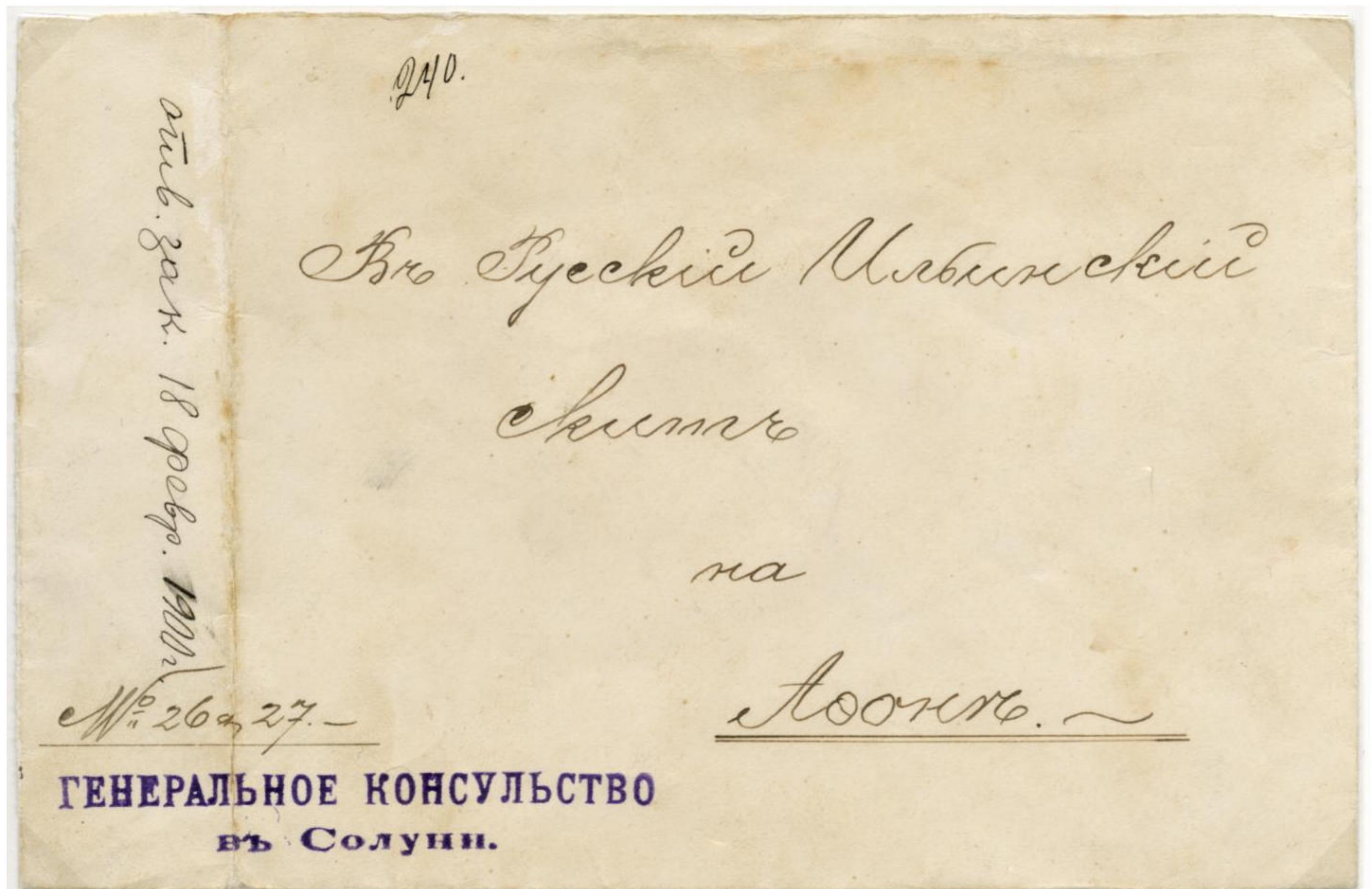


A cover from the Consulate of Russia in Thessaloniki.
ГЕНЕРАЛЬНОЕ КОНСУЛЬСТВО ВЪ СОЛУНН

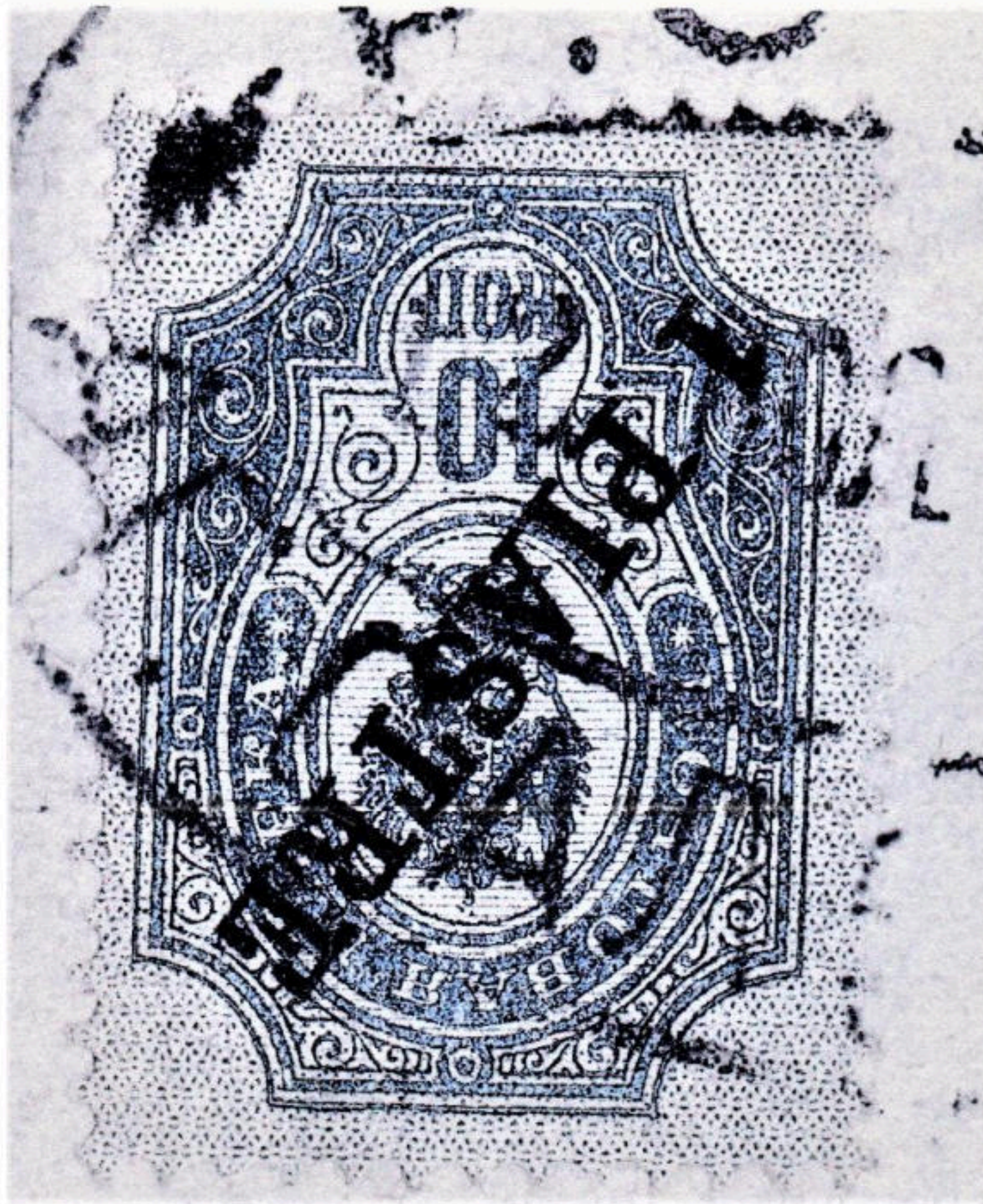


Thessaloniki 1900 (Feb. 9): Cover posted from the Russian Consulate to Mount Athos.
 The cover was used to send money to Mount Athos and shows on reverse Wax seal of the Consulate.
Postal Rate: Free – Official Correspondence.

On reverse, Wax Seal RUSSIAN IMPERIAL CONSULATE OF THESSALONIKI

1890 to 1914: RUSSIAN POST OFFICE

The oval postmark
РОПНТ АГ САЛОНІКІ



The only, known to me, examples of this very rare postmark on stamps
(after 40 years of collecting and searching experience)

Only one more example of this postmark is known on complete Postal Document
(And that was the only example known to Tchilingirian, Papaioanou, Paschos – both pieces above are new finds)

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.

1890 to 1914: RUSSIAN POST OFFICE CALONIKI

Russian Levant stamp overprinted Salonique

In November 1909, to celebrate the 50 years of ROPHT, the Russian Post overprinted nine values of the May 1909 Russian Levant set with additional **Salonique** overprint in black. This was done for 12 Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea ports. This was an obviously philatelically inspired issue with very limited (if any) real commercial use.



Thessaloniki 1910 (Apr. 6): Picture Postcard posted to Kalamata Greece, Franked with 10 para of the Salonique overprint issue..

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

1890 to 1914: RUSSIAN POST OFFICE
CALONIKI

SPLENDID PALACE HOTEL



Thessaloniki 1914: Picture Postcard of Splendid Palace Hotel posted to Belgium.

Overprinted Russian stamps

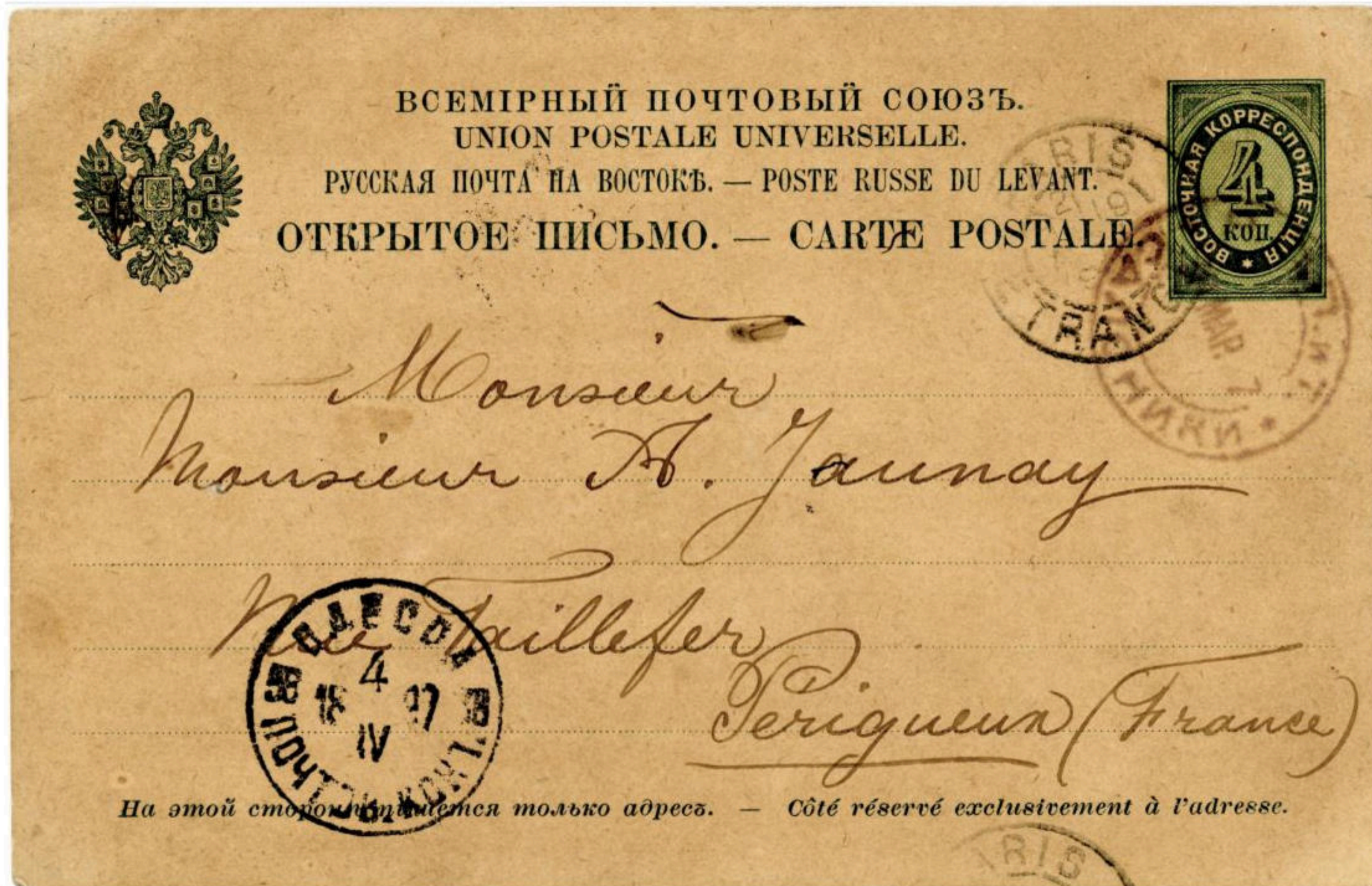


Thessaloniki 1909 (Nov. 27): Cover posted to Athens Greece.
Postal Rate: 1Pia: Single Weight Foreign Letter.

1890 to 1914: RUSSIAN POST OFFICE

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Russian Levant Stationery Post Cards



Thessaloniki 1897 (Apr. 9): Post Card, sent to PERIGUEUX, France, via Odessa, Paris.
Postal Rate: 4Kop for Foreign Post Card

Reply Post Card



Thessaloniki 1908 (Feb. 8): Reply Post Card, sent to Radeberg, Germany.
Postal Rate: 4Kop for Foreign Post Card

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 2 1/2 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

The special relation between the Russian P.O. and Greece

During the last period of Ottoman occupation (1895-1912), the incoming mail from Greece (especially Athens) was almost always handled on arrival, by the Russian post office of Thessaloniki. This is a remarkable observation, since the Russian p. o. handled, otherwise, only a minor percentage of the Thessaloniki mail (less than 1%).

Cartolina postale — Carte postale — Briefkarte
Union postale universelle —



Double Weight Cover to Thessaloniki, (the cover contained two double sheet letters – one written 26th May 1896 and one 5th June 1896), franked 2x25L. 1st Olympics cancelled 5th June 1897 – the year date is obviously wrong, because both letters inside are 1896 and the arrival postmark is **Russian P.O. Thessaloniki 10 June 1896**.

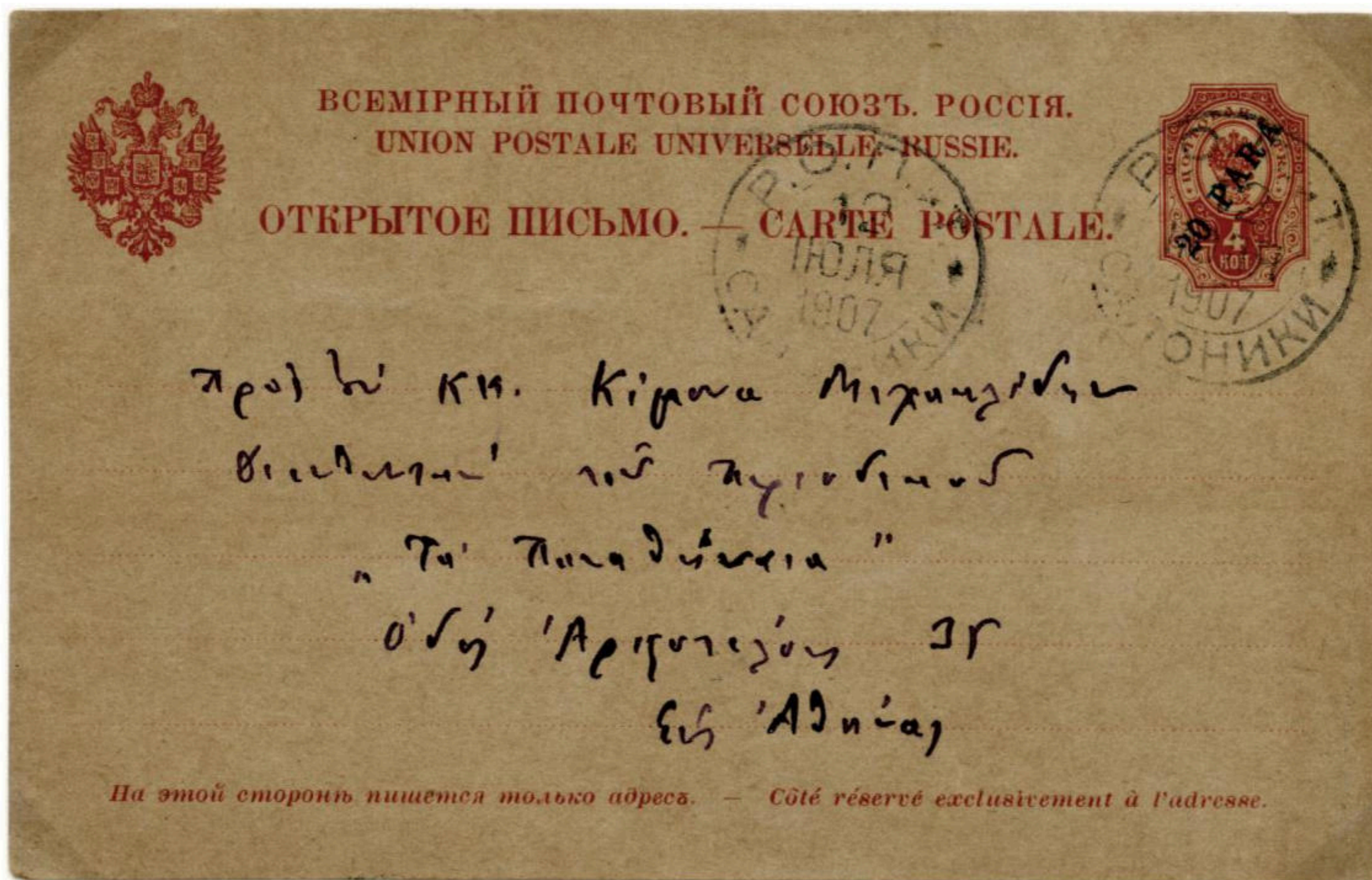


Another cover posted to **Thessaloniki 10 April 1906**, with the Greek stamps uncanceled (2nd Olympics stamps affixed in Athens: 25L Foreign Letter Postal Rate). This time, the Russian P.O. clerk cancels the stamps by a pen strike.

The envelope is handwritten «**δια του Ρωσικού**» (by the Russian po)

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Russian Levant Stationery
The Overprinted in Para Issue



Thessaloniki 1907 (July 12): Post Card, posted to Athens.
Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Post Card.

Reply Post Card



Thessaloniki 1913 (Sept. 4): Letter Card, posted to Pressburg (Bratislava).
Postal Rate: 1Pia for Foreign Letter Card.

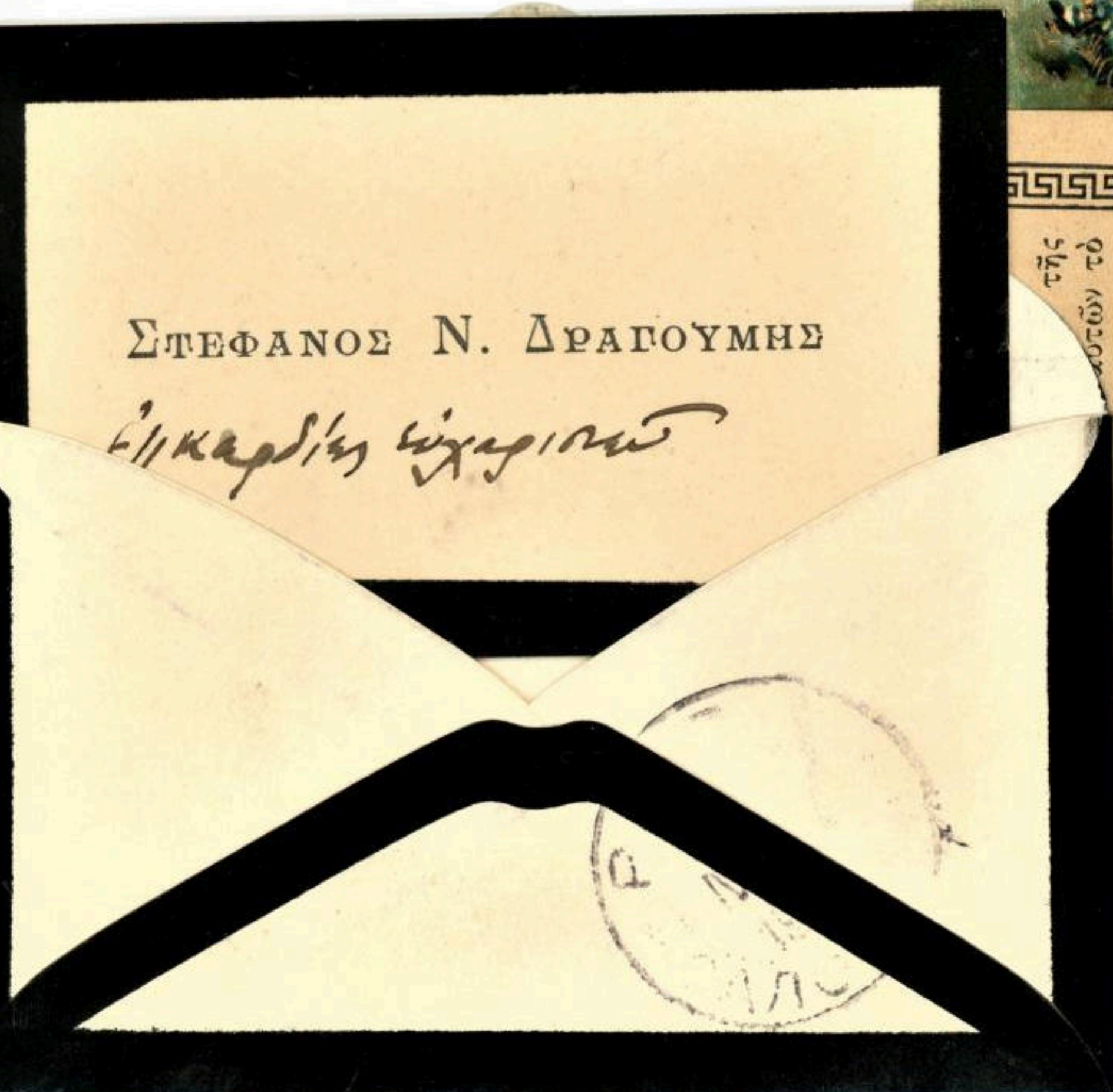
1890 to 1914: RUSSIAN POST OFFICE

The special relation between the Russian P.O. and Greece

Even a card addressed to the British P.O. of Thessaloniki has to pass transit via the Russian P.O. !!



Stationery Postcard Athens to **Thessaloniki**, Russian P.O. transit, British P.O. arrival, **April 1904**.
The Russian P.O. used the Julian calendar (like Greece and the Ottoman Empire).



Various items – two cards and a small cover – posted from Athens to Thessaloniki 1890s to 1900s, arrival is always Russian P.O.
The sender of the small mourning cover is **STEFANOS DRAGOUMIS**, important Greek politician and Prime Minister.

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 SALONICA

Double Circle Postmarks BRITISH POST OFFICE SALONICA A and B

Registration postmark "R (in oval) FEE PAID" (1900-1907)



Thessaloniki 1902 (April 3): Registered cover, franked Victorian 80Pa/5d, posted to Leeds, arrival Apr. 7.
Postal Rate: 80Pa = 2Pia: 1Pia for Foreign Letter, plus 1Pia for Registration.

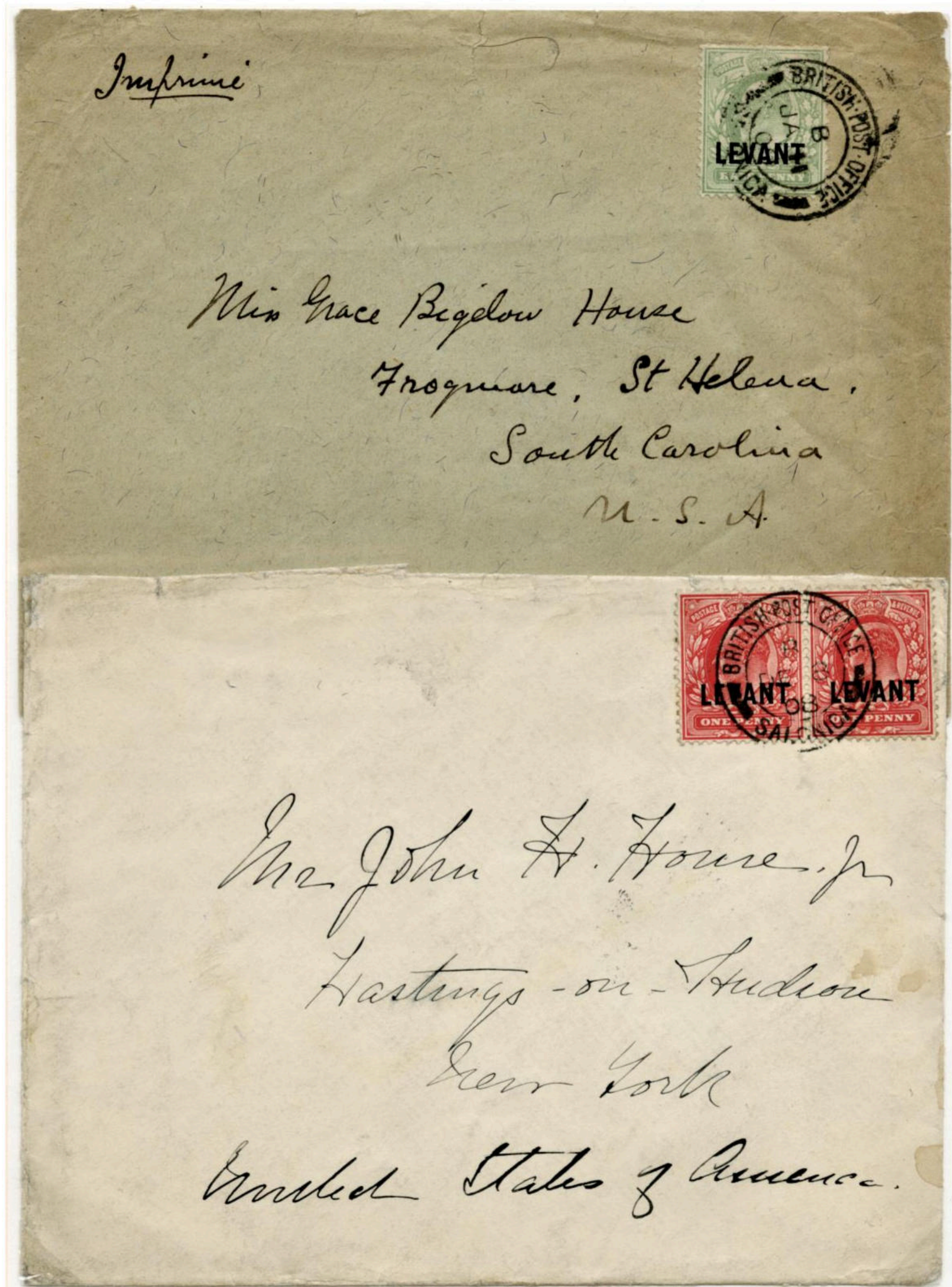


Thessaloniki 1905 (July 5): Registered cover, franked Edward 80Pa/5d, posted to Frankfurt, arrival July 8.
Postal Rate: 80Pa = 2Pia: 1Pia for Foreign Letter, plus 1Pia for Registration.

SALONICA

Stamps Overprinted LEVANT in British Currency

Stamps overprinted LEVANT were used exclusively for Printed Paper Rate (1/2 d), Post Cards (1d) and Parcels (Higher Denominations). For the period October 1907 to November 1909, they were also used to pay the amended "Reduced Postal Rate" (because i.e. concerning "Single Weight Foreign Letter Rate", the 2d were less than 40 Paras = 2.5 d).



Thessaloniki 1909 (Jan. 11) + 1908 (Dec. 8): Two Covers posted to USA.

Postal Rate: a. 1/2 d for Printed Matter

b. 2x1d for Single Weight Foreign Letter.

1900 to 1914: BRITISH POST OFFICE

SALONICA

The Single Circle Postmark

BRITISH POST OFFICE SALONICA (A and B)

Intended for official use and used exclusively on Registration Labels and Receipts

Regn. No. 840 CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF A REGISTERED POSTAL PACKET
A Postal Packet addressed as under, upon which a Fee of Two Pence has been paid, in addition to the Postage { of _____ s. _____ d. } has been registered and posted here this day :—
(for Parcels only.)

Const. N. Christodoulou
Niseh.

Date Stamp.
BRITISH POST OFFICE
B
OCT 9
11
SALONICA

Postmaster's Signature (or initials)

No. 27 CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF A REGISTERED POSTAL PACKET.
A Postal Packet, addressed as under, upon which a Fee of Two Pence has been paid, in addition to the Postage { of _____ s. 2 d. } has been registered and posted here this day :—
(for Parcels only.)

Francis Blane
St. Pierre

Date Stamp.
BRITISH POST OFFICE
A
MAY 29
07
SALONICA

Postmaster's Signature (or Initials)

Two Registration Receipts **SALONICA A + SALONICA B** for 2 Letters posted **May 29, 1907** and **October 9, 1911** to France and Serbia.

REGN. NO. 856 CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF A REGISTERED POSTAL PACKET.
A Postal Packet addressed as under, upon which a Fee of Two Pence has been paid, in addition to the Postage { of _____ s. _____ d. } has been registered and posted here this day :—
(for Parcels only.)

F. Blane
St. Pierre

Date Stamp.
BRITISH POST OFFICE
B
MAY 28
10
SALONICA

Postmaster's Signature (or initials)

REGN. NO. 857 CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF A REGISTERED POSTAL PACKET.
A Postal Packet addressed as under, upon which a Fee of Two Pence has been paid, in addition to the Postage { of _____ s. _____ d. } has been registered and posted here this day :—
(for Parcels only.)

F. Blane
St. Pierre

Date Stamp.
BRITISH POST OFFICE
B
MAY 28
10
SALONICA

Postmaster's Signature (or initials)

And a pair of undivided Registration Receipts **SALONICA B** for 2 Letters posted **May 8, 1910** to France. The only such pair, that I have ever seen.

