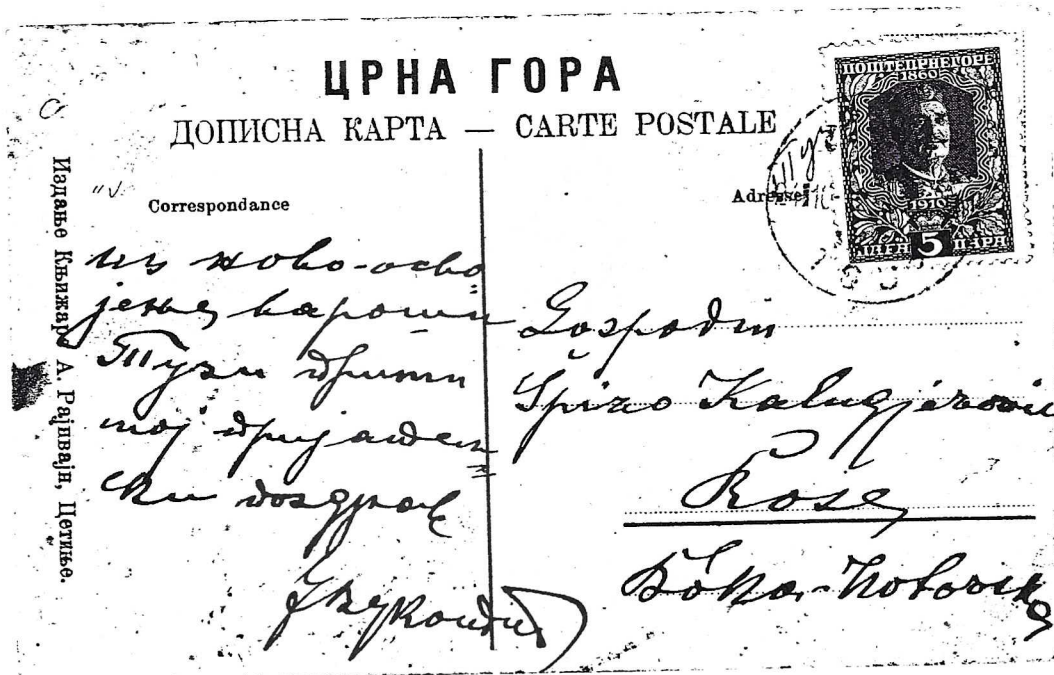


## FIRST BALKAN WAR

Observing the ease with which the Italians had seized Libya and the Dodecanese Islands, the smaller Balkan states joined forces to settle their grievances with the Turks. Montenegro declared war on 8 October 1912, with King Nicholas symbolically firing the first cannon. As befitting their status as the smallest of the Balkan allies, the Montenegrins confined their activities to occupying nearby Turkish territory and sending a force into northern Albania. However, the fate of the Turks was already sealed by several important defeats on other fronts in late October -- by the Serbs at Kumanovo and by the Bulgarians at Kirkclareli and Lule Burgas. As a result of the Balkan Wars of 1912-1913, the Ottomans were forced to give up all of their remaining European possessions except for a strip of Eastern Thrace extending only about 125 miles west of Constantinople.

