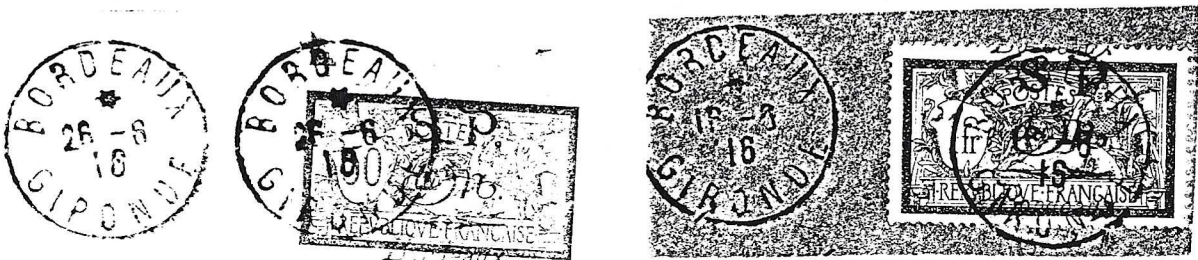
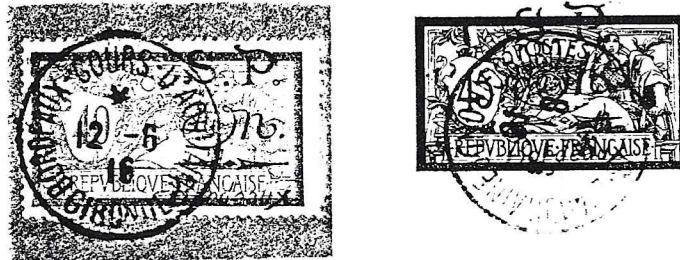
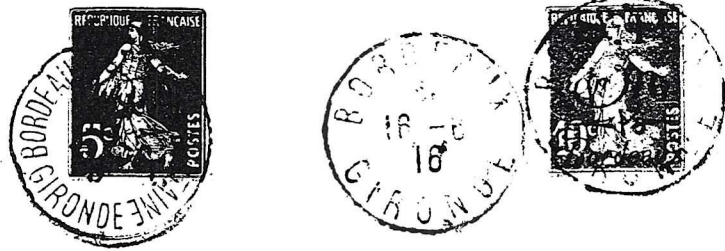
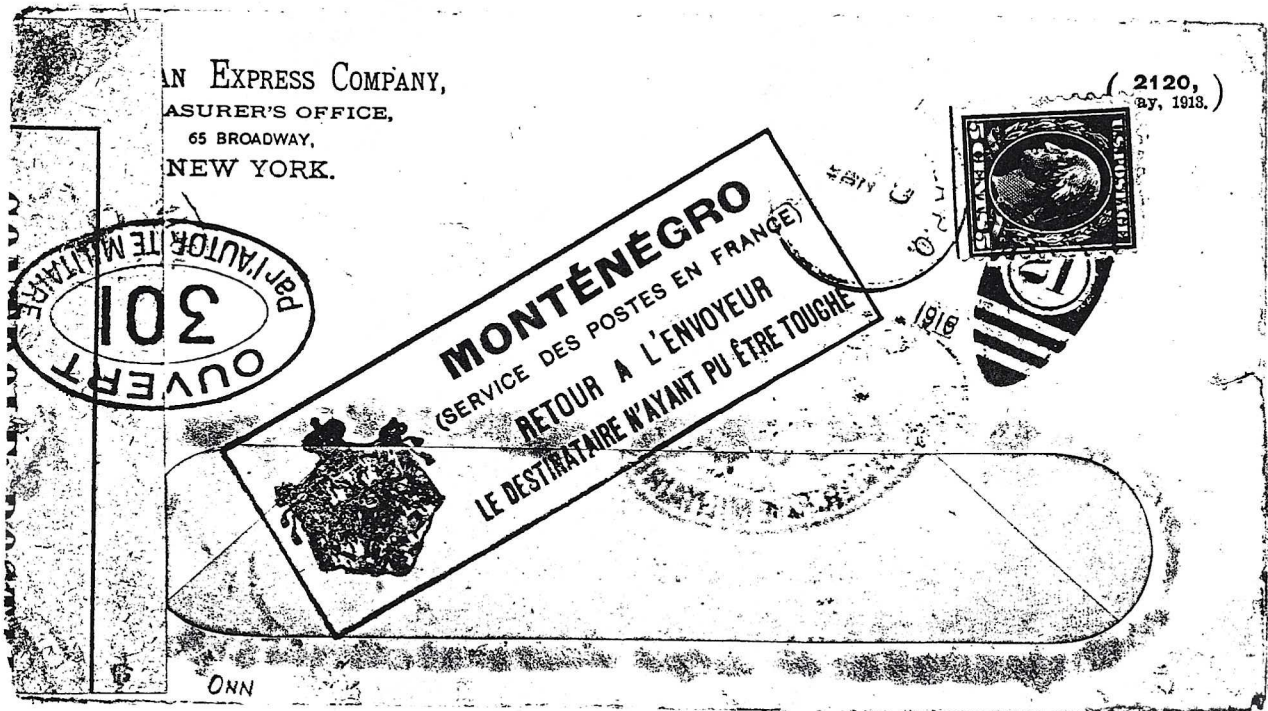


GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

Bordeaux
1916



In theory, the "S.P./du M./Bordeaux" overprints could have been used on official mail between 6 and 27 June 1916 before being withdrawn. Even though they are obviously favor cancelled, the above values are the only used examples seen by exhibitor in several decades of collecting.



The Ministry of Posts in exile was established at Bordeaux. Mail addressed to Montenegro coming into the French postal system was routed to the Montenegrin service. If the addressee had escaped the occupation, the letter could be forwarded to their new location. If not, it would be stamped with a special marking inscribed "Montenegro/Postal Service in France" and returned to the sender. On occasion, this marking was stamped on a plain label and used for the same purpose. Examples are extremely elusive.

The Montenegrin postal ministry in exile in Bordeaux prepared a set of labels to be affixed to mail addressed to the home country. The red orange type indicated that the destination was not achievable. The bluish type indicated that the piece should be returned to sender. Although these were not postage stamps, they were official labels with directional instructions that made up a part of the postal history of the time.

L'ÉCONOMISTE EUROPÉEN

PARAISANT LE VENDREDI

PARIS — 50, rue Sainte-Anne, 50 — PARIS

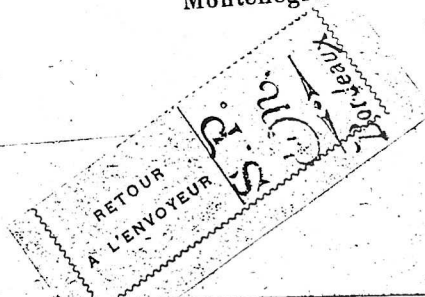
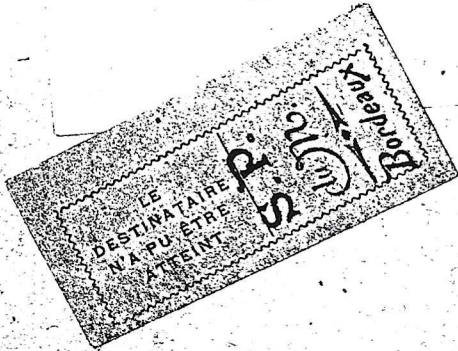
ABONNEMENTS :	France et Algérie :	Un an, 25 fr ;	6 mois, 14 fr.
	Etranger	32	18



D SERVICE

2 M le Ministre de France
CETTIGNE

Monténégro

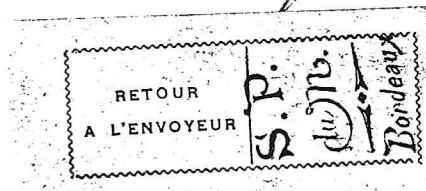


ILLN.
PM
N 16



JAN 16

*General Martinovitch -
Montenegro -*

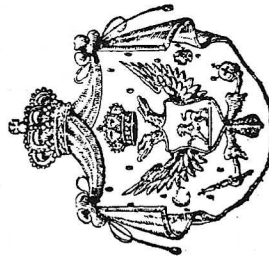


A printed matter wrapper mailed from Paris and a letter mailed from a district p.o. in London to which the instructional labels were affixed. Labels actually used on covers addressed to Montenegro are very elusive and sought after by specialists.

GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

Neully sur Seine
21 November 1918

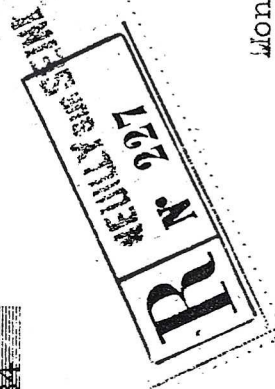
Registered letter from
the Montenegrin
Ministry of War in
exile to the American
Military Attache in
Greece. Backstamped
for receipt in Athens
on 29 November
1918.



ROYAUME DE MONTÉNÉGRO

MINISTÈRE DE LA GUERRE

N° 884



Monsieur le Colonel A. POILLON

Lt. Col. Cav. U.S. Army - Military Attache



A T H E N E S .

GREECE

GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

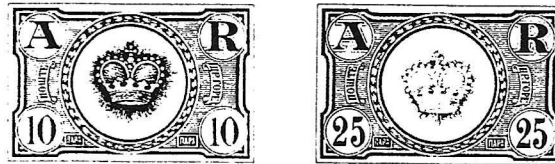
Marseille
21 April 1918



Monsieur
Michel Dergovitch
4 rue Thérèse Mistral
Aix en Provence

Montenegrin evacuees who were severely wounded were sent to a military hospital in Marseille. Cover from the Military Convalescents Committee of the Montenegrin Consulate.

In anticipation of the victory of the Allies and the restoration of King Nicholas, the government in exile ordered new stamps for regular postage, dues and return receipts. However, Serbian troops and pro-Serb irregulars convened a "national assembly" on 26 November 1918, declared Nicholas dethroned and that Montenegro was absorbed into Serbia.