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



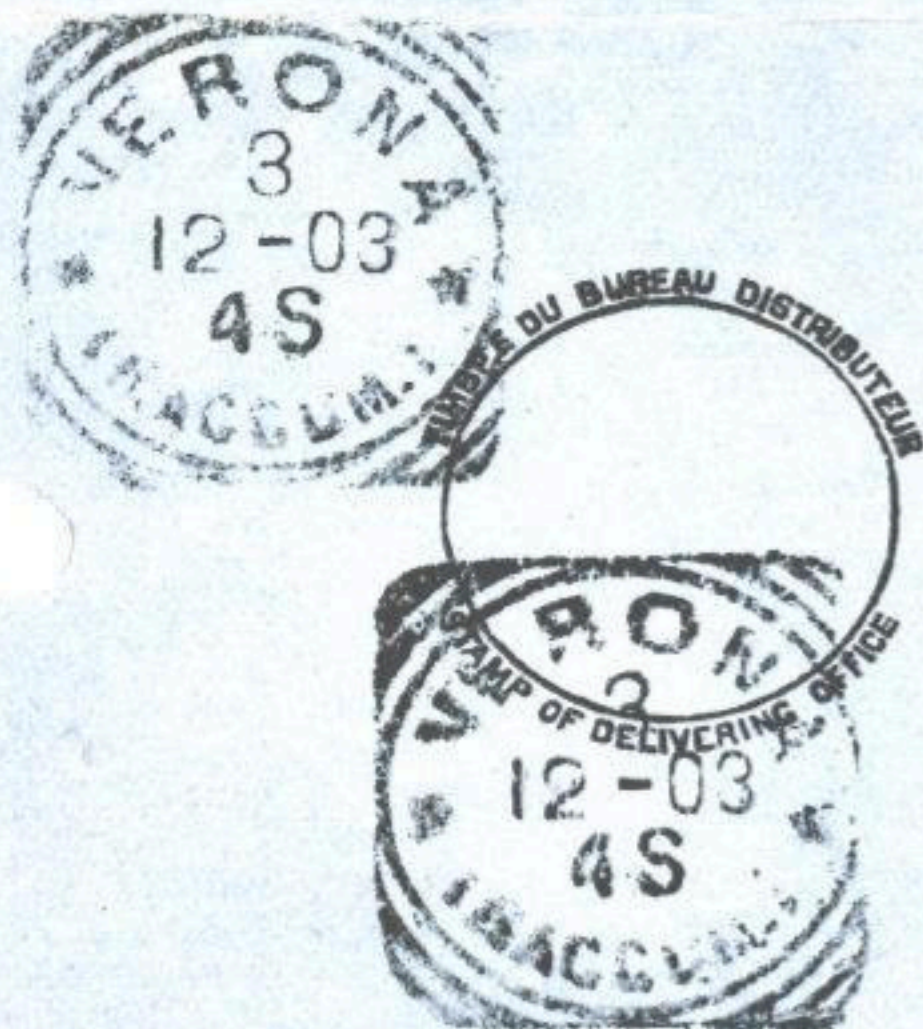
Le soussigné }
déclare } (1)

The undersigned }
_____ }

Numéro ()
No.

et provenant de }
and sent by (3) }

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



livré le
delivered on the

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

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

Signature

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

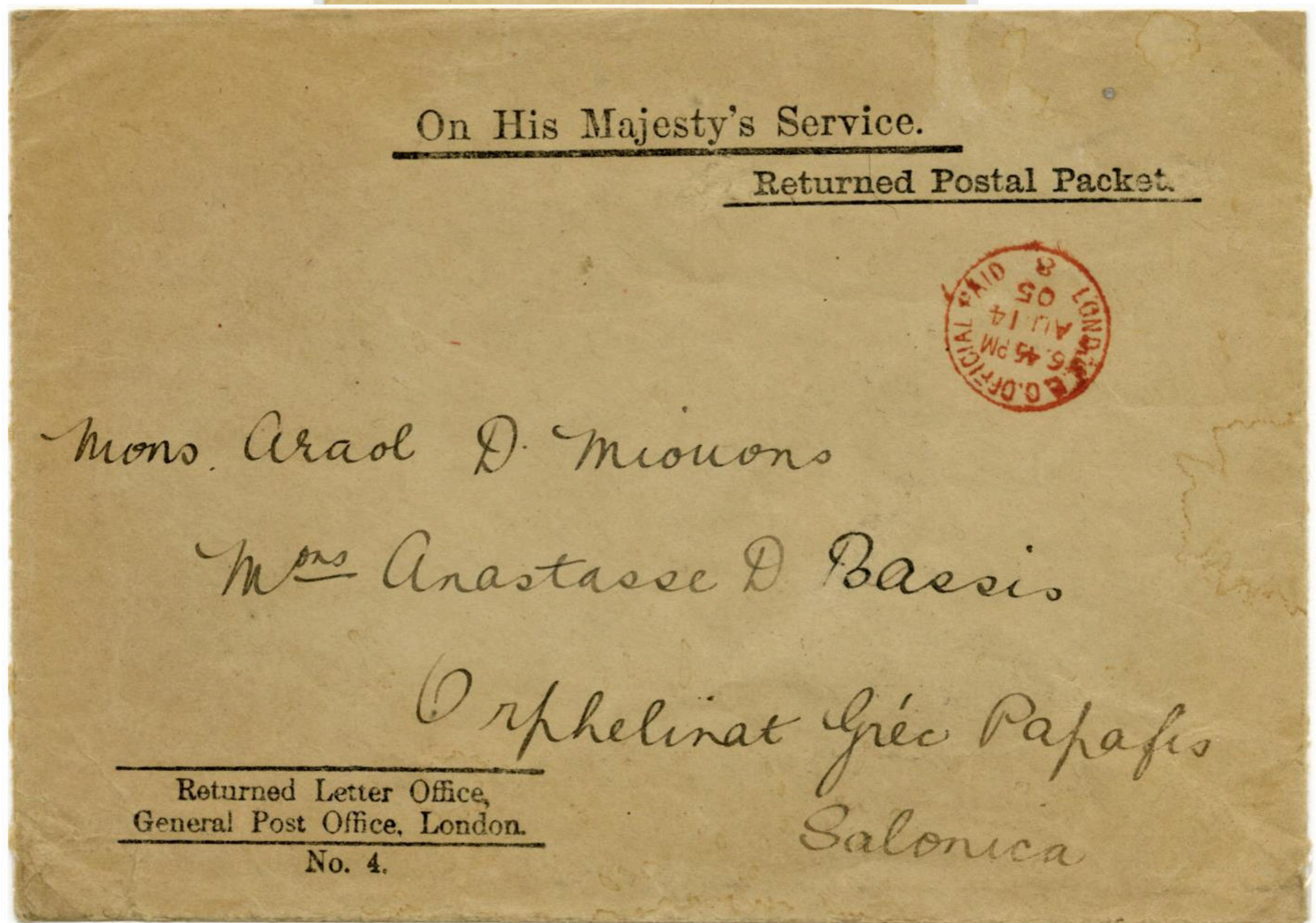
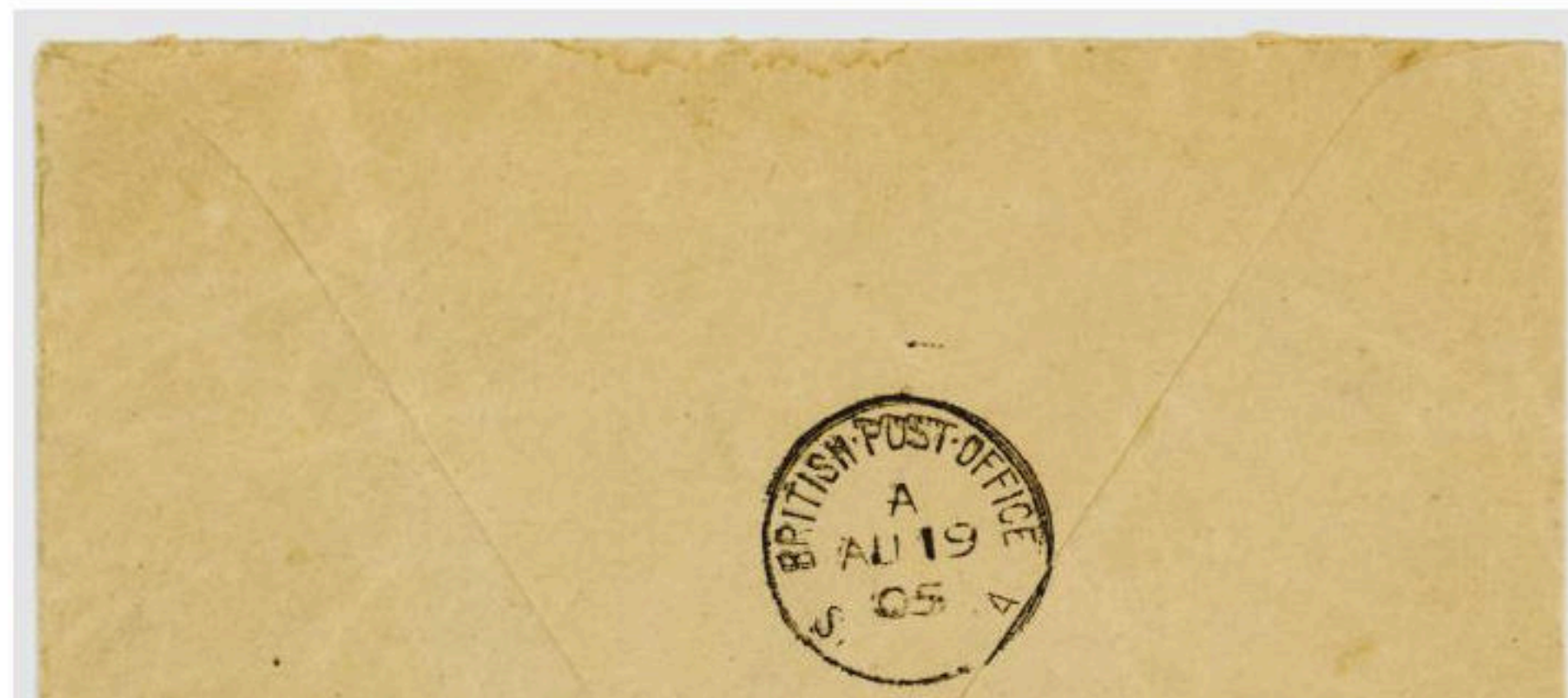
Nota.—Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, et lorsque l'avis est dressé par le bureau distributeur le destinataire doit désigner le nom et l'adresse de l'expéditeur.

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

The only known cover showing the Single Circle Postmark
BRITISH POST OFFICE SALONICA A



Official cover posted from London (Returned Letter Office) to **Thessaloniki**, arrival **1905 (Aug. 19)**.
Postal Rate: Free

1900 to 1914: BRITISH POST OFFICE

SALONICA

Kondorepas and Manos were important members of the Greek community of the city and pioneers of the effort for the integration of Thessaloniki in homeland Greece (so called Macedonian Struggle). Nikolas Manos, after the liberation of the city, was elected 2 times Mayor of the city, while Dim. Kondorepas was the deputy leader of the important Greek political figure Ion Dragoumis.



Thessaloniki 1903 (Nov. 17) + 1910 (Feb. 4): Two covers, both posted to Athens, from two very active members of the "Macedonian Struggle"
Postal Rate: 40Pa = 1Pia: 1Pia for Foreign Letter.

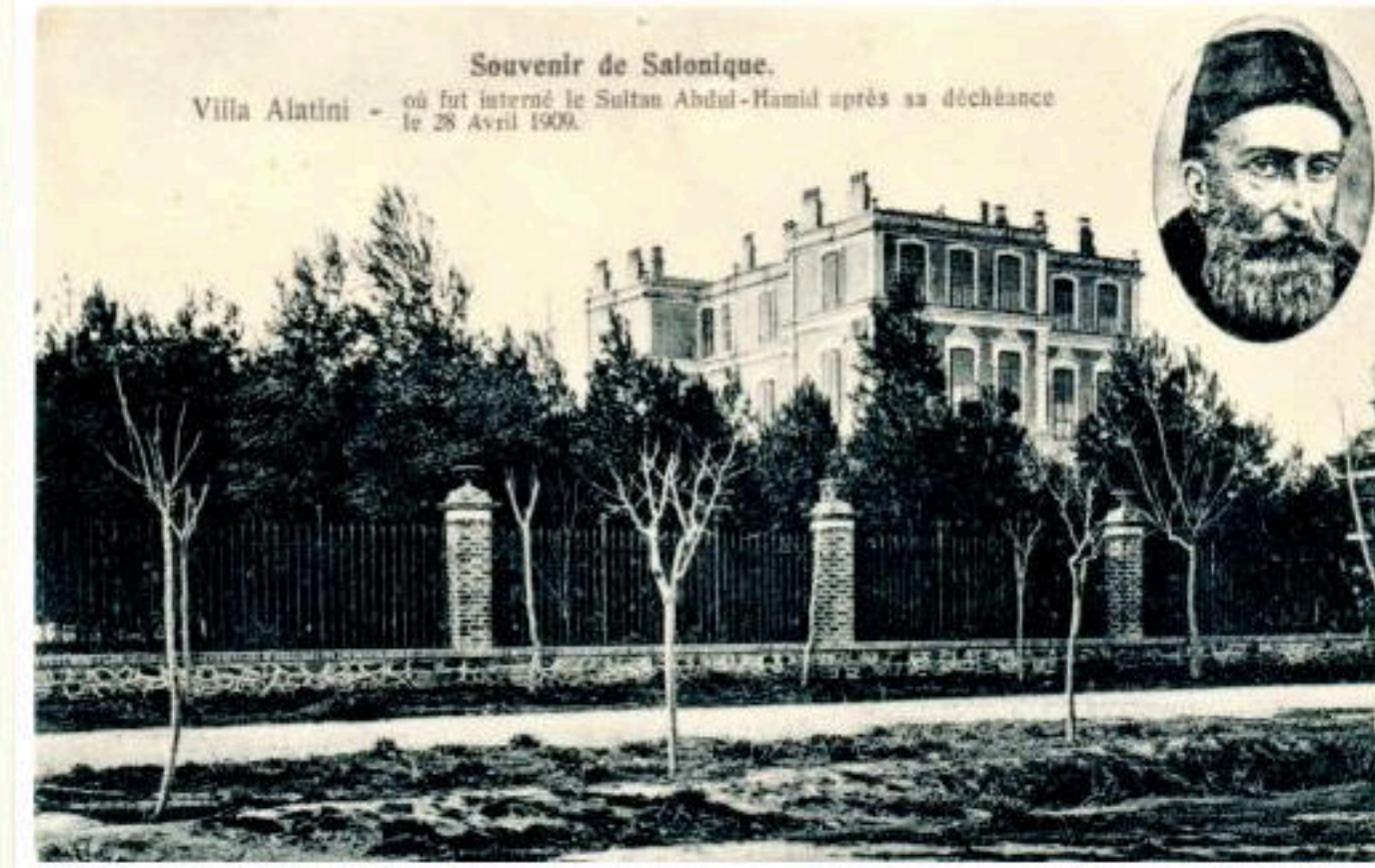
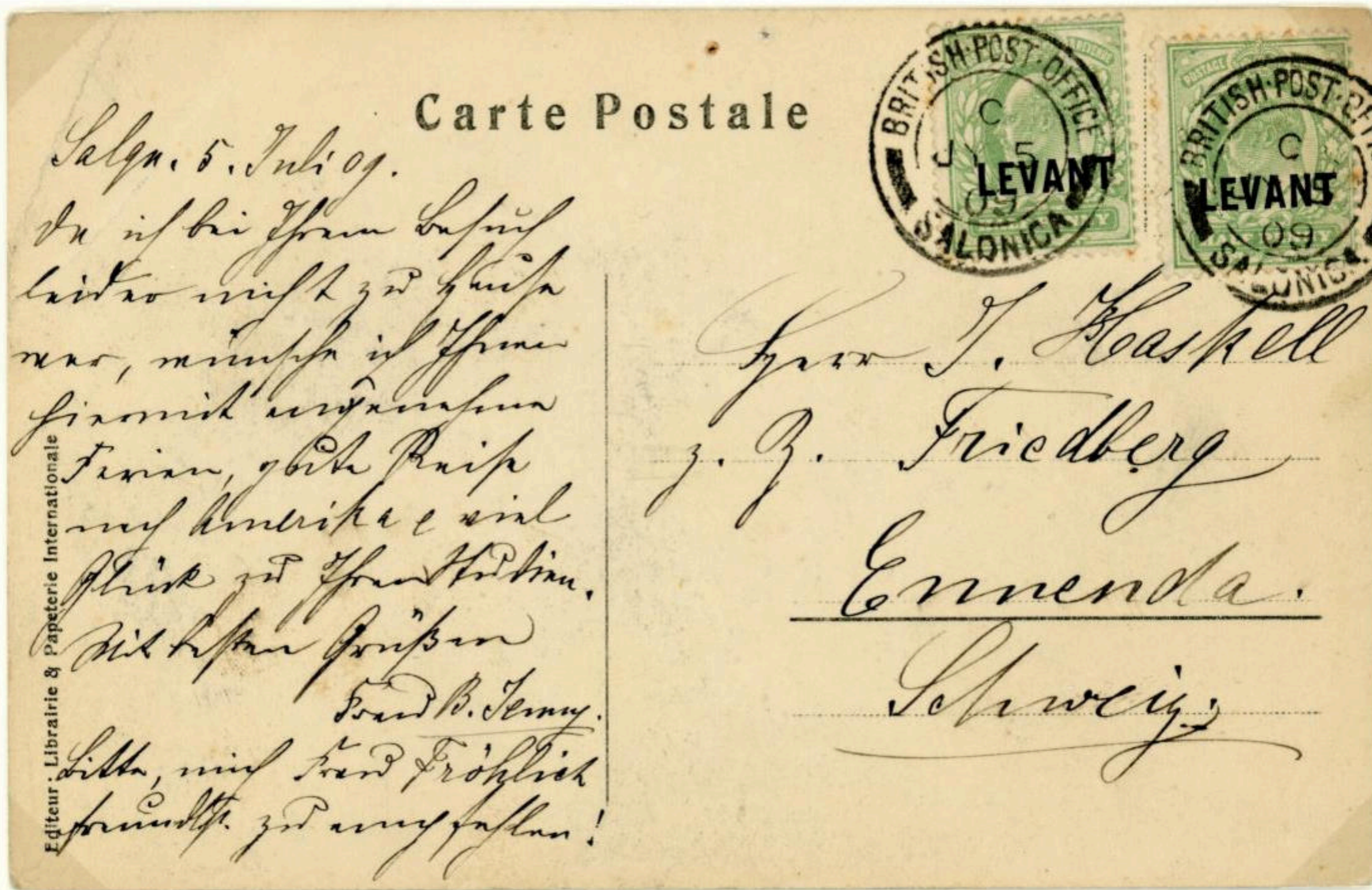
1900 to 1914: BRITISH POST OFFICE

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

1900 to 1914: BRITISH POST OFFICE

SALONICA

Registration Etiquettes

a. Provisional Etiquette of 1907 (used with single circle postmark)

b. Definitive Registration label (used after autumn 1907 until 1914)



Thessaloniki 1907 (July 21): Registered cover, franked Edward 2Pia/5d, posted to Budapest.
Postal Rate: 2Pia: 1Pia Single Weight Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration



Thessaloniki 1912 (Jan. 5): Registered cover, franked Edward Block of 4 1Pia/21/2d, posted to London.

Postal Rate: 4Pia: 3Pia Triple Weight Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration



Back side

SALONICA

Use of British stamps

The use of unoverprinted British stamps was always allowed by the British p.o. (although it is uncommon after the first year of operation, 1900).



- Thessaloniki 1903 (Nov. 8):** Envelope franked with Block of 4 x 1/2d Edward, posted to Athens.
Postal Rate: 2d British equals almost 40Pa – it is a bit less, but it was tolerated and accepted: single Weight Foreign Letter
- Thessaloniki 1903 (Oct. 27):** Envelope franked with pair of 40Pa/21/2d Edward, posted to Athens.
Postal Rate: 80Pa Double Weight Foreign Letter

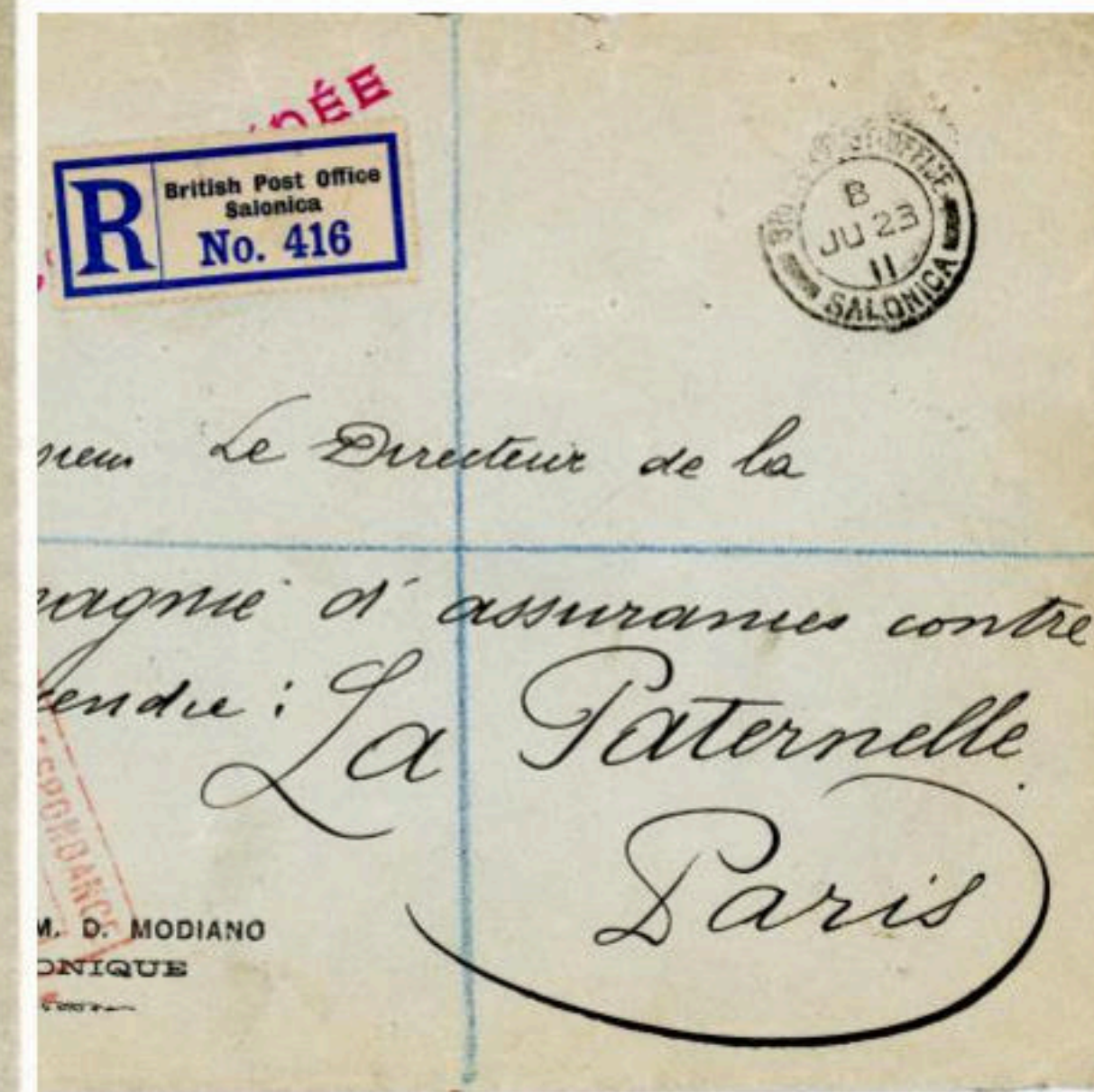
1900 to 1914: BRITISH POST OFFICE

SALONICA

A Mixed Currency Franking Cover and a Hotel Cover



Front side 50%



a. **Thessaloniki 1911 (July 23):** Registered Cover franked Edward 1Pia/2.5d and pair 1d LEVANT, posted to Paris.
Postal Rate: 2d British equals almost 1Pia + 1Pia = 2Pia: 1Pia Single Weight Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration

b. **Thessaloniki 1911:** Cover posted to Leeds, franked 1 1/4 Pia
Postal Rate: 1Pia Foreign Letter (overpaid by 1/4 Pia)

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

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

British Levant Registered Envelopes 40 Para (Edward) + 1 Piastre (George V - 1914)

The use of RPSE in Thessaloniki is unusual. Very few are known to exist.



Thessaloniki 1906 (July 30): British Levant Registered Envelope of 40 Paras (Registration Fee), uprated by 1d, posted to Wien.

Postal Rate: 1d Double Weight Printed Matter Rate + 40 Paras Registration Fee



Thessaloniki 1914 (Feb. 16): British Levant Registered Envelope of 1 Piastre (Registration Fee), uprated by 2d + 1/2d LEVANT plus 1 1/4 Pia overprinted KGV, posted to Wien.

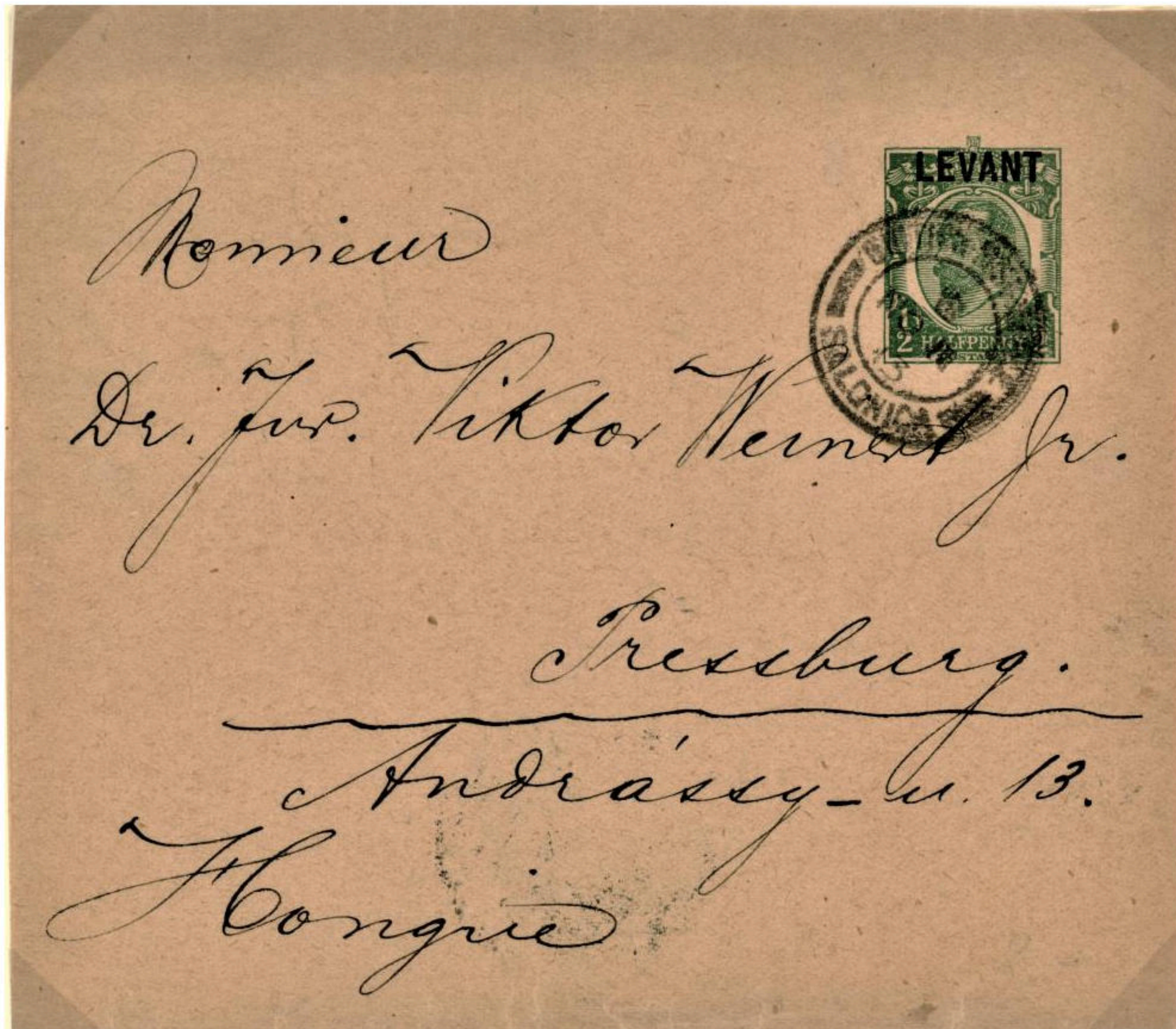
Postal Rate: 2 Pia Double Weight Letter Rate + 1 Pia Registration Fee (the total 1 Pia + 1 1/4 Pia + 2d + 1/2d totals about 3.2 Piastres).

The only one such Registered Envelope, known to me, used from Thessaloniki.

1900 to 1914: BRITISH POST OFFICE
THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

British Levant Stationery Wrapper

George V



Thessaloniki 1913 (Nov. 19): British Levant wrapper, posted to Pressburg.

Postal Rate: 1/2d Single Weight Wrapper

(20% less than 10 Para, but that was the promotion reduced rate)

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

British Levant LONG Registered Envelopes 40 Para (Edward)

The use of long RPSE in Thessaloniki is elusive



Thessaloniki 1913 (Dec. 30): British Levant Long Registered Envelope of 40 Paras (Registration Fee), uprated by 2+1/2d, posted to Berlin.

Postal Rate: 1 Pia Single Weight Letter Rate + 1 Pia Registration Fee (the total 40Pa + 2d + 1/2d totals about 2 Piastres).

The only one such Registered Envelope, known to me, used from Thessaloniki.

THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

British Levant Stationery Cards of the 3 Kingdoms
Used in Thessaloniki



Thessaloniki 1902 (May 25), 1905 (Dec. 7), 1913 (Aug. 7): Three stationery cards posted.

