SELANIK

Postmarks SALONIQUE in Oval with Bars

The rule was: French Inscription SALONIQUE for correspondence going abroad.

Arabic Inscription SELANIK for domestic correspondence - But they did not always follow the rule.

Two Ottoman 20 pa Stationery Cards, both posted to France, showing the two types of the postmarks



Thessaloniki 1888 (Nov. 19): Ottoman Stationery Card posted to Marseille.

Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Card.



Thessaloniki 1889 (June 13): Ottoman Stationery Card posted to Paris, arrival June 17.

Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Card.

SELANIK

Postmark SALONIQUE in Oval with Bars



Thessaloniki 1890 (April 2): Registered Cover posted from Porto Lago, via Thessaloniki, where the stamps were cancelled, to London, arrival Apr. 8

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

SELANIK

Postmark SALONIQUE in Oval with Bars accompanied by double circle SALONIQUE DEPART CDS





Thessaloniki 1890 (Oct. 15): Registered cover to Germany, franked two pairs 20 Pa Empire, arrival 18 Oct. Postal Rate: 80Pa=2Pia: 1Pia for Single Weight Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration (placed in the back of the cover).

From 1890, the CDS is used as "stamp killer" postmark



Thessaloniki 1890 (Sept. 9): Cover to Cavalla, franked 1Pia Empire.

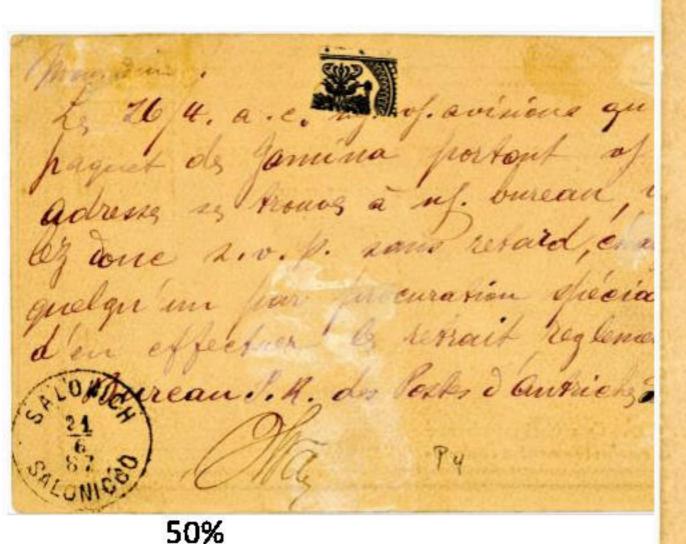
Postal Rate: IPia Single Weight Letter between ports of the Ottoman Empire.

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).

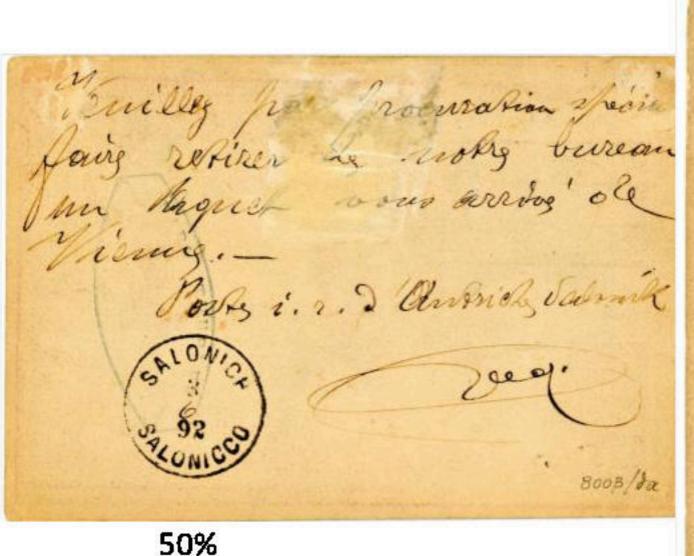
Later on (20th century), Austrian P.O. will operate branch offices in Uskub, Monastir, Mitrovitsa and Pristina.





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

Postal Rate: 20Pa Inland Card.





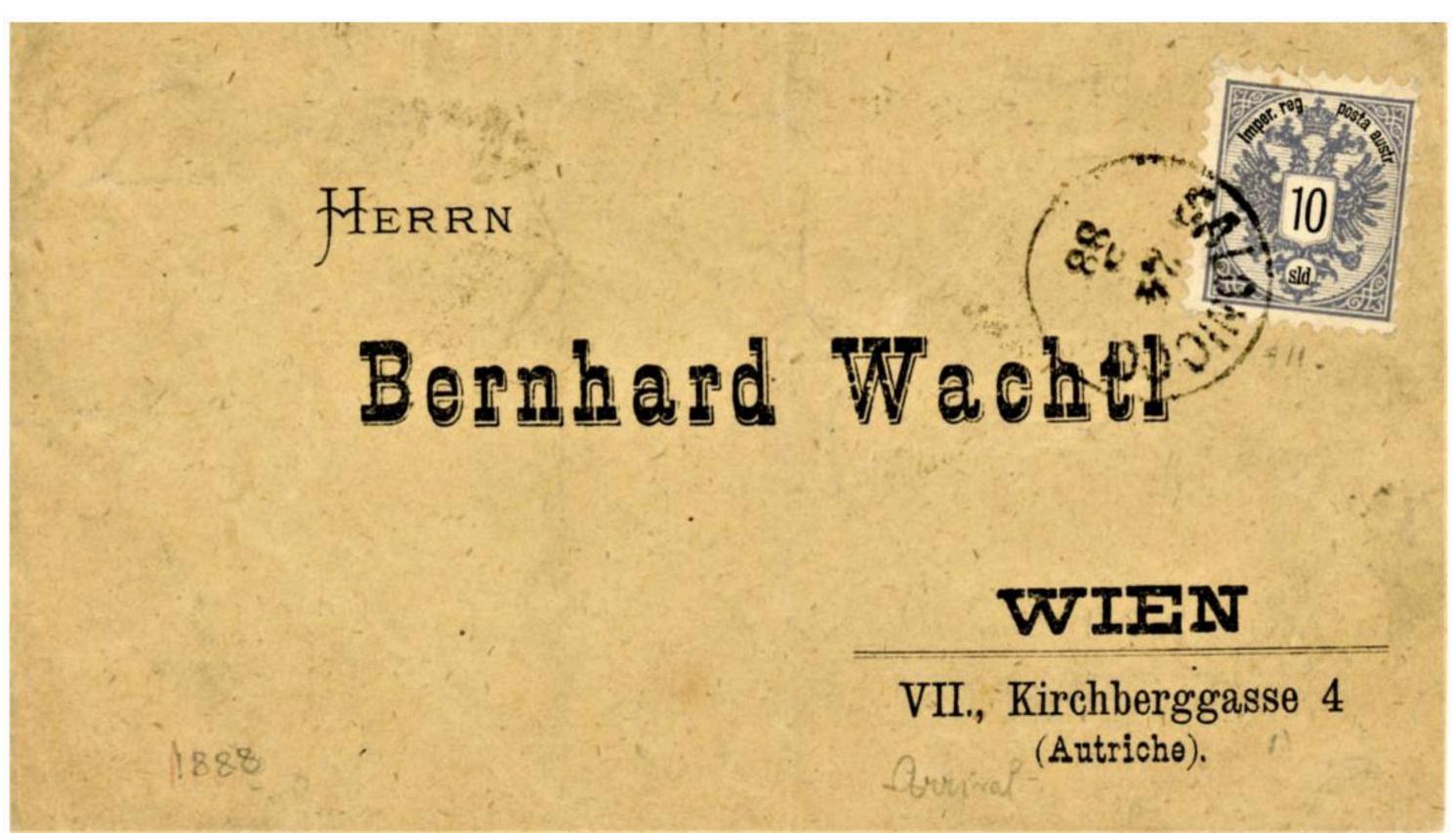
Thessaloniki 1892 (June 3): Ottoman Stationery Card posted to Uskub. The Austrian P.O. is the sender.

Postal Rate: 20Pa Inland Card.

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



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.

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

Single circle postmark SALONICH SALONICCO date in 3 lines (1882-1895)

This postmark was introduced in 1882, but it was used extensively in the early 1890s. From June 1895, it was used by the branch office of the main Austrian P.O., which began to operate in the European (Frankish) Quarter of the town.



50 Soldi Franz Joseph used 20 Sept. 1882



Thessaloniki 1892 (Aug. 21): Cover posted to Salzburg, franked strip of 5 x 8Pa/2Kr, arrival August 24.

Postal Rate: 5x8Para = 1 Pia: Single Weight Foreign Letter

1890s to 1914: THE MULTINATIONAL CITY

THE CITY HAS SIX POST OFFICES

THE POSITIONS OF THESSALONIKI POST OFFICES THAT WERE OPERATING IN THE FIRST DECADE OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

- A. Central Ottoman Post Office: On the Grande Rue de Vardar, at the height of the Catholic Cathedral of St. Paul. (4)
- B. Austrian Post Office: On Frankon Street (in Frangomahalas), in the square opposite the Church of St. Paul. The director of this post office, in 1910, was called Mich. De Vucetich. (6)
- C. English Post Office: In the same square as the Austrian Post Office and with a frontage on the road parallel to Frankon Street. Director George Blunt. (5)
- D. French Post Office: On the waterfront, in the square by Venizelou Street (Rue Sabri Pacha), next to the Theatre Variete Olympia, in the same row as the Splendid Palace Hotel, co-located with the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes agency. Its Director was named Henry Ely. (7)
- E. Russian Post: Near the waterfront. Director K.Φ. Αυγερινός. No further details provided.
- F. Italian Post Office: On Venizelou Street (Sabri Pacha), near Eleftherias Square. Director Car. Frederico Vimercati. (8)
- G. After the occupation of Thessaloniki, a Bulgarian post office operated in the city, housed in the building of the Bulgarian Grand Hotel, on the Grande Rue de Vardar. 0

This information comes from a British military map of 1909, which includes all the strategic points of the city.



1890s to 1914: THE MULTINATIONAL CITY

THE CITY HAS SIX POST OFFICES

Five letters of the same correspondence (John House, the founder of the American Farm School in Thessaloniki, to his sisters Misses Grace and Ethel House, in the U.S.) using the various Post Offices of the town, without any obvious preference.



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.

SELANIK

Double circle postmark SALONIQUE DEPART in French only (1889-1896)
Two types: Large or Small digits in date



Thessaloniki 1892 (Mar. 30): Cover posted to Vienna Thessaloniki 1894 (Aug. 22): Cover posted to Hamburg

Postal Rate: 1Pia Single Weight Foreign Letter

Postmarks in Red and Violet

SELANIK

From postmarks in French to bilingual

SALONIQUE DEPART small digits (Postmark in Green)



Thessaloniki 1895 (May 9): Cover posted to Toulon, France.

Postal Rate: 60 Pa 2nd Weight Foreign Letter

SALONIQUE bilingual



Thessaloniki 1899 (May): Registered Cover posted to Constantinople, arrival May 19, franked strip of 3 x 20pa Armali.

Postal Rate: 60 Pa: 20 Pa Single Weight Domestic Letter + 40 Pa for Registration

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

BANQUE DE SALONIQUE.

Banque de Salonique

Succursale de Constantinople

Constantinople.

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

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.

SELANIK

Bilingual postmark with bridge SALONIQUE





Thessaloniki 1901 (Oct. 17): Picture Post Card, franked 10Pa + pair overprinted 5Pa, posted to Roma. As it was insufficiently prepaid (the 10 Para rate for Post Card without text was not accepted because the card had a few notes written), it was charged 10c+5c Italian postage due stamps. The postal clerk added 11/2 decimes (handwritten) which was a bit more than 20 Para – the missing 10 Para x 2).

Postal Rate: 20 Pa Foreign Card



Thessaloniki 1906 (July 3): Registered Cover posted to Leeds, England, arrival July 7, franked Block of 4 x 20Pa.

Postal Rate: 80 Pa = 2 Pia: 1 Pia Single Weight Letter + 1 Pia for Registration

SELANIK

Bilingual postmark with bridge SALONIQUE

The 10Para "Carte Visite" Rate



Thessaloniki 1900 (Nov. 6): Small Cover posted to Grevena. Postal Rate: 10Para for open small envelope.

Use of Ottoman Postage Due



Open cover posted from Uskub (Negative Postmark), 1901, to Thessaloniki. As it was not prepaid, it was charged 20Pa Ottoman Postage Due, cancelled SALONIQUE Mar.13 1901.

Probably of Philatelic inspiration.

Postal Rate: 2x10=20Pa for Internal Letter

SELANIK

Bilingual postmark with bridge SALONIQUE On Mourning Envelopes



Thessaloniki 1902 (Jan. 5): Mourning Envelope - together with funeral parlor - posted to Cavalla.

Postal Rate: 20Pa Internal letter

Thessaloniki 1906 (July 1): Mourning Envelope posted to Cavalla.

Postal Rate: 20Pa Internal letter

Both Envelopes are franked with 2 pairs of 5 Para, 1901 and 1905 issues

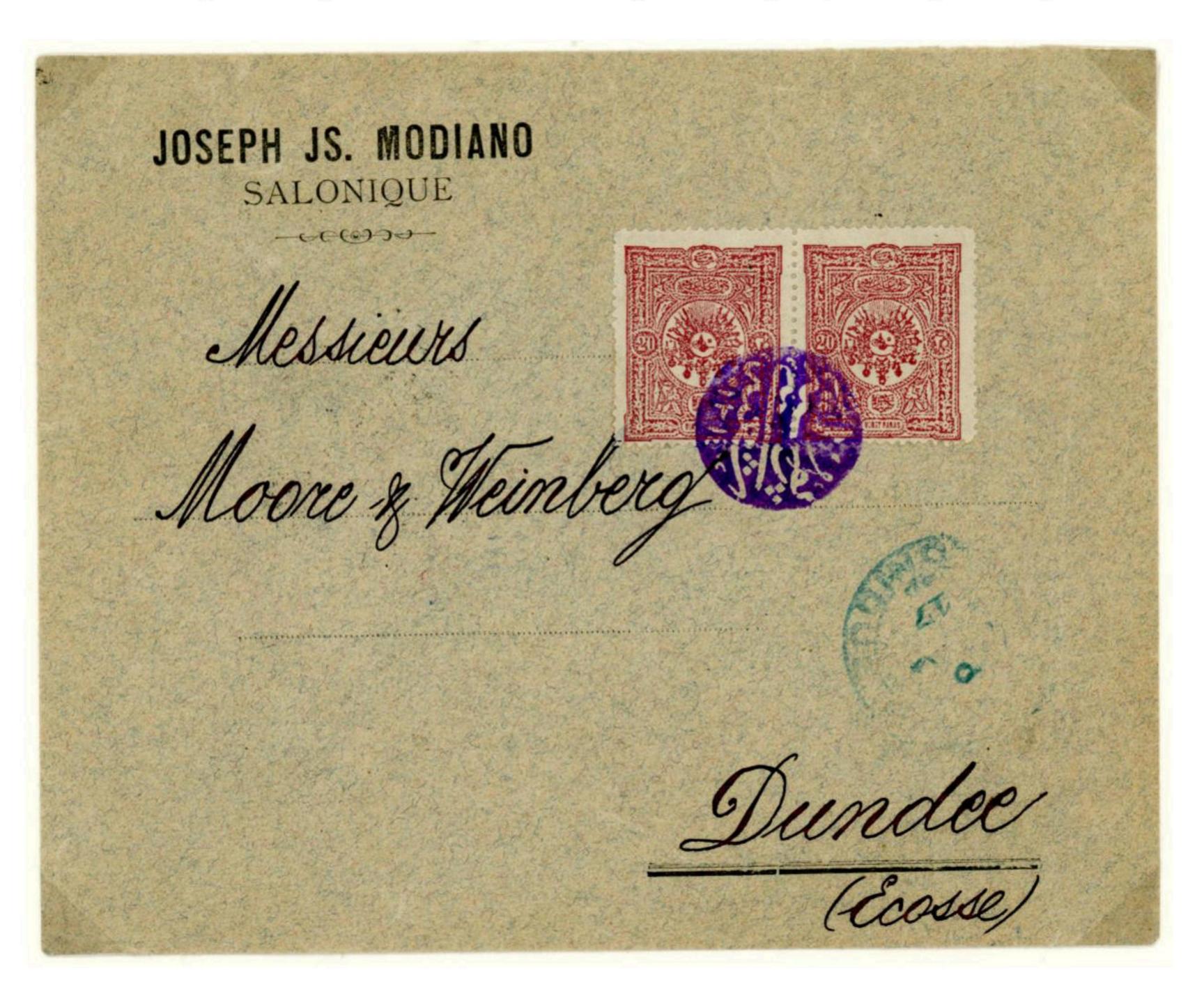
SELANIK

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.

SELANIK

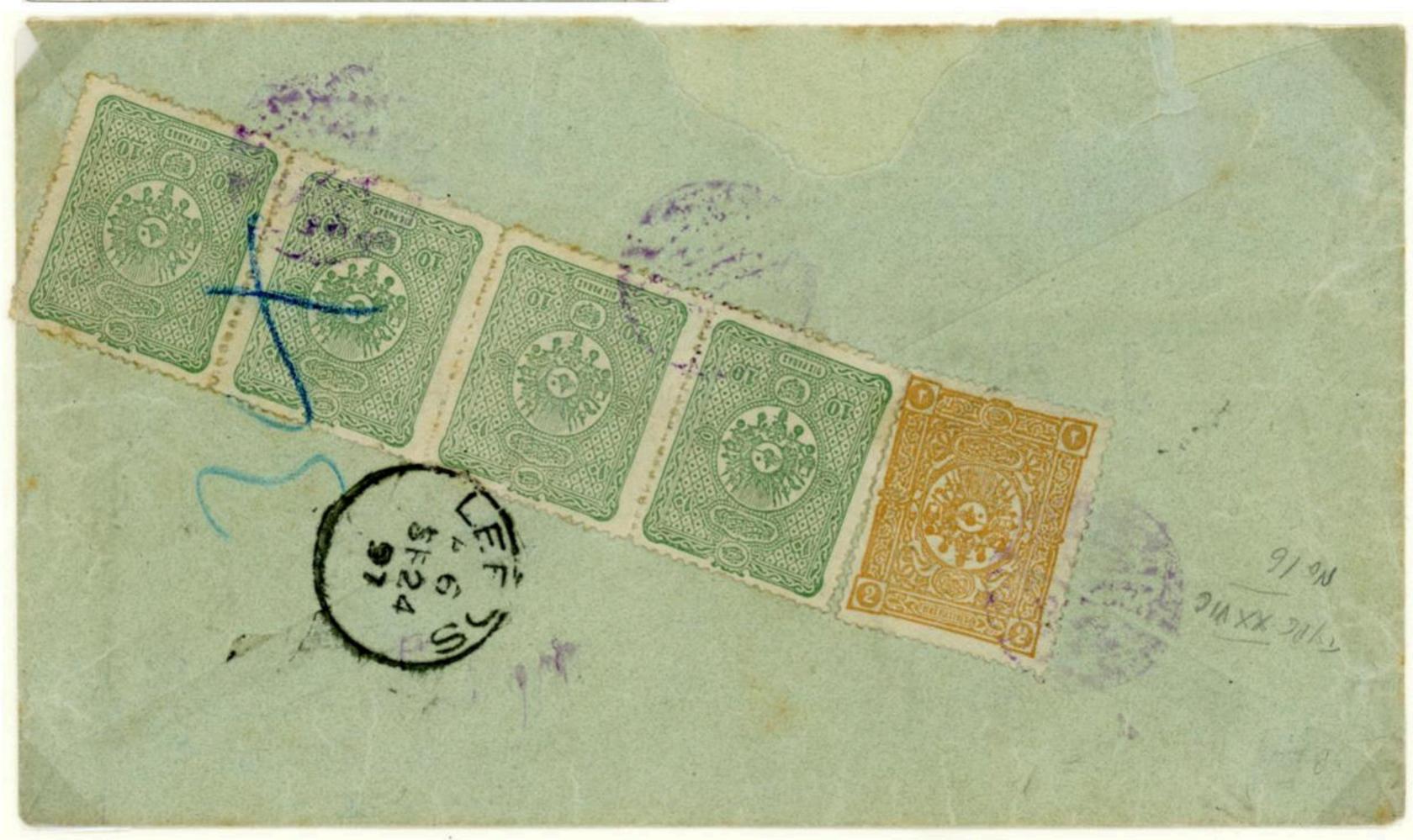
Branch Offices:

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

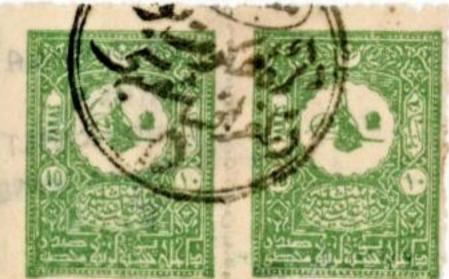
Arabic inscription postmark: SALONIQUE 5 HUKUMET KONAGHI SUBESI (1901)

Very Rare postmark









Thessaloniki 1901: Small open cover posted to Constantinople. + The postmark on fragment and pair Postal Rate: 10 Paras Open Cover

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)



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).

SELANIK

Branch Post Offices 1 & 3

Oval postmarks SUCCURSALE POSTE SALONIQUE 1 and 3



Thessaloniki 1903: Picture Postcard posted to Paris

Postal Rate: 10 Para for Foreign Post Card



Thessaloniki 1902 (Jan. 28): Picture Postcard posted to Bordeaux

Postal Rate: 10 Para for Foreign Post Card

SELANIK

Branch Post Office 2 + Branch Post Office at the port Oval postmark SUCCURSALE POSTE SALONIQUE 2



Thessaloniki 1908 (Oct.): Stationery postcard posted to Uskub.

Postal Rate: 20 Para for Post Card with text

Oval postmark SELANIK ISKELE POSTA SUBESI 4

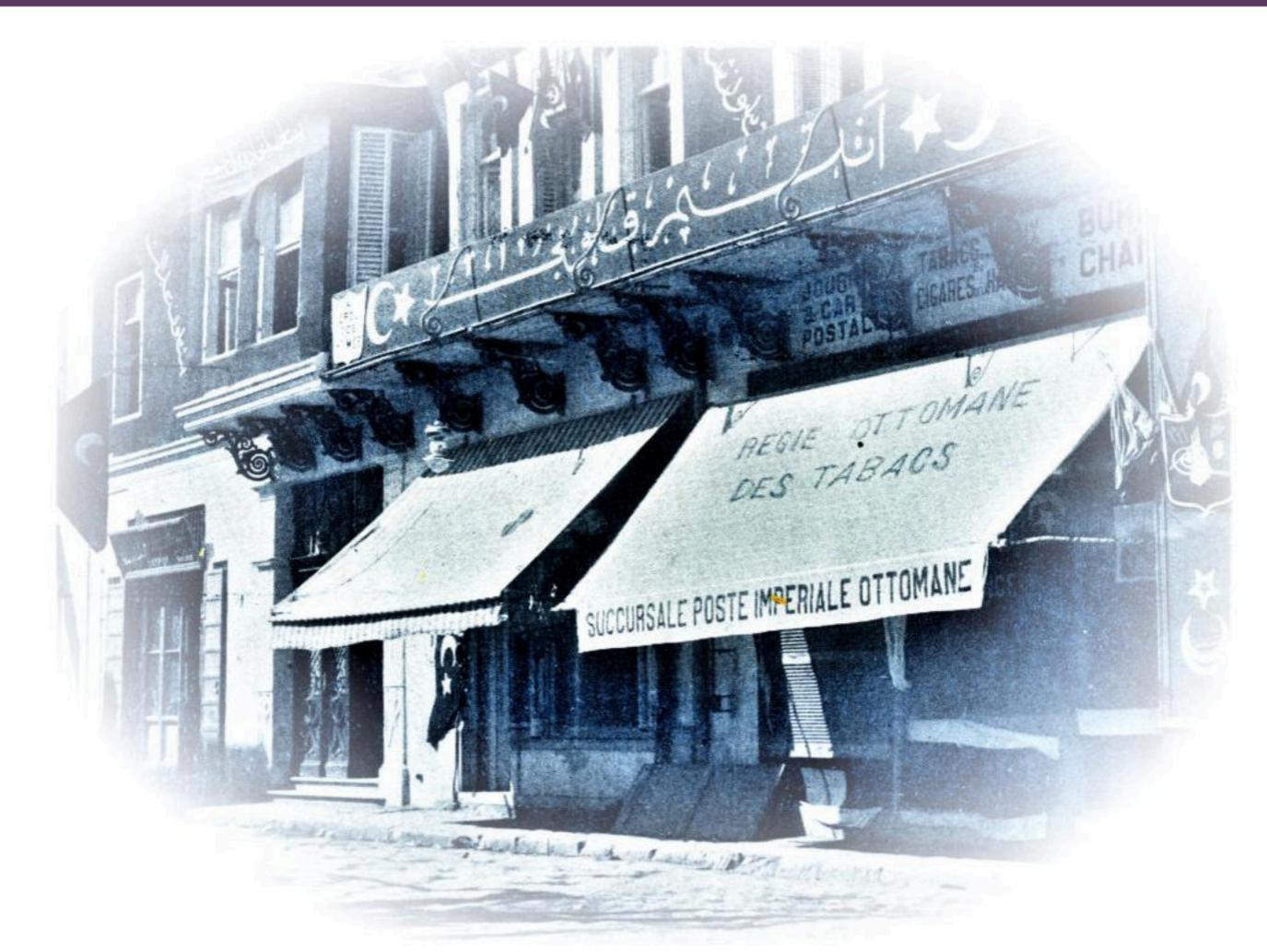


Thessaloniki 1906 (June 1): Cover posted to Cavalla.

