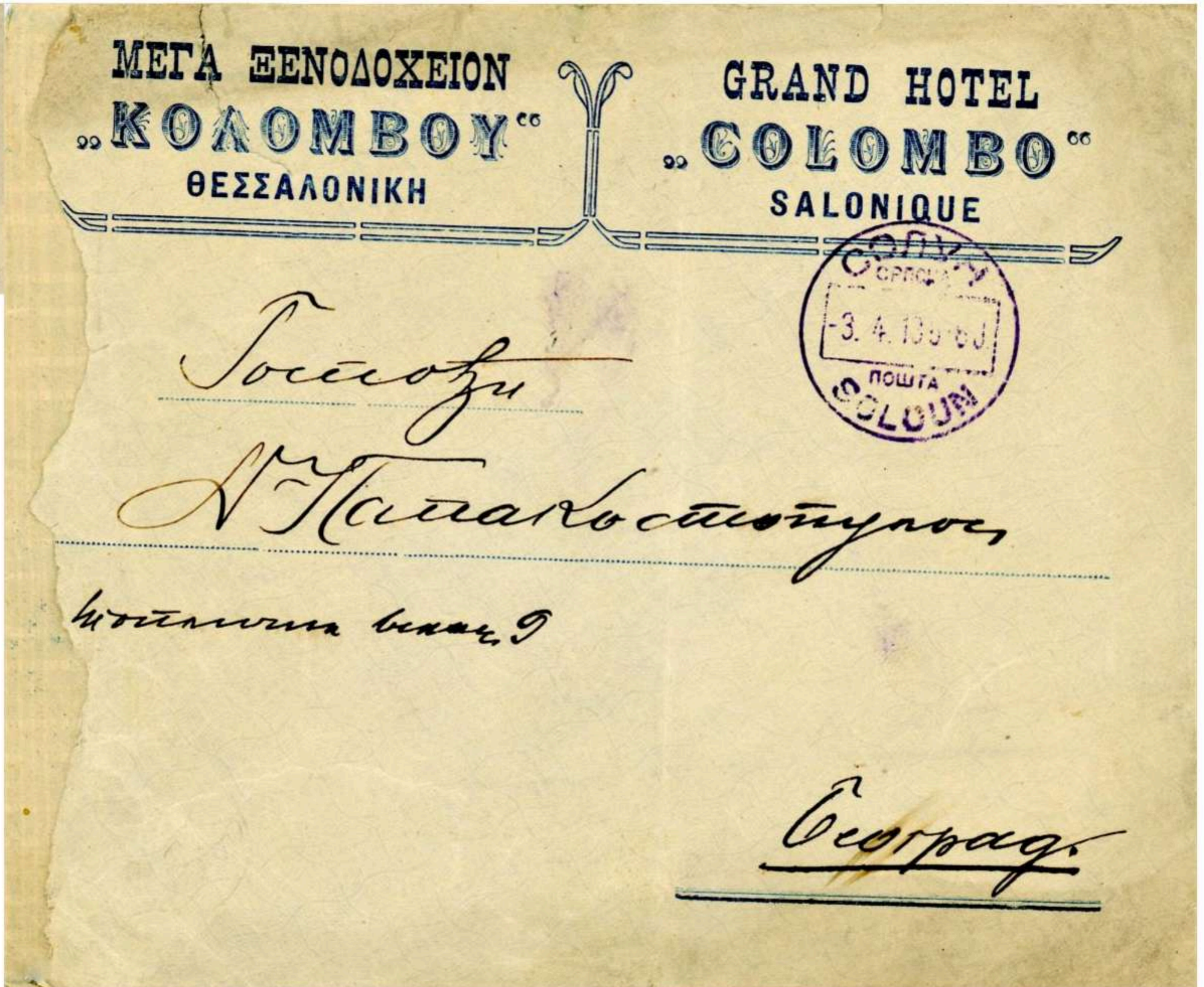
SERBIAN POST OFFICE

A Serbian civil post office operated in Thessaloniki from the spring until the beginning of the summer of 1913, when the 2nd Balkan War broke out. As there was no particular Serbian interest for the city, the Serbian post had very limited to minimal function and was mainly used as a mail delivery and exchange office for the Serbian Military Post. Very few (less than 10) mailed items have survived, certifying its operation.