- a. Victorian, to Alexandria Egypt
- b. Edwardian, to Besançon France
- c. George V, to Pressburg (Bratislava)

Postal Rate: 1d for Foreign Card

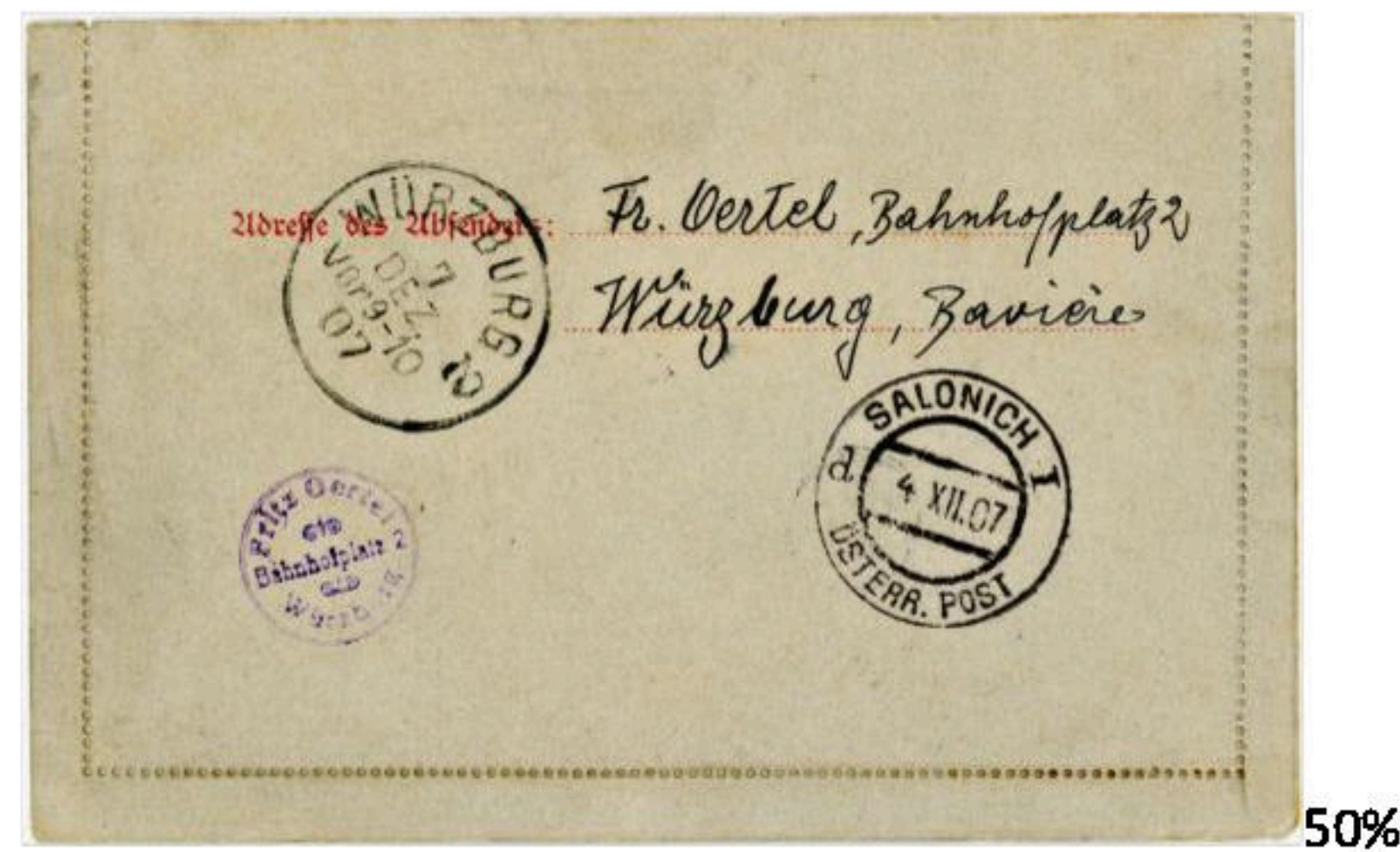
1890 to 1914: ITALIAN POST OFFICE SALONICCO

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

Squared Circle Postmark SALONICCO UFF. POSTALE ITALIANO

Mixed Franking of Levant and Salonico stamps



Thessaloniki 1909 (July 7): Cover franked strip of 4 x 10Pa/5c + 20Pa/10c Levant stamps and 10Pa Salonico, posted to Roma, arrival July 11.

Postal Rate: 70Pa Double Weight Letter to Italy

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

1890 to 1914: ITALIAN POST OFFICE SALONICCO

Single Circle (Large) Postmark SALONICCO UFF. POSTALE ITALIANO

Use of Salonico overprinted stamps

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



Thessaloniki 1914 (March 26): Registered Envelope, franked with Block of 4 x 10Pa/5c + Strip of 3 x 20Pa/10c overprinted Salonico stamps, posted to Berlin, arrival Mar. 29.
Postal Rate: 100Para: 60Pa Double Weight Foreign Letter + 1Pia for Registration



View of Salonica

1890 to 1914: ITALIAN POST OFFICE SALONICCO

Another cover from the first days of the Italian post office

Single Circle Postmark SALONICCO UFF. POSTALE ITALIANO

Franking of Italian and Italian Levant stamps

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



60%



Thessaloniki 1908 (June 26 - a month after the opening of p.o.):

Registered cover franked 15c Italian and 40Pa/25c Levant stamps, posted to Genova, arrival June 30.

Postal Rate: 15c (=30Pa) Double Weight Letter to Italy (only!) + IPia (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 SALONICCO

Double Circle Postmark (with bridge) SALONICCO UFFICIO POSTALE ITALIANO

This very rare postmark (see details in previous page), had been used, according to Ath. Paschos ("The Italian Post Office of Thessaloniki), for the period 20 Dec. 1912 to 16 Jan. 1913. All the few (less than 10) known to exist documents (covers, fragments, stamps) with this postmark, are from this period.

Recently, I found this cover front which shows the postmark used 2 Jan. 1914. Either the postmark has a wrong year date (1914 instead of 1913), or the postmark was forgotten in a drawer and after one (?) use it was put back into it. Nevertheless, a very rare postmark.



Thessaloniki 1914 (Jan. 2): Cover front franked with IPia overprinted Salonico stamp, posted to Venezia.

Postal Rate: 1Pia = 40Pa Single Weight Letter to Italy

1890 to 1914: ITALIAN POST OFFICE

SALONICCO

Single Circle (Small) Postmark SALONICCO UFFICIO POSTALE ITALIANO

Squared Circle Postmark SALONICCO UFF. POSTALE ITALIANO

Use of Salonico overprinted stamps



Thessaloniki 1910 (July 31) + 1913 (Aug. 13): Two covers posted:

a. franked 2 x 1Pia/25c, to Roma, arrival Aug. 4.

b. franked Strip of 4 x 10Pa/5c, to Constantinople, arrival Aug.16.

Postal Rate: a. 1Pia Single Weight Letter to Italy + 1Pia for Registration

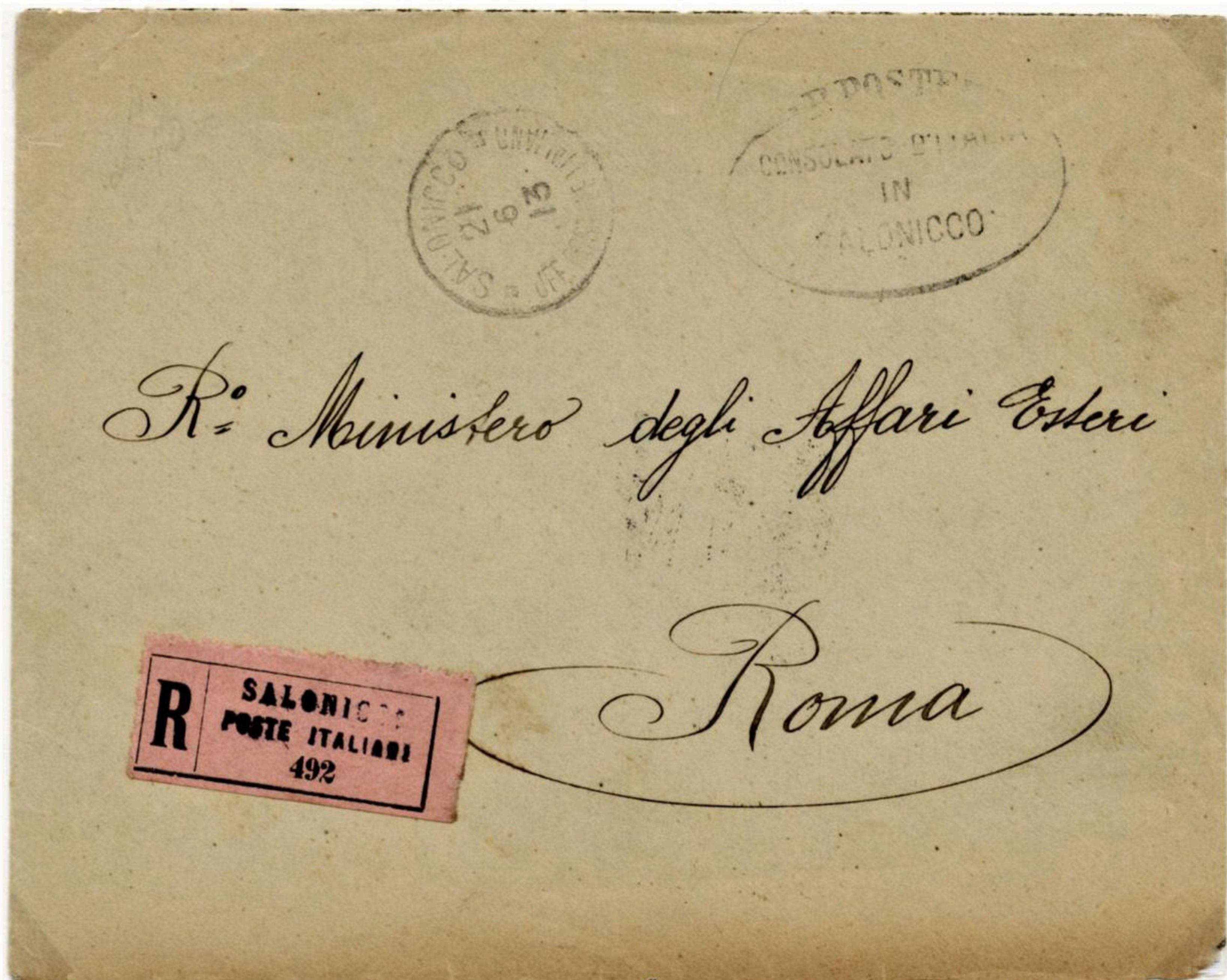
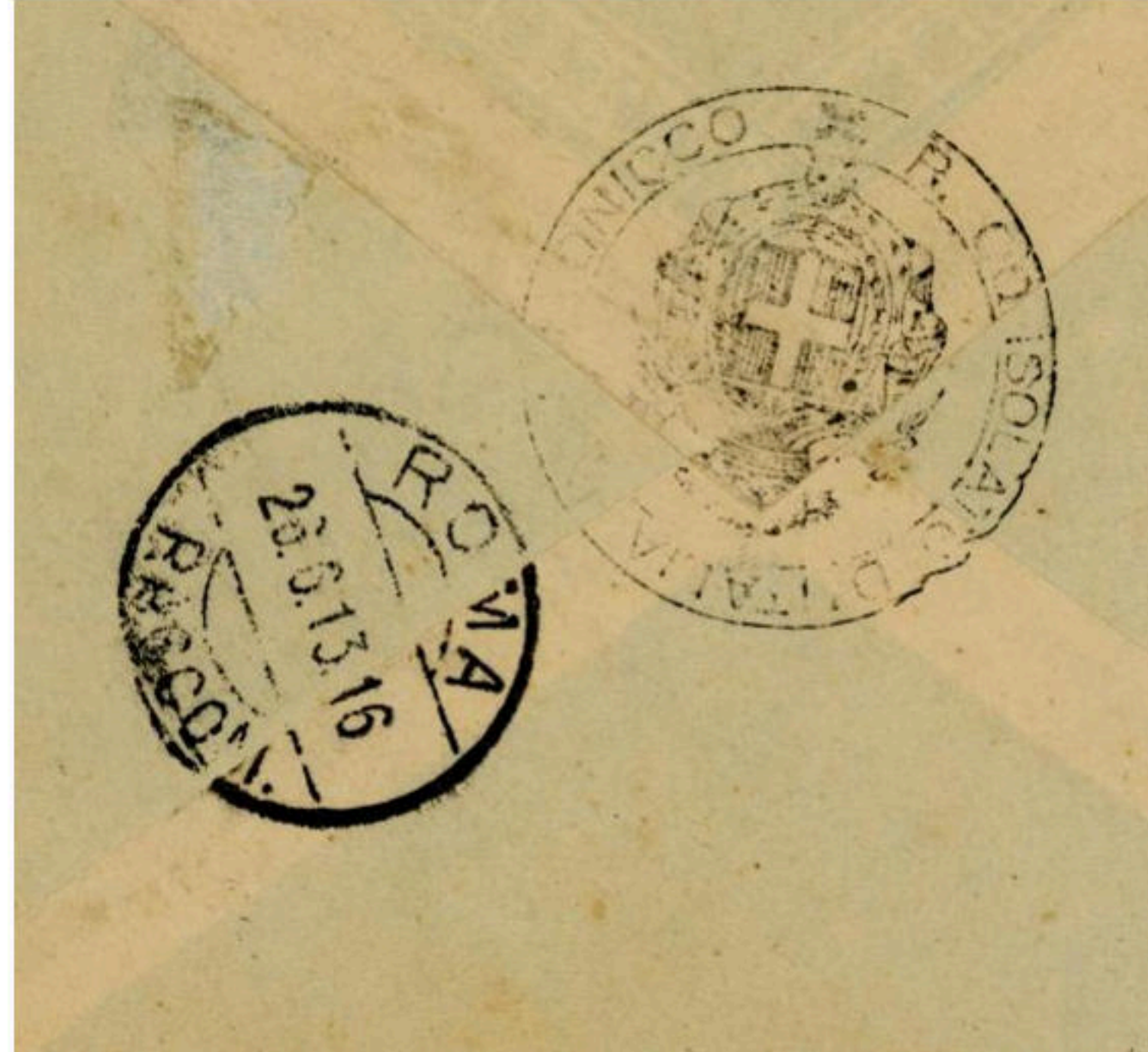
b. 40Pa Single Weight Letter to Turkey

1890 to 1914: ITALIAN POST OFFICE

SALONICCO

Italian Consular Mail

Postmark R. POSTE – CONSOLATO D' ITALIA IN SALONICCO
in oval



Thessaloniki 1913 (June 21):

Registered Cover posted to the Foreign Ministry in Roma, arrival June 26.

Postal Rate: Free as Official Correspondence

1890 to 1914: ITALIAN POST OFFICE

SALONICCO

The End of Capitulations
A Letter to the WWI Zone



60%



Thessaloniki (1914, October 20):

Registered cover posted Oct. 20, 1914, a few days before the official closing of the Foreign P.Os (early November) to Chemnitz, Germany, arrival Oct. 30, a few days after the opening of the Eastern Front of WWI in Prussia. The Letter has been opened and resealed by the Military Censorship. A few months later Thessaloniki will be the center of the Eastern Army (Armee d' Orient) of the Allied Forces.

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

1890 to 1914: ITALIAN POST OFFICE

SALONICCO

The End of Capitulations

Single Circle (Small) Postmark SALONICCO UFFICIO POSTALE ITALIANO
The Italian P.O. was very active during the last year of capitulations



Two covers posted from **Thessaloniki**:
a. **Oct. 21, 1913**, to Bari, arrival Oct. 25.
b. **Sept. 6, 1914**, to Zurich, arrival Sept. 11.
Postal Rate: 1Pia Single Weight Foreign Letter

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
Casaretto, Casartes - 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

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.

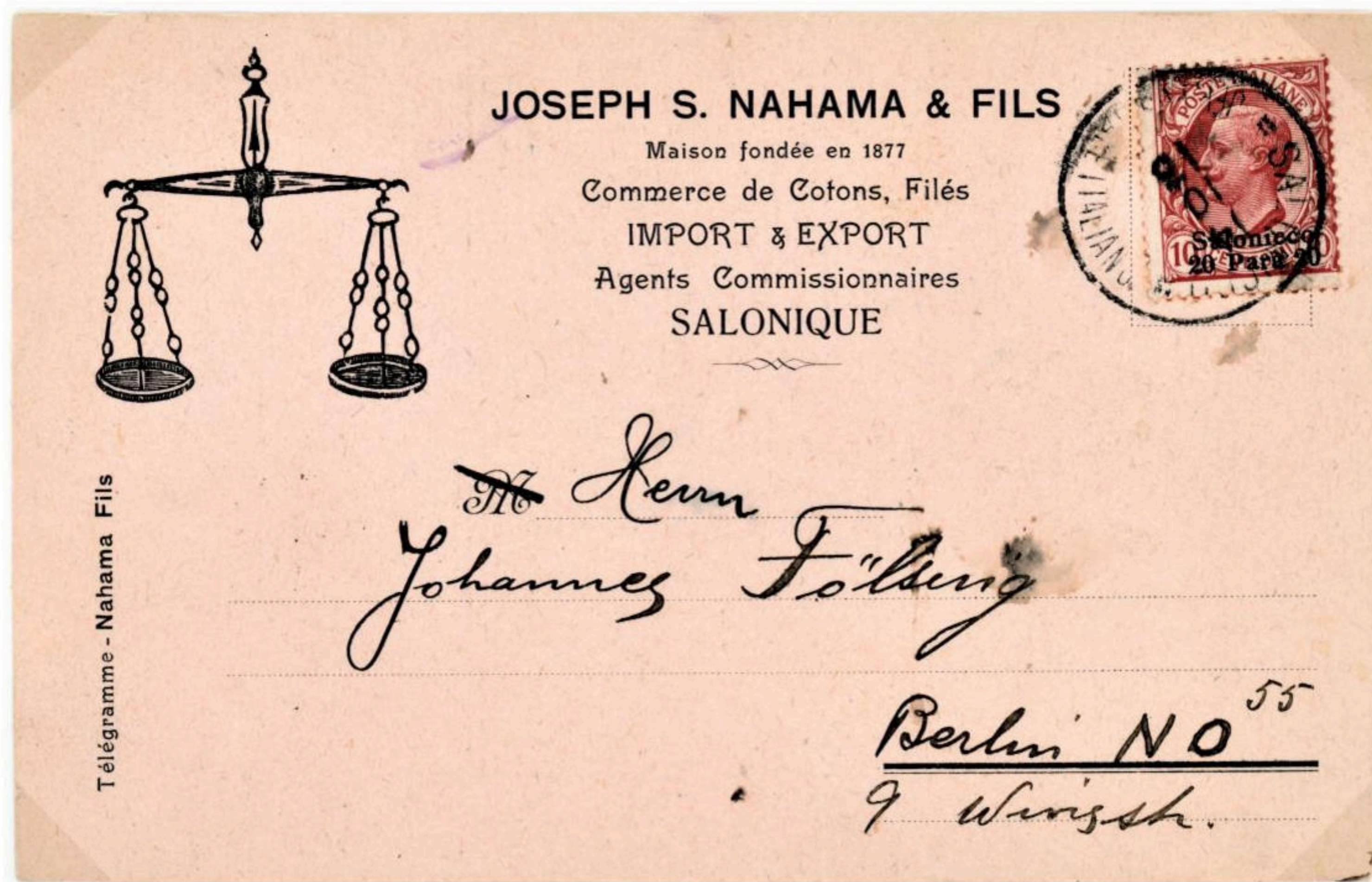
1890 to 1914: ITALIAN POST OFFICE THE USE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Italian Stationery Card Overprinted Salonico



Thessaloniki (1911, Feb. 24): Stationery Card posted to Vienna, arrival Aug.16.
Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Post Card.

Private Stationery Card



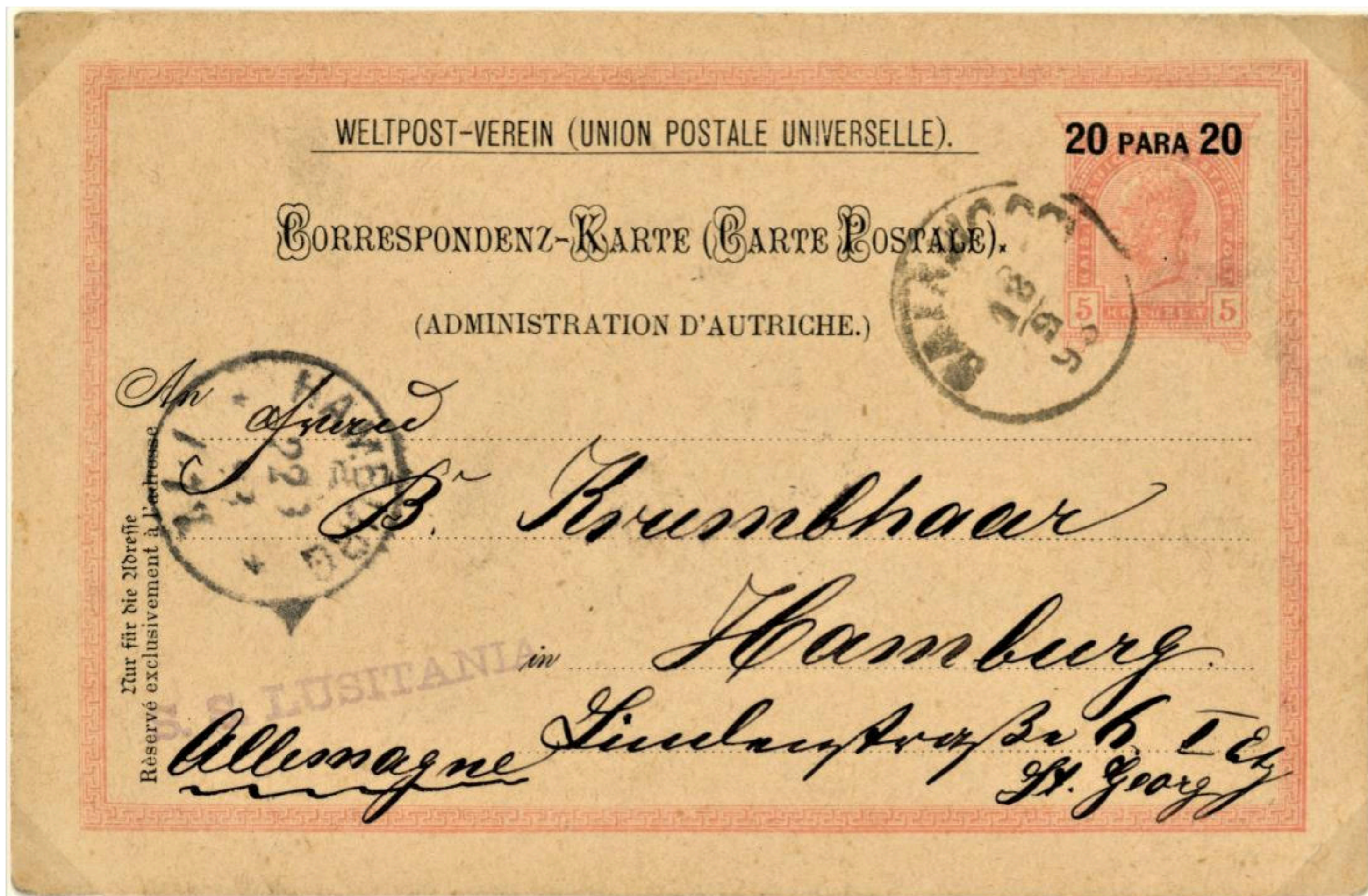
Thessaloniki (1913, Oct. 13): Joseph Nahama stationery card, posted to Berlin, Italian P.O.
Postal Rate: 20Pa for Foreign Post Card.

1890 to 1914: MARITIME MAIL

Mail Posted on Board or through Shipping Agencies

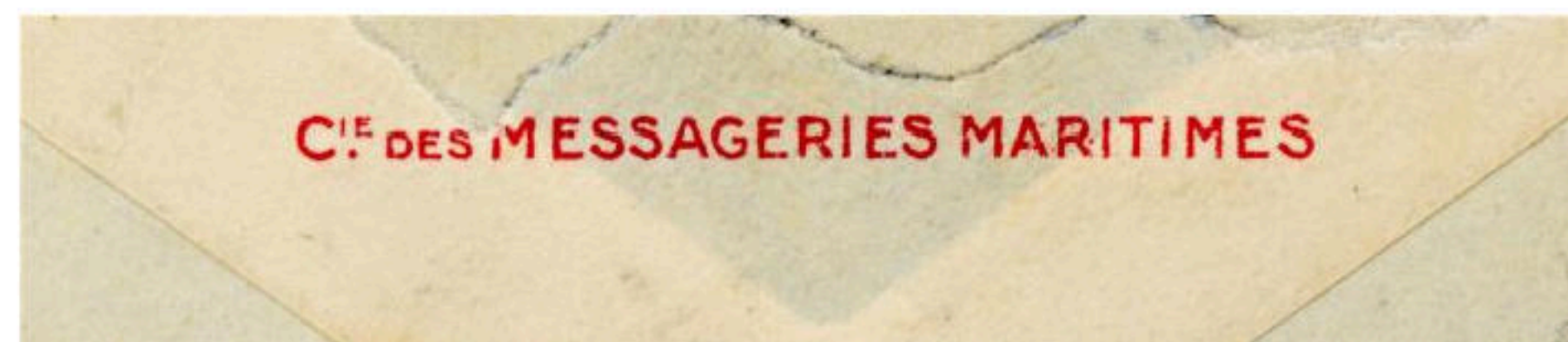
On Board S.S. LUSITANIA

S.S. Lusitania, built in 1871 for the Pacific steam Navigation Co., was sold in 1877 to Orient Line. The Orient Steam Navigation Company / Orient Line started in 1877 with chartered steamers from Europe to Australia.



Thessaloniki 1893 (Sept. 18): Stationery Card posted to Hamburg.
Postal Rate: 20Pa Foreign Postcard

On Board a Steamship of MESSAGERIES MARITIMES: Postmark PAQUEBOT



Cover Flap



Thessaloniki 1909 (Oct. 2): Small cover posted by the French Post Office to Le Luc, France.
Postal Rate: 10C (=20Pa) for Foreign Small Open Cover

1890 to 1914: MARITIME MAIL

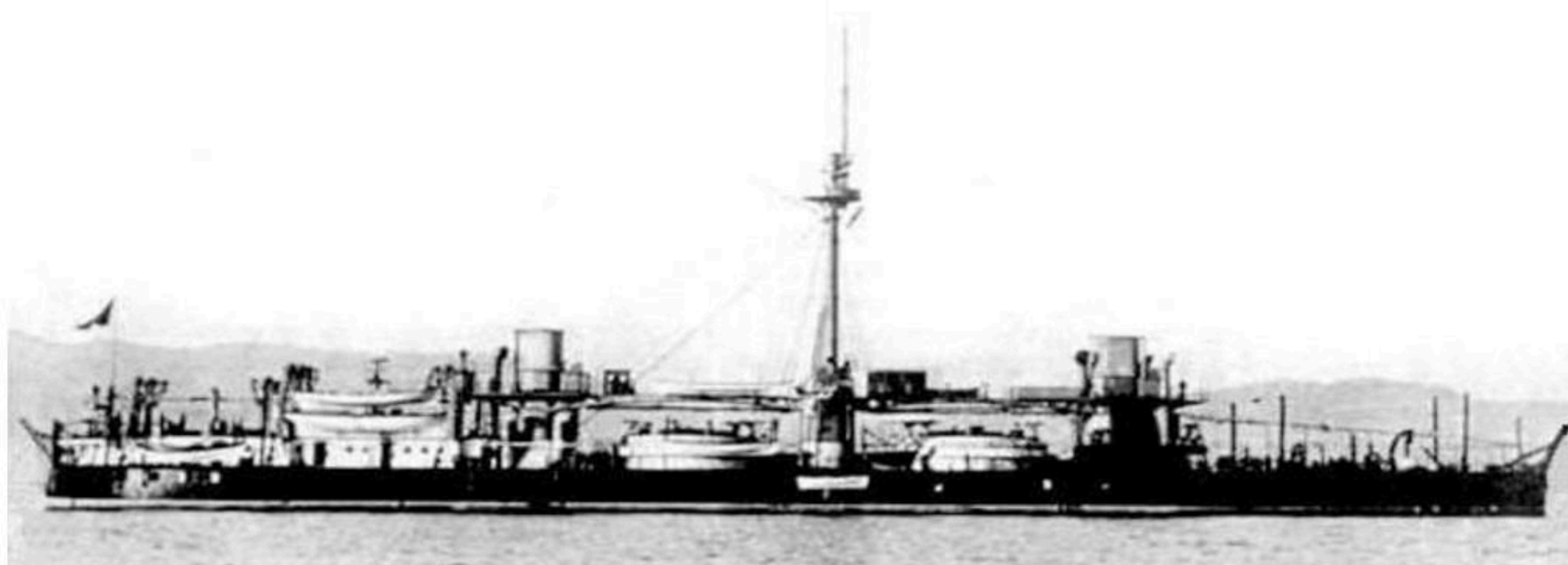
Mail Posted on Board or through Shipping Agencies

R NAVE DANDOLO in the port of Thessaloniki (1902)

The battleship "Enrico Dandolo" was a unit of the Regia Marina (Italian Royal Fleet) which together with its twin "Caio Duilio" was part of the Caio Duilio class and which served from 1882 to 1909. With their 4 x450mm guns in two twin towers and the speed of 15 knots, at the time of their appearance, these ships were unanimously recognized as the most powerful battleships in service due to their speed, protection, and armament characteristics.



Thessaloniki 1902 (Sept. 12): Picture postcard, posted on board R NAVE DANDOLO (Italian military postmark), stationed in the port of Thessaloniki, to La Spezia
Postal Rate: 2c for Foreign Postcard



The Italian Warship

1890 to 1914: MARITIME MAIL

The Steamships in the Port of Thessaloniki

S.S. PHOENICIA and S.S. CRAGOSWALD

PHOENICIA was a steamer, built in 1892, which traded in Mediterranean and Black Sea ports.



Thessaloniki 1910 (Aug. 12): Picture Postcard posted, by the British Post Office, to Barry, S. Wales, England.
Postal Rate: 1d Foreign Postcard.

CRAGOSWALD was a steamer from Newcastle, built in 1899.



Thessaloniki 1913 (Feb. 18): Picture Postcard posted by the British Post Office, to Hull, England.
Postal Rate: 1d Foreign Postcard.

1890 to 1914: M A R I T I M E M A I L

NAVIGAZIONE GENERALE ITALIANA FLORIO & RUBATTINO

The company formed in 1881 by the merger of I & V. Florio of Palermo and Raffaele Rubattino of Genoa. At the time of the merger, the two companies both operated extensively in the Mediterranean, with I & V Florio also operating routes to the United States and Canada, and Raffaele Rubattino operating routes to India and the Far East through the Suez Canal.

Cachet "NAVIGAZIONE GEN. ITALIANA FLORIO & RUBATTINO - Agenzia di Salonicco"



Thessaloniki 1908 (July 30): Cover posted, by the Italian Post Office to Palermo, arrival Aug. 4.
Postal Rate: 30Pa Single Weight Letter to Italy (By the Italian P.O.).

Thessaloniki 1905 (Mar. 23): Cover posted, by the Ottoman Post Office to Palermo, arrival Mar. 29.
Postal Rate: 40Pa Single Weight Letter to Italy (by the Ottoman P.O.).

1890 to 1914: MARITIME MAIL

Navigazione Generale Italiana to Società Nazionale dei Servizi Marittimi

S.S. PULCEVERA of NGI



1899: Picture Postcard written on board from Thessaloniki to Constantinople and posted to Wien.

On June 13, 1910, the Società Nazionale dei Servizi Marittimi acquired the NGI's Mediterranean routes, allowing NGI to focus on the trans-Atlantic operations with 19 remaining vessels.

SOCIETÀ NAZIONALE DI SERVIZI MARITTIMI



Thessaloniki 1913 (Mar. 25): Cover franked pair of 20Pa/10c, posted to Palermo, carried by Società Nazionale dei Servizi Marittimi. Maritime postmark NAPOLI - PALERMO NATANTE.