Postal Rate: 20 Para for Domestic Letter

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 9 SALONIQUE 2 (large)

The **SALONIQUE 9** postmark is not mentioned in Mellon, Coles & Walker and Nicolas - Galinos studies. This cover is the only, known to exist, philatelic item showing this postmark.





Thessaloniki 1907 (Sept. 8): Stationery envelope of SPLENDID PALACE HOTEL posted to Cavalla

SALONIQUE 5

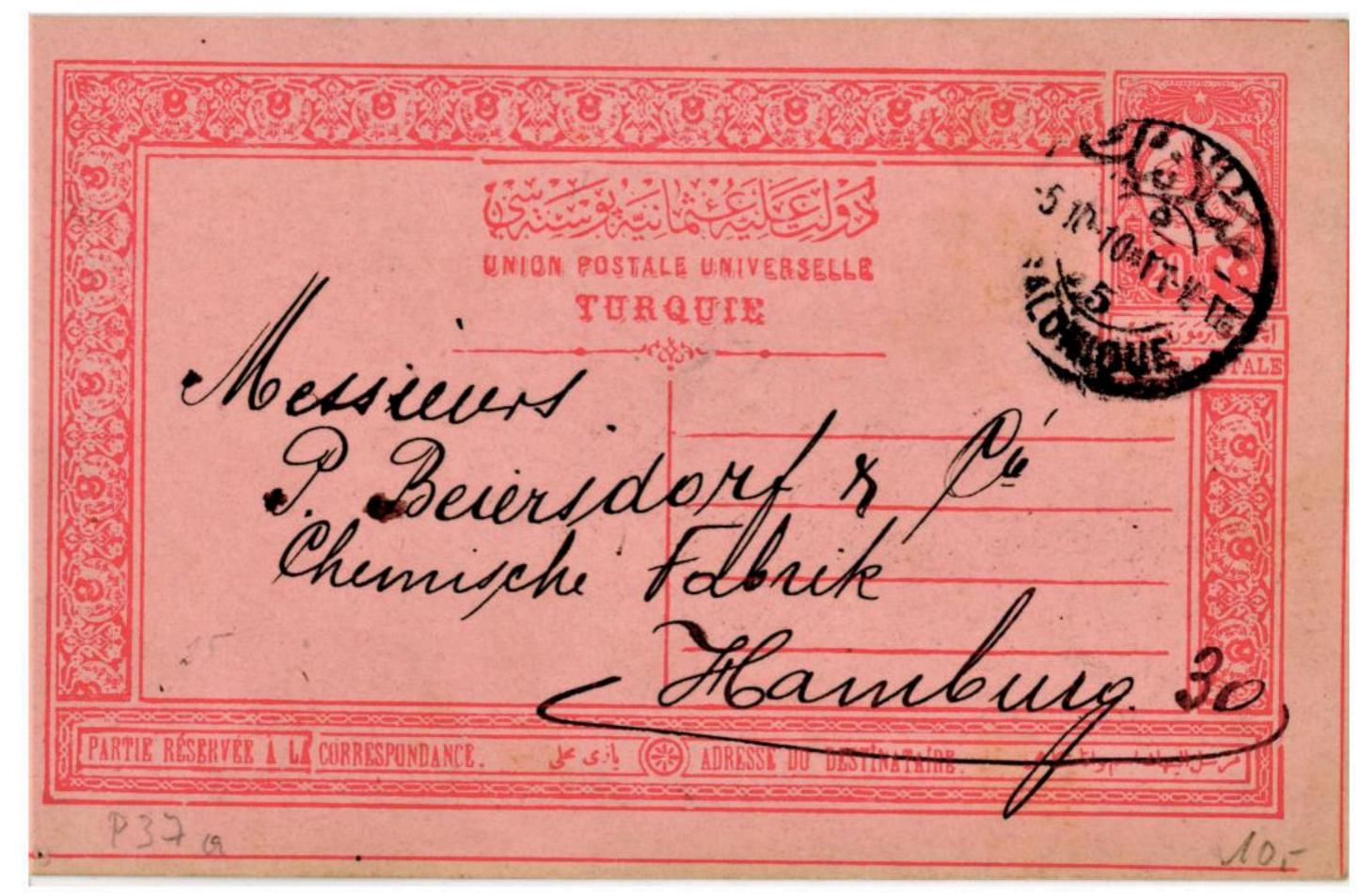
The SALONIQUE 5 postmark exists in three different types:

Two types a. Large (34mm) - b. Small (28mm), with the number in the segment And a 3rd, very rare type c, with the number 5 in the ring, unknown to Mellon, and Coles & Walker studies.

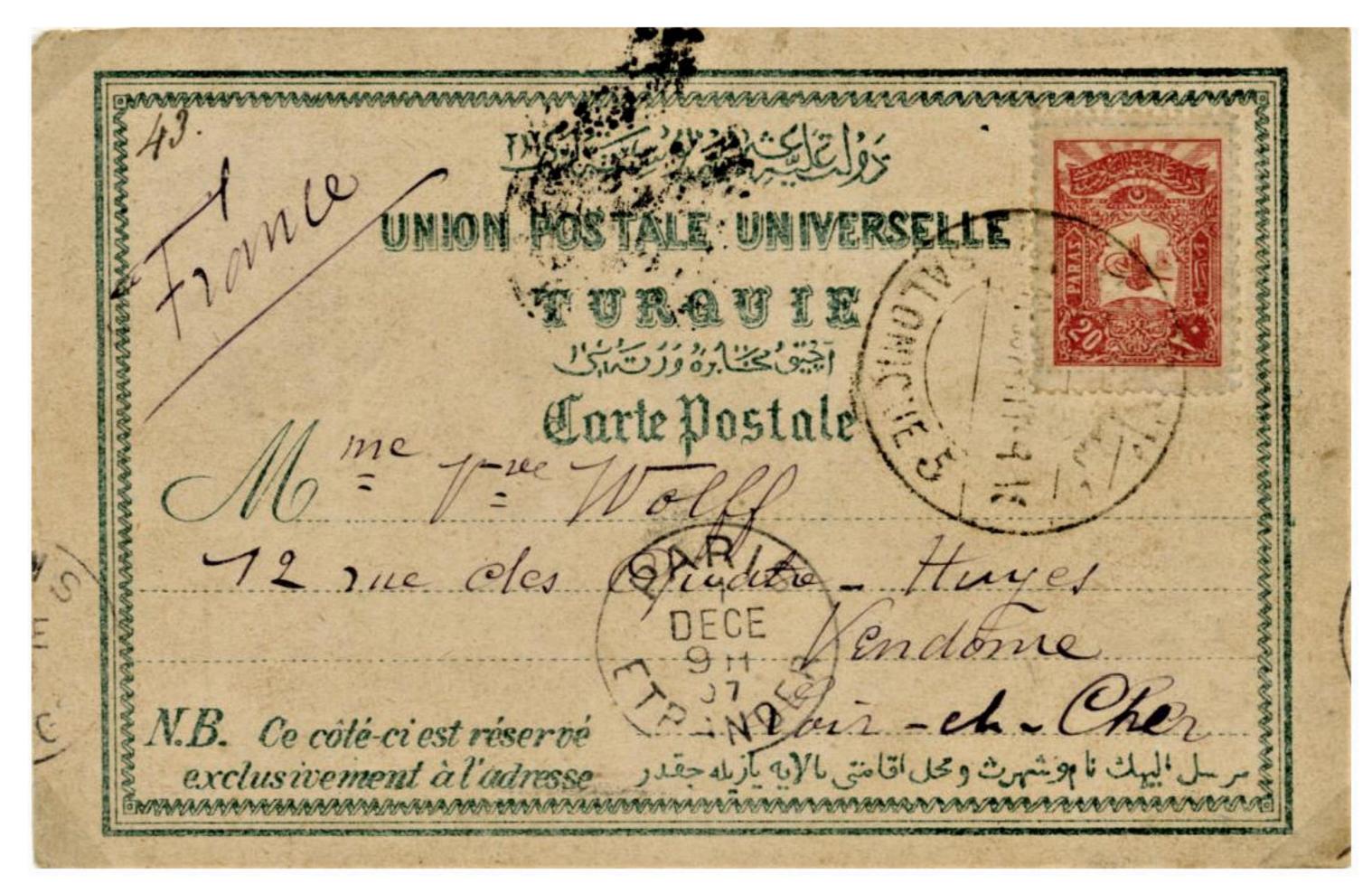
In Front: Papiers d'affaires - RECOMMANDEE



Thessaloniki 1906 (Feb.): Open large registered envelope posted to Budapest, franked block of 8 + pair 10 Pa overprinted BEHIE (discount). Postmark type a. Postal Rate: 100 Para: 60 Pa for 300Gr Foreign Printed Matter + 40 Pa for Registration



Thessaloniki 1910 (Oct. 5): Stationery Card posted to Hamburg. Postmark type b. Postal Rate: 20 Pa for foreign card



Thessaloniki 1907 (Nov. 27): Picture postcard posted to Paris. Postmark type c. Postal Rate: 20 Pa for foreign card

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

SALONIQUE 5

The 2nd cover shows the 1912 reduced double weight rate



Thessaloniki 1912 (May 13): Cover posted to Budapest, franked pair 20 Pa, arrival May 15.

Postal Rate: 40 Pa single weight foreign letter

Thessaloniki 1912 (Mar. 31): Registered cover posted to Belgrade, franked strips of 6 and 5 x 10 Pa, overprinted BEHIE discount stamps.

Postal Rate: 110 Pa: 70(40+30) Pa reduced rate double weight foreign letter + 40 Pa for registration

SALONIQUE 11



Thessaloniki 1909 (Feb. 28): Parcel post form for 3 parcels posted to Budapest

Postal Rate: 21 Pia for 3 parcels of 5 kg. each.

Some conclusions regarding the Numbered Postmarks

After having examined hundreds of philatelic items of that period, I have come to the following conclusions in relation to the use of the numbered postmarks:

Numbers 1, 2, 3 were used extensively during the years 1904-1912 as stamp cancellers for commercial correspondence.

Numbers 5 and 8 had the same use as stamp cancellers, but they were used in comparatively rare cases – perhaps they were used in smaller branch offices with low volume of work.

Numbers 4 and 10 were usually used (90%) as arrival or transit datestamps on incoming mail. Nevertheless, I have seen them used (very rarely!) as stamp cancellers in outgoing mail.

I have never seen numbers 6, 7, 11, 12 used as stamp cancellers on ordinary commercial correspondence. All the (few) known philatelic items with these postmarks are on parcel post documents, money order documents, p. o. receipts i.e. post-office auxiliary stationery.

Finally, number 9 was unknown to bibliography. It was found recently on an official envelope, included in this collection – perhaps, it was only intended for official correspondence.

SALONIQUE 1



Thessaloniki 1812 (Mar. 28): Registered cover posted to Alexandretta, Syria, Ottoman Empire

Postal Rate: 2 Pia + 20 Pa = 100 Pa: Double Weight Letter plus Registration

SALONIQUE 8



Thessaloniki 1912 (June 14): Stationery Card posted to Uskub.

Postal Rate: 20 Pa for postcard with text



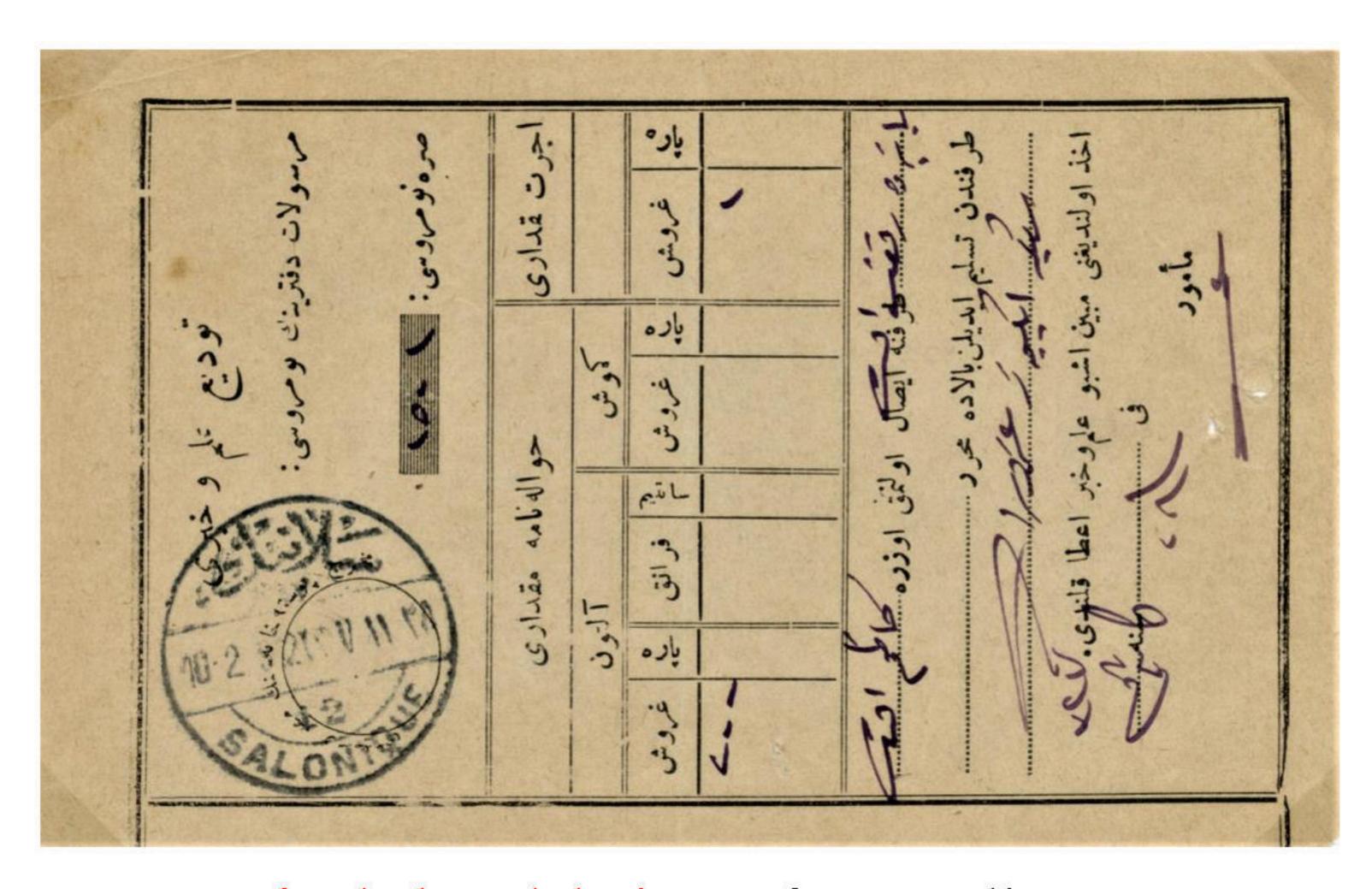
Thessaloniki 1912 (Mar. 13): Cover posted to Winterthur, Switzerland, arrival Mar. 19.

Postal Rate: 1 Pia = 40 Pa single weight foreign letter

SALONIQUE 7 + SALONIQUE 12



Thessaloniki 1912 (June 30): Large part of parcel payment receipt franked 25 Pia + pair 10 Pia + 2 Pia + 1 Pia, totally 48 Piastres!!



Thessaloniki 1912 (Feb. 10): Receipt for a registered letter

SALONIQUE 1

The SALONIQUE I postmark exists in three different sizes: a. Large (34mm) - b. Medium (31-32 mm) - c. Small (28mm)

Postmark size a

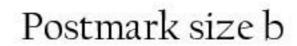


Thessaloniki 1908 (August): Envelope posted to Leeds, franked 2 pairs 10 Pa BEHIE (discount). Postal Rate: 40 Pa for single weight foreign cover

Postmark size c



Thessaloniki 1910 (Sept. 17): Envelope posted to Istanbul, franked block of 4 x 5 Pa Postal Rate: 20 Pa for single weight interior cover





Thessaloniki 1905 (Aug. 6): Registered envelope posted to Drama, franked pair 20Pa + 2Pia

Postal Rate: 3 Pia for double weight cover + registration

Thessaloniki 1907 (July 22): Registered envelope posted to Gera, franked pair 1 Pia

Postal Rate: 2 Pia for single weight cover + registration

Postmark SALONIQUE 1

Very rare type with ornaments in lower segment.

And an Ottoman Postmark of Thessaloniki with a 1913 date!!



Postcard posted Feb. 18, 1912 from Gand Belgium to Dedeagatch, showing transit postmark "SALONIQUE I with ornaments" dated Feb. 17 (+12), 1913 !!! (3+ months after liberation of Thessaloniki by the Greek army) – obviously by mistake. The only known Ottoman postmark of Thessaloniki with a 1913 date!!

And a cover with the common Postmark SALONIQUE 1 to show the differences.

In 40 years of searching and collecting the postal history of THESSALONIKI, I have only seen this postmark once more, again as arrival marking.

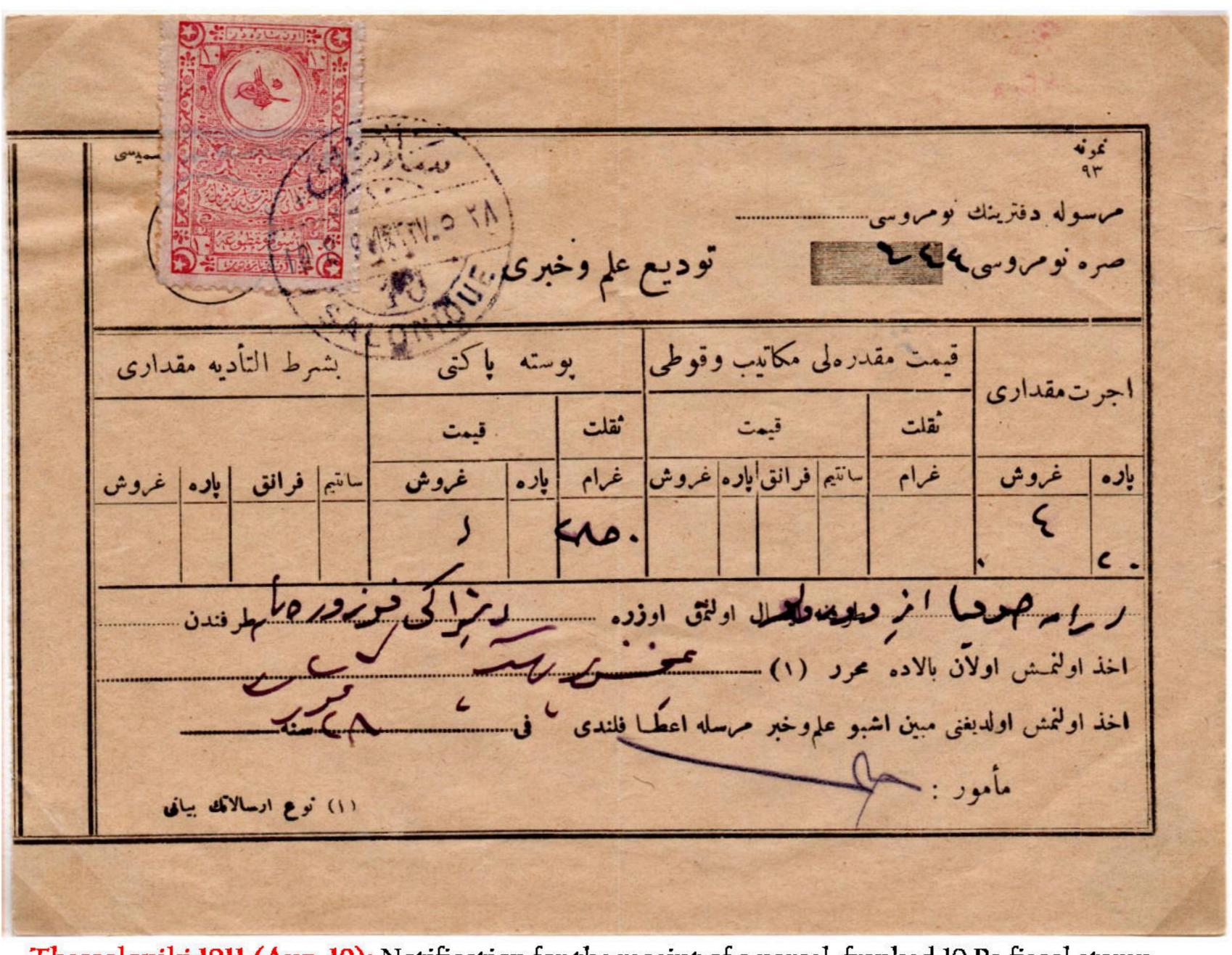
SALONIQUE 10

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



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

SALONIQUE 10 + SALONIQUE 4

Used as arrival postmarks



Serbian postal stationery card of 5 Pa, uprated by a 5 Pa adhesive, cancelled with mobile railway postmark Niche-Vragna, posted to Thessaloniki, arrival Aug. 28, 1907.



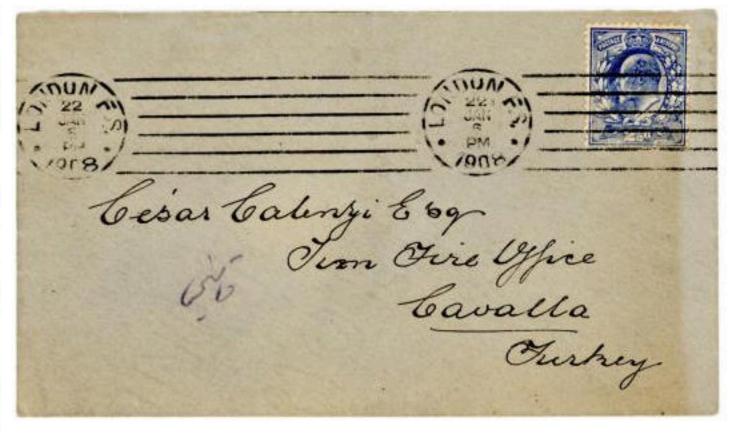
Serbian postal stationery letter card of 10 Pa posted to Thessaloniki, arrival May 10, 1909.

SALONIQUE 4

Used as transit and arrival postmark.

The Ottoman p.o., during its heyday, acted as transit p.o., forwarding incoming mail of the foreign post offices to cities of the empire where there was no foreign p.o. branch.





Cover posted from London, Jan. 22, 1908, to Cavalla via the British p.o. The British p.o. forwarded it to the Ottoman p.o. of Thessaloniki, transit Jan. 28, 1908 and sent to Cavalla.



Printed matter envelope, franked single 10 Pa, posted from Drama to Thessaloniki, arrival April 12, 1909.

SALONIQUE 4

The SALONIQUE 4 postmark exists in two different sizes:

a. Large (34mm) - b. Small (28mm)

Rare cases of use of this postmark on outgoing mail



Thessaloniki 1910 (Mar. 6): Stationery Card posted to Mulhouse. Postmark type b Postal Rate: 20 Pa for foreign card



Thessaloniki 1907: Newspaper wrapper posted to Grebena. Postmark type a

Postal Rate: 5 Pa for domestic wrapper

SALONIQUE 2 + SALONIQUE 5

Used as arrival postmarks



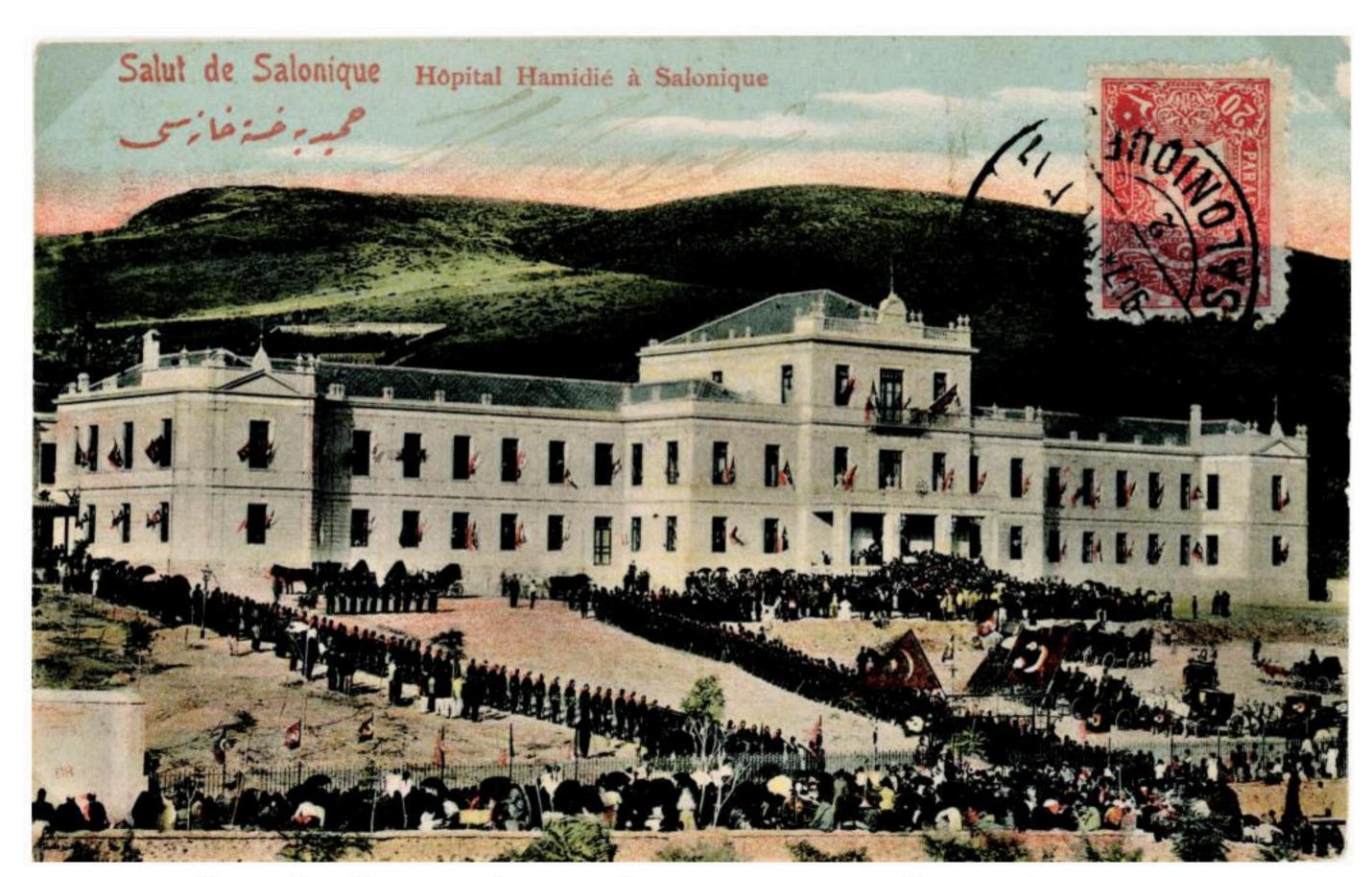
Serbian postal stationery card of 5 Pa, uprated by a 5 Pa adhesive, posted from Leskovac to Thessaloniki, arrival Feb. 3, 1906.