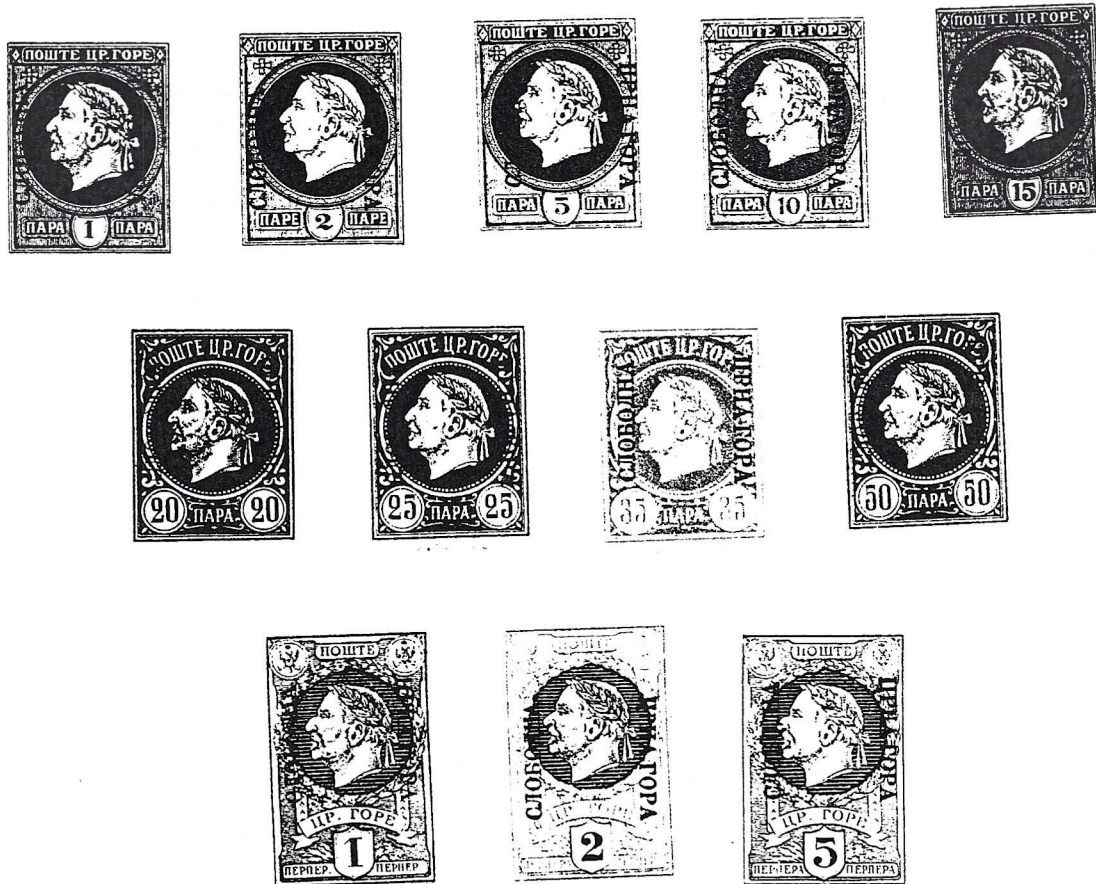


Supplies of these unissued stamps are readily available as "Cinderellas," with the exception of the 25 para postage due. This one particular denomination has been unusually scarce and is even missing from the collection in the postal museum in Cetinje.

GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

1918

The regular postage *exile* set was also overprinted "Free Montenegro" in anticipation of the liberation of the country. These, too, ended up in the philatelic market in considerable quantity at the time.



Shown above are the "Free Montenegro" stamps that were prepared by the exile government but not issued.

GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

Geneva
21 October 1918

A competing exile group, known as the Montenegrin Committee, was set up in Switzerland under Andrija Radovich. This committee favored the creation of a South Slav nation after the war rather than the restoration of Nicholas as King of Montenegro.

DIRECTOIRE
DE
LA DÉFENSE NATIONALE
DU MONTÉNÉGRU



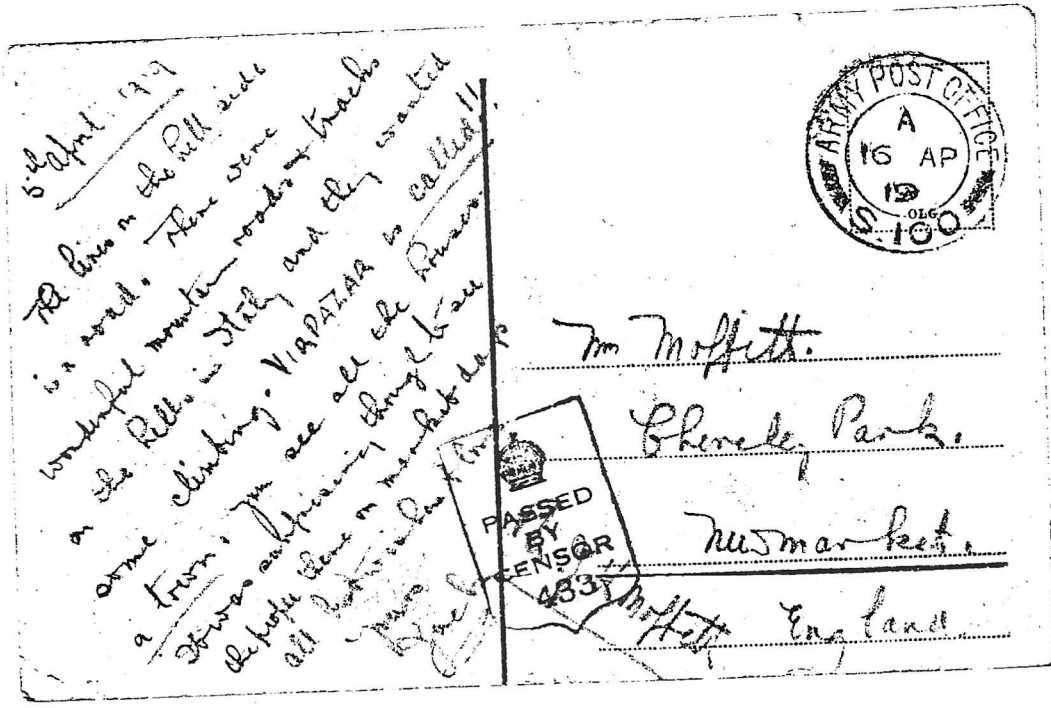
L. Criscuolo
Voivoda Barski
Room 3133, 120. Broadway
(U.S.A.) New York City.