Single Circle Postmark SOLOUN ПОШТА СРПСКА



Thessaloniki, 1913 (March 28): Picture postcard posted to Serbia. *Postal Rate: Free, Carried by the Serbian Military mail*

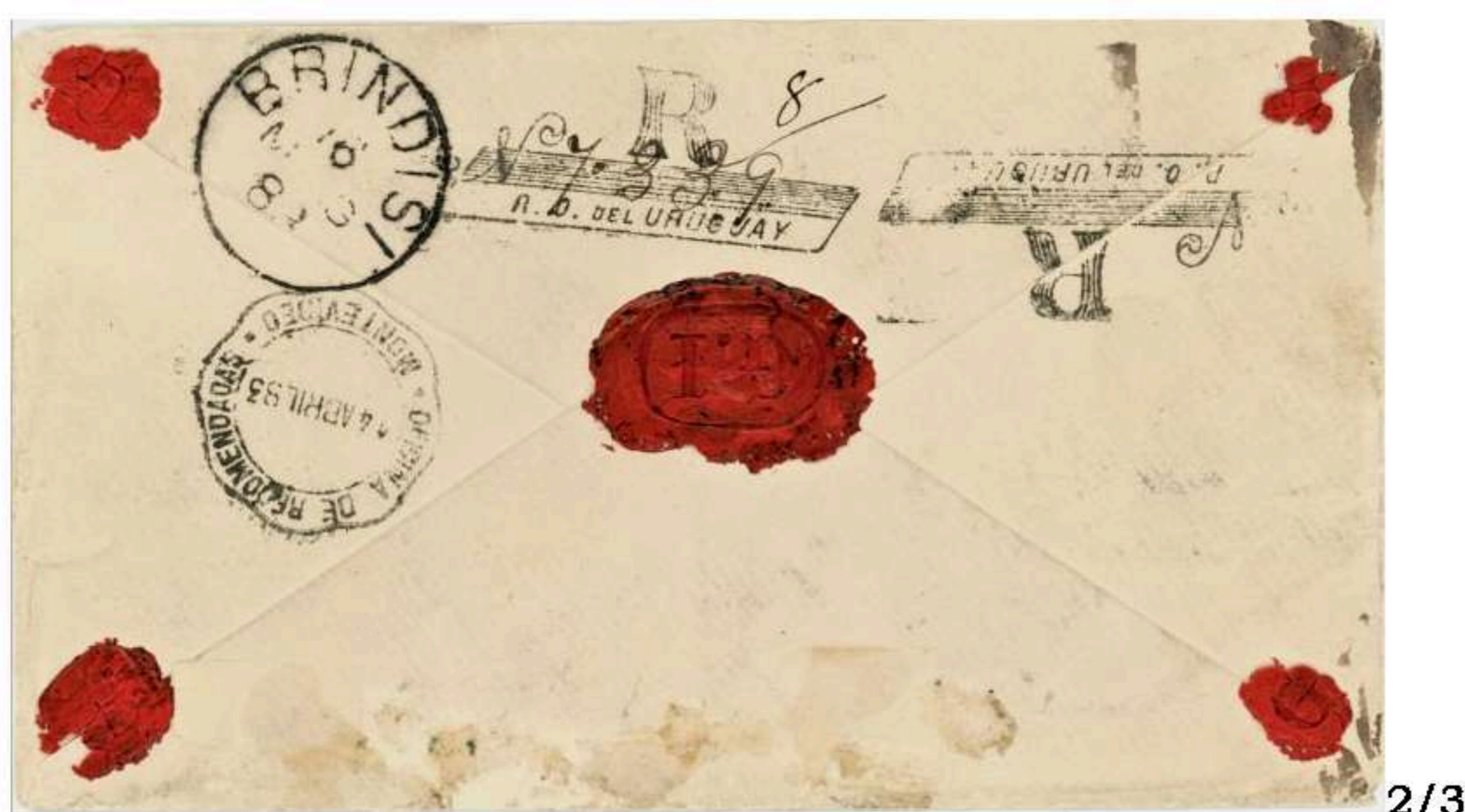


Thessaloniki, 1913 (April 3): Cover from the 'Grand Hotel Colombo' posted to Belgrade, Serbia, arrival April 5. *Postal Rate: Free, Carried by the Serbian Military mail*

Thessaloniki joins the global correspondence network

The traditional approach, in dealing with the postal history of a place, is to show the development of the postal services (post offices, stamps, postmarks, rates, itineraries etc.) in this place, during a period of time. A 2nd approach may show extraordinary material from another point of view i.e. letters to or from rare destinations. In such a treatment, the incoming mail is equally important to outgoing mail. And, as the development and improvement of postal services, coincides with the explosion of the global communication in the last half of the 19th century, this approach- treatment becomes equally important. I have classified this chapter of the collection, on a geographical basis (it is meaningless otherwise).