Serbian postal stationery card of 5 Pa, uprated by a 5 Pa adhesive, posted from Belgrade to Thessaloniki, arrival Mar. 2, 1910.

SALONIQUE 2

Two types: a. 34mm with large 2 - b. 32mm with small 2



The opening ceremony of the new state hospital in Thessaloniki (1904)

Thessaloniki 1907 (May 29): Picture Postcard posted to France.

Postal Rate: 20 Pa for postcard with text



Thessaloniki 1909 (Nov. 29): Registered cover posted to Turkey in Asia, franked 2 x 1 Pia.

Postal Rate: 1 Pia single weight letter + 1 Pia for Registration

SALONIQUE 2

Two types: a. 34mm with large 2 - b. 32mm with small 2



Thessaloniki 1909 (Apr. 4): Commercial Postcard posted to Tripoli de Barbarie (Libya), franked strip of 4 x 5 Pa.

Postal Rate: 20 Pa for postcard with text



Souvenir de Salonique.

Souvenir de Salonique.

Locam West to Hans Sala

guitille le like que en a fan besouwap de
Name Penelma a hen hovaelle et a gapen.

Senung de ben print de lembare de hal hans

Olympos Hotel on the seafront

Thessaloniki 1905 (Nov. 7): Picture Postcard posted to France.

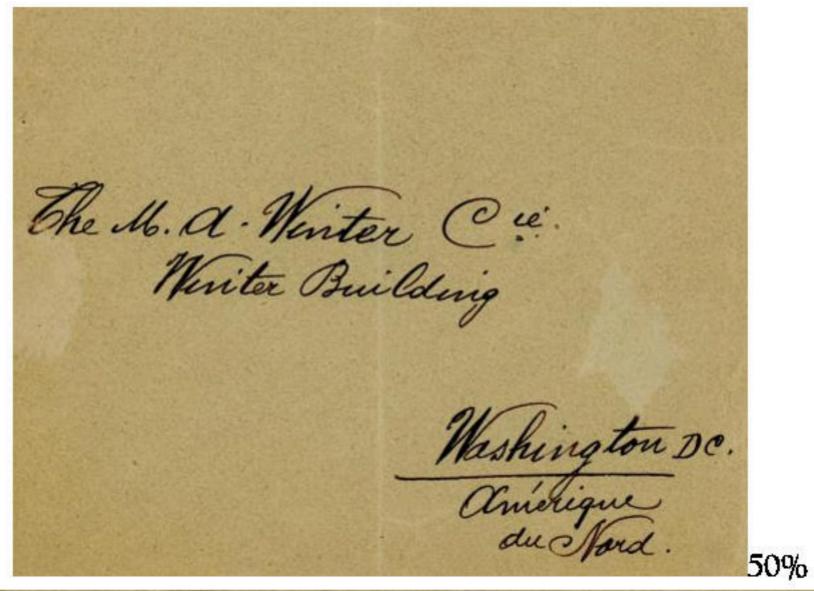
Postal Rate: 20 Pa for postcard with text

SALONIQUE 3

Discount Stamps

Starting from 1906, various definitive stamp issues of the Ottoman Empire were overprinted by the Arab "B", for "Behie" meaning Discount.

Stamps bearing this overprint were sold to merchants at a discount from face value to encourage the use of Ottoman stamps on foreign correspondence, instead of those of the various European powers which maintained post offices in the Empire.





Thessaloniki 1909 (October): Cover posted to Washington, D.C., arrival Nov. 2, 1909, franked pair + 2 singles 10 Pa.

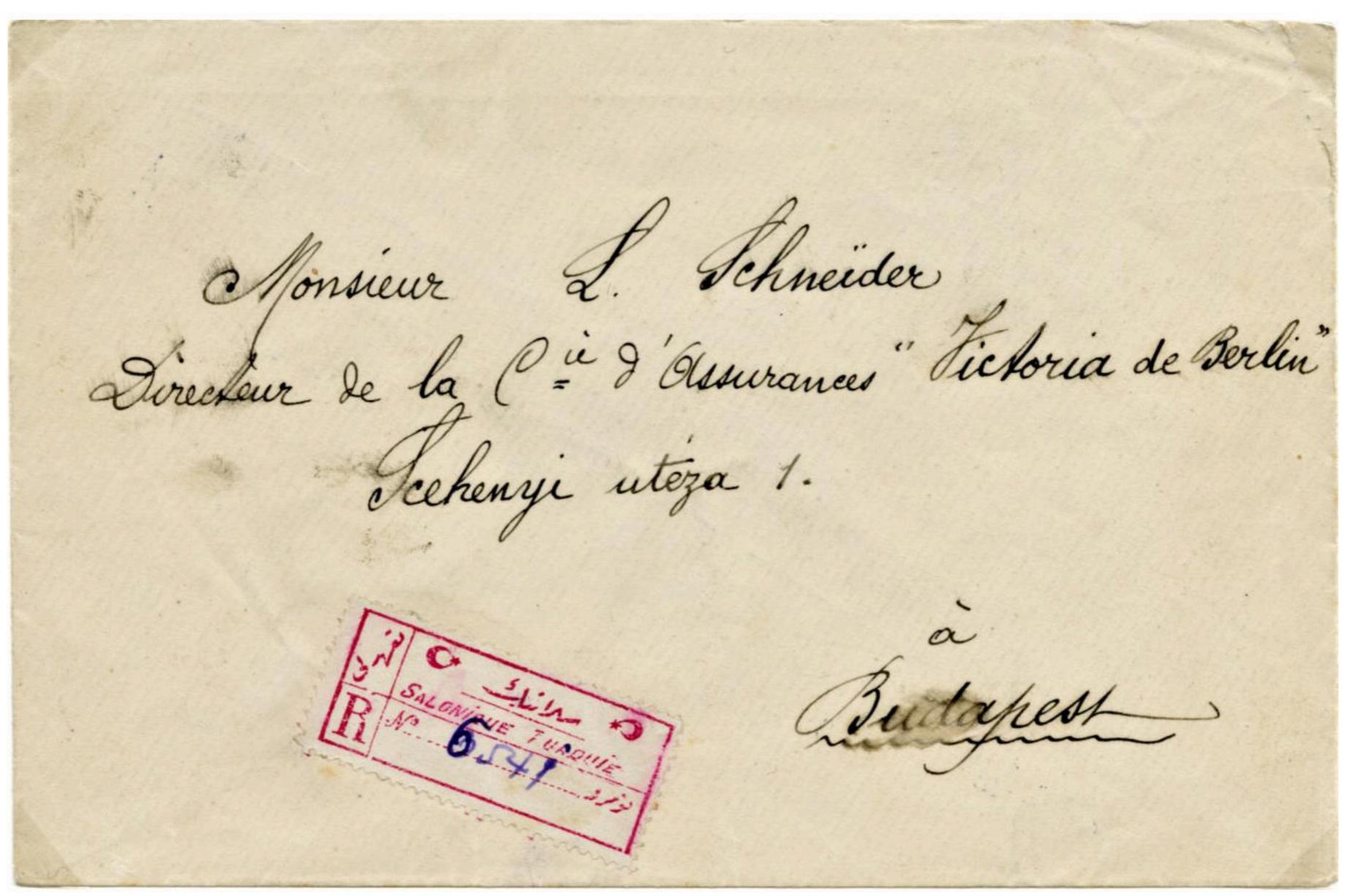
Postal Rate: 40 Para = 1 Pia single weight letter

SALONIQUE 3

Cover with local crude registration label!



Back side 2/3



Thessaloniki 1908 (July 7): Registered cover posted to Budapest, arrival July 1908, franked pair 1 Pia.

Postal Rate: 2Pia: 1Pia single weight letter + 1Pia for registration

SALONIQUE 3

Two types: a. Large 34mm - b. Small 28mm



Thessaloniki 1911 (June 26): Registered cover posted to Dardanelles, franked block of 4 x 20 Pa.

Postal Rate: 80 Pa = 2 Pia: 1 Pia single weight foreign letter + 1 Pia for registration



Thessaloniki 1908 (May 31): Cover posted to Budapest, franked pair 5Pa + 20 Pa + 1 Pia

Postal Rate: 1 Pia + 30 Pa double weight foreign letter-reduced rate.

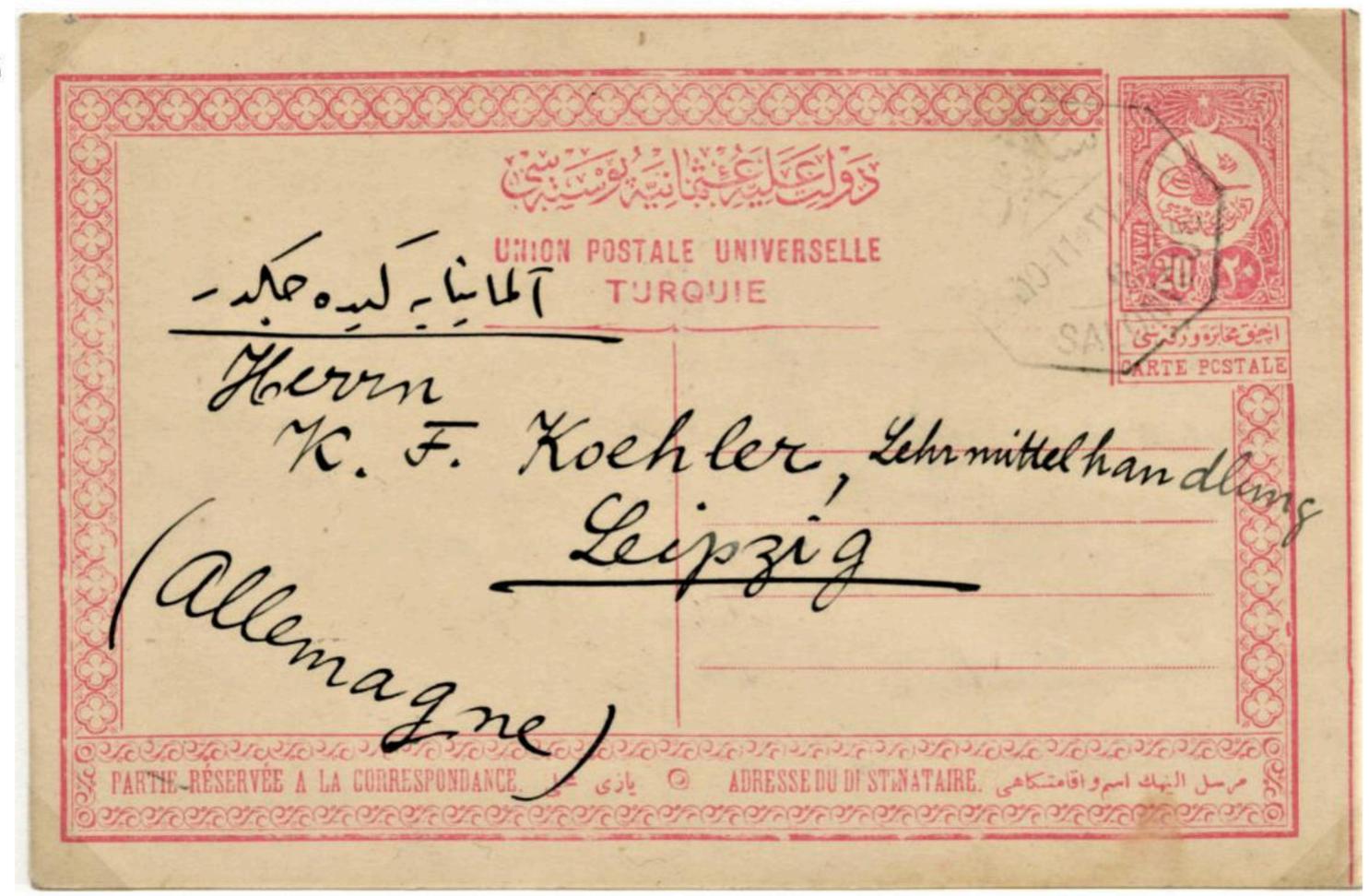
The Octagonal Numbered Postmarks of the Ottoman Post Office

Octagonal numbered postmarks were introduced by the late 1911, but they had a very limited use. Only numbers 5 and 6 are recorded on complete mail items and a few more on loose stamps or fragments.



SALONIQUE 9 on fragment cancelling strip of 4 lPia

SALONIQUE 6





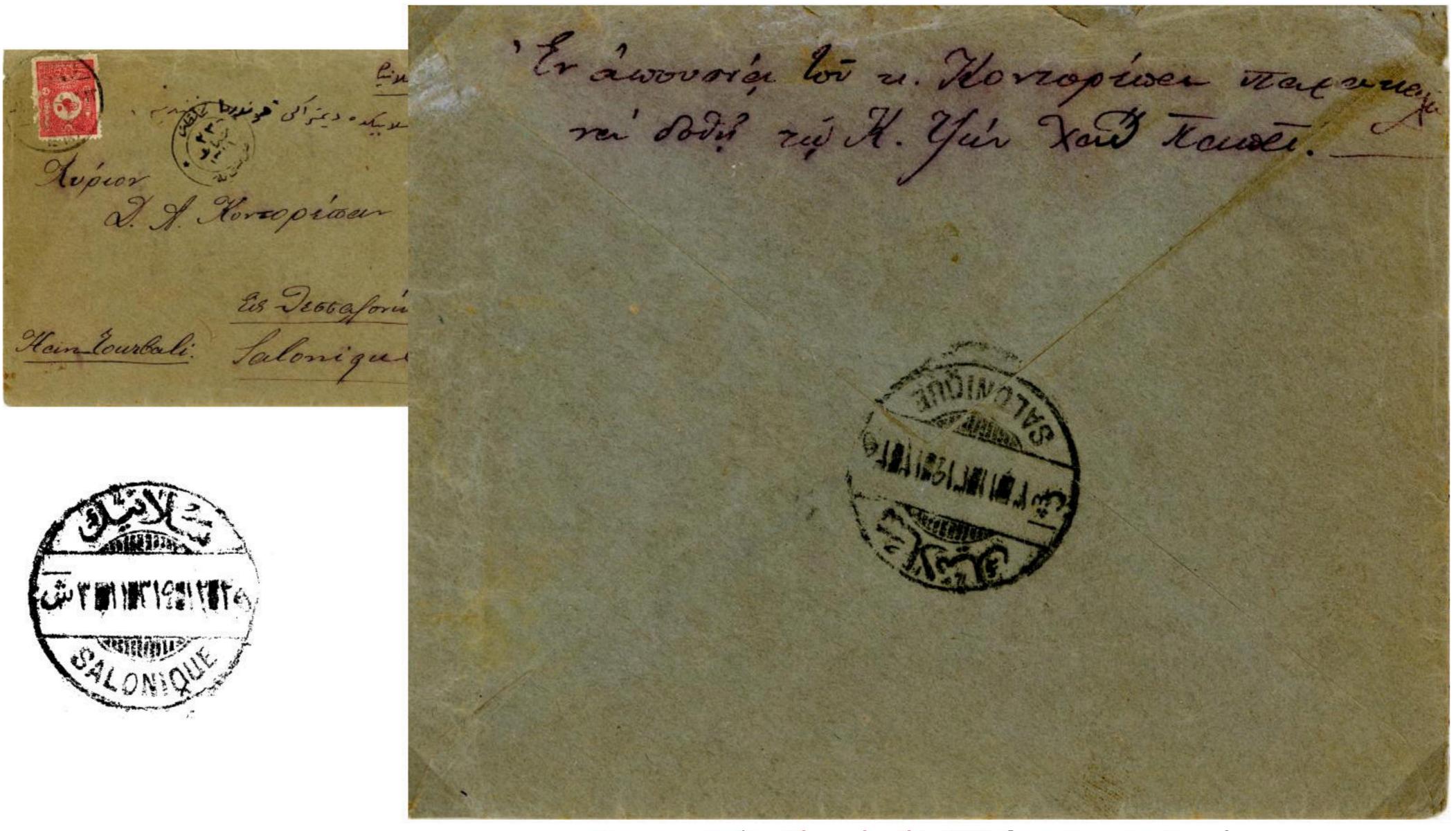
SALONIQUE 5

Thessaloniki 1911 (Oct. 25): Stationery Card posted to Leipzig
Thessaloniki 1912 (Sept. 23): Picture postcard posted to Nienburg, Germany
Postal Rate: 20Pa Foreign Card Rate

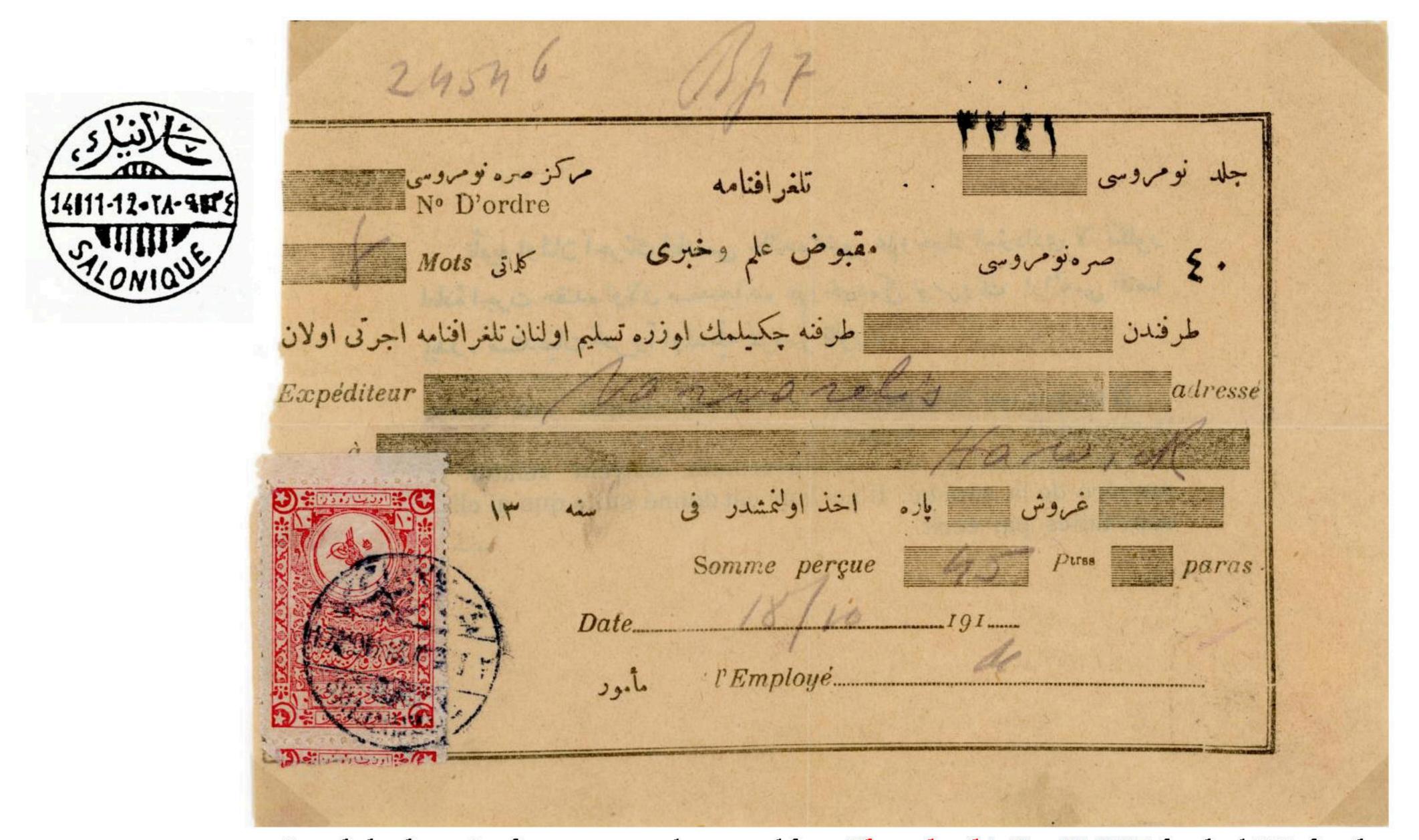
Rare postmarks with lines in segment

Both these types of postmark (with lines in segment) had a very limited use:

- a. The first type is large (31mm) with thin dense lines. I have only seen it used as arrival postmark (scarcely).
- b. The second type is smaller (28.5 mm), and it shows thicker black lines. It is very rare (4 or 5 copies known on documents) because it came into use the very last months before Thessaloniki came under Greek sovereignty.



Cover posted to Thessaloniki, 1905, from Constantinople.



Postal check receipt for a money order posted from Thessaloniki, Oct. 18, 1912, franked 10Pa fiscal.

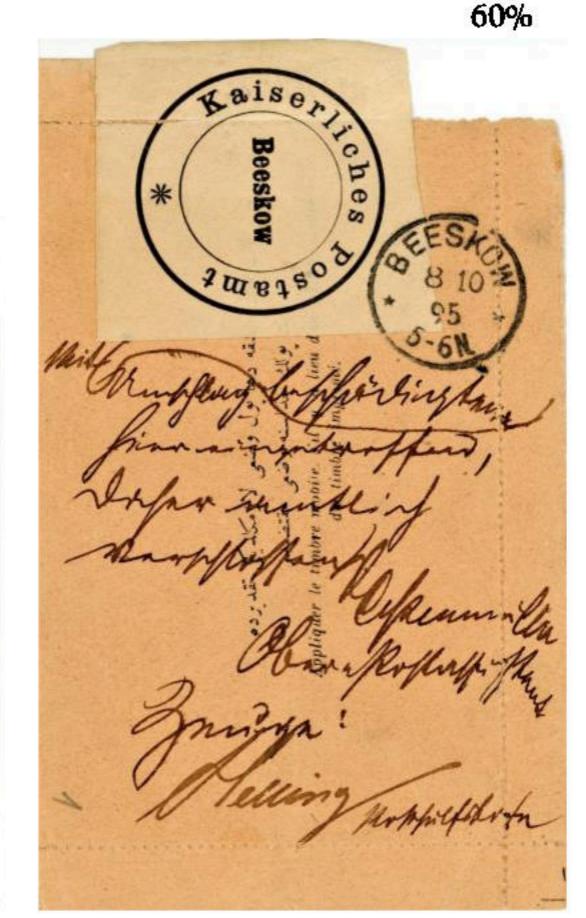
THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

LETTER CARDS of the 1892 issue (Armali)

An opened for examination and resealed Letter Card

A own of the CARTE-LETTRE

A own of the control of

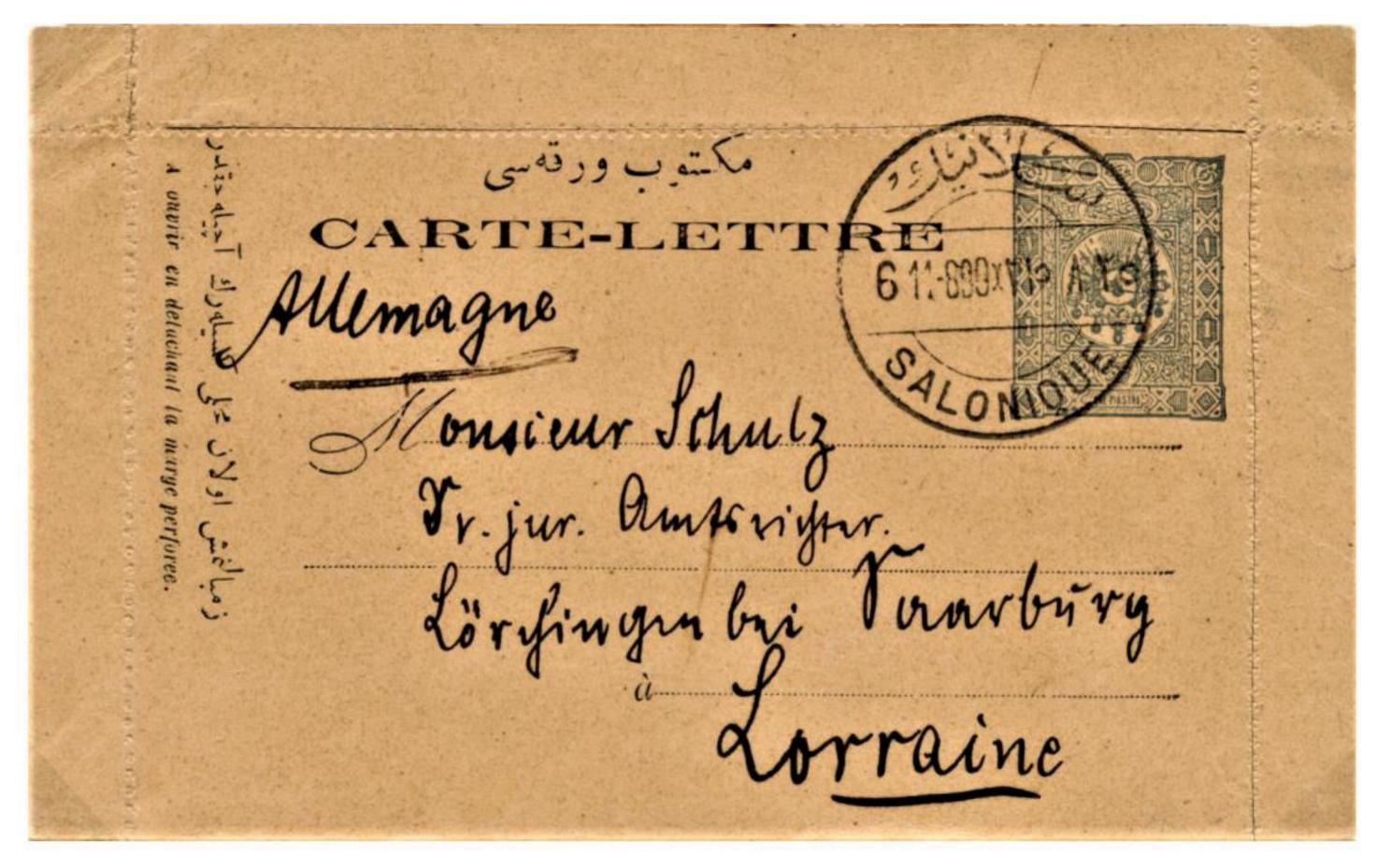


Thessaloniki 1895 (Oct.1): Ottoman Stationery Letter Card posted to Beeskow (near Berlin), arrival Oct. 8, showing SALONIQUE DEPART postmark in blue.