Letter from the Directorate of National Defense of Montenegro, a branch of the Montenegrin Committee, sent from Geneva to the United States.

WORLD WAR I
British Transadriatic Force

APO S.100
16 April 1919

In the aftermath of the war, in March 1919 the British authorities sent a detachment of the Gloucester Regiment via Albania to help restore order in Montenegro. No fieldpost unit accompanied the force, so mail had to be sent back to Taranto, Italy for canceling with the APO S.100 postmark in use there. However, cards and letters can be identified by the marking of censor #433, which was used only by this unit. The Transadriatic force remained in Montenegro only until about the end of May.



Picture postcard of Vir Pazar sent by a British soldier in Montenegro. Manuscript date of 5 April shows that it took eleven days for the card to get to Italy for processing at the Taranto APO.

EPILOGUE

Many Montenegrins were not reconciled to the absorption of their country into Serbia following the war. In fact, there were demands for an Allied occupation force and a plebiscite on the future of the country. However, the Allied Supreme Council was unsympathetic. Independence sentiment was especially high in Italy whose Queen Elena was a daughter of King Nicholas. For a time there was even a government in exile in Rome. However, it functioned primarily on paper rather than in the real world.

Rome
1 July 1922

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES DE MONTÉNÉGRO

JUL 17 1922

Monsieur le Comm. Luigi CRISCUOLO

Room 3133 120 Broadway

NEW YORK.

U. S. A.



Cover sent by the so-called Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Italy to New York.

EPILOGUE

Geneva
30 June 1921

There was even an "International Committee for the Independence of Montenegro" in Switzerland. This group provided a rallying point for those desiring to restore an independent nation, but to little avail.

**COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
POUR L'INDÉPENDANCE DU MONTÉNÉGR**

AFFILIÉ AU BUREAU INTERNATIONAL POUR LA DÉFENSE
DU DROIT DES PEUPLES, A GENÈVE

TÉL. 85.50 *R GENÈVE *P PRAIRIE 17



Monsieur Luigi Criscu



Broadway N° 120

Room 3133.

R Genève 7 Servette
N° 216

88038

NEW-YORK

U.S.A.

Letter from the Committee for the Independence of Montenegro, sent from Geneva to the United States.

EPILOGUE

Bologna
22 December 1923
13 June 1927

Support was also provided by the "Italian Committee for the Independence of Montenegro" in Bologna. Interestingly, this group was still functioning as late as 1927, long after any chance for independence had passed.



PER L'INDIPENDENZA DEL MONTENEGRO
BOLOGNA

*Al Sig. Gran Croce
Luigi Criscuolo
53 East 65th Street*

U. S. A.

COMITATO ITALIANO PER L'INDIPENDENZA
SEDE IN BOLOGNA

*Comitato Italiano per l'Indipendenza
del Montenegro
Via S. Tomaso 13
Bologna, 13 giugno 1927*

*Comitato Italiano per l'Indipendenza
del Montenegro
Via S. Tomaso 13
Bologna, 13 giugno 1927*

*Vojvoda Petrovich
Signor Gr. Croce
Luigi Criscuolo
53 East 65th St.
New York
(U. S. A.)*

Letter and propaganda postcard from the Italian Committee, both sent from Bologna to the United States.