Touz  
24 October 1912

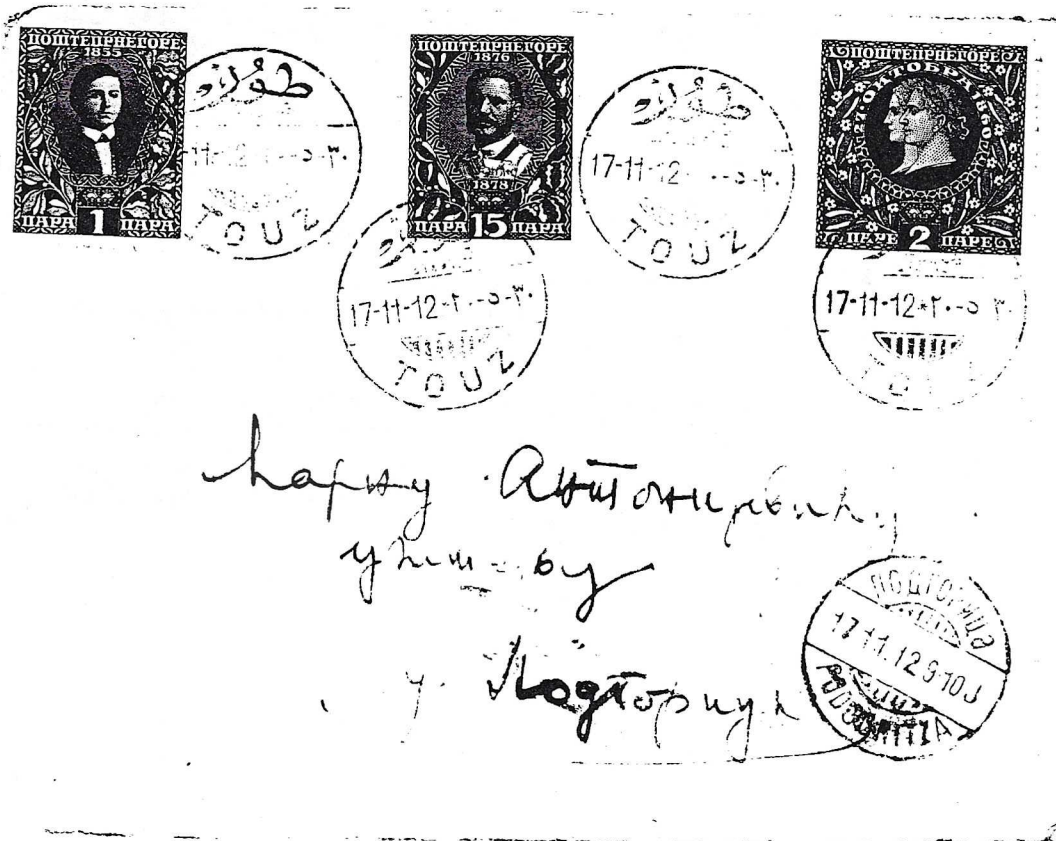


Postcard with 5 para Jubilee stamp sent personally by the Montenegrin commander, Voivoda Serdar Vukotic, to a friend in Boka Kotorska stating that "...today we took Touz," indicating that it was mailed on the first day of the occupation. Cyrillic "Tuzi" added in red at the top of the old Turkish cancel. An historically significant piece.

**FIRST BALKAN WAR  
Occupation of Touz**

Touz  
17 November 1912

Following the defeat of Turkey by the Balkan allies, Montenegro was awarded several territories to the north and east of its previous boundaries, most notably the southern portion of the former Sandjak of Novi Bazar (which was divided with Serbia) and the northwestern portion of Kosovo. These additions substantially enhanced the territory of the kingdom (see adjacent sketch map). Based on these acquisitions, a dozen new post offices were opened in 1913, the most important of which were Dakovica, Pec and Plevlje.



Cover franked with several of the Jubilee stamps and mailed from Touz in the first month of the occupation to addressee in Podgorica. Note the continued use of the old Ottoman postmark at this time.

