

Winds" issues during WW II occupation of Greece

The regular airmail issues of "Winds A' " and "Winds B' " were issued, during the WWII occupation of Greece, on August 15th 1942 and on September 15th 1943 respectively. These two issues were used as airmail postage for the following two air connections : 1) daily flight from Athens - Thessaloniki (domestic) - Sofia - Belgrade - Vienna - Berlin and 2) a regular flight from Athens - Corfu (domestic) - Rome.

The 12 stamp depictions of the 6 + 6 values of Winds A' and B' issues were "taken" from the 8 Winds appearing on the frieze of the octagonal clocktower known as, "Tower of the Winds" or as the "Horologion of Andronikos Kyrrhestes", located at the Roman Agora of Athens and constructed in the 1st century B.C. This impressive monument is considered as the World's first Meteorological Station featuring a combination of Sundials, a Water Clock and a Wind Vane.

The two "Winds" issues despite their short time of circulation are among the most exciting ones from a philatelic point of view as they are offering a wide range of varieties and errors whilst at the same time from a historical point of view they reflect the rapid changes of postal rates due the soaring inflation of that turbulent period. It is worth pointing-out that the domestic airmail rate from 2drs. in April 1943 soared to 2.000drs. by mid-March 1944.

The purpose of this 2-frame Aerophilately "Class B" exhibit is to present the Proofs and Errors of these issues (Frame 1) as well their postal use during the most unstable period of Greece (Frame 2).



PLAN

The "Winds A' & B'" issued stamps	p 2
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Bibliography "PHILOTELIA" no 607 and "PHILOTELIA" no 626

All **SCARCE** items are indicated with a **GREEN Dot**



WINDS A' (15/08/1942 - 20/06/1944)

WINDS B' (15/09/1943 - 01/07/1944)