MAIL WITH SOUTH AMERICA From Uruguay, 1883



Registered Cover posted from Cordón Uruguay, dated **Apr. 14, 1883**,
via Montevideo, Brindisi (May 16, 1883) to **Thessaloniki**.
Postal Rate: 20 Centesimo, UPU Foreign Letter Rate plus Registration.

MAIL WITH BLACK AFRICA

To Diego Suarez, Madagascar + to Zanzibar (redirected to Dar Es Salaam).



40%

Thessaloniki. (1909, May 21): Commercial postcard, franked with pair 10Para, posted by the Ottoman Post Office, via Alexandria, Suez to Diego Suarez, arrival June 29, 1909.

Postal Rate: 20 Pa for Foreign Post Card

Diego Suarez was, during the 2nd half of 19th century, an important port for the ships crossing the Indian Ocean, on the north coast of Madagascar (today's name: Antsirananana)



Detail of Back



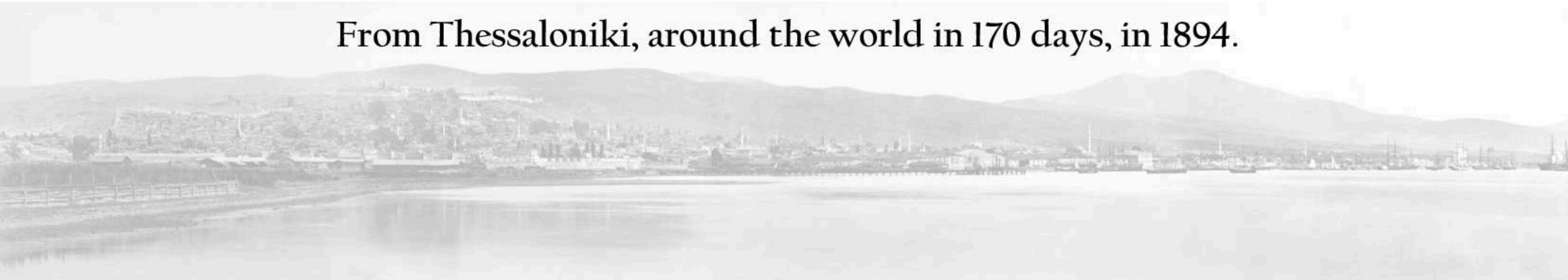
Thessaloniki. (1902, July 28): Cover posted by the French Post Office to Zanzibar, arrival August 22, 1902, and redirected to Dar Es Salaam, Tanganyika Territory, arrival August 23.

Postal Rate: 1Pia Single Weight Foreign Letter.