FIRST BALKAN WAR  
Red Cross Mail

Cetinje  
1 February 1913

 Société de la Croix ~~Rouge~~ Monténégriane

N° 781



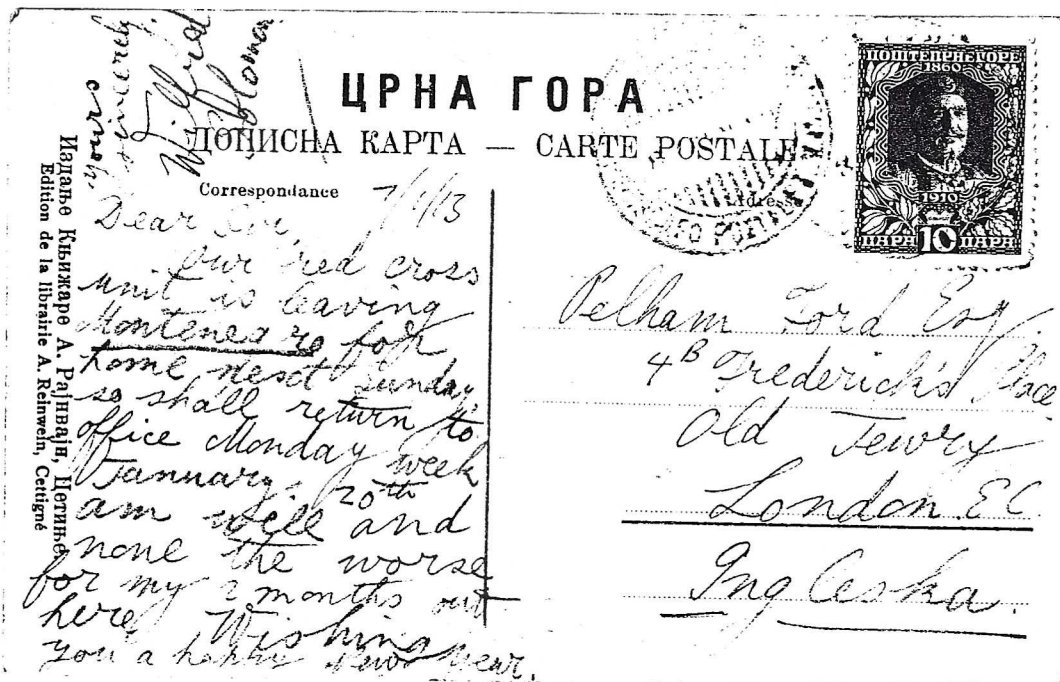
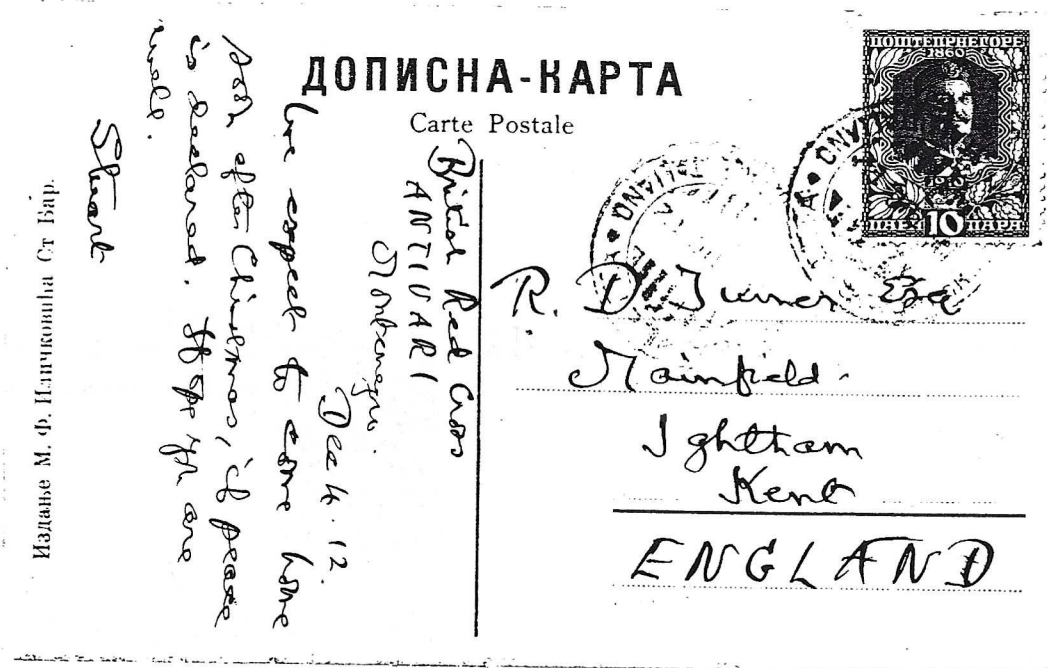
À l'Agence Internationale  
de la Croix Rouge