Airmail Issues

NW 315°

N 0°

NE 45°

ΣΚΙΡΩΝ / SKIRON

ΒΟΡΕΑΣ / VOREAS

ΚΑΙΚΙΑΣ / KEKIAS



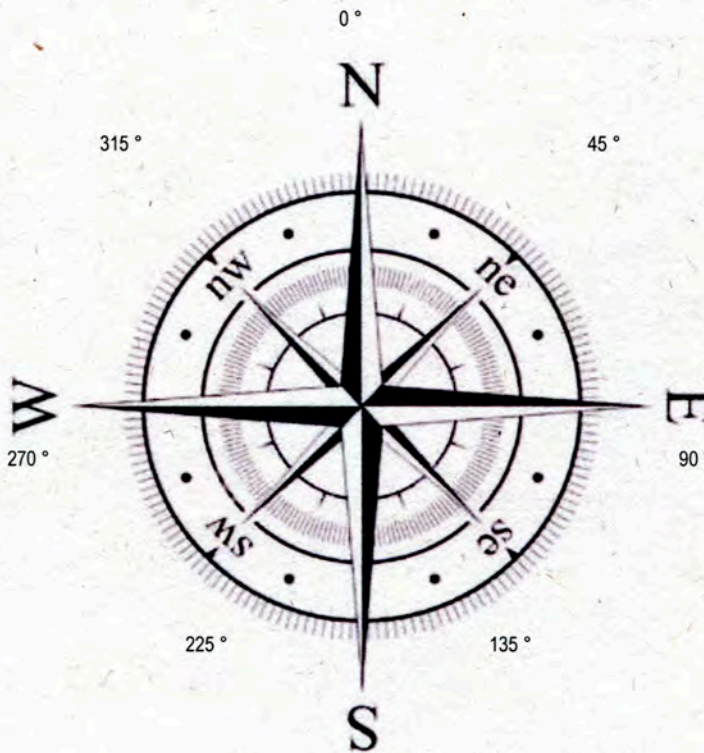
W 270°

ΖΕΦΥΡΟΣ / ZEPHYROS

0°

E 90°

ΑΠΗΛΙΩΤΗΣ / APILIOTIS



SW 225°
ΛΙΨ / LIPS

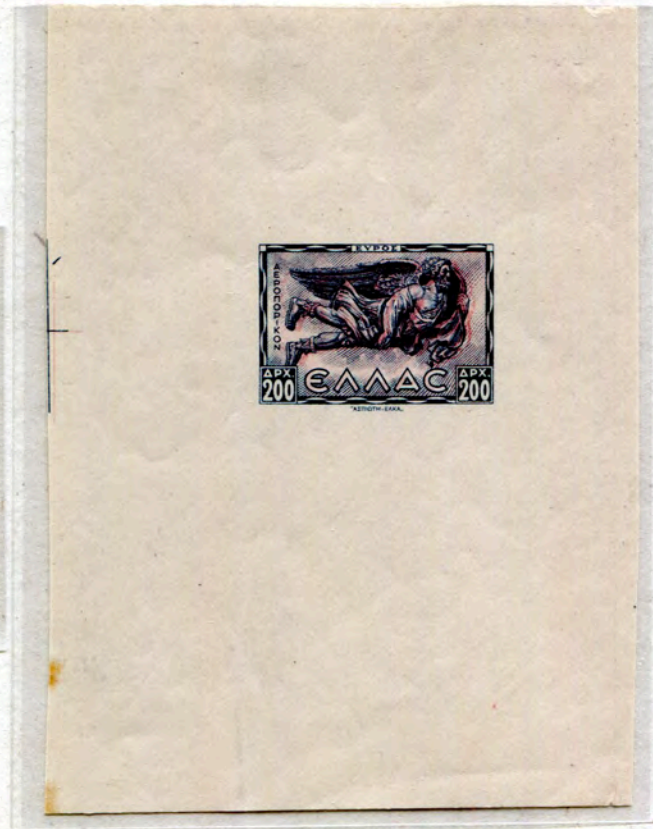
S 180°
ΝΟΤΟΣ / NOTOS

SE 135°
ΕΥΡΟΣ / EVROS



WINDS : Proofs & Errors

PROOFS I



PROOFS II



ERRORS I

COLOUR VARIATIONS I



DEMOSTHENES HADZIJANNAKI
TECHNISCHE AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT
ATHEN, Akademie - Str. 62

VE

VERIFICATO PER CENSURA

TRA



COLOUR VARIATIONS II



COLOUR VARIATIONS III



PERFORATION DISPLACEMENT



DOUBLE PERFORATION



ERRORS V

IMPERFORATE



PAPER FOLDING



ERRORS VII

PRINTED on GUM



INCOMPLETE PRINTING



DOUBLE PRINTING I



DOUBLE PRINTING I



BURELAGE



OFF-CENTRE PRINTING

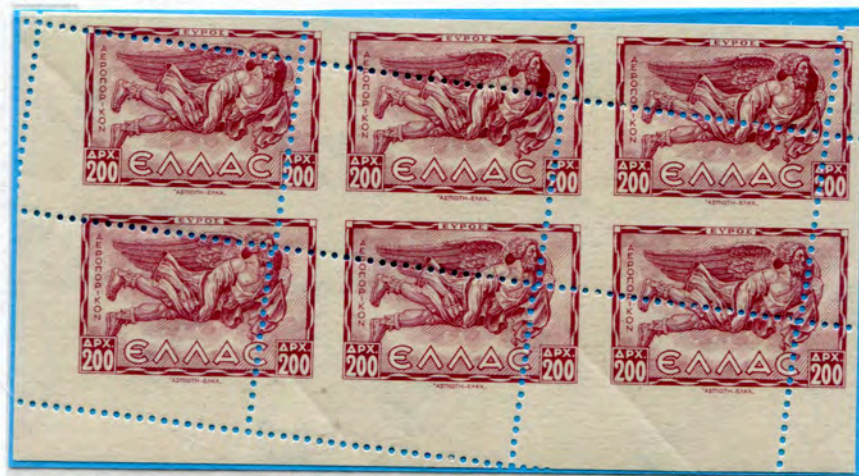


COMBINATION ERRORS I



ERRORS XII

COMBINATION ERRORS II



WINDS POSTAL RATES Overview

Throughout the entire period of the "Winds" (15.08.1942 - 01.07.1944) the Airmail Rate, when Air Service was required, was Mandatory.

The Airmail Rate increased per 15 grams of weight in the interior whilst it increased per 10 grams of weight abroad. The increase of the Surface Rate was per 20 grams indiscriminately.

Most values were used either as single stamp rates or in combination with other values. The stamp of 25 drachmas was used only in combination as there was no equivalent, exact matching rate but only a rate of 50 Drs. or a multiple of it.

The 2, 5, 10 and 100 Drs. are common while other values - due to the continuous increases in rates were used for a shorter period of time - appear with considerably less frequency on envelopes etc.

Values with a brief period of usage are:

20 Drs. corresponding to the domestic rate from 10.09.1943 to 30.11.1943,

200 Drs. corresponding to the international rate from 01.12.1943 -14.03.1943

and the 400 Drs. WIND stamps found as the 2nd weight rate abroad from 01.12.1943 to 15.03.1944 and as five 400 Drs. stamps together, more often, to serve the domestic charge of 2,000 Drs. from 15.3.1944 to 30.06.1944.