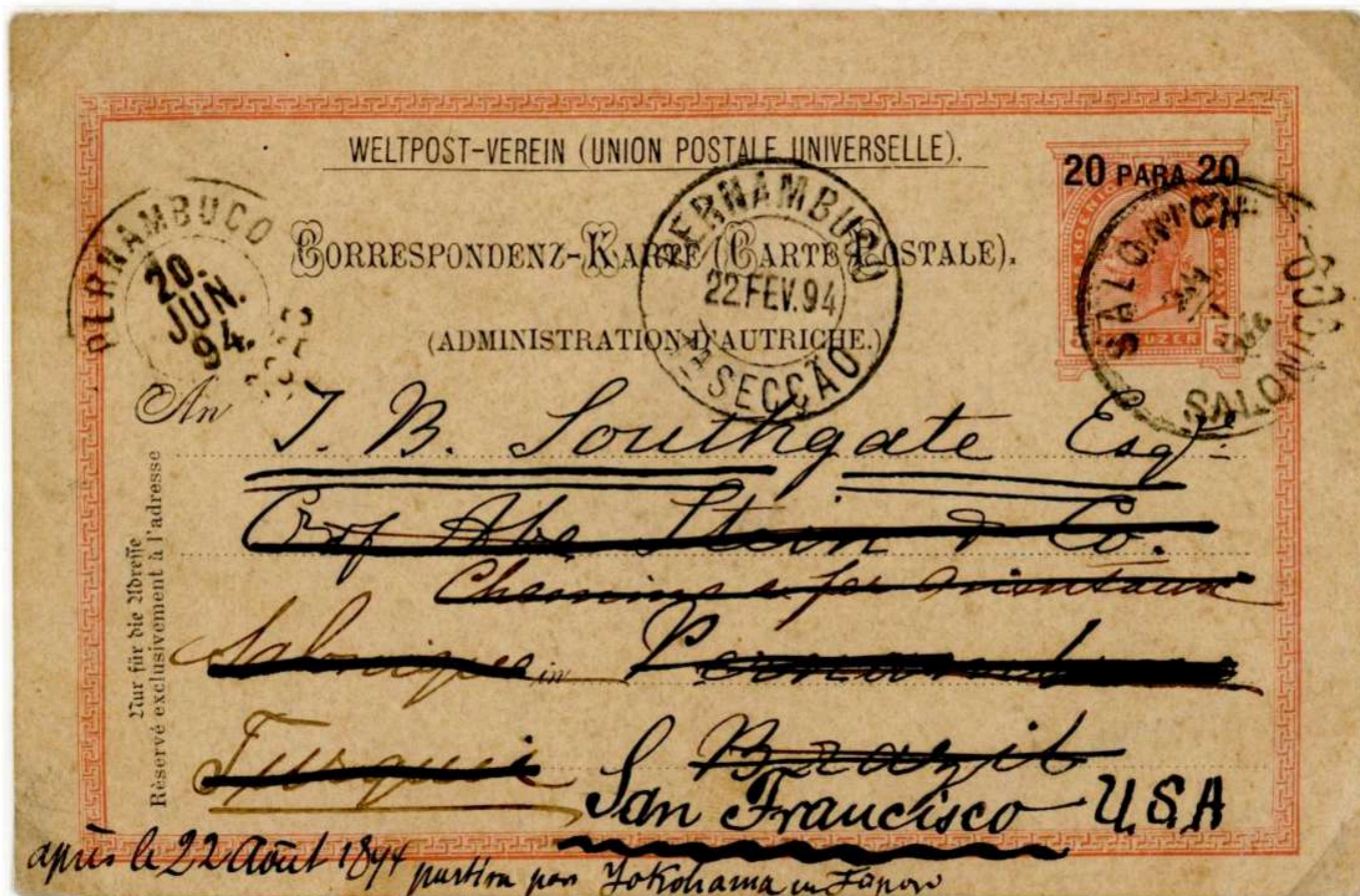
ADVENTURES OF MAIL

Although, from the primitive days of the 18th Century to the modern era - beginning of 20th Century -, there was a huge improvement of the postal services from every point of view (economy, efficacy, safety, speed of transportation), the postal history collectors find letters and envelopes that were lost along the way, were found in wrong places, were delayed extensively, traveled around the world (!) and suffered various hardships and adventures. These letters I believe exert a special charm for the avid postal history fans.

From Thessaloniki, around the world in 170 days, in 1894.



A Multi-travelled Card to Pernambuco, Brazil, San Francisco, Yokohama and back to Thessaloniki



Thessaloniki 1894 (Jan. 24): Stationery Postcard of the Austrian Post Office, posted to Pernambuco, Brazil (arrival Feb. 22 1894), redirected to San Francisco USA, where it failed to reach the addressee because he had left for Yokohama, Japan, went back to San Francisco (June 20 1894) and finally back to Thessaloniki (July 12 1894). Curiously, the final receiver was the French P.O. of Thessaloniki (although the Card started from the Austrian P.O.)

Postal Rate: 20 Paras for Foreign Post Card.

ADVENTURES OF MAIL

Outgoing mail from Thessaloniki, lost for 38 months in the turmoil of the 1st WW, and then found, forwarded to a recipient, who had, in the meanwhile died, and, finally, returned to the sender.

60%



Thessaloniki 1915 (Oct. 14): Registered Cover posted from Thessaloniki to Nisch, Serbia, franked 50l. + Red cross Charity (Registered Cover Rate).

The Letter was lost (or retained) during the confrontations at the Balkans Front of WWI. In 1918 (February 14th) it was found by the Serbian Army. Some months later it was sent to Nisch (November 7th, 1918), where it was cancelled "PARVENU EN MAUVAISE ETAT" (Received in Bad Condition) and sent to the recipient, who had in the meanwhile, died. So, a handwritten Label was affixed "l'adressant decede et tour à l'envoyer" (the addressee died, return to sender), and the letter was sent back to Thessaloniki, arrival December 20th, 1918 (after 38 months !!).

So, whenever you lose a letter in the Post, you should never lose your hope, provided you are alive to receive it!!