The Letter Card had been opened in Beeskow by the examiner (to search for enclosures) and resealed by a Beeskow P.O. Label.

Postal Rate: 1Pia for Foreign Letter Card.

And one that arrived with its margins properly sealed.



Thessaloniki 1899 (Nov. 6): Ottoman Letter Card posted to Lorraine, arrival Nov. 10.

Postal Rate: 1Pia for Foreign Letter Card.

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

STATIONERY ENVELOPES of the 1901 issue for domestic mail



Thessaloniki 1904: Ottoman 20 Pa Stationery Envelope, uprated by 20 Pa adhesive, posted to Istanbul. Oval postmark Selanik Iskele Posta Subesi (Thessaloniki Port)

Postal Rate: 1Pia for Double Weight domestic cover.

Thessaloniki 1905 (June 23): Ottoman I Pia Stationery Envelope, posted to Monastir. Oval postmark Selanik Iskele Posta Subesi (Thessaloniki Port)

Postal Rate: IPia for Double Weight domestic cover.

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

STATIONERY ENVELOPES of the 1901 issue for international mail and of the 1908 issue



Thessaloniki 1903 (Jan. 18): Ottoman 1 Pia Stationery Envelope, posted to Verviers, Belgium, arrival Jan. 22.

Postal Rate: 1Pia for Foreign cover.

Thessaloniki 1908: Registered Ottoman 20 Pa Stationery Envelope, uprated by a pair 20 Pa adhesive, posted to Istanbul.

Postal Rate: 2x20Pa for 2nd Weight domestic cover + 20Pa for registration.

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

STATIONERY ENVELOPES of the 1905 issue



Thessaloniki 1906: Ottoman 20 Pa Stationery Envelope posted to Istanbul. Oval postmark Selanik Iskele Posta Subesi (Thessaloniki Port)

Postal Rate: 20Pa for 1st Weight domestic cover.

Thessaloniki 1907 (June 26): Ottoman 1 Pia Stationery Envelope, posted to Brussels. Postal Rate: 1Pia for 1st Weight international cover.

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

A Private Ottoman Stationery Post Card

"Zur Erinnerung an die I. Meerturnfahrt deutscher Turner nach dem Orient, Gruss aus Saloniki" : In Souvenir of the first Voyage on Mediterranean Sea of German gymnasts to the Orient

Zur Erinnerung an die J. Meerturnfahrt deutscher Furner nach dem Orient.
Gruss aus Taloniki, d. 26 Jales 1892.
Sold Sold Sold Sold Sold Sold Sold Sold

Thessaloniki 1892 (July 26): Ottoman Stationery Card posted to Leipzig, arrival July 29.

Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Card.

A similar Ottoman Stationery Post Card in use until 1900

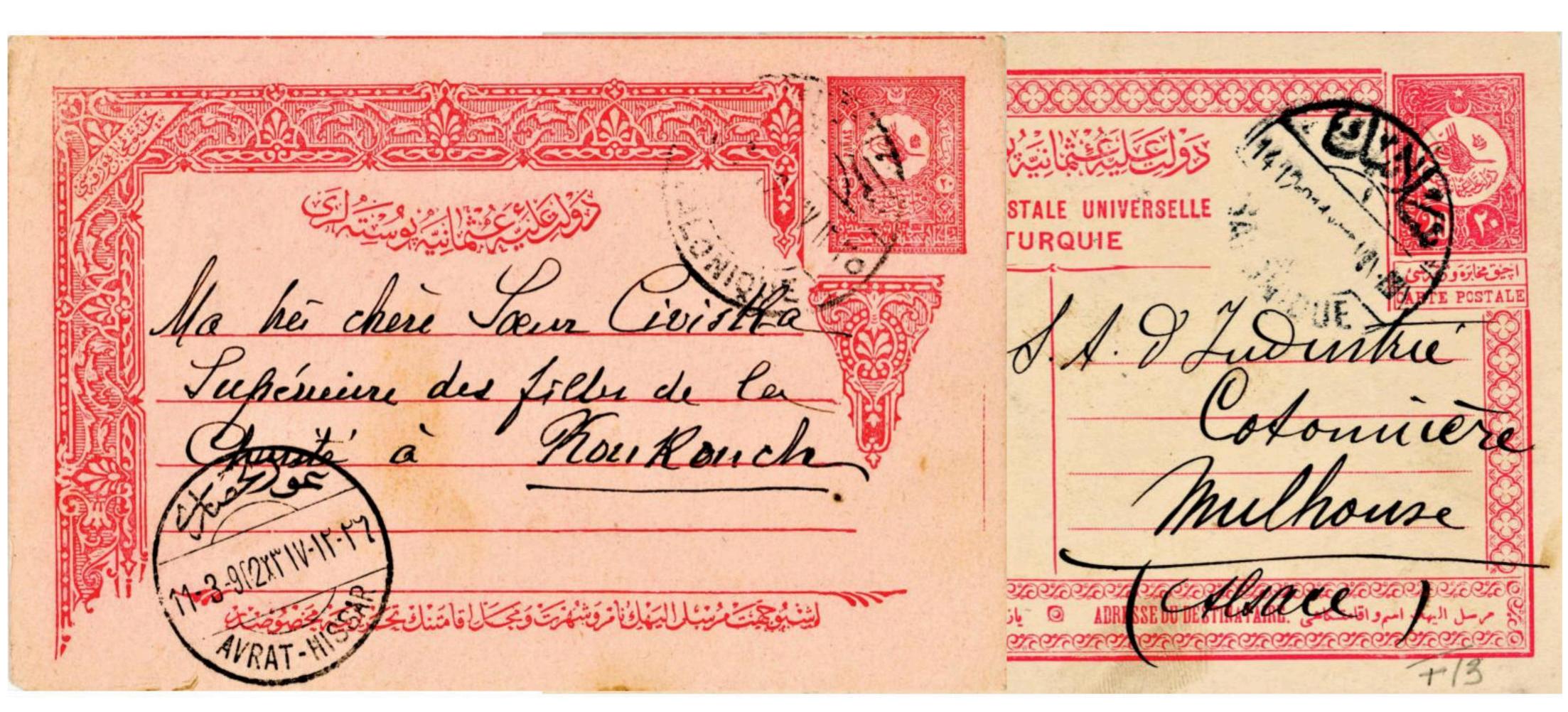


Thessaloniki 1899 (Nov. 3): Ottoman Stationery Card posted to Cavalla.

Postal Rate: 20Pa for Post Card with text.

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Ottoman Stationery Post Cards (1901 + 1908 issues)

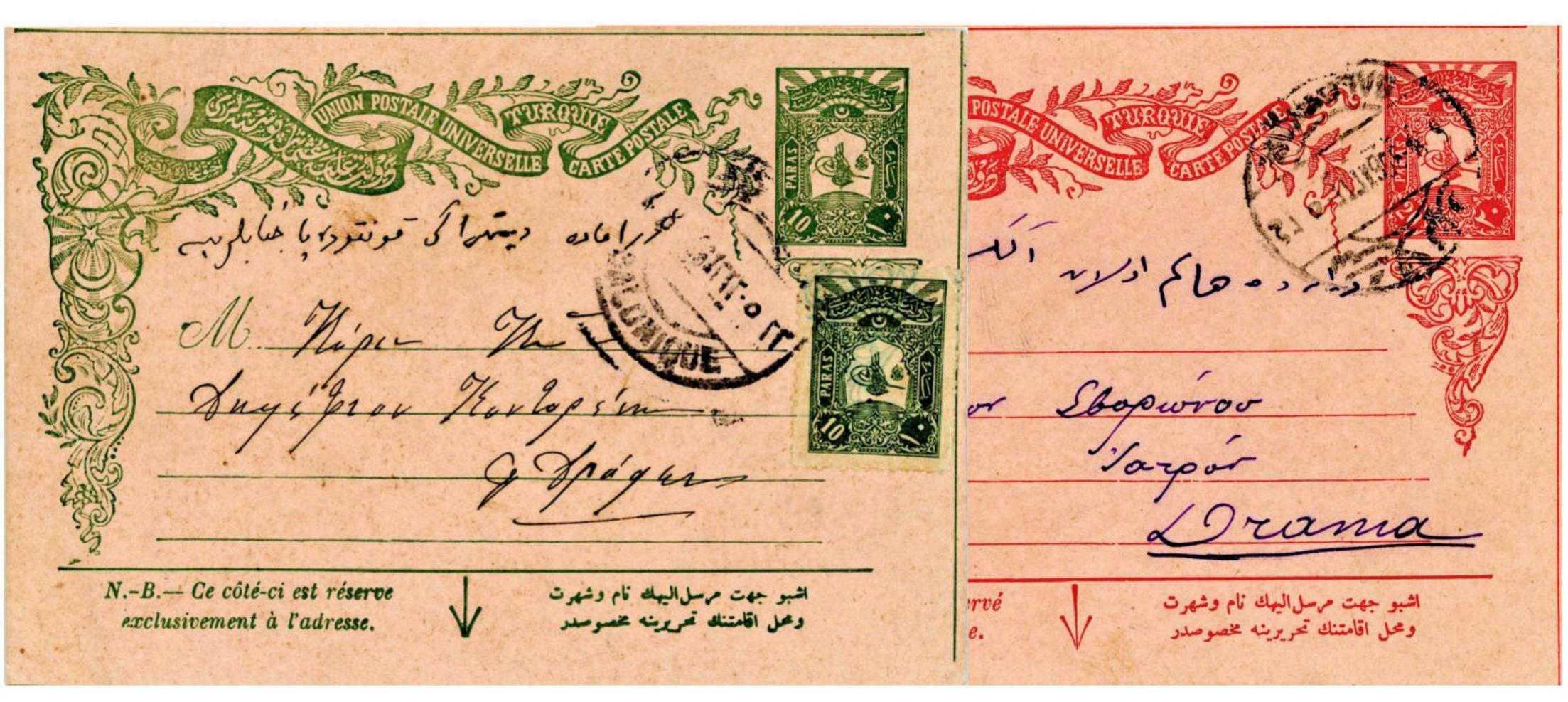


Thessaloniki 1902 (Mar. 9): Ottoman Stationery Card posted to KILKIS (Koukouch, Avrat-Hissar).

Thessaloniki 1911 (Dec. 14): Ottoman Stationery Card posted to Mulhouse, Alsace.

Postal Rate: 20Pa for Card with text.

Ottoman Stationery Post Cards (1905 issues)



Thessaloniki 1906 (July 7): Ottoman Stationery Card, uprated by 10Pa, posted to Drama.

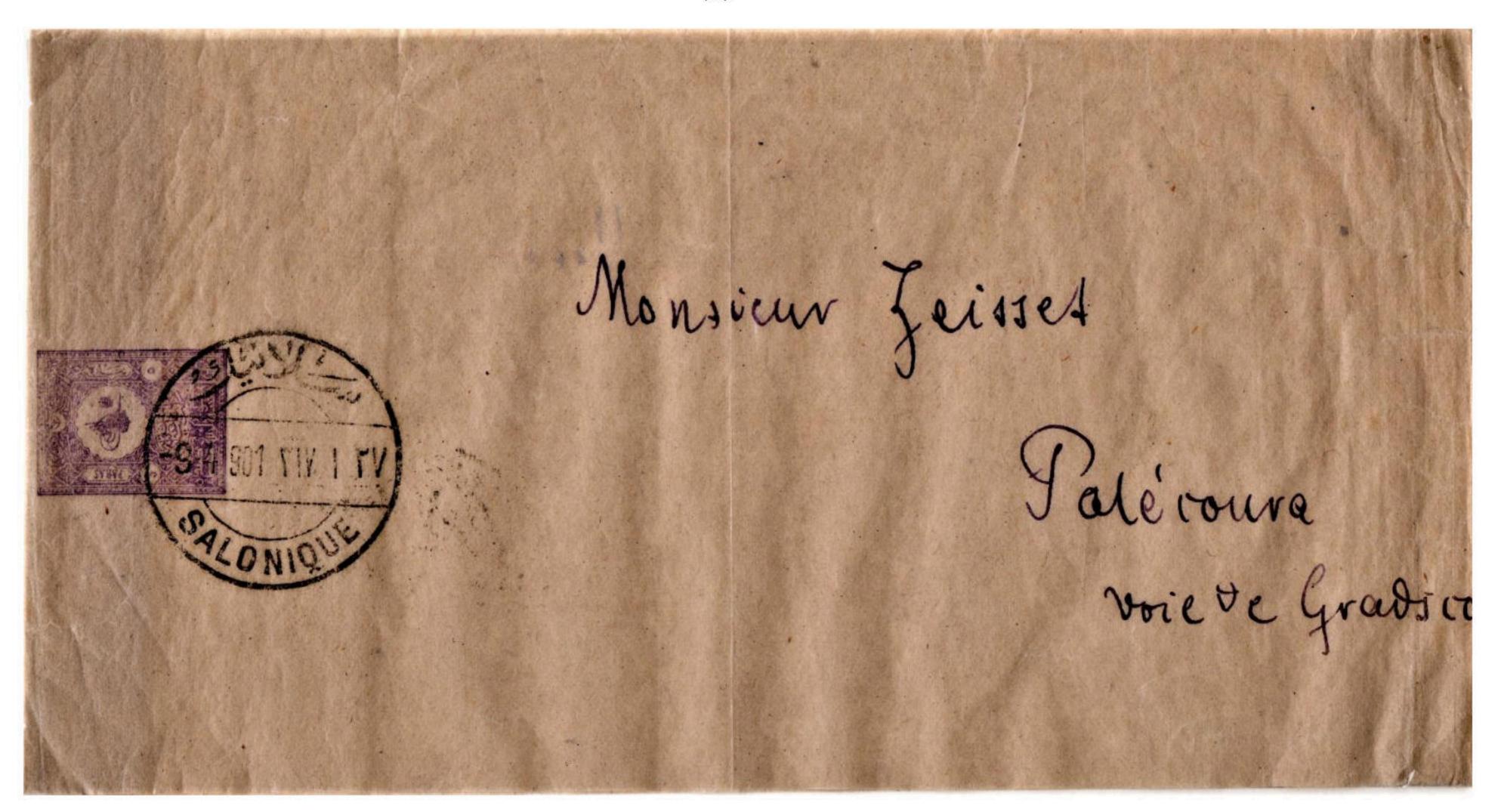
Thessaloniki 1906 (July 8): Ottoman Stationery Card posted to Drama.

Postal Rate: 20Pa for Post Card with text.

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Wrappers

5Pa Wrapper 1901 issue



Thessaloniki 1901 (Nov. 9):
Wrapper posted to Voie de Gradsko (by then Ottoman Empire, now Northern Macedonia)

Postal Rate: 5Para for 1st Weight Internal Wrapper.

10Pa Wrapper 1901 issue



Thessaloniki 1901 (Oct. 23):
Wrapper posted to Halle, Germany.

Postal Rate: 10Para for 1st Weight Foreign Wrapper.

SALONICH

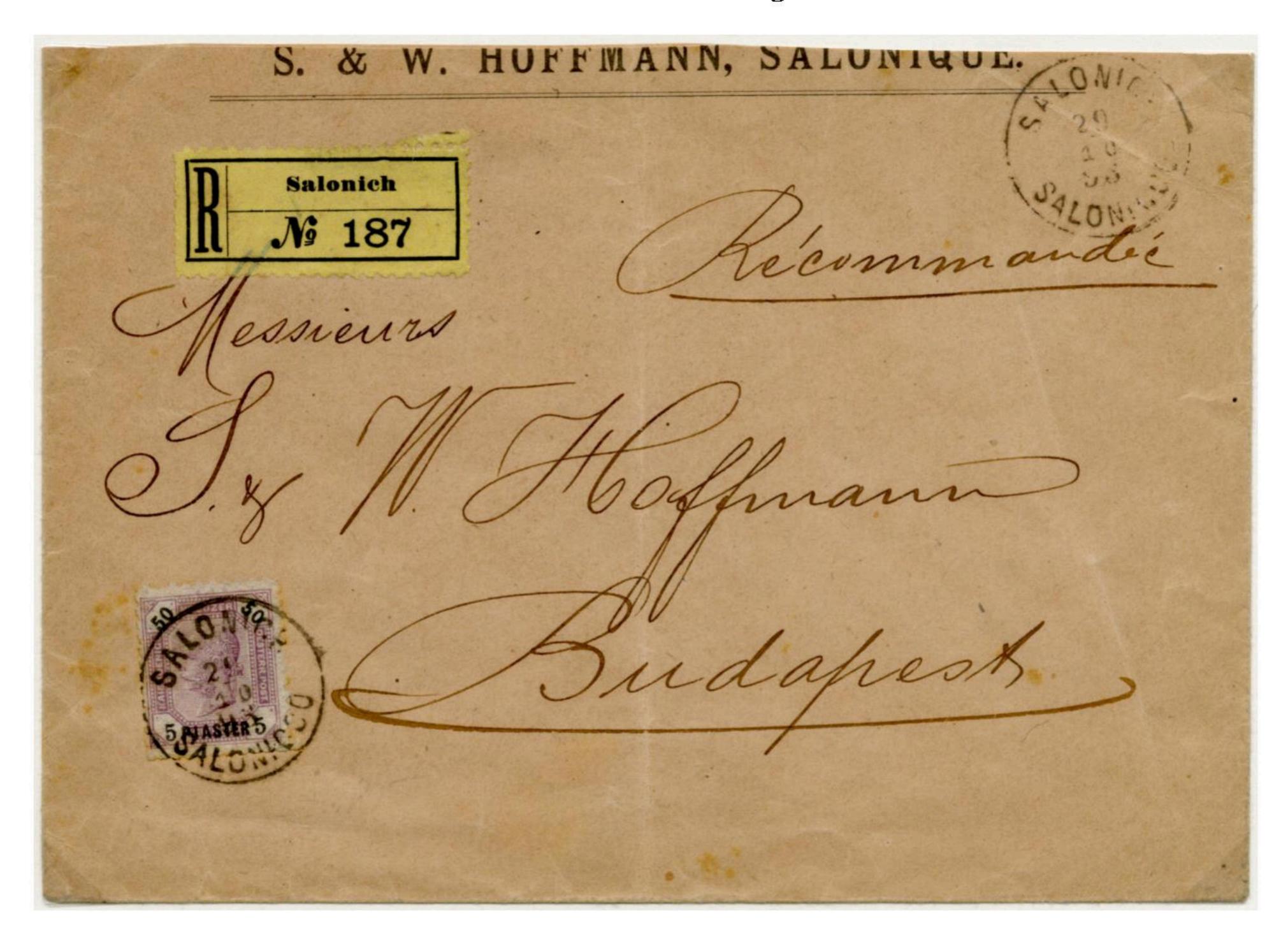


In the early 1890s the Consular post office became an official Austrian post office. In 1895, a branch office was opened at the Frankish quarter of Thessaloniki. Both offices were closed by autumn 1914.



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

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

SALONICH

Single circle Postmark SALONICH OESTERREICHISCHE POST (1891-1902) -now in German (probably because by the early 90s it was an official P.O., manned with clerks of the Austrian Postal Administration)



Thessaloniki 1894 (Nov. 3): Registered cover to France, arrival Nov. 7. Registration Label: SALONICH

Postal Rate: 2x1Pia Single

Weight Foreign Letter +

Registration





Franking on reverse side

Thessaloniki 1897 (Feb. 11): Registered Cover to Munchen, arrival Feb 14, franked pair 1Pia/10K Registration Label: SALONICH OSTERR. POST I

Postal Rate: 2x1Pia Single Weight Foreign Letter + Registration

SALONICH

Single circle Postmark SALONICH OESTERREICHISCHE POST (1891-1902)

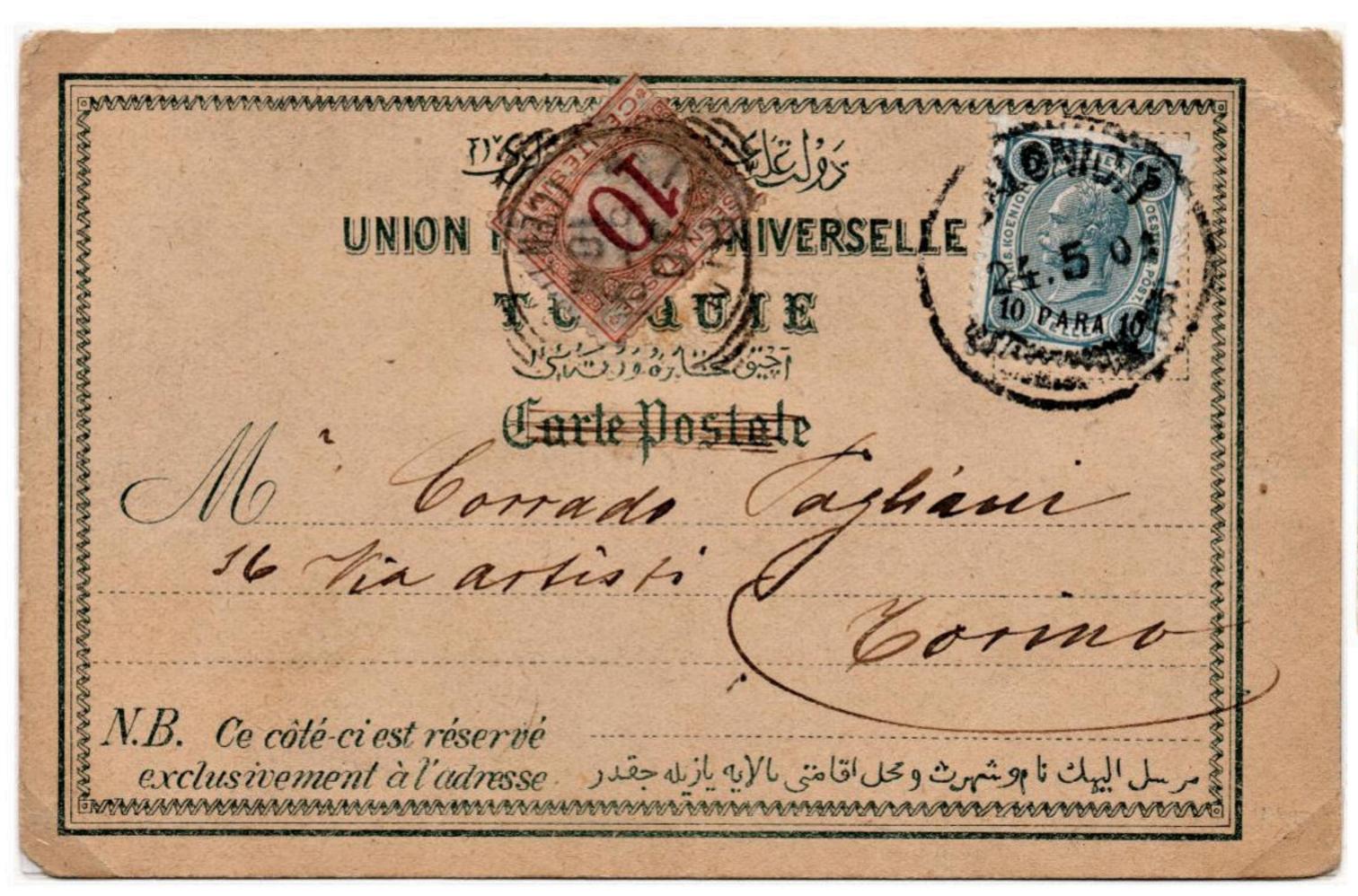
The 10 Para "Carte Visit" rate



Thessaloniki 1900 (Dec. 27): Small cover to Livorno, franked 10pa/3Kr.

Postal Rate: 10 Para small open cover "Carte Visit" rate

The 10 Para Postal card with Unified back (only for the address) rate





40%

Thessaloniki 1901 (May 24): Post card to Torino, arrival May 30, franked 10Pa/3Kr.