From 01.07.1944 the domestic rate was raised to 15.000 Drachmas, resulting in the official withdrawal of the "Winds II" set and making it necessary to use Regular Stamps for the payment of the Airmail Rate.

Finally, the air connections in Greece operated until the beginning of September 1944.

AIRMAIL RATES during WINDS circulation period

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>INTERNATIONAL</u>
Valid on 15/08/1942	2Drs.	2 / 5 / 7 / 8Drs.
<u>??/09/1942</u>		9Drs.
<u>??/11/1942</u>		10Drs.
<u>01/04/1943</u>		50Drs.
<u>??/04/1943</u>	10Drs.	
<u>10/09/1943</u>	20Drs.	100Drs.
<u>01/12/1943</u>	100Drs.	200Drs.
<u>15/03/1944</u>	2.000Drs.	
<u>01/07/1944</u>	15.000Drs.	

WINDS could not be postally used from 01.07.1944

Selected BIBLIOGRAPHY

PHILOTELIA no607, 2001

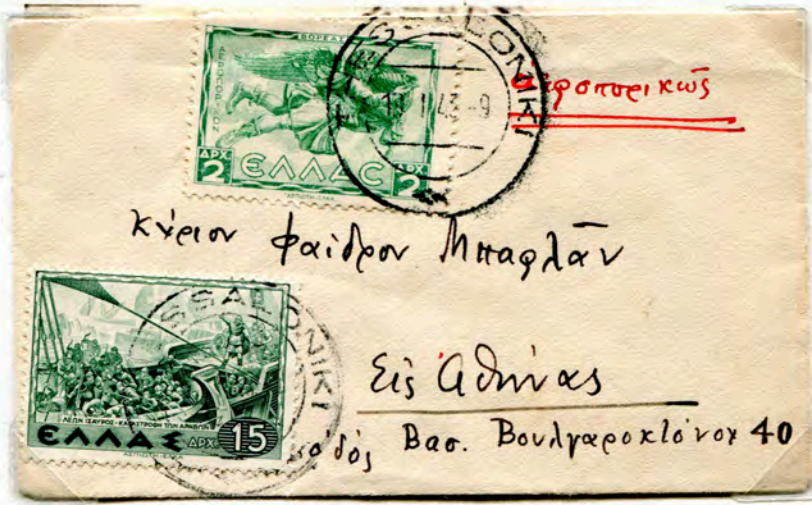
PHILOTELIA no626, 2004

WINDS POSTAL RATE USAGE by VALUE

2 Drs POSTAL RATE – WINDS I

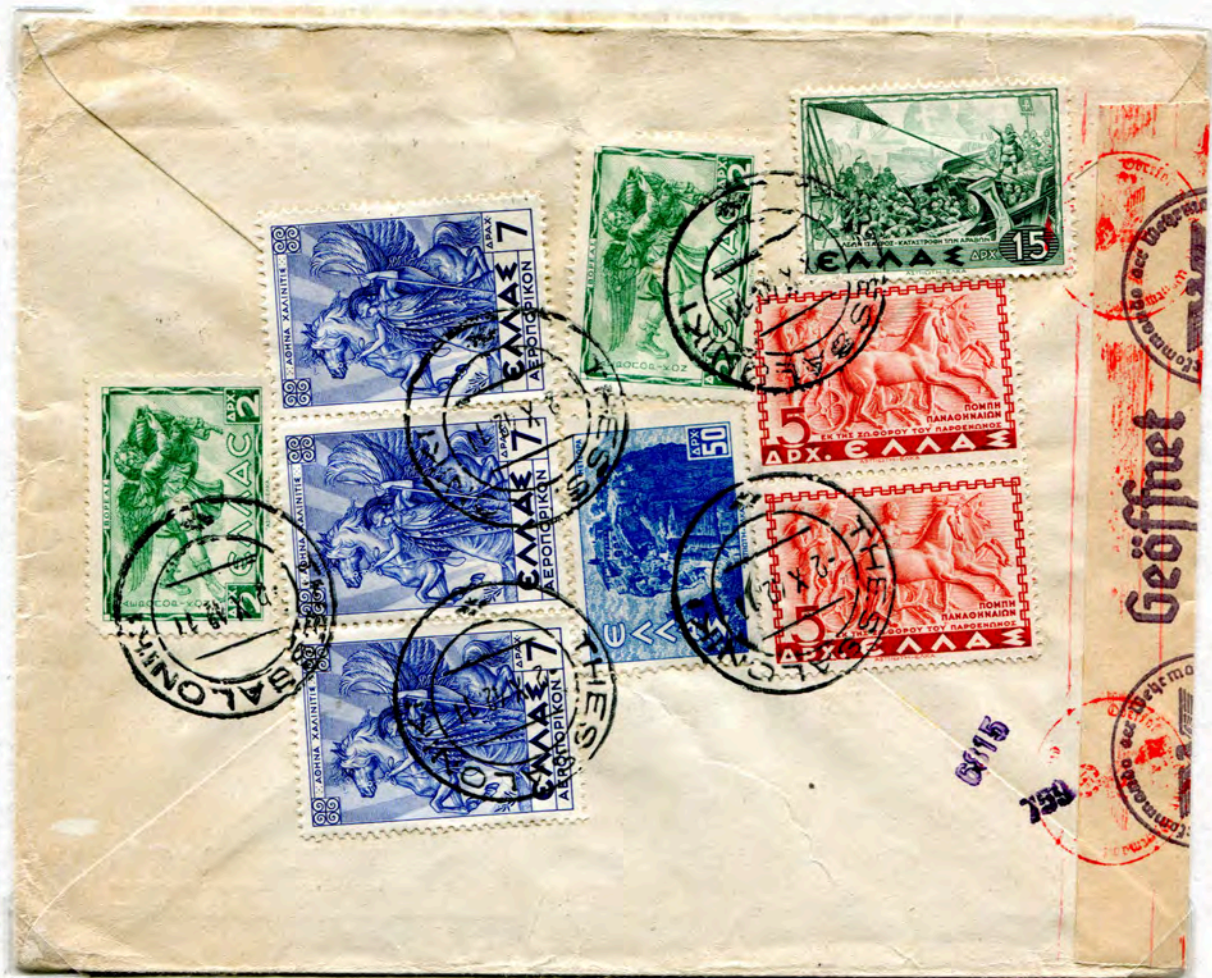
DOMESTIC: 15 August 1942 to April 1943

INTERNATIONAL: 15 August 1942 to September 1942



Visiting card
from Thessaloniki
(13/01/1943)
to Athens
Domestic Airmail Rate 2 Drs and
Surface Rate 15 Drs

Thessaloniki
(2 X 42) to
Vienna
RATES
3rd Weight
International
Airmail 25 Drs.
(Mixed
Postage:
7 Drs. x 3
Mythology
+
2 Drs. x
2 WINDS I)
2nd Weight
Surface 75 Drs.
German
Censorship



5 Drs POSTAL RATE - WINDS I



Letter Athens
(14 X 42)
to Berlin

RATES

International
Airmail 9 Drs.
(5 Drs. +
2 Drs. x 2
WINDS I),
Surface 50 Drs.