Colipa

Belgrade

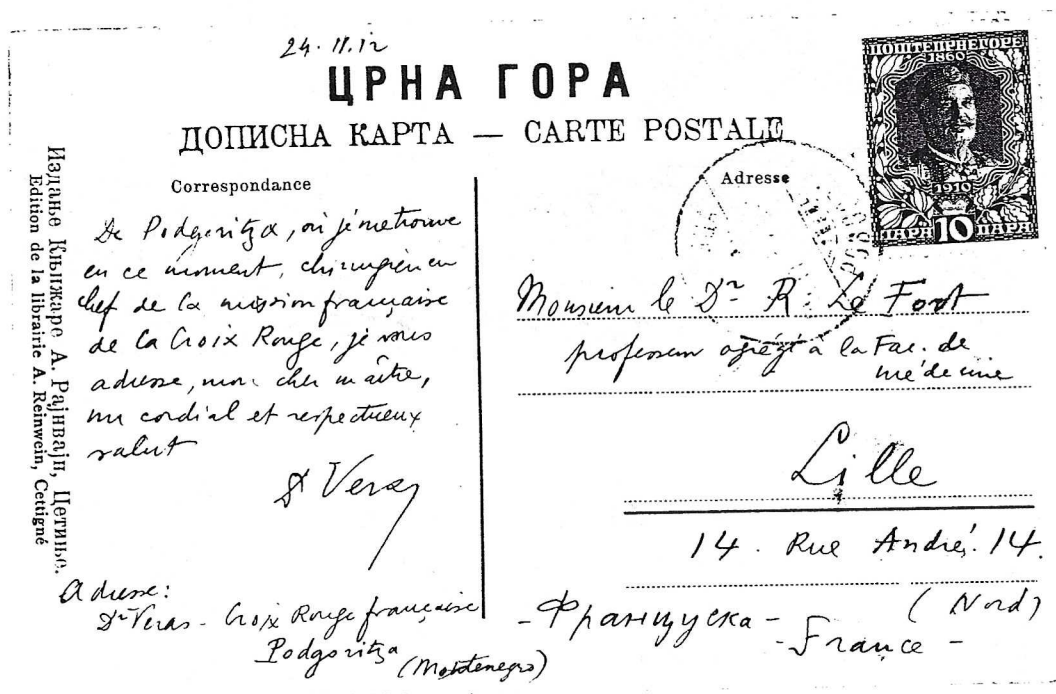
Official cover from the Montenegrin Red Cross Society to the International Red Cross Agency in Belgrade, Serbia properly franked with 25 para Jubilee stamp for international letters.





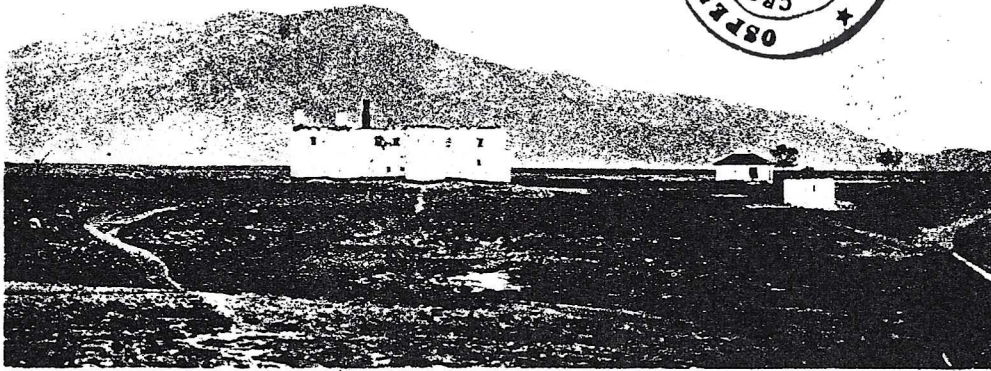
Several of the major powers with an interest in the Balkans sent humanitarian aid at the time of the First Balkan War. Above postcards sent by members of the British Red Cross teams. Note comments about expectations of coming home "soon after Christmas, if peace is declared" and "Our red cross unit is leaving Montenegro for home next Sunday." Posted to England via Italian steamers *Barletta* and *Molmetta*, respectively.





The French Red Cross also sent a humanitarian mission to Montenegro. Above postcard sent by a member of this team from Podgorica to Lille.

№ 1. Дечин са освојеном Ржаничком Кулом. — Detschitsch.



По фотографији Васа Рагуловића издање књижаре  
И. Вукотића и Коопт, Подгорица.  
Најотрожније забранљено умножавање.  
Edition de la Librairie P. Vukotitch & Co., Podgoritzza.