The 10 Para was the rate for Post card without text. As the card had a few words written in front, the 10Pa rate was not accepted, the card was considered insufficiently prepaid and it was charged with a 10c Italian postage due stamp - 10c was a bit less than the due sum of 20 Pa. A similar card in my collection, sent by the Ottoman P.O. the same year (1901) was charged 15c.

Postal Rate: 20 Para for postcard with text.

SALONICH I

Double circle Postmark SALONICH OESTERREICHISCHE POST (1895-1904)



Thessaloniki 1897 (April 19): Registered Cover to Milano, franked strip of 3 1Pia/10K

Postal Rate: 2x1Pia Double Weight Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration

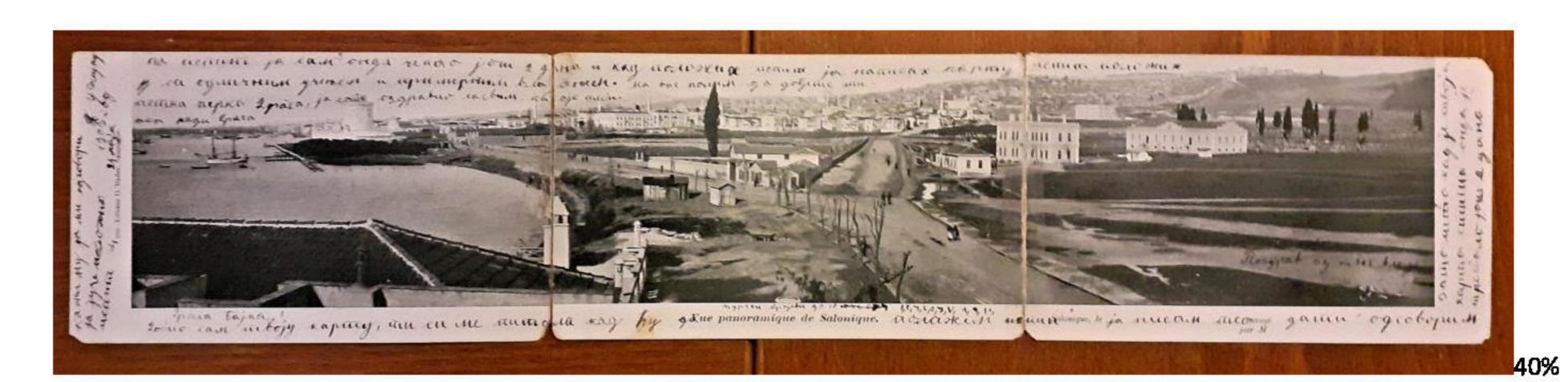


Thessaloniki 1903 (June 10): Registered Cover to Spremberg (Lausitz) Prussia, arrival June 18, franked block of 4 20Pa/10He.

Postal Rate: 80 Pa = 2 Pia: Single Weight Foreign Letter + Registration

SALONICH

Double circle Postmark SALONICH OESTERREICHISCHE POST (1895-1904)







Thessaloniki 1903 (June 6): Multifold post card to Belgrade Serbia, franked 20Pa/10He. Postal Rate: 20 Para for postcard with text. The extra weight was not taken into account!!

SALONICH

The various spellings of the SALONICH OESTERREICHISCHE POST postmark (1895-1906)



1st Type OESTERREICHISCHE (common type, 1895 – 1905)

2nd Type OSETERREICHISCHE (scarce type 1895 - 1896, used only in Branch P.O.)

3rd Type OSTERREICHISCHE (scarce type, 1906): according to Tchilingirian this is the scarcest postmark of the Austrian P.O. of Thessaloniki.

Three Stationery Cards showing the 3 types.

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.

SALONICH 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.

SALONICH I

Use of Austrian Levant Postage Due Stamps in Thessaloniki





Cover posted from Constantinople, May 12, 1914, by the Ottoman post to Thessaloniki, Poste- Restante in the Austrian Post. The Turkish P.O. handled the cover to the French P.O. in Thessaloniki (16/5) and the French to the Austrian P.O. In Thessaloniki it was not reclaimed, so it was first marked "Retour au Bureau d' Origin" – Constantinople and through there (27/5) readdressed to Leipzig (where was the address of the sender on the envelope's flap, although the letter was posted from Constantinople). A 2 Piastres Austrian Levant stamp was added in Thessaloniki to pay for the Postage Due and the readdressing.

Postal Rate: The original Turkish Franking was originally ignored because the 5Pa Orange stamp had been devaluated, so it was charged 40 Para. This was corrected to 25 Para because the other 3 stamps (4+5+6 Para of the 1914 Set) were valid – the 25 Para covered the 5 Para missing plus the 20 Para for Poste-Restante. The final charging was 90 Paras (small handwritten number in violet): Double the missing 25 Para plus 40 Para for readdressing. A 2 Pia (80 Para) Austrian Levant stamp was added to pay for these.

I cannot be sure if the journey of this cover was or was not of Philatelic inspiration but, nevertheless, it is a very interesting journey through the P.Os of that region and era.

SALONICH I

Double circle postmarks with bridge

These postmarks, introduced circa 1905-06, show serial letters a, b, c, d and they were in general use until the office closed in 1914. They exist in three groups:

- A. First group (from 1905-06), with characters thick and narrow.
- B. Second group (1910-14), with characters rather thinner but much wider.
- C. Third group (after 1912), larger postmark with much wider SALONICH, found only with serial letter c and much scarcer.

 Serial c



Thessaloniki 1907 (Nov. 6): Cover franked 10+20Pa+1Pia, posted to Zurich, arrival Nov. 9.

Postal Rate: 70Pa for Double Weight Foreign Letter (discount rate).

Thessaloniki 1914 (June): Cover franked strip of 4x 10Pa, posted to Basel, Switzerland.

Postal Rate: 40Pa for Single Weight Foreign Letter.

SALONICH I

Double circle postmarks with bridge

Type A Serial a



Thessaloniki 1912 (Mar. 5): Cover, franked lPia, posted to Nisch Serbia.

Postal Rate: lPia for Single Weight Foreign Letter



Thessaloniki 1910 (Sept. 13): Registered cover franked 2Pia, posted to Bucharest, arrival Sept. 16.

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

SALONICH I

Double circle postmarks with bridge

Type A

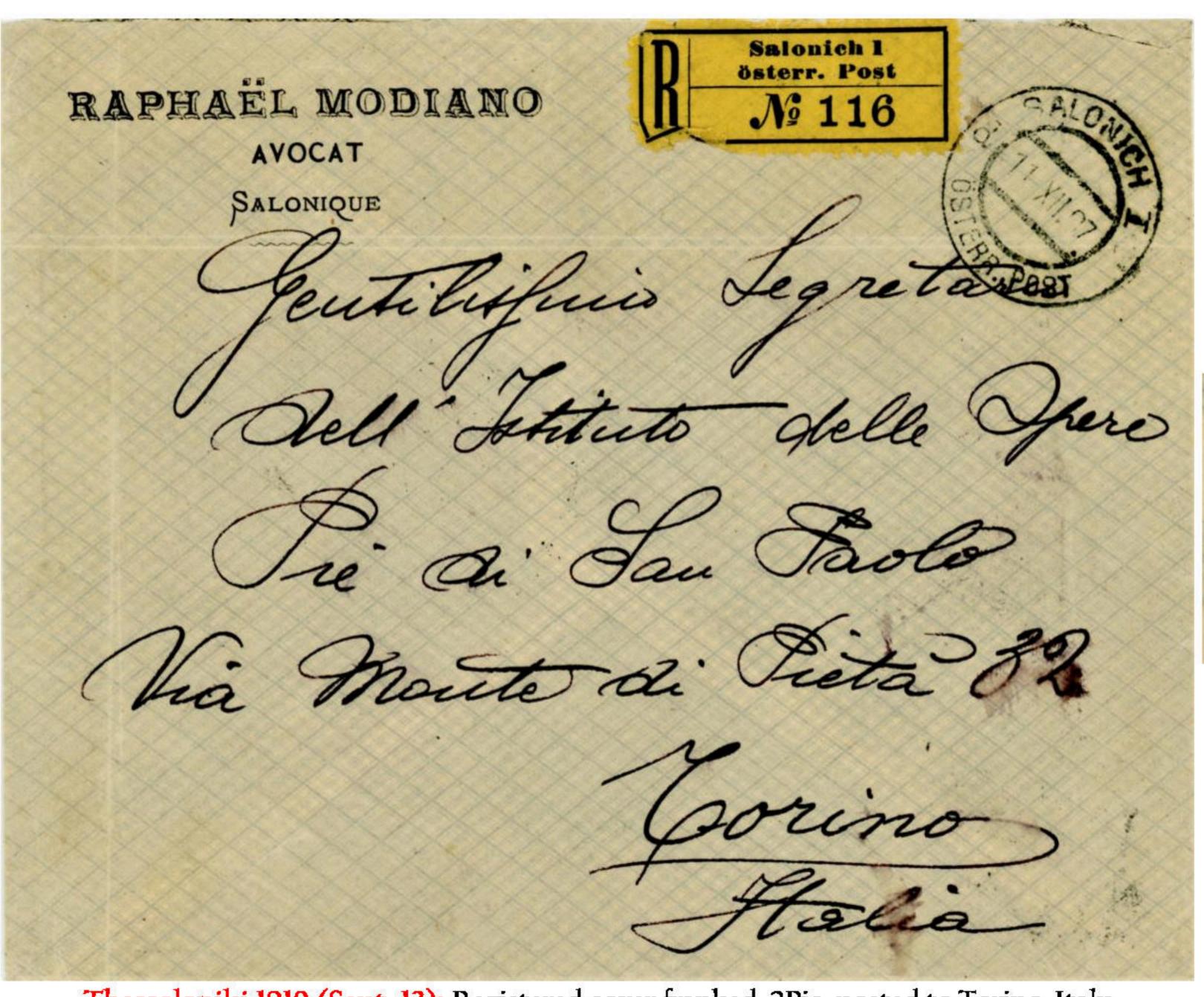
Serial b, d



Thessaloniki 1910 (Nov. 10): Cover, posted to Bridgetown, New Jersey, USA.

Mixed Franking of Cretan and Levant issues

Postal Rate: 1Pia + 15c(30Pa) = 70Pa for Double Weight Foreign Letter (discount rate).





Detail of back

Thessaloniki 1910 (Sept. 13): Registered cover franked 2Pia, posted to Torino, Italy.

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

SALONICH I

Double circle postmarks with bridge

Mixed Franking of Austrian P.O. in Crete and Levant issues

Type A Serial d



Thessaloniki 1911 (July 31): Registered cover franked 10 Centimes + strip of 3x1 Pia, posted to Zurich, arrival August 3.

Postal Rate: 3 Pia + 10 C (=20 Pa) = 140 Paras: 100 Pa (40+30+30) for Triple Weight Foreign Letter (discount rate) + 40 Pa for Registration.

Thessaloniki 1910 (Nov. 6): Registered cover franked 10 + 5 Centimes + 1 Pia,
posted to Zurich, arrival Nov. 9.

Postal Rate: 2 Pia + 15 C (=30 Pa) = 110 Paras: 70 Pa (40+30) for Double Weight Foreign Letter (discount rate) + 40 Pa for Registration.

SALONICH I

Double circle postmarks with bridge

Type B

Serial a, d



Thessaloniki 1912 (Feb. 10): Stationery Card, posted to Nisch, Serbia.

Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Card with text.



Thessaloniki 1913 (Oct. 14): Registered cover franked Strip of 4 x 20 Pa, posted to Paris, arrival Oct. 20.

Postal Rate: 80 Paras: 40 Pa for Single Weight Foreign Letter + 40 Pa for Registration.

SALONICH I

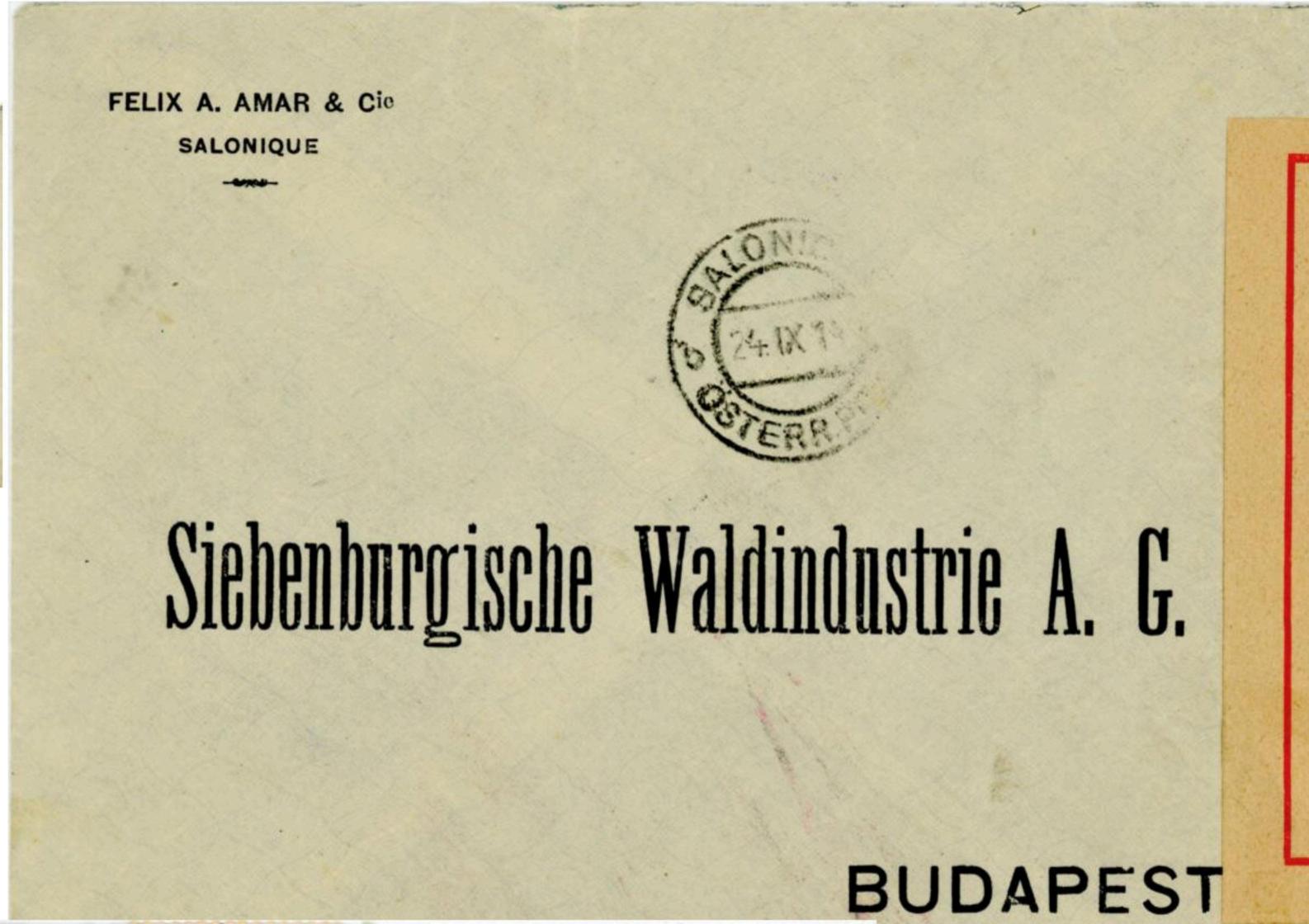
Double circle postmarks with bridge

Type B

Serial b, c



Back 30%





Bathoryutcza 8.



Thessaloniki 1914 (Sept. 24): Cover franked 1 Pia, posted to Budapest, arrival Oct. 4, Martial Law Hungarian censorship.

Postal Rate: 1 Pia for Single Weight Foreign Letter

Suisse

Thessaloniki 1913 (Aug. 15): Registered cover franked 2 x 1 Pia + 15 Cent, posted to Zurich, arrival Aug. 22.

Mixed Franking of Cretan and Levant issues

Postal Rate: 2 Pia + 15 C (=30 Pa) = 110 Paras: 70 Pa (40+30) for Double Weight Foreign Letter (discount rate) + 40 Pa for Registration.

SALONICH I

Double circle postmarks with bridge

Type C

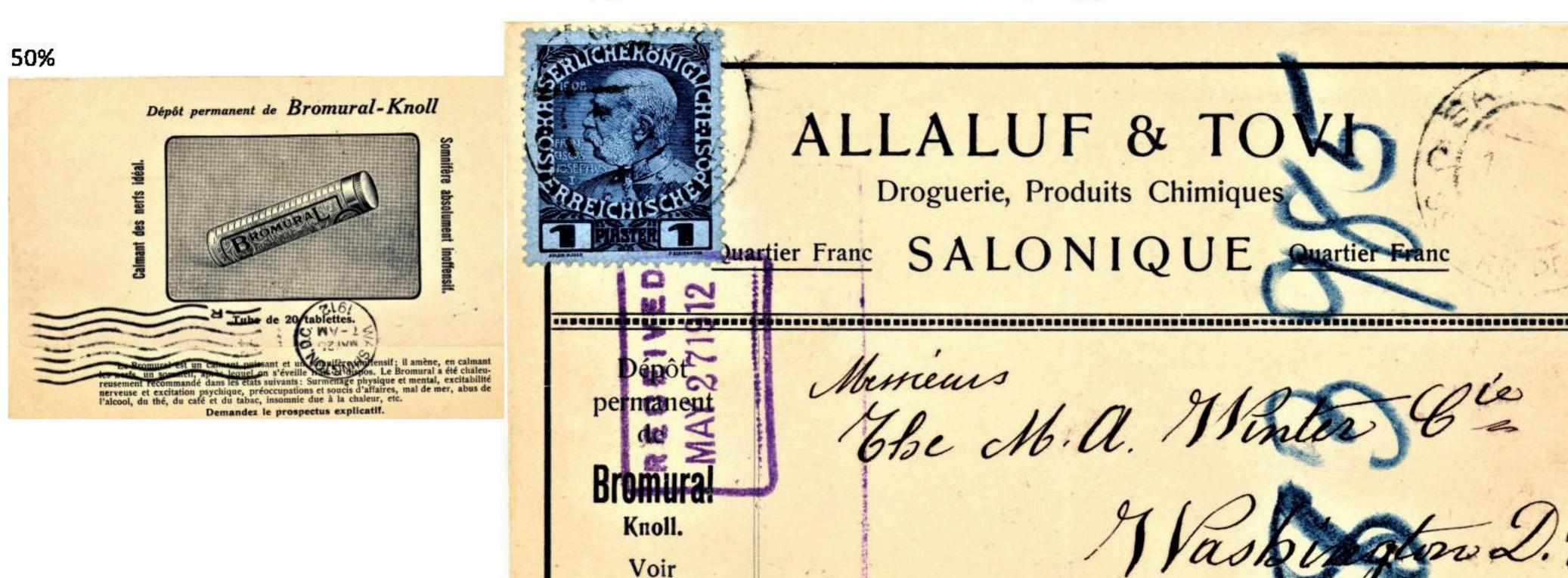
description

au verso.

477 (Turquie d'Europe).

Serial c (only)

T. s. v. pl.



Thessaloniki 1912 (May): Private printed cover (from a drugstore) franked 1 Pia, posted to Washington, arrival May 27.

Postal Rate: 1 Pia for Single Weight Foreign Letter



Thessaloniki 1914 (July 18): Cover franked Block of 4 x 10 Pa, posted to Glarus Switzerland, arrival July 21.

Postal Rate: 40 Pa for Single Weight Foreign Letter

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.

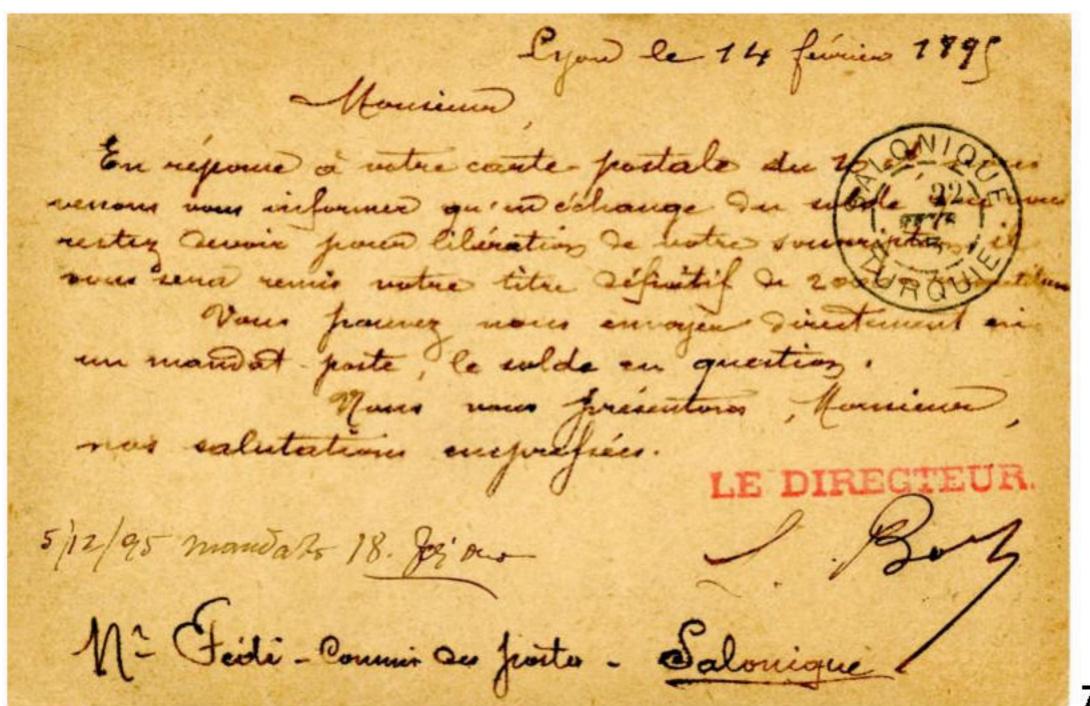
The cover comes from the German Consulate in Thessaloniki and shows its seal on reverse.

Postal Rate: 1 Pia for Single Weight Foreign Letter + 1 Pia for Advice of Receipt + 40 Pa for Registration.

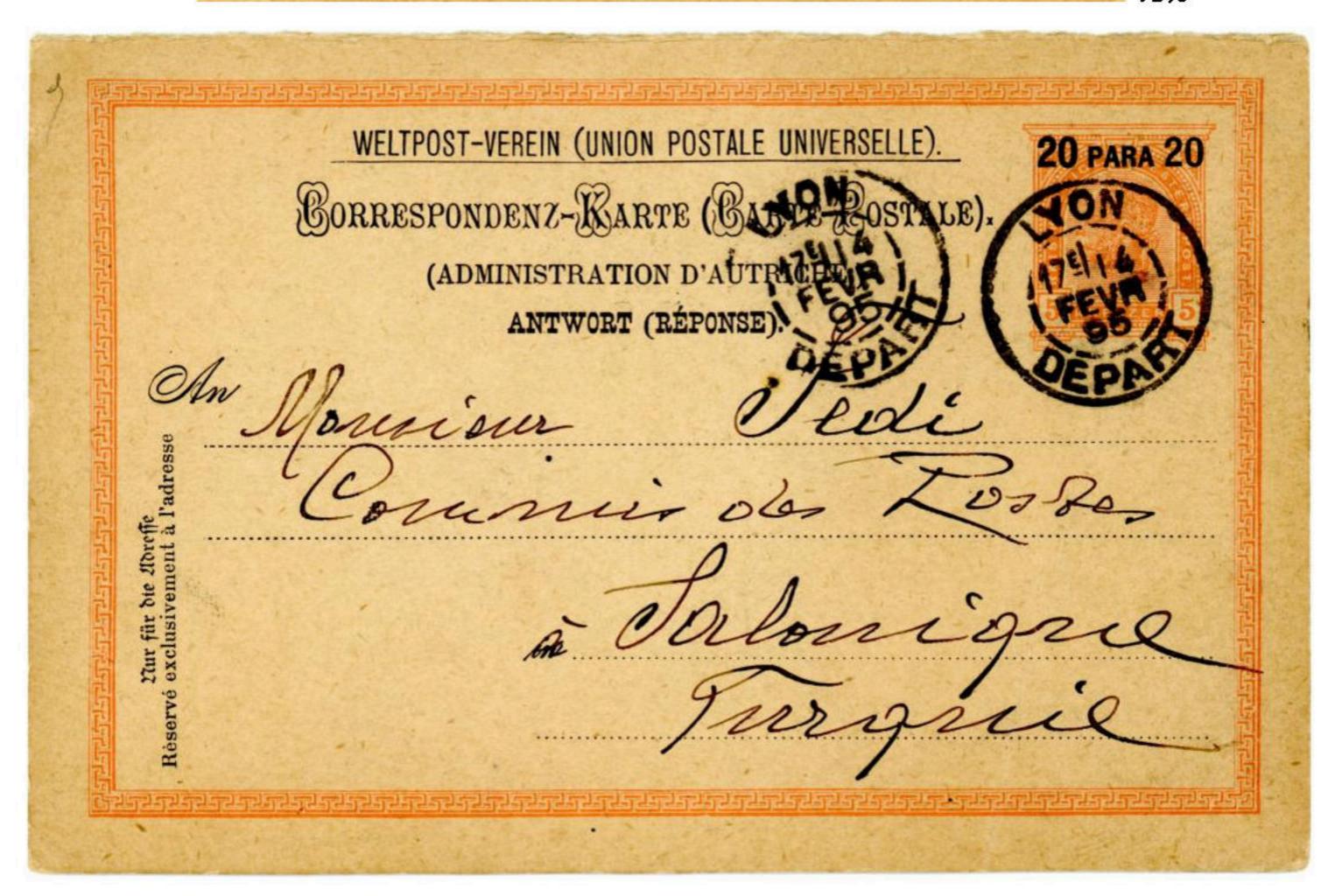
AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Correct commercial use of an Austrian Levant Reply Stationery Card Usually, these cards are found either cancelled to order, or both parts used from the Post Office of Origin.