RED EMA
Italian
Censorship



Post Card from Athens (16 X 1942 to Warsaw
International Airmail Rate 10 Drs.
(2 x 5Drs. WINDS I)
Surface 30 Drs.
Italian Circular 39/Gre
and Red German Censorships



5 Drs POSTAL RATE - WINDS I

PoW Letter Athens (17.III.43)

to No 62 Concentration Camp at Grumello del Piano, Bergamo, Italy

RATES

International Airmail 5 Drs. (50% of current airmail rate for PoW)

Surface PoW Exemption

Italian Censorship 730/I



Letter Athens (7 VIII 43) to Thessaloniki

RATES

Domestic Airmail 10 Drs. (5 Drs. x 2 / **PUNCHED**)

Surface 220 Drs. UNDERRATED by 5 Drs. (Correct Rate 225 Drs.)

Preprinted Cover of 120 Drs. + 100 Drs. (25 Drs. x 4)



A 1951 article of the *American Philatelist* claims that due to the soaring inflation Athens postal office cashiers had decided to "PUNCH" postage stamps as to discourage people buying stamps as an "investment" and not to be used postally. This view in "Philoteleia" review no626 was partially challenged, acknowledging that the "stamp punching" had occurred but similar philatelic-oriented items were "produced" later.

10 Drs. POSTAL RATE - WINDS I

Returned Letter Athens (23/11/42)

to Sudetengau, Germany

RATES

International Airmail 10 Drs. (WINDS I)

Surface 100 Drs.

Triple Censorship Italian,

Greek (circular) & German



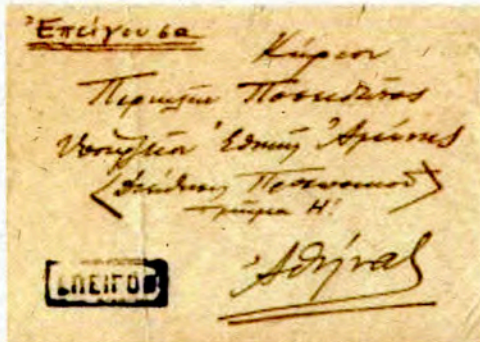
20 Drs. POSTAL RATE - WINDS II

Letter Athens (09 X 43)
to Thessaloniki

RATES

Domestic Airmail 20 Drs.
(WINDS II)

Surface 100 Drs.