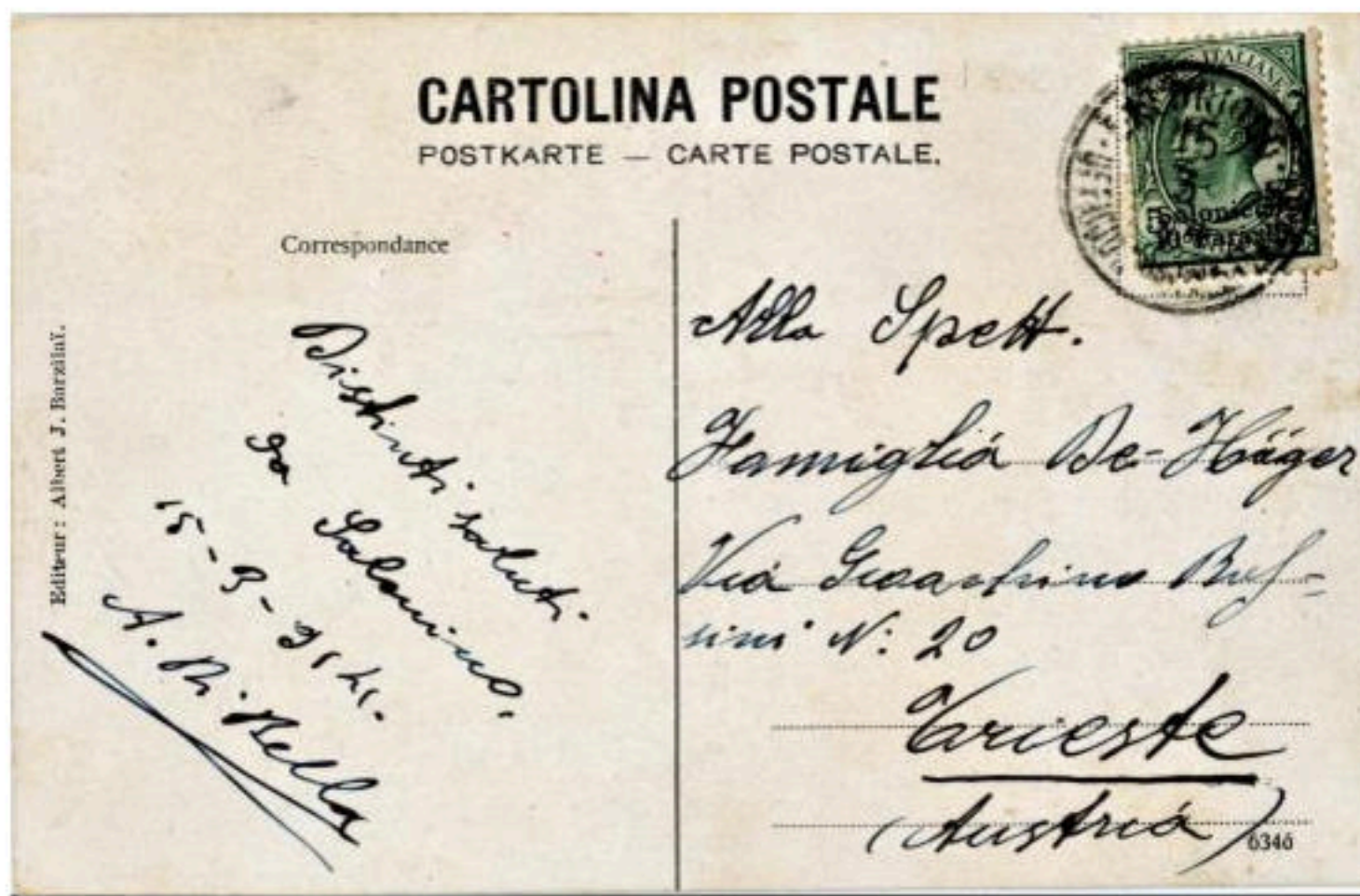
Postal Rate: 40Pa= 1Pia Single Weight Letter to Italy

1890 to 1914: MARITIME MAIL

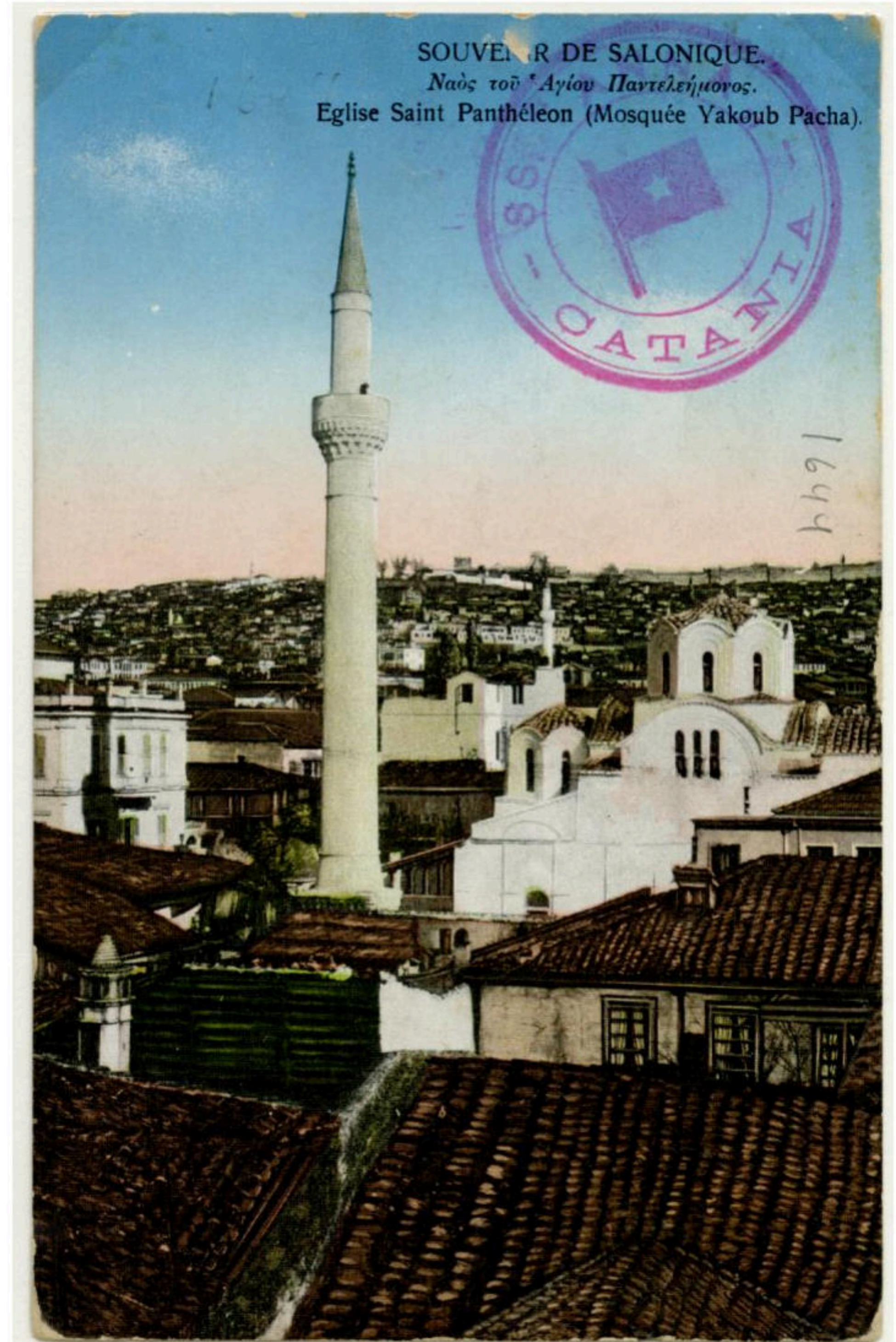
The Steamships in the Port of Thessaloniki

S.S. CATANIA

CATANIA was a steamer, built in 1906, for the Navigazione Generale Italiana line.



Thessaloniki 1914 (Mar. 15): Picture Postcard posted, by the Italian Post Office, to Trieste
Postal Rate: 10Pa Foreign Postcard.



S.S. TIGRIS
TIGRIS was a steamer, built in 1901, for the Ellerman and Bucknall Steamship Co. Sold in 1907 to A. Deppe, Anvers.

Thessaloniki 1909(Dec.): Picture Postcard posted, by the Ottoman Post Office, to Anvers, Belgium.
Postal Rate: 10Pa Foreign Postcard.

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

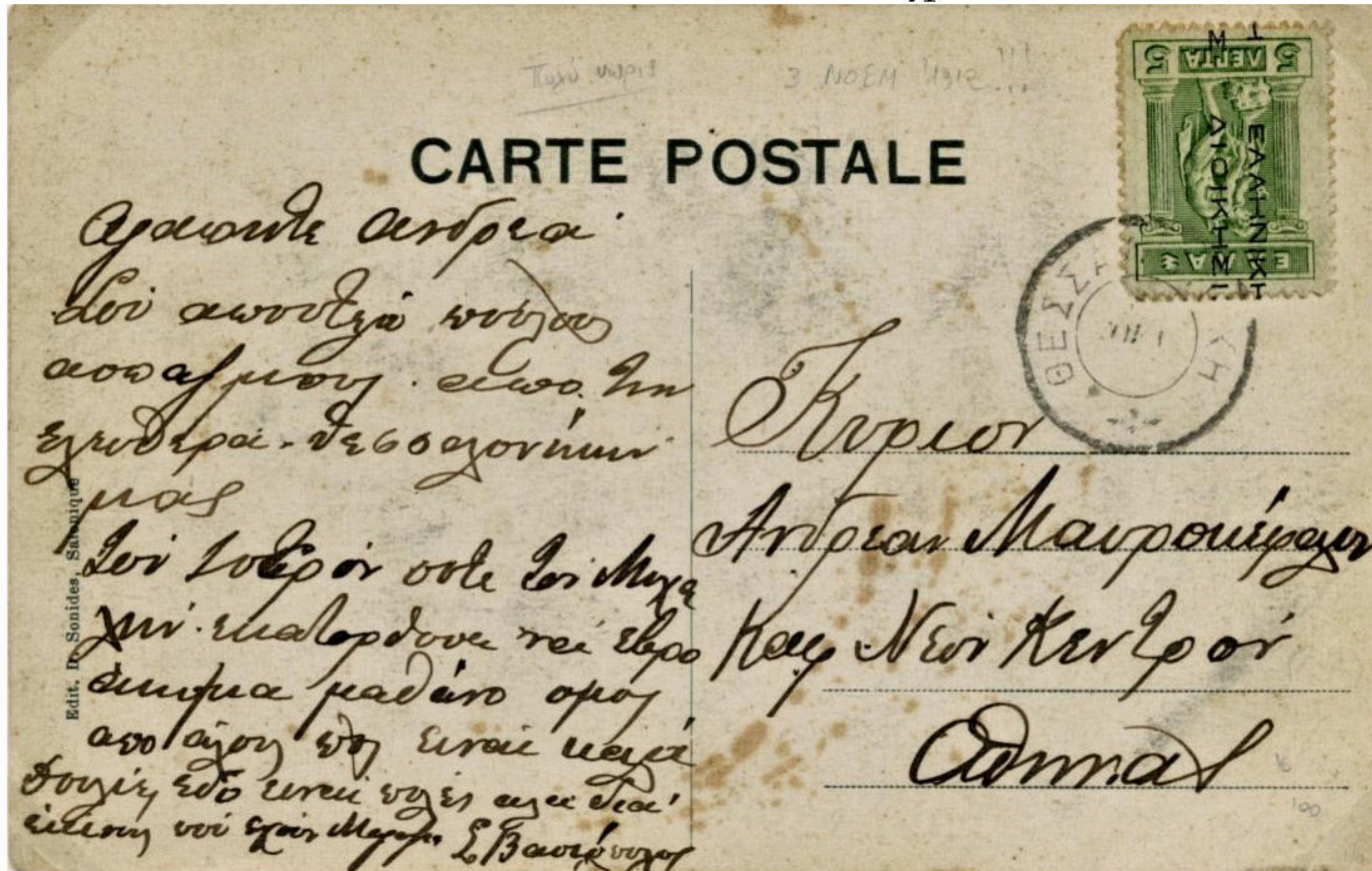
GREEK ADMINISTRATION

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



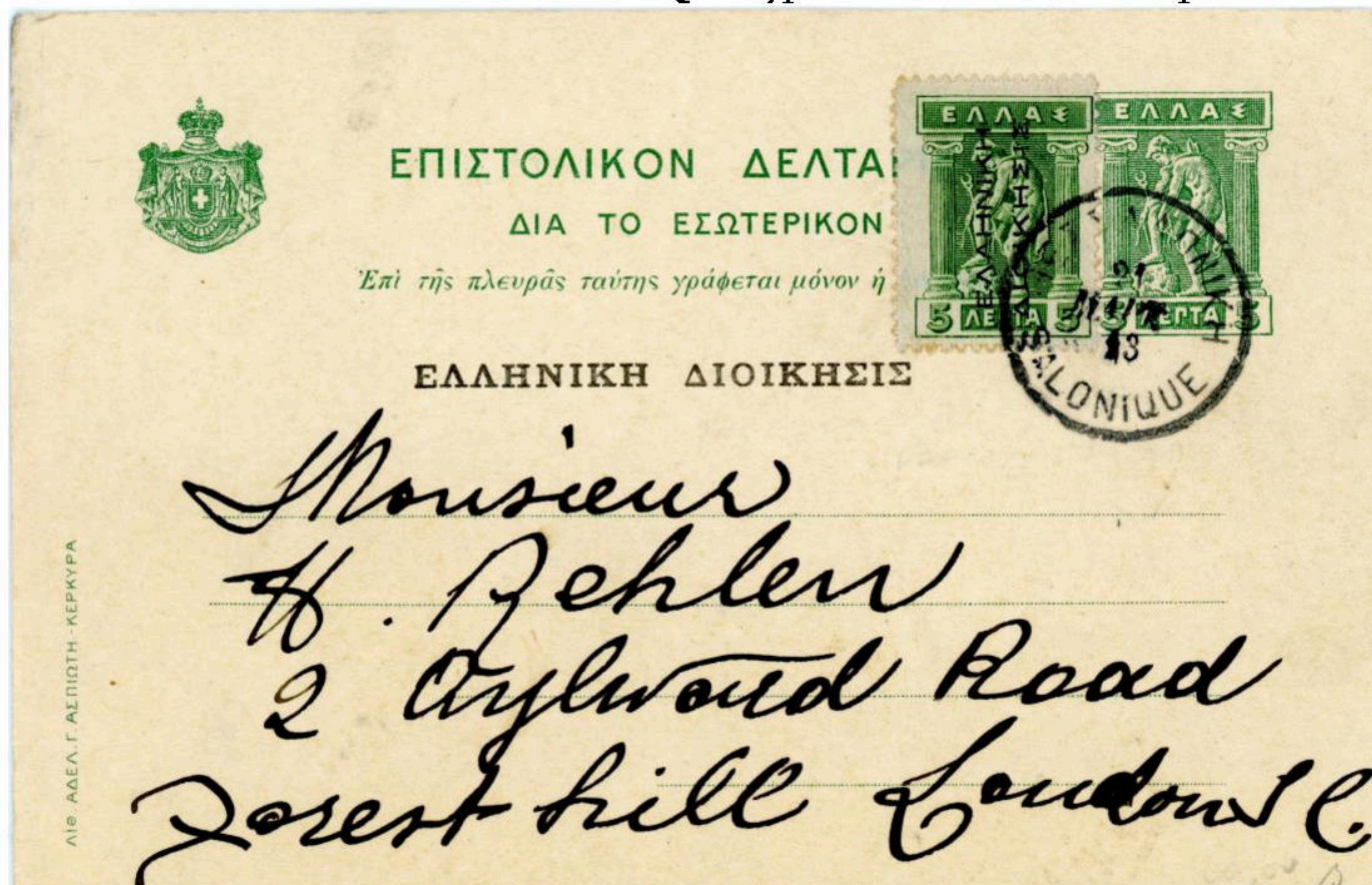
Thessaloniki 1912 (Nov. 3): Picture Postcard posted to Athens.

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

The use of ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ Overprinted Issues

Postmark ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ SALONIQUE Type V used for international correspondence.



Thessaloniki 1913 (Feb. 9): Cover posted to London, arrival Feb. 14.

Postal Rate: 25 Lepta Foreign Letter

Thessaloniki 1913 (Mar. 21): Registered cover posted to Bremerhaven, Germany, arrival Mar. 28.

Postal Rate: 50 Lepta Foreign Letter + Registration

1912-13: THE DAYS OF LIBERATION GREEK ADMINISTRATION

The use of ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ Overprinted Issues
Overprinted Stationery Cards with Small or Large overprints

POSTMARK ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ Large with bridge



Thessaloniki 1912 (Dec. 23): Stationery Postcard posted to Britain, uprated by 5l.
Both, the stationery, and the stamp are overprinted.
Postal Rate: 10 Lepta Foreign Postcard

POSTMARK ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ Type VI



Thessaloniki 1913 (May 2): Stationery Postcard posted to Monastir, uprated by 5xll.
Both, the stationery, and the stamps are overprinted.
Postal Rate: 10 Lepta Foreign Postcard

1912-13: THE DAYS OF LIBERATION

GREEK ADMINISTRATION

French P.O. : Mail refused because it was addressed to Thessaloniki Turkey (Feb. 1913)

Postmark "Retour a l' Envoyeur 5095"



A Cover posted from Sarlat, Dordogne, France, **Feb. 5 1913, to Thessaloniki.**

The Cover originated as a "repaired envelope": refolded and sealed with a Post Office sealing pelure paper (the Semeuse Franking and the Sarlat 2/5 Postmark ties the sealing paper on the cover). Probably on the way to its destination or even later, the letter has been cut and violated and one or two stamps (?) were removed – together with the contents? !! At its destination, Thessaloniki, arrival Feb. 10, the Cover was refused by the Post Office because it was addressed to Thessaloniki, Turkey (Thessaloniki was liberated by the Greek Army on October 28, 1912). The address was cancelled by a red pencil and the cover was redirected to France. It was charged 30c Postage Due for the following probable reasons: a. It was a double weight letter (extra weight 2 x 15c). b. It was charged for the readdressing to France. c. In case the stamps were removed on the way to its destination, it was treated as if 15c were missing (although, to my knowledge, only 10c are missing). It was returned to Sarlat, arrival Mar. 10. Another significant remark about this cover is the fact that it shows the postmark "Retour a l' Envoyeur 5095". All the few times that I have seen this Rare postmark used, were in 1870s-80s, when the cancelling postmark of the Thessaloniki P.O. was the dotted 5095 of the French P.O. It is strange that, after 30-40 years, the same postmark was still in use and Thessaloniki was still counted as Number 5095 of the French Post Offices.

Postal Rate: 25c for Single Weight Foreign Letter.

1912-13: THE DAYS OF LIBERATION

GREEK ADMINISTRATION

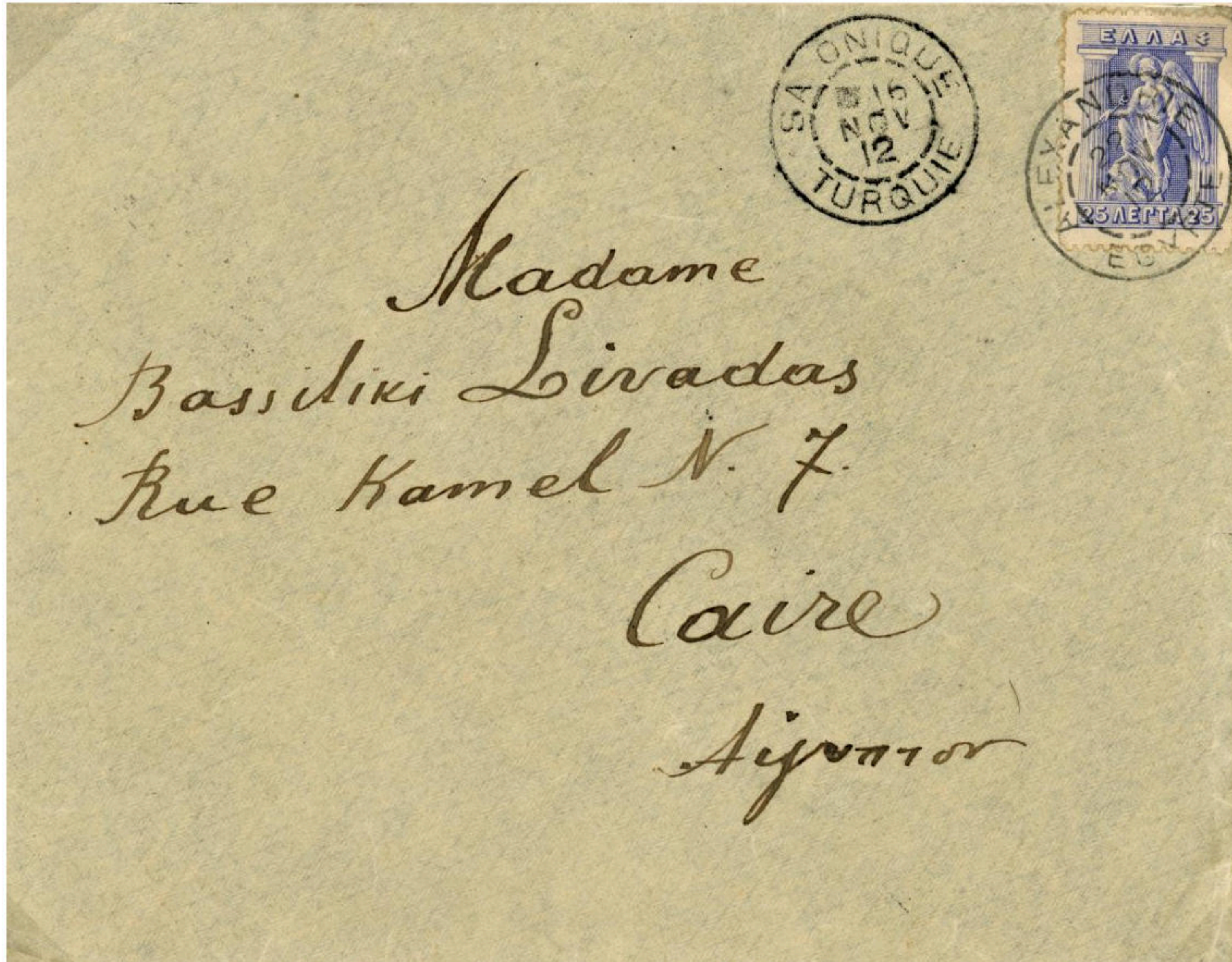
Postal Abnormalities during the chaotic first days of liberation

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

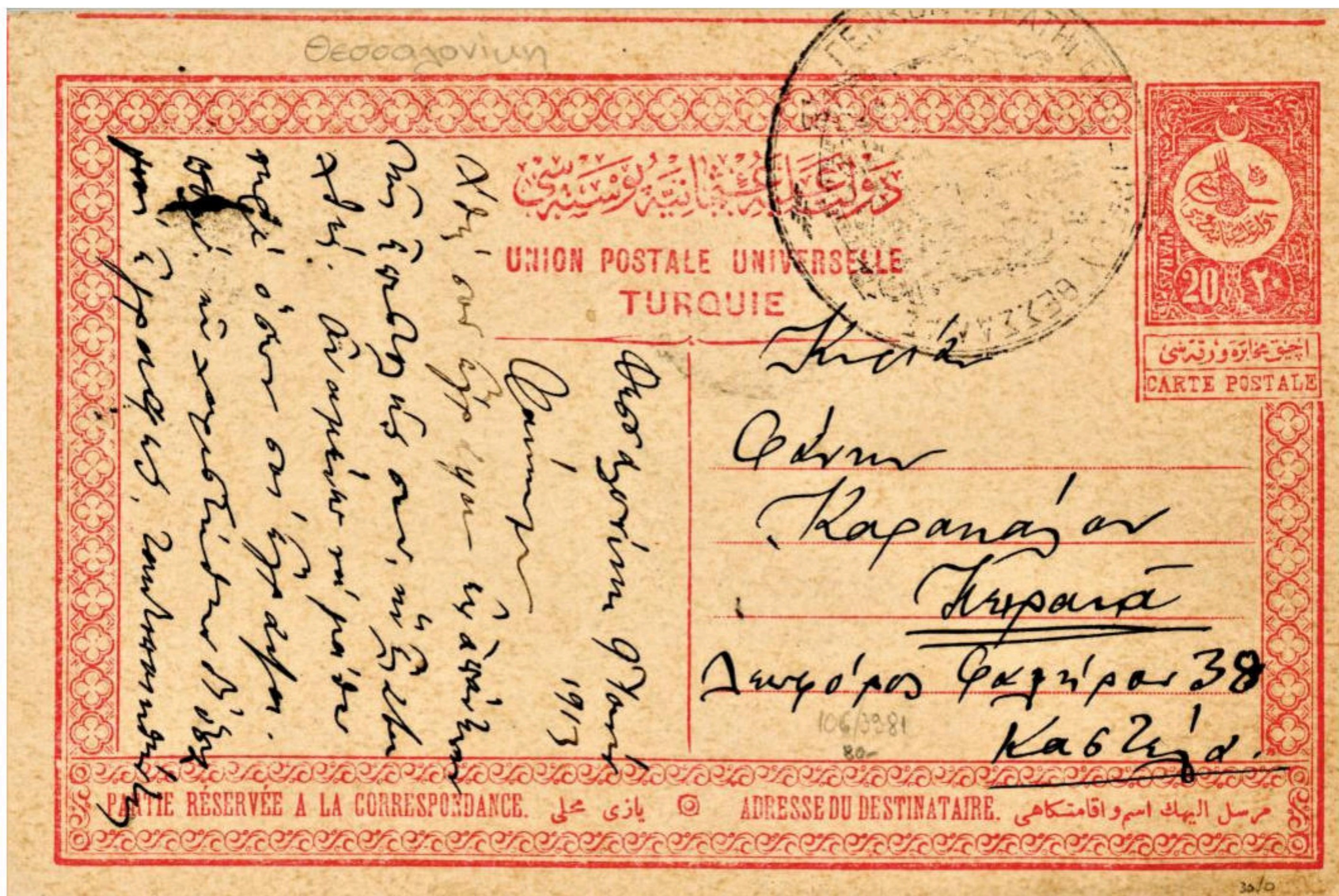


Thessaloniki 1912 (Nov. 16): Cover, posted to Cairo, franked with a 25l. Greek stamp, which was not yet authorized for use in Thessaloniki (only stamps overprinted ΕΜΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ were authorized for use). The cover was given to the French post office, where the clerk put the postmark SALONIQUE TURQUIE, 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.



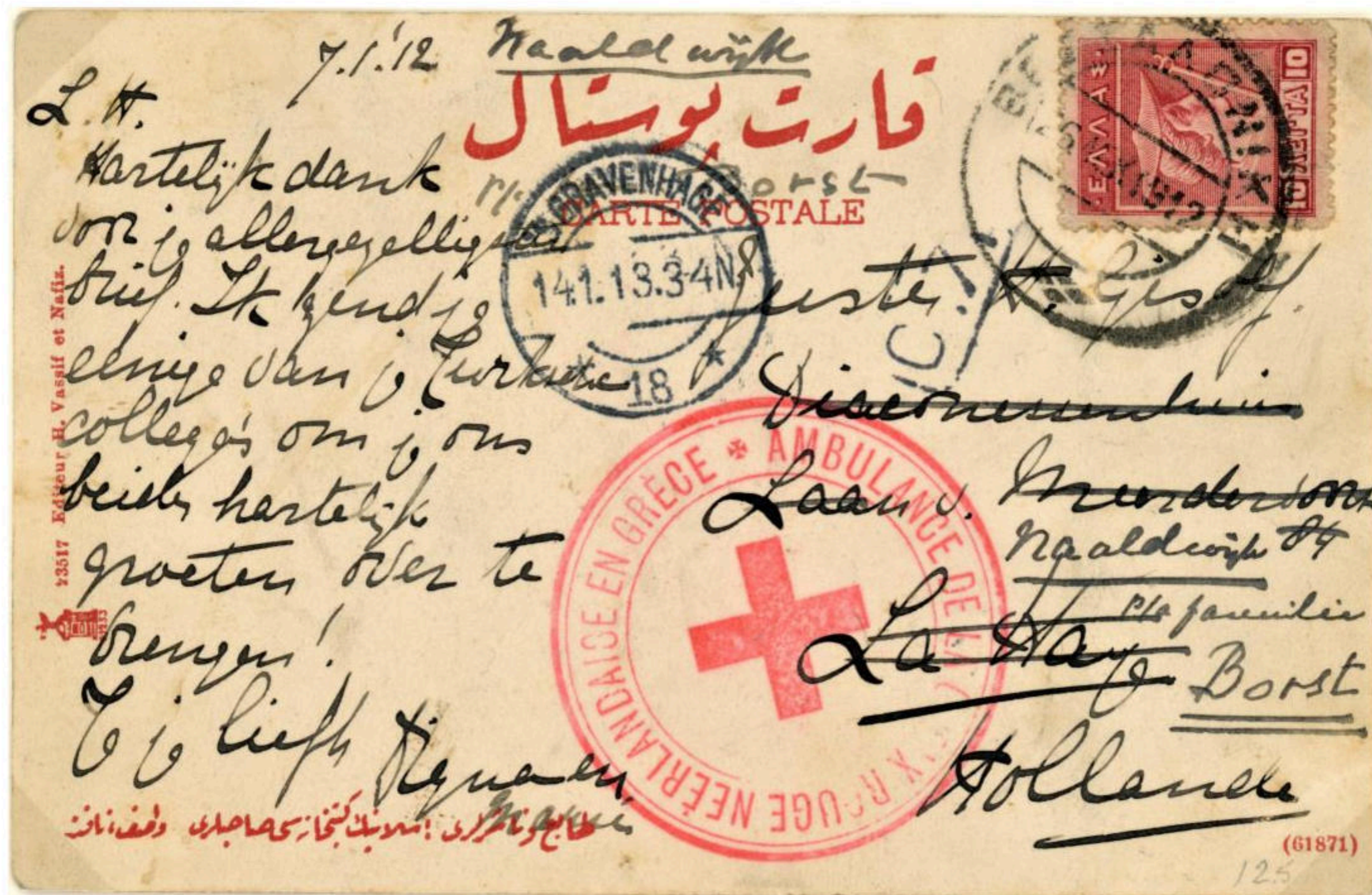
Thessaloniki 1912 (Dec. 23): Patriotic cover posted to Volos.
Postal Rate: 5 Lepta Domestic Open Cover

1912-13: THE DAYS OF LIBERATION GREEK ADMINISTRATION



Thessaloniki 1913 (Jan. 3): Greek Letter Card, overprinted for free military use, posted to Cavalla.

A case of use of a non-overprinted stamp



Thessaloniki 1912 (Dec. 26): Picture Postcard posted by the Dutch Red Cross Ambulant service in Greece, to Netherlands, franked with 10l. of the Greek "Engraved" issue. The use was tolerated (perhaps, because of the sender).
Postal Rate: 10 Lepta Foreign Card

1912-13: THE DAYS OF LIBERATION

GREEK ADMINISTRATION

Deutsche Marine-Schiffspost

SMS GOEBEN, flagship of the German Navy's Mediterranean Division, visits the Port of Thessaloniki during the Balkan War.



2/3



Thessaloniki 1913 (Mar. 18)

Picture Postcard (“SMS GOEBEN”) posted to Wilhelmshaven, franked 5 Pf, cancelled MARINE – SCHIFFSPOST No 29.