75%



The Reply part of an Austrian Levant Stationery Postcard, posted from Lyon to Thessaloniki, Feb. 14, 1895. Arrival by the French Post Office!!

Postal Rate: 20 Para for Foreign Post Card.

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

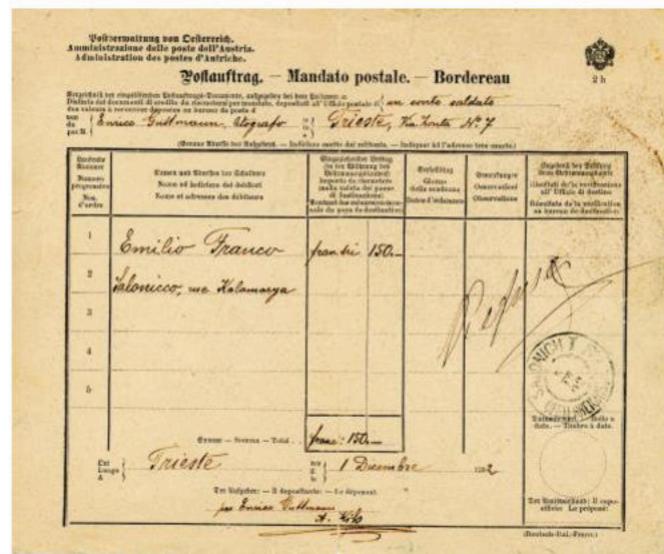
Advice of Receipt + Money Order (Mandate Postal)

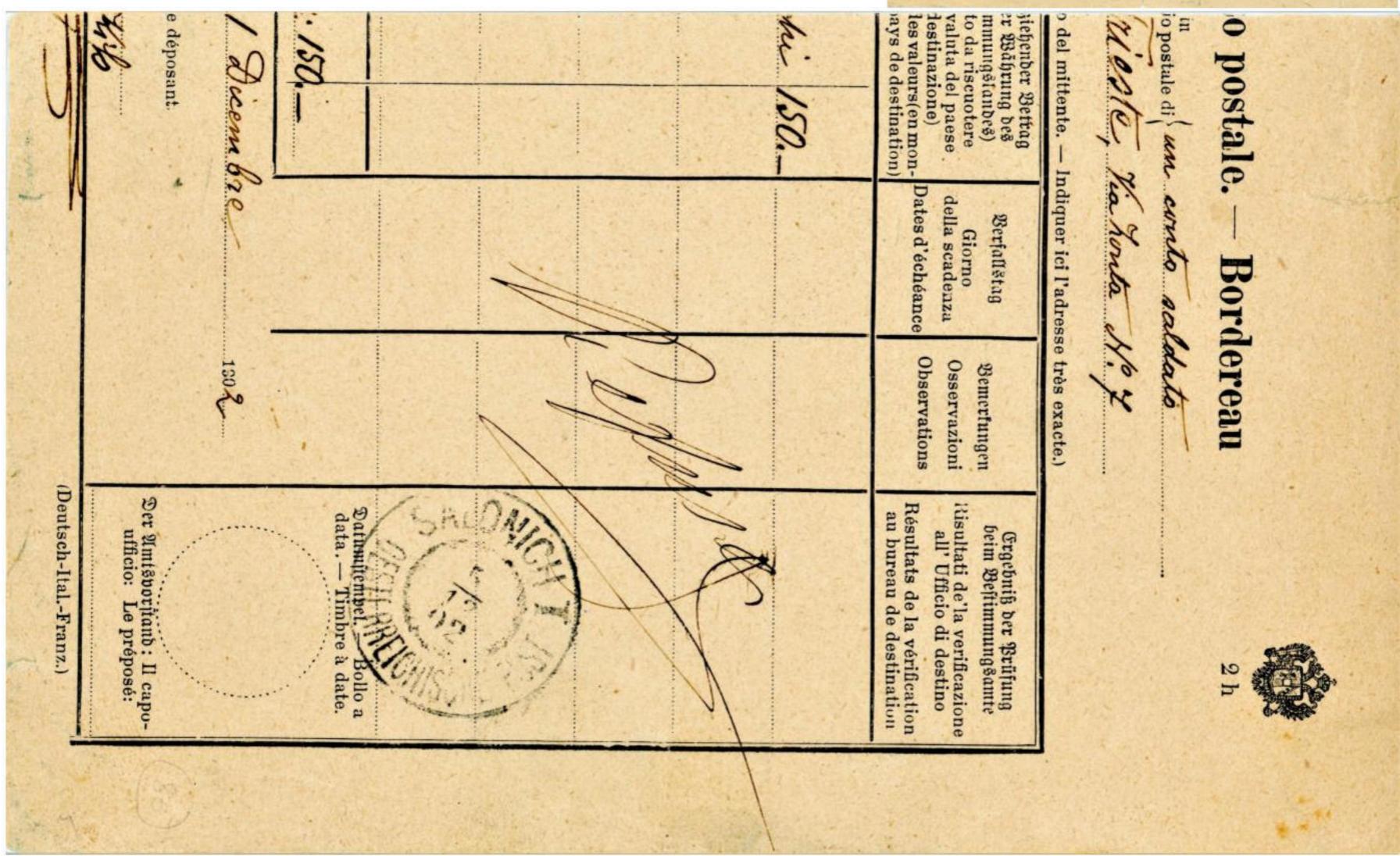
Uesterreichische Postverwaltung. Administration des Postes a Antriche.
Nr. des RecProtokolles: No. d'ordre du registre: RÜCKSCHEIN zu einer recommandirten Sendung
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION d'un objet recommandé.
Der Unterzeichnete bestätigt, die recommandirte Sendung Le Soussigné déclare que l'objet recommandé expédié
de aus de la
richtig empfangen zu haben, lui a éte dument remis, am 21/1/27 le 21/1/27
Unterschrift — Signature a) {des Adressaten: b) {des Vorstandes des Abgabe-Postamtes: du Chef du bureau distributeur:
D. S. Nr. 22. (Auflage 1894.)

Thessaloniki 1897 (March 15): Acknowledgement of receipt document for a registered letter posted to Patrai, franked 1Pia/10K

Postal Rate: 1Pia for Advice of receipt

Thessaloniki 1902 (Dec. 5): Money order for 150 Fr, sent from Trieste





AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

The use of an Austrian Letter Card



Thessaloniki 1898 (Feb. 4): Austrian stationery letter card (currency in kreuzer) posted to Dresden, Germany, arrival Feb. 7. It is probable (as one can judge from the placement of the stamps) that the sender intended to use the letter card also for the partial prepayment of the rate, but he was informed that payment in kreuzer was not authorized for use in the Ottoman Empire, so he added a 4th stamp to cover the postal rate.

Postal Rate: 40 Paras for foreign Letter Card

And a registered! Levant Letter Card to Cetinje, Montenegro



Thessaloniki 1894 (June 15): Registered stationery letter card posted to Cetinje, arrival June 22, franked 2 pairs 10Pa/3Kr

Postal Rate: 40 Paras for foreign Letter Card + 1 Pia for Registration

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Double Stationery Cards, with answer



Thessaloniki 1905 (May 22): Double stationery card (Issue of the Austrian P.O. in Crete) posted to Wien, arrival May 25 and from Wien, May 28 to Skopje (Uskub), arrival June 16. Arrival postmark SALONICH U of the Consular Branch Post Office at Skopje. Of philatelic inspiration, nevertheless correct use of a double card.

Postal Rate: 10Cent (=20 Paras) for foreign Post Card

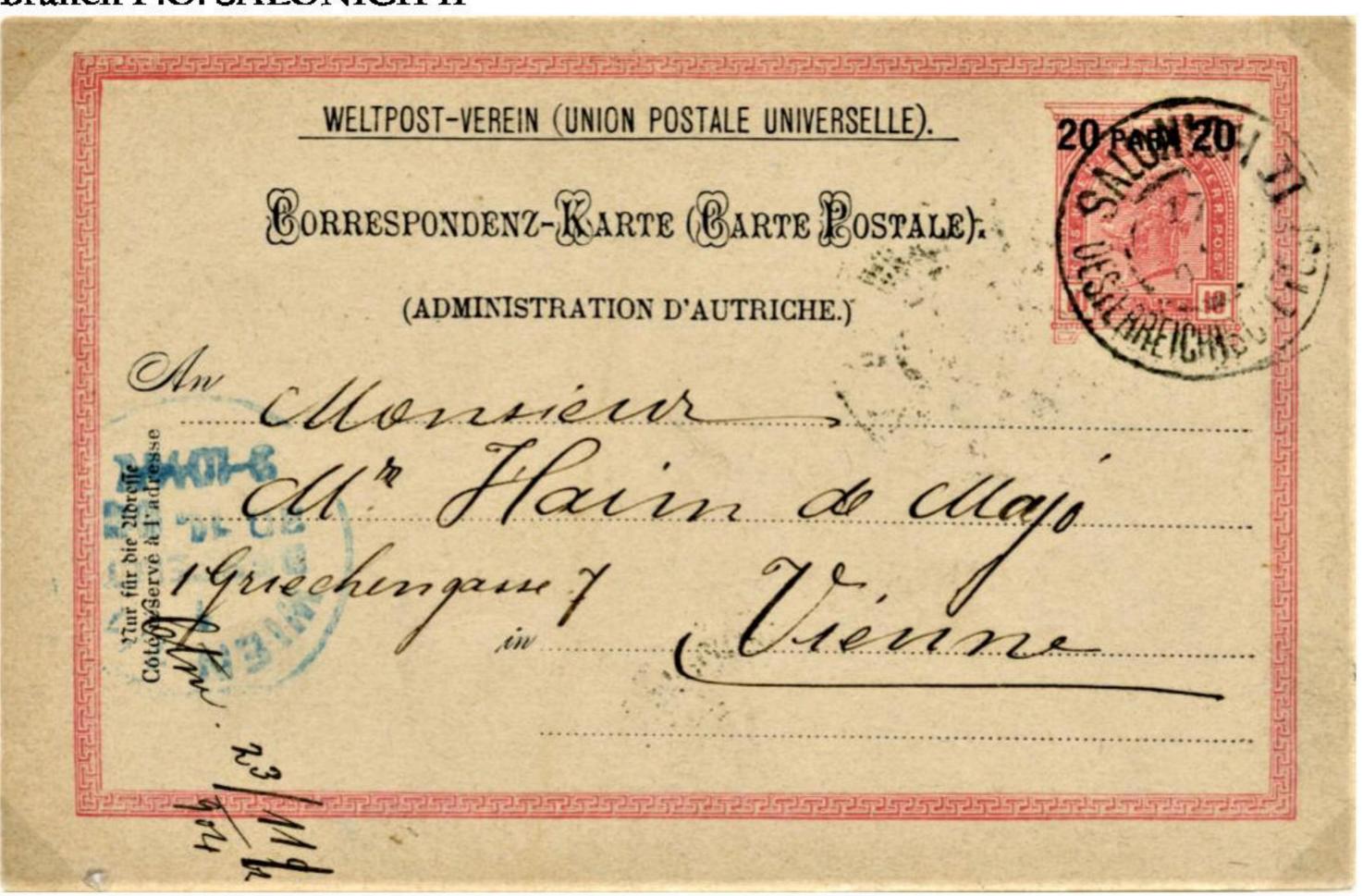
Thessaloniki 1914 (Jan. 4): Double stationery card posted to Bratislava (Pressburg). One-way philatelic use.

Postal Rate: 20 Paras for foreign Post Card

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Austrian Levant Postcards used in Thessaloniki

Branch P.O. SALONICH II



Thessaloniki 1900 (Nov. 17): Stationery card 20Pa/10He posted to Wien

WELIPOST-VEREIN (UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE).

CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE (BARTE POSTALE).

(ADMINISTRATION D'AUTRICHE.)

ANTWORT (RÉPONSE).

WELIPOST-VEREIN (UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE).

CADMINISTRATION D'AUTRICHE.)

ANTWORT (RÉPONSE).

CAMINISTRATION D'AUTRICHE.)

ANTWORT (RÉPONSE).

Thessaloniki Mar. 1894 + Dec. 1899: Two stationery cards 20Pa/5Kr posted both to Germany.

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Austrian Levant Postcards used in Thessaloniki

Branch P.O. SALONICH II



Thessaloniki 1907 (June 23): Stationery card 10 Cent/10 He (issue of the Austrian P.O. in Crete) posted to Berlin Germany



Thessaloniki May 1897 + July 1907: Two stationery cards 20Pa/5Kr and 20Pa/10He posted both to Brussels and Paris.

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Austrian Levant Wrappers used in Thessaloniki



Thessaloniki June 1900, Apr. 1901, Mar. 1903: Three stationery wrappers 10Pa/3Kr + 10Pa/5He posted to Budapest and Aarau Switzerland.

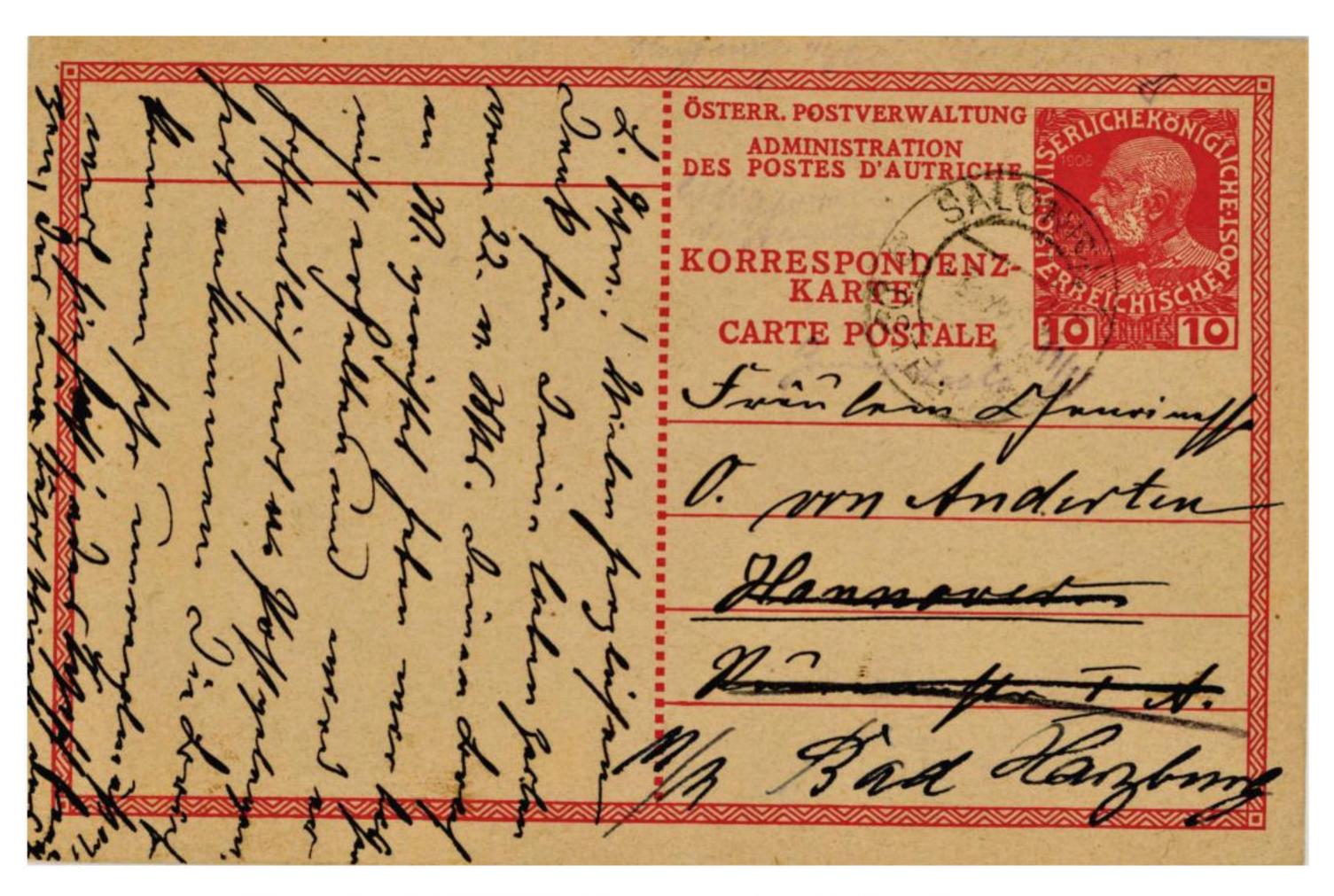
THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Stationery Cards of the Austrian P.O. in Crete



Thessaloniki 1911 (July 2): Stationery card posted to Hamburg, Germany. The card, although Austrian, was given for posting to the Ottoman P.O., but it was not accepted as prepayment and it was taxed.

Postal Rate: 10 Cent. (=20 Pa) for foreign Post Card



Thessaloniki 1909? Stationery card posted to Hannover, readdressed to Bad Harzburg (40km from Hannover), Germany.

Postal Rate: 10 Cent. (=20 Pa) for foreign Post Card

SALONICH II

The Opening of the Austrian Branch Post Office in the European Quarter - JUNE 1st, 1895

The European (Frankish) quarter of Thessaloniki was an active trading center, so the French P.O. had opened a branch office there from about 1890. In order not to lose ground, the Austrian P.O. felt obliged to follow and, from 1 June 1895, a branch P.O., under the designation SALONICH II started operations.

It is interesting to note, that, judging by the scarcity of its postmarks, the volume of business of the branch P.O. remained surprising low, for the whole period to 1914.

It is probable that the Austrian branch P.O. was opened at a very short notice, and the dated postmark SALONICH II, intended for its use was not provided till autumn 1895.

According to Mueller, for the first two months of its operation, the branch P.O. loaned from the mail P.O. the "SALONICH/SALONICCO single circle" postmark.

Following Mueller, Tchilingirian considers as first postmark used by the branch P.O. the "SALONICH/SALONICCO single circle" postmark with June + July 1895 dates.

My personal consideration, after examining plenty of philatelic material of that period, is that both :the "SALONICH/SALONICCO single circle" and the "SALONICCO single circle" (withdrawn from 1893) postmarks, were given temporarily to the branch P.O. for the first months of its operation and they were gradually (and definitively) withdrawn by autumn 1895, replaced by the double circle SALONICH II OESTERREICHISCHE POST postmark. The main post office used during the same period the single circle SALONICH OESTERREICHISCHE POST postmark and, from mid-1895, the double circle SALONICH I OESTERREICHISCHE POST postmark.



Thessaloniki 1895 (Sept. 22): Austrian Levant Letter Card posted to Heidelberg, Germany, arrival Sept. 28.

Postal Rate: I Pia for Foreign Letter Card.

One of the few known uses of this postmark, from the branch post office.

SALONICH II

Two (out of three, known to me to exist) Stationery Cards posted from the Branch Post Office in the European Quarter, with the Old Single circle Postmark SALONICH SALONICCO (June to September 1895). My opinion is that the two Single circle Postmarks "SALONICH SALONICCO" and "SALONICCO" were both given to the Branch Office in June 1895 and they were both withdrawn from the branch P.O. in autumn 1895 and never used again.



Thessaloniki 1895 (Aug. 27): Austrian Levant Stationery Card posted to Herisau, Switzerland, arrival Aug. 31.

Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Card.



Thessaloniki 1895 (Sept. 30): Austrian Levant Stationery Card posted to Constantinople, arrival Oct. 4.

Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Card.

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.

Jalque 17/2/95



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 \$\Pi\OTEAEIA\$ (October 2008).

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"



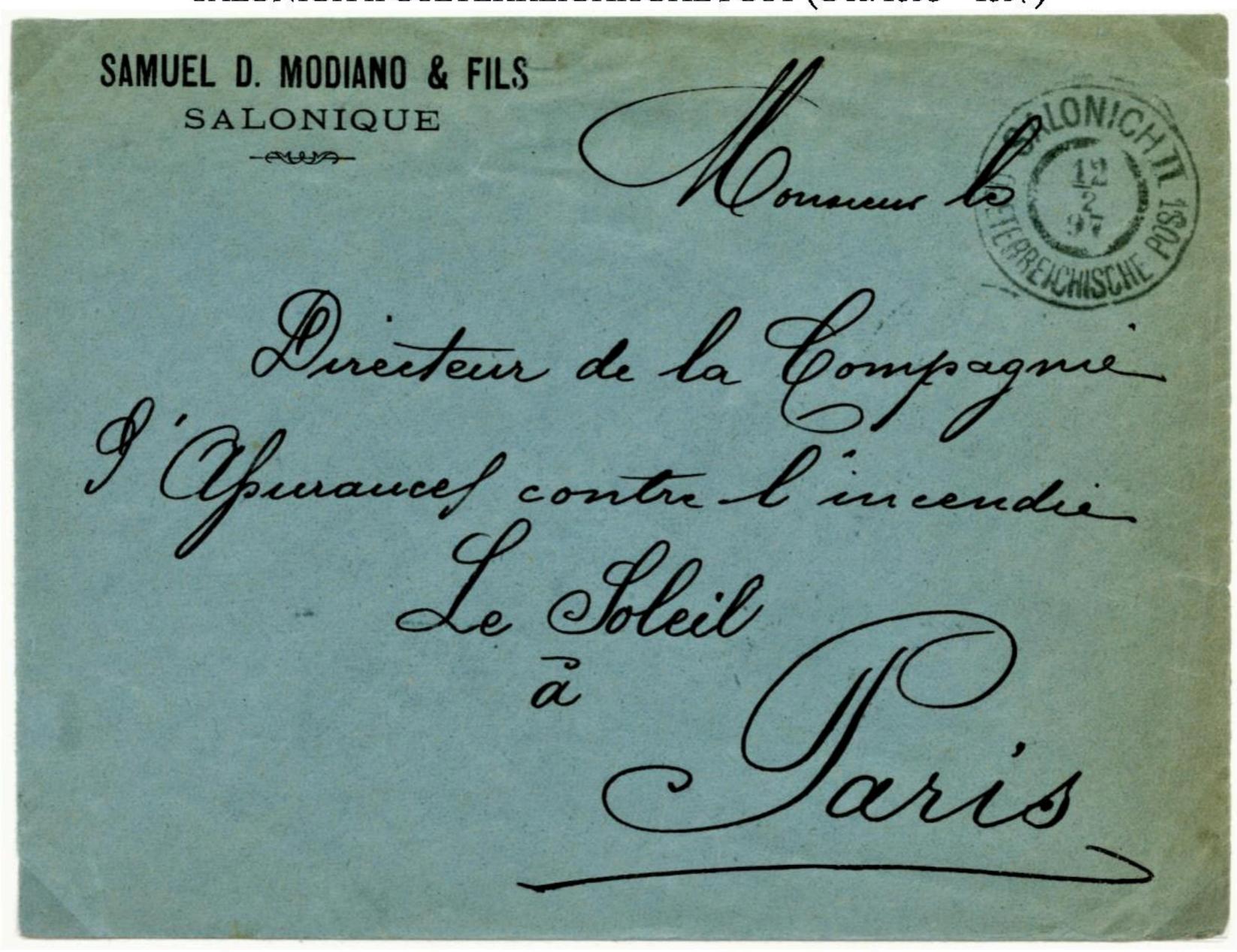
Thessaloniki 1899 (Feb. 12): Registered Cover posted from to Buchbrunn, Germany, franked pair + single 1Pia.

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

SALONICH II

The double circle postmark of the branch office was only delivered by July 1895 (Mueller), but, having been hastily manufactured, the inscriptions contained an important spelling mistake: OSE instead of OES in the word OESTERREICHISCHE. The wrong postmark was used for about 20 months and it was only in early 1897 that it was replaced by the corrected postmark.

The Postmark with the wrong spelling.
SALONICH II OSETERREICHISCHE POST (Oct. 1895 – 1897)



Thessaloniki 1897 (Feb. 12). Cover posted to Paris. Franking of 1 Pia on reverse.

Postal Rate: 1Pia Foreign Letter.

The Postmark with the corrected spelling.
SALONICH II OESTERREICHISCHE POST (1897 – 1905)



Thessaloniki 1898 (April): Cover franked 1 Pia, posted to Furth, Germany.

Postal Rate: 1Pia Foreign Letter.