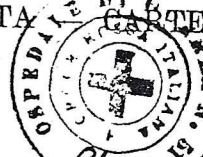
ЦРНА ГОРА  
ДОПИСНА КАРТА / CARTE POSTALE



Podgoritzza 7-3-13

Distinti Saluti  
ossequi

Senza saluti  
Grazie  
Saluti di Lewis  
e Maria moglie



Spettabile E. Bianchi

Pempesi

Bologna

Stelvi

The Italians, too, were supportive of the desire of the Christian Balkan states to liberate their kinsmen from Muslim rule. As a result, Military Hospital No. 51 was sent to Montenegro to care for wounded soldiers. Above cards sent home by its personnel are marked with the official cachet of the hospital, shown in both purple and red.



**FIRST BALKAN WAR  
Occupation of Albania**

St. Jean de Medua  
26 December 1912  
2 July 1913

The only other Montenegrin post office in Albania during the Balkan War was the small port of St. Jean de Medua (today Shengjin) on the Adriatic. It, too, had to be evacuated when the International Control Commission was inaugurated.



ALBANIA COVA  
POST OFFICE



*Почты*  
*Почты В. Маринковича*  
*Кавлана*

Postal card sent from St. Jean after the occupation of the town by Montenegrin troops but prior to the arrival of the permanent postmark. It is cancelled in manuscript with red ink "Sv. Jovan," the Slavic name. This is the earliest recorded card from the occupation.



Cover from St. Jean showing use of the new bilingual (Cyrillic & French) postmark and registry label. Philatelically inspired but pays the correct rate of 35 para for a registered letter to Austria.



**FIRST BALKAN WAR**  
**Occupation of Albania**

Scutari  
17 June 1913

The principal Montenegrin contribution to the campaign in Albania during the Balkan War was besieging the city of Scutari, where the Turkish forces finally surrendered on 24 April 1913. However, the European Powers decided to establish Albania as an independent state, thus requiring Montenegro (and Serbia) to withdraw their forces when the International Control Commission was established on 29 July 1913. Thus, the Montenegrin post office in Scutari was in operation for only a little over three months at this time.

Propriété réservée. Atelier photographique "Albania", Scutari, Albanie

Carte Postale



*F. H. M.*

*Saluti cordiali.*

*Scutari 16.6.13.*

*Signor*

*Vincenzo Rafter*

*Bolzanetto*

*Italia*

Picture postcard of Scutari franked with 10 para King Nicholas stamp and cancelled with the bilingual postmark during the Montenegrin occupation period.

FIRST BALKAN WAR  
Mail from Annexed Territory

Pec  
10 September 1914

Plevlje  
9 September 1914

Finding mail sent from "New Montenegro," is a rather daunting task because by the time the Serbian occupation forces had departed and the Montenegrins got everything organized, World War I had started. At that point, there was little opportunity to send mail to the outside world due to the Austrian naval blockade in the Adriatic.



Postal card sent from Pec to Moravia via Romania. Cover from Plevlje to Seattle is overfranked by 5 para relative to the international letter rate.



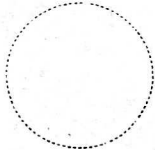
**КУПОН — COUPON**  
**Colis postal**  
може прималац одвојити  
Peut être détaché par  
le destinataire.  
Жиг поште код које је по  
шиљка примљена на отпра  
љање.  
Timbre du bureau d'origine



Име и адреса поштомлаоца  
Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur

*Вукотина  
Српсково*

Жиг царинарнице  
Timbre de la douane



507  
Dakovica



“B” (10 пар)  
ЦРНА ГОРА — MONTÉNÉGRO

СПРОВОДНИ ЛИСТ

BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION

Предмет *Пакет* Број царин. декларација  
Ci joint Nombre de déclarations de douane

Означена вриједност — Valeur assurée

*Двадесет (20) пара  
миле и Симоновића*

Г.  
à

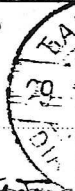
Мјесто опређења  
Lieu de destination

*Росањски  
Косова*

Улица и број куће  
Rue et numéro

Земља  
Pays

Тежина Poids	Царинске таксе Droits de douane	Правац упућивања пошљке Acheminement
<i>5</i> К. =		
<i>5</i> К. =		
<i>5</i> К. =		



Parcel address card with attached coupon sent from Dakovica in "New Montenegro." (This town in the northwest part of Kosovo was transferred to Serbia after the war.)