Postal Rate: 5 Pf Foreign Card

AFTER 1913: THESSALONIKI IS GREEK

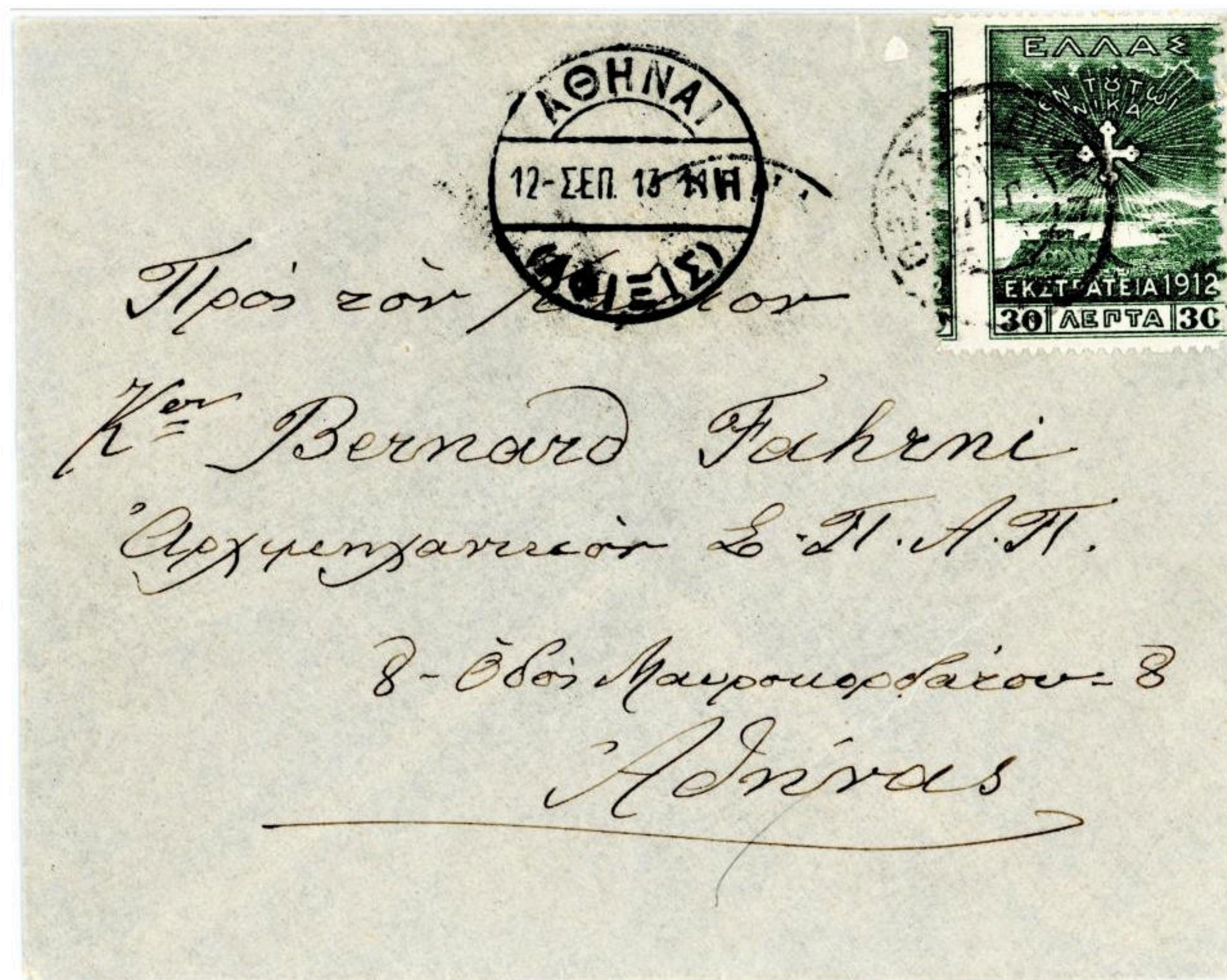
ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

The ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ Overprinted Issue was succeeded, from April 1913, by another issue intended only for the liberated areas, the so called "CAMPAIGN".



Thessaloniki 1913 (Sept. 18): Registered cover posted to Alexandria Egypt, arrival Oct. 6.
Postal Rate: 25 Lepta Foreign Cover + 25 Lepta for registration

A Cover franked with a stamp showing a spectacular perforation shift.



Thessaloniki 1913 (Aug. 24): Cover posted to Athens.

AFTER 1913: THESSALONIKI IS GREEK

ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

In the period 1913-15, the stamps used were ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ and CAMPAIGN, and, from 1916, common lithographic stamps. From November 1916, after the decision of the government of Athens to overprint ET the lithographic stamps, so they cannot be used by the Provisional Government, Campaign stamps were used again.

“CAMPAIGN” Issue 2nd period of use



Thessaloniki 1917 (Jan. 14): Campaign 5L. Stationery Card (for domestic use), uprated by 2L. + 3L. Campaign adhesives, posted to Chicago USA.
Postal Rate: 10 Lepta Foreign Card



Thessaloniki 1917 (Apr. 8): Cover, franked block of 6 + single x3L. + 2 singles 2L. Campaign, posted to Toulouse, France.
Double “Armée d’Orient” censorship.
Postal Rate: 25 Lepta Foreign Cover

AFTER 1913: THESSALONIKI IS GREEK

ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

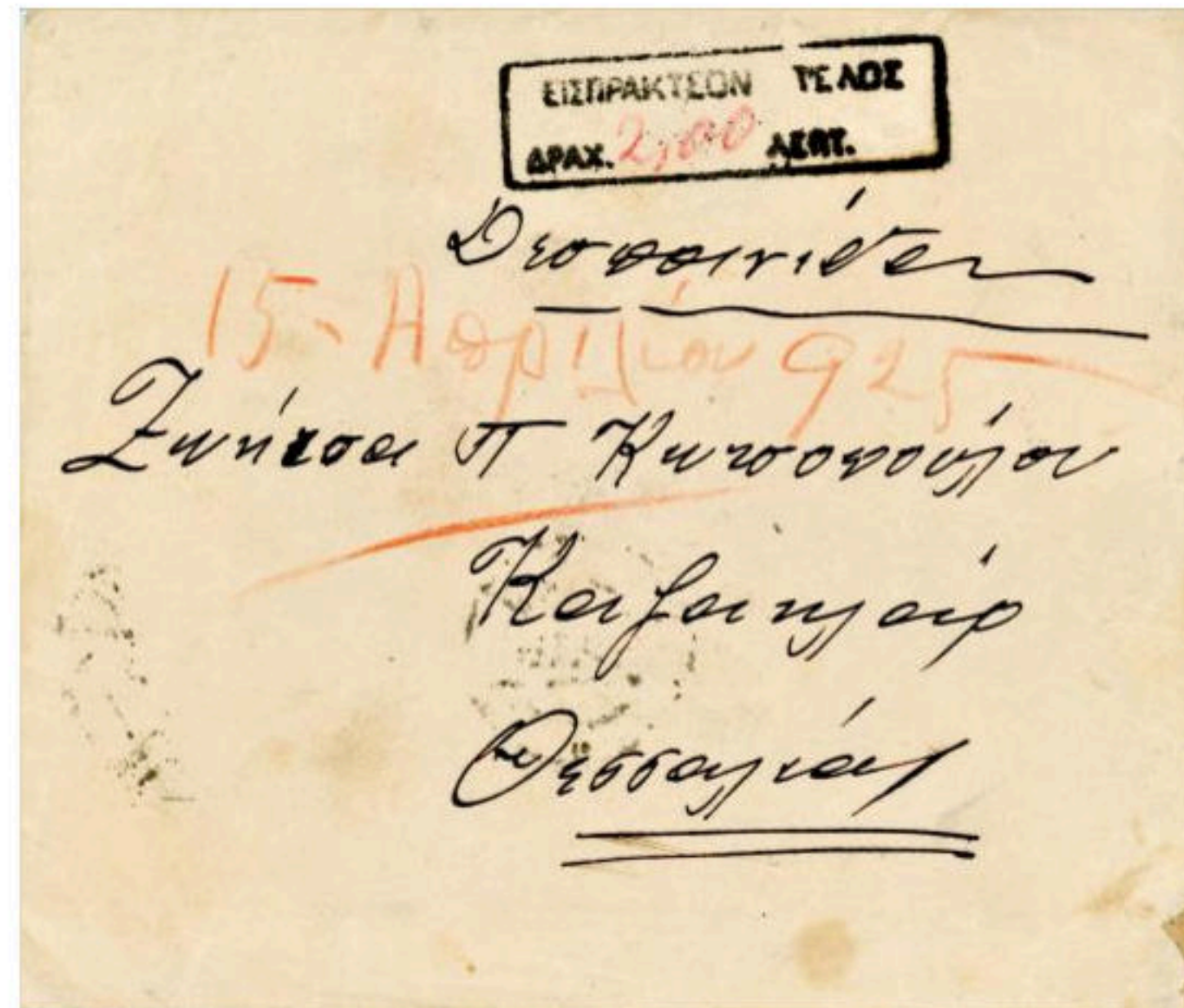
Since the autumn of 2013, the Greek Government had expressed its decision to close the 5 foreign post offices that continued to operate after the liberation, under the legislation of capitulations. The deadline was October 31, 1914.

So, this extremely interesting period of 2+ centuries of Postal History of Thessaloniki, came to an end.

The collection of the postal history of Thessaloniki, after the consolidation of the Greek sovereignty and the end of capitulations, is a large and extremely interesting chapter that can be, by itself, an object of a large philatelic collection - and with individual important periods such as the period of the Provisional Government, the period of "Armee d' Orient", the Air Mail of the interwar period, the period of the German Occupation etc.

But they are beyond the objective of this collection.

I include, as a closing, a unique cover of the recent period.



Thessaloniki 1925 (Mar. 26): Cover posted to Kazaklar (Tyrnavos, Thessaly), franked with 110 L. FISCAL stamps of the Greek Administration period.

The postman realized the fraud (or, perhaps, the mistake) and charged the envelope with a postage due of 2.00 Dr payable by the recipient.

The only known to me cover using fiscals to cheat the post.

THESSALONIKI: A RAILWAY CENTER

From the late 1880s, after the construction of the railway lines Constantinople - Dedeagatsch - Thessaloniki - Monastir and Thessaloniki - Zibeftche (near Nis, on the border of Serbia and the Ottoman Empire), and with the completion of the railway network to Belgrade and further to Europe, Thessaloniki became the most important railway center in the south of the Balkan Peninsula. The connection with the Thessalian Railway, which had also been completed at that time, would remain a vision for the Hellenic Kingdom, to be realized only in 1916.

The collection and study of the postmarks used on the trains going to or from Thessaloniki is, by its own, an important Postal History – Marcophily subject.



Thessaloniki 1901 (Dec. 12): Picture postcard posted to Paris.
Date stamp SALONIQUE (in 2 lines), attributed to the Railway Station of Thessaloniki
Postal Rate: 5 Pa Foreign Card without text



Greek Stationery postcard posted from **Almyros, Thessaly Nov.5 1904**, to Wien.
It is inscribed “Via Salonichi” although the rail network from Greece to Europe, via Thessaloniki, has not yet been completed.
Cancelled with rare postmark of the PIRSOUFLI Railway Station of Thessaly railways.

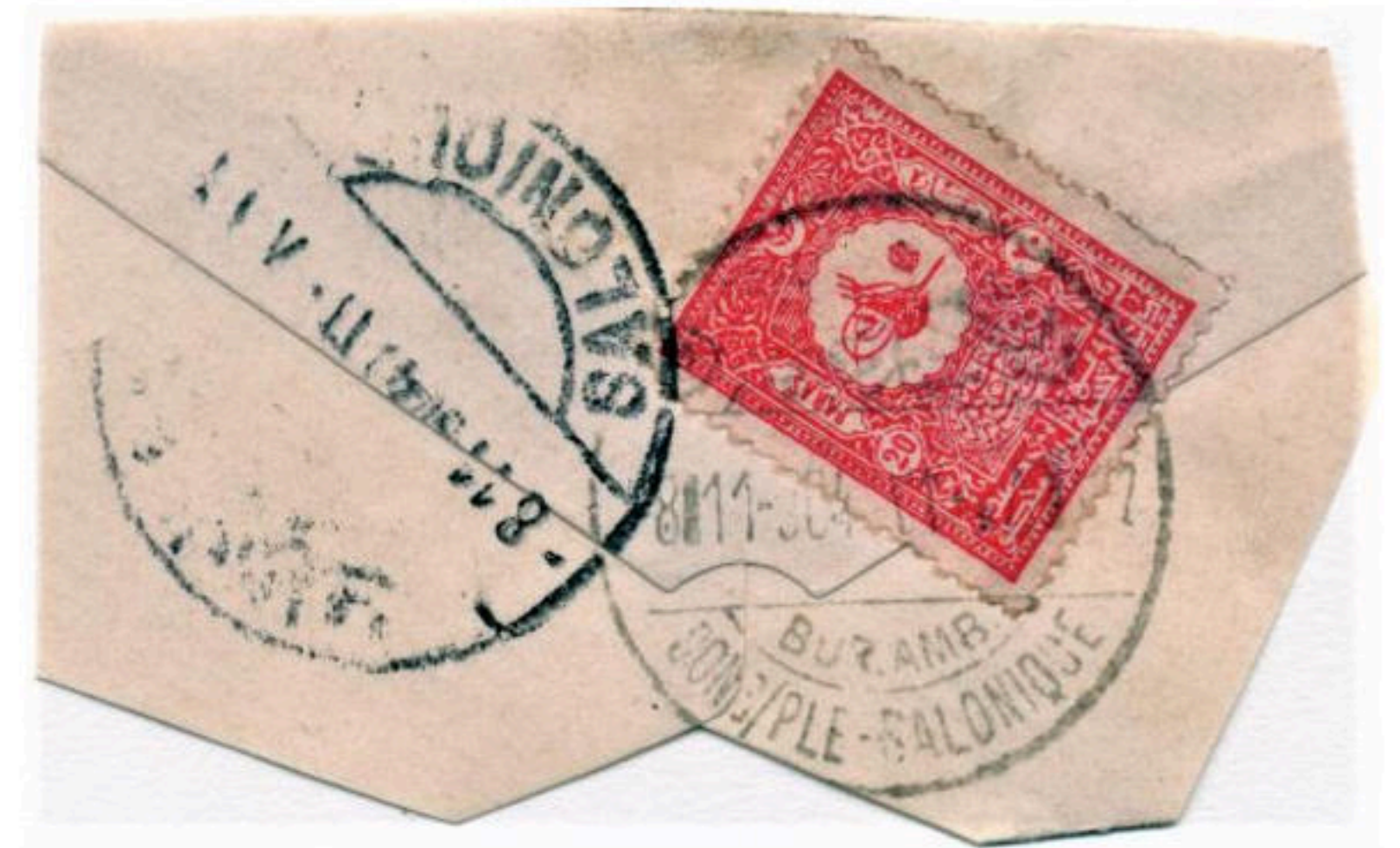
THESSALONIKI: A RAILWAY CENTER

On the railway there were the so-called Mobile Post Offices, which received mail, for faster service.

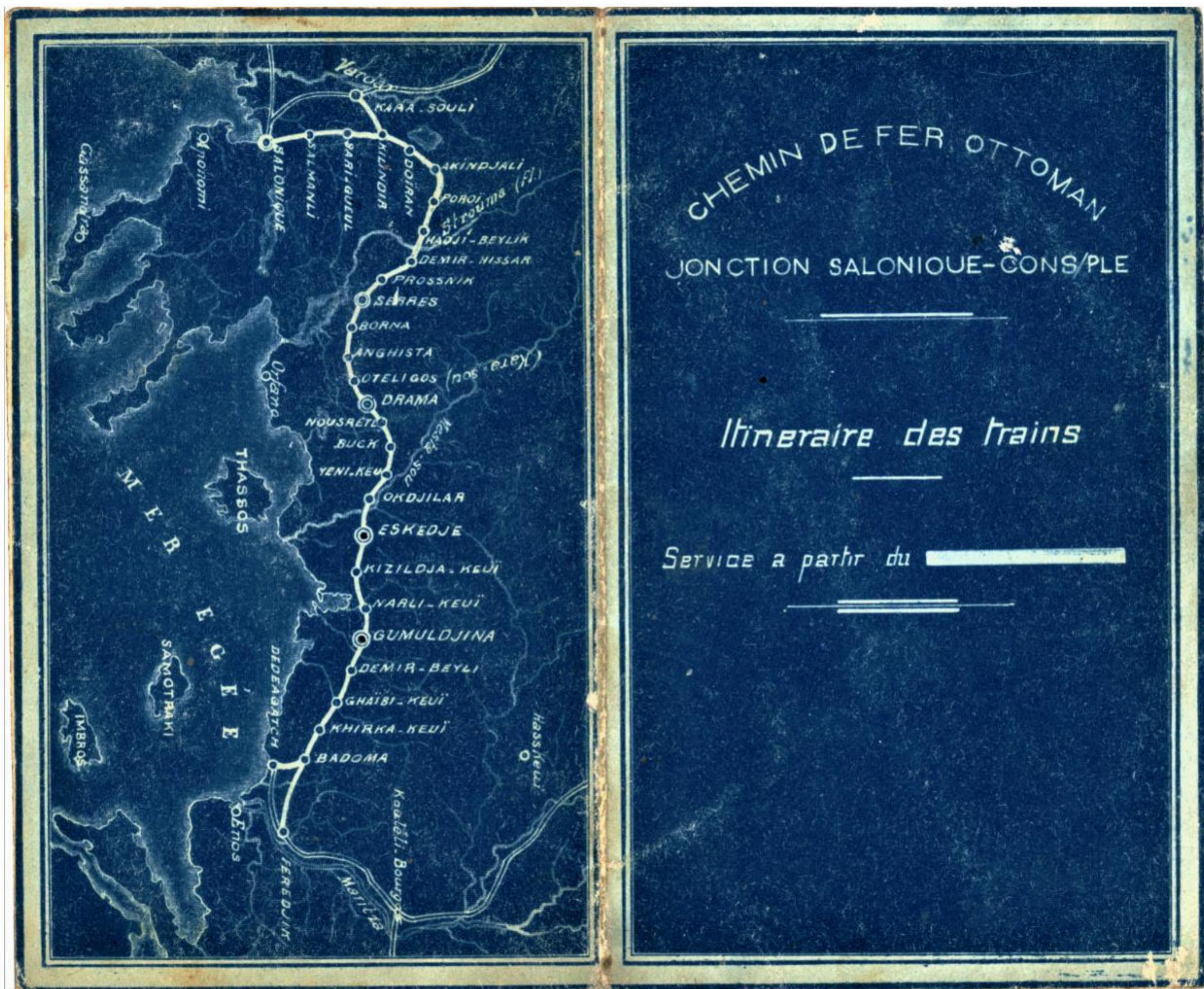
BUREAU AMBULANT: MOBILE POST OFFICE (ON THE RAILWAY)

The postal needs of Thessaloniki were served by the mobile post offices operating on the lines: THESSALONIKI - ZIBEFICHE, THESSALONIKI - MONASTIR, THESSALONIKI - CONSTANTINOPEL, THESSALONIKI - DEDEAGATSCH and, after liberation: DRAMA - THESSALONIKI, MONASTIR - THESSALONIKI and GOUMENISSA - THESSALONIKI

Line THESSALONIKI - CONSTANTINOPEL



Thessaloniki 1904 and 1907: Small envelope (to Constantinople) and fragment, posted on train, showing postmark BUR. AMB. CONS/PLE-SALONIQUE



Original Railways Brochure and Timetable of the THESSALONIKI - CONSTANTINOPEL line with all information

THESSALONIKI: A RAILWAY CENTER

Line THESSALONIKI – ZUBEFTCHE



Thessaloniki 1907: Picture postcard posted to Belgium, on train, showing postmark BUR. AMB. SALONIQUE-ZIBEFTCHE
Postal Rate: 10 Pa Foreign Card without text



Thessaloniki 1908: Picture postcard posted to Chur, Switzerland., on train, showing postmark BUR. AMBUL. SALONIQUE-ZUBEFTCHE
Postal Rate: 20 Pa Foreign Card with text

THESSALONIKI: A RAILWAY CENTER

Line THESSALONIKI – ZUBEFTCHE



Two Fragments showing Negative Postmark
BUREAU AMB. SALONIQUE-ZIBEFTCHE



From **Goumendje (Goumenitsa), Dec. 29, 1905**: Cover (with letter) posted on train,
arrival Salonique (on reverse). showing postmark
BUR. AMBUL. ZUBEFTCHE-SALONIQUE
Postal Rate: 1Pia Single Weight Letter

THESSALONIKI: A RAILWAY CENTER

Line THESSALONIKI – MONASTIR



Fragment + two stamps showing Postmarks
MONASTIR SALONIQUE + MONASTIR SALONIQUE I



Editeur. Ath. Zouzakidès.



Thessaloniki 1912: Stationery Post Card posted on train to Belfort, France,
showing postmark MONASTIR SALONIQUE
Postal Rate: 20 Pa Foreign Post Card

THESSALONIKI: A RAILWAY CENTER

Early Greek Years 1912-1916



Postmark
ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ-ΓΟΥΜΕΝΙΤΣΑ (ΚΙΝΗΤΟΝ)

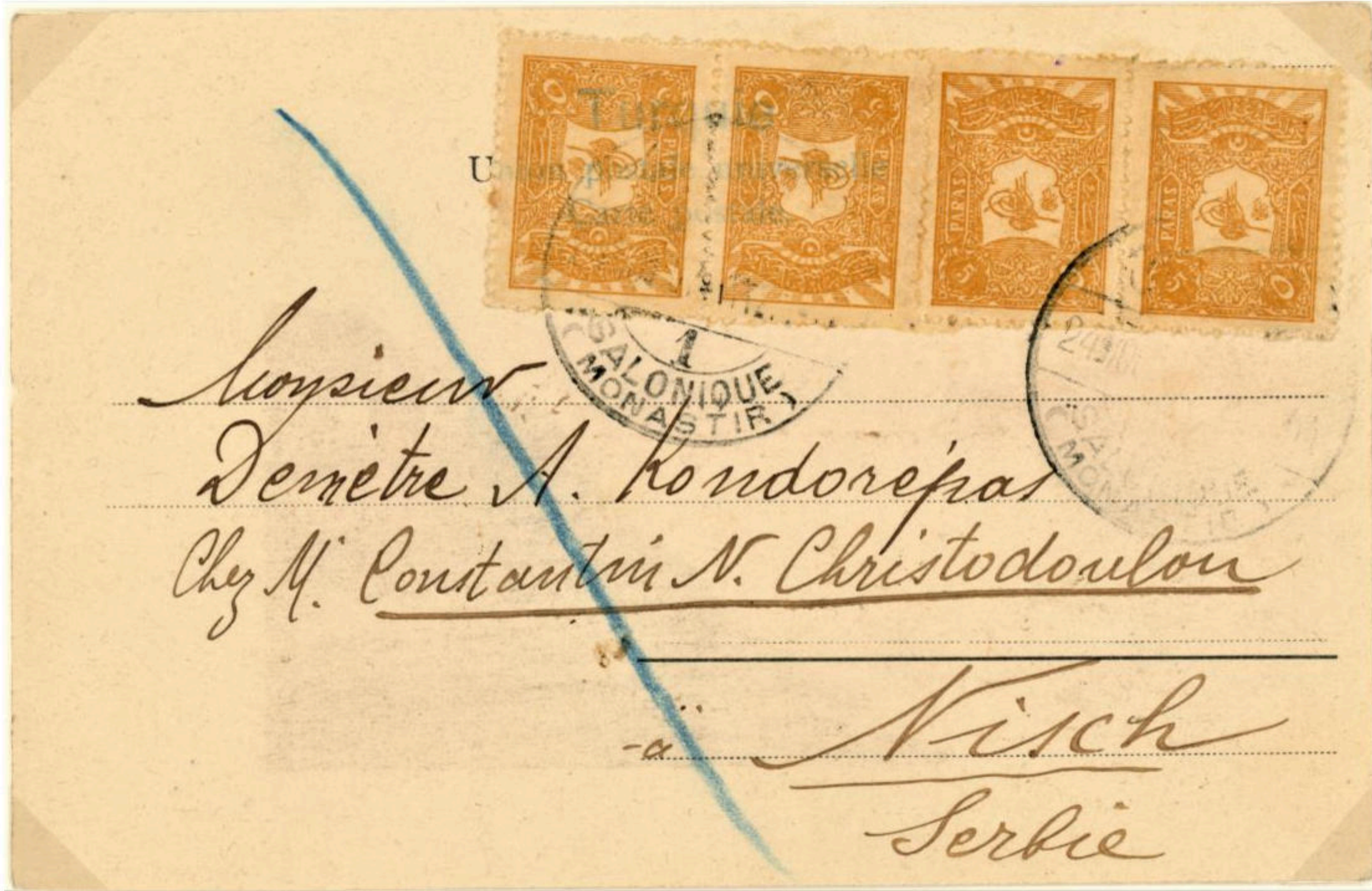
Small cover posted from Drama, Jan. 1915, on train to Thessaloniki, showing Negative postmark
ΤΑΧ. ΔΡΑΜΑΣ - ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ
(the only one I have ever seen)



Cover posted from Florina, Aug. 22, 1915, franked 10L. Litho, to Thessaloniki.
Postmark **ΜΟΝΑΣΤΗΡΙΟΝ - ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ (ΚΙΝΗΤΟΝ)**
Postal Rate: 10Λ. Single Weight Letter

THESSALONIKI: A RAILWAY CENTER

Line THESSALONIKI – MONASTIR



Thessaloniki 1907 (Oct. 12): Post Card franked 4x5Pa Ottoman, posted to Nish, Serbia. showing postmark SALONIQUE (MONASTIR) 1
 The only known to me use of this postmark
 (the postmark is unknown to Coles & Walker and to Nicholas & Galinos).
Postal Rate: 20 Pa Foreign Post Card



Post Card of the Ottoman period showing the Vilayet of Thessaloniki and the Railway Lines serving the City.

1912-13: BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE

November 1912 – June 1913: The Bulgarian Claim for the City

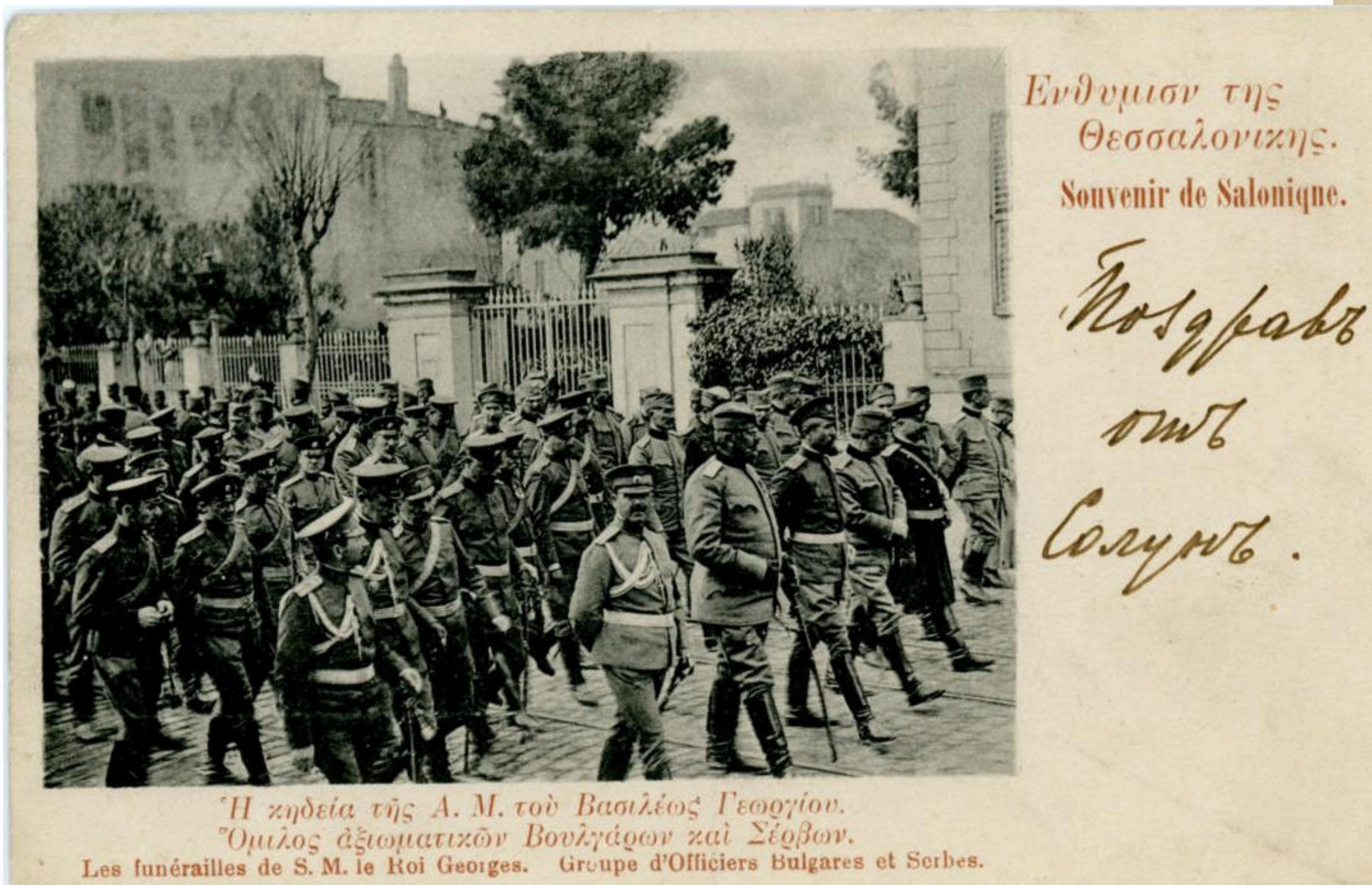
With the outbreak of the First Balkan War, the Greek and Bulgarian armies began a road race aimed at capturing Thessaloniki. The Greek Army entered into Thessaloniki on October 26th, 1912, while the Bulgarian Army approached the hills overlooking Thessaloniki on October 27th, 1912.

After the occupation of the city by the Greek army, the Bulgarians requested two services from the Greek administration: the entry of some of their units for camping in Thessaloniki and the permission to operate a Bulgarian Post Office. As long as the Balkan Alliance was still in force and no final border arrangements had been made, permission was granted - as was the case with the Serbs.



Photocard "General Todoroff, Head of the Bulgarian Army" on the Hills overlooking Thessaloniki."

From **Thessaloniki 1913 (Mar. 6)** posted to Burgas.
Postal Rate: 5ct for Postcard.



Ενθυμισιν της
Θεσσαλονικης.
Souvenir de Salonique.

Ποστκαρτ
συντ
Κολυμβ.

Ἡ ζηδεία τῆς Α. Μ. τοῦ Βασιλέως Γεωργίου.
Ὁμιλος ἀξιωματικῶν Βουλγάρων καὶ Σέρβων.
Les funérailles de S. M. le Roi Georges. Groupe d'Officiers Bulgares et Serbes.

Postcard "Bulgarian Officers in parade in Thessaloniki, for the Funeral of King George"

From **Thessaloniki 1913 (May)** posted to Plovdiv.
Postal Rate: 5ct for Postcard.

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.