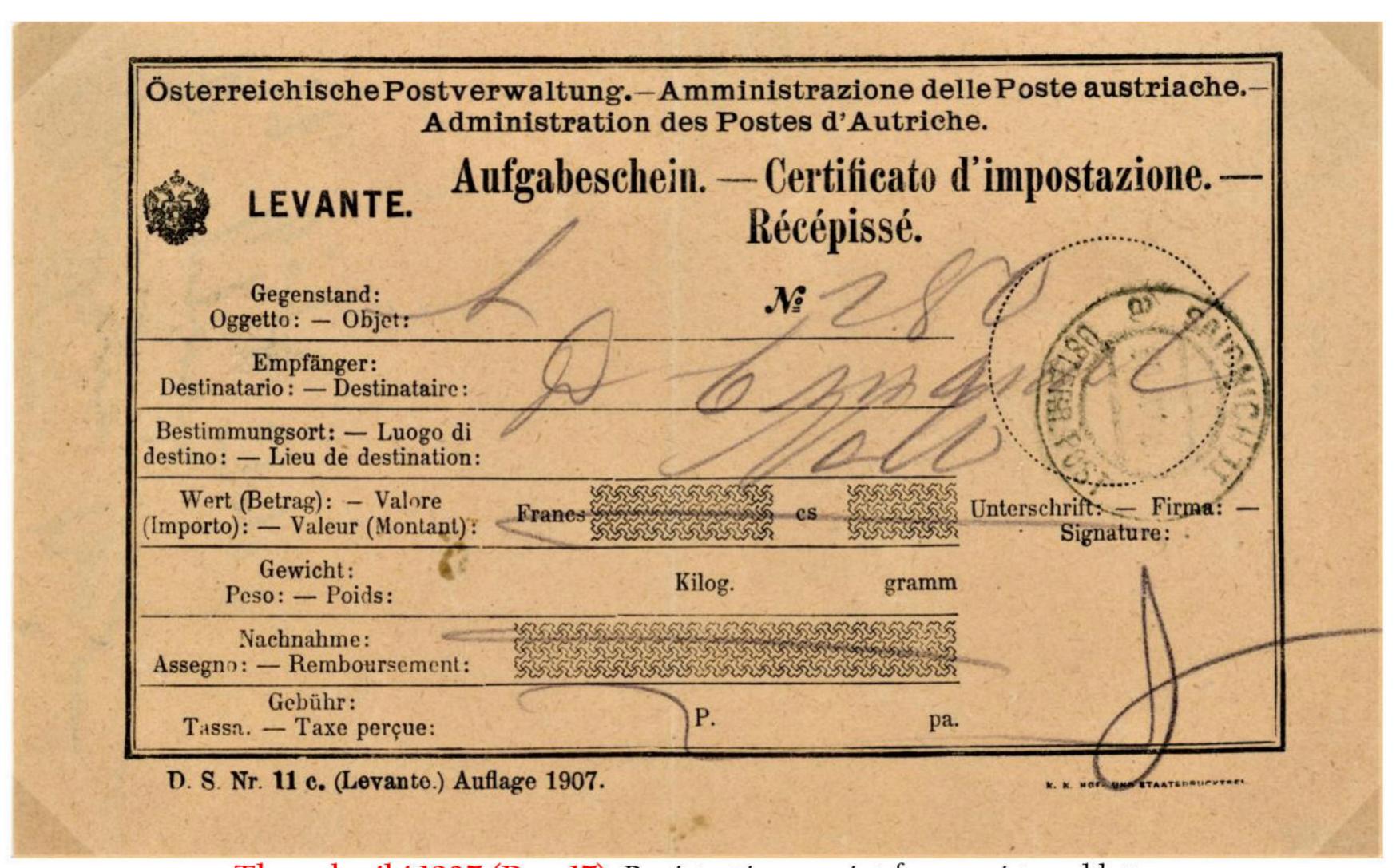
SALONICH II

Double circle postmark with bridge It is found only in Type A and Serial Letter a



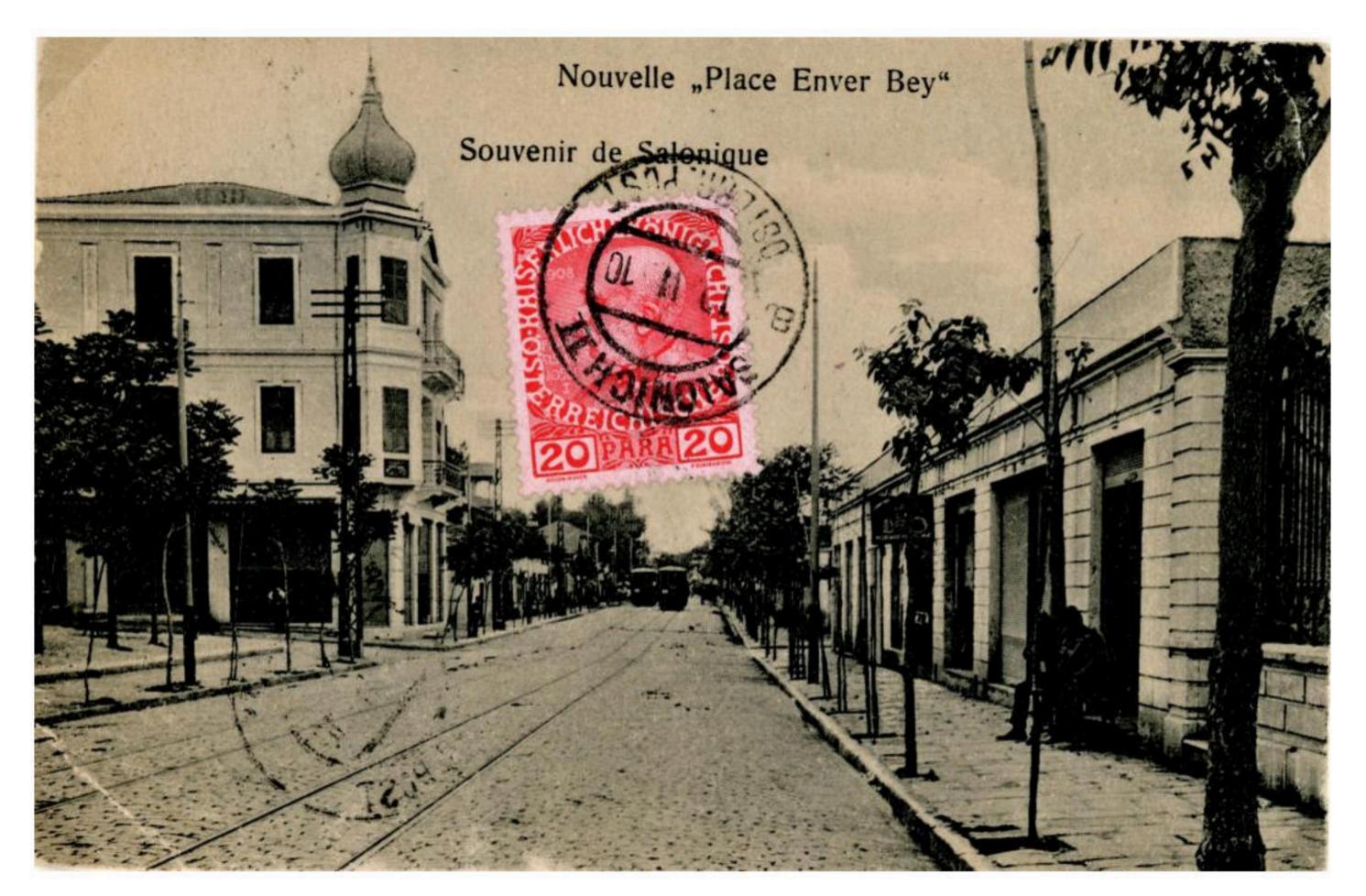
Thessaloniki 1911 (Aug. 28): Cover, franked 10Pa+10Cent (=20Pa)+1Pia, posted to Zurich, arrival Aug. 31. Mixed Franking of Cretan and Levant issues

Postal Rate: 70Pa for Double Weight Foreign Letter (discount rate).



SALONICH II

Double circle postmark with bridge It is found only in Type A and Serial Letter a



Thessaloniki 1910 (Nov. 10): Picture Postcard, posted to Resicza Banya, Hungary.

Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Card with text.



Thessaloniki 1906 (Sept. 9): Picture Postcard, posted to Lausanne.

Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Card with text.

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.

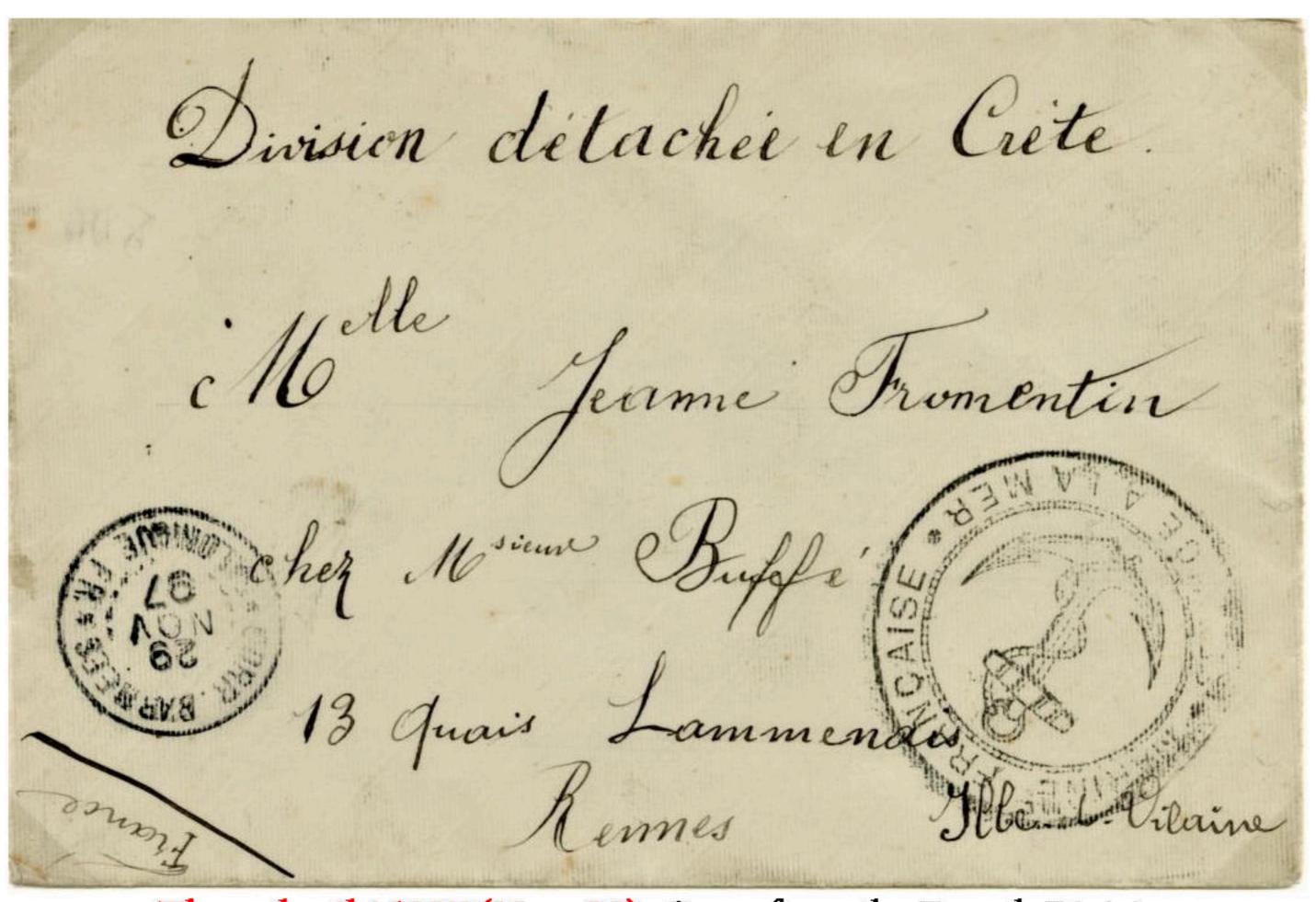
Postal Rate for both covers: 2Pia for Double Weight Foreign Letter.

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.

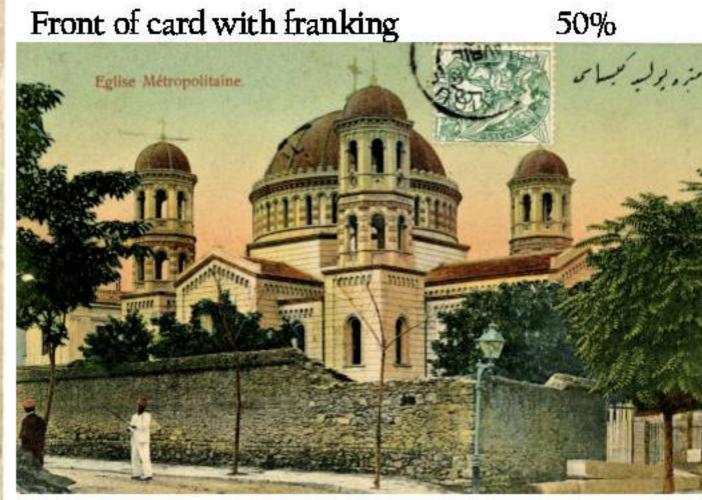
Postal Rate: 2x10c Foreign Post Card (with text).

SALONIQUE

Insufficiently pre-paid mail

From Thessaloniki





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



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.



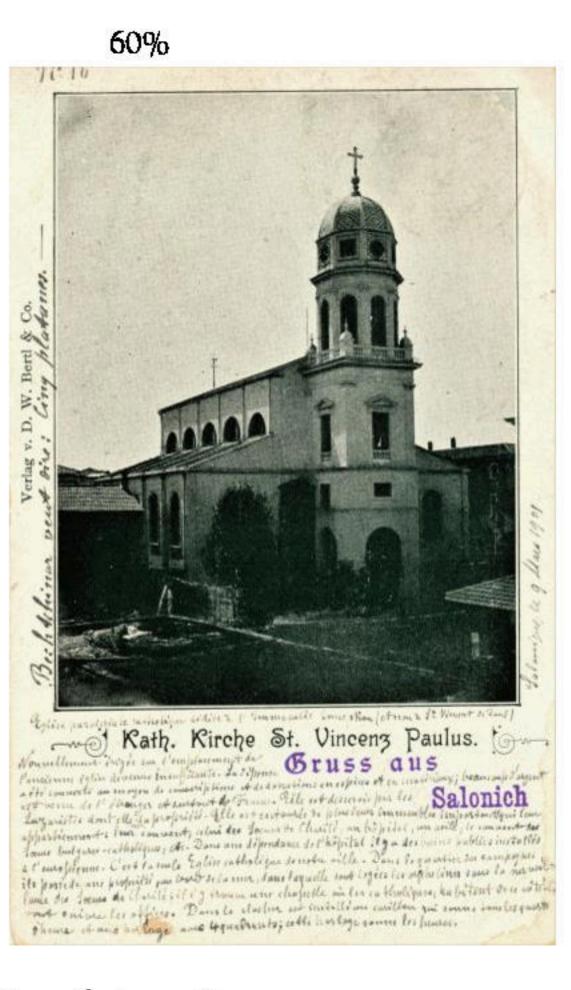
SALONIQUE

Unauthorized Use of French Stamps

After the issuance of stamps for the Levant Post Offices, the use of French stamps was not authorized, but, in most cases, tolerated, especially for the lower rates (i.e. postcards), which did not show any significant exchange rate differences.

Main Post Office

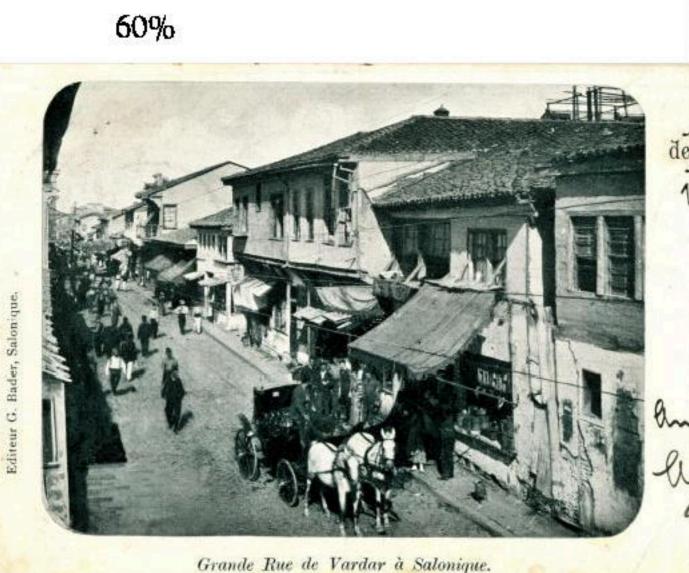


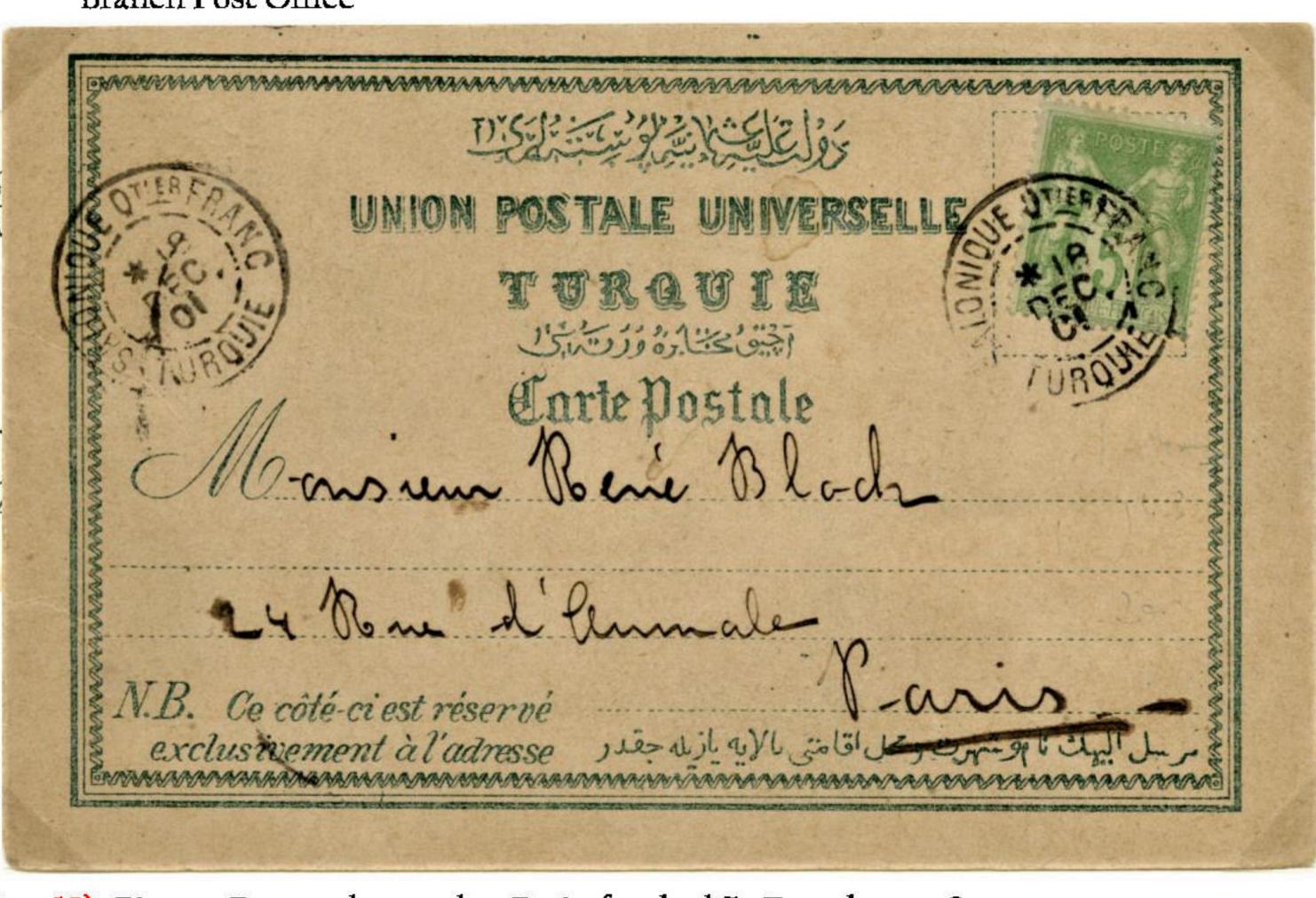


Thessaloniki 1901 (Mar. 9): Picture Postcard posted to Paris, franked pair 5c French type Sage.

Postal Rate: 10c (=20Pa) for Foreign Post Card (with text).

Branch Post Office





Thessaloniki 1901 (Dec. 18): Picture Postcard posted to Paris, franked 5c French type Sage.

Postal Rate: 5c (=10Pa) for Foreign Post Card (without text).

SALONIQUE

Use of stamps of other French Offices

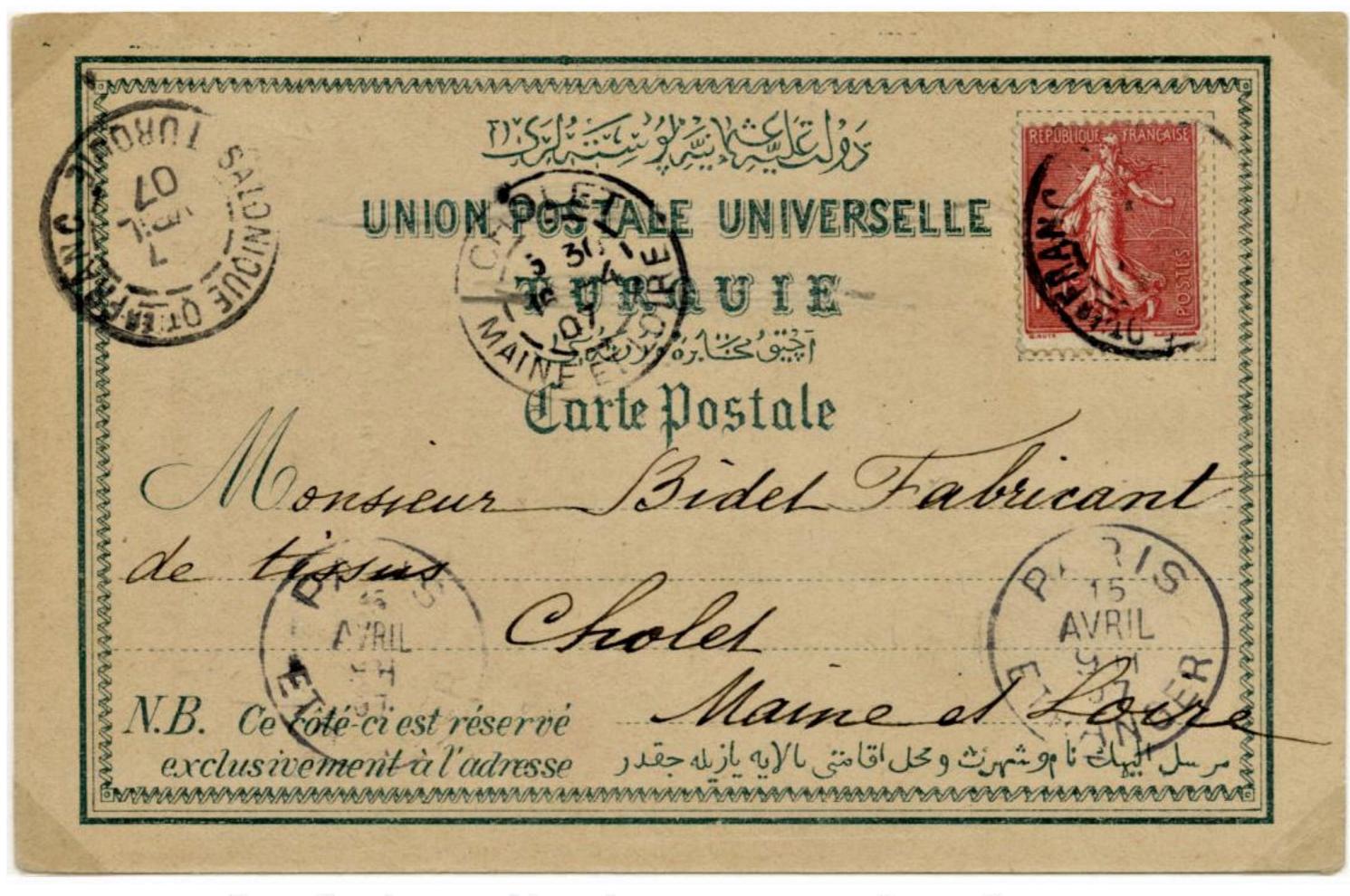
French Post Office at Cavalla



Thessaloniki 1906 (Mar. 29): Picture Postcard posted from the Island of Thasos to Zurich, franked with 5c French Cavalle (Thasos belongs to the Prefecture of Cavalla). The franking was accepted in Thessaloniki and the card was posted to Zurich, arrival 1-4—1906.

Postal Rate: 5c (=10Pa) for Foreign Post Card (without text).

Unauthorized Use of French "Semeuse" Stamps



Thessaloniki 1907 (Apr. 7): Picture Postcard posted to France, franked 10c French type Semeuse.

Semeuse stamps (issued after 1903) are rarely seen used from Thessaloniki.

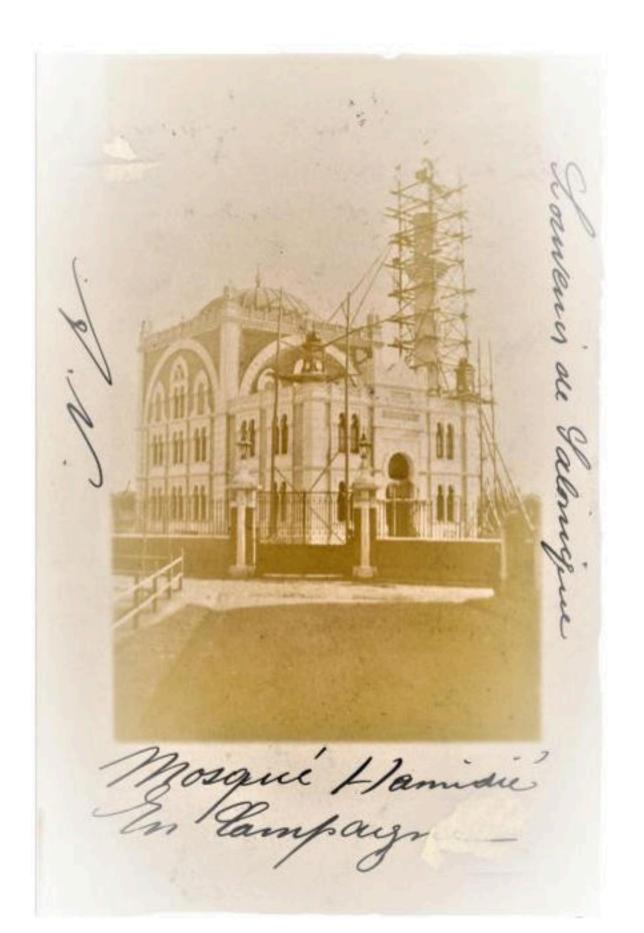
Postal Rate: 10c for Foreign Post Card

SALONIQUE

VITALIANO POSELLI

The Man that built Thessaloniki of 1900

Vitaliano Poselli (1838-1918) was an Italian architect from Sicily, mostly known for his work in the city of Thessaloniki in northern Greece. He was born in Castiglione di Sicilia in 1838 and studied in Rome. In 1867, the Catholic Church ordered him to construct the Church of Saint Stephen in Constantinople. From there, the Ottoman government sent him to Thessaloniki, where he built some of the most important public edifices of the city. In 1888 he was married and established his residence there. The foreign missions and representatives, such as wealthy merchants of the city, assigned him also with the creation of various communal, merchant, or private buildings. Some of his most known works is the Government House (1891), the Imperial Army Headquarters - today III Army Corps Headquarters - the New Mosque (1902) (PHOTO), the Allatini Mills, the Karipeion Melathron, the State Conservatory building (former Ottoman Bank), the Stoa Malakopi (old Banque de Salonique), the Bank of Athens building (today the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki), Villa Allatini (for the Allatini family, today housing the prefecture), Villa Morpurgo (or Vila Zardinidi), the Armenian and the Catholic churches.