# FIRST DEFINITIVES OF KING NICHOLAS

On 1 April 1913, an attractive new set of 12 definitive stamps printed on chalky paper and depicting King Nicholas was issued. These were the first stamps to be inscribed "Kingdom of Montenegro" and as with the Jubilee series, were denominated in para and perper.

Issue of 1913

Cetinje  
20 July 1914

**КУПОН — COUPON**

може прималац одвојити.  
Peut être détaché par le destinataire.

Жиг поште код које је пошљика приложена на отпрату.  
Timbre du bureau d'origine

Име и стан пошљаоца  
Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur

Жиг царинарнице  
Timbre de la douane

**СПРОВОДНИ ЛИСТ**  
BULLETIN DE DÉCLARATION

Предмет / Ci joint ..... Број декларација / Nombre de déclarations de douane .....

Означена вредност — Valeur assurée .....

Г. *Милошу Радевићу*

а *за Мирослава Јевковића*

Мјесто одређења / Lieu de destination ..... *Модрача*

Улица и број куће / Rue et numéro ..... *Београд*

Земља / Pays .....

Тежина / Poids	Царинске таксе / Droits de douane	Права упућивања / Acheminement
<i>7</i> к <i>800</i>		
..... к .....		
..... к .....		

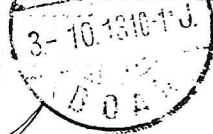
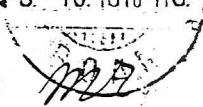
Parcel address card with attached coupon franked with five different King Nicholas stamps, including the 1 para and 2 para lowest values.

FIRST DEFINITIVES OF KING NICHOLAS  
Issue of 1913

Boan  
3 October 1913

Plavnica  
9 August 1913

By the end of 1913, the Montenegrin postal system had expanded to 38 post offices, including those in the newly-annexed territories. Notwithstanding that the network was then vastly larger than 20 years earlier, there are many postmarks that are especially elusive and sought after by Montenegrin specialists, including those of Boan and Plavnica shown here.



Radovan Felich  
№ 624. Weler Str.

Seattle Wash

U. S. A.

ДОПИСНА-КАРТА.

Знајте сине и браће /  
Силом овог дарчења  
живије анекдотам јесам,  
ако си криво живио  
што зине огнас  
фесенјави зове-III.  
Ако си којом ако си  
моје носило враг буре  
ни. и јавиасмо. 5.  
илмиграва и не до-  
писмо ниједнај оди-  
оворо свалије пре-  
матер одговорн  
своје путно са поз.  
ула јакон

За Сума, Марама  
II: дивизија  
II бригада: II баталион



Треско Јуманова  
за Треско  
за Муниско  
Бојско

Examples of 5 and 10 para values of King Nicholas stamps are shown used commercially from small villages.



FIRST DEFINITIVES OF KING NICHOLAS  
Issue of 1913

Danilovgrad  
7 July 1913



Single franking of a 35 para King Nicholas stamp paying the registration fee and concession letter rate to Austria.



**VII СПРОВОДНИК**  
BULLETTIN D'EXPÉDITION

Предмет *пакет* Број царин. декларација  
Ci joint ..... Nombre de déclarations de douane .....