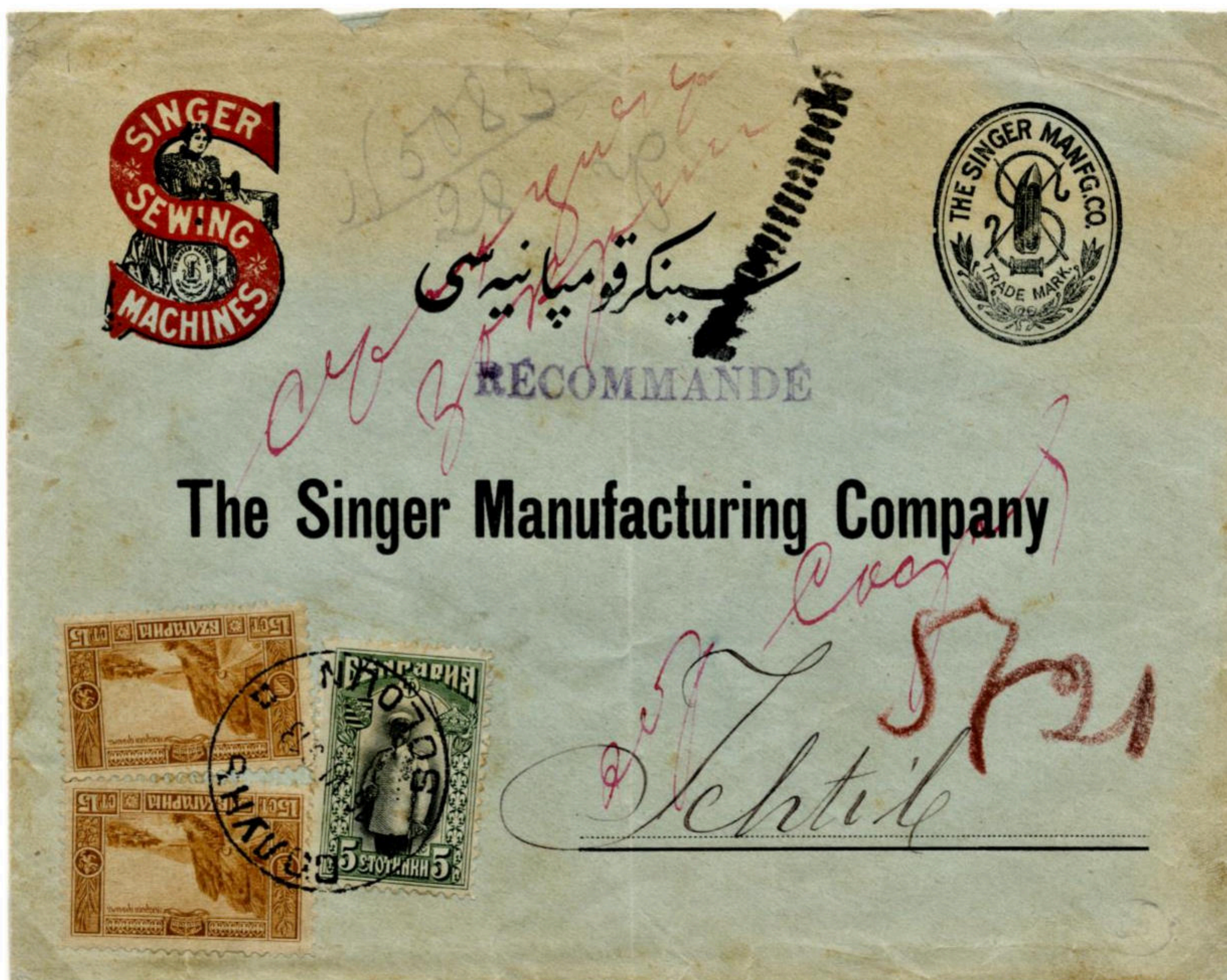
Very few letters known to Foreign Destinations (outside Greece or Bulgaria)

1912-13: BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE

SOLOUN

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

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.

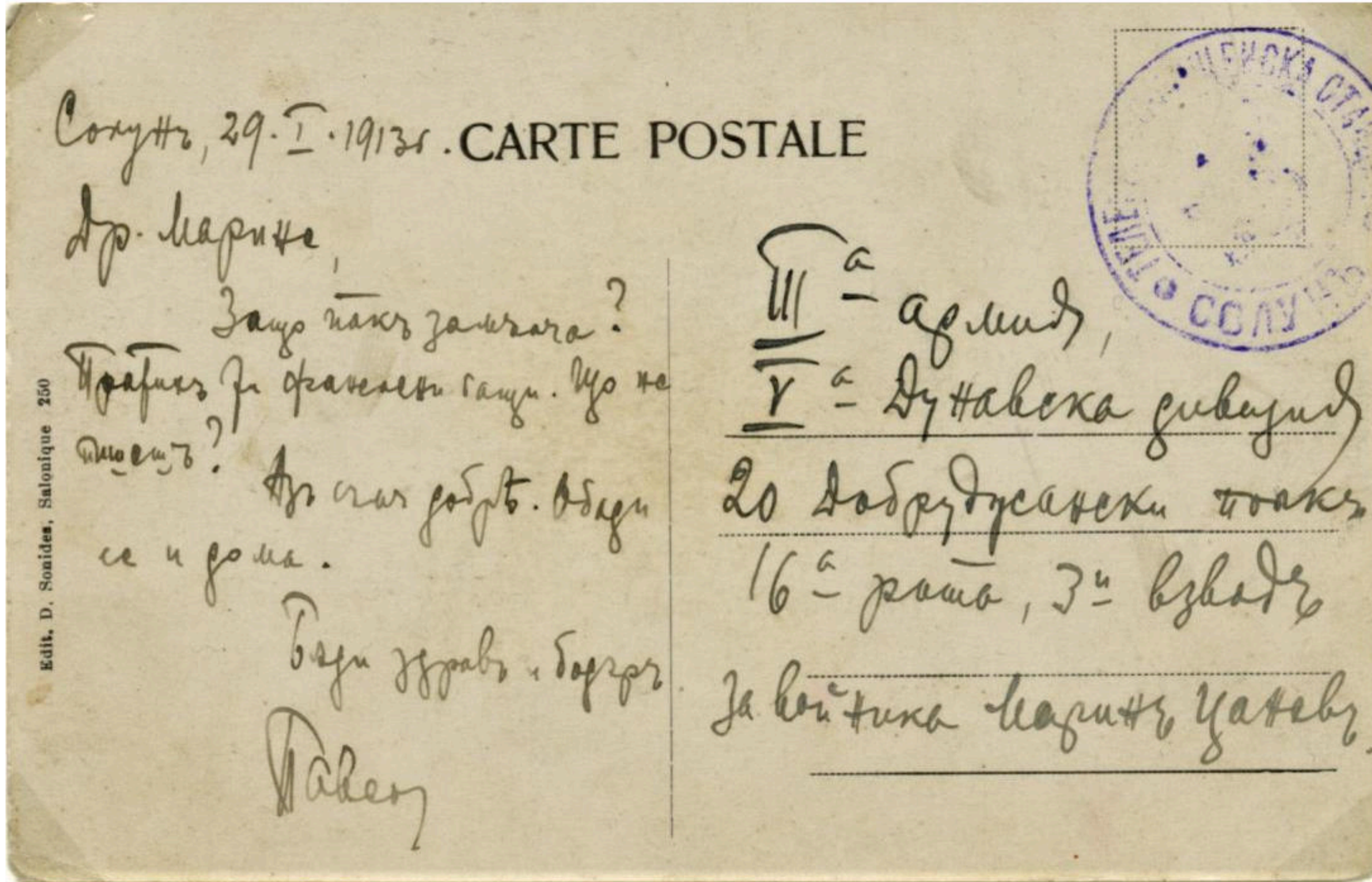
1912-13: BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE

SOLOUN

Official and Military Correspondence

Postmark TELEGRAPH AND POSTAL STATION THESSALONIKI

Applied in the exchange office of the military mail

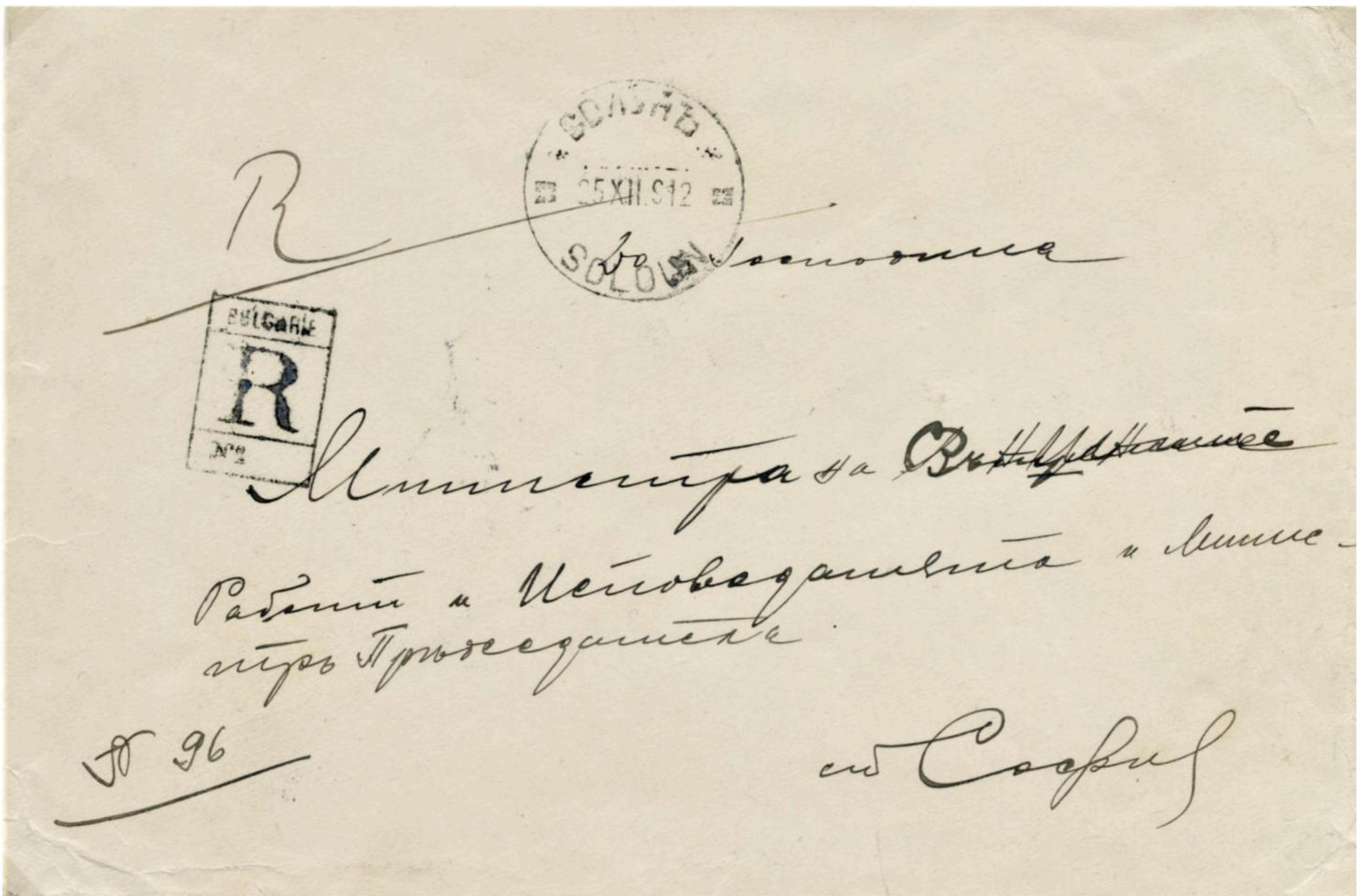


Thessaloniki, 1913 (Jan. 29): Picture Postcard posted to Bulgaria.

Postal Rate: Free (Military Correspondence)

Single Circle Postmark SOLOUN

A registered Official cover of the Bulgarian Administration



Thessaloniki, 1912 (Dec. 25): Registered Official cover, posted to Sofia

Postal Rate: Free (Official Correspondence)

1912-13: BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE POSTAL STATIONERY

Postal Notification 5 Ct. Stationery Form of the
General Telegram and Postal Direction
for the Receipt of a Postal Money Order of 200 Leva

12. III 22

Главна Телеграфо-Пощенска Дирекция

СОЛУНЬ

СОЛУНЬ

15ct ВЪЛГАРИЯ 15

25 СТОТИНКИ

25 СТОТИНКИ

5 СТОТИНКИ 5

№ 53211

ИЗПЛАЩЕН

Пощенски записъ 200 Л. — СТ.

Г. *Никола М. Пощевъ* св. Пош.несе (словомъ) лева *двѣ* —
сто

за Г. *Тошки М. Кривовъ* чрезъ г. *Теодри Ангеловъ* търговецъ *Шийаръ*.

въ гр. *Видинъ*. ул. или село

Изпълва вложителятъ.

Изпълва чиновникътъ.

Пощенски записъ № *53211*

Издаденъ въ гр. *Солунъ*

Клейно *12. III. 1913*

на *12 Мартъ* 19*13*.

Подписъ на чиновника:

Стойностъ на записъ (съ цифри)

	лева	ст.
Злато		
Сребро	<i>200</i>	
Размѣнни		
Всичко	<i>200</i>	

Стереот. — 3908—1912

Thessaloniki, 1913 (March 12):

Stationery Form franked 2 x 25Ct + 15Ct Bulgarian stamps and 10Ct Revenue stamp (on reverse)
paid by the sender at the Postal Bank.

Postal Rate: 80Ct

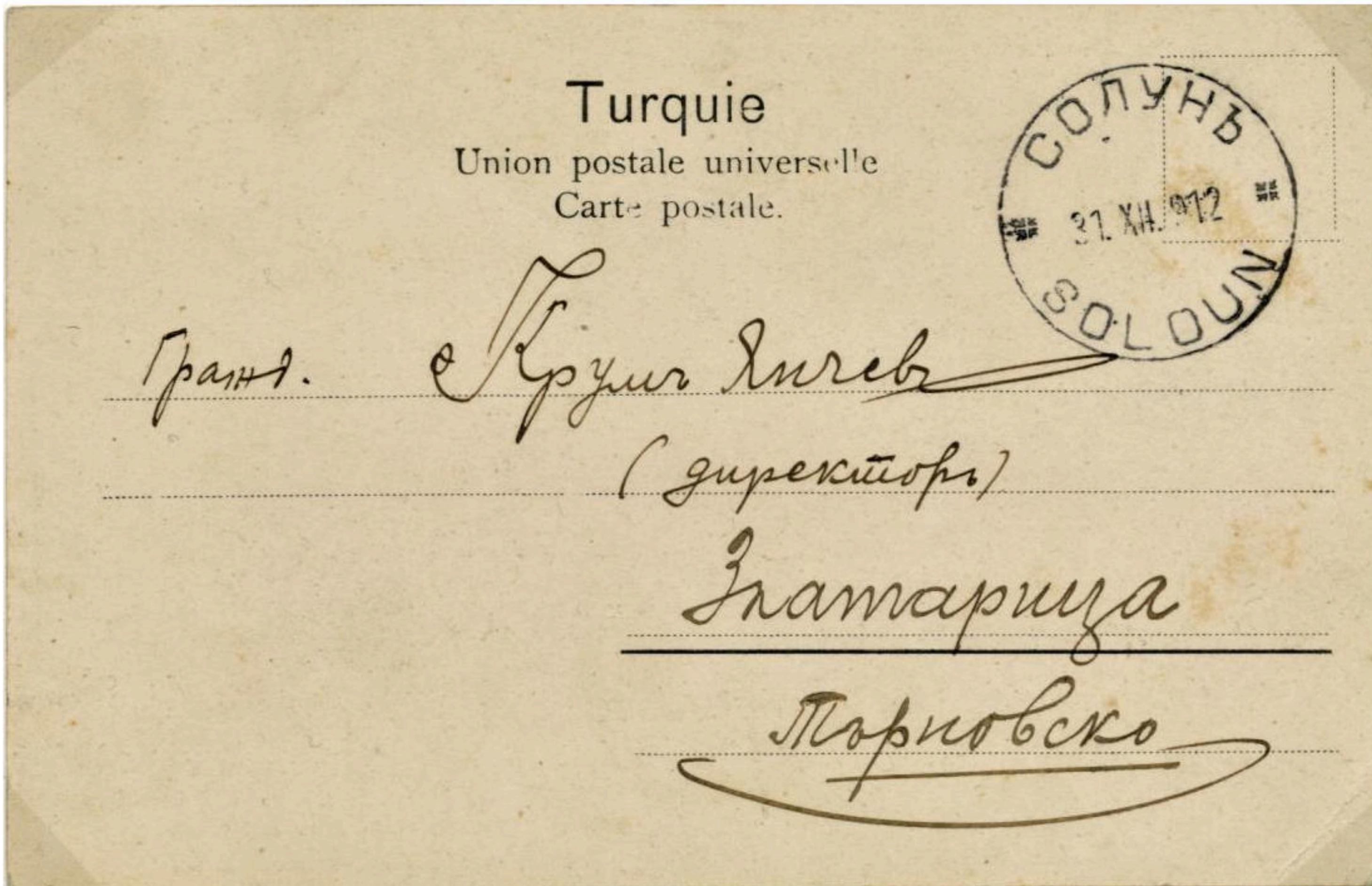
1912-13: BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE

SOLOUN

Single Circle Postmark SOLOUN

The postmark SOLOUN of the Bulgarian P.O., shows a few varieties regarding the lettering and the geometry of the postmark. The most apparent of these varieties, are differences in the Cyrillic Л of the word СОЛУНЬ : Л or П

СОЛУНЬ



Picture PC
The British Fleet in the Port of Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki, 1912 (Dec. 31): Picture postcard, posted to Шарково
Postal Rate: Free (Military? Correspondence)

СОЛУНЬ

Notification of Receipt of a telegram for a Money Order of 207 Leva

Образец № 83.

Извѣстие за телеграфенъ записъ.

Прѣписъ на издадения днесъ телеграфенъ записъ за Бюро на радиостанция
на стойность (словомъ) двеста севдесет лева — ст.

Името на вложителя	№ на записа	Името на получателя	Видъ на монетитѣ	Еложена сума	
				лева	ст.
Кая. Сфаруши	55286	Антонъ Аликовъ	Злато . . .		
			Сребро . . .	207	—
			Размѣни . . .		
			Всичко . . .	207	—

Въ Соулъ, 6 и Мафъ 1913

Началникъ на станцията:
Г. Салоника

Клеймо на получающата станция.

Сереот. — 3425—1012

Thessaloniki, 1913 (Mar. 6): Stationery Form franked 2 x 15Ct + 50Ct Bulgarian stamps
Postal Rate: 80Ct

1912-13: BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE POSTAL STATIONERY

Bulgarian Stationery Postcards



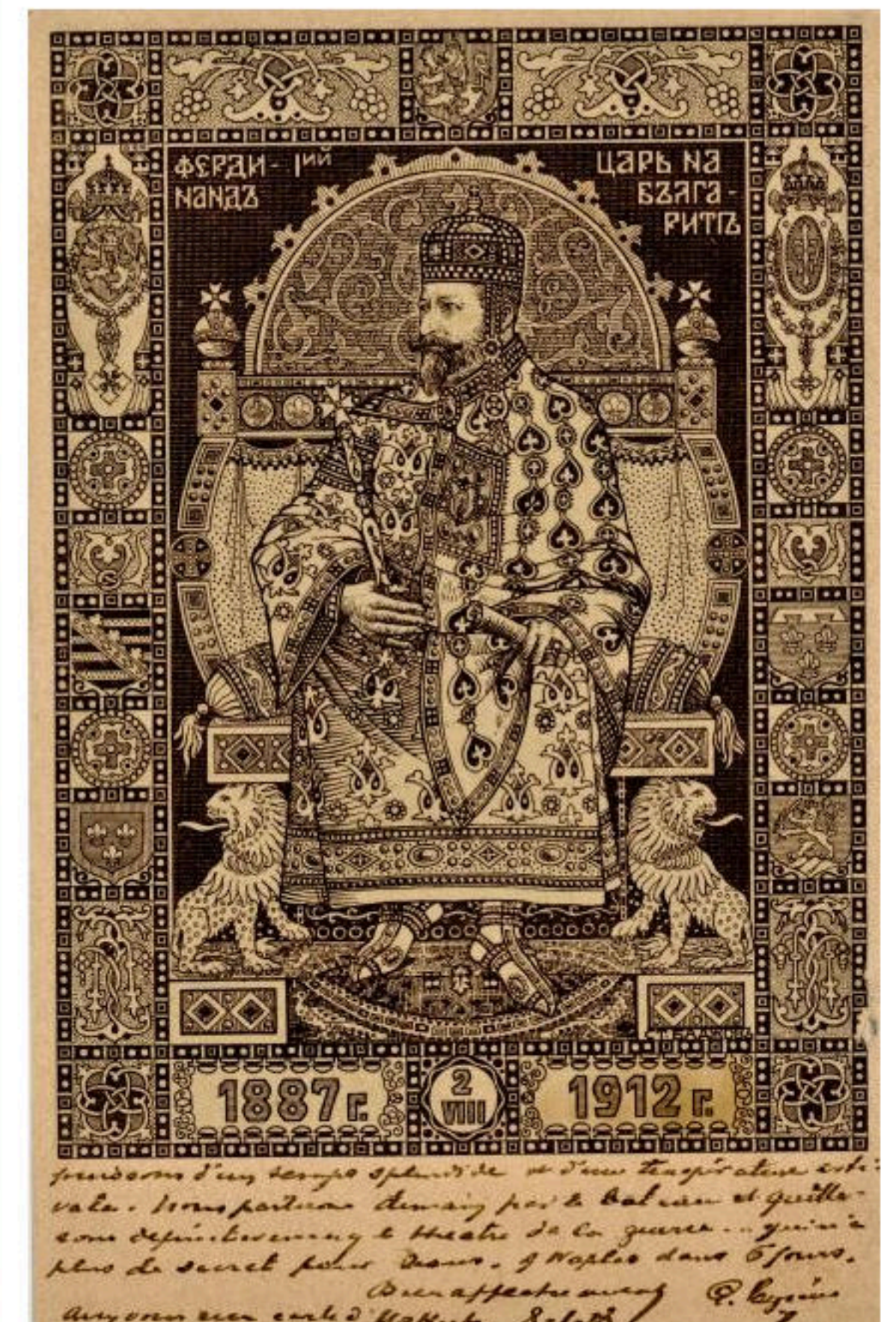
Thessaloniki, 1913 (Apr. 25): Interior Stationery Card posted to Sofia
Postal Rate: 5Ct – Posting to Bulgaria was treated as Internal Correspondence

The 10Ct Commemorative Post Card (for the 25 years of the Kingdom of Bulgaria)
used in the Bulgarian P.O. of Thessaloniki



Thessaloniki, 1913 (Jan. 27): Stationery Card posted to Brussels.
Postal Rate: 10Ct for Post Card abroad.

The only, known to me, use of this Stationery Card from Thessaloniki (and to a foreign destination!).



60%

1912-13: BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE

SERBIAN POST OFFICE

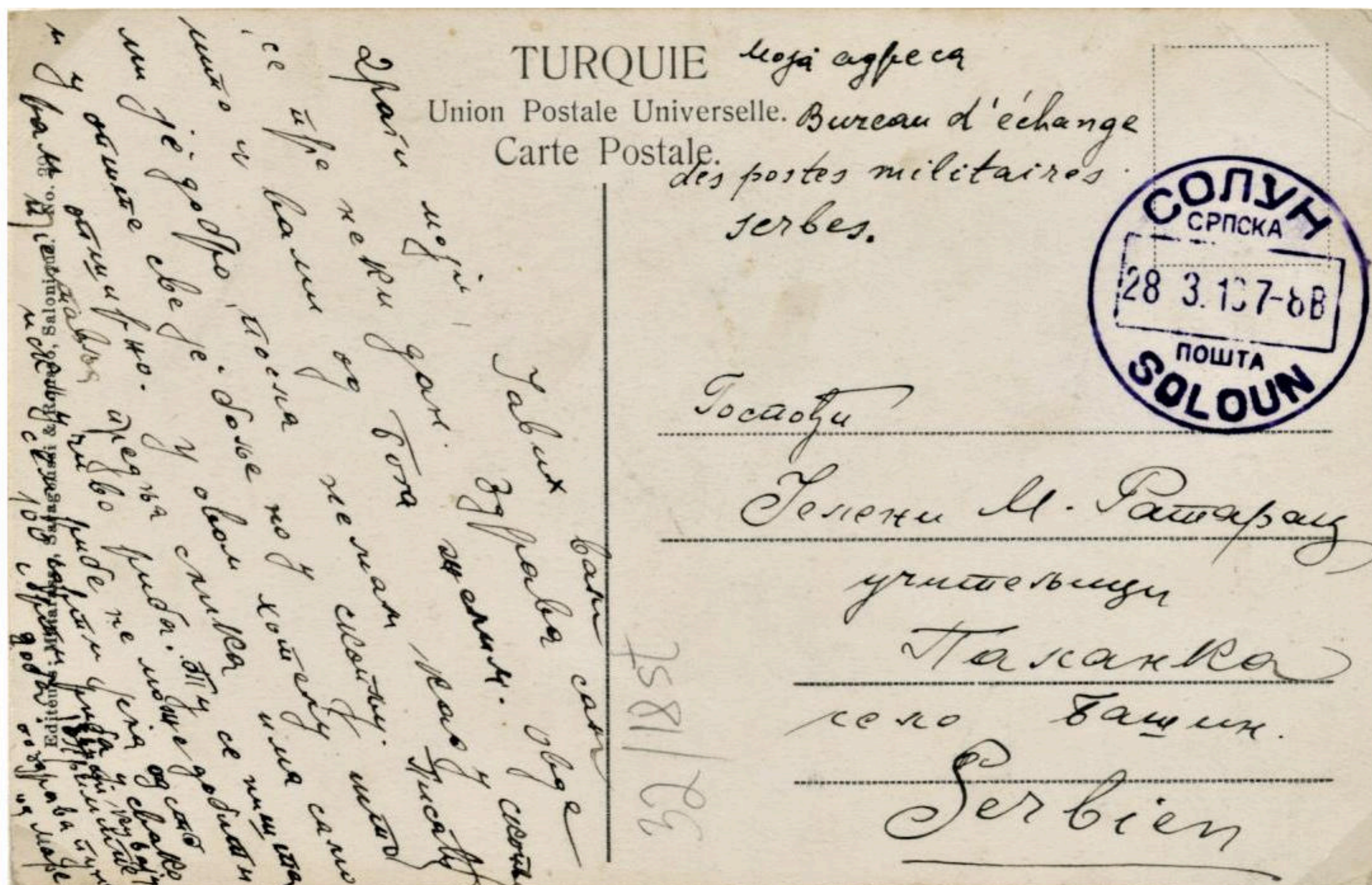
A Serbian civil post office operated in Thessaloniki from the spring until the beginning of the summer of 1913, when the 2nd Balkan War broke out. As there was no particular Serbian interest for the city, the Serbian post had very limited to minimal function and was mainly used as a mail delivery and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

Single Circle Postmark SOLOUN ПОШТА СРПСКА



60%

The Jewish "New Club" on the Waterfront



Thessaloniki, 1913 (March 28):

Picture postcard posted to Serbia

Postal Rate: Free, Carried by the Serbian Military mail

1912-13: BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE

SERBIAN POST OFFICE

The Serbian civil post office operated mostly for Serbian dignitaries or official correspondence - no postal item with stamps is known to exist.

Single Circle Postmark SOLOUN ПОШТА СРПСКА

The only known to me cover from the Serbian Civil P.O. of Thessaloniki (all other posted items are Postcards)



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



The Italian cook Giacomo Colombo followed with his canteen the crews that built the railway line Thessaloniki - Skopje. Realizing the need of the city for a luxury hotel, he decided to settle in Thessaloniki. At the beginning of the 1870s, the homonymous hotel was opened in today's Valaoritou with Leontos Sofou. The cafeteria-beer and its small theater left an era, writing a golden cultural history. Perhaps the most important gathering place of the city's bourgeoisie and its foreign visitors.

BULGARIAN + SERBIAN POST OFFICE

SERBIAN POST OFFICE 1916

During the period of "Armee d' Orient" (in 1916), a postal sector of the French Military Postal Service (TP 502) was used as Serbian Civilian Postal Service.

Postmark TRESOR & POSTES 502



Thessaloniki, 1916 (Sept. 13):

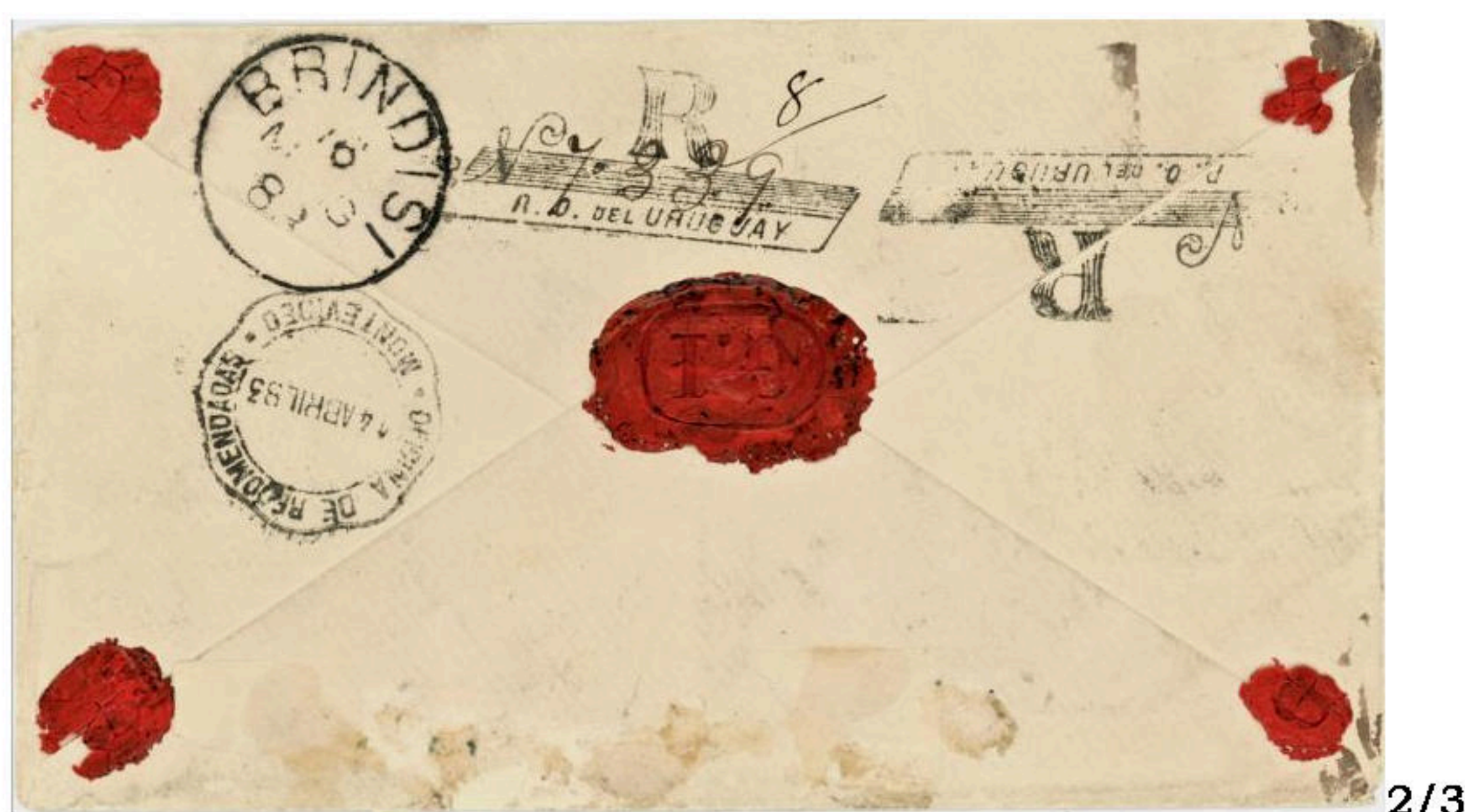
Registered Cover posted to Geneva, showing all Serbian censorships.