Letter Thessaloniki (26 X 43) to Athens

RATES

2nd Weight Domestic Airmail 40 Drs. (20 Drs. x 2,
WINDS II)

3rd Weight Surface 400 Drs. + Express 200 Drs.



Domestic Airmail Rate 100 Drs. (01.12.1943 - 14.03.1944)

Letter Kilkis
via
Thessaloniki
(23.12.43) to
Athens

RATES

Domestic
Airmail Rate
100 Drs.

(25 Drs. x 4,
WINDS I)

Surface Rate
500 Drs.



Letter Athens to Leipzig (26/07/43)

RATES

International Airmail 50 Drs. (25 Drs. x 2, WINDS I)

Surface 200 Drs.

Double Censorship : Circular Italian 43/GRE & German,



50 Drs POSTAL RATE

Letter Athens (11 IV 43) to Boheme-Moravia

RATES

International Airmail 50 Drs. (WINDS I)

Surface 200 Drs.



PER LUFTPOST



Firme
J. L. BAYER, Akt.-Ges.,
KOLIN
Protectorat Bohême-Moravie.

ΑΝΩΝΥΜΟΣ ΠΑΡΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΔΟΧΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ
Γ. Ε. ΚΑΒΒΑΔΙΑΣ & ΣΙΑ
ΛΕΩΦΟΡΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΗΣ ΣΟΦΙΑΣ 88
ΠΕΙΡΑΙΕΥΣ

50 Drs POSTAL RATE

Large Letter Volos (27 Sept. 43) to Prague,

RATES

3rd Weight International Airmail 200 Drs. (25 Drs. x 8, WINDS I)

2nd Weight Surface 650 Drs. (400 + 250 Drs.)

Sent to "Orestis Dimitriou, Argentinisches Konsulat"



100 Drs POSTAL RATE – WINDS II

Large Letter Thessaloniki (16.12.43) to Athens, Express & Registered
RATES

Domestic Airmail Rate 100 Drs. (50 Drs. x 2, WINDS II)

Surface Rate 500 Drs. + Express Rate 500 Drs. + Registration 500 Drs.



100 Drs POSTAL RATE - WINDS II

Letter Thessaloniki (14.I.44)
to Athens,

RATES

Domestic Airmail Rate 100 Drs.
(WINDS II)

Surface Rate 500 Drs.
(200 Drs x 2 + 100 Drs.)



200 Drs. POSTAL RATE - WINDS II

Domestic Airmail Rate 100 Drs. (01.12.1943 - 14.03.1944)

Letter Thessaloniki (25 II 44) to Athens

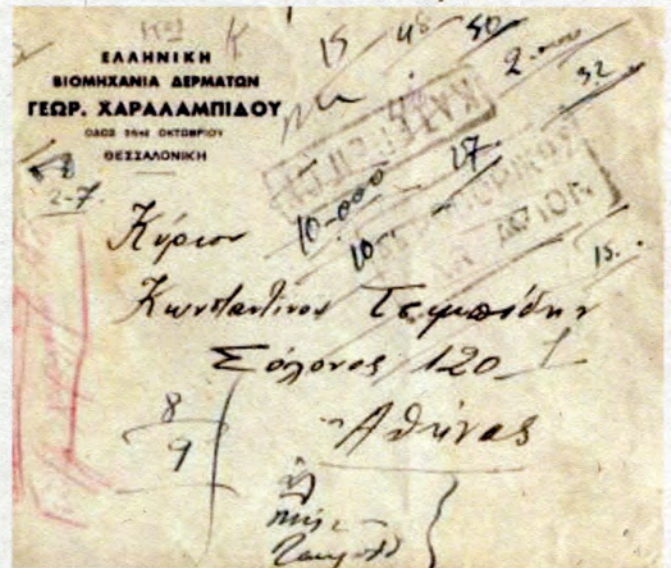
RATES

2nd Weight Domestic Airmail Rate

200 Drs. (WINDS II)

Surface Rate 500Drs.

with Sender's identification Signature



2.000 Drs. POSTAL RATE - WINDS II

Domestic Airmail Rate 2.000 Drs. (15.03.1944 - 30.06.1944)

Letter Thessaloniki (24 III 44) to Athens

RATES

Domestic Airmail Rate 2.000 Drs.

(5 x 400 Drs. WINDS II)

Surface Rate 4.000 Drs.