Означена вриједност — Valeur assurée

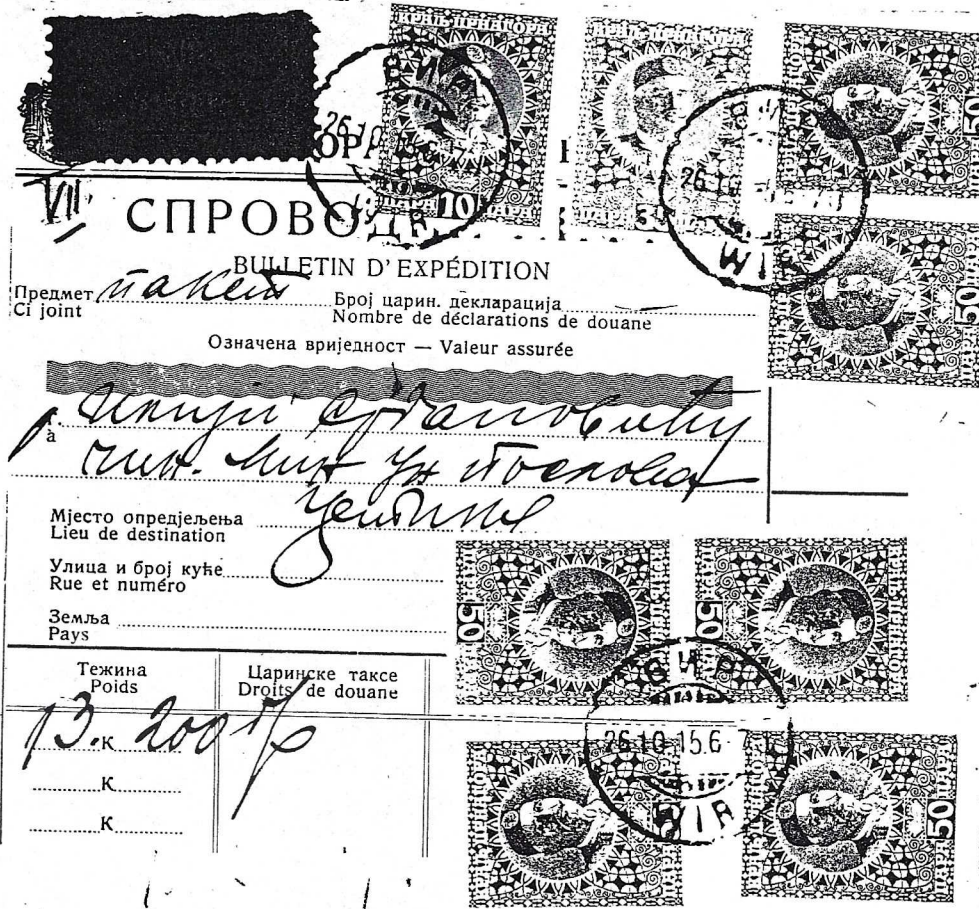
а *Универзитетски  
универзитет у Београду  
Цетиње*

Мјесто одређења  
Lieu de destination

Улица и број куће  
Rue et numéro

Земља  
Pays

Тежина Poids	Царинске таксе Droits de douane
<i>13.000</i>	
..... К .....	
..... К .....	



Parcel address card multiple franked with 50 para King Nicholas stamps (and others) addressed to Cetinje.

FIRST DEFINITIVES OF KING NICHOLAS  
Issue of 1913

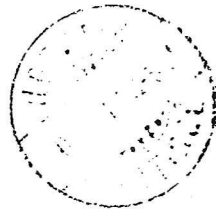
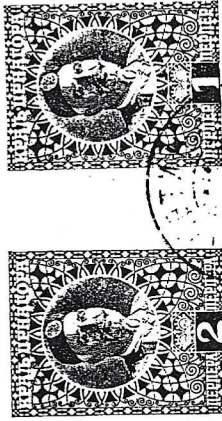
Cetinje  
6 May 1913

Direction Générale des Postes et des Télégraphes de Monténégro

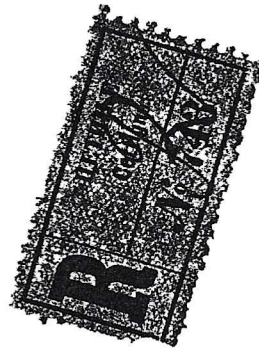
N<sup>o</sup> ~~1234~~

Monsieur

Herr Baumgarten



à Vienne



XVII/3. Beheimgasse 64.

Official registered cover sent by the Ministry of Posts & Telegraphs to Austria. Franked with the 1 perper and 2 perpera high values.

10 пар

ЦРНА ГОРА — MONTENEGRO

ВОДНИ

CLETIN D'EXPORTATION

Предмет / Ci joint: *3 парцели*      Број царин. декларација / Nombre de déclarations en douane: \_\_\_\_\_

Означена вредност / Valeur assurée: \_\_\_\_\_

г. *Областна управа*

а. \_\_\_\_\_

Мјесто одређивања / Lieu de destination: *Пљеско*

Улица и број куће / Rue et numéro: \_\_\_\_\_

Земља / Pays: \_\_\_\_\_

Тег / Poids	Царинске таксе / Droits de douane	Правац упућивања пошиљке / Acheminement
<i>5</i> К		
<i>5</i> К		
<i>5</i> К		

Parcel address card franked with 1 perper value (plus a 50 para) to pay the postage for a shipment of 3 parcels weighing 5 kilos each.