Postal Rate: 50c for Foreign Cover plus Registration

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

MAIL to or from UNCOMMON DESTINATIONS

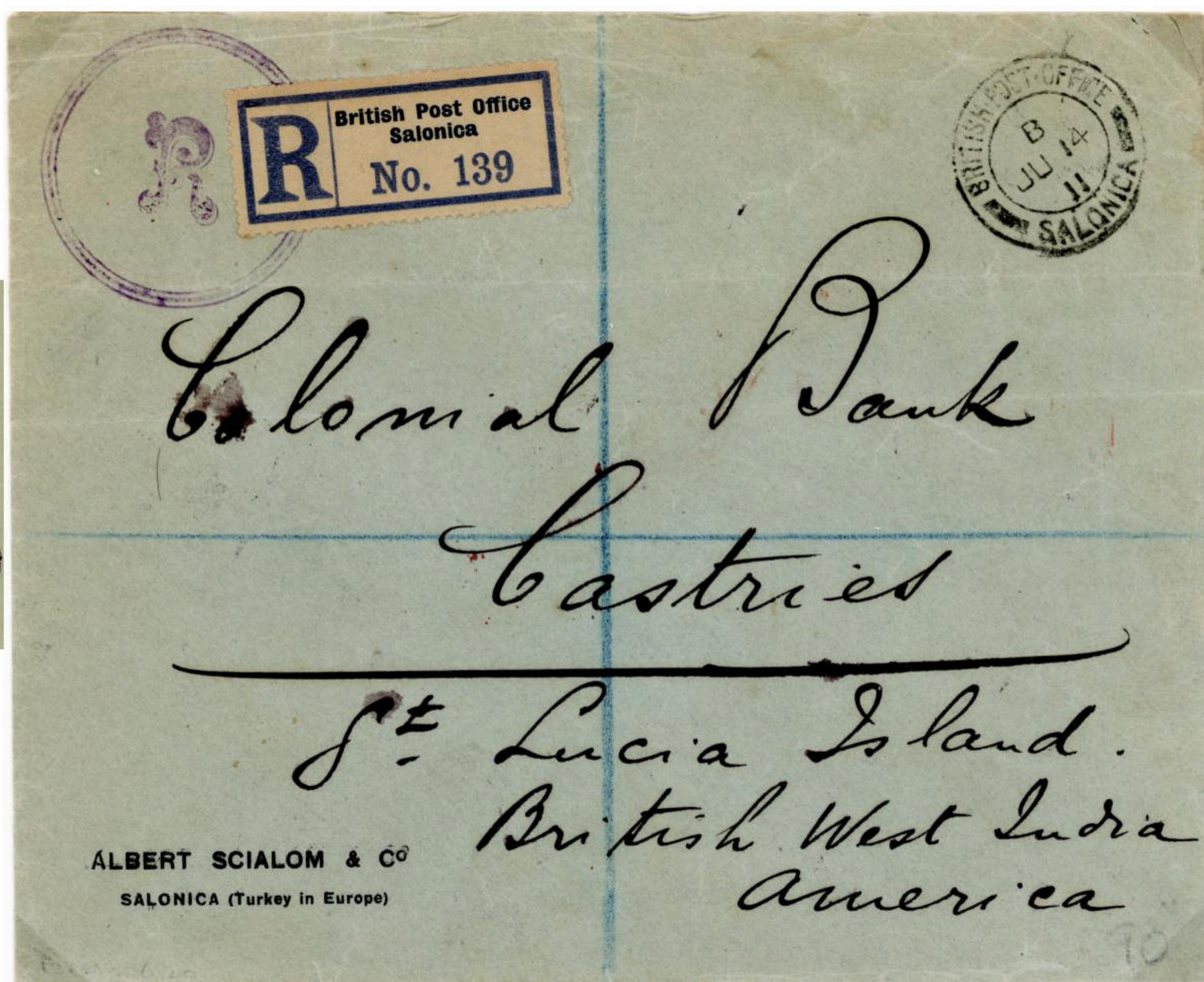
MAIL WITH the CARIBBEAN
To Curacao and Castries, St Lucia



Detail of back

Thessaloniki. (1903, Oct. 19): Picture Postcard posted by the Austrian Post Office to Curacao, Netherlands Antilles.

Postal Rate: 10 Para for Post Card (without text)



Detail of back

Thessaloniki. (1911, July 14): Registered Cover posted by the British Post Office to Castries, Santa Lucia, franked with pair 1Pia/21/2d Edward, via London.

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

MAIL WITH the CARIBBEAN

From Basse Terre Guadeloupe and to Guantanamo, Cuba



> Detail of back ▲

Picture Postcard posted from Basse Terre Guadeloupe, Mar. 25, 1903, to **Thessaloniki**, franked 2x2c+1c, via Port of Spain (Mar. 27, 1903), showing PAQUEBOT steamship postmark, arrival British Post Office Thessaloniki **April 13, 1903**.

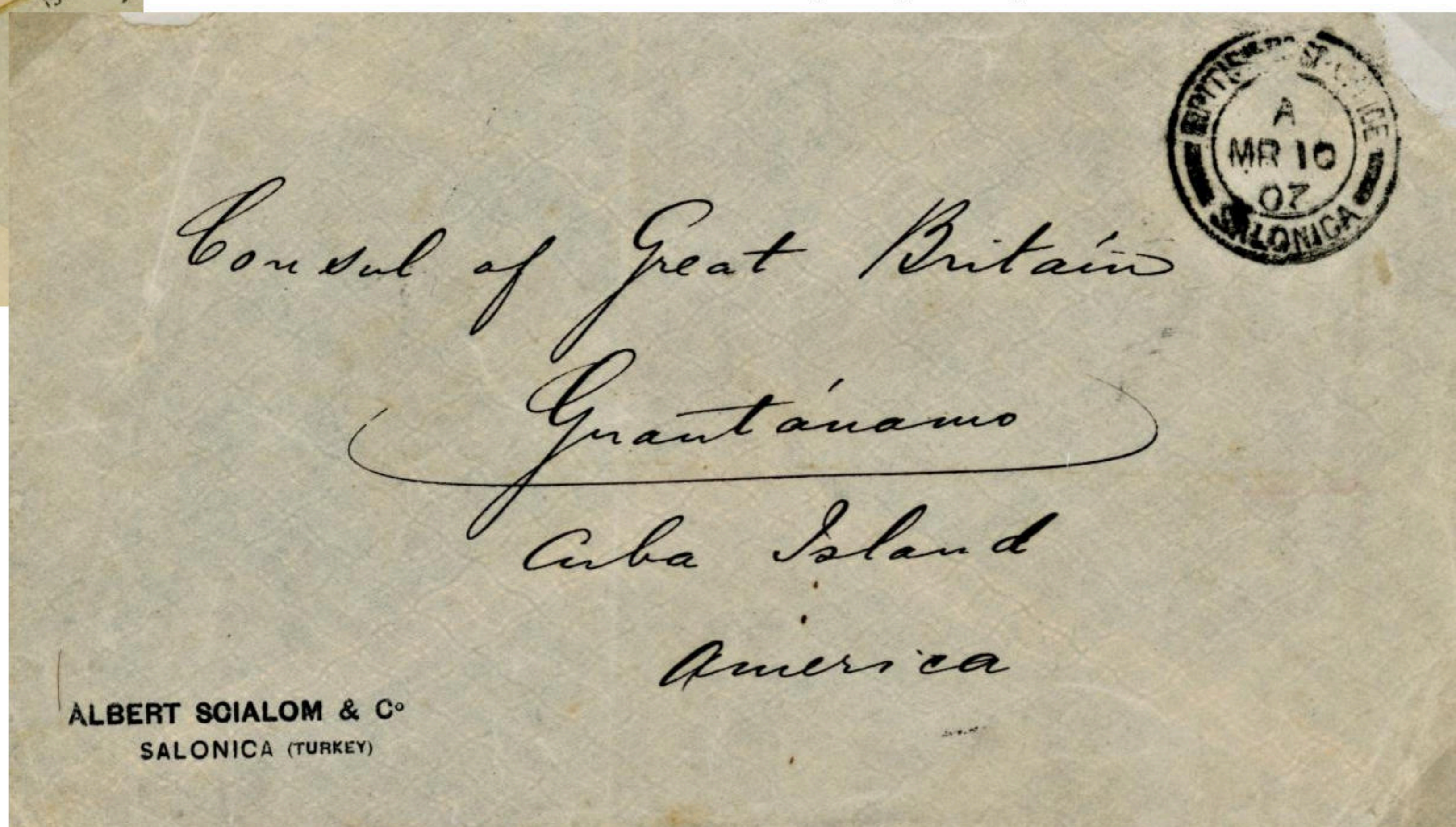
Postal Rate: 5C for PPC.



▲ Detail of back >

Thessaloniki (1907, Mar. 10): Cover posted by the British Post Office, franked with 1Pia/21/2d Edward, via Habana, Mar. 28, 1907, to Guantanamo.

Postal Rate: 1Pia Single Weight Foreign Letter



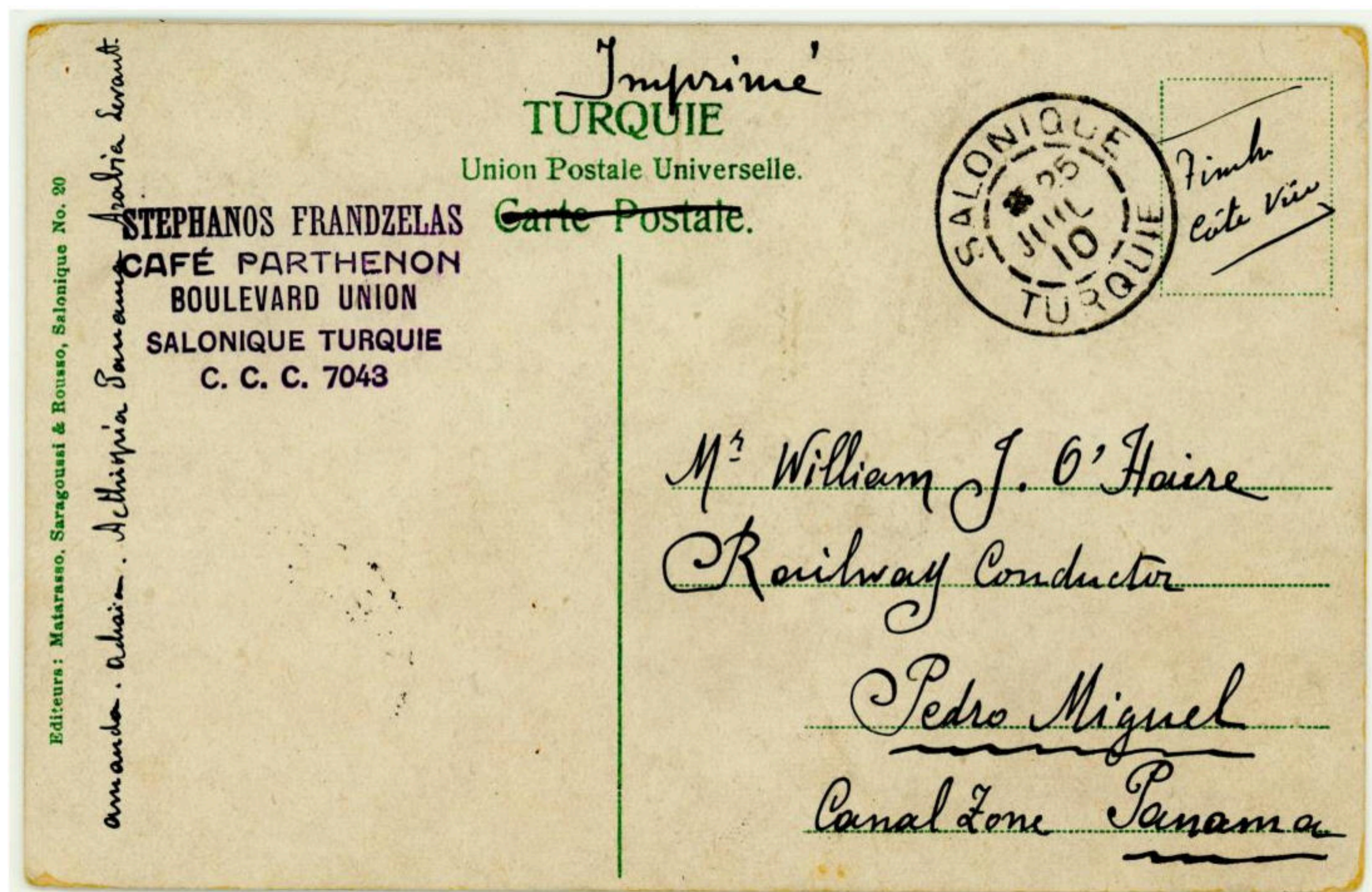
MAIL to or from UNCOMMON DESTINATIONS

MAIL WITH CENTRAL AMERICA

To Aguascalientes, Mexico and Canal Zone, Panama



Thessaloniki. (1908, Feb. 26): Picture Postcard posted by the French Post Office to Aguascalientes, Mexico, via Paris and Nuevo Laredo, arrival Mar. 16.
Postal Rate: 5c for Foreign Post Card (without text).



Thessaloniki. (1910, July 25): Picture Postcard posted by the French Post Office to Pedro Miguel Canal Zone,
Postal Rate: 5c for Foreign Post Card (without text).

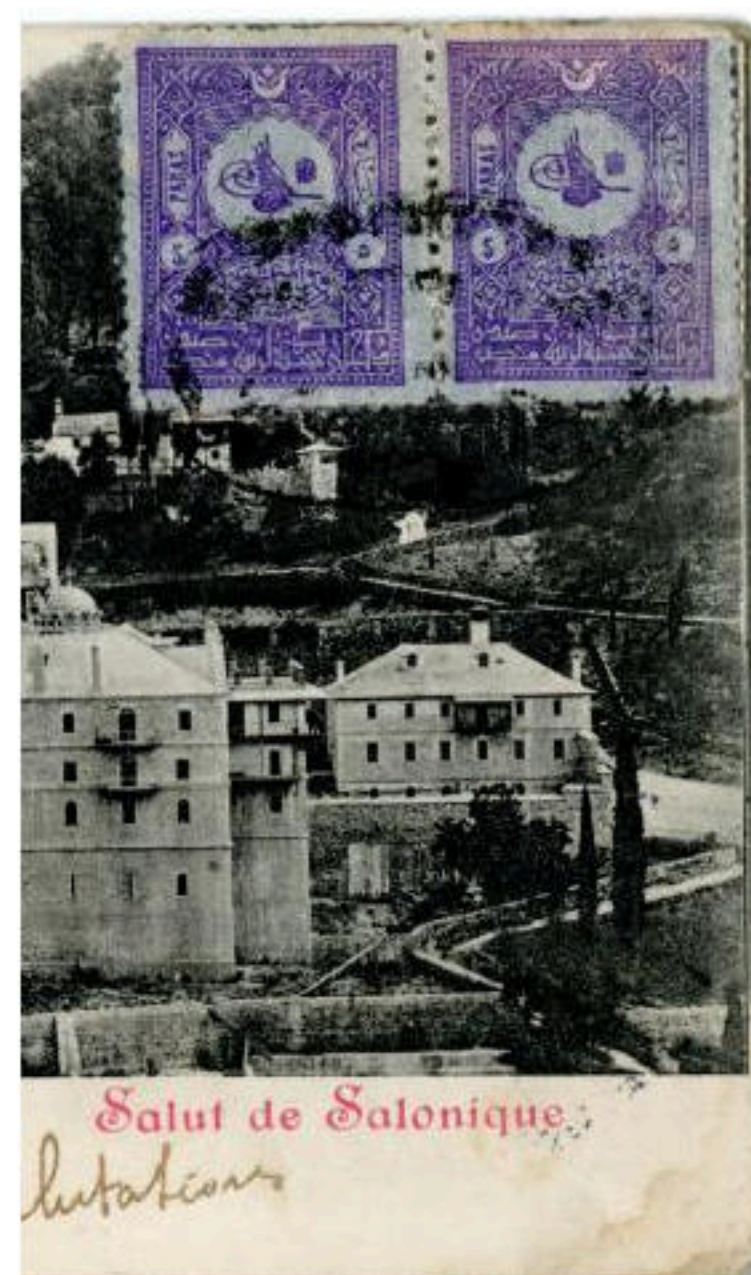
MAIL WITH NORTH AMERICA

To Collins, Texas, and St. Pierre et Miquelon

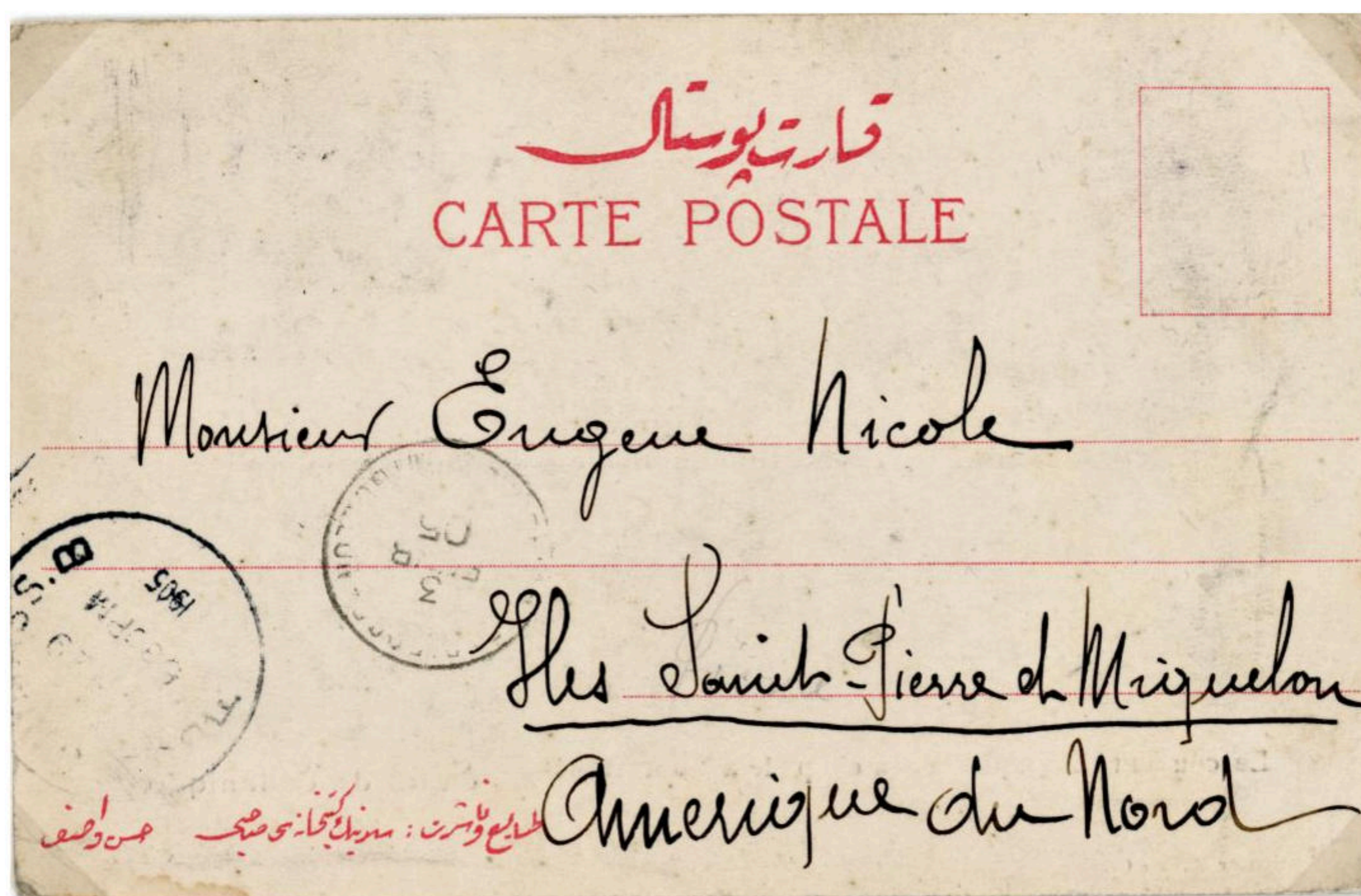


Thessaloniki. (1888, June 17): Stationery Postcard posted by the Ottoman Post Office to Collins, Texas, via Manchester and New York.

Postal Rate: 20 Pa for Foreign Post Card



Detail of Back



Thessaloniki. (1905): Picture Postcard posted by the Ottoman Post Office, to St. Pierre et Miquelon, arrival Feb. 3, 1905, franked (on front) with pair 5 Para.

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

MAIL WITH SOUTH AMERICA

To Argentina, Buenos Aires



Thessaloniki. (1899, Nov. 24): Stationery Postcard posted by the Ottoman Post Office to Buenos Aires, Argentina.
 Postal Rate: 20 Pa for Foreign Post Card

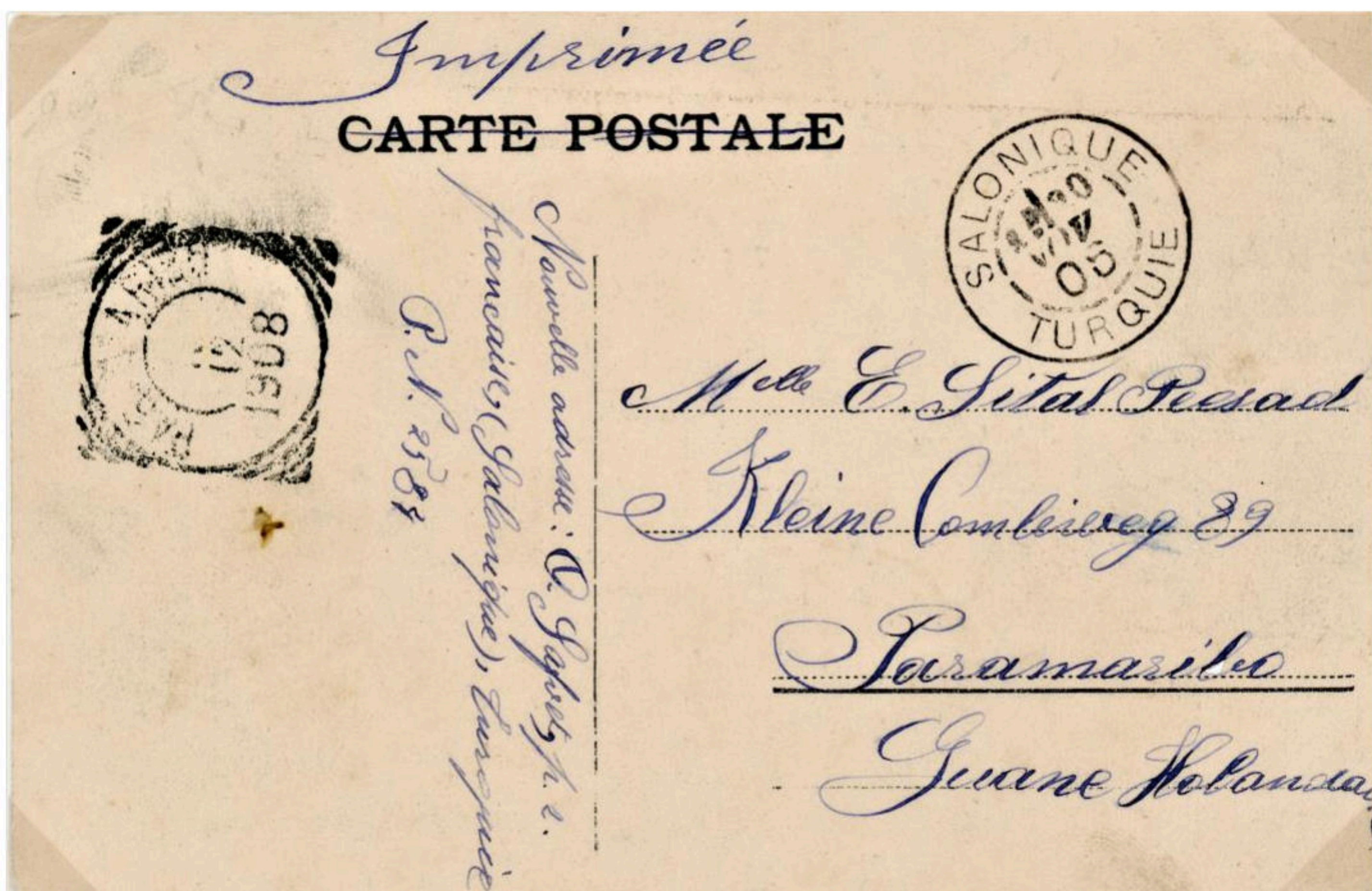


Thessaloniki. (1911, Oct. 19): Picture Postcard posted by the Ottoman Post Office, to Buenos Aires Argentina. The Card has been taxed because it had been written on reverse and so the rate should have been 20 Para.
 Postal Rate: 10 Para for Foreign Post Card (without text).

MAIL WITH SOUTH AMERICA

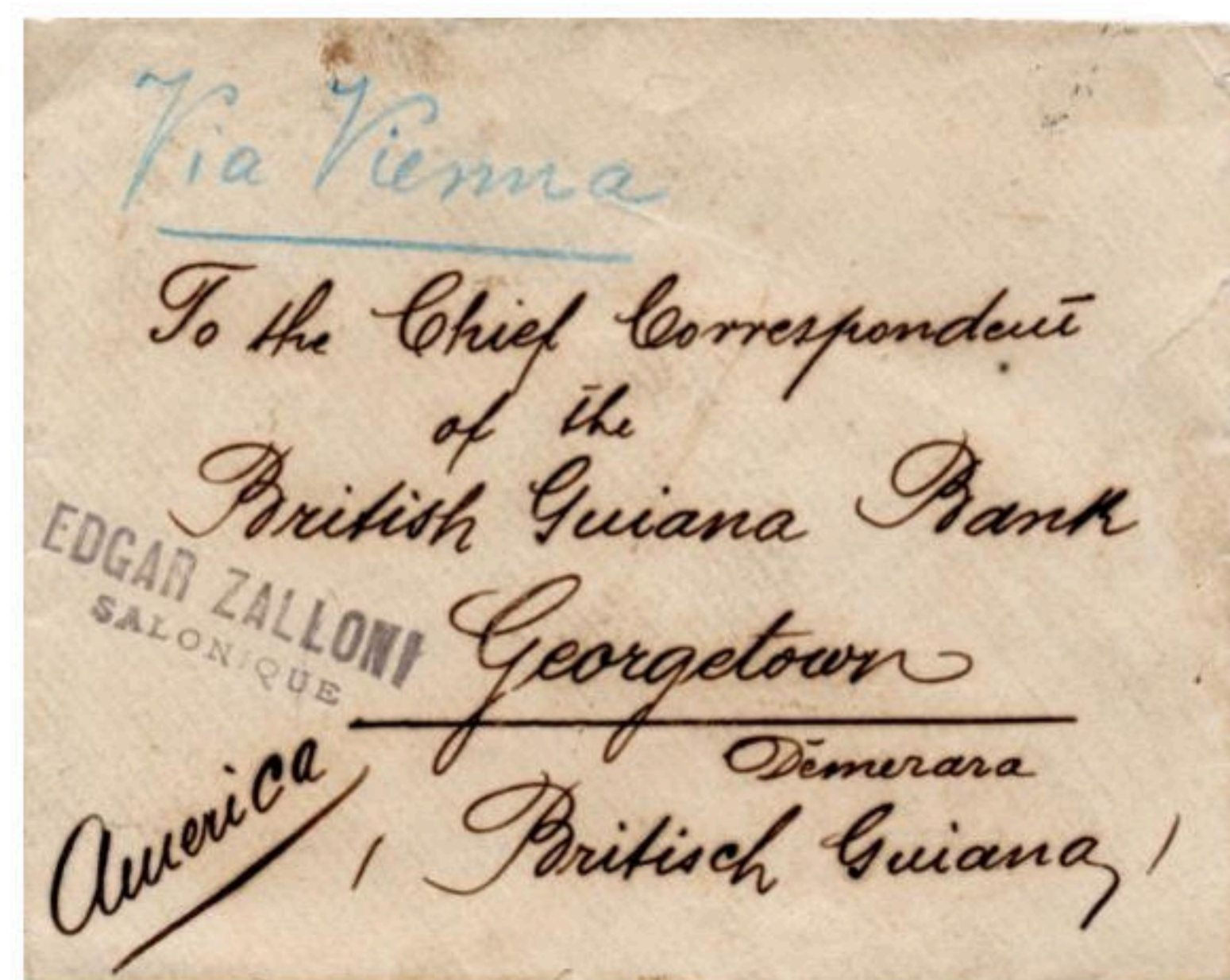
The 3 GUYANAS:

Dutch (Surinam) Paramaribo, British Georgetown, French Cayenne (next page)



40%

Thessaloniki. (1908, Nov. 30): Picture Postcard posted by the French Post Office to Paramaribo.
Postal Rate: 5c for Foreign Post Card



50%

Thessaloniki. (1906, July 1): Cover posted to Georgetown British Guiana, franked 10 Para Block of 4, arrival 15 - 9 -1906.
Postal Rate: 40 Para for Foreign Letter

MAIL WITH SOUTH AMERICA

From Cayenne and to Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul



60%

Post Card posted from Cayenne to **Thessaloniki**, 7 April 1920.
Postal Rate: 5c for Foreign Post Card



40%

Thessaloniki. (1906, Nov.): Post Card posted to Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, franked 10c Semeuse Gutter Single.
From early 20th Century (1901), the use of French stamps in the Levant offices was unauthorized, although sometimes tolerated. That is why Semeuse stamps (issued since 1903) are very rarely seen used from Thessaloniki.
Postal Rate: 10c for Foreign Post Card

MAIL WITH NORTH AFRICA

To Oran, Algeria and to Tunis



Thessaloniki. (1869, April 20): Folded Letter posted to Oran, Algeria, arrival May 1.
Postal Rate: 40 Dec. for Single Weight Letter to France (and Colonies)



40%

Thessaloniki. (1907, July): Picture postcard, franked with 2x 10Para, posted by the Mobile Ottoman Railway Post Office, to Tunis, arrival July 16, 1907. Postmark BUR. AMB. SALONIQUE-ZIBEFTCHE.
Postal Rate: 20 Pa for Foreign Post Card

MAIL to or from UNCOMMON DESTINATIONS

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



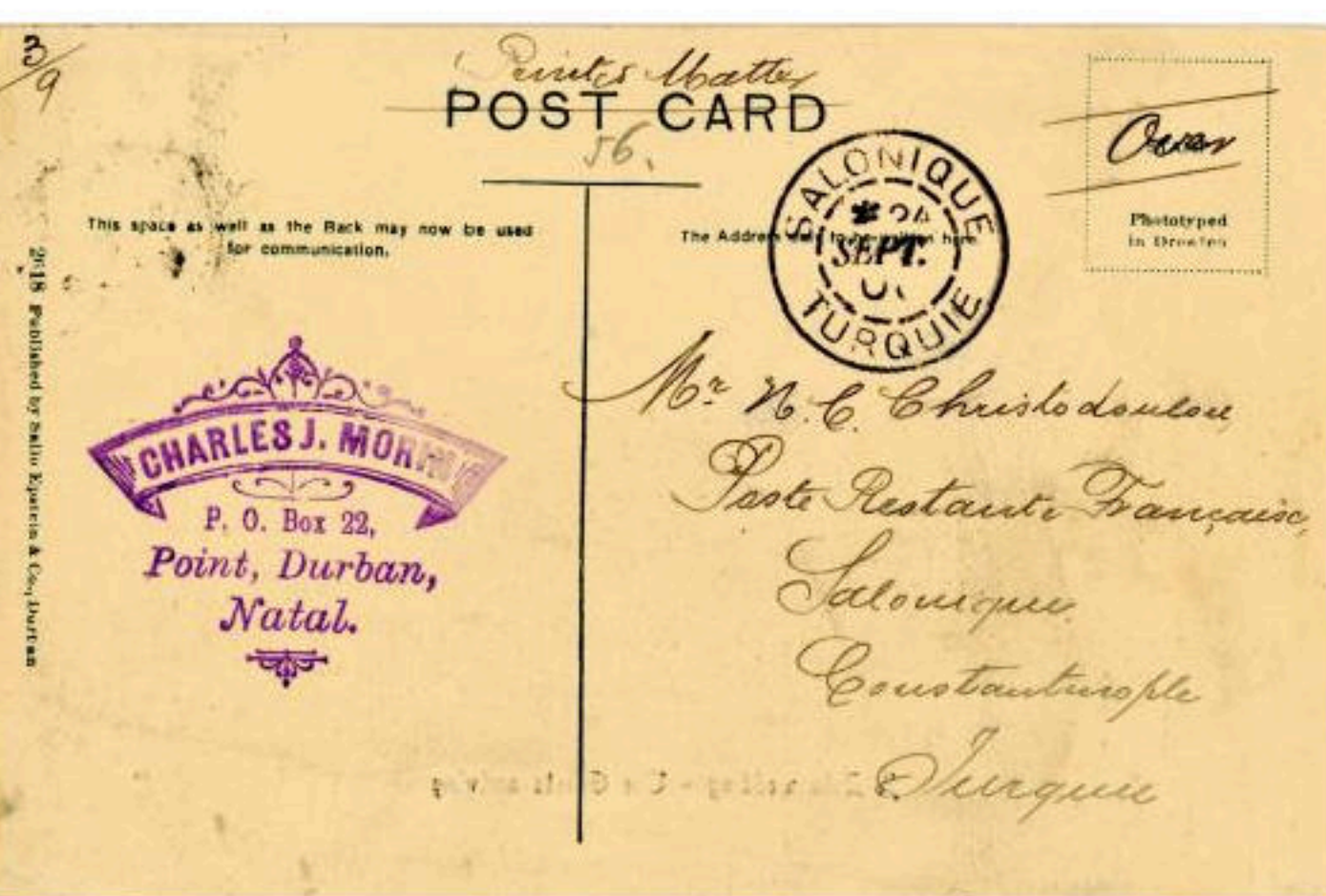
Thessaloniki. (1902, July 28): Cover posted by the French Post Office to Zanzibar, arrival August 22, 1902, and redirected to Dar Es Salaam, Tanganyika Territory, arrival August 23.