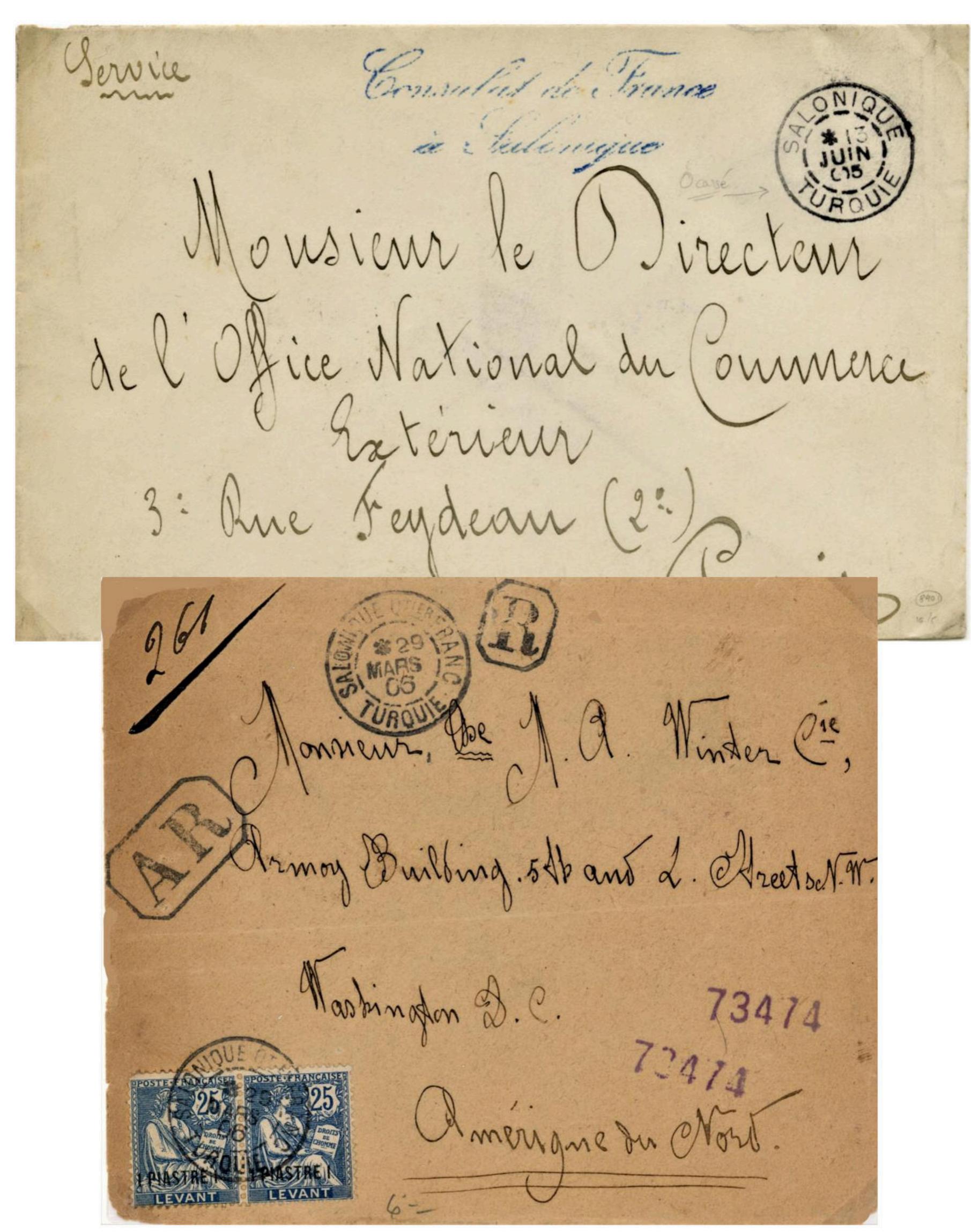
Thessaloniki 1907 (Oct. 28): Registered Cover, franked pair 1Pia/25c French Levant, posted to Washington, USA. On reverse, 3 arrival markings in red: Washington DC Registered 9 Jan. 1908, Washington (Sta. G) DC Registered 9 Jan. 1908, Mail Scanner (?) Jan. 10, 1908.

Postal Rate: 1Pia for Single Weight Foreign Letter plus 1Pia for Registration.

SALONIQUE

An official cover from the French Consulate in Thessaloniki Showing cachet *Consulat de France a Salonique*

And a cover with AVIS DE RECEPTION - ADVICE OF RECEIPT



Thessaloniki 1905 (June 13): Official cover to Paris, arrival June 17.

Postal Rate: Free for official mail.

Thessaloniki 1906 (Mar. 29): Registered cover with advice of receipt, franked pair 1Pia French Levant, posted to Washington D.C., arrival Apr. 11. One extra 1Pia stamp was affixed on the AoR to pay the rate for this extra service.

After 1912, the AoR rate stamp (usually 1 Pia) was affixed on the cover.

Postal Rate: 1 Pia for Single Weight Foreign Letter + 1 Pia for registration.

SALONIQUE



The postmarks R for registration



Branch Office: Rectangular and higher

Main Office : Square and lower



Thessaloniki 1910 (Jan. 25): Registered cover posted to Zurich, franked 2 x 1 Pia/25c.

Postal Rate: IPia for Single Weight Foreign Letter + IPia for Registration.

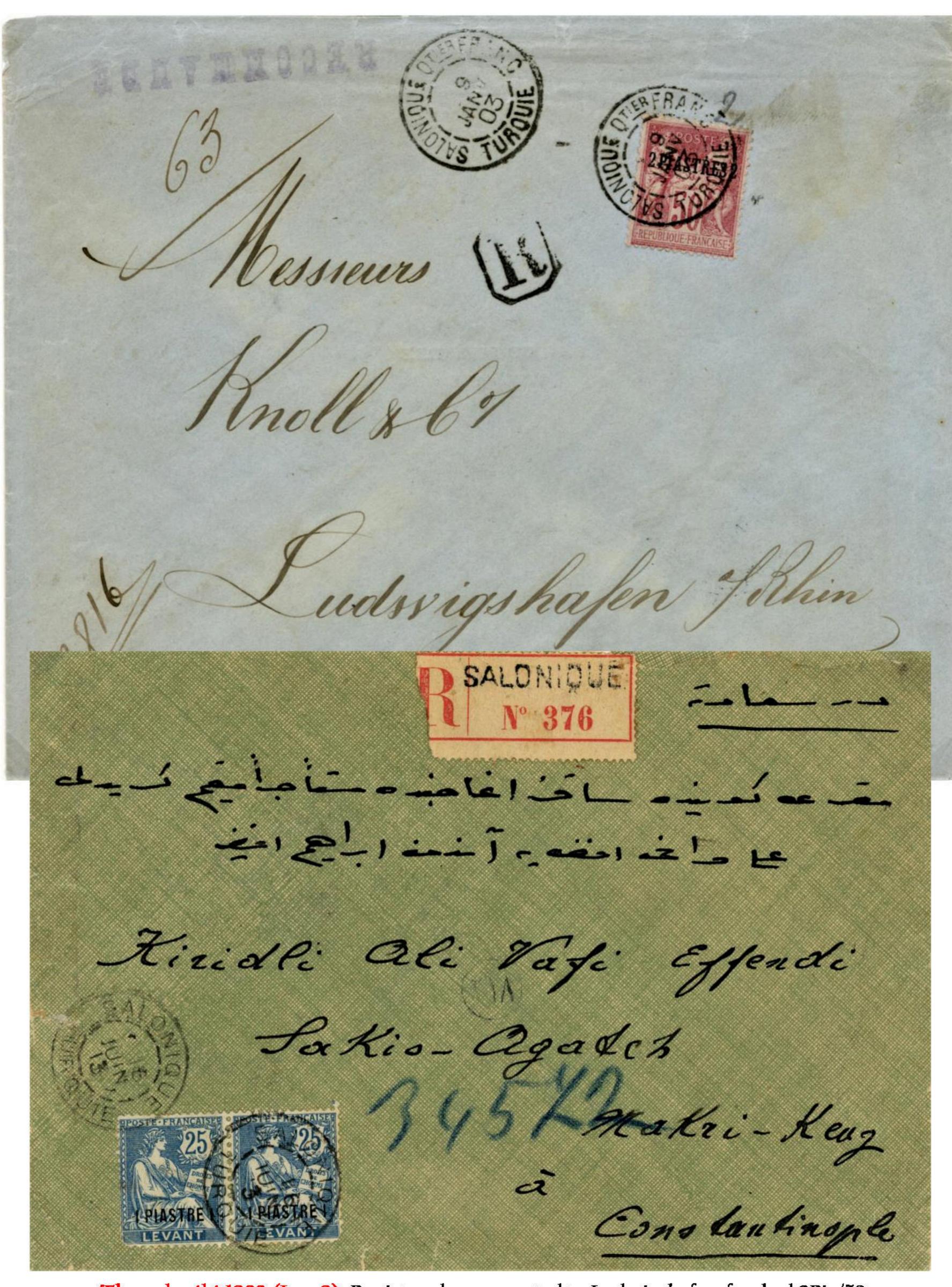
Thessaloniki 1907 (Mar. 9): Registered cover posted to Belgrade, Serbia, arrival Mar. 16.

The cover is franked with a Numbered (6) Gutter Strip of 3 1Pia/25c

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

SALONIQUE

Two Registered covers, one with Registration Label (quite uncommon for the French PO)



Thessaloniki 1903 (Jan. 9): Registered cover posted to Ludwigshafen, franked 2Pia/50c.

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

Thessaloniki 1913 (June 16): Registered cover posted to Constantinople, franked pair 1Pia/25c.

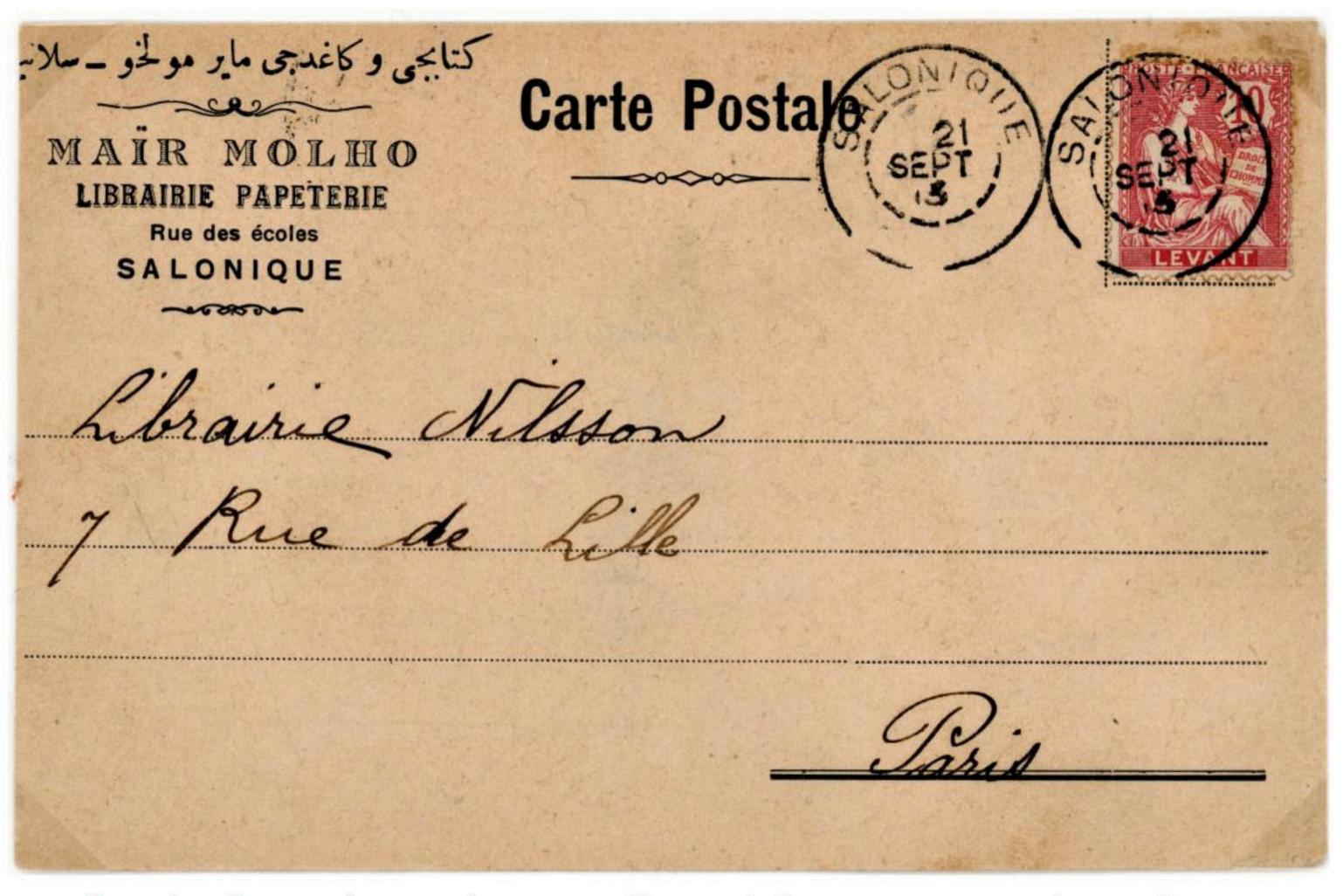
Although 8 months have passed under Greek rule, the postmark is still SALONIQUE TURQUIE

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

SALONIQUE

The postmark with erased TURKEY

By late summer 1913 (almost a year after the Greek take over), the French P.O. decided to remove the word TURKEY from the postmark



Thessaloniki 1913 (Sept. 21): Mair Molho Bookshop stationery card posted to Paris.

Postal Rate: 10c (=20Pa) for Foreign Post Card (with text).



THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

French 1890s stationery postcards Type "Sage"

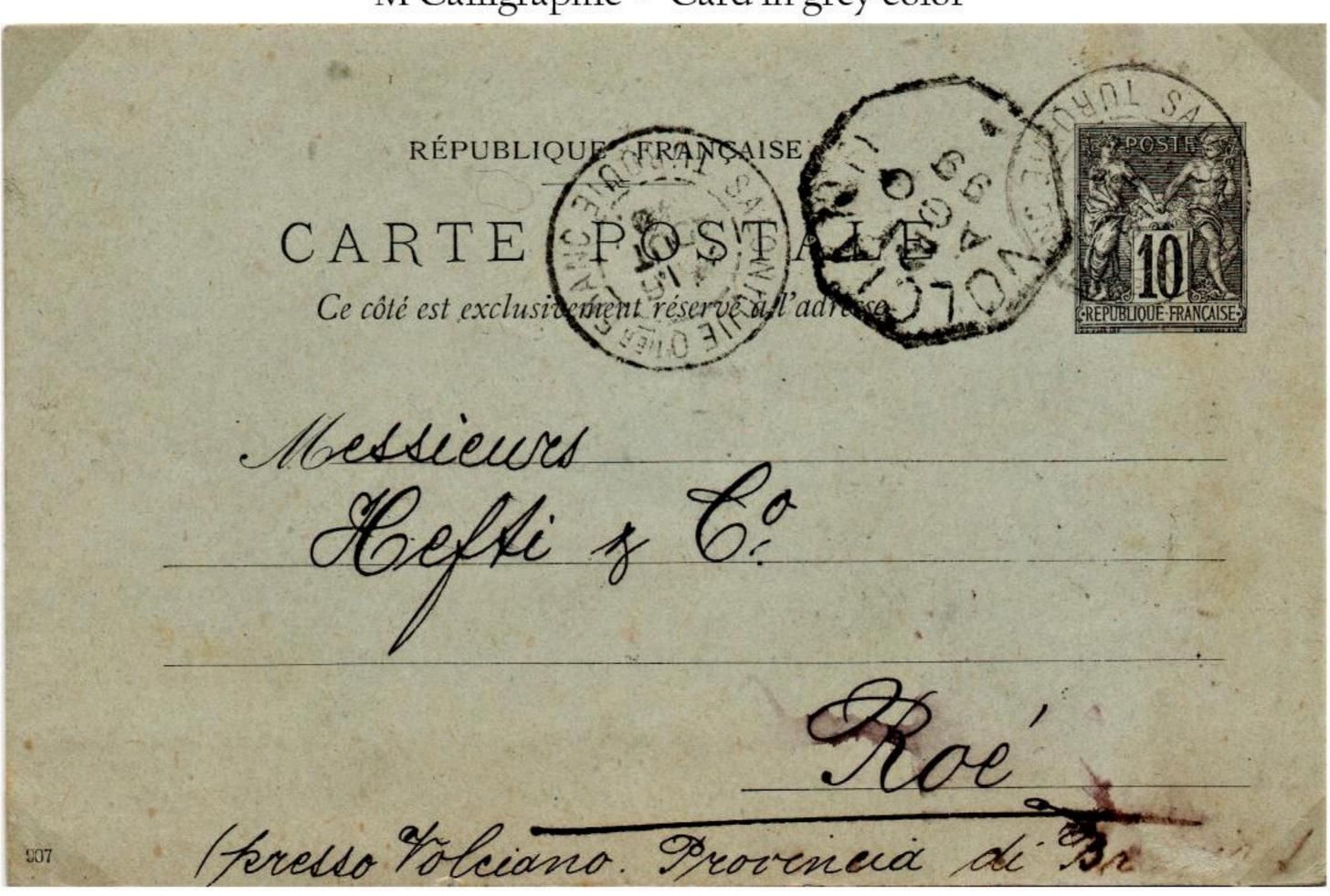
Card in buff color



Thessaloniki 1894 (Dec. 1): French Stationery Postcard posted to Athens.

Postal Rate: 10c for Foreign Postcard.

M Calligraphic - Card in grey color



Thessaloniki 1899 (Aug. 16): French Stationery Postcard posted to Roe Volciano, Province of Brescia, Italy.

Postal Rate: 10c for Foreign Postcard.

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

French 1900s stationery postcards Type "Droits de l' Hommes"

Cards in cream color and in greenish color



Thessaloniki 1905 (Jan. 4 + May 22): Two French Levant Stationery Postcards, posted to Patras Greece and Vienna.

Postal Rate: 10c for Foreign Postcard.

Card in grey color type b: with a small number (314) down left



Thessaloniki 1903 (Nov. 24) + 1905 (Oct. 9): Two French Levant Stationery Postcards, posted to Paris and Rome.

Postal Rate: 10c for Foreign Postcard.

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY



Thessaloniki 1897 (June 27): A Receipt for an International Postal Money Order posted to Athens.



Thessaloniki 1900 (Nov. II): Greek Stationery Picture Postcard posted from Athens to Thessaloniki.

Cancelled on arrival by the French Post Office.

Postal Rate: 101. for Foreign Postcard.

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.

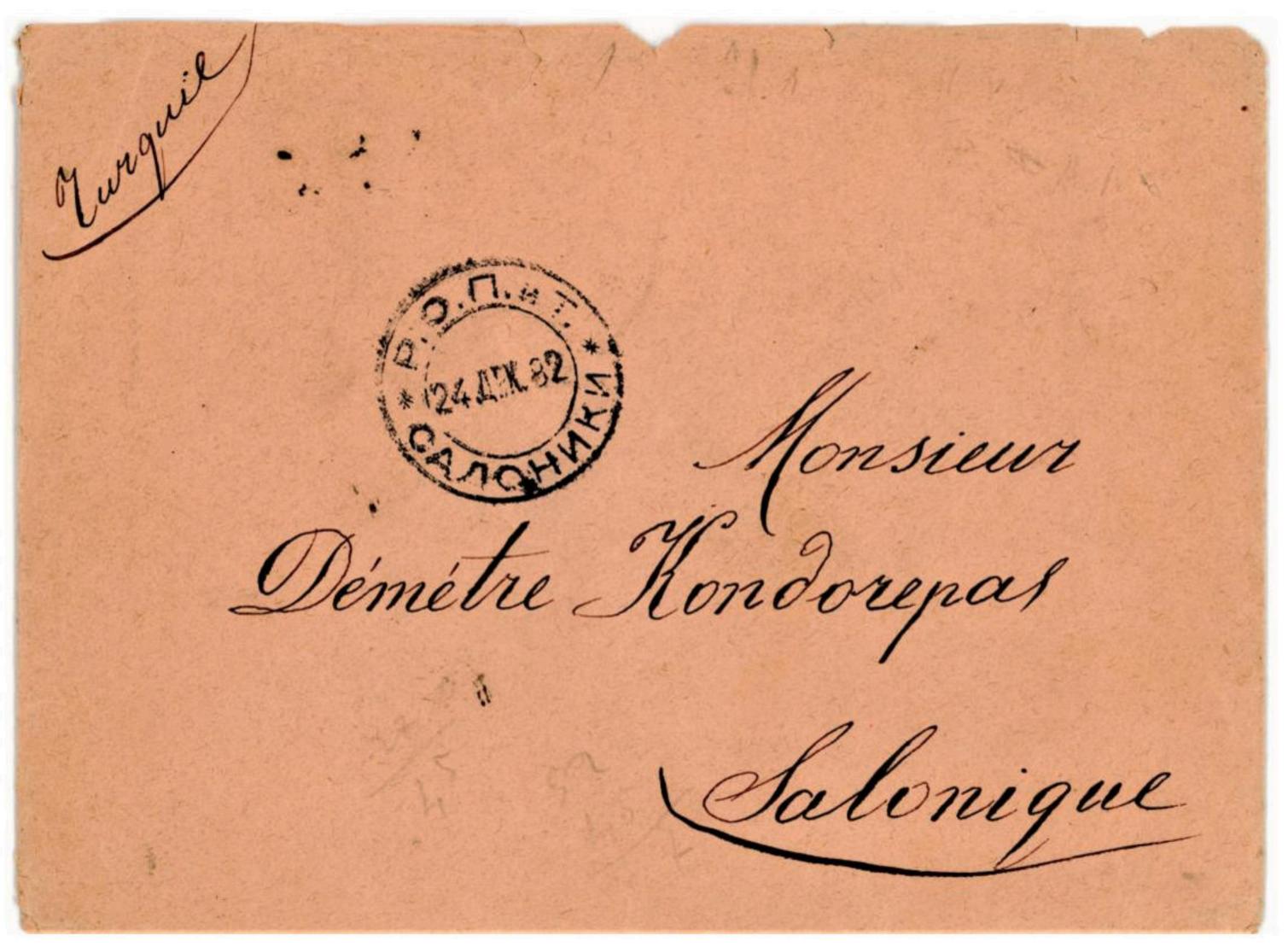
Postal Rate: 10Kop for Foreign Letter.

CALONIKI

A postmark dated 1882

This is the only trace I have ever encountered on a letter, cover or envelope, showing the existence of Russian post office in Thessaloniki in the early 1880s. In this case, in the form of an arrival postmark, on the front of an envelope.

Double Circle Postmark CALONIKI - date in one line



Arrival postmark dated December 24, 1882!!!

Unfortunately, the stamps and the postmarks have been removed from the reverse side of the envelope and, so it is impossible to certify if this is a real 1882 postmark, or just a mistake in the date of the postmark (i.e. wrong 1892).

And a Stationery Lettercard posted 1898



Thessaloniki 1898 (May 2): Russian Levant Letter Card posted, via Constantinople, Odessa to Erfurt, Germany, arrival June 12.

Postal Rate: 10 Kop for Foreign Letter Card.

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Russian Parcel Post Form showing 22 Piaster franking.

Coupon — Купонъ	POCCIA: PASCE
Peut être détaché par Mozers быть, отрізань la destinguaire	Bulletin d'expéc
адресатомъ	Ci-joint Nombre de déclarations en doug
	При семъ (число) таможенныхъ декта.
origino obarro (aun:	Объявленная пінность: Montant du
Cimbre du bureau d'origine: Illrenneab nouronaro yupemienia nolaqui:	Сумма наложеннаго remboursement
du bu wife in bu	нлатежа: А. (Наименованіе получатемя).
Tales Allo	Character Charac
F	J MM .
Nom et domicile de Написнованіе и місто	(Lieu de destination):
l'expéditeur: жительства отправителя:	(Micro nashawenia):
auxo - Thouse	(улица или Ж)
- Salma a ino	Poids: Acheminement:
100	llyra:
	Jan 100
Pop B. K.	THE ARL D.P. CON HET ALES, IL CO.

40%

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.