Postal Rate: 1Pia Single Weight Foreign Letter.

MAIL to or from UNCOMMON DESTINATIONS

MAIL WITH SOUTH AFRICA

From Transvaal, Rayton and Randfontein and Natal, Durban



Three Picture Post Cards posted to Thessaloniki, 1906-1908, British and French post offices.

MAIL WITH BLACK AFRICA

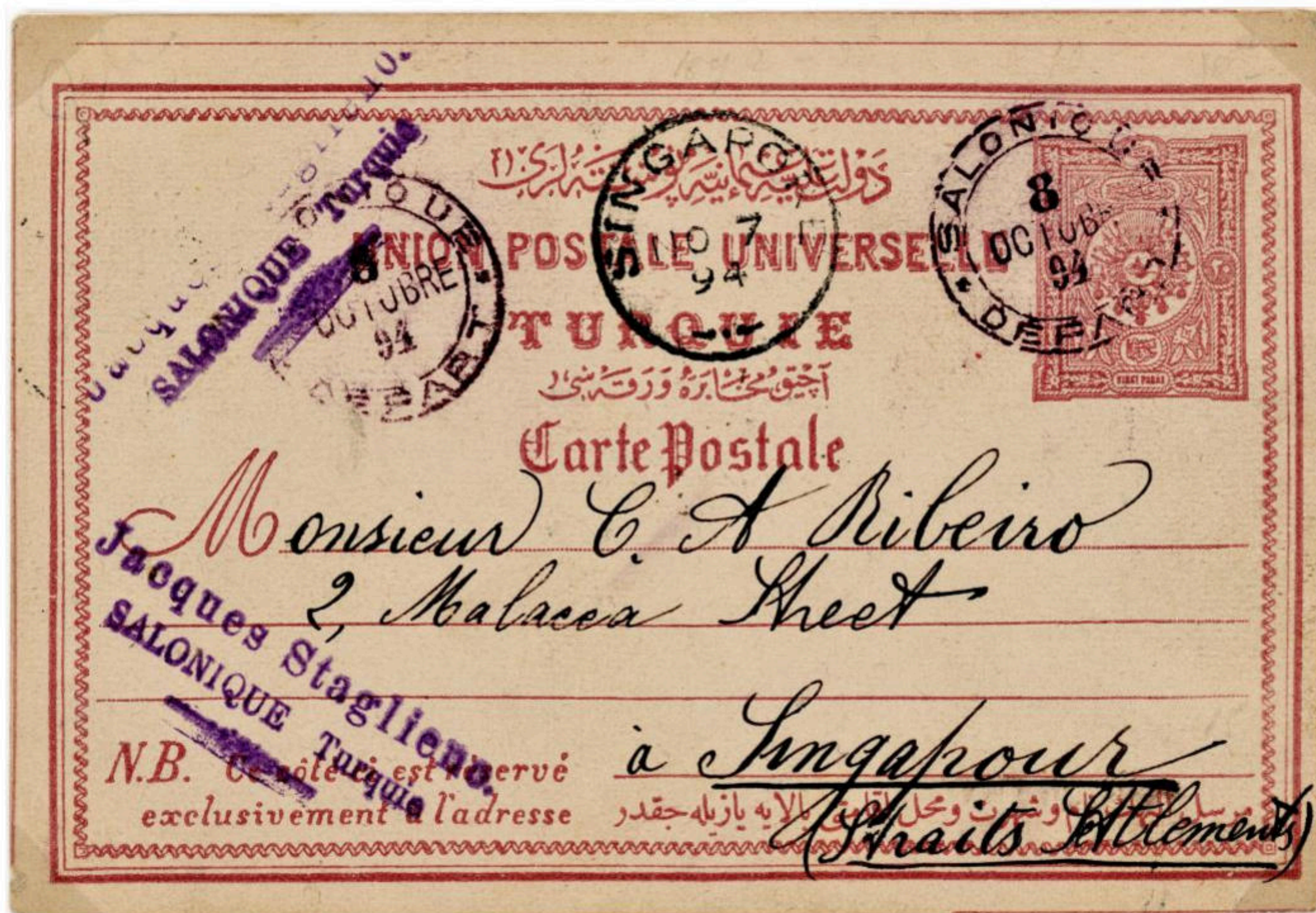
From Belgian Congo, Thysville



Two 10c Stationery Post Cards posted from Belgian Congo to **Thessaloniki, 1921**.
The 2nd one is uprated by 10c (Postcard with Text).

MAIL WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA

To Singapore and Hanoi, Tonkin



Thessaloniki. (1894, Oct. 8): Stationery Postcard posted by the Ottoman Post Office, to Singapore, Straits Settlements, arrival Nov. 7, 1894.

Postal Rate: 20 Para for Stationery Postcard.



Thessaloniki. (1907, Mar. 30): Picture Postcard posted by the French Post Office to Hanoi, Tonkin, via Alexandria, Ismailia, Penang, Singapore, showing “Penang to Singapore” maritime postmark.

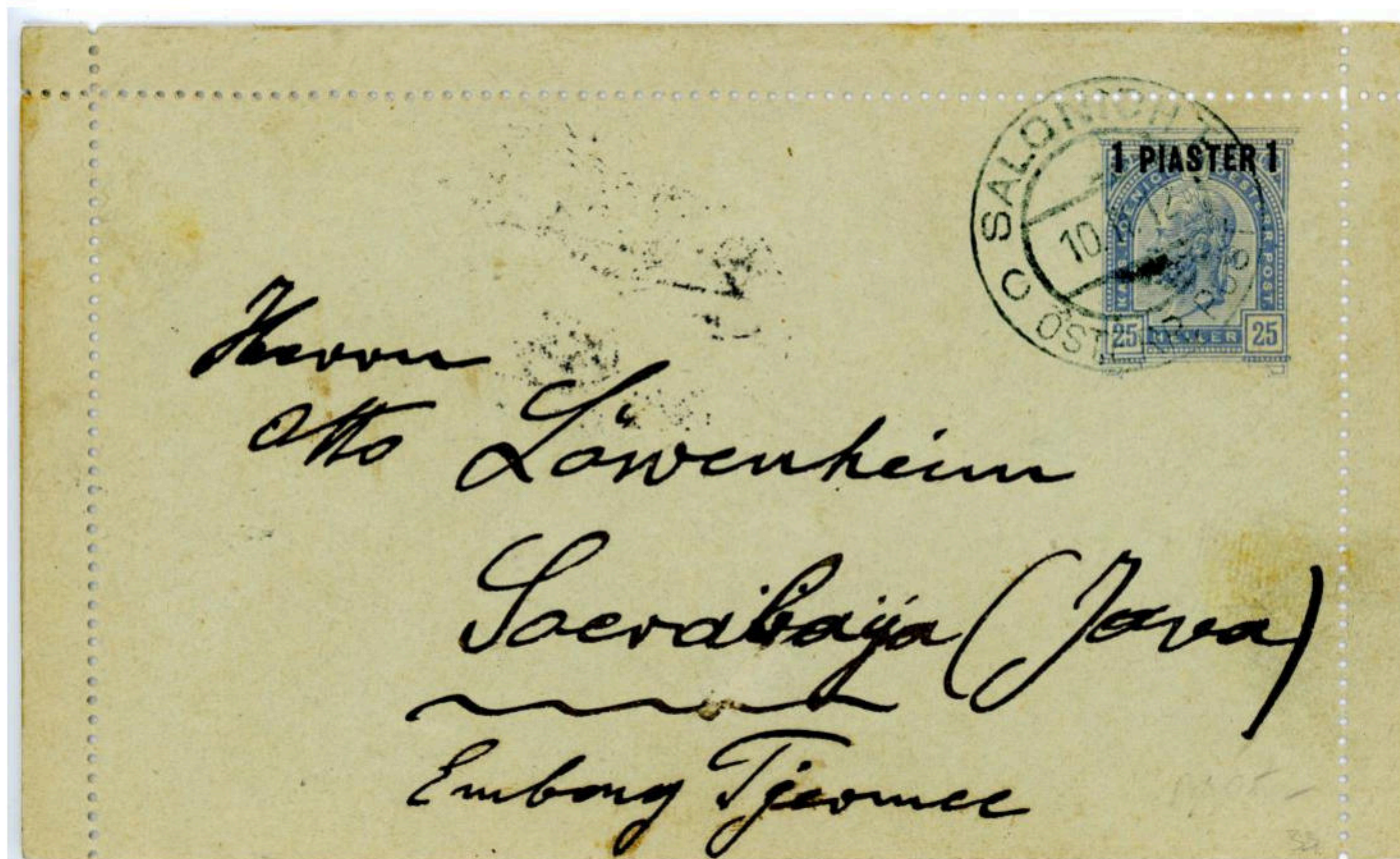
Postal Rate: 5 C for PPC.

MAIL WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA

To Manila, Philippines and Surabaya, Java, Indonesia



Thessaloniki. (1888, Sept. 28): Stationery Postcard posted by the Austrian Post Office to Manila, Philippines.
Postal Rate: 5 So for Foreign Post Card.



Thessaloniki. (1912, Apr. 10): Stationery Lettercard posted by the Austrian Post Office, via Alexandria (19/4/1912), Port-Taufiq (20/4/1912) to Surabaya, Java, Indonesia.
Postal Rate: 1 Pia for Foreign Letter Card.

MAIL WITH THE PACIFIC: JAPAN and NEW ZEALAND

To Osaka and from Auckland



Thessaloniki. (1910, Apr. 29): Picture Postcard posted by the French Post Office to Osaka, Japan, via Alexandria, Port Taufiq, Nagasaki.

Postal Rate: 5c for Foreign Post Card.



Registered uprated Stationery Cover posted from Auckland, Aug 2, 1915, via London, to **Thessaloniki, Sept. 15, 1915**, franked 5 1/2 d.

Total travel time: One and a half month.

Postal Rate 5 1/2 d.

MAIL WITH ASIA

From Calcutta, India and Penang, Malaysia



Stationery Postcard posted from Calcutta, 14 Dec. 1892 to **Thessaloniki**, arrival **Jan. 4, 1893**, Sea Post Office transit in Aden.
Postal Rate: 1 Anna for Stationery Postcard.



Detail of back

Picture Postcard posted from Georgetown, Penang, **Dec. 10, 1915**, to **Thessaloniki**, via Bombay (Censorship).
Postal Rate: 1c Straits Settlements for Printed Matter.

MAIL WITH EUROPE

To Malachide, Dublin, Ireland and Copenhagen, Denmark



Thessaloniki, (1893, Sept. 17): Cover posted by the Austrian Post Office to Malachide, Dublin, Ireland, arrival Sept. 21, 1893.
Postal Rate: 1Pia Single Weight Foreign Letter.



Thessaloniki, (1894, Jan. 19): Cover posted by the Austrian Post Office to Copenhagen, Denmark, arrival Jan. 24 1894.
Postal Rate: 1Pia Single Weight Foreign Letter.

MAIL WITH THE SMALL STATES OF EUROPE

From Monaco and to Luxemburg



Cover posted from Monaco, Apr. 26, 1892, to **Thessaloniki**, transit postmarks Ventimiglia, Udine, Brindisi. Arrival **May 5, 1892**, postmark SALONIQUE ARRIVEE with inverted date.

Postal Rate 25 Cent for Foreign Cover



Thessaloniki. (1906, Sept. 7): Austrian Levant Stationery Postcard (special issue for Crete, in Centimes) posted by the Austrian Post Office to Luxemburg, arrival Sept. 10, 1906. The card is cancelled with the scarce type 3 SALONICH OSTERREICHISCHE POST postmark, used exclusively in 1906.

Postal Rate 10c for Foreign Post Card

MAIL WITH THE IBERIAN PENINSULA

To Spain, Malaga, and Barcelona and from Portugal, Lisbon



a. **Thessaloniki. (1901, Mar. 29):** Stationery Postcard posted by the Austrian Post Office to Malaga, Spain.

Postal Rate: 20 Para for Foreign Post Card.

b. **Thessaloniki. (1904, June 26):** Stationery Postcard posted by the French Post Office to Barcelona.

Postal Rate: 10c for Foreign Post Card.



Stationery Card of 2c, uprated by 1c posted from Lisbon to **Thessaloniki**, arrival **Oct. 1920**.

Postal Rate: 3c Foreign Post Card

MAIL to or from UNCOMMON DESTINATIONS

MAIL WITH SCANDINAVIA

To Abo, Finland, Copenhagen, Hurfva, Sweden



<<The sender of this Card is CINEMA OLYMPIA (the only cinema of Thessaloniki in 1914) and the recipient, the famous magazine of that era "FILMEN".



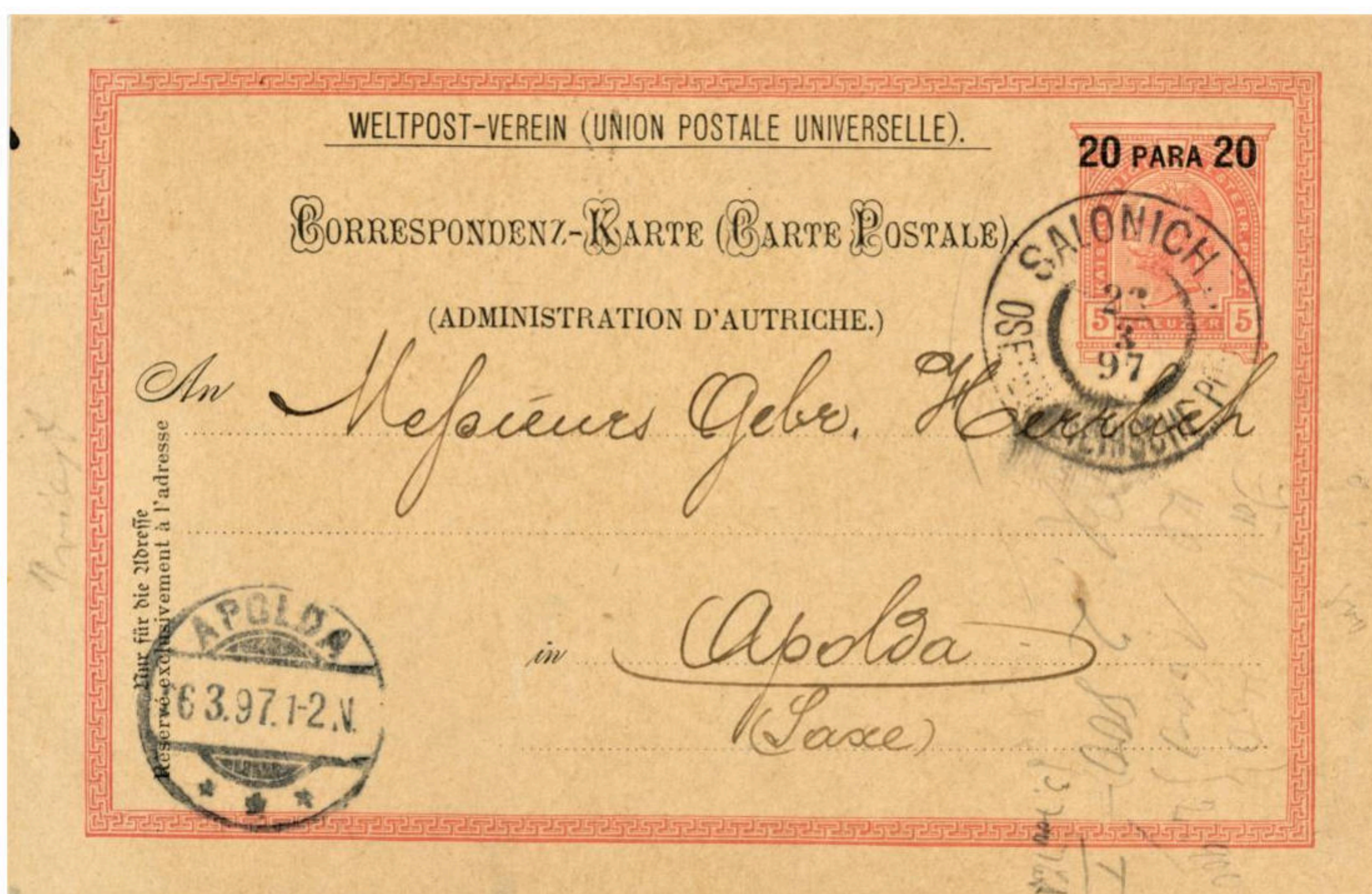
Thessaloniki. (1896, Feb. 23): Stationery Postcard posted by the French Post Office to Abo, Finland.

Thessaloniki. (1914, Feb. 15): Stationery Postcard posted by the French Post Office to Copenhagen.

Thessaloniki. (1913, June 23): Picture Post Card posted by the French Post Office to Hurfva, Sweden.

Postal Rate 10c for Foreign Post Card

MAIL WITH EUROPE : FIUME and SAXONY



Thessaloniki. (1897, Mar. 23): Austrian Levant Stationery Postcard posted by the Austrian Post Office II to Apolda, arrival Mar. 16 (+12), 1897. The card is cancelled with the scarce type 2 SALONICH OSETERREICHISCHE POST postmark of the branch PO.
Postal Rate 20Para for Foreign Post Card.



Thessaloniki. (1905, July 11): French Levant Stationery Postcard posted by the French Post Office to Fiume and redirected in Croatia.
Postal Rate 10c for Foreign Post Card.

MAIL WITH EUROPE

An advertising brochure for nursing home for the elderly
Posted from Wien to Thessaloniki

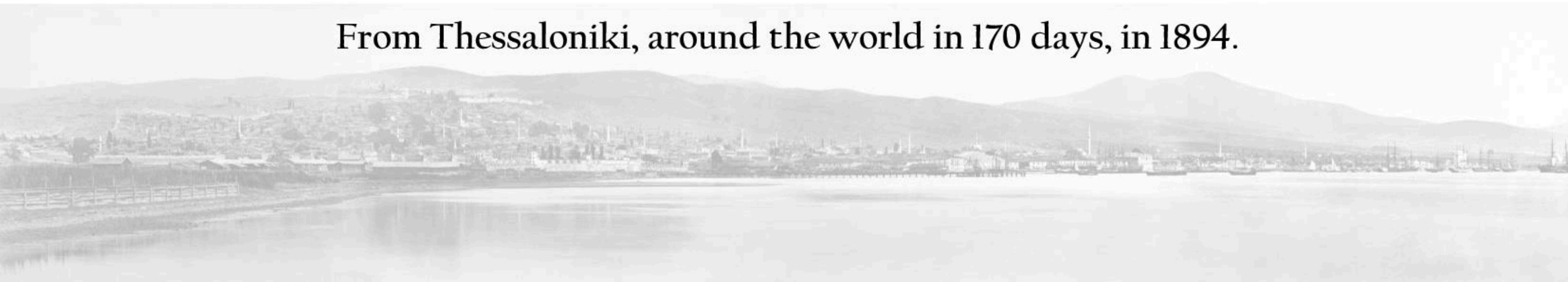


Thessaloniki, (1904, April 10): Complete wrapper of 3 He, uprated by 2 He adhesive, with the brochure, posted by the Austrian Post Office to Thessaloniki.
Postal Rate: 5 He for wrapper abroad.

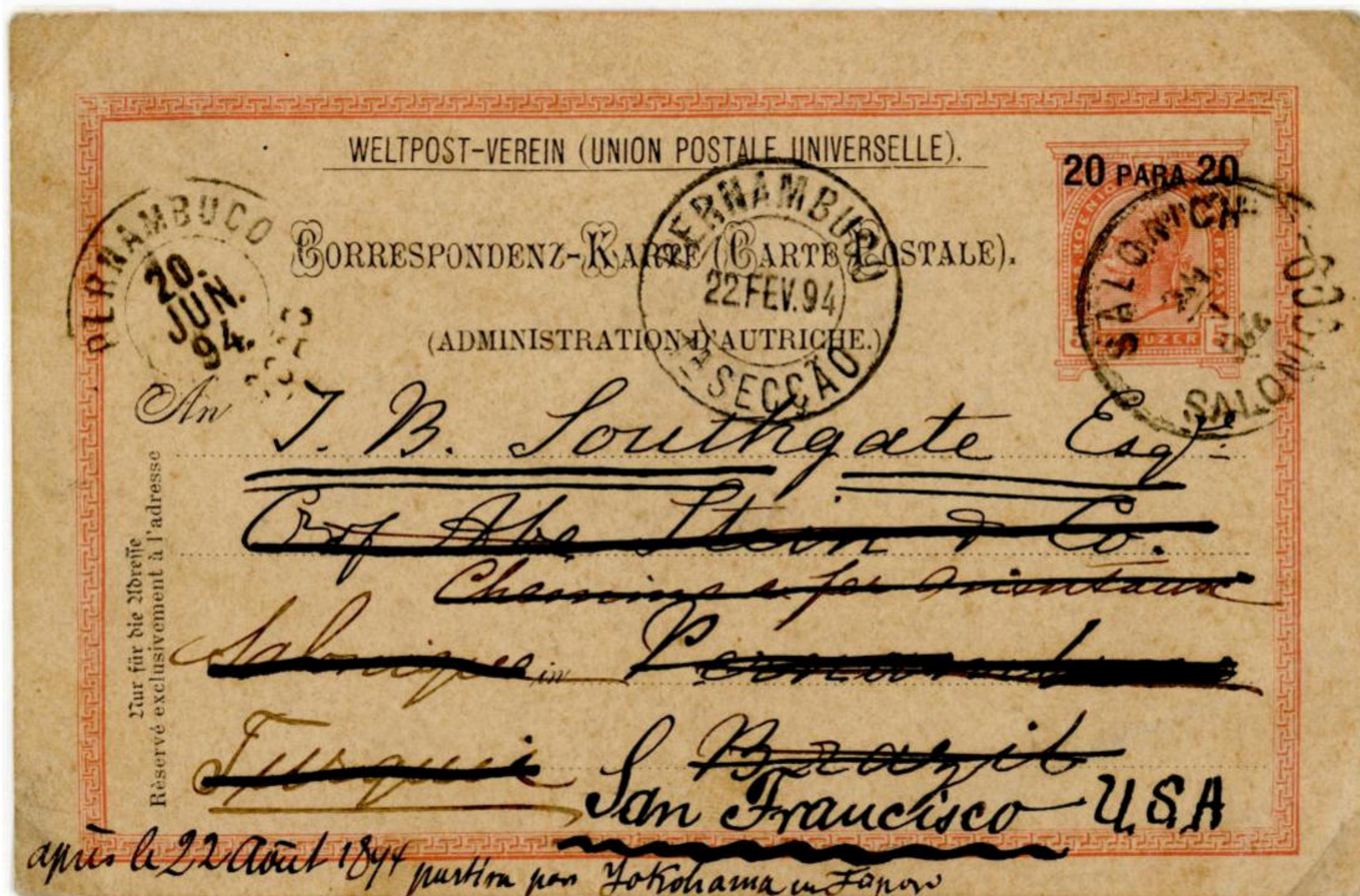
ADVENTURES OF MAIL

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 retour a 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!!

ADVENTURES OF MAIL

An incoming Mail: from Thrace – Demir-Tache to Thessaloniki

Registered Cover with advice of Receipt, 10 Feb. 1915, to Thessaloniki, which was
“DETAINED BY TURKISH CENSORSHIP” and “REGISTRATION CANCELLED”.

The letter was finally delivered to the addressee on 7 March of 1920 – with a delay of 5 years + 25 days.



Posted from Demir-Tache to **Thessaloniki, 10 Feb 1915**, franked 2Pia+2x20Pa = 3 Pia
(Double Weight + Registration + Advice of Receipt). Arrival 7 March of 1920!!!

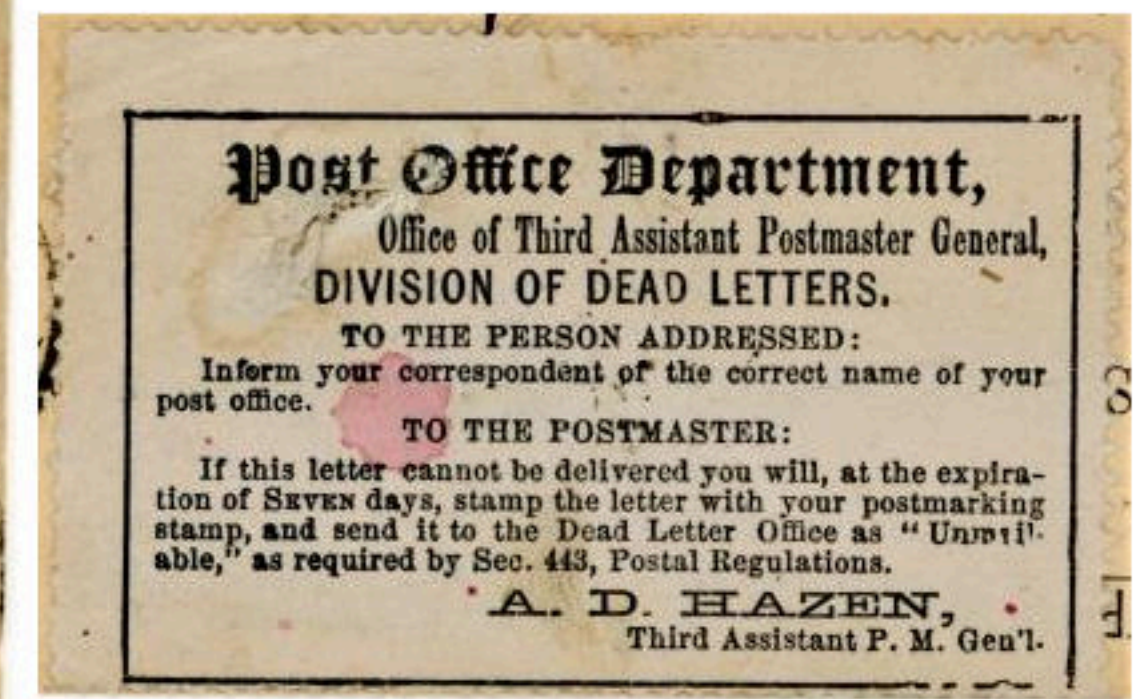
ADVENTURES OF MAIL

1880s Transatlantic mail from Thessaloniki – Two stationery cards:

- a. to an insufficient address – treated by the Dead Letter Office and returned to sender
- b. from Maryland forwarded to Germania, Iowa



"Dead Letter" perf. P.O. Label



Thessaloniki 1885 (June 12): Stationery Postcard posted by the Austrian Post Office, via New York to Charlotte USA, arrival Aug. 4, 1885.

The Card was treated by the dead Letter Office, due to Deficiency of Address, and returned to Thessaloniki in 4+ months, Oct. 9, 1885.

Postal Rate: 5 So for Foreign Post Card



Thessaloniki 1898 (Dec. 23): Stationery Postcard posted by the Ottoman Post Office, to Cumberland, MD, USA, arrival Jan. 6 1899 and from there forwarded to Germania, Iowa, arrival Jan. 10 1899.

Postmark small SALONIQUE DEPART without year, type unknown to Bibliography and showing a very late use (The SALONIQUE DEPART postmarks were officially withdrawn 3 years earlier, in 1896).

Postal Rate: 20 Para for Foreign Post Card